

**National Golden Retriever Council  
Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the National Golden Retriever Council's Annual General Meeting, held on Thursday, 12 November 2009, by teleconference commencing at 8.15 pm, Eastern Summer Time.

**1. WELCOME BY PRESIDENT:**

The Chair welcomed all participants to the meeting.

**2. ATTENDANCE:**

Chair:	Roger Bridgford, President Marilynn Morphet, Secretary
Queensland	Chris Foulds
New South Wales	Sandra Patterson
Tasmania	Linda Rand
South Australia	Barbara Moore
Western Australia	Carla O'Donnell
Victoria	Jenny Coutlemanis

In Attendance and Minutes Secretary: Claire Kaspura

**2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - AGM - 19 February 2009:**

The meeting noted a correction to the Agenda - the date of the previous AGM to read "19 February 2009" not "28 November 2008".

After some discussion, followed by circulation of the correct version, *the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 19 February 2009, were confirmed as a correct and true record. Moved: NSW, seconded SA – Carried.*

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING - 28 MAY 2008:**

The NSW Delegate referred the meeting to the SGM minute under "General Business – second paragraph" and suggested that the wording did not accurately reflect the intent behind the submission of the proposed "Amendment of the Breed Standard" to the GRC of NSW. The NSW Club had been asked to consider the proposal and if in agreement, to submit it to the National Golden Retriever Council for forwarding to the Golden Retriever Breed Council – United Kingdom - for their attention.

After some discussion, followed by the Chair's clarification of NBC due process, it was suggested that the minutes were indeed an accurate record and that the document could only be forwarded to the GRBC, United Kingdom, by an individual, and not as a document supported by the NGRC.

*After noting that the document in its present form could not be sent from the NGRC, the minutes of the Special General Meeting, held on 28 May 2008, were confirmed as a correct and true record. Moved: SA, seconded NSW. Carried.*

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:**

#### **4.1 Register of Dogs Tested for Hereditary Diseases**

The Secretary noted that a compilation of Professor Wyburn's Hip Score data had been circulated and was cleared for publication on the NGRC's web site. Mrs Morphet then suggested that there also appeared to be no impediment to the publication of the Willis 2005 data. After a brief discussion:

*It was agreed that as there appeared to be no impediment to the NGRC publishing the Willis 2005 data on its web site, that publication should be proceed. Moved: SA, seconded WA. Carried.*

#### **4.2 Amendment to Breed Standard**

The Chair sought State Club responses to forwarding the document "Amendment to the Breed Standard", submitted by NSW and in its current form, to the Breed Council, United Kingdom:

Qld: no  
NSW: yes  
Vic: disagreement with some points – therefore, no  
SA: suggested that the document merely reflected what the NGRC voted for in the Breed Standard Extension and agreed to its submission to the GRBC, UK.  
Tas: no feedback received from Club to report.  
WA: would wish to change a couple words – therefore, no

After some further discussion, *it was moved that all states forward their suggested changes to the document "Amendment of the Breed Standard" to NSW Delegate, Sandra Patterson, by 31 December 2009; that a revised document be circulated to State Clubs by 31 January 2010 and that 90 days (1 May 2010) be the deadline for receipt of votes on the final document.*

*Moved: SA, seconded Victoria. Carried.*

#### **4.3 NGRC Health Sub Committee:**

It was noted that no indication of the Sub-Committee's membership had been received. It was also noted that it was the NGRC's intention that the Sub-Committee's membership may be by invitation to people with expertise in the area rather than from State Club appointed delegates.

*The Secretary was asked to write to Mrs Thompson seeking membership information. The Secretary should also advise Mrs Thompson that the NGRC should be advised of any future changes in the membership of the sub-committee.*

#### **4.4 Premature Death in Golden Retrievers Survey**

The Secretary noted Mark Hodges's advice that 44 survey responses had been received and noted that this was not a great result. State Clubs had been asked to advertise the research project/data collection in their newsletters.

During the ensuing discussion *it was agreed that the research title be changed to "Causes of Death in Golden Retrievers".*

#### **4.5 Proposed Eye Survey**

It was noted that the NGRC had previously approved the drafting, submission and publication of the Eye Survey on the question of limiting litter registrations to those where the sire and dam of the litter held current eyes certificates. There being no further vote required, the Secretary was asked to forward the request for the survey to the ANKC's Health Committee. Once approved by the ANKC's Health Committee, the survey would be published in all State body journals.

