

**MINUTES OF THE
80TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
THE CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING ASSOCIATION LIMITED**

Held at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, CV8 2LD
on Saturday 19th March 2016 at 2pm.

Present:

Mr T R Bobbett	Chairman & South West Region Director
Mr W A Heeks	Deputy Chairman & North Region Director
Mr J Offord	South East Region Director
Mr P Simpson	East Midlands Region Director
Ms M Conway	National Director
Mr C Smith	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
Dr J Martin	East Midlands Region Director (Elect)
Mr G Walker	National Director (Elect)

A total of 41 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

Terry Bobbett asked everyone to stand whilst Michele Conway read out the names of the 80 members who had passed away since the previous AGM.

Apologies for Absence

D Jellicoe
B Moorhead
K Stoker

Minutes of 2015 AGM

Ratification of the Minutes was proposed by Mr T Deakin (12550) and seconded by Mr R Blacker (73033)

For: 28, Against 0, Abstain 13. Proposal carried.

Mr T Deakin (12550) stated that the paragraph regarding "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" was incorrect as three members had abstained, including himself, Mr P Chaplow (300) and one other.

This amendment was agreed and carried.

Matters Arising from the 2015 AGM Minutes

Mr T Deakin (12550) enquired further regarding the CPSA policy with Police Liaison groups FELWG and NPCC and whether we had asked to be 'let in' to these groups. NF explained our link and input to the British Shooting Sports Council and that we did also take part in some meetings directly, for example meetings which were attended by DJJ and CS. Mr T Deakin suggested that we try to generate a single point of contact with the police. He also continued to have concern regarding convictions when individuals do not notify us but it was clarified that the police have refused to pass on information about revocations due to the Data Protection Act.

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 towards the end of the meeting.

Review of 2015 and plans for 2016:-

Nick Fellows gave a presentation of the achievements of 2015 and plans for 2016. All attendees were provided with a copy of the CPSA Annual Review booklet.

Topics covered in the presentation were:-

- **2015 A Year of Growth**
 - 90th anniversary of the English Sporting British Open,
 - Premier league introduced,
 - 4% increase in registered scores,
 - Increase in individual members,
 - Legal Expenses Insurance re certificate revocation – successful cases,
 - 15% increase in championship entries,
 - 100 young shooters on the England Talent Programme,
 - 4 CPSA members in Team GB for Rio,
 - England Team Home International Tournament and World ESP successes,
 - Other notable international successes,
 - Significant increase in sponsors,
 - Behind the scenes investment in new CRM/IT systems,
 - Continuing evolution of Pull!,
 - Growth in Social Media activity and followers,
 - Added Member Benefits,
 - 900 Young Shots introduced to the sport,
 - 600 members attended training courses,
 - Zoli Coaches' Day,
 - Clubman Classic League in its 3rd year,
 - 4th Annual Awards,
 - Two cars won by members,
 - Sub-committees input to ESP Format and DTL Squadding,
 - Thanks to all our volunteers (County, Regional, sub-committees, Grounds, Instructors, Referees, Team Managers, Directors and staff),
 - Protecting the Industry (BSSC, FACE, Position Statements, Consultations, Police IAG's)

- **Financial NGB Benchmarking Graphs** (data produced by haysmacintyre)
 - Income, expenditure, reserves, staff costs, cash balances, Unpaid Non-Executive Directors. These all demonstrate that the CPSA sits in a good and appropriate position compared with other sports NGB's

- **2015 Challenges & Distractions**
 - Energisers & energy sappers,
 - Negative media harms the sport,

- Disciplinary cases are few and far between but important to address,
 - Recent Clay Shooting article on Clive Hames case biased and unbalanced,
 - Clive Hames challenged CPSA Articles interpretation over chairman appointment,
 - no legal opinion to support his case,
 - actions threatened to damage the CPSA's reputation,
 - was told he was wrong and why,
 - told to desist,
 - escalated actions that were still based only on his own opinion,
 - serious misconduct charge heard by an independent disciplinary panel chaired by senior QC and member also represented by a senior QC. In their decision they stated:
 - On the Articles interpretation: "Mr Hames is and always was plain wrong on this point about the Articles. Not just wrong but indisputably wrong. No competent lawyer could ever have endorsed Mr Hames' view",
 - "Mr Hames also persisted with a seriously distorted account of how he claimed that the officials of the Association, the Board and specially Mr Moorhead refused to communicate with him",
 - "He was not blowing any whistle on any misconduct by anybody. He was 100% wrong in his views of the Articles and none of his actions achieved, or was ever likely to achieve, any positive result for anybody. He was simply wasting a lot of time of others, as well as himself"
 - The Panel "noted some detachment from reality in Mr Hames' approach towards the Association. It might be that in future it would help him and the Association if he were to run his most strongly held views past friends and colleagues for a reality check before engaging combat mode with the Association...."
 - Immensely distracting and immensely disruptive,
 - Never likely to have helped the Association.
 - Found guilty by the independent panel and his appeal was unsuccessful.
 - Board confidence breached,
 - Director resignation,
 - BICTSF v British Shooting,
 - BICTSF FSP date changes.
- **2016 A Year of Opportunity**
 - Enormous response to CPSA Championships,
 - WESP at EJ Churchill sold out and extra days added,
 - EO ESP at West Midlands SG sold out and extra days added,
 - Premier League now 8 teams and 360 members,
 - 50th anniversary of the English Sporting Home International Tournament,
 - Tutor and Assessors Development Day,
 - Increase member engagement via new systems,
 - Increase County and Regional Committee communication,
 - Increase functionality and reach with a new website,
 - Communications workshop for County Committees,
 - Increase assistance for noise issues at grounds (in contact with Institute of Acoustics, Derby University, Subject expert consultant, Staff training.
 - Game Fairs and Shows attendance (British Shooting Show, Northern Shooting Show, Field & Country Fair, The Game Fair, Regional Game Fairs, Countryman Fairs),

Prior to acceptance of the accounts TRB advised that the Board considers it is important for purposes of transparency that the CPSA accounts are audited, although it should be noted that it is only a legal requirement for companies where turnover is over £10m. The CPSA's turnover is under £2m but there is nothing to hide. There were no comments or questions from the floor regarding the accounts.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Mr S Williams (101057) and seconded by Mr P Rendell (55737). All in favour - Proposal carried.

