

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 27th January 2016

PRESENT:-

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

APOLOGIES:-

Mr J Kitson and Mr G Walker (Elect)

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:-

None.

DISCIPLINARY APPEAL HEARING:-

TB thanked everyone who sat in on the appeal hearing yesterday for their patience and diligence.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:-

Jeremy Beard (JB) of HaysmacIntyre presented the annual accounts and audit findings report to the board.

JB and the board discussed the need to be aware of fraud and cyber-fraud; for example, emails requesting a transfer of funds are common. There is a need to raise awareness in the team. Sport England has a list of 'cyber essentials' they are recommending their publicly funded bodies to adopt.

JB reported that the new sports strategy is out and one of the new requirements brings the governance code into line with corporate governance codes; for example requiring 25% representation on the board of publicly funded committees to be from the other sex. The CPSA is currently not obliged to comply with this requirement.

The board asked if CP would need additional training and JB confirmed that any implications would be dealt with in their usual updates.

JB handed out a benchmarking survey for the sector. The CPSA identity is number eleven. Page 11 of the survey indicates that the CPSA is not reliant on public funding and that staff costs are the largest part of expenditure. Across a wide range of factors, including cash cover, for the size and location the CPSA is in a healthy position compared to that of our peers.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:-

The draft minutes were proposed by JO and seconded by WAH. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING:-

Any Other Business

MC spoke to Stuart at Eriswell Lodge regarding their floodlit shoot and specifically using no. 9 shot. He confirmed there were few issues and is happy to discuss it further.

MC reported back on the reaction of the ABT sub-committee to an alternative format for ABT. The current obstacles are the all-day format and the burden of refereeing. MC sent out a note regarding three people from the squad refereeing. The sub-committee are not happy because they think it's compulsory. It would only happen at normal registered shoots as opposed to major championships. Clubs should be allowed discretion if they give notice to the county/regional committee in advance. MC stated that the changes to the rules have actually made it harder.

CEO UPDATE:-

Staffing

Paula Watkins has, regrettably, handed in her notice as she is moving back to South Africa. NF is looking at the role with AM and how best to replace Paula.

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

Review

There has been no movement since Christmas. The publication of our position statements has gone down well.

Education and Training Courses

The meeting of the Education & Training Steering Group that took place in December agreed the need to improve external and internal validation of courses. The L2 course that was cancelled last year went ahead last week. NF reported that the Group is making progress and this is being linked to a new part-time post. He has spoken to one or two people who may be interested in the role. The content for the standardisation day at Bramley next month is being developed.

Finance

Finance was dealt with at the commencement of this meeting.

Championships

The WESP is almost sold out. The FSP has been extended by an extra day. NF said that he expected a number of places to be released once the teams have been confirmed. The Italians are planning to send a team and want to continue their learning as they wish to hold another ESP competition in the summer.

All the championship locations have been sorted.

Eley have been brought on board as sponsors for the EO ESP and the DTL W/E so well done to AM. Express are sponsoring the EO ESK. MC board queried whether Perazzi would be bringing the bus with its mobile workshop to the EO ESP. NF will talk to AM and then Phil Unwin. Following a meeting with Blaser NF reported that they are keen to have a bigger presence at Bywell and may consider other competitions going forward.

Following on from NF's email to directors regarding DTL squadding the concern is that we run the risk of what the sub-committee put forward creating another format difference between disciplines and also within the discipline. The view had been expressed by some shooters that some were manipulating their squads and that it may help if the second selection shoot squadding was based on the first selection shoot scores. He believed that would be fairer and transparent. The board discussed leaving the squadding as it is this year but reviewing next year with a view to change if necessary.

The board discussed that as the DTL second selection shoot is a big weekend in the championship calendar the same should go for ESK with the EO being the second selection shoot. The board discussed what will motivate people to attend the second selection shoot for ESK and what would make it more interesting. The most pertinent issue, however, was that the EO ESK is shot over three days whilst at the DTL shoots, everyone shoots on the same day.

NF asked the board to consider whether or not we continue with the National Inter-Counties All Round. The board discussed the importance of location and the middle of the country being the ideal place. The board agreed to continue the National Inter-Counties All Round for a few years at a central location and then consider a rota for the event going forward.

BICTSF

The BICTSF FSP selection shoot and North Region ESP England selection shoot were caused to clash this year after a very late announcement by BICTSF. NF will pick up with them to run combined selection shoots next year. The North Region

committee are very unhappy. NF spoke to Terry Deakin and the North Region Committee decided to move their selection shoot 4 weeks later in June. The calendar is usually discussed at the October BICTSF meeting and this issue has been put on the agenda for their next meeting. NF had agreed last year that we were happy to run combined selection shoots.

The World Compak championship will be held at E. J. Churchill in June and the CPSA have agreed to help promote it. There had been some confusion on contract negotiations between FITASC, BICTSF and the ground but it looks as though the event will go ahead now.

Gorgs Geike is taking on Liz Davidson's role lead role as Development Manager whilst Liz is on maternity leave.

Game Fairs

The CPSA has confirmed it will be attending 'The Game Fair' at Ragley Hall and discussions regarding other events are ongoing.

Recognition

In addition to Joe Neville's and Joy Hiron's already publicised achievements, CPSA member Polly Jarvis has been honoured in the New Year's Honours list.

