

Tees Valley Target Sports  
Executive summary of the Committee meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2023

1. **Attendance:**

Richard Frankland (Chair) – RF  
Pete Costello (Treasurer) – PC  
Ken Hart (Secretary) – KH  
Ron Benson (President) - RB  
Barry King – BK  
Tony Curry – TC  
Phil Hughes - PH  
Dave Pengilley (DP)  
Julian Sorrell (note taker) – JS

Apologies:

Barry Grimwood - BG.  
Mark Grimwood - MG.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting.**

Proposed as a true record by TC and seconded by KH.

3. **Matters arising, not on the agenda.**

RF noted the following:

- Concerning the discussion about the secretary not seeming to receive communications from the NRA, KH stated that he believes he is now receiving communications.
- PC queried whether BK could supply him with contact detail for members so that only members are added to the general WhatsApp group.  
**ACTION:** BK to supply a list of members' contact details to PC.
- KH confirmed that he had updated the Lawson Way Range Orders regarding adding Imperial conversions and racking a lever-action rifle three times to show clear. RJF asked KH to arrange for the updated Orders to be displayed.  
**ACTION:** KH to arrange for the updated Lawson Way Range Orders to be displayed.
- Concerning probationer training for SSC at Catterick, JS confirmed that a range had been booked for the Saturday of the third week in July. RF noted that this needs to be communicated in good time and asked for the date to be given to PC for publication via the website and WhatsApp. JS said that he needs volunteers for both RCO and first aid to notify to Landmarc. RF volunteered to be the RCO and RF to follow up with a first aider.  
**ACTION:** JS to supply date of probationer SSC training to PC.  
**ACTION:** PC to do website and WhatsApp messages.  
**ACTION:** BK to e-mail probationers with the SSC training information.  
**ACTION:** RF to identify a first aider.

- June full bore shoot cancelled because an RCO didn't come forward. PC pointed out that whilst we have a volunteers sheet outside the office, not everyone comes to Lawson Way. RF reminded the Committee that he put it in the bulletin and that RCOs must know that their services are required. PC suggested that a trawl is appropriate. RF said that KH has an up-to-date list of RCOs for an e-mail to all.

**ACTION:** JS, KH and BK work together to write an e-mail, identify all recipients and send to all RCOs.

- KH confirmed that he has written to Peter Metcalfe expressing thanks and accepting his offer to continue with the CACS contact role.
- RF wrote to those involved in the Moorsholm refurbishment expressing thanks, including someone who isn't even a member.

#### 4. Secretary's report.

KH reported that Moorsholm maintenance work is complete and that a message was sent that shooting can commence. Well done to all concerned; a sterling job was done.

KH reported that he has decided after the last trip to Bisley not to organise any more trips and Bisley competitions. This ends a 21-year run. BK advised that he has been approached with an offer to organise Bisley trips. There was a brief discussion, and it was felt that under the circumstances it was not appropriate to consider the offer further unless a formal offer is made to the Committee setting out exactly what would be achieved and how (performance targets).

KH said that he has contacted the NRA regarding the NRA magazine and asked if we were going to be sent one on a regular basis. DP advised that he used to receive the NRA magazine every quarter as Secretary but no longer does so. KH said that he receives his personal copy as an individual member, but not a club copy and has asked why.

KH advised that he has been in contact with Cleveland Police again over our club licence. As at last week, KH had emailed the Home Office again and was still waiting for a response.

KH said that he had advised the police that we have finished our annual maintenance of Moorsholm and invited an inspection but had not received a response.

KH said that the opening rota for Lawson Way seems to have gone adrift. RF thought that it was just Monday and Wednesday nights when BG used to open up that cause the problems. KH thought that Wednesday is now sorted out between himself and PH, Bob Dunn and Colin Speechley.

RF thought that we need to move to the position where each evening is self-sustaining. RF expressed the opinion that people who come on an evening should start to take responsibility for running the ranges. KH expressed the opinion that we have to train others and that stepping back to let volunteers to do so for an hour is a good way to start them off.

KH raised the topic of the nomination of guest days for Lawson Way and full bore. KH pointed out that we had previously considered guest days but hadn't agreed any dates so that we could publicise them. DP advised that in the past we had the first Monday in each month as a guest day at Lawson Way unless that month it was required for full bore rifle, but this was stopped by Covid.

RF raised the issue of informing the police about guests. DP explained that this is necessary before the guest comes in by completing the section 21 declaration and informing Cleveland Police a minimum of 72-hours beforehand for firearms. DP went on to explain that this does not apply for miniature rifles as a Miniature Rifle Club.

PC explained two scenarios. Firstly, people fill in a section 21 declaration which goes to the police, and they turn up on a Monday night when there's a selection of firearms that they can use. The alternative is a .22 Miniature Rifle Club and just like a funfair or the Northern Shooting Show does not need a section 21 declaration.

