

PINHOE TARGET SHOOTING CLUB AGM

MINUTES OF AGM HELD at PINHOE CLUB on October 28th 2021

Meeting opened at 19.05

PERSONS PRESENT

R. Beard, , C. Burrow, L. Agates, P. Noakes, D. Mackie, M. Taylor, P. Newbery, G. Cann, , A. Vardon, R. Batten, P. Carder, P. Hagan, S. Forsyth, P. Hobbs, J Newton, C. Courtney-Baker, J. Courtney-Baker, B. Emmerson, A. Wickens, T. Sprague, G. Willis, D. Truscott, T. Bates, J. Pullen.

APOLOGIES

R. Cudmore, I. Roach, J. Roach, N. Williams, B. Cox, R. Boulton, G. Batten, P. Wingfield, J. Mackie, M. Woodland, J. Shanks, C. Bamford, C. Bamford, P. Eatough, P. Batten, H. Burrow.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Proposed P. Noakes; Seconded T. Bates; Agreed - unanimously

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES: - none

ELECTION OF:

President – Consideration for the future due to Dirk Bate-Jones sadly passing away recently.

Vice Presidents – J. Newton, G. Cann, J. Pullen, S. Maguire – proposed en bloc P. Carder, seconded D. Mackie.

Custodian Trustees – J. Newton, G. Cann, J. Pullen - proposed en bloc G. Willis, seconded T. Bates.

Honorary members – H. Burrow – proposed J. Newton, seconded P. Hobbs.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Mike Taylor

It is a welcome pleasure to be able to give you this report in person rather than “virtual” as was the case last year.

The club has been through some quite unprecedented times over the past few years, particularly the last two. We had major restructuring when the Exeter clubs all amalgamated. Then the adventurous building programme began which has seen our facilities grow to accommodate that new membership. Over the past eighteen months or so we have had to deal with the pandemic and the “on off” nature of our ability to shoot due to ever changing government guidelines.

What has been particularly heartening is the way our membership has coped with all of this and has continued supporting this club throughout. I think we have weathered the worst of the storm and are now in a robust position to go forward with our sport.

It has been a full year since the shell of the building was erected and ever since our last AGM there have been numerous members on site doing amazing things with the fitting out and construction of the new facility. I, on behalf of the club, cannot thank all those who helped enough. It has been a revelation to see how much skill and expertise there is in our club. Our efforts have been recorded on our website and on Facebook so that all could see the progress being made. Not every member has been able to help physically and nor should they. This is a shooting club and as such this is what we have all signed up for. But those that have not been so involved with the build have still been supportive by continuing their membership and by helpful comments.

The new range facilities were opened in August by Lord Thomas Clifford of Chudleigh and have been well used since then. We have had an influx of new members whom we welcome and have designated a Wednesday evening as a club night to provide plenty of helpers to make sure they can try all the disciplines we offer.

All of this has not just “happened” your committee and other helpers have been working tirelessly throughout, making sure Covid measures were in place for when we could shoot; working on new procedures; updating the website; dealing with enquiries and a myriad of other tasks along the way. There

is still a way to go on this and there will still be a period of evolution from our old ways to our new ways so please be patient and understanding as this happens.

We have recently been fortunate enough to have a further grant from Viridor Credits to progress the next Phase of our building work They have seen how much effort we have put in with the first grant and were influenced by this and the numerous letters of support that were written. This will provide the much-needed link between the old and new buildings and also allow us to expand and surface the parking area. We have also had a very generous donation from a member to continue the ceiling throughout the new ranges which will improve warmth and sound. This work will commence tomorrow.

I must therefore ask you again for your forbearance as there will be some disruption to the use of the new ranges for a week or so as the ceilings are fitted and also there may be some disruption to the car park when that is being extended and re-surfaced.

