

**Minutes of the Meetings of THE BREED COUNCIL**  
**Held at Ryton Village Hall, Ryton on Dunsmore, Coventry CV8 3EY**  
**On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**

**PRESENT:**

L Forfar (Chairman)  
B Ward (Vice Chairman/PRO)  
L Palmer (Treasurer)  
G Pearce-Gudger (Secretary)  
S Ellison  
T Buck  
S Ewan  
E Thomas  
V Flowers  
P Darby  
C West  
M Lockwood  
I Hillier

**CLUBS REPRESENTED:**

Midland  
Coventry  
Rotherham  
  
Devon & Cornwall  
London  
East of Scotland  
Home Counties  
Scotland  
Parti-Colour  
North Midlands & Eastern Counties  
Solid Colours  
South Wales & Monmouth

**In Attendance:**

J Buck	London
A Murray	East of Scotland
T Sherlock	North Midlands & Eastern Counties
C Flowers	Scotland
S Hiller	South Wales & Monmouth

**Apologies**

Received from Cheshire (Doreen Stonier), East Anglia (Linda Crowley), Hants & Sussex (Judi Whitworth), Midland (Joanna Darby), North of England (Anna Spencer), North of Ireland & Ulster (Linda Bailie), London (Sue Warrington), Rotherham (Dawn Young), West of England (Sandra Gregory), Yorkshire (Carol Welch)

**Judges Sub Committee:**

The meeting was opened at 11.05 by Chairman Mr Les Forfar.

Our breed has been reduced to Band D, therefore the criteria had to be reconsidered in respect of our A3 and B list numbers. The Kennel Club numbers for Band E are a maximum of 250 dogs judged, Band D are a maximum of 160 dogs judged.

The Breed Council's present criteria are:

A3: 2 Breed Clubs, 60 further classes, 300 dogs' judges in total

B List: 30 classes, 100 dogs judged.

Mrs L Palmer, BEC and Judges Co-Ordinator advised that we must reduce to a number acceptable to both The Kennel Club (KC) and Breed Clubs. North Midlands & Eastern Counties pointed out that judges still require a reasonable number of dogs to judge in order to gain the hands-on experience needed. Solid Cocker pointed out that the number decided upon needs to reflect the drop-in entries at open show level.

Midland proposed that the number of dogs for the A3 list be reduced to 200 and include 2 breed shows plus 60 classes. This was seconded by Home Counties, all in attendance were in favour.

Solid Colours proposed, Parti-Colour seconded that the B list be reduced to 80 dogs and 20 classes. This was counter proposed by North Midlands & Eastern Counties that the B list be reduced to 80 dogs and 25 classes, seconded by Coventry. All in attendance were in favour on the number of 80 dogs, however a voting on the number of classes resulted in 20 classes - 4 in favour, 25 classes - 5 in favour. Therefore, the final change to be put forward is 80 dogs and 25 classes.

For B list purposes, there is a difference of opinion between The Cocker Spaniel Club (CSC) and Breed Council (BC) on the Special Award classes in counting the number of dogs not classes. Rotherham propose that there is to be no alteration to the BC criteria, that 3 Special Awards classes are counted, a voting resulted in 9 in favour, 1 against. The classes to be counted with effect from 23.3.2019.

Meeting closed at 11.43hrs

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BREED COUNCIL**

**HELD ON SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2019**

**AT RYTON VILLAGE HALL, RYTON ON DUNSMORE, COVENTRY, CV8 3EY**

**PRESENT:**

L Forfar (Chairman)  
B Ward (Vice Chairman/PRO)  
L Palmer (Treasurer)  
G Pearce-Gudger (Secretary)  
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South Wales & Monmouth

**In Attendance:**

J Buck	London
A Murray	East of Scotland
T Sherlock	North Midlands & Eastern Counties
C Flowers	Scotland
S Hillier	South Wales & Monmouth

The Chairman welcomed delegates and opened the meeting at 11.45am

**1. Apologies and Proxies**

Apologies received from Cheshire (Doreen Stonier), East Anglia (Linda Crowley), Hants & Sussex (Judi Whitworth), Midland (Joanna Darby), North of England (Anna Spencer), North of Ireland & Ulster (Linda Bailie), London (Sue Warrington), Rotherham (Dawn Young), West of England (Sandra Gregory), Yorkshire (Carol Welch). No Proxy votes received.

