

AMERICAN BRITTANY CLUB  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

NOVEMBER 26, 2011

BOONEVILLE, AR

Submitted by Mary Jo Trimble, Secretary/Executive Secretary

The annual meeting of the ABC Board of Directors was called to order by President Hank Hartnek at 8:10 A.M., November 26, 2011, at Western Bank's Meeting Place, Booneville, AR.

The Secretary called the roll. Directors present were Lisa Pollock, Darlene Dow, Kent Patterson, "Bo" Ackerman, Tom Robin, Jim Brigham, Steve Ralph, Mary Karbinger, Bob Rankin, Stan Truksa, Susan Kerns, Robert Wire, and John Henderson. Directors unable to attend were Ed Janulis and Ray Gorman.

**Motion # 1:** Motion made by Rankin, seconded by Wire: I move to seat new Directors Susan Kerns and Steve Ralph. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, Gorman and Janulis absent. Motion passed.

**Motion # 2:** Motion by Rankin, seconded by Ralph: I move to approve the 2010 Board minutes. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, Gorman and Janulis absent. Motion passed.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President's Report:** President Hartnek introduced 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Chris Ward-Weber who discussed the reasons for her action items presented to the Board of Directors in the Agenda Book. First, she discussed the need to clarify use of American Brittany Club name on vendors' products. Vendors should have permission from the ABC to use the American Brittany Club name on products they are selling. It was determined that we need to see a list of people using the ABC name. Treasurer Janet Chase will send this to ABC Attorney Sharon Wice for an interpretation. Chris then requested that the Dual Champion and Qualifier Classes be dropped from the required classes of the National specialty show. She cited small entries in those classes and yet the need to purchase trophies. She felt that encouraging entries in the Field Trial Class would make for a larger more meaningful class and eliminate alerting judges that dogs entered in the Dual Champion class had attained that coveted title seemingly giving them an edge in the judge's mind. No dogs have ever won from the Dual Champion Class.

**Motion # 3:** Motion by Kerns, seconded by Brigham: I move to eliminate the Dual Champion and National Qualifier Classes at the National Specialty Show beginning in 2012. 12 yes votes, 1 no vote: Robin, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed.

Since the Amateur Owner Class had been added earlier in the year by the BOD as a mandatory stake, she asked that instead it be made an optional stake as it was not a mandatory stake required by AKC. The Board rejected a proposal to give the 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President blanket approval to have whatever classes he/she so desired. No formal motion was put forth on that particular proposal. It was noted that there were no entries in this year's Amateur Owner Class.

**Motion # 4:** Motion by Brigham, seconded by Dow: I move to make the Amateur Owner Class at the National Specialty Show be an optional class beginning in 2012. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed.

Chris then discussed the need to expend some of the Grounds Fee monies to the National Specialty Show to cover their costs. Fifty cents of each \$2 collected for starters in field trials, regional specialty shows and hunt tests is designated for use as a Grounds Fund. She wanted to see monies collected from regional specialty show entries be designated for use by the National Specialty Show.

**Motion # 5:** Motion by Rankin, seconded by Wire: I move that fifty cents of the grounds fund money collected from ABC Regional Specialty Shows go to the National Specialty Show budget. 11 yes votes, 2 no votes: Patterson & Robin, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed.

Chris had asked for comments regarding the addition of an Agility Event at the National Specialty Show. She did not want a motion but wanted opinions. If held, it may have to be on Monday following the show and she would want a volunteer to head up the Agility Show Event. Directors did express opinions that agility events are often money makers for clubs who hold these events in conjunction with their shows.

Chris said the Show Superintendent had informed ABC that AKC had passed a rule effective November 1, 2011, that show catalogs could not be released until the day the show starts. ABC will check into this. (Subsequent calls to AKC verified that because of the long history of combining the National Championship and National Specialty Show into one yearbook that ABC would be exempt from this new rule.)

**1st Vice President's Report:** President Hartnek introduced 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Tom White. Tom discussed the increase in entries in the Open which was certainly welcome from a financial standpoint. We had

three pros in attendance this year that were not here last year. We had 117 entries this year in the two stakes. He discussed the combined experience and ability of the current judges and felt we had two excellent panels. He said he is a firm believer in keeping the three judge panels. The weather this year was what it was. Flooding forced the trial to revert to a continuous course on high grounds of part of course one and course three.

