



WYE VALLEY RETRIEVER CLUB
AGM MINUTES 1ST APRIL 2014

The meeting opened at 7.00pm

Morton Redpath (Chairman) welcomed everyone to meeting and especially David Fletcher who was returning by popular demand to talk about his experiences in The Arctic.

APOLOGIES

Meg Ingles, Richard Price, Ruth Thomas, Alison Keiran, Charlotte Drake, Nick Swan, Sue Frost, Penny Verinder.

MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The meeting agreed and adopted the minutes from the last AGM, proposed by Sara Bowie, seconded by Margaret Owers. The Chairman then signed the minutes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Wye Valley Retriever Club Committee works hard to keep the running of the club to a high standard. I would like to thank the Committee for their dedication to the club and its members.

Before I proceed with my report I would like to say thank you to a few people in person.

Brian Lambert is stepping down as President of the WVRC. Brian was one of the founder members of this club and his dedication is tremendous! On behalf of us all I would like present Brian this gift as a token of our appreciation for years of commitment to the club.....

Last year Terry Dukes stepped down as a committee member and is now our Vice President. It's taken quite a long time to get Terry's gift to him and I apologize for this. Terry, please come and accept this gift as a token of thanks for years of commitment to the club.....

I would also like to thank Julia who after nearly 10 years has stepped down from the committee. Julia has been an innovative and enthusiastic committee member and we will miss her very much around the committee table.....

I would like to thank the trainers who give up their time, for which we are all grateful. Thank you also to those who threw dummies and helped the trainers during the classes. We rely on volunteers giving their time generously for the enjoyment of every one. Someone who won't be taking a class this year is Angela Judge. Angela is another long standing member of the club who has put in hours upon hours to help members and their dogs. Thank you Angela for all your time and devotion over the years.... Please come and accept our gift to you.....

On behalf of the members that attend training at the Wye Valley Retriever Club, great appreciation must go to Clive and Sylvia Richard's at Lower Hope and Mr Luke Thompson Coon at Westhide for allowing us to use their ground, we are extremely lucky to have this kind offer.

I would like to thank Roger and Claire Raymond for inviting the club to hold their end of term team test on their training ground again and thank you also to our Judges and helpers who kindly gave up their time. If you haven't been involved in this day before please look out for it and come along as it's a very enjoyable day.

Finally I would like to thank Skinners Dog Food. They have generously supported our club for many years at our working tests and trials and I would like to thank them on behalf of us all.

Good luck with your training season ahead and I look forward to seeing you at our club's events.

The Chairman's report was accepted – proposed by Julia Redpath, seconded by Sara Bowie

Brian Lambert then said a few words. He talked about the club when it started and how nice it was to still see it training at Westhide. The roads are now much better, there are more trees but it's still an excellent place to train and we are very lucky to be able continue there.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

When I joined the WVRC about 4 years ago I'd just got my first dog. Anna Yates talked me into joining the club and doing some training and before I knew it I was hooked. So, 4 years on and I've been talked into the job of secretary on the committee! Whatever next? I had some idea of how much work goes into the various events organised by the club, having helped out at some of the Field Trials (or rather coerced by Anna into helping!) but what I have learnt over the last few months is how GOOD we are at them as a club. We are professional, organised and passionate about getting it right and we do, time after time. Not only that but helping at the field trials or working tests is really good fun and a great way of learning about how the club runs and what makes a good dog. Listening to the judges and watching the dogs is the best way to see what they are looking for, even if all you ever intend to do is pick up and have a nice family pet! However, we need more help and your support. As always, lots is done by very few, so if you feel you want to get involved just talk to anyone on the committee, I can tell you from personal experience everyone is really friendly and would be delighted for your input.

My bitch is 6 this year and I'm now contemplating a second dog.....so hope to see you all out and about at training and club events again this year!

The Secretary's report was accepted – proposed by Margaret Owers, seconded by Tony Griffiths

FINANCIAL REPORT

Anna presented the accounts (attached)

Unfortunately we have made a small loss this year, mainly income has gone down and expenditure up but there are a few reasons for this.

- Working test are costing more. In the coming year we are only holding 3 instead of 4
- Postage costs have gone up. We have previously had our postage sponsored but unfortunately not this year
- For the first time the committee have had to claim expenses due to costs of petrol etc getting to and from events that they are required to attend
- Membership has gone up to 'stop the rot' and cost saving measures have been put in place
- We don't want to stop donating our raffle money to charity or giving our volunteers at test and field trials a thank you gift for helping – it's why they keep coming back to help and we couldn't do it without them
- We hope to break even next year or at least go into profit

The Treasurer's report was accepted – proposed by Brian Lambert, seconded by Roger Wiggins.

FIELD TRIALS/WORKING TEST SECRETARY REPORT

2013 was another very successful year. We held 4 days of working tests, which were all well attended and I must again thank our committee and all the helpers which contributed to the success of the tests and a big thank you to our hosts.

We held 2 novice field trials, the first at Denclent, thanks to Mr & Mrs Michael Gough and the second at Batsford, with thanks to Lord and Lady Dulverton and their game keeper Matthew Farmer.

Both tests went very well and again thanks to all our helpers which enables the Wye Valley to run two very well organised trials.

Thank to my assistants Mr Bernard Pound and Miss Kelly Stringfellow and also to say that I will be shadowed by Margaret Owers this year with a view to taking on more of the role of working test secretary in the future.

I want to re-iterate what a hard working and good committee we have at Wye Valley. The report was accepted – proposed by Anna Yates and seconded by Tony Griffiths.

PROPOSED NEW RULE

A new rule was proposed due to some bad handling that had been witnessed at club events this year. The new rule is as follows:

“No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling at any Club event. This will not be tolerated and if any member is proven to have contravened this rule, they will be advised by the committee in writing that they are no longer welcome to attend any of the Club's events”

The rule was unanimously adopted. Proposed by Bernard Pound and seconded by Claire Raymond.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

Brian Lambert is stepping down after many years as Club President and the Committee wanted to propose Luke Thompson Coon from Westhide as the new Club President. This was unanimously agreed, proposed by Morton Redpath and seconded by Jean Tidmarsh.

Luke then said a few words. His great aunt Kit Frazer would be very chuffed that the Club was still using Westhide as much of the planting out was put there with field trialing in mind. Luke is very keen that the estate is shared and it is only right that WVRC continue to use it and he hopes to be able to contribute something worthwhile (other than a badly behaved spaniel!!)

ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT

The Committee proposed that Brian Lambert be elected Vice President which he duly accepted. This was unanimously agreed, proposed by Roger Wiggins, seconded by Anna Yates.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Julia Hancock stepped down this year which meant we had a space on the committee but unfortunately no one has come forward to stand.

Shelley Basford and Sara Bowie were co-opted and agreed as new committee members and Roger Wiggins and Ruth Thomas are up for re-elected by rotation and happy to stand again.

This means that we go forward into the new year with 1 space on the committee still vacant and we will be actively looking to fill it.

ELECTION OF AUDITOR

Vanda Williams was proposed by Anna Yates to continue as Auditor and this was seconded by Sara Bowie. The committee expressed its thanks to Vanda for her hard work.

NEWSLETTER

The Chairman thank Bernard Pound for his hardwork in putting together the newsletter, Shelley Basford for chasing adverts and sponsorship and Sara Bowie for stuffing envelopes and all the team involved in the newsletter production.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was suggested that we have a junior representative on the committee but the rep in question is too young and we will look at this in the future.

There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm.