



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11th July 2024

Via zoom

In the presence of 16 fully paid-up members the meeting was declared quorate as required by the constitution and was opened by Mr Goodfellow at 20.15hrs.

Present: David Goodfellow, Martin Newman, Gail Rees, Paul Goater, Paul Taylor, Craig Dower, Margaret Thomas, Lucinda Evans, John Booker, Christopher Hunter, Martyn Edwardson-White, Duncan Farmer, Bob Powell, Rebecca McDowell, Matt Reed, Imogen Reed.

1. Apologies for Absence

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

Phil Smith, Mike Arnstein, Martyn Buttery, Lance Gilmore, Francine Gilmore, Mike Barger, Joe Baker

2. Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting (6th July 2023)

The minutes of the AGM held on 6th July 2023 had been published prior to the meeting.

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

Proposed: P Taylor

Seconded: C Hunter

Approval: All in favour

3. Matters arising

At the time of the 2023 report, we were thinking that there would be the CG Games in Victoria

4. Chairman's Report

ESSU AGM 2024 – Chairman's report.

I would like to remind Members that the reason for the founding of the ESSU existence was to select athletes to represent England at the Commonwealth Games, although of course that was extended to make us responsible for selecting athletes to represent England at other international and domestic shooting championships. As we are aware, shooting was not included in the 2022 Birmingham Games and although we were included in the list of sports for Victoria 2026 in Australia, various political and financial reasons forced the State to withdraw its hosting bid and thus the Commonwealth Games Federation has no current venue for the 2026 Games and are desperately searching for an alternative host. Various reports in the media suggest that the CGF are, "considering multiple proposals", but early hopefuls including Malaysia and Singapore have either withdrawn their offers or since declined. There is speculation that Scotland could host a 'scaled back' Games in Scotstoun, but at this time there are no firm decisions, even though the CGF were expected to announce a Host City following their Executive Board meeting in April. The reports indicate that whatever happens there is likely to be a 'significant scaling back' of the Games, with the aim "to reset and reimagine". We naturally await a final decision on the venue, if any, and an interpretation of what that means! Considering the objections from India after shooting was omitted from Birmingham because shooting is one of their biggest medal-winning opportunities, we do have a small chance of inclusion but that is unlikely to include the traditional disciplines of small-bore rifle and pistol, full-bore rifle and shotgun skeet, which had been excluded the Victoria bid. If there is little chance of shooting being included in whatever format any future Commonwealth Games may take, we will need to re-examine our raison d'être but will obviously retain the facility for our members to represent England in international competitions. The CSF (European Division) and the National meetings at Bisley and Scotland are the obvious opportunities, but

championship meetings on the near-continent could be included if there were other 'National' teams to compete against. All 'Full Shooting' members are eligible to represent the ESSU, (but not England unless selected), at international competitions such as InterShoot (Holland), RIAC (Luxembourg), and ISCH (Hannover), upon notification and application to our Secretary, and we can arrange and facilitate a 'team entry' if there is sufficient interest.

The 2023 ESSU Championships took place at Bisley, organised by Craig Dower, but because of the ongoing difficulties of holding the 2024 Championships at the LRC to include 10, 25 and 50 metre events, the Committee decided that we should split the venues between Aldersley and the LRC plus NRA Cheylesmore for s5 competitors. The 25m Cartridge Pistol championships did take place on 30th June, at which Ben Hodge was the leading ESSU member in Standard and Rapid Fire Pistol, winning the Open event. Rebecca McDowell was the leading ESSU member in the women's 25m Pistol event.

We inaugurated the ESSU Sporter Rifle Championships which took place at Aldersley in May at which were in two classes, Juniors and Open. Those were reasonably successful even though entries were lower than anticipated. We plan to make this an annual fixture, but possibly earlier than May to avoid the bulk of GCE exams and hope that, once the message gets around, more will enter. A benefit has been that several competitors made enquiries to advance their skills and knowledge by joining our Rifle Academy.

The 50m Rifle and 25m Air Sport Pistol Championships will take place at the LRC on 20th and 21st July, for which Information, Rules and an Entry Form are downloadable from the website. Although we have now passed the closing date for entries, space might still be available if you contact Chris Hunter by email at: chunter177@hotmail.com

You are probably aware of the financial difficulties being experienced by the NSRA in connection with the LRC at Bisley. This has necessitated a complete review and re-organisation of the shooting facilities available, full details of which were published by the NSRA in the minutes of the Shooting Council on 15th June. It is not part of my report to go into the full details but, briefly, the CNC police will be occupying all the top floor apart from Hall C, which is currently used as the roller hockey stadium. Once the re-structuring and building work is completed there will potentially be a small 50m range across the existing 50m range, plus a new multi-discipline range. Neither of these will be large enough to enable hosting of our Championships in the format as we have done previously, so our 2024 Championships will be the last to use the present facilities. As for the airgun championships, we have personal connections with the Surrey County Small Bore Rifle Association who have traditionally held their airgun championships at the LRC in November and are facing the same situation as ourselves. We are determined to hold our airgun championships as a service to our membership and have had discussions with Surrey and agreed to hold a combined ESSU/SCSBRA Championships over the weekend of 23rd/24th November. The conversion work for Halls A and B will have commenced by then and so to use the targets in Hall C the Hockey arena will need to be part-dismantled. This has required confirmation from Dave Froggett at the NSRA that this is possible, and the targets are available, so put the dates in your diaries if you intend to enter. Unfortunately, as we will be restricted to holding the entire 10m competition in Hall C there will be no range space to hold Finals. Full details will be published on the website and circulated to the Membership once the necessary arrangements have been made.

