



WELSH CLAY TARGET SHOOTING ASSOCIATION LTD CYMDEITHAS SAETHU TARGEDAU CLAI CYMRU CYF

WCTSA "FUTURE OF COUNTY SHOOTING" MEETING MINUTES

Date: Saturday 20th November 2021

Venue: Trefglwys Memorial Hall & via Video / Telephone Conference @ 2:00pm

Present :- Rob Harrison (Chairman), Allan Jones (Membership Secretary), Nicola Walker (Secretary), Angie Oliver (Gwent), Geoff Seaborne (Gwent), Trevor Morgan (Powys), Richard Hughes (Sporting & FITASC Discipline Rep), Janine White (Sporting & FITASC Discipline Rep), Will Palmer (DTL Discipline Rep) & Rob Trow (NSK Discipline Rep).

1. Chairman's address & welcome

- The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting and thanked them for making the effort to attend. He noted his disappointment in the attendance and commented perhaps Saturday afternoon is not the best time to hold the meeting going forward. Despite the County finals being advertised much better this year than previously, unfortunately the attendance has continued to dwindle. The Chairman outlined the purpose of the meeting is to review the current structure and potentially come up with a new format going forward if deemed necessary. He advised the feedback received from many members is that a radical shake up is needed.

2. Apologies for absence

- Alf Weston (OSK Discipline Rep), Rob Ace (NSK Discipline Rep), Elis Jones (DTL Discipline Rep), Jackie Spencer (Treasurer), Rebecca Adlam (Stats Officer), Anthony Cox (Gwent), Georgina Roberts (OTR Discipline Rep), John Hewlett (ABT Discipline Rep), Andrew Humphries (Gwent), Tegwyn Rees (Dyfed), Dave Jones (Anglesey) & Gwyn Richards, (Gwynedd).

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 16th December 2020

- Minutes of the last County Co-ordinators meeting were read & signed as a true record. Proposed by Angie Oliver / Seconded by Trevor Morgan / Vote - All in favour

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- **7** - The Chairman confirmed the Board did approve purchase of wire County badges which were stocked and distributed at the 2021 finals. The Secretary advised she will need to restock more for the 2022 season.

5. Review & format of County shooting

The Chairman proposed we review the current format & discuss the way forward in sections, which are outlined below. We may not get it right first time, but we need to try something else.

- a. National Coordinator role -
 - i. Looking forward do we need one - with Allan retiring and no interest from members, do we need to reappraise this role?**

No interest was received in the role when recently advertised. All agreed it is quite a lot of work and commitment to organise and attend each final, plus it is already difficult to get

people to volunteer to take on the County Co-ordinator roles. It was agreed this work will probably need to be taken on by the Secretary & Discipline Reps going forward.

- b. County coordinators and the need for them for all Counties and for all disciplines -

i. Due to the lack of them how do we address this going forward?

It was noted there is a real lack of Co-ordinators, especially for some Counties. Despite recent advertising of the vacancies, unfortunately no interest was generated. Members are no longer willing to volunteer to take on the roles and responsibilities and it is difficult to know how to resolve this. This led to the question – do we need them? Suggestions of having Regional Co-ordinators instead was proposed or possibly look at combining some Counties.

- c. County Qualifiers -

i. Do we still make these a requirement given recent problems with not all Welsh Counties putting on, or even able to put on, qualifiers for all disciplines?

Counties which have several small clubs are successfully holding well attended qualifiers, but this isn't the case for a lot of Counties. The issues surrounding County qualifiers is threefold. Some don't have grounds who are willing to hold qualifiers, they aren't interested as it does not generate much income. Some Counties are also lacking in venues for certain disciplines. Other Counties are managing to organise qualifiers, but the attendance is poor, and they are unable to field full teams.

ii. Do we have a different approach for different disciplines?

It was agreed having different approaches for certain disciplines would be difficult to manage. Members & grounds would be confused which format is for which discipline and it would make the administrative process more complicated.

iii. Do we need to change the format if we keep any qualifiers?

It was felt the current format of the qualifiers is good but the lack of Co-ordinators to organise them and shortfall in venues willing to hold them are the main issues. Those Counties who still wish to hold qualifiers can do so but they won't be liable for any levies or required to submit finalised team sheets as everyone will be welcome to enter the final.

- d. County Finals -

i. How are finals to be structured?

All those present felt the 2022 events should be run as finals only to see if this increases the attendance. This will then allow all Counties to have representation regardless of whether they have a Co-ordinator or are able to hold qualifiers. Members will contact the host ground to book on no later than one week prior to the event. Grounds will then know the numbers to cater for accordingly. When entering, members will need to give their membership number, the name of the County they will be representing and the category they will compete in. New caps also need to identify themselves when booking. Grounds can then set up their scoring systems for the team competitions in advance and entries can be monitored. Entrants must be members of the WCTSA, but memberships can be taken or renewed on the day if necessary. Grounds using the new CPSA scoring system will have access to the live membership database, so details can be checked and verified. New members can be manually added on the day. Maximum entry numbers for

each County team will now be unlimited with the best 8 scores to count for the Seniors & best 2 scores to count for all other categories.

ii. Who is responsible for arranging them with the grounds – should this be part of Ground application to hold Welsh Shoots, and then awarded by the board at the same time as qualifiers?

