***MINUTES OF 32ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

***HELD AT DUSTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2016***

Present:

Committee; Jane McGovern - Chairperson

Marlene McInulty - Secretary

Stephanie Petrusevicius - Treasurer

Sue Smith

Julia Yorke-Long

Pauline White

Eddie Chapman - Hon. President

Donna Brierton)

Jo Gable ) - New Members

Sandra James )

Pat Keers )

Apologies: Ann Griffiths Keith Marsden

Julie Murphy Brian Murphy

Liam O’Toole Jackie Stevens

39 Members attended the meeting, including Committee members – as per list attached:

Jane McGovern, Chairperson, opened the meeting at 7.35pm, welcomed Members and introduced the Committee members, including Eddie Chapman, Hon. President.

Jane requested Members to ensure their mobile phones are on silent, reminded them they must sign the Attendance form, advised where the Fire Exists are and asked that if any member wishes to ask a question, they should put their hands up, wait to be acknowledged, stand and identify themselves before asking the question.

A copy of the Minutes of the 2015 A.G.M is on the Members’ section of the Website. Jane asked for Members who have read the Minutes, to propose acceptance and second that they are true and correct. Jo Gable proposed acceptance and Kayleigh Petrusevicius seconded, Jane signed a copy of the 2015 A.G.M. Minutes.

**Matters Arising:**

**Summer Training:** Reference Trevor Chambers raised the question at the 2015 A.G.M reference field training exercises in the Summer. Stephanie advised that various new exercises, including ‘send away’, ‘recall’, ‘agility’ , were included in the training classes at the field last Summer, which would be continued this year. Stephanie also pointed out the Instructors are always striving to find new training methods and exercises that are safe and that all Instructors work from the Club’s guide lines.

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**Chairwomens’ Report:**

**Planning Application:** Jane informed Members that a ‘topographical survey’ was carried out on the field on September 14, 2015, which cost £325 plus V.A.T.

The Committee had a meeting at the field with Barry Waine, Consultant and Ian McMillan, Architectural Technician, to discuss the proposed site and size of a suitable building, we are currently in the process of obtaining quotes for a building to our requirements. Details of designs and various quotes are available for Members to see.

**Training Day and Fun Day**: The Training Day held on July 15 was well attended and we had a great feedback. Members were split into Groups and were taught tracking, agility, search and Rally’O, this was a first for some of the dogs and handlers, and it was a really enjoyable experience.

The Fun Day on September 15 was very poorly supported. Due to the lack of support, the Committee considered cancelling the day, but agreed that it would be unfair to the very few who did want to take part, so the Fun Day went ahead, but had to be scaled down. Those members who did attend, really enjoyed themselves.

It has been decided not to plan any further Training or Fun Days, unless we can guarantee the support from members. A lot of time, work and planning goes into these events, the Instructors and Committee volunteer their time.

**Dog Law Seminar:** We held a Dog Law Seminar on July 11, which was hosted by Trevor Cooper. This was well supported and a very informative and enjoyable event. Lots of the current and new Dog Laws were explained.

Jane mentioned that whilst on the subject of Dog Laws, Members may have noticed that the new Membership forms now contain a request for microchip numbers to be included. This is in preparation of the new micro chipping Dog Law which comes into force in April. We will be carrying out a scanning exercise at the Club to ensure all Members’ are complying with this Law.

**Sponsored Walk:** The Sponsored Walk in aid of Canine Partners, held in June 2015, was well supported and we raised a total of £570.00. A cheque for this amount will be presented to Denise Taylor from Canine Partners during this evening’s presentations.

**Sponsored Down:** The Sponsored Down, held in November 2015, raised a total of £215.50, which was in aid of the Village Hall Refurbishment project . A cheque was presented to the Chairperson of the Village Hall Committee at their A.G.M. The V.H. Committee were very grateful for our donation and we received a personal thank you from Elaine Wright, Chairperson of the V.H. Committee.

**Acknowledgements**: Jane pointed out that there were too many Members for her to thank personally and individually, but she wishes to thank the Committee for their continued support and dedication, the Instructors for their commitment and hard work. Thank you to all Club members’ who have helped in many ways, including helping to set up and pack away on Tuesday evenings, helping at Club events such as Race Night, Annual Dance, Training days etc.. Very many thanks for providing food and refreshments for the events, publishing the Newsletter and running the Lottery, the up-keep of the Club Van and Club equipment, upkeep of the field especially the grass cutting. Many thanks to Stephanie for organising the printing of the Calendars, the Hamper donation and the Christmas party games and gifts. Thank you to members’ for general Fundraising and donations.

