

# **DEVON & CORNWALL COCKER SPANIEL CLUB**

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 1st May 2021 on-line via Zoom.**

**Present:** Chairman: Mr A. Reed, Vice Chair: Mr F Bard, Secretary: Miss S. Ellison; Mr R Owens, Mrs J Norris, Miss J Norris, Mrs Kimberley Wannell, Mr Duncan Craig, Gary Green and Jennie Sweet

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Miss J King, Mrs H Gibson, Messrs S and B McCabe-Bell, Mr S Kew, Mrs J Kew.

2. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20.09.2020**

On a proposition by Mrs F Bard seconded by Mrs K Wannell the minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved and 'virtually' signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3. **Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman presented his report saying that this year, as we were all aware, had been a very different one for us all. The fact that we were holding a second AGM for the club in the virtual was a sign of this and he had to say he missed the ability for Members to connect physically.

There was clearly little to report in terms of the club activities however, saying that, it had not been a quiet year, as the KC has taken the opportunity to re-asses many aspects of the show world especially the allocation of CCs, which the secretary would cover in her report. We had as always, put forward our points to the Breed Council on the matter with a clear view to protect the club for our members whilst ensuring that we were able to future proof for generations of Cocker exhibitors and enthusiasts to come.

Looking forward, the Chairman hoped that we would be able to go ahead with our delayed Championship show in combination with Paignton in August – a much needed boost to the Club both financially and for our own wellbeing.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their continued support as Members and Committee and looked forward to seeing everyone soon.

5. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary presented her report, saying once again we were meeting on-line – it is good to see those attending and she expected quite a few were becoming used to this method of holding meetings. There were advantages, of course, but she was certainly looking forward to seeing everyone in person.

This past year had been quiet and as Members were aware the Club, along with most others, had been obliged to cancel the Shows scheduled for May, November 2020 and also the Show due to have taken place today at Calverleigh. She believed many had saved a small, or maybe not so small, fortune in fuel and entrance fees over the past year and the Club, in spite of the cancellations, had thankfully been able to limit expenditure and consequent losses – Members being good enough to pay their subscriptions and generously making donations towards Club funds. Although the Club had been obliged to make cancellations the KC had allowed the November 2020 Championship Show to be carried forward and this was due to take place in conjunction with the Paignton Ch Show on 7th August 2021.

On the point of Membership, you will see from the Agenda the proposal to increase Membership subscriptions. The last increase had taken place in 2002 and it was hoped that the increase from £3.00 to £4.00 for Single; and from £4.00 to £5.00 for Joint membership would not be considered excessive.

The Kennel Club had chosen this period of inactivity in the Show calendar to make changes to many of their administrative procedures and regulations. Members would be aware that the Judges Education Programme (JEP Breed Shows) came into effect on 1st January 2021 – and this would run along side the existing Criteria, maintained by the Cocker Spaniel Club and Breed Council for the progression of Judges, for a period of five years. Once we were able to get back on course with Shows and other educational

events, all those aspiring Judges, who had already embarked upon their judging career under the old system, should endeavour to make progress onto the relevant A3 List.

Breed Clubs were now required by the KC to provide sufficient educational, mentoring and assessment opportunities to judges in the form of Supported Entries at Local General Open Shows and Breed Appreciation Days (BAD) including the Multiple Choice Exam (MCE). The Club would be Supporting the Cocker Classes at the Devon County Show in July this year and

South Western Gundog in the Autumn and it was anticipated that a BAD/MCE would form part of the 2022 calendar.

Also effective from 1st January 2021 the KC had confirmed, as a condition of the Registration of the Club, that in addition to the adoption of the Kennel Club Code of Ethics the Club adopt the Rules set out in Section C of the KC Year Book (Item 9 on the Agenda). It should be noted that the KC Code was addressed to all members, committee members and volunteers acting on behalf of the KC – the “Code” included Ethics, Best Practice for Judges; Code of Conduct for participants at licensed events and Welfare/Safety of Dogs. The Secretary asked Members to make themselves aware of the Regulations – which applied particularly to anyone helping out on a Show/event day; and in fact anyone involved or taking part.