It was agreed to incorporate applications for County finals into the already existing application process for the team selection events. This can be added onto the application form so Discipline Reps will know which grounds are interested in hosting them. They can then contact the ground who has been awarded the event to arrange a date which fits in with their disciplines calendar.

iii. Who is responsible for running them on the day to ensure consistency and a professionally run day?

As with the team selection events, the host ground is responsible for organising and overseeing all aspects of the shoot. This includes providing the necessary referees and collating the scores. Discipline Reps or the Secretary can provide additional support if needed. The Association is responsible for organising and conducting the awards presentation. All agreed a better presence by the Association would be appreciated by the membership and provide an excellent opportunity to gain feedback on the format. It will also ensure the events are run smoothly & professionally.

- e. Trophies - New approach as so many are missing -

i. Do we look at giving medals or similar for overall categories and teams each year (i.e. stamped with year, discipline, and category) and present large category trophies only?

Returning of trophies is an increasing issue. Many have gone missing over time and despite having signed trophy lists for several years, individuals still don't return them. Those returned to the finals can be damaged or have not been engraved. Have trophies had their day? It was agreed the presentation of medals for winners to keep would be a great addition to the County format. These could be presented to the winning teams and category winners alongside the trophies which currently exist. Medals will only be presented to those whose scores count. This will give shooters the added incentive to try to be a counting score for their County. Purchasing of medals will need to be approved by the Board.

ii. What do we do about county categories again with so many trophies missing or never having been presented

County high guns will continue to receive trophies where applicable & badges.

- f. Levies to be charged at qualifiers and finals -

Following the decision to do away with qualifiers, it was proposed the levy on the finals be increased to £4, £2 for Juniors & free for Colts.

- g. Process for reviewing the changes -

It was agreed to continually review the finals and their attendance throughout the year, depending on when they are scheduled. It was also suggested to evaluate the format by conducting a survey at the end of the year. This will also give shooters an opportunity to have their say.

A discussion was also had on ways to encourage new members into the County shooting

system. It was suggested looking at offering one day memberships to give people the chance to try out the sport, but it was noted our current insurance policy would not cover this. Clubman membership was also discussed but the Chairman advised this is something the CPSA introduced years ago and regret doing so. It is open to misuse and the administration of this type of membership package is quite onerous. Encouraging links with universities was proposed with the possible introduction of a student membership fee.

Years ago, County shooting used to be the next step up from small club shoots, but these small shoots are now few and far between. Perhaps grounds could be encouraged to start running them again - such as 10/15 bird DTL competitions or 50 bird Sporting.

It was also noted that County shooting used to be “a cheaper shoot” which would encourage grass-roots shooters to have a go. In recent years, the entry fees have crept up to being almost inline with entry fees for the team selection events. This led to the question, should prize money awarded or not?

With dates & venues to be decided earlier in the year, advertising the finals can be done well in advance and Discipline Reps can assist with promoting them. Host grounds also need to be encouraged to advertise the events at their clubhouses and through their own websites.

With no nominated Captains for each County, the Captains high gun will become null and void, but it was agreed to replace this with a shoot off between all the high guns of each County. This will create an extra mini competition at the end of each event for people to watch whilst scores are tallied.

Following a request to look at introducing County finals for the Olympic disciplines, it was proposed to trial the inclusion of an “Olympic” County final event. This would consist of 50 bird Olympic Skeet & 50 bird Olympic Trap. It was felt this format might appeal to shooters from other disciplines to come along and given them a try. If successful, the event could be a permanent inclusion in the calendar. As entry numbers will be quite small it is unlikely there will be County teams, so the format of the day will be left to the relevant Discipline Reps to decide & then liaise with the host ground.

6. Review of County Rule Book

- Following approval of the format changes, the Chairman advised several rules would need to be amended accordingly. A new set of rules would be published on the website once they are approved by the Board of Management.

7. Dates for 2022 County finals

- Going forward the relevant Discipline Reps will be responsible for organising the date and venue of their County final. These will then be approved by the Board of Management before being publicised on the website and social media.

8. Proposals to be carried forward to Board of Management for approval

- To move the National Co-ordinators duties to the Discipline Reps & Secretary.
- To temporarily suspend the County qualifier procedure and make finals open to all.
- To increase the levy to £4 for all categories, except £2 for Juniors and Colts free.
- To consider the purchase of medals for winning teams & overall category winners.
- To approve the inclusion of an “Olympic” County final.

9. Any other business

- None.

10. Date & venue of 2022 meeting

- Provisionally to be held in November 2022 with the actual date & venue to be arranged nearer the time.

At this point the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and for their constructive efforts in trying to improve and move County shooting in Wales forward for 2022.

With no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 16:45pm.

Minutes agreed and signed by:-

Signed:-



R. J. Harrison
WCTSA Chairman

Date:- 14/12/2022