

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** of the  
**German Wirehaired Pointer Club**

Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich. CW10 9BX

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 10.30 a.m.

- 1. Election of Chair:** The meeting was opened, in the absence of the President, by the Secretary, Robert Geary at 10.55am. Nominations were taken from the floor for the position of Chairperson. Peter McCullough was proposed by Barbara Stamp and Seconded by Elaine Turnbull, as there were no other nominations Peter took the Chair.
- 2. Present:-** Robert Geary, Peter McCullough, Dave Donnelly, Kim Donnelly, Paul Lovatt, Debbie Lovatt, Elaine Turnbull, Tracey Moore, Shaun Moore, Maxine McCullough and Barbara Stamp.  
**Apologies for Absence:-** Diana Durman-Walters, Janice Hawkes, Harriet Lampart, Fleur Fillingham, Kenny Hamilton, Nicky Hamilton, David Grierson, Karen Patterson, Alistair Ford, Janet Ford, Jean Byrne, Sarah Hunt, Gary Hunt, Una Russell, Peter Howard, Mick McCabe, Claire Shaw, Kimberley O'Connor, Wendy Oxman, Sharon Pinkerton, David Brigden, Michael Thornton, Mandy Geary, Bridgit Kearns, Stephen Hoyle, Kerry Thomas, Alice Turnbull, Lloyd Birch, Angela Cooke, Barbara Rigby, Trevor Rigby, Peter Garraway and Leigh Allen.
- 3. Minutes Of 2017 AGM:-** As the minutes had been distributed to the members, previously, the members present were asked if they were a true record of the AGM. The minutes were proposed as correct by Dave Donnelly and seconded by Barbara Stamp.
- 4. Matters Arising:-** The members did not raise anything. However, Robert Geary raised that the committee had been working on the 2 day event and had been unable to obtain a free date for 2018, but, had secured a date in July, 2019 at Walford Campus, North Shropshire College. Details would be released as and when arrangements were organised.
- 5. President's Address:-** The older I get the quicker time flies and it seems incredible that three years have passed since I had the honour to become President of this Club. Very little stays the same in life and I believe that an open mind is a valuable asset, to this end you will discover that the Club has several new activities planned for the future. The past year has seen a few changes within the Club but the Committee you see before you have remained constant and hardworking and totally devoted to the good of the Club, its members and above all the preservation of our wonderful breed. Behind the scenes the activities which are offered to you, our members, are the result of hours of hard work, whether it is involving showing, working or learning. Everyone gives their time freely and we are always available for advice in any aspect concerning the breed. I would like to pay special thanks to our Secretary for his endless patience and also to our Chairman for his vast knowledge of I.T. of which we are all jealous but it would be unfair to just select these two as all of you have given so much in so many ways. I would like to thank you all for treasuring the wonderful German Wirehaired Pointer, for ensuring the breed continues to thrive and for making the German Wirehaired Pointer Club an institution that offers so much to its members.

**6. Chair's Report:-** Every year, the first action of the newly appointed Committee is to elect a Chairperson. This year that honour fell to myself, to take over the role from my wife, Maxine, the outgoing Chair. Since most of the Committee will cover their activities and events in own their individual reports, I will simply reflect on the functioning of the Committee. We were fortunate to start the year with a full Committee of ten, six of whom had served on Committee the previous year, enabling us to continue the programmes already started with the support of our President, to modernise the Club and our aim to keep it relevant to the vast majority of our members. As most of you are aware, the stated objective of the Club (rule 2a) is: *To encourage the breeding of German Wirehaired Pointers (GWPs) to meet the breed standard and fulfil their roles as Hunting, Pointing and Retrieving gundogs.* We are a small club. which means everyone on Committee has a lot to do, needs to be committed and able to work together. We are all volunteers and like the Club Officers, give up a lot of our personal time to organise events and activities aimed at achieving that objective for the benefit of our breed and our members. For my part, aside from the role as Chairman of the Committee, I maintain and develop the Club Website, manage the Club membership email communications, edit and produce the Club newsletter and support other members of the Committee on various documentation and list production., as well as attending and helping on most Club events. As a Committee, we had a busy start to the year, with two events in July - a Working Test organised by Una Russell to help raise additional funds to expand Field Trial activities and the Club Championship Show, judged by Peter Howard. Our first field trial took place in September as an Open Grouse Trial, judged by Peter Howard and Roy Cullen. In early October, a traditionally busy period for Committee, we had the sudden resignation of Una as FT Secretary and her partner, Peter Howard. This was unfortunate, but such events are not uncommon in Breed Clubs. The remaining Committee have been fantastic and all pulled together, to keep everything on track. However, on behalf of the Committee and the membership, I must pass on special thanks to our President, Barbara Rigby for her support and to her husband, Trevor, who agreed to take on the unenviable role of Acting Field Trial Secretary. Supported by several members of the Committee, Trevor has set up and run 3 excellent Field Trials and for the first time in many years, we have 3 Spring Pointing tests. I would like add my personal thanks to the whole Committee for their efforts this year and in particular, to Michael Thornton and to Gordon and Janet Kirkwood for the support they have given the Club, as they have decided to stand down this year. We are fortunate to have three new Committee members standing, so that means that we will start the new year with a vacancy on the committee. We are very lucky, to have such a diverse and committed team and I look forward to serving another year as an active member of this hardworking Committee.

