

International Sheepdog Society  
Annual Scottish Section Meeting  
5pm, Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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) Apologies received from Chris Toner.
4. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting
  - a) Approval of minutes – Proposed by Ian Brownlie, seconded by John McDougall.
5. Matters Arising Therefrom
  - a) None
6. Endorsement of Vice Presidents
  - a) Senior Vice President – F E McMillan
  - b) Junior Vice President – D N Gillon
7. Endorsement of Directors
  - a) Nominated:
    - i) Colin Armstrong
    - ii) Duncan Robertson
    - iii) Mike MacNally
    - iv) William Welsh
    - v) Ian Wilkie
    - vi) Chris Caygil
    - vii) Cathy Freeman
    - viii) Scott Macauley
    - ix) Ross Henderson
  - b) We are a couple nominations short following some resignations after the April 1<sup>st</sup> nomination date, these need to be put forward please.
8. National President's Report
  - a) Thank you, Ian Brownlie and the Rettie family, for hosting this year's National trials. A lot of hard work has gone into putting this on and there has been lots of great helpers volunteering their time. There has also been a tremendous amount of fund-raising efforts by way of a charity auction and other things which has been fantastic.

- b) We had a great AGM in Lancaster where lots was covered and thank you again to Isabel and the ladies for their hard work within the Society the last year.

#### 9. Society Chairman's Report

Thank you all for coming tonight and to helping this afternoon. This is a great venue with a great committee working very hard over the last few months to put this together for us. Committees are the backbone of society when it comes to putting on these trials, so it is hugely appreciated to those volunteers for organising this.

The Society is again in a much better place than previous years due to being even more settled after a period of flux. We are guilty of overworking our CEO's which resulted in 3 leaving in succession because of strain of the job. I am pleased that we now have Alice to assist Isabel. There is also Tamie in the office employed as the Office Manager which has helped with the efficiency and speed of completion of work. I mentioned last year there was lots of complaints about the backlog of work in the office, but I am pleased that work is now being completed in real time.

There continues to be a lot of work in I.T. which is still coming together. We are indebted to Intradev for helping Isabel get this done. Two members of Intradev have come to this trial on their own merit to help get scoring started. IT updates are something that has been needed for some time now, so it is great it is progressing so well.

With regards to Facebook activity, sadly some comments have been made negatively against the Society. Please think about this as it reflects on us, and that some comments that may seem like a joke to you can be deemed offensive by others.

For the first year, entry to the Scottish National has fallen below 150. We are also struggling to find junior members for the International, so this is something we urgently need to work on.

Animal rights activists are causing more problems in our "world" but not directly to our Society as of yet. We need to be aware we may be on their radar, maybe not our Nationals but the International and certainly the World trial may be in their sights. It is important that everyone knows they are not to take the law into their own hands with these people and must let the appropriate people handle them should they cause any issues.

I'd like to finish by reminding you that this is your society, and if there is something you want to change or have addressed you must let us know. Please don't keep it to yourselves or discuss it online, bring it to either me, your National President, Isabel, or just email the office for it to be passed on.

Any questions?

*None*

#### 10. CEO Report

Thank you for being here for the meeting, I promise to keep it briefer than last 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) Ian has 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 have completed a few constitution updates which were mainly "housekeeping", as there were no terms of office for Directors, Council, or the Chairman and Vice Chairman, and clause 6.2d had been accidentally removed but this is now back in.
- d) I asked Jimmy what he has been asked by members to hear about from me, one that was mentioned 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 accounts year end on the 31<sup>st</sup> October and the Christmas break being so close to the AGM. Directors took a vote to change the financial year end to 31<sup>st</sup> May. Accounts that are currently published and online with charity commission are for a 7 month period.

Now this May 31<sup>st</sup> 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 are in a great position for small charity. We have not had to go into our reserves this year, have used some reserve funds for capital for investment in IT, everyone been self-funded with organising the trials which is great so hopefully looking like a great year financially.

- e) There was a bit governance review in 2020 and lots of changes came about after that. Fiona McMillan was hugely involved in the review, and 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.

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. 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. That final report is not ready yet.

- f) 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.

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.

- g) The Health Advisory group has been established and formed by 6/7 specialists in breeding, pedigree etc. We are not releasing names as they are volunteering their time for this. Please submit anything to office to be reviewed.
- h) I am very aware I stood here last year and said that Stud books would be ready soon. Unfortunately, we have faced an enormous number of setbacks however I really do think that this week we can have them submitted to print. This has been a very challenging process. 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) Going forward Alice is keen to improve our membership offering. She will be working with Robin Dean on how we can increase our Young and new 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.
- 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.

#### 11. World Trial 2023

- a) The World trial is quickly going to be on us. A huge amount of work has been completed by John McCullough and his team. Without their passion and dedication, it couldn't have been done. We are receiving an enormous amount of support from the local council, the hosts Gill Hall, ABP, G&P, and many more. Lots of countries are getting excited about coming over to us so looking like a fantastic event.
- b) If anyone knows anything about dogs across Europe, please let us know as people are facing issues with taking dogs back out on their journey home.
- c) I will remind anyone that is competing to make sure you have the required vaccinations and worming treatments in order. It is not just ROI issue it is the whole of Ireland.

#### 12. Venues for Future Trials – Jim Ogston

- a) Mike MacNally has kindly sorted us a field for next year's National. It is around 7 miles out of Inverness and will take place the last week of August. The International will be 10 days after the National in Lanarkshire.

- b) Trying to raise money for these trials is a very serious thing. Ian Fleming and I were in Belgium judging a trial recently and discovered that competitors were paying 90 euros each day as they had to pay for the field and sheep. We are at risk of being short of fields and if we do not work hard, we will end up having to pay for fields for trials.

#### 13. Ballot draw for Nationals & Qualifying Trial Status

- a) A motion at the AGM was put forward to change the way the ballot was drawn for National trials. When the ballot was drawn this year, a complaint was made about the ballot being drawn with the first man only having 1 dog to run. This was asked to be redrawn, however if this was done then it could likely keep being done if people were unhappy. It is fairer now than it ever was as evenly spreads the single dogs across the trial.
- b) Anyone unhappy with the way we do the Ballot, please put in a motion at the January AGM.
- c) Please refer to the Rules for Trials that can be found on the website at point 3.2(k) for clarification on the ballot draw.
- d) In terms of a qualifying trial being considered as one, it currently says it should have 25 or more dogs running a day, it should be a national style course, and needs to be advertised in the local press or Facebook. There has been talk of this again, so if you would like it changed, please put in a motion at the January AGM.

#### 14. Any Other Business

- a) Neil McVicar asked why was no running order sent out.  
*CEO responded saying they think last year an A-Z list was circulated. This year everyone was individually sent their run numbers as I was able to this year due to the new online entry system. We put the entrants online but not with their run numbers. By next year it will be totally different system and will be available in different format.*

Meeting completed.