



**Irish Clay Target
Shooting Association**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

Dear Members,

After a difficult 18 months of living with a global pandemic, we are pleased to be in a position to address the membership with a number of positive updates for 2021...

Revenue

The current executive has managed to steady a financially turbulent ship and we are pleased to confirm that the ICTSA is currently in a financially stable position, with all creditors paid.

Membership and Insurance

- While writing this report, the membership total stands at 713 members. In 2020 there were 630 members, and with a lockdown for the first half of this year, surpassing that number is extremely positive.
- We have seen a surge in new membership in 2021, with 15% of the membership being new members (over 100 new members).
- The partnership with Country Sports Ireland has benefitted members as it extends members' insurance to all Fieldsports, including game shooting.
- The issuing of membership cards has resumed.
- We have been able to maintain the membership fees for 2022 renewals at €125, with the early bird offer running as it did last year.

National Shooting Ground

- The National Shooting Ground has been running shoots throughout the summer; DTL, ABT, National Skeet and Sporting. We look forward to bringing Olympic Skeet to the ground in the near future.
- Following the Irish Open Sporting 2021, Compak Sporting has been made available from Friday-Sunday weekly.
- Investment into the National Shooting Ground has been made with 2 new DTL traps.
- The Irish Open DTL 2021 was held at Esker, and had the highest ever number of entries recorded for that event.

National Junior Coaching Programme

- There is a focus on the future of our sport, in the form of our Junior members. The National Coaching Programme funding is open to all Coaches and ICTSA affiliated grounds.
- All coaches must have completed Garda Vetting and a Child Protection Course (2 hours online) which are provided by the ICTSA.
- The programme is multi-discipline.
- The Leinster Academy with Aidan Collins has been going from strength to strength, with great support from the participating grounds. We look forward to seeing other provinces take their lead.

Updating Digitally

- All disciplines can avail of the online booking system.
- The membership payment system has been moved to Stripe for better security, and also better user experience.
- Resource pages on the website have been updated and enhanced; including venue pages which now hold more information about each ground, and there is now a list of ICTSA affiliated coaches on the website.

Competitions

- After the global challenges of 2020, we were pleased to have Irish Clay Target Shooting represented at the Tokyo Olympics by athlete Derek Burnett. Derek's performance, despite the difficulties of training during Covid-19, left him just 2 targets out of 125 from an Olympic final. Derek is one of just 3 athletes in Irish history to have competed in 5 Olympic games. Congratulations Derek.
- After missing the 2020 Home Countries International Tournaments it has been great to see 3 teams manage to safely travel and compete in the 2021 HCITs; DTL, ABT and OT. This has been made possible by their relevant task groups and team managers, who have worked hard to make this happen.
- Another piece of history was made at the Irish Open DTL 2021 with Bernadette Quinn being the first female in Ireland to score the perfect 100/300. Congratulations to Bernie, and we look forward to seeing more.
- Over the years the sport has accumulated many highly esteemed and valuable trophies, many of which are now in the process of being renovated, and even located in some cases.

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of long serving members, friends, and contributors to our sport. This sport is nothing without the people in it; if it was just about breaking clays then there would be no competitions, teams, or associations.

With our competition entries ahead of budget for this year, we anticipate that this healthy growth in participation brings further progression, performance, and passion as all eyes turn to HCIT 2022 and Paris 2024.



Warm regards,

The National Executive Board Members

Chairman - Erig Conway

Hon Treasurer - Nigel Sylvester

Hon Secretary - Nicola Elder

Provincial Directors - Malcolm Graham

Mark McCourt

Matthew Sheedy

Gerry Lawless