

## **Bracco Italiano Club of America Open Membership meeting**

July 10<sup>th</sup> 2023

Attendees: Jennifer Caban, Bob Gross, Siva Aiken, John Kavalier, Gary Lewis, Bobbi Benson, Missy Bettis, Charles Calisto, Lisa Welch, Allison Schultz

Meeting Called to order 7:35pm EST

**Report of Treasurer:** John Kavalier: Account Balance is \$20,277.67. This balance already reflects a deposit made to SCOA for \$1,890.00 for the 2024 specialty.

Missy asked what this deposit was for. This is the first deposit for the facility and meals and beverage charges.

Charlie Calisto asked if we are making money on fundraising efforts. John stated it is usually fairly stable, we might have lost a little money on the 2023 National Specialty but not a lot.

Most fundraising efforts are in conjunction with the Nationals to offset the cost. We don't do much fundraising for the club throughout the year.

It was asked if we are gaining new memberships. Yes we get a small number of new members each quarter and see a smaller percentage who do not renew. Membership rosters are updated approximately quarterly on the members only section of the website.

### **2023 National Specialty Recap for members:** Allison Schultz

The event was overall a success. There was a lack of volunteers which caused several people to be stretched thin. Both judges were very pleased with the shows as well as the quality of the entries and the clubs' efforts in putting on the event.

The grounds and fields were beautiful. It was really windy and hot but you can't control the weather at an outdoor event. It was a good learning experience for those on the committee and in attendance.

The costume contest and Bracco Olympics were a highlight.

We need to double check the financials and will finish compiling the report for membership to view, it should be extremely close to break even.

It was asked what the total expenses of the event, was there a budget set and was the committee able to stay on budget? Allison stated the costs were between \$12,000- \$15,000. Probably closer to the \$15K mark but they stayed within budget.

Missy asked if the results of the surveys will be published. Yes Jennifer will attach them to the meeting notes when posted to members only section of website.

Charles Calisto made the suggestion to not host the event right behind or in front of a major holiday weekend again.

Missy stated that the club needs to work with an AKC rep next time to tighten up on following the rules and ring procedures.

**2024 National Specialty Update:** Jennifer- We will be moving forward with regularly scheduled planning meetings now that the agreement between SCOA and BICA is finalized. Jennifer will set up the meetings via teams with the planning committee- next meeting July 19<sup>th</sup>.

Gary stated we need to find a way to get more members involved and volunteering.

Charlie Calisto asked if the 2024 National Specialty Judge is set and if we intend to allow nominations and voting for 2025. The answer is YES due to the quick movement in contracting the Italian judge that SCOA chose the board opted to use their selected National specialty judge \*name to be released once contract is completed and approved by AKC\* This sharing of the judge will allow for only 30% of cost to be incurred by BICA. With the dates for the World Dog Show being the same week the board felt it could be difficult to obtain our own judge in a timely manner. This process is for 2024 only at this time. The intent is to have the 2025 judge nominated and voted on by members. Also the 2024 Parent club and Sweeps judges will be selected through a nomination and voting process by BICA.

Bob Gross feels we need better communication from the board to the membership. Jennifer will communicate additional details as quickly as we can and we will try to minimize the lag from board and committee to members as a whole.

Jennifer to get all proposals for 2025 verified with those who put in the bids, then get those bids out to the membership to vote. This will allow that team to begin working on their event and get ahead of the planning process. Target to complete this and out to members would be July 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

#### Committee Reports:

Hunting Committee: Nothing new at this time, it is currently too hot for many hunting activities

International Committee: The world Raduno will be September 8-10 in Arrezzo Italy. There will be scholars giving talks, field events, and the show. This year they are adding a black tie Gala.

They are currently are working on selecting dog for the Continental derby at the end of September. The best hunting Bracco will be selected to represent Italy.

The World Dog Show will be in Croatia April 25-28 2024. The Bracco judge is from Estonia Claudio Di Guiallani.

Crufts will be March 7-10, 2024

The European Dog Show is supposed to be in Slovenia judge Marco Lepozar- no dates set as of yet

Field Trials in Europe/Italy are now utilizing natural game, not pen raised birds.

Health Committee- Nothing new to report- Amanda submitted information on Kidney study to newsletter for update to membership

Judges Education Committee: Nothing to report. Nothing currently on the schedule until possibly end of the year.

Rescue committee: No dogs reported to the committee lately.

-post call note there was a Bracco reported in a shelter in Quebec. Amanda and Deanna worked with some Canadian resources and hopefully can get connections to help the dog.

