

# **Irish Clay Target Shooting Association**

**Minutes of the 86<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Irish Clay Target Shooting Association which took place on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2019 in the Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.**

## **In Attendance**

Hon. Chairman Peter Hanafin, Hon. Treasurer Conor Mooney, Hon. Secretary Noel Conroy, Provincial Directors Evan Hoban, Kieran Harney, Paul O'Hara, Ken Rowlands and Darragh Fitzgerald.

Also present was the Auditor, Mr. Tomás Plunkett from Woods and Partners, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors.

There was a total of 79 members in attendance which constituted a quorum.

## **Welcome by the Chairman**

The Chairman, Peter Hanafin welcomed everyone to the meeting and he pointed out the fire exits. He asked everyone to stand for a minutes 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**

There were no apologies.

## **Minutes from the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2018**

A hardcopy of the minutes from the 85<sup>th</sup> AGM was available to all members at the meeting. The minutes were then read by the Secretary. The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes, Mick Murphy (L10434) said there was a paragraph missing from page 7 where Peter Meade (L9130) had asked about €10,000 given to the World Sporting and Fitasc teams, the Secretary directed Mick to page 5 where the paragraph was found. Mick stated that it should have been on page 7, the Chairman asked Mick if he was happy enough with the minutes even though the paragraph was not in the correct order, it was contained in the minutes, Mick said he was happy enough. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by John Lee (L6163) and seconded by Martin Gavigan (L10917). The minutes were adopted.

## **Chairman's Address**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome you all here tonight to the 86th AGM of our Association.

Another year has passed and I would like to apologise for the delay in holding our 86th AGM. The reason the Executive took this decision to postpone the AGM back in April was to allow us deal with the continuing negotiations that were taking place with the Rooney family on securing our National Shooting Grounds.

As most of you are aware, they decided to sell their lands which we were renting for so many years and with no lease in place which complicated matters. The decision to postpone was not taken lightly but the risk of a change at the top table at the originally scheduled AGM in April could in turn have led to a sudden change of policy from a new board. So after taking legal opinion we concluded that the risk of legal challenge was very possible if the sale of the lands had fallen through with the Rooney family as they could have pursued us for costs for the loss of sale as all parties had committed to the deal weeks before the planned AGM last April. Considering now what a small few tried to do by bullying the Executive on social media, for example, posting false statements such as "The Executive sold Ashbourne" and also attempting to turn the membership against us strengthens the fact that the right decision was made to postpone the AGM as it was in fact the land owner who was selling his lands and not the Executive.

I have noted this unacceptable behaviour and the person or persons who attempted to bring the Association into disrepute by making false statements have been noted with the Executive. If re-elected as Chairman here tonight I will have no option but strive to ensure the Executive implement fully the social media policy including any relevant sanctions that may apply. It is imperative that volunteers and I stress the word volunteers, who have come on board and taken much time from their very busy personal lives to do the very best they can for our sport are protected from insulting and bullying behaviours. If this is not kept under control then I fear for the future of our sport as no person will willingly wish to put themselves forward as volunteers in the firing line of such abuse.

Let me be clear, I have no problem with people having a difference of opinion. However, if people feel strongly enough there are proper avenues for dealing with grievances such as calling EGM's where the matter can be dealt with by the membership in a mature and respectful manner without publically damaging the reputation of Executive members and the Association for all to see. This behaviour has a wider damaging effect on the sport as a whole and people need to consider the bigger picture.

On a positive note, now that our new home is secured, members can look forward to the development of a project of this kind where our association can become something other Associations are crying out for and I look forward to seeing you all while attending shoots over the coming months and year ahead. Hopefully members will venture towards trying out different disciplines when paying a visit to the new National Shooting Grounds.

Another achievement for 2018 was the confirmation of Ireland hosting the ICTSF World Sporting in 2019 at the Lands of Dowth in Slane, Co. Meath, owned by Owen Brennan of Devenish Nutrition. Firstly, I would like to thank Owen Brennan for allowing us to use his lands. This was an amazing venue with compliments coming from shooters all over the world. I would also like to thank Devenish Nutrition for also sponsoring the event by topping up the overall high gun prize with €5,000 and A ONE to committing to feeding us at the opening ceremony. I would also like to give a special thank you to Member David Dillon for his involvement in securing this venue for the World Sporting, a location which was one of a kind and all his efforts in making it one to remember. Not forgetting the volunteers, too many to name out here tonight, who thanks for their help and commitment ensured the successful running of such an event of magnitude proportions.

I have asked the Treasurer to have a full financial review and report from the Auditors which will be included on this event in the 2019 AGM, but early indications would suggest an over spend of approximately €30,000 made up of unforeseen costs at the time of planning with the build on a green field site.

This past year, the association continued its growth through the lapsed members and new members joining. I'm delighted to say our membership for 2018 was 827. We have also seen numbers increase in attendance at our events held by grounds around the country. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the grounds for their hard work. It's not easy at times but much appreciated.

I'd like to congratulate all our members who took part in International and World events both at home and abroad. It is clear that the standard of shooting within our membership has grown from strength to strength and it's great to see the large collection of silverware our teams and individuals have won to date. I would like to once again thank Sport Ireland for their continued support of our association. We have maintained our funding of €36,000 core funding and €25,000 for high performance funding with Aoife Gormally receiving €20,000 in carding. This is a result of the continued hard work and good relations we have with Sport Ireland and their confidence in us as an NGB and I'd like to thank Conor Mooney and Shane Corrigan for their involvement in making this possible.

