

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting for 2020

## held on training grounds Centennial Park on Sunday 21st March, 2021.

Introduction to the meeting by President Leonie Kelly who then passed the meeting over to Christina Rafton who was a past president of Dogs NSW and a current member of the Board of Directors of Dogs NSW who was invited to chair the meeting. She then asked if there was anyone present who was not a club member. All those present were members and a head count was taken of 33 in attendance. The meeting opened at 8.57am.

1. To note apologies for non-attendance:  
None.

2. To confirm the minutes of the previous AGM:

There was a question by Robert Fairhead on the 2019 minutes. He had received no update on his 2019 motion that club nominations and elections be more transparent and open in line with the Dogs NSW Obedience and Tracking Committee, that all nominations are published with CVs and photos.

The Chairperson advised that the mover or seconder of a motion does not have to be advised.

Confirmation of Minutes: Proposed by Leonie Kelly Seconded by Jan Cooke Carried.

Question from Lee Davis if the meeting could be recorded. Response from the Chair that all members must be aware and agree. Objection from Robert Fairhead. No recording of meeting.

3. To receive and adopt the Audited Balance Sheet and accompanying reports:

Robert Fairhead directed a question to the Treasurer Jason Lau. What was the split of funds from membership between new members and renewals? Robert Fairhead believed that new members in the beginner programs contribute 67% to the Club's fees.

A comparison to be made with other clubs – Christina Rafton to check financials from Dogs NSW.

Lodi Kramer asked the number of Life Members. He was told by the secretary he would be advised. He also asked if they paid a membership fee and was told no.

\*Note: 18 Life Members were mentioned as part of the Club Membership in the Secretary's Report.

Proposed by Leonie Kelly      Seconded by Sandra Walker      Carried unanimously.

4. To receive the President's Report from Leonie Kelly – Refer to Appendix I  
Proposed by Mary Fletcher      Seconded by Joan Stewart      Carried.

5. To receive the Secretary's Report from Lee Davis – Refer to Appendix II  
Proposed by Sandra Walker      Seconded by Heather Martyn      Carried.

\*Note: There was a query from Ericka van Aalst that the 15th March, 2020 date in the Secretary's Report was incorrect. It was checked and was correct. A further query that the date of the annual club trial listed as September was incorrect. It was checked and was corrected to October.

6. To elect Office Bearers and Committee Members for the following 12 months.  
The following nominations have been received:

President:      \*\* Etherington, Vicki

Vice President:      **One to be elected**  
  
Fairhead, Robert  
\*\* Walker, Sandra

Secretary:      \*\* Lau, Jason

Treasurer:      **One to be elected**  
  
\*\* Davis, Lee  
Sannikova, Alisa

Committee:      **Four to be elected**  
  
Bennani, Thierry  
Ching, Paul  
Coward, Genevieve  
\*\* Kelly, Leonie  
Mirigliani, Lisa

These members have indicated their willingness to serve on committee for the following 12 Months.

\*\* Denotes retiring member of Committee standing for re-election (Rule 41)

All nominees were asked by the Chair if they still agreed to be nominated and all replied yes.

The Chair explained the method of voting by STRIKING OUT the name you do not wish to vote for re: Vice President, Treasurer and Committee ONLY. Any other changes would make the entire paper invalid.

The Chair called for the nomination of a Returning Officer: Joan Stewart nominated.

Proposed: Vicki Etherington    Seconded: Leonie Kelly.    Appointed

The Chair called for two scrutineer – Ange Matheson and Giorgia Rizzoz were appointed.

#### Results of the Election for the 2020-21 Committee

President	Vicki Etherington OAM	Unopposed	Elected
Vice President	Robert Fairhead	Votes in favour 11	
Vice President	Sandra Walker	Votes in favour 30	Elected
Secretary	Jason Lau	Unopposed	Elected
Treasurer	Lee Davis	Votes in favour 30	Elected
Treasurer	Alisa Sannikova	Votes in favour 11	
Committee	Thierry Bennani	Votes in favour 41	Elected
	Paul Ching	Votes in favour 41	Elected
	Genevieve Coward	Votes in favour 38	Elected
	Leonie Kelly	Votes in favour 30	Elected
	Lisa Mirigliani	Votes in favour 14	

Genevieve Coward then resigned from the Committee.