**7. Secretary's Report:-** It was unfortunate that due to the weather etc that I forgot to bring my report and had to relate it from memory, which isn't that good at the best of times. I am putting my report here now for the members to read, my apologies to those who were present.

It has been another difficult year for the committee to operate with complaints being submitted during the year. These were redirected to the KC for advice and as a result no action was deemed necessary for the Club to take in these instances.

Unfortunately, as a consequence, both Peter Howard and Una Russell took the decision to resign from the committee, which resulted in Trevor Rigby stepping in to the role of acting Field Trial Secretary for approximately half of the term of office. I would like to thank Una and Trevor for the work they did.

Again, what can I say about our committee. They work tirelessly behind the scenes ensuring that the Club runs smoothly. We are very lucky to have a wonderful treasurer, Christine Evans, who always has her finger on the pulse, where our funds are concerned. Special thanks must go to Wendy Oxman, our membership secretary, Kimberley O'Connor for her organising skills in both fundraising and educational events. Barbara Stamp for organising seminars, the judges list and as Show Manager, and her reward to be given the role of Breed

Education Co-ordinator for the new KC Judges Competency Framework, which we will hear a lot more about over the next few years.

My personal thanks go to Michael Thornton, Gordon Kirkwood and Peter McCullough who assisted with the field trials and to Peter for again doing some brilliant work on the website with his IT skills.

Thanks go to Maxine McCullough for her work in Breed Health and to Mandy Geary and Maxine for taking the time to visit Walford Campus, an event that Mandy has well underway with the College for next year.

Finally, a big thank you to our President for her support that she gives to the Club and myself.

Both of our Shows ran smoothly. The Championship Show, judged by Peter Howard resulted in Johnstons' Sh Ch Charmer vd Tundershof with Glenquin taking Best in Show. Reserve Best in Show was awarded to Friar's Sh Ch Bareve Bokhalva to Sashal. Best Puppy in Show was won by Johnstons' Canis Fortuna Harda and Best Veteran was won by O'Connor's Sh Ch Karlejay Gump Zulu Warrior.

The Open show, judged by Donna Kirkwood-Emery, resulted in McCulloughs' Kimmmax Miss Congeniality taking Best in Show. Reserve Best in Show was won by Gearys' Egermaster Pandora for Germanus. Best Puppy in Show was won by Gearys' Germanus Three Times a Lady and Best Veteran won by McCulloughs' Sh Ch Kimmmax Bliss. The Barbara Pinkerton Memorial awards were won by McCulloughs' Sh Ch Kimmmax Kurious George (Dog), McCulloughs' Kimmmax Miss Congeniality (Bitch) and Caffel and Kavanagh's Hushwing Laboutin to Doberway (Puppy).