He announced that Larry McAnally will be retiring after our event. Red will not be retiring at this time. The Regional Fish & Game Manager is attuned to our needs and is supportive of continuing efforts for field trials at Blue Mt.

Will Langley, horse wrangler, was unable to attend this year due to mechanical problems with his vehicle. We have made do and suggested that we explore some background work before committing to the expensive proposition of hiring a wrangler in the future. We need to explore insurance coverage either by ABC or those who provide horses for participants and what requirements are by the state of Arkansas. Will Langley does have insurance coverage in the State of Michigan.

The Secretary said she still had the book of signed waivers required by a previous underwriter a few years back.

Tom discussed Sponsors. We lost Christie Saddles as of January 2012. Various saddle dealers were suggested to be contacted for sponsorship. We also should consider contacting horse trailer manufacturers, ATV manufacturers, truck manufacturers and Garmin. Tom's focus this year will be to go after more sponsors that would be allowed given the contracts with our current sponsors. Mary Jo suggested getting sponsors for specific national events as opposed to overall ABC sponsorship. Bob Fleury, Magazine Committee Chair, suggested always getting a contract in writing so that we always know what was agreed to, especially as relates to magazine ads, etc.

He still has the expensive print that has been donated to the ABC for national expenses. Steve will look into how this could possibly be sold on E-Bay.

Tom discussed the Lady Handler Award and suggested either doing away with it or dropping the requirement of having three women handling to two or possibly adding a Rookie Handler award. Others suggested a Handler Award for men and women. No motions were forthcoming.

He informed the Board that the State of Arkansas had decided to not buy the Peter Kainz acres across the road from the headquarters. Directors expressed concern that if the ground is sold for subdivisions that we could run into problems with neighbors objecting to traffic, barking dogs, etc. that other grounds have experienced.

#### **President's Report & Action Items:**

**Qualifications:** Darlene Dow expressed a desire to update the Gun Dog Qualifications to match the changes made last year for the All Age Open Qualifications which allowed dogs in large 30 minute stakes to qualify with 3rds and 4ths. This was discussed with a suggestion that Dow bring back a proposal to be voted on by the Board later in the meeting.

**Location of All Age Championship:** Every year President is required to update the request to run the National Championships on the Blue Mt. Grounds. Currently the agreement is for three years. In the past, it had been for five years.

**Motion # 6:** Motion by Brigham, seconded by Ralph: I move to continue using the Blue Mt. Grounds for the National Championships for the next five years on a rolling commitment. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed.

**DNA Testing:** President Hartnek said he had had input from some members requesting that DNA be required by all participants in national events. He had also had input from members who are owners of agility and obedience dogs who may or may not be purebred Brittanys and participate with an ILP number issued by AKC. This proposal would prevent them from participating. Scientists are developing DNA tests to detect breed identification but currently that does not appear to be perfected and costs would be over \$300 per test. A discussion ensued as to whether or not agility and obedience dogs should be Registered Brittanys only or open to All Breeds and/or ILP dogs. Profit wise it would be beneficial to the show to allow all breeds in those events. Currently, DNA tests only register a dogs individual DNA and can be matched to parents if they too have been tested and registered. Current DNA samples are not verified by tattoo marks or microchips by a veterinarian as to the dog from whom the swab was taken. Owners currently submit swabs with no verification of the actual dog swabbed which does allow cheating to take place if an owner is so inclined. To be an American Field Champion, you must have DNA submitted within 30 days after winning a championship. AKC also has DNA requirements for frequently used sires. No motions were presented.

**Executive Secretary/Secretary Action Items:** Mary Jo Trimble discussed the four action items in her report. The following motions resulted:

**Motion # 7:** Motion by Patterson, seconded by Kerns: I move to accept Action Item # 1 of the Executive Secretary's Report on page 28 which would remove Section 9 of the Dog HOF section of the policy book which gives monies to owners of dogs inducted into the Brittany Field Trial Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, TN if they elect to have a portrait done of their HOF Dogs.  
13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed.