RF suggested that KH canvass via the WhatsApp, email, or bulletin expressions of interest in how many guests we could expect for a miniature rifle guest day.

**ACTION:** KH canvass via the WhatsApp, email, or bulletin expressions of interest in how many guests we could expect for a miniature rifle guest day.

RF noted the following correspondence:

- E-mail from PC to RF and KH re Barclays Bank and a not for profit account. ID required by Barclays for RF. RF offered to visit Barclays in Stockton to show ID.  
**ACTION:** RF to visit Barclays in Stockton to show ID.
- E-mail from Geoff Bell in his capacity as Secretary of the National Target Shotgun Association advising that two committee positions are up for election (Chair and Secretary) with a request for proposals, as well as any items for inclusion on the agenda.
- Durham Police made a request about a member and his shooting record for the past year. BK said that he had responded.
- DP said that he is still getting requests from Durham and N Yorkshire forces. KH confirmed that he had informed all our regulator bodies and affiliations when he took over as Secretary but will repeat to the two forces in question.  
**ACTION:** KH to remind Durham and N Yorkshire police forces that he is now Secretary.
- National Target Shooting Association communication received from its Treasurer showing a membership of 60 and holding £5000+ in the bank.
- E-mail received from Geoff Bell regarding the first practical shotgun competition of the year. Feedback was good. Fourteen members attended. Geoff proposes to turn the existing dates of 8<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> September into training & practice days with emphasis on probationers and move the competition days to the second Sunday of suitable months. Since the second Sunday each month coincides with clay shoots, there was a discussion about the safety of using the range at the same time as the upper field. Consensus was that it would be unsafe to use the range

and upper field at the same time. KH offered to write to Geoff with the decision. RF proposed that Geoff meet with KH to see which days are available.

**ACTION:** KH to write to Geoff Bell advising that using the range at the same time as the upper field is deemed to be unsafe and will not be permitted.

**ACTION:** KH to offer to meet Geoff Bell and agree available Sundays for practical shotgun competitions.

- RF noted information from Peter Metcalfe that in the last 10 years we have recovered £20,386 in Gift Aid. Well done to Peter Metcalf and those who filled in Gift Aid forms.

## 5. **Chair's Report**

Rates 'request for information online' form discussed. Particular mention is made to the building having been taken on as a derelict, so the current market value is that of a derelict building.

## 6. **Membership Secretary's report.**

BK initiated a discussion about whether membership should be restricted to a maximum number in the club. The consensus was that with natural wastage there is a rough balance between those applying and those being lost so a cap on membership is unnecessary.

DP expressed concern that people are still ringing him up. He said that he used to send out forms when people made an enquiry, but it could take nine months or more before they actually apply. RF suggested that the reason for the phone call may well be as a result of that delay, but the efflux of time means that the number of people with old contact detail will naturally dwindle, and the issue resolve itself. PC noted that people are filling in multiple JotForms because they haven't heard from the club.

KH suggested that PC amend the website to give contact detail for the Secretary. PC indicated that this was the reasoning for the post-box, but KH thought that the evidence is that additional contact points are appropriate. PC agreed but suggested that giving out a telephone contact number is not appropriate and that the best solution is to say that the Secretary will get in contact with a person if they give their contact details. KH agreed. **ACTION:** PC to amend website regarding contact with the club.

BK circulated a new application for firearms and a new application for sports membership. The following applications were voted on:

Andrew Marshall - Sports membership approved.

Uma Mannan – probationary full membership approved.

Application for full membership, having satisfactorily completed probationary training, was approved for Harry Coulter.

## 7. **Treasurer's report.**

PC gave the following data:

Account status and income:

Nº 2 a/c - £1,906.13  
Land & buildings a/c - £30,774.44  
General reserve a/c - £25,121.90  
Subs holding a/c - £8,407.99.  
Total - £66,210.46  
Tags a/c - £895.00

Expenditure:

Landmarc range fees - £727.56  
Rates - £29.00  
Stockton BC (post box) - £40.00  
Moorsholm maintenance - £2,979.51  
Targets - £119.00  
Lawson Way maintenance - £1,126.98  
Lawson Way housekeeping - £31.99  
Ammunition - £1,089.85

Income totalling £135.40 as interest on bank accounts has been credited.

8. **Lawson Way.**

TC reported that furniture has appeared in B Range on the backstop, which not compliant with Code requirements. TC said that the efforts of people to get involved in work is appreciated and they've obviously put time & effort into this, but it's simply not fit for purpose. PC advised that the Saturday maintenance crew had installed it for holding targets and invited TC to visit on a Saturday to speak to the team. TC agreed to do this. **ACTION:** TC to visit on a Saturday and speak to the maintenance crew.

