



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

WCTSA BOARD of MANAGEMENT MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 8th November 2023
Venue: Video / Telephone Conference @ 7:00pm

PRESENT

<i>President:</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>FITASC:</i>	<i>Stuart Hart</i>
<i>Chairman:</i>	<i>Robert Harrison</i>	<i>FITASC</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Stats Officer:</i>	<i>Rebecca Adlam</i>	<i>National Skeet:</i>	<i>Rob Trow</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Nicola Walker</i>	<i>National Skeet:</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Olympic Skeet:</i>	<i>Alf Weston</i>
<i>Membership Secretary:</i>		<i>Olympic Skeet:</i>	<i>Dave Jones</i>
<i>ABT:</i>	<i>Richard Hillier</i>	<i>Olympic Trap:</i>	<i>Rhys Humphreys</i>
<i>ABT:</i>	<i>Sarah Nichols-Weaver</i>	<i>Olympic Trap:</i>	<i>Vacant</i>
<i>DTL:</i>		<i>Sporting:</i>	<i>Joshua Keeble</i>
<i>DTL:</i>	<i>Elis Jones</i>	<i>Sporting:</i>	<i>Daniel Rees</i>

1. Apologies for absence

- Allan Jones & Will Palmer.

2. Declarations of conflict of interest

The Chairman asked for any conflict of interest to be declared & reminded everyone that should any arise at a later point in the meeting they were to be declared.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 26th September 2023

- Minutes of the last meeting were read & signed as a true record.
Proposed by DJ / Seconded by RHu / Vote - All in favour

4. Matters arising from the minutes.

- **5012** - Since the last meeting, it has come to light the ABT British Open is usually held on the Sunday after the HCIT and is organised by the host nation & the host ground. This will need to be discussed with Mike Faux to see if he is happy to hold the event & manage the entries. RJH to arrange to meet with Mike to discuss this, and the entry fees for both HCIT's, as these will need to be approved at the next ICTSC meeting. RJH advised there will also need to be a levy on the British Open as we will be responsible for providing the medals.
RJH to action.
- **5a.** - NW confirmed she sent a reply to Mr Grimshaw but needs to finalise the letter to Hart Events.
NW to action.
- **5018** - NW confirmed both the Senior & Junior Sports Personality trophies have been collected and are currently being engraved ready to be presented to this year's recipients. The Arthur & Rita Williams trophy has already been present to Jackie Spencer.
- **5019** - NW advised interviews for the Social Media & Marketing Secretary role have been arranged for 29th November and will be conducted by RJH, NW & RLA. NW also confirmed JS

- has updated the list of Directors with Companies House before she left her role as Treasurer.
- **5022** - RJH confirmed a statement had been released & NW advised only one member had come forward to confirm he will be attending the Championships. It is therefore not possible to enter a team.

5. Correspondence

- None.

6. Business matters

- **5024 - Financial review** - RJH advised both he & NW held a meeting with JS a few weeks ago to discuss the Association's finances and also met up last week to do a handover of all the Treasurer paperwork. At the initial meeting JS advised the current account was very low and the balance would not cover the expenses due to go out over the next 3 months. RJH explained there are still a lot of team expenses to be paid as well as the monthly wages, which NW has kindly agreed to defer until finances are healthier. Given this information, RJH proposed to make a personal interest free loan to the Association of £5,000 until the membership renewal standing orders come in in December & January. AJW thanked RJH for this very kind & generous offer & seconded the proposal. All were in favour. To prevent a similar situation occurring in future and to give the current account a boost of funds, RJH has asked JS to arrange a transfer of £26,000 from the Close Brother account which, after the 90-day notice period, will be completed around 15th January. At the meeting last week, bank forms were completed so RJH & NW can have visibility of the accounts and the Association's registered address will be changed to the Secretary's address. JS has also changed the registered address with Companies House. RLA suggested reviewing all the bank accounts every 6 months to see if there are better options available & accounts with better access.

To aid the following discussions, income & expenditure reports were circulated prior to the meeting along with some financial forecasting & budgeting documents:-

- i. Team funding for competitions other than Home Internationals** - After discussion, it was agreed team entries, banquet tickets and travel permits (where applicable) for HCIT's will still be funded as usual. Team funding for any other competitions will be placed on hold for 2024, except for the DTL British Open. As this is also a team event and scores are combined with the HCIT for awards over the 2 days, it was agreed to continue to fund this team.
- ii. Team expenses** - Given the significant loss in the last financial year, a discussion was had as to whether the Association can continue to provide individual team expenses for attending HCIT's. The current insurance premium of nearly £11,000 is crippling us, so we need to look at either increasing our income or reducing our expenses. An initial suggestion to reduce the current expenses rates was made, but majority felt that lowering them wouldn't even begin to cover the cost of fuel to get to the events. With the cost-of-living crisis, the current rates do not even cover a hotel for a night & therefore some team members have even opted not to claim their expenses this year. If team expenses are not financially viable, a suggestion was made to possibly offer some other incentive, such as free or reduced membership the following year. It was also suggested some of the HCIT team sizes are too big, especially for the smaller nations. If these were reduced this would help lower our costs. After a lengthy debate, DJ proposed we withdraw team expenses for 2024 with the possibility of reinstating them in the future if finances allow. This was seconded by SW and, with 7 votes for & 2 against, the motion was carried. RJH suggested an announcement be made to members at the end of January.

