



LABRADOR RETRIEVER KENNEL CLUB
(A F F I L I A T E D T O T H E K U S A)

CHAIRMANS REPORT – 62nd AGM – 29th FEBRUARY 2020

Welcome all and thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to join us today, for the 62nd Annual General Meeting of the Labrador Retriever Kennel Club.

Every year, around the time of the AGM and particularly since being part of the committee, I have wondered what the future holds for our club and breed? This time around, I think this question has stayed on my mind longer than it usually does, especially because the LRKC has such a rich history and I feel the weight of responsibility in ensuring its future.

A history that started in 1958, when George and Eric were walking their Labradors at Zoo Lake. Earlier Eric Edwards had tried to start a breed club but without success. As a result of this meeting George Jenkin took on the job of canvassing support for a club and he wrote to every owner of a registered Labrador in South Africa and the response was good enough for a meeting to be called at the old Craighall Hotel in February 1958. A Committee was formed, and George Jenkin was elected as the first Chairman of the LRKC.

As I look around the room, the attendance and support reflects the dedication to our club and most importantly the breed for which we are here today. The response is good. Good enough for us to continue building and improving the club's position, whether it be financially in the form of a strong cash balance, growing the support for the club from within the membership base or even outside of it, and actively ensuring our club represents the Labrador Breed domestically and internationally.

We have the ability to do this and last year was the first milestone in achieving this, perhaps audacious goal. With the brilliant work of our overhauled website in 2019, done by Genevieve Alberts, 2020 the LRKC will introduce a Facebook group, focus on club sponsorship, not just for Shows and Field Trials and work towards broadening the membership of our club from all parts of South Africa and the world at large.

The response is good and the LRKC can achieve this and at the same time ensure the longevity of our renowned and history-rich Labrador Retriever Kennel Club.

The 2019 year was a great year for our breed, as we had

- 8 new breed champions.
- 2 new breed grand champions;
- 1 new field trial champion; and
- 1 junior merit award.

This is a tremendous achievement for our club members. Congratulations!

BREED SHOWS

Our 2019 shows were again filled with great camaraderie and sportsmanship in and around the ring, something I hope will continue for a very long time, good entries and positive remarks were received from our appointed judges. We were once again sponsored by WUMA, Montego Pet Nutrition shows. Their support was hugely valued, and we were extremely grateful for their sponsorship. Thank you, Montego Pet Nutrition.

We have been fortunate enough to secure a new sponsor for our 2020 activities, being Dog Sense. Manufactured at Afgri Isando; Dogsense guarantee's:

President: Mrs J Pott

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

Chairman: Mr D Malcolm; **Vice Chairman:** Mr T Wynne;

Secretary: Ms S Borralho; **Treasurer:** Mrs M Wynne

- High-Quality Raw materials with the highest possible digestibility.
- No artificial colourants.
- Complete balanced nutrition backed by essential vitamins and minerals to support a healthy immune system, strong teeth and bones.

We look forward to a mutually rewarding relationship with Dog Sense in the year ahead.

The **Summer Open Show** was held on the 9th February and judged by our very own Mr. Renier Jansen van Vuuren, attracting a super entry of 39 dogs. Mr. Jansen van Vuuren awarded Mrs. Sandy Borralho's Int.Ch and Gr. Ch. Ablesing Kiara for Keeps at Mirain, Best in Show, followed by Gr. Ch. Bunnichem Chimborazo of Rowania JM who also won Best Junior in Show. Mrs. Annemarie van Heerden's Amadeuze Rustl of Spring was awarded Best Baby Puppy.

Our **Winter Open Show** as usual, was held on a very icy day, the 22nd June and judged by Mr. Kevin Young. This show attracted an entry of 52 dogs, the highest entry since the record of 60 dogs that was achieved at the Club's Summer Open Show in 2013. In the context of falling entries at Open Shows around the Country, we are immensely proud of this support. Best Senior and Best in Show was awarded to Mrs. Jane Pott's Ch. Craignair Black Hawk JM, followed by Int. Ch. and Gr. Ch Craignair Switch Blade. Best Junior in Show was awarded to Mrs. Mercia van Tonder's Rowania Sapphire Blue and Best Puppy in Show was awarded to Mr. Renier Jansen van Vuuren's Adamasdor Simon.

The **52nd Annual Championship Show** was judged by renowned specialist judge Mrs. Heather Wiles-Fone (UK).

Entries for the championship show were around 61 - a good entry given a few of our larger exhibiting kennels could not be present.

Best In Show was awarded to Genevieve Alberts's Ch Sumany LF Just a Star of Tapeatom, RBIS was awarded to Int. Ch. Gr Ch. Ablesing Kiara for Keeps at Mirain, Best Junior was awarded to Annemarie van Heerden's Amadeuze Rustl of Spring and Best Veteran In Show went to Jane Pott's Ch Craignair Huntress Gold. Best Puppy In Show was awarded to Renier Jansen van Vuuren's Adamasdor Simon, whilst Best Baby Puppy In Show went to Sharron Brown's Conkasha Zenith.

FIELD TRIALS

The 49th Annual Field Trials was yet again held over the last weekend in April on the farms around Val in the Standerton area. 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 is involved and the high cost associated therewith. 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.

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 thanks to the farmers.

The Puppy Stake was won by N Tatham and Binks, Maiden Stake by Heather Hallauer and Monty, Novice Stake by Tony Wynne and Sadie and the Open Stake by Kobus Le Roux and Artemis.

PUBLICATIONS

Our very own Genevieve Alberts has done a sterling job, as always, with our LRKC Bulletins and our wonderful 2019 Lab Lines. In just under 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.

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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.

An obvious reason for lack of growth in 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 2020 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 2019 and your 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 for 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 four of our committee members resign, being Carl, Lesley, Tony and Marie. They have 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 Jane Pott, Sandy Borralho and Genevieve Alberts for being a hard-working member of the committee, the glue that holds us all together and being my unwavering pillars of support this past year. To Thania Rowan for being that important interface with our members, I thank you. Last but not least, Renier Jansen van Vuuren, thank you for your guidance, your support, your ideas and your immense knowledge. 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. For the Club to move forward and grow, we need all hands-on deck!

CLOSING:

In the continued difficult economic climate that we find ourselves in, I have been concerned about how this will impact the future of the club. Unfortunately, it has taken its toll and manifested in us posting a deficit for the year. I will unpack this further in the Treasurer's Report to follow. Fortunately, the Club has a strong cash balance, but this is not sustainable.

In closing, I am proud of how we have managed club affairs in 2019 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 trust the incoming committee will continue to manage our costs and maximize income where possible to ensure the continued sustainability of our financial position going forward.

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 - 2019

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