

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting**  
**Held at the Pavilion, Bisley**  
**On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007, from 2.30 pm**

**Present:**

**Vice Chairman:** Prof AR Horrocks

**Members:** Mr G Alexander  
Mr HRM Baillie  
Mr GV Barnard  
Mrs ID Bennett  
Miss MZL Boston  
Mr CM Brooks  
Dr AM Cargill Thompson  
Mr JH Carmichael  
Mr ARK Clayton  
Mr CN Farr  
Maj SB Fraser  
Mr EJ Gardener  
Lt Col LA Holley  
Mr CN Higginbottom,  
Mr T Kidner  
Mr CD Law  
Mr M Maksimovic  
Mr CC Mallett  
Mr MF Martel  
Dr P Monaghan  
Mr C Murton  
Sqn Ldr R Nott  
Mrs KD Robertson  
Mr IW Robertson  
Mr AJD Saunders  
Mr IR Shirra-Gibb  
Mr JD Warburton  
Mr MP Watkins  
Mr JA Watson  
Mr DD Watt  
Miss A Welford  
Mr RHF Wills  
Mr D Young

**In attendance:** Mr JF Jackman  
Mr GWJ Alger - Secretary  
Mr JEM Hartwell - Vice Chairman of the Council  
Mr JES Staples - Managing Director NSC  
Maj MG Farnan - Director of Shooting

Mr B Thomas - Assistant Director of Shooting  
Mrs HL Webb - Membership Secretary  
Mr B Pollard - Finance Manager

**Apologies for absence:** Wg Cdr DP Calvert, Mr P Coley, Maj Gen AP Farquhar, Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Miss J Rankin, Brig JR Smales

### **VICE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Vice Chairman opened the meeting by informing those present that the former Chairman John Jackman had retired from the Chair of the Association as he had reached the end of his term of office. The General Council were informed that John Jackman was there as an invitee for continuity, in support of the Vice Chairman, who would carry-out the duties of the Chairman of the Association in the interim.

The Vice Chairman then welcomed to their first meeting of the General Council as members Gary Alexander, John Gardener and Amanda Welford.

Those present were then reminded to hand in their election papers to enable the votes to be counted and the results announce later in the meeting.

### **G 115 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007**

**There were no matters arising. General Council agreed the Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007 which the Vice Chairman signed.**

### **G 116 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2007**

The General Council received the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

A point was raised that contained within the Chairman's speech was a statement that the General Council had agreed to the concept of a name change for the Association.

A discussion took place. It was agreed that the decision of the General Council was that any potential name change was linked to the current NATSS discussions. There was an acknowledgement that if or when the NRA became part of a single national body for Target Shooting it would be necessary to change the Association's name.

**It was agreed that an appropriate amendment to the speech to reflect the view of the General Council should be agreed between the Secretary General and the Editor of the Journal.**

### **G 117 BISLEY GENERAL MEETING 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

The General Council received the Minutes of the Bisley General Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

A question was asked about the intention to change the name of the Imperial Meeting.

It was stated that the Council had decided to change the name of the meeting to inform those outside the sport what the event was all about and to improve our chances of attracting sponsorship.

Following a discussion it was pointed out that the actual decision of the Council had been to rename the competition “The British Open Full-bore Rifle Championships, The Imperial Meeting”. It was acknowledged that the name may have to be amended to reflect the fact that the event was not wholly full-bore or rifle.

It was pointed out that the minutes were incorrect in that it was the South African Juniors and Canadian Cadets that had attended the Meeting.

**It was agreed that an appropriate amendment to the speech to reflect the view of the General Council should be agreed between the Secretary General and the Editor of the Journal.**

### **G 118 REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

The General Council received the Report of the Secretary General dated 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007.

The following questions were raised:

- a) **Ammunition (T 516(a))** – A question was asked about having reached agreement with the military on the form of payment for range use, had the Association made enquiries with relevant ammunition manufacturers to ensure that ammunition of the correct standards and quantities would be available. **The meeting was informed that discussions were underway with manufacturers and that NSC knew where they could get the required ammunition from and in what timescales.**
- b) **Civilian Use of MoD Ranges**– A question was asked whether ranges that were potentially going to be closed or mothballed had been identified (Scotland in particular). The meeting was informed that the NRA had expressed an interest in a number of ranges (including in Scotland) that were under potential threat. However, until the military were explicit as to which ranges were going to be made available we could not make an approach.
- c) **Insurance (T 581))** – A point was made that the NRA should ensure that we got the best possible cover for members. The meeting was informed that the Secretary General and John Jackman had been tasked with finding the best insurance/financial products supplier to provide for the needs of the single national body. The intention was to look at the three insurances currently provided and ‘cherry pick’ to provide the best cover at the best price.
- d) **NATSS (T 588)** – A question was asked about whether NATSS was going to be the final name of the single national body. The meeting was informed that we had a long way to go and that it was unlikely that NATSS would be the final name of the new body based upon surveys to date. The process that was being followed was to initially hold a series of forums, firstly at national level then in the regions to get views on the future of Target Shooting, organisational structure and possible names going forward. Some in the room acknowledged they had been invited to the national forum as a representative of a national Target Shooting body.

