



## SMOOTH COLLIE CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Held at the Grange Hall, Southam on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016

### 1. Present:

President: Mr T. Hayward,  
Chairman: Mrs B. White,  
Hon Secretary: Mrs S Beeney,  
Treasurer: Mrs J Denton,  
Patron: Mrs C Leach,  
Vice-Presidents: Mrs I. Griffiths,

Committee: Mr S Burton, Mrs J Page, Miss D. Moores,  
Mrs M Benton, Mrs P Meacham, Mrs C Howard.

Members: Mr P Sewell, Mrs P Sewell, Miss A Lusty, Miss T Palmer,  
Mrs D. Murrell, Miss C Norman, Mrs S Campbell,  
Miss J Sewell, Ms A French, Miss F Forbes, Mrs D  
Forbes, Miss D Bell, Mrs K Russell, Mrs D Cole,  
Mr T Griffiths, Mr & Mrs B Trundley, Mrs K. Giddings,  
Miss A Peacock, Mrs K. Theobald, Mrs A. Kinsey,  
Ms B Williams, Miss K. Kinsey, Mrs P. Howarth,  
Mr & Mrs K Kennedy, Mr & Mrs Gibson, Mrs L. Peacock,  
Mr M. Howard,

Apologies: Mr & Mrs Glover, Mrs J. Page, Mr T & Mrs M Foulston,  
Mrs E Moores, Mr & Mrs C Baker, Mrs J Howells,  
Mrs P. Lister, Mrs S. Clark, Mr & Mrs Brown,  
Mr & Mrs Gay, J. Ratcliffe, Mrs B. Hayward.

### 2a. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

Approval of the minutes proposed by K. Russell and seconded by A. French. The minutes were approved by 24 votes in favour, 5 abstentions and none against.

### 2b: Matters arising.

**Item 9.** The committee had discussed the suggestion of an annual award for Smooths working within the community and felt that the Mary Hardy Award was set up to include this type of thing. They felt that it could be awarded if and when the committee were

made aware of a particular smooth who they considered to worthy of it. There was to be such an award presented later in the meeting.

### **3: Chairman's Report (Mrs B. White)**

Good afternoon everyone. I am pleased to see that so many of you that enjoyed SCOTY this morning have stayed for our AGM. You are very welcome.

At the end of my first year as Chairman of the Smooth Collie Club I am happy to report that the team that is your committee have worked very hard indeed to make the year a success and enjoyable for you all. Before I report on some key achievements and challenges, I would like to take some time to thank Delia Moores who has decided to take a break from committee duties for a while and step down. Delia has been a hardworking and dependable committee member for the last 23 years. During this time she has been trophy steward and custodian of the club's merchandise and I'm sure that when she hands over her very many boxes she will be delighted to gain lots of space at home! As well as these valuable roles, Delia has brought knowledge and expertise to the committee; she can always be relied upon to give an honest opinion in a measured and sensible way. We will all miss Delia but I will miss Delia personally as we have served on committee for about the same amount of time and always got on so well. I know we will continue to see Delia around the rings with her dogs and I'm sure that in time she will be back to join us on committee where she will be welcomed with open arms.

Our challenge is very clear – to deliver on the first point set out in our Club constitution – ‘to foster the interests of the Smooth Collie’. According to the constitution we should do this in three ways: ‘to guarantee classes at shows approved by the committee; to encourage members to breed and exhibit sound, balanced collies, free from exaggeration and of good temperament, in accordance with our KC standard; and to secure a wider appreciation of the Smooth Collie both as a show dog and as a companion’.

I am delighted to say that we continue to make progress in these areas but of course there is still much that can be done – particularly in promoting the breed as a wonderful companion to the general public. Thanks to some members here today, we have been given a list of useful ideas that we will be considering in committee and I'm sure that these will accelerate our progress significantly.

Key achievements in 2015 include:

- Drafting the Champions Handbook which is currently at the printers. This edition includes pedigrees and photos of 68 Champions and promises to be an essential item for your bookshelf. Huge thanks go to Jean Tuck who has led this project which has not been without its challenges; as usual she was ably assisted by Brenda Kennedy with support from Sheila Beeney and Delia. Thank you so much ladies for all your hard work.
- We have agreed to reinvigorate our Judges Development Programme and as well as a training day this June, we hope to run similar days annually. As you will see from your agendas, we hope to make changes to our judges' list criteria which will ensure that those judges on our lists have undergone a level of training which we consider ambitious yet achievable and worthy of our breed and Club.
- We were excited to learn about the joint KC/AHT initiative 'Give a Dog a Genome'. I have to admit it took some understanding at first but once we had considered it we realized that to take part in this pioneering research would be an investment not only in the future health of the Smooth Collie but also dogs in general. We were also convinced that you, the members, and others would want to take part in this so we decided that if we could raise some funds towards the £1000 fee, the club would match whatever we could raise and thus apply to take part. So we set a target of £500 and for the first time used a crowd funding approach to try and reach this. We met this target after only 4 days and went on to raise the full total required of £1000 in 28 days and have been accepted as one of the 50 breeds to take part. Had we not been able to raise the full amount the Ada Bishop Fund for Health and Education

would have been used to top up your donations. This is precisely what this fund is for. So thank you to all those who so generously donated – every penny counts and our breed will be all the better for it.

