

## **PINHOE TARGET SHOOTING CLUB AGM**

### **MINUTES OF AGM HELD ON October 24<sup>th</sup> 2019**

Meeting opened at 19.30

#### **PERSONS PRESENT**

R. Beard, I. Roach, J. Roach, C. Burrow, L. Agates, P.B. Noakes, J. Mackie, D. Mackie, N. Williams, M. Taylor, A. McGarty, B. Cox, P. Newbery, G. Cann, J. Shanks, T.A. Boulton, R. Boulton, A. Vardon, S. Bates, R. Batten, G. Batten, C. Richardson, P. Eatough, J. Sampson, T. Bates, I. Lawrence, J.R. Mock, P. Carder, S. Bolt, S. Guscott, C.D. Rolfe (guest), J. Pullen, A. Sprague.

#### **APOLOGIES**

M. Woodland, R. Cudmore, S. Forsyth, B. Emmerson, I. Baraffe, J. Newton, D. Bate-Jones, N. Dudley, K. Venn.

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING** – Agreed - unanimously

**MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES:** - any matters were covered in items below.

#### **ELECTION OF:**

**President** – Dirk Bate-Jones

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

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

**Honorary members** – H. Burrow

Approval of the above nominations proposed by D. Mackie, seconded by J. Mackie, all in favour.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS** in the following sections 3. Structure, 6. Latest Child Protection policy to be adopted, 8. Membership, 9. Disciplinary policy, 10. Membership and Data Handling, 15. Conflict of interest, 19. Recording decisions, 24. Subscriptions, 26. Club rules.

Some discussion around the changes resulting in amendments to the Constitution being agreed. Proposed S. Bates, Seconded J. Pullen. Final copy of the Constitution attached to these minutes.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mike Taylor**

The past year has been quite an eventful one with many changes to the structure of the club. Some have been small and some quite major.

The amalgamation of all the clubs which officially happened in April of last year has progressed and evolved. As expected there have been some glitches along the way, these have been generally ironed out as we have gone along. The pressure on the range nights has been an issue at times with the increased... and increasing membership. The fact that we are getting new member enquiries every month is very encouraging. It is also great to see members from the same family joining.

We are still running two sites both here and Fonthill and sometimes this has added to poor communications which is an area that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. The University still enjoy the Fonthill range despite the problems we have there with the condition of the structure.

As far as the bigger changes go then the building project is probably the biggest and I will now give you an update of where we are with it

The cutting of the first sod ceremony was conducted by our president Dirk Bate-Jones on 18<sup>th</sup> June and the excavation for the foundations were started soon after. However, once you start digging you find things. The first thing was that the land was not as virgin as was thought and there seemed to be a quantity of rubbish buried including a couple of large tree stumps one of which was near our lowest datum. On its

removal it left a large hole which promptly filled with water as did the foundation trenches. This was our second unexpected occurrence, the water table is very close to the surface.

This has brought about a redesign of the foundations. Meetings were held with Our Architect, structural design engineer, geologist and our builder. The difficulty was compounded by the fact that as part of our planning approval we had to perform a soak-away test but the soak-away test did not soak away. So this meant we also needed a re-design for the surface water drainage.

The redesign of the foundation has now been completed and submitted to building control which has approved the new design. Likewise, the surface water will now be run into swails (depressions in the ground) and will leach away naturally. This was approved two weeks ago. There will naturally be cost implications and we have kept Sport England in the loop and are at present in negotiation with them to see if they can provide any further funding towards the extra cost.

As you will gather all this has taken time and has meant a delay in our projected build time. Getting new drawings and then having them approved by the council has set us back 3 months which sounds a lot but when you consider this has been in the making for 3 years it is not too bad. Our builder has been extremely understanding with this situation and has removed the equipment and found other work for this interim period. He will be returning to site on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November and maybe even before that if the weather holds and he can finish his current job sooner. Likewise, our Architect Rob has been brilliant in giving his time and advice. In fact, he has been so impressed by the club that he and his Dad have joined the club and Rob has become our Press officer.

On a more upbeat note, we have had some better news as of yesterday. The funds that we have raised so far, were enough to put up the main structure. But as mentioned in my report from last year's AGM we did not have the funds to fit it out. We would be dependent on club members rolling up their sleeves and setting to, to make it useable inside. We therefore have put in a bid for a grant from Viridor to help with the internal fit out. This has been going on for several months now and if you remember we asked for signatures on a petition for the club, we had a great response to that and even took the petition to Scotland where Chris cornered many shooters and wouldn't let them on the range unless they signed! We then had a site meeting with a Viridor representative a few weeks ago and he was impressed with our project, with what we had achieved and with the goals we had set ourselves. The approval committee met this week and I am very pleased to say that we learnt yesterday that they have awarded us their maximum amount of £50,000. So, this will mean we can have a much better standard of internal fit out than we would have achieved otherwise. This however does not mean we won't have to do any work ourselves. We will still need members to help with a variety of jobs and with further fund raising.