## **G 119 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Membership Committee held on 17<sup>TH</sup> July 2007.

The meeting was informed by the Chairman of the Membership Committee that the meeting had been restricted to putting together a proposal for Membership rates for 2008 and a scale of charges going forward with the intention of equalising the membership structure and rates with the CPSA and NSRA by 2009/2010 in recognition of the move towards a single national body.

The General Council was informed that the rates for 2008 and the outline strategy had been agreed by the Council.

- a) **Membership Numbers** – The meeting was informed that at present the records showed that there are now 5,553 members of the Association a net increase of 500 members since 2006.

## **QUESTIONS**

- 1) **Increasing Membership of the Association** - A question was asked about how we could increase the number of members shooting in clubs becoming an individual member of the Association. The meeting was informed that a great deal of effort was made each year to persuade clubs to let us have details of their members. Clubs often refused or claimed they would be in breach of data protection. If this condition was insisted upon many clubs threatened they would not affiliate. It was recognised that the job of the club secretaries was onerous, plus if names were given we may well find that clubs have more members than they are declaring, for financial reasons. The meeting was assured that Membership would continue to try and promote individual membership of the Association through the clubs. Gary Alexander was invited to attend the next Membership meeting to make proposals on improved marketing.
- 2) **Use of Bisley Ranges** – Following a question it was emphasised that as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 only individual members, members of an affiliated club shooting on a club day, those taking part in NRA competitions and those involved in corporate events can shoot at Bisley.

There were no other questions.

**The minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007 were adopted.**

## **G 120 SHOOTING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Shooting Committee presented minutes of the Shooting Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

The Chairman of the Shooting Committee presented the key issues from the minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007 as follows:

- a) **S447 Courses – Handloading (S427(h))** – The meeting was informed that Handloading Courses were being developed for delivery on a members-only basis starting in the Spring 2008.
- b) **S453 Trigger Weights – ICFRA** – ICFRA had agreed for TR to reduce the trigger weight to 0.5kg against the advice of the NRA GB.
- c) **S454 Review of the Imperial Meeting** – Those who assisted in running the meeting in very wet conditions were thanked. Everyone agreed the ammunition shot well.
- d) **S462 NRA/MoD Agreement** – The MD of NSC reported that the Army were still intending to pay the NRA for range use using ammunition up until the end of the year. This would mean in 2008 we would have 150k rounds in stock. It was proposed that NSC could purchase the additional ammunition from RG to make up the deficit. In this way RG could be used for the 2008 meeting which would clear our stock, allowing us to buy different ammunition for 2009.
- e) **S466 Solid Bullets** – The meeting was informed that there had been problems with solid brass/copper bullets in that they had different ballistic and ricochet characteristics to commercial products. As a result of concerns they were banned for use at Bisley. TAS were looking at the problem.
- f) **S467 CENTSAAAM** – It was reported that the meeting would continue to be held at Bisley. Changes to the competitions and the number of days for CENTSAAAM were being considered.
- g) **S468 Amendments to the Bisley Bible** – It was reported that there would be changes to the bible to accommodate the existing supine position definition and the new experimental sitting at a table position to accommodate disabled shooters. The Chairman of the TR Sub-committee asked if something similar could be developed for TR. He advised the meeting he would be looking into the possibilities.
- h) **S477 Safety Cards** – It was agreed that a card showing an abbreviated version of the range regulations and radio messages would be a good idea.
- i) **NRA and ICFRA Representative** – The meeting was informed that Iain Robertson was the new Chairman of the TR Sub-Committee and the new Chairman of the ICFRA TR Technical Committee.
- j) **Swindle Board** – James Watson apologised for the OTF Swindle Board not being present on Century
- k) this year due to volunteer staff shortages. He assured the meeting this would be sorted out for the next Annual Meeting.

