

Tees Valley Target Sports Club  
Minutes of Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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Attendance:

Richard Frankland (Chair) – RJF  
Mick Lord (Secretary) – ML  
Pete Costello (Treasurer) – PC  
Dave Pengilley (President) – DP  
Barry King (Membership Secretary) – BK  
Phil Hughes – PH  
'Rocky' Wright – RW  
Tony Curry – TC  
Les Cook – LC  
Andy Cook – APC  
Clare Pinnegar – CP  
Julian Sorrell (Note taker) - JDS

Apologies:

Mark Grimwood - MG  
Geoff Bell - GB  
Ian Lindsey - IL  
Peter Nicol - PN

Bob Dunn – archery members' concerns

The meeting opened with a presentation by Bob Dunn on behalf of the archery cadre within the club and various concerns that have arisen over the months.

Bob introduced himself as a Level 2 Archery GB coach, and as such is the highest qualified coach within the club.

The first concern raised is that decisions on archery matters are being taken by air gun and firearms members with little or no experience in archery. Furthermore, such decisions have on occasions been made without CP being involved, or in her absence from committee meetings.

Three straw bosses were recently sold at under-value. The replacement cost would be circa £180 per boss. These were in fact not surplus to requirements but a reserve that would be used in the event of necessity.

Also on the subject of finance, £150 was spent on second hand archery equipment which was just dumped on top of a cupboard. In fact, the equipment is useless with the bows having the

wrong aperture. Enough bows were already available to meet current demand. In short, there has been a waste in selling bosses and buying useless equipment.

The impression garnered by the archery cadre is that it is the least important part of TVTSC.

Someone had recommended separate storage for bows and arrows. There is no legislative requirement for this, and Archery GB don't have this as an issue.

When the store was converted to an armoury the archery cupboard was moved into B Range and targets just left lying around. A second cupboard then appeared. PC commented that the intention was for the two worst cupboards to be dumped as they are unsightly and replaced with new ones but now the air gunners want a target store as well. The existing cupboards are just steel boxes whereas shelving is needed for targets. RW agreed that shelving was needed and that there is none in the archery cupboards.

Bob cited other cases of interference:

- An archer deemed unsafe despite satisfactory completion of his probation period. He was not consistent, but likewise not unsafe and now a valuable member of the Wednesday team.
- The club sent in an auditor with no practical archery experience.
- Compound bow weight limits was incorrectly quoted by a committee member. Archery GB rules set it as 60lb. The higher draw weight results in an arrow speed of twice that achieved by other bow types. The limit is imposed to reduce damage to bosses. Drawing the bow increases the poundage without the archer pulling the full weight to a let-off point where the poundage pulled reduces dramatically. In the event of an incident requiring draw-down, a compound bow quickly goes from the low poundage of about 12lb on the fingers to 60lb. For this reason, most archers don't draw down a compound bow.
- Feeling that CP has been bypassed.
- The club has little archery experience and Bob is the only coach. He felt that he should be consulted before the committee makes any decisions on archery rules, via CP if necessary. It is wrong to make decisions without CP being present.

That being the end of Bob's presentation, RJF opened the topic for comments.

PC stated that the straw bosses had been put out of use due to potential skin issues. They had not been used for a long time and people wanted to use the sponge bosses. PC had resisted getting rid of them, but the opinion was that we should not use straw. Also, they were heavier to lift.

Bob said that there were no known issues with straw bosses unless they were stored outside when there was a risk of mould growth. This type of boss is still sold and used. However, some archers prefer not to use straw bosses because if they are not tight enough, they can rip arrow heads off.

APC advised from the medical perspective that there are various types of mould within the Aspergillus genus. Some of these do not require damp to grow albeit the damp in B Range

would allow more types to grow. They cause an awful disease with very nasty symptoms so PC may have inadvertently done the right thing in getting rid.

RJF summed up that the bosses were sold in good faith on the understanding that they were no longer required.

