

THE SLED DOG ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Bowland Trails Barn Saturday 24th March 2012

Committee members present:

Chairman:	Charlie Brecknell;
Treasurer:	Tobias Leask;
Secretary:	Mary Carter;
Race Coordinator:	Alan MacDonald;
Prize / Trophy coordinator:	Mick Byrne;
Webmaster:	Cathy Batt;

SDAS members present:

Daniel Fitzgerald, David & Mandy Allan, Sam Allan, Jill Byrne, Cherry Fairley, Jonathon & Tanya Glover, Keith Johnson, Vicky Lee, Alan Macdonald, Michael McRae, Joe Blackshaw, Kelly Bolsover, Gordon Sinclair, Carol Sinclair, Mateusz Markuszewski, Steven Studley, Bryan Sutherland, Barry Wanless, Ross Webb, Mark McIntic, Jo Brecknell, Alan Morton, Margaret & Brian Taylor, David and Liz Dalziel, David Ezzi & John Carter

Item 1 – Welcome & Apologies

The meeting commenced at 14.50 hrs. CBr welcomed all, an attendance sheet was signed by all & a race venue feedback form was circulated to each member in attendance to rate last years venues 1-5 or suggest new race venues for planning SDAS 2012 / 13 championship series & National Championships.

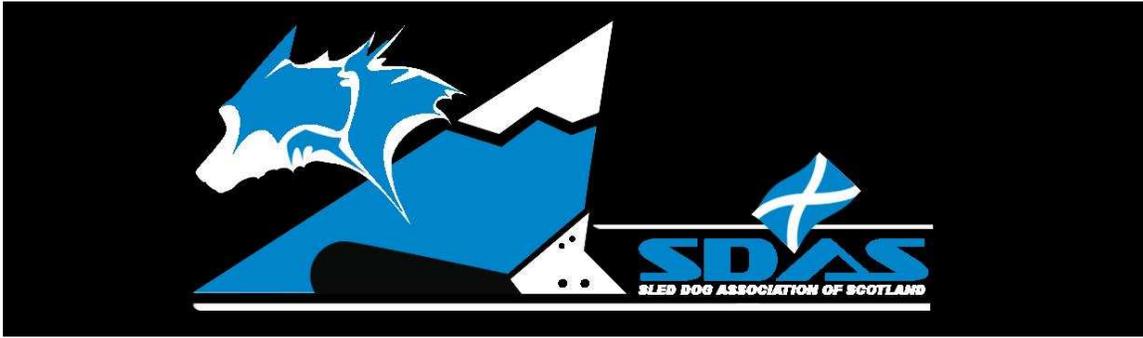
Apologies from:

Karl & Ali Binns, Bethan Fitzgerald, Paul & Jacqui Kelley, Amanda Leask, Toni Meggit, Karen Neville, Dougie Stewart, Ron & Jo Walton.

CBr apologized to those members not having received notice of AGM, Agenda and Committee Postal Vote slips – CBr had used the most recent membership list provided by the Membership Secretary, DS. It was noted that DS had struggled with SDAS duties due to work commitments and this may have been the cause of the various member omissions.

Item 2 – Accuracy of minutes from last AGM

Minutes taken by Lynne Murray. Accuracy proposed by CBr, Seconded by CBa.



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Item 3 – Treasurer’s report

Income & Expenditure account circulated to members present. See appendix (a).

Matters arising:

- Race Attendance at races this season affected by financial climate – resultant over investment of slate coaster prizes.
- Disc possibility of online entries also to help prevent entries being accepted without accompanying payment.
- Committee to review race entry fees to cover venue costs, toilet hire & possible use of independent timing system
- Problems with & future of SDAS’ own timing system – ‘Timing team’ have not been in attendance at more recent races, question if timing system was ever fit for purpose. Multiple timing discrepancies, No back up system if system fails or called into question, Many items not working – Display clocks broken / burnt out, batteries do not operate system if temp falls below -5 degrees C. Options discussed & show of hands.