**8. Field Trial Secretary's Report:-** I commenced my tenure as acting FT Secretary toward the end of October 2017 following the resignation of the previous incumbent, Una Russell. I am sure the Committee will join me in placing on record our thanks for the work she put in. Four field trials were organised last season with 12 awards across the four trials with several awarded to G.W.P.s. Congratulations to all concerned. A Gundog working test (G.W.T.) was also arranged in mid-July. Looking forward I hope to extend the number Field Trials to 6: 1 Open, 2 All-aged and 3 Novice - increasing the Novice Trials to encourage more members to participate. A Grouse Pointing Test is on offer in March, along with 2 Spring Pointing Tests in April, extending our geographical base. I would expect to hold a number of Shoot-over days as well as a Field Trial Tuition Day. Continued expansion of the working side - outside the of the shooting season - will hopefully become the role of a Working Activities Coordinator - giving the Club and its members further access to widening activities from beginner to advanced levels. All in all, this is an exciting time for the Club and I look forward to the coming year.

**9. Treasurer's Report:-** The final accounts for the year ended December 2017 are presented for your information. The audit of the accounts took place on 17th February. It was undertaken by Nicola Maddox and Michelle Phillips. Both Nicola and Michelle confirmed that they are prepared to undertake the audit next year.

The figures show that the club made a profit of £838.28 on the main accounts. Subscriptions have increased in year from £1797 in 2016 to £2371 in 2017. Overall field trials made a slight loss in the year of £309.29. The working test was again successful showing a profit of £313 which supported the costs associated with the trials. A breakdown of the figures is available to the meeting. Overall the Champ and Open showed showed a slight profit of £81. This was less than the previous year figure of £321. Again a breakdown of costs is provided to the meeting. The Judges seminar and Competence Framework seminars were a great success breaking even in terms of costs and income.

The production of the newsletter in 2016 cost £418 in print (£310) and postage costs. There are no costs associated with newsletter production in 2017. As a result of ever increasing costs associated with printing and postage the Committee has worked towards providing enhanced electronic communications with members. Peter McCullough has done excellent work on this and in terms of the accounts has shown the financial benefits. An increasing use of PayPal is intended to make financial transactions easier for members and in 2017 and for 2018 renewals has been used increasingly for the payment of subscriptions in addition to rescue donations and calendar/Regalia sales. I expect the use of PayPal to continue to increase as we move forward.

Rescue is showing a deficit of £1475 for the year. This was due to specific decisions made in respect of supporting rescued dogs in need. Further details are provided later in the report. The sale of calendars raised £1845 giving a profit of £923 after costs. The increase in income offset by increasing costs of printing and postage. Wendy Oxman did some excellent work in respect of this. General donations in year were £2200 just slightly less than the previous year and were received mainly from those adopting or giving up dogs for adoption. An auction of generously donated items was held during the year to raise funds. Including the shoot over day this raised over £1000.

During the year rescue agreed to support specific dogs requiring long term kennelling or veterinary intervention. In support of this the Club had a number of specific appeals which were supported very generously by club members and non members. This raised £7030 in support of Bubba, £746 for Ruger and £121 for Charlie. Associated costs were £8254 for Bubba, £1680 for Ruger and £344 for Charlie. Additional boarding costs for hard to place dogs totalled £2815 with a further £430 paid in vets bills for these dogs whilst in kennels. It should be acknowledged that the dogs whilst in kennels required significant intervention to prepare them for adoption and an excellent job in respect of this was done by Sharon Pinkerton. Currently there are no dogs in kennels or in need of significant intervention.

During the audit the Auditors identified no issues.

This concludes the financial report. In closing I would like to apologise that I was unable to attend the AGM today. If there are any questions that cannot be answered today I am very happy to provide written responses outside the meeting.

A motion to accept the balance sheet was proposed by Maxine McCullough and seconded by Barbara Stamp and accepted unanimously by the members present.

