

PINHOE TARGET SHOOTING CLUB AGM

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL AGM HELD ON September 29th 2020 on Jit.si

Meeting opened at 19.33

PERSONS PRESENT

R. Beard, I. Roach, J. Roach, C. Burrow, L. Agates, P.B. Noakes, D. Mackie, N. Williams, M. Taylor, B. Cox, P. Newbery, G. Cann, R. Boulton, A. Vardon, R. Batten, G. Batten, S Bates, P. Carder, S. Guscott, T. Godden, R. Perkin, B Cockram, P. Hagan, P. Wingfield, S. Forsyth, P. Hobbs.

APOLOGIES

R. Cudmore, G. Cann.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Proposed R. Beard; Seconded C. Burrow. Agreed - unanimously

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES: - none

ELECTION OF:

President – Dirk Bate-Jones

Vice Presidents – J. Newton, G. Cann, J. Pullen, S. Maguire

Custodian Trustees – J. Newton, G. Cann, J. Pullen

Honorary members – H. Burrow

Proposal that all stand again for another year - en bloc – pre-meeting votes emailed in – 19 for, 1 abstention – therefore agreed.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The Charity Commission require charities to lodge the names and personal details of those acting as trustees for the charity on the register of Charities at the Charity Commission. In error, in the past, we have treated the members appointed as Trustees to hold our freehold property as the Trustees required to be notified. However, trustees for the purposes of the Charity Commission are those who run the club/charity on a day to day basis. These are the Chairman - Mike Taylor, Vice-Chairman - Chris Burrow, Secretary - Lindsay Agates and Treasurer - Robert Beard. These are the people who would be responsible if the Charity Commission ever decided that there had been mismanagement or some other failing by the club/charity. The Charity Commission have already been advised that these people are our Trustees.

Our Trustees who hold our freehold property on behalf of the club hold the property in the capacity of Custodian Trustees and this has had to be made clear in the new constitution. It was patently unfair for John Pullen, George Cann and Jim Newton to be in the firing line for the club to the Charity Commission when they do not have day to day control of the club or its finances.

AUDITORS

Our club constitution has always had a requirement for the club accounts to be audited by a professional accountant. We have in the past used Stephanie Dennis who is the daughter of George Cann, Custodian Trustee and Committee Member. Stephanie qualified many years ago but ceased to use her qualification back around the year 2000 and no longer belongs to her professional body. In the year to 31 July 2019 the club income just exceeded the threshold requiring the club accounts to be submitted to the Charity Commission together with a report by an independent person experienced in charity accounts and law. Stephanie chose to disqualify herself, quite properly, on the grounds that she is neither independent, as George's daughter, nor suitably experienced in charity accounts and law.

Unanimous agreement to accept the changes.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mike Taylor

I think 2020 will be a year that we will all remember for a variety of reasons.

Perhaps not the best of years for each of us personally nor for the club and for shooting in general. The emergence of the Covid Virus at the beginning of the year and the subsequent restrictions that have been imposed have devastated many areas of our lives and there cannot be one member whose life has not been affected, to a greater or lesser degree. I will not dwell on this apart from saying that we as a club will do everything we can to make sure that we follow the guidelines and make the club as safe as possible for our members. There have been many clubs which have not re-opened for a variety of reasons. We have been fortunate to have a committee who have rallied to make sure we are open for shooting, all be it, in a controlled environment and with an excellent booking system which ensures there is no overcrowding. The club itself had been making wonderful progress with a great deal of enthusiasm from a significant number of members. The teams were doing well in their various competitions but alas the winter season had to be curtailed due to the shutdown imposed by the powers that be.

There followed several months of no shooting being allowed and so, I expect as many found, we had time on our hands. We therefore took to gardening and other pursuits. However, some members were not furloughed and found that their workload increased rather than decreased. Both scenarios can be rather stressful without the added worry of shielding the more vulnerable amongst us.

Your committee did a magnificent job of re-opening the club as soon as it was allowed to do so in July. This compares to other clubs who are still closed and will remain so. However, we are very mindful that our members could have certain anxieties and vulnerabilities that will be with them for some while and they may not feel comfortable or able to return to the club premises just yet. So please send in any interesting info or articles that can be put on the website or Facebook. Our thanks to Ian for keeping our website up to date. Please visit it regularly as things can sometimes go on there before they are distributed. You can also access the range booking system from the website.

