

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
THE CPSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Held at
Edmonton House, Bisley, National Shooting Centre,
Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NP

On
Tuesday 23rd May 2017

PRESENT:

Mr T R Bobbett	(TRB)	South West Regional Director – Chairman
Mr B Moorhead	(BM)	Independent Director
Mr J Offord	(JO)	South East Regional Director
Dr J Martin	(JM)	East Midlands Regional Director
Mr C Smith	(CS)	National Director
Mr G Walker	(GW)	National Director
Mr B Kibblewhite	(BK)	West Midlands Regional Director
Mrs N Heron	(NH)	National Director
Mr D Rollason	(DR)	Independent Director
Mr N Fellows	(NF)	Chief Executive

In attendance:

Mr S Oldman	(SO)	Operations Manager
Mrs S Watson		Minutes Secretary

QUORUM:

A quorum was declared present.

APOLOGIES:

Mr WA Heeks was absent due to being unwell.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST RE AGENDA:

None. All parties had received updated version.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Proposed by GW and seconded by CS. All were in favour.

MATTERS ARISING ORDINARY MINUTES:

None.

INTRODUCTION

TRB welcomed the new Directors, Nicola Heron (National Director), Bob Kibblewhite (West Midlands Regional Director) and Dave Rollason (Independent Director) to the Board.

ACTION LOG

No 2: Clay scholarship/charity: It was explained to new directors that the objective is to establish a charity to help support developing young shooters and attract donations from individuals and other sources. The Charities Commission has a negative view of applications that include shooting which is holding up progress. BM confirmed the work he has contributed to date, including drafting the charitable objects, has been done on a pro bono basis.

No 45: JM collating response to ground noise/nuisance complaint: JM has been in talks with the Local Authority for Sutton Bridge, along with an Acoustic Engineer in relation to the Abatement Notice. A site meeting had been held to establish what may be feasible including installing earth bunds. JM confirmed the investigations were based on a nuisance complaint, referred to by the complainant as ‘popping in the distance’.

No 52: Director Roles & Responsibilities sheet: Ongoing. BM has delegated this task to a junior colleague, and envisages it will be finalised in the next few weeks.

No 53: Strategy Review: This will take place at the December meeting.

No 58: Electronic Voting: Work is ongoing with a view to having this in place for the next elections. Jeremy Beard suggested his firm may also be able to assist.

No 60: Review of Risk Register: Reviewed twice yearly. BM's firm is holding a seminar in relation to this which NF will be attending.

No 61: Possible attendance at British Shooting Show: Information on the event has not been forthcoming from the organisers. Stand sharing could be a possibility.

No 62: Changing company name: TRB stated all clay shooting NGBs refer to "target" now, and not "pigeon", with the exception of CPSA and UCPSA. The point was raised at the Regional Committee AGMs and the response was approximately 60/40 in favour of change. NH suggested opposition from some members is likely and also queried the expense and time needed to change everything necessary. BM reminded the Board that a Special Resolution with a 75% majority would be required to effect change. General discussion followed.

TRB raised concern in relation to the Commonwealth Games England website which erroneously refers to British Shooting being the NGB for shooting. NF to address.

UPDATE BY CEO

Connie is back at work and making steady progress with her recovery. The EO ESP championship had sold out, with an extra day added to make it now a 5 day event. Feedback overall was very positive.

The forthcoming EO ESK at Dartford currently has just 214 entries, which is disappointing. NF is also meeting with the Disabled Shooters Group to discuss what more may be done to increase the number of disabled shooters in our sport.

Rob Fenwick attended the WESP in San Antonio in April and has given feedback and insight in relation to our event next year.

Selection shoots are ongoing, including for the Commonwealth Games.

Commonwealth Games 2018; TRB queried reference to 'individual team member contributions'. NF explained that an element of the Sport England funding to Governing Bodies is a contribution of £1000 per qualified team member that had to be paid to CGE. There are likely to be 21 shooters, including up to 12 from the shotgun disciplines. The funding we receive has been reduced to approximately £30,000 across all disciplines after costs for the test event are taken out. With regard to the test event, the Board agreed it was desirable that the reserve should also attend. Costs are estimated to be £2,500 per person, and the Board agreed to fund half of the reserve shooter's costs if they wished to go.

