

SOUTH WALES SHEEPDOG TRIALS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Executive Meeting – Thursday 10th October 2024

Gwili Kitchen Café, Llandeilo, 7.30 pm

Present: John Davies (Chairman) Anna Prothero (note-taker), Heddwyn Thomas, Kevin Evans, Claire Ridge (minutes), Hywel Davies, Venn Davies, Rhys Jones, Matthew Evans, Bradley Morgan, Cerys Millichap, Emyr Lloyd, Malcolm Ellis

1	<p>John Davies welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Kevin Evans on winning the Supreme with Kemi Jack.</p> <p>Apologies: Bryan Pugh, Rob Lewis, Nigel Watkins, Dai Howells, Steve Lewis</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. Proposed: Claire Ridge Seconded: Hywel Davies</p> <p>Anna and John thanked Claire Ridge for taking notes in Anna’s absence.</p>
3.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>None.</p>
4.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Sheep Claim (Elgan Jarman, Llanbrynmair Secretary) Elgan Jarman has submitted a claim for sheep insurance on behalf of Llanbrynmair SDT. The sheep was seen by Emyr Lloyd and a photo was submitted to the SWSDTA Secretary. The Chairman and Treasurer have been informed. It was noted that in the diary it states that two members of the Executive Committee should see the sheep. It was felt the photo along with Emyr viewing the sheep was sufficient to process the claim on this occasion. The committee agreed to process the claim. Executive Committee agreed there was no need to update the wording in the diary from ‘two sheep’.</p> <p>Heddwyn Thomas asked how much SWSDTA pay for a sheep. Cerys informed the committee it was a maximum of £80. SWSDTA do not claim on their insurance policy for a dead sheep but instead the money comes directly from SWSDTA funds. It was noted that the price of sheep has increased and £80 would be unlikely to cover the value of a sheep.</p> <p>John asked how many trials pay for sheep insurance. Cerys said this year 36 trials have paid it (income of £360). It was noted that so far this year there has been only one sheep claim submitted, but in other years it has been more.</p> <p>ACTION: Cerys to process payment to Llanbrynmair.</p>

Recording of Nursery Finals

An attachment providing details of the request received was circulated to the Executive Committee prior to the meeting.

In summary, both North and South Wales Secretaries have been contacted with the suggestion that an individual could record runs at the South/North/All Wales Nursery Finals for those outside of Wales to view. People would be charged to access the groups and view runs. Handlers' permission would be required to share the video (it would be recorded rather than livestreamed). The individual recording runs would keep the profits made.

It was noted that there would be no additional work for SWSDTA and also no financial gain. The committee asked if there would be any benefit for SWSDTA or SWSDTA members in allowing the recording of the runs to happen. It was thought that unless SWSDTA members were offered free viewing of the runs there would not be a benefit for SWSDTA members.

It was noted that there are many good handlers in South Wales that people would like to watch, particularly if they are running nursery dogs. It could be a good opportunity for handlers to showcase dogs and potentially good for business if handlers were selling dogs. It was also noted that North Wales have agreed to this request.

There was a suggestion that we could ask for a fee or donation from the individual to attend. This could be a set amount, or a percentage of the profits made. This was discussed by committee members.

ACTION: Anna to contact individual to state that the committee would be happy for her to attend to record runs in exchange for 10% of any profits made.

Chalis Shield/Welsh National Trophy (Martin Davidsson, North Wales Secretary).

An attachment providing details of Martin's request was circulated to the Executive Committee along with the meeting papers.

In summary, on behalf of the Welsh Directors, Martin has asked if SWSDTA would be willing to contribute to purchasing a new trophy for the winner of the Welsh National. North Wales Sheepdog Society will also contribute to the purchasing of this trophy. An amount of £300-£400 was suggested.

Claire asked why they needed a new trophy. Kevin Evans stated that this has been discussed at the Welsh Directors meeting. The Chalis Shield is awarded to the breeder of the highest placed dog/bitch bred in Wales, so it doesn't necessarily go to the winner of the national. The Welsh Directors have agreed that they would like to purchase a trophy for the winner of the Welsh National. The committee asked if it was possible to change the use of the Chalis so it is awarded to the winner of the national rather than the breeder of the highest pointed Welsh dog/bitch. John Davies said the Chalis shield cannot be changed as it has been given in memory of a family who want to keep it the same.