The resignation was accepted with regret.

Proposed by Robert Fairhead    Seconded by Vicki Etherington    Carried.

Motion that the committee position be filled by the unsuccessful nominee.

Proposed: Ericka van Aalst    Seconded: Robert Fairhead    Motion lost.

Motion to leave it to the committee to nominate a person to the position until the next General Meeting.

Proposed: Vicki Etherington    Seconded: Joan Stewart    Carried.

7. To appoint an auditor:  
Anja Naus completed our audit for 2019/2020 and is willing to be nominated for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Proposed: Leonie Kelly      Seconded: Vicki Etherington      Carried.

8. To consider and deal with motions of which due notice has been given:  
(1) To approve the nomination of judges for the club's trial on the 2nd October, 2021:

CCD	John Spiteri		
Novice	Dianne Hollett		
Open	Suzanne Hutchins	and	Jill Kaldor
UD	Joan Stewart	and	Maryanne Fazekas
UDX	Deidree Anderson		

Proposed: Vicki Etherington      Seconded: Julie Brandon      Carried.

(2) To stop the sale of check chains at the club. All existing stock of chains to be destroyed and/or submitted to the RSPCA Chain Exchange Program and/or submitted to the PPG Project Trade Program.

Motion proposed: Alisa Sannikova      Seconded: Robert Fairhead

- Alisa Sannikova spoke to her motion saying check chains are harmful to dogs and that vets and the RSPCA are opposed to their use. Stopping the sale would improve the club.
- Robert Fairhead spoke in favour of the motion.
- Joan Stewart spoke against the motion.
- Martin O'Loughlin spoke for the motion as vets and the RSPCA approve of them.
- Vicki Etherington spoke against the motion saying check chains are a technical piece of equipment that are used by the police and the armed forces.

An amendment to the motion was made by the mover of the motion with the leave of the meeting and the seconder of the motion Julie Brandon to read "To stop the sale of check chains and constrictive collars at the club ....."

- Paul Ching spoke in favour of the motion.
- Lisa Mirigliani spoke in favour of the motion.
- Alisa Sannikova in right of reply read a letter from Dr Melissa Starling PhD who objected to the use of check chains in favour of positive reinforcement.

The motion as amended by the mover was put to the meeting:

To stop the sale of check chains and constriction collars at the club. All existing stock of chains to be destroyed and/or submitted to the RSPCA Chain Exchange Program and/or submitted to the PPG Project Trade Program

Vote for the Motion – 14      Against – 18      Motion Lost.

(3) To begin the sale of harnesses at the club.

Motion proposed: Alisa Sannikova

Seconded: Lodi Kramer

-Alisa Sannikova spoke to her motion that harnesses do not cause injury to dogs.

-Lodi Kramer said he had not realised he had to speak for the motion but agreed with what had been said.

-Vicki Etherington spoke against the motion saying that harnesses are used to get dogs to pull e.g. Guide Dogs pulling their owners forward.

-Robert Fairhead for the motion said that harnesses are particularly useful with reactive dogs.

-Right of reply from Alisa Sannikova said that research into the welfare of dogs showed there was no pressure on the neck of the dog.

Vote for the Motion - 10

Against – 20

Motion Lost.

9. To deal with such other business as the Chairperson and members may allow.

(1) Motion to publish the Committee Minutes and Treasurer's Report each month to members.

Motion proposed: Robert Fairhead.

No one spoke against the motion.

Carried unanimously.

(2) Motion for the committee to investigate an electronic payment system and present the findings to members at the general meeting.

Motion proposed: Robert Fairhead

Seconded: Paul Ching

No one spoke against the motion.

Carried unanimously.

(3) Motion that the Club Rules (Constitution) be revised and updated.

Motion proposed: Robert Fairhead

Seconded: Martin O'Loughlin

No one spoke against the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Meeting closed at 11.13am

**PLEASE NOTE: Jason Lau resigned as secretary late on the day of the Annual General Meeting and the position has been filled by Julie Brandon until the next General Meeting.**