

PDTI Ltd Pet Dog Training Instructors

5th Annual General Meeting, Saturday 2nd April 2016 17.35-18.37hrs

Venue: Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire Chair: Manda Denny

Attendance: Sharon Alton, Yvette Andrewartha, Dave Bain, Eleanor McBeath, Jo Belsten, Chris Bloomfield, Claire Bloomfield, Teresa Brosnan, Carol Corrigan, Dawn Cox, Jai Cross, Sue Evans, Manda Denny, Tamsin Durston, Paul Essex, Fiona Henderson, Jill Hodgson, Fi Joint, Janet Jones (Fellow), Yvonne Kelsall, Marcia Mannings-Smith, Gary Mulvaney, Dave Pierson, Pam Radford, Rachel Richards, Alexis Robertson, Bill Sclater, Chris Sherwin, Wendy Shufflebotham, Lesley Thompson, Elinore Vickery, Bridget Warns, Lynda Wilson and Rachel Worley

Present for brought forward item only: Ceri Evans, Andy Tough, Rebecca Lodder (Guest) and Neha Singh

Guests: Anne McBride

Apologies: Anthea Lawrence (President), Alison Burgess, Nicky Evans, Julie Love, Marion Jolliffe, Tracy Ridgway, Gemma Travers and Carol Weyman

AGENDA

Brought forward (part item 3f) Website Update:

With the consent of attendees, website development was brought forward due to Andy Tough and three others having to leave as soon as possible. Andy apologised for the site taking so long to establish however he was delighted to show the meeting a preview. The site has been set up to be 'responsive' to all computers, tablets and mobile devices. He stated that the site would be easier to update than the last one, and a 'find an Instructor' listings had been added in addition to the map search. He showed how members are now listed by membership number, name, grade and location, and the lists can be sorted by clicking on the heading of each column. The map search showed the locations of members appearing as purple dots. It was noted that the members' area will function to allow members to update their own profiles in due course. The Chair thanked Andy for his work, which was well received by the attendees, looking forward to its impending launch.

Item 1. Report of the AGM 2015

The report had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Fiona Henderson proposed its acceptance, seconded by Fiona Joint, and approved by the meeting.

Item 2 Matters arising

Purple badges had only been distributed to the two Fellows to date.

Item 3 Company Business and Working Party Reports

a. Membership: 2016 figures

Elinore reported a successful year for the PDTI which had reached its goal of 100 members with 103 registered at the end of 2015. Sue added that there was a good increase in professional grade members. It was noted that the split of grades would be added as a summary to the report for information following the meeting.

[Summary FYI: Total of 103 at the end of 2015 (93 at the end of 2014) consisting of 36 (40) Supporters, 9 (8) Affiliates, 11 (3) Associates, 16 (23) Licentiates, 26 (15) Professional grade and 2(2) Fellows, plus 1 (1) Honorary President, and we should not forget the sad loss of 2 members]

b. Administration and Finance

Sue apologised again for not having circulated the accounts statement and, having not brought her computer along, read out from a draft document of profit and loss for each of the 2015 events, reporting an overall profit for events of £1,257.18, but noted an outstanding payment still being chased for the July Course. Additionally she reported an administration income of £1,435 and running costs of £1,954.43 including insurance and professional fees, leaving £519.43 to be deducted for the events profit above. It was further noted that a full statement will be circulated with the report of the meeting.

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Fiona Joint proposed that honorariums should be paid to those who were actively involved in the running of the PDTI ie Chris, Sue, Elinore and Wendy, and not forgetting Jill. This was quickly seconded by Lesley Thompson, however the Chair reminded all that items could not be added to the agenda for a formal vote without notifying the membership in advance of the AGM. It was agreed that the Management Council should consider this and if appropriate, add it to the agenda next year.

c. Education ... Level 3 study and exam

Sue, referring to Rachel for her contribution to this, confirmed that the Level 3 exam was now ready and would be available in July of this year, and anyone interested should contact us to register for it.

d. Practical Courses ... (Course July 2015 Teaching Workshops: Guernsey, Easter, Durham, Devon, Enfield)

Jill reported the success of the tenth course, with everyone gaining an award. Sue reported the success of all teaching workshops (as listed).

e. Events ... (Conference 2015/16, RVC Nov 2015)

Wendy reported Anne McBride (present) had been well received today, and good feedback followed on John Rogerson from last year.

f. Publicity and Marketing ... advertising, website etc

Elinore reported the difficulties involved with advertising events, as there is now so much out there. Adverts placed on facebook, were often lost down the timeline as others quickly take the opportunity to add their own in response. She and Wendy had made a real effort to place adverts and find avenues to advertise, and she asked all attendees for help to distribute information and asked for further suggestions. Elinore felt the new website will help, and she also commented on the fact that the PDTI face book page was very underused. She asked members to be more proactive in 'liking' items put on it, share and post articles of interest, to build its following.