CP added that she hadn't known anything about the decision

Bob reiterated that the committee should not commit to any decision without consulting CP but added that this is not a witch hunt.

PC stated that Southlands Centre was the source of the second hand equipment. Another club was closing down so we grabbed everything that we could. £150 covered everything and seemed like a good deal. It needed an executive decision to move quickly, and PC took that decision.

RJF stated that the equipment was clearly acquired in good faith.

Bob agreed that the opportunity should have been taken but the equipment should have been inspected by a knowledgeable person. We don't need the bows. Advice was given by an external Level 2 coach when we started, and some equipment acquired in expectation of juniors attending the club. That has not materialised so historically we have had enough equipment.

PC stated that the separate storage for bows and arrows was suggested by an archer. Two cupboards were moved in part to facilitate that but with the full expectation that they would be replaced by new ones as they were clearly tatty. The new ones didn't materialise.

CP said that her expectation was that they were not to be replaced, and they were just cast-offs.

RJF stated that the club is happy to get new cupboards for archery equipment. The issue of storing guns and ammunition separately is natural to shooters so they may have not seen anything amiss with that advice regarding bows & arrows.

Bob pointed out that RW also wanted a new cupboard.

PC stated that we use the armoury/store for targets, but this is abused in B Range with targets having just one hole before being discarded and piles of blank cards just left lying around getting knocked about.

TC said that there was an intention to have a new cupboard, but Ken Hart kept it. Space for racking to store guns not in use is a primary requirement but also racked cupboard space for targets. The larger cupboard in B Range is far too big.

RW pointed out that most of the air gun targets are photocopies.

RJF stated that archers and air gunners need to talk to each other and agree on a plan then come back to committee with recommendations.

**ACTION:** archers and air gunners need to talk to each other and agree on a plan for storage space then come back to committee with recommendations.

RJF stated that the committee has responsibility for safety across the board and that sometimes allegations are made which are genuine, and at other times not. Reports are always taken seriously, and both auditing and viewing activities is done across the board. Committee cannot abrogate its responsibilities. Reports will be investigated of necessity. On one occasion, a report was received about an archer who was observed wearing chain mail and

listening to music on headphones. Another incident concerned an archer who moved his arm while drawing his bow in such a way that the point of impact swept across the firing line. All matters were satisfactorily resolved.

Bob responded that things have been done about archery away from the archery group concerning safety, range equipment, etc. It is critical to note that every archer is responsible for safety and the mantra is, 'if in doubt, shout it out'.

PC thought that the poundage level for compound bows was set but not written down. Bob advised that it had been verbally communicated to all archers.

PC said that the archer who was advised that he could only use his bow if it was below 60lb went on to ask if he could use his own bow.

PC advised that he has said several times that archers on Wednesday and Thursday should talk directly to each other and not use him as a filter.

CP said that she has made an effort to attend on a Thursday night and speak to people.

RJF noted that this is a similar issue to air rifles and that the Saturday crowd are now talking to the others. Everything that PC has done has been in good faith and he should be applauded not chastised.

Bob advised regarding Archery GB coaching:

- Level 1 – capable of taking a beginner through a 12-hour training course, ending with a certificate of competence which the archer can take to another club as proof of safety. Nobody fails level 1 training.

- Level 2 – teaching a longer course with exam covering base bow, compound, technique etc to make someone competition ready.

- Level 3 – performance coaching at County level.

Bob considers his own competency to lie somewhere between Levels 2 and 3.

RJF asked Bob if he was happy after attending the committee meeting.

Bob said that he was pleased that he had been allowed to speak. He felt that we have a mechanism to go forward.

RJF summed up the expected actions saying that communication should be established with the Thursday archers. Any issues should be taken to RJF as Chair. RJF to speak to CP off-line.

**ACTION:** archers need to establish communication between each group that meets on different nights.

**ACTION:** any outstanding issues by archers to be raised with RJF.

**ACTION:** RJF and CP to discuss off-line issues raised.

RJF thanked Bob Dunn for attending. Bob then left the room.

