



LABRADOR RETRIEVER KENNEL CLUB

(A F F I L I A T E D T O T H E K U S A)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 61ST AGM – 16TH MARCH 2019

Thank you all for taking the time out of your busy schedules to join us today for the 61st Annual General Meeting of the Labrador Retriever Kennel Club. Your attendance and support reflects your dedication to our club, and to the breed for which we are here today. I have been involved in Labradors for the past seven and a half years, and part of the LRKC committee for the last five years; and this is my first as Chairman of the club.

I must admit, being chairman is more onerous than I had initially thought, and it is because of this, that I would like to thank all our previous Chairpersons, and especially Renier Jansen van Vuuren for his past tenure as Chairman. These were very shoes to fill.

The 2018 year was a great year for our breed, as we had 15 Labradors featuring in the 2018 Animatealk Top 100 list with Mrs. Sandy Borralho's, Grand Champion and International Champion Ablesing Kiara for Keeps at Mirain placing 39th with 515 points, followed by Mrs. Thania Rowan's Grand Champion Casimiro Sykstus of Rowania placed at no 42 and Mrs. Jane Pott's Grand Champion and International Champion Craignair Picture Perfect placing 98th. In summary, there were also:

- 7 new breed champions;
- 3 new breed grand champions;
- 1 new international champion;
- 1 new field trial champion; and
- 1 new carting champion.

This is a tremendous achievement for our club members and we should give ourselves a round of applause.

BREED SHOWS

Our 2018 shows were filled with great camaraderie in and around the ring, which is something I have not seen in a long time, good entries and positive remarks were received from our appointed judges. We were once again sponsored by WUMA, Montego Pet Nutrition, and we have secured them again for the 2019 shows. Their support is hugely valued, and we are extremely grateful for their sponsorship. Thank you, Montego Pet Nutrition.

The **Summer Open Show** was held on the 10th February and judged by Mrs. Timmy U. Ralfe. Mrs. Ralfe awarded Mrs. Jane Pott's CH. Craignair Picture Perfect Best in Show, followed by Craignair Black Hawk who also won Best Puppy and Best Junior in Show. Mrs. Mercia van Tonder's Craignair Special Titan was awarded Best Baby Puppy.

Our **Winter Open Show** as usual, was held on a very icy day, the 23rd June and judged by Mrs Tania Edwards. Best Junior and Best in Show was awarded to Mrs. Jane Pott's Craignair Black Hawk, followed by CH Craignair Picture Perfect. Best Puppy in Show was awarded to Mrs. Mercia van Tonder's Rowania Sapphire Blue.

The **51st Annual Championship Show** was judged by our Patron and renowned specialist judge Mrs. Patricia Harrison (UK) who has had a lifetime's experience breeding and showing Labradors and has also judged the breed in several other countries. It was an honour for us to host Mrs Harrison, who was also booked to judge the Labrador males at Crufts Dog Show earlier in March this year, with an entry of 230 dogs.

Mrs Harrison judged us for the third time in our history and it was encouraging to receive her compliments after the show, when she commented that she was pleased to see, that after 21 years, the quality of dogs being shown exceeded the level exhibited back in 1997, stating "*That is excellent news for the future of the Labrador in South Africa.*"

Pat continued to mention that "*there are points that need to be watched, such as upright shoulders and high tail carriage, but they are not specific to your country; they are universal. We need to have regard to the breed standard and do the best we can to match that in the dogs that we breed, whether they are to be working dogs, show dogs or both.*"

President: Mrs J Pott

Patrons: Mrs R Cabion; Mrs C Copestake; Mr J Crook OBE; Ms D Fabian; Mrs P Harrison; Mrs D Holman; Mrs E Howard

Chairman: Mr D Malcolm; **Vice Chairman:** Mr G van Tonder;

Secretary: Ms MA Greathead; **Treasurer:** Mr D Malcolm

Entries for the championship show were around 55 which is not as high as in recent years but a good entry nonetheless given a few of our larger exhibiting kennels could not be present. Best In Show was awarded to Sandy Borralho's Ch Ablesing Kiara For Keeps at Mirain, RBIS, Best Junior and DCC was awarded to Thania Rowan's Bunnichem Chimborazo of Rowania and the BCC and Best Veteran In Show went to Jane Pott's Ch Craignair Huntress Gold. Best Puppy In Show was awarded to Sharron Brown's lovely import, Ludalor Blue Moon of Conkasha.

