



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ESSU HELD VIA ZOOM ON Thursday 10th July 2025 AT 20.00HRS

In the presence of 17 fully paid-up members the meeting was declared quorate as required by the constitution and was opened by Mr Goodfellow at 20.13hrs.

Present: David Goodfellow, Martin Newman, Gail Rees, Paul Goater, Paul Taylor, Craig Dower, Margaret Thomas, John Booker, Martyn Edwardson-White, Lance Gilmore, Francine Gilmore, Leanne Lacey, Vera Potiakova, Sanjay Silas, Bret palmer, Karen Butler, Andy McGee

1. Apologies for Absence

Christopher Hunter, Joe Baker, Linda Smallbone, Barbara Lee, Robin Hickshall, Adrian Panett, Zoe Chasemore, Richard Chasemore, Mike Bargerion

2. Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting (11th July 2024)

Proposer P Goater seconder D Goodfellow approved by all

3. Matters arising

None

4. Chairman's Report

ESSU AGM 2025 – Chairman's report.

Thank you for continuing membership of the ESSU despite the continuing absence of Shooting from the Commonwealth Games. The opportunity to represent England on such a prestigious occasion was a primary reason for our founding, albeit to a limited number of athletes, but our shooters have more than justified their inclusion at previous Games and added substantially to the total English medal-haul. When we were omitted from the 2022 Birmingham Games, the National Rifle Association of India offered to host a Commonwealth Shooting and Archery championships as a substitute, but that was unfortunately doomed because of the Covid pandemic. Victoria, Australia, had initially accepted the right to host the 2026 Games in which Shooting was to be included, but subsequently withdrew as a host city. Glasgow has stepped up as a replacement host to prevent the demise of the Games, but with a severely reduced program limited to ten sports excluding Shooting. There is, however, hope for the 2030 Games if the bid from India is accepted when Shooting will surely be included as the sport is one of their great medal-winning opportunities. Apart from the Commonwealth Games, the ESSU retains the responsibility of selecting athletes to represent England in other international and domestic shooting championships, including the National meetings at Bisley and Scotland and future Commonwealth Shooting Federation (European Division) competitions if host countries can be found. Unfortunately, because of our lack of suitable ranges and funding, England is unable to volunteer.

All 'Full Shooting' members are eligible to represent the ESSU at competitions on the near-Continent, such as InterShoot (Holland), RIAC (Luxembourg), and ISCH (Hannover). Acceptance of entry is usually subject to verification from a recognised international Federation, so Members who wish to enter those competitions should please notify our secretary for ratification. We can arrange and facilitate an England team entry if there is sufficient interest and there are other 'national' teams to compete against.

In my 2024 report I mentioned the ongoing financial difficulties of the NSRA and their ongoing struggle to finance the operation of the LRC at Bisley, necessitating a complete re-organisation of the shooting facilities. This process is still ongoing with eventual limited facilities for 50m and 10m. The CNC Police have extended their occupation of much of the top floor apart from Hall C, currently used by the in-line Hockey organisation. There will be limited 10m airgun targets for personal use, but future Championship meetings require the removal of the hockey arena, with consequent additional agreements and costs,

and the re-designed 50m range will not have sufficient electronic targets to host a championship meeting.

On 23rd/ 24th November we combined our usual 10m Championship meeting with the Surrey SBRA, as they had the same difficulties of finding a suitable venue for their Championships. This was not an ideal situation but at least it gave both organisations the chance to conduct their annual championships. The 50m Rifle, 25m Air Sport Pistol Championships and the 25m Rimfire Pistol Championships took place at the LRC on 20th – 21st July 2024, and on Sunday 11th May this year we hosted our Sporter Rifle Championships at NSRA Aldersley. A full report and results are on the website.

