



International Sheep Dog Society

International Sheep Dog Society • Clifton House • 4a Goldington Road • Bedford • MK40 3NF • United Kingdom
Tel: +44(0)1234 352672 • Email: office@isds.org.uk • www.isds.org.uk

ISDS Annual General Meeting at the 2021 Irish National Sheepdog Trial

- Date:** Wednesday 04th August 2021
- Location:** Trial Field, Killalee, Fossa, Killarney, County Kerry.
- Meeting Opened:** 17.15 with welcome from Pat Murphy [PM]

Meeting recording

- PM informed of voice recording for purposes of minutes.
- Helen Vickey [HV] asked for any objections, none arose.

Apologies for Absence

- None.

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting

- None.
HV clarified that no electronic or physical copy of 2019 minutes exist, likely unrecorded or unwritten.

Matters Arising Therefrom

- N/A

Endorsement of Vice Presidents

- Senior Vice President – James McGee
- Junior Vice President – Martin Feeney
- PM confirmed that two members nominated for positions. PM suggested to be nominated and proceed in this order. Vote taken of 63 and majority, vote carried. PM expressed newness to role and advice or assistance appreciated.

Minutes Silence

- Minute Silence for those lost from 2019 - 2021

National Section Motions

-

National President's Report

- PM welcomed HV and Ian Fleming [Chairman] to Ireland, and thanks for Tom O'Sullivan (National Chairman) [TO] after 2020's delay from COVID and hoped that all will enjoy the trial in coming days. PM advised of COVID precautions while at trial. TO clarified some of the requirements for the Track and Trace Slips.

Result of Ballot for Election of Directors

- PM confirmed that 10 names have been put forward for directorate, not requiring vote and subsequent members are duly elected and presented at AGM.
- Mr J Doherty, Ballyliffin, Co Donegal
- Mr J Harkin, Lifford, Co Donegal
- Mr J McGee, Ballybofey, Co Donegal
- Mr J E Hawthorne, Dromore, Co. Down
- Mr B Kelly, Coleraine, Co Londonderry

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- Mr S Long, Ballybofey, Co Donegal
- Mr K McFadden, Dunloy, Co Antrim
- Mr M N O'Malley, Keel, Co. Mayo
- Mr M Murphy, Rathangan, Co Kildare
- Mr E O'Keeffe, Mullinavat, Co Kilkenny

Society Chairman's Report

- Chairman thanked for welcome and great anticipation expressed over Trial after the disappointment faced in early term over cancelling 2020 trials. Chairman's update in magazine, paid tribute to local committees as "unsung heroes" of Society with all hard work for 2020 come to no avail due to COVID. Sheep Dog world was fortunate for continuation with relatively little disruption from COVID; Commodity prices were and remain buoyant, trading continued virtually, and most livestock prices were never higher. Furthermore, fascinating to see working dog prices flourish trading virtually with record breaking prices at almost every sale.
- Promise made when instated to role to keep members informed about Society - as it is the members' Society. Since COVID, council has held regular meetings over "Zoom Video Conferencing", proving to be very successful and allows all council members to be involved in all management decisions and discussions. Attempts have been made to share as much information as possible with "Chairman's updates" on the Society Website.

Unfortunately, strong negativity towards Society with views expressed over Facebook (and other sites) lead to many mistruths. Chairman clarified the financial stability of the Society was sound and robust, with trading fees covered within Current Account leaving Savings Account untouched. An external company conducting checks and overseeing accounts at each VAT quarter now produces quarterly statements getting circulated to Directors.

Chairman clarified for the Office Backlog; 3-4 weeks was historically consistent upon HV accepting CEO role. During COVID, furlough was suggested by members for Office staff, but decision was made to work remotely after some operational and technical reviews. This allowed team to continue working; avoiding the 18 months of work to be processed, rather than suspended. Chairman clarified on the antiquated IT situation; investment required for modernisation. Some resources being over 20 years old and need updating, and systems are not integrated leading duplication of work and time-wasting exercises. An IT consultant has been commissioned and we await this report and advice.

