

Bracco Italiano Club of America Board Meeting

December 11th 2023

Called to order 7:35pm EST

Attendees: Jennifer Caban, Amanda Inman, Bobbi Benson, John Kavalier, Gary Lewis, Lisa Moller, David Hayek

Guest: Deb Pereira

We begin our meeting with a topic of discussion brought to us by Deb. Deb has proposed a Bracco Italiano Versatility award. This award would be something club members could work towards obtaining with their dog over a lifetime and once achieved would have an award presented at that upcoming National Specialty. The proposed idea would be that dogs have to earn points towards either a Versatile Bracco or Versatile Excellent Bracco by earning points in 3 categories, conformation, hunting/performance and companion events. We would consider titles earned in AKC and NAVHDA for hunting, AKC only for conformation, and companion being AKC events or organizations that AKC also recognizes (such as barn hunt and dock diving). Once the points chart is completed and approved and ready to be deployed it would be the owner's responsibility to track their titles and points and when ready they would apply for the award submitting the application and associated proof of titles. The award is only available once, so someone could earn the Versatile Bracco once in that dog's lifetime, but if they then go on to earn enough points for the Excellent they could apply for that awards as well but there would not be Versatile2 type additional awards. It was asked if this would be applicable to spayed and neutered dogs- the idea would be NO that it is designed to reward the dual purpose dog and the altered dogs cannot earn conformation titles. We would try to implement this process before the 2024 Nationals and will do a 1 time grandfathering of dogs who would have earned this award prior to now. In doing the Grandfathering we will accept a Certificate of Merit in place of the AKC CH for any dog now deceased or altered. Deb will work to "perfect" the points chart and present it back to the board. Once it is approved Deb has agreed to head up the process for accepting the applicants and awards.

- Guest has left the meeting-

Report of Treasurer: Account balance \$24,159.38. This balance includes donations and items paid for in regards to 24 National Specialty

There was a request from the 2025 National Specialty Committee to set up a separate bank account for the Specialty to keep money tracking easier and separated from general club funds. John can have an interest bearing account set up for use for the specialty. We would use the same signers on the account as the normal club account, John, Jennifer and Amanda. The account would need to maintain a minimum of \$500 but John may be able to request this be slightly lower if necessary.

The idea would be that the account would be self-funded by the planning committees and fund raising efforts. If we wish to do this it would be best to set 2 accounts, one for even numbered year Specialties and one for odd numbered specialties so the funds are not crossed and allow each planning committee time to raise funds in advance of their event as well as close out all expenses at the end. David Hayek

made a motion to approve opening an even and odd year Specialty account with the State Bank of Toledo. Bobbi 2nd the motion. The club will have 3 accounts total. All were in favor of the motion.

National Specialty update: We have finally secured the hunt test grounds at Dewitt's in Ellerbe, NC. Jennifer has been working with the SCOA team on the hunt test judges and now that the grounds are secured things should flow much faster now. The Italian judge has been approved by AKC. The premium data will be worked on in January and much more info will be ready to be released to the membership in January 2024.

A question was brought up if the show chair should be allowed to show their own dog. This can be something the club determines they wish to write as a rule but it only seems fair to do this before volunteers for this position. It was asked who was the chair for 2025- which was Allison Schultz but David mentioned that she uses a handler. The discussion was that using a handler or even a spouse doesn't seem to be an issue but the chair themselves shouldn't show. Jennifer stated that again if this was put into place before someone puts in work then that can be enforced. If the chair has had no communications or involvement in judge selection- that is all done by membership votes- and does not do any judges hospitality it shouldn't be a concern. It was decided that moving forward into 2025 and 2026 the club will create a more detailed document of the rules surrounding specialties and club events. This can include policies such as those who can't enter and what events need to be included in the BICA Nationals. Jennifer will begin a document to be written by the board for this use, we had started this over a year ago but never completed it. We will revisit this document of club procedures.

Any Old business: There was an ask of where the committee stands for the Bella Bravo award. That committee hit a bit of a stall due to not being able to agree on how this award can be created and if it was awarded based only on the Nationals or if we want to develop a yearlong criteria for awarding this. Gary will try to get the committee back to working on this and perhaps discussion of adding some other club awards. This ties in to our conversation at the beginning of the call.

No other business raised.

Meeting adjourned 8:47pm Est.