

Minutes of the Lothian Smallbore Shooting Association (LSSA) 115th AGM and the Lothian and Borders Target Shooting Association 1st AGM

Wednesday 30th September 2020, 19:30, Online (Zoom Meeting)

Present: Robin Thomson – Watsonians (RT)
Bill Hamilton – Watsonians (BH)
James Young – Prestonpans (JY)
Anna Leslie – Watsonians (AL)
Charles McKenzie – Heriot's (CM)
James Gutteridge – Watsonians (JG)
Peter May – Balerno and Currie (PM)
Ian Thomson – Watsonians (IT)
Anne Hamilton – Balerno and Currie (AH)
Rhys Olley – Edinburgh University (RO)
Greg McMillan – Prestonpans (GM)
Tom Hodgson – Hawick (TH)
Bill Vaughan – Hawick (BV)
Angus Paterson – Prestonpans (AP)

Apologies: Alan Anderson
Stuart Mackenzie
Ronnie Chapman
Amanda Puchalla

1. Welcome from RT, as AGM Chair
2. Apologies for Absence given, as listed above.
3. Minutes of the 114th AGM held on 16th May 2019

Copies circulated by email prior to meeting. IT approved; JG seconded.

4. Matters arising from Minutes of the 114th AGM

Championship Entry Fees

IT noted that there was a discussion at the 114th AGM about the increase in entry fees for the championship and it was agreed that juniors' fees would be reduced to £3. The entry form needs updated to reflect this for juniors. RT to action.

Note to NSRA of Geographical Area of Interest

RT noted it was agreed at 114th AGM to send a note to the NSRA of clubs within the association's geographical area of interest. Will be done after close of 115th AGM once the new Lothian and Borders Target Shooting Association has come into existence, to cover the area of the new association.

Reassigning Trophies

RT noted the association have not introduced any new trophies in the last season and competitions may be limited in the coming season due to the pandemic. Should take time to have a look at what competitions could be introduced for the next season (the season after 2020/21) – possibilities included Air competitions, prone aggregate championship.

5. Chairman's Report

RT began by paying tribute to Carl Broughton, who served as secretary and treasurer and was instrumental in ensuring the association's survival.

RT also thanked Anne Hamilton for stepping in as treasurer to prepare the accounts for the 115th AGM, in Carl's absence.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on shooting, with thanks to league organisers for their work to bring 2019/20 season competitions to a close at a challenging time. Competitions have been opened up for the winter season, and the running of these competitions will be transferred to the Lothian and Borders Target Shooting Association. There is a need to be flexible over the coming season given the pandemic, and for clubs to take a sensible approach.

CM thanked RT for his comments about Carl Broughton and noted Heriots' appreciation of his significant contribution to the running of the association.

6. NSRA Representative's Report

AH gave NSRA Representative's report. The NSRA are in the middle of a restructure and there are surveys on the website. They are also providing COVID advice in relation to shooting and have given preliminary approval for the merger between the LSSA and the Scottish Southern Counties Association.

7. Treasurer's Report

AH gave the Treasurer's report and brought attention to the statement of accounts that was circulated, and the report which was shared on screen at the meeting. AH noted that the report could be emailed to anyone who wanted a copy for their club.

RT noted that funds will be transferred from the Scottish Southern Counties Association as a result of the merger, but that transfer will post-date the statement from the Treasurer. AH noted it is now in the LSSA bank account, which will become the account for the new association.

RT also noted that within those funds is a fund for a trophy in memory of George Lawson and so needs to be set aside for that purpose.

AH noted that the association was grateful to Gavin Thompson for inspecting the accounts.

CM proposed, IT seconded.

8. County Teams Report

RO gave county teams report. No outstanding performance in the overall results but there was really good performance in terms of the scores – at time the team of 20 were posting scores not seen since 2006. Unlucky in match ups and certain rounds, as on one occasion the team shot their best score in 14 years but their opponents shot a score 2 points higher. Junior teams also did really well.

This year will put in two 12-member teams, a ladies team and a junior team. Still very good participation with two teams of twelve.

IT notes that it is challenging to put junior teams together due to the lack of knowledge of juniors shooting in non-school clubs. Asked that clubs with juniors make RO aware of those shooters and their averages so that they can be considered for the junior teams. JG noted that entry for championship junior competitions beyond school clubs is also quite poor and that RO needs to know early in the season about juniors for county teams.

9. Items of Business

- a) Merging of Associations: Adoption of new Constitution and Bye-laws to change the name of the Association to 'Lothian and Borders Target Shooting Association' to permit that body to include responsibility for the clubs in the area previously governed by the Scottish Southern Counties Association.

Changes to the existing LSSA Constitution have been made to the following paragraphs:

1, 5.1(a) & (b), 6.3, 7.1(a), 13.1 and 15.2. Para 7.7 has been added.

Changes to the existing LSSA Bye-laws have been made to the following paragraphs: 1.1 and 5.4.

RT noted that the proposed changes to the constitution and bye-laws are to enable them to fit the new association following the merger.

Ability to Employ Staff

IT asked why we needed mention of full-time staff and super-annuation in the constitution. RT noted that is in there by default and comes from the NSRA's model constitution in case anyone is ever employed by the association.

CM asked if there should be a caveat against it, stating how approval to employ someone would be given – e.g. requiring a vote at an AGM, at a meeting by quorum etc. CM also noted that there may come a time when the only way to keep the association running is to employ people if enough volunteers cannot be found. AH, RO and IT felt it would be the association management committee and noted that paragraph 4.6 allows for this. AH noted that it needs to be considered if the management committee is the full committee.

