



**WYE VALLEY RETRIEVER CLUB**  
**AGM Minutes 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012**

The meeting opened at 7.40pm.

Mr. Brian Lambert, President, gave a warm welcome to all and commented that it was nice to see a full room of members and it reflects the popularity of the Club. The Chairman and committee were commended for doing a splendid job. He then handed over to Morton Redpath, Chairman, to conduct the meeting.

**1. Apologies**

David Coode, John Jones & Claire Raymond

*Best wishes for a speedy recovery were sent by the meeting to John Jones who has been very poorly and is currently in hospital.*

**2. Minutes**

The meeting agreed and adopted the Minutes from the last AGM and the Chairman then signed them.

**3. Chairman's Report**

The Wye Valley Retriever Club is having a few changes this year with regard to training. In your letters that Jean has given out are your new training details. We have changed training from Beginners, Novice, Intermediate and Open and introduced a Foundation group and grades 1-4. Your letter clearly explains how we are going to do this. When your training begins you and your dog will be assessed for the first 3 weeks. After that period the trainers will be meeting again to put you in the class that will be best suited to handler and dog. The committee and trainers have spent numerous evenings meeting and planning for this and we are confident it will be a success. If you have any questions please ask one of the trainers.

Please keep an eye on the web site for dates of tests and events. You will also find this information in your newsletter. Our committee are devoted to your club and we welcome all of you to join us at events and tests. If you are not running a dog why not come and lend a hand.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee and members who have kindly given up their time to make all this possible.

We are all very proud of The Wye Valley Retriever Club and this is due to the commitment and the friendship that the trainers, members and the committee all put in. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all every success for the following year to come.

Thank you.

Adoption of Chairman's Report – Bernard Pound  
Seconded – Anna Yates

#### **4. Secretary's Report**

I have been a member of the Wye Valley Retriever Club for 2 years now. My Dad introduced me to the club and I joined as a complete beginner in the puppy class with my dog Red and last year moved into the novice. The Club Secretary role has increased over the last few years and is now shared amongst several Committee members. I really wanted to give something back to the club and so have now undertaken some of the duties of Club Secretary. The Wye Valley Retriever Club is a very well run and organised club with a dedicated experienced committee.

This year we have had a number of working tests and trials and an Interclub test hosted by club which was this year held at Lulsley. The club also performed a demonstration at Bromyard Gala and held a very popular fun scurry at Herefordshire Country Fair. The End of Term Test and Fun Day was a fantastic day and a bit different this year bringing a team element into the day. All these events take a lot of organising and the club always appreciates the members that rally round and give up their time to help and hopefully again this year.

Thank You.

Adoption of Chairman's Report – Bernard Pound  
Seconded – Ruth Thomas

#### **5. Financial Report**

The Treasurer, Anna Yates, referred the AGM to the Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31st January 2012, copies of which had been handed out to all at the meeting. She pointed out that this showed a net profit for the year of £1,171.13, a little up on last year.

The profit made on the training had enabled the Club to put on the end of term test and fun day as a free day for trainees, including lunch. The profit on tests provided the club with the funds to obtain new equipment, maintain what it has already and pays for things like insurance and so on. New equipment this year included the very popular tea urn (plus generator to power it) and new radios. Anna explained that she did not want to steward at a field trial again with radios providing only one way communication with the judges and having to ask members of the gallery to carry messages back and forwards!

This year the field trial almost broke even, an exceptional achievement, and this was largely down to the generous support of our host at Batsford, Lord Dulverton. The Annual Dinner made a small loss, down to the fact that this year our ground hosts and the trainers were all our guests for the evening as a thank you.

Anna pointed out that the Club has significant reserves now in its deposit account and any members with suggestions about equipment to purchase should contact her or any other member of the Committee.

Adoption of Financial Report – Morton Redpath  
Seconded – Brian Lambert

#### **6. Field Trial/Working Test Secretary's Report**

2011 turned out to be a very successful year. There were three working tests, two at Ravenhill Court, Lulsley by kind permission of Mr Ron Treverton Jones, and one day at Orleton Court, by kind permission of the Spilsbury family.

Entries for working tests were nearly the same as last year, despite the change of rule so no late entries on the day are now permitted.