I gave a time line on the project last year and I will update that now. I will also stick my neck out and try to predict what will happen next year as well.

But the main thing throughout all of this are the members. A club is as good as its members and we have a great bunch of people here, all out to enjoy their sport..... It is the committee's duty to look after the members, their interests, their safety their progression and it is the members duty to help as and when they can along the way.

At the beginning of this year we had a change in most members of the committee. Our previous Chairman, Simon.... Secretary Lindsay ...and treasurer Alan, had all served the club well for many years and it has been a tough act to follow. But I hope you will agree that our new secretary Lindsay and treasurer Robert have done a great job. Our captains have done well to cope with an increasing number of shooters and teams. We now have a dedicated membership secretary which will make the issue of joining and renewal smoother and our newly appointed press officer has already had a piece printed in the Express and Echo. Please keep any ideas, any news, any grumbles (not too many I hope) coming in to the committee. We meet on the last Thursday of every month and you are welcome to come and watch what happens, or get your ideas to our secretary or chairman by a couple of days before the meeting if you can.

I would like to thank and praise the committee for all they have done over this year and it has been a very busy year. They give their time freely and all they get is tea and a biscuit!

To our members I thank you for your support and wish you a great years shooting. This will be another exceptional year for the club and I hope you will continue to support and enjoy your club and your sport.

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT - Lindsay Agates**

As our Chairman has said, this year has been one of great change. The amalgamation of the clubs has meant new friendships and shooting partners have been formed and there is now a greater strength in our club teams, giving more impetus to those who want to strive for higher and more consistent scores. Club evenings are getting busier now the winter league has begun which gives the club a more sociable feel. It will be great when the new ranges are finished and the club can be used for all disciplines every session. Hopefully this will encourage shooters to try new disciplines too.

Membership has increased steadily throughout the year with the club now having over 100 members across all the disciplines, with many people shooting more than one. We are now very lucky to have Gwen as our designated Membership Secretary. She will be able to deal with all the membership issues which I'm afraid I didn't always have time to get sorted – everyone will get a membership card and the Safecar list will be kept updated regularly! Sorry to those this has affected during the year.

There have been some difficulties with so many people now on the rotas as duty officer. These, in particular, being counting ammo, reconciling money taken, completing forms correctly, setting the alarm and padlocking the gate but I will be looking at producing clear instructions for everyone as these tasks can be tricky to get right, especially when duties don't come around very often and therefore confidence in the process is often lacking.

I would like to thank everyone for their support and guidance this year, particularly our committee members, led by our intrepid Chairman, Mike Taylor, who have worked tirelessly to get us to the positive position the club is in today. This year as secretary has been a great learning curve for me and I appreciate I haven't always got it right but now I have completed a whole year I know what to expect for the coming 12 months!

To finish off I have some requests:

1. Please shoot your cards on time
2. Please make sure that your cards are signed, witnessed and dated
3. Please do your duties or arrange cover if you are unable to do so
4. Please encourage new members
5. Please support the club however you can

But above all, please enjoy your shooting.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – see attached income and expenditure account for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. There was some discussion around the rate of membership fees suggested. When compared to other clubs Pinhoe' membership price comes out very reasonably. An increase to £12 per month or £144 per year (£6 and £72 for Juniors – proposed by Robert Beard and seconded by George Cann – voted for unanimously. Gun storage £18 per gun per year – proposed by Simon Bates, seconded by Paul Noakes, all in favour.

Andy McGarty questioned why there is so much money in the bank. Robert Beard affirmed that Sport England needed to see all the money for the build up front.

## **PRONE RIFLE REPORTS**

**D. Mackie** – Summer shooting

The NSRA long range (50m and 100yd) league was mainly shot at Budleigh Salterton range. We came 5<sup>th</sup> in Div 7. The team was Jim Newton, Mike Taylor, Robert Beard, Debbie Mackie and James Gentry.

The 50m team of Robert Beard, Lindsay Agates, Mike Taylor, Paul Noakes and Chris Burrow were more successful and came 1<sup>st</sup> in Div 5. Well done to them.

The veterans came 5<sup>th</sup>.