On 28th & 29th June 2025 on Cheylesmore A range at Bisley, the British Shooting Nominated Meeting results for the cartridge pistol trial were conducted. The ESSU English Championships were shot concurrently with this trial. For both Olympic events, awards were taken from Finals scores. 'Open' class medals were based on entry numbers. Silverware awards were presented to ESSU members:

Rapid Fire Pistol (Men) Plate - Toby Aberdeen; Pistol (Women) Silver Bowl - Lucinda Evans; 25m Standard Pistol Tankard - Imogen Reed. Congratulations to them!

Our Teams Captain, Chris Hunter, has informed me that we have been invited to participate in the 'Combined Services' Match, to be held at Worplesdon, Surrey, (close to Bisley), on 20th – 21st September. Although not on EST, this will be a 'normal' Dewar-type match on paper targets. If any Member wishes to offer themselves for selection to represent the ESSU, please contact Chris on: chunter177@hotmail.com.

We are intending to conduct our 50m Championships on the weekend of 27th – 28th September but we are currently struggling to find a suitable venue that offers electronic targets. To enable our Meeting to continue to be recognised by British Shooting for ranking purposes we cannot revert to paper targets. Further details including the venue and entry-forms will be available on the website in due course.

We will run the English 10m Championships at the LRC on the weekend 29th/30th November which will include classes for WSPS, (disabled), athletes. As well as our Championships there will also be the inaugural **10m "Grand Prix of St George"**. These will be British Shooting nominated competitions.

Our Pistol Academy is doing well, but the Rifle Academy based at Aldersley is struggling owing to lack of members and is becoming economically unviable. Our Rifle Academy Manager, Paul Goater, has asked me to include the following statement: "The ESSU has run a rifle training environment for many years, predating the British Shooting Pathway, (BSP), and this was once the pre-eminent training environment in the country. Much change has been experienced and now this is more of a development area with many participants winning selection to the BSP. Our options for the future are to continue running a full programme or to discontinue our Academy. We are 'membership-led' and request your views to help us decide how best to continue to help aspiring athletes. Our Academy must be self-funding, which means it must have enough committed athletes to enable it to run cost-effectively". The reality is that the BSP offers a greater opportunity for athletes to represent GBR, particularly in the Air Rifle discipline, and we are both 'fishing from the same pool' for members. If you have any suggestions or ideas, Paul would love to hear from you on: goaterp@gmail.com

During the past year, some of our top individual athletes were selected to represent GBR in international competitions. Our Athletes Representative, Mike Barger, competed in the 50m Rifle 3P and 10m Air Rifle Men events at the Paris Olympics.

Several of our Junior members represented GBR at the following international Championships:

Junior Nordic Shooting Championship, Vingsted, Denmark:-

Aston Upton, Sophie Page, Louis Norman, Olivia Beech, Toby Meek, Lucy Evans, Francine Gilmore.

ISSF Junior World Cup, Suhl, Germany:-

Aston Upton, Toby Aberdeen, Sam Allen, Anmol Bhargava, Lucinda Evans, Joshua Holden.

European Junior Championships, Osijek, Croatia:- Francine Gilmore.

Congratulations to all of them.

In my reports of the past three years, I mentioned that we need to plan for contingencies and retirements of Committee members, all of whom have a designated responsibility.

The Officers comprise the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer, and the remainder are six elected Committee Members, plus a few others who are seconded because of the roles that they perform. I therefore make my annual plea to you

all to consider if you would be prepared 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. As I mentioned in my original Notice of AGM, I am Constitutionally required to stand down this year but, having served on the Committee for over thirty years as a member and Chairman since 2011, I have decided not to offer myself for re-election. Therefore, the Office of Chairman will need replacing! Please consider if you can spare time to join the Committee.