Rob has been putting press releases and results in the local Exeter newspaper and I will ask you all to look out for the next "On Target" magazine from the NSRA as he has written an article on the club which makes a good read.

As we are aware we are far from being out of the woods and we must not drop our guard or become complacent. This coming winter is looking to be a further rollercoaster and restrictions are being changed with very little warning. Our team captains are arranging as much shooting as is possible for those that are able. Please contact them if you have any queries. Your committee will do its best to make sure we come through this and resume a more normal regime when it is safe to do so.

Whilst writing this I must admit it does all sound rather gloomy but there are things happening that are certainly much more encouraging. The building project has burst into life after we suffered a very wet winter which prevented machinery moving on site until March. Following straight on from that was the lockdown. And then further delays. Now we are on course to complete the main build by December and those of you who have visited the club will have noted the progress over the past three or four weeks. We will be calling on you for working parties as we come towards the finishing touches in November/December time. As always if you have any ideas or skills please let me know as soon as possible so that we can factor them in.

I cannot thank the committee enough for all their hard work over this rather challenging year. Particularly our secretary who has to cope with so much on top of a very busy and stressful full-time job. I would also like to especially thank Rob Boulton who has given so much time and expertise way over and above what he is required to do.

In a general way the future is still uncertain but from your club's perspective we will be in as strong a position as possible when some sort of normality returns. Our new facilities will have come just in time to help with shooters whose clubs may not re-open and we will attract and encourage new members who realise the benefits of our sport on their wellbeing.

I thank you all for your support over this Annus Horribillis and let us hope 2021 will be an Annus Gloriosum.

The Chairman's reported was unanimously accepted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Lindsay Agates

Well, what a year! This time last year we had no idea that all our lives would change so much, so soon. The winter leagues were almost completed and several of us had just shot the Okehampton match when all shooting had to stop and the club closed, not to open for another 4 months.

As a club that wishes to promote shooting to the full, the committee were ready to put into place any measures that were needed so that we were able to reopen on the first possible day – Saturday 25th July. Prior to this date there were numerous meetings and scratching of heads over the rules and regulations that needed to be adhered to, informed by the NSRA guidance. Risk assessments had to be written, instructions for using the club and the booking-in system developed. The club was scrubbed, the club room turned into a preparation area, signs posted, wipes, hand gel and cleaning materials purchased. All this was going on behind the scenes by a team dedicated to reopening the club and for some shooting to resume. Thank you to everyone involved for their focus and hard work. There are many clubs that still remain closed in Devon and across the country and we pride ourselves on providing shooting opportunities for those who feel able to pick up the gun again and start to re-learn what shooting is all about and to remember how enjoyable hitting that perfect 10 can be...

As well as planning the reopening of the club there has also been the new range build going on in fits and starts in the background. The work that key members have put in is phenomenal. In particular, Mike Taylor and Rob Boulton who have been pushing the build along, showing great determination, and patience! Also, Robin Batten who has designed the 25yd ranges, calculating angles, measuring distances for baffles for all disciplines, complying with all rules and regulations at the target end and getting the design agreed by a range inspector. No mean feat I have to say!

We are lucky as a club to have these talented and dedicated people amongst us and willing to put their skills to the test. If there are other members that would like to test out their own skills then please let us know – the more help, the quicker and better the club will develop.

It is now time for those who feel comfortable, and able to do so, to return to shooting at the club and to enter into competitions, even those that perhaps they haven't tried before. If we can help in any way for members to achieve this please let us know.

Let's put ourselves out there and show the shooting world that Pinhoe really is a club to be reckoned with!

The Secretary's reported was unanimously accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Robert Beard - Includes setting of fees, subscriptions and other charges.

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st July 2020 has already been emailed out to all members.

