

International Sheepdog Society

Annual Welsh Section Meeting

6pm, 26th August 2022

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 Wyn Edwards, John Davies - Blaenglowon, Malcolm Ellis, Alun Jones - Selattyn
4. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting
 - a) Formal introduction of Isabel Branch, the new CEO for the ISDS who will be giving a report later. Approval after being sent by email following meeting. Martin Davidson proposed, seconded by Cyril Roberts, approved.
5. Matters Arising Therefrom
 - a) None
6. Endorsement of Vice Presidents
 - a) Senior Vice President – Dylan Davies (D W Davies)
 - b) Junior Vice President – Kevin Evans (D K Evans)
 - o Endorsed with not objections
7. Endorsement of Directors
 - a) A L Jones, Selatyn, Oswestry
 - b) M Jones, Llanelli, Dyfed
 - c) R F M Ellis, Nantymoel, Bridgend
 - d) M R Davidson, Anglesey, Gwynedd
 - e) D M Howells, Port Talbot, West Glenmorgan
 - f) G L Davies, Corwen, Denbighshire
 - g) I Jones, Corwen, Denbigshire
 - h) T B Davies, Corwen, Denbigshire
 - i) D Rees, Ystrad Meurig, Ceredigion
 - j) A Prothero, Llanfaredd, Bulith Wells
 - a. Endorsed with no objections
8. National President's Report
 - a) Thank you to the Rowe family for the use of the field and preparation that has gone into putting on this event. A lot of hard work has taken place to make this possible, so we are incredibly grateful to those who have offered their time. Thank you to Arthur Morgan, Ian Harries and the local committee.

- b) Please think about the future of our judges, as this year the panel looks a little bit depleted compared to other nations. Have a think about names to be put forward for future panels.

9. Society Chairman's Report

- a) Thank you, Glyn, it's hard to believe a year has flown by since our last meeting. Thank you to everyone who had helped in any way to make this National happen.
- b) Our Society has had a couple of difficult years but is now in much better place. We had a great AGM at Myerscough College, which was well attended by Directors so thank you to those who travelled down. The positive mood resulted in lots being done and achieved, although there is still lots to be worked on. Isabel Branch has had a great start and has been incredibly helpful with this.
- c) Council approved for a large spend on the IT development, which is much needed and progressing well. Isabel will talk more on this later.
- d) I have received a letter from Argentina for advice and guidance on dealing with animal rights activists, who are protesting that trialling is cruel to both sheep and dogs. They are causing issues for those over there, and we are almost certain we will face this at some point in our own home nations. I urge you to be careful about what goes online and on social media, particularly Facebook. Any videos posted need to be educational and informative, and please bear in mind how they may look to someone not "in the know".
- e) Thank you to the directors, council, and members for the support I have received from them. We have been having monthly council meetings on zoom and have been progressing well because of these. No animosity within council and I think the houses of parliament could benefit from learning from us! We are moving forward well and prospering from this, thank you again for your support.

10. CEO Report

- a) Good evening and thank you for welcoming myself to the Society. I will echo what Glyn said about our gratitude to the local committee and the hard work is incredibly appreciated.
- b) I am in the process of writing next quarters directors report, however trials have held me back a little on this. There will be another report with management accounts going out to Directors shortly. The Society did finish with small shortfall, in context overall it is only a small shortfall of £8371.00 on the year, and the quarterly accounts show positive activity, so we are headed in a good direction. I had not done a detailed year budget as wasn't familiar with the Societies finances, therefore I followed trend from my predecessors, and we are tracking well to budget.
- c) The governance review and updates to Constitution were in motion when I started, and following the directors meeting a motion was adopted to have the constitution reviewed and updated annually, with the idea that anything that is a requirement by law can be updated within the Constitution at the Directors meeting without need of proposer and to be seconded in advance of 1st November. Essentially if anything is legally out of date it can be dealt with on the day at meeting. I urge all members and directors to engage with the Constitution, and ensure it is doing what you would like it to, and propose anything ahead of the 1st November to be reviewed at the Directors meeting annually. We are still putting the Constitution to the Charity Commission for review, and it has not yet been adopted. Supporting docs being worked on and the policies and procedures are all with council for review.

