

**MINUTES OF THE  
79<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

Held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Sheffield Park, S8 8BW  
on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

**Present:**

Mr T R Bobbett	Chairman & South West Region Director
Mr W A Heeks	Deputy Chairman & North Region Director
Mr J Kitson	West Midlands Region Director
Mr J Offord	South East Region Director
Mr P Simpson	East Midlands Region Director
Ms M Conway	National Director
Mr D J Jellicoe	National Director
Mr G Walker	National Director
Mr N Fellows	Chief Executive
Mr J Beard	Auditor, haysmacintyre
Mr M Mansley	Honorary Insurance Adviser (Appointed during the meeting)
Ms L Saunbury	Honorary Solicitor & Shotgun Adviser
Mr S Oldman	Minutes Secretary

A total of 47 members were in attendance.

**Opening Remarks**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. An outline of the agenda for the afternoon was presented.

**Obituaries**

Michele Conway asked everyone to stand whilst the 78 obituaries since the 2014 AGM were read out.

**Apologies for Absence**

B Moorhead                      N Reddy                      P Green                      K Stoker                      W Hart

**Minutes of 2014 AGM**

The draft minutes for last year's AGM were distributed and time allowed to read them. Mr C Hames (84649) stated that he had been misquoted regarding the accounts and the amended minutes were not correct as they are not a verbatim record. The Chairman asked for clarification of what was being requested and CH stated that had previously been sent to SO. CH was requested to pass the suggested amendment to SO after the meeting.

Ratification of the Minutes was proposed by Mr P Dancer (12550) and seconded by Mr P Rendell (55737)

For: 40,                      Against 0,                      Abstain 0.                      Proposal carried.

**Matters Arising from the 2014 AGM Minutes**

Mrs J Stennett (43985) stated that the review of the Region & County Bye-laws was put forward at last year's AGM and asked why it had taken so long for the consultations to start as this gave little opportunity for them to be discussed by the East Midlands Regional Committee. The Chairman

advised it was due to pressure of work on the CEO. Mrs Stennett advised that they did not have time due to the timing of their committee meetings. The Chairman advised it could have been dealt with by email or post between the committee. Mrs Stennett responded the committee needed dialogue. Mr C Hames (84649) asked how many County & Regional Committees did respond. The Chairman advised that a number had responded and they were now presented for a vote by the membership who would either accept or reject them. Mr Hames suggested that members did not fully understand the matter.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman stated as in previous years his report was printed in Pull magazine and all attendees were provided with a copy at the meeting. He would be happy to answer any questions on it in the question & answer session toward the end of the meeting.

### **Review of 2014 into 2015:-**

A summary presentation was given by the CEO, Nick Fellows:-

A busy year with 15 major championships, including the World English Sporting at EJ Churchill's with 1,650 entries over 7 days, an 18% increase, which raised the bar for this event together with sponsorship from Zoli, Promatic, Gamebore, Easy Hit and Blaser. Three Home International Tournaments were held in England last year. There were two major DTL visits to Bywell Shooting Ground for the DTL Weekend and the European DTL Championships which saw a 6.5% and 15% increase in entries with sponsorship from Blaser and Perazzi respectively. Disabled shooting sub-categories were maintained and we were able to continue with the 50% discount for Juniors. The championship budget broke even.

Our England Team successes were:-

Commonwealth Games – 7 medals / 6 events,  
English Sporting – Seniors, Juniors & Vets,  
DTL – Seniors, Ladies, Juniors & Vets,  
English Skeet – Seniors, Ladies, Juniors & Vets,  
ABT – Seniors, Ladies & Vets,  
FITASC Sporting – Seniors, Ladies, Juniors & Vets,  
Olympic Trap – Seniors & Combined LJV,  
Olympic Skeet – Seniors & Combined LJV.  
ICTSF World DTL – Juniors & Vets,  
CPSA World English Sporting – Seniors, Vets & Super Vets,

In addition, other notable successes included:-

ISSF World Championships – Ed Ling Silver medal and Rio Quota place,  
FITASC Sporting World Championships – Ed Solomons Gold Medal & World Champion,  
There was a special mention of both Mark Winser and Cheryl Hall for their achievements.

Other successes included a 10% increase in members shooting more than 1,000 targets, 5% for 500 targets or more, event entries increasing by 10% and the number of active classified shooters increasing by 7%.

Legal Expenses insurance for licence revocation and renewal issues was added to member benefits for full members aged over 16.

The Talent Pathway and GB Academy programme were in place and sub-committees were set up for all our home disciplines to enhance member input.

A Review of our County & Regional Committee Bye-Laws had been carried out. A successful third Annual Awards Dinner had taken place. Other successes were The Clubman Classic League, an

increase of 10% in courses revenue and progress with the introduction of environmentally friendly clays.

#### External Liaison

The value of Shooting (PACEC) report had been issued; we had been involved in the halting of the proposed Crimestoppers campaign and in consultations regarding the proposed increases in licence/certificate fees. A successful meeting had also been held with the Metropolitan Police firearms team.

