

International Sheepdog Society

Annual Irish Section Meeting

6pm, Wednesday 23rd August 2023

1. Welcome from National President

- a) Meeting opened: National President welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. Minutes silence

- a) Minutes silence held for those we have lost in the last year.

3. Apologies for Absence

- a) None.

4. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting

- a) Approval of minutes – *Approved by show of hands.

5. Matters Arising Therefrom

- a) None

6. Endorsement of Vice Presidents

- a) Senior Vice President – J. P. McGee
b) Junior Vice President – Barra O’Brien

7. Endorsement of Directors

- a) Nominated:
- i) Seamus Gormley
 - ii) David Lyttle
 - iii) Peter Morgan
 - iv) Dan Morrissey
 - v) Claire Somers-Cashen
 - vi) Barra O’Brien
 - vii) Eamonn Connell
 - viii) Paddy Fanning
 - ix) Bronagh Morgan
 - x) Allistair Lyttle

8. National President’s Report

I am going to keep this short and sweet as always. Thank you to Ian Fleming for taking up a second term of office, and for giving continuity and a needed steady hand to the Society. Thanks to Isabel for all your hard work between the 4 Nationals, and upcoming International and World trial. Welcome to Alice also. Thank you to Mr Muldowney for the use of field and to the Curraghmore Estate for providing the sheep for this event. Mirjam and Ned and committee have done a fantastic job and secured some great sponsors, thank you for making this event happen. Thomas and Ian have agreed to split attending nationals this year, now Thomas is here to talk as our Vice Chairman.

9. Society Vice Chairman's Report

I would like to welcome you all here and endorse what Pat said. It is a big year for the Irish for sheep dog trials with the International and Worlds also happening here soon. I feel now more than ever it is very important that everybody knuckles down and pulls towards right thing for our society. Welcome again to Alice, who has taken a lot of weight off Isabel this year. Isabel has made a real difference so far and got the office up to speed and has done a fantastic job. I wish you all every success throughout this competition and this year.

10. CEO Report

Thank you, Thomas and thank you to everyone for attending the meeting. Last year I was fairly new to the role and the Irish National was a hot one, so hopefully not quite as hot this year.

- a) In terms of keeping everyone updated with the Society I have been continuing with the Directors reports and the "From the office" section of ISN, I hope this is keeping you up to date and letting you know what you wish to hear about. If you are not currently receiving the magazine, I urge you to please subscribe as it is the best form of communication to our members.
- b) Pat and Thomas have briefly introduced Alice; she has been working directly with me and has been a huge help already. Alice is attending all trials with me this year and learning a lot!
- c) We had a very well attended and productive meeting in January in Lancaster. Many here will have heard reports from that, and there were a few constitution updates to be done. Clause 6.2d had been accidentally removed but this is now back in. These were mainly "housekeeping", as there were no terms of office for Directors, Council, or the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Those key dates are in ISN for when nominations need to be in. ISN is a great way to keep up to date with these things being communicated.
- d) One thing that was mentioned by other nations at these meetings is the annual accounts. At the 2022 AGM in January, I was unable to produce full set of accounts for ratification. This was impossible due to the account's year end on the 31st October and the Christmas break being so close to the AGM. Directors took a vote to change the financial year end to 31st May. Accounts that are currently published and online with charity commission are for a 7-month period.

Now this May 31st we have completed full year, so before I set off for the trials here, I had a meeting with accountants, and they have begun the audit process and they will be produced and shared before the 2023 AGM in January 2024. Management accounts will be shared with directors. This is not a like for like comparison and moving forward you'll be able to see a clear view of how we are performing.

We made a small surplus in terms of our "bread and butter" income with registrations work amounting to £7651.00. We have had an income of £365,759.00, and our reserves sit at just over £700,000.

We are in a great position for small charity. We have not had to go into our reserves this year, which is why council decided to invest some of those reserve funds in IT. All the trials seem

to have been able to be self-funded, which is great so hopefully looking like a great year financially.

- e) Last year I announced we would be updating IT system. Directors have seen new version MyISDS and CRIS system we use in the office. We have created a new entry, scheduling, and scoring system. Most of you have used it and after a few registration hiccups and password issues, it went really well. We only received around 40 paper entries which is fantastic.

This system does a neutral draw with no human interference via a random ballot. It can also be adjusted to rule changes should any come up from the January AGMs. We will be inputting scores when we start tomorrow morning, which can then be viewed by public live online. This will hopefully create a more seamless and quick viewing experience during trials. This system is also able to create a record of performance for each handler and dog.

