



BORDER TERRIER WELFARE

AGM 8th November 2020 via Zoom

Attendees – Officers and Committee

Tony Wrenn – Chairman

Melanie Robson – Secretary and Acting Treasurer

Mark Harvey – Database Manager

Jenny Oakshott – Rep

Joyce Rhodes – Rep

Paula Byers – to be proposed as new committee member

Roger Newson – to be proposed as new committee member

John Jessop – to be proposed as new committee member

Vanessa Jessop – to be proposed as new committee member

Plus 21 supporters / reps of BTW.

The meeting was formally opened at 2.30pm by the Chairman.

Apologies

The Secretary read out apologies received as follows:-

Diana O'Grady

Mervyn and Naomi White

David & Monica Sutton

Alison Putman

Lou Lou Troup

Minutes from last AGM 20th October 2019

The minutes had been circulated to all those registering an interest in attending the meeting beforehand with an invitation to submit any questions to the Secretary. There were no questions submitted and The Chairman asked for a Proposer and Seconder to accept. Paula explained how to cast votes online and the minutes were proposed as correct by Roger Newson, seconded by Paula Byers and accepted unanimously.

Matters Arising in respect of the last AGM- Constitution and Rules

The former Treasurer had submitted to the Charities Commission the changes to the C&Rs as proposed and accepted at the AGM held on 20th Oct 2019. However, the Charities Commission had queried the inclusion of one statement in the Objects. Subsequently, the Committee felt that a number of other minor amendments to the C&Rs should be made and these had been circulated prior to the AGM for review by all those who had registered to attend. The amendments were proposed as acceptable by Trudi Baird, seconded by Sarah Pateman and accepted by majority.

Officer's Reports

The reports (see below) together with the financial statements were also circulated prior to the meeting with an invitation to submit any questions. The Secretary stated that no questions had been submitted.

Chairman's Report

The year 2019/20 has been a very difficult year for everyone for so many different reasons and I will begin by expressing my sympathy and condolences to anyone reading this report who has been affected in any way by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

For those of us in Border Terrier Welfare, as in many rescue organisations, the pandemic has meant doing much the same things but often in rather different ways. Dogs have still needed to be rehomed from owners who have sought help, but the biggest impact has been an absolutely unprecedented number of people finding themselves with more time at home who have wanted to add a dog to their family. The demand for dogs has risen to such a level that the prices being asked for puppies as well as adult dogs, has doubled and in some cases trebled. This time last year £1,000 would buy a top-quality pup with a good pedigree, today we are seeing prices of up to £3,000 and sometimes more for dogs often with no recognisable pedigree and frequently without Kennel Club registration. I would point out that there are many responsible breeders who are breeding good quality puppies and asking reasonable prices, but they will generally have a waiting list. Fortunately, or unfortunately depending upon your point of view, this increase in demand is not matched by the number of dogs coming into rescues and in some instances dogs that might have come in have ended up getting sold meaning that our waiting list is also extending. Something to keep in mind; this increase in the apparent value of dogs brings with it a greater risk of them being stolen so please keep your dogs safe, make sure their Micro Chip records are up to date, and that they have a tag with current contact details.

Our BTW team have continued to rehome dogs often in very difficult circumstances whilst still managing to observe the necessary social distancing. We have had to call on owners to transport and adopters to collect dogs. Handovers and meetings have been conducted in open spaces and virtual home checks carried out by video footage. Wherever we have been able to we have made every effort to minimise the risk to our team as well as others who we have been in contact with. But risk there is and this year more than ever I want to thank all of our team, the officers and committee, our representatives, volunteers, those who have provided kennelling when needed, foster carers and everyone who has helped us in any way. My thanks to you all and well done.

Whilst on the subject of thanks I am saddened to report that Committee members Jimmi Johnston-White, Wendy Mooney, Jan Gale and area representatives Michelle Barnet and Monica Dixon have resigned from BTW. On behalf of the committee and our team we thank them for all that they have done for Border Terrier Welfare and wish them well for the future.

