

Bracco Italiano club of America Board Call

Wednesday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2022 7:30 pm EST

Attendees: Jennifer Caban, Amanda Inman, John Kavalier, Lisa Moller, Jeff Lemmenes, Gary Lewis

Absent: Bobbi Benson

Report of Treasurer: John Kavalier reports that the account balance is currently \$23,285.92. Recent activity had a few larger changes, these were related to paying for our Registered Agent in WY for \$247.00 (2 years of fees), as well as the two insurance policies that the club carries (charges were \$600.00 and \$662.00)

National Specialty Planning discussion: We need to go ahead and develop a 2023 committee so that they can begin working on the spring event.

The committee had shifted the targeted dates of the event from our normal timing of April/May to the last weekend in June/first of July based on feedback received on the open membership call where members expressed interest in having the conformation event count for AKC championship points. In working with AKC it was determined that the club cannot apply to host sanctioned events until after we gain full recognition so hosting a show for points the weekend we go into full status is not an option. Based on that information the committee looked at shifting the event to the first week of October 2022 which would be the earliest reasonable timing to host an event for points.

After notifying members of the new possible dates, there was a post on Facebook from member Courtney Bastian concerning disapproval of the alternate dates for the event (October 2022). This post had several members in agreement with their disapproval of the date shift for various reasons, to include hunting season conflicts and a voice that the event was only being planned around AKC shows.

Discussion on this matter: John Kavalier expressed a concern that the hunt club where we will be hosting the event may be in their peak season and less available to accommodate our event. His opinion is that we do not move the event to October.

Amanda mentioned that this shift does appear to feed into the anti AKC concerns and felt we should stick with June as previously planned.

Jennifer asked the group what they felt the draw will be to members to host the event in June. There are concerns that we may not be able to host an Italian judge due to COVID status. The hunters in the group previously expressed some concern over the heat in NE in June, and now there will be no points for the conformation folks.

It was mentioned that we need to support the hunting side of the breed owners because keeping this a dual dog has been the focus all along.

Jennifer asked Lisa Moller to provide an update on committee discussions so that we can get a feel for the potential options we have at this point.

Lisa stated that the committee has been presented with all of the concerns that have been raised by members. They chose a location that was tailored to the hunting, it is a working hunt club (Oak Creek Hunt Club). They have asked the club about availability during all of the proposed dates. The club stated the 1<sup>st</sup> week in October would still work for them and they would have birds available. They should also be done with their expansion of facilities by then which would mean larger space in the club house, a private room for us to host our event. They would also have kennel runs available if members needed to keep their dogs onsite. The committee has put in good efforts to try to maintain the dual draw on the event, hunting and conformation and that the discussions and planning have not been all AKC driven. The intent is to host AKC events as well as have an Italian field and ring event. Members who are not interested in AKC would still have the Italian events (provided Covid doesn't prevent the judges from traveling). The AKC conformation judge who has been selected by the committee was in attendance at Judges Ed in MN. The Italian judge is all dependent on travel restrictions but every effort is being made to host Italian expert(s).

Jennifer suggested we send a poll to the membership allowing the majority vote to determine which dates we will host our event. The poll will include information about what could be held on the date options, June, October or postpone to our normal timing of April/May 2023. The board agreed that we represent the voice of the membership and we will let the results of the poll determine the event dates.

\*Post call note- the poll was emailed out on 2/14/22 and will be open for responses until 2/26/2022

Bylaws Review Process: AKC has started the initial review of the bylaws. They have provided back sample bylaws as well as required terminology and suggestions for our current document. There are a few revisions to the current bylaws that the club would need to make in order to be approved to be a licensed club, which allows us to host sanctioned events. Jennifer will forward all documents to the board members. We need to determine if the board will review all these documents and create the proposed changes to be sent to the membership for a vote, or if we need to form a committee to handle the revisions.

\*Post call note- the board will review the documents and have a separate call to create the proposed revisions. The majority of the board did not feel another committee is necessary and may just slow the process down some.

Once the board has had time to lay out the document with revisions the information will be sent to the voting members for a yes or no vote on each change.

This item will be discussed again by the board and on the March agenda for follow up.

Old business not addressed: None

New business: Jennifer had a few more items that had come up since the agenda was sent:

- 1) Jennifer was contacted by Valerie Kessler with a question on the wording in the bylaws on how to petition the board for a change. The working in question is "Amendments to the constitution and bylaws may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by written or email petition addressed to the Secretary signed by 20% of the voting membership in good standing...."

The question was can the petition be emailed, and how does one have signatures in an email.

The board discussed Valerie's question and the wording. The answer is that the petition must be signed by 20% of voting member is good standing and then can be mailed or emailed to the Secretary. The petition must contain actual signatures of those in favor. Jennifer emailed this information back to Valerie and let her know that if there is to be a petition made signatures must be gathered either by person's signing a paper document and submitting it or there is also the option of digital signatures using programs such as Adobe ESign or Google Docs, where the person signs using a smart phone or mouse but it captures a true signature of the person. The board also let Valerie know that one of the items we are working on is revisions to the bylaws as necessary in the item above from AKC. If the petitioner wishes to disclose what they want changed we are more than happy to review and include it in the items we will be sending for member approval upcoming.

- 2) Valerie Kessler also asked that there be a discussion and a committee formed to determine what criteria will be used moving forward to award the Bella E Bravo award at National Specialty events.

The board discussed this. We agree that forming a committee and having set written criteria for the award is a good idea. We will move forward with getting that committee set up and working on the documentation of requirements. The board also feels there could be some other awards added to the program so that there are multiple award winners and goals for members to strive for with their Bracchi. This item will be added to further discussions once the committee is up and going.

- 3) AKC Canine College is in the works. We had several dogs filmed/photographed during the event at Royal Canine in Orlando FL. We also had an interview filmed with Amanda Inman for the project. AKC has requested one more breed expert for filming. Amanda asked if we could possible use an Italian, perhaps Manfroni for this portion. Jennifer reached out to AKC and Yes this could be filmed remotely. AKC can provide the information and list of questions that needs to be asked. The board will reach out to Mr. Manfroni to determine if he is willing to do this interview. We will ask if his wife can translate during the filming. This item will be discussed further as we get this completed.
- 4) The club needs to determine who they wish to appoint as our AKC delegate once we move into full status. The candidate will need to be familiar with the workings of AKC and willing to travel to delegate meetings. The board will consider this and has tabled this item until the next meeting for further discussion.

- 5) Jennifer was asked a question from a member about being listed on the website under the stud dog listings. In presenting this to the board Jennifer asked if we felt it might be a good idea to allow members to be listed at no charge on the breeder's page and the stud dog listings. We want to encourage all Bracco fanciers to look to our website as the go to place for answers and information. Jennifer felt we need more of a presence from our members on these two tabs on the site (of they are interested). The board agreed that making it a free listing is OK. Jennifer will put this out to membership for their information to be listed, as well as agreeing to the breeders' code of ethics to be listed.
- 6) Jennifer asked the board- since we are unable to host a conformation show for our first weekend of recognition would the board be ok with doing a supported entry at a few of the All-Breed clubs who will have shows that weekend? John stated he wasn't sure what that entailed. Jennifer stated basically it means that the host clubs would list BICA in their premium as supporting the entry, we would try to encourage high entry numbers and the club sponsors nice rosettes and a prize to winners. It is a way to have the club supporting the entrants the first weekend out in the sporting ring. Jennifer is trying to work with clubs who have shows in VA that weekend and David Hayek is working with the clubs in OK. The board voted in favor of this.

No more new business raised

Meeting adjourned 8:55pm