Covid-19 had a significant impact on the club in both good and bad ways. The bad was obvious as the club was closed for 4 months and is only open again with reduced capacity. The impact on membership is not yet fully known but we have certainly lost a few members. At present we cannot entertain guests or prospective new members and there is no scope for holding competitions or events at the club. On the other hand, the club has been very fortunate to benefit from two Covid grants; one from Exeter City Council and one from East Devon District Council, both for £10,000 each, giving us a windfall of £20,000. In addition, Sport England offered to help clubs with their fixed costs and we were successful in claiming £1,795.

In respect of the building project we have been hit with both delays and an additional costs. We discovered that the ground was made up, having had soil and old tree stumps deposited on it in the past. Our engineers also discovered that we have a fresh water spring on the site and that the water table is very close to the surface. These problems created the need for much stronger foundations and to raise the building above its original position to reduce the risk of flooding in the future. These extra costs added £46,680 to the build costs which we could ill afford at the time but the Covid grants have helped to fund this together with us having earned more income during the delays to the project. What has had to be sacrificed for the time being is the build to join the new and old buildings together but we have a foundation for the walls and the drainage pipes have been laid. Fortunately, we can deal with this at our leisure and it is certainly not critical to the completion of the new ranges. We therefore have sufficient funding to complete the range building with electrics, an armoury and the two end range walls with bullet

catchers, baffles and lighting providing that the builder completes by 30 November so that we claim the Viridor grant of £50,000 by 31 December 2020. He can have no misunderstanding of this deadline which has been made absolutely clear to him. The 10m air range will be completed first as promised.

Another major change forced upon us by legislation was the fact that our income has been rising and exceeded the limit at the Charity Commission for last year such that we now have to submit accounts with a report from an independent examiner. George Cann's daughter, a qualified accountant, has always been our auditor in recent years. However, she had to rule herself out as not being independent and not feeling sufficiently up to date with the requirements for charitable organisations. Accordingly, we had to appoint an independent examiner on a fee paying basis although I am hopeful that we will get a good deal from my old firm PKF Francis Clark LLP. The constitution also needs changing to reduce the onerous and costly requirements of an audit to a less onerous and less costly independent review and this is actively promoted to small charities by the Charity Commission. Having had to delve into Charity requirements it became obvious that we have always identified our Trustees as being those trustees in whose name the freehold property is registered but that is their sole role. They are therefore defined as Custodian Trustees by the Charity Commission and not the trustees who are actually responsible for the day to day running of the charity. We have therefore notified the Charity Commission that our trustees responsible for the running of the club are the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

On other financial matters I have prepared the final accounts of Exeter Target Sports Ltd and submitted these to Companies House. I will now apply for the company to be struck off at Companies House as it is no longer required. The bank account has recently been closed and all transactions have already been included within the PTSC accounts. I have also closed down a number of the old club bank accounts. We still have the Fonthill Santander account which still receives a standing order and also pays the bills to Exeter City Council for rent and rates. During the year we concluded a rent agreement with Exeter City Council which had been outstanding as we refused to sign a new lease because of the deterioration in our club area. We succeeded in getting a significant rent reduction as opposed to an increase which they were seeking. I also put our electric contract out for review and achieved a good reduction of about £300 per annum compared to the old deal.

Turning to the PTSC accounts I would urge all members to pay more attention to getting their subscriptions up to date and to be paying the right amount in terms of standing order at the right time. We do not employ staff and expect members to pay their dues without having to be chased either by telephone or email. It is unacceptable for Robin, Gwen and I to be chasing members whose subscriptions are in arrears. Similarly, if you make use of the storage facility in the armoury kindly pay the storage charges due without having to be asked or chased. The same applies to the range fees for those who shoot outdoors at Budleigh Salterton. You should pay up the £10 per summer without having to be asked. According to the accounts £140 remains outstanding compared to the £150 paid to Budleigh Salterton.

The duty cash sheets remain poorly completed in many cases without the name of the duty officer, date, the columns not added up and the total takings for the night not being entered on the sheet. This makes my task much more time consuming and I'd rather be shooting than bookkeeping! As a result the ammunition profits look about right overall but there are differences that I have not had chance to resolve in the time available.

I don't propose to go through the accounts line by line as they are in the same format as last year. The surplus for the year is £32,803 compared to £12,726 for last year, the increase being largely due to the Covid-19 grants received.

