



UK SIGHTHOUND SPORT
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Sunday 19th January 2020 – 10:30
Down Ampney Village Hall, Cirencester, GL7 5 QR

1. Opening and apologies

Present: Duncan Nicholls, Tracy Chamberlain, Gill McClatchie, Carol Edgington, Phil Edgington, Susie Logan, Sharon Dalgleish, Mike Florek, Peter Gaffney, Penny Abbott, Martin Abbott, Caroline Osborne, Dawn Stockley, Catriona Ryan, Gay Robertson, Sarah Mendham, Kate Bent

Apologies: Gerry Emmet / Elizabeth and David Johnstone / Angela Bayley / Elaine Jenkinson / Greg McLatchie / Karen Fisher / Gyula Gaszt / Bernadett Nagy / Fleur Chant / Alec Dalgleish / Iain Logan

Meeting opened 10:35

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed as a true record of the last meeting - Caroline and seconded by Penny Abbott

3. Matters arising

A reminder that we no longer supply refreshments for donations. All tea/coffee making facilities are for the committee only please. At some events we may have cakes for competitors for donations. This information to be added to entry information for each meeting.

4. Chairman's report

2019 was a good year for UKSS with increasing entries and lovely venues.

We started at Eiling Farm with our Hungarian judge Orsyla Sue Meecham and Masha Shaverneva Judging.

The Summer Championships with a dutch Judge and 2 british judges became a 2 day event with camping and a BBQ and this year we will have trials on the Saturday afternoon.

The Nationals were held at Hazleton manor and a lovely couple Else and Frie came from Holland to Judge . It was a very picturesque setting and despite the awful weather we had our best entry so far and our first lure Coursing Champion Greg & Gill Mclatchies Coppermow Evoque.

This season we have a Norwegian Judge Geir Hammer for our Spring championships and we hope to have judges from Germany and Denmark also.

Our National championships will be held at Stratford race course. There will be camping available the night before. Gay Robertson has secured this venue for us and we are very grateful for this.

Gay has also kindly given us a venue for our trials day in February and we hope to clear many pups and new dogs for the coming season.

Judges expenses take up a lot of money and we are grateful to Tracy for all her help in fundraising for the club and to all of you who have generously donated. We were very low on funds last year and without this I don't know what we would have done

We would like to train more British judges and we are currently working on a test based on what other European countries use.

If anyone is interested in learning to judge please speak to me and we will place you with a judge at one of our events.

We are also looking for volunteers to help out this season, selling raffle tickets and helping with the paddock. If you think you can help please speak to a committee member.

In 2019 UKSS sent a small team to Estonia, a huge trip and we are grateful for their attendance.

Gay Robertson and Frank (Moonlake My Way) were lucky enough to be the podium in 5th place a huge achievement.

We will be sending a team to Hungary in 2020 and there is still time to qualify at the spring championships.

We were very sad to lose our secretary Sarah Meadham. She has worked tirelessly for the club and I very much miss her, my partner in crime. She is still my go to person if I am unsure about a rule or regulation. Thankfully Sarah will remain on the work party in our effort to get our sport recognised by the Kennel club and we are grateful for this.

5. Treasurer's report (please see detail at end of minutes)

Bank balance a lot healthier this year due to fundraising organised by TC, concerns mid season about how we could sustain judges expenses without an increase to funds. TC thanked all members that continue to support the club by buying tickets for fundraising.

The committee are trying to keep judges costs as low as possible. Booking two judges for National Champs and think they will fly into Birmingham. Need collecting and taking back to airport and venue etc.

The question was raised that if people are local could they accommodate judges. SD stated that this would be good on the night of the event, after the competition but she felt that when she hosted a judge the night before as well, she worried that people would think she had done well because of accommodating the judge. Any help from anyone with entertaining the judges would be appreciated. She advised that when UK judges judge abroad they are very well looked after and would like to offer the same to European judges coming to the UK.

We need to gain more new competitors to boost fund. TC advised that there are a number of new competitors to be cleared and then they can enter. Really trying to recruit.

Why was the cost of European Championships entries shown as an expense on the report? GM advised that this was shown because the club made the payment to ECC on competitors behalf, but it is also shown as an income where competitors paid the club their entry fees.

SD stated that there was a steep increase in entry fees for ECC 2020, and that a cash payment is required, so She would be taking cash the cash to the Champs. 2019 saw an event done on a shoestring, Hungary are trying to provide a much better organised event and trying to spend cash wisely. There will be no catalogues available, only online ones. Some members displayed shock at this and also concern as how would they print them when they were there? Would they be available in advance. We hope these answers will become clearer as we get closer to the event and more details are announced. Catalogue may be available well before the event, some competitors take a week to get to the event.

