

2009 Beagle Advisory Committee Minutes 72nd BAC Meeting

On June 17, 2009 at 10:10 AM EST the meeting was called to order by Mel Stewart, Chairman via teleconference. Roll was taken. All were accounted for except Gary Hanks who joined in later. AKC staff in the Raleigh office were Doug Ljungren, AVP Performance Events, Mel Stewart, Hound Field Director, Lisa Carroll, Karen Reuter and Lisa King. AKC staff participating via teleconference were Assistant Field Director Jim Odle and Senior Field Representatives Michael Sergio, Bill VanDeBogart and Robert Oliver.

# of Clubs	Committee Member:	Clubs:
1	Ron Anderson 15 Jermyn Court Sterling, VA 20165 703-421-8186	National Beagle Club
19	Gerald Ells 185 Regency Road Castle Rock, WA 98611 360-695-7419	Golden Bear Association of Beagle Clubs, Northwest Association of Beagle Club & California
49	Jerry Knuth 911 4 th Street Plover, WI 54467 715-344-0017	Abe Lincoln, Hoosier, Illiana, Northern South Hoosier, Western & Wisconsin
46	Art Boger 97 Big Cove Road Candler, NC 28715 701-288-3187	Dixie Association of Beagle Clubs, Deep South, Delta, Southern, Southwestern & Tennessee Valley
39	James Grimes 207 Beagle Run Shepherdsville, KY 40165 502-543-6712	Central Association of Beagle Clubs, Eastern Ohio, Miami, Northern Ohio, Southern Ohio, West Virginia
65	George Fields 2973 Bridgepoint Drive Sophia, NC 27350 336-431-5490	Atlantic, Delaware, Delaware Valley, Carolinas, South Atlantic, Southeastern & Virginia
44	Chris Keenan 5571 Rt. 82 Clinton Corners, NY 12514 845-868-7854	Tri-State Association of Beagle Clubs, Eastern Lake Erie, Penn Central, Penn Mountain, West Penn, New England, Eastern New England, North Atlantic, & Red Jacket
53	Richie Houde 14 Westside Drive Atkinson, NH 03833 603-362-5106	Northern Michigan Hare Association, Maine, New Hampshire-Vermont, New York & Pioneer Valley

54	Bob Silva 5 Staysail Circle Marston Mills, MA 02648 508-428-6573	Northeastern Beagle Gundog Federation, Pennsylvania Beagle Gundog Federation, Iriquois Beagle Gundog Assn., Northeast Hunting Beagle Assn., New England Hunting Beagle Association
38	Scotty Pannell 1573 County Road 88 New Albany, MS 38652 662-534-3818	Deep South Beagle Gundog Federation, Mid - South Beagle Gundog Federation
70	Carl Buchanan PO Box 328 Golconda, IL 62938 618-683-2291	United Beagle Gundog Federation
37	Gary Hanks PO Box 67 Price, TX 75687 903-861-3533	Lone Star Beagle Assn., Mid - Atlantic Beagle Assn., Mid- West Beagle Assn.
32	John Prianti 5157 Orangeport Road Brewerton, NY 13029 315-676-4850	Appalachian Beagle Gundog Federation, Mid America Gun Dog Fed, all unaffiliated Gundog Brace Clubs

Mr. Stewart began by thanking the members of the BAC for their participation and reported on the current state of the sport.

Format	2007 Trials	2007 Entries	2008 Trials	2008 Entries	Change in Trials	Change in Entries
Brace	316	20,879	310	19,577	-6	-1,302
Gun Dog Brace	48	5,193	53	5,646	+5	+453
Large Pack	61	5,744	64	5,680	+3	-64
Small Pack	43	2,252	36	1,821	-7	-431
Small Pack Option	252	24,555	260	23,605	+8	-950
Two Couple Pack	28	1,656	30	1,728	+2	+72
Total	748	60,279	753	58,057	+5	-2,222

A total of 538 Beagles earned Field Championship titles in 2007, compared to 495 Field Championship titles in 2008. Staff conducted twelve regular seminars and nineteen advanced in 2008. Despite the overall economic conditions, 2009 is shaping up to be a good year for Beagling. May YTD entries are up 2 %.

Item to be Voted On

A majority vote is required for passage.

1) The only item on the agenda to be voted on from the 2008 Advisory was the issue of combining the classes by gender as well as size. This rule change as brought forward was intended to give clubs the option of announcing prior to the trial that they intended to combine classes by either method.

A lengthy discussion ensued prior to voting.

John Prianti stated he had heard some opposition to the proposed rule change with about ½ the people for it and ½ against it. He indicated with such a difference of opinion he would vote his conscience.

Richie Houde indicated he had received a letter indicating that this was the path to eliminating the smaller classes all together and it was the easy way out. His federation was not in favor of it.

George Fields stated that the option would help the clubs and it was just that “optional” not “mandatory.”

Chris Keenan said that most people were for the rule change in his area. It would be a tool for the clubs to help manage their trials. If it can help the clubs, do it.

Bob Silva didn't think it was a good idea. He is opposed to adapting long standing rules to assist weak clubs.