Minutes of previous meeting

Proposed by LC.

Seconded by TC subject to an amendment. In relation to the Concessionary Memberships sub-committee, APC should have been recorded as a member, not TC.

ML made an amendment and RJF signed the official copy of the minutes.

Matter arising not on the agenda

Mat Smith has been thanked for his offer of gunsmith equipment.

RJF noted that MG has a watching brief on the RFD issue. ML advised that the Home Office licence that been received that morning so he can now go back to ClevPol and discuss a club RFD further.

**ACTION:** ML to contact ClevPol re a club RFD.

ML noted that we now only have five candidates for the Instructor training, which Stephen Bowser says can be done in November. Mark Baty, Liam Rose and James Palmer are no longer on the list.

Checks have been made on the potential Life Membership status of GB and the conclusion reached that he is not currently eligible.

CP has completed new range safety rules for archery. A copy was handed to ML.

Agreement was made to have club trophies engraved in future.

APC reported that identifying training needs for probationary members was proving problematic. Some 40 emails were sent out with initially only two replies. Subsequently, one apology was received and a further reply today. APC is trying to construct a database but there is little information available. Seven probationers have expressed an interest in the SSC training next week and two for the June course.

APC also reported that the rules for Catterick ranges have been completed and should be available for the April shoot this coming weekend.

## Chair's report

RJF reported progress on the CASC Action Plan. An email has been sent to all members in three different styles:

Non-attendance

1 to 11 visits recorded

12 or more visits recorded

Some responses have been received as a consequence. Explanations for poor attendance have been an insight into exactly why this should be a community club as they mirror the real-life challenges that people face.

Flowers were agreed for a former member in poor health.

A card was agreed for a current member suffering a serious health issue.

**ACTION:** DP to deliver flowers, ML to send card.

One of the major issues with determining attendance level has been people joining and others leaving part-way through the year. The figures that RJF has used are:

91 members attending 12 or more times per year.

84 members attending 1-11 times per year.

12 members with no record of attendance.

A further 22 members with no record of attendance did not renew their membership.

The underlying reason for not having a Membership Secretary list and Electronic Data Management System that tally with membership numbers is that the electronic system isn't up to date; it shows people who have left but not new people. RJF has been in discussion with BK and Roger Johnson over this matter.

From the HMRC perspective, we don't have social members who just attend for a bar and don't participate so the evidence shows progress towards 50% making the minimum number of visits.

RJF has considered further a proposal from PC to align the fees with attendance level in the previous year and feels that such a system would be unenforceable because the electronic database isn't up to date.

Under the Resources Policy, there was no contribution last year to justify an increase in sub for CASC purposes, but it could be justified if we made improvements. Such improvements could include:

- Heating in B Range, which might encourage higher attendance during the colder months.
- Expenditure on Moorsholm to keep it up to scratch.

On that basis, £120 is not unreasonable, particularly considering the Concessionary Membership scheme.

**NOTED.**

Overall, the Action Plan precept of encouragement seems to be working better than the use of a stick.

RJF gave an update on the potential alternative outdoor facility at Faceby. A site visit has been made. The location is an old ironstone quarry which seems suitable, and the owner (Mr Burton) seems very amenable and willing. TC produced a site map and photographs. RJF noted that there are several public footpaths nearby and he has walked some behind where the backstop would be, but this is no different to ranges at Bisley. It would have to be a no danger area backstop.

Mr Burton seemed more concerned about poachers and unauthorised entry. He seemed appeased by talk of CCTV installation, fob entry and members wearing distinctive TVTSC clothing.

There is an area within about 50m of the proposed range suitable as a car park, which would alleviate the problems some less active members have accessing Moorsholm and also tick a box for CASC.

There was general consensus that the site sounded good although there are hurdles. Consequently, RJF suggested a small sub-group to form a project team. Proposed members are PN, TC, LC, DP and ML.