On a brighter note, we have four new members standing for election to the Committee at this AGM. Paula Byers will be standing as an Honorary Officer with the new title of Digital Trustee. Paula is a Border Terrier owner who has been supporting us for some time behind the scenes. Creating and maintaining our new website launched last year, Paula will continue to lend her

considerable expertise, helping us make more use of cloud technology. Roger Newson, a long-time owner of Border Terriers and supporter of BTW, is taking on the revived Honorary Officer role of Co-ordinator to provide support to our very busy network of Reps. Finally, John and Vanessa Jessop, again BT owners and long-time supporters of BTW, will become members of the Committee. John and Vanessa bring with them a number of skills having been involved with fostering five BTW dogs. In addition, they are both very keen on training, particularly with reactive dogs. Vanessa has a considerable knowledge of dietary matters and allergic reactions.

With regard to health matters in the breed, there has been some concern raised regarding hereditary cataracts and the Breed Health Group (BHG) have asked for anyone whose dog has developed this condition to report it in order that they may get a clearer idea of the level of prevalence. Sadly, the Animal Health Trust based in Suffolk closed earlier this year due to financial difficulties, it is hoped that the genetic testing and research service will transfer to a new facility. Gall Bladder Mucocele (GBM) still appears to be prevalent and any owners who think that their dog may have the condition should ensure that their vet is aware and refer them to the BHG Website. Please go to the Breed Health Group Website for further information on this or any other BT health issues:

<https://borderterrierhealth.org.uk/>

Finally, events and fund raising. You will be aware that we had to cancel both our Mid-Year Event and AGM / Funday events. We have been able to hold our BT100 Weekend celebration online and our AGM is being held virtually, in an effort to stay connected to our community. Most of the Border walks had to be cancelled, so there have been no club shows for us to attend with the Welfare stall. In all the outlook has been bleak, however our supporters have found other ways to raise very welcome funds enabling us to carry on with our work. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way, your help is greatly appreciated.

Lastly don't forget to order your BTW 2021 Calendar now on sale via our website:

<http://borderterrierwelfare.co.uk/shop/>

Tony Wrenn

Chairman

Tel 07789 902990

A brief update from Paula on our digital progress:

With the launch of the website last year, we have continued the review of the Border Terrier Welfare systems and processes behind the scenes and are working towards moving the data to the cloud so that BTW can be more effective at communicating across our team of Committee Members, Reps and Volunteers. It is important that the charity is compliant with GDPR and other legislation, so updates will include further improvements on this too.

While a lot of the changes are behind the scenes, you will see some of them, including the recent launch of our webstore, which allows you to purchase our 2021 Calendar and we hope to add more products to it soon. Our webstore received over 100 orders in the first day of being live, so please bear with us while we get these orders out to you. All funds from the website will be used to support the work Border Terrier Welfare, so you know your purchases are doing good.

Analysis of BTW website data supports what an incredibly challenging and busy time it has been since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. Visits to our website are up over 200% since the start of the first lockdown and are still increasing, with our most visited pages being About Border Terriers and BTW Help.

BTW aim to inform people on the breed, so we hope people are doing their research on the About BTs page prior to getting a Border to avoid them becoming a BTW statistics of the future. The increase in traffic to our BTW Help webpage is reflected in the increase in help requests we are receiving and the huge volume of adoption requests we have received.

BTW Secretary's Report – Mel Robson

I think it is safe to say that no one could have foreseen the challenges this year has set us all, affecting everyone in different ways and I have dearly missed the meeting of all of our wonderful BTs (and of course their owners !) at our two events in May and October. I am truly hopeful that we will be able to hold our events next year and to that end I have tentatively booked our usual venue in Woodmansterne on Sunday 16th May for the Mid Year Event and have reserved the 10th and 17th October 2021 for the AGM. So please ...'Save the Dates' !

We have some new and exciting things happening on the website and our new online store - so please keep an eye on it. You are now able to place an order for the 2021 calendar via the website, although we will of course still accept orders via email, phone or post if that is your preference.

Thank you everyone for your continued support during these challenging times, it is so very much appreciated.

Until we meet again, please keep safe and well and let's look forward to 2021 !

BTW Accounts @ 30th June 2020 – Brief notes to accompany formal accounts – Mel Robson (Acting Treasurer)

The financial statements were circulated prior to the meeting with an invitation to submit any questions and none had been submitted. The document is also available to view on the Charities Commission Website.

The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis as is the usual accounting convention for charities of our size.