GM summarised by confirming that we had a much better bank balance than last year, but we will need to keep on top of spend and do more fundraising where we can.

TC proposed the report and Catriona Ryan seconded. All agreed.

6. Re-election of Committee in rotation – Sharon Dagleish, Karen Fisher, Tracy Chamberlain. Jan Doherty has stood down. Re-election proposed by Susie Logan, seconded by Catriona Ryan. All in agreement.

7. Amendment to Rule 18 in Constitution

Three Officers and seven committee – propose three officers and nine committee
Proposed by the committee, seconded by Penny Abbott. All in favour.

8. Proposed rule change by the Committee – Membership to be mandatory. No change to benefits, but all competitors to be fully paid up members of UK Sighthound Sport

Gay Robertson said that if this were to be the case then the only events we could run were limited ones, no Open or Championship meetings. A big attraction of the club is that competitors can enter without having to be members. If coming from abroad for one event for example, paying annual membership might put them off.

SD said that our constitution states the club should be made up of members, Gay advised that yes, the club would be made up of members, but you don't have to be a member to attend events. The move was not proposed following this discussion.

9. Proposed rule change by Sarah Meadham - Request for lure to be started at alternative places at each meeting i.e. from in front for first round and from the side for second round. Number of requests for this due to ease of holding and releasing dog and because it is done differently in different countries. Understand advantages and disadvantages, hence the request to alternate at each meeting to make it fair to all.

Here followed a discussion about the fact that the committee had previously discussed this when approached before, and decided as a majority that no change would be made. There were concerns that large breeds need the lure to come from behind them and they will be at a disadvantage if it comes from the front.

Sarah had requested it was either started alternately at each meeting, or alternated between meetings. TC was concerned that if it was not favourable to competitors then they would not attend the alternate meetings. SD said we would not publish which way the lure was coming from in advance

SD felt that it should not be alternated at a meeting as the dogs would be confused if they expected it to come from same direction as it did in first round. TC stated that all clubs that her dogs run with start it from different places, the dogs are used to anticipating.

A number of members commented on how it is easier to hold your dog if it is in front, some felt it better from the side. Some expressed how difficult they find it.

SD took this opportunity to advise that it looks likely that the FCI will be changing the rule regarding the use of slip collars/leads. She has confirmed with Geir (Spring Champs Judge) that he would not penalise and so competitors can use quick release/slip collars and/or leads, but the dogs must leave the start without a collar of any kind.

Martin Abbott said that in his opinion when the lure comes from the side, the dog nearest the lure appears to have an advantage.

Kate Bent said that her dog is not anticipating the lure, she is listening for the sound of the machine. Mike Florek said we have an electric machine so she won't be able to hear the motorbike engine.

Abroad the lure generally comes from the front, but some countries bring it from the side.

It was decided that the field team would decide on the day of each event where the lure would

come from. Mike Florek nominated the starter as being the person who made that decision.

Duncan Nicholls (starter) reiterated an offer he had made previously in that he was always happy to release dogs for owners who require assistance.

10. General update working party

SD advised that not a lot of progress had been made with this because of key person's circumstances but that a conference call was going to be organised by her asap. The working party will consist of Bernadett Nagy, Gjula Gaszt, Sharon Dalglish, Sarah Meadham, and Tracy Chamberlain.

SD asked TC if she still wished to step down from this and TC confirmed that with other responsibilities she would appreciate not being involved in this task also.

We have applied three times to the Kennel Club and are not taking no for an answer. Gay Robertson has been as big help with her contacts at the KC.

Working to try and have things much more formal this year.

The question as to why the KC hadn't allowed lure coursing to be recognised sport was asked and SD advised the main reason that is believed is that they are concerned that it will encourage people to chase hares.

Gay Robertson then talked about her communications with the Hound Association in order to run an open meeting at their champ show this summer. The chairman had been very supportive but logistics seemed to have been the issue as to why the secretary was saying we could not hold the meeting now.

Gay was also concerned that the finish must coincide with the judging and that we would need a much earlier start than normal to get through all of the runs in order to do presentation in the BIS ring. TC said we would probably have to cap entries to finish by 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Gay agreed this would be a good idea.

Gay was also going to be in touch with breed note writers and the hound show again.

