

# Irish Clay Target Shooting Association

## **Minutes – 84<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Irish Clay Target Shooting Association, which was held on Thursday 30 March 2017 8:30 in the Spa Hotel, Lucan, Co. Dublin**

### **Present:**

Present were Peter Hanifin (Chairman), Bill O'Brien (Hon. Secretary), Conor Mooney (Hon. Treasurer), Barry Lynch, Malachy Quinn, Pat Fox, Robert Dickson, Mick O'Dwyer.

Also present was the Auditor, Mr. Manus Quinn, of Woods and Partners, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, 16 Melifort Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

In total 30 members were present, constituting a quorum

### **Welcome by the Hon. Chairman:**

The Chairman, Peter Hanifin, welcomed everyone to the meeting and he pointed out the fire exits. He asked for a minute's silence to remember those members who had passed away during the year. The Chairman advised that the meeting was being recorded for minuting purposes and that those who wished to speak should stand, identify themselves, quote their Name and membership number and wait for a microphone to be given to them.

### **1. The minutes of the previous, the 83<sup>rd</sup> AGM 11-5- 2016.**

The minutes had been published on the website for all members to read prior to the AGM. When it was put to the floor by the Chairman, no one had any corrections.

The adoption of the minutes of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting, as previously published on the website, were proposed by Ken Rowlands and seconded by Sean O'Neill. The minutes were adopted.

### **2. Matters Arising:**

The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the Previous AGM minutes. - There were no matters arising.

### **3. The minutes of the EGM held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

The EGM minutes were read by the Treasurer and Company Secretary, Conor Mooney. Their adoption was proposed by Sean McGeehan and seconded by John Lee. The minutes were adopted.

### **4. Matters Arising:**

The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the minutes. There were no matters arising.

### **5. Honorary Chairman's Address.**

The Chairman delivered the following address

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to welcome you all here tonight to the 84th AGM of our Association. Well what can I say? The last 10 months have truly been an experience.

I took the Chair in May 2016 and from the very outset the board have been very supportive of me and my role. We have achieved a lot over the past 10 months with regard to restoring our finances with our Treasure keeping a good tight rein on how your monies were spent. As a result, I am now delighted to say we have managed to restore the sum of €30,000 in prize bonds back into the Association's accounts.

The board took the bold decision in 2016 to reduce our membership from €125 to €95 for 2017 which we believe has helped greatly in increasing our membership with 111 new members joining in the first 3 months of this year alone. It's also a comforting fact to see the continuing stream of lapsed members re-joining our

Association, over the past year which is further testament of the growing confidence of the Association as a whole.

The Association managed to expand its coaching programmes for juniors to other disciplines, the benefits of which are clearly evident with junior's scores improving at shoots and a number of new colts and juniors joining our Association in the different disciplines.

We also subcontracted out the new membership cards to a provider that prints and posts them to our members assuring that members receive them in a timely fashion going forward.

We took on the task of building a new website which was a very lengthy process indeed but I think you will all agree it has given our Association a fresh new look and is much more user friendly.

2016 also seen us update our constitution under company law reforms which we were compelled to do and we took this opportunity to make further changes which included the addition of "one man one vote" along with amending our Association's name by replacing the word "Pigeon" to "Target". So tonight, ladies and gentlemen, you sit in your seats knowing you can vote and have your say as an individual member of this Association.

I am also delighted to announce that we have maintained our Funding from Sport Ireland of €36,000 and €25,000 for high performance with Ian O' Sullivan and Aoife Gormally both receiving €12,000 each in carding. I like to thank Sport Ireland for their continued support of our Association and our Athletes.

As part of our ongoing revitalization process the Executive Committee of ICTSA undertook reviews on a final member suspension which existed from the past. As part of that process a review of the suspension of Liam Cox (L235) took place with the result of his ban been lifted leaving him free to apply for membership if and when he wishes to do so. So, tonight, I want to formally record in the minutes we no longer have any suspended members within the Association and ask that future boards try to work out issues and give fair trials before issuing any such suspensions if required in the future. I also want to thank the board for taking the time to deal with these matters giving the Association a brighter and more positive outlook for the years ahead.

2016 was a very successful year for our clubs and grounds around the country which held events on the Association's behalf. It was great to see major events like the European and World DTL Championships being held on home turf at Esker Shooting Grounds., events in which Ireland teams took many podium places. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Donaghy of Esker shooting Grounds for his hospitality shown to all who attended these events and congratulate him on running such an event. €10,000 in levies from this event have been set aside for the DTL teams traveling to Australia later next year along with other monies from ICTSF levies.

I also like to thank Pat Walsh and the crew in Lispopple CPSC for hosting the Olympic Skeet Home International in 2016, again another successful event and I must say it's probably the best-groomed grounds I have ever seen on my travels!

Our Teams:

2016 saw our Junior ABT team take home the top prize at the ABT Home International with Dan O Hara and Ian O'Sullivan taking gold for the second time ever. Another big win last year was the DTL Super Vets winning the Macintosh at the world DTL Championships, the first time ever Ireland has won this event! I would also like to congratulate the ladies juniors and Senior DTL Teams with their podium wins as well along with all the individual winners at the European and World DTL Events. Not forgetting Our Home international teams in 2016 each and every discipline did our Association proud congratulations your wins.

On a slightly different note in recent weeks we have a slight difference of opinion on the board on how we are dealing with our National Shooting Grounds but saying that the board were unanimous with their decision to maintain the National Shooting Grounds in Ashbourne. Ashbourne is our National Shooting Grounds, Ashbourne is our Home for Trap disciplines.

As the Chairman it is my intention to resolve the outstanding issues and comply with good governance in the process.

We have made an application to the sports capital grants Programme for funding and when this is concluded the incoming board in a better position to move further with improvements to the national shooting grounds in Ashbourne and would appreciate your patience on this matter.

On a final note, I would just like to thank all the board members retiring here tonight for their input in stabilizing our Association over the past years and for all their hard work in bringing about the successes of last year.

I also want thank Conor for all the work he has done in his role as Treasurer and Company Secretary and all the extra work he does outside of his expected duties which is something that needs to be addressed in the coming year as the workload is too vast for someone to continue to undertake on their own on a long-term basis and would ask people to come forward to give helping hand.

And on a final note I would like to thank our outgoing Secretary Bill for all his work over the past number of years. I got to know Bill over the past year and have to say every day we spoke I was further educated, he's a man with so much knowledge I even nick named him the "Historian". I want to wish him a very happy retirement with his wife who is now also recently retired and thank you for all your time and effort dealing with matters when they arose and hope you enjoy every day in the hills of Donegal.

And to finish off I want to wish all our members the very best of shooting in the coming year and be safe while doing so

Thank You.

To conclude I'd just like to present Bill with a little token of appreciation for his role as Hon Secretary and present him with a retirement gift.

#### **6. Honorary Secretary's Report:**

Good evening everybody, 2016 was another eventful year.

Following on last year's AGM and the motion that was passed, the Chairman and myself met individual members and Provincial Committees at venues in each Province, to get people's views, opinions and input about the structure and the running of the Association.

Input was also collected through consultation with other individual members and with the clubs, in particular.

Together with other members of the National Executive and with much if not all of the technical re-writing of the Constitution being undertaken by the Treasurer and Company Secretary, Conor Mooney, the new constitution including one-man-one-vote, a maximum of 5 year service on the NE and many other changes, was ready and was put before the EGM in November, and passed by a unanimous vote.

The National Executive, who run the day-to-day operation of the Association on your behalf, met 13 times this year, 5 more meetings than last year and got through a busy schedule.

As the National Governing Body for Clay Target Shooting in Ireland, we are as you know affiliated to many International Bodies.

We are members of the ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) for the OLYMPIC Disciplines, and members of the European Shooting Confederation (ESC), and members of the FITASC federation, for FITASC Sporting, Compak etc

And for non-Olympic Disciplines like DTL ABT, NSK, Sporting etc we are affiliated to the ICTSC and ICTSF for International and World championships.

We have met all our commitments as members of these World Governing Bodies to field International Teams, to represent our country in all the various competitions and also at the highest levels in Olympic qualifying competitions.

As we are affiliated to the Olympic Council of Ireland, we had a vote at their post-RIO EGM and voted for a new set of people to take over the running of that organisation.

The challenge over the coming years is in getting new volunteers to come forward and help out with the running of their Disciplines at ground level and other Committees, including the National Executive Committee. It's good to see 4 new people coming onto the National Executive this time around.