	<p>The committee agreed we should contribute to purchasing a trophy for the winner of the Welsh National. This was proposed by Claire Ridge and seconded by Hywel Davies. The Executive Committee agreed £400 was a fair amount to contribute.</p> <p>ACTION: Anna to inform Martin Davidsson that SWSDTA are willing to contribute £400 to purchasing a new trophy.</p> <p>Resignation from Nigel Watkins (received 10/10/24) Anna informed the committee that she had received an email of resignation from Nigel Watkins.</p> <p><i>“Dear Anna & Executive Committee Please accept my resignation from the SWSDTA executive, at present it is not always possible to give the commitment required to the executive committee. Yours, Nigel”</i></p> <p>John suggested that we write a letter to thank Nigel for his services to Executive Committee. The committee agreed.</p> <p>It was noted that Nigel has one year left of his three-year term. Therefore at the AGM, one person will need to be elected to serve on the committee for one year.</p> <p>Hywel Davies clarified that it wouldn’t necessarily be the new nominee that served the one-year term. For example, five members of the committee are due to retire this year. If all five wish to remain on the committee and a sixth person is nominated from outside the current committee, according to the constitution, a vote will need to be held to agree who should be elected. The person with the fewest votes will serve the one-year term, while the other five will take up the 3-year term.</p> <p>John Davies stated that we will need to make it clear that there is room on the committee for 5 people for 3 years, and room for 1 person for 1 year.</p> <p>ACTION: Anna to email letter of thanks to Nigel Watkins ACTION: Anna to remind members of the deadline for submitting nominations/resolutions ahead of AGM.</p>
5.	<p>Secretary’s Report</p> <p>Association Trials Open Hosted by Ceredigion (by kind permission of John Davies and family).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 entered brace, 2 ran • 133 entered open, 105 ran (28 withdrawn) <p>Last year 151 entered, 121 ran (30 withdrawals), 6 entered brace and 3 ran. Singles won by Kevin Evans & Brynmoel Jet Brace won by Keving Evans with Knockmaa Bec & Hendre Sam</p>

Best Outwork: Angie with Sweep & Angie with Taz
Best Driving: Kevin & Brynmoel Jet, Logan Williams & Efail Mick, Llion Harries & Teifi Taf

Anna informed the committee that the outwork trophy for the Association Open has gone missing. Previous winners have been contacted but nobody has been able to locate it. Anna asked if the committee would like to replace this trophy. The committee agreed that there was no need to replace it.

Anna noted that we frequently have more than one person winning the driving or the outwork trophy, and queried if we should switch from awarding a winner based on points and instead award the trophy to the best driving/outwork handler and dog in the judges' opinion. It is difficult to share trophies and joint winners also make engraving difficult. The committee agreed that going forwards the judge will be asked to pick a single winner for driving and outwork.

Anna informed the committee that a raffle was held at the open but we didn't raise much money as the weather was bad and there wasn't much opportunity to sell tickets.

Novice, Young Handler & Beginner Trial

Hosted by Radnor (by kind permission of Bryan and Sophia Pugh). A smaller field was used rather than the usual trial field at Maesygelli, Nantmel. Beginner packs were provided to the beginner handlers by ISDS. Andrew Davies judged, accompanied by Rona Davies.

- 38 entered novice, 28 ran (10 withdrawn)
- 5 entered Young Handler, 5 ran
- 7 entered beginner, 7 ran.

Last year we had 39 in the novice (33 ran), 6 in Young Handler (6 ran) and 10 in beginner (6 ran). Therefore numbers are very similar to last year.

The novice was won by Bradley Morgan, the Young Handler was won by Jack Howells and Best Outwork (1952 Novice Trophy) was won by Bettina Laemmle. The beginner class wasn't awarded placings, but each competitor was given their own score card by the judge.

FG & Working Sheepdog Website Update

A word document has been created online to allow Ellie Layton (Farmers Guardian) to access all the trial information and results for South Wales. Claire Ridge has access to this too to allow her to update the VL and Angie Driscoll has access to update the website. The new Sheepdog Website has also been given access to ensure that if they choose to post information about trials and results it is accurate (it was noted that before they had access some of the results being posted weren't correct).

FG are pulling information directly from this document rather than second hand from the Working Sheepdog website.