Our current membership stands at 240 of which 21 are 'Supporter' and 3 'Life' members. We lost 45 due to non-renewal or other causes but gained 26 new members. This represents a net decrease of 19 compared to 2024 figures. However, our membership does include 36 Juniors (under 21), of which 21 are Minors (under 18), which is a healthy sign. You can easily check your membership number and status on our website: www.essu.org.uk. The 'Membership' tab contains the list of current members which can be accessed without login. The list is accessible there rather than within the Members area so that it can be viewed by former members who might have forgotten to renew and thus cannot access it. To prevent personal identification following security concerns from a parent who did not want her child's name displayed on an open 'shooting' website, only initials are shown on the listing. This option is available for anyone who wants their name similarly 'hidden', by emailing me at webmaster@essu.org.uk with your request.

We receive most of our renewals by Standing Order, but although the fees were increased to £28.00 for Full members and £16.00 for Supporters two years ago, we are still receiving payment of the former amounts. Don't forget that Full members are entitled to a discount when entering out Championship meetings, which cannot apply if the subscription is underpaid. 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 expires, some payments are scheduled much later in the year which, according to our Rules, requires payment of a re-joining fee. Removing details of ex-Members from the website, then re-instating them if a subscription is received is tedious 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 and number of the member and not just the name of the account holder. I use the membership number to quickly search the bank accounts to confirm receipts and renew membership, but it is tedious and time-consuming if I cannot easily find the reference and must trawl through to find if your subscription has been received.

As Chairman of the ISSF Rifle Committee I naturally have access to some of the internal discussions and proposals. Whilst full details of discussions are confidential, Rifle athletes who engage in competitions conducted under ISSF Rules will not be surprised to learn that there is serious concern about the degree of artificial support provided by the clothing worn in the standing position. ISSF and IOC Rules stipulate that performance must be due to the skill of the athletes without artificial assistance which could be described as "technical doping". Such is the concern that Shooting risks being excluded from the Olympics unless we take remedial action is taken by changing our Rules and clothing specifications which are currently ineffective in preventing this situation. Rifle Committee members assisted by members of the Technical and Athletes Committees recently conducted experiments to see if clothing 'as supplied' from certain manufacturers would conform to the proposed new standards and, unsurprisingly, found that none would do so! All were 'worked-on' to reach a condition which enabled them to pass the current tests, and, without divulging specifics, we proved that existing clothing can be altered or adapted to pass Equipment Control. This was achieved mainly by severe flexing and manipulating and in extreme cases by removal of certain areas of the double-lining. I would therefore caution against purchasing any new jackets and trousers before the new Rules are circulated because they all will require work to be done to enable them to pass. I had a 40-minute meeting with Mr Capapie in Munich recently and clearly expressed our concerns so he will possibly be soon producing a new line of clothing that is less rigid. Undoubtedly other manufacturers will follow!

5. Hon 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. A possible CSF(ED) 2026 and hopeful for inclusion in 2030 Commonwealth Games.

Proposer: C Dower Second: P Taylor approved by all

6. Election of Officers and Committee for 2025/26

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

Chairman: No nominations received

A nomination for General member: Leane Lacey

Proposed: P Taylor Seconded: M Thomas approved by all

Committee:

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

Proposed: D Goodfellow Second: M Newman approved by all

Co-opted members: *Mike Barger (Athlete's rep); Dr Ron Carter (Safeguarding)*
Dave Goodfellow (Membership Secretary)

Life Member Dave Goodfellow approved by all

7. Confirmation of unopposed Officers for 2025/26

Vice Chairman: Craig Dower (elected June 2022)

Secretary: Mrs Gail Rees (elected July 2023)

Treasurer: Mr Martin Newman (elected July 2024)

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: M Newman Second: G Rees approved by all

9. To ratify the constitution amendment article 13.

To add the following:

If after 30 minutes from the time stated for the commencement of the Meeting there are still insufficient Members present to form a quorum, the Meeting shall be adjourned to another time and place.

The adjourned Meeting shall take place within 42 days of the date of the original Meeting, or as soon after as is practicable. If at the adjourned Meeting there are insufficient Members present to form a quorum, the Meeting will proceed after a delay of 30 minutes

Proposer: M Newman Second: S Silas approved by all

10. The date the AGM for 2026.

July 2026

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.44hrs