FIELD TRIALS

The 48th Annual Field Trials, yet again held over the last weekend in April and held on the farms around Val in the Standerton area, were a super success. The basecamp was at Val Sports Club. Anybody having been involved in the planning and running of a 4-day Field Trial event will know how much work this is and the high cost involved. Therefore, I want to thank everybody who worked so hard and contributed so generously to make our Trial a success. To the officials - Judges, Field Trial Managers, Guns and Throwers – once again thank you very much.

To our main sponsor, MSD Animal Health, we appreciate your continued support of our sport. We were also spoiled with food prizes from WUMA, Montego Pet Nutrition. To add to this several members donated generously towards sponsorship of raffle prizes, gifts, placement of adverts and I would like to acknowledge the following: Mike Hunt, Snowpine Kennels, TFS Holdings, and Jane Pott.

Without the use of the beautiful farms around Val, so graciously offered up by their owners, there would be no trial. Once again, a heartfelt thank you to all the farmers who graciously made their land available to us.

The Puppy Stake was won by Karen Hagger and Twista, Junior Stake by Heather Hallauer and Monty, Maiden Stake by Dave Honour and Alfie, Novice Stake by Paula Jordi and AB and the Open Stake by Sue Hill and Dora.

PUBLICATIONS

Our very own Genevieve Alberts has done a sterling job, as always, with our LRKC Bulletins and our wonderful 2018 Lab Lines. In just more than 100 pages it once again reflected our club activities and was also full of very relevant and interesting articles and reports! Thanks to all members who contributed with written accounts, photographs and articles of interest.

MEMBERSHIP

Disappointingly, our paid-up membership numbers are not growing. We are also not really getting any younger members joining which is a concern for the long-term sustainability of the club and although membership levels are okay currently, we need to find ways to attract young enthusiasts to our club to continue the legacy into the future.

Our immediate challenge is to find ways to boost membership levels in order to ensure our ability to continue running events such as the Field Trials on the scale we have in the past and also to be able to invite overseas breed judges for our Championship Show each year.

The obvious reason for the reduced membership numbers could be the economic status in this country, but we see the same trend in other parts of the world, although their buffer is much bigger than ours. Whatever the reason, if our membership numbers and the funds members contribute to show and field trial entries and donations to the club do not match the ever-rising costs, we may be forced to scale down on our Trials, Shows and Yearbook.

It will be a challenge for the newly elected committee in 2019 to find ways to boost membership levels.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

It was a great privilege to be part of the wonderful committee we have had for 2018, and our enthusiasm and hard work shows in the way we present our Shows and Field Trials.

Thank you to each person on this committee for your hard work, your support to me as chairman, for just taking the responsibility and running with the tasks at hand and contributing to the enjoyment we all experience being part of this club. We were however sad to see two of our committee members resign, being Gerhard and Mercia. They have both done a great job in this club – their enthusiasm for the breed and the club was enormous, and they will be missed as committee members moving forward.

I would like to make special mention of both Jane Pott and Alan Kloeck who have reached the end of their two-year tenure. Thank you Alan for your ongoing support of the Club and thank you Jane for being a hard-working member of the committee, the glue that holds us all together and being my unwavering pillar of support while I learnt the ropes. Both Alan and Jane are available for re-election. I would also like to thank those who are not on the committee but who have worked very hard behind the scenes, your support and guidance is always appreciated.

OTHER EVENTS:

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The club was once again well represented at World of Dogs and Cats exhibition held in August last year and on the same day, the Committee and their dogs participated in the 702 Walk The Talk charity fundraiser. We did not get any new members from the event but we certainly created awareness. However, I do believe there is more we can do to appeal to members of the public and Labrador owners who are not currently competitive in either breed shows or field trials. I appeal to you as members to help us with ideas on events we can either host or support which could boost either active membership or new members.

CLOSING:

Despite a continued difficult economic climate that we find ourselves in, I am pleased to note that we have managed to balance the books effectively and post a small surplus, which I will expound on further in the Treasurer's Report. I trust the incoming committee will continue to manage our costs and maximise income where possible to ensure the continued sustainability of our financial position going forward.

In closing, I am proud of how we have managed club affairs in 2018 but I do believe we need to make some tough decisions on how we run the Club going forward to ensure we retain our financial buffer, some of which we will debate today as part of the AGM.

I would like to assure you that it will always be this management committee's sole responsibility to serve the interests of our members and that of Labrador Retrievers in South Africa. We are committed and dedicated.

Thank you all,

Dwayne Malcolm
LRKC Chairman - 2018

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