So looking ahead to this coming season and next year, I think it is going to be so much better as we should be able to shoot all the major competitions once again both indoors and hopefully outdoors also. For our new members I think they will rise to the challenge of being in a team, if selected and hopefully make progress in the sport. For existing members then the return to competitive shooting will be welcome and after an enforced lay off will see them back with more determination to enjoy our chosen sport and make the most of our new facilities.

Finally, I must thank once again all of our numerous members who have willing given so much time, commitment, expertise and financial aid to the club over the past year, particularly the committee and its officers without who the club could not function and all the members without whom there would be no club.

I thank you for the honour of letting me be your chairman for the past year and wish you well for the next
Mike

The Chairman's reported was unanimously accepted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - Lindsay Agates

Well, this has been another tricky year for shooting! There has been much change, with shooting back on and then lockdown again, and then reopening of the club again. Winter leagues have rolled into summer leagues, shoot by dates changed, extensions given, leading to confusion around who needs to shoot what and when! Well done to everyone who has managed to complete any of the leagues! Despite this there have been some fantastic scores and the commitment of members has to be marvelled at.

As a club that wishes to promote shooting to the full, the committee have put into place the measures that were needed so that we were able to reopen as soon as this was allowed. Covid regulations stayed in place for quite some time and even now we encourage social distancing and the wearing of masks if that makes people more comfortable in the company of others. There are still some clubs that remain closed in Devon and across the country and we pride ourselves on providing opportunities for shooting, whenever it has been possible. Thank you to everyone that has contributed towards the cleaning, organising and manning of the club during these tricky periods.

As we can all see, the new ranges are up and open for shooting due to the incredible work and effort by a core team of members who have given up their time, energy and expertise to complete the ranges to the fantastic standard that we see them in today. For those of you here tonight who have not had a good look around yet, I suggest you do to appreciate the amount of work that has gone into the build and fit-out. The facilities we have are outstanding and now we need to fill them with shooters, new and established, enjoying our sport of target shooting.

During the earlier Covid restrictions we were holding a waiting list of possible new members wanting to come and find out about target shooting. By the time we reopened to new members, 56 prospective members were waiting in the wings. We have now completed all the inductions and to date we have 25 new probationary members, with more at various stages of their induction period. To ensure all new

shooters are supported appropriately, it has been necessary to open one night a week where current members can supervise, encourage and instruct these new members - Wednesday nights are now beginners and club evenings. Thank you to all those members who have given their time during these evenings to encourage new shooters to our club and sport. If you would like to join us please do come along any Wednesday.

Can I please remind members that all committee members are working for the club on a voluntary basis and have other commitments, alongside their role at the club which also take their time so please bear with us if things don't always happen as quickly as you would like.

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 within our club and to support other club's shoots, even those that perhaps you haven't tried before. If we can help in any way for members to achieve this please let us know.

We now have club polo shirts, sweat shirts and rugby shirts – in purple – to wear to advertise we are Pinhoe members – please let Debbie Mackie know if you would like one.

Let's encourage our new members, wear our team shirts with pride, make our presence known in competitions and show the shooting world what Pinhoe Target Shooting Club can achieve!

Lindsay

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.

Good evening everyone

The accounts follow the usual format of an Income & Expenditure Account, with a schedule of the club overheads and a Balance Sheet. The first 2 columns attempt to budget for the next year to help us determine the subscriptions for the 2022 calendar year. The middle 2 columns are the results for the year ended on 31 July 2021 and the right hand 2 columns are for the previous year to give some comparative figures.

The first figure requiring comment is subscriptions which have increased from their low point last year when numbers reached their lowest since the clubs merged. They have largely recovered back up to about 100 members with the vast majority paying the new rate of £180 per annum and some still paying a donation premium beyond that. Looking forward members are on the rise now that the new building is in use and introductory sessions have been put back in place.

