

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
held at the ARA, Bisley
on Saturday 25th February 2006, from 2.30 pm

Present:

Chairman: Mr JF Jackman
Vice-Chairman: Professor R Horrocks
Treasurer: Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz

Members: Mr HRM Bailie
Mr GV Barnard
Mrs ID Bennett
Miss M Boston
Mr CM Brooks
Wg Cdr DP Calvert
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson
Mr ARK Clayton
Mr PR Coley
Mr S East
Mr C Higginbottom
Lt Col R Hoole
Prof AR Horrocks
Mr P Hunter
Mr JM Kynoch
Mr CD Law
Mr M Maksimovic
Dr P Mognahan
Mr C Murton
Sqn Ldr D Niblett
Miss J Rankin
Mrs KD Robertson
Mr AJD Saunders
Mr IR Shirra-Gibb
Wg Cdr ML Symonds
Mr JD Warburton
Mr JA Watson
Mr RHF Wills

In attendance: Mr GWJ Alger - Secretary
Mr JEM Hartwell - Vice Chairman of the Council
Maj MG Farnan - Director of Shooting
Mr CN Farr
Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis - Chairman, NSC
Mrs HL Webb - Membership Secretary

Apologies for absence:, Mr DD Watt, Mr S James, Maj Gen AP Farquhar, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Wg Cdr M Symonds, Mr MWT Walton, Maj SB Fraser, Mr MJ Black, Mr DG Young

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Chris Farr as a visitor to his first General Council meeting. The meeting was informed that Chris Farr was up for election as a co-opted member and that all voting slips should be given to Heather Webb the Membership Secretary to enable the votes to be counted.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th September 2005

The Chairman commented that no representations had been received by the Secretary General in relation to the minutes.

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 9th September 2005

No matters were raised.

G 62 CO-OPTION TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Having been nominated, and elected by 18 votes to 2 it was agreed that Chris Farr be co-opted to General Council.

G 63 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The General Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Membership Committee held on 16th September 2005 and 8th October 2005.

a) Minutes 16th September 2005

M 114 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

It was reported that the main decision of note was the one to reduce 14 classifications of membership to approximately 4.

There were no questions on the Minutes.

The Minutes were adopted.

b) Minutes 8th October 2005

M 120 DAILY SUBSCRIPTIONS

Daily Subscriptions Policy was raised as an issue from the Minutes.

M 117 to M119 CLUBS AND INDIVIDUALS

1. The socio-economic profile of the Association membership was raised identifying insufficient young people being members and that the NRA needed to attract shooters from the less represented disciplines such as Gallery Rifle.
2. The submission to Council regarding Individual and Club Affiliation Membership was raised. The meeting was informed that the Club Affiliation proposal had been approved to go ahead for 2006, while the individual membership initiative was to be revised for 2007.
3. The intention to double the size of the Associations individual membership over the next 4 years was highlighted, with positive comment being made about current growth.
4. The ambition to separate the Governing Body from the perception that it only represented the interests of those that shoot at Bisley was addressed. This was to be achieved over time by moving to a single national fee for membership of the Association, dispensing with the various membership subscriptions based upon distance from Bisley.
5. In relation to Club Affiliation it was explained that this had started by introducing a single Membership fee of £60, which was a reduction of £10 and the introduction of a flat rate for capitation of £3 per member, which meant a small rise for outer clubs and a reduction for inner clubs. It was explained that by charging capitation, clubs actually saved by not having to pay VAT. In addition depending upon where clubs shoot they can choose to purchase an NRA pass or an MoD pass which includes the necessary insurance cover necessary to shoot on civilian or military ranges. It was pointed out that the NRA range pass replaced the MoD license which again saved clubs more money.
6. It was explained that the club renewal was behind schedule due to a late decision to go with the proposal, which had meant the packs went out late, without the necessary marketing being done which had caused some confusion for the clubs. This had resulted in the Membership Department receiving calls from 400 clubs for clarification. It was explained that to meet the needs of the clubs the Association had to assume that the Army were going to meet their deadline of 1st April 2006 for commencement of the scheme, which meant charging for a license that the NRA might not be supplying dependant upon agreement. So clubs were being advised to buy both licenses, on the understanding that should the Association not be in a position to go ahead they could still get onto ranges. Clubs had been informed that the NRA would either repay monies or offer a credit depending upon their requirement. With such a fluid situation the Membership Department had had to adopt a 'Fix and Mend' philosophy to keep the clubs on board where necessary.

A question was asked about the position of a club that shoots both small and full-bore. It was explained that if the club has a NSRA insurance we would recognise that insurance. As for individual members, only those that shot full-bore would have to pay capitation.

