



UK SIGHTHOUND SPORT

MINUTES of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Sunday 9th February 2025

Held via Zoom

Present: Sue Gillespie, John Davies, Hilary Davies, Liz Hales, Martin Abbott, Penny Abbott, Cecilia Andersson, Stacey Haynes, Ashley Haynes, Sarah Meadham, Angela Bayley, Tanya Dimmock, Judi Lucas, Melanie Sampson, Sandra Marcovechio, Lilah Wainman, Lynn Ward, Jan Wood, James Allen, Lina Hoggren, Kate Bent, Robyn Sayles, Pat Chadwick, Philip Edgington, Melanie Collins, Peter Gaffney, Helena Gaffney, Diane Gardner, Steve Gardner, Natasha Hamilton, Carol Edgington, Nicole Rossa, Caroline Osborne, James Newman, Fay Secchiari, Elaine Jenkinson, Ross Elliott, Sapphira Parker, Helen Williams, Sarah Meadham, Gay Robertson*

1. Opening and apologies

Meeting Opened 11:04 am

Apologies: Derek & Fiona Lipscombe, Sue Virgo, Gay Roberston*

(* apologies were given but she was able to join the meeting part way through)

2. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed as true record: Stacey Haynes Seconded by Hilary Davies

3. Matters arising

None

4. Chairman's report - Philip Edgington

Last year we ran three successful, well attended meetings though each brought

their own challenges.

We started the season with the Trials Day at a very cold West Ilsley ground, and found ourselves back there for the Spring Championships after a venue change from our planned ground at Braydon due to it being very wet. Many factors conspired against us and the team worked through them although it caused a late finish.

The two day Summer Trials and Championship meeting at the lovely ground at Kenslow in Derbyshire brought some much better weather. Camping and Socialising around the barbecue being popular, along with the food vendor on Sunday morning.

The National Championships provided the biggest challenge, severe flooding at the Stratford venue put the meeting at risk of cancellation. The team pulled together superbly, and with a kind offer from Gay Robertson to use her ground at Moreton in the Marsh they saved the event. From checking the ground to organising a toilet relocating the food stall and judges, everyone did their bit to make sure we went ahead.

We have seen some excellent courses throughout the year and have had some lovely feedback from experienced, international judges.

We had seven new lure coursing champions during the season;

Royaltudor Storm Diana of Ohoka

Corfilgi Carw Coch

Harerunner Hombre Estrella

Garamiyas Meridiana Mahzad

Mumtaz Aramis

Coppermow Skadi

And Cheery Violet of Obduro who also won the Veloxcanis Trophy for Best In Field at the National Championships.

Very well done. Congratulations to you all.

Unfortunately, last years World Championships in Poland was cancelled. This year we are hoping to send a team to the Czech Republic.

Many members did however attend international coursing events across

Europe achieving some fantastic results. Congratulations to you all.

There have been some changes to the Committee with Elaine Booth retiring as Chairman. I would like to thank Elaine for her time and efforts over the past two years. Also stepping down were Bernadet Nagy, Gyula Gaszt, after 6 years of service, and Robyn Sayles. Thank you all for your work during your time on the Committee. I would also like to say thank you, for Gyula and Robyns' kind offer of continued support in the IT and social media roles.

We co-opted four new members onto the Committee who I am sure will be great additions. Welcome to Stacey Haynes, Sapphira Parker, Melanie Collins and Steve Gardner.

Looking forward to this year, I am sure that with the support of our members and help from volunteers we can run a successful season.

5. Treasurer's report – Kate Bent

The Accounts for 2024 were circulated with the 2024 AGM Agenda and Minutes from the 2023 AGM. The Accounts year ending 31.12.23 have been Independently Examined. The finalised statement of 26.04.24 stated that all requirements have been met to comply with the accounting requirements of a Club. 2024 Accounts will be Independently Examined this year as this is a standard best practice recommendation of HMRC.

Opening Balance as of 01.01.24 - £8,967.72

The Spring, Summer and National Championships incomings and outgoings have been broken down individually, the surplus or deficit from each can be seen.

Other Income is made from Membership payments, (one £10.00 payment for the 2024 year was paid in 2023 so not in the figures), Licences and Donations. Lina Hoggren generously donated £25.00 from sales of the beautiful photographs she takes on the field. £50.00 is also shown for the Seminar to be held in 2025.

Other Expenses that are not individually specified on the Accounts are as follows:

Communications – Web Hosting, Postage, Zoom Licence and Stationery

UKSS is now donating an award for Whippet of the Year – Coursing Class. The costs for 2023 and 2024 together totalled £172.62.

Notes:

- Hire of SWC kit has increased to £100 per day.
- Fuel for towing has increased due to the distances.
- Rosette costs have increased but the quality is far better and the manufacturers more efficient.
- Field hire costs have increased for both Spring and Summer Trials and Champ's.
- National Champ's cost increased due to two international judges and additional lorry hire, income decreased as less donations, catalogues not charged and raffle takings down.
- Membership is up by £50.
- Bank Fees – these will be increasing in 2025 as we are now treated as a business

Closing Balance as of 31.12.24 - £9,402.78

A repeat of the plea, and some additions, from the Secretary and I last year

When applying for Membership, paying for Licences and Zoom Attendance or entering Trials or Competitions could everyone be very diligent and ensure payments are made, of the correct amount and within the timescales shown in the entry forms. This started well last year but has declined to an unacceptable standard again.

All payments for anything must be processed and received into the UKSS bank account, within 24 hours of the correct online form being completed. No payment will mean no entry I am afraid, as we are definitely no longer going to chase payment. It will mean that you will not know your entry has not been accepted until you fail to receive a catalogue, or indeed, turn up to trial your dog and you are not allowed to run.

Please don't email me to check you have paid, please look at your own bank account. If the payment has left your account with the correct bank details for UKSS, it will have arrived with me.

When making BACS payments please do not add your name when asked for a reference for the payment from your bank. Please type membership, licence, spring trials, spring champs, etc – your surname is sent automatically. Receiving payments referenced SmithSmith or JonesJones, again causes additional work, along with the reference not being changed from the previous payment.

There will be absolutely no chasing of payments going forward. We have had no choice in this decision now, and it is sad that the vast majority of the membership will lose the ability to forget things sometimes, as we were quietly OK with sending a quick chasing email to members asking for payment or to complete an entry form. However, some of the responses from entrants for the Spring Trials or for running clearing trials, after receiving a polite chasing email asking for them to pay, have

been frankly shocking, so reducing our goodwill to sub-zero. All Committee Members are volunteers, volunteers who give up a lot of their time to run UKSS for those who choose to compete with the Club, however, responses which are, at best, downright rude, but at worst, aggressively demanding are simply not acceptable.

Robyn asked why we are now considered a business, KB explained this was a banking change that applies to all Clubs, Charities etc so we will incur charges.

6. Officers and committee

Kate Bent was required to retire as Treasurer but agreed to stand again. Proposed by Sarah Meadham, seconded Steve Gardner, agreed by all.

7. General update, news and announcements

Dates for up coming season –

23 Feb Trials day, West Ilsley

16 March Spring Champs, Braydon, Wilts

19 & 20 July, Trials and Champs pencilled in to run alongside the Hound Association shows, but we are still awaiting confirmation from them that they are able to meet our requirements

27 & 28 September, Nationals will be a 2 day event at Stratford.

Non- pedigree licenced clearing dogs. As we have a limited number of licenced dogs in many of the numerically smaller breeds, we have difficulty finding partners for new dogs to be paired with to enable them to get a licence. We will be allowing unregistered hounds, cross breeds or other breeds to qualify for a special clearing-dog licence to assist with this. This will only be available to members who have suitable dogs.

Volunteers – we have been glad of the assistance of volunteers and need more help going forward. We will begin training volunteers at trials day and issuing guidance, as we need to develop a team of people who can manage all aspects of a competition.

Delays – We need all members to do their bit to ensure that meetings run smoothly with minimal delays. To avoid delays members must:

Arrive on time

Check in on time

Be at paddock on time and remain there

Follow directions of field team and committee

If people are not checked in on time or present for their run, THE DOG WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE COMPETITION. We will no longer waste time tracking people down!

Philip Edgington suggested members set up a messenger group on the day to help each other keep track.

9. Whippet classes

A member had requested the Whippet height classes be reviewed. This was previously discussed and decided at an SGM. It was discussed if another SGM was wanted.

7 votes in favour of SGM, 19 against. Therefore, there will not be an SGM to discuss the matter.

Sarah Meadham reminded that the constitution covered requirements for members to call an SGM so should enough people come forward to meet that requirement then we would call one in the future.

10. Whippet WCC qualification

A member had requested discussion of the way Whippets qualify for WCC, currently half qualify from Standard and half from Sprinter, with 4 of the 12 places being allocated based in wins at the Nationals. As there is no division based on size at WCC, it was questioned if this system was fair. Much discussion was followed by a proposal to treat all whippets as one group for allocation of qualification points. 16 voted in favour, 7 voted against. The qualification process will therefore change for the 2026 qualification period onward.

11. Proposal for additional trophies from Gay Robertson

Sarah Meadham read Gay Robertson's proposal (as attached) for new trophy/trophies and reasons on behalf of Gay. In Summary, Gay wished to offer annual trophies specifically for the top UK bred sighthounds with an SBN, in order to encourage breeders to produce true dual-purpose dogs, considering breed type and function. This was another topic that generated a lot of discussion.

19 voted in favour of accepting the Trophy.

Thank you Gay.

12. Any other business

Helen Williams also presented some trophies to offer for Salukis, initially suggesting as an award for top Saluki with SBN. It was felt individual breeds didn't also need a trophy for that purpose, so was suggested it could be BOS for any breed with SBN. Helen will revert to the original donor of the trophies, Chris Ormsby, so this will be followed up.

Robyn mentioned an issue she had previously raised with committee with regard the wording in regulations about judging criteria. Sarah responded that this matter had already been addressed and regulations altered to add the sentence that was the difference in the FCI regulations.

Natasha reminded previous winners to arrange return of trophies.

Philip thanked everyone for their time and patience.

Meeting closed 12.33 pm