The University of Exeter have parted company with us resulting in a loss of annual income of £1,800 per annum since February 2021 and we had to reduce their fee to get them to pay anything as they had lost use of the facilities during lockdown. It's a shame they did not do that student Halls of Residence rents when the students were at home during lockdown but we have to pay Vice-Chancellors lots of salary! However that enabled us to quickly give notice and quit the Fonthill premises, thus minimising the costs associated with the property and bringing all shooters onto the Pinhoe site.

I have to confess to not having taken stock of ammunition as at 31 July 2021. The ammunition results have not therefore had the usual scrutiny that I would give them but I will conduct a review as soon as I am able and a stock take will be undertaken on 31 October 2021.

The only other figure requiring comment is in the overhead expenses schedule on page 2 where you will see that property repairs have a charge of £16,374. For some time the toilets have been unreliable and the old brick built cess pit was filling with water. Upon investigation the pipes had been invaded by tree roots and blocked to the disposal of the effluent but open to allow water in to fill the tank so we had to have a new sewage plant installed on the left hand side of the front gates as you leave the club together with new pipes back to the club house at a cost of over £16,000. So the year ended with a loss of £2,562 before the exceptional items which are the council Covid grants of £25,862. We have been most fortunate to receive Council Covid grants to compensate financially for being closed. The Covid grants from both last year and this year have been spent on financing the extra costs incurred on the new range building foundations which had to be strengthened due to the high water table and soft ground. Without those grants we would not have the finished new building that we now have. Before moving on I would like to take the opportunity to thank Paul Eatough who has kindly collected all the receipts every month and banked them providing me with a valuable breakdown of those bankings as far as he is able given the very poor state of completion of the deposit slips by some duty officers. We continue to have missing dates, missing names and missing information regarding other income and subscriptions. I would urge you all to do better please as it makes our jobs all the more time consuming and difficult when information is missing.

I now need to turn to the budget for 2021/22 and the need to set subscriptions for the 2022 calendar year. Some of our costs are going to increase so the subs are going to have to go up accordingly. Now that we have our new building, East Devon District Council have had our rateable value reassessed and naturally there has been a large increase to reflect the new building. We have previously enjoyed 80% mandatory rating relief and also 20% discretionary rating relief. On the new assessment we are being asked to justify our merit to East Devon before they consider the 20% discretionary relief in the future. Unfortunately the majority of our members do not live in the East Devon Council catchment area so we are faced with a rates bill of about £1200 per annum as it stands at present. Obviously, we will be trying to reduce this. We also have to pay a higher insurance premium based on the value of the new building which is another £1200 per annum.

In the background we still have the concerns that PTSC is one of a handful of shooting clubs to still have charitable status. Were this to be removed we would face the loss of gift aid tax reclaims and rates relief worth many thousands of pounds per annum!

Now that the building has been brought into use our loan repayments to those members that lent us money must start to be repaid on 1 August 2022 so we need to budget for those payments to be made. We are most grateful to three members who have, since the year end, decided to gift us their loans of £5,600 meaning that they don't need to be repaid. Even so that leaves us with £8,800 to be repaid each year over the next ten years.

As part of the deal for the Sport England grant we have to set up a sinking fund to replace our capital grants over 50 years. The easiest way to explain this is to say that we have to repay the grants over 50 years but keep the money ourselves in separate fund. Another condition was that we must depreciate our building which means setting aside money each year to replace the building in the future when required. £4,000 per annum will be required for this depreciating it at half the normal rate for a building. Also it must be said that we make no provision for the old building at present and have no funds set aside in case it needs any substantial repairs. In the last year for example the cess pit had to be replaced with a new sewerage system at a cost of just over £16,000 as referred to earlier. Mike's original vision was for us to become the leading club in the south west and one of the top clubs in the country. We are getting there but to complete that vision will require electronic targetry and that is expensive at about £2k per lane and we will need to save towards that goal. With the rising cost of subscriptions we need to confirm that that is still the goal of the membership as a whole. We are also conscious that we have a facility that could earn us income in the form of letting out the club room during the daytime and we have been trying to do this to help mitigate costs but we have had no takers to date which is hardly surprising given the Covid lockdowns.