**ACTION:** PN, TC, LC, DP and ML to form a sub-group and manage the project to establish a new outdoor range at Faceby.

DP asked about the construction of the backstop as the photograph clearly showed woods in the background. TC advised that the floor would have to be lowered but we would need to undertake earthworks anyway in order to facilitate lead capture for environmental protection.

PC asked about noise. TC advised about the location of the village across the hill and housing a fair distance away. The closest neighbour is a livery stable but pointed out that everything can be baffled in. RJF pointed out that noise was a planning consent issue and need not obstruct progress.

### Secretary's report

Home Office licence received this morning.

Spring Bulletin nearly completed. Need some text from archery and possibly the Treasurer re electronic payments. Vit Kovalionok is editing but is on holiday so there will be time.

Club ammo discrepancy.

RJF suggested that a new reconciliation was required and offered to lead that but asked for another member to help. In the absence of a committee member offering to help, JDS volunteered.

**ACTION:** RJF and JDS to undertake and audit to reconcile ammo stocks & sales.

ML reported that the location of all club firearms had been identified. The Firearms Register has now been located.

APC advised that he would be taking the club .303 out on Friday for the Catterick shoot and will bring it back cleaned on Tuesday evening. ML advised that the Firearms Register should now be used to record this.

ML asked PC if he could have a club credit card as he had recently spent over £700 from his own account on club ammo. PC advised that the club bank account was set up with three holders, two of whom needed to sign a cheque and that there is only one debit card in his name (as the first one on the account).

Regarding ammo purchases, PC had suggested to Ken Hart that we increase the amount of ammo on the club FAC and set up a call-off account with a dealer. We could pay for ammo up front in bulk and then just draw down as needed. Gareth at ClevPol Firearms Licencing didn't see a problem with increasing the ammo authorised on the club FAC and this should be progressed now that we have the Home Office licence. However, PC offered to talk to Barclays Business about an additional card but is not hopeful about the outcome. RJF asked that PC and ML agree offline on the payment for ammo. PC asked the committee to note that he has £800 in cash in the hopes of securing a good deal on ammo at a trade show.

**ACTION:** PC to contact Barclays Business about an additional debit card.

**ACTION:** PC and ML to discuss the payment for ammo.

APC introduced the agenda item on finding a new Landmarc Liaison Officer. Offers have been received from Joel and Ian Routh as well as Brad Cheesebrough.

Regarding Joel and Ian, both RJF and APC expressed the opinion that it was encouraging that newer, younger members should be so willing to volunteer, but the Liaison Officer job has only been done by a qualified RCO up to now. The knowledge of procedures etc is invaluable in the role.

JDS advised that our club has not failed to secure a range every month since we have been able to respond quickly to priority bookings moving us off our initial booking. Some other clubs have failed to move quickly and lost out altogether..

There was a discussion about why JDS had relinquished the role. There was accord that JDS had done a good job and it was a shame that the action of two uninformed members should have resulted in the situation we are now in. RJF noted that the complaints had upset and offended several people involved in running FBR.

JDS stated that a claim by one complainant that they were representing a further five members resulted in a dissatisfaction rate of 32%, and as he was totally responsible for the Landmarc bookings it was appropriate that consequences flowed from that responsibility, hence relinquishing the role.

PC read out the booking conditions from the JotForm which end with a tick-box agreement to comply with the requirements and that if anyone is unhappy, they should find another club. Failure to tick the box means that the application isn't processed.



JDS was asked if he would reconsider his decision. JDS responded that he would not see the FBR section fail because the club couldn't find someone to take on the role, but that the committee had before it offers to consider before that point was reached.

There followed general consensus that Joel and Ian be contacted by APC (as FBR lead), thanked for their offer and the suggestion made that maybe they could take on the role of admin at shoots. There was also consensus that Brad be similarly contacted by APC and thanked for his willingness to step forward, but his offer declined.