Members would be aware of the trend towards the falling number of entries at all level of Shows over the past years – in Cockers it could be 50% down at some shows; The Kennel Club had been looking at ways of encouraging entries and promoting dog showing. As part of their review, during the latter part of last year, the KC issued a notification to all our Breed Club Secretaries requesting feedback on their proposal for allocating CC Status to Clubs (from 2024-28) and the discontinuance of the Rotation system; they had suggested, to assist in making a decision, they would support any Clubs who amalgamated by confirming the newly formed club annual CC Status for the following ten years. The method of future CC allocation would be calculated on the basis of the number of entries at a Club Ch Show over the past five year period. Members would appreciate that the number of Cocker Clubs exceeded the number of CC's allocated to the Breed Clubs in any one year – hence the Rotation system which had successfully existed for a number of years. The Breed Council and Member Clubs had been invited to an on-line meeting with the Kennel Club, at which the KC Secretary and a Board Member made a presentation in support of and reasoning behind their proposals. From those Club's in attendance it had been made clear to the KC that the current Rotation system worked well and there was no desire or need to change. In fact the KC Representatives gave the impression that they had appreciated what had been said and it also transpired they were offering two extra sets of CC's annually to the Breed. They did not expect any Clubs to amalgamate if they did not wish to.

After this meeting there had been some correspondence between the Breed Council, the KC and Member Clubs, followed by a request from the KC that submissions be made by the end of January 2021 to support maintaining the status quo – or otherwise. The Club had submitted their report to the KC and the outcome of the KC Board's decision on The Future Allocation of CC's 2024-28 was expected after their meeting in May 2021. *A copy of the Club's letter to the KC was available from the Secretary on request.*

At present the future CC Status of the Club, and our other Breed Clubs, was uncertain.

The Secretary thanked all Members for their continued support.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, copies having been circulated.

The state of the accounts remained solid despite the heavy impact of the current crisis.

As expected, the Club had no significant income during the year with the cancellation of all the shows and events in 2020. Despite that, loyal members had paid their subscriptions and several had made very kind donations. The sale of some of the clubs unused trophies had raised some £200 towards Club funds.

Some costs had been incurred due to the cancellation of the May 2020 Open Show and the delay of the Championship show, as well as the annual fixed costs. The Club had made a donation to St Margaret's Hospice in Taunton following the death of our Treasurer, Linda.

The income received for the year of £331.00 with expenditure of £1101.03 had resulted in a nett loss of £770.03.

The Club, however, remained financially sound with cash in hand of £66.29 and £3269.98 in the Bank.

The Accounts were accepted on a proposal by Mrs Fran Bard and seconded by Duncan Craig.

## **7. Appointment of Auditor for 2021**

The Treasurer confirmed that the Auditor, Mr J.H. Angus, had agreed to carry out the audit of the accounts for the coming year. The appointment was unanimously approved.

## **8. Review of Honoraria**

The Honoraria to be paid for the year ended 2020 had been confirmed at £350.00 for the Secretary and £200.00 for the Treasurer. On this occasion, given the financial situation, both Honorary Officers declined their Honoraria. The Honoraria for the year ended 31.12.2021 was confirmed at £350.00 for the Secretary and £200.00 for the Treasurer.

**9. KC Regulations effective 01.01.2021:** It was confirmed that The Regulations issued by the KC and circulated with the AGM Papers would be incorporated into and form of the Club Rules and Regulations. The Secretary reminded Members that these Regulations applied to all participants in Kennel Club activities, whether they were officiating, volunteering or simply lending a hand at Club events.

**10. Proposed increase in Club Membership fees and amendment to the Constitution:**

**“5. Subscription** The Annual Subscription shall be:-

- a) ~~£3.00~~ **£4.00** for single Membership
- b) ~~£4.00~~ **£5.00** for Joint Membership
- c) ~~£5.00 for Family Membership (parents and their children under 18 years)~~
- d) ~~£2.00 for Junior Membership (Under 18 years on 1<sup>st</sup> January in the year subscriptions are due); and shall be payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year.~~

Any member’s subscription which is due but not paid fourteen clear days before the date of the Annual General Meeting in any year shall cease to be a member of The Club.

However, should the Committee subsequently receive a satisfactory explanation, the member may, at the Committee’s discretion and upon repayment of arrears, be readmitted to The Club.”

Subscriptions had last been increased in 2002 and it was considered that the modest increase suggested at this time was within reason. There was no opposition to the proposal and it was unanimously agreed that annual subscriptions be increased to £4.00 for Single and £5.00 for Joint Membership, with the removal of reference to Family and Junior Membership, and that the Constitution be amended as proposed.

**11. Election of Officers and Committee**

The following Honorary Officers and the Committee were proposed without contest for election en-bloque:

**President:** Vacant

**Chairman:** Mr A Reed –

**Vice- Chairman:** Mrs F Bard

**Treasurer:** Mr A Reed –

**Secretary:** Miss S Ellison –

**Committee,**

Miss J King; Mrs V Sheppard; Miss Kimberley Wannell; Miss Joy Norris; Mrs Jennie Sweet

The Honorary Officers and Committee were unanimously confirmed in post.

**11. Any Other business:** there was no other business.

**12. Close of meeting**

The Chairman thanked members for attending and the meeting closed at 11.46 am.

Signed ..... Chairman

Dated .....2022