#### Financial Performance

Membership income was up just over 2% and clubs by 19%. Sponsorship, including our championships showed an impressive 52% increase. The continued support of our sponsors is greatly appreciated. Excluding sponsorship, our championships income has risen by 40% since 2012. Additional funding was received for the Commonwealth Games team's final preparations. We had also benefited from a reduction in our National Insurance contributions and a rebate on our business rates. Our finances also allowed us to invest in our display stands and banners for shooting grounds and events. Our overall surplus for the year is £106k, which includes committed work for our IT & Development project where our first project partner failed. Work is developing on new websites and a CRM system with a new developer. New staff had also been recruited. A brief overview of some of the changes in the P&L accounts was explained.

#### Planning for the Future

We have the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Daily Telegraph Cup for the British Open Sporting this year, together with new formats for both the English and British Open English Sporting championships. Our awards presentations/dinner taking place after this AGM will be live streamed, as will some of our championships during the year. 2016 will see us once again holding the World English Sporting, the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Dougall Memorial DTL and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the English Sporting Home International Tournament. Other plans for 2015 will see the publication of the qualification/selection procedure for Brisbane 2018 Commonwealth Games; there are now 3 Podium level shooters in the GB Performance Programme, 2 quota places have so far been won for Rio with more opportunities this year, and progress with the CPSA Premier League and the Talent development programme have been encouraging.

Member engagement is a priority for the future with the 3 R's (Recruitment, Retention & Referral) leading our strategy. We shall also be reviewing our member benefits, making database improvements and developing Pull!.

Mr G Peacock (112325) asked what the timescale was regarding systems development. NF replied phase one is planned for June – August this year

#### **Annual Report & Accounts**

Jeremy Beard confirmed that the accounts for the year ended 2014 were correct and that the audit was conducted during December and completed January which should be appreciated is very soon after the year end and reflective of the efficiency of the HO team. At the Board meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> January he presented the audit findings report to the Board along with the audit report, which were all signed off together with the accounts. The opinion on the financial statement on page 31 of the accounts is included in the pack provided to attendees today and JB confirmed it was a clean audit report and was happy to take any questions.

Mr C Hames asked if the costs for the Awards Dinner were included in the line for AGM & Election costs. CP confirmed they were.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Mr P Dancer (12550) and seconded by Mr P Rendell (55737). All in favour. Proposal carried.

## **County and Regional Bylaws Ratification**

The Chairman explained the three main changes to the Bye-Laws as:-

- 1) The Regional Director will have an automatic seat on the County Committee but not a vote unless they have been duly elected to the County Committee. Likewise an automatic seat on the Regional Committee but no vote unless they were a County Representative on the Regional Committee.
- 2) A co-opted Regional Committee member would only have a vote if they were a County Representative.
- 3) Should a county or region not form a committee the funds will be sent to the CPSA and ring fenced until such time as a committee is re-formed.

Mrs J Stennett (43985) asked if the phrase 'paid up members' meant any category of member. The Chairman confirmed that was correct. Mr R Kibblewhite asked if reducing the age for committee members from 18 to 16 was being considered. The Chairman confirmed the Board had agreed this but that it does require an amendment to the CPSA Articles of Association before the Bye-Laws can include this. Therefore a special resolution will be put to the 2016 AGM.

Ratification of the revised County Byelaws was Proposed by Dr M Plant (50323) and seconded by Mr M Williams (62117) Against none, Abstentions none. Proposal Carried.

*POST AGM Amendment. At the ratification of these minutes at the 2016 AGM it was agreed a correction to the above vote was required as follows:-*

*Ratification of the revised County Byelaws was Proposed by Dr M Plant (50323) and seconded by Mr M Williams (62117) Against none, Abstentions 3. Proposal Carried.*

Mrs J Stennett (43985) enquired about the inclusion that an auditor was required to review the regional accounts and that the appointed person needs to be approved by the CEO. NF confirmed that the approval was by the regional committee and it does not have to be a qualified person.

Ratification of the revised Region Bye-Laws was Proposed by Mrs J Stennett (43985) and seconded by Dr M Plant (50323) Against none, Abstentions none. Proposal Carried.

## **Life Vice-Presidents**

The Chairman announced the Board were pleased to appoint one Life Vice President this year. He gave a profile of the member highlighting his achievements and contributions to the sport over the years and in to the future. A Life Vice-Presidency was awarded to Mike Williams, who was present at the AGM. MW addressed the meeting and thanked the Board.

## **Elections to the Board**

There were two vacancies this year - South East Regional Director and a National Director:-

In the South East there were three nominations, Barry Gibb polled 109, John Walker 146 and the current incumbent John Offord 321. The Chairman congratulated JO on his success and JO thanked those who voted for him and offered his commiserations to Barry Gibb and John Walker.

