



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

WCTSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 11th October 2023
Venue: Video / Telephone Conference @ 7:00pm

PRESENT

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| President: | <i>Vacant</i> | FITASC: | <i>Stuart Hart</i> |
| Chairman: | <i>Robert Harrison</i> | FITASC | |
| Stats Officer: | | National Skeet: | <i>Rob Trow</i> |
| Secretary: | <i>Nicola Walker</i> | National Skeet: | |
| Treasurer: | <i>Jackie Spencer</i> | Olympic Skeet: | <i>Alf Weston</i> |
| Membership Secretary: | <i>Allan Jones</i> | Olympic Skeet: | <i>Dave Jones</i> |
| Social Media Secretary: | <i>Vacant</i> | Olympic Trap: | <i>Rhys Humphrey</i> |
| ABT: | <i>Richard Hillier</i> | Olympic Trap: | <i>Vacant</i> |
| ABT: | | Sporting: | <i>Joshua Keeble</i> |
| DTL: | | Sporting: | <i>Daniel Rees</i> |
| DTL: | | | |

WCTSA Members: *8 (Names noted on attendance register)*

1. Chairman's address & welcome

- The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2023 WCTSA annual general meeting and thanked them for attending. At this point, he advised he will be chairing the AGM as the current President, Mr Brian Davies, recently informed the Board he wishes to step down from the role due to personal circumstances.

2. Remembering absent friends

- The Chairman asked those in attendance to pause for a minute's silence in remembrance of absent friends.

3. Apologies for absence

- Brian Davies, Elis Jones, Will Palmer & Rebecca Adlam.

4. Minutes of the last annual general meeting held on 15th October 2022

- Minutes of the last annual general meeting were read & signed as a true record. Proposed by Richard Hughes / Seconded by Alf Weston / Vote - All in favour

5. Matters arising from the minutes

- None.

6. Chairman's report – See appendix

- The Chairman reported on some of the highlights and developments made over the last year and outlined some of the Board's future aspirations.

7. Treasurer's report

- The Treasurer's report was read, and the accounts presented for adoption as a true record for the year 2022/2023. She noted the Home International costs are considerably more than they used to be and these look to be increasing again in the coming year. She advised it may be necessary to make some hard decisions with regards to finances going forward to safeguard the future of the Association. The Chairman confirmed the agenda for the next Board of Management meeting scheduled in November will be to fully review the financial status. The Chairman then thanked Jackie for all her hard work over the past year and indeed for the many years she has been Treasurer, as this will be her last AGM.

8. Adoption of audited accounts for year end March 2023

- Proposed by Dave Jones / Seconded by Keith Hill / Vote - All in favour

9. Election of President

- Given the recent resignation of Mr Brian Davies, nominations have not yet been discussed by the Board, but the Chairman welcomed any suggestions.

10. Election of Directors

- This year, the only director due for re-election is Alf Weston.
He was proposed by Dave Jones / Seconded by Clive Bowen / Vote – All in favour.

11. Election of Discipline Representatives

- ABT: Recently elected by the Board of Management
- DTL: Elis Jones (Re-election)
- National Skeet: Vacancy – no nominations received
- Olympic Skeet: Alf Weston (Re-election)
- Olympic Trap: Vacancy – no nominations received
- Sporting: Recently elected by the Board of Management
- FITASC: Vacancy – no nominations received

Election of the above representatives was proposed en bloc by Dave Jones / Seconded by Richard Hughes / Vote - All in favour.

The Chairman advised the current vacancies will be advertised again over the coming weeks to see if they can be filled.

12. To appoint accountants for 2023/24 - Clive Sawyer & Associates

- The Treasurer suggested retaining the services of Clive Sawyer & Associates who are very knowledgeable on how the Association accounts work and will therefore be able to help provide support in the interim until a new Treasurer is appointed.

Proposed by Keith Hill / Seconded by Daniel Rees / Vote - All in favour

13. Resolutions

- The Chairman proposed the following amendment to the Articles of Association as agreed by the Board of Management:-

➤ Section 34 WINDING UP - re-add the following omitted section:-

The liability of the members is limited. Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required (NOT EXCEEDING £1) to the Company's assets if it should be wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they

cease to be a member, for payment of the Company's debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustments of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

This was seconded by Daniel Rees / Vote - All in favour

14. Sports Personalities of the Year Awards

The Chairman advised this year's nominations were put forward by the Discipline Representatives at the last meeting and brief resumes circulated on everyone's achievements prior to the voting being carried out.

- Following the vote, the Chairman advised this year's Sports Personality of the Year is Elis Jones (DTL). Elis has had an exceptional year winning many titles, but most notably becoming the ICTSF World DTL Champion. A special mention also went to the other nominees - David Baugh (DTL), Nigel Hart (Sporting/FITASC), Anthony Cox (Olympic Skeet) & David Tavernor (National Skeet).
- After having yet another very successful year, the Chairman advised the recipient of the Junior Sports Personality of the Year award for the 2nd time is Jacob O'Loughlin (Sporting/FITASC). Congratulations also to the other nominees who were Robert Shone (ABT), Iwan Mills (DTL) & Chloe Davies (Olympic Trap).

15. Arthur & Rita Williams Outstanding Contribution Award

- The Chairman advised this year's winner was Jackie Spencer, for her long-standing service as Treasurer to the Association for over 20 years. A special mention was also given to Will Palmer who was also nominated.

Due to the meeting being held via video conference, the Chairman advised all awards will be presented in due course and official announcements made on social media.

16. Date & venue of next annual general meeting

- Provisionally to be the 3rd week in October 2024.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman welcomed any comments from the floor:-

- In her final meeting as Treasurer, Jackie Spencer wished the Association all the best for the future, especially in these difficult financial times.
- The Chairman surmised holding the AGM via video conference during the week seemed to be a better approach as this was the best attendance for many years. He suggested continuing with the same format next year.

With no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.14pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes agreed and signed by:-

Signed:- 

Date:- 15/10/2024

R.J. Harrison
WCTSA Chairman

APENDICES TO THE MINUTES

6. Chairman's report

1. Thank you

- a. To all fellow Board Members and Discipline Representatives.
- b. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow Board members and discipline representatives on the management board of the WCTSA. I would also like to remind all shooters and members of the Association that most of the men and women on your Management Board give up their time without payment, their only concern being the responsible governance and betterment of Welsh shooting. Whilst our discipline representatives are the conduit between shooters and the management board, making sure that everybody's views are heard and considered, we must remember that all board members shoot in their chosen disciplines, so please can I ask members to respect this and make sure that when they do make their feelings known, they do so either after a shoot, or at least after the person in question has shot.
- c. Special mention to some Board members who left the Board over the last 12 months, or who are standing down at this AGM.
 - Gareth Irving NSK
 - Emyr Davies OT
 - Mike Bennett OT
 - Cat Hart FITASCAnd we welcome onto the Board as their replacements
 - Rhys Humphreys OT
 - Sarah Nichols-Weaver ABT
 - Richard Hillier ABT
 - Dan Rees SportingWe still have a vacancy for the following discipline reps,
 - OT
 - NSK
 - FITASC
- d. Thanks to our Stats Officer Rebecca Adlam
Becky has ensured that Welsh Team qualifier scores are entered as quickly as they are provided to her or obtained from the CPSA where scores may not have been as forthcoming as they should be from some grounds.
Becky has also recently been asked to become a Director of the Association which allows her a vote at Board meetings, due to her valued contributions and the ideas she puts forward as we continue to modernise the association.
Becky cannot be with us tonight but has an excellent reason as she is on her honeymoon after getting married last weekend. The Board wishes her and her husband Billy all the very best for their future married life.
- e. Thanks to General Secretary Nicola Walker
Nicola has worked hard over the last 12 months and has probably had more direct contact with more Welsh shooters than most and has always ensured queries are answered in a timely fashion.
- f. Membership Secretary Allan Jones
Whose continued good work ensured members were able to renew their memberships with as little fuss as possible, and this vital source of income is maintained.
- g. Webmaster and Media / Marketing Secretary Clive Bowen

Our thanks to Clive Bowen who fulfilled this role until June 2023 ensuring that the website and social media reports were uploaded.