Discussion ensued on what constituted a current eye certificate. It was suggested that this criteria would be as set by the AVA's Ophthalmologists' Panel.

#### **4.6 Scoring Centres for Hip/Elbow Dysplasia Authorization Process**

The new Secretary is to contact Dr G Allan seeking his input to the NGRC's collection of hip/elbow score data being mindful of the need for the consent to publish clause on each form.

#### **4.7 Hip Dysplasia Retrospectively Collected Data – Permission to Publish**

Although discussed under Item 4.1, the Secretary again noted that she had requested all Clubs to seek consent for the publication of retrospective data via their newsletters.

#### **4.8 Web Site Sponsorship**

The Secretary noted that her request to Nestle in February for sponsorship of the web site was returned "not known at this address". Subsequently, another company representative was contacted, with no response to date. Nestle had offered to sponsor the Queensland National. However, the National sponsor is Purina.

It was suggested that Genetic Technologies might be interested in this sponsorship which amounted to \$150 per year.

The SA delegate advised that Trenigens Pet Suppliers would sponsor the web site.

#### **4.9 GRC of Queensland - Approval of Judge for National Show - 2010**

*The meeting resolved to endorse the appointments of Anni Malte-Rasmussen (Denmark) and reserve, Mr Borge Eseland (Norway) to judge the Golden Retriever National – Queensland, 2010. Moved: Qld, seconded SA. Carried.*

#### **4.10 ACES Scheme – update:**

The Chair advised that at the recent ANKC conference it had been agreed to ensure the name and address of the dog's owner appears clearly printed on the ACES form.

### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **5.1 Incoming:**

Noted with no questions arising.

#### **5.2 Outgoing**

Noted with no questions arising.

*It was moved that the incoming/outgoing correspondence be received. Moved: SA, seconded Victoria. Carried.*

### **5.3 Business Arising from Correspondence**

After a brief discussion, the Chair advised that appropriate personnel for public comment on breed matters had been clarified with the ANKC and that in future, any requests for public comments would now be addressed to the NGRC, or its member Clubs.

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*I would like to note my thanks to Marilyn Morphett for her work over the last year. Marilyn has been a very enthusiastic Secretary over the last couple of years. Thank you for your support and work Marilyn.*

*The AGM will again be held via telephone using the Hot Air Conferencing facility, on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009. Again the National Golden Retriever Council (NGRC) is indebted to Wayne Pearson for providing the Hot Air Conferencing facility to conduct the AGM at no cost to the NGRC.*

*The major issue continues to be the ACES scheme and other health issues. I believe that the majority of concerns that have been raised by breeders have been resolved. If breeders still have some apprehension with the scheme these concerns need to be brought to the attention of their Breed Club and then on to the National Council.*

*A survey form has been drawn up to see if Golden Retrievers owners wish to make "Eye Testing" compulsory for Golden Retrievers, the survey does not place any breeding restriction on Golden Retrievers who do not receive a clear eye certificate. The survey only requires the parents of Golden Retrievers to be tested for the progeny to be registered, similar to the current Hip testing.*

*The next National Golden Retriever Show will be conducted by the Golden Retriever Club of Queensland to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2011 at CCC (Q) Durack Showing area. We wish the Queensland club all the best in their preparation of the National.*

*The National Golden Retriever Council's Constitution clauses 6 and 7 have been amended to allow a person who resides in a different State or Territory to a Golden Retriever Club to be elected the position of the President and/or Secretary of the NGRC.*

*I must thank all people involved in the NGRC for their help and support over the last two [2] and a bit years. I wish the incoming President and Secretary all the best in the future and know the NGRC will be in very good hands.*

*It was moved that the President's Report be received. Moved: NSW, seconded: SA. Carried.*

NGRC Members thanked Mr Bridgford for his contribution to the work of the NGRC over the last two or so years.

