



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

WCTSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Saturday 15th October 2022

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

PRESENT

President:		ABT:	Vacant
Chairman:	Robert Harrison	DTL:	Will Palmer
Stats Officer:		DTL:	
Secretary:	Nicola Walker	Olympic Trap:	
Treasurer:	Jackie Spencer	Olympic Trap:	
Membership Secretary:	Allan Jones	Olympic Skeet:	Alf Weston
Website Manager:	Clive Bowen	Olympic Skeet:	Gareth Wrentmore
Sporting:	Richard Hughes	National Skeet:	
Sporting:	Janine White	National Skeet:	Vacant
ABT:			
WCTSA Members:	7 (Names noted on attendance register)		

1. Chairman's address & welcome

- The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 2022 WCTSA annual general meeting and thanked those not present in person for joining by Zoom. As the President is unable to attend due to a prior commitment, he advised he will be chairing the AGM. He asked thanks to be noted to all those members who had taken time to complete a proxy voting form, which ensures we have a voting quorum.

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, Rob Trow, Rob Ace, Rebecca Adlam, John Hewlett, Elis Jones, Emyr Davies, Mike Bennett, Iwan Mills, Ray Webb & Roger Harrendence.

4. Minutes of the last annual general meeting held on 23rd October 2021

- Minutes of the last annual general meeting were read & signed as a true record.
Proposed by Richard Hughes / Seconded by Clive Bowen / 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 plans.

7. Treasurer's report – See appendix

- The Treasurer's report was read, and the accounts presented for adoption as a true record for the year 2021/2022. The Chairman thanked Jackie for all her hard work over the past year.

8. Adoption of audited accounts for year end March 2022

- Proposed by Alf Weston / Seconded by Will Palmer / Vote - All in favour

9. Election of President

- The Chairman advised he is pleased to nominate Mr Brian Davies for re-election on behalf of the Board. Brian's experience & knowledge has been very valuable over the last 12 months, and we are pleased he wishes to continue in the role.
He was proposed by Daff Davies / Seconded by Gareth Wrentmore / Vote – All in favour.

10. Election of Directors

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

11. Election of Discipline Representatives

- ABT: Pete Roberts
- DTL: Will Palmer (Re-election)
- National Skeet: Vacancy
- Olympic Skeet: Dave Jones
- Olympic Trap: Mike Bennett
- Sporting: Joshua Keeble
- FITASC: Stuart Hart & Cat Hart

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

12. To appoint accountants for 2022/23 - Clive Sawyer & Associates

- The Treasurer advised Clive Sawyer & Associates have been very supportive and helpful over the years and recommended we continue working with them. She advised their annual fees have increased by £100 this year but this is in line with most increases.
Proposed by Will Palmer / Seconded by Richard Hughes / Vote - All in favour

13. Resolutions

- The Chairman proposed the following amendments to the Articles of Association as agreed by the Board of Management:-
 - Section 13.2 - remove Treasurer role and add to section 13.3 instead
 - Section 13.3 - move Membership Secretary, Statistics Secretary and Website / Social Secretary to a new section 13.4 for 'Office Holders' which are non-voting Board positions.
 - Section 26.2 - to be deleted as this is a repeat of section 33.1

This was seconded by Will Palmer / Vote - All in favour

14. Sports Personalities of the Year Awards

- Following a vote at the last Board of Management meeting, the Chairman advised this year's Sports Personality of the Year is Mick Harding (Sporting/FITASC). A special mention also went to

the other nominees, Ben Llewelin (Olympic Skeet) and Joshua Keeble (Sporting/FITASC).

- After a very successful year, the Chairman advised the recipient of the Junior Sports Personality of the Year award is Iwan Mills (DTL). Congratulations also went to last year's winner, Jacob O'Loughlin (Sporting/FITASC), for yet another very successful year. As Iwan Mills was unable to attend the meeting, Will Palmer advised he will pass on the award.

15. Arthur & Rita Williams Outstanding Contribution Award

- With Arthur & Rita Williams present, the Chairman thanked them for attending to present the award to this year's winner. Arthur thanked the Board for donating this award in their honour and advised he was delighted to be able to pass it onto the next worthy recipient. At this point the Chairman advised this year's winner was Richard Hughes, for his service as a Discipline Representative for Sporting & FITASC for over 10 years. A special mention was also given to Gareth Wrentmore who was also nominated.

