



Scottish Target Shooting
Caledonia House
1 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
EH12 9DQ

Annual General Meeting of Scottish Target Shooting

Date: Saturday 24th April 2021, 13.00

Venue: Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19 Restrictions

ATTENDANCE

Kenneth Silver, Chair (Director)
Oliver Barsby, Company Secretary, COO
Chris Silver, Finance & Fundraising (Director)
Alyson Russell-Stevenson, Communications & Marketing (Director)
Tim Kidner, Fullbore AMG Chair (Director)
Lara Bestwick, Gallery Rifle AMG Chair (Director)
David Owen, Pistol AMG Chair (Director)
Martin Sinclair, Smallbore AMG Chair (Director)
William Hamilton, Air Pistol & Air Rifle
David Sinclair, Clay
Jo Ashcroft, Clay
Keith White, Clay
Claire Halleran, Full Bore
Bryden Ritchie, Full Bore

Colin Oswald, Gallery Rifle
Donald Robertson, Gallery Rifle
Janis Thomson, Pistol
Alan Goodall, Pistol
Mark Joyce, Pistol
James Paterson, Smallbore
Colin Watson, Smallbore
Anne Hamilton, Smallbore
Gavin Walker, Smallbore
Jackie Smith, Smallbore
Robin Thomson, Smallbore
Gad Habiby, Smallbore
Sheena Sharp, Smallbore
Fiona Crowden, Smallbore

ALSO ATTENDING

Office Manager
Office Manager
sportscotland Partnership Manager

Jacqui Dunlop
Frances Lochtie
Jane Scott

OB outlined how the meeting would take place using the online medium, this included voting and how to raise questions during the meeting. Although live voting would be done, OB would cross-check the voting with the proxy votes to ensure that there was no double counting of votes. This means that an indication of voting would be announced but the precise numbers would be recorded in the minutes.

1. WELCOME BY STS CHAIR

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were intimated on behalf of:

Gareth McKenna, Performance & Pathways (Director)
John Kemp, Coaching and Officials (Director)
Iain MacGregor, Clay AMG Chair (Director)
Dean Stott (Board Advisor)

Allan Alstead, Fullbore
Cyril De Jonckheere, Smallbore
Mike Drever, Clay Target
Perryn Watson, Smallbore

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM

a) APPROVAL

ACTIONS

Scottish Target Shooting

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It was proposed by Martin Sinclair and seconded by James Paterson that the minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were a true record.

b) MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2020 AGM Minutes that would not be covered on the agenda. The election of Sport Vice Chair was carried forward from last year's AGM, but as the Business Vice Chair is stepping down this year, it was agreed that the election of the Sports Vice Chair would be deferred to next year for continuity reasons.

4. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

a) PRESENTATION OF REPORT

The Chair's Annual Report (See Appendix A) was presented verbally by the Chair. Members were provided with an opportunity raise questions or comment on the report, but none were forthcoming.

b) ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Chair's report was **APPROVED**, proposed by Martin Sinclair and seconded by Alyson Russell-Stevenson.

5. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

a) PRESENTATION OF REPORT

The Secretary's Annual Report (See Appendix B) was presented verbally by the Secretary. Members were provided with an opportunity raise questions or comment on the report, but none were forthcoming.

b) ADOPTION OF REPORT

The Secretary's report was **APPROVED**, proposed by Mark Joyce and seconded by Martin Sinclair.

6. PRESENTATION OF COMPANY'S ACCOUNTS

a) PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS

A Finance Statement for the meeting had been circulated in advance for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020. OB noted that as the Chair and Finance Director were related the Financial Procedures had been updated to reflect this to ensure the proper safeguards are in place for this unique set of circumstances.

OB reported that the AMG income and expenditure has been limited due to COVID with very few events taking place. At the start of 2020 the Pistol and Rifle 10m Grand Prixes and Championships did manage to go ahead which is why there was some income for these two AMGs.

The structure set up within STS means that the AMGs are protected and do not have to get their accounts inspected with the central STS account absorbing a lot of the costs. Projected reserves for AMGs are comfortable, with smallbore and pistol high as they were inherited.

