DRAFT

ENGLISH SMALL-BORE SHOOTING UNION

Email: secretary@englandshooting.org.uk
website: www.englandshooting.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ESSU HELD VIA ZOOM ON Tuesday 1st September 2026 AT 20.00HRS

In the presence of 22 fully paid-up members the meeting was declared quorate as required by the constitution and was opened by Mr Dower at 20.05hrs.

Attendees: Gail Rees, Craig Dower, Paul Taylor, David Goodfellow, Leanne Lacey, Paul Goater, Martin Newman, Chris Hunter, Lance Gilmore, Michaela Green, Matt Dixon, Any McGee, Karen Bulter, Alex Comerford, Margaret Thomas, John Booker, Paul Richardson, Vera Potiakova, Tim Blackwell, Phil Ralph, Satabdi Dash, Martyn Edwardson-White, David Sherwood

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   Olivia Beech, Ruth Mwandumba, Sanjay Silas, Ian Pettett, Rob Stubbs, Francine Gilmore

2. **To approve the Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting** (10th July 2025)
   Proposer: David Goodfellow Seconder: Paul Goater Approved by all

3. **Matters arising**
   None
4. **To receive the Vice Chairman's Report for the year ending 31st January 2026**

End of Year Address to the ESSU Membership

Good evening everyone and thank you for joining us at this year's Annual General Meeting. It is a pleasure to address the membership at the close of another important year for the English Small-bore Shooting Union, and to reflect on the progress we have made together across membership, performance, governance, communications and our public identity as England Shooting.

Membership

Our membership remains the foundation of everything the ESSU does. We continue to represent and support a committed community of athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, parents, clubs and supporters who share a common purpose: to strengthen English small-bore shooting and create the conditions in which athletes can develop, compete and represent England with pride.
This year has also underlined the importance of clear communication with members. As we modernise our systems, improve access to information and make membership processes easier to navigate, we are building an organisation that is more visible, more responsive and better placed to serve both current and future members.

Performance and Athlete Development

Performance remains central to our purpose. The ESSU exists to give talented English shooters the opportunity to progress through structured pathways and compete at the highest appropriate level. Across rifle and pistol disciplines, our

academies, squads and competition programmes continue to provide valuable experience, challenge and encouragement for athletes at different stages of their development. Our continued dominance across the Home Nation competitions in all disciplines was clear to see this year.
We should recognise not only medal-winning performances, but also personal progress, qualification scores, commitment to training, resilience in competition and the willingness of athletes to represent England professionally. These qualities matter because they define the culture we want to build: ambitious, disciplined, inclusive and proud.

Commonwealth Games — India

Looking ahead, the Commonwealth Games in India should provide an important focal point for our performance planning. Representation at a Games is never achieved by accident; it is the result of sustained preparation, transparent selection processes, athlete commitment, coaching input and the support network that sits behind every competitor. We need to be ready; ready for the call once the optional sports list is announced and ready to support a very strong England Team with the very best smallbore athletes in England.
The task then will be to ensure that England's shooters are given the strongest possible platform to prepare, qualify and perform. That means maintaining high standards, communicating expectations clearly, supporting athletes through the pathway and making sure the organisation around them is professional, credible and fit for purpose.
We will be publishing the selection policy for India once we are confirmed as a Sport and once the full events list is published. At this time none of this is known.

New Website and Digital Presence

One of the most visible developments this year is the work undertaken by the committee on our new website and digital presence under the England Shooting working name. This is more than a cosmetic change. It gives us a clearer public identity, a more modern platform for members and visitors, and a better way to present our competitions, membership, academies, documents and news.
The move to the new website is also an opportunity to improve how we tell our story. We want prospective members, parents, clubs, partners and athletes to quickly understand who we are, what we do and how they can get involved. I urge you all to contribute articles and photos to convey that strong message of what we do.
The organisation's official name remains the English Small-bore Shooting Union, while England Shooting gives us a contemporary and recognisable identity for our outward-facing work.

