



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

# Annual General Meeting of Scottish Target Shooting

**Date:** Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022, 13.00

**Venue:** Virtual Meeting due to COVID-19 Restrictions

## ATTENDANCE

Kenneth Silver, Chair (Director)  
Oliver Barsby, Company Secretary, Chief Operating Officer  
Ian Thomson, Sports Vice Chair (Director)  
Chris Silver, Finance & Fundraising (Director)  
Rebecca Hope, Coaching and Pathways (Director)  
David Owen, Pistol AMG Chair (Director)  
Martin Sinclair, Smallbore AMG Chair (Director)

Cumberland News Rifle Club  
Dunfermline Small Bore Rifle Club  
George Watsons College  
Richard Townsend, Field Target Airgun  
Lindsay Peden, Fullbore  
Keith White, Olympic Shotgun  
Charles Allan, Smallbore

## ALSO ATTENDING

Office Manager  
Office Manager

Jacqui Dunlop  
Frances Lochtie

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:

Alyson Russell-Stevenson, Communications & Marketing (Director)  
Gareth McKenna, Performance & Pathways (Director)  
Tim Kidner, Fullbore AMG Chair (Director)  
Lara Bestwick, Gallery Rifle AMG Chair (Director)  
Allan Alstead, Honorary Member  
Aberdeen Full Bore Gun Club  
Civil Service Shooting Club

Neil Calder, Fullbore  
John Milner, Fullbore  
Charles Bestwick, Gallery Rifle  
Rebecca Bestwick, Gallery Rifle  
Alexander Bestwick, Gallery Rifle  
Trevor Jeffrey, Olympic Shotgun  
Willie McAulay, Smallbore

## 3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS AGM

### a) APPROVAL

It was proposed by Martin Sinclair and seconded by David Owen that the minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting were a true record.

### b) MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2021 AGM Minutes that would not be covered on the agenda.

## ACTIONS

## Scottish Target Shooting

Scottish Target Shooting is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in Scotland with registered number SC515115, having its registered office at Caledonia House, 1 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ



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**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 - none were forthcoming.

**b) ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The Chair's report was **APPROVED**, proposed by David Owen and seconded by Lindsay Peden.

**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 - none were forthcoming.

**b) ADOPTION OF REPORT**

The Secretary's report was **APPROVED**, proposed by David Owen and seconded by Richard Townsend.

**6. PRESENTATION OF COMPANY'S ACCOUNTS****a) PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS**

A Finance Statement for the meeting had been posted on the STS website in advance. The Finance Report (Appendix C) covered the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 for the general accounts and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 for the performance programme. The report was presented verbally by the Chief Operating Officer. It was noted that the accountants (Facts and Figures) are still to finalise their review of the accounts. 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:** Increase Scottish Target Shooting Membership fees for 2023 by 10% from 2022 rates.

The votes were Ordinary Resolution 1 were confirmed as:

Ordinary Resolution 1	Proxy votes	Meeting votes	TOTAL
For	35	4	39
Against	13	0	13
Abstain	4	0	4
TOTAL	52	4	56

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

- b) ORDINARY RESOLUTION 2:** Scottish Target Shooting go out to tender to determine the most appropriate accountancy firm to review the Company's accounts for 2022.

The votes were Ordinary Resolution 2 were confirmed as:



Ordinary Resolution 2	Proxy votes	Meeting votes	TOTAL
For	50	4	54
Against	0	0	0
Abstain	2	0	2
TOTAL	52	4	56

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

## 8. ELECTION OF AMG CHAIRS

### a) ELECTIONS

i. **SPORTS VICE CHAIR** – one nomination had been received for the position of Sports Vice Chair.

	Proxy votes	Meeting votes	TOTAL
Ian Thomson	48	4	52
Abstain	4	0	4
TOTAL	52	4	56

IAN THOMSON was duly elected as Sports Vice Chair.

ii. **FTA AMG CHAIR** – no nominations had been received for the position of FTA Chair

	Proxy votes	Meeting votes	TOTAL
No Nomination	2	0	2
Abstain	1	0	1
TOTAL	3	0	3

With no one elected, OB confirmed the Board would look to make an appointment until the next AGM. It is important that this discipline is represented on the Board so if there is anyone who would like to stand as FTA AMG chair, contact OB.

### b) APPOINTMENTS

#### i. BUSINESS VICE CHAIR

This position also remains vacant. If anyone would like to stand for this position, or know of anyone who would (they do not need to be a member), please contact OB.

## 9. BOB AITKEN SERVICE TO SHOOTING AWARD PRESENTATIONS

No nominations had been received. Nominations for 2022 would be re-opened with the aim of presenting the Award later in the year. Charles Allan asked about the criteria. It was confirmed that it was broad to encompass shooting across all disciplines and levels. A description of the criteria and details on the previous winners are available on the [Bob Aitken page on the STS website](#).