The accounts are currently with Facts and Figures and it had been hoped to bring the draft accounts to the AGM but they have not been completed. The AGM does not require to approve the accounts and OB noted that when the accounts have been finalised they will be shared with the membership.

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For the STS accounts, the last 12 months saw a projected surplus of £17,000. Concerns had been raised in the report at the last AGM about the restricted reserves but the surplus will help correct this. It is anticipated that STS will be above the restricted reserves level but STS are waiting on the Accountants confirming this.

OB explained that the finances of STS appear to be in a relatively positive condition showing a surplus for two years in a row, proving that the model is working. When there are unrestricted reserves it will enable more investment to be put back into the sport. KS noted that it was good that there was now a Finance Director in post as OB went a long time without finance guidance from the board.

Members were provided with an opportunity raise questions or comment on the report, but none were forthcoming.

7. RESOLUTIONS

OB confirmed the requirements for resolutions as stipulated by the Articles explaining that an Ordinary Resolution requires a simple majority of eligible votes cast at the meeting, either in person or by proxy.

- a) **ORDINARY RESOLUTION 1:** Scottish Target Shooting Membership fees for 2022 shall remain unchanged from 2021.

OB noted that at the last AGM the Board said they would come to this AGM with a proposal for the gradual increasing of fees. The Board are still committed to doing this but due to the financial circumstances that Clubs and members are facing the board did not consider it appropriate to propose increasing fees. It was therefore deferred and STS will bring a proposal for increasing fees to the 2022 AGM.

The votes for Ordinary Resolution 1 were confirmed as:

Ordinary Resolution 1	Proxy votes	Meeting votes	TOTAL
For	84	14	98
Against	1	0	1
Abstain	3	0	3
TOTAL	88	14	102

It was confirmed that Ordinary Resolution 1 was **APPROVED**.

- b) **ORDINARY RESOLUTION 2:** Scottish Target Shooting appoints Facts and Figures to review the Company's Accounts for 2021

The votes for Ordinary Resolution 2 were confirmed as:

Ordinary Resolution 2	Proxy votes	Meeting votes	TOTAL
For	85	10	95
Against	0	0	0
Abstain	3	1	4
TOTAL	88	11	99

It was confirmed that Ordinary Resolution 2 was **APPROVED**.

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OB noted that STS would aim to market test the Accountants ahead of the next AGM to ensure STS is getting value for money and the best service. The recommendation for the next AGM will represent the outcome of this market test.

8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE**Elections****a) AIR AMG CHAIR** – no nominations had been received for the position of AMG Chair

	Proxy votes	Meeting votes	TOTAL
No Nomination	11	0	
Abstain	4	0	
TOTAL	15	0	

With no one elected, OB confirmed the Board would look to make an appointment to stand until the next AGM. If there was anyone who would like to stand as AMG chair let OB know as it is important that this discipline is represented on the Board.

Appointments

OB confirmed that **GARETH MCKENNA** had been re-appointed by the Board to continue as Performance and Pathways Director. This will be Gareth's final term.

The Chair expressed thanks to Mike Barlow who was standing down at Business Vice Chair and John Kemp who was standing down as Coaching and Officials Director. As both vacancies are appointed, these positions have been advertised and informal interviews have been arranged. The interview panel will consist of the Chair, Sports Vice Chair and Chief Operating Officer. If an appointment is made the membership will be updated, and if no appointment is made the position will be re-advertised.

9. BOB AITKEN SERVICE TO SHOOTING AWARD PRESENTATIONS

2020 Bob Aitken Award Presented to Tim Kidner

2021 Bob Aitken Award Presented to Sheena Sharp

OB confirmed that a full write up of the achievements of the winners will be produced on the website and when conditions allow presentations will be made in person and published in the newsletter. The Chair encouraged members to submit nominations and OB provided the link for making nominations.

10. VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSE

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting:

- Thanks were expressed to Mike Barlow and John Kemp for their service.
- Chris Silver was welcomed to the Board.
- Thanks were expressed to the staff for organising the AMG and to Board members.
- Thanks were expressed to all Directors for their support.