Chairman clarified on GDPR; HV discovered non-compliance upon accepting post and ISDS possible exposure to prosecution since 2018. Project is underway to gather the consent required from members and this can be incorporated within the future IT update to systems. The result is the Studbook cannot be published, with the latest studbook (2018 version) being published as an illegal document. Pedigrees similarly would require each dog owner's name to produce. The society can use the members data for needs within the society, but we cannot distribute this, data has been shared to a 3rd party abroad for pedigree production and this is unacceptable and has stopped. Issues shared are being addressed but will take time to action. Chairman closed by envisaging a prosperous trial and would welcome any further questions or comments from audience during trial.

CEO Report

- PM reminded that HV has resigned from position and his sympathies towards this.
- HV thanked all for attending and to TO and committee for all effort towards trial. Work done in 2020 was not lost and can now enjoy the 2021 trials. HV introduced Kate Wilkinson [KW] starting in April 2021 as Operations and Events Manager offering support to CEO and with Trial support. HV expressed that despite resignation, issues identified during 18-month term should continue to

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be addressed and continue development. ISN magazine article gave general operational overview with changes required for future of Society.

- HV detailed the Office Backlog; members falsely accuse remote working, instead corners cut during 20-year history with neglect of hardware and software not integrating, leads to delays. Workload increased with YTD (Jan-Aug 2021) as 4184 dogs, total dogs in 2020 was 6877, leading to prediction of 7150. Registration income YTD (Jan-Aug 2021) is £165,000, 2019-2020 was £178,000, leading to prediction of £220,000 for 2021 (increase of £42K). Unfortunately, 80% of work is incorrectly submitted/completed, staff historically assisted in completing incorrect work but cannot continue. Backlog also existed previously.
HV clarified on Data Cleansing project; data held should be accurate for members and is necessary for any new IT that is introduced to Society as well as Audits. Short-cuts taken in past cannot continue. Backlog is unsurprising given conditions, staff productivity is higher with greater morale and less distractions, leading to multiple hours of voluntary overtime per day.
HV clarified on GDPR; those who have should action the email received or complete the GDPR form from the website.
HV thanked the office staff (Carol, Kim, Bella, Mandy, Amanda, Beverlie and KW) as underrated, undervalued and core member of society, as they face most of the negativity and don't deserve this. HV also thanked members for their support throughout term and Irish Council Members are credit to their nation, and best wishes and good fortune expressed towards competitors at trial.

Venues for Future Trials

- PM confirmed that venue for 2022 and 2023 is known.
- Chairman added for World Trial in 2023 but no venue is secured yet. Any suggestions are welcomed, and contact should be made to KW.

Any Other Business:

- HV welcomed any questions or comments from audience.
- Comment made that Brace (Doubles) arrangement is incorrect and should be day prior to Singles. PM added that this can be taken to Directors meeting. HV added that consensus is that there should be qualifiers and a points structure and not open to all, and if desired then a process needs written and presented at AGM for directors. HV added that for 2021 the Brace was moved to lunchtime for sake of Live Streaming arrangements and further additional cost for extra day. Comment made that Brace arrangements should be decided by Local Committee based on their arrangements.
Comment added to that the lottery of Brace competitors "from a hat" means that some may run that have never ran before and there's only 9 spaces. Either Brace is moved to day prior or lottery of competitors is changed process. PM confirmed that this is needed with a motion to Director's meeting. Question if this would be the same for 4 home nations, HV added that it would need to be the same.
- Question asked on GDPR that can Society adjust membership to capture GDPR and HV confirmed that this is in place and while takes time to complete the membership this way. HV added that studbook moving forward will likely not be printed but available online as impossible to capture all dog owners and we have circa.6,000 dogs. HV added that once deceased we can use member data but this also requires accurate record keeping of members.
- Question on course if there was a rope to be added to pen if we have sanitizer on the gate. Chairman added all Nations agreed to do the same with fixed gate and no rope as Trials committee did meet on this and we need to be seen to best practise.
- Question made on PA system for section meeting to have all audience hear all questions. PM agreed to look into this.

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- Question on term of PM if its remaining term of predecessor plus own 4 years. PM agreed that is the case. PM wished best of luck to all competitors for trial.

Meeting closed at 17.56

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