



Ashridge Canicrossers

Minutes of the AGM

26th February 2021 (Virtual Zoom Meeting)

Attendance: George Humphreys
 Sarah Humphreys
 Carin Whitfield
 Becky Martinez
 Matt Armstrong
 Abi George
 Simone Fairall
 Karen Mclean
 Sam Wright
 Anna Jones
 Julie-Anne Moors
 Kate Taunton
 Emma Burrows
 Anne Kruse
 Martin Poynter
 Louise Clark
 Fiona Watson

Apologies: Karin Voller
 Samantha Davies
 Sheena Braddon
 Claire Stibbon

1. **Welcome** **George**
 The meeting was opened at 19:00, with George welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending.
2. **Apologies of Absence** **Becky**
 Apologies of absence were received from those listed above.
3. **Minutes of Previous AGM** **Becky**
 The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed. Proposed by Sarah. Seconded by Carin

4. Chairperson's Report**George**

Please see separate document of George's Chairman's report

5. Treasurer's Report**Matt**

Matt provided a high-level summary (emailed to attendees, available upon request) of the Club accounts:

- The Club had two sources of income in 2020. Membership Subscriptions and the Ashridge Race.
- Membership year changed to January to December hence limited membership income in comparison to previous years.
- Race Entries x 47 (with 10 refunds post cancellation)
- The main outgoings of the club this year were insurance and KC and NT registration.
- New cost in 2020 for NT licence.
- The cash balance at the end of the year was £4974.14(2020), £4520.27(2019).
- Christmas Party outlay relates to 2019 party (late cashing of reimbursement cheque by M. Armstrong).
- Going forward with the club's healthy bank balance it is likely that further kit will be bought and sessions such as Dog First Aid subsidised.
- Kate checked and verified the accounts

6. Re-Election and Election of Committee Members

George put himself forward for re-election as Chairperson. This was proposed by Carin and seconded by Abigail. There being no other nominations, George was re-elected Chairperson.

Matt put himself forward for re-election as Treasurer. This was proposed by George and seconded by Simone. Matt was elected Treasurer.

Becky put herself forward for re-election of Club Secretary. Proposed by George seconded by Carin. Becky was elected Secretary.

Abi put herself forward for re-election as Social Secretary. Proposed by Becky, seconded by Kate.

Carin put herself forward for re-election as committee member and web admin. Proposed by George and seconded by Becky.

Kate also re-elected as committee member, proposed by George and seconded by Becky.

Chris Lynn resigns from the committee due to family commitments and we thank him for all his hard work and effort within the club. At some point we will also lose Abi as she is planning on relocating away from Ashridge.

7. **Special Business**

George

Proposed to move the membership year from September to August, to January to December. This motion was carried by all, with the agreement that George will write this into the constitution.

8. **AOB**

- **COVID**

All

Restrictions of Covid sadly continue although a roadmap is due to be published at the end of March. Until then the “Rule of Six” remains.

- **Running with Older Dogs**

Simone

Simone commented that Timber is reluctant to run now that he is getting older so availability of other dogs would be useful. This should be posted within a run, either offering or requesting as runners do have “spare” dogs.

- **Kit**

Committee

It was discussed that new kit needs to be purchased in particular for smaller dogs and those with “curly” tails (as raised by Anne). The club accounts are such that kit can be bought, so a list will be compiled and items requisitioned.

- **Brachycephalic Breeds (Flat Faced)**

Louise

Louise voiced her concerns of flat faced breeds (reference the upturn in French Bulldog ownership) running at the club. Many have severe health issues and running such breeds poses a serious health risk to the dogs. George noted that several Staffordshire Bull Terriers run with the club with no issues but the owners are all responsible. It was decided that a dog’s welfare is paramount therefore it is acceptable to “reserve the right to refuse membership to the club” with this in mind, and that this should be written into the constitution.

- **Medical Issues of Runner**

Abigail

Abi commented that post an incident with a runner who failed to notify anyone of health issues, the club notes that are read by new members should be updated to ask that people make any issues they have known. This can be done but it is noted that people run at their own risk.

- **Verification of Interest**

Carin

To verify that people are genuinely interested in canicross it was suggested that some questions should be set at the submission stage on FB. Carin will set a couple of questions that must be answered prior to admission.

- **Theft of Dogs** **Abigail**
 Following a spate of dog thefts including locally to Ashridge, awareness was raised by Abi of the Herts “Dog Watch” and OWLS, which requires sign up but allows information to be shared from the local police force.
- **Other Activities** **All**
 With funds in the Club account it was discussed what other activities can be organised by the club as well as the previously suggested First Aid Courses and Massage Courses. Both Scent Training and Mantrailing were suggested so will be considered.
- **Warm Up Sessions** **Martin**
 Martin commented that warm up / stretch sessions are good to do prior to a run. This was agreed for both humans and dogs, however there is not the time for all of us (ref. harness fitting) to do, so as it is clear what time runs are set to leave, it will remain with the individual to be responsible for any pre-run warm ups. It was also noted that this is important post runs. For those that have attended dog massage sessions it was discussed that a warm up before you leave home for your dog is adequate.
- **Run Leaders** **Becky in Karin V’s Absence**
 The club is always looking for people to offer to be run leaders. Karin who knows Ashridge very well has offered to show people routes if they would like, to give individuals the confidence to lead going forward.

9. Close

The meeting was closed at 8.05pm.

Signed and dated:

George Humphreys **Date:**

Chairperson

Becky Martinez **Date:**

Secretary

Matt Armstrong **Date:**

Treasurer