We advertised for a replacement to take up this position and have had three applicants currently under review by the Board. As this is currently a paid honorarium style position an interview panel made up of the Chairman, Secretary, and the Stats Officer will be convening to assess each candidate's suitability and hopefully engage our chosen candidate.

Special mention to Nicola as Secretary and Becky our Stats Officer, who along with myself have tried to maintain a social presence using the website and social media platforms, to ensure that relevant news and information is disseminated to members in a timely fashion. Whilst we accept that there may have been some shortcomings, I hope all will agree we have done our best given the other tasks the Association expects us three to perform. We thought it best to carry on between the three of us until the very busy home international season and then the AGM preparations were all completed, to ensure this could have our full attention, and the correct person engaged ready for the oncoming season.

- h. Thanks to all grounds who held any County Finals or Welsh Team qualifiers.
- i. Huge thanks must also be made to our treasurer Jackie Spencer. Jackie has been a long-standing and loyal member of the board for many many years overseeing the many recent changes the board has been implementing to modernise the Association.
Jackie has left huge shoes to fill with regards to the efforts and contributions made at Board meetings which are not just limited to financial affairs.
The knowledge and experience of all things WC TSA will be hugely missed by myself and all the current build members of the Association, and can I take this opportunity of wishing Jackie all the very best as she leaves the WCTSA.
- j. This year we also say goodbye to Brian Davies who steps down as our President. Again, as with Jackie after many many years of outstanding service to the Association Brian retired from the board some years ago. However, he was persuaded to come back two years ago is present of our association and our thanks go out to him for the valued contributions made, and the knowledge resource he was for past matters.
Again, best wishes to Brian and many thanks for this extra period of service to the Association.
- k. Final Thanks
To all Welsh shooters, for being members of WCTSA, and continuing to support your association in what are quite trying times for many people financially.

2. Matters from 2022

- a. Rules Review
The review of the WCTSA rulebook has been completed and is now with the rule review subcommittee for discussion, before being submitted to the board by the end of the year for ratification and then published on the Association website, ready for the 2024 season.
There are no major changes currently in the reviewed rules, however we have included any items passed at Board meetings to ensure these have been included following a specific section in board meetings to identify any resolutions passed by the Board which need to be added to the Association rules.
We have also removed sections that were duplicating areas covered either in our Articles or County Rulebook.
- b. Membership Software.
The board have continued with the topic of membership software.
During 2023 I have had various meetings with Mike Wixey of the WTSF discussing the progression of buying off-the-shelf membership software. After several consultations with other associations under the umbrella of the WTSF, it was decided that the preferred platform was Sport 80.

There then followed some discussions with Sport 80, and the financial implications discussed. Unfortunately, as with everything else the prices have increased significantly for the subscription for this software. There were two options available.

1. Option one with a £1K at times yearly charge but an increased percentage fee per transaction using Stripe.
2. Option two with a £5K yearly fee and a much lower percentage fee per transaction using Stripe.

Disappointingly when this journey was started with a previous Chief Executive of the WTSP, it was indicated that the overall costs i.e., the yearly charge would be covered by the WTSP. However, this has now changed, and it has been decided that any upfront costs would be divided amongst the associations wishing to take up this software. Today only three associations, including the WCTSA, expressed an interest in continuing with this plan. Discussions held at the last Board meeting when considering the association's finances, the Board decided that it cannot undertake any more financial burdens to the Association given that for the second year running we have run at a loss, with the 2022/2023 loss being much greater, more of which you will hear later from the Treasurers report. It is disappointing that there is no Sport Wales or Welsh government grant to help sports associations with modernisation and future proofing and helping to ensure good governance and GDP.

A meeting will be held soon to discuss this with the WTSP, especially giving the news that disappointingly there will be no Commonwealth game shooting sports for the next two Commonwealth Games due to countries not wishing to commit to the huge outlay hosting a Commonwealth Games entails.