There being no other business the Chair closed the meeting at 1400



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Appendix A: Chair's AGM Report

I would like to welcome everyone to this, my second STS AGM as Chair, and AGM number 6 of the company, having held the first AGM of the newly formed Scottish Target Shooting in 2016. At last year's AGM I said that when taking on the role of chair, I envisaged some challenges but had not anticipated anything quite like the current COVID-19 pandemic. I am even more surprised that one year on and we are still in the grips of the pandemic, but am pleased that we seem to be moving in the right direction, at least in the UK. It will be no surprise however that in my report, reflections on the past 12 months will be dominated by COVID-19.

Despite the challenges faced by COVID-19, we have adapted how we operate while still holding the body up to the highest standards. It is my personal belief that these high standards that we hold ourselves accountable too, is one of the key reasons why STS is continuing to head in an upward trend and why our membership numbers are starting to reflect the positive engagement and impact we are having with the Scottish shooting community.

Since our formation our membership numbers have steadily increased, jumping from 383 individual members in 2018 to 753 in 2019, a 96% increase. Nothing quite so dramatic in terms of our club numbers but nonetheless we have seen a steady, positive trend increasing from 43 member clubs in 2018 to 51 in 2019. In 2020, our membership numbers didn't quite match those of 2019 but we weren't far off - with the impact on activity brought about by the pandemic, it is no surprise there was a slight decrease. Our individual membership numbers peaked at 722 while our member clubs reach 50 in total. However, I am pleased to report that in 2021, despite the continuation of the pandemic, our membership numbers remain positive. As of today, our individual membership numbers are currently at 727 and we have a total of 53 member clubs, our highest number of clubs to date since forming STS. The Board feels that this steady growth of confidence reflects the way we have conducted business over the last 5 years, and in particular supported the shooting community over the past 12 months, something I believe Oliver will touch upon more in his report. While I am delighted with this response and faith shown in us by the membership, the staff and Board recognise that while this is a significant and positive milestone, we still fall significantly short of representing the whole of the shooting community and so will strive to ensure our membership continues to rise year on year.

While this pandemic has meant all of our business over the last 12 months has had to be conducted online, it has actually strengthened our ties with our partners and resulted in more frequent conversations. Our relationship with Police Scotland, continues to be an extremely positive one. Once again we could not hold our usual session with them as part of our AGM programme but after our 2020 AGM we held an online session to support members with license enquiries during the first wave which worked extremely well. Police Scotland have also continued to support us with answering enquiries, whether about general legislation or individual concerns and have been excellent at responding to our guidance which is not something that either party is required to do, but it does significantly help to ensure we delivering a consistent message.

As mentioned, lockdown has actually helped improve interaction with different bodies. Notable improvements include better relations with SCTA, the start of an improved dialogue with the NSRA and more regular dialogue with British Shooting and our Home Nation partners. SCTA, and in particular the chair, Tony Maher, has been helpful in checking COVID-19 guidance with regards shotgun to ensure shooting in Scotland only issues one set of guidance

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that is relevant to the whole target shooting community. STS is starting to engage more with the NSRA with its recent change in senior staff, but working with British Shooting has helped to have a more regular dialogue. Our relationship with British Shooting and our Home Nation counterparts continues to build on the strong connections pre-pandemic but do not prevent us from continuing to push and challenge British Shooting in support of our members. Finally, STS continues to be a key player in the Scottish Firearms Licensing Practitioners Group that pulls together all those in Scotland involved in firearms, including Police Scotland the Scottish Government. This group has met less frequently than before but it has helped to highlight and address key issues and develop important information, such as the mental health leaflet sent out by STS last year. All of these partnerships point towards a more joined up shooting community and better engaged STS to work on behalf of our members.

