Canadian Association of Rally Obedience
Annual General Meeting, April 26, 2014
North Gower, ON

In attendance: Jeanne Shaw, Brian Smith (ON), Sarah-Jane Petti, Bev Hurst, Judy Miller, Sarah Hughes, Debbie Colbourn, Sheila Gibbons, Pat DeRonde, Deana Abbott, Lilian Cook

Meeting opened by Brian Smith, acting chair, at 7:34

1. Welcome message by chair and introductions.

2. Minutes of last AGM
   Sarah-Jane moves to accept the minutes as presented on the website.
   Seconded by Jeanne. Motion passed.

3. Treasurer's Report
   Sarah-Jane moved to accept the report as presented.
   Seconded by Jeanne. Motion passed

4. Secretary's Report
   Nothing to report.

5. Judge's report
   Judy reported that judge #66 and 67 have now been issued
   Currently 38 active judges
   Judy moved to accept the report as presented.
   Seconded by Jeanne. Motion passed

6. Trial Approvers report
   82 trials processed for 2013
   6 cancelled
   Sarah-Jane moved to accept the report as presented
   Seconded by Bev. Motion passed

7. Dog registration - #4485 has been issued
   Received for information

8. Membership - #1177 has been issued. Approximately 2/3 of these are professional. 177 active members.
   Received for information

9. Data entry / trial runs – 3831 entries this year with more than 1000 certificates issued.
   Received for information

10. Supreme titles
    2 Versatility Supreme
    10 Master Champions
    10 Working Rookie I
    Couple of Working Rookie II
    Some Elite working titles
    Received for information

11. Web Report
    The new Brian Smith (BC) is doing a great job
    Website is up-to-date including February exec minutes
    Received for information

12. Rules Committee
    There was some discussion around stand for exam but no changes have been proposed.
    Received for information.

13. Election for Secretary
    Sarah-Jane Petti was acclaimed into the position
    Jeanne Shaw joins the board as a director.

14. Old Business
    A discussion was raised at last year's AGM regarding the scent discrimination exercise in Working levels. There were members interested in having the scent discrimination exercise become not only a match to handler, but a match to sample from a judge / steward, etc. The board discussed and found this to be overly complicated.

Judy moves that the scent discrimination exercises in Working level remain as they currently are.
Sarah-Jane seconded. Motion passed

15. New Business

a. Brace Class - Overview

Brian Smith (ON) presented background information on brace class. Remaining items include computer programming for the database for record keeping, and then the new class will be posted on the website for everyone.

b. Brace Class – Ownership of both dogs by handler

A discussion was had regarding the need for the handler to be the owner of both dogs in a brace class. This would restrict the people that can enter as many people only have access to one dog.

Bev moved that we allow one of the dogs in a competing brace pair to not be owned by the handler.
Jeanne seconded. Motion passed.

c. Brace class – Coupler versus 2 leashes

A discussion was had regarding the ability for a handler in Novice Brace to choose a coupler over 2 leashes.

Bev moved that handlers be given the choice to couple dogs or use two leashes in Novice Brace. If a coupler tightens due to the actions of one dog, a tight leash deduction will be given to both dogs.

Judy seconded. Motion passed.

d. Working level – dog boxes

For large dogs, it would be nice for the dog boxes to only have three sides, such as the back away box. For other exercises, the 'open' side of the box could be away from the handler box, thus accommodating for larger dogs.

Bev moves that we change the dog boxes in Working Level to be three sided.
Jeanne seconds. Motion passed.

e. Send over jump

Clarification is required about training in the ring, where some handlers are going inside the 6 ft line to show the dog the jump. Additionally, clarification is needed about stopping in the send zone, and recues.

Item sent to the rules committee for further clarification on wording

f. Working level – Object / scent discrimination and praise

Clarification is required about when handlers can praise the dog when they are working on object and scent discrimination. After discussion it was determined that it should be allowed up until the point that the dog reaches the object pile, and may resume once the dog has committed to the object and is moving back to the handler.

Item sent to the rules committee for further clarification on wording

g. Working level – Holding collar / using hand to cue positions

Clarification is required in the Working Level handbook regarding a handler that touches or holds the dog's collar in between or while setting up for an exercise.

Additionally, it should be made clear what the penalty is for a handler that touches the dog to cue a position, such as a sit at the beginning of an

exercise. Are they stopped and excused? Do they lose any passes earned until that point?

Item sent to the rules committee for further clarification on wording

h. Halt – Leave Dog – Call Front – Facebook question

A question was raised on Facebook about whether a handler that cues 'Come', 'Front', 'Sit' is using too many commands.

Item sent to the rules committee for further clarification on wording

i. Working level – Training in ring clarification

It was felt that more clarification in the rules was required to help judges define when handlers were 'over time' and/or training in the ring. This will help judges call 'Fail' on an exercise and encourage the competitor to move on to their next attempt.

Item sent to the rules committee for further clarification on wording

j. Working Proficiency Test – Length of leash / circling cones

During the trial the day of the AGM, the length of the long line used in the WPT and the circling of the cones proved problematic for even very experience handlers and dogs. These need to be examined in order to allow more success in this level.

Item sent to the rules committee for further clarification on wording

k. Working Level - Distance Exercise

A suggestions was made that signs be produced for all of the available distance exercise options, and that the drawn option then appear on a second sign holder near the Distance Exercise sign. Consideration needs to be taken for people with less than perfect eyesight. Standard cards need to

be created for all judges and/or perhaps this is standard for everyone in the round.

Item sent to the rules committee for further clarification on wording

16. AGM 2015

Sarah-Jane moves that the AGM in 2015 be held in Calgary, Alberta.
Judy seconds. Motion passed

17. Adjournment

Sheila moves that the meeting be adjourned.
Sarah-Jane seconds. Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm