

International Sheepdog Society

Annual Irish Section Meeting

10th 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 Arthur Mawhinney and Ian Muir, John ??

4. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting

- a) Approved?

5. Matters Arising Therefrom

- a) None

6. Endorsement of Vice Presidents

- a) Senior Vice President – J P McGee
- b) Junior Vice President – M Feeney

7. Endorsement of Directors

- a) Susan H Kelly, Castlerock, Co Derry
- b) Eamon A McAuley, Larne, Co Antrim
- c) James Murphy, Carnlough, Co Antrim
- d) Dean M McAuley, Larne, Co Antrim
- e) Caolan Byrne, Kilcullen, Co Kildare
- f) Sophia Long, Ballybofey, Co Donegal
- g) Martin Feeney, Grange, Co Sligo
- h) William (Bill) Seale, Eanniscothy, Co Wexford
- i) Frank Cashen, Enniscorthy, Co Wexford
- j) Tom A O'Sullivan, Kilarney, Co Kerry

8. National President's Report

- a) One thing to bring to attention, is how you are to qualify for the World trial. It seems people aren't happy with qualification at the National trial. Unfortunately, it is too late to change now as timing is very tight. We need a meeting going forward as how to decide this in the future.
- b) 21 places are available at the World trial, with x2 going to the National judges, so 19 available. We will have 6 qualifying places each day, but the 7th placed one each day will need a runoff at the end of the National to decide the reserve. This will be something small like a lift and fetch.

- c) When I started on council, we only had 2 meetings every year, but since June 2020 we have had 43 meetings. It shows how busy the society has become. What we are trying to do is bring the Society up to date and modernise it.

9. Society Chairman's Report

- a) Thank you, Pat, I am very honoured to come to the Irish National and what a welcome I have had in this lovely part of the world. 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. As Pat mentioned 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) I was receiving an overwhelming number of complaints from members regarding backlog in the office. Yes, there was long backlog and work wasn't done as fast as members would have liked, however this was primarily down to the outbreak of COVID-19, and if the staff hadn't agreed to continue to work from home we would have been in a much worse position, therefore we are very grateful to office staff for keeping us going throughout that time. I am pleased to say they have now caught up and work is being processed in real time.
- d) I had other complaints regarding registration matters, where people are buying pups or dogs that aren't registered or transferred by the breeder. This causes problems for both myself and the office, and as this is a civil matter there is nothing the Society can do. Be careful when buying pups and dogs and make sure you receive transfer certificates. The new IT system will improve this and the ease of it, which will in turn hopefully encourage people to ensure it is done.
- e) Trial entry protocol is another contentious issue. The ISDS only has jurisdiction over open trials and regard to allocation of national points. IT improvements will hopefully help with this. The trials secretary will advertise on the ISDS website and be able to enter via the new portal up until the maximum number of competitors for that trial. The trials secretary will then update the website with the results. This in turn will help with National entry, as the points will then be readily available with 1 click of a button.
- f) One last thing, 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".

10. CEO Report

- a) Good evening and thank you for welcoming myself to the Society, and to the Trials committee for all the hard work that has gone into organising this event in this glorious area.

Thank you for letting us be here and for the provision of the sheep, as well as the enormous group of volunteers for everything you have done.

- b) I asked Ian and the National Presidents what is expected of my report in this meeting, and the main area is that Directors and members kept better informed about the office. 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 £8000 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) Other thing that was in action was the governance review and updates to Constitution, which was passed at the Directors meeting. Just to further explain, the idea of the proposal was 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) Ian covered the 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. Again, the improvements in IT will help 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.
- e) 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 but is getting tighter every day.
- f) 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. Anything in particular you would like to be informed of, please let me know.
- g) Before I know it the World trial will be here. Good luck to everyone hoping to qualify for it. 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.
- h) It will be a very exciting year for Ireland next year with the International and the World trial. John and his committee have been absolutely flying with preparations for the Worlds and it will be a really exciting, fantastic event.
- i) 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.

- j) 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.

11. World Trial 2023

- a) 32 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) International local chairman, Eamonn Connell: Have the venue secured as well as the sheep being supplied. Currently applying for funding which should be sorted by September. Everything is on track and looking positive.
- b) World Trial chairman, John McCullough: In a strong position, taking a lot of organising and very lucky to have the support of Gill Hall as a venue, as well as from the local council. Next year is a busiest year ever in Ireland for sheepdog trialling, everybody is working so hard and Irish dog trialling is at an all-time high and at it's best.
- c) National in Thomastown next year with Ned O'Keefe.

13. Any Other Business:

None.

Meeting completed.