**Shetland Sheepdog Club of WA**

**Presidents Report - AGM 19 November 2014**

Ladies and Gentlemen a warm welcome to you all this evening.

Please don’t forget to sign the attendance sheet and take a copy of the agenda with the attached documents. You should have tonight’s agenda , a list of our past Championship show judges, a current membership form and the “Thank you “ list of names of all the people who generously offered there time to support the club and help out at our fundraising events. Please take the time to read the names on this list. We are very fortunate to have” friends of the club’’ who would like to see our club survive and because of their efforts we are well on track to host our second National.

As you can see on the treasures report our club is in a very healthy financial position. This year there were two less sausage sizzles plus a drop in the entries for the June Agility Trials due to the Agility Nationals held in Queensland - never the less we still managed to raise a considerable amount of money thanks to the dedication and support from some very committed people.

**Agility Trials June 2014.**

Although the entries were down on last year due to the National Agility Trials in Queensland the day was definitely enjoyed by all who attended. The weather was absolutely fantastic even though a bit chilly in the early am it blossomed into a beautiful day perfect for trials. This year we were without our trusted trials captain Anne Lacey –Herbert which I thought could be a problem at first - I must say I was more than a bit concerned about who would replace Anne regarding the administration side of things while she was away at the Nationals - but in true form we regrouped and thanks to a crash coarse between Anne – Deb Simpson and Cathy Prestage they managed to sort out the office and may I say the girls did a brilliant job. Having the opportunity to set up on Friday night made a massive difference to the usual rush and confusion of the Saturday morning which this time was non existent. It was very pleasing to see so many turn up early Saturday morning (particularly the men) to give a hand with the heavy lifting and setting out of equipment and even better to see that rather than take off once the trials started a lot of them chose to stay and help/watch and enjoy the day – great to see. The BBQ again was a floor show in itself – we were fortunate to acquire three of Deb Simpson’s friends from outside the club to come and man the BBQ , they had such a ball that they have put there hand up again for next year. It was a little disappointing that our BBQ takings were down on last year but you can’t have it all and with the entries down also on last year due to the National etc I suppose you’ve got to expect these things. A big thank you to Irene & Clive Bruce Smith for their total commitment to the trials from Friday night and then from early Saturday to the last to leave late afternoon , they are the absolute backbone of the day and we very much appreciate there contribution to the club, what would we do without them . Thanks also to Sandra Yearsley who briefed the stewards on the necessary requirements. To all the stewards and helpers who gave up there time to come down and help out – without you these trials would not happen and your efforts are very much appreciated. Take a moment to read the list of names on the “Thank You “list and recognize these people they truly are valued members and friends of the club.

**August 2014 Championship and Open Shows.**

The weather was perfect, possibly a bit on the warm side. The entries were fantastic for both shows, one of our best so far. Our champ show judge Catherine Raven spoke very highly of the quality of our Shelties and was most impressed with the acceptance from the exhibitors regarding her decisions. A very big thanks must go to Penny Kelly for all her efforts in providing and setting out pot plants which beautified our ring, also setting up the podium all of which clearly gave the SSCWA the best dressed ring on the grounds, not to mention she was basically on call all day to take our club photos, a fantastic effort and we also thank her friend George for his contribution to our club also. Again a very handsome trophy table organized by Glenda Hesketh for the second year was admired by all -this is certainly an area that Glenda excels and I’m sure I speak for all members in thanking her on another job well done. To all those people who gave Glenda money towards the trophies thank you, I’m sure you will agree it was money well spent. Special thanks must go to Pat Watson (Atkins) for donating the Puppy of the day trophy which was the lovely painting of Shelties in a beautiful gold frame, a very generous gift. Pat also offered to paint portraits of the BIS & RUBIS as part of there trophy package, materials were paid for by the club. Many thanks Pat for your contribution. As usual the show ran very smoothly under the watchful eye of Margaret Hofert Smith , Rod Shellback and Lee Parker and we thank them for their help. This year we struggled to find someone to video the championship show – someone who was prepared to give up there day – many phone calls were made which led me to Andrew Ford – I’m sure Andrew could have had much better things to do than sit in the hot sun all day watching dogs run around but he did and we are very appreciative of his efforts. It was pleasing to see this year that we had a lot more help with setting up and packing away – more hands make lighter work. Thank you to Julie Harris and Ashlea for organizing the child handlers. The after show dinner was at a new venue this year which seem to work well, lots of laughter and fun. A total of 27 turned up which was good to see.