**Membership:** Membership increased slightly and the end of year figure for 2015 was 63.

**Membership Fees:** The Committee decided not to increase Membership fees or Training fees for 2016.

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**Summer Training**: We plan to train at the field again this Summer, it is not only very enjoyable, but enables us to practice exercises and activities that are not practical in the Village Hall. However, due to the theft last year of the metal and plastic poles and damage to the orange fencing, we are proposing to erect more permanent fencing in the same area as the temporary fenced off training sections, using stock fencing which we currently have around the edge of the field, this will cost approximately £1,500.00.

**Field:** Stephanie advised it was proposed that we replace the poles and permanent fencing, a roll of fencing costs £29.99, metal poles cost £3.00 plus, each. After further discussion it was decided to replace the Poles and Fencing, making them more permanent. Although more expensive, it would be a cost saving in the long run i.e. not having to continually replacing fencing etc., and the time spent putting up and taking down John McGovern said he was a little worried that dogs may not be able to see the stock fencing and could possibly injure themselves by running into the fence, he suggested post and rail, to make it more visible.. An alternative suggestion was to use a fluorescent spray on the stock fencing, but it was agreed this would not be viable. Steve Wicks enquired if we had looked at the price of white plastic fencing. Stephanie will obtain a quote for plastic and post and rail. Sandra James has asked her fencing man to get in touch with Stephanie.

Members unanimously agreed that we should erect 2 permanent fenced training areas to replace the temporary poles and fencing and to try to cap the cost to around £1,500, if it should exceed this figure the Committee will inform Members’.

**Calendars:**  Thank you to all Members’ who submitted photographs of their dogs for the Calendar and to those who purchased the Calendar, which still proves to be very popular.

**Gardening Day:** It is hoped to organise a gardening day in the Spring, details will be advised soon. We need as many volunteers as possible, please come along and help, the field is for the use of all Members’ and it is up to you to help keep it in good condition.

**Field Gate Number:** The new field gate number will be in operation from tomorrow (Wednesday) and will be available to Members’ upon renewal of their Membership.

**Display Team:** Stephanie has started Display Team training on Sunday mornings, if any member is interested in joining the Display Team, Commentating, helping with the Agility Kit, please speak to Stephanie and put your name on the list on the Notice board.

**Grass Cutting:** We need volunteers for the Grass Cutting Rota, please let Jane know if you are able to help. Last year it was very difficult to keep on top of the grass, the same few people had to cut the grass many times to keep it manageable and useable. Jane asked if any Member would like to help with mowing, they will be given training on how to use the ride-on mower, please let her know. Again, we need as many volunteers as possible.

**Use of the Field:** Members who use the field to exercise their dogs, but do not train on Tuesday evenings, must pay their Annual membership - £16.00 – plus as additional £25.00. , so far this year, only 1 Member has paid the additional fee.

**Race Night:** The Race night on October 10, 2015, was extremely well supported and a great night, we made a profit of £1,109.05. It is planned to hold another Race Night on Saturday October 15, 2016.

**Annual Dance:** The Annual Dance on January 16, 2016 was a most enjoyable evening, but was very poorly supported by actual Club Members. The Hall has been provisionally booked for next year’s Annual Dance – January 28, but to-date no decision has been made reference Band or Disco. A decision has yet to be made shortly if we should organise a Dance for next year.

**Club Lottery:** This year the Club will be using the Health Lottery numbers as the National Lottery numbers have increased to 59 and we would struggle to cover this. All tickets have been sold and the Lottery will start on March 5.

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**Treasurer’s Report:** All Members at the meeting were given a copy of the 2015 Accounts which were briefly discussed. They were advised that we had various quotations in connection with the prices of suitable buildings, they are available for Members to see.

Trevor asked why there was a Bank Charge for £32.54, Stephanie replied it was due to a cheque that was returned through lack of funds in the Flex Account, a mistake which, hopefully, will not happen again.. Trevor also asked what ‘Miscellaneous’ covered, Stephanie offered to give a written list, but advised this item covered many items i.e. Calendars, Engraving of Trophies, Change of Use expenses, Fencing, Flowers, Trophies, Van up-keep plus others

After further discussion, Vic Coster proposed acceptance of the Accounts and Ian Keers seconded.

**Election of Committee:** Jane advised that for the last few months, due to resignations, the Committee had consisted of just 6 Members. 4 Members have put their names forward for consideration – Donna Brierton, Jo Gable, Pat Skeers, Sandra James. Jane asked Members to vote them onto the Committee plus existing Committee members, Sue Smith, Pauline White, Julia Yorke-Long. The members agreed and voted unanimously. The Chairperson – Jane McGovern, Secretary, Marlene McInulty and Treasurer, Stephanie Petrusevicius, automatically remain on the Committee.

**Election of Auditors:** Jane thanked Pauline White and in her absence Sonia Chambers for auditing the Accounts for 2015. Pauline White, Sonia Chambers and Carol Pasfield volunteered to audit the Accounts for 2016, a final decision will be made nearer the time .

Kayleigh Petrusevicius proposed acceptance of the Accounts and Vic Coster seconded.

**Presentations**: Jane thanked all Members for their fund raising effort for the 2015 Sponsored Walk and presented a cheque for £570.00 to Lorraine Keeling on behalf of the Canine Partners Charity, unfortunately Denise Taylor was delayed in traffic, but arrived a little later.

Lorraine gave a short, but informative talk about the Charity and introduced her 8month old dog, Biscuit, who is undergoing training. Lorraine said that it costs approximately £10,000 to train and pay for the up-keep of each dog, but can be as much as £20,000 from start to finish, after care is very important. They mostly train Labradors or Labrador/Retrievers, all dogs graduate after they complete their training. The charity receives 1,000 applications for a dog each year. At the moment they have 329 working dogs.

Jane presented the Person of the Year Trophy to Emma Lewis in appreciation of her continued support of the Club and the Display Team.

Jane presented an engraved medal to all Members of the Display Team and thanked them for their dedication.

Marlene presented a Gift Voucher to the 4 Instructors – Stephanie, Jane, John, and Julia, in appreciation of their continued hard work and help given to all our Members/dogs on Tuesday evenings.

**Guide Dog Donation:** Jane proposed that the Club donate £1,200.00 to Guide Dogs for the Blind for 2015 and asked Members if they were in agreement. After a brief discussion, Vic Coster proposed acceptance and Eddie Chapman seconded.

To-date Guide Dogs have not arranged their Annual Presentation evening, to which the Club are invited, so the Committee have agreed to invite representative from Guide Dogs to the Club on a Tuesday evening to receive our cheque donation. Details of date etc. will be advised shortly.

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**A.O.B.**

**Club Van:** Stephanie explained that the Club Van needs to be replaced as a large amount of money will have to be spent on the body work to make it presentable again, extensive repairs are required, also the Van is in a dangerous condition, it would not be possible to use it in its present condition, especially driving it to Displays. We would need to spend at least £1,000 on it, the alternative is to replace the Van or not do any Displays. Members were asked ‘do we replace the van or not?’ The Committee have discussed the possibility of purchasing another Van, Funds are available. A suggested price would be in the region of £2,500 - £3,500.

Question raised – if we use the money from the Land Fund, how do we put it back?

Alice Dove asked if we can use the van as it is at the moment – Stephanie said not viable.

Emma Lewis suggested the Club buy the Van and Fundraise this year for Club funds.

**Fund Raising:** Trevor asked if Members could be responsible for Fundraising outside the Club, each member have a Fundraising card to raise money. If each member raised £10.00, that would be a big help.

Other suggestions were : A Quiz Night, Race night, Car Boot Sale.

Kayleigh offered to print Advertising ’Flyers’ to promote the Display Team and encourage more bookings.

Keith Pearson is happy to help with obtaining another Van.

Jane said we have been trying for a few years to buy another Van and Fundraising seems to be the only way of covering the cost.

Eddie suggested we buy the Van and then Fundraise to put the money back.

John McGovern said £2,500 would not buy a decent Van, better to pay more and get a quality Van.

Keith suggested a Donation Form is printed to enable Members to take them into their place of work to obtain donations. Alice Dove also offered help. Luke Hillery offered to put on display at Moulton College Reception, a ‘Pot’ for donations.

Eddie proposed the Committee buy another Van and was seconded by Vic Coster.

Jay Lewis asked if the Club had to be a Registered Charity, it was agreed to look into this.

It was also suggested that we publish details for a replacement Van on the Website and Facebook page, Kayleigh offered to look into this suggestion.

Jo Gable asked if it would be possible to Hire a van for the first Display, if we haven’t a replacement.

**Website**: Trevor enquired if the Club Website could be revamped.

**Thanks**: Ian Keers thanked the Committee for continuing to run the Club in an efficient and professional way. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

There being no other business, Jane thanked Members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

**ATTENDANCE AT 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

JANE McGOVERN - CHAIRWOMEN

MARLENE McINULTY - SECRETARY

STEPHANIE PETRUSEVICIUS - TREASURER

EDDIE CHAPMAN - HON.PRESIDENT

PAULINE WHITE

SUE SMITH

JULIA YORK LONG

DONNA BRIERTON

JO GABLE

SANDRA JAMES

PAT KEERS

**MEMBERS:**

DIANA ASSHETON-BOWTLE

GLENYS CHAMBERS

TREVOR CHAMBERS

VIC COSTER

RITA COOMBS

DOUG COOMBS

ALICE DOVE

CAROLINE FRENCH

LES GABLE

LUKE HILLERY

ADRIAN JAMES

EMMA LEWIS

JAY LEWIS

VICTORIA KEATES

IAN KEERS

PADDY McCAFFREY

JOHN MCGOVERN

SANDRA MOORE

CARROL NICHOLS

CAROL PASFIELD

FAY PEARSON

KEITH PEARSON

KAYLEIGH PETRUSEVICIUS

KIM SCHOLEFIELD

BEVERLY SMITH

CLIVE SMITH

RAE STEVENS

STEVE WICKES

January 22, 2016

**TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE D.G.S.D.T.C.**

Dear Member,

**2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

You are invited to attend the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Duston German Shepherd Dog Training Club, which will be held on **TUESDAY February 23, 2016,** commencing at 7.30pm at Duston Village Hall – Agenda attached.

Minutes of the previous A.G.M will not be read out at the meeting. Members’ are therefore asked to read the Minutes of the 2015 AGM, copy of which is on the Notice Board, before this year’s A.G.M., to enable a full discussion of any matters arising. The Minutes are also available on the Members’ Area of the Club’s website – **www.dustongsd.org.uk.**

There will be no training on A.G.M night, with the exception of the INTAKE CLASS. It would therefore be appreciated if dogs are not brought into the Hall.

**MEMBERSHIP:** TheAnnual membership fees are as follows and due by February 1, 2015, details below:

. Family Membership - £16.00 \*\*

. Senior Citizens - £12.00

**\*\*** Family Membership is for Members who reside at the same address, if you do not reside at the address on the Membership Form, you must complete a separate Membership form and pay your Membership fee.

Please complete the enclosed Membership renewal form as soon as possible and **ensure you have your NEW VACCINATION CERTIFICATE (**or where applicable, Exemption Certificate)available when renewing*.* ***Please note that due to a new Law which comes into effect in April 2016, all dogs must be micro-chipped, so please ensure you include your dog’s micro chip number on the Membership Renewal form*.**

Cheques to be made payable to the **DUSTON GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG T.C. ,** Membership renewals to be in person.

It is important for all Members to attend the A.G.M., to enable any views/suggestions to be made, which could help towards the continued smooth running of the Club, the Committee needs your support.

I look forward to seeing you on February 23, 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Jane McGovern

Chairwoman

**32nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2016 AT 7.30PM

**AGENDA**

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of 2015 A.G.M.

3. Matters Arising

4. Chairman’s Report

5. Treasurer’s Report

6. Election of Committee

7. Election of Auditor

8. Presentation of Sponsored Walk cheque to Denise Taylor,

Representative of Canine Partners Charity followed by a

short talk.

9. **Break for Refreshments**

10**.** Presentations

11. Guide Dog Donation

12. Continuation of Lottery Draw

13. A.O.B. with permission of the Chairman

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2016**

January 20, 2016

Would all Members please note the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Duston German Shepherd Dog Training Club will be held on **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2016** commencing at 7.30pm in Duston Village Hall.

**ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

The following Committee Members are up for re-election:

**PAULINE WHITE**

**SUE SMITH**

**JULIA YORK-LONG**

**If any Member wishes to seek election onto the Committee, please PRINT your name below:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NAME** | **SECONDER** |
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