



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6th July 2023

Via zoom

In the presence of 19 fully paid-up members the meeting was declared quorate as required by the constitution and was opened by Mr Goodfellow at 20.00hrs.

Present: David Goodfellow, Martin Newman, Gail Rees, Paul Goater, Paul Taylor, Craig Dower, Philip Ralph, Lance Gilmore, Margaret Thomas, Rob Stubbs, Lucinda Evans, John Booker, Leanne Lacey, Richard Tector, Christopher Hunter, Martyn Edwardson-White, Kamal Mistry, Ron Carter, Duncan Farmer.

1. Apologies for Absence

The Secretary advised that she had received apologies from the following:

Richard Chasemore, Zoe Chasemore, Steve Beadle, Phil Smith, Mike Arnstein, Andy McGee, Yvette Evans, Jon Leech, George McEwan

2. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting (15th June 2022)

The minutes of the AGM held on 15th June 2022 had been published prior to the meeting.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: C Dower

Seconded: P Goater

Approval: All in favour

3. Matters arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

Now that Covid seems a distant, (but still painful for many) memory, our sport seems to have almost resumed to the pre-covid level, although I understand that entries at many Open meetings, including the NSRA Nationals, are far lower than previously. Earlier this year, the former near-continent competitions including InterShoot (Holland) and ISCH (Germany) have resumed. Several of our members attended, which are great for those desiring to experience competing in a full international championship. As you are aware, our sport was not included in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games for various reasons, and the proposed 'substitute' Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships which would have taken place in India in February 2022 was cancelled because of continuing covid fears. The primary reason for the ESSU existence is to select athletes to represent England at the Commonwealth Games, although of course we are also responsible for selecting England and ESSU representation at other international and domestic competitions. For Shooting Sport to be excluded for two consecutive Games would be disastrous. In my 2022 report I mentioned that the 2026 Commonwealth Games will take place in Victoria, Australia, commencing 17th March, at which I hoped that Shooting would be included. Although Shooting was not included in the preliminary list of sports, thanks to the efforts and lobbying of 'Shooting Australia', I am delighted to confirm that Shooting will be part of the Games. However, the programme will not include the same events as in previous Games, with the notable exclusion of small-bore Rifle and Pistol, Target (full-bore) Rifle, and Shotgun Skeet. That will undoubtedly be a huge disappointment for athletes who compete in those disciplines, but the reality is that the

Organising Committee for the 2026 Games have designed a completely new Games structure, based on having five 'hubs' surrounding Melbourne throughout the State of Victoria. Each hub will include several different sports, with Shooting taking place in Gippsland, which is apparently two hours journey by car from Melbourne and will include Badminton, Cricket T20, Road Cycling and Rugby Sevens. The existing small Shooting complex will be modernised but will not have space nor facilities to accommodate those omitted disciplines. An innovation will be the inclusion of Shooting Para Sport for 10m Air Rifle, 10m Air Pistol, and Para Trap. The non-Para programme will be AP Men, AP Women, AP Mixed Team, and the same for Air Rifle. The English Target Shooting Federation (ETSF) committee, of which the ESSU is a member together with the CPSA, met recently and decided that we will send athletes to represent England. Selection procedures are being worked up by each organisation and full details will be posted and notified to our members in due course. We are yet to be informed of total Team numbers and that will obviously have a bearing on the number of athletes and support staff to be selected. An overall Shooting Team Manager has been proposed, subject to ratification, but the identity is not being disclosed at this time. Suffice to say that the candidate is well-known to the ESSU! Whilst naturally disappointing for our small-bore rifle and pistol athletes, I am assured that Shooting Australia did submit proposals for inclusion for all former disciplines but, in view of the new structure, they had to accept what was offered or risk exclusion of our sport. Para Shooting has not previously been in the Games and there is currently no formal Home Countries organisations for those athletes because they currently compete under the auspices of British Shooting. Discussions will take place to consider how eligible athletes can be incorporated under the England Shooting Team banner, possibly those in the airgun events coming under the ESSU wing! I believe that this will be the template for future multi-sport Games because of the cost and complexity of hosting many sports at a single venue. The ESSU Championships took place at Bisley in May, with thanks to Craig Dower who took over the organisation from yours' truly. Entries were slightly increased from last year but have not yet regained the numbers from pre-covid times and the Meeting made a slight financial loss. We are considering a split-venue Championships in 2024, possibly at the LRC Bisley and Aldersley, as well as Cheylesmore in conjunction with the Army Open for the s5 competitors. Further information will be issued in due course. Our Rifle and Pistol Academies are continuing and growing in strength. The Rifle Academy, run by Paul Goater at Aldersley currently has fifteen full members plus several graduates and guests who join them to train, averaging three per session. Eleven training weekends have taken place in the current Squad year. A reminder that any ESSU member is welcome to train with the Academy on either a casual or regular basis and can contact Paul through the website if interested. In 2022, six of the Rifle Academy members won promotion to the British Shooting Pathway. No-one was recruited from any other organisation. Our junior ladies team won their colours at the Home Countries Air Rifle events at BOAG in February, and we are fielding a squad of twelve juniors at the NSRA Junior International in August. Paul would particularly like to attract more cartridge Rifle shooters as there are electronic targets at Aldersley and a wealth of coaching knowledge and expertise is available. The Pistol Academy is run by Paul Taylor, mainly at the LRC Bisley. The current membership comprises nine Senior and sixteen Junior athletes, supported by a team of five regular coaching staff. Eleven training weekends take place during the current Squad year, as for the Rifle Academy. ESSU Pistol Academy members have excelled at many of the domestic competitions, with many individual podium successes at BOAG. A special mention must go to Mathilda Baker in winning silver in the Junior Women after only recently commencing training for 10m pistol. In Scotland, Lucinda Evans, won the Ladies Open Championships with Charlotte Hicks winning bronze, both of whom are our Juniors. Important competition experience has been gained at minor domestic and overseas competitions such as InterShoot where Francine Gilmore won all her three 10m finals. Charlotte Hicks, Joe Baker, Francine Gilmore, Toby Aberdeen

