



The Sled Dog Association of Scotland

Minutes of AGM – Bowland Trails Barn - Saturday 19th March 2016

Committee members present

Chairperson	James Smith
Secretary:	Mary Carter
Membership Secretary:	Paul O'Donnell
Prize / Trophy Co-ordinator:	Ashleigh Dean
Media & Chief Timing Officer:	Tracy Thomas
Race Coordinator:	Alan Daniels
Race Grafter	Rob McMillan

SDAS members present

John Carter; Katy Eden; Thomas Edwards; Andrew Falconer; Danny Fitzgerald; Damien Farnon; Keith Hutchon; Vince King; Bob McLeod; Gilli McLeod; Michael McRae; Louise Mitchell; Aileen Morton; Alan Morton; Kelly O'Carroll; Heather O'Donnell; David Parry; Ben Turrell; Sharon Turrell; Debbie Ward;

Item 1 – Welcome & Apologies

Refreshments were made available to all members present & the meeting commenced at 14:20hrs. Copies of agenda, financial report (appendix b) were made available to all in attendance. JS welcomed and thanked those present & an attendance sheet was passed round & signed by all (see appendix c)

Apologies from Matthew Clarke & Shelley & Harry Lawrence.

Item 2 – Accuracy of minutes from last AGM

Minutes taken by MC. Accuracy of Minutes proposed by JS. Seconded by POD.

Item 3 – Treasurer's report

POD highlighted relevant aspects of the financial report, including outstanding items to be paid (inc venue costs) Acceptance of Accounts. Proposed by MC. Seconded by TT.

Item 4 – Chairperson's report

JS – Thanks to the committee, past, present and the new. Encouraged non committee members to get involved in any way they can. Congratulations to SDAS members for successes on the trail, including international successes. Wished members an enjoyable summer & Look forward to yet another successful and enjoyable season for SDAS.

Item 5 – Election of Officials

Voting for committee members:

		<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Alan Daniels	Seconded by James Smith	23	0
(Current Race and Events Coordinator)			
Daniel Fitzgerald	Seconded by James Smith	23	0
Heather O'Donnell	Seconded by James Smith	23	0
Paul O'Donnell	Seconded by James Smith	23	0
(Current Membership Secretary & Treasurer)			
Tracy Thomas	Seconded by James Smith	23	0
(Current Media / Promotion & Timing Wizard)			
Debbie Ward	Seconded by James Smith	23	0

Item 6 – Proposals

- 1) Proposed by Mary Carter, Seconded by James Smith

To adopt the WSA Ethics paper as an appendix to the SDAS constitution. (see appendix a)

Supporting Statement: As part of SDAS's obligation as member of the WSA. Useful publication for SDAS when approaching potential sponsors or land owners. Maintaining our current high standards and publicly stating the welfare aspect of our sleddogs life.

Voting **23** **0**

- 2) Proposed by Mary Carter, Seconded by James Smith

To adopt the WSA Dog Transportation guidelines as an appendix to the SDAS constitution. (see appendix b)

Supporting statement: As per WSA guidelines. Ensuring our members transport their dogs appropriately.

Voting **23** **0**

- 3) Proposed by Rob MacMillan, Seconded by Tracy Thomas

Proposal: to change SDAS Local Race Rule 24

Currently reads: 24) The following classes and junior age categories may be offered at all SDAS events....

DCMJ; DCWJ - 1 dog Canicross 8 - 15 years Boys / Girls

Proposed change to:

DCMJ; DCWJ - 1 dog Canicross 7 - 15 years Boys / Girls (7 year olds must be accompanied by an adult who is also attached to the dog) .

Supporting statement: children under the age of 8 regularly train, supervised by parents. Junior classes for age 7-10 have been successfully run by other race organisations, the junior musher and accompanying adult have both been attached to the dog. The adults presence if purely for safety and they should remain behind the child/dog team throughout the race.

Voting **23** **0**

- 4) Proposed by Rob MacMillan, Seconded by Tracy Thomas
 To alter the running order of classes
 Currently – large team classes are predominantly run first with the smaller teams running last. There is no rule which specifies a set running order.
 Wish to reverse the running order of classes to afford smaller teams the opportunity to run earlier in the day. Alternated between races.
 Supporting statement: at the recent race at Rothes the start time was altered to 11am. Had the start time been 8.30, which would normally be the start time, and had a reversal of run order been in place, the large teams would have been running at 11am. At the recent race at Ford the cani cross teams were run earlier in the run order.
 Compromise if agreement can not be reached – alternate between large & small teams. eg. 8 dog rig, 1 dog bike, 1 dog scooter, 6 dog rig, 2 dog rig, 4 dog rig, cani cross, 3 dog rig or varied combination.

