

LONDON & NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES BRANCH OF THE BASSET HOUND CLUB
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at Little Gaddesden Village Hall, Little Gaddesden, Sunday 15 April 2018

Present: John Worley (Chairman), Linda Skerritt (Hon Secretary), Brian Gould (Hon Treasurer), June Creevy, Patrick Creevy, Lana Johnson, Sally Money, Michael Ponsford, John Wilkins.

The meeting started at 12.40pm.

1. Opening remarks Chairman John Worley welcomed everyone, saying it was lovely to see those who had turned up and he hoped they had enjoyed the preceding walk.
2. Apologies for absence Roger Adams, Carol Adams, Jenna Betts, Barbara Carter, Rob Carter, Lis Gould, Julia Shayler, Pete Wilson, Deborah Wilson.
3. Minutes of last AGM Posted on Branch website April 2017 with hard copies going to those not on computer. Copies handed out at meeting. Proposed accept Pat Creevy, seconded John Wilkins. All in favour. Signed by Chairman.
4. Matters arising None.
5. Chairman's report - John Worley "Last year there was no increase in Branch membership and you will hear our Treasurer's report which has shown an increase in income, all very good. Our main problems seems to be attracting new Branch members. Some years ago we had members showing Bassets and a large number attending walks. We are all aware that perhaps members only have one dog today and when that animal dies the family leaves the Branch and main club. So what is the problem? We still see a large number of Bassets in our home areas.

I believe the problem is today's communication – ie facebook and the web. I understand that people can find out about Basset get-togethers and walks and a number in excess of 30 people meet up, these people have no interest in joining a branch or club.

It is a problem and I believe the Branch and main club should be looking into this and perhaps looking out of the box for answers. We as a Branch can carry on with our walks and get-togethers but we need new blood and new ideas.

I would like to thank all the committee and members for arranging functions and for their support. Let us look forward to this year and hope we will see a revival of our club and Branch".

6. Hon Secretary's report – Linda Skerritt "Many years ago our Branch used to sponsor Basset classes at local open shows. As classes dwindled, so too did members of our Branch who showed and our sponsorship ceased. I still hold all the trophies that we awarded annually based on a points system for wins at these sponsored shows. From next year, sweeping changes emanating from the Kennel Club will affect all show judges within the UK. A Judges Competency Framework will control how judges learn about a breed and climb up the judging ladder. This will take over from the current judges lists controlled by each breed club. Although not affecting our Branch, the framework also requires that all breed clubs sponsor classes at two open shows a year.

Following member approval at the last AGM, the Branch donated £50 each to Veterans with Dogs, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and the Animal Health Trust (Basset research). In memory of Lindsey Worley, we also made two donations of £50 each to Chiltern Dog Rescue Society and the AHT's Genetics Research Team for research into goniodysgenesis and glaucoma in Bassets. All sent thanks which I added on the Branch website.

Our status within the BHC continues as one of only two branches remaining – the Midland Branch and ourselves. Although a small branch with our activities restricted to walks and the occasional meal, we can be proud that we keep going when so many others have fallen by the wayside over the years including the Thames Estuary, East Anglian, South West, South East and North West Branches. Of course, the demise of so many branches points to changes over the years, not least that, with the help of social media, owners can now meet up for walks without the restrictions of belonging to a club. Membership of the BHC is down slightly but we can pride ourselves in being part of the larger organisation to support and promote the breed. Also, with Colin Gillanders taking over as Secretary of the BHC last year, hopefully there will now be a period of stability".

7. Hon Treasurer's report - Brian Gould "As at 31 December we had 10 joint subscriptions and 8 single subscriptions, making a total subscribing membership of 28 people: and our supporters stood at 2 joint and 1 single, making a total of 5, ie a grand total of 33. We still have our two Honorary members but have not yet replaced Mary Browne as President.

Income and Expenditure

Income Our income was up by £109, the main items being:

- 1 Subscriptions were up but donations were down, the net effect being an increase over 2016 of £31;
- 2 We had a raffle at the Christmas lunch, which raised £65, together with £19 from drinks = £84: in 2016 there was no Christmas lunch due to a lack of interest from our members.

Expenditure However, our expenditure was up by £230, mainly:

- 1 A website charge [covering 2 years] of £266, of which £133 has been carried forward to next year, compared to £0 last year;
- 2 Charity donations up £50;
- 3 Hall hire up £33, being 2 hall fees plus a 10% increase on the second one;
- 4 Trophy cups up by £14.

The annual result:

Despite our income increasing by £109, expenditure was up £230, thus the excess of expenditure over income was up £121 to a total of £274.

Assets and Liabilities

The Branch's General Fund as at 31 December 2017 stood at £1,132 (as against £1,415 at the end of 2016) represented by bank balances of £171 in our current account and £858 in our deposit account, a total of £1029, against which we have liabilities of £30 in respect of 2018 subscriptions and donations received in advance and assets of £133 being 50% of the website fee paid in advance.

And finally, at the end of 2016 we changed banks after problems with Barclays and so for 2017 and the foreseeable future we have been, are and will be banking with TSB Bank.

Summary:

Membership and Supporters: 10 joint (20), 8 single, 2 Honorary = 30. Plus 5 Supporters.

Income £188.93. Expenditure £471.77

The annual result showed a deficit of £282.84. Balance at 31 December 2017 £1,132.18.

Proposed accept Sally Money, seconded Lana Johnson. All in favour.

A short discussion followed on ways in which attendance might be encouraged and membership increased.

8. Election of Officers All had indicated their willingness to stand.

Brian Gould took the Chair temporarily for the vote for Chairman - John Worley Proposed Brian Gould, seconded Pat Creevy. All in favour.

Secretary – Linda Skerritt Proposed Lana Johnson, seconded John Wilkins. All in favour.

Treasurer - Brian Gould Proposed Sally Money, seconded Lana Johnson. All in favour.

9. Election of Committee All had indicated their willingness to stand, with Roger Adams whose health had failed last year, remaining co-opted. Those proposed for re-election: Rob Carter, Barbara Carter, Lis Gould, Julia Shayler, John Wilkins. Proposed Pat Creevy, seconded Sally Money. All in favour.

10. Branch Representative: Linda Skerritt Proposed Brian Gould, seconded John Wilkins. All in favour.

11. Election of Auditor/Examiner for following year D Titmuss had indicated he was willing to continue. Proposed June Creevy, seconded Linda Skerritt. All in favour.

12. Walks trophy for 2017 Awarded to Brian & Lis Gould's Bubble. The trophy to be presented at the next walk/committee meeting.

13. Donations to charities In view of year on year gradual diminishing of Branch funds, there was a discussion on various options for supporting charities. Linda Skerritt – donate to three charities but limit to £40 each (on counter-proposal, subsequently revised to £25) (3 votes); Brian Gould – donate to two charities only retaining payment of £50 to each (0 votes); Sally Money – have a donation-free year for 2018 (3 votes). Chairman John Worley took the casting vote, opting for three charities at £25 each. Based on those Linda Skerritt had initially proposed, which included Blue Cross (omitted last year when donations limited to three charities, not four), the final three were:

- a. Blue Cross, Kimpton Bottom, Hitchin SG4 8EU
- b. The Cinnamon Trust (helping elderly people and their pets);
- c. One of the canine organisations listed under www.assistancedogs.org.uk. Linda Skerritt to research and recommend suitable one.

15. Any other business None.

The meeting closed at 13.30.

Linda Skerritt
Hon Secretary 15 April 2018