Old Business: Allison raised the question of the club's status to be a member club and have a delegate. She stated she reached out to AKC and was told that BICA had not completed the requirements to move forward but that they have begun the process of putting the club before AKC Board of Directors anyway. Stated we were still missing documents and that the Secretary had not been in further communications. The application was received in June and no further calls had been made. Jennifer asked WHO at AKC Allison was speaking to since multiple emails, documents phone calls had been made in this process. Allison couldn't remember exactly who it was stated someone named Christa or Christina. Jennifer knew exactly who this was, Christa who Jennifer has worked with extensively in the processes. Jennifer assured the membership and board she would follow up the very next day with Christa.

Allison stated she was told the application and check were needed by August. The club would not get a delegate until spring of 2024.

Bob Gross asked when was Allison elected to be the delegate. This was done when the club moved into full status. Missy asked if this was done by a board vote or by the membership. Jennifer to look back and confirm. \* Post call note this was done by a BOD vote as outlined in the bylaws. Jennifer to confirm with AKC if we need to re-vote since we were not eligible for a delegate at that time.

- Post call note- Jennifer reached out to AKC to check on the information being relayed to Allison. Christa at AKC was very apologetic and did not say or mean to imply that Jennifer had not been following the steps necessary. Jennifer was able to trace multiple emails back to 2022 with AKC on this process and they did in fact have everything needed, with the exception of the check. Christa informed Jennifer they will ask for the check after the club is presented to the board.

For Clarity here is the email reply from AKC:

Hi Jennifer,

Thank you so much. The club is all set. There are no outstanding documents. I will email you in about a week re the application fee and the club's confirmed schedule of Board Meetings and Publications in the process. If you have any questions, let me know.

Have a great day!

Best Regards,

**Christa V.**

- **Member & License Club Specialist**

New Business: None Raised

Meeting adjourned 8:28pm EST

Timestamp	Did you attend the 2023 BICA National Specialty?
2023/05/01 8:28:08 PM AST	No
2023/05/02 9:48:42 AM AST	No
2023/05/06 3:33:55 PM AST	No
2023/05/06 4:35:09 PM AST	Yes
2023/05/06 5:06:57 PM AST	No
2023/05/06 7:11:34 PM AST	No
2023/05/06 7:11:47 PM AST	Yes
2023/05/06 7:15:25 PM AST	No
2023/05/06 7:21:03 PM AST	No
2023/05/06 8:52:46 PM AST	No
2023/05/06 11:15:42 PM AST	No
2023/05/07 2:10:29 AM AST	Yes
2023/05/07 1:46:32 PM AST	Yes
2023/05/07 3:30:22 PM AST	No
2023/05/07 6:42:34 PM AST	Yes
2023/05/08 10:37:39 AM AST	Yes
2023/05/08 1:19:56 PM AST	No
2023/05/08 1:49:31 PM AST	No
2023/05/08 6:09:16 PM AST	Yes
2023/05/11 1:29:46 PM AST	Yes
2023/05/12 9:35:26 PM AST	Yes

If you did not attend the 2023 BICA National Specialty, why not?
Too far. Bad timing in personal schedule
Personal conflict
Location
Conflicting dates and not sufficient field activities
Just couldn't make it this year
It was my way of protesting inpatriates actions of the Boars concerning this event. Nothing to do with hurt feeling.
The Italian hunt evaluation was by a drawing and on a Wednesday. Why would I gamble, take the week off from work, with only a slight chance to have my 3 bracchi evaluated is crazy and the no refund policy. Apparently I was not the only person to think that way other wise more people would have entered.
Focus seemed to be all around AKC and the show ring, not about the italian judging or hunt.
Distance.
We didn't attend but we would have loved too. Hoping next year. Depending on location and how far from NY it will be. Our 5 month old female bracco will be older next year and will have more experience with showing and hunting
Duration was too long during week to take off
Same weekend as a planned turkey hunt weâ€™d already paid for in advance.

How would you rate the Oak Creek Sporting Club in Brainerd, NE as a location for the National?	How would you rate the local hotels/amenities?	How would you rate the conformation judges selection?	How would you rate the AKC hunt test judges selection?
5	2	5	5
4	4	3	4
5	3	5	5
4	5	4	5
4	4	5	5
3	5	5	5
5		5	5
3	1	4	3
3	3	1	

How would you rate the Italian field test judge selection?	Overall, how would you rate the AKC conformation shows?	Overall, how would you rate the hunting events?
5	5	5
4	3	4
5	4	5
5	5	5
5	5	3
5	5	4
5	5	5
4	3	2
	4	



Overall, how would you rate the fun events (Bracco Olympics, Costume Contest, ShotKam, etc)?	Overall, how would you rate the educational seminars?	Overall, how would you rate the educational seminars?
5	5	5
2	3	3
5	5	5
5	5	5
4	4	4
4	5	5
4	5	5

Please list the top 3 things you thought were the best for the 2023 BICA National Specialty.