**2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

Distributed at the meeting and were previously sent to all Member Clubs. Minutes were proposed as a true record by Parti-Colour and seconded by N.Mids & E.Counties, all present at the meeting in favour, the Chairman Mr L Forfar signed the Minutes.

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman Mr Les Forfar gave his report to members in attendance. See appendix i

**5. Treasurer's Report**

Balance Sheets were circulated to all delegates at the meeting and Hon Treasurer, Mrs Lorraine Palmer presented a detailed and thorough report on the accounts for the year. The Treasurer explained that an amount of £188.01 received from The Cocker Spaniel Club regarding the shared

costs of the jointly held Judges Competence Assessment in March 2019 would offset the small loss suffered over the year.

N.Mids & E.Counties proposed the Balance Sheets were in good accordance, seconded by Home Counties. All delegates in attendance were in favour.

## **6. Judges List Co-Ordinator's Report**

The figures for the 2019 Judging list were detailed as follows:

B list – 92 judges (53 BS; 39 NBS)

- 4 names were added during 2018
- As a result of the JCA, at least 3 people are to be elevated to the A3 list

A3 list – 18 judges (11BS; 7NBS)

- 10 of these A3 judges already have CC appointments in 2020/21
  - of these 10, nine are BS, one is a NBS.

C list - No names have been added.

In two years, the KC Academy will be taking care of all judging lists which means there will be no judging lists held by the BC.

Devon & Cornwall questioned maintaining the existing judging lists, but it was explained that there will be no requirement for any Breed Council or Breed Clubs to hold judging details as these will be on the database at the KC as part of the Judging Academy register.

## **7. United Spaniel Association**

Notice had been received of the USA AGM taking place on 26th May at Stoneleigh Village Hall. See Appendix ii. As the position of Cocker Spaniel Representative for United Spaniel Association is at present unfilled, it is unlikely there will be a breed representative in attendance.

Coventry proposed that the Breed Council should donate £20 in lieu of sponsorship and the donation would be credited in the catalogue, seconded by Home Counties. There was a counter proposal not to donate and to review sponsorship of the show next year by Midland. Results of the vote were 4 in favour of donating, 5 in favour of not donating, 3 abstained. The motion not to donate was carried.

## **8. P.R.O.**

Mrs Barbara Ward gave a report on promoting Cocker Spaniels on Discover Dog Stand at Crufts, London Excel and the National Pet Show at N.E.C.

Thanks, were conveyed to

- everyone who gave up their time to help and for bringing their dogs along throughout the four days.
- for the donations of rosettes which were recycled and handed out to children visiting the DD stand.

All member clubs in attendance applauded Barbara Ward for her dedication and hard work in promoting our breed throughout the year.

## **9. Breed Health Coordinator's Report**

Mrs Carol West read out a report on breed health issues (see appendix iii) and requested that all Member Clubs have a link to the BCs health questionnaire to encourage a wider selection of Cocker Spaniel owners to complete and submit the form to gain more insight into health issues. More recently, Cocker Spaniels afflicted with Immune-Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia (IMHA), have been referred to a Veterinary Centre in Hatfield. This complex disease is different and challenging from other causes of canine haemolytic anaemia. Funding is required for research purposes into IMHA and Mrs Carol West asked if each Member Club could donate £25 - this would produce a good financial start into the IMHA research. Added to this, the BC are to donate £500 from the research account for IMHA. Further information on IMHA will be available on the BC's website. Mrs Carol

West will also have leaflets for distribution. The Cocker Spaniel Club are to be asked to support this health issue and an item on their AGM agenda to include testing of AON in Code of Ethics. Research centre in United States of America are also requesting blood samples for research from 50 affected cases, they have a supply of clear bloods already. A summary health report is to be placed in the breed notes section of Our Dogs.

#### **10.Election of Officers**

As informed at the AGM 2018, the existing Chairman, Mr Les Forfar, and Hon. Secretary, Ms Gill Pearce-Gudger, were not standing for re-election. A nomination for Chairman had been received from East of Scotland and a nomination for Hon.Secretary had been received from N.Midlands & E.Counties. Therefore, with immediate effect the new Chairman is Mr Adam Murray and the new Hon.Secretary is Mrs Tracey Sherlock.

Mrs Carol West expressed gratitude to the outgoing officers for their hard work and dedication during their time in positions.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

The outgoing Secretary reported that all correspondence received from the KC had been dealt with accordingly.

