

BAVARIAN MOUNTAINHOUND SOCIETY OF GB

Annual General Meeting

4th March 2018

make sure we have enough officials to run the days both professionally and smoothly. Until it is explained to them a lot of people do not understand just how much is involved in the preparation of these tests. Not only do we have to ensure that there is enough suitable ground for each candidates test area, with enough space between each track, but also the critical timing involved in laying a track before it is followed up. There is even more involved in this with the Level 2's which have to be put down by judges and assistants the day before, and then there is the added complications making sure there enough officials for any chase trails that need to be added on to any of the tests. With all this in mind I would like to thank everyone involved in running these days as it is no easy task. This not only includes training officers, judges and assistants but wives, partners and girl/boy friends who help out behind the scenes with supplying sustenance and support on the day.

The standards and running of these tests are constantly being scrutinised and questioned by ourselves to ensure high standards are maintained, and will continue to be tweaked in anyway necessary to keep them being run as professionally as possible.

Some of you may remember the times when we had newsletters? Well for a while we did try to continue doing this, initially by post and then by email. This put more work load on another committee member and was only as successful as the articles provided by you the members to put in it, which eventually became non-existent, so the decision was made to trial a Facebook page. Initially this was met with some caution by many but we had to do something so we gave it a try. Well we now have fast approaching 800 members on the Facebook page (pity they don't actually join the society), and generally speaking everyone has been behaving themselves. It has proven a great platform for the interaction of our members and is also a convenient place to find out about any upcoming events or issues that are important to get out there quickly. Of course we still have our website for those that aren't into social media and it is still a great place to source information and book a place for our events.

At this point, on behalf of the society I would like to give a very special thank you to the Forestry Commission and its staff, especially their wildlife and recreation rangers around the country for all of their support and assistance with our training areas and help in providing much of our bio degradable training equipment! We fully appreciate all the support they give us and their recognition of what we stand for and do as a society. Without them our training section would not be anywhere near as successful as it is.

As ever, each year the society seems to get busier and stronger, and as each month passes the committee seems to have more and more issues to attend to and as the current Chairman I would like to give all our committee members a massive thank you for all the help and support you have given me in this role over the last few years. I know I've said it before but I think it needs saying again. We are so fortunate to have such a good mix of people, all with different skill sets and experiences which helps keep the committee and therefore the society firmly grounded and hopefully make the best decisions when required.

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As many of you are aware, this year I have made the decision to stand down as Chairman. I have held this position for quite a while now, and apart from feeling the need to free up my spare time given to this role, and allow me to spend more time in the tracking and deer related activities which are very close to my heart, I feel that now is the time to pass on the reins to new blood, who can continue to drive the society forward into the coming years and keep the identity of the society firmly where it should be, which is first and foremost a breed society and secondly a training organisation which embraces not only the BMH's natural abilities but those of any breed who's owner wishes to become involved into the world of tracking large wounded game. I am sure that the society will be in capable hands and I wish it every success in the future.

5. Secretary's Report

In absence of secretary MH presented his report as follows:

Firstly my wife & I apologise for not attending the AGM today, we both have been struck down with the dreaded flu and don't feel much like leaving the house, not sure about the weather conditions either as it has started to get very cold again here and I don't really fancy battling the weather being three hours away minimum.

First and fore most I would like to start my report to wish Pete Cheeseman all the best with his new or existing ventures and to thank him for the time he has spent as a loyal Chairman and committee member. He has been invaluable regarding setting up and running the BMHS Facebook page, the Simply Book system for training and test days, Membership Mojo system and a host of many other IT things that I don't have a raving clue about and mainly of utmost importance he has chaired the society in the most unbiased, professional and caring manor, without doubt he will be sorely missed. Pete has informed us he will carry on running training days for the BMHS in the Thetford area, so anyone attending a training day there will be assured of a great trainer and guide, with a bonus of his lovely missus supplying great grub.

So a massive thankyou Pete from myself and I am sure the whole society.