16. Date & venue of next annual general meeting

- Provisionally to be 14th October 2023.

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

- Allan Jones advised the number of current members is 667 and he was pleased to note several previous members have rejoined the Association this year after some years absence.
- Mick Harding commented he felt the Junior age limit of 21 is too high. It affects the support and sponsorship we can gain for youngsters and is not a level playing field when you can have a 21-year-old competing against a 16-year-old. He also noted there are no Super-Veteran categories at any majors. The Chairman advised he believes the CPSA are currently reviewing this for 2023.
- Daff Davies commented the number of grassroot shooters coming through is dwindling and small clubs are struggling. Should we go back to the former County format? The Chairman advised a "Future of County Shooting" meeting will be arranged for early December where the County format and structure will be discussed and reviewed in detail for 2023.
- The Chairman advised it may be time to try new things and different formats, such as attending events / shows to drum up more membership or try to expand our Welsh Opens / Grand Prix's so they are more attractive competitions and generate bigger entries.

With no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 3.50pm and thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes agreed and signed by:-

Signed:- 

Date:- 11/10/2023

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 rep 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.
 - Georgina Roberts - OTR
 - Emyr Davies - ABT, now back on the Board representing OTR
 - John Hewlett - ABT
 - Gareth Wrentmore - OSK, special mention to Gareth who has been on our Board for 20 years +and we are grateful for the help and dedication to Welsh shooting given by him.
 - Janine White - Sporting & FITASC Sporting
 - Richard Hughes - Sporting & FITASC Sporting

And we welcome onto the Board as their replacement:-

- Mike Bennet - OTR

We still have a vacancy for the following discipline reps:-

- ABT
- OTR
- NSK
- Sporting
- 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.
- 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.
This year the CPSA gave the WCTSA an advanced copy of their new 'SHOOT' program to use, especially where some grounds may not be CPSA members and so do not use the CPSA's current Shoot 08 program, which is being phased out at the end of 2022. We have also ensured that wherever possible county finals were attended by Nicola and me to use the new software and to help the grounds if needed.
- f. Membership Secretary Allan Jones
Continued good work to ensure members were able to renew their memberships and ensure this vital source of income is maintained.
- g. Webmaster and Media / Marketing Secretary Clive Bowen
I think we can all agree that Clive's weekly updates on Welsh shooting news, both on social media and our website means that our members are always kept up to date with the latest news

and result.

Clive also took over the role of Media and Marketing Secretary from Georgina who stepped down in the early part of this year. Since then, Clive and I have had regular meetings to discuss possible revenue streams into the association to help with the myriad of costs we see every year. Whilst there was some progress early in the year, Clive and I decided to prioritise the 22nd FITASC Sporting Home Countries International Tournament held on 23rd September at Dovey Valley Shooting Ground, more of which later.

- h. Thanks to all grounds who held any County or Welsh Team qualifiers.

Special thanks go to the new grounds which have held qualifiers this year from which we have had very positive feedback from our shooters.

2. Final Thanks

- a. 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.

3. Matters from 2022

- a. Young Shots Subcommittee

Due to time constraints this year we have not progressed with this as much as we had hoped. As we came out of COVID regulations, hopefully now a distant memory, and here is hoping they remain so, our focus quite rightly has been on ensuring that the full calendar of Welsh team selection and county shooting was completed in an increasingly complicated domestic and international shooting calendar.

We are hoping to start this initiative again and would love to ask for non-Board members with any ideas, or who wish to be part of this subcommittee to make themselves known to me or the Secretary so your input can be considered.

- b. Rules Review

Following required additional meetings for the rules review we will hopefully complete this soon and put this before the Board to be voted and then released and put on the website.

- c. Membership Software

We were very much hoping to announce some exciting news about membership software for the association.

For those who attended last year, you may have remembered me talking about the WTSF agreeing to part fund this initiative for all member associations of the WTSF.

