



The Norwegian Elkhound Club of Great Britain
(Incorporating The British Elkhound Society founded in 1923 and The Elkhound Club founded 1936)



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on the 20th March 2022

At Corley Village Hall, Church Lane, Corley, Coventry, CV7 8AZ

Started at 10.40am.

Present: 23 Full Members, 1 Junior Member in total as listed in the Attendance Book.

1. Chairman's Welcome

Chairman asked Members to stand for a minute's silence in respect of friends, family and Members who have passed away in the last twelve months.

2. Apologies: Written apologies were received from the following:

Brian and Maureen Lake, Peter and Diana Hudson, Ian and Rena Lees, Keith and Wendy Threadgold, Sir Preston and Lady Eilene Keeling, Michael Sharman, Annabel Cook, Katherine Tress, Lady Wade-Gery, Michael and Laura Stephenson, Trevor and Patricia Houghton and Enid Hicks.

3. Minutes of the previous AGM held at, Corley Village Hall on the 10th of July 2021.

Copies available for members to read.

Mrs Sharman said that as we did not have a quorum only routine matters should have been dealt with, and only Members who were present at the 2021 AGM should approve the minutes.

The Chairman stated that we had checked with the Kennel Club, and they were happy for us to continue with the meeting as long as we took votes throughout the proceedings and that is what we did. Secretary said she will look through the book and see who was present at last year's AGM.

It was noted at this point Miss Mortimer said that Mr M Stephenson had a question, the Chairman commented that Mr Stephenson was not present at the meeting and had sent his apologies.

Miss Mortimer questioned if Mr Stephenson had sent his apologies, he did send them, and they were read out in the list of apologies.

The Chairman said that we were not having a hybrid meeting, we cannot, unless we had offered that opportunity to every Member, and we have not.

It was noted that Mr Stephenson said that he thought because we cannot do a hybrid meeting it was not fair to all Members. His opinion was that the position of Chairman should have been dealt with differently, even though anyone could have put up for Chairman in the ballot, no one did.

Chairman repeated that we cannot accept telephone comments as this was not given to every Member, she said that he asked last year for us to set up something so we could have audio meetings. The Chair also commented that there is a nomination being put forward going to today's meeting, it has to be voted on before it can be put into the Constitution.

Everyone had AGM paperwork sent to them, if they wanted to put up for Chairman or any other vacant position, the opportunity was there. We did not get any, therefore that is the end of the matter. The Chairman asked Miss Mortimer to end the call.

At this point the Secretary read out all the Members who were present at last year's AGM.

Mrs Maun proposed the minutes, and they were Seconded by Sarah Middleton.

There was a question asked about hybrid meetings, Chairman said that it needed to be in the Constitution, she explained that the Kennel Club stated it did not recommend hybrid meetings as it left it "open to interpretation", it has to be one or the other and the required notice needs to be given to members.

Mrs Sharman said that she did not agree with how we handled the Chairman situation, she seemed to think that the Chair should have been offered to someone else and as the acting Chairman was involved so they could chair the meeting until that particular item was discussed.

Mrs Sharman thought that Mrs Gilbert and Mr Croxford should have maybe stood down, the Chairman said that it was put to an anonymous vote, result was unanimous.

Mrs Sharman still thought that Mrs Gilbert should have carried on as Acting Chairman for this year and taken another vote from the membership. Mrs Gilbert said that the Kennel Club had no issues on the way we did it and how it was actioned.

The Secretary said that anyone could have sent a nomination this time, we did not receive any.

Miss Mortimer said that she did not receive the second posting or the minutes, although the minutes have been on the website for months. The posting was sent out earlier this time, so it did not clash with the Christmas post.

4. Matters Arising.

Mrs Sharman said that 1. Treasurers report, 2. Subscriptions and 3. Donations had no proposer or seconder on the minutes, also she said that on the proposal of Vice President, everyone knew because of Covid that Mrs Sharman, Mrs Hicks, and Mrs Benner could not attend the meeting but in the minutes they were put as non-present, she wanted to know who the proposer and seconder on behalf of them was.

The Chairman said that we put it forward as the proposer and seconder who had put the proposal forward and it was accepted as that.

If the proposer and seconder for the items 1, 2 and 3 was not down in the minutes they were still voted on and passed by the membership present. Secretary apologised for this omission.

5. Chairman's Report.

Copies were made available for anyone to peruse, Mrs Gilbert had read the report out earlier to members, and all were happy with it.

6. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Balance Sheet.

The Hon Treasurer apologised as there had been a breakdown in communication, so no copies were available to see, they were signed off on the 31st of January 2022.