Hopefully going forward, it will be adopted by other trials so your points from them will automatically be there, ready for National entry.

- f) There was a bit governance review in 2020 and lots of changes came about after that. It was decided by council at the January AGM it will keep being topped up. We will be using Exact Consultants again and they will be interviewing the trustees to get a proper understanding of what we are lacking within governance. This is happening as we speak, and trustees will be receiving training throughout August to help them be guardians of the Society. This will also be available to Directors.

Part of this review is an employment review. We registered over 1500 more puppies last year, so a total of around 9600 puppies. This was just registrations, so not including the work that gets done on transfers and member registrations and queries etc. As everything is growing, we are in a position where we need more staff as if we have any kind of interruption to do with staffing, whether that is staff unwell, on holiday, or leaving, there will be a backlog.

- g) Many of you are aware that Mandy left us and has been replaced by a part time more experienced person, as well as an office junior. We are trying to look at maximising the staffing appropriately so that if we face any disruption we can cover and handle it and the office work can continue uninterrupted.

We are also looking at what gaps there are within the Society, one of which is that there is no marketing or business development plan at all. That is a big part about what Alice will be doing. Going forward Alice is also keen to improve our membership offering. She will be working with Robin Dean on how we can increase our young handler registration and working closely with the NSA and Young Farmers groups across the UK. Alice's passion lies with the next generation after lecturing in Agriculture at Hartpury College, so this is something she will be looking at it over the coming year to 18 months.

- h) There was a motion passed several years ago that there should be a more active Health Committee. This year a Health Advisory group has been established and formed by 6/7 volunteer specialists in breeding, pedigree etc to do with our breed, and anything anyone

presents they would like to know more about. We are not releasing names as they are volunteering their time for this. Please submit anything to office to be reviewed.

To clarify, the Health Advisory Group is made up of the volunteers, the Health Committee is made up of the Presidents, Vice Chairman, and Chairman.

- i) I am very aware I stood here last year and vowed that Stud books would be ready soon. Unfortunately, we have faced an enormous number of setbacks. This has been a very challenging process and we have had to start over three times now. Carol has worked tirelessly with Teun Van Dool on these. I have taken over with regards to results and we should be producing the 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 shortly. Thank you to anyone who pre-ordered for their patience on this. I am in discussion with Teun about 2023, and crossing everything that his health remains stable so he can assist us with this. We are also speaking with our software guys to ensure we can continue to produce these in the future.

We simply could not have done all this without Teun volunteering his time to do the Stud Books, and Council have decided to commemorate this by awarding the Teun Van Dool Pedigree Breeders Cup at the 2023 World Trial this year for the breeder of the World Trial Champion.

- j) We have also had an increasing amount of interest from associates in foreign nations, so this is also something that will have more work completed on. We need to ensure they align with us in order to bring them on board as new members. I will be speaking with Simon Mosse whilst I am here to understand the history of this myself so we can present a more unified approach to foreign nations and make it easier to manage going forward.

11) World Trial 2023

- a) Everything is coming together really well. John McCullough and his committee have been working tirelessly over the last 16 months.
- b) John McCullough said that all is going really well and on track with budget so financially we are in a really strong position. We have received some super funding from ABP food group, ABC Council, Radox Health, The Boulevard Shopping Center and BP Lightsource. Gill Hall are throwing everything at this event also which is great. The committee are just fantastic, and everybody is pulling their weight to make this happen. Thank you also to Isabel and Alice for their support with organising as well. Hopefully we get an Irish winner at Gill Hall in a few weeks!

CEO reiterated that the work going in is unimaginable. It must be remembered when anyone may have a slight quibble about something that organising this World Trial is a vast task and we are indebted to John and his committee for taking a lead on this, as they are all volunteers. Gill Hall and local council providing a huge amount of support as well as other fantastic sponsors.

- c) We will be livestreaming also via an independent package.
- d) Please also remember that your members badge does not grant you access so purchase your tickets in advance.
- e) We are inviting expressions of interest for World Trial in 2026.
- f) Any questions?
None.

9) Venues for Future Trials

- a) J. P. McGee and his committee are organising the 2024 National. It will be Thursday 22nd - Saturday 24th August 2024 in Clonmany, Co. Donegal, F93 XP49.

10) AOB

- a) None

Meeting complete 6:35pm