I would like to thank Claire Russell for her massive input into the rescue scheme, she seems to have taken the bull by the horns so to speak, with this role and has adopted a totally professional manner in which she runs this. All of the dogs she has rehomed have really fallen on their feet through Claire and Chads discerning work with this, again a huge thankyou from the whole society I am sure.

Onto Kate Kemp, our membership officer. She just gets on with the job, no moans, no groans and does a brilliant job producing our test certificates and as I am sure you are all aware they are very, very professional. Also her contribution as a committee member is totally invaluable. Well done and thanks Kate from us all.

The treasurer's not bad either, just gets on with it, pays out fast, sorts queries fast, what more do you want, and a set of books at the end of the year that were extremely easy to audit. So well done and thanks Slay, keep up the good work. I would like to add a thank you to my wife and Flower and Company Accountants for the audit of these books free of charge.

Now then where do I start with Minna Hagan! Saves my arse every day. Judging Co-ordinator, Joint Health co-ordinator, committee member, ins & outs of a cats arse rules invigilator, and a goldmine of information on dogs, training, info, you name it, and secretary basically to cover my shortcomings as one. The work that Minna & Ann Marie Hill have put into our breeds health has been outstanding. Their work with the AHT in researching epilepsy has been relentless. I would personally like to thank the pair of them as I am sure all the society does for this commitment.

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I would like to thank all of our training officers and judges for their continuing commitment in advancing our dogs and handlers abilities to recover large wounded game. These people give up their time and travelling away from home voluntarily for our cause. Bloody well done!

The BMHS would like to thank the Forestry Commission in their continual support in granting area permissions and their rangers for supplying us with our training aids and guidance.

Lastly and foremost I would like to thank all BMHS members for continuing their support for our fantastic breed.

6. Treasure's Report

MS presented his report as follows:

Final account balances at the end of the year stood at

Current Acc HSBC	£1586.38
Rescue Acc HSBC	£842.77
Paypal Acc	£6084.63
Cash	£78.00
Stock	£393.67
Totalling £8985.45	

The society bought new assets in 2017 worth £413.95, these were new Microchip scanners for locations = £203.95 and Tracking shoes = £210.00. Of these assets we sold tracking shoes = £180.00

Income from Training and Test days = £4920.00, total expenses = £927.76

Income from Shot site days = £820.00, total expenses = £457.25

Income from Simulator days = £362.75

Income from WGDS Training Day = £525.00, total expense = £40.40

Expenditure decreased approximately by £5,500 from 2016 mainly due to no need for judges to travel for tests. This is due to be reviewed in 2018.

7. Approval of audited accounts

The AGM approved the audited accounts to be accurate. Proposed by Vicky Gamble and seconded by Dal Borsuk. The AGM agreed to give Helen Coles a bottle of wine as a thank you for auditing the accounts. Secretary to arrange.

8. Election of 2018 committee

The term of office following committee members expired at the AGM: Minna Hagan, Kate Kemp, Jon Sale and Ann-Marie Hill. As per the societies rule, both were eligible to stand for reelection and both indicated that they would be happy to continue.

The motion to reappoint Minna Hagan, Kate Kemp, Jon Sale and Ann-Marie Hill as committee members was proposed by Vicky Gamble and seconded by Kristin Waeber. The meeting unanimously carried the proposal.

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Due to resignation of Chairman Peter Cheeseman, nominations were invited to replace PC. One nomination was received as per rules and regulations of the society for Minna Hagan. Nomination was proposed by Vicky Gamble and seconded by Kristin Waeber. The meeting unanimously carried the proposal. MH thanked the AGM.

Due MH being elected as a Chairman created a vacancy within the committee, one nomination was received by the secretary as per rules and regulations of the society, for Simon Powne, training officer for Hallwill Junction. Nomination was proposed by Steve Coles in writing prior to the meeting, and seconded by Peter Cheeseman. The meeting unaniomously carried the proposal.

Health and Welfare

Minna Hagan presented Health Report as follows:

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2017 has been a very busy year for us.

