

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting**  
**held at the Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley**  
**on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006, from 2.30 pm**

**Present:**

**Chairman:** Mr JF Jackman  
**Treasurer:** Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz  
**Members:** Mrs ID Bennett

Mr JPS Bloomfield  
Mr CM Brooks  
Mr JH Carmichael  
Mr ARK Clayton  
Mr S East  
Maj Gen AP Farquhar  
Mr C Higginbottom  
Mr P Hunter  
Mr JM Kynoch  
Mr M Maksimovic  
Dr P Mognahan  
Mr C Murton  
Mrs KD Robertson  
Mr IW Robertson  
Mr AJD Saunders  
Mr IR Shirra-Gibb  
Mr JD Warburton  
Mr JA Watson  
Mr RHF Wills  
Mr D Young

**In attendance:** Mr GWJ Alger - Secretary  
Lt Col R Hoole - Representing Army  
Mr CD Law - Acting Regional Rep  
Mr JE Staples - Managing Director, NSC  
Maj MG Farnan - Director of Shooting  
Mrs HL Webb - Membership Secretary  
Mr. M Blythe - Finance Manager

**Apologies for absence:, Vice-Chairman:** Professor R Horrocks, Mr. JEM Hartwell, Mr. CN Farr, Miss J. Rankin, Miss MZ Boston, Mr. A Cargill-Thompson, Mr. GV Barnard, Mr. PR Coley, Wing Cdr DP Calvert, Mr. HRH Baillie, Mr DD Watt, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Wg Cdr M Symonds, Mr MWT Walton, Mr MJ Black

**CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman opened the meeting by reminding everyone that any voting papers relating to elections to the Council, the General Council and Committees must be submitted by the commencement of the meeting. Voting was thus closed.

The Chairman reminded members that there are four vacancies to be filled on the General Council, two Ordinary and two Regional.

#### **G 84 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

The Chairman asked if there were any representations in relation to the minutes.

a) **Supply of Lease Policy Transcript** - Comment was made that some members had asked for the full transcript of the lease policy element of the last meeting to be circulated.

The Secretary General explained that he had asked for a full transcript of the last meeting which exceeded 55 pages, because he had not been present but still had to write the minutes. So a transcript was an exception for that meeting. Realising that there was some concern relating to lease policy an offer had been in the minutes to supply all interested members with a copy. As a result of representations a copy was supplied to all those that spoke on the subject during the last meeting, but not to all members of the General Council.

An objection was raised to this stance.

All of those present were asked if they had wanted a copy of the transcript. All declined.

b) **Correction to Minutes 1** - John Bloomfield made representations that he had specifically asked for one of his comments relating to the Lease Policy and the answer from the Vice Chairman of the Council to be minuted at the last meeting. That had not been done.

In the transcript and noted.

c) **Correction to the Minutes 2** – It was pointed out that the last paragraph on page 7 of the minutes beginning “The Vice Chairman concluded”, had not been said.

Discussions revealed that the paragraph had been part of the Vice Chairman’s prepared speech but it had not been said due to him being diverted off subject.

**It was agreed to accept the paragraph for the record.**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman

#### **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

No matters were raised.

#### **G 85 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

The Chairman asked if there were any representations or queries in relation to the minutes.

There were none.

#### **G 86 MINUTES OF THE BISLEY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> July 2006**

The Chairman asked if there were any representations or queries in relation to the minutes.

It was clarified that reference to HM The Queen’s Prize should be to the First Stage and the lowest qualifying score for the Second Stage. Otherwise there were no comments.

## **G 87 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

The General Council received the Report of the Secretary General.

- a) **CLA Game Fair** – Positive comment was received regarding the Association's presence at the Game Fair
- b) **NATSS** A question was asked regarding the status of Roger Moreland. The meeting was informed that, following a selection process to find a facilitator for the merger process, Roger Moreland was the preferred candidate, who would bring both expertise and objectivity to the process.

No other matters were raised.

## **G 88 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Membership Committee thanked Chris Law for all his support as Vice Chairman over the years and informed the meeting that since he had decided to retire Charles Murton had been elected as his replacement.

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Membership Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2006.

The Membership Committee Chairman informed the meeting that there were no particular issues that had been put before the General Council emanating from the minutes.

a) **Insurance** – It was reported to the meeting that the problem with premium costs had been resolved to the Association's benefit. In addition negotiations had commenced for 2007, included in which was an examination of the possibility of a single insurance for NATSS.

b) **Club Capitation Numbers** – A question was asked about whether the club capitation figures were correct.