Rationale presented by Secretary Trimble on that motion was that the BFTHOF is a separate entity from the ABC HOF and does not necessarily recognize ABC HOF dogs as was thought to be the case when this policy was enacted. It does not recognize all ABC HOF Dogs, particularly those who are mainly conformation selections.

The Dog HOF Committee Chair had suggested requiring only one vote from his committee members for submitting nominations to the BOD for final selection. Based on the reasons he presented, the Secretary concurred and submitted the action item # 2 on page 28 of the Agenda Book. The Board did not act on this item.

**Motion # 8:** Motion by Rankin, seconded by Brigham: I move to pass Action Item # 3 of the Executive Secretary's Report on page 28 of the Agenda Book which incorporates a housekeeping item removing wording which makes the ABC Secretary in charge of all corporate filings and associated papers and renumber this section. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed. Rationale: A legal firm has been in charge of acting as corporate agent for the ABC for many years.

**Motion # 9:** Motion by Rankin, seconded by Brigham: I move to accept action item # 5 of the Executive Secretary's report on page 28 of the Agenda book which removes Section 27, page 53, of the Executive Secretary part of the policy book requiring the Executive Secretary to keep a record of the number of litters nominated for the futurity. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed. Rationale: At one time this was part of the duties of the Executive Secretary but it is now handled by the two futurity secretaries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Janet Chase went over several items listed on page 30 of the Agenda Book. Discussion took place as to how the National Events could be more cost effective and steps that could be taken to ensure a breakeven event. She reviewed current financials received from the Gun Dog nationals but not all expense/income stats have been received at this time. No formal action was taken on any items at this time but National Raffle will be discussed later in the meeting.

**AKC Delegate Report:** AKC Delegate Tighe asked the Board to donate to AKC's Mean Seed Project as we have a lot of dogs affected by mean seeds. The Board felt the AKC had not given enough information regarding what exactly this project involved as mean seeds were already identified and treatments prescribed. This study seemed to deal with the effect of mean seeds on dogs running on CPR lands. The Secretary read more information from the AKC website. No action was forthcoming.

The President went over comments gleaned from the various committee chairs who submitted reports with no action items involved.

**Break at 10:30. Meeting resumed at 10:45.**

**ABC Raffles:** A long discussion took place regarding the raffles held at the various 5 National Championship events. In the past, the prize raffle proceeds went to the National Championship. The last few years, the proceeds from this raffle have been split 5 ways toward the budgets of the 2 Gun Dog National Stakes, the two All Age National Stakes, and the National Specialty Show. This year the National Specialty Show held its own silent auction as did the All Age field trial group. Discussion centered on which way would the most people elect to participate and how should this be accomplished.

**Motion # 10:** Motion by Karbiner, seconded by Rankin: I move to return to the original program of each venue (National Specialty Show, National Gun Dog Championships and National All Age Championships) holding their own raffle/fund raiser therefore allowing people to support the event/venue of their choice. Each event will be in charge of organizing their own raffle if they choose to have one which will be run under the guidelines set forth in the Policy Notebook/National Auction Committee. Under this motion, there will be an overall chair of the Auction/Raffle Committee with three sub-chairs appointed to oversee the raffle/fund raising for the three separate venues.  
9 yes votes, 4 no votes: Pollock, Dow, Brigham, Ackerman, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis.  
Motion Passed.

**Lunch Break: 12:20. Meeting resumed at 12:50.**

**Motion # 11:** The monies allocated for each venue's raffle will be \$1200 for the Gun Dog Nationals, \$1200 for the All Age Nationals, and \$600 for the National Specialty Show. The guidelines fall under the auspices of the Auction/Raffle Committee as outlined in the Policy Book. There will be one national raffle chair and three sub chairs representing each venue. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed. Rationale: Earlier in the meeting, the Board moved an estimated \$600 from the Grounds Fund fees to offset the National Specialty Show Budget thus giving them a total increase of \$1200 approximately as is the case for the other two venues.