On the international stage, our performance athletes have, for obvious reasons, not had a chance to shine due to the continued lockdown. However, this does not mean that the coaches, athletes and staff have not been working hard. Jennifer Ross has worked tirelessly to support athletes during this difficult time and work with **sportscotland** to develop and get approval for the Return to Training protocols that were passed in autumn last year, allowing performance programme athletes to return to some training. While training has been intermittent, it has been a big help and we would also like to thank all the clubs and facilities that helped us jump through the necessary hoops to support our athletes coming back. I would also like to thank our performance coaches Marco Micheli (shotgun), Sonal Gyorik-Ramendra (pistol) and Andrew Ross (rifle) for all the hard work they continue to put in both on the range and remotely during this incredibly challenging time. Despite the lack of activity, I am pleased to close our performance review with some positive news. The success of the programme means that in the past 2 years STS has managed to get a further 3 athletes on to the British Shooting performance system – congratulations to David McNeil (Olympic Skeet) and Leslie Stewart (Para Rifle) who were selected for British Shooting’s Academy in October 2019 and Emilia Faulkner (10m Pistol) who was selected for the Academy in October 2020. Of course I couldn’t end the performance section without mentioning one of the biggest achievements of the past 12 months, congratulations to Seonaid McIntosh (and her coach Donald McIntosh) for her selection to Team GB for the Tokyo Olympics – we wish you a very safe and successful games this summer.

Speaking of major international events, you will all be aware that shooting is not included in the programme for Birmingham 2022. There is a proposed shooting and archery Commonwealth event to be held in India in 2022 and we are working hard to prepare our strongest team possible, so we are able to compete if it is safe enough for us to do so. However, the build-up and information regarding this event has been less than ideal which has created challenges for all of us, especially the athletes. News is yet to be confirmed about hosts for the Commonwealth Games in 2026 but we hope to hear some positive news over the next 12 months and will continue to fight with our shooting and commonwealth partners to get shooting in the main programme whenever possible.

As always, performance sport (and STS as a whole) isn’t just about the Olympic disciplines but sadly, as with all forms of sport, there has been very little activity due to the pandemic. There have been a few notable full bore achievements including six Scots making the long list of 25 athletes for the Palma Match in South Africa in 2023 and a number of successes at the rescheduled Imperial Meeting in 2020 with the Alexandra, Donegal and Times events all won by Scots, with Sandy Walker and Ian Shaw deserving special mentions among a number of successful Scottish athletes. STS recognises the number of Scottish athletes in different disciplines and events working tirelessly and we look forward to reporting on your successes when activity and competitions get back underway in earnest.

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Last year I reported that we were one year into our strategic plan and much still needed to happen. Sadly, COVID-19 meant that much of the face-to-face work could not take place and much of our energies shifted to supporting members in new ways. We are still working on the facility audit and have had further discussions with **sportscotland** about developing our own coaching programme. We are also still building relations with the SCTA, NSRA and NRA but as noted previously, some improvements have been in these areas. However, much of our planned work was replaced by a re-active, and I hope, welcome response to COVID-19. The guidance issued by STS continues to receive high praise with all the people I speak to in providing clear, shooting specific guidance, frequently updated in response to government announcements. Online forums and newsletters have continued to keep members engaged and informed. Contact with staff has adapted to allow for the change of working scenarios while the series of COVID-19 webinars produced by STS during the summer and autumn of 2020 was varied, well attended and has received a huge amount of positive feedback. We are looking at what support we can provide in 2021 and welcome all feedback from members.

This brings me on to our vital relationship with **sportscotland**. STS continues to work closely with **sportscotland** who have been impressed by what we have achieved over the last few years. The Board of STS would like to extend a special vote of thanks to **sportscotland** for the pragmatic way they have supported STS throughout this pandemic. The flexible approach they have shown with regards investment and the connections they have created with Active Scotland and the Scottish Government has meant that guidance for the sporting sector has been rapid, clear and concise, where possible. At our last AGM we reported that we would be going back to **sportscotland** to pitch for our second two years of investment. Due to the pandemic, this has been postponed but when we do present back, we will have some very positive messages to report back on. I would like to thank our Partnership Manager Jane Scott for the last 12 months, as well as Vikki Bunce for being our Performance Partnership Manager. Both have been excellent and provided a great deal of support to the board and staff of STS.