Looking to the future my budget for the first year with the new ranges in use as published last year showed a need for a minimum subscription of £15 per month or £180 per annum. The Committee have considered this and accept that the costs associated with running the new ranges will increase and one always has to take account of the number of members which is obviously critical to the financial health of the club. We have budgeted to continue at about 100 members though would like this to increase as soon as possible. There is a risk that a loss of members will result in a financial loss. For example, if 20 members left due to Covid-19 or otherwise that would reduce income by £3,600 and create a loss. The other risk is that we lose charitable status at the Charity Commission as most other target shooting clubs have done in the past 20 years or so. Losing charitable status would cost us about

£1,400 in not getting a tax rebate but costs would also increase as we would no longer be entitled to full relief from commercial rates. It is therefore vital that we continue to increase subscriptions, guest fees, green fees etc. to keep the club in a healthy financial state. We do not set out to make large profits but profits will be important in the future to fund the loan repayments, building depreciation and Sport England sinking fund that comes in when the building is finished. I therefore commend the accounts for adoption along with the budget and the increases in fees and charges as set out in the voting paper.

Treasurer's report and agreement for new fees of £180 per year or £15 per month subscriptions; £25 induction fee; £18 per gun storage; £20 social membership; and £5 green fee for non-members to come into force 1st Jan 2020 - pre-meeting votes emailed in – 18 for, 1 abstention – therefore agreed.

PRONE RIFLE REPORTS - Debbie Mackie

The winter of 2019 and 2020 saw the Devon Winter league teams shine all six of them. The A team came 1st in their division, the B team 1st, the C team 4th, the D team 2nd the E team 5th and the F team 2nd. Medals to follow soon. In the North Devon the team came 3rd.

Robin shot in the N.S.R.A 25yds Individual Veterans league and came 1st in Div 4 and an amazing 8th overall, competing against the rest of the country. Well done Robin.

There was also outdoor shooting in the form of the 50m Polar Bear League, Lindsay Agates came 3rd in Div 1, Mike Taylor came 4th in Div 4, Robin Batten 3rd in Div 5, I came 2nd Div 6 and Chris Burrow 7th in Div 7.

Let's hope that 2020 /21 will be as good if not better.

During this very strange summer we have been as a club very active in competing in a few of the shoots that have been able to continue. The first being the Devon County shoot held at Budleigh Farm and the Yealmpton Club shoot also held at the farm. On Saturday and Sunday 10th and 11th October, Devon County are holding a shoot for Prone Rifle, Benchrest and LSR at Budleigh Farm. The number of prone shooters is at the moment low so come along and shoot, it is all classed.

Although I have only shot on one occasion indoors so far this season, it is so good to hear that the range is being used more and more and that the system put in place is working well. I, and a few others, have been shooting outdoor competitions at Budleigh Salterton.

The Devon Winter league cards are all stickered up and in your slots by the door. Teams on the white board on the far wall. The first round to be shot by the 2nd November. You can shoot the first 3 rounds before this date if you wish. I would ask that you do not shoot any more as I can then juggle the teams if necessary. This competition will consist of 10 rounds.

We are also running the Devon Individual competition, which is open to you all, whatever your standard of shooting, you will be shooting to your average. Please let Lindsay or myself know if you wish to enter into this. For those who are at an early stage of their shooting, this is a good practise to shoot cards with stickers on. You will find a little pressure helps the concentration. The first three rounds to be shot by the 14th December. There are 10 rounds in this competition.

We will also be entering the North Devon League, hopefully teams and individuals. I do not have the dates for this competition but I would guess that it will be run as the Devon and consist of 10 rounds.

There is also a Kynoch competition which consists of teams of 6. Competitors pick their own start, (how many points you think you will drop over 10 shots). This is a knock out competition against Devon Clubs.

The winning team will compete against the winning Cornish team. Again, get your names in.

LSR REPORT – Shaun Forsyth

We had a rocky start to year, with some miscommunication on dates and timing, with me failing to update the board, we looked at how to better communicate and present information.

Moving forward, we will provide timeline sheets to people, have a shared calendar, have dates on the cards, set up WhatsApp groups and make sure results are published!

