



UK SIGHTHOUND SPORT

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Sunday 11th February 2024, 11.00 AM

Held via Zoom

1. Opening and apologies

Present: Sarah Meadham, Elaine Booth, Robyn Sayles, Natasha Hamilton, Lyn Ward, Bernadett Nagy, Gyula Gaszt, Carol Edgington, Phil Edgington, Lina Hoggren, James Allen, Melanie Sampson, Stacey Haynes, Ashley Haynes, Martin Abbott, Penny Abbott, Peter Gaffney, Helena Gaffney, Diana Webber, Hilary Davies, John Davies, Greg McLatchie, Jan Wood, Helen Williams, Diane Gardner, Steve Gardner, Angela Bayley, Nicole Rossa, Judith Lucas, Agnieszka Hemple, James Newman

Meeting opened 11:03

Apologies: Elle Tull, Sue Virgo, Sarah Layfield, Gretchen Elkerton

2. Minutes of last meeting

There were some errors in names of attendees to be amended.

Proposed Lynn Ward

Seconded Robyn Sayles

3. Matters arising

Jan Wood asked about plan for KC recognition. Elaine Booth said this will be discussed later in the meeting.

4. Chairman's report – Elaine Booth thanked members for patience while new Officers settled during the first part of 2023. We now have a full complement of committee covering a good breadth of background and experience which puts us on a positive footing going forward. It was a year of

positives, starting with a successful if soggy Spring Champs. A large Team went to Sweden with great results at the WCC. There was great support from home which is important and appreciated. The Summer and National Championships both received glowing comments from foreign judges for the organisation and quality of our dogs, so we have a lot to be proud of.

5. Treasurer's report

Sarah Meadham read Kate Bent's report in her absence – see separate attachment.

There were no questions about the accounts. Steven Gardner asked if there were any planned purchases. Sarah mentioned some parts for gazebo, explained that most kit UKSS use is hired from SWC.

6. Officers and committee

With a new Secretary and Chairman, plus resignations of committee leading to 3 members being co-opted, there is no requirement for anyone to retire or stand for re-election this year. Welcome Carol, Natasha and Lyn to the committee.

7. Constitution

Martin Abbott asked why the change from 'society' to 'club', Sarah Meadham explained it better described our entity as a hobby organisation.

The amendments were put to vote. Majority in favour.

6. General update

We have adopted the FCI amendment to separate sexes when there are 4 or more dogs and bitches in a breed. This will benefit the numerically smaller breeds.

Due to the earlier date of this year's World Championship, we have altered the method of entry to Team UK from invitation to application which will speed up the process, and encourage anyone wishing to join to apply well in advance.

We have a new ground for Spring Champs, just outside Swindon with easy access.

We have dropped charge for Electronic Catalogue. From now on all entrants will be emailed a catalogue free.

7. Other news and announcements

Two show societies have offered us space at champ show grounds 2025. We are in discussion about using these opportunities to run trials days.

The Field magazine will be sending a journalist and photographer to upcoming trials day to do an article on UKSS.

We were proud to sponsor a trophy for the racing/lure coursing class at Whippet of the Year.

Re KC recognition of lure coursing, we have always known it would be a long slow process, however we are making progress. We have had two influential Kennel Club officials attend our meetings. We have Willem Vermaut, head of the FCI CSS judging Spring Champs. The Saluki Clubs wrote to the KC which initiated a discussion at the WDA. UKSS have yet to be updated on the outcome.

Helen Williams said the Saluki Club had received a positive letter from KC and would forward to UKSS Secretary to share to members.

Robyn Sayles will follow up with Ibizan Hound Club about getting involved with the campaign.

8. Any other business

A reminder that when renewing membership, entering competitions etc payment must be made at time forms are completed and vice versa.

A reminder that trials cards and licences are responsibility of members. It is member's responsibility to ensure trials cards are filled in and signed off after dog's have run and kept safe. Trials cards cannot be back dated or replaced if lost.

Please listen to the instructions of the field at each meeting, whether that is where to stand to watch runs, pick up dogs, route to exit field etc, for the safety of humans and dogs.

Steve Gardner thanked everyone for welcoming him and Diane as newcomers last year, and all the friendly advice.

Diana Webber asked if we have capacity to continue to encourage new dogs. Sarah Meadham said entry is on a 'first come first served' basis.

Robyn Sayles asked about possibility of having food vans at events. This will be explored.

Stacey Haynes asked for clarification about use of slip leads. Sarah Meadham explained this had many times been subject of discussion and has changed. She reminded that use of slip leads is covered in schedules and always has been. Members should always read schedule to have accurate and up to date information specific to each meeting. Elaine said field team will also remind members.

Meeting closed: 11:43am