AGM closed 13.05hrs

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE BREED COUNCIL

HELD ON SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2019

AT RYTON VILLAGE HALL, RYTON ON DUNSMORE, COVENTRY, CV8 3EY

### **PRESENT:**

A Murray (Chairman)  
B Ward (Vice Chairman/PRO)  
L Palmer (Treasurer)  
T Sherlock (Secretary)  
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### **In Attendance:**

J Buck  
A Murray  
T Sherlock  
C Flowers  
S Hiller  
  
London  
East of Scotland  
North Midlands & Eastern Counties  
Scotland  
South Wales & Monmouth

The incoming Chairman, Mr Adam Murray opened the General Meeting.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cheshire (Doreen Stonier), East Anglia (Linda Crowley), Hants & Sussex (Judi Whitworth), Midland (Joanna Darby), North of England (Anna Spencer), North of Ireland & Ulster (Linda Bailie), London (Sue Warrington), Rotherham (Dawn Young), West of England (Sandra Gregory), Yorkshire (Carol Welch).

### **2. Kennel Club Training Board: Production of Breed Video**

The KC had apparently sent an email to member clubs about creating a breed specific video for judges' education. Nomination of speaker/s for Breed Narrator were requested by 29/3/19.

As most member clubs had not received the email, it is apparent that further discussion is required among all member clubs. The email is to be circulated to all breed club secretaries and committees are requested to agree on nominated speakers to be put forward after the next Breed Council meeting. Therefore, all in attendance were in favour that the suggested date 29/3/19 be deferred. Until we know that date and nominated Narrators, there will be no contact with the Training Board save for we are to ask that the slot for the actual filming (at present April 2020) also be deferred to October 2020. The Training Board will then decide who is to be Narrator and timetable for production of various aspects of the scripts, photos and copyright etc. plus the Steering Groups choice of dogs and reserves will happen during 2020.

### **3. Member Clubs Annual Subscription**

The item was withdrawn at the meeting and will be pursued at a later date.

#### **4. Judges Competency Framework**

i) Publication of List of Breed Mentors and Observers.

Mrs Lorraine Palmer as Breed Education Coordinator (BEC) announced that 23 names had been received to be included on list of Breed Mentors and Observers, the list will be forwarded to the KC.

The procedure of Mentors and Observers was discussed, and guidelines will be on the KC website from July onwards.

ii) Report on JCF BAD and MCE Event hosted by North Midlands & Eastern Counties CSC.

N.Midlands & E.Counties held a BAD and MCE day on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019. There were 19 candidates in attendance and David Shields gave the breed talk and also presented the answers after the candidates had completed the mce. 13 candidates took the exam and 9 passed. 1 NB candidate passed with 100%. The 4 candidates who failed the exam were shown their paper so they could see where they failed. It was suggested that in future candidates are to be given statistics of scores. A kennel club observer was present and the only thing picked up upon was to direct candidates to the KC breed standard, not the one on the breed council website.

ii) Procedure for A2 Assessments and subsequent A2 Application submissions to KC Judge Department.

The Judging Competency Framework transitional period is January 2022, between now and then there will be many judges as possible adopting the A2 procedure.

#### **5. Any other business**

i) The Chairman reported that the item – Minutes of Last Meeting - was omitted from the agenda, Parti-Colour proposed that they were agreed, East of Scotland seconded, all in attendance in favour. Chairman signed the minutes.

ii) Both Coventry and Solid Colours raised concern on learning that West of England were changing their Championship Show date in 2021 to end of January. Solid Colours stated that this could affect entries for Championship shows of Parti-Colour and Solid Colours. The outgoing secretary (as Parti-Colour Secretary) expressed that this should not be an issue for Solid Colours as Parti-Colour were not informed or consulted prior to Solid Colours moving their Championship show date from October to February nor were any concerns raised.

Devon & Cornwall also reported that they are moving their Championship show date from November to May.

It was reported that it is not the responsibility of the BC to inform Member Clubs on their show diary arrangements.

#### **6. Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting.**

A date is to be fixed for the next meeting on the availability of Ryton on Dunsmore Village Hall and to avoid clashing of show diary.

General Meeting closed at 14:55hrs

## Appendix i

Welcome to the 2019 AGM of the Breed Council. Thank you to everyone for giving up their valuable time to attend today and welcome to those who may not have attended the Breed Council in the past

I am pleased to have the pleasant job of thanking all member clubs and their representatives for all their support, hard work and most importantly the time given to The Breed Council. I would like to thank Gill and Lorraine for their hard work over the last year.