Every individual member though can help out in some way or other. Even in such small things as renewing membership online, and helping others to renew online, every little bit helps to spread the workload around all the membership.

Again, as I mentioned last year the formation of more ordinary local Clubs (non-commercial ones) and the further development of the National Shooting Grounds will help to reduce the cost of practice greatly, promote the Sport, lead to improved National Teams and the maintaining of our Amateur Status.

There is now a new Associate Club Membership for €150pa for small clubs, who are not big enough to run Registered Shoots, which will hopefully begin to take effect throughout 2017.

I'm coming to the end of my term on the National Executive Board. I've done 4 years, the last three as Hon. Secretary.

I'd like to thank all those who helped me and the Association over that time. I've enjoyed some of the challenges and hopefully have contributed a little to making a difference and leaving a better Association behind for all our members and for future members.

So, I wish you all well with your shooting at all levels and in all disciplines, over the coming year. Thank you.

#### **7. Financial Report, Audited Accounts, Auditors Report:**

The Hon. Treasurer began with a review of the Financial performance of the Association over the past year, and he invited the members to ask any questions they wished of him or the Auditor.

He stated that it is obvious from the Financial Statement for 2016, which had been posted on the website for the last number of weeks, that the Association is performing well with a surplus of €76,000, which is an increase of €49,000 on the previous year. Where does this money come from? This money is coming from you, the members. The Treasurer then went through an analysis of the past 10 years of the Association showing where the extra money is coming from, much of it due to the increase in membership numbers in 2016 over 2015 of 124 new members and 116 lapsed members who returned to the Association. The new online membership system is encouraging people to join and pay earlier than before. Cash is no longer accepted for membership payment. The membership at March this year is now 733, which is a significantly high figure.

There has been a significant increase coming in from membership and also from shooters fund levies. The hosting of the World championship also boosted the levies by approximately €11,500 and the Board have already decided to allocate €10,000 of that towards funding the Team for the next World Championships in 2018, to be held in Australia.

The Association has three main sources of income; The Sports Council - which comes to €36,000; Income from our Membership Fees - which comes to €76,000; and Shooters Fund Levies paid by our shooters at registered shoots - which comes to €82,000. So that's where our money is coming from. Also it's safe to say that we've managed to make significant reductions in expenditures. Our expenditure has been significantly reduced with the removal of employee costs a number of years ago and many other costs have been managed through the relatively recently implemented procurement system and significantly reduced every year since. Insurance costs for example have been managed so that they are now half what they were a few years ago.

In summary, Quarter 1 of 2017 is looking good and a surplus is predicted for the end of 2017. This will be the

third consecutive year where the Association has shown a surplus, and a successful conclusion to recent efforts to address the financial strife of the past.

This is good, as it is only now that the Directors of the Association can sit down in comfort and make plans without the financial concerns looming over them.

They now have the freedom to explore increased benefits and services to the membership, which I believe they will do and this can only lead to a better future for the Association and a more positive contribution to the promotion of the sport, in which I think you as members should involve yourselves in and participate as active volunteers. There probably was a time in the Association when a member would be very reluctant to take a position on the Board, but I feel that that time has passed. While myself and the present and past members of the Board have had hard times over the last number of years, in general, I do feel that they would agree that it was very rewarding to make a contribution to your sport and to the Association in general.

If ratified by the members tonight as a Director for the coming year, this will be my last year. I will not allow myself to go forward next year. I believe that there are better people among us who can come up with fresh ideas to move the Association forward. The Association has been distracted by many issues in the past, it faced many hurdles and overcame them, and it now has the opportunity to promote our sport as a priority. There are many capable people within our membership who know this sport better than I do and for that reason they can add more to the promotion of the sport and I would call on them to come forward in the coming years and give a bit of time to the Association.

I firmly believe my time on the Board is coming to an end, my mind and body are telling me that it is, so I'm going to trust those indicators. I would like to thank you the members, the clubs and fellow directors for all the support over the last number of years and I look forward to my last year in the service of the Association. Thank you.

The Treasurer informed the meeting that since the change of name of the Association, to the Irish Clay **Target** Shooting Association, the original name Irish Clay Pigeon Shooting Association (ICPSA) has been secured and registered by the Association.

The Treasurer having invited questions from the floor handed over to the Auditor, Mr. Manus Quinn.