In the National Director election there were also three nominations, Peter Harris polled 599, Graham Walker 674 and Carl Smith 713. Carl Smith was duly elected to the Board as of the end of the meeting. The Chairman congratulated CS. CS also thanked everyone who voted for him and agreed with JO that it is good to get voted in by election and hoped those who did not vote for him would soon realise that they should have done. "Commiserations to Graham who has done an excellent job. I

am looking forward to working with the Board and I am always open to listen and talk to members. The biggest problem I see at the moment is that some members feel they are not represented but I do appreciate everyone has an opinion which can all be different but we are an association of members and without members we are no longer an association. Whether they be right or be wrong I am happy to debate with members.” The Chairman thanked Carl and said that we are all looking forward to working with him. He also thanked Graham for his sterling work over the last 6 years, who has always been a significant contributor to the Board on discussions, strategy and various meetings and sub-committees. A very level-headed individual who is always worth listening to. A major player on coaching and who chaired the Education & Training Steering Group and will be a very sad loss from the Board.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

The Board recommended the reappointment of haysmacintyre as auditors for the coming year. Proposed by Mrs J Stennett (43985) and seconded by Mr G Walker (81243). Against none, Abstentions none. Proposal carried.

### **Appointment of Honorary Officers**

The Board recommended the reappointment of Laura Saunbury as both the Honorary Solicitor and Honorary Firearms Licensing Advisor. Proposed by Mr M Williams (62117) and seconded by Mr P Rendell (55737). Against none, Abstentions none. Proposal carried.

The Board recommended the appointment of Martin Mansley from Romero Sports & Leisure as CPSA Honorary Insurance Advisor. Proposed by Mr R Hunter (102669) and seconded by Dr M Plant (50323). All in Favour. Proposal carried.

The meeting stopped for a short break at 15:20

### **AOB**

Mr T Deakin (40417) asked a question of Laura Saunbury regarding liaison with Firearms Licencing Groups to consider a policy to notify the CPSA of people who receive a criminal conviction so that we can become aware of such individuals turning up at events/shooting grounds who are not be allowed to shoot. Such an incident could get to the media and discredit both the event organisers and the CPSA. LS confirmed that grounds should already be asking visitors to sign the appropriate declaration and that there could potentially be a Data Protection Act issue. Mr Deakin advised that such a declaration form is just ‘back covering’. An explanation of the difference between revocation and prohibition was provided. Mr Deakin advised that there could be a single point of contact in the CPSA to liaise with the police. It was agreed this was a complex issue and that the CPSA would discuss with the BSSC to investigate a possible protocol etc. Mr R Kibblewhite (1235) advised that there would be a problem for the police to know of which association the person was a member and that this topic would need to go to ACPO. Mr B Meadows (11003) added that this could be a big problem as those attending events and shooting grounds do not have to be members of any association. He also suggested that we need to be represented on the FELWG/ACPO panel. The Chairman confirmed that David Jellicoe already sits on a similar panel on behalf of the Board. CS stated that he is also actively involved in a local firearms licensing working group. Mr Deakin stated that a protocol needs to be in place and that it needs to be proactive by the police. NF agreed to raise this at the next BSSC meeting.

Mr C Hames (84649) noted that the Directors’ Report for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> November 2014 stated that TRB & RK had resigned on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014. The Chairman confirmed this should read 29<sup>th</sup> being the date of the AGM.

Mr C Smith (107613) advised the Board that he had received a complaint from a member who had phoned CPSA HQ for an entry form regarding DTL championships and was unhappy to be advised

that the £1 discount per entry did not apply for postal applications. The Chairman confirmed this was a discount for booking on-line only and NF explained the principle behind this. Mr C Smith understood but he had been asked to raise this and was therefore doing so. Ms C Pierre agreed to investigate.

Mrs J Stennett informed the Board that Lincolnshire do not have a local firearms liaison group, so could the Board please filter down to her the outcome. Mr D Jellicoe agreed to do this. It was confirmed Carl Smith sits on the Nottinghamshire committee and he will also filter back any discussions.

Mr T Deakin (40417) asked about a member who had been banned by a ground owner and that if banned, and the ground was holding a selection shoot or championship, should we not support the ground. Mr C Smith (107613) stated that he also had a similar issue and had an obligation to protect his staff and this was his reason for not yet signing a championship contract for a selection shoot in May. NF stated he was aware of both issues which were being investigated and it was not appropriate to conduct an open discussion at the AGM.

Mr J Bidwell (5719) asked the Board to consider that English Sporting shoots could be self-refereed to save costs on smaller registered shoots. He has found and tried a system that works well using squads of eight and appointing a scores captain. Could the Board consider changing the rules for small competitions? There was also an issue in relation to referees being paid and the related HMRC and RTI requirements. JB confirmed this was all down to the running costs of smaller shoots. Mr R Meadows (11003) stated that the East Midlands Region do insist on qualified referees at regional shoots. Mr T Webster (107539) asked if referees have to be qualified at registered shoots. The Chairman confirmed not and that it is only a recommendation. Mr J Bidwell (5719) said that it is all down to costs. Mr R Meadows (11003) advised that paying referees was nothing to do with the CPSA and is for grounds to invest in them. Mr T Deakin (40417) advised that referees and refereeing needs to be consistent and a qualification helps that. Mr R Hunter (102669) stated that shooters need to be able to concentrate on their shooting not refereeing. The Board agreed to discuss such options further.

## **Close**

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, their attention and their input and wished all a safe journey home and then declared the meeting closed at 16.50.

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