



The Star Gun Club

Minutes of the AGM
held at Christ Church Hall, Epsom
Friday 28th April 2017

Meeting started: 20.00

Present 7 members

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Ken Wilkes

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (ACCURACY)

RC apologised for the quality of the minutes, this was caused by a serious disc failure and the minutes had to be produced from notes taken at the meeting.

The Minutes were adopted by the members present.

3. MATTERS ARISING

None

4. CHAIRMAN/SECRETARYS'S REPORT

There had been some progress with improvements as previously discussed; this had been slow with the outside work due to ground conditions and poor weather.

The shoot management now has a new structure; we have separated grounds maintenance from shoot set up and operation. Tim Dunn is now managing the shoot and setting up. We have employed a Contractor (Tim Akers) as groundsman and he will work on all maintenance and grounds tasks under the direct control of the Committee.

The grounds are generally showing signs of neglect and lack of investment over recent years a programme of improvement is now in place and this will be undertaken as finances permit by a combination of groundsman and additional contractors.

Adopted, AGM 20/04/2018



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The major works planned include improving the road for access for both cars and deliveries. Linking the road from the clubhouse to the edge of the Cooper's field and extending the road way to provide improvements around stand 10.

As part of a newly negotiated agreement with the dog walkers we will be fencing part of Bunkers Hill and the field below the hill. The cost of this fencing will be recovered from the increased charges to the dog walkers over the first three years of the new agreement

As agreed at the previous AGM we have introduced a new grade of "non-voting" membership and dropped the joining fee for this class of membership. This action follows repeated requests from members with the aim of making membership more attractive to new members. No noticeable increase in new membership or retention has been noticed from this move.

Membership remains stable down to about 150; there is a regular influx of new members some who stay for a year or two. Long term retention of these members runs at a little over 50%, however natural wastage is roughly equal to this addition.

The shoot is now open to day members (guest/open shooters) some of these have become regular and are calculating that it is cheaper to shoot as a member and joining. Conversely a number of members are working out that for them it is cheaper to shoot as a guest and are not renewing. In common with many clubs the average age of full members is increasing.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts show a surplus of £9,000 due exclusively to non-shooting activities and have reversed a trend over recent years of the club having to draw on its reserves.

Membership renewals receipts are down but this has been offset by improved numbers of day members, who shoot at a higher rate.

We have recovered business rates paid over the last ten years. We had previously been assessed as having to pay this rate; the reduction is permanent under current rules.



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We have had increased expenditure but we have recovered all our costs including the increases.

Question from the floor

Where is rent shown?

The Treasurer gave an explanation of the accounts.

Accounts Adopted by the membership unanimously.
Proposed Arthur Elgin Seconded Martin Camble

5. AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSITUTION

The agenda included a copy of the Club Constitution with proposed changes highlighted. The Secretary explained that these were minor changes mainly effecting new grades of membership following the experiment with open shooting and non-voting membership. Since the club is a members club it is necessary to change the constitution to reflect these changes.

The clubs Guest rules remain unchanged and these will continue to be regarded as the personal guests of club members.

During the experiment with open shooting these shooters technically shot as personal guests of the Committee. Open shooting has been successful to the point where it is entirely possible that we could have as many or more guests shooting as members. In consequence these open shooters are now paying a £1 fee to become members of the club for the day of shooting only. The fee is included in the shoot charge. These members will be known in the constitution as “Day Members”

The second change required is to recognise that we have now made the joining fee optional. The joining fee still exists and if a new member wishes to take part in the management of the club and share in its assets has to be paid, these members will now be known as “Full Members”

Those who chose to avoid the joining fee and join as non-voting members will now be known as “Associate Members” and in addition to not acquiring voting rights will not have any property rights.

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Previously associate members were individuals given membership as part of their duties desk staff etc. These members will be unaffected except that they will now be referred to in the constitution as “Associates”

Question from the floor;

Do we supply insurance to Day Members?

RC no the club is fully insured particularly for Public and Employees Liability, but extending beyond that.

It is the shooters responsibility if they want to have personal insurance and the majority of shooters do so as part of their membership of one of the Associations.

The changes to the Constitution were recommended to the membership present and on a show of hands were approved unanimously

6. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

There were three nominations for the Two Ordinary Committee positions. Tim Dunn, Paul Hibbert and Martin Camble. There were no nominations for the other Committee positions.

With the exception of the two Ordinary Committee Members the remaining Committee stood en-bloc and were elected unanimously.

For the remaining two positions the membership were given the option of a secret ballot or show of hands and chose a secret ballot.

A ballot was held which resulted in a clear majority for Tim Dunn but a tie between the other two candidates.

A second ballot was held to try to resolve the tie and this resulted in the same outcome.



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If fell therefor to the Secretary as Chairman of the meeting to use a casting vote. The Chairman stated that he was not inclined to change an existing and successful committee and that the retiring member (Paul Hibbert) should continue on the Committee.

The two Ordinary Committee members duly elected were therefore Tim Dun and Paul Hibbert.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Jihad Chemitelli

Jihad has a Facebook page on the Star currently with 16 members only and would like to increase the membership. He had done this to increase the profile of the Star.

Can we promote use of the website? JC how about newsletter? How is the website set up and managed?

RC I do it.

Can we pay someone to do it?

Most of you present know that the websites have a long and troubled history and that there have been at least two attempts to take control of the club from its committee by people running the website on the clubs behalf. The website is now owned and managed by the club through it committee. Use of the website by members is not extensive with most only using it to check scores. There is for instance a “for sale/wanted” facility which is not used by the membership, including those that place “for sale” notices on the club notice board.

The recent lack of updates is not a website issue; we have had a system error for the past 3 shoots (not a website error) which has been fixed this evening. JC separate issue the website needs to be managed. RC The history of the website is relevant as there have been problems in the past. From a Committee perspective it has a very good ranking on the major search engines and analytics show it is well used for outside searches.



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Can we put a practice/novice stand at the end of the shoot? RC yes but you have to control it. There are two issues people won't walk back to pay and go back and we cannot control it so far away from the club house. We put a novice stand in on Boxing Day and it received hardly any use.

Meeting ended 20.58 p.m.

Please note only "full members" are entitled to take part in the proceedings and vote.

"Full members" are those that entered membership prior to August 2014 and paid a "Joining Fee" or who were in full membership prior to the joining fee being introduced.