More agenda reports were discussed and highlights of each pointed out. Classics, Dates Conflicts, and other topics were discussed with no formal motions being proposed.

**Futurity:** Lisa Pollock, Futurity Committee Chair, discussed the ABC Futurities and went over the housekeeping items that need to be updated in the policy book as outlined on page 60 of the Agenda Book with the addition of the words "First Futurity" before the word Secretary in item # 3, page 103.

**Motion 12:** Motion by Pollock, seconded by Brigham: I move to accept the Pollock items on page 60 of the Agenda Book that reads as follows with the addition of the final item:

**Page 98, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph under "Litter Forfeits", change to read:**

Late litter nominations will be accepted as late as 180 days from whelping. Late fees are \$30 for 31-60 days, and additional \$30 for 61-90 days, and additional \$100 for 91-180 days. Nominations after 180 days will be at the discretion of the Futurity Committee. The ABC Board of Directors may impose additional late fees from time to time. The postmark will determine the fee for late nomination.

**Page 100, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph under "Dates"**

**Remove the sentence:** "The futurity may be held during the fall or the spring"

Move the other sentence in that paragraph to the end of the first paragraph.

**Page 101, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph under "Budget"**

Change "September 15" to "final forfeit".

**Page 102, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph**

**Remove:** "and patches"

**Page 108, second paragraph, change to read:**

The dog must hunt for its handler at all times, at a suitable gun dog range. It must cover adequate ground, but not range out of sight for a length of time that would detract from its usefulness as a class Gun Dog.

**Page 103, section # 3, add First Futurity in front of word Secretary.**

13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion Passed.

**Magazine Committee:** Bob Fleury, Chair of the Magazine Committee was in attendance and was asked to address the Directors. He noted that we were now exchanging ads with several national publications. We have a new contributing editor Peggy Weir in charge of Action at AKC and a new contributing editor Carla Simon in charge of reporting agility and obedience. The new ads and the increase in the agility section of the magazine have resulted in new members for the ABC.

Bob suggested leaving the magazine with no editor and continuing with a Magazine Committee as this seems to be running better under this format with more people being involved in decision making and proof reading. He outlined the problems we had this fall with covers coming off and the steps being taken to correct this problem. We are currently sending our brochure through the AKC rather than through a mailing service. This has been a considerable cost savings for ABC as we no longer have to pay postage as the flyer is included with AKC packet to all people who register dogs with AKC. Webster County Printing has been sold by Ron Smith to longtime employee Robert Gordon.

Ron continues to work at the firm, and we anticipate no changes in service.

**National Gun Dog Field Trial Secretary:** Darlene Down presented two proposals to the Board regarding Best Bitch Award and Best Lady Handler award at the Gun Dog Nationals.

**Motion # 13:** Motion by Dow, seconded by Robin: I move to establish and present a non-retireable rotating trophy for the Best Woman Handler at the National Gun Dog Amateur Championship. Guidelines to be established following those used in the Policy Book for the National Amateur All Age Championship. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed.

**Motion # 14:** Motion by Dow, seconded by Kerns: I move to establish and present a non-retireable rotating trophy for the highest placing bitch at the Gun Dog Nationals. The owner of the winner shall receive a keeper plaque or trophy similar to those awarded with other non-retireable trophies. This award will be made

to the owner of the highest placing bitch in the National Gun Dog Championships with any Open placement taking precedence over any Amateur placement. The name of the award to be determined and guidelines established as per guidelines for the National All Age Championships as contained in the Policy Book. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed.

**Consideration of eliminating the three (3) point major rule in a Brittany Club sponsored trial for a Brittany to become a field champion.** Director John Henderson presented each Director with a booklet prepared by Dr. Gordon Theilen on the topic. The booklet contained background information, multiple factors their committee felt was driving the need to change, stats on the number of trials, stakes and entries, with a special section on trials in 2010. He discussed the lack of workers at trials, running trials open to all breeds, and trials that were canceled due to lack of entries.

