

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CPSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Held at Edmonton House, Bisley, National Shooting Centre,
Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NP
On Wednesday 2nd December 2015

PRESENT:-

Mr T R Bobbett	(TRB)	South West Regional Director – Chairman
Mr W A Heeks	(WAH)	North Regional Director – Deputy Chairman
Mr J Offord	(JO)	South East Regional Director
Mr P Simpson	(PS)	East Midlands Regional Director
Ms M Conway	(MC)	National Director
Mr C Smith	(CS)	National Director
Mr B Moorhead	(BM)	Independent Director
Mr N Fellows	(NF)	CEO
Mr S Oldman	(SO)	Operations Manager
Mrs F Bloxham		Minutes Secretary
Mr J Martin	(JM)	East Midlands Regional Director (Elect)

APOLOGIES:-

Mr D Jellicoe, Mr J Kitson and Mr G Walker (ND Elect)

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:-

None.

MERLIN DEMO:-

Peter Tomlin (PT) demonstrated Merlin, the replacement for Magic. PT explained that while Magic is separate from the website and Shoot08, Merlin will connect to the new website and the replacement for Shoot08 enabling transactions in real time. The board asked if the CPSA's data protection licence is adequate and this was confirmed. The board asked if the CPSA own the rights to Merlin and it was confirmed that it does. The board thanked PT.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:-

Minute ratification proposed by PS and seconded by CS. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING:-

Any Other Business

The board requested clarification of what was included in the packs sent out to members. It was confirmed that pin badges are no longer sent out as a standard part of the new member's pack because they were being damaged in the post and raised the postal cost from a standard letter to a large letter. Pin badges are sent on request in a Jiffy envelope.

CEO UPDATE:-

Introduction

NF reported this had been a busy period with planning, database development and testing, hardware installation, and related issues of compatibility but delays to some projects have helped with integration of others.

Staffing

Trudy has returned to work after her maternity leave and will be working Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Lead Ammunition Group (LAG) report/ European Firearms Directive (EFD) Review

NF reported to the board that there are growing concerns that the EFD review could represent the thin edge of the legislative wedge. There are moves to clamp down on the movement of firearms but there is also some scaremongering. There are proposals to ban high-powered military type semi-automatic weapons but it is not intended this should apply to S2 shotguns. NF said that input would be welcomed as to how to keep members informed and which petitions to support.

The board discussed an email from a member indicating that the perception amongst the members is that the CPSA, as the governing body, is not doing anything with regard to protecting our sport, whereas BASC are perceived as actively protecting the sport. The board asked if there is something more the CPSA can do to reassure members that the CPSA is working to protect our sport.

NF reported that the CPSA is working, primarily through the BSSC, to protect our sport and that is the most effective way to go. The issue is a lack of publicity rather than a lack of action.

The board agreed that we should raise the profile of what the CPSA is doing to protect our sport. Information should also go to grounds and filter through to our members in a number of different ways.

Responding to change

NF reported that after reviewing the priorities set in the current strategy document amendments to the importance of certain strategic priorities needs to be revised. The question underpinning our decision-making going forward should be "Will it help to legitimately grow our membership?" The strategy points needing prioritising are 'communications', 'grass roots and infrastructure' and there should be more focus on retention of members. The ongoing investment in IT will help grounds and committees to support the Association to achieve this.

Championships

Blaser are on board for the DTL weekend and now Eley have confirmed that they will provide cartridges and cash. Eley have a new Spanish MD and our relationship with David Thompson, Sales & Marketing Manager, is bearing fruit. Longer term, investment from outside the industry is needed.

The board discussed making the BO ESK a bigger event for the ESK community by adding side events such as a sporting or Sportrap layout where capacity allows.

British Shooting

The CPSA will support British Shooting with growing the profile of team members for the 2016 Olympics. British Shooting has achieved the target set by UK Sport for the number of shooters in the team. The target now is to achieve at least one medal and a finalist. The comprehensive spending review has proved to be more favourable to sport than anticipated. British Shooting is underfunded in relation to other sports with similar, or poorer, medal performances but there is scope for this to improve.

Game Fairs

The Countryfile Live event will not include much in the way of shooting, instead appealing to the “family & fluffy” element. A meeting was held recently with Wes Stanton with the UK Game Fair being discussed and another is planned with the former CLA team who are planning The Game Fair at Ragley Hall. The challenge is that the times and locations of the events are very close together and another event is also reported to be launching next year. There are only so many people to draw on, as well as exhibitors, and it will be challenging to make any of them a success with so much competition.

Risk Assessment

The board were invited to comment on the risk matrix; it was felt to be comprehensive for current conditions. The board asked if FITASC carry out a risk assessment on the grounds they use and, in particular, if risk assessments have been done for the forthcoming Helice and UTR events in Egypt and Morocco. TB agreed to ask the question of BICTSF.

MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORTS:-

Finance

The draft budget was presented and the new accounting practices discussed. In line with the Board’s long-established policy, the budget includes an increase in fees of £1 across the board. There have been no more claims under the licence revocation insurance therefore the premium remains steady for the moment, although a small increase had been allowed for. Membership for the year is up by 401 at 23,890. The board confirmed they were satisfied with the budget.

Operations

The CPSA has been named as one of the beneficiaries in the will of a deceased member. Valuations are being carried out on the property involved and updates will be provided in due course. We have received an apology from the Grimsby Telegraph following their article with photographs showing inappropriate gun handling. New policies on equality and adults at risk are ready to be implemented. These were discussed and approved by the board.

Commercial

The recent meeting with Laporte at which they introduced us to the “WeShoot” app was very interesting. The lorry load of clays donated by Promatic is still there to benefit us. The coaches and instructor’s day is full with 80 signed up and the sponsors committed to next year already. The Game Fair situation is developing with Time Inc expected to be putting on a game fair at the end of June in the south of England. We are working with DirectLine who are putting on a customer offer to redeem opportunities to experience activities such as climbing and attend visitor attractions, as well as clay shooting. Weetabix will be doing an on-pack promotion for sporting activities and our aim is to get clay pigeon shooting added by getting grounds on board.

Development

The Premier League 2016 has 223 members signed up to shoot it with 3 months still to go before the first event. There has been a drop in the number of colt and junior members but cadet membership is up considerably. Despite what is already being done we need to do more. There are a few new grounds.

IT

The CPSA's connectivity for both IT and phones should be improved by the end of this day as the new lines were being installed currently. The switchover from Magic to Merlin should be done by the end of December. The website should go live in January.

CHARITABLE TRUST:-

BM presented the draft Articles of Association to the board drawing their attention to the objects of the charitable trust. BM explained the process to be followed in applying for charitable status. The board discussed adding the word "responsibility" to the objects because of the current view of shooting. BM explained the potential pitfalls of varying the wording of the objects from the wording laid out in the Act but said that it was worth considering adding this. The board were asked for their views on the proposed directors for the charitable trust. The board thanked BM for his work which is being done pro bono.

AGE CUT OFFS:-

The board discussed changing the cut-off dates for age categories to bring the CPSA into line with the governing bodies of other countries such as Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Canada, South Africa, Australia and USA. The current cut-off date for the CPSA is the member's age on the first day of competition. The board agreed, with effect from 1st January 2017, to change the cut-off date to the 1st of January with members thus placed in the category for which they become eligible during the year with effect from 1st January of that year.

TWO SHOTS IN ONE DAY:-

The board discussed allowing grounds to hold two registered shoots on the same day. The discussion included whether there was a demand from shooters and the grounds, the practicalities of running two shoots on the same day, the disciplines where two shoots on the same day would be possible and what rules would need to be put in place. The board agreed that each shoot must be allocated its own fixture number and, if used as a shoot for selection scores, only the score from the first fixture entered that day by the member would be eligible for selection. It was agreed the disciplines where two shoots on one day would be possible were DTL and ESK but that this system cannot be used for county or regional championships.

SHORT NOTICE SHOTS:-

The board expressed concern that if a ground advertises a county or regional championship to take place over 2 days and then changes it to 1 day on short notice some shooters may not receive notification of the change. The board agreed that this should not be allowed.

The board agreed that the addition of shoots on short notice should only apply for ordinary registered shoots and not to championships at any level.

BOARD MEETING DATES:-

The board agreed dates for meetings as 27th January, 19th March (AGM), 1st June, 27th July, 28th September and 7th December 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE:-

Further correspondence has been received from Mr John Hall-Say by several members of the board and at CPSA HQ. It has been filed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

Selection scores

A member brought to the attention of the board that the new rule 8, "England Selection shoot scores must be obtained at CPSA member shooting grounds only (as of 1st August 2015)", was not introduced until several days after 1st August 2015. The member considered it unfair for the rule to be back-dated. The board agreed that if a member wished to submit a score from a non-CPSA member shooting ground obtained in the period from 1st August to 11th August 2015 (inclusive) the score would count for England Team selection purposes.

Alternative format for ABT

NF reported that at the recent meeting of the North Regional Committee an alternative format for ABT was discussed. The alternative format is to shoot straight through and use one referee per layout. The ABT sub-committee believe that the current system is holding the discipline back and that it would help if shooters were able to shoot straight through leaving them with free time in the afternoon. Not having to referee would be an additional benefit to the shooters. The North Regional Committee reported that some new shooters had been made to feel that they were not welcome and the board agreed that this was not appropriate behaviour for shooters. The alternative format and shooters' behaviour was referred to the sub-committee.

Meeting closed at 2:19 pm