## 10. VOTE OF THANKS AND CLOSE

The Chair thanked everyone for everyone for attending the meeting. Thanks were expressed to all the members, Board members, staff and AMG volunteers for their work during 2021.

There being no other formal business, the Chair closed the meeting at 14:10.



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# Appendix A: Chair's AGM Report

## Chair's Report

I would like to welcome everyone to this, my third STS AGM as Chair, and AGM number seven of the company, having held the first AGM of the newly formed Scottish Target Shooting in 2016. It would be fair to say that in my brief time as Chair we have some unique issues with the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian invasion of Ukraine but I am pleased that shooting in Scotland at least seems to be returning back to something approaching normality.

In my last report I noted how STS has adapted how we operate in response to the pandemic. I had not anticipated that 12 months on our staff would still be working remotely and the AGM would still be held online but I am pleased with the way the staff have adapted to these challenges so STS can continue to serve its members in this new way of working. Having said that, nothing can replace face-to-face interactions and I hope we can start to reintroduce direct meetings with our members and hopefully next year our AGM can once again be held in person.

Last year I reported on the positive rise in membership numbers and I am pleased to report that during COVID the number of individual members remained steady despite the temporary closure of clubs and suspension of many shooting activities. By the conclusion of 2021 our membership numbers peaked at 763 but I am pleased to report that in 2022 we have already reached 800 members. I am pleased to report on a similar positive trajectory with regards clubs joining STS. By the end of 2021 we had reached 58 clubs and to date we have once again reached that number. The Board believes this continued growth reflects the way STS has operated during the pandemic and is a positive sign but the staff and Board recognise that we still fall significantly short of representing the whole of the shooting community and as the responses to our recent online strategic review with our membership demonstrates, we still have far to go.

In 2021, our relationships with our partners continue to strengthen. Police Scotland continues to be an important partner and during 2021 we worked with them to resolve both individual issues for members, as well as discussing more systematic issues. Once again we held an online session to support members with license enquiries and once again this was very well received.

With significant management changes at the NSRA, STS is starting to have more positive interactions with this body at a senior level. There is still a long way to go and much more work required but if STS is to better support shooting in Scotland, having better, closer working links with the NSRA will be important.

Our relationship with British Shooting and our Home Nation counterparts has solidified further with groups now meeting regularly to share good practice and work in a more joined up way on practical matters such as performance programmes, events, governance and coaching, as well as leadership group that meets monthly to discuss issues of strategic importance to the sport both in the UK and globally.

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. Our work on producing mental health literature, which will be published shortly after a multitude of drafts and false starts, is just one benefit of this partnership.

On the international stage in 2021, competitions continued to be limited due to the continuation of COVID and its restrictions. However, a summary of the year wouldn't be complete without acknowledging the fact that two Scottish athletes were selected to compete in Tokyo in the summer – Seonaid McIntosh in the Olympics and Lesley Stewart in the Paralympics. Despite the limited opportunities coaches, athletes and staff have continued to work hard. Jennifer Ross has once again worked tirelessly to support athletes and the programme in the face of difficult circumstances. We would also like to thank all the clubs

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and facilities that helped our athletes continue to train. 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 and off the range. What has been one of the most gratifying achievements of the programme since taking it over from **sportscotland** has been the number of young athletes coming through the system. I am pleased to report that over the last month, a number of these have recently been selected by British Shooting to compete at the ISSF Junior World Cup – excellent recognition for the progress they have made which also bodes well for the future prospects of the programme. Of course successes shouldn't just focus on the Olympic and Commonwealth disciplines and once again the Scottish Gallery Rifle team descended on Bisley and came away with an impressive medal haul. Similarly, Scottish full bore shooters continue to impress at the key matches and meetings held, primarily at Bisley. There are too many successes to mention so my apologies to any I have missed by well done to everyone across all the disciplines for your achievements over the past twelve months.

Speaking of major international events, while much of the sporting world will be focusing on the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham later this year, sadly with the omission of shooting, it will not have escaped the attention that in the last few weeks the Australian state of Victoria has been named as the host for the Commonwealth Games in 2026 but shooting has once again been omitted from the sporting programme announced for Phase 1. There is a Phase 2 process being finalised that will see additional sports confirmed by the end of 2022. We have already reached out to Shooting Australia and will be working with them (and ISSF) to lobby the CGF, Australian officials and our own Commonwealth Games Scotland to put the strongest possible case for the inclusion of shooting forward because the importance of shooting in the Games cannot be underestimated.