## **Breakdown of Expenditure 2017**

### **Championship Show**

	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Entry Fees & Catalogue			
Sales		873.00	
Dogs not for show		14.00	
Misc		0.00	
Scurry		35.00	
Raffle		<u>240.00</u>	1162.00

### **Expenditure**

Fosse Data costs			
Catalogues	90.97		
Schedules	87.90		
Misc incl admin costs	63.20	242.07	
Licence	60.00		
Venue Costs - Tomlinsons	361.00		

Judges Gifts	46.48		
Rosette Costs	139.64		
Raffle Prize	21.69		
KC re surcharge	9.00		
Misc	35.00		
		<u>672.81</u>	914.88

**Net Profit / (Loss)** 247.12

**Open Show**

	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>			
Entry Fees & Catalogue			
Sales		212.50	
Dogs not for show		11.00	
Catering		0.00	
Scurry		5.00	
Misc		4.00	
Raffle		<u>153.00</u>	385.50

**Expenditure**

Fosse Data costs			
Catalogues	71.42		
Schedules	77.00		
Misc incl admin costs	45.73	194.15	
Licence	35.00		
Venue Costs	84.00		
Equipment Hire	20.00		
Judges Hospitality	84.00		
Judges Gifts	22.00		
Rosette Costs	80.21		
Raffle	31.77	<u>356.98</u>	551.13

**Net Profit / (Loss)** -165.63

**Total Show Profit** 81.49

**Field Trial Breakdown 2017**

	£	£
<b><u>Jan 2017 Trials</u></b>		
Income		225.00
Expenditure		292.00
Profit / (Loss)		-67.00

**Working Test**

Income	Fosse	195.11	
	Cheque	67.00	
	Cash	283.00	545.11

Expenditure			
	Porta Loo	100.00	
	Donation	50.00	
	Judges / Stewards gifts	69.00	
	Flowers	13.00	232.00

Profit / (Loss) 313.11

**Alston Open**

Income	Fosse	467.45	
	Cheque		
	Cash		
	Sponsorship Guns	400.00	867.45

Expenditure			
	Licence	25.00	
	KC Levy	30.00	
	Ground	900.00	
	Judges/Stewards gifts	73.00	
	Flowers	10.00	
	Food	26.17	1064.17

Profit / (Loss) -196.72

**Shoot Over Day**

Income		420.00	
Expenditure		0.00	
Profit / (Loss)			<span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">420.00</span>

**Cloughton All Age**

Income	Fosse		298.80
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Expenditure			
	Licence	25.00	
	Ground	400.00	
	Gamekeeper tip	50.00	
	Picking up dog tip	20.00	
	Stationary	6.00	
	Wine Judges	15.08	
	Food and Snacks	34.25	550.33

Profit / (Loss) -251.53

### Myerscough Novice

Income Fosse 308.80

#### Expenditure

Licence	25	
Ground	350	
Gamekeeper tip	50	
Picking up dog tip	20	
Stationary	8.5	
Judges gifts	20	
Travel expenses Judge	10	483.5

Profit/(Loss) -174.70

Misc Expenditure (not included elsewhere) -352.45

Surplus/(Deficit) (309.29)

**10. Honoraria:-** Robert Geary stated that he felt that the honoraria should continue to remain the same as previous years. After a brief discussion it was proposed that honoraria would remain the same by Peter McCullough and seconded by Dave Donnelly. There then followed a discussion with regards to the Honoraria for the Field Trial Secretary and it was agreed the Honoraria would be split between Una Russell and Trevor Rigby. Paul Lovatt proposed that it should be split equally and this was seconded by Dave Donnelly. Barbara Stamp proposed an amendment of one third to Una and two thirds to Trevor seconded by Maxine McCullough. The vote for the amendment was 2 and the vote for the proposal was 8. Therefore the Honoraria will be split equally.

**11. Elections:-** a) President – Barbara Rigby  
b) Secretary – Robert Geary  
c) Treasurer – Christine Evans  
d) F/T Secretary – Trevor Rigby  
e) Committee – As no vote was required the following are elected as committee members' for 2018:- Peter McCullough, Maxine McCullough, Kimberley O'Connor, Wendy Oxman, Barbara Stamp, Mandy Geary, Paul Lovatt, Debbie Lovatt and Andrew Fleming. This leaves one place not taken.

**12. Health Co-ordinator's Report:-** In October 2017 I attended the Kennel Club's Health Symposium for Breed Health co-ordinators held at Stoneleigh. Topics covered were, Breed Health Conservation Plans, Epilepsy, interpreting information about dog health and an update on the Give a Dog a Genome Project.