 **The** **Sausage Sizzles.**

An incredibly easy way to make money. Our club has the running of these Sausage Sizzles down to a fine art now and I say with complete confidence that we would have to be the best in the business at running them. This is due to our hard working club secretary Deb Simpson who has mastered the art of preparation for these sausage sizzles, Deb makes it look easy but I know how much work is done at Debs house before she’s even got to the venue.. This year I noticed a great improvement in the number of members willing to lend a hand and it’s great to see. We all went home smelling of sausage but it was well worth it. In two out of our three Sausage sizzles we raised over $900 per day. That’s a massive effort, well done people.

**Website**

It’s clear that the website is the clubs biggest tool for reaching out to the public about our beautiful breed. Up until April the site had 21,628 hits. To mid November there were 27,047 hits, it shows something’s happening out there... Cathy Prestage and I have spent many hours together getting as much on the website as possible but there is still a lot of research to be done on some of the early shows which takes time but I am very confident that eventually we will have all the shows out there for all to see. There are plans to eventually enter photos of dogs and the breeders themselves from the very early days of Shelties in WA which would certainly be an eye opener.

**DVD Conversions**

I’m very pleased to advise members that Chris Luxford was able to successfully convert the remaining old VHS tapes of our past Championship Shows to DVD at no expense to the club – a massive saving and we thank Chris very much for that great saving. I’m sure she didn’t mind sitting there for hours doing a trip down memory lane did you Chris – they needed to be checked didn’t they.

**Congratulations are in order**

Considering WA is so far away from the eastern side of the country we still manage to bring back the big wins and fly the flag high for WA whether it is Agility or Confirmation. We have been consistent for many years in the high stakes over East and not just with a couple of particular breeders or individuals. It has been across the board and our state has had much success in one way or another in the east due to the careful planning, commitment and dedication towards the breed – so give yourself a pat on the back - you are all to be congratulated – well done.

**Special mentions**

I know I have mentioned the thank you list more than once tonight but there is another member whose name consistently appears on the list – Jeanette Mitchell has done everything possible at every fundraising event to support our club. I’m sure allmembers have recognised Jeanette’s amazing contribution and we thank her sincerely for her continued support. We are also very fortunate to have within our sheltie fraternity many young exhibitors who are very keen to contribute towards the future of the breed and the dog world in general. I have watched many of them grow from small children into mature professional handlers , one in particular is Makaela Edmondson . Makaela certainly had the flag flying high for Australia in her endeavours to bring home the biggest prize of all in Junior handling at Crufts. To get to the level to even compete on the biggest stage of all is a wonderful achievement in itself. Congratulation to you Makaela you have done our state proud. Congratulations also to all our young club members whether their field is handling or the administration side of things, your enthusiasm toward the hobby we all love so much gives comfort that the future of our beautiful breed will be in good hands.

Thanks also to Liz Ayre , Julie Harris and Ashlea Stanton for their assistance regarding the Kismet Encouragement Award point score.

**So in conclusion:**

I’m sure by now most of you would know that I am standing down as President tonight. I reflect back to the 2012 AGM when I was the returning officer asking for someone to take on the position as President, it was not a good time for me to take on the roll as President at that time as my father was close to death and my husband was very sick but for the survival of the club I accepted the appointment and with very strong support from the secretary, treasurer and members I took on the challenge. I can honestly say that one of the biggest rewards I have experienced in this position has been getting to know the members individually, talking to them about their thoughts and what they would like to see happen within our club and for me generally trying to make a difference. Giving the members the opportunity to nominate judges for our Championship shows and announcing Deb Simpson as a life member were just a couple of many highlights during my time as president. My husband Greg and I have now retired , sold our house and are moving down South and hopefully in the not to distant future do some travelling.

 I promise you all that I will continue to support this club in any way I possibly can. I still intend to work closely with Cathy Prestege regarding the website and I intend to sit in on the odd committee meeting now and then. In my 2013 presidents report I made note that we must ALL try and work together if we are to host a National , I feel this last year we HAVE turned that corner and regardless of camps , disputes and factions we have been able to do this for the betterment of the club . We are on track financially to host a National and this will happen if we all work together. Stay focused on the prize and our future is solid thanks to you the members and friends of the members.

Cherri Seeber

President Shetland Sheepdog Club Western Australia.