LSR League Individual 2019/20 - We took 2nd and 3rd position in Division 1, and 1st in Division 3.

LSR Winter League - Team 2019/20 - Pinhoe E Team took 1st in Division 4, and Pinhoe G took 2nd in Division 6. Chris Bamford was Runner up Champion, short by 10 points, with 1953 out of 2000.

Pinhoe LSR shooters had a good presence at the open shoot at Budleigh Farm in August, which was nice to see.

Thank you for the all the "spare" and filling "LSR shooters" Here comes a better left foot forward for 2020/2021. Thank you

10M and 20yd AIR REPORT – Chris Burrow

I can only say that there has been little shooting this year so far, but things are now looking better as the stickers for this year's Winter League have just arrived and we're hoping to get started soon.

However, last Winter season our air pistol teams did very well with the A team winning Div 1 and the B coming 3rd in div 1. The C team won Div 2 and the D team came 2nd in Div 3.

We had 8 of our members shooting for Devon in the County 10m teams and 9 shoot for Devon in the County 20yd teams – a good demonstration of the depth of our shooting talents!

I have entered everyone in the league - if I have missed anyone please let me know as we can submit entries up to December, and targets do not have to be shot until January.

As there were only two clubs entered, the county has changed the leagues from teams to individual leagues for the 20yd.

BENCHREST REPORT – Ian Roach

I was wondering how we could follow up on our progress and successes of last year and then along came Covid 19. Despite the ongoing problems we have been able to take part in some limited Benchrest competition shooting. Both the County League and the in-house Pinhoe BR Cup Winter Leagues were finally concluded, both Competitions were affected by Covid 19 difficulties and both had average scores awarded to individuals who were unable to shoot in the last two rounds.

The internal Pinhoe Benchrest Cup was won by Ian Lawrence with Tony Clay in second place and Livvy Lawrence was the top junior and ladies winner.

There was an excellent result in the Devon Winter League team event with Pinhoe winning 8 out of the 10 rounds with a final points score of 98 out of 100 winning by a margin of 13 points to the second place team from Budleigh Farm and 15 points clear of the third placed Tiverton.

Several Pinhoe members have been shooting in the NSRA Inter County Competition (690) but final results have been delayed and are not yet available.

After a delayed start 14 Pinhoe members are currently taking part in the Devon County Summer League, which will now not be finishing until October.

This year's Devon County Winter League will be running from 7th December to April 19th, 2021, the Pinhoe Cup will run for the second time using the same fixture list as the County League.

Applications are being taken for both these competitions until the end of October.

Looking forwards to the next year, with the completion of new range build we will be able to shoot indoor Benchrest at 25 yards and hopefully outdoors at 50 metres, which will greatly improve the club's ability to take part in local and County competitions.

All section reports were accepted as true accounts of the last year in each discipline.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE CLUB:

Chairperson nominations – Mike Taylor

Vice Chair – Chris Burrow

Secretary – Lindsay Agates

Membership Secretary – Gwen Batten

Treasurer – Robert Beard

Prone Captain indoor – Debbie Mackie

Prone Captain outdoor – Debbie Mackie

Match Secretary – Peter Wingfield

LSR Captain – Shaun Forsyth

10m Air Captain – Chris Burrow

20yd Air Captain – Roger Cudmore

Bench Rest Captain – Ian Roach

Armourer – Chris Burrow

Assistant Armourer – John Pullen
Police Liaison Officer – Gwen Batten
Child Protection Officer – Lindsay Agates
Webmaster – Ian Roach/Andy McGarty/Shawn Forsyth
Press/Marketing Officer – Rob Boulton

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Eatough
George Cann
Brian Cox
Paul Noakes
Nijel Dudley
John Mock
Nina Williams
Robin Batten
Terry Boulton
Pete Hobbs

All posts were voted for en bloc – pre-meeting votes emailed in – 17 for, 3 abstentions – therefore agreed.

AUDITORS – PKF – Francis Clark LLP – **agreed unanimously.**

AOB

- **QR Codes** – LA has applied for QR codes for the NHS Covid App for the Pinhoe and Fonthill sites and will be printed off and displayed in the entrances.

Meeting closed 20.27