Since this however there has been no progress. Sadly, we saw the departure of Mike Gross from the WTSF due to ill health. Mike was the driving force at the WTSF for this initiative and his departure has led to a stagnation of the issue. Despite repeated emails I have had no reply on this issue, and despite these requests to see if the finances for the initiative are still available, I cannot give you an answer.

We can only conclude that the issue is no longer a priority for the WTSF and so we must look at alternatives ourselves.

But fellow shooters, make no mistake we are intending on taking this forward when we can, as our current antiquated system for holding maintaining and renewing membership is very old and no longer fit for purpose in a modern membership driven association such as the WCTSA.

As I carry out a final review of this report I have added this paragraph because after 6 months of waiting I have received a reply from the WTSF Chairman saying that their newly appointed Governance Manager Mike Wixey should be in touch regarding this matter, although also stating that 'much of their funds have been taken up elsewhere'.

- d. Insurance costs

Those of you who managed to attend one of our county finals this year will have heard me telling of the massive increase in insurance costs this year. Our past insurer gave us the run around at renewal and gave us terrible service when we were trying to get a renewal quote. In the end, as our renewal date fast approached our Treasurer Jackie Spencer had to look at alternatives, so contacted another broker, (who is also used by the CPSA), who was able to quote for our policy,

which was accepted by your Board, and so we are now with AXA. The bad news was that the policy cost went from around £3000 to £10,800. This massive increase from our reserves meant that the association has no spare income for other projects we wished to progress, such as the membership software, as well as our intended provision of medals for county shooting and the Welsh Open / Grand Prix shoots held.

4. Home Internationals hosted by Wales

This year saw Wales host the 22nd FITASC Sporting Home Countries International Tournament at Dovey Valley Shooting Ground.

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

You may recall that in 2021 we held 3 Home Internationals, but only the OT was in the usual format of banquets etc. This time we were able to plan for the event well in advance without the likelihood or prospect of cancellation etc.

The fact that the event was such a roaring success is no accident.

The sheer hard work from all those involved over many days and weeks before the event was the reason for this being hailed as 'the best FITASC Sporting home International Wales has ever held,' that comment from another Welsh sporting ground owner.

I had the pleasure of walking the course to view the targets with all the home nations managers and team captains. I have done this many times especially when I was a discipline rep for Sporting and FITASC Sporting, and I can honestly say that never have I heard so few requests to change or adapt a target. In fact, there was only one target that was fractionally moved. The excited and positive comments generated from the managers and captains was amazing to hear and made me very proud.

Of course, setting a FITASC Sporting involves the movement and positioning of a huge number of traps. We must record our thanks to Richard and Nia at Dovey, their course setter and ground staff for ensuring the ground looked immaculate.

The dedication of Nicola, who not only is our general secretary but also the FITASC Sporting Team Manager, meant many days prior to the event working well into the evening with squad set up, menu boards for the layouts along with direction signs for the shooters to their layouts, along with many admin tasks.

Nicola's partner and FITASC Sporting rep Richard Hughes' dedication, along with Janine White our other FITASC discipline rep, meant this event ran as smooth as was possible.

We even ran this event with the new CPSA SHOOT software, which was in fact the first time it had been used at a Home International, and I am pleased to say worked great with links to TV's placed at the ground ensuring shooters could see the progress of the event.

Special mention must also go to the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells, who were terrific, with no request too much trouble, and who fed and watered us on time with delicious food.

The final success story for this international was due to the hard work of Clive Bowen.

Clive worked tirelessly to line up some sponsors for the event and our thanks go to them:-

- Ryan Martin Ltd
- Tanners wine merchants
- The Dyfi Distillery
- Castell Howell Foods
- Ladies Countryside Community Magazine
- I. J. Preece & Sons Ltd
- Radnor Hills water
- Aztec print
- Kangaloos

Our sponsors meant that Country High Guns, Overall High guns, Lady High Guns, and Junior High guns had some additional prizes presented with their trophies and medals, along with some spot prizes from a random draw of shooters numbers. We were also able to supply free water and sweets in a goody bag for all shooters with literature provided from Mid Wales Tourism Cymru.

This feature was such a success we aim to do this for all Home Internationals held in Wales.

5. 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.
- 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.