As announced last year, the plan was to launch a nationwide campaign regarding Epilepsy. This campaign became not only a nationwide project, but a worldwide one, thanks to Ann Marie's relentless work contacting her colleagues and friends across the globe. So far we have sent out over 150 kits to Poland, Norway, Germany, Italy, US and UK, and we have received back around 70.

As you can imagine, this is invaluable information and we will continue to work with AHT, hoping to arrange a visit to plan what our next steps will be.

If you would like to take part and submit a sample there is still time, please contact myself or Ann Marie for a free test kit. We are still short of UK samples, only a small percentage of samples have been submitted compared to the number of hounds in the country.

All samples are archived at AHT premises and the cost of this is covered by the society. I would like to extend huge thank you to Ann Marie for all the work she has done behind the scenes.

This past year we also launched our first ever Breed Health Survey. The results from this have now been published on our website and FB page. Although the Survey has now been closed, we are continuing to maintain a health database. Therefore we would like to encourage all BMH owners to continue to report any new health issues as well as causes of death using our tool that can be found on our website.

According to the KC's Breed record supplement, there still are a number of litters born in the UK where just one or neither parent has been hip scored. The higher the score, the worse the condition and the current max score set by the society for breeding purposes is 15. This is higher than the mean score recommended by the British Veterinary Association, which is 10.

A relatively new health condition for BMHs in the UK is Alabama Rot. This starts as lesions on the feet, legs and sometimes the mouth, and seems to have taken hold with more and more cases having been diagnosed this year. This disease is treatable but it can be fatal if not diagnosed quickly. Most of the reported cases suggests that dogs have been infected while walking in woodland, but no confirmation has been given that this is the only place it can be picked up. Due to diagnosed cases, the Cannock training venue was closed down.

Another problem we are seeing is a parasite carried by ticks called Babesia canis, which can also be fatal. It is thought the spread of this single celled parasite will be rapid and the dogs most at risk are ones that spend a lot of time outdoors, especially in rough and wooded areas. The only treatments currently available are blood transfusions and a medication which is meant for bovine animals. Neither treatment has been proven to work 100%.

Information on both of these can be found on the internet and by speaking to your vet. Our hounds will be at risk so make sure they are checked for ticks and lesions every time they are in possible places of contamination.

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One more concern for the Society is the fact that we are seeing near black and tan hounds being born. Black and tan is not a recognised colour for the BMH and if mated b/t to b/t there can be severe genetic problems.

The darker hounds are very popular but should be bred carefully and pale hounds are the same. There have been some photos that look more like ridgebacks than bavarians.

Unfortunately if a colour becomes popular that's what people will breed. Accepted colours are Deer Red, Deer Red with Black Mask, Stag Red and Stag Red with Black Mask. Any other colors, if registered with the KC, should be registered as "Color not recognised by KC" and not as one of the acceptable colors.

Going forward

Plan for 2018 is to continue the great work re DNA samples in order to continue acquiring as many samples as possible for the AHT. Hopefully this will bear fruit and AHT would be able to start conducting studies around the cause of the disease.

The other goal which we will be working on is hip scoring and raising awareness of the importance of this. Breed Record Supplements provided by the KC will be investigated and breeders contacted if necessary.

I will be meeting with KC Health Mentors on Thursday 8th March at Crufts for a chat around breed health and what we could do as a society in order to ensure BMH health for years to come.

Rescue

Our Rescue Co Ordinator Claire Russell has successfully rehomed 4 Bavarians this year. All 4 are now happy in their new homes. Huge thank you to Claire for her work .

Thank you all for your co-operation

11. Any other business (at the discretion of the Chairman)

- MH advised the AGM that a proposal was made at the last committee meeting to donate £50.00 to the RNLI for the rescue of BMH Cassie. This was proposed by Peter Cheeseman and seconded by Vicky Gamble.
- Vicky Gamble mentioned FB comments on a post where a member had asked a valid question about her dog. She felt that some of the answers were inappropriate and did not relate to the question. PC asked the Committee to discuss at their next meeting.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was close by Peter Cheeseman at 12.00.