& Sam Allen competed at the Junior World Cup in Suhl last month. ESSU Juniors Charlotte Hicks, Joe Baker and Toby Meek will represent GBR at the Junior World Championships, Changwon (KOR) later this month, so we wish them well. Last year we sent a representative team to compete at the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships (European Division) which was hosted by the Welsh Federation in Cardiff. We provided our team with our 'podium' tracksuits, paid the entry fees, and gave grants from our general funds amounting to £9,115 to individuals to assist with accommodation and the presentation dinner. There was excellent team cohesion throughout the preparation weekend, PET, individual and team performances. Overall, it was a highly productive experience, especially for the Junior athletes. Some notable results were as follows: Silver to Charlotte Hicks and Bronze to Francine Gilmore in the individual Air Pistol events. Silver went to Charlotte and Tom White-Venables, and Bronze to Francine and Matt Reed in the pistol mixed-teams. Lucinda Evans won the badge match Women and Toby Meek won the badge match Men. A full report and results was published on the website. Although he acted as pre-competition Manager for the above-mentioned CSF (ED), Martyn Buttery was unable to attend the Championships owing to his commitments as an elected Local Government Officer and resigned as our Teams Manager in November. Thanks are due to him for many years of service. Chris Hunter acted as our Rifle Team Manager at the UK Armed Forces Match held at the LRC Bisley last year and it seemed obvious to approach him and ask if he would be prepared to take the Teams Manager role, for which I am grateful for his acceptance. The role is normally a committee position, so with the resignation of Martyn Chris was seconded onto the Committee in the interim pending formal election at this AGM. He has since performed that role at the BOAG and the NSRA 50m Championships. It was mentioned in Committee that although we have our branded clothing and representative 'podium' tracksuits, it would be good to replace our exhausted supply of "England Shooting Team" blazer badges. Designs have been seen and chosen by the Committee and orders placed. Once delivered, copies will be displayed on the website for purchase by those who qualify for them. New ESSU ties have also been ordered and will soon be available for members to purchase. To assist with their expenses, we gave grants totalling £2,837 from our development fund to our Junior Academy members who were selected to represent GBR at International competitions. Congratulations to Sam Gowin and Kristian Callaghan, both of whom were selected to represent GBR at the European Championships in Wroclaw (POL), and the World Championships in Cairo (EGY) last year. I was in Cairo as ISSF Jury Chairman and was able to watch them compete. Sam also achieved finals placings the 2022 European Championships and the World Cups held this year in Indonesia and Azerbaijan. Sam will also represent GBR at the World Championships in Changwon (KOR) next month. From the above reports you can see that our funds, although currently healthy, took quite a hit during the past year. With the prospect of sending a team to Australia in 2026, we need to restore some of our assets, particularly if a proposal to hold the CSF(ED) in 2024 materialises. For the Commonwealth Games, we will receive funding from Sport England for the Team, via the ETSF, but that will be insufficient to cover all the required training expenses and additional necessities, so we will need to provide extra funding from our own resources. The annual membership has remained at £25 for the past seven years and, rather than introducing a large increase in 2026, the Committee have decided to increase the annual fee for Full members by £3, to £28 as from January 31st, 2024. Supporter membership will increase by £1 to £16. Note: The level of Membership fees is at the discretion of the Committee, as allowed in our Byelaws and thus does not require AGM approval but advance notification at the Meeting. In my 2022 report I mentioned that we need to plan for contingencies and retirements of Committee members, all of whom have a designated responsibility. We do need some new individuals to volunteer to serve on the Committee and take over some of those responsibilities because otherwise the ESSU will cease to exist as and when the current Committee members retire or are unable to