New England Shooting Kit

We are also close to launching the new England Shooting kit. This is an important step in strengthening our team identity and giving athletes, officials and supporters a consistent, professional image when representing England. Kit is not just clothing; it is a visible statement of belonging, pride and shared standards.
As we finalise the launch, I want to thank everyone involved in shaping the design, organising the practical details and helping ensure the kit reflects the values and ambitions of England Shooting.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

None of this progress happens without people giving their time, expertise and energy. I would like to thank the whole committee, officers, team managers,

academy leads, coaches, competition organisers, volunteers and members who continue to support the ESSU. I also want to specially recognise the athletes and their families, whose dedication and commitment remain at the heart of our work. As we move into the next year, our priorities are clear: to grow and support our membership, strengthen performance pathways, prepare properly for future representative opportunities, complete the launch of our new digital presence and kit, and continue building an organisation that English shooters can be proud of. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to working with you all as we take the next steps together.

5. **To receive the Hon Treasurer's Report and Statement of Accounts**
Our position is healthy. If shooting is in the Commonwealth Games, we will have a call on our funds.
Proposer Leanne Lacey Seconder Paul Taylor Approved by all

6. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2026/27**
The Vice Chairman called upon the Secretary to advise nominations that had been received duly proposed and seconded as required by the constitution as follows:

A nomination for Chairman: Craig Dower
Proposed by: Paul Taylor Seconded by: Gail Rees Approved by all

A nomination for Vice Chairman: Paul Taylor
Proposed by: Craig Dower Seconded by: Chris Hunter Approved by all

A nomination for Media and Communication Officer (Co opted) : Michaela Green
Proposed by: Craig Dower Seconded by: Paul Taylor Approved by all

Performance manager: *incumbent* Craig Dower Happy to continue until someone volunteers to take over the role

Vice President: David Goodfellow Proposer: G Rees Seconder: Craig Dower Approved by all

Committee: six current members:
Chris Hunter (Teams Manager); Paul Taylor (Pistol Academy Manager); P*aul Goater (Rifle Academy Manager); Margaret Thomas (Pistol Coach); Martyn Edwardson-White (General); Leanne Lacey (Membership Secretary)*
Co-opted members: *Ruth Mwandumba (Athlete's rep)*
Proposer David Goodfellow Seconder John Booker Approved by all

7. **Confirmation of unopposed Officers for 2026/27**
Secretary: Mrs Gail Rees (elected July 2023)
Treasurer: Mr Martin Newman (elected July 2024)

8. **To appoint the Hon Auditor**. Committee nomination: Mr J Leech.
Proposer Paul Taylor Seconder Cris Hunter

9. **To receive a report on the ESSU Safeguarding Policy**
Craig Dower presented the safeguarding Adults and Safeguarding Children Policies which we have developed for the ESSU. Safeguarding Lead is Gail Rees and Safeguarding Deputy is Craig Dower. There are also Safeguarding procedures for Safeguarding adults and for Safeguarding Children and incident

report forms for both policies as well. All are on the new website and any concerns should be emailed to safeguarding@englandshooting.org.uk

10. **To agree the date the AGM for 2027**.

5th July 2027

New webmaster Paul Taylor was introduced and talked about the new website, news and documents, garments of which a new range is being confirmed. Podium Hoodies will be ordered by committee for athletes who need them. Possibility of Badges and ties being available to order but needs to be set up.

The Chairman closed the meeting at: 20.41hrs

Following the meeting there was a general discussion including our success at the Bisley Meeting under the captaincy of Tim Blackwell, we won the Mixed Team, Men's Team and Ladies Team events.
There was some discussion about the new website and that we are still developing areas, such as nominated meetings and scores. This will be more relevant once we hear what is included in the CG India 2030.
Leanne was thanked for her work on the new membership system.
All new emails, by role or competition will be available on the website.

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Competition email addresses
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