



Irish Clay Target
Shooting Association

Irish Clay Target Shooting Association

**Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting of the Irish Clay Target Shooting Association
which took place on Friday 22nd October 2021 at Conference Center, Sport Ireland HQ.**

In Attendance

Hon. Chairman Erig Conway, Hon. Treasurer Nigel Sylvester, Hon. Secretary Nicola Elder, Provincial Directors Gerry Lawless and Malcolm Graham.

There was a total of 27 members in attendance which constituted a quorum.

Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman, Erig Conway welcomed everyone to the meeting, and he pointed out the fire exits. He asked everyone to stand for a minute's silence to remember members who had passed away during the year. He then established that there was a quorum present so that the meeting could go ahead.

Apologies

Apologies were sent from Mark McCourt, Matthew Sheedy, Ben Hushwaite, Anne Moore, Sean McGeehan, Oliver Gough, Gerald Gough, Gerald McCoy, Annaroi Milner, Barry McGann.

Chairman's Address

As you can imagine the last 18th months has been a trying period for the association and individuals within the association due to Covid-19. And the way the association found its financial state when we took over. I am glad to report that this is a lot better, and the association is on a sound financial footing, and the Honorary Treasurer will go through the finances and accounts in his report.

When we took over the association, we found ourselves in a situation that was neither of our making, or with a structured road map going forward. With €3000 in the bank account with a Revenue bill in and around the €25,000 due, I would like to thank the auditors Woods & Co for helping us to negotiate with Revenue to reduce that down to zero. I would also like to thank the executive team that are here, and those that pre-dated the team that are here, for all of the hard work that they have done to bring the association into the standing that is here and now today. It is not an enviable position when you take over an association that is in minus figures – “in the red” – and it is a daunting position to look at; especially when you have to look at telling board members that we are trading insolvently. Luckily, we have come out of that, and we are now trading “in the black”. Sport Ireland have increased their funding to the association from €25,000 to €30,000 in the high performance, and from €35,000 to €48,000 in core grant aid. This is a resounding vote of confidence in the association’s Executive and membership.

I would also like to thank Aidan Collins for the Junior Coaching program he has started. This has been particularly successful in Leinster, but we need coaches to come forward from the remaining provinces to come forward so that we can run this out all over Ireland and nationwide. Safeguarding and Child protection is now mandatory that every club and ground now has a Child Protection Officer. This is not negotiable. This is mandatory.

Our insurance policy, we have changes that as most of you are aware now, we are with Country Sports Ireland. Prior to that we had a group policy that was costing us in and around €35,000 a year. We have reduced that cost by going with Country Sports Ireland. By reducing the overheads as well as increasing the benefits to the individual member.

Tokyo 2020; I would like to thank Derek Burnett for representing the ICTSA and Ireland in the Tokyo 2020 games and returning a more than respectable 116 score. Aoife Gormally continues to progress at a great rate and retains her Sport Ireland carding with a 7th place finish at the European Championships in Croatia.

We now have a National Shooting Ground in Esker. It is a 30-year lease with a 20 year break clause – we are 2 years into it. The lease is available here tonight for anyone wanting to have a look at it and I think we should discuss this further under AOB.

Minutes from the 86th Annual General Meeting on 11th December 2019

A hardcopy of the minutes from the 86th AGM was available to all members at the meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any questions regarding the minutes; there was not.

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Gary Cunningham (C11230) and seconded by John Lee (L6163). The minutes were adopted.

Anti-Doping Officer' Report

Note: The Chairman apologised on behalf of the Anti-doping officer for his absence due to work commitments. For this reason, he had not prepared a report, and therefore the previous-years anti-doping report by Cian Merne was read and credited by Chairman Erig Conway. The Chairman noted that the report is a statement of fact and has not changed; and that is it a pre-requisite of Sport Ireland that this is to be read out.

This is a short address to communicate to you all the current situation for shooters regarding compliance with Anti-doping requirements and to highlight some of the resources that are available to you on the subject. It is also my final address as the ICTSA's Anti-doping officer as I am stepping down after 5 years in the role.

Anti-doping is administered by Sport Ireland (formerly the ISC) and the ICTSA is required to be in compliance with their Anti-doping rules. One of the duties of the Anti-doping Officer is to submit annual compliance reports to Sport Ireland and we cannot receive any funding if we fail to do so. This address is a required part of that compliance.