**The Shooting Committee Minutes for the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007 were adopted.**

### **G 121 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LIMITED**

- 1) The General Council received the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the National Shooting Centre Limited held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007.
  - a) **N556 & G98** – A question was asked why there was an apparent contradiction between the statement made in the NSC Board Minutes and the minutes of the General Council in that new CCTV cameras had been fitted to ensure registration numbers could be read. The MD of NSC informed the meeting that there had been an upgrade of the CCTV cameras to ensure improved images.
- 2) The MD of NSC gave a verbal report of the meeting of the NSC Board held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

- a) **Insurance** – It was reported that there were ongoing discussions were taking place with Aston Scott our Insurance Brokers to ensure that all buildings owned by the NRA are adequately covered for insurance purposes. This building cover will increase to £11.9 million with an additional premium of £10,000. Each individual property will now be separately assessed and where appropriate the cost will be charged back to the tenant.
- b) **Electronic Targets** – It was reported that during the latter part of September and early October there were an increasing number of problems with the electronic targets and they were taken out of commission on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> October. Subsequently Haring have visited Bisley and carried out substantial remedial works. They were tested extensively and are now working without any problems. The matter will be kept under review until the end of the year before any decision is made on the payment of the second 50% of the cost of these targets.
- c) **Open Days** – It was reported that the Autumn Open Day was very successful with over 1000 people attending. If all the staff costs were included within the budget for the Open Days then the events would lose between £2000/£3000. In addition NSC are being asked to contribute towards re-barrelling costs of some of the rifles which would have a detrimental effect on the bottom line. Considerable discussion took place whether there should be one or two Open Days per year due to the amount of work and staff time involved in organising the event. **The NRA restated its intention to continue to have two Open Days each year at Bisley to promote the sport.**
- d) **Range Booking Procedures** - It was reported that there could be a potential loss in range bookings of up to £10,000 due to the requirement of the Trustees to ensure that only individual members or members of affiliated clubs on official club shoots could book targets. It was clear that a new marketing campaign is required and we would work in conjunction with the membership department to ensure that NSC have a proactive marketing approach.
- e) **Bisley Gun Club** - Following the advert in the last journal, two offers were received for the former Bisley Gun Club building. Unfortunately neither of these offers was acceptable and we will look to re-market the building in the next journal.
- f) **Development** – It was reported that there was concern going forward that there would be a considerable capital requirement to ensure the infrastructure of the Bisley Estate did not deteriorate any further and these costs could be in the region of £250,000 - £750,000 which would need to be spent over the next few years.
- g) **Surrey Rifle Association** - The Surrey Rifle Association currently owe the NSC and NRA considerable sums of money and a meeting has been sought with the Chairman and Treasurer of the Surrey Rifle Association. To date none of the individuals has responded to telephone calls or letters. As a result of the outstanding amounts it was agreed that the Surrey would have to pay for their targets before they could shoot at Bisley. The club is in breach of its lease and unless the matter is resolved legal advice will be sought.
- h) **Powder Store** - It was agreed to recommend to the Trustees that a powder store is constructed in the area of the borrow pit near the National Clay Shooting Centre and the Bisley Shooting Ground. This will allow us to store considerable amounts of powder, which will in turn increase the volume of our sales.
- i) **Stickledown Target Frames** - The Stickledown target frames have not been maintained over the last 22 years and need refurbishment during the course of this Winter/early next year. The cost of this remedial work will be between £5,000-£10,000. Five targets will be removed and upgraded per week.

- j) **SAAB Targets** – The meeting was informed that we have been offered the loan of 12 pop-up style targets to trial over the Winter months. To date there has been a very good uptake from the Civilian Service Rifle groups however these will be trialled extensively to see if there is a market during the Winter months.
- k) **Finance** - A new accounts system upgrade is proposed. The current Access system is very old and there will be no further support of this system from Access within the next 12 months. The proposal is to upgrade the Access system to Dimensions, which is a state of the art accounting package at a cost in the region of £12,000.

## **G 122 THE COUNCIL**

Julian Hartwell presented the Minutes of meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007 and 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007 plus written resolutions T576 and T593.

### a) **Minutes of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007**

- 1) **Co-option of James Ragg (G111 & T555)** – A question was asked about the 5 year gap in James Ragg’s CV. It was explained we had received details of what he was doing in that interim in that he had been working abroad on work unconnected with being a Chartered Accountant.

### b) **Minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

- 1) **T579 Regional Manager**– A question was asked about the future of the Regional Manager and Agents. The Secretary General explained that the item appeared because it was part of his bid to include funding for the Regional Manager and Regional structure in his budget for 2008 to ensure agreements that are close to finalisation with the MoD can be met. A further question was asked about the availability of minutes following the Regional Reps meeting. An undertaking was made to produce the minutes and send them out.
- 2) **T587 Remuneration Committee** – The meeting was informed that the Secretary General was now employed full-time.
- 3) **T588(a) Timing of the Bisley Meeting** – A point was made that consultation was needed before any decision was made to change the timing for the Bisley Meeting. The meeting was informed this issue was with the Shooting Committee for consideration.
- 4) **T588(c) Purchase of MoD Land** – A question was asked about which MoD land was being proposed for purchase. The meeting was informed the Association was investigating the possibility of buying the land to the SW of the current camp between the old sewage works and Cheylsmore.
- 5) **T592 Bisley Development** – A question was asked about applying for a change in the restrictions of use, in particular limiting the times of year accommodation can be used by shooters and non-shooters. It was explained that by removing the restrictions through planning the Association could make better use of the site for both shooting and non-shooting uses allowing a more commercial approach to the use of Bisley.

