Canadian Association of Rally Obedience
Annual General Meeting, April 28, 2012
Simcoe, Ontario

21 members in attendance: Anthea Young Miller, Brian Smith, Bev Hurst, Jeanne Shaw, Judy Miller, Linda Barton, Bonnie Christie, Debbie DeCosta, Karen Scott, Gloria Mitchell, Johanne Dupere, Linda LeHoullier, Patricia Hunt, Deana Abbott, Shelly Lyck, Darlene McCuaig, Joan Richard, Brenda Zeng, Sarah Huges, Chantal Rioux

Meeting opened by Chair at 7:10 pm

a. Welcome Message by Chair
The chair introduced the members of the executive and described their jobs. She thanked the membership for help and support over the years.

b. Minutes of last AGM
Motion to accept the minutes. Brian/Anthea
Passed unanimously

c. Treasurer's Report
Brian passed out the treasurer's report
183 members in Canada now in all categories
Professional—79
Regular—38
Associate—66
Motion to accept the treasurer's report. Brian/Bonnie.
Passed unanimously

d. Secretary's Report
Jeanne presented the secretary's report
Motion to accept the report. Jeanne/Judy
Passed unanimously

e. Trial Approver's Report
Brian presented the trial approver's report, highlighting that 2011 had the most trials ever (75) and so far this year to date 49 have been booked.
AB—12; BC—18; MB—5; SK—7; ON—27; NB—1
Motion to accept the report. Brian/Anthea
Passed unanimously

f. Web Report
Brian presented the web report, highlighting that there have been a few changes this year, including an RSS feed which allows people to access new information on the website without going to the website itself. Various options for electronic communication were outlined with discussion held until the appropriate agenda item.

It was also noted that information is presently sent out by email and that it is very important for all members to keep their email addresses current. There are specific email lists for judges, trial secretaries, etc.
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Motion to accept the web report. Brian/Judy
Passed unanimously

g. Rules Committee Report

Judy presented the report from the rules committee highlighting that 3 rules that were modified or changed this year:

- Definition of additional family member
- Better definition of approach and exit from turn
- Clarification of the configuration of the cones in the weave and spiral exercises

Motion to accept the rules committee report. Judy/Jeanne
Passed unanimously

h. New Business

a. Nomination for Vice Chair

Judy was elected by acclamation
Brian/ Anthea.
Passed unanimously

b. CARO blog/forum

Discussion of various ways to enhance communication using technology. We have the RSS feed, however members still need to check their RSS reader. Suggestions such as a blog, a moderated forum, and a secret facebook group were discussed.
Motion to authorize the executive to investigate communication with the membership using technology; Brian/Judy.
Passed unanimously

c. Changes to Working Level

i. Motion that the time for novice level be reduced to 5 minutes and Advanced and Excellent be left as is until we have more information about how those levels Debbie/ Anthea. Passed unanimously

ii. Motion to keep the dog box the same size, but take back off (ie, it will have 3 sides) with the rule changing to “all of the dog’s feet must behind the front of the box and within the sides. Debbie/Anthea. Passed unanimously

iii. ******Move to put on hold until we make all working decisions tonight and when we know how many changes and then make a decision about the time from—Anthea/**seconder??????

iv. Motion to have Pass/Fail in working level with an exact description of the principal feature of each exercise. Bonnie/ Anthea. Passed unanimously.

v. Motion that there be a maximum of two tries per exercise at every level. Anthea/Pat. Passed unanimously
It was noted that a retry might involve judge or steward replacing an item in the designated retrieve. It might also be necessary for the judge to tell the handler that they passed.

vi. Motion to allow a clearly designated, safe handler box with an inside dimension of 2 feet by 2 feet (with a 2% allowance), made from material of the club's choice. Anthea/Debbie Passed unanimously
In addition it was noted that the box **must** be used for around the clock, barrel racing and directed jumping. A handler line **may be** used instead of the box for designated retrieve, drop on recall, scent discrimination and back up, at the club's discretion. It **must** be made of a safe, visible material.

vii. Discussion regarding that use of tongs there was agreement that the tongs should be used for articles.

viii. Motion that, in designated retrieve and directed jumping, handlers are allowed to use physical as well as verbal signals, that is, they may turn and point. Handlers may choose to do this or not. Bonnie/ Pat. Passed unanimously

ix. Motion that, in the designated retrieve, there be 5 feet between items at the novice level; 4 feet between items in Advanced and 3 feet between items in Excellent. Bonnie/Pat. Passed unanimously.

x. Motion that there be 3 items in the designated retrieve at all levels and that only the distance between change from level to level. The position of the items be the pattern A at the novice level and judge's choice at advanced and excellent; the choice for advanced being pattern A or B and for excellent being pattern A, B or C Pat/Gloria; Passed unanimously

xi. Motion that the handler may use a hand signal and/or verbal signal simultaneously on the scent discrimination exercise but that the article must not be marked. In addition the handler may once again impart scent before sending the dog. The articles must be identical. Bonnie, amended by Gloria/Pat; Passed unanimously.

xii. Motion made that the handler may use a hand signal and/or verbal signal to send the dog to the designated area in the directed jumping. Bonnie/Pat; Passed unanimously

xiii. Discussion regarding the dog taking the jump on the way to the designated area…this should be solved when the principal features of this exercise is written.

xiv. Directed Jumping--Discussion regarding that which jump is to be taken should be determined by a 'draw' by each handler before they go into the ring.

xv. We need to develop a flow chart (visual) to explain the possible progressions through Working

xvi. Working Proficiency Test—judges/members are encouraged to send to the executive what exercises should go into this test.

xvii. Motion that the Working Level names (novice/advanced/excellent) be changed because this is not an 'entry level' program. Amendment: that it be a contest and that the person who sends in three words that we can use in print to designate the 3 levels will win a membership for a year. Anthea/amended by Judy/ Brian; Passed unanimously

d. Clarification of Moving Down

When the handler cues the dog to go down, the dog must be in continuous motion into the down and must be completely down by the time the handler returns to heel position. The handler must be in continuous motion as they move around the dog.

e. Protocol for complaints

Brian read out the protocol and Bev explained the reasoning behind it. No motion necessary

f. Discussion regarding CKC ruling about CKC clubs not hosting non CKC trials. This will apparently be opened at next CKC board meeting.

g. Judges giving seminars

CARO needs clear criteria for WHO may give judges' seminar or have shadow judges. Gloria offered to draft a policy for this. The group brainstormed a list of ways that technology could be used to keep judges up to date—edited version of the video from the clinic, webinars, GoToMeeting via phone or web, critique videos of runs or judge videos of runs, etc Motion that Gloria flesh out ways that judges can keep up to date Linda/Brian. Passed unanimously The think tank will include Bonnie, Shelly, Gloria, Bev, Judy

Motion that the membership can empower the executive to develop the criteria of who can give seminars…. Gloria….seconded by????

h. Location of future AGMs
Kelowna, end of April to mid May, 2013

i. Motion to adjourn Brian/Sheila; Passed unanimously Meeting adjourned at 10:10