Scotty Pannell expressed concern. He felt some clubs would automatically go to two class trials and he did not think this was good for Beagling.

Carl Buchanan was against it.

Gary Hanks was against the change also indicating there was no way to format it. He will vote no as there are other ways to address this.

Jerry Knuth indicated it shouldn't be limited to Brace events as it is happening on the SPO side also. He suggested that clubs who have less than 10 entries one year have the option of combining the next year.

Gerald Ells was against it as it's a slippery slope. What would be next?

Ron Anderson said it would dilute the title.

Art Boger stated that Brace Beaglers go both ways on the issue. He would vote in support of this.

Doug Ljungren wondered if the timing of when a club can exercise this option may influence opinions.

- 1) Should clubs be able to combine ahead of time and advertise such?
- 2) Should entries be taken and after closing, if a class had less than six entries, then exercise the option?

Approach #2 provides flexibility which would help Beaglers/Clubs in two ways: (1) Females in season would not need to withdraw as currently occurs when classes are combined by size, and (2) Currently if the same size class has already run, a less than 6 dog class must be cancelled. This unfortunate situation would be avoided if the other size of the same gender has not yet run.

Mel Stewart suggested a compromise that provides clubs the option of combining classes by gender if a class has less than six entries.

Jim Grimes was in favor of Mel's interpretation.

Jerry Knuth agreed with these comments since he felt it would help in what he considered emergency situations. The club should have the ability to advertise they will combine in this manner if there were 5 or less dogs entered in a class.

John Prianti agreed with Jerry on that point. Clubs should be able to advertise that they will combine and by what method should the minimum entry requirement of 6 not be met.

Ron Anderson stated again that the rule as currently written is good enough and he was completely against changing it.

Mel Stewart used an example of 5 - 13" males entering and having to send them home without the option to combine after entries close. Is that fair?

Ron Anderson stated again there was no need to change it.

Jim Grimes said it was initially done because they didn't want to mix the 13" and 15" classes but with the Brace format it doesn't make a difference as endurance is not an issue. He felt they should adopt the proposal as Mel presented it.

Bob Silva said it may not make a difference in Brace but it will in the Gundog.

Jerry Knuth indicated that the Field Trial Committee should be the ones to decide whether or not to combine after entries close.

Gerald Ells stated the committee should be the ones to decide to combine by either gender or size, whichever is best for the club.

Jim Grimes stated the option should only be available when there's less than 6 entries. It will help the clubs.

Mel reiterated that the option will only be exercised if there are not enough entries in a class.

Carl Buchanan inquired if this was an amendment to the proposal.

This committee decided they would vote on the amended proposal.

The committee voted on the amended version as follows.

Committee Member	Vote Cast
Ron Anderson	No
Gerald Ells	Yes
Jerry Knuth	Yes
Art Boger	Yes
James Grimes	Yes
George Fields	Yes
Chris Keenan	Yes
Richie Houde	No
Bob Silva	No
Scotty Pannell	No
Carl Buchanan	No
Gary Hanks	Yes
John Prianti	Yes

Results: 8 Yes, 5 No

Let the record reflect the option of combining classes by gender as well as size if there are less than 6 dogs in a class passes.

New Business

Chris Keenan made a motion to remove "officer" from Chapter 5, Judges and Their Decisions, paragraph 2 enabling officers of clubs to judge as long as they are not members of the Field Trial Committee. Gerald Ells seconded this motion. The committee voted unanimously to add this to the 2010 agenda for a vote.

Jim Grimes then made a motion that addressed Procedure 7 A to change the wording to no longer allow the switching of hounds in the second and subsequent series. In other words, they had to be laid on the line in the order called back by the judges. He feels that allowing the handlers to agree to switch the order of the hounds takes away the judges'

authority. Art Boger seconded the motion. The Brace associations and the representative for the National Beagle Club voted unanimously to bring it forward for a vote in 2010.

John Prianti asked that the AKC field representatives stress more in their seminars that defeated hounds can be brought back in the second and subsequent series. Mel Stewart indicated that staff would handle this issue at the seminars.

Bob Silva said he felt there are too many trials. He suggested modifying the 100 mile rule to 200 miles if the club was having a second trial. It was agreed that this would be difficult for AKC to manage.

Scotty Pannell indicated that the overall opinion of Beaglers in general is that they're having too many trials and the clubs/associations need to stop/limit them.

George Fields indicated that they shot themselves in the foot with too many trials a year. He stated the BAC members needed to go back to their associations and stress the importance of not having two trials a year. In 1996 entries were the same as last year but there were 250 more trials last year.

Carl Buchanan agreed with both Scotty and George. Carl pointed out that AKC only requires a club to hold one event per year. The second event is at the club's option. If club members feel there are too many trials, don't hold their second trial. It is an option that we need to control amongst ourselves.

Mel pointed out that this issue varies by location. Some areas want and need two trials per club. Other areas do not.

It was the consensus of the committee to manage this issue at the association level.

Art Boger took a moment to thank the National Beagle Club for the Purina donations that went to assist Brace Beagling events. Several other BAC members thanked them also.

Art and Jerry Knuth both indicated how they would like to see next year's BAC as an in person meeting, same terms as two years ago.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45