



# Victorian Clay Target Association.

Meeting held at the Sebastopol Bowling Club  
Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> April

## MINUTES

1. Chairperson to open meeting and welcome all in attendance. Special mention was made of Mark Coleman and Damien Hutchins attending as delegates for the South East Zone. Zak Biggin was welcomed to his first meeting as a delegate for the North West Zone.

Meeting opened at 9.47am

2. Present: Lynne Curtis, Andrew Smith, Gary Hayden, Garry Cassells, Chris Langridge, Zak Biggin, Brendan Moroni, Damien Hutchins, Mark Coleman, Travis Williams.

Apologies – Mark Zielezna, Allan Kidd and Rhys Hirth

MOTION: That the apologies be accepted.

Moved: Garry Cassells                      Seconded: Andrew Smith                      CARRIED

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

MOTION: That the Minutes of the previous meeting, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2023, as listed, be accepted and confirmed as accurate.

Moved: Gary Hayden                      Seconded: Garry Cassells                      CARRIED

4. Business arising from the Minutes.

- 4.1 State Coaching issues (Special Meeting Dec 8 Item 7 point 3) – held over from last meeting. After some discussion it was noted that Gary Hayden is the State Coaching Co-ordinator and not the State Coach. It was also discussed the importance of VCTA and its clubs complying with the ACTA's coaching curriculum.

No progress has been made at this stage. There has been some interest, but a formal application process needs to be implemented. Need to decide on a set of criteria/guidelines for applicants to follow.

Lynne Curtis and Gary Hayden to decide on a set of criteria in line with the expectations of the ACTA and their coaching program.

Further discussions on this subject due later in the meeting.

- 4.2 Child Safety Officer (Special Meeting Dec 8 Item 7 point 7) – held over from last meeting. It was suggested that until the Child Safety Guidelines have been completed, the Secretary take this role in the interim. The 'Guidelines' need a final reading to ensure that they meet the needs of the VCTA and the clubs.

Travis suggested that his partner, Kim, would be happy to read the document. This was accepted and the Secretary is to forward to Travis for further reading.

4.3 Sporting Clays & Ball Trap (Special Meeting Dec 8 Gen Business Item 2) – held over from last meeting.

At this point of time there is still no date for the State Ball Trap event and there has only been one expression of interest from South East Zone for the 5 Stand Sporting Clays. It was pointed out that the Sporting Clays needs to be held so that a team can be selected to represent Victoria at the National Championships in August. The only expression of interest has been from Mornington, a steel shot club.

An opinion was expressed that previous clubs should be approached. These have been Bendigo, Maryborough and Warrnambool. The reason clubs are reluctant to host this event is that it does not attract large numbers of competitors and does not seem to be worth the effort involved. Further, while there is a large interest in Sporting Clays, competitors must be members of the ACTA to compete at the event and it appears that there are limited ACTA members that shoot this type of event. There are limited clubs in SE Zone that have the capability of running the event. Two layouts are required.

It was further suggested that Sporting Clays is a rapidly growing part of the sport and there is a lot of interest in this discipline.

It was the consensus of the meeting that this decision be delayed further while expressions of interest are sought, including ensuring that the Mornington Club is aware of the issues surrounding this event.

A date still has to be decided for the Ball Trap event. In 2022 it was held on Father's Day, on the day prior to the School Student's event and this was not satisfactory. The School Student event will be held on September 4.

A date is also required for the Commonwealth Titles – preferably in August/September. Several dates were debated for these events.

It was the CONSENSUS of the meeting: that the State Ball Trap Championships will be held on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> July at the State Grounds-Echuca CTC.

It has been agreed that the VCTA wishes to host the Commonwealth Titles over three days, six events in total.

It was the CONSENSUS of the meeting: that the Commonwealth Titles be held on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 2023. It will need to be checked with Echuca that this is acceptable.

4.4 Life Membership criteria (Jan Mtg Item 7 point a)

The Secretary presented the updated Life Membership policy with the requested updates. Nominations must come from an Executive member. Nominations from clubs and Zones must be made through an Executive representative.

MOTION: That the updated version of the Life Membership Policy, including the Meritorious Service Award, be accepted and passed for immediate application.

Moved: Chris Langridge      Seconded: Garry Cassells      CARRIED

4.5 Number of Meetings missed (Jan Item 7 point f) – secretary to report back

As requested, the Secretary researched the concept of "If an Executive Officer misses three meetings they must stand down from the position".

It was reported that this is not part of the VCTA's Constitution and there is no mention of this concept anywhere in the document. This concept is in the "Model Rules" but makes explicit mention that it does not include any Special or Extraordinary meetings.

It was further reported that, if the Executive believe that this is an important concept that it should be considered for inclusion in the review of the VCTA Constitution to be held later in the year.

There was discussion regarding the replacement of absent representatives with temporary delegates. This is dependent upon the absent delegate informing either the Secretary or their Zone of their inability to attend. It was further reiterated that the Zone representatives need to be more accountable to their Zones and if they cannot attend three out of five meetings then they are probably not the best person for the role.

## 5. Reports

### i) Treasurer's report

MOTION: That the Treasurer's Report, as presented, be received.

Moved: Garry Cassells

Seconded: Brendan Moroni

CARRIED

The Treasurer reported to the meeting his concern at the rapidly diminishing Association funds caused by the low return on VCTA events, including the hosting of UT events at Echuca, and the expenditure of money to cover the cost of flood damage.

A question was asked regarding the transaction to Traffic Australia (\$1177.00) – it was explained that this was for road signage for the Carnival. Previously this has been covered by a Campaspe Shire Grant that wasn't available at the time of the event in 2023.

A further question was asked regarding the cost of \$1219.95 to Leading Edge. It was explained that this was for the computer and screen display upgrade required at the Echuca clubrooms for the TV screens etc.

Further questions were asked about the electrical bills, and it was explained that this was for the repairs after the flooding of the traps and trenches. Further explanation in correspondence.

Payments to individuals are for uniform reimbursements for ISSF, Skeet and DTL teams.

A question was asked about the payments to My Club My Scores. It was pointed out that this was money received, not expended.

It was pointed out by the meeting that we need to review our income and expenditure in the future.

### ii) ACTA Report

All votes for the Board election must be in by April 24. The new board 'takes over' as of the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Board will organise sub-committees to run the 'hands-on' activities of the association.

It was reported that it was an excellent National event with both the Skeet and DTL Championships. The rotation of events is still under discussion. There was a lengthy discussion regarding finding 'workers' to run National events and some of the difficulties that were encountered at the event.

It was confirmed that the CEO, Paul Gilbert, has resigned, and that the Board will now look at the correct process for a new CEO.

There was some discussion about further reviews of My Club My Scores and the possible inclusion of more scores in the grading system.

Some discussion about membership renewals being on the anniversary of joining and not on November 1<sup>st</sup> in the future.

### iii) Firearm Users Group Report – including special report of Firearms training meeting on March 17.

Held over until Mark Zielezna able to report to Executive on Firearm Training meeting.

- iv) Committee of Management (State Grounds) Report  
Memorandum of Understanding, with Les Kadziela's thoughts, were sent out to all Executive officers in an effort to get this finalised. Allan Kidd has responded to the MOU by saying that he believed that there were a number of issues with the document.  
Lynne Curtis indicated to the meeting that with a few minor adjustments, as per Les Kadziela's thoughts, he would be happy to sign the document as a workable document, but he needs the approval of the Executive to do so.  
It was decided to have a Committee of Management meeting with Echuca on the Friday night before the ISSF Championships begin.

MOTION: After lengthy discussion, including some changes to bar sales and catering, it was AGREED TO IN PRINCIPLE, that the document be signed on behalf of the VCTA.

