

Bracco Italiano Club of America General Membership Meeting

DATE: Monday January 10th, 2022

7:30pm eastern

Called to order 7:34pm

Roll Call: Jennifer Caban Secretary Attendees: Jennifer Caban, Tom Harper, Lisa Moller, Charlie Calisto, Aline Pearl, Jack Hague, Bobbi Benson, Gary Lewis, Katherine Inman, John Kavalier, Ed Erickson, Courtney Bastian, Jesse Freese, Allison Schultz, Zach Robinson, Marilyn Vinson

Report of Treasurer: John Kavalier

- a. Club financials report: Current Balance in the account is \$23,499.52. The only significant expenses is the insurance renewals which are about \$1500 annually. We will also start incurring expenses coming up soon for the National Specialty

AKC Status update

- a. Bracco is approved for the Sporting Group as of June 29th 2022
Marilyn Vinson asked if we have provided all necessary documentation to AKC. At this time, yes Jennifer can report we have been in contact with AKC and they are in review of our bylaws. They will take a few weeks to review those and make any necessary recommendations for club review. Marilyn asked why this was being done now as the club had a committee and did this a while back, was that submitted to AKC at the time? The answer is yes there was a committee for bylaws reviews and it was submitted to the FSS contacts at AKC. Jennifer can call and ask why there is a new review, or if anything was done with the bylaws last time they were sent, but it is likely that it is due to different personnel at AKC and that the original info was sent during COVID and might not have been reviewed by the correct departments.
Sub note on Tuesday after the call Jennifer did reach out to AKC and the answer was that the FSS department did not review the bylaws when submitted in 2020, the department that must do that and the particular contact is who Jennifer is now working with.

Lisa Moller asked if BICA was the Parent Club as well as working to become a licensed club. Jennifer stated that the information provided by AKC was that we cannot become a licensed club until AFTER we go into full recognition. The AKC contact, Susan Zecker is verifying that information with her manager and will get back to us soon. Lisa stated the persuasion is strong enough and we present the past events we have held they may allow us to become a licensed club prior to our full recognition. Jennifer will again reach out to AKC to try to get more definitive answers. Marilyn also pointed out that there is a list of tasks to complete for that process on the AKC site. Allison Schultz stated that based on the information presented so far on the call that this is pending AKC answers and motioned to table the discussion until Jennifer has time to call AKC tomorrow. Katherine 2nd motion, all were in favor.

Committees Reports

- **National Specialty Planning Committee:** Lisa Moller: This is the update as of now, however the answer to the earlier discussion on licensed events may change the planning. The facility selected is Oak Creek Hunting Club in Brainard, NE. The dates are currently the week of June 27- July 1 but may vary a little as things are firmed up. Oak Creek is a nice facility with many amenities, similar to what we saw in MN. They have the ability to host meals, they have a large flat outdoor area for a show ring, with access to local tenting companies. There are several hotel options nearby which are dog friendly. The use of the site was negotiated to the cost of 1-2 annual memberships, which are \$150 each. So the total to the club would be roughly \$300 for the facility but that includes 2 memberships which could be utilized throughout the year by BICA members. There are 2-3 Oak Creek members who are licensed HT judges and would be interested in judging our AKC HT. Lisa Moller has reached out to a conformation judge who has attended our judge's education seminars.
- Allison Schultz asked if we had a Superintendent yet-Lisa stated no not yet but she was looking into that piece. Marilyn mentioned Judy Lowther, Allison mentioned Foy Trent might still have a department for smaller events. Allison stated she felt it needed to be a licensed superintendent for our first recognized show.
- Lisa asked if we felt like moving the dates might be more effective if we cannot host a licensed show that weekend. Allison mentioned it is possible to have another licensed club host the event for us for a % of the entry fees.
- Lisa stated too that if anyone was interested in joining the planning committee (or any of the committees) please let us know as we need more help. Allison agreed to help on the planning committee but due to work schedule could not commit to attending the event.
- More details around the event planning will be shared once we have answers from AKC which will drive the planning processes.
- **Rescue Committee:** There was 1 dog in Utah who had contacted rescue but his owner was able to rehome the dog themselves so at this time no rescue efforts
- **Hunting Committee:** Gary reported that the committee is working on setting up a mentorship program. Having regional mentors to help with basic questions, getting started in hunting, puppy training, where to start etc. The committee will try to get a list of mentors together to post online with their contact info. The committee will also try to encourage more regional get together and training dates. Ways to encourage those new to hunting to get out and see the potential of the dual dogs. Ed Erickson mentioned his kennel doors (Autumn Breeze Kennels) are always open and welcoming to anyone wishing to learn. Zach Robinson mentioned he would be willing to join the hunting committee and be a regional contact in the Seattle WA area. Jennifer also mentioned if anyone had good material, such as articles, training videos etc. that can be shared online that we would like to have more hunting based content on the website. Bobbi mentioned the NAVHDA Green Book as a good training resource.
- **Health Committee:** Amanda Inman had an article published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in regards to the kidney disease in the Bracco- Congratulations and Thank You Amanda for your continued efforts! Amanda has also set up a kidney website for reference/education at www.braccokidney.com
- **Judges Education Committee:** Lisa Moller: Asked to have the website contact updated- Jennifer will do this tomorrow. Lisa is trying to contact several of the big shows/clusters to get on the

agenda for judges education. The bigger clusters often have more opportunity for more judges to attend. Lisa has one event scheduled in IL for June 17th 2022.

- It was asked to list the club approved mentors on the website.
- **International Committee:** Allison Schultz: Reports that Crufts is still being held at this time. The Italian and World show qualifying events were cancelled this year. The European dog show was still held. The Italians are still having working hunt trials 1-2 times a month and the dogs are doing really well, even among the other continental breeds. Travel is still very tough throughout Europe and Italy in particular. N-95 masks are required everywhere and you must have a reason to travel to Italy (not for pleasure) The Italians aren't traveling much and still have Red and Yellow zones throughout the country. Gary asked how this is affecting the export of dogs. Allison reported that many airlines are not transporting dogs at this time, others not allowing them as carry on so the options and flight arrangements are very limited and difficult. Lisa mentioned this concern over travel restrictions would probably come into the planning for the nationals as well since it will be difficult for the Italian judges to travel here. Allison mentioned if we were able to get the judges that the COVID testing both ways needs to be taken into account for their expenses. Also that by the end of June the uncertainty around Italian restrictions could prohibit them traveling even if we booked them flights. It was suggested to consider not using the Italians this year due to COVID. SCOA as a reference had to cancel the Italian judge and is instead using an Austrian judge. Austria has a more relaxed policy on COVID and travel restrictions. Allison also mentioned there was a nice up and coming breeder in Iceland producing very nice dogs. It is also easier to fly in and out of Iceland now. The other country not experiencing the restrictions who seem to be shipping lots of dogs is Russia, although that doesn't speak to the quality of dogs, just that a lot of dogs of all breeds are moving from there.

The Newsletter has a new editor. It is being worked on and will start quarterly distribution again very soon. Any input for member brags, articles or content suggestions can be sent to Siva Aiken at siva.aiken@gmail.com

If members are interested in hosting Regional Gatherings please let the club know so that we can get info out to the membership. These can be informal get togethers, hunting days, training events or building entries at shows or other competitions.

Any Old business not addressed. None Raised

Any new business- None raised

Meeting adjourned 8:47pm