Discussion followed regarding the reasoning and merits of the current running order, inc relationship of speed / overheating; members of public; helpers lists; reducing 'down time' between classes.

Voting **1** **16**

Further Proposal submitted on subject following discussion & with regard to 'compromise' in supporting statement

Proposal By Mary Carter, Seconded by Jambo Smith

Addition to SDAS Local rule 24

Class running order will be based on team size and / or speed, but may be subject to some variation to facilitate the smooth running of the event.

Voting **23** **0**

- 5) Proposal by Rob MacMillan, Seconded by Tracy Thomas

Amendment to SDAS Local Race rule 24

Currently reads:

DBM /DBW; DBMNB / DBWNB; DBMNB other / DBWNB other – 1 dog Bikejor combined Men / Women

Amendment to:

DBM /DBW; DBMNB / DBWNB; and DBJ – 1 dog Bikejor combined Men / Women and juniors 10 – 15yrs

Currently – the only class for juniors is canicross or rig.

Supporting statement: the purchase of a rig for a junior is an expensive one, particularly when the junior may outgrow it quickly. The majority of children own a bike. Introducing a bikejor class would be a method of allowing and encouraging more juniors to take part in the sport. The junior would be followed round the trail by an adult on a bike, the adult would be present simply for safety and should remain behind the junior/dog team for the duration of the race.

Voting **24** **0**

Further proposal that Junior bikejor be a combined class for all male / female / open / Nordic

Voting **24** **0**

- 6) Proposed by James Smith, Seconded by Danny Fitzgerald.

To remove DR8 class from SDAS event

Supporting Statement: DR8 class is not suited to most SDAS race distances and type of trail.

Discussion followed including potential future uptake; effect on smaller class entries; musher / dog / public safety; incidents outside of SDAS; trail suitability;

Voting **2** **23**

Further proposals following discussion: Ammendment to SDAS local race rule 24 regarding DR8

- | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| • Must use 4 wheeled rig only | 7 | 16 |
| • Must have 1 season experience in DR6 prior to competing in DR8 | 7 | 16 |
| • Competitors in DR8 class must be approved by committee majority | 21 | 2 |

7) Proposed by James Smith, Seconded by Ashleigh Dean.

To remove all NB other (Freight) classes

Supporting Statement: Past 3 years approx. total 3 freight teams entered. Freight teams are still welcome to run in with the RNB (Pure breed) classes. SDAS and it's sponsors are wasting money on prizes just in case Freight teams enter.

Voting **23** **1**

8) Proposed by James Smith, Seconded by Heather O'Donnell.

To seed each classes subsequent heats based on time only, with no separation in the running order for Open and RNB teams.

Supporting Statement: to reduce the down time between class categories, especially as there are a number of open teams regularly finishing with a longer time than many RNB teams

Discussion followed & proposal to include 'order at race organizers discretion' to avoid unnecessary overtaking where mis-haps on the trail may result in seeding anomalies.

Voting **23** **1**

Item 7 – Any Other Competent Business

AM – encourage / remind those without marshal duties to offer to help starting teams. If you are unsure – folk will show you.

JS – For SDAS members to set a good example to new comers: abide by, and do not bend the rules; maintain high standards in all aspects of the sport; arrive promptly for marshal duties etc

MC – review DR2 – consensus to keep class as this year ie run as one class but award rig / scooter separately.

JS – Remind competitors to Ensure Timer (TT) is undisturbed – re introduce timing monitor for future events.

JS – Marshal kits Improve to include Marshal info / do's & don'ts; Dog Bowl & water; Dog lead; Marshal Bib; Radio communication (to be purchased) & to use Marshal signs on the trail to indicate marshal points.

Item 8 – Thanks & Close of meeting

Ethical principles:

The responsibility for a dog starts on the first day of ownership and lasts until the end of its life. The life expectancy of a healthy, medium to large dog averages between 12 to 14 years.

The top priority is to preserve and promote the physical and psychological health of the dog. In addition to the basic needs for food, care and exercise, it is important to provide an environment free of abuse and violence.

