

BAVARIAN MOUNTAINHOUND SOCIETY OF GB

Annual General Meeting
9th February 2020

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Association held on Sunday 9th February 2020 at Castlemain Depot, Forest of Dean

PRESENT: Minna Borsuk(Chairman), Steve Coles (Secretary), Mark Slaymaker (Treasurer), Helen Coles, Simon Wardle, Matt Hunt.

Minna Borsuk (Chairman) chaired the meeting.

Minna Borsuk opened the meeting at 11:00 by welcoming those present and thanking them for attending for the meeting.

Apologies for absence

The following members sent apologies for their absence from the AGM:
Norman Healy, Chad Russell, Claire Russell, Dal Borsuk, Dawn Seago, Kate Kemp, Ann-Marie Hill, Andrea Slaymaker, Simon Powne, Peter Cheeseman, Peter Garraway, Tim Lonsdale, Jo Callow, Takako Cheeseman.

Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The Minutes of the 2019 AGM were circulated and reviewed by those present. They were proposed as an accurate record of the 2019 AGM

proposed by Simon Wardle
and seconded by Helen Coles

A vote was conducted and proved in favour of accepting the 2019 AGM minutes as an accurate record.

The chairman of the meeting Minna Borsuk then signed them.

Matters arising

There were no matters arising out of the 2019 AGM minutes.

Chairman's Report

The chair, Minna Borsuk, presented their report as follows:

B.M.H.S. of GB CHAIRMANS REPORT 2019

Another year has passed, and we are looking forward to 2020.

We have concentrated a lot of effort and resources into health and welfare and this has been slowly but surely bearing fruit.

People are more aware of required health tests as well participating on epilepsy studies.

The latest information from the AHT shows that 100 DNA samples have now been submitted by BMH owners around the world. The findings show that there are 21 reported clinical problems.

- 3 have thyroid related issues.
- 1 with Addison's disease
- 1 idiopathic vestibular syndrome
- 1 Cherry eye
- 15 epilepsy

Our rescue co-ordinator Claire Russell has been busy finding homes for a number of Bavarians in need. All credit to Claire as she has found the best homes for some very lucky hounds. In 2018 only 1 BMH was rehomed, which ended up staying with Claire and Chad. In total since Claire has been doing the role 9 BMH have been rehomed. We are constantly on the lookout for foster homes, so if you can provide a safe, secure environment to a hound, please get in touch either with myself or Claire.

The society produced a calendar for 2020 to be sold in benefit of Rescue and Health. Pictures were all provided by our Facebook members and voted on. Unfortunately, this year the sale of the calendar did not go as well and a loss of £50.00 was recorded

The Health Co-Ordinator baton has been passed over to Dawn Seago who has been having discussions with the KC regarding new requirements. And with the right support from the committee we can hopefully tackle all the important health issues in the breed.

The society held its first Breed Appreciation Day at Cannock, followed by a presentation for current and up and coming judges. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped out during the day.

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On behalf of the society I would like to give a very special thank you to Forestry England 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.

My thank you also goes to all the training officers across the country who give up their free time to run training days and sometimes spend days away from their families to do so. You guys are amazing.

Each year the society seems to get busier and stronger, 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 year 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.

Secretary's Report

The secretary, Steve Coles, presented their report as follows:

The secretary thanked Minna for all of her work over the past year as chair. In addition to the work as chair Minna has been instrumental in liaising with the Kennel Club on the new breed Standard.

The secretary went on to thank:

- The FC for the supplies and access to land for training
- Dawn for her work as health coordinator
- Ann Marie for her work over a number of years
- Slay for his work as treasurer, especially for paying on time.
- Helen and Flowers for auditing the accounts
- Minna for the professional approach to the KC and collating the health statistics
- Claire for the work on the breed rescue, which is a difficult task especially finding the right person for each dog
- Chad and Simon for their work on the training side

Shillingstone may be changed to be run by Deb Tucker and her partner to relieve Steve New Forest is a new venture for Steve. £ sessions have been run on open heath that is challenging. This may be a regular event possibly alternating with Shillingstone The whole enterprise is more professional because of Minna's leadership. Finally, the secretary thanked everyone that has helped to make the society a success.

Treasurer's Report

Mark Slaymaker presented the treasurer's report as follows:

The financial state of the club remains healthy.

The club made an operating surplus of £1558.23 in 2019. This compares with £2292.43 in 2018.

The surplus can be broken down as:

- The income from membership subscriptions was £1416 minus PayPal charges of £42.28 in 2019 compared with £1468 in 2018
- General income was £5525.50 compared with £6627.00 in 2018, which is a reduction of £1101.50 when compared with 2018. This included approximately £200 of rescue income, compared with £800 for 2018
- Expenditure were recorded as 3967.27 which is a decrease of £367.30 when compared with 2018. The expenditure included £127.14 of rescue expenses

The balances at the close of business on 31st December 2018 stood at:

- PayPal £9603.71
- HSBC £1897.03
- HSBC Rescue £1292.77
- Cash £92.60

Giving the society as of the 31st December 2018:

Net Assets £12886.11

Some highlights of income and expenditure are:

- Training and test days ran at a surplus of around £2200
- The club ran breed seminars at a cost of 274.05
- Further DNA samples archived - £90
- The calendar sales made a small loss of £60

Finally, thanks to Helen for organising the auditing of the accounts.

The meeting asked the following:

Q: Does the club have any interest-bearing accounts.

A: The treasurer confirmed that the club does not currently have any interest-bearing accounts.

It was suggested that some of the monies deposited with PayPal would be better moved to the HSBC account.

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The treasurer indicate that this would be considered.

It was further suggested that, as the calendar sales made a small loss, any future calendars should require firm orders with a deposit before committing to the printing of any calendars.

Health and Welfare

Note: this item was taken as part of the Chairs report.

Minna Borsuk also presented Health and Welfare report as follows:

Health and Welfare Report 2020

The total number of DNA swab tests received back now stands at 100 samples from the breed. What we can say is that 21 of the submissions report a health issue of some sort, with epilepsy in some form with a varying degree of confidence among 15 cases. There's also hypothyroidism, Addison's disease, hip dysplasia, cherry eye and vestibular disease.

As you can imagine, this is invaluable information and we will continue to work with AHT,

If you would like to take part and submit a sample there is still time, please contact myself 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. As at the end of the year, the society has donated £500.00 towards this.

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. In the last 15 years 68 hounds have been hip scored and in 2018 only 4 were tested. Taking into the consideration the population of BMH in the country we are looking at approximately 17% of the hounds being tested for hip dysplasia. We would like to remind anyone considering of breeding to ensure both dam and sire have healthy scores, prior to going ahead.

Alabama Rot cases seem to have reduced during 2019. This starts as lesions on the feet, legs and sometimes the mouth, this disease is treatable, but it can be fatal if not treated quickly. It is very unfortunate that it is not possible to make a diagnosis until after the dog has died so it is imperative that vet is contacted asap if in doubt. 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.

A case of tick born encephalitis has been reported by Public Health England in Thetford and Hampshire - Dorset border. Blood is being collected from all the culled deer as well

as ticks to find out status of the condition.

Going forward

Plan for 2020 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. I will also be working with the KC in order to establish a Health guideline for the breed.

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 where necessary. The society also now publishes a record of all KC registered litters on the website, detailing information about dam and the sire.

We are looking into conducting another health survey into the breed in 2020/21. Further updates will be given closer to the time.

Approval of audited accounts

The accounts being duly approved by the societies auditors it was

proposed by Minna Borsuk and
seconded by Simon Wardle

A vote was conducted and proved in favour of accepting the audited accounts as presented.

Election of 2020 committee *

(*) The following Committee members retire in 2020:

The term of office for the following committee members expired at the AGM:

Kate Kemp
Dawn Seago
Ann Marie Hill
Simon Wardle

As per the societies rule, they were eligible to stand for reelection and all indicated that they would be happy to continue.

A motion to reappoint the committee members was
proposed by Steven Coles
and seconded by Helen Coles.

The meeting unanimously carried the proposal.

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The payment of an Honoraria to the Secretary and Treasurer, was raised by the Chairman, in the sum of £100.

The Secretary and Treasurer were asked to withdraw while the meeting considered this.

After due discussion, the payment of a Honoraria was proposed by Helen Coles and seconded by Simon Wardle.

The proposal was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The Secretary and Treasurer were readmitted to the meeting.

The Treasurer has been tasked with arranging the practicalities of the decision

Updating of Breed Standard – Circulated to all members

The proposed changes to the breed standard were discussed a motion to accept them was: proposed by Helen Coles

and seconded by Steve Coles

The meeting unanimously carried the proposal.

Any other business (at the discretion of the Chairman)

A question about the websites position on search engines was raised and discussed.

The advertising of car stickers was suggested.

The AGM was informed that several smaller shows would have import categories better suited for BMHS especially since the working test has been approved

Work is continuing to get to a stage where BMHS is included in the breed register.

Numerous new breeds have been added to the import register and several breeds remain on the import register form many years.

A discussion on the traits of the breed followed with various suggestion on how to promote the breed, including more “meet the breed” type activities.

Continue breed sessions to improve judge’s knowledge.

A suggestion was made to source and sell bandannas with profits going to rescue. It was suggested that they would have the BMHS logo and be available in different colours.

The possibility of a rescue stand at Crufts was discussed.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was close by Minna Borsuk at 12:13