Gill provides you the member clubs with Questionnaires with realistic timescales for return; regrettably a number of member clubs continue to fail to submit the thoughts and views of their committees. The Cocker Spaniel is our breed and it is our responsibility to represent its interests. I therefore encourage you all as delegates to this council to urge your committees to play a more active part in the council's representations to the Kennel Club.

Lorraine is tireless in her efforts to keep the judging lists up to date, alongside her duties as our treasurer and we will be informed shortly of the situation with regards to both elements of Lorraine's duties. In addition Lorraine has, as you will be aware, taken on the important role as our Breed Education Coordinator. I am sure Lorraine will update us on this the 3rd of her roles later.

Finally, as you will be aware, I gave notice at last year's AGM that I will not be seeking re-election as Chairman today. It has been an honour and a privilege to undertake this role and I wish my successor every success in taking the important work of this council forward.

Thank you for your attention, we will now continue with today's AGM.

NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UNITED SPANIEL ASSOCIATION TO BE HELD AT 11AM ON SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019 AT STONELEIGH VILLAGE HALL, CV8 3DG

The United Spaniel Association will hold its Annual General Meeting on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

The meeting will commence at 11am, all member club secretaries, officers and delegates are welcome to attend.

The President, Gail Hay is willing to remain in office for a further year.

The Vice Presidents who are willing to remain in office for a further year are: Brian Shears; Ant Andrews; Judith Harris; Valda Day; Carol Page; Gina Bowers.

The position of Chairman is vacant.

The positions of Vice Chairman, Working Secretary, Secretary, Treasurer are all up for consideration.

Nominations for officer positions are invited and should be made in writing and sent to the Secretary no later than the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. The letter should confirm that the person nominated has agreed to this nomination.

Any items for the Agenda should also be made in writing and sent to the Secretary no later than the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

Signed: Liz Bowe. Hon Secretary

The role as Chairman is vacant

Appendix ii

Breed Council Meeting 23 March 2019

### **HEALTH REPORT.**

Since amending the Health reporting form to make it less draconian there has been an increase in the number of forms received. There have been 10 forms received reporting the following conditions:- Cirrhosis of liver, Pancreatitis, Hyperthyroidism, Chronic ear infection, Puppy with cataracts, chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia, Epilepsy and Liver Shunt, Patches of hair loss, 3 Immune Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia and 2 with Autoimmune Thrombocytopenia.

Would all clubs endeavour to have a link on their own club web site to the 'reporting a health condition' form on The Breed Council's website, thank you.

### **AON & AMS**

As I had heard nothing from our request to the Kennel Club to make these tests a requirement rather than a recommendation I emailed the Kennel Club and was advised that they could not make these requirements at the present time due to the disease frequency across working and show lines. I personally went to the Kennel Club Stand at Crufts and queried why this was, pointing out that not all cocker breeders are well informed with the breed as a whole and are mating show/working lines together and the idea behind us requesting that these tests were made requirements was to hopefully prevent the cross over. I did point out that by acting now we could help to prevent a cross over, if it's not already happened and pointed out that it would be very sad if we had to wait for both strains to be affected before anything else was done.

I have subsequently received an email from the kennel club stating that we can apply again if the clubs so wish. I do have a copy of the email if anyone would like to see it. Are all the clubs happy for me to re submit the application form.

### **IMMUNE MEDIATED HAEMOLYTIC ANEMIA**

Sadly I have received reports of cockers suffering with this awful condition and it does appear that this is far more prevalent than we first thought. It is known that just one referral centre is seeing 4 cockers a month with this condition. If anyone has had a dog with this condition or knows of someone who has please, please could you encourage them to fill in a form. We need to know just how many are affected so together we can move forward to find a cause and hopefully eradicate this awful condition.

I am aware that Dr Steven Friedenbergl at The University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in America is doing a study into this along with Addison's Disease, and is desperate for blood samples from affected cockers to assist with his

study. His email address is [z.umn.edu/imha](mailto:z.umn.edu/imha) and for Addison's the address is [z.umn.edu/Addison's](mailto:z.umn.edu/Addison's) or mail to: [fried255@umn.edu](mailto:fried255@umn.edu).

I am also aware that The RVC are now looking into this and have produced a leaflet to this effect, but they do require funding for the study to continue. Could I please ask if any of our Breed Clubs would be prepared to donate something to this worthwhile cause. If each breed club donated just £100 we could instantly raise over £2000 which would be a good start. We all need to pull together to raise awareness of this awful condition and hopefully between us come up with some ideas for raising funds to enable this study to continue.

Carol West  
BHC