We are now entering the fourth year of our eight year strategic plan. Sadly, COVID-19 has really hindered progress for the first four years as much of our energies shifted during COVID to supporting members in new ways and learning to operate remotely. However, now that the world is adapting to this new normal and we are looking ahead to provide more detail for next phase of our strategic plan, this is the perfect opportunity to re-engage in a dialogue with members about the differences they want to see happen. We have already started this with our consultation which Oliver will touch upon in the Secretary's report but this is the start, not the end of the conversation. Over the next twelve months we hope to finalise our facility strategy and make significant progress in the area of coaching but these are just two issues of many we hope to address. I look forward to discussing these issues with our members further and working with you to find solutions.

STS continues to work closely with **sportscotland**, our key funders and supporters. The Board of STS would like to thank **sportscotland** for the pragmatic way they have supported STS over the last few years in the face of the pandemic. This autumn we will be going back to **sportscotland** to pitch the second half of our strategic plan, covering the next four years. In November last year, Oliver, Jennifer and I had a very positive meeting with senior members of the **sportscotland** team and I hope the meeting later this year will continue this theme and lead to further investment for the next four years. I would like to thank our Partnership Manager Lorna Callan and our Performance Partnership Manager Vikki Bunce for their excellent support over the last twelve months.

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 to support our members while continuing to work remotely. As I am sure you all feel, the mental toll of the last few years is becoming increasingly known and apparent across all sectors but our staff have worked hard to ensure services delivered to members have continued uninterrupted. The board are very appreciative for everything that our staff do to support the work of the board and our members.

I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my colleagues on the Board of STS. Over the last twelve months, meetings have continued online but we also had the opportunity, supported by **sportscotland**, to attend Inverclyde to discuss key issues in person. It shows the benefits of what can be achieved by meeting in person and I hope we can start to return to more face-to-face meetings.

I would also like to welcome Rebecca Hope on to the Board as our new Coaching and Officials Director who was appointed after our last AGM. Rebecca was recruited by an independent panel and brings with her a huge amount of experience from her

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work at Netball Scotland. Rebecca will be a fundamental source of support as STS moves forward our work on coaching qualifications. I am however sad to report that we are still trying to recruit for the Business Vice Chair and Field Target Airgun AMG Chair roles. It highlights the challenges that clubs are feeling at a grassroots level of trying to recruit volunteers. We will continue to advertise and head hunt for these roles but if anyone is interested in either role, please contact Oliver to find out more.

Finally, although I have now been Chair for just over two years, the continuation of the pandemic has meant that I have still not been able to get out and speak to as many of you as I would have liked. 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. 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. The opportunity we have of preparing, presenting and delivering the next 4 year phase of our strategic plan is an exciting one. We have already begun a conversation with the membership on this and the initial feedback has been clear. I will let Oliver discuss the responses in more detail but I think this is the perfect time for STS to be engaging in a dialogue with our members and to use the next 4 years to really make a difference.

Thanks were expressed to the volunteers, especially to Gavin Walker and the team for delivering the GP Events.

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# Appendix B: Secretary's AGM Report



## Scottish Target Shooting

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## Appendix C : Finance Director's AGM Report

The Board of Scottish Target Shooting (STS), company limited by guarantee registered SC515115, with its registered office located at Caledonia House, 1 Redheughs Rigg, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ, are pleased to present accounts for its 2021 financial year, which runs in parallel with its membership year, from 1st January to 31st December. As per the Company's Articles of Association, money raised by discipline specific groups (referred to as Association Management Groups, or AMG's) through membership income, the running of events, buying and selling of ammunition, hiring of targets, organisation of squads (to name a non-exhaustive list) is ringfenced. Any surplus made by an AMG is protected and used for the purposes deemed best by that discipline's AMG.

In that knowledge, the Board can confirm that the accounts for the year 2021 reflects the challenges faced by the continuation of the pandemic into 2021 resulting in limited income and expenditure for AMG's as a result of a reduced event programme, with competitions not returning until the outdoor season in the summer. Once again, the pandemic has identified how the structure of STS has helped to protect AMG's since all administrative and governance costs are absorbed by the central body meaning that while the income for AMG's has dropped, expenditure has also dropped resulting in most AMG's making a small surplus even against this backdrop of reduced event income.

The core body of STS (responsible for supporting the AMG's, lobbying for the sport, developing strong central governance, ensuring the Company fulfils its legal obligations, compliance requirements and runs in accordance with best practice where possible) once again received Effective Organisation investment from sportscotland to the value of £102,500, principally to support the employment of staff to carry out this work. During COVID-19 sportscotland has relaxed stipulations around this investment, for which the STS Board is extremely grateful, allowing STS to adapt dynamically to the challenges faced by COVID-19, for example adjusting staff routines to allow for working from home and the purchase of online services to ensure staff can stay engaged and work remotely.