The Trials Day being held at Gay's was also brought up at this point because of trying to get as many new hounds cleared for the possible event at the Hound Show. After some discussion it was decided that we would run two machines.

Gay will get back to the secretary to discuss further.

It was felt that someone at the KC must be paranoid to think that lure coursing promotes hunting.

It was also stated that the houndshow were not receptive to UKSS or SWC and will only allow competitors from BSFA and WCRA to compete in their lure coursing and racing class. They have been requested to change and they replied that there is no need to change. Gay will also chase this change. Caroline Osborne said she felt they never check and to just enter anyway. If you want to go in, go in. Someone would have to pay £35.00 to the KC to complain.

11. New Logo is being launched – Committee felt a logo that represented the fact that we run other sighthound breed was needed and have decided on the logo that you see at the top of the agenda. The website will be updated and all correspondence/forms etc will now carry the new logo.

The committee also discussed getting embroidered badges for members to buy but we would need definite interest to investigate further

The new logo was well received and SD advised that Carol and Gill were able to get the logo embroidered on any items that members gave them, at a cost of £3.60 for a small logo on breast and £6.10 for the logo on the back of an item. Bernadett had advised that the logo could be modified to include different breeds if required for embroidery purposes.

There will be a set up charge that the club will pay.

12. Other news and announcements

- Volunteers needed for assistance with paddock
- Summer Championships will be held in Somerset. We will have a BBQ and trials the day before as we did in 2019 as it was very successful. Camping will be available.
- Penny and Martin Abbott are donating a bottle of single malt, a bottle of Jamesons and some engraved glasses for the Spring Champs. This offer was gratefully received.
- Dawn Stockley said she would donate gin and glasses for the Summer Champs, and Gill and Carol offered to donate for the National Champs. Again, the committee re very grateful for these kind offers to help raise funds for the club.

13. Any other business (at discretion of the Chair)

- TC wanted to officially thank Martin Abbott for all the time and dedication he gives the club producing photos for every event, it really is appreciated. Many members agreed.
- Dawn Stockley offered to provide bacon and sausage rolls for breakfast at both the Trials Day and the Spring Champs from their motorhome. After encouragement from Caroline to up her price, it was confirmed that these will be sold at £2.00 each, with all of the profit going to the club. Susie Logan also said that Dawn should limit the time they will be available so that they can both still enjoy the day and watch the dogs running.
- Kate Bent also very kindly offered to provide cakes for the trials day, and these will be much appreciated as always.
- Gay Robertson offered hook up for motorhomes if any of the committee wanted to come the night before to set up for the trials day. All gratefully declined but could not come the night before, or didn't have motorhomes
- Susie Logan thanked the committee on behalf of the members for all of their hard work.
- Kate Bent thanked TC for making her win the portrait raffle twice. Everyone said how pleased they were for Kate.

Meeting closed 11.34

UK SIGHTHOUND SPORT				
Accounts for the period 1 March 2019 up to 31st December 2019				
		2019	2018	
Income				
	Entry Fees/Memberships/Licences/Photos/BBQ	£1,890.13	£1,568.50	
	Raffle Income	£ 484.00	£ 415.00	
	Donations	£ 185.00	£ 212.50	
	Cake Stall	£ -	£ 399.90	
	Mpney Received for European Championships	£ 248.00	£ 544.00	
	Fundraising	£ 782.25	£ -	
			£ 3,589.38	£3,139.90
Expenses				
	Judges Costs	£1,292.14	1168.08	
	Gifts	£ 93.50	171.04	
	Fuel for Lure Machine/Quad Bike	£ 17.00	0	
	Cake Stall	£ -	122.22	
	BBQ Expenses	£ 23.83	0	
	Toilet Hire	£ 252.00	273	
	Gift for Sarah	£ 25.00	0	
	Bank Charges	£ 45.00	0	
	Insurance	£ 10.00	0	
	Greg Fuel	£ 150.00	100	
	Microchip Scanner	£ -	47.75	
	Wallets for Licences	£ 41.96	62.96	
	Whippet Club Advert	£ -	20	
	Printer	£ -	49.99	
	Rosettes	£ 50.30	171.5	
	Hall Rental	£ 30.68	101	
	Web Site & Maintenance	£ 135.62	218.52	
	Entry for European Championships	£ 249.64	547.63	
	Sponsorship for European Championships	£ 152.18	£ 2,568.85	135.68 3189.37
	Surplus/Deficit on Funds		£ 1,020.53	-£ 49.47