Before I finish I want to sincerely thank the National Executive for taking the time to deal with all matters arising during the year with dedication and professionalism. I would also like to sincerely thank those volunteers who maintain the leaderboards, along with those involved in the various task groups and all other individuals who help in the smooth and successful running of our association.

Once again it's important to remember that the board is run by volunteers giving up their personal time to help in the effective management of our association.

On a final note, if unsuccessful in re-election later tonight, I would just like to say my time as Chairman was for me one to remember and I am proud to have sat as chair and been involved in many initiatives and developments over the past 3 years with current and past executive

members. It was an honour to work with these people and some of the highlights that have stood out for me are as follows

- Changing our constitution to allow one man one vote.
- The opportunity to showcase shooting in Ireland around the world when hosting the DTL Worlds, Europeans along with the ICTSF World Sporting for the first time in the Association's history.
- My efforts in bringing people back together and into our Association and in turn helping our membership and confidence grow year on year.
- The work in rebuilding of relationships with other Associations.
- Involvement of hosting so many Home internationals in such a professional manner along with treasurer, Conor Mooney.
- And finally to top it all off securing a New National Shooting Grounds for our Association for the decades ahead.

To finish up, I want to wish all our members here tonight the very best of shooting in the year ahead. Thank You.

David Dillon (8671) said that the World Sporting was a great event and that Dowth was the right place to host it. He said that when the ICTSA were awarded the running of the event he contacted the Chairman to say he had the perfect place to host the event. He said he met with the Chairman and the Treasurer in Dowth. David mentioned a figure of €30,000 that he said was to be paid to Devenish by the ICTSA for the event and that the grounds would be returned back in the condition they got them. He also said that Devenish sponsored €10,000, €5,000 to the prize fund and €5,000 to the opening ceremony. David said tree surgeons were working onsite in the month leading up to the event and they were also kept on during the event for maintenance which cost €13,000 which Devenish paid for. David said he got a group of volunteers to do work before and after the event none of whom were paid and they didn't look to get paid, he said he worked on the grounds for 3 months before and a month after the event without pay, he didn't expect to get paid. He said he did expect the Chairman to answer his phone calls regarding suppliers who hadn't been paid and who were contacting him looking to be paid. He said he had to go to the Devenish Company Solicitor because suppliers were going to Devenish looking for payment. He said the Solicitors advised him to contact one of the other Directors, which he did, he contacted Kieran Harney and Kieran worked with him and eventually things got sorted out.

The Chairman responded by saying that the €30,000 figure wasn't mentioned at their initial meeting. He also said that David spent €5,000 on flowers that was never authorised. David said there was no money spent on flowers, shrubs were bought for planters, the Chairman said that cost €4,800 and that he didn't authorise the purchase of the shrubs. The Chairman said that all suppliers were paid after the event, it was a couple of months afterwards but they were paid. He said there was an issue with CCI, he said there was a verbal agreement with CCI that for every container of clays bought CCI would sponsor another container but that didn't happen. He reiterated that CCI were the only suppliers not paid in full, that CCI were paid half the amount.

Erig Conway (L8435) said that CCI were not paid half the amount they were paid just under €10,000 and that there's a balance of about €20,000 still owed. The Chairman agreed there was about €20,000 outstanding. The Chairman said that the sponsorship deal will have to be sorted out. Erig then asked the Chairman if the Association had received any Solicitors letters from CCI. The Chairman and Treasurer both said they hadn't. Erig said the letter was served by a processing agent to the ICTSA's registered address and he had an email confirming this. The Secretary asked Erig to send the email to the Secretary's email address, which he did.

The Chairman said that he had an agenda to stick to and that David Dillon had made his feelings known on this matter. David again said the Chairman mentioned the €30,000 figure for the event. The Chairman reiterated that he did not give that €30,000 figure to David because they didn't know how much the event would make. The Chairman was then asked why he wouldn't answer David's phone calls, he said that David had left a rude voicemail on his phone, David refuted this and said that his job was under threat because of suppliers calling to his workplace looking for money, the Chairman said his point was noted.

Matt Dunne (L5355) said that the Chairman's position was untenable, he said David Dillon could have lost his job and that the Chairman "threw him under the bus". The Chairman said he did not "throw him under the bus".

The Secretary stated for the record that no email was received from CCI regarding the legal documents and they had not received anything by registered letter either.

### **Honorary Secretary's Report**

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Noel Conroy, I was nominated as a Munster representative at the National Executive and subsequently co-opted onto the Board of the ICTSA in October 2018. In that time I have learnt a lot about the ICTSA.

I have experienced and witnessed dedication and sacrifice by those across the Association. And that is required to make the ICTSA work. From the shooting grounds, their volunteers and staff, the task groups, sub committees, coaches, team managers, administrators, coordinators, the ICTSA does not work without this volunteer force. And it doesn't work without the support of you, the membership.