6. County Shooting

This year saw a total revamp of the County Shooting scene in Wales.

We held a meeting in November last year to discuss the way forward for county shooting and ensured that those who could not travel were able to join via Zoom.

We had 8 people attend.

I thank those attending as we had some earnest discussion and the outcome of which is what you have seen this year.

We did away with qualifiers for the County Finals and instead had a county Final in every discipline which was new as the Olympic disciplines did not hold these previously.

The idea was that shooters rang up and registered to shoot stating their county and category. This format was decided because we have not been able to recruit County Coordinators for all disciplines in all counties. This meant that we were often hearing the comment that shooters were not able to make a final as they could not make the qualifiers.

Whilst I hope those shooters that did attend, and we still have APT and NSK to go, enjoyed their day, but attendance has still been disappointing.

Going forward we will take on our experiences from this year, and plan to look at format changes again for 2023. We must be very careful going forward that these finals make commercial sense to the ground agreeing to hold them, especially when referees' expenses etc are all considered. We cannot expect a ground to host an event if they do not make a profit.

There are several suggestions for us to consider.

1. Make the County Finals an Open event to try and maximise revenue into the association from levies, and to make them more financially attractive to grounds.
2. Do we scrap the 'County' format and move to a 'Welsh Regional' format where it may be easier to get coordinators and go back to having qualifiers arranged to qualify for the final. Still have it an open event but with pre-defined regional teams, and then the Open nature meaning any Welsh shooter could win the individual Welsh titles.
3. Another format suggested by you.

It is not my intention to hold another meeting, rather to ask for suggestions which will go before the Board for consideration.

We will then update the County rulebook to reflect the proposed changes for 2023.

7. Medals

- a. It is still your Boards intention to introduce medals for County and Welsh Open / Grand Prix's, however this will not be until we can financially justify it.
- b. I know some shooters have been disappointed with the postponement of awarding medals, with it being reported that, 'If there are no medals then I am not going to shoot it,' which I am afraid is an attitude that disappoints me.

8. Trophies

- a. Unfortunately, for those County Finals I was able to attend, the return of trophies was lamentable despite the best efforts of our discipline reps.

At the All Round we only had 4 overall category trophies and 1 county trophy returned.

Obviously changing to medals would mean this is not as important, however there are still many shooters who enjoy winning a trophy and not having them returned is not an excuse to stop

handing them out.

- b. To this end we intend to undertake a review from all records held of those trophies for county and Welsh Opens which were awarded in 2021 and yet have not been seen in 2022 and write a letter to the winners asking them for their return or a replacement trophy, or financial compensation to allow the WCTSA to replace the trophy.

9. Comments from the disciplines

a. DTL

No report received.

b. NSK – by Rob Trow

People in Skeet that should get a mention this year would be Dave Tavernor for winning the captains cup at this year Skeet HCIT, and the veteran's team of Mark Davies, Rob English, and Clive Jones for winning the Veterans overall cup with Mark winning the overall Veterans High Gun as well.

c. ESP and FSP – by Richard Hughes and Janine White

There have been many notable Sporting and FITASC performances throughout this shooting season, but here are a select few:

Junior shooters continued to put in strong performances with John Hoare taking the Junior title at the inaugural Bowen Challenge Cup; Annalise Evans gaining her first caps for the GB FITASC Team as well as being part of the winning FITASC Ladies Team at the Home International; James Morgan winning Welsh Junior High Gun also at the FITASC Home International; and Jacob O'Loughlin put in continually good scores all year, notably achieving Junior High Gun at both the Beretta World Championship and the English Open Sporting Championship.

Mick Harding had a phenomenal year, winning Super-Veteran classes in many Welsh FITASC selection shoots plus Welsh Super-Veteran High Gun at the FITASC Welsh Open and Home International. Last weekend he continued his excellent form by winning Veterans Class at the UK FITASC Championship but most notably is his incredible achievement of becoming the 2022 Veteran FITASC World Champion and helping Team GB take gold in the same category.

Flying the flag for ladies shooting in Wales was Janine White. She had a very successful year in the FITASC discipline by winning the Ladies high gun titles at the British Masters, English Open & the British Grand Prix.