ICTSC

The board agreed that they have no objections to a shooter who usually shoots for England at Home Internationals electing to shoot for Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games.

The board discussed the use of speed guns to set targets. Concerns were expressed regarding wind, distance, speed, cost and calibration and the parameters preferred by shooters, whether seeing the target hit the marker or seeing the speed. The board agreed to establish a working group comprising CS, WAH and MC.

The board discussed the establishment of a Home International in DTR. It was decided that given how poorly supported DTR is they could not approve the establishment of a Home International.

Special Resolution at 2016 AGM

NF confirmed to the board that there will be a special resolution proposed at the AGM to allow members to become committee members from the age of 16.

Regional Committee AGMs

NF confirmed that he and TB would be attending regional AGMs and he will give a short presentation of last year's achievements and this year's plans if the regional committee wishes.

MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORTS:-

Finance

CP reported a £10k operating loss against a forecast of a £75k loss for the year. CP also reported that HaysmacIntyre were at CPSA HQ for four days to do the audit with the outcome set out above. The board commended CP for a job well done.

Operations

SO reported progress on the bequest from a former member. The board asked how much the bequest was likely to be and NF said he anticipated it could be between £40K and £50K if valuations provided were accurate.

SO requested that the board look at the event attendance rota and get back to SO or Clare to confirm.

NF informed the board that the National Inter-Counties All Round will be held at Northampton.

The board discussed the potential need to co-opt someone to stand in for JK in the event he is unable to carry out his duties due to ill health.

Commercial

The board congratulated AM on securing Perazzi sponsorship for the EO ESP through Ruag. AM confirmed that the CPSA have committed to attending the TRMG Game Fair in July. The team organising The Game Fair formerly ran the CLA Game Fair and appear to be well organised. We are still in discussion over the UK Game Fair although it has been confirmed E.J. Churchill are running both claylines. AM reported that it is a massively crowded market place and anticipates that filtering out will take place over this year and next. There will be Claylines at all the Countryman Fairs. AM is in discussion with Rizzini regarding other opportunities and there is a possibility of them becoming a trade member. The ESP HI this year will be the 50th anniversary and will have a higher profile.

Development

Mid Norfolk Shooting Ground's new owners want to be a Premier Plus ground. RW has spoken to them and raised an invoice for the difference. The owners are investing in the ground; they have resurfaced the driveway and installed new traps. They are keen to host a championship next year or the year after.

Priory Shooting Ground is being inspected by MW next week. They have cleared out masses of brambles, created bunds between layouts, installed new traps and acoustics. They will have three ESK layouts, three DTL layouts, two ABT layouts and they are working on a small sporting layout so that they can do All Round.

Landare Farm in Cornwall is now a registered ground. They are registered for ESK, ESP, STR and FSP. RW will be visiting the ground in March.

RW asked if any of the directors would be able to attend the Cadet Championships in April and June. MC agreed to do the April and JM the June events.

IT

PT reported that Merlin is progressing. There have been issues with integrating Merlin with the DD system but that is in hand. Merlin is now live and running in parallel with Magic. There are a few snags that are being sorted out. The plan is to decide tomorrow whether to switch off Magic or delay it another week. Phase 1 is now complete.

The new website is nearly ready. PT is meeting with KB Tech next week and anticipates the website will go live in 3 to 4 weeks' time.

The next major IT project will be to redevelop the Shoot08 program which will take about 6 months.

REFEREES/MEMBERSHIP:-

Anyone wishing to become a qualified referee is required to be a member. It has been proposed that the membership requirement be removed. This remains under review. PT will produce some statistics to support a decision.

MISFIRE POLICY:-

NF circulated a summary of Mike Williams's report. CS came back with comments. NF is to redraft and circulate.

DETAILED ANNUAL ACCOUNTS:-

These were dealt with earlier in this meeting.

CERTIFICATE RENEWAL:-

JO reported that the Kent Firearms Officer is well behind with processing applications. The board agreed that this is a more widespread problem and is unsatisfactory. Kent is issuing temporary certificates. The question was asked why, if Kent is issuing temporary certificates, they can't issue a full certificate. The board agreed to monitor the situation.

GROUND VISITS:-

CS reported receiving complaints from shooters that some grounds are running registered events and letting non-CPSA members take part. SO & NF confirmed this is allowed with day passes but few grounds submit day pass information to HQ. There is also self-buttoning at some grounds where there are no referees. CS would like to see spot checks put in. One ground per month could be selected. This is particularly a problem with ESP. The CPSA is in a difficult position as its only definitive sanction is to de-register a ground. Day pass information will be able to be followed up with the new system. CS asked should the rules be changed to allow second chance to shoot

a registered course as practice in ESP and consider extending to non-CPSA members to shoot course as members of the host club if there's space. This is catered for by the day pass rule. CS suggested this is a problem with the rule, not a desire to break it and that it is worth considering a review of the rules before marshalling grounds. We need the grounds to be viable financially and could consider first score to count and then birds only/practice. CS, MC and WAH to review rules with SO and CA.

INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR:-

BM has served two years as an independent director and is willing to do another two years. He was proposed by TB, seconded by JO and all were in favour.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:-

The board discussed that while JK is ill he should be invited to suggest someone to assist him. WAH will speak to him.

MC reported that Tony Manning has died aged 95. He was a great shot and entered the WESP at the age of 90. MC will write a piece about him to go in Pull!

Meeting closed at 2:42 pm