In addition to the basic needs of food, care and exercise are considered to be normal behaviours for having a dog, along with non-violent occurrences with the dog

Regular health checks, vaccinations and treatment of internal and external parasites are part of responsible dog ownership. Care must be adapted to the dog's natural needs and both social and psychological stimulation is important for maintaining physical and mental health.

When deciding how many dogs to own, it is important to consider how much money and time can be dedicated, and what zoning laws and living situation will allow. Keeping kennels the size one can care for properly will allow to avoid future problems.

The basic education of each dog is important for its welfare and safety.

Runs or pens must be large enough to allow dogs to perform most behaviors that are typical of their species. Good weather protection must be provided. Tethering is illegal and violates the Animal Protection Act.

The dog or dogs should have his/her kennel area accessible with the ability for he/she to move around accordingly and be able to stay occupied. The dog's urge to move, the ability to learn and the other ways of a dog's being must be encouraged and supported.

Along with that, a dog must have plenty of activities to get sufficient exercise; for example letting the dog free run. For this purpose, the activities mentioned above, should be put as a standard for the basic training for a dog.

An excellent way of staying busy and active is the sled dogging sport as well as the various other possibilities of dog sports in general.

It is important to properly train and condition dogs and never push them to perform beyond their capabilities. Usage of performance-enhancing drugs and harmful training methods are strictly prohibited.

A responsible musher will participate in events only with healthy, well trained and conditioned dogs. Ambition or financial motives should never overrule animal welfare.

Above all, it is unthinkable to shorten the life of a dog for financial reasons, lack of space or because the animal's performance is not up to expectations.

The killing of vertebrates is regulated by the Animal Protection Act of each country and clearly prohibits killing for above reasons.

Ethical people will grant their dog a pleasant last stage of life according to its age and health. This demonstrates their gratitude towards the animal for being a reliable friend and partner over many years.

Appendix b)

Dog transport guidelines vers. 1.1

The size of the crates in which the dogs are being transported in is generally based on the size of the dogs. Dogs must be able to stand, lay down lengthwise and rotate. If two dogs are being transported in the same crate, the width of the box must be adjusted. The crate must be ventilated properly. Wire mesh crates that are open on all sides are not allowed. Top, bottom and three sides of a crate should always be closed. If single dogs are being transported, for example, in the rear of an estate car, wire mesh crates are allowed. When planning the construction of crates remember that bedding has to be added, which will reduce the standing height. The bedding / litter should be clean and dry and must be changed after soiling.

If a trailer is being used, make sure that the opening to the outside is protected from spray and rainwater and that the dogs are not exposed to direct wind. The exhaust fumes from the towing vehicle must be guided so that they cannot penetrate into the trailer. The crates must be reasonably well ventilated.

Appendix c)

HEATHER O'DONNELL
 ANDREW FALCONER
 KATY ADAM
 THOMAS EDWARDS
 BENJAMIN
 SHARON TURKELL
 Debbie Ward
 DAVID PARKY
 MICHAEL NEILLAS
 KELLY O'CARROLL
 KEITH HUTCHON
 GILL McLEOD
 BOB McLEOD
 ALAN BARRON
 GILBERT MORTON
 DANIEL FERGUSON
 JOHN CARRON
 PAUL O'DONNELL
 LOUISE MURPHY
 RONALD K. MURPHY
 ALAN DANIELS
 VINCE KING
 TRACY THOMAS
 ADRIAN DEAN
 LINDY GILES
 JILL

Appendix d)

Sled Dog Association of Scotland			
Income & Expenditure for the period 20th March 2015 to 17th March 2015			
Opening Bank Balance Brought forward		Bank	£ 2,631.22
Income			
Sponsorship funds	£	400.00	
Membership	£	848.00	
Entries, Camping	£	5,975.00	
Total Income			£ 7,223.00
			£ 9,854.22
Expenditure			
Trophies & medals	£	1,000.78	
Venue costs	£	250.00	
Toilets	£	1,248.00	
WSA membership	£	134.79	
WSA General Assembly travel cost	£	300.00	
Stationary	£	68.27	
Race Vet	£	250.00	
Events Insurance	£	261.00	
committee expenses	£	70.00	
Trail Markers & posts	£	70.00	
Team Strides - Medals	£	329.94	
Data Protection	£	35.00	
Import Tax	£	47.54	
Race Bibs	£	71.56	
Total Expenditure			£ 4,136.88
Surplus for the year			£ 5,717.34
Paypal			£ 692.02
Closing Bank Balance			£ 5,025.32
			£ 5,717.34