Jo Belsten (Dragon Leads) warned that advertising in the bigger magazines could be expensive and returns not necessarily cost effective. Anne McBride suggested we contact organisations like the Animal Behaviour and Training Council, who she felt would add events on their web pages. Dave Bain suggested circulating events to Vet Practices, which was concluded with feelings that the route might not necessarily be appropriate.

Item 4. KCAI - PEPs Application update

Sue reported that they were still awaiting a response from the KC, for our request to go through our report of 18 months ago with the new Assessor, in order to move forward. It was noted however that the KCAI scheme had just made a huge change to Section A, incorporating a new on-line academy and hence becoming their own course provider. Sue suspected that this could lead to suspending PEPs approval.

Item 5. Future Events

It was noted that the four workshops, over the next three days, were fully booked, but people had been really slow to do so, leading to a frustrating few weeks to arrange and organise rooms with the college. Other workshops were currently being arranged and would be added to the website and face book on confirmation.

A free visit to the Guide Dog Centre at Lemington Spa on 4th June 2016 has been arranged by Dave Bain and Carol Corrigan, which is offered to PDTI members. Anyone wishing to attend should contact them as soon as possible.

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Item 6. Membership Items

a. Trust fund

It was formally noted that, following the July Course, PDTI President Anthea Lawrence had generously donated £1000 to start a PDTI Trust Fund, quickly followed by five Tutors adding £20 cash and a Student adding £5. The spirit of the fund would be to help someone who might be struggling to find the funds to progress their education. The Chair explained the importance of having firm criteria to award a bursary and to administer the fund. The Chair asked attendees if anyone had any experience in this type of fund to contact us. Anne McBride suggested we approach Harper Adams or others who offered bursaries to give us some guidance.

b. Logo

It was noted that in addition to the official merchandise listed on the website through Needlepoint, we had arranged via Wendy for a local (to her) agent to embroider the logo on member's own items. Members need to provide a stamped addressed package if they wish items to be posted back. It was further noted that with the introduction of 'Pink' tutors, like purple, members should be informed that both colours were 'official' and therefore not available for their own items.

c. Organisational memberships

Links to three organisations (RCDTBP, ABTC & PETbc) were sent by email with the Agenda notification, with a note to consider the benefits of the PDTI joining one or more, to have a greater voice within the industry. Although not a problem in principle, Sue assured the membership that they will be consulted before any action is taken. The Registration Council for Dog Training and Behaviour Practitioners (RCDTBP), when it was first set up, listed some membership organisations, which automatically included all their members, but many members of them were neither informed nor consulted. The PDTI Management Council will consider the benefits for our members in more detail.

d. Voluntary registration

This was not discussed in detail, due to lack of time and as much was related to the previous item which noted that the RCDTBP re-launched its register for individual signatories.

Item 7. Date of next meeting: The Saturday following Easter will be 22nd April 2017

Before the close of the meeting, Jill Hodgson spoke, to thank the active management members for their hard work, and Sue for all the routine paperwork behind the scenes.

She took a few moments to give special and heartfelt thanks to Chris, not just for his hard work, but for his inspiration in starting the PDTI and for his personal support and encouragement over the last ten years to so many members of the PDTI. Those in attendance supported this with cheers and huge applause.

Item 8. The meeting closed at 6.37pm

The Chair continually thanked all those involved throughout the meeting for their hard work and finally thanked all attendees for their support.

NB. No other matters were discussed at an AGM as prior notification was required, so the meeting will be formally brought to a close. An open discussion did not follow as time did not allow.

Members were reminded that an evening celebration with a BBQ had been arranged and those who had booked were invited to meet in the bar at 7.30pm. Elinore asked if anyone was free, to quickly help decorate the venue.