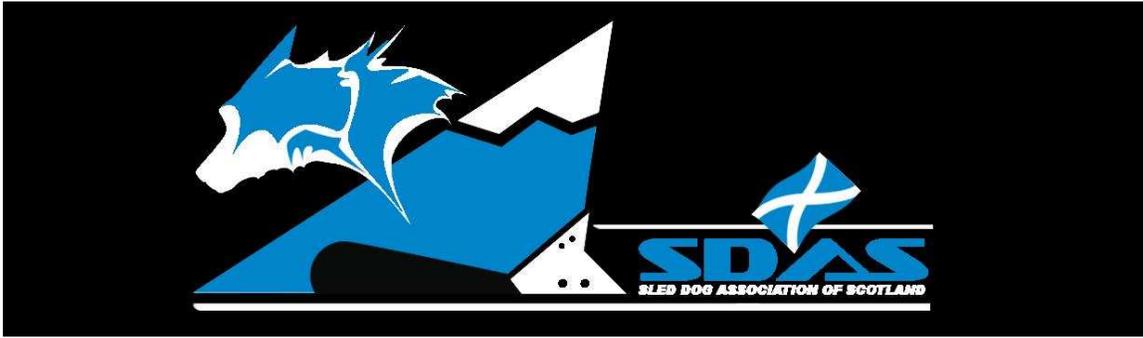
	Hands raised
1. CBr asked if any member would be prepared to take it over / run it	0
2. Repair it, then sell it	33
3. Sell it without prior repair	1

Item 4 – Election of Officials

CBr thanked the existing committee for their continued hard work & thanked those who have stood for re-election. Also noted that the new committee must ensure they carry out fully the roll for which they have volunteered to avoid other committee members becoming overburdened or faced with additional work due to these inefficiencies. Joe Blackshaw requested an introduction from each of the proposed committee members prior to voting & to be noted as a requirement with proposals in subsequent years.

Nominations:	Votes For +	Postal votes	= Total For	Votes Against +	Postal Votes	=Total against
Cathy Batt	15	6	21	3	6	9
Charlie Brecknell	24	14	38	0	0	0
Cherry Fairley	26	14	40	0	0	0
Keith Johnson	23	16	39	0	0	0
Mark McLintic	24	14	38	0	0	0
Alan MacDonald	23	10	33	0	4	4

All Nominated members were welcomed to the committee & members were advised that the committee will be seeking further non-committee volunteers for various tasks as required throughout the forthcoming year



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Item 5 – Proposals

1. Proposed by Jo Brecknell. Seconded by Karl Binns

That the National Championships and Qualifying events form part of the SDAS Championship series. That they still be open to non-members who wish to compete, with an increased entry fee to allow for a weekend membership.

Supporting statement: In order to reduce the financial burden on the club by having to hold extra events as happened this season, and these events being poorly attended by the membership as these events did not carry championship points.

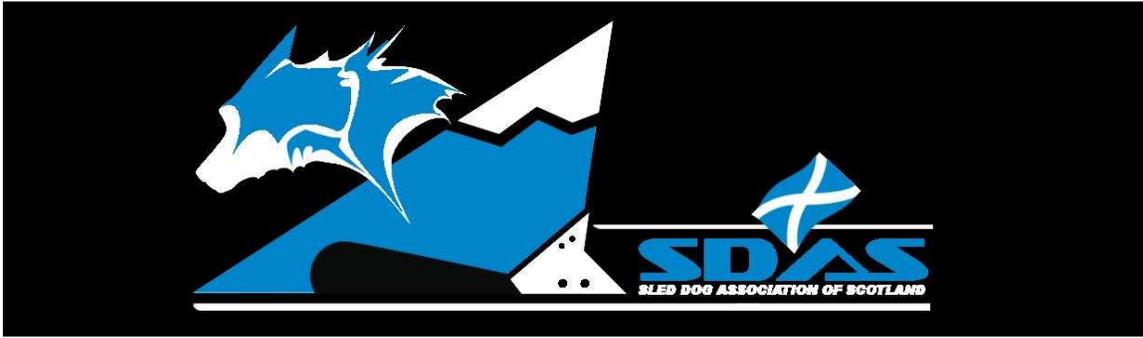
Discussion followed where these points were raised to counter the support statement:

- Culbin poor attendance due to Northern location, being too early in the season & too warm as opposed to poor attendance due to no championship points - previous year saw winter warm up (no champ points) well attended.
- Tentsmuir National Championships attracted largest entry of season & therefore the qualifier in fact cushioned the financial blow of the poor attendance of championship series races.
- Many mushers were able to take opportunity of swapping classes to suit their plans for competing abroad – particularly relevant to those competing in the 3-dog championship series classes.
- Potential future qualifiers held in England or Wales will not effect Scottish mushers' championship series races – will not be forced to travel.