That said your board is committed to reviewing and updating the current way we hold membership data, and this will be progressed as a matter of urgency in the closed season, although this will not have the added benefits and visible effects for the membership that we were hoping with the Sport 80 software.

c. South Wales 2000

Unfortunately, it is my sad duty to reflect on the closing of another Welsh shooting ground. Not just a Welsh shooting ground but one of only two Premier Welsh shooting grounds left in Wales, willing and able to put on all shooting disciplines. At one stage it was hoped that despite Mike and Margaret selling the ground due to ill health the ground could continue as a vital one for Welsh trap shooting especially but this was not to be.

We continue as an association to support all well shooting grounds and we will be involved in helping them with any problems or issues they may have wherever we can, when we are asked, or when we are made aware.

The board and I am sure all members of the Association thank Mike and Margaret for all their help and support with Welsh shooting and wish them the very best for the future.

- d. We do have some prospective good news regarding a new shooting ground within Wales, having received an application from a new ground in Newport wishing to hold DL shoots. This is welcome news and I and the Association will endeavour to help any new ground wherever we can.

3. Insurance costs.

- a. We continue to suffer from the huge rise in insurance cost we first encountered last year meaning that the Association must find every year an additional £7000 from its funds to ensure members have adequate cover.

Due to our sport being what it is there are very limited options with regards to insurance providers and therefore it is not possible to canvass many companies to get different competitive quotes, in fact it takes a huge amount of our treasurer's time just to get a renewal quote.

This matter continues to be a topic of discussion at the Board and any possible new avenues of

investigation is to reduce our costs will be looked at. It may be that there is potential for joining the home nation associations to try and get a reduction in overall premiums by the larger number of members that would be included but, as yet no discussions have taken place.

4. Home Internationals Hosted by Wales

This year saw Wales host the 48th Olympic Skeet Home Countries International Tournament at Fauxdegla International Clay Centre.

I am pleased to report to the association that this event was an outstanding success.

These events do not happen by themselves in particular thanks must go to the following,

- a. Mike and Debbie Faux the ground owners
- b. Nicola Walker our secretary
- c. Dave Jones and Alf Weston the Olympic Skeet discipline reps for the huge amount of work they put in, including contribution of Welsh cakes and gin miniatures for the shooter souvenir goody bags provided to every shooter. These bags proved hugely popular and indeed appeared to be mimicked by another country at a subsequent home international. As mimicry is the sincerest form of flattery, we can be well satisfied with the efforts made.
- d. Richard Davies from Valley Arms Ltd who very generously covered the printing costs for the notepads again included in the shooter goody bags.

Special mention must also go to the Crowne Plaza in Chester, who were terrific, with no request too much trouble, and who fed and watered us on time with delicious food.

5. Membership Report

Many thanks to Alan for providing the membership totals for inclusion in this report.

We can report total membership up from 667 and the same time in 2022.

We hope that the closure of South well shooting ground and the cost-of-living increases do not have an adverse effect on our membership numbers and so our income and will work to ensure wherever possible we can encourage new members to join the Association via the website. The current breakdown of membership is.

- Seniors 218
- Ladies 29
- Juniors 22
- Female juniors three
- Colts 29
- Femail Colts five
- Veterans 173
- Female veterans 13
- Super veterans (men's and ladies) 181.

6. Currently and going forward

- a. Continuing to meet the KPI's for the board such as responses to members letters and queries.
- b. Personally, as Chairman attend as many Welsh shoots in as many disciplines as I am able, and time permits. Please bear with me though, as an active shooter it is not always possible to attend every event.
- c. Continue with the modernisation of the Association to ensure that it is fit for purpose for the world in which we now shoot and continue to grow the membership.

7. County Shooting

Despite for the second year running the Board holding a specific meeting to canvass the

Association members views on County shooting, members showed little or no interest in contributing with only two non-board members attending this specific future of County shooting meeting. At this meeting it was stated that there are still some counties which are lucky enough to have County coordinators who can arrange qualifiers. Therefore, the county rules were updated to allow two routes for shooters to enter a county final.

- i. Route one is where a county has County coordinators, and they can hold qualifiers and then submit a team to the host ground for County final day.
- ii. Where shooters do not have a county coordinator to arrange qualifiers shooters can ring up the ground prior to county final day and nominate their county based on where they live.