Super well put together National overall!

Judges, facility, affordability.

Judges, hotel, grounds

Conformation evaluations Dog shows. Hunt tests

Hunt fields, dogs, people

Appreciated the Italian evaluations, Italian and American judging, and the friendly environment.

Beautiful Ribbons, Prizes and Show Ring Size

Please describe 3 things you think could be improved upon for the 2023 BICA National Specialty.
I think the biggest thing that stood out was location. While the venue itself was great, I wished that the host hotel and other amenities were closer than what they were. Additionally, as soon as the National was finished the gun ranges immediately opened right next to the ring, and as I was there with a puppy who had not yet been introduced to gunfire that wasn't the intro I wanted.
Date of event, hunting training demonstrations, clinics
Judges education. Need to to have shade for judges. Judges must see dogs move during hands on. No certificates. Would be nice to have certificates.
Motel, schedule with an all breed show on one end but keep our NS away to keep our people together, more scheduled huntin.
Location too far away, too long, timing not ideal too close to Easter
Clinics for hunt tests Intro to birds. Possible fun hunt or hunting competition
Date, Ribbons or something for Field events not just showing. Attendance
Nearby amenities OR at least flexibility in food and availability of basics. Signage for newbies and locations. More detailed schedule of events or announcements of when things might be available (critiques, lunch, ect).
Members should be voting on future judges just as all other breed clubs.

What are your top 3 considerations when choosing whether to attend a National Specialty?
Date (work, family availability)
Date (work, family availability);Conformation Judging panel;Availability of hunt tests and field trials
Location;Date (work, family availability)
Location;Date (work, family availability);Conformation Judging panel;Availability of hunt tests and field trials
Location;Availability of hunt tests and field trials
Location;Date (work, family availability)
Location;Conformation Judging panel;Availability of hunt tests and field trials
Location;Conformation Judging panel
Location;Availability of hunt tests and field trials;Hunting opportunities (ie: wild bird hunts, fun hunts)
Location;Availability of hunt tests and field trials;Hunting opportunities (ie: wild bird hunts, fun hunts)
Location;Date (work, family availability)
Location;Over all Cost, health testing opportunity
Location;Date (work, family availability);Costs
Location;Date (work, family availability);Conformation Judging panel;Availability of hunt tests and field trials
Location;Date (work, family availability);Hunt clinics
Location;Date (work, family availability);Availability of hunt tests and field trials
Location;Date (work, family availability);Hunting opportunities (ie: wild bird hunts, fun hunts)
Location;Date (work, family availability);Availability of hunt tests and field trials;Hunting opportunities (ie: wild bird hunts, fun hu
Location;Date (work, family availability);Availability of hunt tests and field trials
Location;Date (work, family availability);Availability of hunt tests and field trials
Location;Date (work, family availability);Conformation Judging panel

If "other"- please discuss below your top considerations when choosing to attend a National Specialty.
Meeting like minded Braccoites, location, what speakers , clinics and events of interest. other activities , training, speakers, other than a show ring
Cost in general. Big event centers get quite expensive.
Most people come for a few days. Weekend activities make it easier for people to attend
Location has a lot to do with us being able to attend or not. That would probably be our main concern or hesitation
Good attendance is an encouragement for me to come. See more dogs and people.
Would like to see shorter duration maybe over the weekend so you do not have to be off 7 days to make it there to take in the events
ints)

Please provide any additional details you feel would be pertinent to the club and future event planning.
Professionalism by club officers/BOD/show chairman along with members being able to actually vote on judge
It is absolutely necessary to have judges from Italy. Having the Specialty centrally located in the US is beneficial for everyone in the club.
Why is the joint event with the Spinone club not voted on by the membership. It didn't go well in Colorado when
Keeping people together as much as possible.
Please consider returning to the west coast where a lot of owners live. It's time to come back
It was nice to be able to bid when not being able to attend but was hard to know what everyone was bidding that was at the event. Still happy with how things turned out and appreciate still being able to at least be involved in that
Kidney testing a real plus. Hands on clinics. Handing clinic at this last event was great.
Some recognition for people doing hunting stuff-ribbons or awards for doing stuff what this breed was developed for.
Increased communication to attendees and a more welcoming environment to people that are not club members and do not understand how the events are taking place would be helpful.
We should always show that the club has the highest integrity and not err on the side of impropriety. I understand that the use of Pieri as a translator was questioned by a committee member during the planning process and it wasn't taken