

Tees Valley Target Sports Club

Executive Summary of Meeting – 6th August 2024

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Attendance

Richard Frankland (Chair) - RF, Ron Benson (President) – RB, Pete Costello – (Treasurer) – PC, Ken Hart (Secretary) – KH, Tony Curry – TC, Barry King – BK, Les Cook – LC, Mark Grimwood – MG, Rocky Wright – RW, Julian Sorrell – JS, David Pengilley – DP, Geoff Bell – GB, Clare Pinnegar – CP, Ian Lindsay -IL Peter Nicol (Note Taker) - PN

1. Apologies

Phil Hughes.

2. Minutes of last meeting – 2nd July 2024

The minutes were moved as a correct record by RB and seconded by LC. The minutes were signed off by RF. JS wished it to be recorded that he had submitted his apology to the last meeting, but that it had not been minuted.

3. Matters arising (Not on the agenda)

Item 4iii KH reported that there had been no further contact with the vulnerable person since his letter. **ACTION** KH to continue to keep under review.

Item 4vii PN has been in contact with Dodds Brown regarding the purchase of the freehold of Lawson Way from the Council. The Council continue to persist with their figure of £86,000. Doods Brown seeking justification for that figure. PN has instructed Dodds Brown to bring discussions to an end as Dodds Brown are unable to support a figure anywhere near the Council's.

PN offered to do a summary of the Council's and the club's obligations under the lease terms as an item for committee member's information. **ACTION** - PN to prepare a summary of the parties' obligations enshrined in the lease.

RF raised the possibility of acquiring the freehold via a Community Asset Transfer. **ACTION** – RF/PN to investigate and report back.

Item 4x KH has suspended preparation of a Key Log until he has sent out forms to known key holders to establish what keys they hold.

ACTION KH to send out forms to known keyholders.

Item 10.3 KH waiting for a price from Kranks for 10,000 rounds of CCI ammunition. **ACTION** KH to enquire if TVTSC could be an account holder and thereby secure a discount.

4. Secretary's Report

4.i Guest Day – JS has circulated an update for the original briefing note of format and rules for the Guest Day on 5th October. KH has been in contact with Vit regarding compliance with GDPR. Vit has created a separate email address for non-Club members to use to participate in the Guest Day. BK has a separate email address membership@teesvalleytargetsports.co.uk to collect Section 21 forms from potential guests.

4.ii. Training Dates – It was settled that PC is available on Saturdays 14th and 28th September but another trainer needs to be identified for the following Sundays. **ACTION** - KH to establish which other trainers would be available for the Sundays.

4.iii. Tipton Ultra Shooting Vice – Club member, Matthew Smith, has offered the use of his shooting vice for members use. The vice is very good for bore sighting and other maintenance activities where a stable platform is required. **ACTION** – KH to establish more details of the offer being made.

4.iv. Garmin chronograph – the item has been purchased and is available for checking the velocity of firearms suspected of being in excess of range orders. The purchase was noted in the Chair's report. RF had taken it to the 20th July FBR shoot but due to him having two trainees to supervise, he had not had the opportunity to test it in the field. The device will be kept in the Store at Lawson Way. **NOTED**

4.v. Replacement scope for Club .223 - the scope has been purchased and mounted on the Club rifle but needs sighting-in.

ACTION – RF to bring to Lawson Way on 13/08/24 for storage and use at the August FBR shoot and sighting-in by KH.

4vi. PC has secured Wi-Fi access for Lawson Way that is now functioning. Details of the log-in code or on display on the notice board in the Office. A TV has been mounted in the Committee Room/Lounge so that Wi-Fi access can be used for training purposes. **NOTED**

4vii. Correspondence

- Andy Cook had written regarding the permitted calibers of ammunition and ammunition limitations for the Moorsholm Range. Andy believed there were discrepancies between the Range Certificate and Club rules. **ACTION** RF/JS to investigate and take necessary steps.
- Andy Cook had written to KH suggesting that as there was an appetite from some members for longer range shooting and that the Club could book two extra FBR 600-yard shoots at Catterick and a longer-range shoot at Eskdalemuir Ranges in Dumfries & Galloway. Such shoots to be self-financing. **AGREED** – that resourcing two extra 600-yard shoots at Catterick was beyond the Club's current capability but a trip to Eskdalemuir was supported as a more accessible proposition than Bisley, provided that Andy Cook was prepared to organize it on a self-financing basis i.e. no cost to the Club. **ACTION** - KH to advise Andy Cook accordingly.
- Forthcoming retirement of KH as Secretary – KH had written to RF giving forewarning of his retirement as Secretary at the AGM in January 2025. KH would organise the next AGM, prize giving, continue with his existing duties, including RCO on Wednesday evenings. RF, on behalf of the Committee thanked KH for his service. **NOTED**

5. Chair's Report

5.1 CASC Action Plan

The Chair reported as follows –

‘Members will recall agreeing the CASC Action Plan which segmented members into three categories. This was to develop a strategy to move the Club to compliance with the CASC rule that 50% of members should attend a Club activity at least 12 times per year.