7. Individual Membership conditions were not changing in 2006 after consideration by the Council. However, it had been decided to market a national £30 joining fee for all new members in 2006 replacing the former half-price offer. As a result of this initiative and promotion of the Association in the regions membership numbers had increased by in excess of 200 new members since 1st January 2006.
8. The issue of a range pass was raised for those members that shoot at Bisley or any other NRA range. The meeting was informed that this had been reconsidered and was unlikely to go ahead.
9. The ambition to introduce a £50 flat membership subscription was presented, on the basis that we had a substantial increase in membership that allowed the Association not only to reduce the annual fee, but gave increased income and covered costs. **The General Council were asked to consider this issue and forward any ideas as to how this might be achieved to the Membership Committee.**
10. A question was raised regarding how club secretaries can influence perceptions of the Association and encourage shooters to join the NRA. It was pointed out that one secretary in the South East had recently gone on a membership drive and had persuaded in excess of 60 people to join the NRA, claimed his £10 for each new member and donated all the money to the Youth Shooting fund.

The Minutes were adopted.

G 64 REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

1. **MoD Ranges** - It was reported that negotiations were ongoing and from both sides there was a view that all the issues could be addressed to everyone's benefit. The only uncertainty was whether agreements could be reached by 1st April 2006.
2. **Membership Insurance** – The meeting was informed that there would be a change in insurer this year on the basis of lower premiums and better cover for both individual members and clubs. The new provider would be Perkins Slade. It was reported that additionally should the single national body negotiations progress the move would be a benefit, because both the CPSA and NSRA already use this insurer, which would allow a single insurance to be negotiated in the future covering any form of Target Shooting, avoiding duplication.
A question was asked about whether cover was provided in the new insurance for shooting abroad. The Membership Secretary stated it was, unlike the previous insurance.
3. **Range Strategy** – It was reported to the meeting that the Association was looking at two ranges in Scotland, Dechmont as previously reported and another in Irvine. Both of which at this point in time have the potential to service the needs of full-bore short range shooters. In addition the Association were currently considering offering help to Thorpe Cloud Range in Derbyshire to keep it open and to allow a refit.
A question was asked as to how much assistance was being asked for to up-grade Thorpe Cloud. The meeting was informed that the request was for £9600.
4. **Range Safety Certification** – The following was explained by the Director of Shooting

Clubs will be aware that the arrangement whereby the Army inspected ranges and certified them as conforming to their standards was withdrawn some 18 months ago.

Since then the NSRA and NRA have been in discussions with the Home Office as to what should replace this agreement.

Earlier this year, the Home Office advised us that they would not be establishing a new mandatory certification process.

Historically, ranges have been built to Joint Service Publication 403 standards for the calibre and type of firearm to be used on the range. The insurance companies had the satisfaction of knowing that the facility was built to a standard which, historically, was found to be safe. Concerns were raised that if these standards were not maintained then the insurance industry would perceive there to be an increased risk and premiums would escalate. In addition, the police expressed their concerns that any lowering of the standard may have an impact on public safety.

It has been agreed that the NSRA and NRA will together produce range construction guidance, and any organization that requires to take advantage of the insurance schemes operated by those two Associations will be required to demonstrate their facility meets a minimum standard, either by the production of an Army Form AK1314 (historic), or confirmation in writing from a person appointed by either Association to confirm that the range is considered suitable for the safe use of that class of firearm.

There is still some work to be undertaken before all the arrangements are in place, however, we hope to be able to move forward with effect from the beginning of May.”

A question was asked about whether NRA staff were qualified to carry out the function of Range Safety Certification. The answer was no but we plan to use a consultant in the interim until they are.

5. **Pistols** – The meeting was informed that because of correspondence from the NRA over the last year with the Sports Minister and Home Office a series of meetings had taken place with a view to a limited reintroduction of Target Pistols for International competition in the UK. To date there was no outcome but those involved are hopeful.
6. **India and The Commonwealth Games** – The meeting was informed that a series of meetings were planned with the Indian delegation during the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne by the representatives from the Home Countries. The delegates had previously agreed a strategy with the NRA. It was the intention following Melbourne for the NRA to be briefed by the Home Countries prior to the Chairman and Secretary General visiting Delhi to progress issues further with the hope that India can be persuaded to include long range in the 2010 Games.

G 65 SHOOTING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting 18th August 2005

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Shooting Committee held on 18th August 2005.

S 296 MEETING AMMUNITION

A question was raised regarding the quality of the Bisley Meeting ammunition and the agreement with the MoD. It was pointed out that the ammunition quality and purchase were the responsibility of NSC assisted by the Shooting Committee. As for the MoD agreement that was up for renegotiation for 2008.

The Minutes were adopted.

b) Minutes of the Meeting 12th January 2006

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Shooting Committee held on 12th January 2006.

S 318 PROPOSED GALLERY RIFLE AND PISTOL RULES

The meeting was informed that all shooting disciplines should have rules approved by the Council. The GR rules have been worked on for a long period of time resulting in a set of rules to go in the 'Bible' and Match Conditions that will be produced as a separate booklet for use by RCO's.

S 321 – F CLASS TARGETS

The Targets were reported to be as agreed in the 18.8.05. minutes.

S 323 CARRIAGE OF FIREARMS WHEN OFF RANGE

This was not received well as a proposal generally, because of difficulties some had with scopes etc. The decision of the Shooting Committee was to give advice on the matter.

S 324 GB SR TEAM CAPTAINS

It was reported that the following had been selected:

Captain P Cottrell GB International Service Rifle

Major S Townell GB International Service Pistol

S 329 TEAM FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The General Council were asked to promote support of TFC fund raising events.

S 331 NRA APPROVED TARGETS

It was reported that there is a working party looking at all Targetry used in NRA events. The committee will be reporting by the end of 2006.

S332 ELECTRONIC TARGETS

Electronic Targets were to be ordered and should be fitted by the end of May, 3 on Stickledown and 7 on Century ranges.

S 333 EAGLE EYE FORESIGHTS

It was reported that all the member nations of ICFRA had been asked to vote for a change in the rules to allow the use of a lens in the back sight as well as the foresight. GB had decided to vote against the option. The outcome was likely to be that in international competition the new rule would apply, but in the UK it would not because in the view of GB it was likely to hamper the sports development, making it more difficult for the young in particular to be able to afford the new equipment.

S 339 FUNDING OF 300M OVERSEAS TEAMS

A question arose about funding of the 300M team and the failure of the NRA to pay the bill to Sports World, thus jeopardising the position of future teams making touring arrangements. The meeting was informed that the 300M team had made an assumption that the Association would pay without getting prior approval. The NRA had paid the bill in the interest of other teams but could not guarantee it would do so in the future without prior agreement and budgetary arrangement.

S 330 SUB-COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

A question was raised about the future of the Chairmanship if the TR Sub-Committee. It was reported that a discussion had taken place between the Chairman of the Shooting Committee and the TR Representative, which despite undertakings was still unresolved to date.

S338 BISLEY RANGE REGULATIONS

An issue was raised about people shooting other than in a prone position and safety. The Director of Shooting stated that anyone intending to carryout shooting other than prone is required to report to the Range Office to get direction as to which firing points can be used and under what conditions. It was stated that this issue is monitored by the Range Office by visits to the range.

The Minutes were adopted.

G 66 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LIMITED

a) Minutes of the Meeting 16th September 2005

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the National Shooting Centre Limited held on 16th September 2005.

No matters were raised.

b) Minutes of the Meeting 2nd November 2005

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the National Shooting Centre Limited held on 2nd November 2005.

No matters were raised.

c) Minutes of the Meeting 8th December 2005

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the National Shooting Centre Limited held on 8th December 2005.

No matters were raised.

d) Minutes of the Meeting 1st February 2006

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the National Shooting Centre Limited held on 1st February 2006.

N 421 CCTV

A question was asked about why only one contractor appeared to be involved in bidding for the contract. The Chairman of NSC was advised of another potential supplier. Questions were then raised about how long would it take to install an appropriate system after the current outbreak of crime at the National Shooting Centre? The Chairman of NSC stated that CCTV had not been in the budget but it was the intention to fit a system as soon as possible.

SECURITY FENCE

A question was asked about whether the current additional MoD fence security upgrade would be extended to cover the whole of the perimeter. The Chairman of NSC was not aware of the work but would make enquiries to see if the fencing could all be upgraded.

G 67 THE COUNCIL

a) Minutes of the Meeting 9th September 2005

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 9th September 2005

T 323 – LEASES – REAL ESTATE POLICY

It was reported to the meeting that the policy was designed to ensure fairness to all tenants and to meet a duty to the Association to maximise income.

T 324 EVENTS AND CONTROLS

This relates to financial checks and controls to ensure charity money is properly accounted for when being invested in events such as the Bisley Meeting.

T 325 RANGE REGULATIONS - TARGETS

It was reported that this is a check to ensure that all targets that are used for civilian shooting are appropriate, in particular they are not humanoid. A working party has been appointed to report at the end of 2006.

T 326 TEAM CAPTAINS GB AND NRA

This was a notification that Miss Susie Kent had been nominated for the NRA U25 captaincy for the Bisley Meeting 2006 and Ed Jeens for the GB U25 captaincy World Championships 2007 in Canada.

T 327 OLYMPIC GAMES

The meeting was informed that the NRA had been supportive of the 2012 bid and was pleased with the outcome. The Association has let it be known that Bisley would be pleased to host the shooting events, but to date they were planned elsewhere.

T 328 REGIONAL AGENTS

The concept of creating a regional structure supported by regional agents was supported and was moving forward.

b) Minutes of the Meeting 13th October 2005

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 13th October 2005

T 330 CODE OF CONDUCT

It was reported that this was designed to outline the responsibilities of the Trustees giving adequate guidelines.

T 331 BUDGETS OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2005

It was reported to the meeting that finances are one of the most important items discussed by the Council at every meeting.

T 332 AUDIT COMMITTEE – AUDIT FEES

The meeting was informed that the accounts had to be audited to meet SORP requirements and to meet Charity Commissioners guidelines.

T 337 MEMBERSHIP – NEW PROPOSALS

Already addressed under the Membership section of the meeting.

c) Minutes of the Meeting 4th November 2005

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 4th November 2005

T 338 MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS – RESULTS YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 2005

It was reported that these accounts only related to the old 12 month cycle, which had recently changed to a 31st December year end, necessitating a 15 month financial period. This will result in a dramatic effect on the accounts in that the last three months of a calendar year are when the Association earns the lowest amount of income. However, in reality the NRA will be doing no worse than usual it is an accountancy issue due to the year end making the results look worse than they are.

T 339 STRATEGIC PLAN

The meeting was informed that the Strategic Plan is designed to look at where the Association wants to go in the future for the good of Target Shooting. The Plan also informs the budget.

T 340 –PROVISIONAL BUDGET FOR 2006

Feeds from the Strategic Plan identifying where the money should be prioritised.

T 340(b) MEMBERSHIP – NEW PROPOSALS

Dealt with in the membership section of the meeting. The meeting was informed that changes had to be looked at as an essential issue as it had the potential to dramatically affect income.

T 340 (d) TEAM TRAINING GRANTS

It was stated that the Council were committed to funding Team Training but it had to allocate money in the realisation that it is still funding a debt.

T 340(e) OVERSEAS TEAMS GRANTS

Ditto

T 341 SHOOTING COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The meeting were reminded that both Shooting and Membership Committees were representative of General Council and advise the Council. Policy of the Association recommended from the Committees must be approved before it gains authority. The Shooting Terms of Reference had been approved.

T 342 RULES OF SHOOTING – GALLERY RIFLE RULES

Have recently been approved.

T 347 GOODWILL TEAMS - AUTHORISATION

It was pointed out that the heading in the minutes should read NRA Goodwill Teams and was a restatement of current policy.

T 349 DAILY SUBSCRIPTIONS – NRA EVENTS – NON-MEMBERS

The meeting was informed that this was an issue of fairness to members ensuring non-members paid a donation to the Association to take part in NRA events.

T 350 MEMBERSHIP DEALS FOR FIRST TIMERS

Dealt with in the report from the Membership Committee.

T 351 BSSC

The meeting was informed that although there was some concern over the level of subscriptions it had been decided to remain as a member organisation. A mention was made of the appointment of David Penn as Secretary of BSSC which was seen as a positive move.

T 352 REGIONAL AGENTS – REGIONAL MANAGER – TERMS OF REFERENCE

These had been approved as part of the Regional Development Policy. The appointment of Mr. Webb was confirmed as the new Regional Manager.

T 354 SINGLE NATIONAL BODY

The meeting were informed that the CPSA and NSRA were talking with ourselves to see if the creation of a single national body for Target Shooting was desirable. The advantages would be when talking to politicians, media, funding bodies and public with a single voice, being more readily able to promote the sport. Current discussions are centred around finding areas of common policy and working to find the gaps. It was emphasised that these are exploratory discussions which are a long way from delivering a product.

T 346 TEAM CAPTAINS

A question was raised regarding why there had been a referral to General Council TR members rather than let the TR sub-committee deal with the recommendation. It was explained that the TR sub-committee found it difficult to make a

recommendation and thus it had been decided to refer to General Council for their selection.

d) Written Resolutions of 17th November 2005

The General Council received the Written Resolutions of the Council dated 17th November 2005.

