



### **Update from the GSD League of Great Britain**

Since our AGM in March, we have been working on the action points which we identified. The action points are shown below with an update on progress.

- Organise seminars and other opportunities to educate judges, breeders, handlers, trainers and owners of German Shepherds in matters concerning the breed standard and its interpretation
  - We have been very fortunate to secure the services of an internationally renowned expert on the conformation of the German Shepherd Dog with whom we are working to produce a booklet to identify common constructional problems, ensure that everyone has an informed understanding of them and their impact and to set out a blueprint for tackling the elimination of them – especially those which impact upon the dog's health and well-being. This booklet will be launched at an educational event alongside presentations from another very important guest from the GSD world. Such publications and events take time to develop but we hope that, diaries permitting the event will take place towards the end of 2016.
- Take actions to protect the public image of the German Shepherd
  - Regional Shows will continue to promote health, identification and temperament as key principles. Judges are briefed regarding the desire not to promote exaggeration in any form that is detrimental to the health of the exhibits.
  - The GSD League is carefully monitoring all photographs used in its publications to avoid any which are posed in an exaggerated manner.
  - The GSD League had introduced a health certificate system which records the mandatory health and identification requirements of Regional shows.
  - The GSD League is in dialogue with the WUSV regarding the aftermath of the Crufts controversy.
- For there to be one Sieger show per year and, from 2017, run by GSDL and BAGSD working together as the two WUSV member clubs.
  - The GSD League set aside its plans to hold a Sieger show in 2016 and ran an extremely successful National Spectacular show last weekend. Many of our ideas for development of the Sieger show were trialled at this event and we will be very carefully considering the feedback from exhibitors and members in preparation for future events.

- The GSD League have written to BAGSD and the GSD Breed Council requesting that they consider that future British Sieger events should be run by the two WUSV clubs – GSDL and BAGSD. No reply has been received from the GSD Breed Council. BAGSD Executive Committee have decided that they do not wish to exclude the GSD Breed Council from the British Sieger Event.
- A meeting was held between delegates from the GSD League and BAGSD during which the problems between the two clubs were discussed frankly. Whilst there was no magic solution to eradicate these difficulties overnight, it was agreed that the problems should be put behind us and we should look to the future with a fresh start. This will be done by a total review of the WUSV Working Group Agreement which was written in 2002 and updated in 2005 – the objective being to set out a pathway to co-operation. BAGSD feel unable to commit to any changes to the British Sieger organisation until the WUSV Working Group Agreement has been revised.
- The GSD League have asked that until such time as agreement is reached on working together on the British Sieger that BAGSD and the GSDL alternate hosting of the event and have requested that, if necessary, we should be allowed to run the 2017 event having forsaken the planned 2016 event. BAGSD have agreed to raise this matter at the next British Sieger Working Party meeting.
- To seek a more effective structure in Great Britain for all GSD clubs to work together for the betterment of the breed.
  - GSD League Council are formulating some ideas on this which will be presented to members for discussion after consultation with the British Regional Group Management Committee and Working Dog Group Executive Committee.
  - The GSD League Chairman approached BAGSD and the Breed Council to try to arrange a meeting to discuss the current issues facing our breed and in particular the Kennel Club's GSD Working Group Review but we have been informed by the Chairman of the GSD Breed Council that they feel that we "could not bring any more to the table due to the present situation"

Also at the AGM we discussed improving the management of memberships – we have now invested in software to assist with the efficient management of a growing and diverse membership. This will be implemented during the next few months and we are sure that members will benefit from the features of the system which will allow much easier management of member's details and communication directly with members.

#### GSD League and the Kennel Club

The GSD League Council were disappointed that the Kennel Club Appeal Tribunal upheld the suspension of our KC registration but were encouraged that there are positive opportunities for differences to be resolved and Council are determined to have our KC status re-instated in order that we can continue to be a positive force for the GSD community in the UK.

The GSD League Council will be meeting to discuss the recent press release from the Kennel Club GSD Working Group Review – Initial Findings. Our first impression is that many of the proposals are impractical and will have a very detrimental impact upon KC shows for GSDs, we are unclear as to how they are expected to achieve the objectives of addressing public concern about the GSD. We hope that more detailed information on the working groups findings will be shared with breed clubs

soon to allow us to consider them and respond appropriately. The GSD League of GB was not consulted by the Working Group and feel that it is important that the Kennel Club continues to consult with representatives from the breed as they did in 2014 and 2015.

#### Celebrating success

We would like to congratulate John Westwood and Dornholz Drago (Carlo) for achieving a very respectable 8<sup>th</sup> place at the WUSV Universal Sieger in Paderborn, Germany last weekend. John and Carlo are the first team to represent GB in this competition. This event combines IPO competition with a conformation show and will be hosted by the GSD League of GB in 2019.

Congratulations also to Henriette Bohnstedt with Argonne Hawk, Nick Koskinas with Dajana Lausaer Stern and John Westwood with Dornholz Drago who have qualified to represent Great Britain at the WUSV World Championships 2016

Finally, congratulations to the British Regional Groups for hosting the National Spectacular 2016 – a show that set the standard in many ways and was hugely popular. Full coverage will be included in the GSD League Magazine September 2016 edition.

On behalf of the GSD League Council

23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2016