The meeting was informed that the numbers were as accurate as we could make them but that work was going on to ensure the accuracy of reports in the future, by reconfiguring the database. The good news was that the number of capitated members was up by 400.

c) **Committee Make-up and Terms of Reference** - The Secretary General identified to the Meeting that to increase membership of the Association the Membership Committee needed to increase its expertise in finance, media and publicity so that in particular any marketing initiatives are properly and professionally put together.

The meeting was informed that, unlike other Committees, Membership did not currently have Terms of Reference, hence the draft proposals before the General Council for their information and consideration.

The General Council were asked to forward any views of expertise requirements, structure of the Committee and the Terms of Reference to the Secretary General.

d) **Membership Strategy** - A view was expressed that the Membership Committee ought to develop a strategy for increasing the membership of the Association.

**There was general agreement on this point.**

## **The Minutes were adopted**

### **G 89 SHOOTING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman and the General Council congratulated Dr. Monaghan upon his win of the F Class Grand Aggregate.

The Chairman of the Shooting Committee presented key issues to the Committee from the Shooting Committee Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

a) **Technical Committee** – It was announced that this Committee had been reformed to assist the Shooting Committee.

b) **Ammunition** – The Secretary General emphasised that agreeing a standard in relation to ammunition accuracy was crucial as it would form part of the discussions with the MoD for the purposes of the NRA/MoD Agreement. The meetings were due to commence within weeks with outline agreement hoped by the end of 2006.

c) **Optical Aids** – The meeting was informed that tests had been undertaken regarding the proposal to allow the use of an eagle eye in the front sight and a lens in the rear sight. As a result it had been proposed to introduce standards in relation to failing eye-sight and age to help keep people in the sport. An objection was raised in relation to age. The meeting was informed that when a full proposal had been drafted it would be published in the Journal and views sought before a final recommendation is reached.

d) **F Class Targets** – These have been further defined for 2007.

### **G 90 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LIMITED**

#### **Minutes of the Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006**

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the National Shooting Centre Limited held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

a) **Electronic Targets** - The meeting was informed that 2 Electronic Targets were working on Century Range as of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

b) **CCTV** – It was reported that the intention was to fit CCTV facilities using microwave links covering the entrance and other vulnerable areas of the National Shooting Centre.

No other matters were raised.

### **G 91 THE COUNCIL**

**Report to General Council from Julian Hartwell, Vice Chairman of the Council, as read by the Secretary General.**

#### **a) Finance (T427, T428, T441 & T444)**

“The Council spends much of its time on finance. You will find this at the top of the every agenda and clearly the money side of things is vital to the long term success of shooting sports.

At the date of the meeting in August the damage to the butts had just occurred, but the Council did not allow itself to be distracted from the routine financial matters and dealt with the emergency as a separate issue at the end of the meeting. This has turned out to be a sound decision as I am glad to report that the actual costs are turning out to be much lower than the original estimates.

The issue which was facing us before the problem with the butts arose is that we were facing a substantial variance on the budget. The net operating results at 30<sup>th</sup> June were down against budget by £53K. and forecast to deteriorate by the year end to £57K, down to a surplus of £143K. This is against a target of £200K and a scheduled repayment of £150K (as part of the existing arrangements to repay the debt). The reasons for this are various and set out in Minute T441. You will find, there, details of the steps which are being taken to put things right for the future.”

**The Meeting was informed that because of the efficiencies and reductions in the cost of the butts repairs accomplished by NSC the Association would be able to make its debt repayment for 2006.**

**b) Membership (T431, T453, T454 & T455)**

“Much work has been done by the Membership Committee to promote arrangements for a standard subscription of around £50 pa. The Council wholeheartedly supports the principle of this. The issue is that this will result in a significant decrease in the subscription paid by the majority of members and this loss of income must be recovered through an increase in the number of members. Enrolling new members in itself costs money and to date the results have been insufficient for the Council to commit to radical revision. However a step in the right direction has been taken for the next year and it is the hope and expectation that this is just the beginning. We have discussed the part the Membership Committee plays in this process.”

**There were no questions**

**c) Chairman (T435)**

“A Working Party of the Council, with Dick Horrocks representing the General Council, has drawn up a Job Specification and a Skills Profile to provide assistance in the recruitment process. Nominations are actively sought and an advertisement will appear in the next Journal.”

