

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

Held at CPSA, Bisley

On Wed 7th August 2024

PRESENT:

DR J Martin	(JM)	E. Midlands Regional Director- Chairman
Mr M Machin	(MM)	W. Midlands Regional Director- Vice Chairman
Mr P Saich	(PS)	Southeast Regional Director
Mr R Faulds MBE	(RF)	Southwest Regional Director (Teams)
Mr J Leightley	(JL)	North Regional Director
Mrs N Heron	(NH)	National Director
Mr C Smith	(CS)	National Director
Mr C Burrows	(CB)	Independent Director
Mr I Parker	(IP)	Chief Executive
Mrs A Ford		Minutes Secretary

APOLOGIES: Mr D Rollason- Independent Director, Miss L Goodman- National Director, Clare Alger – Operations Manager

QUORUM: A quorum was declared present.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST RE AGENDA: None

RATIFY MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

Proposed by CB. Seconded by PS.

MATTERS ARISING:

- **A1/0524 - Revenue if Veteran membership should rise in line with pension age (IP/CA)**
 - IP stated that this remains outstanding as there has been quite a few holidays – discussion to be carried onto the next meeting post meeting with Stacey.

- **A2/0524 - Pull Digital Printing Costings (IP)**
 - IP declared that whilst work has been carried out this is an ongoing matter that would be discussed in his CEO Report. Action carried forward to December 2024 meeting.
- **A3/0524 - Restructuring of Awards nominee/voting process (IP)**
 - IP remarked that the exercise was more of a tidy up rather than a complete change in the process of voting and nominating, adding that it was to ensure that there were no obvious exceptions being missed out.
 - MM stated that the timing of the bios was not appropriate as these were being sent out ad hoc and mostly post the voting deadline, leading to issues with members not having any information at hand to cast a true reflective vote.
 - NH asked if a nomination should be reserved for the CPSA, for such circumstances such as Amber Rutter and Nathan Hales performances in the Olympics.
 - JM agreed that the board should learn from the Olympics and that this should be implicit.
 - IP to send his final version to JM to review ahead of finalisation. **Action can be closed.**
- **A4/0524 – In response to Correspondences from G Halls, J Newman, A Balham & D Arbon - Classification Committee to send the board their recommendations (NH/DR/PS)**
 - PS confirmed that post the holiday season and the World Championship a comprehensive report will be produced outlining the comparisons between the classification along with all recommendations. Action to be carried over to the next meeting
- **A5/0524 – IP to look at the rules & clarify the wording for prohibited devices - Rule Book Clarification & Update re: Aim Point Decision (IP)**
 - IP updated the board that following a decision made at the previous meeting it was agreed that this would be addressed but it has yet to be included within the rule book.
 - JM requested that IP circulate the wording ahead of this being included within the rule book. No deadline was given as to when this should be included. But it was noted that a named product would not be stated. IP to circulate his draft wording in relation to the rule book clarification on Aim Point Decision to the other board members before it is included within the rule book.
- **A6/0524 - Fujairah Mountain Desert Shooting Update (IP)**
 - IP called out that he would be provided an update in his later agenda item. IP to continue to update the board in ongoing board meetings in relation to this.
- **A7/0524 – HQ to set the wording in relation to restriction on the use of Semi Auto's at Trap Competitions**
 - This action was completed and therefore can be closed.
- **A8/0524 – DTL and ABT Draft Rules - Operational Team to reword and send to board members.**
 - This action was completed and therefore can be closed.
- **A9/0524 – Insurers should be informed by email of the mitigations being put in place for the use of Semi-auto. IP to give an update on this matter at the next board meeting.**
 - This action has been completed and therefore can be closed?
- **A10/0524 - Notification to BICTSF re: Rule Breaking (CA)**

- JM noted that CA had responded to Nick Woodward and after reviewing the topic was to be pushed to the next meeting.
- NH stated that she was not happy with response from Nick Woodward because it didn't address all the CPSA's concerns. They have been giving discounts to members of BICTSF and not giving discounts to the others and also not allowing Target Only entries.
- CB clarified that CA was to only respond in relation to the competition fees only.
- NH added that only recently a ground approached the board asking if they could run 'competition only' registered shoots and the board said no, now we have this rule breaking by the BICTSF which is setting a bad example.
- JM concluded that CA's remaining items on the rule breaking in BICTSF should be included within the next agenda as there will be a full board attending and NH to draft a report on the outstanding items as this would be part of a wider discussion. Action carried over to the next meeting.
- **A11/0524 – Eco Wads Complaint – IP to reply to R Grimshaw with the boards views (IP)**
 - IP declared that he had responded to Roger Grimshaw and that as of today there has been no response back. Action on hold till a response has been sent.
- **A12/0524 – Sponsored Cash at Registered Shoots – JM to respond to TB noting that the board have agreed that there will be no change to the rules.**
 - JM stated that this action remains outstanding and therefore can be carried to the next meeting.
- **A13/0524 – Merging sporting disciplines classifications – CA to reply to Dave Wincott with the board's decision.**
 - IP confirmed that he had replied to this and has stated that there would be no changes made. Action can be closed.
- **A14/0524 – Request for the trophies of the Lady Colts & Lady Jnrs**
 - IP remarked that he has responded to this and outlined that the board could not approve of the request. Action Closed.

UPDATE BY CEO

IP stated that so far it has been very busy year and that from a competition perspective it has been a great year. IP congratulated the team for all their efforts especially given that we are in the middle of the holiday season and are short staffed.

IP highlighted that following various emails to and from the board and following discussions with the trades and grounds people at events such as The Game Fair, much of the feedback is that trade is slow & for the CPSA there has been a drop in membership due to the lack of renewals. Feedback is 80-90% of the members quote the biggest factor is due to the cost of shooting.

To make matters worse for the trade it has not helped that start of the game season has seen many cancelations and that gun sales in general are down and all in all this is not painting a good picture. IP reiterated however that this is the reality of the situation and whilst it may not be good news, the Olympics in Paris has brought some much-needed light to the sport.

IP called out that registered shooting figures are stable noting that the World DTL at Bywell last month was a great success.

IP took the opportunity to thank JL and all the directors attending for their efforts and work that went into holding the World DTL. JL added that Bywell were very happy and that the feedback he has received so far has been positive, MM also highlighted that feedback received from the ICTSF countries was positive

IP stressed that the change of government could prove to be a challenge for the sport and that he was already hearing conversations of shotgun license fees being reviewed. IP added that this could be the Home Office requiring another review and that Labour may push for a full cost recovery per their manifesto.

CB enquired as to whether the Women in Westminster (WOW) shoot happened, and IP confirmed that due to the General Election this did not go ahead, but it was to be re-scheduled. IP added that with the recent successes of Nathan Hales, Lucy Hall and Amber Rutter in the Paris Olympics there are questions being asked in the halls of Westminster.

IP stated that the figures held with the pack for membership was old of data as this was for last month but added that membership is decreasing with it currently standing at 21,350, noting that year on year we have lost c600 members.

CB stated that it is still lower than the drop in licenses overall, however IP remarked that some of the figures will be slightly distorted and will lag because of people who sign up later in the year.

IP called out that the handout within the board pack adding that the actual number of renewals of shotgun licenses has decreased a large amount and following various conversations with gun companies, it seems that people are trading out their guns because they are not renewing their memberships, adding that this might be due to the additional requirements of needing a medical/spousal letter. A combination of cost and more complicated licensing application process.

IP stated that over the last 10 years the number of certificate holders has reduced by c.50k, which is down c.10% noting that our membership has not gone down by 10% in the same period but has decreased over the past 5 years. MM queried whether those that do not require a shotgun due to the previous holders, such as parents, grandparents handing down shotguns, would that not lead to the license fee being reduced. IP concurred that this is certainly a mechanism but if we were to look at the people being denied licenses, then that figure has risen, stating that in addition shotgun revocation is at its highest level.

