

**MINUTES OF THE 73<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF THE CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING ASSOCIATION**

**held at The Hilton Hotel, 7 Hills Road, South Cobham,  
Surrey, KT11 1EW**

**on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2009 at 2:00pm**

**PRESENT:**

Mr TR Bobbett	Chairman / National Director
Mr WA Heeks	Vice Chairman / Regional Director - North
Mr PJ Boakes	Chief Executive Officer
Mr BD Curtis	Regional Director – East Midlands
Mr C Fielding	Regional Director – West Midlands
Ms N Heron	Regional Director – South East
Mr KJ Newton	Regional Director – South West
Mr TWD Blaney	National Director
Mr K Walsh	National Director
Mr G Davis	Auditor (Graeme Bruce and Partners)

A total of 116 current members of the Association were in attendance plus 2 invited guests:

Mr D Deeson	Deeson Group (Publisher, Pull! magazine)
Mr M Norman	Towergate plc (CPSA Insurance Broker)

Plus:

Miss K Boazman	Minutes Secretary
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NB: These minutes are not verbatim and have been produced on a summary and action basis.

**OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman opened the meeting at 2:00pm, welcomed all present and outlined the Agenda for the afternoon.

**OBITUARY NOTICES**

Mr J Perry announced the names of the 80 members who have passed away since the March 08 AGM. Those in attendance showed their respects with a standing silence.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Members attending the AGM were invited to provide the names of members who sent apologies for absence:

Jack Sparrowhawk [30004]

Apologies received in advance:

President K Hoey	[5]	Mr J Heading	[49861]
Mr JD Halfacre	[955]	Mr M Heading	[55963]
Mr MA Halfacre	[956]	Mr A Heading	[93888]
Mr J Hall-Say	[No 1726]	Mr M Williams	[62117]
Mr P Bowden-Smith	[89646]	Mr W Stanton	[30402]
Mr B Carter	[2193]	Mr A Kirkland	[13634]
Mr J Parks-Young	[21]	Mr P Brown	[88592]
Mrs S Parks-Young	[119682]	Mr A Benson	[5151]

**MINUTES OF THE 2008 AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2008 had been posted on the CPSA website. Hard copies were also circulated and TRB invited those present to briefly read through them had they not already done so prior to the meeting.

The adoption of the minutes of the 2008 AGM was proposed by Mr K Stoker [No 10029], seconded by Mr C Hames [No 84649] and unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

**MATTERS ARISING**

None.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman's Report had been published in Pull! magazine. TRB made reference to this and invited questions under AOB.

## ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 2008

The Annual Report and Accounts had been published in Pull! magazine. TRB invited comments from those present, which included:

Member Name	Member Number	Comment / Query	Board Response
Mr C Hames	84649	Staff costs and headcount	There are currently 13 CPSA staff, including Mr J Perry, and currently no intention to increase. (PJB)
Mr C Hames	84649	30% rise in computer costs	This is for Shoot08, Sage upgrade, website costs, licensing of software and general maintenance. (GD)
Mr C Hames	84649	15.5% increase in PR and Marketing costs	The Academy consultant salaries and expenses currently come under this heading. The costs also cover Game Fairs and World Sporting. A further breakdown is available on the CPSA website. Mr Hames was invited to submit queries to PJB in advance of future AGMs.
Mr K Stoker	10029	Why is the Academy not displayed separately?	Space on the page in Pull! magazine was limited, a further breakdown is available online. The issue will be addressed next year. (GD, PJB) Discussion then ensued regarding the identification of costs, in particular wages (including those of tutors, coaches, Stewart Meinart and Chris McVerry)
Mr P Carson	10412	Forecast spending on Pull! magazine	The Association is saving around £60K a year compared to when the magazine was produced by Bourne Publishing. From May 2009, the CPSA will pay a maximum monthly amount of £5k to Deesons for the magazine and will continue to pay the postage costs. It is highly likely that the actual cost will be below the £150K budgeted. (PJB)
Mr K Stoker	10029	What is the 'bad debt'?	Figure carried forward from 2007 and Webley and Scott went into liquidation before paying the Association. (GD)

