***DUSTON GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG TRAINING CLUB***

***MINUTES OF THE 33RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

***HELD AT DUSTON VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 28, 2017***

Present:

Committee; Jane McGovern - Chairwoman

Marlene McInulty - Secretary

Stephanie Petrusevicius - Treasurer

Eddie Chapman - Hon. President

Jo Gable

Pat Keers

Sue Smith

Pauline White

Julia Yorke-Long

Apologies: Pauline Chapman Sandra Coterill

Caroline French Andrew Gable Victoria Keates Alice Dove Jackie Stevens Rae Stevens

35 Members attended the meeting, including Committee members – as per list attached.

Jane McGovern, Chairwoman, opened the meeting at 7.30pm, welcomed Members and introduced the Committee Members, including Eddie Chapman, Hon. President.

Jane asked Members’ to ensure mobile phones are on silent, advised where the Fire Exists are and reminded Members to make sure they have signed the attendance form. Jane also requested that if any member wished 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 2016 A.G.M. is on the Members’ section of the Website and Jane asked for Members who have read the Minutes, to propose and second acceptance that they are true and correct. Emma Lewis proposed acceptance and Kayleigh Petrusevicius seconded. Jane signed a copy of the 2016 A.G.M. Minutes.

**Chairwoman’s Report:** Jane advised Members that in September 2016, planning permission was granted, with conditions, by South Northants Council. A copy of the building plans and conditions will be available this evening for members’ to study during the tea break. The Committee are keen to move ahead with a building and a meeting will be arranged for Members to attend to enable them to contribute any suggestions regarding the building process. Date of the meeting will be announced shortly.

**Training & Fun Day:**  Arrangements were made for a Training Day and Fun Day in September 2016, which included a display by the PACESETTERS and a BBQ. Unfortunately it was very poorly supported – other than the Committee and Display Team, who would have been un-paying guests, there were only 3-4 Members interested in attending. This event was arranged as a fund raiser, but due to the lack of support it was not financial beneficial to go ahead.

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However, we are planning to hold a Training day on Saturday July 8 with a proposed charge of £10.00 per Handler, if insufficient tickets are sold, the event will be cancelled.

**Sponsored Walk and Sponsored Down:** The Sponsored Walk, originally arranged for July 12 last year, was postponed, due to heavy rain,. Members agreed the Walk should be re scheduled to July 19. Well done to all those involved, the total raised was £184.00, slightly disappointing as the previous year we raised £570.00. It was agreed that the £184.00 would be donated to the Charity for Medical Detection Dogs.

We proposed to organise a Sponsored Walk on Tuesday August 1, 2017, the Charity to be decided.

The Sponsored Down in November raised £71.50 which was to help to replace various Club equipment, again this was down on last year when we raised £215.50.

We also had 2 additional sponsored fundraisers last year, thanks to Emma Lewis for the Sponsored Silence and Beverly Smith for a Sponsored Handcuff, money is still being collected, total raised will be advised.

We have had many other fund raising ideas, including a suggestion from Trevor Chambers for a volunteer to apply to the National Lottery. Other suggestions include a Barn Dance, Quiz Night and a Grand Draw.

Tickets for the Grand Draw will be on sale at the Club, the Committee would appreciate if all Members’ take tickets to sell to family, friends, work colleagues, neighbours, etc. There are some very generous donations as prizes including a week-end break, a Hoover, Car Valet, Dog grooming and many, many more. The Grand Draw will take place on Tuesday September 6, 2017.

**Acknowledgements:** As always, there are too many people to personally thank individually, but to mention a few, thank you to the Committee for their continued support and dedication, the Instructors for their commitment and hard work, thank you to all Members who have helped in many ways, including helping set up and pack away on Tuesday evenings, helping at Club events i.e. Race Night, Annual Dance, providing food and refreshments for events and training. Publishing the Newsletter, running the Lottery, the up keep of the Van and equipment and the field, especially the grass cutting. Thank you to Stephanie for organising the printing of the Calendars and a special thank you to Luke Hillery, Kayleigh and Craig, Beverly and Clive and Andrew Gable, they always help and thank you to all Members for general fundraising and donations.

**Membership**: The Committee have decided not to increase Membership fees for this year, but propose an increase in training fees from £2.00 to £3.00 per dog (£5.00 for 2 dogs and £7.00 for 3 dogs). Members voted by ‘a show of hands’ to accept the increase, as proposed by the Committee.

Emma Lewis suggested the Membership fee be increased. Jane replied this matter has been discussed by the Committee, but as there is no increase in the V.H. Rent or the Annual Insurance, it was decided to increase the Training fees, but not the Annual Membership. Jane suggested we discuss this matter again at the 2018 A.G.M.

Luke Hillery enquired if all Members are fully paid up Members of the Club. Jane explained that after the 8 week Intake Course, Members pay full Membership.

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To-date there are 65 fully paid up Members – this time last year there were 63.

Members who do not train on a Tuesday evening, but use the field will be charged a fee of £25.00 in addition to their £16.00 Membership fee.

We are also monitoring the attendance of Members attending Classes, if a Member misses 8 or more consecutive weeks, they will be taken off the register. Should they wish to return to training, they should advise Stephanie, who will update the register and inform them when there is space available.

**Certificates:** The current Progress Certificates have been reviewed, the intake Class will continue to receive a Certificate at the end of the 8 week Course. Beginners will receive their certificate in a frame, Intermediate and Advanced will have a frame to put their Certificate in.

