

## **Bracco Italiano Club of America Board Call**

September 12, 2022 Called to Order 7:34pm EST

Attendees: Amanda Inman, Bobbi Benson, Jennifer Caban, Jon Kavalier, Lisa Moller, Jeff Lemmenes, Gary Lewis and guest Allison Schultz

Report of Treasurer: Account balance is currently \$24,189.46. John did send the \$300 check to Teddy McDowell which nullifies her contract for the National specialty

Report of Nationals Planning committee: Bobbi asked that there be guidance from the board on the number of days of the event since there has been a good bit of talk about that subject. This will allow the committee to better lay out the schedule order of events and what events will be held. One concern that has been raised is Easter weekend just prior to the start of events. Amanda stated it is good to bring Manfroni in a day or so ahead of his judging assignment. It would be in the best interest to have the National with Manfroni first on the agenda so that he can participate and observe all other events.

Allison stated she is worried about low attendance numbers.

The committee sent a draft schedule but the concern is we may not have enough participants for a full 5 day schedule. The board feels like a Tuesday to Friday should be sufficient for the events, and attendees can travel on the weekend, and this also allows for planning around Easter with family hopefully.

Gary asked in what capacity we will be using Mr. Manfroni. Right now the schedule looks like it could be Manfroni judging conformation on day 1 of the event, an AKC judge on day 2, the hunts of day 3-4. They would like to do written "critiques" of the dogs with Manfroni as a fundraiser. In other words you can pay to have him go over your dog and provide written feedback-separate from the conformation show.

Bobbi asked for a directive from the board if they should do a 4 day event instead of 5 days. Amanda in favor of 4 days, John 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jennifer also agrees. The committee will work now to pair the schedule to 4 days.

In future years there needs to be a more defined plan of timeframe, budgets, and criteria of events held etc. presented to the committee at the start of the planning process so there is a defined plan up front and not as many revisions.

Bobbi asked if David has been contacted to make him aware of Teddy McDowell being asked to step down as the judge- Amanda will send him an email to be sure he is aware.

It was asked if David is the official show chair- most clubs do not allow their chair to show a dog living in their household- this will be more clearly defined in a document to be created as mentioned above.

Jennifer asked if there has been any discussion on the committee on costs associated to the event- at this time no budget has been posed to the board. Allison stated that they felt they can re-coop most of the costs of the event through merchandise and fundraisers. They plan to set registration fees at about

\$20 per person which will include a goodie bag. They are going to ask for sponsors for the trophies. Rosettes are typically inexpensive, they did say that the rosettes we had left over from the cancelled event are no good because they don't conform to the AKC colors. They also stated there was discussion of a donation to cover airfare they will determine if those offers still stand.

Allison is working with a vendor on merchandise for the event. It will be a logo specific to the National. Jennifer asked if they will be offering club logo merchandise-Allison stated not at this time she doesn't think they will. Gary and Jennifer mentioned the stitching on the logo made it look hairy and a bit more like a spinoni than a Bracco maybe Allison could ask them to clean it up before use.

Bobbi asked if there is still going to be blood draws and urine as part of the kidney study at nationals. Amanda stated she is still working on that and continues to apply for grants to continue the research. She is working with University of Florida on approval to do collections in 2023. Bobbi asked if the Health foundation could assist with funding. Amanda stated that the U. Florida requires the results to be private and the health foundation in the past uses funds for public knowledge so there is a conflict in those policies that prevents funding from the HF on this project. It was asked what the cost is for this project annually- it is about \$170.00 per dog so roughly \$7000-\$8000 depending on number of attendees.

Nomination committee: Missy Bettis was the only member who responded to the ask for someone to chair this committee. Jennifer will reach back out to Missy to thank her for her help and ask her to try to recruit a few other members to assist. Post call note Missy was able to ask Siva Aiken, Deb Pieriera and Katherine Inman to assist. They will report back to Jennifer by October 15<sup>th</sup> with their slate.

Any old business not yet addressed:

Amanda brought up the point we have discussed before about the AKC judges being required to open the mouth in conformation exams. AKC states this is due to our standard having black mucus membranes as a DQ. Amanda was going to see if AKC can remove this from judges' requirements without the standard being changed. At this time the board feels opening a show dog's mouth shouldn't be a big enough concern to change the standard wording to exterior mucus membranes (around eyes and nose) due to any change in standard having to go through membership votes, and we don't want to be continually changing the standard and causing undue confusion or omitting something important.

Jennifer brought back up the point about a request to host a specialty in WI in February as previously presented by Lisa Moller. Jennifer had polled online regarding this event and the membership/fancy was not strongly in favor of this. The poll showed 62% not interested and 38% in favor. It was felt that having a specialty in February would detract from or cause confusion with the National Specialty event. Lisa has already told the show chair that the club was not interested in this event this year.

Amanda brought up that SABI had about 200 copies of the Noble Bracco book and asked if we wanted to purchase a supply for the club to sell. Jennifer mentioned the shipping was quite expensive the last time we ordered but we did have a few people on a wait list if we order more.

Bobbi asked where BICA was with their membership with SABI (Italian parent club). Amanda had not yet heard back from the SABI secretary but would follow up.

Any new business:

Lisa Moller asked if any money had been reimbursed to Marilyn Vinson on the rescue dog in AZ. Marilyn paid to have the dog vaccinated and neutered. The members of the board felt that this dog was done as a private transfer not through the club's rescue program. The person who adopted the dog can fill out the rescue forms and request assistance if they wish to do so, then the rescue committee would consider the circumstances for reimbursement. The club rescue coordinator, Deanna had spoken with Amanda and we did have an individually approved by the club interested in the dog however the people who had the dog in their possession choose not to accept this approved adopter and found another home outside of the rescue efforts. Lisa asked if the club will reimburse Marilyn. Jennifer stated no not at this time, until proper paperwork is completed and transparency as to who adopted the dog is released it will not be treated as a club effort. The board was in agreement that this was private funding of a dog's expenses. Gary asked if there was an adoption fee or purchase made by the new owners, Lisa stated she did not think so, that the dog was not "sold" to new owners. John also felt that if this did not run through the proper club rescue committee then we should not break protocol and reimburse Marilyn. While we all feel that she did the right thing for the dog none of the paperwork has been completed by any of the parties involved. Gary and Jeff also in agreement that we cannot break protocol for funding if paperwork isn't completed. By not adopting the dog to the club approved adoptee we do not feel it appropriate to retro back any other decisions on financial support. Everyone feels the right thing was done to get the dog to a safe situation and into a vet and neutered however not completing any papers nullifies any club based rescue.

Nothing further raised. Meeting adjourned 9:25pm EST