Mike Jones also had a fantastic year, achieving great results in several of the major Sporting Championships throughout Great Britain. These include becoming the .410 British Open Champion; winning the Bowen Challenge Cup; 1st in AA Class at the Beretta World Championship; 1st in AAA Class at the English Open Sporting Championship; runner-up in the Champion of Champions shoot at The Game Fair and most recently winning the Welsh All-Round County Championship.

Rob Evans, Janine White, Annalise Evans, and Mick Harding all qualified for team places to represent Great Britain at both the European and World FITASC Championships and Lucy Pitt also joined them having earned her place for the World Championship.

There were several high scores of note throughout the year: Josh Keeble's 96/100 at the Sporting County Championship started his year off well and he topped the year off nicely with an impressive 98/100 at the Sporting Home International which also secured him overall high gun. Andrew White put in a high score of 97/100 at the Welsh Open Sporting Championship, but Richard Hughes' 100 straight in Sporting at Catton Hall is a phenomenal achievement that very few in the sport have achieved. He also backed this up with a 3rd overall at the FITASC English Open.

On the Welsh teams' front, the Welsh Senior team were hot on the heels of England, finishing 2nd at the Sporting Home International, with the Welsh Ladies and Veteran teams also finishing as runners-up. At the FITASC Home International, Stuart Hart was Welsh High Gun; Team Wales secured 2nd Overall in the team event; and the Juniors, Veterans and Super-Veterans took home

silver team medals. The Welsh Ladies team of Janine White & Annalise Evans however earned themselves the gold.

It was a proud moment for Wales to host the 2022 FITASC Sporting Home Countries International Tournament at Dovey Valley Shooting Ground. The feedback from visiting nations was incredibly positive with shooters thoroughly enjoying the targets. Thanks must go to the team at Dovey Valley for holding such a prestigious shoot and to all those involved in the preparations and running of the event.

Huge thanks must go to Richard Hughes who will be stepping down from his role as Sporting / FITASC rep after a decade of hard work and dedication, and to Janine White (his partner in crime) who is also stepping down. Nicola Walker has also decided to step aside as the Sporting and FITASC Team Manager after 10 years. Her ability to organise such an unruly bunch will forever be greatly appreciated by Team Wales and she will be sorely missed.

Throughout 2022, it was encouraging to see several new grounds putting on Sporting and FITASC selection shoots as well as the welcome addition of the Bowen Sporting Challenge, adding another great shoot to the calendar. Here's hoping that 2023 will see even more Welsh successes.

d. ABT

No report received.

e. OTR

No report received.

f. OSK – by Alf Weston

A new 2021 Winter series has been organised by the OSK shooters to include a Trophy for the High Gun of the series. They also organised their own series levy which has been used to commission a memorial Trophy for the late Paul Jenkins and which will be presented to the High Gun at the 2022 Christmas shoot on the 10th of December by his widow Lindsey Jenkins. The first of the new Winter series 2022 was held at Griffin Lloyd on Saturday the 8th of October 2022. OSK has gone through something of a renaissance in 2022 with the input of new shooters who have made a sterling effort over the year, in all weathers I may add, to improve their confidence and performance in the OSK discipline. This work has been assisted by team members Roger Harredence and Des Davies who have given their time willingly to assist the rest of the group. The OSK Home International was held in Esker in Ireland this August where the Senior team, captained admirably by Tony Cox, won the Runners up ICTSC badges and the Ladies won the Runners up Ladies ICTSC badges. It was so rewarding to see all team members take home an ICTSC badge with pride.

A new OSK competition has been placed on the calendar for 2022. Wales – vs – Army Annual Challenge Cup. This will be shot at SW2000 on Sunday 30th October 2022 with a rather decent new perpetual Cup Trophy to be presented on the day.

Following liaison with Christian Schofield and Allen Warren of British Shooting, advanced arrangements are already underway for an introduction of the British Shooting pathway into Welsh OSK shooting. The programme is designed to cater for groups of 6 shooters to attend a series of 10 structured coaching sessions over 10 days between November 2022 and the August Home International of 2023. The first section of dates is provisionally booked already from November 2022 to March 2023 the rest will follow when the County final, Selection shoots and OSK Welsh Grand Prix are Firmed up. A request for matched funding to assist the shooters is currently with the WTSF.

