

## Lincolnshire Bell Target League Committee Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm

**Attendees:** Lindsey Gibbs, Brian Gibbs, Andrew Dickinson, Gary Griffin, Graham Prestwood, Steve Brown, Beverley Brown, Hayley Brown, Maggie Loy.

**Absent:** Jim Brown.

### Agenda:

1. Review of previous meeting.
2. Area representatives
3. Coaching on the shooting line.
4. Rifle Safety
5. Time taken to reset bells/scoring between shoots
6. Review of Idiots Guide
7. Behaviour and safeguarding
8. Vacancies
9. Upcoming events

### Meeting Minutes:

1. We had a look over the actions from the last meeting, there was no outstanding actions to be completed. GG confirmed that he had found an alternative venue for Alford "The George" however Yvonne and Paul would only be temporary captains, there are some thoughts around the venue and its suitability long term, it could be decided that the Brewery venue would be better suited.  
LG presented the group with a new template for registration forms and a welcome pack for new affiliations for the club, this was looked at and agreed by the committee. LG made the committee aware that the £5 taken at venues are to be called league fees (to join the league) this is inclusive of insurance covered by the club and allows you to shoot at all venues, this is also included on the new registration form itself. LG also explained that the insurance affiliation for the club runs from 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024. LG explained that members/clubs will be asked for the league fees to be paid every year by the end of September, this will ensure that the funds are available in the bank to be paid to the NSRA on time by 1<sup>st</sup> October. Any members wishing to join the league after 1<sup>st</sup> May 2024 will pay a reduced fee of £2.50 and then the full fee £5 in September. This information will also be added to the welcome letter to make it clear for venues and team captains. GP also requested that new venues contact him with their venue and shooting information so that he can add this to the venues tab on our website.
2. Area representatives gave feedback about new venues and events, The Rutland Arms in Newark have completed their "Have a go" sessions. Twisted Tensions in Lincoln have had 2 one off events, Theddlethorpe and Alford are now affiliated and joined the league.  
It was discussed by the committee in relation to 'one off' events and 'have a goes' as to whether these would be beneficial to the club, it was understood that our 'have a go' sessions are for venues who wish to affiliate and join the league, as area representatives are there to offer continuous support, loan a kit and all equipment needed, inclusive insurance cover, all while getting a feel for shooting until the venue can purchase a kit and can continue within the league. It was felt that time spent gaining new venues/clubs into the league was better spent. However, GG will confirm with DC about what is possible in relation to

insurance cover if we were going to promote 'one off' or social 'pop up' events as well as outer boarder venues, such as Nottinghamshire.

SB and BB informed the committee that they both would be willing to support and help out at any clubs and venues having successfully opened and supported Theddlethorpe. The committee welcomed their help, we all believed that both SB and BB would be an asset to the league and we would like them both on the committee with us, watch this space!!!!

The committee is open for help and support from all clubs and captains across the league, should they wish to open a venue, we just kindly ask that this is communicated effectively with the committee and area representative beforehand, we would like venues to be risk assessed and checked in relation to the league's insurance.

We also discussed new venues having their own face book pages/groups and that anything posted also needs to be shared and tagged into the Lincolnshire bell target league page.

SB informed that he would be happy to do posters for venues on the FB pages to make it more fun looking and attractive.