Category A are members that did not attend any Club activities in 2023 according to our ESRS. Category B are members who had attended between one and eleven times and category C are members who had attended twelve or more times. The Club rules were amended at our June meeting to require all members to attend a Club activity at least twelve times per year.

Following that decision I have implemented the strategy as set out in the following sections which sets the stage for making the decisions over the renewal of certain members memberships which we will need to take at the end of the year (2024). Almost certainly we can expect many of the Category A members not to renew. Only one to date has put forward mitigating circumstances although some members have reacted by upping their attendance. It is speculated that many of the others have lost interest/moved on to other things and have retained their membership as the more convenient option than disposing of their firearms. Our requirement to attend twelve times a year changes that balance of convenience.

When we have completed the 2024 decisions, we will need to review how we take this strategy forward in 2025. Much depends on whether we achieve the 50% requirement. If we do not, we will need to consider how we segment members participation levels going forward. For example, we could impose the requirement to submit the Category A list participation record card on all members who have attended less than six times in 2024. We will need to scale this in the light of the final 2024 ESRS report produced by Roger.

Recommendation –

That members give feedback and note the position.’

5.2 The Chair asked members to give their feedback as to whether they could confirm his impression that the strategy was producing results. Actual examples, and anecdotal evidence was given from around the table that members whom we had not seen for some time were attending club activities.

5.3 Members further noted the Chair’s analysis that a nominal number of members had put forward extenuating circumstances regarding health for not attending but that others had upped their attendance. Members agreed with RF’s suggestion that many of the other Category A members may have lost interest/moved on to other things and have retained their membership as the more convenient option to disposing of their firearms. Members agreed to allow those members who had submitted their explanations of non-attendance as above to remain as members. JS asked if they would be discounted for calculation purposes. RF advised that they would be included in the percentage calculation, but that adjustment should be made when the 2024 ESRS report was received at the end of the year. This would demonstrate that the club was acting in a reasonable and pastoral manner.

5.4 It was noted that at the end of 2024 the results of the implemented Action Plan will need to be reviewed by the Committee to establish how the strategy will be taken forward in to 2025. Much will depend on whether the 50% participation requirement is achieved. If it is not achieved, the committee will need to decide how the Club segments members participation levels going forward. RF gave an example of imposing a requirement to submit the Category A list participation record card on all members who have attended less than six times in 2024. The final decision will need to be taken in the light of the end of 2024 ESRS report.

5.5 The recommendations made by the Chair were **AGREED** as follows:

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1. The previously circulated written report from the Chair was noted and approved.
2. That the committee will need to make continuing membership decisions based on the final ESRS 2024 report which will take the Club in to 2025.

3. The committee will need to review the Club's participation strategy and Action Plan in the light of 2024 outturns.
4. That the Membership Secretary (BK) send out a standard email to all members at the end of September 2024 encouraging them to:
 - get their 12 visits in before the end of the year,
 - that they have three months left to do it in,
 - that Lawson Way is open every weekday evening and Saturday morning - it only takes half an hour and it will help to keep the Club safe.

6. **Ash Tree at Cow Close Wood (Moorsholm)**

- 6.1 Regarding the large ash tree located at Moorsholm Range which appears to be affected by ash die-back and is leaning. As previously agreed RF had researched the matter and concluded that Moorsholm Range was located within the North Yorkshire Moors National Park and that they were the relevant planning authority.
- 6.2 From the plan showing the National Park boundary and the location of Moorsholm range it was concluded that the tree is not within a Conservation Area and not the subject of a Tree Preservation Order. However, the Pinkney and Gerrick Wood is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Cow Close Wood is within the SSSI, and it is therefore concluded that the tree lies within the SSSI.
- 6.3 Accordingly, any works to the tree would require some contact with Natural England to establish if felling would be acceptable.

It had previously been reported that an arboriculturist had declared that the tree is not dead and was sound.
- 6.4 At RF's request PC had made a site visit and taken photos which along with supporting plans were included in the Chair's previously circulated report. PC had reported that there was some evidence of Ash Dieback.
- 6.5 **AGREED** – in the light of all the information available and there being no apparent danger to Club members using the

Moorsholm (Cow Close Wood) range, no further action was required.