Other sources of income to the core body of STS came through a proportion of the membership fee and any additional funding that can be sourced from funding application and sponsorship. In 2020 STS was able to secure a small business grant but this was not made available in 2021. Outgoings for the core body included the aforementioned primary cost of staffing and the next significant outgoing cost of the insurance policy to cover the activities of the Company and its members. Additional costs includes the continuing costs of hiring the STS office, that had to still be paid despite the office being closed, maintenance fees associated with the STS membership and event system, and any project work that could be carried out.

In 2021 the core activity of the Company was under budget and for the third year in a row made a surplus which proved to be higher than originally planned due to the underspend in some areas of the business due to the unexpected continuation of COVID-19 and overestimations when setting the budget. The last three financial years have demonstrated that the business model put in place and financial management of STS is working. In 2018 the Company went below the threshold in its Restricted Reserves policy, calculated on the estimation of costs need to support the winding up of the business over a three month period. The sound financial management of the Company, combined with an increase in membership, has meant it has taken positive steps in rebuilding the Company's reserves. However, there remains two key warnings against this positive backdrop. Firstly, its sound financial management does not detract from the Company's need to keep exploring additional income streams. The impact of acquiring the Small Business Support Grant in 2020 underlines how a relatively small additional source of income can have a positive impact on the finances of the Company but it also means a similar cost within a financial year would equally have a negative impact on the Company's finances. This underlines the second warning, the rising costs of all services that will impact the Company in 2022.

The STS Board understands that price increases will impact on members and is sympathetic to this. However, the Board is also aware that its own costs will significantly increase and membership fees have no increased for a number of years. It is for this reason the Board is proposing a ten percent price increase for all STS memberships for 2023. This proposal, if approved by the





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membership, will see a proportional increase that will allow STS to offer a low membership fee now set at £11, while the most expensive membership fee is set at £77. Fifty percent reductions on these fees will still be made available to those eligible to receive this discount.

Finally, in 2018 STS was handed direct control of the performance programme by sportscotland's Institute of Sport. Due to the ringfencing of this investment for performance use, the financial accounting for the performance programme runs in accordance with the investment cycle of sportscotland and is therefore reported for the period April 2021 to March 2022. During this period, the Company once again received investment of £80,000 for the delivery of the programme. Again, this investment was given some flexibility to allow for the unique set of circumstances around COVID-19. There were two key issues that impacted the use of this investment over this period. Firstly, two of the performance coaches for the programme are based outside of the UK and even though performance sport received some exemption to return to training, the pistol and shotgun (coaches based in Hungary and Italy respectively) were unable to travel to Scotland to run training camps with our athletes either due to COVID restrictions in Scotland and/or their own country. Secondly, on a more positive note, two of the STS rifle athletes were selected to represent Great Britain at the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. These factors combined have resulted in significantly larger investment by the performance programme in smallbore. While STS will always ensure that disciplines within the performance programme are given equal opportunity, investment in performance sport must be prioritised to ensure the programme achieves its outcomes. This not only ensures the programme continues to receive investment but improves the chances of this investment increases. Therefore, performance investment will not always see parity across the disciplines and 2021 is a reflection of this reality.

The Board of STS would like to express its thanks to its members and partners for the support they have shown to the Company's activities, especially during such a challenging year. We do not take this support for granted and will do all we can to provide a service of value to members and earning your continued support in 2022. This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption

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### Open Forum following the AGM

- Keith White asked if there was an opportunity for wheelchair users to participate in full bore shooting. Lindsay Peden explained Blair Atholl is the range most used for full bore shooting and accessibility to the firing point would be challenging. As part of the work on the Facilities Strategy accessibility of ranges is being looked at. It was noted that if there was an accessible range that could be accessed by a wheelchair then it would be possible to shoot sitting at a table, or if able to, lying prone. Tim Kidner as AMG Chair would be able to provide more information on accessible fullbore grounds.
- Charles Allan asked about the 'Scottish' tent at the Bisley meeting. He thought this was a benefit of membership and asked if that position had changed, given a proposed charge for accessing the Scottish tent as Bisley this year. OB explained that the decision had been taken by the AMG Chair but in his absence explained that he believed the decision had been taken this year because the costs for the tent have risen considerably and there was a concern for the AMG using the membership's money for a service which a very few members accessed. OB noted that it had created a bit of debate within the smallbore membership and it will be reviewed as to whether this would continue in future years. OB also mentioned that there is a discussion about STS working with the NSRA for the Scottish Meeting. OB noted that there may be an opportunity to see if a Scottish tent could be acquired through this partnership, in return for STS support at the Scottish Meeting.

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