In my short time as Honorary Secretary I have had first hand experience of the daily efforts and the time that is put into the ICTSA by my Executive colleagues and particularly during the recent period of great test and change within the Association. I congratulate my Executive colleagues Ken, Paul, Evan, Kieran, Malachy, Darragh, Joe and particularly Peter and Conor for their efforts and the brave and difficult decisions that they have made in the past 14 months while I have been involved. Well done lads.

Finally in relation to Irelands International challenge, I'll reiterate our Chairman's words and acknowledge that of the Ireland team members who have, across all shooting disciplines represented Ireland so well and with much success during this time. I hope Irelands

representation continues to be strong, it can only be strong with your support. I hope Ireland's representation continues to be strong particularly with the current and exceptional talent that we also have. I would like to wish our 2020 home venues for International events all the best in the season ahead also. Thank you.

### **Honorary Treasurer's Report**

I didn't put together a big speech, I'm going to let it roll from the heart. You all know me, you know what I have and haven't done over the last number of years, you know my strengths and a lot of you know my weaknesses. For me, my role in the Association over the last five years has increased, workload has certainly increased and an awful lot of the duties and responsibilities of the Association are centred on me. And realistically that is, it's no longer tenable for that to continue, I'm unable to continue to feed and service all of those roles and all of those responsibilities and duties, just physically not able to do it and it's just become a burden and I personally believe there's a weakness there in my ability to continue to do those duties along with the workload that I have.

So we need to come up with a solution to that and the Association needs to do something to deal with that. And really it's you the members that need to do that, I don't think it's just the sole responsibility for the Chair or Executive Board to do that, I think what would be a good prudent thing to do and what I would put to you, to the floor, to suggest that you take on or put forward as a proposal back to the Board is that, I think that you should create a task group that will look at the succession planning of key roles within the Association and to look at a document that I sent to the Board 2 or 3 weeks ago which highlights all the current duties that I do. You need succession planning within the Association and you need to look at those key roles now so that you can fill those positions. It's just not acceptable for anybody to come up here tonight and take on the role and responsibility's that I do as a single individual, that work needs to be shared out among multiple volunteer roles and wherever possible even to try and outsource to professional agents or try and come up with some other methods of automating a lot of the work. I'm sure it would be very capable to sort out better methodology for our competitions, issuing out spreadsheets every Friday night, they all have to be prepared, there's a lot of work involved in that, then they have to be processed at the other end. So I'm sure there's ways of doing that and I think that's something that you should look at doing. I would suggest putting together workshops, that you look at putting together workshops very early next year, January, and meeting up with all of the stakeholders, including you, the members, you need to come to a workshop, sit down and look at realistically what you require, what roles you need people to do to run the Association, the essential roles need to be identified and you need to look at a plan to find people to carry out those roles and that's what I think you need to do. I personally can't keep doing it, I'm here 5 years, I'm a long time at the top table, you're all sick of me now and I think it's time that I did move on. It will allow people to come in and take on the Association and give it a go. I've had a hard 5 years here at the top table and it's just not

tenable for me to continue to do that. I don't think you need me, it's easier I suppose to leave me here just to keep doing it but it's just not happening, you can see the cracks beginning to form. I could say I'm at breaking point but I'm not, I'm broke, the system is not working and you need to repair it.

I would like to sincerely thank everybody that gave me their support over the years and were loyal not just to me but to the Association, we've gone through a very, very difficult period in the last 10 years and I think going forward we need new people with new ideas and with a bit more enthusiasm that I am currently starting to lack.

I wish you all the very best in the future, I'd like to thank once again the many friends as well that I met over the years and I sincerely wish you all the very best in the future. Thank you very much.

### **Anti-Doping Officer' Report**

**Note: The anti-doping report was read by Conor Mooney in the absence of Cian Merne**

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](http://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.

Thank you.

Cian Merne.

## **Financial Statements and the Reports of the Auditor for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018**

### **The Chairman handed the meeting over to Tomás Plunkett of Woods and Partners.**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Tomás Plunkett here from Woods and Partners, the Auditors. You all have a copy of the financial statements for the year and the Directors report. We have conducted our audit the same as every other year. I direct you to page 4 for our audit opinion. So we have audited the financial statements of the Irish Clay Target Shooting Association for the year ended 31 December 2018 which comprises a statement of income and retained earnings, statement of financial position and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Except for closing stock, which have a carrying value of €32,376, for which we have been unable to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence on and the possible effects on the financial statements of undetected misstatements, if any, could be both material and pervasive, in our opinion, the accompanying financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2018 and of its loss for the year ended;
- They have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

So essentially to put that into layman's language, the accounts gave a true and fair view of the income and expenditure for the year and of the assets and liabilities at the end of the year. The one area where we have not gathered sufficient evidence as we would like is around closing stock and that is because we were unable to attend the year end stocktake to verify the level of clays and of shooting vests etc. on hand. Apart from physically verifying the existence of that

stock we are satisfied with all the assets and liabilities of the organisation. Also it would be our intention to physically carry out a year end stocktake at 31 December 2019.

Tomás said he would answer any questions from the floor.

Greg Jackson (L11252) asked Tomás what effect the closing stock would have if it was incorrectly estimated. Tomás said it was quite straightforward, if the stock was overstated then the expenditure is unstated and vice versa.