As a club we have of course subscribed to the Give a Dog a Genome project and I have now secured the samples that they required as part of the sequencing for epilepsy. They requested samples from healthy dogs over 8 years old that have had a Full BVA eye examination (including a gonioscopy) which they were prepared to cover the cost of. It proved a little more difficult than expected however we have now found the required dogs and so therefore we are up to date with

their requests.

In Feb 2018, Robert Geary and I travelled to Dick Whites referral centre to an informative seminar he kindly held on Laryngeal Paralysis, Heart Disease and Epilepsy. Once again, as with the KC Health Symposium we do not appear to be any further on with any genetic testing for epilepsy in the foreseeable future. We can only hope that by us, as a club, subscribing to the AHT's GDG project we will at some point have something to hopefully eliminate this dreadful condition.

We have now also launched our GWP Club Health initiative, this is an online survey created by Peter to enable us to hopefully monitor any emerging/existing health issues. The Kennel Club feel this is an excellent initiative and like us, they hope that we get full participation from breeders and owners. Dr Katy Evan's from the Kennel Club has suggested we let this run for approx. 18 months to collect data and in that time, we need everyone to get behind this Health Initiative and support it - it is after all, for the good of the GWP.

**13. Rescue Co-ordinator's Report:-** I have to say that last year seemed to be the worst since I took over the rescue in 2014. Apart from the dogs listed below, I had many more calls seeking advice on rehoming which didn't come to anything and at least three where I had to advise euthanasia because the dog had bitten either them or their partner more than once. It was especially shocking when the first rescues to come up in Feb/Mar (four of them) were all under 2yrs old! One was taken back by his breeder (a rare gem), one was retracted and one was poor Ruger, who's owner decided he wasn't worth saving as he wouldn't be able to work. There also appeared to be an increase of problematic dogs especially with antisocial behaviour towards other dogs. It was also an extremely expensive year for rescue which I fully appreciate. In total I think five dogs had to be kennelled for various reasons, one of which Sharon and I agreed together, could not be safely rehomed and was euthanised. Thankfully all the dogs other than him were rehomed successfully by Christmas. I am happy to say that now we are part of the PDSA rescue scheme, should any dogs that have to go into kennels or who are located in the Hull area (the nearest participating centre), will now get concessionary rates for certain treatments. Robert has a copy of the details. Below are the numbers of dogs and bitches that were actually on the books: 9 Dogs, age range 9 months – 9 years 11 Bitches, age range 10 months – 8 years 5 of the above (4 dogs, 2 bitches) were under 2 years old and 1 was just 2 years old (dog). Reasons for rehoming varied. 2 breeder rehomes. Both breeders were aware and I was happy to help as there were no other dogs needing homes at the time. 1 euthanised due to being unsafe to rehome. Severe aggression with other dogs and unpredictable. No warning was given, he would be fine one minute then attack for seemingly no reason. 2 were withdrawn from the adoption process (one may come back on the books but owner has been trying hard to keep her) 3 rehomed by owners. The remaining dogs were successfully rehomed and are doing well. I was hoping for a quiet start to the year but I have already had four dogs come up (3 dogs, 1 bitch). Two of those are in need of new homes. One was rehomed by the owner on a trial basis and one hasn't got back to me. The bitch has a home to go to pending a meet up to see if she is suitable.

**14. Rule Changes:-** The following changes to the Rules were all proposed by Peter McCullough and seconded by Maxine McCullough

Proposal 1 - Increase of Membership Fees for 2019 The structure and amounts of Membership Fees have not changed for several years and despite economies made, In 2019 the Club is stepping up its Member Events, in particular the GWPC Weekend event and other training events - so a small increase to membership fees is proposed. Members will continue to receive discounts against attendance at chargeable Club events. Single Membership -

from £9.00 pa to £12.00 pa Joint Membership - from £12.00 pa to £15.00 pa Junior Membership (under 16 years of age) - from £4.50 pa to £4.00 pa Overseas - Memberships as above plus £2.00 pa Single/Joint & £1.00 pa Associate Member Initial joining fee is abolished, however, there will be a 25% rejoining fee in addition to the above if a member is permitted to rejoin within 2 years of membership lapse. The following Rule changes are proposed to realign membership renewal dates, applications for Committee and AGM Notices with the AGM. Membership is annual (calendar year). AGM's have to take place between 1st Feb & 31st March, many Societies only allow members until 1st February to pay memberships. After a discussion an amendment was proposed by Barbara Stamp to increase single membership by £1 only. This was seconded by Tracey Moore. There were no other proposals put forward. After a vote the amendment failed by 8 votes to 2, and therefore the proposal was carried.