7. Handloading Courses

- 7.1 RF reported that courses can now be run in the Committee Room/Lounge now that Wi-Fi is available and the TV is wall mounted.
- 7.2 Andy Cook and RF have developed a presentation and quiz on handloading. Traditionally the Club has provided 1:1 practical tuition and KH and Harry Coulter have offered to put on a practical demonstration and to match 'would be' handloaders to suitable mentors. The suggested dates were 7th and 8th September.
- 7.3 Experience gained from SSC courses has shown that a quiz approach works better than written tests.
- 7.4 Andy and RF will run the same handloading course available to all members by prior registration. The courses will accommodate up to a maximum 12 members.
- 7.5 The Chair's report was **NOTED**. It was **AGREED** that –
 - i) The probationer handloading course be run on the 7th and 8th of September 2024
 - ii) That the 'all members' handloading course will be run sometime in November 2024.
 - iii) That the handloading presentation be put on the Club's website by PC.

8. Annual CASC Award

8.1 RF suggested an award for the first, second and third highest participating members. In view of rules regarding CASC status it

Membership refunds	£230.00
Landmarc support services	£973.00
Rates	£31.00
Post Box (SBC)	£40.00
Compressor testing	£135.00
Targets	£38.00
Paint	£24.00
Water Rates	£22.00

- 10.3 The topic of the possibility of purchasing land for an outdoor range was re-opened in view of the likelihood of no expenditure on by the freehold of Lawson Way. **ACTION** – KH to include an item on the agenda for the next meeting covering the possibility of instructing RPS Youngs (Estate and Lettings Agents – Sedgefield) to actively search for a suitable site.

11. Lawson Range Report

11.1 TC was authorised to purchase two 10-metre rolls of 6mm thick Linatex at an approximate cost of £2,000 per roll. TC will organise delivery arrangements to Lawson Way. **ACTION** – TC to progress purchase and installation of new Linatex and repairs to the backstop.

11.2 TC reported on the practicalities of installing cameras to monitor targets in ‘B’ Range, similar to those in ‘A’ Range. Whilst there is a 20” difference in the height of the baffles compared to ‘A’ Range, camera installation was feasible. It was agreed that the monitors would need to be of a suitable size and positioned in such a way in order to reduce the risk of accidental damage or danger to participating members. **ACTION** – PC to provide TC with details of the contractor that installed the cameras and monitors in ‘A’ Range. TC to then contact the contractor to progress further and gain a cost estimate.

11.3 PC reported that during the last tidy-up, persons unknown had removed the timber battens placed to protect the lamp post in the car park from accidental damage. **ACTION** – TC to source suitable heavy-duty sleepers that will be incapable of being moved without machinery.

12. Moorsholm Range Report

12.1 LC reported that Simon Hadfield's Land Rover was not available for transporting the clay traps to Moorsholm on Sunday 11th August.

ACTION – PC to notify members that the clay shoot on 11th August is cancelled.

12.2 GB reported that the floor boards and mesh on the firing point floor has been replaced. **NOTED**

12.3 GB reported the necessary strimming of vegetation has been undertaken. **NOTED**

13. Any Other Business

13.1 TC reported that several members had approached him regarding organizing another Bring & Buy Sale. **AGREED** – TC to check dates of Club events and identify a suitable time slot.

13.2 Several members had approached committee members suggesting names for updating the Club's web-site. PC reported that at present the Club is "free-hosting" and accordingly existing Club records cannot be downloaded to another web-site. Vit has created a new web-site (Tees Valley Target Sports) for the purposes of organizing the Guest Day and a booking system for the .22 competitions. Ben Bamford's partner (Jade Jackson) is a web-site designer and has offered to assist. **AGREED** – PC to co-ordinate what is being offered and what the Club requires between Jade Jackson/Ben Bamford, Vit and himself.

13.3 MG reported that he had arranged the repair of the Club's Anchutz rifle and was now fully functioning and back in service. **NOTED** and MG thanked by the committee.

13.4 GB reported that now that the compressor had been certified safe and had been checked, it could be used to operate target competitions for .22's, LBR's and Lever Action rifles on the last Thursday of each month. **NOTED**

13.5 RW had not yet gained a set of keys for the areas he needs access to at Lawson Way. CP confirmed that she had the necessary keys for her purposes. **ACTION** – PC/TC to co-ordinate the provision of the keys necessary for RW to open up and operate 'B' Range but with no access to the Store.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 3rd September 2024.