The results for the winter league have started to come in and we are doing very well. I would like to thank you for shooting your cards before time, which makes my life easier. The F team, although there are only four of you in the team, have won the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. Keep going, all your scores will be added and an average will be given at the end of the 18 rounds, which could mean promotion next year, or even before.

For those of you who didn't know, four shooters from our club went to the Jersey Open in October and all came away with medals. Lindsay and Chris came away with more than medals, receiving cups as well. Lindsay came away with lots, winning among others, the Ladies Championship. Photos have been put on our Facebook page.

Several from the club also went to Bisley in August and as always had a brilliant time. We had enough shooters to enter the club competition thanks to Robin Batten who made a special trip and the team came a very credible 6<sup>th</sup>. Lindsay shot an English match representing Devon in the Champion of Champions and came a brilliant 7<sup>th</sup>.

Some of us are shooting at Budleigh Farm on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> in a fun Halloween shoot.

There are a lot of competitions open to individual shooters and it is great fun to compete, meeting other shooters from other clubs. There will be notices showing these shoots so do enter and have a go. There are also the Devon Summer open competitions that are held at Budleigh Farm in June and September. We need to keep these shoots going so please all bench and prone shooters come along. It's the old saying "use it or lose it". In this years September meeting Lindsay did exceptionally well winning most competitions. These shoots are for all classes, not just the top shooters.

**LSR REPORT** – Shaun Forsyth

**20YD PISTOL REPORT** – Roger Cudmore - no report as RC not present

**10M REPORT** – Chris Burrow

**BENCHREST REPORT** – Ian Roach

Looking back to the last AGM, we didn't have a benchrest report as we were only just starting at Pinhoe. There has been much progress made in the last 12 months, we have gone from a handful of people using semi auto sporting rifles to over 20 people using dedicated benchrest bolt action rifles.

During the year we have converted 3 old Anschutz rifles set up for prone shooting into benchrest rifles and moved the target position from the top of the target wall to the bottom.

Several club members have bought surplus club prone rifles and converted them for their own use.

The club also now has 3 benches of differing styles.

We have lost a few shooters but gained many more people including two juniors which is nice to see.

Four benchrest shooters have moved from the club at Tiverton and joined us bringing their knowledge and experience with them.

In the last month two members attended the first course run by the NSRA for Benchrest Club Instructors. The results of all these changes have been quite pleasing, we have gone from more or less the bottom of the league last year to winning Divisions 3, 4 and 5 and coming second in Divisions 1 and 2 in this years

Summer League. The best news being that Pinhoe won the team event knocking Tiverton off of the top spot which they have held for several years.

For the County Winter League we have a squad of 23 which represents just over one quarter of those taking part.

We have 3 people shooting in the Inter County League.

This winter for the first time we are also running a Pinhoe Benchrest Cup as an internal only competition.

Looking forward it will be wonderful when the new range is finished and we can shoot at 25 yards, as at the moment the benches have to be behind the 20-yard staging and we are basically shooting at 21 yards which is a minor handicap.

Well done to everyone it has been a successful year, let's see if we can do better in the coming year.

#### **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** – 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**

All posts were voted for on block – proposed by Paul Noakes and seconded by Phill Carder. Agreed unanimously.

**AUDITORS** – Stephanie has now concluded audit of 2017 accounts. Difficulty with doing this as there was no clear accounting method used. Robert Beard has now put in a clear recognisable system. Stephanie to continue with the auditing.

## **AOB**

- Alarm difficult to set – service needed.
- Andy McGarty offered a vote of thanks to the committee for all their work this year and in particular Ian Roach for promoting Benchrest so well and raising its prominence in the club.
- Website – Ian Roach has taken over. Some pages are password protected – Tinker. Captains and members to send Ian results, photos etc to put on the website to keep it current.
- Expectations of duty officer – question over whether a second duty officer each evening would be advisable as sessions are very busy and some duty officers are finding it difficult to run the range.
- Gun safety on the range – rifles are not being carried vertically, LSR and Benchrest rifles should be unboxed on the firing point and not carried around whilst the duty officer is putting targets down. A 2<sup>nd</sup> duty officer would be helpful so that the CCTV can be watched and monitored or there needs to be a range officer on the range. Committee need to revisit rules and etiquette – possibly forming a sub-committee to explore the best way to get the message across (Jim Shanks). RB added that we haven't looked into supervision for the new range yet but will need to for the future. Chris Rolfe (Paignton) added that at his club there must be a full member on the range at all times but they can shoot as well. Need for an updated Range Safety Policy to be discussed and written and then shared with the membership.

Meeting closed 21.10