

Minutes of the EGM - 15th October 2017 Newark Showground

In Attendance

Philip Nam (Chair)

655 members of the association (over 18)

Various other members of the association (uncounted under 18)

Documents Provided to Philip Nam

- PowerPoint presentation delivered by the committee
- Notes of the meeting taken by non-committee member
- Handwritten notes taken by Philip Nam

Documents requested by Philip Nam but not provided

- Written Personal Statements delivered by Darryl Ogden, Shian Corley, Tony Cain & Cheryl Quinn (request made their solicitors which has not been responded to)
- Copy of the actual speeches delivered by the committee.

Pre-Meeting Notes

I have been asked to prepare these minutes although I was advised prior to the start of the meeting that one of the non-committee members would be taking minutes of the meeting. I was advised that she was an experienced shorthand writer. I therefore had not prepared myself to take any minutes although I have taken notes. Clearly, it was not possible to take minutes given my position of chair and roving microphone. Further, the association rules put the responsibility of minutes upon the secretary. Therefore, these minutes have been prepared from the documents provided and from memory. I therefore do not guarantee the accuracy of the same.

When the non-committee member provided me with her notes, her email states:

“I have been asked to send on to you the notes I took at the EGM last Sunday. This meeting was very difficult to ‘minute’ in that there were no apologies, no agenda items, nobody said who they were before speaking, no action points. There were a lot of personal statements that were written and read out, copies which should be available. As a result it is just notes that were taken.”

Minutes

The meeting commenced at approximately 10:40am where the chairman addressed the membership confirming that the EGM has been called in accordance with rule 2.2 of the associations rules. It was stated that the members would decide the outcome of the meeting and each member would have one vote each. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the recent events concerning the investigation of complaints by the committee, subsequent complaints made against members of the committee and to ascertain the members’ consensus on how the association and the committee move forward.

The six committee members being Sharon Allcorn, Valerie Currie, Alistair Kirk, Katie Burns, David Murdoch and Anthony James were first given the opportunity to present to the membership. They provided the membership with a power point presentation. Sharon Allcorn commenced the presentation confirming that permission had been gained from both complainants to present details of the complaint as per rule 3.4d.

Sharon Allcorn reminded the membership of the rules stating that all decisions of the committee must take place with a quorum of 5. She stated that the committee dynamics where that most correspondence was by email and most of the decisions also took place by email.

She talked about the height card database and in May 2017 stated that the height card database needed to be more accessible including published on the website. This was discussed in early May 2017

between herself and Katy Burns. It was decided that Katie Burns being a data analyst in her workplace that she would try and fix the database.

A chronology was given by Sharon Allcorn which is summarised in the power point presentation which has been provided.

The presentation was then taken over by Katie Burns who provided the remainder of the first half of the presentation which is also summarised by way of the power point presentation.

The conclusion from the presentation was that a large number of dogs have been issued with height cards without meeting the necessary criteria. More transparency to the measuring process and the database accessible to the committee and judges board and utilising Excel to ensure that the process is more autonomous and efficient with measures to be added in correct order and in a timely fashion.

There was a short break at 11:20 for 10 minutes and after the break, David Murdoch and Ali Kirk provided the remainder of the presentation which is also summarised on the power point presentation.

On conclusion of the presentation, there was the opportunity for questions and answers. Those questions and answers are summarised within the notes taken at the meeting by the non-committee member. I cannot say with any accuracy whether all questions & answers have been recorded.

The Q&A session ended at approximately 12:40 and lunch was commenced.

The afternoon session commenced at approximately 1:30pm with Daryl Ogden reading from his written personal statement. I have not received a copy of the written personal statement from Mr Ogden despite requesting the same from his solicitors. However, from my own notes he stated he was responsible for measuring the dog on the day. He stated that there was no mention of Phish in the complaint that Katie Burns investigated. With regards to the complaint made against the other six committee members, they stated that the £50 fee was received in relation to that complaint and two people from the committee, i.e. those that were left and not the subject of the complaint, dealt with the complaint and appointed Cheryl Quinn as investigating officer. He said that the complaint from Donna Culley which was handed to Cheryl Quinn to investigate. He stated that Cheryl Quinn required more information from the complaint. Mr Ogden then gave a chronology of events and following the investigation by Cheryl Quinn, the DSC recommended the suspension of the other six members of the committee on the basis that they had been found guilty of breach of various rules; those being 1.2, 3.5a, 3.5c, 3.6, 3.8, 5.6b and 5.6d.

Mr Ogden stated he had received a suspension on the basis that he had accepted and been involved in illegal conduct in receiving and dealing with a report. As a result, he released the DSC report to the membership via Facebook and objected to being guilty of gross misconduct. Mr Ogden made the point that the rules were not laws and the word 'illegal' was therefore incorrect.

Tony Cain then read out a personal statement, again a copy has not been provided to me. Mr Cain stated that he had never taken a dog to be measured and doesn't own a height dog. Mr Cain provided his own version of events with regards to the complaints and the investigation by Katie Burns. He stated that Sharon Allcorn and Katie Burns had told him no rules has been broken by Donna Culley and therefore, there was no need for DSC and there was no mediation. He did not agree with the investigation of the complaint made initially. He alleged that the committee were not complying with the rules and ethics of the association and he did not accept he was involved in any illegal complaint. He also denied being guilty of any gross misconduct for breach of confidentiality. He had stated that he was disclosing the information about the complaint to the membership in accordance with the Whistleblower Act of 1998. (PN NOTE: This act does not exist in the United Kingdom).

He essentially repeated the same information given by Daryl Ogden with regards to the complaint.

Next there was a presentation by Shian Corley who also read out from a personal statement and again a copy of the same has not been provided. A personal statement was also read out by Cheryl Quinn and again a copy of the same has not been provided.

We then had a short break and after the break, Daryl, Tony and Shian announced that they were resigning from the committee and they were urging the members to vote for option 3 as that would be the best option.

The membership then had various questions to ask which were answered and these are summarised in the notes taken by the non-committee member. I again point out that I cannot say for certain whether the questions & answers are complete.

Following the end of the questions, a break was taken where the chairman was approached by various members with regards to various changes to the voting.

Their proposal was that the option 3 was to be changed from 9 to 6. On a show of hands, the result was unanimous.

There was a second proposal to change the wording to read that a vote of no confidence that the members present today elect an interim committee to conduct the business of the association until a time that a committee is elected in accordance with our constitution and the interim committee with call on AGM to execute the nomination and election process.

PN attempted to decide the proposal by a show of hands. However, that was impossible as there was no clear majority and it was noted that many members voted by placing two hands up in the air.

The membership were then entitled to vote and following the vote being complete, PN undertook a count of the vote in front of three members who had volunteered themselves. The voting count was published live on the projector. PN has been told by the regional representatives that 655 voting forms had been given out. As the vote was counted, it was found that serial numbers 532 had appeared twice and serial number 200 was defaced. Serial number 200 was not counted for the purposes of voting and serial number 532 which had appeared twice was counted in voting and both of those votes were for options 3.

In any event, the result of the count was 345 votes for option 1 and 308 for option 3 (including the duplicate slips). Therefore, it was declared that option 1 was the winner.