Moved: Travis Williams      Seconded: Mark Coleman      CARRIED

- v) Zone Reports  
South East Zone: Last Zone shoot was at Korumburra. 128 shooters attended. Excellent day. There was an AGM held in February – positions have remained the same. The third delegate is still to be decided. Melbourne Gun Club has recovered from its flood issues.

North West Zone: AGM has been held. Garry Cassells is the current president and Chris Langridge is secretary. Carnival is due in Mildura in a couple of months.

South West Zone: AGM was held on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Sam Rundle remains president. Mal Dyson stood down as state delegate. Rhys Hirth is the new delegate and should be a valuable addition to the Executive (absent from meeting due to Covid).

Question was asked about Zone payments, separate from Junior Development, that have been paid in the past to assist with administration.

The Secretary suggested that he would research when previous "administration" payments have been made and report back to the meeting.

It was also noted that there may be another club joining the Zone (discussed in correspondence).

North East Zone: AGM coming up in April. Need to find people for secretary and treasurer roles. Ball Trap event held at Mansfield – a good event. There are some questions arising about insurance – ACTA have been trying to finalise this. The issues are being challenged by the number of associations, and their related clubs, wanting to be part of the insurance process. It has been organised to paint the tops of the trench layouts at Echuca – organised as a working bee.

## 6. Correspondence – as notified and tabled.

Items listed for discussion:

| No. | Date  | Sender                    | Summary   |
|-----|---|---------------------------|---|
| 1   | 4/1/23  | Angie Pulsoni (Sedgewick) | Progress of insurance claim for Echuca flood damage (6 letters) |
|     | <i>The Secretary explained that the Hydrologist's report was not in our favour, and it is unlikely that the losses and damage experienced at the State Grounds will be covered by insurance. With this in mind, the Secretary has begun application to the State Government's Flood Recovery Program in an effort to recoup the costs that VCTA has paid out for items such as electrical repairs, trap repairs etc. The first \$5000 of the claim will be held against the \$5000 initial grant paid in December 2022. It is predicted that the amount of reimbursement will be in the order of \$17-19,000. Only expenses that can be justified by evidence of loss and/or evidence of payment will be recognised. Echuca CTC has been contacted, and</i> |                           |   |