Disappointingly over 2023 attendance at county finals was poor despite the board also opening these events as 'Open' competitions for any shooter to compete in with a view to increasing levies paid into the WC TSA coffers. Whilst we still mourn the loss of Mid Wales Shooting Ground as a central venue able to host all disciplines and so encouraging shooters from north and south Wales to travel, with today's increased costs of cost-of-living et cetera a lack of shooters willing to travel from north to south. or vice versa to attend events was even more evident.

The Board continues to support the idea of County shooting which is to encourage shooters to participate in a competition environment especially for those that do not regularly compete in a registered event. But it is unclear with all the effort and organisation made, with the lack of trophies been returned despite requesting previous winners to return them, how long even in the current amended format County shooting can continue, and yet it must continue to help contribute to the funds of the WCTSA from levies raised.

I do appreciate and so does the Board of the WCTSA increases in costs that members are facing. However, what I do not appreciate are the comments often seen on social media, both on public and private sites, about the lack of effort, dedication, and commitment by the Board to County shooting, with in many instances without the person in question having read the county rules, or having followed the social media and website posts announcing when these events will be held. Just to reiterate to anybody wishing to brush up on these rules they are freely available on the WCTSA website under the document section.

8. Medals

- a. At the last Board meeting held by the WCTSA in September this year the board agreed to provide medals at Welsh Open and Welsh Grand Prix events going forward. These medals will include printed 2-inch domed centres bearing the WCTSA logo. It is hoped that sponsorship for these will be sought by the new marketing and media secretary, but if this is not forthcoming then the WC TSA will bear these costs. These medals are not as initially envisaged bespoke stamped medals but rather will consist of off-the-shelf 3-inch medals with the domed 2-inch centres.

9. Comments from the disciplines

- a. In the past this has been a rather overlong section of the Chairmans report in which discipline reps have had to submit any information they would like minuted. However, due to the more immediate news now being communicated via social media and the Website I feel that this section is somewhat redundant.
- b. Reports from the Home Internationals held in 2023 – these can be found on the Association website under the general news section.
- c. There is an excellent yearly review summary that has been received from the DTL Representatives, and this will be posted on the website in the coming days.
- d. As ever we will endeavour to ensure all news provided to us by reps or members of the association is posted on the website and social media as soon as possible.

10. Challenges for 2024.

- a. A large and ever-present challenge to the Association is the current cost of living crisis which affects everyone. In discussions with both shooters and shooting grounds it is apparent that many shooters are shooting less and are now much more selective as to where they shoot and the number of times they shoot per week or month. The challenge for the Association is to ensure that we support events being held and communicate information as quickly and clearly as possible to ensure that for our events attendance is as high as possible ensuring the best possible income stream into the Association.
- b. We along with all the other home nation countries continue to face many ongoing challenges to our sport mainly but not limited to:-
 - i. The upcoming potential lead ban.
The report consultation document out at the end of 2023 to discuss a potential pathway by the HSE on the removal of lead from the environment with regards to shooting, has the potential to have dramatic impact on our sport. Be in no doubt this includes trap disciplines as well as the field disciplines such as English Sporting and FITASC.
 - ii. Noise issue pressures on our grounds
 - iii. The recent consultation document on firearms licensing review which again has the potential to not only increase costs but also unnecessary burden on legal firearms and shotgun holders, who are very rarely associated with the terrible but thankfully rare incidents with firearms reported in the media.
 - iv. The general negative associations with any form of shooting sport.
 - v. The disappearance of many shot gun disciplines from international events such as the Olympic Games and the Commonwealth Games due to no other valid reason in most cases other than an aversion to shooting sports.
- c. The WCTSA will continue to be involved in discussions along with the other home nations and partner organisations to ensure wherever possible the legal sport of clay target shooting in Wales continues.

11. HOME INTERNATIONAL FIXTURE VENUES FOR 2024.

- a. DTL – ENGLAND
- b. NSK – WALES
- c. ESP – SCOTLAND
- d. ABT – WALES
- e. OTR – SCOTLAND
- f. OSK – N. IRELAND
- g. FITASC - IRELAND

12. All members please feel free to contact me on any matters, contact details on the website.



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WCTSA Chairman

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