	<p>Chairman Update</p> <p>John Davies thanked the local committee for hosting a successful Welsh national. 12 members from South Wales travelled to the International (including Reserve Elin Hope), led by Captain Kevin Evans.</p> <p>Four South Wales members qualified for the Supreme with Kevin Evans winning the supreme with Kemi Jack, Rob Ellis finishing second, Angie Driscoll third and Ross Games came in 12th. The brace was won by Angie Driscoll. Andrew Davies came second in the Young Handler and Llion Harries came second in the driving.</p> <p>John Davies congratulated all the Welsh team members and noted it was a very successful trip to Scotland!</p>
6.	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>Cerys Millichap said she will provide a brief report as a full report will be given at the AGM next month.</p> <p>Income has been much the same as previous years, with membership bringing in similar amounts to previous years. The open brought in significant funds as usual, and four raffles have been held totalling over £400.</p> <p>There are a few trial affiliations outstanding, the usual ones who are hard to get hold of. Cerys is chasing these up currently.</p> <p>Donation from Young Handler Academy</p> <p>Cerys informed the committee that SWSDTA has received £2101.69 from the Young Handler Academy vi Angie Driscoll. The same amount has been gifted to North Wales Sheepdog Society.</p> <p>The money is to be used to continue Young Handler activities as the Academy is going into hibernation due to health reasons. Cerys suggested that we should we send a thank you letter to Angie for the donation.</p> <p>The committee discussed the donation and how to put the donation to best use. It was noted that in the past, the Young Handler Academy has covered the costs of travel for Young Handlers to the World Trial. Clinics have also been put on for Young Handlers.</p> <p>John Davies asked if the committee should take up the mantle of the Young Handler Academy or if we would like to find out if an individual from the Association would be willing to take responsibility.</p> <p>Hywel Davies suggested that it should be taken to the AGM and so that members can bring forward their ideas. It was agreed it would be useful to hear what young handlers themselves think.</p>

	<p>It was agreed that we would need a structured plan to use money. It was also noted that the Young Handler Academy has been in existence for a number of years, and therefore it is important to ensure the money is spent in a way that reflects the ethos of the Academy. It was suggested that we should contact Angie to see if there was anything specific that she would like to see the money spent on.</p> <p>ACTION: Young Handler donation to be added to the Agenda for the AGM for wider discussion. If anyone has any thoughts ahead of the AGM contact Anna.</p> <p>ACTION: Anna to write thank you letter to Angie Driscoll and contact Angie to see if there is anything specific she would like the money spent on.</p>
7.	<p>AGM</p> <p>Executive Committee Members due to retire in 2024 Hywel Davies, Steve Lewis, David Howells, Rob Lewis and Emyr Lloyd are due to retire this year. Hywel Davies and Emyr Lloyd would like to remain on the Executive Committee for another term.</p> <p>Hywel Davies was proposed by Claire Ridge and seconded by Emyr Lloyd. Emyr Lloyd was proposed by Venn Davies and seconded by Rhys Jones.</p> <p>ACTION: Anna to remind Dai, Steve and Rob that if they wish to remain on the committee they will need to send in their nomination with a proposer and seconder by Thursday 24th October</p> <p>Proposals/Resolution Changes A document detailing the discussions from previous meetings was circulated to the Executive Committee ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>Chairmanship Term John read out the discussion from the January meeting. It was agreed that we should put in an amendment to the constitution to clarify the chairmanship term. ACTION: Anna to draft something and send to John ahead of the next meeting.</p> <p>Young Handler Membership fees Following queries from members, it was discussed if we should offer Under 18's a discounted membership fee (for example £10).</p> <p>It was noted that there are currently five members who are under 18, therefore reducing membership for under 18's wouldn't have a huge impact on finances. It was noted that offering a discounted membership may help to bring young handlers into the association.</p> <p>Following the discussion, it was agreed that it could be taken to the AGM as a suggestion rather than a proposal.</p> <p>ACTION: Anna to add to agenda for the AGM</p>

<p>8.</p>	<p>SWSDTA Nursery Final</p> <p>Heddwyn Thomas reported that Carmarthen have started planning and all is under control.</p> <p>Anna informed the group that Michelle Thomas has been in touch about doing a programme. Carmarthen will be sourcing adverts to fund the printing of the programme and any additional money made will be going towards a charity.</p> <p>It was noted that the programme would need to contain the running order with the breeding of the dogs included as usual. This would need to be collated by the Secretary and then sent to Carmarthen. Anna said she had informed Michelle this might be a tight turn around as often nursery teams are not confirmed until the Sunday before the nursery final. It was recognised that SWSDTA don't usually do a programme, though sometimes a small fee is charged for the running order to cover printing costs. If the run order was included in the programme there would be no printing costs for SWSDTA.</p> <p>Heddwyn said he will check with Michelle to see if the turnaround time will be ok with the printer.</p> <p>SWSDTA would be able to have an advert in the programme for a small fee/donation. The Committee discussed this and agreed that they would purchase a half page advert to advertise membership and the annual dinner to support Carmarthen.</p> <p>Hywel noted that the last time Carmarthen hosted the nursery final SWSDTA were charged for sheep haulage, catering and a marquee which they weren't made aware of beforehand. Claire Ridge said it is now written in the diary that any costs for association trials need to be agreed with the committee prior to the trial.</p> <p>Action: Heddwyn to check turnaround times for printing with Michelle Action: Anna/Cerys to liaise with Michelle regarding SWSDTA advert for the programme</p> <p>Blue Tongue – Biosecurity Anna stated that a query had come in about potential restrictions due to blue tongue.</p> <p>The committee agreed we would have to follow whatever guidance DEFRA publish at the time of the trial.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Victor Ludorum Update</p> <p>Claire Ridge provided an update of the current standings in the Victor Ludorum;</p> <p>National Style</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Karin Haker & Case 44 2. Meirion Jones & Nan 41