## **7. SECRETARY'S/TREASURER'S REPORT**

*I would like to start this report by thanking President, Roger Bridgford, for the privilege of working with him over the past two years. Roger is a world of knowledge and has always been just a click of the button away when there is a query which cannot be answered. Thank you Roger. Thank you also to many others who have contributed to the smooth running of the National Golden Retriever Council. I particularly acknowledge the following past Secretaries and Breed Delegates with whom I have been associated: Carol Stafford, Beryl Hession, Dave McKittrick, Lynn Fergusson, Jean Grieve, Heather Morrison, Andrea Sagers and Kaye Klap. Kaye had to resign as Secretary of the Tasmanian GRC after falling dangerously ill and, after several months, remains in hospital. Our best wishes are extended to Kaye for a full recovery. Special thanks too go to committee members of long standing who remain in positions mentioned above: Barbara Moore, Jan Williams, Jacquie Dixon, Penny Greenwell and Jennie Coutlemanis. And acknowledgement is made to the following who have taken over positions: Ruth Thompson, Cheree Munro, Kim Houlden, Michael Evans, Linda Rand, Chris Foulds and, finally, Sandra Patterson who has returned after "sabbatical."*

*The NGRC's financial position remains strong with the balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009 standing at \$3,217.46. For a number of years prior to 2009, Past President, Wayne Pearson, has been most generous in quietly covering our costs for the AGM Teleconference. This can amount to as much as \$600 per annum, therefore, it will be important to factor this expense into the budget in future years. Wayne is thanked most sincerely for his generosity to the NGRC.*

*Over the past year or so focus has been on Breed Clubs to be vigilant about acknowledging and addressing issues of inherited diseases in pure bred dogs. For many years the Golden Retriever Clubs have been very conscious of the need to address these problems. To further assist Clubs, the National Golden Retriever Council is in the process of setting up a health sub-committee under the supervision of Ruth Thompson. Council now has in place a survey for "Cause of Death in Golden Retrievers" which is linked to its website. I have noticed that it is not always easy to find the NGRC website when "googling" unless the correct name is input. Perhaps it would help if each state ensured the link was in a prominent place in each of its newsletters.*

*Other databases include the Hip and Elbow registers supervised by Jennie Coutlemanis. The information input into these registers come from results received from Prof Wyburn. Also included are heart and eye results provided by owners with the original certificates cited by State Club executives.*

*It is also possible and encouraged to have retrospective data included provided that an appropriate form is signed by the owner of the dog.*

*Results of research are only as good as the quality of the data and it is of utmost importance that Clubs keep a handle on the accuracy of information being received. It has been suggested that it would be of great benefit to have more interaction with Clubs from overseas. Information on inherited disease protocols have been received during the year from the GSD Club, the Golden Retriever Club (UK) and the Golden Retriever Club of America and as the internet is an extremely powerful tool, what a benefit to Golden Retriever research if data from a number of countries could be collated. (There are sophisticated ways of analyzing such data). Perhaps something along these lines could be put on the agenda for the health sub-committee in the future.*

*K9Data, an international database, is also linked to the NGRC website. This huge database provides different information, from pedigrees, offspring, siblings, genetic information and results of a number of health tests. Obviously, care must be taken with information from this site, as accuracy cannot be guaranteed. For this reason, information available from this source cannot be used for research into inherited diseases. That said, I believe this database could work in a similar way to Wikipedia, where, in many cases (care: but not all), others can change incorrect information. The wheels are now in motion for the next Golden Retriever National and I know it will be eagerly awaited. Queensland is thanked for their efforts in the preparation for the wonderful event such as this.*

*The time has now come for me to move on but I would like to say that I have enjoyed interacting with people right around Australia of a similar ilk enormously and I wish the NGRC all the very best for the future.*

Following receipt of the Secretary/Treasurer's report, and a request for clarification of the variance in the recorded amounts against "Membership Fees, it was noted that these related to "catch up" after the NGRC's failure to collect membership fees in the past and that payments were now up to date.

Mrs Morphet was thanked for her contribution to the work of the NGRC and for her wonderful organisational emails.

## **8. ELECTION OF AUDITOR**

*It was moved that Mr Mick Lindsay (Victoria) be again appointed auditor for the NGRC. Moved Victoria, seconded SA. Carried,*

The Chair then recorded a vote of thanks to Mr Lindsay for his work as auditor of the NGRC.

## **9. OTHER REPORTS**

### **9.1 Delegate Reports**

- Victoria – asked whether eye tests in other states included a test for glaucoma, and noted that members in Victoria are being asked. Cost for this extra test is \$15, with the screening completed prior to drops and the usual examination.

During the ensuing discussion it was suggested that as glaucoma had not been declared an inherited eye problem in the golden retriever the test was not compulsory. It was also suggested that the Breed Inherited Disease Sub-Committee investigate this issue.

