

AKC Gazette
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F.J.PAGE

So here comes a brand new year! This may sound a bit late by the time it is printed and delivered to your door but please remember, gentle reader, that this is written at the turn of the year- right after the usual wind-up of late fall shows, Thanksgiving, Christmas shopping, and holiday activities. Uh-huh, even the BCA. and the AKC go through that (not to mention your humble correspondent) . . . nor would we miss it, even for a dog show!

Perhaps this is a good time to pause and consider; taking stock of the situation and looking over prospects for the future.

In 1946 we saw larger shows and entries in all breeds. Restrictions were lifted and we all welcomed the release that made it possible to attend more shows and resume activities that had been denied us for some years. The B.C.A. returned to active work starting some 14 months ago and has been at it ever since. The "events" for the Club's calendar during 1946 included a match show and dinner in January, Specialty in June, membership meeting in September at which time the Board of Governors was properly filled out by the members, and elections of officers last November. These, as mentioned, were the highlights that met the public eye. The work, the real accomplishments were carried on throughout the whole of the year, and really amounted to much more than these highlights.

The Club started out late in 1945 with an incomplete board and a small roster of members. There was much work to do and it was handled through repeated meetings and continual effort of those members who were willing to serve the interest of the Club. For a while it seemed that the B.C.A. was going through a "test period" during which Bulldog fanciers watched to see if the management was serious. They soon showed evidence of their belief, however, by joining as members and giving support to the Club in their own work and thought. We thank those who have supported the effort the B.C.A. has made to serve the Bulldog and all Bulldog specialty clubs. We welcome the members who have joined us and the secretaries who have written in accepting honorary membership in the B.C.A. Some of those secretaries or their representatives who have attended board meetings have offered helpful suggestions on several occasions and we are gratified that we are receiving more acceptances and representatives as time goes on.

Also 1946 was kind to the B.C.A. It saw a group of people actively interested in Bulldogs get together and really start the launching of the Club on its resumption of work and activity. It saw a complete board working in harmony toward the better understanding and community of effort of individuals interested in the breed, and best of all, 1946 saw the acceptance of the B.C.A. as a Parent Club that has as its purpose to assist and help every person and individual interested in Bulldogs, rather than as a club that merely sits back in its parental position to dictate to or neglect the activities of others. When we find articles written by non-members complimenting the B.C.A. on progress made and suggesting additional fields of endeavor, we can be sure that this acceptance is assured. And that is gratifying.

How about 1947-will the good work continue? We can be sure that it will. The present hoard of governors and the officers elected last fall are largely composed of those people who laid down the policies and directed the activities of the Club last year and they are continuing their efforts and at the same time enlarging upon them. New members continue to join, showing a wider support of the Club. The "events" of the coming year will probably be restricted to the Match show and dinner in January and the Specialty but they promise to be out standing. The match will have been over by press time but we will review it in the next issue. The Specialty is being developed and though nothing definite is ready for publication now, we hope to know all about it very soon.

It was mentioned in this column a short time ago that plans were afoot to have B.C.A. articles appear in other publications "by-lined" by names other than that of your present correspondent. These plans are now consummated and it gives us pleasure to announce that columns by George M. Beckett and Thomas J. Hayden, two gentlemen well known in Dogdom through their long experience in exhibiting, breeding and judging Bulldogs, will appear as regular contributions to recognized dog magazines in behalf of the B.C.A. Both have been associated with the Club for many years and, no doubt, most of you have read some of their articles before this, articles in which they treated of many phases of dog activities. We look forward to those articles and to sharing the fund of knowledge that is theirs through years of experience and study.

That is the picture at present. The B.C.A. recognizes its duties to the Bulldog and will continue to work for its betterment through help to other clubs and to individuals. If you are a Bulldog enthusiast and are in accord with this policy we will be glad of your support.

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