

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting**  
**Held at the Pavilion, Bisley**  
**On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008, from 10.30 am**

**Present:**

Chairman: Mr BWD Richards (afternoon only)  
Vice Chairman: Prof AR Horrocks  
Treasurer: Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz

**Members:** Mr G Alexander  
Mr HRM Bailie  
Mr GV Barnard  
Mrs ID Bennett  
Mr JPS Bloomfield  
Mr CM Brooks  
Wg Cdr DP Calvert  
Dr AM Cargill Thompson  
Mr JH Carmichael  
Mr ARK Clayton  
Mr PR Coley  
Mr S East  
Mr CN Farr  
Maj SB Fraser  
Mr EJ Gardener  
Mr C Higginbottom,  
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley  
Mr J Kapoor  
Mr T Kidner  
Mr JM Kynoch  
Mr CD Law  
Mr M Maksimovic  
Mr CC Mallett  
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 JEM Hartwell	-	Vice Chairman of the Council
Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary
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:** Mr MJM Black, Col WDG Bowles, Cdr IG Danbury, Mr TL Kidner, Col WS O'Leary, Miss J Rankin, Brig JR Smales

**G128 APPROVAL OF THE ELECTION PROCEDURE**

- a) Objection to the procedure was raised because the voting papers were consecutively numbered giving the ability, potentially, to know who has voted for whom. The meeting was informed that the numbering was purely to ensure there was no duplication of papers thus it was not known by anyone who had which numbered voting paper. **It was unanimously agreed that the scrutineers retain the voting papers for two weeks and then destroy them.**
- b) There was a proposal to hold the vote after the lunch recess and this was rejected by the majority on the grounds that canvassing could take place.
- c) It was proposed that the successful candidate would hold the office of Chairman for one year after which he could be re-elected. **This proposal was unanimously carried.**
- d) An objection was raised to the fact that additional time had not been given to question Bill Richards, the external candidate, because no one knew him. The meeting was informed that in the interest of fairness to each candidate all the candidates had been allowed the same amount of time. If not the other 2 candidates could claim an unfair advantage.
- e) It was asked that consideration be given in the future to a single transferable vote.
- f) It was asked that consideration be given to approving the election procedure at or before the General Council meeting preceding the election of a Chairman.
- g) **The General Council approved the Election Procedure.**

**G129 PRESENTATION AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The meeting was informed that the running order of the candidates had been decided by lot and that the presentations would be made in the order of:

Dr Robin Pizer  
Mr Bill Richards  
Mr Donald Andersen

The Meeting and the candidates were informed that each presentation would consist of a 15 minute presentation followed by a 15 minute question and answer session. Questions and answers would be controlled by the Vice Chairman of the General Council to ensure everyone got the chance to ask a question. Following the last presentation the vote would take place.

The presentations and vote took place without incident.

### **G130 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VOTE**

Total Number of voting papers received	47
Mr Bill Richards	31 votes
Dr Robin Pizer	12 votes
Mr Donald Anderson	3 votes
(One paper was spoiled)	

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12.55pm

The meeting reconvened at 2pm

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

The Vice Chairman opened the second part of the meeting by welcoming the new Chairman Mr Bill Richards.

### **G131 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

The Minutes of the General Council Meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007 were received.

**There were no matters arising. General Council agreed the Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007 which the Vice Chairman signed.**

### **G132 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G119)**

The meeting was informed that the vacancy on the committee had invited only one nomination, Mr Gary Alexander, and so he was elected. The General Council received the Minutes of the Membership Committee Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

- a) Mr Bloomfield said that the TOR for the Young Shooters' Fund were still awaited and had been an outstanding item since 29 September 2003. **Mr Brooks advised that he and Mr Iain Robertson had been reviewing the document and that it would be referred back to the Membership Committee within the next 2-3 weeks.**

The Chairman of the Membership Committee advised the meeting that the main issue of the meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008 had been to discuss the membership and funding issues associated with the introduction of Muzzle Energy requirements, which were due to be addressed later in the meeting.

- b) **The minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008 were adopted.**

## **G 133 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G120)**

The Chairman of the Shooting Committee gave a verbal report on the draft Minutes of the Shooting Committee meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008 advising that the final Minutes would be distributed shortly.

The follow issues were identified for comment from the minutes.

- a) (S483 b) – ICFRA – Rule Changes – the Shooting Committee had recommended that the ICFRA rule changes should not be adopted in the UK and that overseas competitors would have to conform to the current rules when in competition but that when shooting out of competition they may use rifles of any weight and with any sighting system, but will have to conform to the minimum trigger weight. (Bisley Bible Rule 150)
  
- b) (S487) – The Imperial Meeting 2008 –
  - i) Entry Fees – The meeting was advised that due to increased costs brought about by the changes in the NRA/MoD Agreement relating to the military use of Bisley ranges, and how they paid for them, entry fees would have to rise by 14%
  
  - ii) Ammunition – The meeting was informed that a number of options had been looked at relating to the ammunition supplied during the Annual Meeting. However due to the time needed to test, the increased costs and the guarantees of quality of supply the Association was staying with RG for 2008. The intention was to start testing other ammunition for consideration for 2009 immediately. The question was asked why we should not move to hand-loads. The meeting was informed that cadets could only use issued ammunition and other young people who together make up 25-30% of those taking part in the Annual Meeting, were not interested in using hand-loads because of the associated costs and skills required. It was considered that any change in this area could result in a dramatic reduction in involvement of young shooters as had been the case in all other countries that had moved away from issued ammunition.
  
- e) (S487) – MoD Muzzle Energy Restrictions – The Secretary General made the following report:

“As you are all aware the negotiations with the MoD have gone well and the Muzzle Energy limits have been raised to 4500J which accommodates most of you when shooting on MoD ranges.

We are presently trying to finalise a formal agreement between ourselves and the MoD so that we know categorically what is required by each party. As you are all aware the devil is in the detail.

I am conscious however that you are all concerned about deadlines and making sure you are compliant with requirements in time for the next shooting season. To give you an element of comfort we have mutually agreed with the MoD that although the

requirements for civilian shooters effectively kick-in as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008, we have until 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 to complete arrangements.

(The one exception to this rule is the need to introduce new procedures to allow those who wish to shoot over 4500J up to 7000J to do so with immediate effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. Special training has already begun to equip RCO's to oversee the new zeroing requirement and the agreed procedures will be notified to you in the near future.)

This allows you and us some flexibility to get things as nearly right as we possibly can, at the first attempt. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 there will be an incremental introduction of the new requirements and systems required by the MoD to keep you shooting. At the same time as unforeseen issues arise we can tailor requirements by further negotiations with the MoD, thus ensuring we are fully compliant for 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009."

The Chairman of the Shooting Committee and the Director of Shooting then described the process for the special procedures to allow anyone wishing to shoot ammunition exceeding 4500J on a MoD range.

The following questions were asked:

- 1) When does this requirement start? – It was explained that generally the NRA needs to have reached agreement and begun implementation from 1.4.08. with a completion date of 1.1.09. The exception being the introduction of Special Procedures for those wishing to shoot over 4500J which needs to be in place from 1.4.08.
- 2) Does an individual need to be certified by all the clubs of which he is a member? It was explained that certification only needed to be done by an individual's primary club.
- 3) Does an individual need to be certified for each firearm? – It was explained that an individual needs to qualify for each class of firearm, which would be judged upon whether a firearm was open sighted or had a telescopic sight or was a black powder versus cartridge rifle etc.
- 4) What makes a club chairman competent? – It was explained that the Chairman is responsible for all his members, however he can authorise other officials to assess members on his behalf with him/her giving the final signature.
- 5) Do we need to communicate this to every individual member? – It was explained as well as publishing everything on the website and in the Journal we have had a policy of emailing every member and club to keep them informed.
- 6) Will we need to review the club insurance? – The meeting was informed that the club insurance cover has already been increased to give the necessary cover for officers of our clubs.
- 7) Can we still use the Zero Range at Bisley? – It was explained that the Zero Range at Bisley was an exception to the requirement to zero at 200 yards, with the Range Office signing off the zero card. It was also explained that in general, zeroing will be required on every occasion an individual wishes to shoot over 4500J, the exception being when taking part in shoot involving consecutive days where the person has zeroed on the first day. The meeting was shown one of the new zeroing targets to be used at 200 yards. It was further explained that the whole zeroing process needed to be overseen by a specially trained RCO for the new Special Procedures to be used on any

MoD range. The RCO assessors had already been trained in the new requirements to be in position to train RCO's in the regions. The point was made that perhaps all those wishing to shoot over 4500J ought to be trained to self RCO. It was agreed that this would be looked at. The possibility of zeroing with sub 4500J ammunition at the full range would also be considered.

Appreciation was expressed for the results that Glynn, Paul Monaghan, Martin, Phyllis and Chris Webb had achieved to date.