**Summer Training:** It is planned to train at the field again this summer, we believe it is not only very enjoyable, but enables us to carryout exercises and activities that are not so practical in the V.H.

The 2 new enclosed training Areas are used regularly and are working very well, they help to keep the dogs safe during training.

The cost of the training areas was £1,612.00 including materials and labour.

**Village Hall Donation:** The Committee agreed to donate £100.00 to the Duston Village Hall. A cheque was presented at the V.H. A.G.M. on February 8, 2017, which was greatly appreciated and accepted by the Committee of the V.H. A letter of thanks has been received**.**

**Calendars:** Thank you to all Members who submitted photographs of their dogs for the 2017 Calendar and to those who purchased a Calendar, which proved to be very popular. A Calendar was donated to the Mayor of Northampton, who has very kindly sent a letter of thanks and also a donation cheque for £10.00.

**Gardening Day:** A Gardening Day has been arranged for Sunday May 7 starting at 9.30am. It would be appreciated if as many members as possible come along to help, it is important to keep the field in a good condition.

**New Field Gate Number:** The new gate number will be in operation from tomorrow March 1, 2017 and will be available to all renewed Members. Details should be on the Website very soon.

**Display Team:** Display Team training has started and if any member is interested in joining the Display Team please have a word with Stephanie. We are looking for another ‘Kit’ person.

**Grass Cutting**: Jane asked for volunteers to help with the grass cutting of the field and to let her know when they available. Due to very few volunteers last year, it was very difficult keep on top of the grass cutting, the same few people had to cut the grass many times to keep it manageable and useable,. we need as many volunteers as possible. It is proposed we purchase a new Mower.

**Race Night:** The Race night held on October 15, 2016 was well supported and a great night. A profit of £641.71 was made. It is planned to organise another Race night on Saturday October 14, 2017.

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**Annual Dance**: The Annual Dance in January was a very enjoyable evening, it was well attended by Club members this year and we made a profit of £592. 50. Thanks to everyone who donated the food for the buffet.

**Club Lottery**: The Club Lottery is running very well. We do ask if Members they can pay their money ‘up front’ if are unable to attend Club on a regular basis, to avoid arrears.

**Treasurer’s Report**: All Members at the meeting were given a copy of the Annual Accounts. Stephanie explained that the Calendar figure included last year’s Calendars plus this years. This year the Calendars sold very quickly, it is difficult to guess how many we will sell.

The Club Paid £3,275.00 to get the Plans passed for the proposed building.

Ian Keers proposed acceptance of the Accounts and Judith Fowler seconded.

**Election of Committee**: Jane advised that 2 members of the elected Committee in 2016 have resigned i.e. Sandra James and Donna Brierton. The remaining Committee Members have agreed to continue for another 12 months.

Diana Asshton-Bowtle proposed acceptance of the Committee and Vic Coster seconded.

**Election of Auditors**: Jane thanked Pauline White and Pat Keers for auditing the Accounts for 2016. and they have volunteered to Audit the Accounts for 2017.

**Break for Refreshments and Raffle:**

The Raffle raised a total of £54.00.

**Presentations:** Jane presented the Person of the Year Trophy to Luke Hillery in appreciation of his help and support at the Club.

Stephanie presented an engraved Medal to all Members of the Display Team to show our appreciation of their dedication and time involved with the Display Team.

Marlene presented a Gift Voucher to the Instructors – Stephanie, Jane and Julia – as a token of the Club’s appreciation for their continued dedication and help they give to all Members/dogs throughout the year.

**Guide Dog Donation:** Jane thanked Liam O’Toole for the 3 cheques totalling £684.15 his family and friends have collected, to be donated to Guide Dogs in memory of his Wife, Diane, this amount will be included in our donation to Guide Dogs for 2016. The Display Team raised a total of £1,550.00, the Committee propose to donate £1,700 to Guide Dogs, with Liam’s donation the total for Guide Dogs for 2016 will be £2,234.15.

Trevor proposed we donate £1,250.00, as he is concerned that we have spent quite a lot of money on new Equipment and we are proposing to buy a Mower and Van. Jane replied she understands his concerns. Trevor’s proposal was put to the vote and it was agreed by a ‘show of hands’ to donate £1,700.00 to Guide Dogs.

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**A.O.B.**

**Replacement Van:** Clive Smith enquired what the latest situation is regarding the Club Van.

Stephanie replied we are still looking for a Van suitable for our needs. Vans have been checked out, even travelling to Yorkshire, but all were unsuitable. We are continuing the look for a Van, but there are not many about that fit our requirements We are prepared to spend £4,000 for a replacement Van.

**Instructors**: Stephanie advised Members that at the moment John McGovern is unable to attend the Club to instruct, so (at the moment) there are just 3 Instructors - Stephanie, Jane and Julia, but Jo is undergoing re-training, she was an Instructor for many years at the Club, Luke Hillery is interested in training as an Instructor. Stephanie said the Club Instructors train over a year and attend relevant Training courses, she feels it is better to have a ‘Hands on Policy’.

**Fund Raising- 21 Game**: Stephanie briefly explained that arrangements are going ahead for another Fund raising event – the 21 Game, which Trevor has very kindly donated again this year. Members will be encouraged to buy the 20p tickets, it is possible to win £1.00, £10.00 or £20.00.

There being no other business, Jane thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 9.00pm.