Minutes of the Essex CPSA AGM

Held Tuesday, 7th February 2018

At the White Hart, Newland St, Witham CM8 2AF

# **Committee Members Present**

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| Dave Bignell | Chairman |
| Luke Riddington | Treasurer |
| Richard Boutcher | Secretary |
| Glen DeFreitas |   |
| Ian Schwier |   |
| Oliver Wilde |   |
| Lee Byard |   |

# **1.Apologies for Absence**

Were received from: Patrick McLaughlin, Paul Brewster, and Diane Boutcher.

# **2.2017 AGM Minutes – Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising so approval of the minutes was proposed by Connor Logan, seconded by Chris Oran, and accepted unanimously by the members.

# **3.Chairman’s Report**

Dave Bignell reported that 2017 had been a good year for the Essex branch of the CPSA with no major issues reported and only a couple of minor issues that had been resolved during the year.

He expressed his thanks to the committee members for carrying out their responsibilities throughout the year, and thanked the shooting grounds for scheduling and running all the county events, including a new event for Essex – Compact – arranged by Oliver Wilde on behalf of the committee and well attended on the day. Overall, the county events had been reasonably well attended.

# **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 and a slight increase in funds held in account.

There being no specific questions regarding the accounts, Laurie Greenleaf proposed that they be accepted, Bill Logan seconded, and the members voted unanimously for their approval.

# **5.Committee Members’ Reports**

## 5.1Trap Disciplines

Lee Byard reported a good year for the trap disciplines, well run by Connor Logan and his sisters. Several new team members had successfully shot for Essex for the first time, and Essex won the DTL inter-counties tournament.

A question was raised regarding Essex ABT. Lee replied that this is usually run by Dave Henshaw.

A date has been set for the Essex ZZ team selection.

## 5.2English Skeet

Glen Defreitas also reported a good year having taken on responsibilities for the discipline at the start of the year. More people are now shooting skeet, with some also returning to the discipline following many years of not shooting it. The Southend Gun Club have agreed to be involved again and will run one of the 2018 team selection shoots.

The Essex senior team struggled at the inter-counties tournaments, but two Essex colts won both with Tom McCluskey winning the National Inter-Counties and Mason Terry winning the South Eastern Inter-Counties, and the ladies were runners up in the national inter-counties and Pam Dorrington winning the South Eastern tournament.

Glen is arranging some skeet master classes to be run by Alan Warren.

## 5.3Sporting

Oliver Wilde reported that results had been somewhat disappointing at the inter-counties championships.

Oliver himself had won three county championships during 2017 – Sportrap, Compak and All Round.

A question was asked about when the selection shoots would be. These are to be arranged but are likely to be held at Hepworth Hall, Badnock’s Farm, and another, possibly Southdown.

Ian Schwier reported that dates for FITASC team selection would also be published on the website once known.

A comment from the floor regarding some issues at the selection shoot at Badnock’s Farm in 2017 led to a comment that Phil Grey has now got involved in the running of the shoot so those issues should be resolved for 2018, including expanding the ground and increasing the trap count.

## 5.4Essex vs. Suffolk

Dave Bignell reported that this annual event had not been very successful for Essex (“soundly beaten”). However, it is Essex’s turn to arrange the event for 2018 and it was generally agreed that this should be a DTL event, with a fall-back position of Sportrap.

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 and had previously stated that he would be happy to step aside for someone else to take the reins. This being the case, Todd Bridge proposed that Ian Schwier stand as chairman which he agreed to do on the condition that Dave stay on as Vice Chairman which he also agreed to. The proposal formalised by Brian Freeman and seconded by Todd Bridge and the motion carried by an overwhelming majority.

Luke Riddington proposed a vote of thanks for the hard work put in by Dave over the past few years as chairman and this was unanimously agreed with a round of applause.

At Ian’s request, Dave agreed to continue to run the remainder of the meeting.

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

The existing committee members were all prepared to stand again but a request was made to the members for any additional volunteers to step forward. Todd Bridge volunteered and was voted onto the committee. The remainder were proposed an masse by Bill Logan, seconded by Brian Freeman, followed by a unanimous vote in favour by the members.

Subsequent to the meeting Nadine Gilder offered to join the committee to represent the ladies, and to improve the Essex CPSA’s social media presence assisted by Todd Bridge. She was duly co-opted onto the committee by the existing members.

A question was raised by a member regarding getting more attendees at the AGM. It was suggested that past and present team members should be ‘encouraged’ to attend.

Another question was raised regarding the Essex Facebook page which has not been updated for some time. A comparison was made to the Kent page which is updated very frequently. The addition of Nadine and Todd to the committee will hopefully address this.

# **8.Eastern Region Report**

Unfortunately, no-one from the region was able to attend this year’s Essex AGM.

# **9.CPSA National Report**

No-one from the National CPSA was unable to attend this year’s Essex AGM.

# **10.Colts and Juniors**

For some time, the committee has been debating how best to help and encourage the younger generation of shooters to participate and to represent the county. It is appreciated that most younger competitors rely heavily on their parents to fund their shooting activities and this could discourage them from trying to get selected.

The committee already offers to pay for the (birds-only) entry fees for representative competitions but had agreed at the last committee meeting to propose a payment of £50.00 towards entry fees, cartridges, and travel expenses to any junior or colt competing for Essex at South-East regional and national tournaments.

This proposal led to various discussions and suggestions relating to this subject, including half price offers at the grounds for those practicing for county events, widening the practice where some grounds already only charge half price for all junior and colts shooting, and purchasing skeet vests for them.

All of these will also be considered and some are independent of committee activity, but it was agreed by the meeting that the committee should trial the £50 payment as a starting point.

This proposal was made by Dave Bignell, seconded by Richard Boutcher, and voted for unanimously by the members present.

# **11.AOB**

* Last year’s AGM reported the potential for sponsorship and a question was raised regarding the status of this. Ian Schwier reported that the lead had gone cold.
* Sponsorship could be used to provide skeet vests for the teams if it were available. It was again stated that a condition of being an Essex team member should be that they purchase and wear an Essex skeet vest. This had been agreed at last year’s AGM. One member asked if a tracksuit top would be a better idea, but the meeting agreed that it should be skeet vests.
* Trophies – a number have gone missing. Dave Bignell is sourcing replacements, but it is always a shame to lose the history of any trophy. One member suggested that the grounds keep a trophy book or hold deposits before handing out the trophies. This would work for some grounds and some events but would not be practical for others.
* One suggestion was to bring the trophies to the AGM and hand them out there. However, with many winners unable to attend, there would then be an issue of getting the trophies to them after the meeting.
* There was a request for more trophies to be provided for more classes in sporting. It was generally felt that this would be impractical as there would be nowhere to store them and it would be difficult to get them to shooters who often leave the ground before the end of the shoot.

# **12.Close**

The meeting closed at 21:50 following refreshments and a raffle draw.

Many thanks to the following who all sponsored raffle prizes:

* Conner Logan from Maylands GC
* Essex Guns
* Eastern Sporting
* Glen Defreitas from Shrove Hill Shooting Ground
* Chris Theobald from High House Skeet
* Dave Bignell
* Luke Riddington