### **G 134 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LIMITED (G121)**

The General Council received the Minutes of the meetings of the Board of the National Shooting Centre Limited held on 14<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

**a) (N571) – Open Days – Re-barrelling of loaned firearms** – A discussion took place regarding the potential for paying members an amount of money for the loan of their rifles. The view was expressed that the preference would be for the Association to buy its own firearms. **It was agreed that there ought to be a request for the donation of equipment for Open Days**

**b) (N588) – Target Hire Charges for Training Courses** – A general discussion took place regarding the cost of running courses. It was explained that the cost of courses up until 2007 had been subsidised by up to 50%. Since the rise in charges the NRA still subsidised courses by between 20-30% under its charitable objectives.

**c) (N593) – Ladies Dormitory (Dolphin Lodge)** – Was reported as completed and very popular.

**d) (N598) – Electronic Targets** – a question was asked about the reliability of the electronic targets. It was reported that investigation into the reliability issues was on-going and any final payment was dependent upon them working to specification.

### **G 135 THE COUNCIL**

Julian Hartwell reported briefly on progress with NATSS and the Bisley development plan. Both are ongoing and there should be progress to report at the next meeting of the General Council. He then took questions on the Minutes of the meetings held on 18<sup>th</sup> October, 3<sup>rd</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007.

#### **1) Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

##### **a) T598 Draft Outline Budget for 2008**

i) A question was asked on the report in the budget that RCO pay was to be increased in line with the Markers. This was confirmed as correct for the 2008 Annual Meeting.

ii) Victoria Chalets – the Council was asked to report when Victoria Chalets had been finalised, regarding the total amount of expenditure on legal costs. It was confirmed that this would be done.

#### **2) Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**

##### **a) T 611 Muzzle Energy**

A question was asked regarding the level of responsibility taken on by the NRA in relation to giving advice on the construction and management of civilian ranges related to the concept of 'Safe Place'. A view was expressed that the risk and responsibility wholly lay with the owner of the range under Occupiers' Liability.

A contrary view was that by supplying a manual and giving advice the Association is bound to have some responsibility.

**It was agreed that identification of risk and risk management would be critical. Insurance would probably be a component of the risk management.**

3) **Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

a) **T617 Draft Budget**

A question was asked as to how the budget for the increased use of electronic targets had been arrived at. It was explained that the budget estimate was based upon the estimated use of the targets when working properly.

b) **T618 Entry Fees**

The question was asked why people would in future have to pay an admin fee if they do not enter for the Annual Meeting on-line. It was explained that by entering on line people largely carried out their own administration, in terms both of the entry details and the payment, saving staff time. The aim was to encourage an increase in on-line entries.

c) **T619 Budget 2008**

A question was asked about the ammunition subsidy for young shooters. It was explained that to encourage the young to stay in the sport and shoot, ammunition was subsidised for all those under 21 and those under 25 still in full-time education.

**Thanks were expressed to Julian for his work as Acting Chairman of the Council**

**G 136 OTHER ITEMS**

- a) **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – The Vice Chairman reported that a plan for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary had been put before the General Council previously but due to other workload had not been pursued recently. The view was expressed that the Committee needed to be reconstituted to progress the necessary planning for the anniversary which was planned to coincide with the formation of the Association in November 1859 and the first Annual Meeting in 1860. To date we knew that HRH the Prince of Wales was intending to take part in the celebrations but the Association needed to invite him soon to get in his diary. In addition Surrey County Council was awaiting proposals from the NRA for

them to be involved. As part of the celebrations there was a suggestion that a 'mini' Palma Match should take place on the Sunday after the Queen's Final.

The Vice Chairman asked for volunteers to help, in particular someone who had experience in persuading sponsors to support such events.

A number of issues were drawn to the attention of the General Council:

- 1) The need to produce the 'Bible' early for 2010, prior to Christmas 2009.
  - 2) That it was also the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Cadet Movement in 2010 who were intending to involve the two Princes in their events.
  - 3) It will be the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jersey Rifle Association in 2011.
  - 4) The need to publish an article in the Journal to encourage support for the events.
- b) **G127 b) – Destination Signs** – A complaint was made that the cleaning and restoration of signs had not been implemented as requested.  
**G127 c) – Speed Humps** – An observation was made that no report had been received about appropriately placed speed humps for CCTV purposes to ensure registration numbers were recorded.
- c) **A vote of thanks was made for the work that had been carried out on the Stickle-down firing points by Brian Brimfield and Martin Farnan.**
- d) A question was asked regarding whether there was any intention to fill the vacant Deputy President position. **The Vice Chairman undertook to discuss the matter with the new Chairman of the Association.**
- e) A question was asked about posting the General Council Minutes on the website – The meeting was informed that the General Council Minutes could only be posted on the website once they had been signed off.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm

**Chairman**

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

Date	Time	Venue
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