- iii. **Membership subscriptions** - A discussion was held as to whether the membership subscription rates should be increased for 2024. As the rates were increased for 2023, majority felt it was too soon to increase them again. However, it was suggested to do away with the senior citizen rate and just have one price for all categories, with the exception of Juniors, which would remain at £30. This led to a discussion regarding the Colt category, and it was agreed this should be the same as the Junior rate. These suggestions were proposed by RLA, seconded by SW with all in favour. These new rates will come into effect from the 1st January 2024. NW to update the membership forms and website accordingly.
- NW to action.**
- iv. **Ground membership fees** - RJH made several enquiries with other Associations about their ground membership fees and noted we are considerably less. The UCPSA have a flat rate of £150 but also offer the option to include insurance cover for an annual fee of £350. The ICTSA charge €375 per annum and the SCTA is currently the same as our fee, but they have a lot more ground members. It was noted the fees haven't been increased for some time. It was also noted the fees used to be £150 or £350 for Premier grounds. A discussion was had as to whether the rate should be per discipline &, if so, is one rate fair across all given the significant difference in the number of entries for some disciplines. Another suggestion was to charge per shoot which could be collected at the same time as the levies, but it was felt this cost would probably end up being passed onto the shooters via the entry fees. After consideration, RJH proposed we up the current rate to £75 per discipline, except for Olympic Skeet which will remain at £50 given the shoot entry numbers are usually less than 20. This was seconded by DJ with all in favour. NW also asked should we charge an administration fee for registering scores for grounds who run shoots which are not WCTSA events. RLA commented we should charge something as it takes up the Secretary's time to input them & proposed a one of annual fee of £25. This was seconded by SW with all in favour. NW to update the ground membership forms and website accordingly.
- NW to action.**
- v. **Any other financial matters** - A suggestion was made to give all new caps their Welsh skeet vest free of charge. RJH suggested we review this nearer the start of the HCIT season when hopefully our financial status is more stable.

7. Treasurer's Report

- RJH advised the Treasurer vacancy has been advertised but unfortunately only one application has been received. RJH has contacted the applicant and had an initial discussion about the role and our requirements. She is starting her own bookkeeping business and would be willing to add us to her portfolio. She would also prefer to invoice us for the work she carries out rather than being an employee. RJH advised this would also work better for us. After further discussion the applicant volunteered the fact that she is connected to someone involved with the WTSF which led to a discussion about a possible conflict of interest. It was agreed this shouldn't be an issue and we should offer her the role on a trial basis with an agreed number of hours per week.

RJH to action.

8. Membership update

- None - AJ not present.

9. Executive Decisions

- Transfer of money from the Close Brothers account to the current account was authorised by RJH.

10. WTSF report

- Nothing to report. Next meeting is scheduled for the 4th December.

11. BICTSF report

- RJH advised there will be increased costs for the FITASC discipline in 2024 due to them sending a Masters category team to the European Championships & possibly the World Championships.
- The CPSA are now working in partnership with ShootCert. This is a company that will help shooters obtain their medical certificate for their licence applications should they have difficulty in obtaining it from their GP's.
- 7 Police Forces in England are introducing a questionnaire, which is to be completed by licence holders' partner / spouse at renewal.
- Next meeting is 9th January and the AGM will be held on the 19th March.

12. ICTSC report

- Nothing to report. Next meeting is on the 5th of December where HCIT entry fees and banquet ticket prices will be finalised for 2024.

13. ICTSF report

- Nothing to report.

14. Rules update needed as a result of items passed at this meeting

- Individual team expenses for 2024 will be withdrawn.

15. Any other business

- RJH advised the consultation on banning lead is starting to enter the final phases. The HSE proposal is for a complete ban of lead shotgun cartridges for clay and game shooting, with a 5 year transition period once the law comes into effect.

16. Date & venue of next meetings

- 20th December 2023 - Video / Telephone Conference @ 7:00pm

With no further business the chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:41pm.

Minutes agreed and signed by:-

Signed:- 

R. J. Harrison
WCTSA Chairman

Date:- 20/12/2023