Voting followed:

In favor of proposal:	16
No change in Rule:	16

CBr as chairperson had casting vote to decide outcome. 16 votes were deemed insufficient to make a change to this ruling brought into force at last year's AGM (which all bar 2 votes was a unanimous decision), therefore to keep the National Championships & Qualifying events outside the Championship points system but to keep this under yearly review.



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Item 5 – Proposals - Continued

2. Proposed by Charlie Brecknell. Seconded by Jo Brecknell

That SDAS introduce a Family membership fee to allow large family members to afford to all join and compete at SDAS events. Suggest fee £28 for a family of 4. (this is open to discussion at the AGM)

Supporting statement: This was brought up at last year's AGM where membership fees were increased to Single £15 Joint £20 Junior £6 for this coming April

Discussion followed: Question was raised by member if family membership included any family of 4 i.e. 2 parents with adult children still living at home. Discussed junior fees charged by other clubs / organizations. Discussed & recommended alternative option of committee reviewing & reducing junior entry fee.

Voting followed:

In favor of proposal	0
Against proposal	Unanimous

Item 6 – Chairman's Report

See appendix (b)

Item 7 – AOCB

- Selection process for European & World Championships – Michael McRae

Discussed future fine tuning of selection process to give opportunity for more willing UK mushers to compete at such events.

- Entry fees for Recreational class – Michael McRae

Poorly supported rec' class possibly due to disproportionate fees considering it is non championship & un-marshaled – suggest a review of rec' class fees to £1.00 per dog

Meeting closed at 16.45



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Appendix (a)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2011 TO 20 MARCH 2012

<u>INCOME</u>	£	£
Advertising		0.00
Bank Interest		1.20
Income from Sponsorship		900.00
Income/Payment for Team Kit		273.63
Other		176.14
Rallies		7311.00
Subscriptions		<u>2047.00</u>
		10708.97
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
AGM	208.48	
Equipment	628.86	
Federation Trip	545.00	
GB Team Kit	1173.63	
Insurance	253.00	
Magazines/Rally Brochure	0.00	
Postage	140.41	
Prizes/Trophies	3009.15	
Rallies	4828.40	
Stationery	200.00	
Subs – ESDRA/IFSS	425.22	
Sundry	100.00	
Travel	86.30	
Website	55.00	
		11653.45
SURPLUS/LOSS FOR PERIOD		<u>(944.48)</u>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 16 MARCH 2011

CURRENT ASSETS

Bank		<u>3985.65</u>
 Represented by:		
<u>GENERAL FUND</u>		
Balance brought forward @ 1 April 2010	6135.96	
Plus surplus (loss) for period	(944.48)	
Less cheques presented out-with period	(1205.83)	
		<u>3985.65</u>

I have examined the books and records of the Sled Dog Association of Scotland and certify that the above accounts have been drawn up in accordance therewith and are correctly stated.

Date: 20th March 2012

Chairperson: Charlie Brecknell,
Secretary: Mary Carter,



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Appendix (b)

Chairman's report

After such a successful series last season, the 2011 – 2012 SDAS 21st Anniversary season has been a challenging one. I think we have all felt the effects of the economic downturn which has been reflected in the race entries, particularly for the northern races, which has meant we have struggled to break even this year, with many races running at a loss as you have seen.

The Championship series started well with a healthy turnout for the Ae Forest, an old favorite which proved popular once again, especially with the great sponsorship prizes secured by organizers Mike & Liz Rigg. The pressure is on for them to follow this us next season.

With changes in Forestry management and the weather not sure what it was going to do, the Black Isle proved a bit of a headache for Alan, but as usual all went well come race day and after the event Alan has secured the use of the forest for next season.