Internationally, Ben Llewellyn has been flying the Welsh Flag while shooting OSK for GB at various World Cup and Euro events not to forget the Home International in Ireland. He has enjoyed many podium places and perhaps one of the most notable was a joint gold medal with Amber Hill in the mixed pairs. Our congratulations to Ben.

10. Home International Fixture Venues for 2022

- a. DTL – Ireland
- b. NSK – Jersey
- c. ESP – England
- d. ABT – Scotland
- e. OTR – England
- f. OSK – WALES
- g. FSP – N. Ireland

11. All members please feel free to contact me on any matters at the email address below.



Rob Harrison
WCTSA Chairman.

Tel: 01691 590293 Mobile: 07710 127463,
Email: Chairman@wctsa.co.uk

7. Treasurer's report

Good afternoon

I would like to present the Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The Association has had a few changes in the directors in the year.

Both Emyr Davies and Georgina Roberts resigned this year, to replace them Richard Hughes and Will Palmer were appointed. Companies House has been informed of the changes.

A grant of £2000 was received from The Welsh Clay Target Shooting Federation again this year. For which the Association is very grateful.

A donation of £208 was received from Clive Bowen's Sporting Challenge at Dovey Valley Shooting Ground. The event proved very successful and we thank Clive for organising the event.

Obviously, with the Covid pandemic lockdown starting in March 2020, the Accounts for year to March 2021 could be seen as quite an anomaly to any previous years accounts, giving the Association an unrealistic profit of over £23,000. There were NO Internationals held by any of the home nations for the year to March 2021.

This resulted in a tax liability of £ 4,463 which has now been paid to HMRC.

This financial year the WCTSA managed to host 3 Home Internationals, and travelled to 4 away fixtures, 2 held in England and 2 held in Scotland.

The DTL was held at Fauxdegla, at short notice due to the Covid disruptions. The WCTSA responded to our members wanting full competitions after the interruptions of the previous years.

Due to ongoing Covid restrictions we could not provide banquet facilities, however a hog roast was put on for the competitors. None of the Internationals hosted by Wales this year were as financially successful as in previous years. However, I believe it was very much appreciated by all the participants, that we did everything we could to host these events.

As a result of this, and the general administration costs rising, the overall loss for the Association this year is unfortunately £1,171. This Loss can be taken forward to any profits in next year's accounts.

The employees' expenses again do not reflect the new the amounts paid per annum, there is a proportion at the old and new rates. The Association is following the legislation regarding pension payments for the Secretary, and will pay regular stakeholder pension payments as necessary.

The old office equipment has been written off as it was obsolete. Therefore, the Association has purchased a new laptop and printer for the secretary to perform her duties efficiently. Also, the Association has an invested in raising the Association's profile by buying 2 presentation displays, for official photos and the promotion of the Association on all forms of media.

The insurance premium has remained in line with last year, however, there has been a huge increase, which will be shown in next years' accounts. As we were negotiating the next period of coverage the date of renewal has changed from the 31st March to 30th April. The amount of the insurance has increased from £2,666 pa to a staggering £10,080 pa.

The Association fought this huge increase, and tried several different insurance companies to get a competitive quote. However, we could do nothing to reduce the premium for the members.

Accountancy has remained consistent with last year. However, the Accountants have requested a small increase in their fees after some 5 years, of £100. Bringing the total to £1150 for the next years accounts.

The WCTSA Officer retirement expense was for a meal celebrating, and thanking the Williams family, for all their support and help they have given to the Association over the years. We wish them well in their new venture.

As the Secure Trust were no longer able to offer any Savings Accounts to businesses, we closed the account in February 2021. The funds were subsequently transferred to Close Brothers SME 95 Day Notice Account, in March 2021. While this transition was taking place the funds were placed into the Base Rate Reward Account. Which unfortunately does not attract as much interest. The new savings account was fully operational from June 2021. Hence, the lower interest received during the year of £240.

Interest rates are now over 2% and rising so the next years accounts should show an increase.

I hope these explanations have been clear, but if you have any queries, I will attempt to answer them.