Extensive debate ensued about The Academy. Mr P Sidebottom [No 4033] and Mr C Strange [No 27440] wanted a clearer idea of what The Academy has cost the Association and what it has made for them. Due to the way the accounts are recorded and the fact that The Academy is not currently a separate income stream, this information would be difficult to determine. NH and CP offered some explanation as to the financial situation over the past year. Mr P Usher [No 400] felt that regardless of how it is recorded, the same or similar costs must have been there previously under the Technical Department and expressed his full support for The Academy. Discussion then continued with regard to the future of The Academy. Mr G Oades [No 1365] expressed some confusion with regard to the role of The Academy – is the idea to make a surplus or to be a 'technical supremacy' in shooting? PJB explained that it is there to do both and that they always strive to make a surplus where possible. Other questions regarding The Academy included:

Member Name	Member Number	Question	Board Response
Mr C Strange	27440	How long will we keep the 'consultants'?	As long as necessary. The Board will review as appropriate. (PJB)
Mr P Sidebottom	4033	Why were coaches from the North of England sent to the South?	It was the only option at that time. (TRB)
Mr K Stoker	10029	Why is CMcV a 'contractor' and not 'staff' as J Parks-Young was?	There is considerable financial benefit to the Association this way. It is fully complicit with the law. (PJB)
Mr N Woodward	82564	Are CMcV and SM registered as Limited Companies and are they VAT registered?	No. (GD)
Mr A Norman	94044	Is CMcV cheaper than JPY?	It is a very similar cost. (PJB)

In the interest of progressing the meeting, TRB closed the discussion and confirmed that the yearly accounts have

been agreed and signed off by the Board of Directors.

## **APPOINTMENT OF LIFE VICE-PRESIDENTS**

The Chairman announced the Board's decision to appoint the following new Life Vice Presidents:

Mrs Anthea Hillier [4206]  
Mr John Bidwell [5719]  
Mr Malcolm Martin [56842]

With the exception of Mrs Hillier, who was not present, the new LVPs were presented with a LVP membership card by the Chairman and made short speeches to thank the Association.

## **RESULTS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS**

It was announced that Mr G Walker [81243] will replace Mr K Walsh [106527] as National Director, with 375 votes to 157. Ms N Heron [89683] will remain as South East Regional Director, with 238 votes to 94 votes received for Mr A Warren [25988].

The Chairman congratulated NH on her re-appointment, welcomed GW and stated he anticipated a significant contribution from GW. He then offered commiserations to KW, thanking him for his contribution during his tenure.

## **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

GD invited nominations for the post of Chairman. TRB was proposed by Mr G Walker [No 81243] and seconded by Mr N Woodward [No 82564]. Mr A Warren [No 25988] proposed TWDB. Before this could be seconded, TWDB indicated that he would not be prepared to stand.

TRB was thus elected unopposed as Chairman.

Mr K Stoker [No 10029] proposed WAH as Vice-Chairman and this was seconded by Mr P Sidebottom [No 4033].

WAH was elected unopposed as Vice-Chairman.

## **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

TRB recommended that Graeme Bruce and Partners remain as Auditors and this was unopposed.

## **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY OFFICERS**

It was agreed to appoint the following en bloc:

Honorary Legal Advisor – John Hugill QC  
Honorary Solicitor – Laura Saunbury (Lewis Nedas)  
Honorary Insurance Adviser – Towergate TLC  
Honorary Noise/Planning Adviser – Mel Kenyon (Martec)  
Honorary Shotgun Licensing Adviser – Laura Saunbury (Lewis Nedas)

TRB thanked Mr M Martin and Mr B Kibblewhite who had previously served as honorary officers.

