

# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

## Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held in the NRA Pavilion, Bisley on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009 from  
5.30pm.

### Present:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Dr R. Pizer
<b>Vice Chairman of the General Council:</b>	Prof A.R. Horrocks
<b>Secretary General:</b>	Mr G.W.J. Alger
<b>Members:</b>	69 Registered Members

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### PROCEEDINGS

Attached hereto and initialled by the Chairman of the meeting as a record of the meeting is the report as published in the Journal.

### ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

#### a. Election of Officers.

- (1) **Re-election of the President.** The Chairman proposed on behalf of The Council that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales KG, KT, GCB, AK, QSD, CD, PC, ADC(P) be re-elected as President.

**The Resolution was approved.**

- (2) **Election of Vice-Presidents.** The Chairman proposed on behalf of The Council that the existing Vice-Presidents be elected en bloc.

With: Mr Eric McGibbon  
Mr Richard van Lingen

**The Resolution was approved.**

- b. **Reappointment of the Auditors.** The Chairman proposed on behalf of the Council the re-appointment of Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP as Auditors.

**The Resolution was approved.**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

The Statement of the Chairman, the Report of the Trustees and the Audited Accounts were received.

**CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH AND OPEN FORUM.**

Attached at Annex.

Chairman

## Annual General Meeting – 12th June 2009

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### Proceedings

#### **Speech by Dr Robin Pizer, Chairman**

On behalf of the whole Council it is my great honour to propose that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales be re-elected as our President. Can I ask you to approve that?

*Agreed.* Thank you very much.

Then there is the election of the Vice Presidents. I would like to start firstly by proposing the re-election of the existing Vice Presidents, again I do this on behalf of the whole Council, so can I have your approval for that please?

*Agreed.* Thank you.

Now we are proposing two new Vice Presidents and these are Mr Eric McGibbon and Mr Richard van Lingen. Richard is, as you probably know, from South Africa, I have been told he has not been too well and is certainly not able to be here today and I would just like to say a few words about him. He is 75 years old and, they tell me, a doyen of the South African target shooting associations both as a competitor and as an administrator. In a shooting career spanning 61 years he has represented South Africa in more than 60 international team matches over three disciplines, small-bore, 300m and fullbore. He has served with distinction on the councils of SATRA (small-bore) and SABU (fullbore). Internationally he re-drafted the Palma Match Rules in 2003 and was then a member of the ICFRA Rules review group which compiled the recently published comprehensive ICFRA Rule book. He has twice been honoured with the South African State Presidents Sports Merit Award. His first visit to Bisley was in fact in 1960 as a member of the official Springbok small-bore team. He has competed in 17 Imperial meetings and he has always gone out of his way to welcome teams from the UK that go to South Africa. So I hope that you will approve that we appoint Richard as one of our Vice Presidents. Can I have your approval please?

*Agreed.* Thank you.

Then Eric McGibbon, who is present today sitting in the front row at my invitation. He is slightly older, alleged to be about 82 and is well known at Bisley Camp as a stalwart of the Surrey Rifle Association, for many decades he has been a Range Officer at the Imperial and other meetings. His armourer skills were noticed in the 1990s when he was appointed armourer to the GB Palma team for 1992 and again in 1995. Nowadays, twice a week, you will find him in the Museum, where he has put in a lot of time to help with the displays and is an excellent raconteur who keeps our visitors fascinated. So may I have your approval to appoint Eric as a Vice President please?

*Agreed.* Thank you. Eric, would you like to come forward and receive your badge?

*APPLAUSE.*

I now come to item 3 on the Agenda, that is the re-appointment of our Auditors, Baker Tilly UK Audit LLP. I again propose this on behalf of the Council so can I have your approval that they be re-appointed please?

*Agreed.* Thank you.

I will now say a few words before we get on to questions on the accounts and what I am about to say.

It was a great honour to be appointed Chairman of the NRA last February. I had thought it might take 2 days a week reducing in time to 1 day a week. It is taking much longer. However I believe the worst of the learning curve will be over by August. I therefore have great sympathy with Bill Richard's comments in July last year that his learning curve had been perpendicular rather than merely steep. I have talked in detail with Bill about the challenges facing the NRA and plan to talk to him again shortly. It has been very helpful to hear his observations and some of the things I will talk about today include his ideas. I would like to thank him wholeheartedly for his year in office and for the wise guidance he gave the Council in particular during a period of multiple challenges that the NRA is not geared up to dealing with.

Some of the challenges facing us have been mentioned by me at the front of the Financial Statements. I will only comment where there have been changes or new information is now available. I will be brief because several of these topics could easily take up an hour or more of discussion.

### **Olympics**

First, the Olympics. As you know the LOCOG decision is to favour Woolwich for 2012 with Barking as the reserve option. The main reason given was their contractual commitment to a compact Games. Their other commitment to legacy value for the shooting sports has been forgotten about. It has certainly not helped that they saw Bisley Camp ownership as complex with no guarantee that all tenants would have agreed to exclusive usage at Games time. They felt that there was no credible lead organisation with clear responsibility for delivery of the master plan or the legacy programme.

In July I hope a talk and Power Point display can be arranged in the Umbrella Tent to show you in more detail just how impressive and well thought out the plans were.

There is to be a debate in the House of Lords on 18 June concerning the merits of Bisley v Woolwich. I am most grateful to our supporters in that House for the initiative they have taken. Maybe there is now a small chance that the shooting events will come to Bisley.

### **Developments at Bisley Camp**

If the Olympics come to Bisley, many developments will be accelerated. But unless decisions are changed, we will have to go through the normal planning processes. Guildford Borough Council want to see a master plan for the development of Bisley showing shops, hotels, conference centres, leisure facilities and chalets etc. Later this month the Trustees are meeting those developing this master plan which has been delayed due to the Olympics. It is only through such development that funds can be generated to acquire surplus MOD ranges or build 300 metre ranges around the United Kingdom.

### **NATSS**

NATSS became a contentious issue in the second half of last year. I have now had a meeting with the Chairmen and Chief Executives of the CPSA and the NSRA. It is clear that initially it was

assumed that the only outcome was full amalgamation of the NRA, NSRA and CPSA as a charity by April 2010. That will not now happen. It has been agreed that we will 'work towards a new single governing body' with the clear understanding that this goal might never be reached because we decide in the light of 'joint working' that something different is preferable. The 'joint working' I refer to involves a service provider delivering a number of services that individually the three associations do not provide at all or inadequately at present or where a united front to Government is essential.

The first such service provider is expected to be GBTSF which is being reconstituted to deliver the Whole Sport Plan using funds from Sport England (so GB is a misnomer as only England is involved). It will have directors from the NRA, NSRA and CPSA. £750,000 has been allocated over 4 years – not much but better than nothing.

It is sad that so little has been achieved in three and a half years.

### **Review of workings of NRA / NSC**

Before I was elected Chairman, I was aware of feelings amongst some ordinary NRA members that we were not very effective, not customer friendly, not good value for money and often out of touch with the mood of the members.

Having now seen things from the inside, I am very conscious that staff and volunteers serving the NRA and NSC are very dedicated and devoted to the cause of shooting some working longer hours than they should. But the pressures we have had to face from the Olympics, the Development and modernisation of Bisley Camp, Shooter Certification and the increasing difficulties of access to MOD ranges, NATSS as well as the overriding need to get out of debt have made it very difficult to satisfy members around the country or at Bisley. Our staff and committee structure was not designed to cope with this huge increase in workload.

So I would like a root and branch review of how the General Council, Council and Staff operate to deliver what our members want.

### **Ammunition**

The first 200,000 rounds of RUAG were delivered at the end of May and were successfully tested. Their next test is in the Inter Counties Matches over this weekend. A further delivery of 300,000 rounds is expected imminently.

When the July Meeting is finished, we need to review the situation and decide what to do for 2010. An important consideration will be whether to continue with a single source or have two sources giving competitors at our meetings a choice.

### **Clock Tower**

You will see the Clock Tower has been stripped naked and its body is showing signs of old age especially the legs that are sunk in the ground. I am told the work will be completed by the end of June but then my two immediate predecessors as Chairman thought the work was going to be completed long ago.

I would like to thank those who have so generously contributed to the appeal, which has raised over £8000 to date. Donations are still invited and may be made through the web-site.

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

2010 will see the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first meeting of the NRA at Wimbledon. We will celebrate this by publishing a special commemorative edition of the Journal, badge the Phoenix,

Imperial and Trafalgar Meetings as 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events and if costs are acceptable issue special medals for these events.

### **Child Protection**

Child Protection is another issue where members and clubs need guidance as soon as possible as new legislation kicks in on 1 October 2009. British Shooting has produced guidance which the NRA will broadly follow but there are still a few points to resolve to make the burden as light as possible for clubs. The draft guidance is available for clubs now.

That's all I have to say about what has happened in the last few weeks, since the Financial Statements were produced so I would now throw the meeting open to questions and just say, who would like to ask the first question? Can I ask you to use the microphone and please give your name and club clearly?

### **Iain Robertson**

#### **RAFTRC**

I notice from the accounts that the NSC income was approximately £1.4m turnover, is it possible to give a breakdown for that in any more detail? A one line entry while it is accurate is not very informative.

### **Mark Haszlakiwicz**

#### **Treasurer**

We actually publish a consolidated set of accounts for the NRA, there are of course accounts for the NSC itself but we don't publish them to everyone although they are available. What we do try and do in these consolidated accounts is to keep them as simple as possible but to try and explain within them fundamentally what is happening. And it is always a very difficult balance to get the amount of detail right. The accounts themselves, the detail of all the numbers are largely predicated by what is required by the Companies Act and the requirements of the Charity Commission but within the Trustees' statement we have a section which is the Financial Summary, Financial Review, and there we try and split all the income and expenditure not by which company it falls into which would probably be misleading to many, but by what type of activity it is and I hope that will give you as good a flavour as we can fundamentally of where an item of income and expenditure is falling. I don't know whether that answers your question.

### **Iain Robertson**

One specific point that I was looking for and I couldn't find was our income from corporate hospitality events which I notice is down by £28,000 I believe, looking at the NSC accounts but it does not say what the actual figure is.

### **Mark Haszlakiewicz**

It is not a sub-division, it is included in the shooting income and of course the associated expenditure. If you would like to get a more specific number, I don't think it is commercially sensitive and if you come and see me after I can give it to you.

### **Chairman**

Any more questions on the accounts? Okay, lets move on to other questions.

### **Carol Painting**

#### **Pumas RC**

I am a bit concerned about communication. I wrote a letter on the 6<sup>th</sup> May to Jeremy Staples about health and safety on Bisley Camp and I have not had a reply, Amanda got her copy so that I knew it had arrived. And something which is more urgent is a message I sent to the Range Office on the

24<sup>th</sup> May about the targets, targets 13 to 16 on Century butt 12 have the bottom of the targets obscured by the bank and it is apparent at all distances but it is not so important at 300x because the black is smaller. But at 500x and 600x the black is fairly close. In fact I thought target 14 was impossible to shoot on at 500x. Now there are, obviously, a couple of ways of handling this and it is essential that it is resolved one way or another before they are used but I have not had a reply. Could you confirm that this is being fixed before the Inter Counties?

**Jeremy Staples**  
**MD NSC**

Could you give me the target numbers again?

**Carol Painting**

Yes, target numbers 13 to 16 were the ones that I saw although I recommend that you look at the top of the previous butt, butt 11, as well because I have a feeling that there was a problem there as well. The grass has been cut which is great but I actually got the impression that you had to take something off the bank as well as re-arrange the target positioning so that they sit higher.

**Jeremy Staples**

I will get someone to look at it first thing in the morning.

**Ian Brown**  
**Wandsworth RC**

I note that we have just asked for £25,000 to fix the clock tower, the main reason for that as far as I can see it is the NRA policy of not maintaining anything properly. Can anyone give me a figure of what is outstanding in maintenance for all the NRA assets on the Camp, including historic buildings?

Chairman

I doubt if that figure is available today but you are quite right, the maintenance has not been a high priority over the past few years because of trying to get out of debt and now we have successfully achieved that. So there has to be a re-assessment of what needs to be done around Bisley Camp and prioritise within the funds available. There will obviously be more funds available since we have now paid off the debt. So yes, I am disappointed obviously, I am sure that everyone is disappointed including the staff but it has been a difficult financial situation.

**John Carmichael**  
**Life Member NRA**

Ian Brown has just touched on a point I was going to raise. I have been saddened by what I have seen around Camp as regards maintenance and the cleanliness of Camp, particularly the cleanliness of toilets. I know that matter has been raised recently and I was rather surprised to see today a group of people actually clean the toilet with bleach and doing a proper job of it but I look around and I see leaking taps, I see leaking pipes I see water cascading down. In the ladies toilet just over there you will see a leak which has which has probably wasted a million gallons and the NRA can't afford to lose money like that. The state of the maintenance on the Camp is not just down to the shortage of money. It is down to it just not being done. I live in a 15<sup>th</sup> century house, which has 4 inch thick walls, timber and all that sort of thing, it is very old but it is not dirty. This place may be old but it is not as old as my house but it is dirty. If you look across to the NRA offices the gravel there is full of weeds and the road along the side of the NRA offices between Fultons and the NRA offices is full of mud which grew weeds last year and is growing weeds this year. I look around the telephone boxes and I see old leaves and dirt and dust that has been there for 3 or 4 years. On the other side of Fultons, last weekend there were 3 or 4 rusty old barbecues that have been there for 5 years. Various other metal frameworks have been there 3 years. I walk

around the site and I see a lot of things on this site just down to simple maintenance not being done. Last year I saw a road sweeper and I thought wow this is good, there were 2 soldiers in front of it with shovels digging the mud out of the side of the road so that the road sweeper could actually pick it up. I discovered afterwards and I think I am correct in saying the Army paid for that because they were too embarrassed for their senior officer to come here and give prizes in such an untidy place. I would just like to see the simple maintenance done before this year's Imperial Meeting because I have had so many comments over the years from overseas visitors who come to this place and say what a wonderful place can't somebody keep it just clean and tidy, dig the weeds up etc. I know there are lots of pot holes and I know they are going to cost money to do and I know they are wear and tear but the cleanliness of the Camp is another matter. It needs attending to and now.

**Chairman**

You're quite right in that we have got to get a grip on many of the things you are talking about, certainly one of the items I was very well aware of was the state of the toilets. I was even threatened to be marched into one of the ladies' loos and have a look at them. We have got new contract cleaners and I am glad to hear that you have seen how they are behaving, you have seen them cleaning once but that is better than not seeing them at all. We will have to keep monitoring them and make sure that they are delivering what we want. But yes there are other things that we need to do and I am sure that within the resources that we have available between now and July we will do what we can to improve the general look of the Camp but time is now short and it may not be quite as spick and span as you and perhaps I would like.

**John Carmichael**

There is one other point I forgot to mention and that is the club houses around Camp have a responsibility of their leases to actually have then re-decorated every 7 years. That can be enforceable and was indeed enforced several years ago. The thing that worries me to look around Camp, behind the odd building, behind the odd shed is rubbish just thrown. One I will just mention is the Inns of Court, if you go down to the Inns of Court, there used to be a swimming pool, where it used to sit underneath the trees is a pile of old sofas, again it is the sort of rubbish that must have been there for years, they are not in view but there are other places on Camp where such rubbish is in view.

**Chairman**

I take your point and I am sure we will do what we can. Thank you.

**Chris Tighe-Ford**

**Life Member NRA**

In his statement, the Chairman quotes 'One thing I can say is that we are looking at close co-operation with the CPSA and NSRA...' Why is it therefore that the recent 16<sup>th</sup> London & Middlesex Small-bore Meeting held on 29-31 May 2009 had to move from its usual home on Century Range to Worplesdon because of the proposed charge by the NRA of £3,800 for Short Siberia or over £5,000 for part of Century where it has always been held in the past? My understanding is that there has previously been no charge to the L & M. I have since learned that the ranges are controlled by the National Shooting Centre but I feel that surely the NRA should have some say in things. Another point is the cost charged by the NRA to the NSRA for the hire of Century for approximately £14,000, for the Small-bore Meeting in August in a climate of declining shooters, not helped by the fact that the shooters who would come to the meeting are put off because they cannot get accommodation for the first week-end because of the Hot Rod Meeting. Would the Hot Rod week-end happen at the beginning of the Imperial Meeting? I feel that in a time of supposed close co-operation it appears that the interests of Small-bore shooters are given a low priority.



**Jeremy Staples**

Basically we found out that last year for some reason not known to any member of staff the L & M were allowed to take over a large chunk of Century range on a busy summer weekend at no cost. There is no documentation as to why they had not been charged and I have no idea why that has occurred in the past. We discussed with the L & M the use of Century on a busy fullbore weekend, we showed them Short Siberia and spent a lot of time with them on Short Siberia and the cost for 3 days exclusive use of Short Siberia was £3,800. We can fill it over that weekend with fullbore shooters and frankly there is no rhyme or reason why the NRA should subsidise the NSRA or the L & M for that meeting.

**Chris-Tighe-Ford**

In previous meetings we have shot on Century with fullbore shooters further down.

**Jeremy Staples**

But you are shooting at 100x and that dramatically restricts the amount of space that fullbore shooters can use on Century range taking into account the danger areas

**Chris-Tighe-Ford**

Does it have to be such a high cost?

**Jeremy Staples**

That is the cost for Short Siberia. If we had it open that weekend that is the income we would generate. So I am not sure why we should subsidise the Small-bore meeting quite frankly.

**John Saunders**

Surely the income from the use for that period for the Small-bore Meeting would not be as high as the charge to the NSRA.

**Jeremy Staples**

3 days exclusive hire of Short Siberia which is the one range that generates better income. It restricts the use for fullbore shooting because of the danger areas. The danger angles if you are at 100x on Century means the loss of at least 40 targets. I cannot understand why the L & M had free use of Century last year it just does not make sense to me.

**Chris-Tighe-Ford**

But the meeting has been held here for the last 16 years, what has changed?

**James Watson**

There are very few ranges in the country that have the ability to go back even as far as 600x and if we are to maintain fullbore as a shooting sport we have got to have that opportunity to shoot at 600x. Having half the range closed so that people who are probably not even individual members of the NRA can hold their meeting for free, personally I find that incredible and I am amazed that it has been allowed to go on for 16 years.

**Jeremy Staples**

In respect of the August Meeting when the NSRA take over the whole of Century for 2 weeks that is the charge that has been established which has been increased by the retail price over the last 6 years. In terms of the Hot Rods we have agreed with the NSRA to try and re-locate by 2010.

**Maurice Ayling****RNTRC**

In regard to range safety, 2 or 3 times this season alongside us have been people shooting with a great variety of rifles and they do not seem to have any idea of how to conduct themselves on the firing point. I have noticed that people get down to shoot a magazine from an SMLE who get up and walk away, no flagging, nobody to look to see whether the rifle is safe or not. I don't know what clubs these are but I would recommend that the Association take a more supervisory role with people who come to shoot on the range.

**Chairman**

From what you are saying there appears to be a flagrant breach of our rules. If you see anything in future please alert the Range Office so that they can immediately deal with the matter and if we are able to identify the people we should take steps to talk to them and deal with the matter. If you can tell the Range Office staff the day you were shooting, what targets you were shooting on and where the other shooters are shooting we may be able to identify them.

**Bob Aitken****Life Member, NRA**

We have a problem in Scotland with Landmarc. I really want to know if and when the NRA are going to help fight the cause on keeping civilian shooting available on MoD ranges. It is simply not working. They increased their rates this year by over 5%, introduced a structure which required 2 Range Wardens. I 'phoned them about it because we could cover this if the RCO could be up there half an hour early and cover the period when the Range Wardens put the flags up and take them down again. We can only book a range in the evenings the weekend is a non-starter and when the MoD did a re-arrangement of the access to the ranges failed to appreciate that civilians work during the week. As an example the current rate for a single target at Castlelaw, Edinburgh, where we have a 3 hour booking and you pay for 2 hours shooting, Range Warden's charges are £28.65 per hour each for two of them, that's £171.90 + VAT £191.69 for 2 hours shooting on 1 target which cost us £145.00 + VAT so a single target for a 3 hour booking is costing us £224.00. is there anything the NRA can do?

**Glyn Alger****Secretary General**

As you may or may not be aware we actually employ a Regional Manager to deal with these particular issues. We are actually having particular problems with the MoD at the moment, well over the last 2 years. The rationale behind that is that we have actually reached national agreement with the MoD in relation to access to MoD ranges and the conditions around the use of those ranges. What actually happens is that those national agreements apparently can be re-interpreted on a range by range or region by region basis and this is the problem we are currently suffering in Scotland in that the insistence on 2 Range Wardens being on the range is exclusive to Scotland at this point in time and it is being resisted by the MoD themselves elsewhere in the UK and it is the interpretation of an individual in Scotland that has led to 2 Range Wardens being present and an escalation in prices as a result. The 5% rise was a national across the board rise that was introduced. I know that Landmarc gets the blame for this but it was the MoD who made the decision in regard to pricing, policy and everything else and Landmarc actually interpret that and collect the money and manage the ranges on behalf of the MoD. The issue for us is that over the last few years we have had ranges closed and we have had them open, we have had problems in Scotland with a particular individual who we are trying to deal with and we have got particular problems in the Midlands at this point in time in terms of ranges being closed. We have made all sorts of proposals in relation to solutions in Scotland and we have also volunteered in the Midlands and have gone as far as a member in the Midlands volunteering to re-construct the stop butt at one of the Midlands ranges free of charge, which was £600,000 worth of work for nothing. The MoD

still maintain that they wish to retain that range closed at this point in time when in reality they need it open for their own use never mind civilian shooting. This is an ongoing problem and an ongoing debate. In Scotland at this point in time we are still doing work in relation to re-opening Dechmont Range which may or may not be good news for you. All I actually can say to you is that the Army and our consultants at this point in time are actually convinced that we can open Dechmont Range back to about 300 meters. All I am saying to you Bob is that the NRA are looking at other solutions to your problem. The issue is that because yours is the only region suffering with 2 Range Wardens in that they have resisted it elsewhere and are sticking with 1 Range Warden – we are working on it and we will try. On one hand we have actually invested quite a bit of money in trying to create an alternative for you in terms of Dechmont which would give you a facility that you can shoot on and it would be civilian led rather than military led and the other issue is that we have been trying to resolve the issue about improving the access and reducing the costs on Castlelaw and elsewhere in Scotland but at this point in time Chris is struggling with it. We are talking to people, we are not just talking to individuals in Scotland we are talking to senior officers in the UK in terms of our UK agreements

**Chairman**

In that connection it would be helpful if I could be given a summary of current problems on existing range because over the next few weeks I will be talking to a number of senior officers when they come to visit Bisley for various shooting events. And it would certainly be helpful to know what our problems are. Thank so. So, any other questions?

**John Clarke**

Are you going to say something about the situation regarding Martin Farnan and how it affects all of us who are interested in shooting? Because obviously its not good the way things have been handled, that nothing much has been said about it and I would rather not go away with the impression that it didn't matter. I think it matters a tremendous amount We have apparently got rid of one of our most staunch supporters, who has supported shooting in all its guises and also one of the people who knows the answer to all our shooting questions. Can I leave that for you to answer?

*APPLAUSE*

**Chairman**

Martin Farnan resigned from his employment as National Director with the NSC on 1<sup>st</sup> May this year. As most of you know, over the years Martin has played a key role in the organisation and running of the Imperial Meeting. In spite of his decision to resign as Shooting Director, we tried to retain his considerable experience and expertise to assist with this and possibly also next year's Imperial Meeting. Our solicitors drew up a contract to engage Martin's services for the 2009 Imperial Meeting. Unfortunately, whilst Martin initially indicated some interest in such an arrangement he ultimately decided not to accept this offer. In the meantime, however, I am pleased to report that the team that has been assembled to manage this year's meeting have been making excellent progress and whilst they are, inevitably, on a learning curve, they are confident that this year's meeting will be a successful one.

**Name not given**

Mr Chairman. Why weren't we told this? We're members.

**Chairman**

The circumstances leading to Martin Farnan's decision to resign are such that we cannot exclude the possibility that we have not heard the end of the matter. We have received clear advice from

the NRA's solicitors that we ought not to comment on the circumstances surrounding Martin's decision to resign for the time being so as to avoid any risk that we might prejudice the position of the NRA or indeed the NSC. We intend to adhere to the professional advice obtained and therefore are unable to comment further.

**No name given**

No announcement has been made to the membership so the rumour machine has gone into top gear which is not good for Bisley. Can that statement be made public on the web site?

**Chairman**

Yes it will be but for reasons which I have tried to explain I am not allowed to say anything more.

**Name not given**

I understand that but I believe some statement on the web site would be better than nothing at all. It does matter. I notice also on the web site the Minutes of General Council were not posted where members who if they were interested could see what was happening in such meetings. There is nothing on the web site later than June 2008.

**Chairman**

Yes, the Minutes from last autumn, I forget which month it was because I was not a member of that General Council then, those should be on the web site. The Minutes of the February meeting were officially approved today so they should now go on the web site. There are sometimes quite long gaps between meetings of the General Council and so it takes time before the Minutes are approved.

I used the web site myself when my name was put forward as potential Chairman as I wanted to know what the General Council had been up to and there was nothing there other than last June.

Any other questions or points you wish to make? OK, then I will declare the meeting over, thank you very much for coming and for those of you shooting tomorrow I wish you luck

**The meeting closed at 6.35pm**