



AGENDA ITEM 3

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society held on Friday 29th August 2025 at Foxy's Restaurant, Carlisle United Football Ground, Brunton Park, Warwick Road, Carlisle, CA1 1LL.

1. Welcome from the Chairman.

Chairman, Edward Adamson welcomed everyone to the meeting including those attending by a Zoom link. He also welcomed Andy Ryder, from Pedigree Livestock Services, who was acting as independent scrutineer for the Trustees elections and proposed changes to the Constitution.

2. Apologies for absence.

Received from Matthew Simpson, Sara Greig.

3. To confirm the minutes of the AGM held on 30th August 2024.

Proposed by Pam Parker. Seconded by Gemma Stanford. All agreed.

4. Matters arising from those minutes.

There were none.

5. Chairman's report.

The Chairman reported another busy year. He thanked Rebecca Dykes and Chloe Patterson for their work as Secretary and Promotions; both had recently stood down. He welcomed Rachel Buckle back to the Society as General Secretary. He commented that following the sale at Lockerbie that day, the message was loud and clear, that members need to be selective when both breeding Dutch Spotted Sheep and selecting animals to sell at Society sales. He asked members to come forward with suggestions of good news stories, angled specifically commercial. He thanked the Trustees for giving their time freely for the good of the breed, in particular, he thanked the Vice-Chairman Gemma Stanford for her support, along with members who had stepped in to help with events, and shows, and to the auction marts for their help in organising the sales.

6. Accounts to Year Ended 30th April 2024.

The Treasurer reported a good set of accounts, taking into consideration this was the first set with no fees from Grade 4 females. Registrations of pure females increased by £8472 in the year while ram registrations remained at a similar figure, £36120 in year ending April 2024 and £35713 in 2025. The turnover had reduced, with very few imports due to Bluetongue in Europe. The Year Book income had decreased. She thanked JT Rennie accountants who had been the Society accountant for the last 8 years, but had notified the Society that they were not continuing with this type of work. A recommendation of Walter Dawson who was a specialist in agricultural organisations had been given to replace them. The accounts were then signed by the Chairman,



Edward Adamson, and Vice-Chairman, Gemma Stanford. The Chairman then thanked Penny Eminson, Treasurer for her work throughout the year.

7. To elect Walter Dawson Accountants, 16 Omega Business Village, Northallerton as the DSSS accountant for the forthcoming year.

Proposed by Nick Brown. Seconded by Liam Campbell. All agreed.

8. To confirm the proposed amendment to the Constitution for electronic voting to be the sole form of voting to elect trustees and other decisions notified to the membership ahead of the AGM.

Proposed by Jonathan Marshall. Seconded by Gemma Stanford.

The Chairman explained the amendments and highlighted that those who don't use email would continue to receive paper copies, however this point had not been included in the proposal. After discussion it was proposed by Jimmy Bell, seconded by Kath Leivers that the proposal be agreed with an amendment which included the point that those unable to vote electronically can do so using a paper method. All agreed. The amendment was agreed to be taken back to the Trustees for confirmation of the wording and brought back to the next AGM.

9. Proposal for consideration for the import fees of sheep originating from the Republic of Ireland into England, Scotland and Wales to be on a level playing field, with Northern Ireland, which are currently £24 including VAT rather than £300 plus VAT per head. Proposed by Jack Simpson, seconded by Nick Brown.

The Chairman explained that these fees had resulted from NI members not being able to import sheep from the mainland due to Brexit and the Windsor Agreement, and it was felt this was the only way they could introduce new bloodlines. The fees were set by the Trustees and were not part of the Constitution which is why they had not been subject to membership consultation.

Discussion followed highlighting the Zootech rules, the time taken to complete import registrations and the extra workload from incomplete pedigrees being supplied. The Chairman asked for a show of hands for standardising the import fee rate, 31 voted in favour of this, with no one against. He confirmed that the Trustees would take the feeling of the room to their next meeting, and the membership would be informed of any changes.

10. Election of Trustees. As per rotation, there were 3 places for 3-year terms, and one vacant seat for a 1-year term, to complete the 3-year term.

At this stage, the Chairman thanked outgoing Trustee Dell Amson who was not re-standing, for his work for the Society. A presentation was made to Dell, who wasn't present at the meeting. He then introduced Andy Ryder from Pedigree Livestock Services, who acted as the independent scrutineer. The results were as follows:

Dutch Spotted Sheep Society

• *Quality from start to finish* •

Secretary Rachel Buckle

Birniehall Farm • Carluke • Lanarkshire • ML8 4QZ

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For the 3-year terms, Greg Haste, Sian Jones and Edward Adamson. For the 1-year term, Jonathan Marshall.

The Chairman congratulated the four Trustees, in particular, he welcomed Greg Haste and Sian Jones who were new appointees.

11. Close of Meeting.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending and wished them luck at the sale at Carlisle the following day.

At this stage, Vice-Chairman, Gemma Stanford, presented Edward Adamson with a thank you gift for his work as Chairman of the Society.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm