

## **DEVON & CORNWALL COCKER SPANIEL CLUB**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting** held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at Uplowman Village Hall, Uplowman near Tiverton EX16 7DN immediately following the Club Open Show – commencing 02.10 pm

**Present:** Chairman: Mr A Reed, Vice Chair: Mrs F Bard; Secretary: Miss SJ Ellison; Mrs K Wannell, Mrs V Sheppard, Miss H Dewhurst, Mrs P Meaker, Mr D Shapland and Mrs C Shapland, Mr S Cowles and Mrs J Cowles, Ms G Birkenshaw, Mrs J Sweet, Miss Joy Norris

1. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Mrs J Norris and Ms J King

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 -**

On a proposition by Mrs F Bard, seconded by Mr D Shapland the minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

4. **Chairman's Report –**

It seemed such a long time since we had been together. In 2024 we held our May open show followed by our Championship show in conjunction with Paignton in August. Despite a low entry at our Open show – the atmosphere remained as always, good. The move of the Championship show to Paignton had proved very successful. We had a very strong entry and were able to keep a strong separate identity – helped by the fact that we had our own Devon and Cornwall corner and were able to use our new banner to designate us from the main show - we even did very well on the raffle. This however meant that we had no show from August until May in the years when we have CCs, and the Committee felt this was too long not to be connected to our community. With that in mind, in the years where we have CCs, it had been agreed to hold a May and November Open show as well as a Championship show in August. The Chairman hoped exhibitors would see this as a positive step. In October we held a breed appreciation day with South Wales and Mon and West of England – held in Monmouth and organised this year by West of England. It was a very successful day, attended by the Secretary and myself in support.

As always, we had sadly lost members of our club this year – most notably Brian Taylor who had been a great supporter of the club for many years.

The Chairman thanked the committee for the continued support they give the club and also the exhibitors who continue to support.

5. **Secretary's Report –**

The Secretary thanked Members attending the AGM –

The Chairman had mentioned the Club events held during 2024, which included the May Open Show, Championship Show in August and BAD/MCE Seminar held in conjunction with West of England and South Wales and Mon. Breed Clubs were required by the KC to hold these judges educational Seminars every two years and so we are due to hold the next one in 2026.

We were disappointed at the negative financial result of the May Open Show, however it was not disastrous especially since the exhibitors and non-showing members attending made the event a friendly and enjoyable affair - making the event a success. Finances are of course balanced every two years by income from the Championship Show.

The Club would continue to hold educational events and Members with judging aspirations were reminded that the Traditional Judges Lists would cease to exist on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 when the Kennel Club Judges Educational Programme took over. From that date all Judges were required, as a minimum, to have completed the requirements for JEP Level 1. Information about the JEP could be obtained from the Kennel Club website and the Club would be holding the Confirmation & Movement/Points of the Dog Seminars at the end of August this year. Members should speak to the Secretary for more information about the JEP and/or the Seminars.

The Secretary thanked all those who continued to support the Club and particularly the Officers and Committee whose work helped her and allowed the Club to prosper.

6. **Treasurer's Report and presentation of Accounts**

The Treasurer presented the audited accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 mentioning the lengthy format. The Club's appointed auditor for the year had, unfortunately, recently suffered

a stroke and it had therefore been necessary to engage a professional accountant to step in and produce the accounts at fairly short notice. Copies having been circulated, the Treasurer reported a profit for the year of £1,053.00 against a 2023 loss of £122.00, which he considered an excellent result.

Income for the year was made up by Membership fees, up on the previous year, of £176.00; Breed Appreciation Day (BAD/MCE) a third share of the income at £92.41; May Open Show deficit of £16.45 – which had been the first loss making event in the past eight years; and the Championship Show with a profit of £1,634.01 – making a total income of £1,886.00

The Treasurer confirmed the Club was in an all time healthy position with an excellent End of year result, with cash in the Bank account of £6,348.00.

On a proposition by Gill Birkenstae, Seconded by Kimberley Dare the Accounts were accepted unanimously.

**7. Appointment of Auditor for the year ending 31.12.2025 –**

The Treasurer confirmed that before his stroke the Auditor, Mr JH Angus, had indicated that he would no longer be carrying out the audit of the accounts for the Club.

As a replacement, Ms Rose Butterfield had been suggested – a work colleague of Mrs Kimberley Wannell.

On a proposition by Jenny Sweet seconded by Vanda Sheppard, the appointment was unanimously approved.

**8. Review of Honoraria**

The Honoraria to be paid for the year ended 2024 had been confirmed at £400.00 for the Secretary and £225.00 for the Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer were asked to leave the room in order that the meeting discuss the Honoraria to be awarded to the year ended 31.12.2025. The Secretary had indicated that she thought the current Secretary's Honoraria was on the high side and suggested a reduction of £50.00. After discussion it was agreed the Honoraria remain unchanged and was confirmed at £400.00 for the Secretary and £225.00 for the Treasurer.

On this occasion the Treasurer declined his Honoraria.

**9. Election of Officers and Committee:**

Proposed Election – en bloque:

President – Vacant

Chairman – Mr A Reed

Vice-Chairman – Mrs F Bard

Secretary – Miss SJ Ellison

Treasurer – Mr A Reed

Committee: Mrs V Sheppard; Mrs K Wannell; Ms J Norris; Mrs J Sweet

On a proposition by Mr D Shapland seconded by Ms H Dewhurst, the Hon Officers and Committee were unanimously confirmed in post.

**10. Any Other Business** – there was no Other business.

**11. Close of Meeting.**

The Chairman thanked members for attending and the meeting closed at 02.25 pm

Signed .....Chairman

Dated .....2026