On behalf of myself and the Board I would also like to express my thanks to the staff team of Oliver, Jacqui, Frances and Jennifer who have been working extremely hard under testing circumstances to continue to supporting members while working remotely from home. As I am sure you all feel, the mental challenges of working remotely are often overlooked and with the STS Office remaining closed for the foreseeable future it has not been easy but the services delivered to members have continued uninterrupted and during lockdown have increased through webinars and online forums. The board are very appreciative for all our staff do and strong believes that our membership numbers reflect the superb service that I hope you all agree they provide.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my colleagues on the Board of STS. I would like to thank them for adapting to this new way of working and supporting me during my first full year. I would also like to welcome Chris Silver on to the Board as our new Finance Director since our last AGM. Chris was recruited by independent panel and bring a great deal of financial knowledge and skills with him and is already having a good impact with the staff and board. I would also like to pay particular tribute to two directors who will be stepping down at this AGM having come to the end of their respective second terms and, due to personal reasons, are no longer able to carry on. Firstly, John Kemp is stepping down as our Coaching and Officials Director after starting with us in 2016 – our big thanks to John and congratulations to him on the birth of his first child, Leo. Secondly, I would also like to express a vote of thanks to Mike Barlow who will be stepping down as Business Vice Chair. Mike has been on the Board of STS since its inception in 2016 but has been long involved with STSF and was a great source of support to this body and in the formation of STS. Thank you Mike for all you have done. We hope both will stay on as members as Mike continues to shoot full bore and John shotgun as and when they can find the time.

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We are currently out for recruitment for both posts and are interviewing candidates later next week so will let the membership know as and when we fill these positions. However, this does highlight a challenge we have been facing with recruiting our AMG Air Chair role which has now been vacant for over 12 months. If anyone is interested in this role, please contact Oliver to find out more because while the role is not onerous, it is vital that this form of shooting is represented at Board level.

Finally, although I have now been Chair for 14 months, the pandemic has meant that I have not been able to get out and speak to many of you. Therefore, my comments are very similar to last year - there is still much I need to learn and understand but my ambition of getting more young people into this sport is now stronger than ever as clubs look to rebuild as they re-open. There is a big role that STS can play in getting target shooting out to more young people but there is also a key role all the partnerships mentioned in this report can play. It is only working collaboratively with bodies like British Shooting, SCTA, NRA and NSRA that we can truly have a bigger and longer term impact in this area. It is my hope that the strengthening of these partnerships during the pandemic will improve what we can do as we come out of it and I hope to position STS to be at the forefront of that charge.

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Appendix B: Secretary's AGM Report



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Open Forum following the AGM

- Bryden Ritchie gave an update that NRA will aim to revive the Dechmont project and the RCO/RSO/ML training and will keep OB in the loop with any developments.
- Don Robertson asked what success the Club+ Membership had in terms of numbers. OB confirmed that last year there was approximately 50:50 split between Club and Club+ affiliations. For the current year out of the 53 clubs who had affiliated so far 25 are Club+ and 28 Club.
- William Hamilton asked what the position was with the National Range Project. OB confirmed that when the Central Scotland project fell through the funding for that went back to the National Lottery pot and there was a commitment from the Scottish Government and sportscotland to support a National Shooting Centre. However, although the funding was ringfenced for a while, it has now gone back to a more centralised pot. Part of the work on the Facilities Strategy which will take place this year will be to find out what is required and gather evidence about why it is needed. STS is still trying to fight for facilities and there is a discussion on whether facilities are required to be upgraded or new ones built. The issue around the Central Shooting School project was that it was a commercial organisation and the costings made it unviable for a National Centre. There are various other developments which are ongoing and STS continues to look at these.
- Gad Habiby asked if there was potential for Scottish Smallbore Events later this summer. OB confirmed that if restrictions allow the aim will be from July to ease back into events. There is an Events meeting scheduled for the start of May to review the latest guidance and see what the impact of that will be. STS are also in discussion with the NSRA about the cancelled Scottish Meeting and they are looking for more regional events. There is also the possibility of pushing back the 50m Championships from July to August or even September depending on the shooting calendar and weather and the Championships may be rebranded as an Open due to the lack of practice time and the possible need to amend the format to allow for COVID mitigations to be put in place.

Closed at 14:10