TC also noted that this was a range alteration and that any alterations should be approved by the Committee. RF and KH agreed. RF noted that something has been done by enthusiastic individuals in ignorance of what is safe, but with the best intentions, so wondered if what has been done can be converted into something safer. TC noted that there is a ricochet hazard because of the use of laminated sheet. TC advised that under the Code, there should ideally be a metal backstop and 50mm in front of that a hessian sheet. PC advised that he had bought some hessian sheet.

There was general agreement that the enthusiasm was commendable, but work needs to be verified as safe by the Committee before things are done.

TC said he has been asked about using FAC air rifles at Lawson Way. DP and PC advised on the history of Lawson Way and that it had been decided from the start that anyone with an air rifle over 12 foot-pounds would be asked to leave.

PC advised that B Range is not suitable, and A Range is not constructed for air rifles. TC suggested the idea of a demountable/movable pellet catcher backstop in A Range.

RF summarised that TC was making the point that we don't cater for every taste but that we should consider whether we can and should provide what the members are asking for if it is reasonably practicable. RF said that the issue was whether we could technically construct something in A Range that would accommodate FAC air rifles and that he thought it was possible. But then the question comes 'do we want to?' and whether we feel obliged to provide facilities for every shade of interest in the club. How many people have FAC air rifles and what do they use them for?

KH said that if there was enough demand and we could build a facility that we could wheel off the range he didn't see why we shouldn't agree; the more we can offer, the more membership we can attract. BK asked for clarification on why B Range wasn't suitable for FAC air rifles. DP explained that the pellets would penetrate the backstop. RB suggested taking the Linatex down in A Range and putting hessian up. TC said that wasn't necessary if we were to use a mobile bullet catcher with hessian in front, constructed to Code. The question for TC was whether we wanted to do it or not.

KH said that the only reason that people would want to shoot at Lawson Way would be to sight-in, so a pellet could go anywhere. DP said that FAC air rifles are used for hunting. PC pointed out that someone can't have an FAC air rifle without permission and that means the holder already has land which he can use for zeroing. RB agreed.

RF called for a vote on allowing FAC air rifles to be used in A Range. It was unanimous that it would not be allowed. TC said that he would communicate this to those who asked. KH said that TC was absolutely right to represent the members in bringing things to Committee, irrespective of any personal preferences.

**ACTION:** TC to communicate the Committee decision regarding the use of FAC air rifles back to the enquirers.

DP said that another issue had come up on the training session on Sunday regarding underlever rifles and that it is NRA guidance to load with the lever fully closed and the hammer dropped.

RF asked whether the training session was well-attended. DP advised that only three people attended, possibly because it wasn't advertised. RF pointed out that it was in the bulletin and PC had sent out a WhatsApp message.

## 9. **Moorsholm.**

TC reported a bit of mesh needed to be finished off and then some time after 1<sup>st</sup> July, when the farmer is happy for machinery to be used, the backstop needs to be shored up.

PC reported that the target hut is a mess. DP asserted that it is dangerous. PC said that safety glasses couldn't be found initially at the training session.

DP also said that there are planks in front of the bottom hut with 6" nails sticking through them. RF asked if the planks were found the wrong way round so that the nails were

sticking up. DP confirmed that the planks were the wrong way round and dangerous. TC asked if the planks were turned over when they were found, but it appears not.

10. **AoB.**

RB explained the new process for RCO renewal, introduced by the NRA earlier this year. It appears that one cannot renew just the RCO qualification and that everyone now has to complete the RSO exam online and after passing that the applicant is sent a link to the RCO online exam. The full cost is now £72.

PC pointed out that now Moorsholm maintenance has been finished we would be in a position to hold the muzzle loaders RCO course. PC offered to send a message out on the RCO WhatsApp group to see who would want to do it. Costs would be shared with St Georges and would work out at roughly £100 per person, subject to the travel costs etc. for the trainer. Half a day at Lawson Way and the other half at Moorsholm.

**ACTION:** PC to message the RCO WhatsApp group for expressions of interest in muzzle loading RCO qualification.

PH asked whether the Committee would unanimously agree for the old shell in the foyer to be donated to the Don War Memorial Museum & Veterans Hub in Thornaby. KH called for a vote and there was unanimous agreement to donate the shell to the museum.

DP advised that he wants to change the date of the black powder shoot from June 18<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup>. Agreed.

**ACTION:** BK to send out an e-mail notifying the change of date for the black powder shoot.

11. **Date of next meeting**

4<sup>th</sup> July. 7:00pm start.

**Addendum to Treasurer's Report**

Non-domestic Rate Bill received from Middlesbrough Council on 7<sup>th</sup> June shows the new annual rate as £353.24 for the year 2023-24. This matter had been discussed as part of the Chair's Report above.