

MERRIOTT GUN CLUB

Minutes of Annual General Meeting On Tuesday 14th October 2014 at The Swan, Merriott

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack, Nigel W, Nigel J, Toby, Tom P, Tom M, Rod, Barry,
Bryan and Mark.

ALSO PRESENT: Mark's wife & Caroline.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dave Braidly.

Jack opened the meeting at 8 p.m. and announced that he was standing down as chairman, so a new chairman would have to be elected during the meeting.

Barry reported that we have £658.10 in the bank and some cash. We also have 26 boxes of clays in stock.

Insurance: Barry thinks that the current premium with NFU is too expensive. It is £478.11 and is due for renewal mid-November. Nigel J suggested getting a quote from the Sherborne office. Tom P said it might be cheaper to insure for fewer shooters.

New Chairman: Jack described his role as chairman, which includes contacting the farmers whose land we use, and organising Christmas gifts for them. Nigel J and Barry suggested Tom Parham for new chairman. Tom said that Nigel W would probably be better at dealing with the farmers, whereas he was happy to deal with the website etc. There were 9 votes for Tom P, and he accepted the post, with Nigel W being appointed as "gofer". Tom's first act as new chairman was to thank Jack for his 27 years as chairman of the club, and presented him with a bottle of JMB.

Barry said that the minutes of the meeting, and details of the new chairman, will have to be sent to Santander bank. Tom P, Barry and Nigel W will now be signatories on the account. 2 of them have to sign cheques.

Everyone agreed that shoots at Manor Farm were always popular, particularly the evening shoots in the summer.

Treasurer: Barry was nominated by Nigel W and seconded by Nigel J and said he was happy to carry on as treasurer for the coming year.

Insurance: Barry said that the club was covered to shoot anywhere. Tom P said we need to clarify exactly what the cover involves. Jack said it covers non-members coming to shoot on "have-a-go" days.

Club Rules: Tom P handed everyone a draft copy of the club rules and asked if everybody agreed with them. Toby suggested that a laminated copy of the rules should be available for visitors to read at a shoot, and suggested that they should be asked to sign a book to say that they have read the rules and agree with them. Bryan agreed with the idea of a visitors' book, and also said that name badges would be useful. The rules were agreed and voted in.

Entertainment: Tom P suggested that Dave Braidly should be appointed as Entertainment Secretary, and Nigel J seconded it. Dave would be responsible for arranging skittles and social evenings etc.

Membership Fees: It was unanimously agreed that fees should remain at £15 for membership renewal and £20 for new members. Members filled out their renewal forms and paid their fees.

Secretary: Tom P asked Tom M to pass on the club's thanks to Maralyn, and said how grateful the club was for her years as secretary.

Tom P nominated Caroline as new secretary, and Nigel J seconded it.

Tom M commented about the photos on the club website, and said he didn't think the image of a semi-automatic shotgun was suitable. Tom P is going to change the photos, Tom M thought this might attract more members. Tom M asked if the website could be used for fund-raising. Nigel W said that anybody using the club's equipment would have to be properly trained in its use. Tom P said it would be better to hold more "have-a-go" days. Toby suggested an occasional competition shoot with a small entry fee, half of which would go into club funds and the other half to a small cash prize.

Mark has experience of organising clay shoots and suggested more local advertising to attract new members. Tom P suggested printing some flyers and displaying them in shop windows etc.

Tom M suggested finding out how much an advertisement in the Western Gazette would cost.

Nigel W is going to liaise with Mark to try and get clays and cartridges at a better price.

Bryan added his thanks to Jack for all his hard work as chairman.

Tom P closed the meeting at 9 p.m.