The Auditor stated that it is their job as Auditors to review the books and records of the Association and ensure that the Financial Statements prepared are in agreement with the books and records, and to issue an Audit Opinion on that.

They have issued an unqualified opinion and he read this Opinion into the minutes of the meeting as follows:

***"OPINION:***

*In our opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view, of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2016 and of its profit or loss for the year ended; and have been properly prepared in accordance with relevant financial reporting framework and in particular with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.*

**MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2014**

*We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our*

*audit.*

*In our opinion the accounting records of the Company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.*

*The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.*

#### **MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION**

*We have nothing to report in respect of our obligations under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made."*

He stated that that was an unqualified opinion and expressed his thanks to Conor Mooney and all the Board for their support and assistance in completing the audit.

Question from the Floor: Michael Murphy L10434

Michael Murphy queried if the ashbourne accounts had been incorporated in financial statements. The auditor stated they had. He then queried if they showed that ashbourne had made a loss. The auditor stated NO. Michael Murphy then stated that there had been rumors circulating that ashbourne had made losses of 6,000 to 9,000. The auditor stated that was not his opinion. Michael Murphy then put the question to the Hon Secretary. The Hon Secretary stated that he had questioned losses at Ashbourne in a confidential memo to the board of directors. Michael Murphy stated that was two days ago. The Hon Secretary stated he was referring to previous years and not last year. Michael Murphy stated if he was referring to the year before. The Hon Secretary stated that there had been times that Ashbourne had been subsidized by the ordinary member. He further stated that it was an indication that we needed to pay attention to Ashbourne and that was the case in 2012 when it was mentioned back then. Michael Murphy then queried if the audited accounts show a return from ACTA. The auditor stated that it was not in the statutory financial statements, there is no requirement as ACTA is incorporated in the financial statements. Michael Murphy stated it is a requirement if you're stating that we are losing money. He corrected himself and stated that it was not the auditor that stated they are losing money but reiterated that people were. He further stated it gave a bad light on the people who gave their time in ACTA. The Hon Treasurer stated that neither the auditor nor the chairman made those statements. Michael Murphy stated he knew who made the statement and he wasn't saying that. The Hon Secretary stated that his comments were not intended to reflect badly on the few people who had given up all their time in ACTA to keep the ground open. He further stated that the board were talking about a lot of other things and that Michael Murphy may be taking some of his comments out of context as it was a very long email. Michael Murphy stated he knew.

The Chairman requested if there was anymore questions on the financial statements.

The adoption of the Financial Accounts and Audit Report was proposed by Ken Rowlands and seconded by Cian Merne. Following a unanimous vote, the Chairman declared the 2016 audited accounts and auditors report adopted.

#### **8. Election of Auditors.**

The motion to retain the existing Auditors, Woods and Partners was proposed by Conor Mooney and seconded by Declan McQuillan. It was passed by a unanimous vote (30 in favor/ none against) and was declared carried by the Chairman.

#### **9. Election of Officers and Committee:**

The Chairman informed the floor that Colin Mullane had withdrawn his nomination and was not running for election.

Colin Mullane addressed the Chairman and wished to state that he had resigned from the board also.

The Chairman confirmed to the floor that Colin Mullane had resigned from the board this evening at a previous meeting and Michael Murphy had also resigned his position from the board.

As there was only one candidate per position it was decided to elect the Officers and Committee member's en-bloc.

The following were elected with twenty eight (28) votes for and none (0) against.

#### **Officers:**

<i>Hon. Chairman:</i> Peter Hanifin	L10187	<i>(outgoing)</i>
<i>Hon. Treasurer:</i> Conor Mooney	L10911	<i>(outgoing)</i>
<i>Hon. Secretary:</i> Declan McQuillan	L6338	<i>(new)</i>

#### **Committee:**

Barry Lynch	RU025	<i>(outgoing)</i>
Malachy Quinn	RU6706	<i>(outgoing)</i>
Michael O'Dwyer	M506	<i>(outgoing)</i>
Ken Rowlands	L6854	<i>(new)</i>
Evan Hoban	C1237	<i>(new)</i>
Kieran Harney	C10523	<i>(new)</i>

#### **10. Motions of which proper notice have been received in writing:**

There were no Motions received.

#### **11. Anti-Doping Address by Cian Merne, ICTSA -Anti Doping Officer**

Good evening everyone. 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.

