

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

Held at Little Gaddesden Scout Building, Little Gaddesden, Sunday 17 March 2019

Present: John Worley (Chairman), Linda Skerritt (Hon Secretary), Brian Gould (Hon Treasurer), Rob Carter, Barbara Carter, June Creevy, Patrick Creevy, Lis Gould, Lana Johnson, Sally Money, John Wilkins; non-member Michael Ponsford

The meeting started at 12.35

1. Opening remarks Chairman John Worley welcomed everyone.
2. Apologies for absence Julia Shayler.
3. Minutes of last AGM Posted on Branch website and sent to BHC secretary April 2018 with hard copies going to those not on computer. Copies handed out at meeting. Proposed accept Sally Money, seconded Rob Carter. All in favour.
4. Matters arising None.

5. Chairman's report - John Worley "I consider last year the Branch had a good year. Our membership numbers remained static as in previous year. Our walks were supported by our members and during the year we had a walk with a difference, a fish and chips lunch. Twenty-two members and friends turned up and it was a great success thanks to Lana Johnson. As previous year, a walk was held practically every month with our summer walk at Julia Shayler's farm.

It will be reported later we have started a facebook page. We hope to contact new Basset owners. There are many out there who do not want to be members of an organised club but to meet up together occasionally.

You are aware that Brian Gould is standing down as our Treasurer. I would like to thank him on behalf of us all for his sterling work over the years.

I have said before, we need new members. We also need to think about raising funds for the Branch. Without both and looking at the age of our regular members who support us, we need new blood. We owe it to our membership from previous years to keep the Branch going and to grow."

6. Hon Secretary's report – Linda Skerritt "Following a decision taken at last year's AGM, the Branch made reduced amount donations of £25 each to Blue Cross Kimpton, The Cinnamon Trust (helping elderly people and their pets) and Canine Partners. I received thanks from all charities and put them on the Branch website. The lower amounts were deemed necessary as Branch funds have been diminishing.

The committee is aware that this year the biennial website hosting fees and charge for domain name will fall due. With rising prices, this will be probably be around £300 (approx. £12 a month). This is purely for hosting and domain name, as I have never incurred the Branch in any cost of setting up the website or maintaining it. The future of the website is therefore tentative, unless Branch finances can support the expenditure.

In April, ahead of the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation, I put assurances on the website about the security of members' contact details, saying that these were held purely for the management and control of the Branch; and, unless the Secretary and Treasurer held these basic details, they would be unable to perform any related function such as providing members with information on Branch events.

During the year, at the request of others, I also set up a Branch facebook page. However with only ten members, only three of which are Branch members and none of whom contribute except me, this has not achieved the desired aim of attracting more Basset owners to join in at local walks.

All in all, it seems my report is none too cheerful but hopefully the Branch will continue to function for some years yet."

7. Hon Treasurer's report - Brian Gould "As at 31 December we had 11 joint subscriptions and 5 single subscriptions, making a total subscribing membership of 27 people; and our supporters stood at 2 joint and 1 single, making a total of 5, ie a grand total of 32. We still have our two Honorary members but have still not yet replaced Mary Browne as President".

Income and Expenditure

Income Our income was down by £49, the main items being:

- 1 Subscriptions were down, the net effect being a fall compared with 2017 of £7;
- 2 We had a raffle at the Christmas lunch, which raised £45, together with £5 drinks = £50; but in 2016 the Christmas lunch raffle and drinks raised £84 beating 2017 by £34.

Expenditure However, our expenditure was down by £139, mainly:

- 1 Charity donations down £175; and
- 2 Trophy cups down by £12

Against this, hall hire was up by £48, being 2 fees at £33 (one relating to 2017 that the hall manger had forgotten to submit earlier) and a third hall fee at the new rate of £45. Thus, our new abode in the Scout Hut at a cost of £20. Three cheers for our Honorary Secretary!

The net result Despite our income falling by £49, expenditure was also down by £139, thus the excess of expenditure over income was down to £90 to a total of £193.

Assets and Liabilities

The Branch's General Fund as at 31 December 2018 stood at £939 (as against £1,132 at the end of 2017) represented by bank balances of £115 in our current account and £859 in our deposit account, a total of £974, against which we have liabilities of £35 in respect of 2019 subscriptions and donations received in advance.

And finally I am retiring as Hon Treasurer after standing in as a "temporary" measure 5 years ago. All being well, I will be leaving you in the capable hands of Michael Cartmale.

Summary:

Membership and Supporters: 11 joint (22), 5 single, 2 Honorary = 27 + 5 Supporters = 32. Plus 2 Honorary.

Income £136.69 Expenditure £332.72

The annual result showed a General Fund excess of expenditure over income of £196.03. Including Deposit Account, balance at 31 December 2018 £939.15.

Proposed accept Patrick Creevy, seconded Lana Johnson. All in favour

8. Election of Chairman Brian Gould took the Chair temporarily for the vote for Chairman - John Worley Proposed Brian Gould, seconded Barbara Carter. All in favour.

9. Election of Hon Secretary – Linda Skerritt Proposed Brian Gould, seconded Lana Johnson. All in favour.

10. Election of Hon Treasurer - Brian Gould had notified he was standing down to return to a place on the Committee. Nomination received in post for Michael Cartmale to be elected as Hon Treasurer, proposed Brian Gould, seconded Lis Gould. There being no other nominations, 2 abstentions, 7 in favour, 1 against citing non-attendance and lack of communication.

11. Election of Committee All had indicated their willingness to stand, save Roger Adams who had stood down due to health problems. With the addition of Brian Gould, who was stepping down as Hon Treasurer to return to the Committee, those proposed for re-election: Rob Carter, Barbara Carter, Lis Gould, Julia Shayler, John Wilkins. Proposed Patrick Creevy, seconded Sally Money. All in favour. Nomination also received in post for Yvonne Cartmale to be elected to the committee, proposed Brian Gould, seconded Lis Gould. Voted as for Michael Cartmale - 2 abstentions, 7 for, 1 against, with concerns also noted about non-attendance and lack of communication.

12. Branch Representative: Linda Skerritt Proposed Patrick Creevy, seconded Barbara Carter. All in favour.

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

14. Walks trophy for 2018 Awarded to Pat and June Creevy's Velvet and Stanley..

15. Donations to charities With diminished Branch funds, discussion took place on various options and whether viable to continuing supporting charities for the time being. A proposal was made not to donate to charities for 2019. Proposed Sally Money, seconded Barbara Carter. All in favour.

16. Any other business Lana Johnson was thanked for offering to arrange a fish and chip meal after a walk on lines of the successful one held last year.

The meeting closed at 13.15pm

Linda Skerritt
Hon Secretary
18 March 2019