

Our last board meeting was held on Saturday March 5 in the morning prior to the 69th annual general meeting at Barnsley. The full minutes of the AGM will appear on the CPSA website in due course, but perhaps it is appropriate to reflect on the meeting.

At the AGM I reported a small surplus for the year of £3,700 against a budgeted deficit of about £20k and this has been followed in 2005 by our first quarter finances being precisely on budget. This is primarily due to the continued rise in membership and professional cost controls within HQ.

Membership on the day of the AGM stood at 24,019, the highest ever rate of growth and also the association's largest ever membership total. If this continues we will achieve a figure of more than 25,000 members by the end of 2005. We are particularly pleased with the Clubman growth from 2,688 to 4,227 in the 12 months to the AGM. Full membership is now slowly increasing but ground membership decreases, an issue currently being addressed.

The first Premier Plus ground owners meeting held in February was a great success with positive ideas flowing and participants in agreement that similar meetings should be held on an on-going basis. This meeting was followed by a UK lead shot seminar organised by the British Shooting Sports Council and attended by Premier Plus and Premier ground owners and CPSA directors, along with cartridge manufacturers. The experts were able to reassure everyone that there is no known acceptable non-toxic alternative to lead and that lead shot fall-out at shooting grounds can be managed. The CPSA board will continue to be involved and influence progress as best we can, for this is a subject which will remain one of our highest priorities under our key management heading Protect our Sport.

At the board meeting we were also able to introduce John Perry, our recently recruited operations manager who took up his position on March 21. He will bring valuable management and marketing experience, and as a keen Olympic Skeet shot, has very good knowledge of the sport.

It was good to see some new faces at the AGM vindicating the decision to put the meetings on a rota system, moving around the regions from year to year. I especially want to thank members from the north region for their support and enthusiasm at the meeting, and not least for the support for myself as chairman for another year.

I was also impressed at how members had got behind the protective eyewear issue. I do hope that the small group who are still anti the policy do recognise that the board is only interested in its duty of care to protect each and every member from either accident or self-inflicted injury.

Finally, it was a pleasure to welcome Andy Kirkland and Nigel Bough as two new directors to the CPSA and also to congratulate the lovely Sandie Buckler on becoming our latest life vice president. The South East regional committee had also marked the occasion by presenting her with a specially commissioned pair of Helice ear-rings on her birthday. Well done Sandie, you have served us well.

Tony Brazier
CPSA Chairman