Anti-doping is taken very seriously by Sport Ireland and in 2018 nearly €1 million was spent just carrying out tests on Irish athletes. Domestically, over 1000 tests, both in and out of competition, are carried out by Sport Ireland in annually.

In the event that one of our athletes was to fail a dope test, it is Sport Ireland and not the ICTSA that deals with the situation and hands down sanctions in the event that a doping infringement has taken place. Bans currently range from 2 years to life. That ban would include participation in any of the ICTSA's domestic events such as registered shoots.

Therefore, it is very important that everyone eligible for testing is made aware of their responsibilities as athletes to be in compliance with the regulations. Currently, all ISSF/ESC and FITASC shooters are eligible for testing as the International Bodies are fully signed up with WADA. A number of Irish shooters have been tested at international events in the last few of years and with anti-doping becoming an even bigger issue facing sport the likelihood of a shooter being randomly tested is increasing all the time. It's not just those competing at internationals that may be tested. Sport Ireland can test eligible ICTSA members here in Ireland at any time.

Individual shooters can educate themselves about Anti-doping very easily. A number of useful resources are available on the Sport Ireland website under their Anti-doping section and all members are strongly urged to visit this website.

If you are taking any medication at all, either over the counter or prescription, it is strongly recommended that you visit the Eirpharm website at www.eirpharm.com or follow the link on

the Sport Ireland website to ascertain whether your medication is compliant or not. It only takes a couple of minutes and is very user friendly, you just type in the name of your medication, there is no need to research active ingredients, just use the brand name. There is also a smart phone app which you can download which will allow you to check your medicine on the go. Be careful to search the exact remedy you plan to take. For example, Lemsip is OK to take but Lemsip Max is not.

If you find that you are taking a medication which is banned or restricted in sport such as steroids, insulin and some types of blood pressure medications, you can apply for a therapeutic use exemption or TUE to prove that you need the medicine and are not taking it for performance enhancing reasons. Again, the procedure for applying for a TUE is outlined on the S.I. website. TUE's are issued when there is a genuine need for a particular medicine and no alternative is available. Some ICTSA members have been issued with TUE's so we know the issuing process works well. Olympic Trap and Skeet shooters should take note that the ISSF may also request copies of the medical records used to apply for a TUE from Sport Ireland. This reflects the tightening up of the TUE regime by the ISSF due to abuse by certain athletes and certain countries in other sports, some of which have been well publicized. The ISSF is very dedicated to keeping its shooting disciplines clean.

Please be aware that many over the counter remedies such as certain nasal decongestants and painkillers containing codeine will result in a positive test. Check everything you take, not just medications prescribed by your doctor. Also, be aware medications purchased here that are safe to use may not contain the same ingredients when purchased abroad. Take a domestically purchased supply away with you when you travel to avoid an accidental infringement, especially when travelling outside of the EU.

Also available online is Sport Irelands cleangreensport e-learning course, an interactive education programme about anti-doping. The ICTSA urges all members to do the course. Once you create a user account you can do it as and when it suits you and you will receive a certificate upon successful completion.

Another area that you need to be aware of is that of Dietary Supplements. These are an absolute minefield. Even if the ingredients on the package all check out as safe, there is no guarantee that what is actually in the packet is what it says. Recent laboratory tests showed that 14% of dietary supplements were contaminated with banned or restricted substances. Again, the Sport Ireland website provides information on how to check your supplements but this comes with a warning – supplements are not regulated like medicines, but instead as food, and just because one batch of supplements tested clear, it does not mean the next batch to leave the factory will do so. Issues with cross contamination and continually changing ingredients are very real risks for consumers. Advice is to avoid supplements unless you really need to take them. If you must take them, follow all the advice and guidelines on the Sport Ireland website to minimise the risk of a failed dope test.

Remember, athletes are solely responsible for ensuring they are compliant with Anti-doping regulations. It's your body – your responsibility. It will not be the ICTSA's fault if you failed to educate yourself and fail a test. Please take the time to inform yourselves.

Remember, doping is cheating and we all have a duty to keep the sport of clay pigeon shooting clean and a level playing field for all.

The Chairman again thanked Cian Merne for producing the report.

Honorary Secretary's Report

Thank you all for coming, your time is very much appreciated. It isn't easy to give up your spare time for the sport, but we are passionate about this so it is great to see you all here. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Nicola Elder, and I was appointed Honorary Secretary only 7 or 8 weeks ago, so I am going to keep this short and sweet as I don't have a lot to report in that short time. However, a tremendous amount of work has been done over the last 18 months, which is very clear to see in that short space of time I have been involved with the Executive board. It has been a difficult 18 months, with a global pandemic as well, so that is to be noted.

Should I remain in the role following this evening, I would like to focus on the improvement in communication we have with the grounds; I know some of you are aware that we have already started that project. And another piece of important communication is with the members so I want to make sure that we are providing regular social media posts, that we are keeping events in the calendar up to date, and similar items of that ilk.

I would really like to make sure we are also improving the visual communications of the Sport so that we can attract more members from outside the sport. You can see the facilities we have driven past this evening; FAI, IRFU etc – this is what everyone on the outside of our Sport can see, and we need to make sure we are bringing that level to attract new members, to attract funding, and to attract brands and sponsorship. We need to lift ourselves up, and that is something I am hoping to focus on.

The aftermath of Covid-19 should allow us to strengthen the structure we have within the Sport. We want to make sure that we have good facility to have volunteers coming forward and strong succession in roles – people who are involved in the sport for longer periods than myself for example, who is now in the Honorary Secretary role having not had any prior experience on the board. We shouldn't have this situation; we need to make sure people want to come forward, they want to help and that they are involved and train and ready to fulfil the role.

All of these points should help us secure more Sport Ireland funding which is really important. Between branding, new members and restructure; this is what I hope to bring to the role or the following year.

Honorary Treasurer's Report

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. For those of you that don't know me I am Nigel Sylvester. I joined the ICTSA Executive in October 2020, initially in a role to support and develop our use of technology in the Association. In the absence of a Treasurer, I was quickly drawn into a number of functions fulfilled by the Treasurer, and indeed the Stats Officer, particularly given that we needed to process 2021 subscriptions from November 2020, and we also needed to release 2021 classifications in time for the start of 2021.

In April of this year I (reluctantly) accepted the board's invitation to fill the Treasurer role for the current term.

I have found the work as part of your executive both fulfilling and demanding. I honestly don't believe the majority of our members have a full understanding of just how much work is involved running the association. I take my hat off to both the current executive, the regional executives, and also to members that previously filled roles on the executive and gave so much of their time freely, to develop, support and nurture the fabulous association that we have today. I think we Executive members all have a duty to both fulfill our day-to-day roles, but also to leave the association with the records, processes and financial stability to allow our successor to succeed from day 1.

I thought it might be useful for you to understand what the treasurer role has entailed for the past year. I have focused on a number of key areas:

- When I came into the role, I felt that our financial governance processes needed to be tightened up. I have put in place processes that include annual budgeting, and performance versus budget reported at monthly executive meetings, as well as my direct oversight and approval on all expenses/costs/payments from association funds.
- I have tightened up processes for payment of membership subscriptions, with the vast majority of renewals now only accepted via website. We also introduced early bird payment to encourage payment of the bulk of subs before 31 January. In 2021 all members have received a membership card with details of their insurance as well as membership details. We have implemented a process that despatches these cards to members no later than a week after their payment, allowing for ratification and card printing in the interim. Paid-up members for the 2021 year amounted to some 726 members, representing an increase of approximately 100 over 2020.

- I have made improvements to our major communication platform, our website, both in the back-end for transaction processing, and in the front end with new pages created and new content around shooting venues, coaches and so on.
- I have implemented an on-line booking system, which the executive felt was required to modernise the way members can book (and optionally pre-pay) for competition entries. The full book and prepay option was used very successfully for the recent 2021 Compak Irish Open. It may interest members to know in the last year we took 2931 competition bookings through the booking website.
- The 2019 accounts preparation and audit took a lot of effort and time. I will talk about these in more detail when we get to that agenda item
- We have put in place budgets and processes for a national junior coaching programme, and while the majority uptake for this has been in the Leinster region, it is my hope that more coaches will undergo Garda Vetting and training, and the programme will expand more fully countrywide next year. My great thanks and admiration to Aidan Collins in particular, who has run training sessions across 5 venues and this year had no less than 109 attendee sessions. I firmly believe that junior development is a cornerstone to the future of our sport.
- My thanks to Martin Gavigan for stepping into the Stats Officer role in 2021. Together we processed all competition results for 2020 over a few weeks in November and December, and released the first member classification report on 2nd January of this year. This report gets updated and republished weekly as members pay their subs for the year. Martin also processes all competition results as they come in after every weekend, and then passes them onto me for publishing.
- I have tightened up processing of competition levies, with clubs required to pay levies due into our account within 7 days of the competition event. My thanks to the majority of clubs who follow this procedure. There are a few laggards, who know who they are, and who I continue to chase for on-time payment.
- I have worked with our Chairman to complete our bi-annual returns and reports to Sport Ireland, one of a few key requirements in order to receive our annual funding.
- Coming into 2021 there were a number of unpaid creditors, and an element of our work this year was to fully understand who was owed how much, to plan for settling these debts and finally to pay them. I am happy to say that our financial prudence this year has allowed us to clear all outstanding creditors from last year.
- There was an amount of work wrapping up 2019 WESP, in particular following up and reconciling of unpaid prizes. We made provision for these in 2019 accounts, more on that later in the agenda.
- One of our biggest focus areas at this time of year is publishing the competition calendar for the new year. While the task groups are responsible for agreeing events and dates

with venues, there is a further element of work to load these into the calendar on the website. Last year we achieved my objective of publishing the full calendar by 31 December, only to have that thrown into disarray by COVID. Nevertheless for 2022 we will once again aim to have a full calendar published before 2021 year end. I think this is important, as it allows our members to plan their year including holidays etc around events that are important to them.

- Finally, it is always nice to be able to handover an element of work, and I was delighted to welcome Nicola Elder onto the executive. One of Nicola's areas of expertise is communication, and I was pleased to be able to handover the news section of the website to Nicola, as well as updates to social media channels such as Facebook. I am sure you will all agree that Nicola has brought an immediate uplift in the quality and frequency of content, something that I simply didn't have time to devote to. Going forward into the new year I will still maintain the subscription payments and competitions elements of the website.

As a famous man once said "lots done, lots more to do". Looking forward there are a few focus areas for your Treasurer:

- We are planning to implement a simple cloud based accounting system in to process both our incomings and outgoings, and also to automate monthly management reports and help with the generation of year-end reports.
- You may have seen our advertising for a part-time administrator. Your organisation is just too big and busy to rely on a team solely comprised volunteers that all have a day job. We have had a good response, and our plans are to have this part-time employee in place sometime in November. That person will take a lot of the repetitive tasks off the hands of the treasurer and the Stats Officer, and will look after things like processing membership payments, ordering cards, distributing and collecting back competition files, publishing results and so on.
- We are busy with 2020 accounts, and the audit of same, which we expect to present to (another) AGM early in 2022.
- We will be launching processing of 2022 subs from 1 November on the website and expect a busy period right through to end of January processing same.

That wraps up my report, I'm happy to take questions either now or after we look at the 2019 accounts later in the agenda.

There were no questions.

Financial Statements and the Reports of the Auditor for the year ended 31st December 2019

The Chairman handed the meeting over to the Treasurer Nigel Sylvester in the absence of Auditors.

You all have a copy of the Financial Report there, and I have also created a small analysis of the World English Sporting 2019 outgoings which are only a single line in the accounts, but you may want to talk through.

The easiest way to tackle this is to walk you through the accounts; there are a few sections which I think are important and will warrant further discussion and explanation, and we can take questions on those sections as we get to them.

The first 2 pages provide our company information and this is statutory information that is required by the CRO office for filing our reports. The next page is the Directors report; the principal activities, the business review and highlight of essential items. And you will see that we have the 2 items that I am sure tonight will form a discussion around the World English Sporting event in 2019 and also the “sale” and acquisition of the National Shooting Grounds and new National Shooting Grounds.

Then there are some summary statements about assets and liabilities; you will notice that there is a surplus in the results of €364,000. Our assets increased by €293,000 and our liabilities have decreased by €71,000, resulting in an increase in assets of €360,000.

At the end of that you can then see the end of the Directors report which you can all read at your leisure as a lot of it is straight forward and standard.

There is a page outlining the Directors’ responsibilities, and they are primarily focused around us confirming and ascertaining that the association is a growing concern. And then from page 5 is the Auditors report. The Auditors have given us a clean unqualified report of all the figures. They did note that they were not present and hence not able to validate stock - I know this was a discussion on the 2018 accounts - and likewise at the end of 2019 they were not present for a stock take, however the stocking figure is only €3500 and could be considered immaterial in the overall scheme of our accounts. The Auditors report runs through to page 7.

On page 8 is the summary statement of income and expenditure. I think in going through this, I would like to take you to the very last page of the document first of all, to look at the income of the organisation.

If you go to page 23...

- The income of the organisation from the normal operation, affiliation fees etc, was largely unchanged.
- Sport Ireland increased our core grant funding from €38k to €45k.
- Shooters levies dropped a little bit.
- But the first item that obviously is a big number and wasn't there the year before was the World English Sporting income. And this is the income from entry fees and other incomes attributed to that specific event, which many of you shot in Dowth.
- The other big exceptional item is the income from leaving the National Shooting Grounds; a fee of €535k was paid for that – which effectively paid for the move into the new National Shooting Grounds in Esker.

So those are the exceptional income items. Moving on to the expenses side:

- On page 8 there is a single line item there for administrative expenses €546k – and the full details of this is on the very back of the pack; page 24
- The first item that jumps out at you that is certainly above the previous year is “legal and professional”. The increase in the “legal and professional” field is primarily due to the legal fees around the move of the National Shooting Grounds. This signing of the new lease and so on and so on.
- “Depreciation” has obviously increased. Depreciation is solely attributable to the new assets in the National Shooting Grounds and the depreciation there on.
- And likewise there is a line item for “Amortisation of Intangible Assets” – these are the intangible assets that were acquired at the time of the move to Esker. Good will etc. And those are written off on a straight-line basis over the 20 years of the lease and amount to the €10k a year cost in the income statement.
- And then finally there is the very last line; the cost of the English World Sporting. World English Sporting costs are obviously a substantial item. I can tell you that the underlying transitions and payments that make up this €316k are many hundreds of items. What I have tried to do here is give you an idea of what some of these actually were and how it came to be such a large total. These should always be viewed in the perspective of the fact that the revenues were only €188k at a cost of €316k which leaves a shortfall of some €130k to pay for that event here in Ireland.
 - So big items: international referees. There were a lot of referees brought to Ireland to run this event. They were all paid a wage and that added up to €33k.
 - There was a lot of catering which comprised of catering to staff, referees and volunteers etc on the ground. As well as a payment of about €5k that was a baseline payment for one of the caterers to set-up the barbeque catering on site – how that worked was we paid them a fee and then we took a revenue from the food sales.
 - There a big sum of money for travel and hotels; primarily around referees again – flights from the UK and to house them for the week.

- Course design fee paid to Richard Faulds
- Prizes
- There's a few things grouped together here in personal expenses; these included wages paid to personnel, personal fuel, Red Cross, Security, Car Parking attendants... all make up that line.
- There is a big some for "Traps, Targets, and Equipment Hire"; clays, batteries, signage and printing etc...
- Also another big item – many different things in "miscellaneous" – some were ICTSF fees, clothing, scorecards, flowers, live music, tractor hire, media, and so on.
- Then the last element "Fixtures and Equipment" and in this line item are things like the Marquees (hire and erection), generator hire, and the equipment list went on and on and on.

So that is the break down of those. From a personal point of view, my own perspective on this particular event... this was the first time the Irish association had tried to run an event like this, of this scale and certainly in the Sporting disciplines, and certainly in more recent times, and I got that feeling when I was talking to people around the world to get prizes to them – a mission in itself – but most people thought this was a fantastic event, one of the best that they had ever been to. I think that budgeting and the various items that make up all these €316k expenses, they caught up with the organisers close to the event, the bills kept coming and lots of things that they hadn't forecast to arrive; and what it has given us is that if we ever wanted to do something like this again – it has given us a much more comprehensive budget of actually what the costs are to run an event of this scale and we would be in a much better position to put together a proper project budget to run the event, and plan more successfully to break even or make a profit.

But it is what it is. Those are the costs of the World English Sporting – the money is spent. They are offset by the transaction in the move of the National Shooting Grounds which yielded effectively a profit which was converted into assets in our new National Shooting Grounds, so at the end of the year, the bottom line of the financial statements for 2019 show a significant surplus for the year.

I don't need to go through the balance sheet in any great detail; there are no huge moves. It is worth pointing out that this time we only had €12k in the bank – Erig mentioned earlier that the next year got worse – but we are very much on an upwards trajectory now – right now we have well over €30k, possibly €40k now actually in the bank; we don't have any creditors knocking on our door every day like they were 6 or 8 months ago, and I am quietly confident and optimistic that we are on a very sound and stable financial footing. But at the end of 2019 we did only have €12k in the bank and certainly took a lot of diligent work from this executive and the previous executives to turn our balance sheet around in that way.

Ok, so with that I will open the floor to questions.

John Lee (L6163) asked if there was a breakdown of the income figure for the World English Sporting, to see how much of it was the Entry Fees.

Honorary Treasurer explained that there is a breakdown, but he did not have it with him. The Auditors were expected to be present to go through this, however due to a Covid-19 issue they are in isolation.

John Lee (L6163) explained that it occurs to him that where WESP when wrong was that the Entry Fee was way too low for the size of the event.

Hon Treasurer agreed with that opinion. Nigel explained that when you look at next years WESP in Texas the fees are roughly twice what we charged. He mentioned that from a Revenue side, the USA also have a lot of corporate sponsorship, although he noted we also had one generous sponsor too, but in the US they have a very big market that would exceed ours – and even with that in mind they are asking for a significantly higher entry fee. Another source of revenue could have been to run more side events; the USA have 10-12 events in the week, where we only had two. Nigel explained that a lot of the costs don't change is you run 3 events or 12 events, but the revenue would increase exponentially, so if an event like that were to run again, he would advise to have more side events for revenue; 5-stand, Fitasc, Sub-gauge etc...

David Dillon (L8671) asked if the board have seen the budget produced for this event. He asked if there was a budget done.

Hon Treasurer confirmed that there was a budget done and that he has seen it. His one comment on it is that the actual costs run to many hundreds of lines – even in his summary print out there are listed 15-20 main categories, and his estimation is that a quarter of those main items weren't foreseen in the budget.

Hon Treasurer asked for any further questions. There were none.

The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder for the accounts. Pax Fox (L5512) proposed, and Eugene O'Hagan (L511) seconded.

Remuneration of the Auditors

A motion to authorise the Directors to fix the Remuneration of the Auditors, Woods and Partners was put forward by the National Executive at between €2000 and €3000 for 2020. The motion was proposed by Gary Cunningham (C11230) and seconded by Robert Cox (L11083).

Election of the Executive Committee

As there were no nominations put forward, and all Outgoing positions were standing for re-election, it was suggested that the block vote was taken. This was proposed by Michael Moriarty (L9223) and seconded by Pat Fox (L5512).

No objections, and no abstentions.

Hon Chairman – Erig Conway

Hon Treasurer – Nigel Sylvester

Hon Secretary – Nicola Elder

Provincial Directors nominated by Leinster Province - Mark McCourt

Provincial Directors nominated by Connaught Province - Gerard Lawless

Provincial Directors nominated by Ulster Province - Malcolm Graham

Provincial Directors nominated by Munster Province - Matthew Sheedy

Resolutions received in accordance with regulation 17(b)

There were no resolutions or motions proposed.

Any Other Business

The Chairman asked was there any other business or questions.

Pat Donaghy (C1277) explained he had a couple of things he wanted to clarify; it was in the minutes from the previous AGM that a 50-year lease was hard to come by. He stated that prior to Rooney family buying Esker Shooting Grounds Pat Donaghy had a 50-year lease for a minimum sum agreed with the parish committee at Esker - the ICTSA was given the same option of a 50-year lease but it was declined. Pat explained that the executive at the time would do their own negotiations, and then ended up with a 30-year lease with the sum agreed. Pat said to clarify that Esker Shooting Grounds did not buy Esker. The Rooney family approached Pat to sell Esker, subject to the ICTSA's approval, which did happen and Pat explain that should probably have never come into the ICTSA's pocket. That transaction was meant to be between the Rooney family and Esker Shooting Grounds, but he explained that in his opinion ego-driven individuals decided to do their own thing and go their own way, and that's why there is a 30 year lease with a subject to change at 20 years. Pat said to the floor that he is happy to answer any questions on his experience of this that people have.

Hon Chairman explained to the floor that Pat Donaghy was the previous chairman of Esker Shooting Grounds. The lease we have is a 30-year lease with a 20 year break clause, meaning we can walk away or the parish can walk away in 20 years.

Pat Donaghy (C1277) wanted to add that the parish will not be walking away in 20- years; they are more than glad to see the ICTSA in there as long as they keep their nose clean. Pat stated that you will not have a problem with the parish in Esker, they are glad to see shooting in there.

Hon Chairman said he does not disagree with Pat. Pat sold an asset, a buyer was found, a deal was done and we are on the terms and conditions that we are on. Nobody knows what will happen after 20 years – it is what it is. Erig explained we need to develop a plan for Esker and move forward; DTL is going well there with Gerry Lawless and Gary Cunningham “sweating the asset” as much as they can; ABT is running, the John Wickham will be there soon, Rob Devereux is running some Sporting and Compak. Erig stated that the next big expenditure for the ICTSA to look at is buying Sporting Traps for Esker, and how to finance that. He pointed out that Esker is on our desk now and we need to plan to do big things with it. 3 HCIT events next year mean that ABT and OSK will be down there so there needs to be development. It is an asset that needs to be sweated and that’s it.

Gerry Jordan (C1307) said it was his understanding at the time that it was the Rooney families responsibility to find a new Shooting Grounds to move the ICTSA out of Ashbourne, and that the ICTSA were not to be involved in that process – was there a tax implication to the ICTSA with the fact that the money was processed through the ICTSAs account and then on to Pat?

Hon Chairman said the only tax implication was stamp duty in relation to the lease. He stated that himself and Tomas Plunkett from Woods and Co got on to the revenue and got that down to zero.

Gerry Jordan (C1307) asked Pat Donaghy what the idea was of the ICTSA stepping in? Why was there an intervention when the deal was meant to be between the Rooney Family and Pat Donaghy?

Pat Donaghy (C1277) said he cannot answer that question. His opinion is Ego.

Gary Cunningham (C11230) asked to clarify that the money did not actually touch the ICTSA’s account?

Hon Chairman confirmed that it didn’t – it went through Lemans client account. But that the ICTSA were the Net Beneficiary of it.

Michael Moriarty (L9223) pointed out that it is in the accounts report though...

Hon Treasurer explained that what we mean is that the money didn’t go into our current account – it went into an Esker account in Lemans.

Michael Moriarty (L9223) said in conclusion that really at the end of the day the whole this was down to bad management and bad governance, the whole lot, and that it is the same for the World English Sporting as well?

Hon Treasurer suggested to treat the two separately. He thinks that in terms of Esker, he doesn't believe that was a bad decision there. There is an asset that has been professionally valued, the valuation has been assessed and is fair. There may be an argument over whether we have a 50 year or a 30 year lease, and he want party to any of those decisions - and probably no one else in the room was either – but at the end of the day we have a 30 year lease and who knows even whether shooting will exist in 30 years' time in the way we know it – certainly with issues being put forward by environmentalists etc – so whether it is a 30 year lease or a 50 year lease, we are in year 2 so at the moment it doesn't make a big difference to us. And at the end of the 30 years there is nothing to stop us from renegotiating another 30 years. And in terms of the assets themselves when you look at the fixed, tangible, and intangible assets, if you want to go and build Esker from scratch right now you might not even get the planning permission process completed for €500k. At the end of the day, it is a fabulous facility, so he stated he doesn't think we should look at this as a bad decision, but as a fantastic asset to our organisation and we should be proud of it.

Michael Moriarty (L9223) pointed out that it was the way it was operated that is the problem. Going back a couple of years ago there were emails going around where the executive were contacted and were even asked to put this off, and at the end of the day it was rushed through the week before the previous AGM, and as Pat said a couple of big egos were around, and the membership of the association didn't have anything to do with it.

Hon Treasurer explained he couldn't say one way or the other what the motives or the reasons were for the executive making that decision at that time.

Butch Kyle (L005) stated that he was the last surviving trustee of Ashbourne, and at no stage was I even contacted.

Hon Treasurer in relation to the second point of Michael Moriarty's question about WESP; he agreed that certainly if you look at the financial performance of the World English Sporting it could have been better managed financially but explained that when talking to people involved in the running of the event that in the end there were all these bills that just kept coming – it was weeks from the event, very hard to pull the plug and very hard to turn it around at that stage, and again it is what it is; it is not pretty reading.

Michael Moriarty (L9223) said that they were offered advice and that they wouldn't take it. Again, as Pat said it's down to ego.

Hon Chairman stated that as David Dillon said previously, and the Chairman confirmed he had see the emails repeatedly-repeatedly asking for a budget and never got one – he was one of the

main protagonists at the event, as the manager on behalf of Devenish. Erig said that as we can see...

Pat Fox (L5512) said it is water under the bridge.

Hon Chairman agreed it is water under the bridge.

Michael Moriarty (L9223) said that the unfortunate thing is that if the opportunity came around for us again, surely the ICTSF are going to have plenty of questions...

Hon Chairman stated that to be honest he feels the ICTSF has a lot of questions to answer – they washed their hands of it. They easily just said its an Irish problem and let them sort it out. The basic governance of where the contract was between the ICTSA and ICTSF; Erig stated he still hasn't seen one to this date. He said they say there is a draft in dropbox but not a signed one. Erig questioned how you can have the Chairman of the host association and the Treasure of the venue association both signed the same document, from the same nation, to host an event on behalf of the ICTSF – without them having any financial risk makes no sense – it is a conflict of interest straight away. He said that the ICTSF don't see that.

Robert Devereux (L10663) there was a lot of help offered and was refused. They paid for outside help which they paid thousands and thousands more for.

Hon Chairman said he was aware of that and you can see it in the report.

Michael Moriarty (L9223) stated 55k there..

Pat Donaghy (C1277) stated that he has run 2 World Championships himself. This first time he was offered help from outside Ireland, and he refused it; his attitude was that we could do it ourselves. He had 26 names down for referees, and he only needed 16 the first morning, and he could put 16 referees on as no one turned up. "Our own will let us down. I hate to say it, but our own will let us down" he explained. The next Worlds he had English referees with help from some Irish referees as well but he had a man at each stand. It is sad to say that but it's true.

Hon Chairman said he doesn't disagree but that is why Pat Fox has started up a referees group. English Sporting and the Sporting Disciplines in this association have seen an increase in cheating – and at the moment if we hold a major event we don't have the referees. Pat is now training them so that we can come past that. Net year referees will be mandatory for all registered shoots – yes we will have teething problems. But we will keep trying.

David Dillon (L8671) back to the point of bad management – he couldn't agree more that there was a lot of unknown stuff about the Worlds. He knows that the head referee Ian Mansfield landed in Dublin airport on Tuesday with 21 referees who had no accommodation, despite David handing over accommodation contacts the previous year to book accommodation and it wasn't done. As well as that, the chief inspector from Meath rang to say that if he didn't get a full report on the logistics, safety plan, emergency plan, access routes, vendors, insurance etc he was going to shut it down; this was on Monday before the event happened on Wednesday, because their

hadn't been any communication with the Chairman. David stated that he had told the Chairman this needed to be done the previous December, and the Chairman did nothing about it. David said fortunately he had experience in this before from Dowth Point-to-Point so was able to get it done and drove it to Navan Garda station on the Monday, to get it resolved. There's a lot of stuff people don't know about the Worlds in the 11th hour, and that was down to bad management.

***Hon Treasurer** said he whole heartedly agreed. He has spoken to a lot of people sorting out the financial affairs of the event, and the same story repeats. There were too few people trying to manage it, too many balls up in the air, lots of stuff arriving in that they hadn't planned for, like the Garda report you mentioned. But it is behind us and the thing as an organisation that we mustn't do is not learn the lessons. If we do another event like that and don't use the lessons learned for that particular event, that would be very foolish.*

***David Dillon (L8671)** agreed and said he felt we could hold the same event again for a lot less money.*

***Hon Treasurer** added that there were some less-than-happy stakeholders in the whole event – Ian Mansfield being one of them. But actually, we mustn't forget that there was an enormous amount of competitors who came to the World English Sporting and thought it was one of the best events they ever went to. And they count for an awful lot.*

The Honorary Chairman asked if there were any further points to add.

***Butch Kyle (L005)** I would just like to congratulate and thank the committee for getting us out of the fire and putting our reputation back where it should be in World shooting.*

***Hon Chairman** thank you, that is greatly appreciated.*

(Round of applause from the floor.)

***Hon Chairman** pointed out that some of the people involved in the early days of that might not be present. Tom Cummins, Gary Cunningham (present) and others have come and gone along the way. Erig stressed that it is a group effort here; unfortunately, there is a lot of work and a lot of hours that are required in this.*

***Hon Chairman** explained the Sporting Task Group asked Erig to make a presentation to Billy Kearns with A Lifetime Achievement Award - for giving a lifetime to Shooting; he has taught many juniors and has help the sport throughout the years.*

(Round of applause from the floor.)

Date for the 88th Annual General Meeting

The Chairman asked the floor if they would mind not setting an exact date for the 88th AGM, and would accept the commitment to the first or second week of January 2022 as the accounts for 2020 will be finished in the next few weeks. The floor agreed, no objections.

Meeting Closure

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close.