They showed a surplus of £1,049.00 to take into consideration, firstly a cheque issued for the magazine of £270 the printers lost, this has now been paid, and will come off this year's accounts.

We had no Journal last year (£700 costs) if we would have had a Journal we probably would have broken even, bearing in mind the year before we made a loss and we have managed to turn that around. If anyone would like a copy of the accounts the Treasurer can email a copy to them if they let him have their email address.

Ms. J Brown said that she thought the unrepresented cheque should be in this years, it shouldn't be omitted, Treasurer said that the Accountant said to carry forward to the following year, Ms Brown did not think this was correct, so Treasurer will talk to the accountant about this. We can email copies of the accounts out.

The Hon Treasurers report and balance sheet was not approved at this time.

7. Subscriptions

To remain the same. Proposed by Vanessa McHugh and Seconded by Wendy Sharman, all in favour.

8. Appointment of an Auditor.

Hon Treasurer proposed to stay with Barry Gould FMAAT of BMG Accountancy Services Ltd and he will speak to him about the earlier matter. A question was asked if we had any plans for the money we have, Hon Treasurer said that the concern was that in the last couple of years the club had lost money and now it is starting to turn this around.

Could we not use some of the money for say education days for pet owners just for an example? One in the North and one in the South, the Treasurer said we have a commitment to members regarding the money.

One Member said that maybe we can use it as an investment in the welfare of the breed for instance, also they asked if the club folded would the money go to the Kennel Club? The Treasurer replied yes it would.

Proposed by Mr R Gilbert and Seconded by Miss S Middleton

9. Donations

Last year we did not make any and the Treasurer thought this year should be the same until we get back to more normal practice's week in and week out, that was his recommendation.

Proposed by Mrs B Benner and Seconded by Mr William Croxford.

10. Sub-Committee Reports:

10.1 Shows:

Show report read out by the Show Manager, giving mention to the special stake's classes in memory of Mr Robert Greaves, a lovely rosette for the 1st prize winner of classes and for the overall winner of the stakes class a trophy kindly donated by Britt and Martin.

There will be a Jacobs table and a raffle, Mrs Wendy Threadgold is organising the raffle so any donations to her please.

The judge's gift for the Championship shows have been bought and both sets of rosettes ordered.

There will be two judges for the May show with Mrs Jill Cowper as referee.

If you have only entered the club show in May and not Birmingham National you will need to see Committee for a pass out for your dog.

10.2 Breed Survey:

Our breed is in a healthy position at the moment, we are still waiting for quite a few results to go to Barbara and the Kennel Club, most prevalent is cancer and cysts.

Maybe we can put some cysts down to management, these are sebaceous cysts, sometimes can be treated at home. Cancer is more of a problem.

The Kennel Club will not bring third generation testing in until 2023 officially.

There are no seminars at the moment, possibly Autumn.

Don't forget to send any test results to Barbara and the Kennel Club, overall, the breed in good shape. The Kennel Club do not seem to be publishing any test results, we think they are around 12 months behind. Tanja Mortimer said she had received an email from the Kennel Club to say they won't put health tests results on at the moment, Mrs Deuchar said that the BVA are updating their system and unfortunately it's the same one as the Kennel Club.

Mrs Cowper said don't forget you can still send your tests to Australia or the States even though they will not be uploaded to the Kennel Club site, you would get your results.

We cannot actually see the status of PRA at the moment, but as said above the Kennel Club will require us to test after three generations, we are doing as much as we can.

10.3 Publications

Copies of the publications report were available to look at, there was no club journal, or few shows last year, no health results from the Kennel Club, there will be a double one for 2020/2021.

Mrs Hudson has resigned as editor due to health reasons, eventually after some begging Karen Gold and Catherin Saint will carry on with the Journal with Mrs Hudson to advise them, Annabel Cook will proof read.

Diana stated that although it is special its very much an amateur publication done by volunteers, it takes many hours of hard work, it will never be a professional, perfect book, if mistakes happen please remember this and let the editor know so it can be corrected going forward.

The Magazine newsletter is proving to be a painful job for Diana, but no one has agreed to take this on, she will try to get one out this year. The Magazine is aimed more at pet owners than the Journal so any funny stories, poems, attending a show for the first time, crosswords in fact anything Elkhound related. Many thanks to the regional writers and people who donate items.

Ms Brown asked, going back to the public recorded health tests, would it be possible for us to do it on a voluntary basis, maybe as an addition to one of the publications? it would not be an official list but would be a good starting point, a lot of the problem is not the Kennel Club it's the BVA.