Some of the stats such as number of trials canceled were challenged as was the rationale presented based on stats reported. One statistic reported that 35 % of clubs did not hold trials or canceled. Only 4 trials scheduled were reported as actually canceled in the fall of 2010 according to stats presented by the Webmaster based on his calendar, and some of those were canceled due to weather conditions or crops still in the field and not because of the 3 point major. Henderson reported that stat was based on the opportunity to hold a trial. Objections to listing clubs with no # of members supporting the measure was misleading as it may have been only one member out of many who actually supported eliminating the rule while the majority of members may have favored keeping it.. Henderson said he was not provided with the number of members in each club who supported the proposal. Henderson said around 150 people had signed the petition. It was pointed out that 3543 people are full or associate members or members of multiple clubs of the ABC and that 150 members was a very small percentage that expressed a desire to change the rule. While around 40 actual signatures were contained in the proposal in the Agenda Book, the Agenda Book Chairperson did receive petitions with 150 signatures. Another Director pointed out that a petition had been circulated in their region favoring retaining the rule and the petitioner got 95 signatures from their region in one week. Henderson pointed out the distances between trials in the West Coast region and felt people would still drive the distances to support Brittany trials 500 miles away even if the rule were removed. Others felt people would not drive to support Brittany trials if they could go to another breed trial close to their place of residence. One Director remarked that a dog could become a field champion and never run in a Brittany trial.

After a lengthy discussion both pro and con, the question was called by Brigham. President Hartnek asked if Director Henderson wished to make a motion. Henderson said he would withdraw the proposal and go back to the committee supporting it and see if they had further proposals.

**From an earlier discussion about changing qualifications for the Gun Dog Nationals, the following motion was made:**

**Motion # 15:** Motion by Dow, seconded by Ackerman: I move to add to the Gun Dog National Qualifications that 3<sup>rd</sup> place with thirty dogs and 4<sup>th</sup> place with thirty-five dogs in thirty minute stakes be qualifying placements. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman and Janulis. Motion passed.

**Blue Mt. Grounds Committee:** Tom Milam, the ABC representative on the committee., discussed the workings of the committee, purchase and releasing of birds, and other related items. The Irish Setter Club released 500 birds for the first time this year. Cost of the birds runs about \$6.50 by the time they reach Booneville from Alabama.

**National Trophies:** Ken Windom said he was in the process of restoring the recently found **Pheasant Classic Trophy**. Costs can be authorized under the President's discretionary funds.

**Other items:**

**A:** Steve Ralph mentioned that the Missouri Club wished to be moved to the Midwest Region as their members live in Kansas and they are now running their trials in Kansas. The Board recently moved the Midwest Hawkeye Club into the Central Region as their members live in Iowa and they run their trials in Iowa in the Central Region. A motion was not in order regarding the Missouri Club as it was not in the agenda book but will be presented in the next few days.

**B:** The President will appoint an oversight committee to look into a permanent Facebook presence on the internet. Rules will need to be established as to who and what can be posted.

**Nominating Committee:** Dow reported on the Nominating Committee's slate of officer nominations: President Ken Windom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Judy Robin, 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Jeff Currier and Treasurer Janet Chase. Directors elected and announced at the Membership Meeting were: East Coast Lisa Pollock, East Central Dan Ridell, Central Tom Jagielski, Midwest Tom Milam, West Coast Bob Wire.

**Motion # 16:** Motion by Rankin, seconded by Brigham: I move to confirm all votes taken by email since the last physical meeting of the Board. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis, Motion passed.

Board went into Executive Session.

Board came back into the Open Meeting.

**Motion # 17:** Motion by Rankin, seconded by Wire, I move to accept the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis, Motion passed.

**Motion # 18:** Motion by Brigham, seconded by Ralph: I move to set up a job search committee to fill the Membership Data Chair position. 12 yes votes, 1 no vote: Kerns, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis, Motion passed.

**Motion # 19:** Motion by Rankin, seconded by Brigham: I move to accept the Dog Hall of Fame Committee's nomination of Nolan's Last Bullet for the ABC Dog Hall of Fame and the People Hall of Fame's Committee's nomination of Bill Tiedeman (D) to the ABC People Hall of Fame. 13 yes votes, 0 no votes, 2 absent: Gorman & Janulis. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn at 4:20 P.M. All yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Trimble