continue. Please consider if you can spare time to join the Committee and assist in preserving our Union otherwise it will cease to exist! Message or email me or our secretary if think that you can help. Our current membership stands at 220 Full members, 20 Supporter members and 3 Life members, totalling 243, compared to 2022 figures of 267. We lost 52 due to non-renewal or other causes but gained 24 New members, resulting in a net reduction of 28. However, our membership does include 36 Juniors (under 21), of which 19 are Minors (under 18), which is a healthy sign. The ISSF has changed its definition of 'Junior' to those who are 21 in the year ending on 31st December. The former definition stated that one ceased to be a junior if their 21st birthday was any time in the year up until 31st December. In effect, this could allow an athlete to continue competing as a Junior for up to a year if their 21st birthday falls after 1st January. Whilst on the subject of membership, I am sad to report the recent death of Mr Kevin Hindle. Kevin was a devout supporter of the ESSU and an ISSF Judges licence holder who assisted as CRO or a Range Officer at the NSRA and ESSU Championships for many years. He will be sorely missed, so sincere condolences to his family.

5. Honorary Treasurers Report

The audited accounts had been published prior to the meeting.

MN extended his thanks for the continued support of J Leech for auditing the accounts.

Proposed: M Edwardson-White Seconded: C Dower Approval: All in favour

6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2023/24

The Chairman called upon the Secretary to advise nominations that had been received duly proposed and seconded as required by the constitution as follows:

Secretary: Mrs Gail Rees (Four years)

Proposed: M Newman Seconded: D Goodfellow Approval: All in favour

Committee:

With the stepping down of Teams manager M Buttery during the year, the committee seconded Chris hunter to the role of Teams Manager. The rest of the committee are:

Martyn Edwardson-White, Paul Goater, Paul Taylor, Margaret Thomas, Chris White

Proposed: D Goodfellow Seconded: R Stubbs Approval: All in Favour

Co-opted members: Mike Bargerion -Athletes rep, Dr Ron Carter- safeguarding

7. To confirm the unopposed Officers for 2023/24

The following unopposed Officers were confirmed.

Chairman Mr D Goodfellow (elected May 2021)

Vice-Chairman Mr Craig Dower (elected June 2022)

Treasurer Mr M Newman (elected May 2020)

8. To appoint the Hon Auditor

Mr J Leech had expressed his willingness to continue to audit the accounts if required for 12 months.

9. To ratify amendments to the Constitution

Amendment to article 5 of the constitution

Membership, residency requirement reduced from 5 years to 3 years.

Approved by all.

10. Report on safeguarding

Dr Ron Carter Lead for Safeguarding for the ESSU

Those of you who don't know me. I started shooting at the age of 15. Seven to eight years ago I got into Croquet and am the National Safeguarding Officer for the Croquet association. The big difference in terms of academies, the junior training and coaching is much more concentrated and equally in regard to safety and safeguarding, the overlap it has a lot of safeguarding procedures built into it; as in the public eyes, we have dangerous proclivities in terms of handling weapons and so on. One thing that is perhaps not so well recognised is how much things have changed post covid and the effect that has had on under 18s, levels of abuse and suspected abuse are 20-30% higher than pre covid. Equally in terms of sports, you will be very aware that lots of sports have been highly publicised in one form or another for getting safeguarding wrong. This is a reflection on society, because safeguarding at the Palace of Westminster and what MPs get up to has also been mishandled. The Metropolitan Police has been in all sorts of trouble with institutional racism. The most recent one was the England Cricket board, and despite they had a report on racism and made loads of recommendations in 1999, the one which appeared about a week ago made it perfectly plain that there had been very little progress made over the last 15-20 years. Although one of the things that has changes is that they have developed an independent board system.

One of the difficulties around safeguarding for amateur sports is that the government takes the view that they have to run to the same standard as the professional sports and certainly the Sport England Governance Code, there is a lot of advice in it on how clubs can improve their governance. A lot of clubs are like us: elderly, white, middle class and that is seen as being as an inherently flawed situation as we are apparently very optimistic in how we look after people in our sports and juniors and that may not be seen the same way outside.

Certainty, in terms of shooting as the numbers are so small one would think there is a vanishing small risk of anything serious happening. That maybe true, but there is no proof and you must assume that thing that can go wrong will go wrong. One of the things I would like to do is to attend the coaching sessions with the academy coaches and athletes, and one of the things I would propose that the committee thinks about is having a little panel maybe through the athletes rep of having some of the juniors feeding back through the coaches and the likes of me and the committee what they might expect in terms of safeguarding given the activities the ESSU support. For example: there was a recent under 21 world championships down in New Zealand with croquet and one of the England Juniors who was participating in that, managed to take a dive into the sea and break his neck. So that is something that should have been covered by his parents being around, but actually the fact that parents are present and or have given consent for certain activities does not necessarily cover organisations from having a presentative responsibility.

11. Date and venue for 2024 Annual General Meeting

We will confirm the date of next year's meeting nearer the time around June/July.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.50hrs