

President's Meeting Minutes

Saturday 9th February 2019,
Arkaba Hotel, 150 Glen Osmond Road, Fullarton,
South Australia



Present:

Executive

Mr. Vince Tantaro - GSDCA President	Mrs. Robyn Knuckey -Judges Committee Chair
Ms. Jacinta Poole - Editor QNR	Mrs. Julie Urie - Obedience Committee Chair
Ms. Jane Pike - Treasurer	N/A - NBC Chair
Mrs. Barbara Blythe - Minute Secretary	

Based on the understanding that Mrs. Jenny Yuen was supported by the majority of Member Clubs for the role of NBC Chair, the Executive agreed that Jenny should attend the President meeting to allow her an insight into decisions and discussions that were undertaken for the benefit of her soon to be role.

Presidents:

Mr. Terry Jarvis	GSD League		
Mr. Sean Lynch	N&HRGSDC	Mr. Paul York	N&HRGSDC 2 nd Delegate
Mr. Tony Mercieca	GSDCV	Mrs. Jenny Yuen	GSDCV 2 nd Delegate
Mr. John DeLucia	GSDC SA	Mr. Steve Collins	GSDC SA 2 nd Delegate
Mr. Sasha Beljanski	ACT GSDA Delegate	Mrs Sharon Ballantyne-Gordon	GSDCQ
Mrs. Janet Haase	GSDCT Delegate	Mr. Brian Lubbock	GSDAWA

Apologies

Mrs Val Moody	Secretary	Mr. Jurgen Haase	GSDCT President
Mr. Wolf Meffert	ACT GSDA President	Ms. Melanie Groth	GSD League 2 nd Delegate

Chair: Mr. Vince Tantaro – President GSDCA.

Meeting Opened: The Meeting was declared open at 9.31am.

Welcome:

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the Secretary's absence.

He thanked all Presidents and delegates for attending. This forum was instigated to allow the Presidents to bring forward any issues and provide the opportunity to talk freely and look at the big picture.

Welcome to Brian Lubbock as new WA President, and Sasha Beljanski, and Janet Haase who are representing their clubs.

1. The future of Council – V. Tantaro

With the future issues arising, we need as a Council to act as one, to forge a path forward and push forward the ideals of the Council. We want to hear about the major concerns you think may be affecting the future.

GSDCSA: The GSDCSA club members do not agree with the schedules of WUSV Harmonisation as adopted by the Council. The membership has made it clear they do not want to participate and will take other paths to show and or trial their dogs. The point was made that Breeders can and will breed without surveying dogs if the requirements are enacted. This will be to the detriment of the whole organisation.

In response the Chair summarised the view that Prof. Messler was elected on a platform to reinforce SV control over the WUSV. The Harmonisation scheme was developed – it is in effect the SV system that applies to their membership and as a result they believe it should be implemented around the world. The natural progression for the SV is to see this programme adopted by all GSD organisations around the world. We have adapted what in effect are amended elements of what is required that we believe we can implement however none of these have been officially recognised as meeting the SV's need for compliance. The SV have tempered their push over the last 12 months to go slower and have repeated that we progress with what we can, take it slowly. Ideally, we should be aiming for the SV system. But it is slow step by step goal: The 23 schedules as presented were modified for us and even these we are finding hard to progress.

The ZAP, BH and ET as pre-requisites for breed survey are the main things to address. It will take time, effort and a change of culture.

We can dictate our own path. Otherwise this organisation will suffer. Breeders register puppies with the ANKC, not the GSDCA. We need to find a path forward that the members will accept as achievable and that will continue the progress of the German Shepherd in Australia. We have had the CWA Test that clubs and members have not supported to date.

The Chair advised it was the Clubs themselves who did not push the CWA test and therefore pushback as to what was decided with regard to Harmonisation is understandable. Whatever is decided this weekend will need to be promoted and supported.

GSDCQ: We are targeting a minority group, where it should be about all breeders around the country working towards the health and character of our dogs. We need to encourage ALL breeders who put dogs out into the community without any testing to improve. GSDs in Australia ideally should be breed surveyed to be able to register their puppies. Consider putting in a LRL to the ANKC – however long it takes – that all GSD's must be breed surveyed for registration of puppies.

The Chair said that it was our organisation that put the LRLs in place that affect all GSD breeders. They are the positive things this Council has done; the next would be breed survey. This will take a lot of work and a lot of convincing as 40% breed with 1 breed surveyed parent. The 60% have an awareness of what we are doing, but we must convince the remaining 30% that they should not breed with unsurveyed dogs. The main point is we do not control our registrations.

The Chair put to the meeting that we need to find a path to bring us together. What are we willing to do to go forward with what we can do in this country and find a middle ground.

N&HRGSDC: advised members have been enthusiastic with the breed improvement schemes, but felt the harmonisation schedules were a step too far. Want to go forward but let's go forward with one step at a time. As an example, firstly produce a manual to understand what is involved and how we could possibly make that work.

The Chair said that we cannot easily meet the BH requirements. We have been fine tuning what was decided. It gets back to what we believe in and with small steps it could happen. I believe in the LRL being put forward that only breed surveyed animals being bred with to enable registration. There is a reluctance to do a working test. There is much we can't do and this has been highlighted to the WUSV. We will do what we can in our own time. We do not have the culture, capacity nor ability to do a character and working test immediately – it will be a slow process to bring it in.

Implementation will not happen by the due dates – for those who can do it, it will happen over 5 years – for those who can't do it in the timeframes, we do it as and when we can.

2. GSDCA Financials – J. Pike

Treasurer advised the financial situation of Council.

Current profit and loss as at 5 February has been provided. Of concern is that HD/ED scheme income has dropped off considerably. There have been big drop offs in GSDCV, GSDL, GSDAWA. The GSDCSA has increased. If we are not x-raying dogs they will not go through breed survey.

The GSDC Northern Territory had funds of \$5,500 when they ceased trading. They have now been through the process with the NT Government and as at October 2018 they have been officially wound up. The funds have now been realised as sundry income in 2019.

The frustration of dishonoured cheques is still an issue. Registrars are encouraged to bank regularly.

Income & expenditure re meetings. We need to consider the most cost effective venue to hold meetings. Sydney is expensive, cost up to \$4000 more to hold meetings. If we can make savings then it is considered worthwhile. The meeting agreed that the most cost effective venue should be used and a 60 day motion to be put to members.

3. Club Presidents - 360 feedback

It was noted that it is disappointing to see comment on Facebook and the fact that so many members do not understand how National Council works.

GSDCQ noted that they allow proxy votes for voting on GSDCA agenda items. Could other clubs look at a process to allow members to vote that live long distances away?

Chair noted that how Clubs allow voting is up to each of them. It was noted that discussion of agenda items is important in reaching decision. For voting integrity to be assured, this can be a technical challenge. Using the Electoral Commission is very expensive. Other methods of electronic voting were discussed including the maintaining the integrity of each members vote.

Other Business

No other business.

Meeting Closed at: 10.50am.