The Committee had a very long and active discussion on the proposal for subscriptions for the forthcoming year being conscious on the one hand of the need to build up reserves again for the future based on the requirements mentioned just now and conversely the concerns of those who are just managing to afford their subscriptions when surviving on just a basic state pension or low income. If we increase subs too much we risk losing members. I am not prepared to gamble on new members before finding out if we are going to lose any as a result of having to increase subscriptions. I am budgeting on 100 full paying members.

To focus everyone's mind on the need to set subscriptions at the right level please imagine if we had not received the Covid grants of £46,862 over the last two years. We had signed a building contract and were suddenly faced with unforeseen costs of £46,680 for the stronger foundations. Then we were faced with the failure of the club sewage system. Furthermore, without the dedication of about 10% of the membership, the building could never have been fitted out as it has been. Frankly we are very fortunate to still have a club with a new range facility in the circumstances! So we need to be prudent and set subscriptions at a realistic level taking all things into account.

In the end we have decided on a compromise solution and pegged back my proposal to increase **subs** to £216 per annum or £18 per month to **£204** per annum or **£17 per month** from 1st Jan 2022. The important thing to realize is that the subscription must cover our costs and provide us with a surplus to give us a reserve to cover unforeseen eventualities or hopefully future club improvements. On the basis of the increase in subs proposal the proposed **cost to store a gun** at the club will rise from £18 per annum to **£20**. The **introductory sessions for new shooters** are presently £24 for 3 visits to the club with active tuition. The feedback is that these are cheap relative to other sports and activities. It is proposed that these increase to **£30** for the three sessions. We occasionally get an FAC holder who wishes to shoot on our range and at present have no stated **green fee**. It is proposed that this be introduced at **£5 per visit**.
Proposed by Robert Beard, seconded by Debbie Mackie – all in favour.

PRONE RIFLE REPORT - Debbie Mackie

I can report that we have some very good new shooters joining us. Two who have already started taking part in competitions – willingly I might add.

This year has been very challenging on all fronts but we still enjoy our sport and this shows with the fact we have entered 4 teams in the Devon Winter League, 2 in the North Devon League, 2 in the Nationals 25yd League and a couple in the individuals.

Several of our club members are entering the county shoots which compete against the rest of the country, proving that we have the talent in our club, which of course we hope to grow.

This is what is happening now. Going back to the summer, we entered 2 teams, 1 just 50 metres, the other 50m and 100yds. The scores have not all come in yet but at the halfway stage both teams were winning. 5 members went across to Jersey to compete in their shoot and, as I'm sure the photos showed, they all came away with medals, Lindsay, Pete and Mike with cups as well. Purple most definitely ruled. It's all outdoor shooting on the top of a cliff, so the weather is very challenging. Come along next year.

Lindsay qualified to compete in the Randle Trophy, which is a GB Ladies shoot against New Zealand, South Africa, Australia and the USA. The GB Ladies won again!

It is hoped that during next year, with our brilliant facilities, we will hold some of our own competitions, inviting other clubs to compete here. A competition that Pinhoe has been famous for is the Pinhoe Trophy. This has not been shot for a few years but we hope to revive it, with the help of all shooters, especially prone. Perhaps we can also organise an indoor/outdoor shoot, similar to the one shot at Truro in Cornwall. Shoots like these will put life back into the club and, of course, more funds to make us even better. From time to time there are shoots put on by other clubs, and it's always good practice and fun to go to these, whatever standard you shoot at. So I will do my best to advertise these on our notice board.

LSR REPORT – Shaun Forsyth

It was a strange and challenging year with competition lengths, number of rounds, moving shot by and closing dates. With limited attendance at the club, it has made it extremely difficult to motivate people into

shooting, let alone on time. However, despite the challenges Chris Bamford won the overall competition for Devon DCSRA Winter League 2019/2020. Our B team also won their division. Medals have been handed out.

