Minutes of the Essex CPSA AGM

Held Tuesday, 8th February 2017

At The Half Butt, Great Horkesley, Colchester, CO6 4ET

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# **Committee Members Present**

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| Luke Riddington | Treasurer (acting chairman for the meeting) |
| Richard Boutcher | Secretary |
| Glen DeFreitas |  |
| Ian Schwier |  |
| Oliver Wilde |  |
| Lee Byard |  |

# **1.    Apologies for Absence**

Were received from: Dave Bignell, Asif Mitha, Matt and Jeff Bone, and Diane Boutcher.

# **2.    2015 AGM Minutes – Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising so approval of the minutes was proposed by Judy Lock, seconded by Linda Leeder, and accepted unanimously by the members.

# **3.    Chairman’s Report**

In Dave Bignell’s absence, Luke Riddington read out the report below. The items in italics were added by Luke & Richard Boutcher on the day:

“Dear All

Firstly, thank you attending and giving of your valuable time, unfortunately I cannot be with you tonight as I will be landing in Perth Australia, and I had to rearrange our departure to arrive earlier than originally planned.

This year has seen the departure of Paul Burrows from the committee and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him on your behalf for the work he has put into the Essex CPSA this year. We also lost a long-time member of this committee Billy Logan who ran the DTL S Barrel and double rise for us, he left us all far too early after a valiant struggle with the big C and he will be missed by all who knew him.

We now have three new members on the Committee Glen Defreitas, Oliver Wilde and Lee Byard who have volunteered to step into the void, so many thanks to them. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the other members of the committee for the work they have done this year especially too Luke for looking after the accounts so well, and to Richard who has this year been secretary, web master in charge of the skeet teams & my advisor and friend, and what a great job he has done in all roles.

This year I arranged with members of the Suffolk CPSA to have an Essex V Suffolk challenge @ Clacton Gun Club, we jointly purchased a smart new trophy and decided that our first challenge would be an all-round competition. Sad to say Essex came second and not by just a few targets it was a sound thrashing so well done Suffolk, and they will be hosting this year’s challenge date, venue and discipline to be announced soon.

This year has seen the Essex shooters hold their own in the inter-counties and national competitions, with special mention to the Essex Ladies who won the National championships in Skeet and All-round, what a great achievement from three lasses Pam Dorrington, Judy Lock and Diane Boutcher. Diane also won the county and ladies overall title at the South East Inter-Counties Skeet championship

Thanks to all who have taken part in the championships this year it makes the task of arranging them well worthwhile if we get a good attendance. Once again, this year we had a lack of junior and colt entries so if you know a youngster who enjoys shooting try and get them to come along, they are the future of our sport and we need to encourage them as much as we can. Also thanks to the shooting grounds, Clacton, Mayland, Southend, Dartford, Hepworth Hall and Highwayman’s for holding shoots for us to enjoy, without their assistance we would be lost.

I would also like to thank two members who give up their time to arrange Trap shooting events they are Dave Henshaw and Chris Wright, without their help this year some championship shoots may not have been so successful.

Well That’s enough from me so please enjoy yourselves this evening and if you have any suggestions how we as a committee could do better please speak up, and we will do what we can to make 2017 a great year for Essex shooting.

Your Chairman Dave Bignell”

# **4.    Treasurer’s Report**

Luke Riddington distributed the current summary of accounts for the county, stating that some county levies are still due to come in. These still show healthy balances.

There being no specific questions regarding the accounts, Richard Boutcher proposed that they be accepted, Ian Schwier seconded, and the members voted unanimously for their approval.

# **5.    Committee Members’ Reports**

Ian Schwier reported:

* More disciplines will be added to the county sporting calendar, even if these are not registered
* In future, badges will be produced before any shoot where they will be required so that they can be distributed at the event where possible
* He has obtained some sponsorship with a proposal to use it to provide skeet vests for county team members. See AOB for further discussions on this topic

Richard Boutcher reiterated Dave Bignell's comments regarding the successes of the ladies representing the county, especially at skeet during the year.

Glen DeFreitas reported that his focus for 017 would be on improving the county's performances at skeet.

None of the remaining committee members had anything to report.

# **6.    Election of Chairman**

As required by the constitution, Dave Bignell stood down at the meeting (he was not in attendance). Luke Riddington asked if there were any other nominations for the post but none were forthcoming. Dave had already stated that he was prepared to stand again, so Richard Boutcher proposed him as chairman, Lee Byard 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**

The remaining officers of the club were re-elected en-masse. This was proposed by Bill Logan (Snr), seconded by Nigel Gilder, and voted in by the members.

# **8.    Eastern Region Report**

Unfortunately, due to illness, no-one from the region was able to attend this year’s Essex AGM. It is understood that a report will follow.

# **9.    CPSA National Report**

Due to a clash of dates, John Offord was unable to attend this year’s Essex AGM.

# **10.  AOB**

Ian Schwier introduced Bradley Faulkner who has set up a shoot near Southminster in Essex and is planning to run some registered sporting and maybe other disciplines such as Compact. He is also able to run at least one of the sporting selections shoots for the county team.

Ian is also keen to encourage more women, colts, and juniors into the sport. To that end he offered to run a try-out shoot at his own premises in Boxted, comprising a BBQ and some have-a-go stands for members of shooting men’s families and friends.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding how best to use the sponsorship that has become available. Various suggestions were made, including:

* County skeet vests, held centrally and made available to team members for county representative events
* Pay entry fees for representative competitions
* Purchase sweatshirts to keep
* Purchase lightweight jackets to keep
* Team members to purchase a skeet vest to keep, with some subsidy from the sponsorship fund
* Sponsor to provide caps

This led to a discussion regarding standardising the attire for people competing as members of the Essex teams. The trap disciplines already do this, and photographs of the team in their standard skeet vests (costing approximately £90) were shown around the meeting. Anyone fortunate enough to shoot for England is forced to wear standard attire which they must purchase themselves.

The general consensus of opinion was that there should be and that this should be published on the website.

Both issues will be considered by the committee, costs investigated (Lee Byard will find out the costs of the vests used by the trap discipline teams currently and submit these to the committee for consideration as the standard for Essex teams) and a conclusion made to be taken forward.

Judy Lock requested that team organisers should share contact details amongst the team so that car sharing, squad times, etc. can be arranged between team members.

Ian Schwier emphasised the fact that the committee is trying to get better and really wants to promote the sport in the county. Phil Dyer says that he will believe it when he sees it. The main organisational problems seem to be in the sporting disciplines, although it was pointed out that these events are often held over two or more days unlike the other disciplines that county teams compete in.

There was a request that the website be improved. Richard Boutcher reported that the software provided by the main CPSA has many constraints which make it difficult or impossible to improve the presentation of the information provided.

However, the content can only be improved if the general shooting public provide reports and photos for publication. Consequently, another appeal was made for people to send in their own reports rather than expect others to do it.

# **11.  Close**

The meeting closed at 22:05 following refreshments and a raffle draw.

Many thanks to the following who all sponsored raffle prizes:

* Chris Theobald from High House Skeet
* Conner Logan from Maylands GC
* Eastern Sporting
* Essex Guns
* Glen Defreitas from Shrove Hill Shooting Ground
* Paul Burrows from Lawnfield Shooting Club