Receipts totalled **£87,550** (£84,563) up £2,987

Payments totalled **£52,044** (£73,042) down £20,998

This gave us a surplus of **£35,506** (£11,521) up £23,985

The Balance Sheet at the year-end was **£152,584**.

The **Income** comes mostly from General Donations **£53,874** (£55,526) including initiatives such as the Feelwells/BT Posse calendar of £3,550, #BT100 being £2780, Borderfest £3850, many walks and the various online donation/fundraising platforms such as Paypal, Amazon Smile and Just Giving.

Rehoming Donations amount to **£17,715** (£12,466) and 119 dogs were re-homed. However some former / new owners donate additionally and these sums are included General Donations.

In some instances, donations are eligible for Gift Aid, and for the current year the amount reclaimed amounted to **£5,431** (£6, 394).

Fund-Raising Activities raised **£8,115** (£7,626) of which **£1,262** was raised at our own events. Sales included the popular calendar organised by Jan Gale of **£2,623** (£3,949).

This has been a very difficult year for many people in many ways not least financially, and our immense thanks go out to everyone who has helped raise funds for the charity.

In terms of Expenses, there was a shift this year in that our biggest expense was vets' fees being **£24, 305** treating 62 dogs (28,398 – 56 dogs).

Next was kennelling at **£14, 595** for 62 dogs in total 1657 days kennelling an average of £8.81 per day (£33,135 for 57 dogs).

The change in both of the above can be partly attributed to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Finally, the cost in respect of transporting dogs around the country, by our fabulous Reps, all of which are volunteers was **£5,680** (£4,921) covering 14,888 miles moving 86 dogs (15,099 miles – 64 dogs).

Mark Harvey's Managerial Database Report

This is the 10th year of this Excel database as a general management tool for BTW. It forms a general record of BTW activity for both Border Terriers handled and aspirant adopters, and records which Border Terriers have been rehomed to whom. It is available in realtime over the internet for all BTW reps and the Committee to both scan and enter data by means of the DropBox app.

However, for a variety of reasons the DropBox system has not proved quite as universally accessible as hoped for and both our new Committee admin appointee Roger Newson and myself find ourselves putting in many hours of background maintenance to keep the database up-to-date.

Fortunately another new Committee appointee in the form of Paula Byers in her role as IT expert has several new ideas to up the database scope and on-line usability that will shortly be trialled.

Since the 2019 AGM the database has recorded that some 120 Borders have come into the BTW system and been rehomed, (fewer than usual) but astonishingly some 514 aspirant adopters have put themselves forward in the same time frame. (vastly more than usual.) This unprecedented imbalance seems due entirely to the pandemic lockdown, the figures to date from May are 102 Borders we have handled and 482 aspirant adopters -- and this doesn't include Pete Appleby's 120 aspirant adopters or Joyce Rhodes 80 plus ones that have not yet found their way onto the database.

We may well have to introduce some form of prioritising onto the database to handle the imbalance.

Election of Committee and Officers

The Chairman introduced all of the current Committee Members and those being proposed to join the Committee being :

Paula Byers
Roger Newson
John Jessop
Vanessa Jessop

The Chairman asked for a proposer and a seconder for the re-election of Joyce Rhodes and Jenny Oakshott as Committee members. Len Sansom proposed, John Jessop seconded and the election was accepted unanimously.

The Chairman asked for a proposer and a seconder for the election en bloc of the proposed four new members. Sarah Pateman proposed, Trudi Baird seconded and the proposal was accepted unanimously.

Jenny Oakshott asked that the following be elected en bloc as Officers of the Committee:

Tony Wrenn- Chairman
Melanie Robson – Secretary and Acting Treasurer
Mark Harvey – Records Trustee
Roger Newson – BTW Co-ordinator Trustee
Paula Byers – Digital Trustee

Trudi Baird proposed, Vanessa Jessop seconded and the election was accepted unanimously.

Honoraria

The Chairman advised that the Committee had voted to continue the Honoraria at £400 per year for the Secretary, Treasurer and Digital Trustee (previously Archivist). This was proposed by Vanessa Jessop and seconded by Maggi Jones and accepted unanimously.

AOB

The Chairman thanked everyone for participating in the meeting, especially being the first time it had been held 'online' and the challenges that had posed. There were no questions or AOB forthcoming and the formal meeting was closed at approx. 2.50pm.