**ACTION:** APC to contact Joel, Ian and Brad to thank them for their interest and advise of the committee decision to decline all offers.

LC then asked JDS if he would reconsider and continue in the Liaison Officer role. In the face of several positive comments from around the room and overwhelming backing, JDS agreed to continue.

**ACTION:** JDS to resume Landmarc Liaison Officer duties.

ML reported that errors over SSC cards have been corrected by the NRA.

#### Membership Secretary's report

BK reported the following applications, which were all agreed:

Sports membership – training satisfactorily completed:

Gary Downey

Sports membership – new application:

John Burton

Martin Robert Metcalfe

Leo Joseph McCreton

Jane Mary Trainor

George William Bowstead

Full FAC membership - new application:

Marino Gaston Osselaer

#### Treasurer's report

PC produced printouts from the bank accounts, as required.

Account balances:

Current a/c	£4,242.06
General Reserve a/c	£20,000.00
Land & Buildings a/c	£50,000.00
Subscription Holding a/c	£115.01
Tags a/c	£1,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£74,357.07</b> (excluding Tags a/c)

PC advised that the method for calculating building rates has changed resulting in our rates roughly tripling.

Significant items of expenditure:

Rent	£562.44
Ammo	£748.00
Home Office licence	£206.00
Electrical work	£382.00
Printer	£234.83
B Range benches	£230.41
Cleaning eqpt	£286.28

BK asked if the new printer was networked. PC advised that he hadn't done so; all he was asked to do was purchase it. APC advised of a potential conflict between machines if it is networked.

#### Lawson Way

TC reported that the new shooting benches in B Range have been completed. There was a discussion about fixing them to the floor and the need to maintain wheelchair access. Agreed that all benches be 'permanently' fixed but one left with removable clips. If the range is required for other purposes, such as a training room, TC will remove the 'permanent' fixings, given sufficient notice.

**ACTION:** TC to arrange for fixing of benches in B Range.

TC proposed a Bring & Buy Sale on 25<sup>th</sup> May. There being no clashes with other planned activities this was agreed.

**ACTION:** TC to arrange a Bring & Buy Sale on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

RW advised that new air gun rules have been drafted. RJF said that a copy needs to be handed to ML for the official records.

**ACTION:** RW to supply a copy of the new air gun range rules to ML.

DP reported yet more live rounds being found in rubbish when fires have been started, resulting in a reluctance to burn rubbish. TC advised that we have a choice of dealing with our own rubbish or hiring a commercial bin (at significant expense). RJF observed that live rounds in a commercial bin would simply move the hazard elsewhere and that we should deal with our own problem. Agreed that we should have an item in the newsletter advising on the safe disposal of live rounds – ML to advise Vit.

**ACTION:** ML to advise Vit that an item needs to be included in the Spring Bulletin regarding the safe disposal of ammunition.

#### Moorsholm

TC reported that a working party is needed at Moorsholm. Some 3 tonnes of sand is required on the backstop apart from significant repairs to woodwork and the roof. TC no longer has access to big bags of sand so it will have to be a commercial purchase. There was a discussion about asking Mr Liddle to take materials down to the range. TC advised that whilst Mr Liddle has already agreed to take materials down the lane, he would be unable to take them to the range. RJF asked TC to draft an item to go in the Bulletin.

**ACTION:** TC to draft a Bulletin notice regarding a working party at Moorsholm.

### AoB

CP advised that she has started her safeguarding course.

DP advised that he has a new email address – davidpengilley3@gmail.com

PC advised that Nigel Case has asked whether his great granddaughter Sophie can have her probationary sports membership transferred to her younger brother as she has secured further education which she wishes to undertake. It was noted that we should encourage younger membership so the membership fee can be transferred but the great grandson will need to make an application for Sports Membership in the normal way.

### Next meeting

7pm on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

RJF offered his apologies in advance. DP (as President) to chair the meeting.

Signed .....

D Pengilley, President, acting as Chair.