As an example, Mrs Maun said she had booked an eye test for her dogs in August and she just got word less than a week ago that she could take them in, this was approx. 7 months waiting time, this is similar with hip scores too.

Mrs Sharman asked if it was possible for the NECGB to do an eye testing session, this we had thought about, and we really struggled with, most of the eye panellists wanted a guaranteed number of dogs, even if we could open it to other breeds you couldn't guarantee a number before they would come out, and one or two just wouldn't come out, we stopped doing the sessions before as we just couldn't get enough dogs. One or two of the Championship shows are having them.

11. Election of Officers and Committee.

The position of Chairman and Treasurer were uncontested; therefore, Mrs Gilbert and Mr Byrne are re-elected.

There are three Committee vacancies (3-year terms) Mrs Deuchar offered herself for re-election and we received 2 nominations for Committee, Mrs T Maun, and Mrs W Sharman, therefore all three are elected to Committee, Welcome.

12. Trophy Update

We have no active Trophy Steward at the moment, we are hoping someone might volunteer, although it might be better if we wait until the audit of trophies is completed.

Mrs Cowper said she had been to see a storage unit near to her and she proposed to store all trophies until we can get them logged. We have four boxes of Ann Roslin-Williams books which Ann has donated to the Club, we can do what we want with these, all she would like is a donation making to the Salvation Army if that is ok with members. Mrs Cowper will take some to the Club show and maybe we could add some to the prizes, but it needs discussing. Into the storage will also be four boxes of shop items, these will need going through and listing, maybe eventually we could try and get some online.

Cost of the storage is a bit expensive, the insurance up to a value of £15,000 is £27 per four weeks, the unit is approx. 25 square feet, and the rent is £57 per four weeks.

Mrs McHugh asked if the storage would be ok for keeping paper etc? Mrs Cowper assured her, it is a storage room and is perfectly safe for these items.

In the AGM paperwork we sent out a ballot form to members with some options of what we could do with them, out of a membership of over 200 we only had 18 forms returned which was rather disappointing, but we have to abide by the results we have received.

One of the questions raised was do we need to contact donors of trophies? Chairman said that we do not need to as once they are donated they are the property of the club, but if anyone wants to apply to have their trophy returned they may do so.

The result of the ballot:

Option 1 was unanimous in agreement, - carried

Option 2 we had 16 for and 2 against, - carried.

Option 3 we had 10 for and 8 against, - carried.

Option 4 we had 14 for and 4 against, - carried.

We are retaining the Contest of Champions trophies; any solid silver ones will be kept and anything valuable will be kept. The Chairman read out to members the letter that went out with the AGM postings regarding the trophy ballot.

The documentation will include a full written report to be retained by the Club which will include the donor, name of the trophy, winning dog, and owners name also a photograph of the trophy, as said earlier, the Contest of Champions trophies will be retained, along with the high value trophies these will be retained as an on-going asset.+

The ultimate aim when we have gone through this massive task is that we could possibly do a publication and put on the website as it is a history of the breed.

We just do not have a Trophy Steward to sign trophies in and out at shows, take them to shows and store them.

We had a letter from Lady Wade-Gery with some very interesting history on the Patiala trophy, Secretary printed this off and some copies were made available to look at, she also sent a letter on the history of her own Elkhounds that she had owned in the past, very interesting, again this was printed off.

13. Proposal received to make Herr Ralf Campbell, a Patron of the NECGB, (his CV was available for members to read.)

Proposed by: Mr M Sharman and Seconded by: Mrs W A Sharman, after a show of hands by the Members it was a unanimous decision to make him a Patron of the Club, Mrs Sharman said that he would be delighted.

14. Proposal received for Mrs Wendy Sharman to become a Life Vice President, Proposed by: Mr Stuart Byrne and Seconded by: Mrs H E Benner (again CV was available for members to read)
This is an honorary position, after a show of hands, 22 in favour and 1 abstention, so the motion was carried.

15. This was regarding our Constitution and Rules, which was in a desperate need of an overhaul, to amend the wording on rule 4.2.(1) of the clubs Constitution and Rules.

The Proposal received was that Members supply an email address (one for Joint Membership and parent/guardian for a Junior Membership) in order that the Club can use this method to dispatch all correspondence with the exception of ballot papers when necessary. Any Member that does not have access to a computer, tablet or smart phone can apply in writing to receive such items by post. The distribution of the Journal and Magazine are exempt from this rule.

Proposed by: Wendy Sharman and Seconded by: Mrs E L Hicks.

We had a discussion about this proposal and almost all seemed happy about it, just the emphasis on members request in writing if they have no access to phones, laptops, computers etc.