Greg Jackson asked if it would be normal for the auditors to attend a year end stocktake, Tomás said it would be normal in the retail sector, Tomás then said it was unusual that the stock was so high at the end of the year and going forward the auditors will attend a stocktake for year end 2019.

Greg Jackson asked if it was fair to say that the deficit figure was something that the auditors could not stand over because of the unverified stock. Tomás said that except for the closing stock the auditors were satisfied with the true and fair view of the financial statements, so the deficit is contingent on that level of stock.

Erig Conway (L8435) asked why the auditors weren't present at the stocktake, Tomás said the auditors weren't aware of the high level of stock in advance of the year end.

Mick Murphy asked if the high level of stock was attributed to the container of clays that arrived on St. Stephens day, Tomás said that was correct, Mick then asked did we not have a receipt for the clays, Tomás said there was a receipt but he couldn't say that they weren't all used the day they arrived. The Treasurer verified that they arrived on Stephens' day. Mick argued that the receipt should be evidence enough. Tomás again stated that the stock wasn't physically verified by the auditors.

Erig Conway questioned when the accounts were received by the auditors, Tomás said they were received in the spring, Mick Murphy said it was irrelevant when the accounts were received because the clays arrived on Stephens' day and the year end was 5 days later. Tomás said in that case, Mick would be satisfied that the value of the stock was correct and it was, as provided by the Directors to the auditors but he said the stock wasn't physically verified by the auditors.

Erig Conway asked were the auditors not paid to be present at the stocktake, Tomás stated that the auditors were not aware of the high level of stock at the end of the year so they could not attend the stocktake. Tomás then reiterated that the auditors will undertake a stocktake as close to the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2019 as possible.

The Chairman put forward the motion to Remunerate the Auditors but Mick Murphy pointed out that we weren't finished with the accounts. Mick then asked why there was a deficit of €60,000 for the year. The Treasurer explained that the Association paid about €30,000 for the Irish DTL teams to go to World DTL Championships in Australia. And the majority of the

remaining deficit was legal fees. Mick then asked did the Association not put money aside from the 2016 World DTL Championships in Esker and also money from the shoot levy's. The Treasurer said the money from that fund was carried forward from the previous year.

Barry McGann (L9245) asked what legal fees were incurred in 2018. The Treasurer said most of the legal fees were regarding Ashbourne, that the Board was having difficulty with renewing the lease, he said there was no lease in place since 1995. He said they were communicating with the Rooney family relatively successfully, but then the relationship broke down and the Rooney's indicated that they weren't going to renew the lease. The Board then decided they would have to take legal action, there was a legal case submitted in Trim courts. The Association engaged with Senior Council to try and enforce a 25 year lease.

Greg Jackson said he had concerns about the fact that there was a €20,000 loss in 2017 and a €60,000 loss in 2018 and he asked was there a plan to "stop the slide" and what was the general consensus among members the Board about the losses. The Treasurer explained that in 2018 €30,000 of the deficit was carried forward and the loss was always going to be incurred because of the commitment to send the DTL teams to the World DTL Championships. In regard to the legal costs he said the Board felt they were entitled to a lease in Ashbourne, he said he had budgeted for €10,000 for legal fees but obviously that didn't materialise. He said that he hadn't foreseen the legal action with the Rooney's. He also said the Board were aware that there was a pre-approval of the €30,000 to be paid for the World DTL in 2018.

Greg Jackson then asked if there will be a deficit in 2019, the Treasurer said there would, most of it attributed again to legal fees and the World Sporting Championship. Greg asked if the Treasurer had any indication as to the extent of the losses, he said he didn't but that the legal fees were about €20,000, Greg then mentioned the €30,000 loss from the World Sporting and the Treasurer agreed this loss was also incurred.

Barry McGann asked if the Association had to pay legal fees for the Ashbourne/Esker deal. The Treasurer explained that they had secured a fee of €35,000 as part of the deal to cover the legal costs and the relocation from Ashbourne to Esker.

Erig Conway asked the Treasurer what the €20,000 in legal fees were for. The Treasurer said the fees were for Lemans Solicitors to process the transaction of the Ashbourne/Esker deal, he said a number of transactions occurred, there was a deal between the Rooney's and the buyer of the Ashbourne. Then there was the deal between the Rooney's and Esker Shooting Grounds which the Association wasn't part of. He said it was a like for like swap, the Association got Esker in exchange for Ashbourne and the Association negotiated extra money to cover the legal costs. Then Pat Donaghy had his solicitor so there was a legal interaction with him, he had the current lease, he had to supply a deed of surrender, then there was communication with the Trustees, a new lease was negotiated with them, Pat Donaghy had a 17 year lease and part of the original agreement was to replace Pat Donaghy on that lease, the Board decided to renegotiate a new lease with the landlord for a much longer period, perhaps 50 years but its

very difficult to get a 50 year lease nowadays. A 35 year lease was suggested, the Association ended up with a 30 year lease. The Treasurer said there were so many legal interactions with different parties, it was a nightmare.

Erig Conway asked if there were any other legal cases during the year. The Treasurer said the legal case against the Rooney's would probably need to be withdrawn because it would be irrelevant because the land was sold, he said other than that there were no other cases.

Erig Conway asked about the Derek Burnett case. The Treasurer said that was a judicial review, it went to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. That has been finalised and paid. Erig asked what the costs were, the Treasurer said the cost was about €7,000.