PM noted that there is no money to employ anyone and that it could lead to the committee being liable if anyone was employed, and thought the clause to employ someone should be

removed. AH noted that the committee already has financial liability even without someone being employed. BH and RT that the clause is likely redundant.

JY asked if we could consider its removal at this meeting, BH noted that changes need to be notified in advance of the meeting. RT noted that it can be looked at and considered at the next AGM. AH asked if it could be looked at as part of the inaugural AGM of the LBTSA but RT noted that would be part of the LSSA AGM and so would not be possible.

IT noted that it could just be left. CM felt it gives association the power for the future and feels point on who approves it has been clarified.

Adoption of new Constitution and Byelaws and changes approved by majority.

b) Bank Account information for LBTSA

RT had planned to open new account for LBTSA, but the bank advised that they were not setting up new accounts and so the name of the LSSA account will be changed. AH has sent a form the RT to change the name of the existing account, and AH will follow up issue with the bank.

c) Election of Management Committee members,

Existing L.S.S.A. Committee:-

Chairman	Robin Thomson	Watsonians
Vice-chairman	vacant	
Secretary	Anna Leslie	Watsonians
Treasurer	Anne Hamilton	Balerno & Currie
County Captains	Rhys Olley	EU Alumni
	James Gutteridge	Watsonians
NSRA Representative	Anne Hamilton	Balerno & Currie
Awards Convenor	James Young	Prestonpans
<i>Competition Secretaries:</i>		
Individual Championships	Douglas Duff	Prestonpans
Shoulder to Shoulder League	Gregor McMillan	Prestonpans
Team Postal League	Amanda Puchalla	Watsonians
Individual Postal League	Amanda Puchalla	Watsonians
Ordinary Member	Chris Watson	George Heriot's FP
(Co-opted member	Bill Hamilton	Balerno & Currie)

RT noted that this election will be for members of the new LBTSA Committee, rather than the LSSA Committee, and that the new committee will retain the structure of the LSSA Committee.

Nominations for LBTSA Committee:

- RT nominated for Chairman by AH, seconded by IT
- TH nominated for Vice-Chairman by AH, seconded by BV

- AL nominated for Secretary by JY, seconded by TH
 - AH nominated for Treasurer by IT, seconded by CM
 - RO nominated for County Captain by IT, seconded by AL
 - AH nominated for NSRA Representative by GM, seconded by TH
 - JY nominated for Awards Convenor by AP, seconded by AH
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- JG nominated for Individual Championships Secretary
 - GM nominated for Shoulder to Shoulder League Secretary
 - AP nominated for Team and Individual Postal Leagues Secretary
 - Chris Watson and BH nominated as Ordinary Members
 - Positions proposed by JY and seconded by IT

Option for co-opting further members at a later stage.

d) Appointment of independent examiner(s) of the accounts

RT asked AH if Gavin Thompson would be prepared to examine the accounts in the future. AH noted he was very competent and an upstanding member of the community. Agreed that AH would approach Mr Thompson when the accounts were needing examined and advise the Committee if he was unavailable for any reason.

e) Influence of Covid 19 on Competition Entries and Timetabling

RT noted need to be flexible about last dates for shooting depending on lockdown measures, and that it was important for clubs to keep in contact with competition secretaries.

RO noted that the NSRA have good procedures – allowing cards to be accepted in bulk by last dates for shooting.

JY noted that association could be used as a good practice forum for opening up clubs safely following lockdown. RT noted that a short memo could be sent out to club secretaries about this.

f) Other Business

Trophies

IT asked JY what would happen about trophies. JY noted that he would be calling in the trophies this year to develop a plan to update the trophies. There is a large supply of LSSA medals and these will be issued to club secretaries for members who have won in the last year. It was raised whether LSSA medals should still be used following the association name change, and BH noted that there is historical precedent for continuing to use medals from a previous association until these were used up.

Expenses

RT noted that not many expense claims have been received in the last year and asked if this was due to members being unsure how to submit expense claims.

AH asked for details to be submitted with expense claims for records, including receipts.

TH has one trophy to be engraved. AH confirmed that expenses for the engraving could be reimbursed.

Website

CM noted that the LSSA website is a really good archive and asked what its future would be following the change in association. BH noted that it will be transferred to the LBTSA website tomorrow morning and it will retain the content, with changes to the association name.

George Lawson Trophy

RT noted that the Scottish Southern Counties Association decided that in light of George Lawson's contribution to shooting, they would like to contribute to a trophy to be presented at the NSRA Scottish Meeting on an annual basis. They have set aside £500 for to go towards this. The Cumberland and Northumberland Association would also like to contribute and PSUK may wish to as well and RT is waiting to hear back on a possible contribution.

AH asked if appropriate for Lothian to join in on the contribution. RT and TH noted the £500 could be from the LBTSA. AH suggested that LSSA make a contribution in light of what the trophy will cost following RT's discussions with a possible maker for the trophy. JY suggested LSSA contribute anything up to £500 to the cost. RT noted that they were looking for a distinctive trophy.

Possible prize for best shooter regardless of class at 100yds, or possibly for best shooter from the contributing regions. 100yds appeared the clearest gap in the prize list – this is awarded at Bisley but not at the Scottish – would be straightforward to administer.

Agreed a budget of up to £500 and an even split with the SSCA, Cumberland and Northumberland and PSUK, dependent on cost of trophy.

g) Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 20:47.