IP commented that unfortunately the new hire Erin did not last long but that there would be no rush to find her replacement. We will finish the competition and event season and consider combining her role with comms.

Pull Magazine

IP outlined that discussions are still ongoing in relation to the Pull Magazine and whilst they have come back with some costings, these have not been meaningful, and he stated he felt that it was not worth changing following various conversations with members who have outwardly declined the move from print to digital. PS commented that this was discussed at

the County AGM with no feedback being received as to whether there should be an opt out decision.

IP remarked that the distribution of the magazine is the biggest cost outside of salaries and whilst the costs could be reduced, ultimately this could not work for the relationship with Fellows.

NH said that this would be a missed opportunity as paper is widely disappearing and that more shooting conversations now appear on videos on YouTube, Facebook and the likes.

JM interjected that the topic of going from paper to digital currently has no immediate cut off date and it was agreed that IP should re-investigate the costings and provide a more detailed report for the board to make a more informative decision.

Discussions were had on whether this could be run internally but IP highlighted that this would not be something we would want to do as the costs would be high in terms of setting it up for ourselves along with the various software programmes etc.

Continuation of A2/0524 - Pull Digital Printing Costings (IP)

- IP to provide a more detailed report of the costings to present to the board meeting in December 2024

Lead ammunition – HSE Consultation – UK ECHA/ECHA

IP remarked that currently there is still no update on this. JM queried as to whether this would be revisited by the new Government with IP responded that it would be very likely because of HSE, noting that it would be an easy headline and win.

Championships

IP reported that there has been great success so far this year in relation to championships and thanked all the directors and the team for doing such a fantastic job, adding that there was the last major in a few weeks' time in Swinton, which the team are preparing for.

IP questioned what the longstanding agreement/format whereby the Juniors and the Colts get a 50% discount, and asked how much this costs us at the championships. IP added that at WESP23 at EJ Churchill the cost is £3000 of which we pay, and the grounds keeper charge us the same therefore the burden on cost is on us.

JM queried how much this equates to on an annual basis and IP stated that this had not been calculated as yet but responded that this payment reduces the prize cost and it means that it costs us as it would normally cover such things as the commemorative badges and that if it is £3 per shoot, then the CPSA does not receive this back. CS raised a point of whether the discount needed to be 50% of which IP stated that he was looking into that factor too.

MM interjected that along with the discount the Colts also receive a slab of cartridges and whilst this does not cost the CPSA, it is a gift they do get. IP addressed the group as to how much recognition we get from anyone in relation to the discounts and gifts and JL responded that in previous year the families were very appreciative.

Education & Training

IP confirmed that the Committee had agreed to change the Army Region into a Combined Services Region and that a deputy will be appointed within each branch of the military, along with the inclusion of Blue Light services in the future.

CB queried as to whether this would be franchised out and IP replied that some of the events there will be packs of which we will provide, added that the inclusion will also include ex-military personnel.

FEO Training

IP followed up that the College of Policing have developed a new qualification that will be rolled out nationally. IP stated that the NRA is also involved in this and that the upside is that we have qualified tutors but that the issue is that currently no budget is available for this initiative.

IP also stated that the NRA and BASC have already committed to this although they each have employees who work the usual 9-5 that they can allocate towards this whereas we would need to look at the cost of running this as we would need to understand how many days each course and how many courses there along with the cost of the tutor.

IP confirmed that he is awaiting answers for the numbers of days these courses would take and therefore we can look at the budget once this has been confirmed. CS remarked that he currently sets asides half a day in Nottingham for these types of events.

A1/0824 – Budgeting for the new qualification from the College of Policing – IP to confirm how many days and number of courses required to understand the costs involved.