- During the year we introduced PayPal to our website as one way of paying for subscriptions. We are still assessing whether this is entirely effective – it works as a convenient way of enabling people to pay online but is not without its challenges. We recognize though that we must make better use of technology as we move forward both to reach out to more potential members and to make administration more efficient.
- During the year we again picked up the discussions on the registration status of rough puppies born to Smooth parents. This had been raised by members some years ago and at the time the committee was minded not to make any changes. However, with new information about the genetics of such puppies making it clear that they are indeed Rough Collies as the only genetic difference between the two is coat length; and information gathered about how registration policy is inconsistent in this matter with some breeds in a similar situation being registered according to coat length, the matter was again discussed. The committee was in favour of accepting rough puppies as Rough Collies and decided that the Kennel Club should be approached as it is the governing body. The response from the Kennel Club was strongly in favour. The genetics are clear – these puppies are Rough Collies and changing the registration status is therefore a policy matter. However they required us to gain consensus from the Rough Collie Breed clubs before the KC could make a decision. So a paper was drafted (which we will publish via our website and which we can send to you on request) to set out our case to the Rough Collie Breed Clubs and they duly considered this over the summer of 2015. The response came back with the majority of Clubs being in favour of registering these rough puppies as Rough Collies. We have now gone back to the Kennel Club with this and we are awaiting their response. So whilst this is very exciting we are still not quite there! I want to just add that this does not mean that we can mate our Smooths to Rough Collies – it simply means that when we have a rough puppy in a litter we will register it as a Rough Collie not a Smooth. Once we hear back from the Kennel Club we will of course let you know what their decision is.

The major challenge for us going forward is of course financial and balancing our books. Our Treasurer Jo Denton will shortly take you through the balance sheet, which you will note shows a deficit this year. I'm not going to comment on that – I'll leave that to Jo but I just wanted to assure you that as a committee we will be analyzing our operating costs very carefully going forward, reviewing all expenditure to make sure that every pound we receive is spent wisely.

Finally, I would like to thank all my fellow officers and committee. This year has seen a period of stability and consolidation. Particular thanks to Sheila, Jo and Marianne who work so hard all year. Thanks too to Trevor for his presidential wisdom and mentoring role! And I want to wish all our members my warmest thanks for your dedicated support as we again commit ourselves to our Club and the Smooth Collie.

#### **4: Secretary's report ( S. Beeney)**

Having been Secretary now for 18 months everything is falling into place. Unfortunately Penny Sewell resigned from the committee during the year which has been a great loss and her experience and knowledge is sorely missed by us all. Paula Meacham was co-opted onto the committee during the year.

78 puppies were registered last year which was a big improvement on the 33 of the previous year. Hopefully we will achieve at least that amount again this year.

The back to back open show was very successful again, this format works well for us and for Collie Association. Unfortunately due to the Kennel Club giving Darlington Ch. Show CC's for Smooth Collies we are going to have to change our date for our Ch Show in 2019 and onwards. The committee is looking at other possible dates but it's not easy to find dates that don't clash with Ch. Shows and ofcourse we may have to find a new venue.

It's lovely to hear of Smooth Collies competing in many different types of competitions. Years ago there was only obedience but now there is Agility, Rally, Fly Ball and quite a few others. There are so many new types of competition nowadays and there is something to suit any dog and the Smooths seem to enjoy all of them..

We unfortunately didn't have a stand at Discover Dogs in the Autumn as due to the change of date we didn't have anyone who could attend. If you are willing to be on the Stand this year with your dog and feel confident to answer the many varied questions that you will be asked about the breed then please do let me know. My thanks go to those who manned the Discover Dogs stand at Crufts last week, it can be very tiring for dogs and people and your help is much appreciated.

My thanks to my fellow officers and committee for all their hard work and support and thank you to all of you for your continuing support of the Club and our lovely smooths.

## **5. Treasurers Report ( J Denton)**

Capitol Account (page 1)

The Nat West Bonus Saver has now been closed due to the very low interest rate that was being paid. The balance has been transferred to the current account which is why we have significant changes in bank balances. We have a balance of £11618.07 in the current account following this transfer and £213.98 in cash. The outstanding debt shown in the ABHF has now been paid. The Southcombe Trophy balance shown is still held in the reserves. The accrued expenses shown are for the Accountants fee for 2015 and treasurers honorarium for 2015.