Gene Murphy (M6224) asked if there were any Revenue implications in the Esker deal, was there any chance the Revenue would come in on top of us, the Treasurer said the Association got an independent tax advisor to advise on it and that the Association were not liable for tax on the deal, he said there would be stamp duty to be paid, Gene asked how much the stamp duty was, the Treasurer said it would be about €20,000, it would be 7.5% of the fixed tangible assets and the good will of the business.

### **Remuneration of the Auditors**

A motion to authorise the Directors to fix the Remuneration of the Auditors, Woods and Partners was proposed by the National Executive at €2,768. The floor agreed to pass the motion.

Mick Murphy asked the Chairman were the accounts being adopted and if the deficit was correct, the Chairman said that those were the figures that the auditors have provided, Mick said the auditor said himself that he wasn't sure the deficit was right and that they can't really be adopted, the Chairman said it was stated earlier by Mick himself that he unloaded a full container load of clays on Stephens' day, Mick said that the auditors wouldn't accept the receipt. Tomás Plunkett (Auditor) clarified that the audit report will be signed off saying the accounts give a true and fair view with the exception that we cannot physically verify the stock on hand.

Erig Conway then questioned why the accounts had not been filed with the CRO, the Chairman said they were late putting the accounts through, he explained that they had been working very hard over the last number of months, their time had been taken over with the whole NSG deal, making sure that the deal happened, which was very time consuming for the whole National Executive with uncountable hours and days of negotiations and meetings, Erig said that we now have further penalties to pay, the Chairman said there was €213 of penalties to pay in late fees for the accounts, Tomás Plunkett (auditor) confirmed there was a €213 late filing fee.

## **Election of the Executive Committee**

The first position for election was the Chairman's position. The Chairman explained there would be a secret ballot for the election of Chairman, he relieved the seat and let the Treasurer take over to see the process through.

Mick Murphy said that the Chairman got the chance to make his Chairman's address and asked if Erig Conway would be given the same chance to speak before the vote and that the Chairman was given the chance to do the same when he was elected a few years ago.

The Treasurer took the Chair and said that he had no problem with Erig saying a few words, he explained that ballot papers needed to be handed out.

The Treasurer said there were 79 members that have a vote and there were 3 clubs with 5 delegates so that would bring the total to 84 valid votes.

The Treasurer asked someone from the floor to supervise the counting of the votes, along with a member of the Executive and Tomás Plunkett (auditor). Kieran Harney was the Executive member and Greg Jackson would supervise from the floor. The Treasurer asked everyone to come up and get their ballot paper and then their name will be signed off so the correct amount of ballot papers are given out.

The Treasurer said that Erig Conway would be given an opportunity to speak and if the Chairman wanted to speak after that he wouldn't have a problem with it.

Erig Conway's address

Evening guys, for those of you that don't know me, my name is Erig Conway. I served on the National Executive before twice as President and I served on Leinster on 4 occasions. Why am I standing? I have always believed passionately in the ICTSA, and prepared to put myself forward in times of trouble. Previously I had to draw up employment contracts for the employee we had because when I joined the Executive there was none there, no corporate governance yet again. When Leinster were thrown out I brought them back in, I organised the EGM to bring Leinster back into the Association.

I have been 20 years a member here, we're going into a financial year where it looks like we're going to have a deficit of €150,000, and no talk today of a business plan of how we are going to get out of that €150,000, that to me is incredulous. We need to find a way of getting out of this hole and moving on. I believe this Executive have done a Trojan job when they first came in, but has run its course. And like any political animal it needs to be changed frequently, I think now is the time for change. We've had the World Sporting, it looks like we're going to run at a phenomenal loss with that, we need to change, we need to regroup, rebuild and move on.

So what I'd be planning on doing is, within the first 3 months of this Association with the team that will be the new National Executive, producing a split set of accounts, a set of accounts for the World Sporting, a set of accounts for the ICTSA so that we can see exactly what the

management accounts are and where the losses are running. Also what I want to do is hold a National Assembly, I want to bring in all the Provinces, all the task groups, Sporting, Down the Line and get them up and running again, I want the task groups to be running their sport on a day to day basis, not the National Executive.

And Conor is absolutely right, he did an awful lot of work and I do believe he deserves a round of applause for that.

Peter has also done a lot of work and deserves a round of applause for that.

But we have now run our course and now it's the time for change and as a result I'm looking forward to working with a new Executive if we're elected, sorry if I'm elected, some have already been elected by their Provinces.

And wishing you all a happy new year and good shooting in 2020. Thank you very much.

The Treasurer invited everyone to cast their vote.

The voting took place and the Treasurer clarified that there were in fact 94 valid votes.

The votes were counted, the Chairman Peter Hanafin received 44 votes. Erig Conway received 50 votes. No abstentions. Erig Conway was deemed elected.

Election of Honorary Treasurer

There were 2 nominations for the position of Honorary Treasurer

Conor Mooney was proposed by Pat Hickey and was also proposed by the National Executive.

Gary Cunningham (C11230) was proposed by Barry McGann.

The Treasurer Conor Mooney reiterated that he would not stand for election for the position of Treasurer.

Gary Cunningham was then deemed elected.

Election of Honorary Secretary

The Honorary Secretary Noel Conroy (M11072) advised that he would not be standing for election for the position of Honorary Secretary. As no other nominations were received the position was left vacant and it would be up to the new Executive to fill the vacancy.

The following were proposed as Provincial Directors. Unanimously elected.

Provincial Directors nominated by Leinster Province

Tom Cummins    Mark McCourt

Provincial Directors nominated by Connaught Province

Gary Cunningham    Gerard Lawless

Provincial Directors nominated by Ulster Province

Vacant    Vacant

Provincial Directors nominated by Munster Province

Dino Divito    Darragh Fitzgerald

### **Resolutions received in accordance with regulation 17(b)**

#### **Motion 1: Proposed by Leinster Provincial Committee by Barry McGann Leinster Chairman**

“On election of a new officer to the executive committee, the outgoing officer shall complete a transition handover of up to a maximum of 12 weeks commencing on new officer election date. The outgoing officer shall work with the new office holder in full openness and transparency to hand over all duties. All duties must be completely passed over before the 12-week period expires. The new office holder shall report to the executive monthly at the executive meeting the progress and status of all handover duties”

The Treasurer asked Barry to give a bit of a background to the motion. Barry said there was a lot of ongoing works and the idea of the motion was to make sure the ongoing works of the Board didn't fall through the cracks and that there should be a clear and transparent handover to make it easier on the incoming officers to pick up where the previous officer left off.

The Treasurer said he had 2 issues with the motion, he said obviously this would only apply to a member and if any of the outgoing officers were no longer members the motion would be irrelevant. The Treasurer said his second issue was that the outgoing officer would have to consent to the handover and generally speaking outgoing officers would give their consent but you couldn't force somebody to give 12 weeks work in support of a new committee without their consent or support and quite often outgoing officers would want a clean break. Barry said that period would be up to 12 weeks, a handover could take less. The Treasurer said that the new officers coming in know what they are getting into and are taking on the responsibility of doing those duties, they should know what they are getting into. He said in his position as Treasurer there would have to be reasonable cooperation from him with the new Treasurer, for one thing, cooperation would be needed for the transfer of control for the bank account, there's a handover in regard to files and documentation etc. The Treasurer said the wording of the motion could be better. He asked Barry what was the reason behind the motion, was there

a suggestion that outgoing officers wouldn't cooperate. Barry said there wasn't and that it was just to ensure a proper handover.

Votes in favour of the motion: 38

Votes against the motion: 25

Abstentions: 12

Motion was carried.

## **Motion 2: Proposed by the National Executive**

### INTERPRETATION

1.1 Definition: In these Regulations:

“Real Property” means the property of the ICTSA of an immovable nature, comprising any shooting layouts, shooting trenches, bunkers, trap houses, shooting towers, skeet houses, National Shooting Grounds or Buildings, whether of Leasehold or Freehold tenure, with all Fixtures or Fittings attached thereto and used therewith;

“Personal Property” means the property of the ICTSA of a movable nature, comprising all traps, acoustic equipment, as well as all Stock in Trade and Money or other Assets of the ICTSA not already classified as fixtures or fittings on “Real Property”, as heretofore defined;

### ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The National Shooting Ground shall be managed by the executive committee

The Executive Committee shall have power from time to time to make, alter and repeal all such Regulations as they deem necessary, expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the National Shooting Ground, and in particular, but not exclusively, they may by such Regulations set out:

(a) The terms and conditions upon which guests, members of the ICTSA and visitors shall be permitted to use the premises and property of the National Shooting Ground;

(b) The times of opening and closing the National Shooting Ground and Premises, or any part thereof;

(c) The conduct of members of the ICTSA at the National Shooting Ground in relation to one another;

(d) The setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the National Shooting Ground or premises for any particular time or times, or for any particular purpose or purposes;

(e) The imposition of fines for the breach of any of the National Shooting Ground Rules or Regulations.

(f) And generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of the National Shooting Ground Rules.

The Real Property, including the proceeds of sale thereof, shall be vested in the Executive Committee.

The Real Property shall not be leased, mortgaged, charged, exchanged, sold, conveyed, transferred or otherwise dealt with without the consent of the Executive Committee, or as may be set out in any separate Declaration of Trust.

The Personal Property shall be vested in the Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary who shall hold same in Trust for the ICTSA.

The Trustees of the Personal Property shall invest and use such property in accordance with the Directives of the Executive Committee, of which an entry in the Minute book shall be conclusive evidence.

The motion was carried.

**Motion 3: Proposed by the National Executive**

Proposal to amend the executive committee as follows

The Executive Committee shall, subject to Regulation 35 consist of the following persons elected at the AGM in accordance with Regulation 10.1 and Regulation 10.2;

i. The Chairman of the Association.

ii. The Honorary Secretary.

iii. The Honorary Treasurer.

iv. National Children's Officer

v. Representative of each of the Province's not exceeding four in total and nominated at their respective Provincial AGM as follows;

("Provincial Directors"):

(a) One Provincial Director nominated by Leinster Province

(b) One Provincial Director nominated by Connacht Province

(c) One Provincial Director nominated by Ulster Province

(d) One Provincial Director nominated by Munster Province

In all cases the Provincial Directors must be paid up Members of the Association.

vi. Representatives of shooting disciplines not exceeding three in total and nominated by their respective disciplines as follows;

("Discipline Directors"):

(a) One Sporting Discipline Director representing ESP/FSP/NSK/STR

(b) One Trap Discipline Director representing DTL/ABT/UT/DR

(c) One Olympic Discipline Director representing Olympic Trench/Olympic Skeet.

In all cases the Discipline Directors must be paid up Members of the Association.

Mick O'Dwyer (M506) asked why take a Director from each of the Provinces, his argument for that was if you only have one Director from each Province, if the Director can't attend an Executive meeting then that Province would have no representation at the meeting, with two Directors the Provinces would have a better chance of representation.

Barry McGann said we needed as many people on the Board as possible to try and ease the workload, so why reduce the Provinces to one Director. The Treasurer said Barry's point was moot because the number of Directors on the Board was still the same. The Treasurer said the idea first of all was that the Association need a National Children's Officer and he said there will be a compliance issue down the road. He said the National Children's Officer could also be a Provincial Director. The idea behind the Discipline Directors was to give a broader participation of the membership on the Board, so you have four Provinces, three Discipline Directors and

then the principal officers, the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and the National Children's Officer. The Board is not reducing in numbers. He said you could add four on and bring it up to fifteen.

Erig Conway said he thought it was the right way forward but its just that the motion was sprung on us and a bit more debate on it would have been better, he said it gives a better dynamic to the Board and it gives a greater diversity throughout the whole country. Especially when Ulster have no Directors at the moment and there are also two other vacancies at the moment. Erig said it was a good idea and there should be more debate about it. The Treasurer asked Erig if he would propose to the floor to withdraw the motion for further debate.

Erig proposed to withdraw the motion for further debate, seconded by Mick O'Dwyer.

Darragh Fitzgerald asked when it would be debated again, Erig Conway said it would be debated at a National Conference for all the Provinces and all the task groups within the first quarter of next year. He said there would be a short run up to the AGM, that it wasn't going to be 12 months down the road and that his fellow Directors agreed with that. The Treasurer asked who were the fellow Directors, Erig said they were Tom Cummins and Mark McCourt.

Votes in favour to withdraw the motion: 41

Votes against the withdrawal of the motion: 10

The motion was withdrawn.

## **AOB**

The Chairman asked was there any other business.

Gene Murphy (M6224) had a query on the tender fir the DTL International for next year, he wanted to know what way the vote went, he said he presumed a proper tender process took place. The Chairman said he wasn't at the meeting, he was away, but reading the minutes of the meeting it was a unanimous decision to where it was awarded to, the Treasurer said it wasn't unanimous and that one person voted for Bishops Mountain, Gene said there should have been a points system for each tender, the Treasurer said there wasn't a points system, Gene said there should have been, the Treasurer asked who determined that, Mick Murphy said it has to be like for like, the Treasurer said everybody was invited to make submissions, the submissions were read out by the Secretary on the night and then a vote was taken by the Executive. Gene said he thought all tender processes had to go to a points system, so much per

point and then so much for the Board. The Treasurer said that's not the way it was done, Gene said that's not the way "ye" did it. The Treasurer said there was one vote for Bishops Mountain and the rest of the Board on the night voted for Crossmore. Gene said he took it that that was a show of hands and not a points system, the Treasurer said it was a show of hands.

Mark McCourt (L877) asked would there be an issue with Esker with the proposed lead ban coming in in 2024 on wetlands, the Chairman said Conor had done some research on the issue, the Treasurer said they had put together a lead management plan for Esker, he said there's two issues with lead, one is lead sitting on the ground and leeching into the ground, that can be managed by changing the pH levels, lead will only dissolve at a certain pH level so you can apply lime to change the pH level. The lead can sit there and it doesn't leech into the watercourse, then the lead can be recovered. Mark asked if there was a cost in recovering the lead, the Treasurer said there was, he said that a company from Italy or Germany would come in and harvest the lead, Mark asked was Esker going to be sustainable for shooting, the Treasurer said it was. The Treasurer said he believed Esker was actually a dry bog and that he was on a panel that was working with the NARGC, Mark interrupted saying anytime he was in Esker it definitely wasn't dry. The Treasurer said it would be characterised by the Parks and Wildlife Association, he said dry bogs have been added to the exemption on the lead ban.

Mick Murphy asked if we had anybody to run Esker, if there was a club set up, the Chairman said that would be up to the new Committee to work that out.

Colin Dunne asked if the lease for Esker can be changed, if it was finalised, the Chairman said it was finalised and couldn't be changed. Colin stated that you had made this decision, the Chairman said yes, Matt Dunne asked why they didn't go in front of the members, were they afraid to, the Chairman said they weren't afraid to, as far as he was concerned where we were was unviable, we were getting surrounded by houses, we were on 15 acres, Matt Dunne said that didn't answer the question, the Chairman said he would answer the question, he said they had made a decision at Board level that as the negotiations went on that this was the best option for the Association, to have a National Shooting Grounds that covered every member of the Association in all disciplines, it was the only one that was available at the time, the Rooney family did the negotiations with Esker and they put that on the table to us to move there, the Chairman said he believed it was the right decision, the Executive at the time believed it was the right decision, he said he wasn't sure if the floor had other opinions but he apologised if they made the wrong decision but he said Esker has huge potential for the Association, it can become self funding if its run right, Matt Dunne said that the Chairman couldn't say that, the Chairman said absolutely he can, Matt said he didn't know how he could, the Chairman said he could and that we had nothing, and that time will tell.

Erig Conway asked if there was a business plan for Esker, the Chairman said there was a business plan going to be put together, he said they couldn't do anything until they had secured the ground and it was the intention to go on and bring it into the next year.

Brian Hanratty (L10063) said that he thought the Board were 100% right, Ashbourne was dead, and that they made the right decision.

Butch Kyle (L6005) asked why weren't the trustees of Ashbourne informed and consulted. The Treasurer said the legal people advised that the current Executive Board were acting on behalf of the original trustees, it was out of lease since 1995. Butch said by law they had to give us a new lease, that they could never develop it, it was a sporting venue and we had them by the nuts. The Treasurer said we were going to court for that, we had initiated court proceedings. Butch said years ago they had promised alternative ground. The Chairman said it had been going on since 1995, we had been running without a lease, the National Shooting Grounds in Esker has the potential to do a lot for the Association and that was his view on the matter, again he said if people on the floor feel disgruntled about the idea that we have moved to Esker he apologises. The Treasurer told Butch the Rooney's did consider giving us additional lands to move us to, the County Council were looking to take over Ashbourne for a recreational park and there was discussions between the Rooney's and the County Council and that they were going to sell just the Ashbourne field and relocate us to land behind the rugby club, the Treasurer said he couldn't remember where the proposed entrance was going to be, he said there was discussions about that but then all that was taken off the table, then there was legal action taken, papers were filed in the court in Trim.

Michael Moriarty (L9223) said in relation to the World Sporting in Dowth, he offered his congratulations on the fantastic tournament that it was and the amount of people that commented on it. Michael asked if all the prize winners have received their prizes, the Treasurer said the CPSA were dealing with the last of the English ones, there was an issue with the Paypal system in the first 24 hours that it went online, it wasn't recognising all of the transactions, he explained if you selected an entry that you only held the entry if payment was confirmed, that worked fine with Visa cards through Realex but there was an issue with Paypal, Paypal didn't send back confirmation that a payment was made, the payment was taken for the entry and was released out into the open market, he said when the system doesn't secure a transaction it dumps all the information and because of this some addresses were missing. They have all been sent to the CPSA and they are making the payments because they have access to the peoples names and addresses, there's an issue with data protection, getting the information back from them etc. There's about 15 or 20 in Ireland that haven't been paid out, the Treasurer said he would finalise those and put them up on the website, he said the other issue with the payments was there was a number of people who paid their entry before the end of the classification year and they all had to be verified, some peoples classes had to be changed, he said whatever class you were in on the day that's what your prize was awarded in. He said all of the results were put up immediately after the event and he was reluctant to change all that so what they did discuss was putting up a separate section on the website with the amended classifications and the list of winners and what category you fall into. He said it would probably be best, if Erig and Gary are happy, that he completed that, he'd try and get it done ASAP, he said it would be unfair to throw it back on Gary.

Colin Dunne (L1092) asked what was included in the Esker deal, was it just ground or was there traps and towers. Matt Dunne asked how much did it cost. The Treasurer said he wouldn't get into how much it cost, he said he would pass over that information to Erig and he could make a judgement on that, he said it was negotiated through the owners of Ashbourne and the buyers of Ashbourne and Esker, he said it would be more appropriate for Erig and the new Executive to make a call on that. He said we were getting all the land, roughly 27.4 acres, the clubhouse and workshop areas, two lockups, one for ammunition and one for firearms and that they are at a dealers standard, all of the fire alarms and security alarm systems and the lights around that general area. He said there was 16 DTL layouts and 16 DTL trap houses, not the traps, Colin Dunne asked was the most important thing in clay shooting not the traps? The Treasurer asked Colin if he wanted an answer or did he just want to make a joke out of the Treasurer, Colin said he was "only saying", the Treasurer said he was asked a question and he was answering it, Colin asked if they were after buying a shooting ground with no traps, the Treasurer said yes. Matt Dunne said we'd need 50 traps. The Treasurer continued, he said there were 6 skeet houses, 8 of the 16 layouts had covered stands, there's 5 towers, he said the stands that aren't covered have marking huts. The Treasurer said he had all the documentation and he would send it on to Erig.

Ger O'Donoghue said there was a lot of bitching and fighting about this move to Esker, he said it was one of the best grounds in Europe if not the World and that we should embrace it, he said it was a great ground and fair play to the Board organising the deal and it's the Associations ground now and that we should just embrace it rather than bitching and fighting about it.

### **Date for the 87<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

Erig Conway said he would like to speak with the new Executive but would like to hold the AGM by the end of the first quarter next year if possible. The Chairman suggested we propose a date and it can be moved. Mick Murphy suggested the 26<sup>th</sup> of March 2020, that date was agreed.

Barry McGann asked when the Shooting Star awards would be given out, the Treasurer said they were planning on giving them out at the National Shooting Ground and that it would now be up to Erig and his team to organise it.

### **Meeting Closure**

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close.