Commonwealth Games 2022: The Commonwealth Games Federation has a core of compulsory sports and a range of optional ones, including shooting. Interest is reported from 3 UK cities, with possibly 3 other countries bidding too but it is not yet known if shooting is included in any of their plans.

British Shooting / Governance requirements: In relation to compliance with the new code, all 57 criteria have to be met by 31st October. All NGBs had to sign an agreement to be compliant by that date before any funding was released in April. Those NGBs that need to

change their Articles could face great difficulty but British Shooting has made significant changes recently and should be able to meet the deadline.

The Development Group has been reshaped and is now named the Engagement Group, chaired by John Perry. John has a broad shooting background, having worked previously for the CPSA and on the NATSS project.

The IOC is expected to make its decision on the Tokyo 2020 sports programme in early July following receipt of proposals from the International Federations in February.

Website – aim for going live on 7th June. The membership page is the last element needed for testing but its delayed delivery is holding up completion of the project.

Relations with the team at TimeInc are very positive and Huw Hopkins is leaving Clay Shooting magazine at the end of this month, so we hope to be able to build a more productive relationship with the new team.

Governance: there is no explicit requirement currently for CPSA to change our constitution in relation to the new code for sports governance introduced by UK Sport. There is emphasis on having a diverse Board including at least 30% of each gender. The Board felt the emphasis should be on merit and not influenced by gender, race or any such criteria. NF confirmed that CPSA already complies with Tier 1 which is where CPSA sits.

MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORTS:

FINANCE / OPS

There were no substantive comments on the management accounts.

SO confirmed Lesley had now left her temporary position and that Fiona was covering the VSP workload.

SO raised the topic of next year's AGM. As only 35 members attended this year, the question was asked whether it is necessary to host it centrally rather than at Bisley (for example, in the Pavilion). The Board agreed that Kenilworth was a good, central location and that costs would not necessarily be much lower if held at Bisley. JO suggested that Kenilworth be used for another year, and that the Board should review it again, after next year, based on the numbers that attend. SO confirmed he would make the booking, but that the only date available from the hotel was 17th March. The Board agreed to this date.

COMMERCIAL

Angie had a good meeting with Blaser this morning. With regard to the British Shooting Show, if it takes place at the same venue next year, she felt it would not be a worthwhile option. The organisers have not yet provided any information for the 2018 event. There were fewer visitors from clay shooting this year. The "how to hit" coaching videos are proving popular and we are getting an increasing number of social media 'hits'.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Richard advised that some Shotgun Skills courses are to be centrally run. At present, shooters contact the CPSA who then pass on the details of qualified instructors near the shooter. The CPSA does not therefore know if these contacts are followed up, so creating a central system will create a clearer picture.

The Met Police session went well (6 Firearms Enquiry Team staff attended), which also created word of mouth contact from the Essex Firearms team, who wish to confirm a date to hold a similar session. There is potential for this to be rolled out to other Police forces.

IT DEVELOPMENT

Peter confirmed the website testing was going well, although delays have arisen by the lead developer at IB3 being off sick. The membership area of the website is mission critical, and still needs to be tested. Estimated date for going live is currently Tuesday 7th June, but that is reliant on the developers meeting that date.

REGISTERED SCORES/CHEATING

NH reported she has received, through various different shooters contacting her, complaints in relation to certain shooters not handing in scorecards to protect their classification or Top 20 ranking, or grounds offering not to submit them. Equally some coaches do not want to drop down a class. NH suggested social media and Pull magazine could be used to remind shooters of the rules and it was discussed that clear sanctions are needed for us to be able to enforce them. Suggestions included those not submitting their scores being prevented from competing or being excluded from our rankings. They could be listed on the website and/or in Pull magazine. CS suggested that cards are collected by the Referees on the last stand which could be a simple solution to the problem.

The current calculations for Top 20 requires a minimum of 3 different grounds to be shot and a minimum of 1,000 targets for home disciplines. NH advised the Board that there were many viewpoints from shooters on this issue but NF confirmed that no-one had raised it before now. NH suggested there could be a system to monitor the issue. NH suggested that the Top 20 should be changed to using scores from the English, the British and 3 out of 4 selection shoots, proposing this may be a fairer method of selecting the Top 20 as all the top shooters would be at these competitions, boosting the events and therefore a level playing field.

During general discussion NF suggested a working group, and it was agreed to form a sub-committee to look at the issue in more depth and formulate proposals to improve the situation - composed of DR, NH, NF, SO, PT.

BK reported discussion at his County Committee meeting about the pressure on Referees and how some feel intimidated at times, to the point that they do not want to referee Registered shoots. JO confirmed the South-East counties still felt it was a problem. Some members comment on social media, which gives a negative impression of the sport.

CORRESPONDENCE

NH asked about the waiting list for the British Open Sporting and could another day be added. NF confirmed there was no scope to offer more days, due to other events taking place on adjacent land immediately before the championship starts. Following an approach from a member NH asked why birds only entries are accepted as, in her view, 'serious competition shooters' want to win titles and suggested 'competition shooters' only should be allowed to apply in the first week, then to open applications to all members. JM felt this would create a two-tier membership, which would not be appropriate. Entries had been open for several weeks before selling out, and it was decided that everyone should have the same opportunity to apply.

The Husband and Wife Trophy was queried whether it could be reinstated. TRB thought this might be too problematic, as it would need to take into account same sex marriages, civil partnerships and potential challenges from partners who are not married.

A Referee's course was held recently at Beverley and generated some feedback which NF asked to be passed to Richard Worthington.

The Board discussed the classification system and some of the issues it poses. NF said there is scope to review the system now with Merlin able to perform calculations much more quickly. TRB and DR had discussed this issue prior to the meeting, including if there should

be a change of classification every three months instead of six. TRB suggested a sub-committee addresses this point at an appropriate time.

CS raised a question on the rules for tie breaks in Double Rise. There are currently two full rounds of single barrel, following the DTL rules, which he felt didn't make sense. One full round then straight to sudden death would seem to be a better option. After some discussion TRB suggested the sub-committees review the rules across all disciplines, and decide on any changes by 1st January.

JM asked why there were 26 veterans invited to the DTL selection shoot. NF said they invited all applicants and selections were being made from three events when not everyone could attend all three. There are also often drop-outs before the event so it was good to encourage everyone interested to give them the experience, if space allowed. The Board queried the decision, stating we should follow the published rules otherwise there would inevitably be confusion. If more flexibility is required in the future there needs to be provision written within the rules to accommodate this.

JM made reference to a selection shoot at Beverley, where a DTL shooter had argued with the Referee about a no-bird, who then allowed the shooter to take it again after the round had finished. This resulted in him gaining three more points, which placed the shooter into the team. The ground did not address it, the jury was not called and the shooter (Jason Linnell) was given a slow handclap by other shooters at the event, who were obviously aware of the breach. The Referee's initial decision should have been final and he should not have allowed the shooter to shoot again. The decision was not taken to management or jury. NF agreed to write to the ground. This is not helpful to the sport. JM asked if the gap between selection shoots could be longer in future, rather than just 2-3 weeks in between. He suggested there is also scope to hold the first one earlier to leave a decent interval before the English Open weekend.

AOB

Conditions of Entry to championships, notably the requirement to advise if a shotgun certificate has been revoked; NF has had some initial thoughts but it is very difficult to legislate for shooters who may have had their certificate revoked but do not declare it. The Board discussed whether it is reasonable to request that declaration, noting that this does not prohibit someone from shooting.

A sub-committee was agreed as BK, DR, JO and NF to look into the various issues this brings up. SO agreed to add this to the Action Log.

NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY 2ND AUGUST 2017

FUTURE 2017 DATES:

4th October
6th December
