



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 Scottish National Sheepdog Trial

- Date:** Wednesday 18th August 2021
- Location:** Trial Field, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 7QW
- Meeting Opened:** 17.09 with welcome from Jim Ogston [JO]

Apologies for Absence

- John McKillop, John Templeton, George _.

Minutes of the last Annual Meeting

- None.
- JO informed of no minutes from last meeting; no paper or recording found in Office.

Matters Arising Therefrom

- N/A

Endorsement of Vice Presidents

- Senior Vice President – Fiona McMillan
- Junior Vice President –
- JO questioned any oppositions to Snr Vice.
- No proposals for Jr Vice.

Result of Ballot for Election of Directors

- Mr R. A. Howatson, Fairlie, Ayrshire
- Mr A. Jardine, Hawick, Scottish Borders
- Mr J. McDougall, Milton Of Campsie, East Dunbartonshire
- Mr S. McCrindle, Cairnyan, Stranraer
- Mr J. D. Robinson, Coldingham, Berwicks
- Mr W. Tod, Langholm, Dumfriesshire
- Mr J. Thomson, Carsphairn, Castle Douglas
- Mr M. McTier, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire
- Mr W. Welsh, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire
- Mr D. Murray, North Roe, Shetland
- JO added those who were brought in to cover vacancies in position to keep allocation of directors at quota.
- Kathy Freeman, Dalmally, Argyllshire.
- Michael MacNally, Invergarry, Inverness-shire.
- Ian Wilkie, Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.
- JO also endorsed Ian Brownlie (past National President) as part of directorate for life.

National Section Motions

- N/A

National President's Report

Patron: Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal
Chairman: I L Fleming, Chief Executive Officer: H Vickery,
Minutes: K Wilkinson (Operations and Events Manager)
Honorary Vice Presidents: His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire,
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, R Price, Esq., His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe



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

- JO commented on audience size at meeting was “normal”, attendance is important and if anyone cannot attend contact a director or write to Society with anything to raise.
- JO added that Presidential position requires a lot of support and favours, when voting in Chairman in Kendal the vote was close and was only won for Chairman due to support and attendance. In same meeting, CEO resigned and Helen Vickery [HV] was offered role. Now, HV has also resigned, and JO expressed is sadness over this, Society also hired Kate Wilkinson [KW] as Operations and Events Manager.
- JO canvased seriously for trial fields in Caithness for 2021 trial, JO had a location in Dumfries that was intended for 2021 but COVID restrictions in the area prevented this. New 2021 arrangements were made, and Dumfries is agreed for 2022. Michael Shearer offered both field and Sheep and thanks to him for that. Caithness committee worked tirelessly through very difficult circumstances and actively accommodated all the restrictions as they came out and thanks for them. Further announcements will come in morning of Day 1 as to final decisions on field, Carol Mellin has also attended for Live Streaming in absence of Giggabox presence.

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 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.

Patron: Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal
Chairman: I L Fleming, Chief Executive Officer: H Vickery,
Minutes: K Wilkinson (Operations and Events Manager)
Honorary Vice Presidents: His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire,
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, R Price, Esq., His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe



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

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

- HV thanked all for attending and to Martin Mackay 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 be addressed and continue development. ISN magazine article gave general operational overview with changes required for future of Society. HV clarified rumour on reason for resignation and specified is not due to external pressure to do so.
- 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 6878, 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 member's 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. Current remote working means 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 (Kim, Carol, 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 Scottish Council Members are credit to their nation, and best wishes and good fortune expressed towards competitors at trial.

Venues for Future Trials

- JO confirmed that venue for 2022 is in Dumfries. Fiona McMillan [FM] confirmed that ISDS committees formerly got a Grant from "Event Scotland" but this is no longer available. JO added that early preparation is needed to gather sufficient sponsorship. JO welcomed suggestions of future possible field locations as its usually repeat offers rather than fresh suggestions of locations.
- Comment made to contact Nursery Associations. JO confirmed that inhibition seems based on money and work required; the ISDS will always support with finances if need be. Question about how much it takes to hold a National Trial, FM noted it was maximum around £20,000 due to Health and Safety and insurance requirements. Chairman confirmed that ISDS will always support financially and underwrite if needed, but Field, sheep and Committee are the key features required to recruit. HV added that ISDS is a charity, and we should be charitable towards committees for these events.
- Question on the International Trial and lack of spectators. Chairman added that there is an update on this on the Website and due restrictions in the area, event is capped at 499 people. Comment made that KW is available to support and any committee could ask for copy of past books for comparison or further details. Chairman added that funding is more difficult to source in recent years.

Patron: Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal
Chairman: I L Fleming, Chief Executive Officer: H Vickery,
Minutes: K Wilkinson (Operations and Events Manager)
Honorary Vice Presidents: His Grace the Duke of Abercorn, Her Grace the Duchess of Devonshire,
His Grace the Duke of Northumberland, R Price, Esq., His Grace the Duke of Roxburghe



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

Any Other Business:

- JO noted passing of Jim Menzies from Ballenluig, and there is a trophy now donated for Brace with family coming to present this during trial and thanks to them for this.
- JO commented on Gilpa and page sponsorship agreement with ISDS; it is significant and indicated that we cannot have conflicting companies or advertisements as per agreement. JO added that competitors are encouraged to comply with this when competing. Comment made that this should be informed in advance before travel to trial and HV added that we can always loan something from the Shop if clothing is unsuitable. Question if the Live Streaming could not show the back of a competitor Jacket if printed with "CSJ" etc, HV added that it would be challenging, and future is bib's or tabards to cover the back of jacket and add consistency is preferred.
- Chairman offered again apologies from John Templeton as he's needing an operation, he's run in every year since 1952 and Alastair Mundle has similar record. Chairman noted that this is a phenomenal record for Scotland and hopes Templeton can return in 2022.
- Comment made over timescale for trial, 6 brace over 3 days (no brace on final day) with one drop-out and could they be spread out. Chairman added that due to rule for "running twice in same day", a singles run would then need changing. JO noted that Brace and Single competitor cannot run in same day as is unfair.
- FM welcomed applause for JO, HV, Chairman and Local Chairman.

Meeting closed at 17.47