

## **Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT, UK)**

### **Minutes - AGM 11 June 2016**

1 Apologies for absence were received from Sam Gowland, Patsy Parry, Lee Taylor, Petrina Cutchey, Stella Bagshaw

2 The minutes of the last AGM were read and agreed – Proposed Calum McConnel, seconded Lisa Glover. Carried unanimously

3 There were no matters arising from the Minutes

4 Chris Mancini: First and most importantly I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work. All the committee have day jobs as well, and it is surprising how much has to be done, just on the different sub committees as well as main committee, even though we have Stella toiling away in the office looking after day to day matters. They each sit on a number of sub-committees. Some are larger than others depending on amount of work etc. We also have a couple of members who sit just on the sub-committees bringing their specialist skills to the role. Its not all hard work, because of course there is some fun involved, plus it means an extra networking opportunity.

We were training sponsors for Clicker expo and once again a fab event with some great speakers and superb organising by Positive animal solutions.

We are really proud to be able to continue to spread the word and are sponsoring our member Chirag Patel Woof conference in February. It looks to be another great event, so don't forget to pop along to the stand to say 'hello'. Maybe if lots of members are going we can organise a network evening or some kind of get together? We can discuss nearer the time via the members group on Facebook.

We have good reason to be really proud member Jane Arden who won KCAI trainer of the year at Crufts this year. Well done Jane, great job.

I am also pleased to report that member Carole Thornley was given a special award by the Kennel Club this year, in appreciation of her work with the Safe & Sound campaign for the past 12 years.

We kept to having a larger stand at Crufts once again this year. The set up seems to work really well. A great job organising everything from the events committee, we had different dogs and trainers each day, doing one or two twenty minute sessions, on various different things. Proved very popular once more and we were able to talk to people about their dogs and training challenges. Got lots of people popping by, including new and old students from our courses. Barker & Barker, our sponsors joined us on the stand for a couple of days, good to see them and would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support. Don't forget to check out the members specials they offer us.

James Wellbeloved had other plans for their stand this year, they seem to be having a lot of changes recently, but I would like to thank them for their continued support of the Association.

Last year Discover Dogs moved to the Excel centre for the first time. Everything seem to run smoothly, same set up as Crufts lovely venue apart from the floor, my little bug needed a piggy back out!

Well our Instructors course continues to go from strength to strength, this year the biggest yet. We have put on two sets of weekends. One set for Advanced and Foundation and second set for part 2 and foundation. We continue to meet some lovely students who often have to put themselves outside of their comfort zone when they are learning about instructing, or changing their methodology. But they are prepared to do this so they can improve their understanding about dogs,

and make a difference to the world of dog training. Don't forget if you have any assistants interested they will get a 20% discount too.

We have been talking to SARDA people and they are looking to send their mountain rescue people along to APDT classes for all the necessary foundation work, so you may start getting enquiries. ABTC have been continuing to get the word out there and the association joined them at the BSAVA and will be joining them at the BVNA. Good to see that a lot of vets are interested in being able to send their clients to good dog training classes.

This year the Association is 21 years old.

The Facebook closed group for members seems to be going well still - hope everyone is finding it useful, we continue to have people joining us. If you haven't found your way there, yet, please do ask to join. It is a busy group with lots of discussions, mainly of the doggy theme.

We are always keen to receive in-put from members as to how we can pull together, support members and spread the word about the Association. Any ideas are welcome, I know in Chrissy Gough area, Hampshire/New Forest they have set up some meetings and invited local members, so maybe think about something similar in your area, particularly if you are feeling a bit lonely.

We continue to advertise in various dog Magazines which all helps to get the word out there. Kaye continues to keep her eye on the ball here.

We currently have 551 full members, 44 subscribers and 10 Student members.

We do take all complaints seriously but we do require a name so that we can follow up and check information, otherwise our hands are tied and we can't follow up. Last year one complaint dealt with and upheld and a couple that were resolved through the co-operation of the members.

5 Marie Miller: I have pleasure in submitting an interim annual accounts report for 2015. The accounts are still being transferred to accounting software, so you will note that there are still some uncategorized income and expenses figures in the interim accounts. This will be resolved with the help of our accountant.

It was decided in this year to reduce the stock carried in favour of using more of the stand space at Crufts and Discover Dogs to showcase our members training abilities. This worked very well in terms of promoting the Association and the Education courses but obviously less stock is sold.

Membership is maintaining well and we now have some student members to add to our subscribers. The Education courses have done very well this year and are really raising our profile as well as making a profit. This is very welcome since Assessments need to be subsidised. Thank you to the Education team and our Assessors for all their hard work.

The Dog Trainer magazine goes out to all members and extra copies were given out free of charge at Crufts, Discover Dogs and Clicker Expo, where APDT UK was one of the main sponsors. Kaye is doing an excellent job with the magazine and with advertising and getting good deals with the main pet magazines.

Sponsorship appears to be down this year but this is purely because of the timing of payments from James Wellbeloved. Barker and Barker also continue their sponsorship at the same level.

I would like to thank all of the Committee and Stella Bagshaw for their understanding and support while I have been feeling my way into this role. There is still a mountain to climb but it was never going to be a five minute job.

The Accounts are looking healthy at the moment but we still have to resolve the classification of the APDT UK in terms of tax and VAT. It should be possible to resolve this in the not too distant future now that the Accounts have been put onto software.

6 Election of Chairman: Chris Mancini was proposed by Sandra Fraser, seconded by Shelley Tomkins. Carried

7 Election of Treasurer: Marie Miller was proposed by Calum McConnell, seconded by Kaye Scott. Carried

8 Election of Secretary: Carole Thornley was proposed by Debs Sutton, seconded Marie Miller. Carried

9 Election of Committee members: Val Harvey has served 3 years so is up for re-election; Calum McConnell was co-opted onto to committee last July; Karen Tonge and Sam Gowland were co-opted in February; Heather Wren has offered to stand for committee. Chris suggested that as five people were standing and we have five places that the vote was en bloc. Proposed: Shelly Tomkins Seconded: Sandra Fraser Carried. Chris welcomed everyone to the committee

10 Any other business:

Debs Sutton asked if B & B could let us have freebies to give to clients. Chris said that it wasn't possible at present. Suggestions from the floor that Fish4Dogs and Burns both offer puppy packs.

Lyn Guillou said that some of the paperwork for the GCA did not sync. Val Harvey explained that Carole Thornley and Sam Gowland have worked hard on sorting out the paperwork, but possibly something had been overlooked. It will be checked again.

Lyn also asked if we could generate an information leaflet to be given to clients. Kaye Scott and Carole Thornley will look at this.

After some discussion it was decided that Kaye will look at the feasibility of the GCA information gong on the reverse side of the APDT, UK A5 flier. Karen Tonge asked how she could get some of the fliers. Chris explained that any member can request the leaflets from the office.

Karen also asked if her date of assessment could be added to her membership certificate. Chris said she didn't realise that it wasn't on there and would ask Stella to look at this, and adding the date if it was not routinely included.

There being no other business, Chris thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 5.50pm