

DEVON & CORNWALL COCKER SPANIEL CLUB

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 17th May 2026 at Uplowman Village Hall, Uplowman near Tiverton EX16 7DN immediately following the Club Open Show

Present: Chairman: Mr A Reed; Vice Chair: Mrs F Bard; Secretary: Miss SJ Ellison; Mrs K Wannell, Miss Joy Norris, Mrs J Sweet, Miss H Dewhurst, Mrs P Meaker, Mr S Cowles and Mrs J Cowles, Ms G Birkenshaw, Mrs J Norris, Mr S Kew, Mrs J Kew, Ms Sharon Adams and Mrs G Birkenshaw

1. **Apologies for absence** – were received from Ms J King, Mrs V Sheppard, Mr D Shapland and Mrs C Shapland.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2025 -**

On a proposition by Mrs F Bard, seconded by Mr S Kew the minutes of the 2025 AGM were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

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

4. **Chairman's Report** –

The Chairman thanked members for attending; he reported that 2025 had been a steady year for the club. Being an off year with no Championship Show the Club had held two Open Shows, both well supported given the current downward trend of numbers of exhibitors.

With the generosity of members, not just entering the shows but also supporting us by buying food and raffle tickets, both events made a profit.

The Club continued to support the breed education by holding RKC Seminars, in August 2025, seminar to encourage new Judges.

2026 the Club will hold 3 shows including the Championship Show when hope to see many exhibitors both new and old.

The Chairman thanked the committee and the exhibitors for their continued support.

5. **Secretary's Report** –

The Secretary thanked the Members attending the AGM –

Club events held during 2025 included the May and November Open shows, both of which were well enough supported to cover the costs make a worth while financial result.

On the education front, in August the Club held the RKC Seminars Conformation and Movement/Points of the Dog – presented by David Cavill – with 10 Candidates who all successfully passed the Points of the Dog test.

She said the Club appreciated the support of members and exhibitors who entered the shows – without which the Club would not continue; the downward trend in numbers seemed to have reached a level and, as long as the Club can make the events sociable and friendly and exhibitors went home having enjoyed the day, it could be said the Club had succeeded.

Over the past couple of years, with Clubs amalgamating and cancelling shows, the number of Breed Club Open shows had fallen which was a loss to the Breed at the grassroots level. These Shows formed an extremely important part of our sport being an introduction and foundation for new exhibitors to develop their skills at a less challenging level in the company of experienced exhibitors who are willing to give support and encouragement.

2026 would be quite busy – as well as the May Show we had the ChShow in August at Westpoint in conjunction with Paignton DFass, a BAD/MCE in October and an Open Show in November.

Finally the Secretary thanked the Officers and Committee for their support during the past year.

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

The Treasurer confirmed that at the AGM held in May 2025 – auditors had been approved.

However, unfortunately they were unable to carry out the audit and therefore the accounts had been prepared by himself.

The Club provided a loss for the year of £241.17. which, as it was a non-championship year, was an excellent result.

This was made up of income from:

Membership £102 – which was down £74 on last year – but normal for non-championship year;

May Open show - £289.37; August Seminar - £144.02; November Open show - £109.21

Making Total income of £644.60.

Expenditure totalled £885.77 – which is well under control

Club debtors of £132 – RKC fees prepaid for 2027/8

The Financial position for the year end - cash in bank and in hand of £6106.83 (against 2024 £6348)

The Accounts had been independently verified and on a proposition by Mr S Kew Seconded by Miss J Norris were accepted unanimously.

7. Appointment of Auditor for the year ending 31.12.2026–

The Treasurer confirmed that he would be prepared to make up the Accounts for the year ending 31.12.2026 subject to independent verification.

On a proposition by Mr S Kew seconded by Miss J Norris this was unanimously approved.

8. Review of Honoraria

The Honoraria to be paid for the year ended 2025 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 31.12.2026.

With the Vice Chairman in the Chair it was agreed the Honoraria remain unchanged and was confirmed at £400.00 for the Secretary and £225.00 for the Treasurer.

The Treasurer declined his Honoraria on this occasion.

9. Constitution: (last updated 2023)

Proposed amendment to paragraph 13:

13. **Events** The organisation of shows, ~~events and~~ *or* matches with other clubs or societies in the region, shall be at the discretion of the Committee and the venue shall be remain within the county boundaries of Devon ~~or~~ *and* Cornwall ~~and Somerset.~~

Any Educational *or training* event or *Breed related* seminar, *which may or may not be* required by Kennel Club Regulation and */or* presented jointly with another Breed Club, may take place at a venue and location to be chosen by the 'organizing' Breed Club.

The proposed amendment of paragraph 13 was intended to maintain the integrity of the Devon & Cornwall club so far as Club Shows were concerned whilst allowing the Club to hold educational events further up-country thus encouraging candidates who otherwise might not be inclined to travel the distance to Devon.

Some discussion ensued suggesting that excluding Somerset as a show venue might be restrictive in the future. Devon and Cornwall Members were particularly keen to confirm the county boundaries for Shows held by the Club, given the distance they already have to travel for their local Club shows. The Chairman asked for a show of hands to establish whether the proposed amendment should be altered, leaving 'Somerset' as an option for Show venues. With only one in favour, the Chairman presented the amendment to the Constitution as per the Agenda.

On a proposition by Miss H Dewhurst, seconded by Mrs G Birkenshaw, the amendment to the Constitution was approved.

10. 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 S Kew seconded by Mrs J Norris, the Hon 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 01.15 pm

SignedChairman

Dated2026