### c) **Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

**No questions were asked**

### **G 123 CO-OPTION OF JULIAN HARTWELL AND CHARLES OLIVER-BELLASIS (T584)**

The meeting was asked to approve the co-option of Julian Hartwell and Charles Oliver-Bellasis.

**Julian Hartwell was approved as co-opted to the Council for one year.**

An objection was raised regarding the co-option of Charles Oliver-Bellasis.

**Following a show of hands vote it was agreed to co-opt Charles Oliver-Bellasis to the Council for one year.**

### **G 124 ELECTIONS**

The Vice Chairman announced the following had been elected for 3 years:

**David Young to the Council**

**Richard Baillie to the Discipline Committee (lay member)**

**Richard Mott to the Discipline Appeal Committee (legal member)**

**Charles Brooks to the Discipline Appeal Committee (legal member)**

**Colin McEachran to the Discipline Appeal Committee (legal member)**

**Iain Robertson to the Discipline Appeal Committee (lay member)**

### **G 125 CO-OPTION TO GENERAL COUNCIL – JAGDEEP KAPOOR**

The General Council was asked to consider the co-option of Jagdeep Kapoor.

Objections were raised to his co-option making the point that he could work for the Association and not be a member of the General Council.

His skills as an engineer, property developer and property financier were recommended to the General Council.

**Following a show of hands vote Jagdeep Kapoor was elected as a co-opted member of the General Council.**

### **G 126 CHAIRMANSHIP**

The Vice Chairman advised the General Council that to date we had two internal candidates nominated for the post of Chairman of the Association. In addition as per the recommendation of the General Council (G100) the NRA had advertised externally for candidates through various sources. Latterly the HRH the Prince of Wales had offered his assistance through his charities office. This had of course introduced delays into the process



because accessing and interviewing candidates to get the right calibre of individual to be considered for Chairman of the NRA needed to be thorough.

The Secretary General informed the meeting that he had been in touch with both the internal candidates and got their agreement to hold the election at a later date. One of the candidates had made representations that he wished to present to General Council as part of the election process, which he would not be able to do if the election took place at this meeting. The candidates had also been informed about the process that was being undertaken with external candidates and were content.

A representation was made that the election should be held immediately. The point was made that this would not be possible with the candidates not being present and being against the direct wishes of one of them.

A question was asked about the 'Rules of the Association', Section 4(d) "The Chairman of the General Council shall be the Chairman of the Council and shall be known as the Chairman of the Association". The Vice Chairman was asked if he was going to become the Chairman in the interim. A discussion took place. The Vice Chairman of the General Council stated he was willing to act as the Chairman in the interim, with the Vice Chairman of the Council acting as the Chairman of the Trustees. The point was made that this was in contravention of rule 4(d).

**Following a show of hands vote it was agreed to suspend Rule 4(d), allowing the Vice Chairman of the General Council to act as Chairman until the election of the new Chairman of the Association. The Vice Chairman of the Council would act as the Chairman similarly.**

The Vice Chairman proposed that as soon as the external candidates had been assessed an Extra-ordinary meeting of the General Council should be arranged to accommodate the election of a new Chairman.

**It was agreed that the election of the new Chairman would take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008, the date of the next proposed scheduled meeting, to minimise inconvenience to the members of General Council. The format of the meeting would be the responsibility of the Secretary General to arrange.**

## **G 127 OTHER ITEMS**

- a) **Olympics** – A question was asked about where the games were going to take place. The meeting was informed that currently LOCOG was still committed to Woolwich. However GBTSF had been battling to get it moved to another site where there would be some legacy. The preferred option from GBTSF was Dartford because of its proximity to the Games Village. Regarding Bisley we have applied for Training Venue status, which in terms of being able to control any development is the best option.
- b) **Destination Signs** – It was asked if the signs around the camp could be cleaned as they were very dirty.
- c) **Speed Humps** – The point was made that if a speed hump was placed appropriately near the CCTV we could get better pictures. To be considered.

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm

## Chairman

### DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS.

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2008	2.00pm	Bisley
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2008 (followed by AGM at 5.30pm)	2.00pm	Bisley
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2008	2.00pm	Bisley