## **SPECIAL RESOLUTION**

A special resolution to amend the CPSA Articles of Association had been proposed and published in Pull! magazine. The resolution was to amend Article 8: Appointment of Directors in respect of the CEO.

The Chairman suggested there should be no debate and the matter go immediately to a ballot - there were no objections to this suggestion.

GD explained the ballot process, including the procedures for proxy votes. GD and SO then distributed ballot papers, which were then collected and counted by GD.

Results (including proxies)

For: 1114 votes

Against: 132 votes

Motion passed

TRB acknowledged the hard work carried out by the HQ staff in respect of the proxies received and made special mention of SO.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

In response to a query from Mr C Hames [No 84649], TRB confirmed that – despite a current rise in membership numbers (115 more members than this time last year) – the Board is expecting a downturn due to the present economic climate.

Mr B Kibblewhite [12 35] observed an apparent high turnover of members and asked why this is. TRB confirmed that retention of members will be a focus for the coming year and invited suggestions as to how this could be improved. He explained that the last notable influx of members came with the introduction of the Clubman Membership.

Mr C Strange [No 27440] queried the CPSA input into referees and scoring at National Shoots. PJB responded that it is the role of the Jury to monitor things such as the target distance/trajectory being thrown and referees' decisions. PJB accepted that the CPSA does not always check that referees are CPSA qualified and assured everyone that this point would be taken on board in future.

Mr P Buckley [No 10000] doubted the value of the recent decision concerning World Sporting and asked for further explanation from the Board. TRB, WAH and PJB all defended the decision explaining that it was supported by all ICTSF Federations/Associations not simply the CPSA. PJB underlined the value of expanding Sporting, in the same way that there is a World DTL & Skeet Championship now. It was following a meeting of the ICTSF in November 07 that the NSCA took the decision not to support expansion of the event with the other members of ICTSF. A lengthy discussion then ensued debating the pros and cons of the decision.

Mr P Carsons [No 10412] explained that committees in his area are keen to set up “have a go” days and asked what support might be available. TRB responded that there was nothing in particular on offer but recommended the idea generally as the same thing had proven popular in his own South West region in the past. Mr G Ward [108985] has also run a similar activity in Sussex and offered his personal support to Mr Carsons.

Mr T Wingham [No 47551] asked if a bid for the Olympics to be held at Dartford could be submitted, given that it will not be taking place at Bisley. TRB began his response by acknowledging the work done by PJB with regard to the Bisley bid. He then went on to explain that, due to various issues, a successful bid for Dartford would be unlikely. LOCOG have made it quite explicit that they will not reverse their decision with regard to Bisley, they are not interested in receiving alternative bids and will only recognise “British Shooting” as a representative for the sport. For this reason, TRB felt there was little merit in the CPSA alone backing or petitioning for somewhere else.

Mr G Oades [No 1365] asked if there were any particular trends identified in the reasons for members leaving. TRB confirmed that this data is recorded by B Watkins and previously by an independent consultant however no particular trends have yet been identified.

Mr P Buckley [No 10000] asked if the CPSA could move to the FITASC model with regard to age categories in Sporting. PJB explained that the Board have discussed this matter at length on several occasions and decided it would not be beneficial overall. PJB underlined the importance of considering the *whole* sport.

Mr J Taylor [No 105431] requested that the Board agree that prize money should not be donated to charity after a certain amount of time, as is currently happening at some grounds. TRB explained that while this is not necessarily an example of good practice, it is not within the Board's jurisdiction to intervene in such matters.

Mr K Stoker [No 10029] asked why Safety Officers are required to renew their qualifications. TRB and PJB did not feel it is in anyway unreasonable or unusual to require this and, indeed, felt it was absolutely necessary to ensure the most up-to-date and high quality information is conveyed to Safety Officers. Other members present agreed emphatically with this notion, namely CMcV, Mr C Schofield [21841] and Mr C Strange [No 27440].

## **MEETING CONCLUDES**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 17:00 hrs.