- Qld – no comments to report.
- NSW – no comments to report.
- Tasmania – reported that Kaye Klap is still very unwell. Heather Morrison has stepped down from the Tasmanian GR Committee.
- SA – no comments to report.
- WA – no comments to report.

*The meeting asked the Tasmanian Delegate to pass on its good wishes for a speedy recovery to Kaye Klap.*

### **9.2 ANKC-National Breed Council Conference:**

The minutes of the ANKC National Breed Conference, held on August 2009, had been circulated. It was noted that the only issue of relevance to the NGRC was an agreement to hold ANKC Conferences bi-annually after the 2010 conference.

### **9.3 Hereditary Diseases Sub-Committee**

No report received.

## 10. OTHER BUSINESS

### 10.1 Election of President

The Chair noted the two nominations received for the President's position, being: Ms Emma Clarke (Qld) and Mrs Sandra Patterson (NSW). A ballot was conducted and the following vote recorded:

SA - Emma Clarke  
NSW - Sandra Patterson  
QLD – Emma Clarke  
Victoria – Emma Clarke  
Tasmania – Sandra Patterson  
WA – Sandra Patterson

There being a tied vote, a lot was conducted in accordance with Constitution Clause 3.5, resulting in Mrs Sandra Patterson being declared elected to the position of NGRC President.

The meeting resolved to record a vote of thanks to Emma Clarke for her interest in the position.

### 10.2 Election of Secretary

Claire Kaspura was nominated and elected unopposed to the position of NGRC Secretary.

### 10.3 Notice of Motion (moved SA)

*That the National Golden Retriever Championship Show should be approximately every two years as per original criteria for the holding of National Shows. Moved by SA.*

#### **Rationale**

When the rules were originally formulated it was never intended that there should be a set time distance but rather that clubs might have a special reason for wanting a National: eg an anniversary was our reason for wanting the first one.

Nor was it envisaged that the clubs should follow in rotation. Any club should be able to request the breed council to permit them to hold a national. For example: SA might want to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year. In addition smaller clubs might feel unable to cope financially and would prefer to wait for a longer time. It is important to be flexible and not make clubs feel they have to hold a national when they do not have the workers or the finance at a given time. The Golden Retriever Club of South Australia proposes that we return to the original wording but to add to it that there does not have to be a special order and that clubs may hold a national at anytime given that they have a specific reason to do so. The breed council will then have to determine, if more than one club applies for the same year, which club has a more valid reason.

Please take note of the statement below from the original criteria for running a National:

*“There ideally should be a minimum of two years between the conduct of National Golden Retriever Championship Shows, subject to extenuating circumstances.”*

In speaking to the motion, the SA Delegate noted that:

- Appointment of Clubs to hold Nationals did not have to be in the state order.
- Clubs have anniversaries which they might like to celebrate that are not going to fall into the current three yearly rotation.

During the ensuing discussion, it was suggested that clubs must be given the option to decline or indicate when they do wish to hold a National. Being allocated a National, however, was a great incentive for club members to pull together and achieve a healthy balance financially.

The current three (3) year rule was clarified by reference to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, November 2004, Item 10.2.

Following the ballot, it was suggested that:

- a spread sheet of major anniversaries be drafted.
- The incoming Secretary to update the By-Laws and Resolution database.

*The motion – as outlined above – was then put with the vote recorded as:*

Qld – problem with the inclusion of the word “approximately” every two years. – No to the motion.

NSW – no.

Victoria – yes.

Tasmania – no.

SA – yes.

WA – yes.

*As a result of a 3-way tie in the ballot, the motion was lost, in accordance with the Constitution, Clause 5.10.*

## **11. Any Other Business**

### **11.1 National Events and the Award of Challenges:**

The Chair noted that the recent ANKC Conference voted to revert to the 1,000 km exclusion zone for challenge points for breeds coinciding with a National Event.

### **11.2 Personnel for Public Comments:**

The SA Delegate raised the issue of authorised personnel to make public comments. It was suggested that this issue be dealt with by a new motion.

### **11.3 Notification of Personnel Changes**

The incoming Secretary is to notify the ANKC of the change in NGRC administrative officers.

### **11.4 New President and Secretary:**

The Chair wished the incoming President and Secretary well.

## **12. Meeting Close:**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked the participants for their support and closed the meeting at 10.04 pm.

DRAFT