Income and Expenditure (Page 2)

The Public Liability insurance was up by £58.80, which 24%. This years premium has come in at £295 so down very slightly. The AGM expenses were up by £235.38! This is more than double the previous years costs and mainly due to the rising costs for printing and postage. The venue also rose by 20%. Having looked back to 2014 Bev does not seem to have put in a claim for printing, so I can only assume that she was kind enough to "absorb" these costs. I don't put in a cost for printing copies of the accounts so this is also a hidden cost for both 2014 and 2015 and indeed for 2016. Also general postage seems to have gone down. I believe this is due to encouraging online entries and downloading schedules, but also there may be some AGM specific costs in general postage from previous year. The same may be true for printing and stationary. The web hosting has increased by £167.14 (193%) due to the introduction of the new website which is now managed by Julie Growcott. This years cost is £156.88. In 2014 we paid £86.26 for web hosting but at that stage the website was managed by a member of the committee. The committee has agreed that no more flowers will be sent in an effort to reduce costs.

SCOTY

All revenues were up for SCOTY 2015 but expenses increased also so profit only increased by £26.02 over 2014. Venue hire and food costs were the main problems. Food costs went up by 48% and although we managed to keep this expense at the same level for 2016, it is unlikely to be sustainable in the future. Catalogues, donations and raffle income is very important in keeping this event afloat. We will probably need to consider putting up the entry fee next year in order to make catering the event possible. Based on ticket sales last year food cost was £6.23 per head for a ticket price of £8.00! Total cost per head worked out at £10.71.

OPEN SHOW

The Open Show was by far the best money earner of 2015. Members entries were down very slightly but non-members were up by 42%. On line entry fees went up by 29% overall, and being able to use this method of entry probably encouraged more non members to enter so it may be worth increasing entry fees to cover the additional charges incurred due to more people using this method. This would apply to the Champ show also. Sharing venue charges with the Collie Association back to back arrangement allows costs to be minimised. For this show it also meant no charges for the supply of food for judges.

CHAMP SHOW

Although income reduced by 18% due to lower entries, less raffle and lower catalogue sales, reduction in judges expenses of £180 over previous year meant that the event was still in profit. Other expenses reduced by 13%. I believe we should consider an increase in the entry fee for next year. I am not sure when this charge was last reviewed. We have a UK judge this year so the event should show a better return in 2016.

## SMOOTH LOOK

We had 2 editions of the newsletter this year which explains the increase in costs for this item. Paypal is working well but costing 44p in charges for each membership paid this way. We will need to consider bank charges carefully when setting the cost of the Champions book as many will pay by this method and foreign purchases will have higher charges. Hopefully when someone is found to take over the sale of goods by the club we will be able to incorporate some sales via the website using Paypal.

Mrs B. White proposed that the accounts be accepted as a true record of our financial position. This was seconded by Mr S. Burton. The proposal was carried by 40/40 votes in favour.

## 6. Judging Criteria:

It was explained that the committee felt that we needed to tighten up our criteria for entry onto the “B” and “C” lists to try to ensure that we are supporting judges with a thorough knowledge of our breed. The club would undertake to run regular seminars.

**6a.** The committee proposed that the “C” list criteria should read as follows:

[For aspirant judges who have shown an active interest in Smooth Collies over a minimum 5-year period and who have attended an approved Smooth Collie seminar which includes group hands on sessions with a mentor and been awarded a Certificate of Attendance that has the approval of this club.](#)

Proposed by B. White and seconded by S. Burton. All were in favour.

**6b.** The committee proposed that the “B” list criteria should read as follows:

[Must have attended an approved Smooth Collie seminar including a Judging Assessment and Breed Standard written examination and been awarded a Pass Certificate.](#)

Proposed by B White and seconded by S. Burton. All were in favour.

## 7. Future of the Smooth Collie of the year Competition.

Due to rising costs, the committee asked for the membership’s views on the way forward. After a productive discussion it was agreed that:

- a. we should increase the ticket price to allow for rising costs
- b. Move the date to June or thereabout. This would allow us to be outside weather permitting.
- c. Find a new venue that was cheaper to hire and allowed us to have a ring outside. Baginton or Bearley Village Halls were suggested as both had good outdoor space.

## 8. Smooth Look.

After a discussion on the high costs of producing 2 Smooth Looks annually it was agreed that the Club should only produce one annually and email it to those members who are happy to receive an electronic copy. It was also agreed to look into having a members only section of the website with access to the Smooth Look. This was proposed by P. Sewell and seconded by B. Trundley. 27 in favour, 3 against with 1 abstention.

## 9. Mary Hardy Award.

Stephen Garafalo and his dog Finn (Cownbred Finlay) were presented with the Mary Hardy Award for outstanding achievement in their Search and Rescue role in the Lake District.

**10. Election of Officers and Committee.**

The results of the election were as follows:

Committee – Simon Burton	38 votes out of 40
Committee – Paula Meacham	29 votes
Committee – Debra Bell	25 votes
Committee – Kirsty Russell	26 votes

All candidates therefore formally elected.

**11. Presentation of the Annual Points Trophies.**

The presentation of the annual points trophies took place and the results will be published in the next Smooth Look.

Mr Hayward closed the meeting at 4.15pm.