



The annual meeting of the American Kennel Club was held on March 8, 2004 in Manhattan. At the annual meeting the main order of business is always the election of Directors to the Board of Directors. Of the four candidates running, the three incumbents were reelected. They are Dr Tom Davies, Walter Goodman, and Ron Menaker. The fourth candidate was Charlie Foley who had been nominated from the floor.

The meetings were held Sunday and Monday, a recent change from the traditional Monday Tuesday.

The first day the Committees meet. Since they are divided into various time slots, I was able to sit in on several, including part of my favorite committee, Parent Club, just before the HEC Committee meeting, of which I am a member, as the members of HEC request a meeting later in the day.

The Herding/Earthdog/Coursing Committee, now in existence for one year, has proven its worth to the coursing world. I am pleased to have been among the small group who petitioned to bring it into existence. While the group is mainly devoted to herding interests, as the coursing group is so much smaller, the coursing people have begun to realize that this is where they bring issues that need to be resolved.

All who course were appalled when it was learned that AKC would no longer allow non-AKC events, which included ASFA, citing an archaic ruling which had long been overlooked. Many coursing enthusiasts wrote directly to AKC expressing their concern. Delegates from other Committees who are sight hound fanciers banded together to speak out and find a way to correct this ambiguity. Out of this came the proposal presented to the Delegate body on Tues.

This amendment, to Article XV, Section 4 of AKC's Charter and Bylaws, which will make it clear that in certain instances, AKC may approve its member clubs to hold certain types of non-AKC purebred dog events. (Ex; ASFA Trials in conjunctions with our BCOA Nationals.)

After lengthy discussion on the floor, this article was passed by a vote of the Delegate body, 2/3rds affirmative. Meaning that BCOA will continue to hold ASFA events at our Nationals, but only with AKC permission.

Also stemming from the HEC Committee, which pointed out the necessity for it, AKC has formed a "2004-05 Coursing Advisory Committee."

"The Committee will be charged with evaluating the current program and making recommendations to the Board of Directors for changes to improve the Coursing program."

BCOA has selected R. Lynn Shell, who has agreed to be our representative. We will also have the advantage of several other Borzoi enthusiasts attending as representatives from other clubs.

At the HEC meeting we also discussed "Qualifications for AKC Open Lure Coursing Class," and the committee is looking into the possibility of developing a certification program for the AKC Lure Coursing program.

It was noted that Sloughis are asking for permission to participate in AKC Lure Coursing events.

On Tuesday the Delegates also voted in a "one time only name change" This for an AKC registered dog whelped in the US. The change requires permission of the breeder, and could only be done if the dog has not sired a litter or received an award at an AKC event. While there was much discussion and "word changing" the motion passed as it was presented. BCOA Board directed me to vote against the proposal, as it seems to invite confusion in pedigrees.

I have not included other proposals voted on since they will not affect Borzoi directly.

At the June meeting to be held in Nashville, the Delegates will vote on whether to approve a 3 point major being given to the dog (and bitch) going reserve winners at a National. This to be once each year, if the number of dogs entered equal twice that needed for a five point major. Most, including the BCOA Board, are in favor of this motion. Others express concern stating that the winning dog or bitch should be the only winner. A dog good enough to go RWD at a National usually finishes in short order.

I would also like to mention how wonderful it was to have Dennis Sprung, sight hound fancier and exhibitor for so many years. A person who has spent most of his life among show dogs and people, officiating as our newly elected President at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Staudt-Cartabona AKC/BCOA Delegate