

HISTORY OF THE MIDLAND BOXER CLUB

1948 - 2012

In response to requests by a number of Midland boxer fanciers a meeting was called by Mr Tom Scott to discuss the proposal of forming a club.

At this meeting, on February 8th 1948 it was decided to form "The Midland Boxer Club" with its headquarters at the Queens Hotel, Birmingham.

Application was made to the Kennel Club for registration, a set of club rules formulated and passed for K.C. approval and its title registered on 12th February 1948.

Lady Gunston O.B.E. was elected President; Mr Tom Scott Secretary / Treasurer and Mr. C. Kirk as Chairman. Annual subscription was 1 guinea for single membership. Boxer registrations nationally were around 2000 a year at that time.

The Club's first Open Show was judged by Mr L. P. Knappen from Holland, on the 19th June 1948 and in 1951 the Midland and British Boxer Clubs joined forces to celebrate the Festival of Britain.

In 1957 the Club was granted championship status and Herr Bernhard Schmitz, the President of the German Boxer Club was invited to judge. He drew an entry of 246 and awarded the Club's first set of Challenge Certificates to Wardrobes Swinging Kilt and Ch Wardrobes Miss Mink, both owned by Mr & Mrs Wilson Wiley.

Catering was most important at the show, Mr George Jakeman, founder member and by then President of the Club promised a 1/2cwt of beef, 6 legs of lamb and a leg of pork towards the refreshments.

Efforts were made to get up a party to Amsterdam All Breeds Championship Show on 3th April 1958, Mrs Pat Withers had been offered a Dakota, flying from Elmdon Airport, the fare would be £8.0s.0d -return!

Mrs Beardsall requested the formation of a branch of the Club to cover the Nottingham and Leicester areas, this came into being in 1959 as the East Midlands Branch, Charles Walker, Liz Davies, Barry and Judy Alton were also some of the founder members.

In 1961 the Championship Show was judged by Mr Theo Wurmster from the U.S.A. Part of his fee included a request for 6 club badges which he wanted to make into buttons for one of his waistcoats! At the after show dinner on behalf of the Governor of Louisville, Kentucky, he presented the President, Secretary, Chairman and Show Steward with a golden key to the city!

The Club was always innovative and in 1965 an idea by Pat Withers resulted in Mr Bryan Hindle filming the "Faults and Virtues of the Boxer" in slide form the travelled all over the world, having been borrowed by several different Boxer clubs.

1973 the Club reached the milestone of its Silver Jubilee. Challenge Certificates in that year were awarded to Bockendon Buchanan (owned and later made up by the late Peggie Ingram) and Kinvike Collectors Item, owned by Mrs R. Gathercole.

1977 Pat Withers was made a life Vice President of the MBC for over 22 years valuable service to the Club

Mrs Margaret Ashworth (now Buck) was elected Secretary in 1974, a position she held until 1991.

When the issue of docking became prominent the M.B.C. had a pro- docking letter printed and distributed country - wide as part of its support, the club was also involved in the Breed Standard revision in 1986, the M.B.C. supported the F.C.I. Standard - a German standard for a German dog!

The first Puppy of the Year competition was judged by Major Stafford Sommerfield in 1986, a training group was formed by Boxer enthusiasts to the West of Birmingham, under the aegis of the M.B.C. in the September of the same year. The following year the Puppy of the Year became a National competition, Charles Walker also celebrated 21 years as President of the Club, this was followed in 1988 when Charles was the first English person to be made a life member of the Munich Boxer Club, a great honour.

The Club continued to run well attended shows and social events, in 1992 John Buswell was elected President and Nigel Rallings became the Secretary.

1993 started badly with the transformer exploding at the Stafford Showground during the Championship show, it was not only cold but also very dark, problems occurred within the Club culminating in two special general meetings. The committee of the day worked very hard to ensure that the problems were resolved and the Club's reputation restored.

1994 Margaret Buck was elected President of the Club.

1995 the Centenary of the first registered Boxer, "Flocki", to celebrate this the Club held a two-day show with many special mementoes and prizes for members and exhibitors. The show was judged in the Continental style with every exhibit receiving a written critique, the judges were Jurgen Franken from Germany and John Hambleton of the Marbleton kennel, the Best in Show after two days was Mrs J. Whittaker's, Bucksteps Bittersweet. On then Saturday night many enthusiasts from all over the world joined in the celebrate the foundation of the breed, a good time was had by all.

1998 bought the Club's Golden Jubilee, to celebrate, the Summer Open Show judged by Mr Willy van Dijck of the world famous Hazenberg kennel, an entry of 166 dogs, a special souvenir catalogue, crystal trophies for major winners, silver plates for class winners and brass plaques for other placed dogs. Lovely weather and home cooked food completed a perfect day.

2007 Liz Davies was elected as the Club President almost exactly 40 years after first joining the Committee, this followed the resignation of Margaret Buck after 34 years as an elected officer of the Club.

2009 The Championship Show moved to the Kennel Club Building at Stoneleigh, the Midland being the first boxer club to use this new, purpose built venue, this is now the third different venue the club has used within the Stoneleigh showground complex over the years.

2012 The Club continues to run two Open Shows and a Championship Show each year, keeping the long standing tradition of inviting top European and Scandinavian specialists to judge alongside those from the UK, this has proved a successful formula to date with entries holding their own in times when entries elsewhere in general are dropping.

Midland Boxer Club Presidents 1948 - 2012		Midland Boxer Club Secretary's 1948 - 2012	
Lady Gunston O.B.E.	1948 - 1954	Mr Tom Scott	1948 - 1953
Mr George Jakeman	1954 - 1961	Mrs Maude Payton- Smith	1953 -1962
Mr Charles Walker	1966- 1992	Mrs Irene Boore	1962 - 1964
Mr John Buswell	1992 - 1994	Mrs P A Seale	1964 -1966
Mrs Margaret Buck	1994 - 2007	Mr Graham Talbot	1967 - 1973
Miss Liz Davies	2007 -	Mrs Margaret Ashworth (Buck)	1974 -1991
		Mr Nigel Rallings	1991 -

Adapted and updated from The History of the Midland Boxer Club, written by Pat Harding in 1995