3. GG spoke to the committee about coaching on the shooting line, particularly with new shooters. It was discussed that new shooters on the range require support with things such as: Standing positions – body stance- chins on stocks- looking through sights, eye dominance, all of which requires some one-on-one coaching and can take time whilst on the range. GG has volunteered to run a training course that will help support new shooters as well those who wish to coach, this will ensure that across the league everyone is being coached at the same level with the same rules and understanding of safety whilst on the range. more details in relation to the training event will be shared soon.
4. The committee had a very long and very in-depth discussion in relation to Rifle safety, in particular leaving rifles cocked or bolt open?? As stated, it was a long topic of discussion taking all venues into consideration, as well as all abilities and experience of shooters. Again, we would like to stress that safety is everyone's responsibility and we as a committee and a league would like to eliminate the risks where possible. The committee have made the decision that rifles are to be cocked..... however we understand that if you have a rifle with a magazine once you cock your gun it becomes loaded. it was therefore decided that a magazine must be removed when resetting targets, and at the end of every shoot. All guns are to then be placed on the range, stored safely facing forward of the firing point or supervised designated area. It was also decided that magazines should be loaded with 5 pellets only, and the magazine case be filled with the 5 pellets before coming to the shooting line. The committee have also decided that this decision will be under review and we will discuss this again at our next meeting. Should you require further clarification then please speak to your area representative.
5. Time taken to reset bells and scoring between shoots will be at the discretion of the RCO and the type of venue. Most venues will aim to have at least a minimum of 4 rounds, we would like to prevent people waiting to long between shots and gain as many rounds as possible. We would therefore suggest that each RCO has a score caller whilst the other watches the shooters on range. this will then stop people gathering down range at the target to look at scoring and as stated would be the RCO's decision on how many are gathering.
6. The idiots guide is emailed out to all new venues, and should be held by existing venues for any new shooters to view prior to shooting on the range, the committee has discussed some topics relevant that need updating or adding to this guide, such as rifle safety, coaching on the shooting line, and behaviour. The committee have also made the decision to re-name the idiots guide to read 'The beginners Guide'

7. As a league that is continuing to grow, we are seeing more families and young children being welcomed into the league which is fabulous to see, The committee would therefore like to remind everybody that their behaviour and conduct during shooting sessions is paramount, we would like to set an example to all shooters of all ages and kindly ask that the use of language and behaviour is reasonable at all times, we shall not tolerate language used in relation to illegal substances, or promotion of such substances within the league. Please drink reasonably and responsibly when in use of your rifles. Anybody who may seem to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave the firing range and only when deemed necessary you will be asked to leave the venue.  
We have also seen at some venues recently, the use of ear buds when shooting on the range, this is a very big safety concern and means that you will not be able to hear any instructions given by the RCO on the firing range, please be aware that if you have any such devices on you whilst on the range you be asked for them to be removed by the RCO. Hearing aids and ear defenders are suitable to be in use.  
As previously mentioned above, the league is seeing more young children taking part in shooting with their families, whilst child protection is the responsibility of everybody, we feel that the league should have a 'point of contact' in relation to any child protection concerns or issues, therefore the league has appointed Maggie Loy as our new child protection officer.
8. The league had some current vacancies awaiting to be filled, I can confirm the following:  
Vice Chairman – Jim Brown  
League secretary – Cathy Evans  
Child Protection – Maggie Loy
9. The Northern shooting show will take place on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May 2024 in Harrogate, the Bell target league will have a stand running for both days and we are in need of some volunteers to help out, you will gain free entry into the show, roughly around 7 helpers are required, and anyone that can help set up on the Friday evening would be welcomed. Please contact the committee or Andrew Dickinson should you be interested to support.

#### A.O.B.

County Competition: The sub committee feel that it is too late in the year to hold the championships, we feel that time is required to establish a proper format, we feel that we would like it to be professional, the league requires time to secure a venue big enough, sort out costings such as trophies and medals, find sponsors, as well as other things, once a format has been discussed and agreed this will be shared.

SB shared with the committee his thoughts of an inter club championship for bell target clubs currently affiliated within the league, and only competition at the home venue counts, so for an example Steve is affiliated to Anderby, should he decide to shoot at Saxilby only his scores at Anderby would count towards the league. It would be based on the first three rounds of any bell target event at each club. Someone at each venue should take responsibility of collating the scores and posting them to Lincs bell target facebook page for public scrutiny however most clubs already do this. The mini league negates the need for clubs to travel to each other for matches and is a near virtual league that will exist alongside and NOT replace any future competitions or club matches. Steve has the software currently being developed and is happy to run this league even for a short trial period. Upon hearing Steve's ideas and dedication to the league the committee have decided to appoint Steve as our League Development Officer.

Bell target shooting will commence at The Henage Arms on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, on a monthly basis.

### ACTIONS

- LG add league fee renewal dates and setting new venues on venues page to the welcome letter.
- GG speak to DC in relation to insurance cover – pop up's and one off events.
- LG & BG to see if a venues tab can be added to Lincs Bell Target FB page
- GG to arrange a venue and date for training course – coaching on the firing line
- LG to ask Geoff for the idiots guide master copy to tweak and rename
- LG set up DBS for Maggie and send copy of CP policy
- GP set up new venues on website

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024 7pm start.