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Robert Ellis & Pip 35 4. Meirion Jones & Kennox Bob 34 5. Eirian Morgan & Lil 32 6. Bleddyn Lester & Nantcelyn Jet 30 <p>Four more sessions/trials remain in diary for 2024.</p> <p>South Wales Style</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Price & Cap 19 2. Arthur Jenkins & Chez 18 3. Rhys Jones & Tynygraig Flash 18 4. Karin Haker & Case 16 5. Meirion Jones & Nan 16 6. Eirian Morgan & Lil 16 <p>Matt mentioned that he had noticed that some of the trials listed on the ISDS have got incorrect dates (e.g. Tynwern).</p> <p>ACTION: Anna to check dates of trials on ISDS and email Tamie White with any corrections.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Annual Dinner (Saturday 4th January 2025)</p> <p>John Davies said he has been in touch with the White Hart in Llandeilo. He has asked for a menu but has not received it yet. He is planning to call in there after the meeting to get the menu.</p> <p>John has arranged a guest speaker arranged (local comedian).</p> <p>ACTION: John to confirm venue and bring menu along to the next meeting.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Nursery Rules</p> <p>Although nothing official has been received, we are aware that Carmarthen are seeking clarification on the nursery rule which states that to compete in the All-Wales Nursery Final an individual must be a permanent resident in Wales. It is possible that this will come up for discussion at the AGM.</p> <p>The rule states; “Members of the South Wales team for the All Wales Nursery Final must be permanently resident in Wales (Agreed in AGM 2017)”</p> <p>Heddwyn said the rule does not clearly define what constitutes “permanently resident in Wales”. Heddwyn said it is likely to come up in AGM and it would be helpful to have guidance from the committee on what a person might need to do to prove they are resident in Wales. Hywel noted that this has come up as an issue in the past.</p>

There was a discussion about what could be used to prove residency. Utility bill, driving license and bank statement were all mentioned.

Bradley Morgan said that in Glos/Gwent those who live in Gloucester are able to run in the nurseries but they cannot qualify for the South Wales team.

John Davies said that each local area will have their own set of rules and therefore it would be up to Carmarthen who they allow to compete in their nurseries and who would be eligible to qualify to represent Carmarthen in the South Wales final. The SWSDTA only govern rules at an All-Wales level.

Gift

It was noted that this year a member of SWSDTA won the Supreme and another member won the Brace. John Davies asked if the committee usually gives a gift to the winner of the supreme and the winner of the brace. The Executive Committee said it has always been only the supreme. The committee agreed we should purchase a gift for the winner of supreme and discussed ideas of what this could be.

ACTION: Anna to bring some ideas to the next meeting.

Inappropriate Comments on Social Media.

Claire Ridge raised concerns that there were some inappropriate comments on social media after the international. The comments were inappropriate for trialling. She noted this was not something SWSDTA could do anything about but thought it should be raised. John Davies said if people have concerns, they should send a letter to the ISDS or to Martin Davidsson for Directors meeting.

Numbers at AGM

Hywel Davies noted that our AGM does not draw in many members and questioned what we could do to attract more people. He suggested that we could elect judges for the nursery final at the AGM. The Executive Committee thought this might be difficult to do.

Hywel stated that we should try to think about ways to involve members more in the AGM to encourage them to attend.

Welsh National

This year 153 entered the Welsh National (max 150). Although two people had withdrawn ahead of the national, nobody had informed the reserve competitors that they had a run. Currently the reserve is expected to attend every day in-case there is a withdrawal.

John Davies informed the committee that he will be putting forward a proposal to Welsh Directors regarding ensuring reserve runners are notified if they have a space to run in the national. The exact wording of this proposal is yet to be confirmed.

Congratulations

Heddwyn Thomas passed on his congratulations to Cardigan for organising a successful national.

12	Date/Time/Venue of Next Meeting The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21 st November, 6.30 pm at Llandovery RFC.
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Signed _____

Date agreed: