Minutes of the Essex CPSA AGM

Held Tuesday, 9th February 2016

At The Royal Oak Great Stambridge, Rochford, SS4 2AX

# **Committee Members Present**

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| Dave Bignell | Chairman |
| Luke Riddington | Treasurer |
| Richard Boutcher | Acting Secretary |
| Paul Burrows |  |
| Billy Logan |  |

# **1.Apologies for Absence**

Were received from: Zack Palmer, Terry Greenfield, and Diane Boutcher

# **2.2015 AGM Minutes – Matters Arising**

Ian Schweir raised some issues, but these are reported as AOB below rather than as matter arising.

There being no other comments, approval of the minutes was proposed by Scott Greenfield, seconded by Mark Burrows, and accepted unanimously by the members.

# **3.Chairman’s Report**

Dave Bignell gave thanks to a number of people: Darren Sweeney for taking on the skeet responsibilities for 2015 and for having been a member of the committee for some time (now retired from the committee); Chris Wright for his work organising the specialist trap disciplines; the various ground owners such as Andy Riva (Clacton), Billy Logan (Maylands), Barry Dobbs (Southend), and Hepworth Hall. He also thanked the committee for their continued support, and the staff of the Royal Oak for their hospitality.

Essex teams had had some success at National Inter-Counties’ Tournaments. The Olympic Trap team had won their discipline in resounding style and, at their first attempt at this level, the All-Round team had won their tournament with 21-year-old Lewis Steed taking the overall individual title – all despite getting a very poor start time at Northampton which meant the team spent the event looking directly into the low midday sun.

Dave went on to mourn the lack of premiere grounds in the county, resulting in some events having to move outside of Essex. In particular, the ABT Championship currently has no home in the county. Various suggestions were made from the floor and these will be considered by the committee.

There have been a number of complaints to the committee regarding the processing of new and renewal certificate applications. Many shooters within the county are having to manage with temporary certificates with the average time to complete the process currently taking around seven months and with this delay increasing rather than the backlog being cleared.

Issues have been raised during the year regarding clashes of events, such as the Essex Sportrap Championship clashing with the English Open. Dave explained that the dates are generally set by the grounds and not the committee and that the calendar is very congested so some clashes are almost inevitable. However, he will speak to the ground owners to see if anything can be done to avoid such clashes.

# **4.Treasurer’s Report**

Luke Riddington distributed the current summary of accounts for the county. These still show healthy balances leading to some discussion regarding the use of these funds. See AOB for further commentary on this point.

There being no specific questions regarding the accounts, Dave Bignell proposed that they be accepted, Scott Greenfield seconded and the members voted unanimously for their approval.

# **5.Committee Members’ Reports**

There were no Committee Member reports.

# **6.Election of Chairman**

As required by the constitution, Dave Bignell stood down at the meeting. Luke Riddington asked if there were any other nominations for the post but none were forthcoming. He then asked Dave if he was prepared to stand again. He was, so Scott Greenfield proposed him as chairman, Ray Bridger seconded the motion and the members voted unanimously for him to stay in the position for the next year.

# **7.Re-Election of the Committee**

Dave reported that he had had no contact from club secretary Terry Harris for almost two years despite repeated e-mails and phone calls so it had to be assumed that he no longer wished to continue in the post. That being the case, a vacancy existed on the committee for someone to take the role of secretary.

He asked if anyone present was willing to volunteer or knew of anyone else who would consider taking the role but no volunteers were forthcoming. Acting secretary, Richard Boutcher, had already said that he was prepared to take on the role. Dave Bignell proposed him, Billy Logan seconded and the members voted in favour.

Dave Bignell proposed Luke Riddington as Treasurer, Richard Boutcher seconded him and he was duly voted in for another year.

Dave asked if there were any volunteers to join the committee and Ian Schweir agreed to become a member. Dave thanked him for volunteering and the committee look forward to working with him.

The remaining officers of the club were re-elected en-masse. This was proposed by Pam Dorrington, seconded by Scott Greenfield, and voted in by the members.

# **8.Eastern Region Report**

Jonny Johnson attended the AGM and provided the following report from the region.

Essex is always a strong county, with good attendance at the AGM and a sound financial position.

This year, thanks in part due to Paul Rendell’s efforts, the region was able to distribute £500.00 of funds to all nine counties.

The region will be running 23 championships as usual. They are also looking to run an All-Round championship although the venue for this has not yet been established following a debacle the last time this event was run.

# **9.CPSA National Report**

John Offord spoke on behalf of the National CPSA. He recognised that the attendance at the Essex AGM was good at over thirty but couldn’t understand why more of the 1,116 registered Essex CPSA members didn’t attend.

This figure of 1,116 represents an increase on the previous year, reflecting a trend nationally where the membership increased last year from 23,687 to 23,792.

John reflected that the Essex situation with licensing may not be as bad as that in Kent.

He highlighted the fact that four GB shooters have qualified to shoot at the up-coming Olympics. He also mentioned that Joe Neville had been awarded an MBE.

John is organising a ‘have-a-go’ day at Olympic Trap for anyone that’s interested. It will be held on the 31st March at Bisley. Anyone interested should contact him in the first instance.

Pete Tomlins is in the process of revamping the IT systems at HQ which should allow regional and county committee members more access to key information. The Data Protection Act still always has to be taken into account.

Lee Byard raised a question for the National organisation regarding a ruling to restrict the registered DTL scores returned to only one per day per ground that has been shot. The discussion included the thought that someone could shoot twice in a day and have their scores counted provided they were shot at different grounds – even if one was ‘over the road’ to the other, and an idea that the competitors could shoot two different layouts at the same ground (i.e. traps 1 & 2 for one round, and traps 3 & 4 for the other). At present there is no incentive for people to shoot more than one round which could impact on the grounds’ income.

John agreed to discuss the ruling with the national committee.

# **10.AOB**

Ian Schwier raised an issue that he had not received his badge or trophy for winning the 2015 County Sportrap Championship. The badge has since been provided.

Discussions regarding the trophy established that it was not available three years ago when Scott Greenfield had to be photographed with the ladies’ trophy. It was agreed that the committee would attempt to track down the trophy’s whereabouts and, if it was not forthcoming, procure a replacement. Either way, the trophy should be presented to Ian.

Wider discussions regarding trophies continued, and the committee will build an inventory of which trophies need replacing.

Ian Schwier also raised his concerns that not enough was made of someone who managed to qualify to shoot for the county; there seemed to be no official recognition of their achievements.

In part, this tied in with Richard Boutcher’s appeal for more reports and photos from anyone concerned so that these could be published on the website and in Pull magazine. He explained that committee members cannot be at every event so we rely on reports from the grounds, the county organiser for that discipline, or competitors to provide information to be published.

Various discussions followed regarding the committee in some way contributing to the costs of shooting for the county. It is simply too expensive for the county to pay entry fees for all the competitors for all the national and regional events – the current funds would be exhausted in around two years. A suggestion was made to contribute 100 cartridges for each competitor; another that a proportion of the entry fees could be funded; a third suggestion that the discipline hold their own events to raise the funds to pay the entry fees.

Ray Bridger proposed that the committee investigate what would be feasible and affordable in the longer term and report back to the members. Scott Greenfield seconded the proposal and the motion was carried by a vote of the members present. The results of these deliberations will be published on the website and in Pull for people to provide their feedback.

# **11.Close**

The meeting closed at 21:40 following refreshments and a raffle draw.

Many thanks to the following who all sponsored raffle prizes:

* Andy Riva from Clacton Shooting Ground
* Billy Logan and Alan Lazell of Mayland Gun Club
* Chris Theobald from High House Skeet
* Essex Guns
* Glen Defreitas from Shrove Hill Shooting Ground
* Graham Ferris from Graham’s Clay Shooting
* Leech and Sons gunsmiths
* Olly Searle from Essex Clay Shooting
* Paul Burrows from Lawnfield Shooting Club