

CHAIRMAN'S BULLETIN 1st December 2009

As you know a requisition was received by the committee to call a Special General Meeting which was held on 22nd November 2009, to consider a motion of 'No Confidence' in four Committee Members. I am pleased to be able to say the motion was defeated by a majority vote and the Committee and myself look forward to serving the Members and the Club and especially the breed.

As the Secretary resigned following the vote the Members nominated and voted for Mr Brian Everill to become Acting Secretary until the next AGM. See over for a statement from Brian.

With this bulletin you will receive a schedule for our Open Show on 14th February, where Mr Tommy Gibson is our judge. This will be held at a new venue, Denshaw Village Hall, Lancashire, and we will be having eye testing under the BVA scheme for those who require it. For those who might question why we are still having eye testing, this is because of the very small risk of PLL carriers becoming affected, and the AHT recommend regular eye tests to keep a check on their progress. It also enables those unfortunate enough to have a dog diagnosed as genetically affected to pick up the early clinical signs of the condition. It also means we are in a position to pick up signs of any other conditions before they become a problem, as both PLL and CEA were identified in the breed whilst testing for Hereditary Cataracts. We also hope to have swab kits available for anyone who wants to submit samples for DNA testing and we look forward to welcoming anyone with their Heelers, whether registered or not, to take part.

Latest figures show that over 250 dogs have been tested as clear of PLL worldwide, with approximately another who are 150 carriers, and a very small number of actual affecteds.

The Club Calendar for 2010 has now been published (contact Margaret McFarlane) and all profits will be going to Rescue. They have got some wonderful pictures and they cost £6 plus 90p postage in the UK (please ask Margaret for details of overseas postage costs).

Rescue has had several dogs through its books in the last couple of months, and I am pleased to say that all have been found new homes. I would like to thank all those members who have helped with fostering, transport and donations towards rehoming these unfortunate dogs, most of whom find themselves in need through no fault of their own. Next year we are planning to have photos of the rescued dogs in the calendar for 2011.

Jan Jones has launched the new website and it is much easier to find your way round, as the previous one had outgrown its original purpose. Don't forget to send Jan any news, photos or articles and of course DNA test results, so we can encourage puppy buyers to check that breeders are carrying out the DNA tests. A puppy sales page is also now included, for litters that have had the necessary health checks.

We have a committee meeting scheduled for the end of December, whilst the rest of you are still recovering from the effects of Christmas, so if there is anything you wish the committee to discuss please let any committee member know or write to the Secretary.

We hope to produce a newsletter in time for the February show, so please let the newsletter editor Chris Norman have any articles for publication as soon as possible.

Wishing you and your dogs the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Sarah Whybrow
Chairman'

Statement from Mr Brian Everill

The Lancashire Heeler Club Chairman and Committee would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the Members at the recently convened Special General Meeting held on Sunday 22nd November 2009, in defeating the motion of "no confidence" sought by several petitioners in four of its elected Officers and Committee Members.

In defeating this motion you have, as Members, placed your trust and confidence in the present Members of this Committee. You have also placed your trust and confidence in myself, by electing me as your Acting Secretary until the next Annual General Meeting, where you will be asked to vote on a Secretary of your choice.

The Chairman and Committee of The Lancashire Heeler Club can assure every Member that we are working for YOU. This is YOUR breed, YOUR club and YOUR club's future, and we are merely servants trying to carry out YOUR wishes. It must be remembered that we are not only here for the showing fraternity but also for the non-showing fraternity, (I do so hate the term "pet people", as they are all pets first and foremost and show dogs second), so to the non-showing Lancashire Heeler community at large please do not hesitate to contact any Member of the Committee if you would like to raise any points or have any ideas for the future.

For my part, I shall endeavour to carry out the duties of Acting Secretary without grace or favour to any particular individual or body, and carry them out within the framework of rules and regulations laid down by the Kennel Club and The Lancashire Heeler Club.

The Chairman and Committee of The Lancashire Heeler Club would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. George Stevens for his work as Secretary during the last few months under what have been very difficult circumstances, and we hope that he and his family will attend future Club functions. The Chairman and Committee would like to thank you the Members for your trust and confidence in us and we can assure you that we shall strive to ensure that this trust is not misplaced.

Finally the Chairman and Committee would like to thank Mr. Bob Gregory for chairing the Special General Meeting in the fair, honest and open manner that has become his trademark.

Brian Everill

On behalf of the Chairman and Committee of the Lancashire Heeler Club.

Message from Membership Co-ordinator Mr Bill Simpson:

Please ensure any changes of name, address or phone number are notified to the Membership Co-ordinator to ensure you receive all communications from the Club.

Message from Judges Sub Committee Co-ordinator Miss Jacky Cutler:

Please ensure any updates to your judging CV's or applications for inclusion are notified to the JSC Co-ordinator as the JSC will be reviewing the judging lists early in the New Year.