OPERATIONS MANAGER: CA

1. Update by Operations Manager

Gender in Shooting

JL canvased the board members as to whether we should follow the gender at birth in line with the British Shooting Association

NH highlighted that we have a rule in place at this moment for a transgender person and we also have a transgender shooter who joined the CPSA but filled the website questionnaire identifying as Female. NH highlighted that if they are transgender then the onus is on that person to contact us and notify us if they have had the full gonadectomy and provide doctors evidence. JM asked if anyone wanted to discuss the matter at this meeting or whether this be brought back as an agenda item to the next meeting.

A4/0824 – Discussion on Gender classification in Shooting to be added to the next board meeting agenda.

Ground Owners Meeting

Ground Owners Meeting : JM stated that the topic of the reconvening the Ground Owners Meeting was previously discussed but noted that there was no agreement made. CB remarked that we should not yet be prescriptive on targets, but we should be letting the grounds owners know that we are keeping an eye on things. NH felt that the ground owners meeting should be reprised with CS adding that there was value in holding these meetings previously. JM queried as to whether this was in relation to the classification discussion and CB said that the classification meeting is about balancing things out and noting that there ought to be a fairness in Sporting targets and that PS has the data so we can have a bigger conversation about target setting, he also highlighted that if we are teaching safety and skills we should hold Ground Owners Meetings to share best practices.

JM raised concerns on how to tackle and police it with a variable that has not been set.

CB outlined that we have a classification system so we should be seeing what this is week in and out but if the grounds are persistently producing scores that do not fit within the classification, then something is clearly wrong, and we should be taking action. IP interjected that it is the action and what that actually involves that needs agreement, do we issue red flags, ambers that follow through with a ground being de-registered?

RF used last Saturday as an example and stated that with 137 entries with an average of 68%, resulted in 40 people shooting the course again because they were not happy and that there is mileage on playing on slightly tougher shoots. JL seconded this noting that down the line competitions are hard targets with CS stating that this is because they are regulated targets.

MM added that a score needs to be included to be selected for England and therefore people will go to the easier grounds. CB questioned as to whether it was a good idea to design a guide on hard and soft targets however JM interjected that this would involve around 300 businesses, and this would be unmanageable.

Questions on how the grounds owners' meetings would be set up and whether it could be combined with the AGM were had. JM concluded that 5 meetings for each of the regions once a year is doable but stated that HQ would dial in via Teams to save on the cost of travelling and whoever is in charge would need to find a venue but that the main take away is that each board member would need to list out the items of discussion and send this back to the board. It was agreed that the Grounds Owners Meeting should reconvene with IP to put something together to circulate and the draft to be included in the next board meeting.

A5/0824 – IP to draft up some wording to send out the Ground Owners to reconvene the Regional Ground Owners Meeting on an annual basis, stating that a member of HQ would be present via Teams.

Marketing Meeting (JL& CB): IP informed the Board that he has yet to schedule a meeting with the Marketing team but will be setting one up shortly.

CORRESPONDANCE:

Allen Warren – ESK Selection Process

The rules were changed some years ago at the request of the shooter requests when they wanted a team that was being put under pressure rather than using the best scores and the team was the decided at the end of the event and it was very much performance led.

JM opined that he did not see the greater advantage of losing 2 high profile shoots but if we move it to 3 it would be too much. PM stressed that if you missed The Open this would be a disappointing and hence the reason why we stressed 2-3

All members agreed it works well as it is now.

Ed Barker – EO OT Format

JM outlined that the current format involved 200 targets and Ed would like it to go 125 to mirror that of ISSF and therefore this can count for more things, because it then qualifies and thus helps our championship, but noting that the counterargument is that for practice shooters will prefer 200 targets to save on costs and because this is what they have been used to.

JL confirmed that his feedback from recent shoot out is that it is better to remain with the 200 targets in one sitting as this reduces the cost of hotels and travelling costs.