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 my duties as 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 2017 nearly €1 million was spent just carrying out tests on Irish athletes. €1.75 million was spent in total on the Anti-doping programme. Domestically, over 1000 tests, both in and out of competition, were carried out by Sport Ireland in 2016 and a further 275 user pays tests were carried out at the request of NGB's.

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. The ICTSA also has the option to call in the testers if we believe doping is taking place in any of our shooting disciplines.

Earlier this year I ran an Anti-doping seminar for the Olympic Skeet. I hope to run similar seminars for the Olympic Trap and FITASC shooters this summer. However, 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 I strongly urge all shooters to visit this website.

If you are taking any medication at all, either over the counter or prescription, I strongly recommend 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.

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.

Also available online is Sport Irelands cleangreensport e-learning course, an interactive education programme about anti-doping. We urge 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 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. My 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 minimize the risk of a failed dope test.

For further information, you can contact me and my contact details are on the ICTSA website in our Anti-doping section. Athletes are solely responsible for ensuring they are compliant with Anti-doping regulations. It's your body – your responsibility. It will not be my fault or 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.

The Chairman stated that members should be aware that there may be random drug testing during the year 2017 in Olympic disciplines and FITASC.

## 12. AOB:

Barry Lynch (Director) stated that he wished to put it on the record for the accounts in Ashbourne and ACTA that it is in the books that a gratuity was returned from ACTA to the ICPSA year on from 2015 of €6,000 and 2016 €11,300. So he stated he wish to confirm.

Michael Murphy queried if he had 2012, 2013 or 2014 or had those results been hidden? He stated that in 2013 there was €9,650 and in 2014 there was €7,800 and in the last 4 years there has been €34,750 returned, not this €6,000 or €9,000 loss.

Barry Lynch stated he agreed with Michael Murphy and that that was all confirmed in the accounts and they were very thankful to ACTA.

The Chairman stated to Michael Murphy that there was no one trying to hide anything. Michael Murphy stated to the Chairman that he did not state that there was but he wanted what was said in an email retracted.

The Chairman stated that Ashbourne was “the elephant in the room” and that he would be working in the coming weeks and months to continue with ashbourne to find a solution to the issues. He stated that it is the intention of him and the board to invest in ashbourne and have a positive outcome in ashbourne. He stated he was the chairman of ACTA and he wanted to see ashbourne continue for another 60 years. It is his intention to work with the committee in ashbourne to sort out any issues there and invest as much money as possible to promote the national shooting ground. He requested that people be patient and trust him to sort the matter out.

Eddie Murray L602 put two questions to the chairman. Firstly, if there was an issue in ashbourne going back as far as 2012. Why were we praising Mick Murphy in the minutes of the AGM last year? And secondly for those who do not travel much further than ashbourne will ashbourne be operational in a months or 6 weeks’ time. He stated that it was sad that we could not sit down and sort the issues in ashbourne. He stated that we don’t know what the issues are and they are only hearing bits and pieces.

The Chairman stated he had made every effort with two meetings with the committee of ACTA to resolve any issues. He went into ashbourne with an open and honest mind to resolve issues and he had shared his ideas with the committee. He reiterated that ashbourne will continue and that he would work to the best of his ability to find a solution.

Eddie Murray L602 stated that he felt the chairman at the beginning of the meeting in his own words skimmed around the problem, like it was a minor issue and in fact it was a major issue.

The chairman stated that ashbourne was a major issue and that it was the national shooting ground and he took the matter very seriously. He stated that the current issues were recent in the last two weeks but he would be working very hard to resolve the problem. He stated that the gold cup and open will be going ahead in ashbourne as advertised and if necessary he personally will be working at ashbourne. He stated it was said ashbourne needed “boots not suits” and he was prepared to be the boots.

Mick Hennessey L5751 queried if practice will continue on a Saturday morning? The Chairman stated that it would. Mick Hennessey stated that a lot of people use the ground on a Saturday that don’t shoot 100 birds. He

queried if he would get his money back if it was not open. He stated that he joined the clay pigeon shooting to shoot on a Saturday and that the association was no good to him if he couldn't shoot practice on a Saturday morning.

The Chairman stated that he will be working to resolve the issues and continue the practice on Saturdays at the ground.