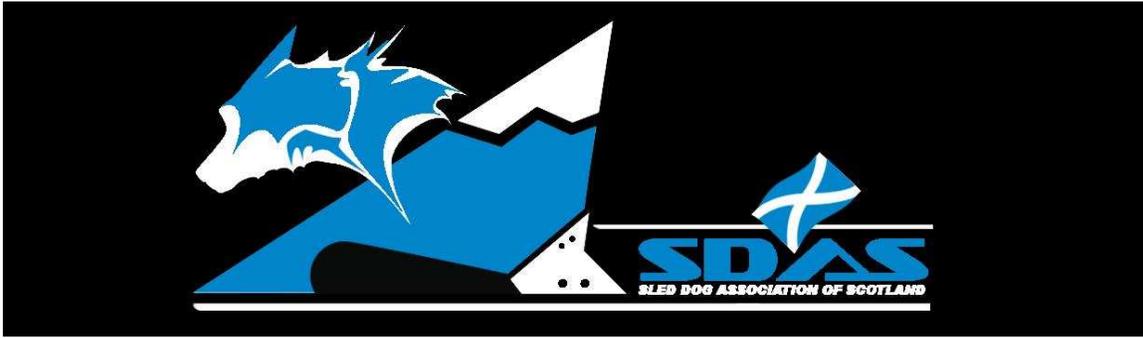
Cherry spent time again, putting on the Culbin event, finding new and interesting trails for us to use and test teams. Thankfully this year the weather gave us cold & sunshine rather than the rain we had last year.

Paul and Jacqui worked very hard last summer to secure a superb new venue at Darnaway, this estate has some really great potential but sadly was very poorly attended despite their efforts. I hope for next year's events more of you will travel up to these Northern events & see the great trails you are missing. Paul & Jacqui are working very hard to put together an exciting event there for next year which hopefully may see us using three different trails.

Once again, Mark and his team at Ford put together a fantastic and very technical trail which tested both mushers and dogs with some tight twisty trails through the trees. Again, he has plans to develop the venue so each year there are more challenges.

And to the penultimate event: The National Championships. The SDAS committee came under some criticism this year for the National Championship event not being part of the series, but as you have already been reminded this was decided by the membership at last year's AGM.

However, the event proved to be a great success with the biggest entry for a SDAS event this season. Many Southern competitors, both members and non members, traveled up to make this a very enjoyable event, catching up with old faces many of us have not seen for a while. Although the weather was warmer than we would expect for March, John & Mary had everything in place so that early starts & shorter trails made it possible for the event to go ahead.



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Thanks must go to Shelley once again for the Sponsorship of this event and I hope we can continue to develop this partnership for next year. Thanks must also go to CSJ for their continued support of SDAS over the years. So can I ask you to show your appreciation to the event organizers without whom there would be no SDAS races. Can we also take this opportunity to thank Paulina Soltosiak for the fabulous photos she has taken this season which have really captured the essence of our sport.

For the first time, a qualification process & criteria was implemented by SDAS to select a UK sled dog team to compete in the IFSS World Dryland Championships. This selection was necessary due to limited places available to SDAS as provisional Members i.e. one per class. 8 members and their dogs traveled to Germany in November to compete. All of the team gained to 10 places with two members, Tobias Leask and Martin Owen gaining Bronze medals in their respective classes. Congratulations to them.

As I mentioned, the SDAS committee has faced criticism from some members regarding the emphasis of the club. SDAS is a race club offering the only true race series in the whole of the UK and is open to all. As members of ESDRA and IFSS the club needs to hold selection races for their World & European Championship events, but most importantly SDAS needs to move forward here in Scotland to even more success year on year, continuing to offer the best and closest racing in the country.

This is what the SDAS committee are working towards and I hope that as members you can embrace the changes and continue to help SDAS lead the way.

It was a great shame to close the SDAS Facebook Page. We had felt it would be a great tool to use to keep members informed of upcoming events, allow photographs and other useful information to be posted there. Unfortunately, it was felt that a lot of negativity was being created and a decision was made to discontinue it.

As I have already said, you the members elect a committee to manage the club on your behalf. This they do in their own time & to the best of their capabilities. If you want to be part of driving SDAS forward then please put your name up for election next year.

Finally, thank you to those of you who have supported SDAS events this season & supported the direction in which we have taken SDAS and hopefully will all join in taking the club forward & developing the sport of Sled dog racing in Scotland & in the UK.

Thank you.