IP commented that the real issue is if the timings clash with the British Shooting, because evidently the choice would be British Shooting if the shootout was carried out over a few days. JM queried whether this issue was brought up 2 years ago and CS confirmed that it had and that the answer always refers to the 200 shots in one day.

NH stated that we should be looking towards the future and so therefore we should really be aligning with what British Shooting are doing, if people wanted 200 targets, then Ed talked about adding an extra 50 target competition or pool being organised the day before.

IP responded that the format is the actual point with 75 shots being carried out one day and another 50 on the day afterwards.

After much discussion it was agreed that we could trial this on the 125-shootout aligning with British Shooting, and if there were too many challenges or the costs became too much then this could be reverted back to a 200 shootout. IP to respond to Ed Baker on this

IP - It was proposed that given their performances and the raising the profile on shooting that both Nathan Hales and Amber Rutter should receive life memberships, of which all the Board members agreed.

PS - PS called out that there were several members who had questioned whether they were insured on a registered shoot as their cards did not have expiry dates on them. NH pointed out that once you have renewed, members can print their individual insurances from their dashboards and these digital cards has the expiry date on them and these can be printed and saved as a PDF.

PS - commented that the South East Regional secretary had recently resigned and that they are currently struggling to find a replacement given that the person could not be a regional representative and also not a member. It was confirmed by the Board that a representative could be select to be “Opted Out” so that they could carry out the administrative job but also that they would not have any voting rights.

CS - stressed that the grounds have zero ground support and that most recently Peter has been going out of his way to assist and that he should therefore be recognised officially in some manner. It was discussed at length that there are a number of people who provide support both inside the working hours and outside and that unfortunately the hiring of additional staff to cover the weekends would not be viable. IP noted that he has already discussed the topic with Peter, and he will follow up with some reward of kind.

JL commented that the actual issue that Peter assisted in was due to the set up Major vs Minor and IP confirmed that he has now discussed this with the Grounds informing them that once the setup has been completed, they were not to fiddle with it.

IP - IP remarked that there were a large number of grounds holding majors that do not use the supplied scorecards and that these are often end up in the bin, **it was agreed that we should stop sending these to the grounds as this would save us some costs.**

CS - CS queried as to why we have predicted classification as there are large amount of people who dispute that this is not their current class. It was discussed that the predicated classifications were what we expect them to be given their performances and therefore this is not what class that they fall in currently.

It was agreed that PT should re-introduce the banner to clarify what the predictive class actually means.

A6/0824 – PT to reinstate banner to further clarify what the predicative class reading is

CS - stated that at an EM Regional Championship flags from all the different counties were on show along with the CPSA banners. By comparison, there were no flags or branding from the CPSA for the British Open Skeet at Nottingham. Adding that in past years someone from the CPSA would travel around ensuring that the event was decorated and that it was a real disappointment. IP apologised on behalf of the members and stated that something should have been sent to you to decorate with and this was clearly an error.

CB- advised that following various conversations he was stepping down from the NSCA delegate and that IP has been nominated to replace him.

CB- CB confirmed that the CPSA is supporting the Sub Gauge competition at Bisley next Wednesday alongside PS who will be attending as would Morgan, who would be taking photos of the event.

CB- referred that he was planning on organising some college shooting events and moving forward with British Shooting and bridging the gap between the students. He confirmed that a paper had already been drafted and that in terms of coaching time, he felt that a one-day course specifically on coaching students but highlighted that he would like this as a CPSA initiative.

JM- noted that at the British and English Single Barrel championships held at North of England, the referee's appeared untrained with Teal targets not being called as no birds along with many other errors. NH referred to the rule book quoting that the rules state that the referees must be qualified. MM suggested that we should formally publish this to the Grounds.

A7/0824 – CA to draft up confirmation that referees should be qualified and circulate this to the Grounds

****13.27pm Meeting Closed ****

NEXT MEETING DATE:

Wednesday 16th Oct 2024 at CPSA HQ, Bisley.