

The English Shetland Sheepdog Club

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at 12.40pm on 17th June 2023 at Chieveley Village Hall and Recreation Centre, High Street, Chieveley RG20 8TE with Mrs M Withers in the Chair.

Thirty-one members were present.

1. Apologies for absence were received from thirty-five members.

2. Chairman's Report

The past twelve months have been relatively uneventful in relation to Club affairs, so you will be pleased to hear that my report this year will be quite brief!

We were back to normal with our 2022 shows after relaxation of the pandemic restrictions and were therefore able to run working activities again alongside the breed classes at the championship show in October. As well as obedience we also introduced a "Have A Go Rally" event which could be booked on the day, and as this proved popular, we will be running it again at this year's championship show.

In 2024 it will be "all change" again. Most members will be aware that the Kennel Club has offered us the opportunity to run two championship shows per year for the next five years, so our first championship show of 2024 will be held on 9th June at Stoneleigh. Hopefully we will have good weather and be able to use the outside space and grass rings. It is a Kennel Club stipulation that the show must either be run alongside an open show or in conjunction with a general championship show, so we have elected to run our summer open show on the same day. Planning is still in progress, but it is expected that the open show will start around lunchtime to avoid class clashes.

This does mean that we will not have time to run the AGM at the summer show, so a further change to our calendar is to hold our Spring open show and AGM in late April. We do not have a confirmed date or venue for that yet, but we are looking for a location with plenty of outside space because we would like to run a working discipline there as well. Many of our Working Section members already compete in a wide range of sports like Agility, Rally, and Hoopers to name but a few, and they are willing to share their experience and expertise with the rest of us as Shelties really enjoy and excel at these activities. Our current thinking for next April is to have a demonstration of Hoopers and then an opportunity for members to have a go at that with their Shelties.

Last year I mentioned that several of the Branches were struggling, and I am sad to say that some of them are now folding as their committees feel unable to carry on without new people coming forward to run them. On a more positive note, several Branches took up our offer of funds to hold a social event, and the three that did report that they were well attended and enjoyed by all.

We will be getting to the committee changes later the agenda, but I would just like to convey my thanks to two committee members who are standing down this year after many years of service to the Club. John Whitfield is coming to the end of his second stint, bringing it to a total of 25 years in various roles. While he is standing down as an active committee member he will still be looking after the Archives and bringing a display to the championship show. Linda Whittington has completed 15 years and will also be much missed, although I am sure she will still be involved in the "back room" helping with both the Welfare & Rescue and proof reading of Club publications.

Finally I would like to thank the rest of the committee who work so hard to keep the Club running and also all the volunteers who help out, be it stewarding at shows, driving around the country to collect rescue Shelties, giving their time on the Discover Dogs stand at Crufts or in London, or indeed any of the host of activities which go on behind the scenes of running a successful breed club like ours.

3. Acceptance of Accounts

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 were presented. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Mr S Gruszka, seconded by Mrs S Riding with all in favour.

4. Appointment of Auditors

Re-appointment of the Club's Auditors was proposed by Mrs M Withers seconded by Mrs Whittington and carried.

5. Election of Committee

Two long-standing committee members have stood down this year. John Whitfield, who could not attend today, and Linda Whittington. A presentation was made to Linda, with thanks to her for her hard work on the committee. One nomination was received, so existing committee members were re-elected and Mrs Sheila Raaff was welcomed back to the committee. There is one vacancy and nominations are welcome.

6. Presentation of Bowring Medal

Mrs Moody presented a Bowring Medal to Mrs Charmaine Mitchell for making up her first champion in the breed Ch Mitchfields Fashion Girl At Felthorn. As Mrs Mitchell was unable to attend today it was accepted on her behalf by Mr R Thornley.

7. Presentation of the Jenny Martin Memorial Trophy

This is the first presentation of this trophy to the junior handler winning most points at the Club's shows. Mrs Moody presented the trophy to Melissa Graham-Weall.

The meeting closed at 12.50 with thanks to those attending.