**There were no questions**

**d) Real Estate (T437, T450)**

“Since the last meeting of the General Council the Council has reconsidered the Real Estate Policy. The representations made by the General Council (and elsewhere) will be factored into whatever solution is reached. We have to come up with a policy which is accepted as fair and reasonable by the vast majority of the members (as well as meeting the objective criteria imposed on us by the law relating to charities). Please be assured that the Council has listened to what was said and is committed to the fine tuning needed to get this right.”

**There were no questions**

**e) Training (T440)**

“Following the June meeting the Council (with representatives from NSC) attended a training session provided by the Association’s auditors, Baker Tilly. They explained that from next year there will be new rules about how the Annual Report filed with the Charity Commission must be drawn up. The idea is to show what the charity has achieved and the resources applied in the

process. This will have a significant effect on the way the Association presents its accounts. It will also challenge us to identify the achievements of the year and to assess how the resources have been used.”

**There were no questions**

**f) Trophy Insurance (T445)**

“Our trophies are not fully insured in the conventional sense of full value. The cover has been increased as a temporary measure while we further examine the options. The problem is that some of the trophies are extremely valuable (if not priceless) and we will probably have to decide what is economically viable. There is also a heritage issue. The trophies are part of our heritage and in that sense irreplaceable. A 21<sup>st</sup> Century replica of a trophy (however well made) can never replace the original 19<sup>th</sup> Century piece. We will look at all the options and try to find a practical solution which is affordable and meets the requirements of the Charity Commissioners.”

**There were no questions**

**g) Strategic Plan (T434, T446)**

“A Working Party of the Council has been honing the Strategic Plan to include a list of desired goals, a means of assessing success, a target date and details of the resources required. It is a task which challenges us to identify our ambitions, prioritize them and assess just what will be required to achieve them. It is fair to say that rebuilding substantial parts of the butts was not on the list, so we may need to revise the list a bit now. The Working Party has been led by Mark Haszlkiewicz, who has considerable experience in strategic development and has put a great deal of time and effort into the process.”

**There were no questions**

**h) T 448 Co-Option to the Council**

**The re-co-option of Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis to the Council was approved.**

The Chairman expressed particular thanks to Mr. Oliver-Bellasis for the considerable time and attention he had given, personally, to the successful management of the Butts emergency.

**i) T456 Channel Islands Representation on the General Council**

General Council was asked to approve an invitation to Jersey and Guernsey to have representatives serve as ex officio members.

**Approved**

**QUESTIONS**

Including questions in writing from Richard Baillie and Peter Coley who were not present.

**j) T457 Shooting Discipline – Name Change** - It was asked how Practical Rifle had been renamed Civilian Service Rifle without recommendation of the Shooting Committee.

It was explained to the meeting that through a misunderstanding a mistake had been made.

**It was agreed that the decision was made in error and the Chairman confirmed that it would be expunged.**

**k) Circulation of All Agendas to General Council (G 43 (c))** - It was pointed out that had the Agendas and papers been seen by General Council in advance the mistake relating to Practical Rifle would not have occurred.

**l) T451(b) Publication of Minutes on the NRA Website** – It was pointed out that it had been decided to publish General Council Minutes on the website for viewing by registered members after the Minutes have been approved and signed. **The decision was endorsed.**

In the interest of cost reduction a request was made that minutes and associated papers should be circulated to the General Council via email.

**The Secretary General agreed to examine the feasibility of doing so.**

**m) T460(d) Leases, Approvals** – The comment within the minutes that “ the Council have had no direct involvement in the discussions surrounding Victoria Chalets since August 2005” was disputed at the meeting by one of the tenants involved.

It was pointed out that was the case and the only involvement of the Trustees had been to ask for a progress brief from the solicitors. The Council could not involve itself directly and all issues had been dealt with via Barlow Robbins, the Solicitors, not at meetings of the Council.

**n) T441(c)(5)(i) Termination of Contract of the Regional (Range Licencing Project) Manager** – A number of General Council members present voiced their objection to the termination of this post, voicing the opinion that for the first time they had felt supported in the regions by the NRA. The opinion was expressed that were the decision to stand it would have an adverse effect on membership and how the regions viewed the Association. As evidence of this a number of letters and emails were presented/read out to the meeting.

The Secretary General explained that the Regional Manager had been employed on the basis that additional income to cover costs would be achieved through offering a package of club membership including insurance and Range Licences to use MoD ranges. As a result of failure to reach agreement with the military there was a £45K deficit in income, which made up a substantial part of the budget short-fall for this year. The Regional Manager had been employed knowing that the contract of employment was dependent upon making this income and that there was no guarantee of continued employment otherwise (T 336).