We are looking forward to a great new year with a very positive return to shooting. We have 5 teams in the Devon Winter League 20/21, with a good representation in the Devon Individual league as well.

We have some new strong shooters quickly climbing the divisions making us a force to be reckoned with.

10M and 20yd AIR REPORT – Chris Burrow

It has been a very difficult winter with few people shooting air at 20yds. We had quite a few winners in the Exeter Summer League competition. 3 teams have been entered in the 20yds winter league – the A and B team are in Division 1 – the competition has just started. No County teams have been entered this winter season as there are no confirmed averages from last year. Next year we will begin again when everyone has an up-to-date average.

11 shooters have been entered in the 10m individual league, just starting now.

Good progress has been made with developing new air shooters, both those who are new to shooting and those who are trying a new discipline. The new 10m range is very popular to shoot on.

BENCHREST REPORT – Ian Roach

A somewhat difficult year for Benchrest shooting with lockdown restricting shooting and even leading to the cancellation of competitions, the Devon Winter League 2020-21 being one of them.

One very good thing to have happened during the year is the completion and opening of the new building.

We now have a dedicated Benchrest range with 5 benches permanently in place at 25 yards.

No more dragging benches about and sending up your heart rate!

I would like to thank all those members who assisted with the build and have continued to work behind the scenes to set up what is a first class facility.

After the opening of the new range there was quite a rush to shoot all ten rounds of the Devon Summer League before the cut-off date of late September. Five members managed to complete all their cards.

Phil Carder was awarded 2nd place in Div 2 with Livvy Lawrence winning both ladies and junior awards.

In the team event Pinhoe again took first place with a final score of 5974 out of 6000.

As the year has progressed we have started to get back to regular shooting and been joined by new shooters wanting to try their hand at Benchrest. I have been able to enter a squad of 21 for the Devon Winter League which has now commenced. We also have three people shooting for Devon in Inter County competition.

We now have the facilities and we are actively developing the shooting skills of its members to make Pinhoe the envy of many in the South West.

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE CLUB:

Chairperson and Charity Trustee – Mike Taylor

Vice Chairperson and Charity Trustee – Chris Burrow

Secretary and Charity Trustee – Lindsay Agates

Membership Secretary – Robin Batten

Treasurer and Charity Trustee – Robert Beard

Prone Rifle Captain – Debbie Mackie

Prone Rifle Vice-Captain – Peter Wingfield

LSR Captain – Dan Truscott

LSR Vice-Captain – Shaun Forsyth

20yd Air Captain – Chris Burrow

10m Air Captain – Roger Cudmore

Bench Rest Captain – Brian Emmerson – secret vote – Brian Emmerson 16, Ian Roach 6, 1 abstention

Armourer – Chris Burrow

Training Officer – Andrew Vardon
Police Liaison Officer – Robin Batten
Child Protection Officer – Lindsay Agates
Website Design – Ian Roach
Press/Marketing Officer – Rob Boulton
Social Secretary – Claire Courtney-Baker
Site Managers – Paul Newbery and Claire Courtney-Baker

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul Eatough
George Cann
Paul Noakes
Pete Hobbs
Paddy Hagan
John Pullen

All posts were voted for one at a time and agreed by all members present.

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

AOB

- **Geoff Willis – to discuss the need for the Duty Officer to conduct a survey of shot holes in the rear wall of the 3 indoor ranges used for .22 shooting – at the start and finish of shooting each evening.**

Geoff introduced himself and outlined why he feels that this procedure is not necessary. Lindsay explained the reason for it – historic concern over groups of shots appearing outside of the shooting area. Same concern is not evident now so this can now be reviewed.

Paul Noakes suggested that this could be part of the Site Managers monthly site check, alongside check on need for lead removal, repair of metal plates etc. It was considered that this needs to be discussed further in committee meetings rather than at this AGM so that procedures can be developed as part of the new Site Managers posts.

Meeting closed 20.34