- d) There was a big backlog of work at the office, and I am pleased to say we have managed to clear the backlog 2 weeks ahead of deadline. There is a chance that office work may slow again as Kate has now left us, therefore an extra member of staff is required at each trial, coupled with a few staff suffering from COVID-19, there may be a 3-4 week process time over trials. Please be assured that this will return to normal when we are back from trials.
- e) The improvements in IT will help with speeding up office work hugely when up and running. Upon my return from the International, myself, Bella and Mandy are going via the IT developers to test new system. If anyone has any doubts about work being submitted to the office, please call the team first to talk through with them to check if correct before posting, as this will help speed up the process.
- f) GDPR and the stud books were a big issue when I arrived and is something we have worked hard on, and I am pleased to say we have identified 6 different ways to satisfy GDPR. As a result, myself, Teun, and Carol have been working hard to produce studbooks for 2019, 2020, and 2021. We are pushing to get these ready for people at the International but is getting tighter every day.
- g) With regards to reporting and communications, the office has been very busy, and most things are addressed with the National Presidents, Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Council. If there is anything in particular you would like to be informed of, please let me know.
- h) Working on these trials has been a steep learning curve on scheduling and scoring, and each trial I am learning more! Thank you to everyone for your patience with my learning. All nations are different, and before I know it the World trial will be here. Good luck to everyone hoping to qualify for it.
- i) Throughout next year I will be looking in conjunction with the Presidents, to review associate nation membership, as we have had a lot of interest from other countries who would like to be able to register dogs with the ISDS. We are looking at how to grow our associate members over the next year.
- j) Membership and registration are up on budget from the prior year. Next report will be much more thorough and able to track activities to budget.
- k) In case anyone is not aware, it was approved at the Directors meeting that the financial year end would change to the 31st May, therefore running from 1st June – 31st May for full year accounts. Changing should mean that by the AGM, finalised accounts will be available rather than needing to follow up after. The overall financial health of the Society is looking good. I have entered into conversations with a consultant that works with charities to see how our reserve funds can work harder for us.
- l) Please ask me questions over the next few days, I will be as available as possible. Thank you to everyone who is helping put this on, it is very appreciated.
- m) Question: Were the updates to IT upgrading hardware or software?
- n) Isabel Branch - Primarily software. Our database we are currently using is 20 years old, so an update is well overdue. Moving to a “cloud base” software, and the website is also being updated. The hardware we have will support the new software, so new system has been designed to work with it to manage costs.

11. World Trial 2023

- a) 30 nations have been confirmed to attend, and this year all countries invited have filled at least 1 place of the 2 awarded to most. When submitting registration countries were asked to indicate how many dogs they have at the required standard. It is important to embrace the rest World who also organise sheepdog trials, and I personally feel if people are given opportunity to run, they can go home and meet standard, ready for the next one. This is also

ensuring we are meeting our charity objectives. The local government and council of the area the World Trial is being held in, as well as the hosts Gill Hall are fully behind the event, and are very excited about the business it will bring to the area. They are providing funding, infrastructure, and an incredible amount of support to help.

- b) Legislation for dogs to Ireland – This is something that needs reviewing and an official position on it. Keep an eye on legislation and we will post updates on website regularly once we are aware of the position and requirements. Once in Ireland, vets will be at the World Trial site to sign off when departing to come back to the UK.

12. Venues for Future Trials

- a) We are at Llysfasi College in Ruthin next year for the National. Possible venues are in the pipeline for 2024, and a possible venue for the International in 2025.
- b) Please come forward if you know of anything for future venues for trials.

13. Any Other Business:

None.

Meeting completed.