Special Resolutions:-

- To accept the proposed amendments to the CPSA Articles of Association Section 34(1) to allow members 16 years of age or over to be elected to regional and/or County committees.
 - Proxy votes plus those in the room were:- For 182, Against 29, Abstentions 6. The proposal was therefore carried.
 - Mr T Deakin (40417) raised a question that we do not consider under 18's to be mature enough to be referees but are now OK for committee positions. Also can 16year olds be subject to litigation when a committee member. Laura Saunbury gave advice that there should not be a problem and Martin Mansley agreed it would be wise to check with insurers.
- To accept that all references currently in the CPSA Articles of Association which refer to Regional and County Committee Articles be changed to Regional & County Committee Bye-laws. Section 34 (1), 34(2).
 - For 210, Against 3, Abstentions 3. The proposal was therefore carried.
- To change the title of the current 'New Articles of Association' to 'Articles of Association'.
 - For 214, Against 0, Abstentions 3. The proposal was therefore carried.

Ordinary Resolution:-

- To Amend the Regional and County Committee Bye-Laws to reflect the New Age Limit.
 - Proposed by Mr R Kibblewhite (1235) and Seconded by Mrs Sarah Daly (103584).
 - For 33, Against 0, Abstentions 2. The proposal was therefore carried.

Elections to the Board

There were two vacancies again this year – East Midlands Regional Director and a National Director:- Both elected positions were uncontested. Dr John Martin was welcomed to the board as the East Midlands Region Director and Mr Graham Walker was welcomed to the board as National Director.

Dr Martin gave a short speech which included some information about his shooting and coaching background including being a committee member. He is known for being resourceful and caring about shooting and the CPSA. There has been some controversy recently which he considered unfounded. He wants to be a director to help the CPSA progress. He asked for time and for members to judge him on his performance.

Appointment of Auditor

The Board recommended the reappointment of haysmacintyre as auditors for the coming year. Proposed by Mr G Walker (81243) and seconded by Mr S Williams (101057). For 35, Against 0, Abstain 0. Proposal therefore 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 R Kibblewhite (1235) and seconded by Mrs S Daly (103584). For 35, Against 0, Abstain 0. Proposal therefore carried.

The Board recommended the appointment of Martin Mansley from Romero Sports & Leisure as CPSA Honorary Insurance Advisor. Proposed by Mr P Rendell (55737) and seconded by Mr J Dunne (113258). For 35, Against 0, Abstain 0. Proposal therefore carried.

The meeting stopped for a short break at 15:35

AOB

Mr R Kibblewhite (1235) enquired about which Police Liaison Groups we sat on. He advised he attends the Warwick & Mercia IAG and would be happy to send copies of minutes to CPSA HQ. TRB agreed that we should contact other committees to find out if other sit on IAG's.

Mr T Deakin (40417) asked if the Champion of Champions event would continue as this has been held at the CLA Game Fair in previous years. NF advised that the event would take place at The Game Fair being held at Ragley Hall.

Mr J Dunne (113258) enquired about progress and recent problems with the new CRM system. NF explained that we have had teething problems with renewals but the system was now progressing well.

Mr R Kibblewhite (1235) asked a question of Archant Dialogue regarding lead time for publications and was it possible to shorten this as it is almost a month. Mr J Gill (Pull! editor) advised it has been reduced and is now as short as possible to allow for production, print and post.

Mr T Deakin (40417) asked if English Sporting selection shoots could be organised by HQ instead of the regional committees. TRB advised this may be an issue with other regional committees and we would need to discuss this in more detail at the next board meeting and report back.

Mr T Deakin (40417) asked if the increases in IPT would affect membership fees. Mr M Mansley, our honorary insurance adviser, said the increase for this year was only ½% and that he will have discussions with the insurers to see if anything can be done to help.

Miss S Chambers (96485) advised that a Social Media Policy was needed and discussions on this general topic followed on items such as 'time lag not helping' and 'the need to monitor and respond quickly' to valid issues. Mrs A Marung, CPSA Marketing & Commercial Manager stated it was a constant juggle and there can be interpretation issues. We do currently have an intern looking after social media for us which is helping greatly. NF advised that members can also help monitor and control content or provide moderating comments. Mr T Deakin (40417) also advised that they can be reported and inappropriate items removed. Mr R Meadows (11003) asked if we could have a social media central email address to enable members to contact the CPSA if they thought items needed to be notified.

Mr R Kibblewhite (1235) thanked Paula Watkins for all her work and help over the years at events and wished her well for the future.

Ms L Saunbury, honorary solicitor and shotgun advisor asked if copies of any Police IAG group minutes could also be forwarded to her for information. Mr J Dunne (113258) asked if every police force has an IAG. LS advised 'No'.

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 16.10.