|        |         |                        |  |
|--------|---------|------------------------|--|
|        |         |                        | <i>advised, that they should claim for all expenses that they have incurred i.e. pumps, switches, irrigation equipment.</i>  |
| 6a     | 14/2/23 | Mark Coleman (SE Zone) | Interest in hosting the 5 Stand Sporting event   |
|        |         |                        | <i>This was a letter from South East Zone regarding the Five Stand Sporting Clays and that Mornington CTC has expressed interest in this event. This item was discussed at Item 4.3</i>  |
| 7 & 22 | 17/2/23 | Victoria 2026          | Invitation to attend Comm Games Regional Engagement Forum  |
|        |         |                        | <i>The Secretary reported back that he attended the event and was disappointed that there is no further information about where shooting sports will be held for the Commonwealth Games. Travel distances and land ownership on top of growing infrastructure costs is delaying the decision.<br/>It was the CONSENSUS OF THE MEETING that a letter be written on behalf of the VCTA pointing out the benefits/advantages of the clay target events being held at Echuca.</i>  |
| 11     | 25/2/23 | Paul Gilbert (ACTA)    | Board Election process and related documentation   |
|        |         |                        | <i>It was the CENSUS OF THE MEETING that the VCTA does not have the ability to vote. Only the clubs get to vote.</i>   |
| 12     | 27/2/23 | Mathoura Gun Club      | Request for Come and Try assistance  |
|        |         |                        | <i>Mathoura Gun Club have completed an application seeking assistance for a "Come 'n Try" event at their club seeking to increase junior and female membership. It was recommended that \$400 be endorsed as the VCTA's contribution to this event. This was approved by the meeting.</i>  |
| 13     | 28/2/23 | Nick Dean (Echuca CTC) | Report on wad retention works and letter from P Dobson   |
|        |         |                        | <i>The Secretary read a letter from Echuca President, Nick Dean, regarding the wad retention works and a letter from Mr Dobson's lawyer requesting VCTA purchase a larger block of Mr Dobson's land so as to make it easier for him to sell his property. No further action required.</i>  |
| 16     | 14/3/23 | Colin Finn (NE Zone)   | Letter re Membership Renewal and request to send to ACTA   |
|        |         |                        | <i>This letter was requesting that there be a greater role by the ACTA in renewal notices being sent to members rather than it being the responsibility of the clubs. The letter seeks VCTA support in forwarding this to the ACTA for consideration.<br/>It was the opinion of the meeting that the planned review of the membership database and a change of membership due to the anniversary of joining by the ACTA will impact this.<br/>The Secretary to respond to the Zone explaining the planned changes.</i> |
| 17     | 21/3/23 | Amy Bieniek (Vic Pol)  | Information/report on Firearm Safety discussion on March 17  |
|        |         |                        | <i>This was a report from the meeting of March 17 and, as such, will be held over until the next meeting. The letter received was forwarded to Chris Langridge.</i>  |
| 18     | 29/3/23 | Graham Gordon (BAofS)  | Invitation to attend Presentation Night  |
|        |         |                        | <i>This was an invitation to attend the Bendigo Academy of Sport Presentation Night. Garry Cassells volunteered to attend as the VCTA representative. The secretary to forward the details of the event to Garry.</i>  |
| 19     | 30/3/23 | Judy Ferry (ACTA)      | Notice of AGM  |
|        |         |                        | <i>Notification of the ACTA AGM. All clubs should have received this. A hard copy of the Annual Report is available.</i>   |
| 21     | 31/3/23 | Jenny Robinson (ACTA)  | Invitation to host Commonwealth Titles in 2023   |
|        |         |                        | <i>South Australia and Queensland have 'passed' on their turn to host the Commonwealth Titles. It falls to Victoria's turn again. VCTA have responded that they will host the event on August 4-6. (See item 4.3)</i>  |
| 23     | 4/4/23  | Bryan Vincent          | Proposal to start new club at Rokewood (S W Zone)  |
|        |         |                        | <i>A letter seeking the support of the VCTA in the formation of a new club at Rokewood which would be in the South West Zone. The club has been sent all possible information to assist with their development. Andrew Smith and Rhys Hirth to attend the meeting on April 27 as representatives of the VCTA and the South West Zone.</i>  |

#### Outward

| No. | Date | Sender | Summary |
|-----|------|--------|---------|
|     |      |        |         |

## 7. General Business

- a. Review of Universal Trench from Feb 17-19  
Generally – a well run event. Approx. profit \$1500.  
Disappointing that the food van left after first day – thanks to Kerrie & Simone for filling the gap (letter of thanks sent).  
Need to look at event in more detail to ascertain viability of hosting this event.
- b. ISSF Championships – May 5-7  
The list of maintenance jobs/requirements was reviewed and priority given to tasks that need to be completed.  
There are sufficient clays at the State Grounds to run this event (5 pallets of Green Dreams).  
Lengthy discussion on how to make the event more profitable reviews of expenditure, GST reporting and division of prize money. In particular, the division of prize money between the Skeet and Trap competitions.  
Prize money for the event has not been advertised.  
The general consensus of the meeting was that the prize money should be decided by the number of competitors at the event. The secretary will provide sufficient cash to cover the trophies with members of the Executive to assist with the preparation of cash trophies at the event.
- c. Commonwealth Titles – see correspondence and item 4.3
- d. Uniform Policy  
The secretary requested that the Executive review the Uniform Policy with a view to extending the time before uniform items are replaced with all items to be under consideration.  
It was requested that this be put on hold for the next meeting so that the impact of changes could be looked at in detail.
- e. Catering at VCTA events (Jeff)  
Some discussion about who is responsible for catering for events at the State Grounds. Kerrie Dean has stated that she is happy to organise catering for any events. Simone Tannous was also interested but would be doing so for herself. Kerrie would be doing it for the club. According to the MOU, Echuca club has first priority.  
It was discussed at length that Echuca needs to indicate well in advance of an event if they are going to cater, or not.  
Catering for the 2023 Carnival to be discussed at the Committee of Management meeting at the ISSF Championships.
- f. Voting for Board members – not applicable
- g. Permission to 'review' files held in storage (Jeff)  
The Secretary sought the support of the Executive to review the files that the VCTA currently hold and make appropriate adjustments to the files that we hold. Financial records from the last seven years will be held. Squad sheets, CTSN and meeting minutes will be maintained.  
Old nomination forms, entry forms, club shoot programs to be destroyed appropriately.  
Approval given.

h. Life Membership for the Dysons

MOTION: That Life Membership of the VCTA be awarded to Malcolm Dyson for outstanding service and dedication to the VCTA over many years.

Moved: Lynne Curtis                      Seconded: Gary Hayden                      CARRIED

MOTION: That a Meritorious Service Award be bestowed upon Helen Dyson for her outstanding contribution to the VCTA.

Moved: Lynne Curtis                      Seconded: Gary Hayden                      CARRIED

MOTION: That Life Membership of the VCTA be awarded to Lynne Curtis for outstanding service and dedication to the VCTA.

Moved: Gary Hayden                      Seconded: Mark Coleman                      CARRIED

i. The Secretary received a phone call advising, and encouraging, the VCTA that the next round of the Together More Active Grants is about to be advertised. Preference to be given to projects that encourage partnerships with community groups.

The Secretary informed the meeting that he has a plan to develop coaching programs in line with ACTA standards and in conjunction with the Zones and the State Sporting Academies. This would also incorporate close liaisons between the Academies and a Zone delegate rather than through the VCTA office.

The grant is worth \$20,000 a year for four years.

The meeting gave its approval for an application to be submitted.

j. Mark Zielezna sent a letter (forwarded to all Executive members) regarding ways to improve the association's finances. Mark expressed concerns about a number of items including;

- Reliance on membership fees and grant money
- Lack of income from State events
- Need to support Junior Development.

Ideas put forward included;

- Charging a state levy on Recreational Shooters
- Charging a state levy of Juniors to be used for Junior development.
- Review Carnival prize money and donated prizes.

The letter also put forward the concept of shooting 5 per lane as a method to encourage more participation.

Lengthy discussion regarding all of these recommendations, most of which were well received.

MOTION: That the annual State Membership fee be increased by \$5 to \$25.

Moved: Gary Hayden                      Seconded: Damien Hutchins                      CARRIED

MOTION: That the annual State Membership for Recreational members be set at \$25.

Moved: Gary Hayden                      Seconded: Damien Hutchins                      CARRIED

This is to commence at the beginning of the 2024 Membership year.

k. It was brought to the meeting by Brendan Moroni that the system for new shooting licences is about to change (see correspondence point 17) and that certain shooting

bodies are trying to 'railroad' the training/accreditation system so that only their body can run the training sessions/firearms safety courses.

As a result of this, VCTA have been advised that they need to become part of the Firearms Consultative Committee.

Chris Langridge and Gary Hayden to work together to advise the Executive as to the best course of action.

- I. South East Zone put forward the concept of a Premier Shield Team to be part of the inter-Zone teams' event at the State Carnival. The 'winning' team would be the Zone with the highest points total shot by the Zone's representative team in the Zone event combined; Open, Ladies, Veteran and Juniors.  
A Shield will be organised, and the event will be administered, by South East Zone.

MOTION: That the concept of a Premier Shield Team be introduced at the 2023 State Carnival.

Moved: Damien Hutchins

Seconded: Gary Hayden

CARRIED

8. Next meeting – July

9. Meeting closed at 3.22 pm