

The GC held a meeting on 09/07/17 with a 10:30 am start at Newton Regis Village Hall. In attendance were the Chairman, the Secretary, the Treasurer and eight Committee Members.

The Sub-committee reports were in the main very positive. The BH&GSC have been looking at how we might raise awareness of the breed and therefore the number of registrations. The WSC reported on holding a very successful training day with another already planned for later in the year. The JSC reported on having held a couple of very successful seminars that had resulted in a few people moving up the lists. The modified Judging List is now available on the Club website. They are also preparing for the introduction of the Kennel Club's Judges Competency Framework. Rescue have been busy recently with 6 dogs looking for new forever homes.

We had a space to fill on the committee and after a bit of discussion about each of the candidates we carried out a vote. Mr Ned Bardey won the vote and he is now a co-opted member of the committee. Ned is likely to be new to many people and so we will get a brief CV put up on the Club website.

Diane Jones has now taken over the running of the Club's Puppy List and is working hard to get the paperwork and referral system in place. We do get a number of enquiries through the list so if you have a planned or impending litter please let Diane know so that she can pass on your details.

Our Show Manager listed the duties for our Championship show. As usual, there was no shortage of volunteers for the long list of tasks required to ensure the smooth running of what is our Premier event. This year we will be sharing the venue with The South of England Irish Setter Club. As a result, if the weather is favourable, then we will be using the outside rings to the front (car park) side of the building rather than those at the back that we have used before. I hope that sharing the venue does not have too much of an impact on 'OUR' show and I would be grateful for your comments on this. There will be an eye testing session so please remember to bring your KC documentation if you plan to have your dogs tested.

As reported previously, our Championship show in 2018 had initially reverted to our usual June date with Stoneleigh as the venue but this has now changed. This date now clashes with Three Counties who unfortunately do not rotate their gundog day. We did not want to clash with that show as two Championship shows scheduling our breed on the same day may very well have had an impact on each other's entries. We decided that this situation would not be good for either of the societies or their respective judges. As we have discovered, finding available dates in a very busy show calendar at Stoneleigh can be problematic. Because of this, we have previously looked at the possibility of holding our show in conjunction with another show and have decided that one solution to this predicament could be to hold our Championship show at Three Counties. We have still to work out the finer details but we will keep you posted as and when they become available. This will initially be a one off experiment for 2018 only and will only continue if the membership feel that it has been a successful venture. As this is such a major change to how we do things at present, your comments, good or bad, are more than welcome.

At this year's Annual General Meeting, there was a lengthy and significant discussion regarding how we might raise awareness of our breed and hopefully the number of registrations. The excellent ideas that came from that discussion and those from other individuals since then have now been separated into two categories, with those being the setting up of a sperm bank and how best to promote the breed. Each category has its own working party who will investigate the best methods of achieving that particular goal. Each working party will report to the GC who in turn will present the working party conclusions to the AGM in 2018.

As part of promoting the breed, the Club will be attending various Game Fairs and Heritage Shows around the country during the summer. These events are the perfect opportunity for us to show case our breed. The Secretary has previously issued a request for any member to help on these days. If you can attend any of these events or offer any kind of help then please do get in touch.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 3:05pm.

I hope that these notes will give a brief overview of the work the General Committee does on your behalf. The General Committee are always open to discussing your ideas and pleased to hear your point of view so please feel free to let me know what these might be and I will make sure that they are taken back to the General Committee. You can contact me by phone, by email or around the ringside at shows.

Brian Pilmer
Membership Liaison Officer.