Once again I would like to thank the committee and all the people who have helped at our tests - judges, dummy throwers, caterers, stewards and helpers. This help makes our days very successful indeed. We need more help at the tests as some committee members would also like the opportunity to run their dogs. This year there will be 4 days of working tests so we can run an additional novice test. This decision was made due to large number of novice dogs. Hopefully more dogs will be able to qualify and then enter the open tests.

There will be 2 novice field trials this season, the first in November at Dunclent Farm in Kidderminster and the second at Batsford Estate near Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire in December or January.

A big thank you to Kelly Stringfellow and Bernard Pound for all their hard work as Assistant Test Secretary and Assistant Field Trial Secretary.

Adoption of Field Trial/Working Test Secretary's Report - Julia Redpath  
Seconded – Ken Harris

## **7. Election of Committee Members**

AGM voted for the four available committee places. Jean Tidmarsh, Morton Redpath and Bernard Pound were re-elected, Jo Stannard was elected.

Morton Redpath then thanked Terry Dukes for all the time he had served on the committee and all his contribution to its work.

## **8. Election of Auditor**

The Treasurer, Anna Yates, proposed Vanda Williams to continue as Auditor. This was seconded Brian Lambert. The AGM then voted by a show of hands and thereby agreed.

## **9. Addition of a New Rule 4iii to the Club's Rules**

Anna Yates, on behalf of the Committee, introduced the proposal of a new rule 4iii to the Club's rules, to read as follows:

“4.iii. In addition to the Committee, the Club can have a number of Vice Presidents. They would not be part of the Committee but would be able to attend committee meetings if they wished and speak at them, but not to vote. The number of Vice Presidents would not be limited but only those who have given the Club long and distinguished service, including serving on the Committee, will be considered for the role. The Committee will put forward any candidate(s) to the AGM for members' vote. The post would be held so long as the Vice President remains a member of the Club.”

Anna reminded the AGM that although modern skills like email, word processing and using the internet were becoming more and more necessary in any club committee, she explained that it was felt this new role of Vice President would enable the Committee to continue to make good use of the wise experience of some Committee members even when they were no longer formally part of the Committee, as well as being a title to recognise the long service of those on whom it was conferred.

Anna Yates proposed that the Amendment be implemented as soon as ratification is received from the Kennel Club.

The AGM then voted by a show of hands and thereby agreed.

Roger Wiggins on behalf of the Committee then asked Terry Dukes if he would like to accept the position of Vice President. Terry accepted.

The AGM was then asked to vote to accept Terry as the first Vice President. By a show of hands it was thereby agreed.

## **10. Newsletter**

Jo Stannard gave a big vote of thanks to Julia Redpath, Bernard Pound and Kelly Stringfellow for all their hard work in publishing our Newsletter.

## **11. Any Other Business**

Jon Stannard asked why the name of the trainer was not listed on his training schedule. Jean Tidmarsh informed him that members will not know who their trainer is until the first class and that it will be subject to change after the initial 3 week assessment period.

Ken Harris questioned the logic behind the new grading and how that would reflect when entering your dog into a working test. Morton Redpath and Anna Yates advised that the grading is for training only and if you need to know where your dogs sits with regard to entering working tests you should ask your trainer. Roger Wiggins advised that new grading will allow dogs and handlers of equal standard to be in the correct class.

Sheena Price queried a recent novice working test where any dog placed at novice level, rather than with just those with a win, was excluded. She also pointed out there is no rule to that stop a person from entering an open working test regardless of whether you have been placed in a novice test. Roger Wiggins agreed that this was correct but the Kennel Club states that a dog entering an open test should be of open standard and that the test excluding placed dogs from the novice class was operating under its own rules. Wye Valley Retriever Club would continue to apply the Kennel Club rule as regards the definition of a novice dog.

Vernonica Harris raised the problem of members joining training classes later in the term and pointed out that last year it caused a lot of disruption to classes. Anna Yates reported that class places are now to be limited due to the Club wanting to keep classes to a sensible size and there will be a waiting list for anyone wishing to join who has not already signed up. Roger Wiggins advised that everyone joining the classes later in the year will have to go through an initial assessment before being placed in a training class, therefore there should be minimal to disruption to other members.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15pm