The Chairman explained that it is crucial for the future financial stability of the organisation that income is sustained. The meeting was informed that until the Association created more income through the commercialisation of Bisley and increased membership the budget would be tight. Continued employment of the Regional Manager would create a year on year deficit against budget unless agreement was reached with the MoD or other additional income is achieved. Employment conditions meant that it was better for the Association to terminate the post immediately.

Those present asked if there were other ways of raising the money needed, such as rescheduling the debt repayments.

General Farquhar commented on the progress of negotiations between the MoD and the NRA relating to Range Licencing and substituting RCOs for MoD Range Wardens.

The General stated that the negotiations had not progressed in 2005 because all training facilities management had been taken over by Defence Estates (DE). Discussions were now on-going in a positive manner with DE with the next meeting programmed for 16<sup>th</sup> November 2006. He still hoped that agreement would be reached.

A number of those present were of the opinion that the Regional Manager should be retained to service the needs of the Regions and to be able to manage any project agreed with the MoD in the future.

**The Secretary General confirmed that he is examining his budget to identify savings and any additional income that could be achieved for 2007 so that new arrangements can be put in place, hopefully including an agreement with the MoD for Range Licencing.**

### **G 92 UPDATE ON THE BUTTS PROJECT**

A report from the MD of NSC and costings relating to the Butts Project were presented to the General Council. He made special mention of the volunteers who had cleared out the Cheylesmore butts and saved some £4,500 and that he had written to them in thanks. In addition an outline was given for future works on a shelf to be constructed on Century Range to further stabilise the Butts and to reduce future problems and reduce maintenance costs.

**The General Council agreed that the NSC Management and staff should be congratulated on both the speed, quality of work and cost reductions achieved during the project to date. Special mention was given to the contractor Brian Brimfield for all his efforts.**

**The Chairman reported that he had already undertaken to write to Mr Brimfield.**

It was announced that the Appeal had raised £16.5K including Gift Aid to date.

**It was agreed that the Secretary General should write to all those who have made donations.**

### **QUESTIONS**

**a) Insurance** – A question was asked as to why the Association did not have insurance cover for the Butts.

It was explained that the butts had never been adversely affected by excess rain before and it had not be judged to be a major risk. Enquiries with insurers had revealed that to have had such insurance would not have been commercially viable or cost effective. However, in view of the recent event the Association is seeking a costing from Royal Sun Alliance for additional cover.

**b) Repair Costs and consequent Income Loss** – As a result of a question it was reported that the loss of income was substantially down on original estimates due to the speed of recovery. The repair costs were also considerably lower than original estimates.

### **G 93 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (G 80)**

The Secretary General presented the latest version of Professor Horrocks' options paper to the meeting outlining the proposed group membership and the various events that could be run to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary both at Bisley and in the regions. (**Annex**)

**General Council supported the view that we should support a series of events in the regions as well as Bisley.**

## **G 94 ELECTIONS**

### **The Council**

Mick Maksimovic was elected to the Council by 26 votes for and none against.

### **Shooting Committee**

George Barnard was elected by 20 votes for and 2 against.

David Calvert was elected by 25 votes for and none against.

John Carmichael was elected by 23 votes for and 1 against.

### **Membership Committee**

Karen Robertson was elected by 25 votes for and 1 against.

Charles Murton was elected by 19 votes for and 1 against.

### **Disciplinary Body**

David Calvert was elected by 27 votes for and none against.

Rae Wills was elected by 22 votes for and 2 against.

Michelle Barry was elected by 22 votes for and 1 against.

David Evans was elected by 22 votes for and 2 against.

Jonathan Holmes was elected by 24 votes for and none against.

Nick Hinchliffe was elected by 24 votes for and 1 against.

### **Co-opted to the General Council**

Chris Farr was co-opted by 23 votes for and 1 against.

Martyn Jones MP was co-opted by 23 votes for and none against.

Humphrey Malins CBE, MP was co-opted by 23 votes for and none against.

The Chairman expressed especial thanks to the Members of Parliament who are very supportive of our affairs.

### **Treasurer**

Mark Haszlkiewicz was elected by 27 votes for and 1 against.

### **Vice Chairman**

Dick Horrocks was elected by 24 votes for and 3 against.

## **Chairman**

John Jackman was elected for one year by 16 votes for and 7 against.

## **Chairman**

### **DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS.**

The following were agreed:

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2007	2.30pm	Bisley
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2007	2pm	Bisley (followed by the AGM)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> September 2007	2.30pm	Bisley

### **Annex - 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Paper**