Proposal 2 - Change to Rule 13(a) Allowing members 3 months to pay membership encourages them to delay payment, they are less likely to act and it causes significant workload that detracts from other activities that would benefit those members that have paid promptly. From:

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP: Any member failing to pay his/her annual subscription by 1st April (i.e. within 3 calendar months of it being due), shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Club (see 8j). To:

TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP: Any member failing to pay his/her annual subscription by 1st February (i.e. within 1 calendar month of it being due), shall thereupon cease to be a member of the Club and will need to re-apply for membership.

There were no amendments offered and the members accepted the proposal unanimously.

Proposal 3 - Change to Rule 7(c) The current rule is vague and needs aligning to the date window for the AGM and renewal deadline. This means the Club is very clear which members can attend an AGM, well in advance of sending out notices etc. From: A member shall be only deemed to be a fully paid up member as and when their subscription has been paid for the current financial year. To: A member shall be only deemed to be a fully paid up member for a given financial year if their subscription has been paid by 1st February of that year.

There were no amendments offered and the members accepted the proposal unanimously.

Proposal 4 - Removal of Rule 11 (c) This rule conflicts with the current and future rule 7(c) Rule to be removed: Any member elected on or after 1st October will be considered a Fully Paid Up Member for the following year.

An amendment was proposed by Barbara Stamp and seconded by Elaine Turnbull that any member joining after 1<sup>st</sup> October should only be required to pay 50% of the membership fee for that year.

The amendment was accepted unanimously by the members present. Rule 11(c) will read :- Any member elected after 1<sup>st</sup> October shall only be required to pay 50% of the membership fee for that year

Proposal 5 - Change to Rule 8(d) This rule was originally changed to allow more time for Xmas post, however, it causes a conflict as everyone submitting items may not be members

at that point. This should revert back to the original rule of 1st January, specially as email can be accepted as a valid method. From:

No business shall be discussed or transacted at an AGM unless notice thereof appears on the agenda. Items should be in the Secretary's hand by the 7th January (postmark), with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the chairperson of the meeting are urgent. To:

No business shall be discussed or transacted at an AGM unless notice thereof appears on the agenda. Items should be in the Secretary's hand by the 1st January (postmark), with the exception of routine matters or those which in the opinion of the chairperson of the meeting are urgent.

There were no amendments offered and the members accepted the proposal unanimously.

Proposal 6 – Proposed by Peter Howard and seconded by Una Russell.

That the GWP Club adopt the use of audio/visual interaction during the AGM, for those members who are overseas, or physically incapacitated preventing attendance. No voting powers would be granted to those members interacting with the AGM by this method. After a discussion, in which the members present understood why the proposal was put forward, it was felt that the proposal could be abused by non-members being present whilst a member was interacting with the AGM and that members who did not wish to travel could also abuse the proposal.

The members present unanimously voted against the proposal and therefore it failed.

**15. Election of Auditors:-** As per the Treasurer's Report it was proposed that the auditors remain the same. Proposed by Robert Geary seconded by Barbara Stamp.

**16. Any Other Business:-**

- A)** Barbara Stamp stated that the seminar held during the year had been very successful with all 10 candidates passing. Also the Current Club Judging List was all up to date and 30 people had been removed and some judges had moved from the C List to the A3 List as they had never updated their CV's.
- B)** Robert Geary stated that the KC had introduced the position of Breed Education Co-ordinator for the Judges Competency Framework and as such the position had been given to Barbara Stamp and the new committee would elect a successor or establish Barbara in the Role. Over the next couple of years the position would demand a lot of work for whoever was in the role and that as such it would be included in the Agenga for the 2019 AGM
- C)** Robert Geary informed the members that the committee had decided to take the Open Show back to Shirland Village Hall and would be held there this year on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

There being no other business the meeting was closed by the Chairperson at 12.20pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