Worthy of a special mention is the selection of our ESSU Athletes' Representative, Mike Barger, to be included in the GBR Team at the Paris Olympics. Congratulations to Mike, qualified in the ISSF World Cup in Rio by smashing his PB and British Qualification record. Mike will compete in the 50m Rifle 3Position and 10m Air Rifle Men events and team up with Seonaid McIntosh in the AR Mixed Team event. (I will also be there to keep an eye on them as Chairman of the Rifle Jury). Congratulations are also due to Aston Upton, Sophie Page, Louis Norman, Olivia Beech, Toby Meek, Lucinda Evans, Francine Gilmore, Toby Aberdeen, and Sam Allen, all of whom have been selected to represent GBR at the Junior Nordic Shooting Championship, to be held from 31st July to 4th August in Vingsted, Denmark. Additionally, we have entered some of our junior members to represent the ESSU in the

NSRA Junior International Championships which will take place prior to the National Meeting at the beginning of August.

In my 2022 and 2023 reports 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 212 Full members, 20 Supporter members and 3 Life members, totalling 235, compared to 2023 figures of 243. We lost 8 due to non-renewal or other causes but gained 23 New members, resulting in a net reduction of 15. However, our membership does include 35 Juniors (under 21), of which 21 are Minors (under 18), which is a healthy sign. The ISSF has reverted to their earlier definition of a Junior, which is that "Athletes will remain as Juniors until 31st December of the year in which they become 21 years of age. Any athlete born between 1st January and 31st December, will cease to be a Junior on the 31st December of that year".

Whilst mentioning Membership, you will be aware that this year we increased the annual subscription for a Full member from £25.00 to £28.00 and for a Supporter member from £15.00 to £16.00. Many members who pay by Standing Order did not change their bank instructions accordingly although most paid the balance subsequently. This resulted in a lot of extra work in checking who had paid what and sending reminders, so please check your Standing Orders and amend if necessary. Whilst doing so, please assist me by ensuring that two important details are correct: Firstly, that the payment is scheduled on or before 31st January because although we allow a period of grace until 31st March after which membership is automatically suspended, some payments are scheduled much later in the year which, according to our Rules, requires payment of a re-joining fee. Suspending access to the Members area of the website, then re-instating it if a subscription is received is also time-consuming and should be unnecessary! Secondly, please ensure that your payment reference is in the form of your membership number followed by your surname, viz: 2345Jones. If paying on behalf of someone with a different surname, or if your surname has changed by marriage, etc., please use the current name of the member and not the account holder. I use the membership number to quickly search our bank accounts to confirm receipts and renew your membership, but it is tedious and time-consuming if I cannot quickly find the reference and must trawl through to find if your subscription has been received.

You can quickly check on the website: www.essu.org.uk to confirm your membership status. The membership list is deliberately included under the 'Membership' tab without the need to login otherwise those whose membership is suspended would not be able to access the members area to check. I have had a request from a concerned parent who did not want the name of her child displayed on a 'shooting' website for security reasons. I have consequently included the initials only to prevent personal identification. If anyone else wants me to do the same, then please email me at webmaster@essu.org.uk with your request.

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.

Financial state remains healthy. As there is unlikely to be CG we will not get any central funding so we will be using our fund to support our athletes. Just as an example the CSF(ED) we supported our athletes to the tune of around £9,000.

We are healthy but have one eye on the future.

We supported Grants and Junior Colours £1175.00.

Our Athletes selected for Junior Nordics can apply for support.

Proposed: D Goodfellow Seconded: M Edwardson-White Approval: All in favour

6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2024/25

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

Treasurer: Mr Martin Newman (Four years)

Proposed: G Rees Seconded: D Goodfellow Approval: All in favour

Committee:

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

Proposed: J Booker Seconded: C Dower Approval: All in Favour

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

Ron Spoke about safeguarding at the last AGM and we are happy that he is our Lead for safe guarding.

7. To confirm the unopposed Officers for 2024/25

The following unopposed Officers were confirmed.

Chairman Mr D Goodfellow (elected May 2021)

Vice-Chairman Mr C Dower (elected June 2022)

Secretary Mrs G Rees (elected July 2023)

8. To appoint the Hon Auditor

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

Proposed: D Goodfellow Seconded: J Booker Approval: All in favour

9. Date and venue for 2025 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 20.45hrs