T 357 APPOINTMENT OF MR SIMON DIXON AS A DIRECTOR OF NSC

T 358 APPOINTMENT OF TEAM CAPTAINS

Mr. M. Barr was selected as the captain of the Veteran's Team to the World Championships in Canada 2007

Mr. J. Webster was selected as the captain of the GB Kolapoore Team, Bisley 2006

e) Minutes of the Meeting 15th December 2005

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held 15th December 2005

T 362 BUDGETS FOR 2006

Members of General Council were recommended to review the content.

T 362(a) CLUB AFFILIATION FEES

Dealt with in the presentation by Membership.

T 363 LEASES – ANNUAL REVIEW

The meeting was informed that lease income was of great importance to the Association. The leases were managed by NSC as part of the NRA/NSC agreement.

T 364 EX OFFICIO VICE PRESIDENTS

Deputy Peter Sirett, President of the Guernsey Rifle Club had been appointed.

T 366 MOD PACKAGE DEAL

It was reported that negotiations were due to commence in the near future. This was of particular importance due to the poor quality of the ammunition in 2004. The Secretary General was tasked with the negotiations on behalf of the Association. The meeting was informed that if the details of the agreement did not meet our needs in that the quality of the ammunition was questionable there was the option to reach a financial settlement. A question was asked about the feasibility of using hand-loaded ammunition. The meeting was informed that to go this route would get in the way of young people coming into the sport, thus the likely solution would be to remain with the status quo of supplying ammunition for the Bisley Meeting, at least.

T 367 COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Dealt with in the Secretary General's Report.

T 368 REGIONAL RANGES

Dechmont - Ditto

T 369 IMPERIAL MEETING – FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL REVIEW

It was announced that a Shooting Committee working party would be conducting a consultation to look at how the Bisley Meeting can be improved for future years to ensure members are getting the competitions and shooting they want.

f) Written Resolution of 23rd January 2006

T 360 LEASES - APPROVALS

RAFSAA Accommodation Building

ARA Officer's Mess

g) Written Resolution of 23rd January 2006

T 371 NRA GOODWILL TEAM

Mr. D. Hossack was appointed as Team Captain of the Goodwill Team to Trinidad and Barbados 2006

T 372 APPOINTMENT OF TEAM CAPTAINS

Captain P Cottrell GB International Service Rifle

Major S Townell GB International Service Pistol

G 68 A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE IMPERIAL MEETING

The meeting was informed that there were some concerns about the name of the Bisley Meeting and whether the name Imperial was appropriate in a modern age.

The General Council were asked to consider the issue and forward any views to the Secretary General.

G 69 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES

A memorandum from the Chairman was presented to the General Council setting out new time limits for service of members on the Council.

A question was asked whether the current Rules should go on the website. It was agreed that they should.

A question was put for clarification regarding the proposal to increase the number of shooting disciplines. It was explained that the Council needed some flexibility in the future to allow an increased number of shooting disciplines as and when the opportunity arose. If and when this occurred this would increase the number of representatives on the General Council and Shooting Committee.

G 70 PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2006

The procedure was presented to the General Council. Members of the General Council not wishing to stand in 2006 were asked to notify the Secretary General as soon as possible in accordance with Rule 7 g iii.

G 71 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The proposal to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Association was presented. It was explained if General Council was in agreement Professor Dick Horrocks would be chairing a working party to kick-start the process.

The proposal was adopted.

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

G 72 TEAM SELECTION

A question was asked about the recent selection procedure for captain to lead the 2007 Tour to the Channel Islands. Concern was expressed that one of the candidates had not had the opportunity to post his CV like all the others. The proposal was that the selection process should be re-run.

It was explained that a request for the CV had been made on three occasions, with no result. The decision had been made to comply with the policy set at the start of the process and to progress the selection without the CV.

The proposal to re-run the selection process was put to a vote of General Council.

The proposal was not adopted.

G73 RANGE PRESENTATION

A presentation was made to the General Council by Paul Isherwood, explaining how his consortium was dealing with the funding and authority issues to build a new commercial range complex at Glen Kin in Scotland.

This presentation was made to inform General Council members about the possibilities for looking at the way ranges are provided differently in the future. In the future the Association to support shooting nationally may have to look at a mixed economy in terms of range provision, with facilities being supported directly by the NRA, through clubs locally or by commercial organisations.

Chairman

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS.

Date	Time	Venue
Friday 16 th June 2006	2.00pm followed by the AGM at 5.00pm	Bisley
Friday 15 th September 2006	2.30pm	Bisley