



SPORTING WHIPPET CLUB

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday 19th January 2020 – 12:30

Down Ampney Village Hall, Cirencester, GL7 5QR

Meeting opened 12:36

1. Opening and apologies

Present: Duncan Nicholls, Tracy Chamberlain, Gill McClatchie, Carol Edgington, Phil Edgington, Susie Logan, Sharon Dalglish, Mike Florek, Peter Gaffney, Penny Abbott, Martin Abbott, Caroline Osborne, Dawn Stockley, Catriona Ryan, 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 Dalglish / Iain Logan / Sandra Marcovecchio / Lilah Wainman

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Proposed as a true record of the last meeting – Jan Doherty and seconded by Penny Abbott

3. Matters arising

At the last meeting we advised that we were no longer able to provide a cake stall. This is a reminder that refreshments are not provided for members. Tea/Coffee facilities are for the committee team only. On occasion we have had donations of cakes etc which members can purchase for a set donation. We hope to continue to offer on occasion this throughout the season, but members must provide their own drinks.

4. Chairman's report

ONCE AGAIN WE HAVE HAD A GOOD YEAR. WEATHER HAS BEEN KIND TO US.

We were very sad to lose Sarah this year. Sarah has worked hard as our secretary over the last few years and we are indebted to her for her support.

We were also sad to lose Andrew Dawes from the committee. He and his wife Mandy are building a house and have the farm and Mandy's horse yard to run with little time for anything else. He will still continue to book the Eiling Farm venue for us and maybe another whippet will come along and he will come and join us again

We have Co opted 2 new committee members Penny Abbott and Carol Edgington and we are pleased to welcome them. I am sure they will both be an asset to the club.

As you all know We have had a new lure machine built by Duncan Nicholls. This is an electric machine and we have had a few teething problems with it, the boys have been tweaking it and we hope to use it more this season.

We try to plough as much money back into the club as we can and once again we will be upgrading the pulleys and replacing old ones and we have a new gazebo as the old ones were a bit battered.

We have 2 new grounds for this season one at Redgates Somerset about 5 mins from Raleighs cross. This ground is undulating and very different from Raleighs and we hope it will be a good venue for SWC . The other is Hazleton Manor in Rodmarton Cirencester. Hazleton was used as a venue for UKSS last season and we felt it would make a better SWC Venue. The owner Lady Brinckman and her family are very supportive of the clubs and we look forward to a good day there.

We are very lucky at SWC as we only pay for one ground during the season. Our landowners are wonderful and we have a very good relationship with many of them.

In September Mike Greg Gill Carol Phil Elaine Alec and Myself attended the hound parade at Frampton Fair in Gloucestershire. This is the second time we have attended and it was a lovely day. We took a gazebo and had a selection of photos on display and lots of whippets who received loads of attention from the general public. A thoroughly enjoyable day.

I would like to thank Greg for continuing to transport and store the equipment.

Martin Abbot for his wonderful photos and everyone of you that helps to set up and put away the equipment.

Also Thanks to Sarah Tracy and Kate for various cake scone strawberry days and to Fleur for her fabulous Gin Raffles

Finally Congratulations to all our top dogs from last season and we are looking forward to seeing lots of new pups running this season.

See you all in March.

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

- Operated at a loss this year but money has been spent on a new lure machine and generator
- Fleur's raffles have boosted income on top of normal raffle
- SD advised that fees are remaining the same except passport cost which as previously advised last year will be increasing from £2.00 to £5.00
- Martin Abbott requested detail of 'Cliverton' and SD confirmed this is the club's insurance provider. UKSS also pay a percentage of the cost of insurance. The insurance policy covers SWC for any event that it runs.
- The treasurer's report was proposed by Kate Bent and seconded by Martin Abbott

6. Re-election of Committee in rotation – Greg McLatchie. Penny Abbott and Carol Edgington have been co-opted on to the committee. Proposed by Caroline Osborne, seconded by Duncan Nicholls Andy Dawes tendered his resignation and this was accepted by the club

Election of TC as Secretary. Proposed by SD, seconded by Catriona Ryan. Re-election of Mark Bicknell as Treasurer. Proposed by SD, seconded by Duncan Nicholls. All in agreement.

7. Proposal of rule change by Caroline Osborne - Maximum age for dogs to compete is currently nine years old – request to increase/remove maximum

Caroline asked why the committee had decided on this age? SD advised there were some ten year old dogs that owners wanted to run and the committee didn't feel that they were fit enough and had concerns that they would get injured. Racing clubs have a maximum age of nine, so it was decided that dogs could run at SWC for the rest of the season after their ninth birthday.

Caroline said that it is about knowing your own dogs and whether they are fit enough. There are dogs running younger that are not necessarily fit enough. SD said that running at SWC is not like running at other clubs, there are tighter turns etc, some have no off switch, it is also about protecting the club. Recovery time is longer than with younger dogs.

Mike Florek reiterated that we have this rule in place already.

Shortened courses were discussed, and the logistics of changing for veterans. It was said that they could have shortened trials.

Caroline stated that under FCI rules dogs up to this age can run the same length course, they don't have a separate veterans class, they are running the same as younger fitter dogs. We might as well do away with the veteran class.

SD disagreed and said that we have veterans running together. They only have two rounds at SWC, younger dogs can have three dependant on entries.