Show of hands, 22 in favour - so carried.

16. Proposal received to amend the wording on certain rules in our Constitution and Rules, these were proposed by: Mrs W Sharman and Seconded by: Mr M Stephenson.

2.1 This Proposal was to change the number of Committee members from 10 to 9
We had a show of hands, 22 in favour, so carried.

3.5 The Proposal was to add the following, “**face to face, by video or telephone conferencing**”. The Chairman added that we do all Committee meetings by voice call mainly due to covid.
We had a show of hands, 23 in favour, so carried.

9.1 The Proposal was to add the following “**When physical meetings prove impractical due to a pandemic, travel restrictions, etc.. such meetings may be held by video conferencing to allow maximum input from members for the greater good of the Club.**”

This was discussed at last years AGM so has been put in as a proposal, and we still would have to give the appropriate notice to Members to hold a zoom meeting, we would only look to do this in exceptional circumstances generally of thumb we would be looking at face to face meeting.

Show of hands, 19 in favour and 4 against, so carried.

Ms Brown asked that would it be possible at the end of any AGM to open it up for Members who were unable to attend, some Members were not convinced that anyone would dial in if they did not know what was being discussed, we talked about this, and the general feeling was that it would need careful thinking about.

Mrs Cowper said she would like to organise a fun day for pet members, we could do scent training and in the afternoon maybe a show or a talk about something that maybe Mrs Sharman could do with her experience of showing in Europe etc. the only thing would be if we could get volunteers to do this as when Mrs Cowper and Mrs Maun used to organise ELK there was not much help, on one occasion only one Elkhound turned up at the exemption show they run. Back to proposals now.

9.4 This was to add the word **email** to this rule. (This was for nominations for Officers and Committee, items for the agenda, from paid up members attending an AGM)
Show of hands, unanimous in favour of the proposal, so carried.

9.5 The election of Officers and the Committee shall be by postal ballot supervised by the Kennel Club, **an independent scrutineer nominated by the Committee** if the nominations exceed the number of vacancies.

The Proposal was to add the highlighted text.

The Chairman explained that as the Kennel Club do not do this any longer, it goes to an outside company, last year we used on their recommendation, a company called Mi Voice.

Show of hands, 22 in favour and 1 abstention, so carried.

9.7 The Proposal was to add the highlighted text, Members of the club **to have access to quarterly summaries** of Committee decisions via the Clubs website but not the detailed minutes which remain confidential to the Committee.

Chairman agreed in principle, but her concern was that if we put these on the website, it would be there for all to see, not just Members, it may be possible to have just a Member's section of the website, Ms Cowper said yes that would be possible.

Show of hands, 21 in favour and 1 abstention, so carried.

No. 17

These were proposed changes to our Constitution and Rules received from the Committee of the NECGB. Proposed by: Mrs C Gilbert and Seconded by: Mrs L A Middleton.

4.3 The Proposal was to take out the highlighted text, **Life Vice Presidencies or Honorary Life Vice-Presidencies may be granted by a General meeting to Members who have furthered the interests of the Club and who wish to retain full membership. They are entitled to attend Committee meetings in a non-voting capacity.**

Mrs Sharman commented that she had a schedule where the British Elkhound Society did not have a life Vice President or honorary, they had a Vice President, she also had a schedule with all the people who had been Life Vice Presidents, the Chairman wondered where this had come from in the first place, we can only go with the Constitution as we have it at the moment, this probably happened before it was amalgamated, for interest, Mary Jarman was the first Life President in 1978 followed by Barbara Parkes in 1979.

The rule as it stands at the moment is they can sit in on Committee Meetings but no vote on action, this is why we are proposing to take it out, it is an honorary position, so they don't need to attend the Committee Meetings, we are just proposing to change it to an honorary position.

So, the proposal just to be clear is to take out the highlighted text.

Show of hands, 2 in favour and 9 against, 8 abstentions, so the clause is left as it is.

4.9 Planned puppy list, the Proposal was to add the wording, **All Members are required to inform the Secretary of planned litters.**

Members were not sure on this one as some were not comfortable with it, some Members may plan a litter, then it falls through etc.. it was decided in the end to vote to take it out of the Constitution, and if the Secretary had any enquiries to direct prospective puppy buyers to the breeders list on the club website.

Show of hands, remove the list 21 and 1 against 1 abstention so it was carried to remove.

18. A.O.B.

Question about when we were thinking of starting with the Contest of Champions again?

We are hopefully hoping to start in 2023 if nothing is put in our way.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

LM/CG/05/04/2022