

MERRIOTT GUN CLUB

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 30th November 2021

Members present: Tom P, Nigel, Caroline, Bryan C, Tom Mc, David & Helen, Peter, Brian H, Marcus, Toby & Sam, Shaun.

Apologies for absence: Brian W, Ben, Andy, Rod, Craig, Jane.

Tom opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m. There was no AGM in 2020, due to Covid restrictions, so there were no previous minutes.

The current committee will remain in place: Tom Parham as Chairman
Nigel Witcombe as Vice Chairman
Caroline Charles as Sec/Treasurer.

Andy Godfrey was not present but has agreed to continue as CPSA safety co-ordinator.

Treasurer's report: The bank balance is £4134.58, and £302.72 cash in hand. The club donated £100 to the RNLI in memory of Jack Lowe, the founder of the club and its previous chairman, who passed away in April.

The club has a good stock of cartridges, but a pallet of clays will need to be ordered soon.

The club insurance has just been renewed at the same premium as last year. Tom explained what is covered by the policy.

The club website is useful for maps of shooting locations, club rules and minutes of meetings etc. The Whatsapp group is very successful – Tom requested that it should only be used for messages relating to the club.

The cost of clays and cartridges will remain the same at £5 for 25.

Membership fees will also remain the same.

Members were reminded that all guests must pay an extra £2.

All members were asked to bring their current shotgun certificate to the next shoot. Shaun raised the point that it is a member's responsibility to declare if their certificate has been cancelled for any reason.

There are currently 4 shooting locations: Manor Farm, Barrington, Clapton and Gaffers. Tom said it is difficult to contact the farmer at Puckington. Peter said he could help with that as he lives nearby and knows the farmer.

Members are asked to read the club rules periodically.

The question of supervision of visitors who are novice shooters was raised. Brian H suggested that if you have a novice shooter with you, you should concentrate on that person's shooting. If a guest shooter is inexperienced, that should be mentioned on Whatsapp.

Marcus pointed out that every member is responsible for reporting any safety concerns.

Tom will contact Andy Godfrey and ask him to specify safety rules.

A risk assessment will be prepared, both for shooting and for Covid precautions.

Tom McIver raised concerns about other firearms (rifles/air pistols etc) being used at shoots. Tom P said that this only happens with the permission of the landowner, and after the clay shoot is finished.

Tom Mc also suggested stands to limit the possibility of a shooter swinging round with a loaded gun.

It was also stressed that guns should ONLY be loaded while actually shooting, and either broken or in a slip at all other times.

Caroline asked whether shooting could be reduced to one Sunday a month during the winter months. This was to reduce the pressure on Tom P – it seems sometimes that it is taken for granted that he will tow the trailer and set up the shoot.

Helen politely asked Brian H to stop interrupting Tom. At this point Brian H walked out of the meeting.

Dave Henderson said he was happy to tow the trailer occasionally but was not confident about setting up a shoot. It was agreed that other people would help. Attendance is lower during the winter, and, for a small shoot, one trap would suffice.

Tom Mc proposed a vote of thanks to the committee, some members paid their renewal fees, and Tom closed the meeting at 9 p.m.
