



Chairman's Chat February 2025

Hello from the Lincolnshire Bell target League Committee

By way of Introduction, the current committee members are:

Chairman – Vince Loy

Vice Chair – Jim Brown

Secretary – Natasha Potter

Treasurer – Hayley Brown

Webmaster – Graham Prestwood / David Potter

Child Welfare Officer – Maggie Loy

Area Development Representatives:

Jim Brown & Andrew Dickinson, for Lincoln area.

David Potter & Eddie Anderson, for Newark area

Tim Watson, Bev Brown and Ruth Dudley for Coastal Area.

- First Point of business was to elect a new chairperson, due to increased work commitments Andrew Dickinson was no longer able to give the time and attention required to the chairman role and sadly had to take the decision to step down, but he will remain as a valued member of the committee. Proposals were made and vote held, and somehow, I ended up being elected, I can only thank the committee for their belief in me as a candidate and I am honored and grateful for the trust and confidence placed in me and will do my very best not to disappoint you in this role but it is made so much easier by the fantastic efforts of the whole committee that make us successful.
- We are in the final stages of drafting a “club contract” and once the committee agrees to the final draft it will be issued out to the various venues, it will detail the Leagues commitment to the clubs and in return the club’s commitment to the League. Going hand in hand with the contract there is also a “disciplinary form” which we all fervently hope to never have cause to use but will detail the safety, conduct and moral standards that are expected to be upheld by clubs with membership to and representing the league and the potential consequences of failing to follow the guidance.
- Promotional Video’s and Interviews were discussed and it is asked (as a common courtesy) of all Club Captains if you are approached to give an interview (by any publications or local newspapers) or allow video (Facebook, Youtube, Instagram, Tiktok etc) discussing or reporting of the Club/League activities that the committee be advised at the earliest opportunity to ensure the most current and accurate information is relayed and GDPR rules are followed, we have a number of members that have advised they do not wish to be included in promotional material and we also have a significant number of juniors that we will need parental consent before use in any publications, finally we may be able to help with promotional items such as flyers and banners.
- We are hoping in the very near future to roll out a new membership portal, which will allow online registration and payment, also providing reminders as you approach your expiry date – Thank you to all involved for the sterling work and we hope to see the system in use in the next couple of months.
- Breaking News *** We have secured a venue for the County Championships *** please put this date in your diaries **Saturday 6th September 2025** full details will follow in the next update
- Calibration of targets was discussed at length and agreement made that we will purchase 3 x Dynamometers and issue to the development officers as part of their kit (we have now received and will distribute to the guys for use), this will allow venues to check their targets and ensure they fall within the agreed values currently being used – Currently we set targets using a 948g weight through the target hole and this must not activate a bell, a further weight is added @ 380g (combined weight of 1328g) and this should trip the target and ring the bell. After a lot of discussion, we the committee have agreed that targets should be set at 1250g using the Dynamometer with a +/- 50g allowance for general use club targets (i.e. if your targets are set and ring the bell in the 1200g to 1300g range they will be considered calibrated). This is in the greater than 75%

of the total mass range. However, for competition the targets will need to be set in the 1300g to 1350g range to be considered calibrated, also it was discussed that the only pellet that will be allowed in competition will be 8.48gr domed pellets.

- Back to Basics initiative will be implemented, it has been noted, that we collectively have been slipping in our range discipline, resulting in minor safety concerns being raised, committee members will be visiting all venues over the upcoming months to review risk assessments and general range safety but it is incumbent on the Club captains and RCO's to ensure safety standards of the highest order at all times. All clubs should have a folder with a copy of the current risk assessment, (copy to be sent for the committee records as well please) and a printed copy of the Insurance policy document which can be downloaded here <https://www.lincolnshirebelltargetleague.co.uk/insurance>
- Development and Support Requests, should be submitted through the leagues official email info@lbt.co.uk or website contact form www.lbt.co.uk We are currently in discussion with 3 x village halls and 2 x Public houses with a view to providing try outs and if successful hopefully leading to development of additional venues
- We have been asked to look at the feasibility of hosting an event for The Blind veteran Society and hope to put this together for them April / early May – updates to follow
- The National Shooting Show will soon be upon us and we will have a similar set up to last year where attendees are encouraged to come and have a go at Bell Target, as you are all aware it is super addictive and we hope you can take the time to drop in at the Great Yorkshire Show Ground, Harrogate on the **10th& 11th May 2025** another date for you diaries.
- We are actively seeking to provide RCO courses and once the NSRA provide us with guidance, cost and availability we will (numbers dependent) try to offer the course to those that are interested with the aim, where possible, to ensure each club has at least 1 approved RCO
- Lastly and by no means least – Steve Brown Anderby Village Hall Captain will be starting the Virtual League in earnest April 2025, he has run a very successful trial over the winter and is now ready to roll it out to the league membership – I believe the uptake has been phenomenal but there is still time to get your name added and pit your skills against the rest of the league.

With that I will leave you fine people to carry on enjoying our sport – go ring some bells.

Vince Loy