Catriona Ryan talked of an article published by Gay Robertson, written by an expert in this field regarding injured sighthounds, ligaments deteriorate and risks are increased with age. Racing on shorter bends and straights was also discussed.

SD stated that really there were two proposals, remove the age limit and use discretion or once dogs turn nine then they can run to the end of that season.

SM and TC stated that rule re ninth year already in place. SD advised that this change was agreed last year. Caroline Osborne said that rules were not up to date on the website. She would like it removed completely, we sign disclaimers to say we run at own risk. Which other veteran did the club think shouldn't be running? SD confirmed there were three that had caused concern for the club. Caroline said we were penalising the many because of the minority. We should have a quiet word with owners, we have the right to refuse entries. SD stated we needed to formalise it.

Proposal to have the rule regarding nine years old removed – Proposed Caroline Osborne, seconded Dawn Stockley. No votes in favour.

Proposal to keep rule that dogs turning nine can run the rest of that season. Proposed by the committee and seconded by Kate Bent. The vote was carried by a majority.

8. Other news and announcements

- All dog's safety is paramount to SWC and the following will be written on the disclaimer form that all competitors are required to sign:
Lure Coursing is a physically demanding sport for your dog. Please ensure that your dog is fully fit to run before each course. If a dog is believed to be carrying an injury when brought to the paddock then the committee reserve the right to refuse to let the dog run. – SD reiterated the requirement to let dogs have proper time to recuperate. Toe injuries needs weeks in order for the dog to fully recover and have a long life with no further issues from original injury.
Dawn Stockley asked if we have the right to refuse to let dogs run, SD confirmed this is what we are saying, if we feel the dog is not completely sound then we will refuse to let them run.
- New guidelines to be introduced for puppy trialling:
6 months – 20 yards
7 months – 30/50 yards
8 months – 100 yards
9 months – maximum of two turns
10 months – two half courses
11 months – two full courses
All puppy runs to be at Field Team discretion, who can stop a run if they believe a pup is not ready to run further.
Mike Florek questioned the guideline for an eleven month old puppy. TC reminded him that we had agreed these guidelines because some puppies will be physically mature earlier and can run twice, especially when we are expecting them to potentially running three times within a month, possibly three weeks later. For

those the field team do not think are strong enough, or focused enough then they can give recommendations or stop runs etc. That is what the final line in the guidelines was for.

- TC advised that online registration (for passports) and online entry for meetings would be launched imminently. Will make entry very easy for members, they will just need to fill in their name and dog's name and how they are paying etc. There will no longer be individual emails from Sharon, but one email to all to say entries are open.

Sarah asked if photos will be able to be submitted with registration. TC said she was working on this. It had worked on one occasion but now she was having issues, hoping to rectify soon

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

- SWWC has kindly offered a £100 donation to the club, they have always been very supportive and we are very grateful. We have asked that they provide another trophy for the club so we will now have Top Dog and Top Bitch trophies. They will be getting I engraved
- Susie Logan asked that everyone make sure that their male dogs are not allowed to urinate over the orange fencing and gazebos. It is very unsanitary for those helping to clear up at the end of the day.
- Susie also thanked the committee on behalf of all the members for their hard work.

Meeting closed 13:19

SPORTING WHIPPET CLUB 2019 SEASON ACCOUNTS

£1,743.00

Jan-19

£139.00

Memberships

£10.79 1&1 Internet

£154.25 Servicing and spares for quad and lure m/c

£63.50 Village Hall hire

£1,653.00

Feb-19

£184.00

Membership and entries

£10.79 1&1 Internet

£1,826.00

Mar-19

£147.00

£37.39 Expenses (G McLatchie)

Membership and entries

£10.79 1&1 Internet

£1,925.00

Apr-19

£151.00

Entries

£65.85 Expenses (S Meadham)

£26.59 Expenses (S Meadham)

£15.00 Expenses (G McLatchie)

£10.79 1&1 Internet

£114.00

Banked entries and payments

£1,970.00

May-19

£52.00

Entries

£406.00

Banked entries

£10.79 1&1 Internet

£2,417.00

Jun-19

£217.78 Cliverton

£15.00 Transaction charge

£205.44 Twine for lure machines

£195.00 Rosettes

£19.00

Entries

£10.79 1&1 Internet

£1,792.00

Jul-19

£260.79

Banked entries

£10.79 1&1 Internet

£2,042.00

Aug-19

£127.00

Entries

		£400.00 D Nicholls (new lure m/c)
		£10.79 1&1 Internet
		£90.00 Toilet Hire
		£380.00 D Nicholls (new lure m/c)
<u>£1,288.00</u>		
Sep-19		£240.00 D Nicholls (new lure m/c)
	£82.69	Entries (inc Paypal)
		£10.79 1&1 Internet
		£90.00 Abbey Loos
		£61.37 Village Hall
		£66.50 Expenses (S Dagleish)
<u>£902.77</u>		
Oct-19		
	£420.00	Banked entries
	£10.00	Entry
		£98.30 Rosettes R Peek
		£10.79 1&1 Internet
<u>£1,223.00</u>		
Nov-19		
		£10.79 1&1 Internet
<u>£1,212.00</u>		
Dec-19		
		£10.79 1&1 Internet
		£38.00 Rosettes
	£40.00	Entries
CLOSING BALANCE		
<u>£1,204.00</u>		
Incomings total	£2,152.48	£2,589.45 Outgoings total
		Year end total
		-£436.97

Please note entry in August for £380.00 is for purchase of generator.