Barry McGann L9215 stated that the ground had been open for 11 years under Mick Murphy and only missed one Saturday not opening and under Sammy Steers and John Lyons it only closed once on a Saturday in his life time. He further stated that if we don't have shooting on the ground the local residents will miss the noise and have the ground closed down. He stated it was important to keep shooting at the ground and we will never get back in the gate again.

The Chairman stated that he had spoken to Barry about ashbourne and asked if he would consider helping out in the short term.

Barry stated that without Mick and Martin involved he would not be interested in helping the Chairman.

Walter Young C7600 stated that the chairman was going to move forward with other people. And could the chairman state who they were?

The Chairman stated he had no names at this time only himself.

Eddie Murray asked the chairman how he expected to keep the ground open?

The Chairman stated that was up to him to sort out.

Barry McGann stated if there are no shots fired on the ground the residents will have it closed.

Barry Lynch requested if there was any objections to anyone else opening the ground on Saturday? Other than Mick and Martin.

There was no objections from the floor. A number of members stated "work away" and we will show you what to do.

Barry Lynch stated that he would be there and he would open the ground on Saturday. He reiterated that the ground would be open and there would be shots fired!

Mick Murphy stated that it would be open Saturday and Sunday anyway as that is there last shoot. You can open the following week if you like ...

The Chairman thanked Barry for that.

Barry Lynch further stated that "we are not losing ashbourne, not as long as I'm on this board".

Eddie Murray stated that we are coming into the summer now and it is nice conditions to work in ashbourne. But we are also talking about January days and December days and that these guys never had the gate closed weather it was snowing or whatever. He stated that they were ignorant in what actually started this and queried if it was an email by the secretary that caused this?

The secretary stated "NO".

The Chairman stated that as long as Barry Lynch and himself are there ashbourne will remain open.

The Secretary wished to clarify that how the issue had originated had nothing to do with an email he had sent. This issue started three or four weeks ago and his email was sent 2 or 3 days ago and was part of an internal discussion and confidential email to the board and was taken out of context.

Dave Malone stated that he thought when the new board came on board there would be no confidential and everything would be out in the open.

The Chairman said everything is out in the open.

Dave Malone then queried why there were confidential emails if everything was out in the open.

The chairman stated they were internal emails between the board members.

Mick Murphy queried if the Chairman was defending the email that stated they were losing money year after year from €6,000 to possible €9,000.

The Chairman stated he has not look at the accounts.

Mick Murphy reiterated if the Chairman is not going to defend it he should make the secretary retract the email.

The chairman stated he was going to move on and that ashbourne will continue.

Dave Malone requested if he could ask one more question on the matter and queried what the problem actually was at ashbourne. The Chairman stated it was an issue over the purchase of a trench layout and corporate governance.

Pat Broderick L10997 requested what the situation with the training courses promised earlier in the year. He stated that there was no information coming back to the people on the ground organizing the shooters to attend and we were heading into a busy time for shooters now and they will have other commitments. He stated they were putting all the effort in on the ground and needed some feedback.

The Treasurer advised that they are awaiting dates from the CPSA.

Pat Broderick stated he was only going on about the health and safety courses.

The Chairman stated he would email details on the courses when they had further information.

Gene Murphy M6224 queried if a junior goes to the north to shoot a score will it count in the south. He stated there was an issue last year.

Malachy Quinn queried what age the junior was now.

Gene Murphy stated he was 16.

The treasurer stated that if he shot in the north last year at 15 he would have shot illegally.

The Chairman stated he would email Gene Murphy on the matter. Gene Murphy stated he was requested to ask the question at the AGM

Malachy Quinn stated that the normal legal age for a shotgun in the north was sixteen except at a ground that the PSNI have given authorization to supervise shooting at 12.

The chairman stated to Gene Murphy that it was sixteen.

Gene Murphy stated that the junior had shot the home international last year at 15.

The treasurer stated that the ground that hosted the home international last year had authorization from PSNI to supervise juniors at 12.

Malachy Quinn stated that a number of grounds are currently been passed by the PSNI in the north but that was only since February this year.

The chairman stated that he would clarify further with Gene Murphy in the next day or two.

**13. Date for the 85<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.**

The date for the next AGM was set for Thurs 29 March 2018, venue to be announced later.

**14. Meeting Closure:**

The Annual General Meeting was brought to a close.