

Kingswood GC Year end Chairman's notes 2024

Welcome to Ludgershall Village Hall for this year's AGM and celebration of another successful years shooting.

As a club we should be very proud that we have been able to retain our integrity and resolve continuing in a strong and healthy state unlike some other clubs that are either closing or operating on a much more limited basis. Our membership has continued to grow and is now hovering around 75. Fortunately, we have never had all members turn up on the day as the current system would just not cope.

As in previous years I, and along with all of us I am sure, would like to thank Brian, Dawn, William and all of the set-up team who regularly turn up well in advance of the Sunday 10:00 start time to both set up, and then afterwards, continue with the clear up of the shoots for the benefit of the club members.

As a club and individuals, we were all very saddened to hear of Anne Holts sudden and untimely departure from this world and wish to pass on our condolences to Tony. Over the years Anne has been a valued and highly appreciated associate to the club with everyone benefiting from her excellent baking skills during our mid shoot coffee break as well as generally helping out with many other behind the scenes tasks. Our thoughts are with Tony and his surviving family and once Tony is ready, we will look forward to seeing him shooting again.

I would also like to thank all of the committee for their support and assistance where each member carries out a different role that, when the collective sum of these is combined, ensures the smooth running of the club. Without these individual valuable contributions the club would not be able to operate or function.

I am pleased to report that overall the accounts are still in good shape that Shirley will cover in more detail in her financial update shortly. One area that needs addressing is that we have a few persistently late payers when it comes to renewing their membership which places an unnecessary burden on Shirley running the administration. To encourage members to pay up in time (you have until 31st January 2025) anyone who has not paid by then will incur an additional £20 administration fee on top of their annual membership. Obviously by paying on time this will then not be necessary to activate and so make Shirley's life a lot easier.

The website continues to be a valued club asset that we must thank Steve Blasdale for as well as his updates and improvements throughout the year to this valuable resource for the club. The website itself attracts enquiries from potential new members some of which then come and join the club having shot as a guest proving that we are a social and friendly lot.

The annual BBQ shoot was a great success and again thanks to Brian for setting up a varied challenge along with the air gun range as well. To compliment this many people ably rose to the occasion in ensuring adequate provisions which were cooked outside and then enjoyed by all in this hall for which I would like to thank everyone involved for either providing the ingredients or helping with the cooking and serving of.

Both of the trophy shoots, the Fred Dymock and Roger Phillips, continue to be well attended and shot competitively with a variety of winners ensuring that these remain hotly contested each year.

The relatively new Easter shoot, with a subsidised fish and chip meal afterwards, which everyone enjoyed, has become a regular established shoot. This allows everyone to shoot over this festive time without disrupting any Easter Sunday family plans that members have in place when the shoot would normally occur.

As usual it is coming around to the time for annual subs to be paid for your continued membership for 2025 for which Shirley will be collecting now, at the next shoot or before the end of January after which the newly introduced administration fee will then additionally be applied. Payment can either be by hard earned cash or electronically via the sum up machine (which just happens to be here tonight)

Even with all of the HS2 disruption going on around us we still have partial access to the Quainton ground which is great bonus; however, if anyone knows of any other potential shooting sites the committee would be keen to hear of these options so as to look at potentially exploring these as we never quite know what HS2 will be doing next.

I am still receiving letters threatening closure of this ground from HS2 as they want requisition all of the land and the access driveway but, touchwood, to date, has not been enforced. I have also applied for compensation giving a figure of 10K. They suggest getting reputable land agent to assist in filling in this form for compensation, but as this is not a cost the club wishes to incur, I have continued to fill this in. Should anyone be able to assist and support this the next time it is issued by HS2 please let me know so we can work on it together.

As always thank you all for your continued support and commitment to the club so that it remains strong healthy and viable.