

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of a Meeting**  
**Held at the Pavilion, Bisley**  
**On Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008 from 2.00pm**

**Present:**

**Chairman:** Mr BWD Richards  
**Vice Chairman:** Prof AR Horrocks

**Members:** Mr G Alexander  
Mr HRM Bailie  
Mr GV Barnard  
Mrs ID Bennett  
Mr JPS Bloomfield  
Mr CM Brooks  
Dr AM Cargill Thompson  
Mr PR Coley  
Maj MG Farnan  
Mr CN Farr  
Maj SB Fraser  
Mr GMLN Gilpin  
Mr JM Kynoch  
Mr CD Law  
Mr M Maksimovic  
Mr CC Mallett  
Dr P Monaghan  
Mr C Murton  
Mrs KD Robertson  
Mr IW Robertson  
Mr IR Shirra-Gibb  
Brig J Smales  
Mr JD Warburton  
Mr DD Watt  
Miss A Welford  
Mr RHF Wills  
Mr D Young

**In attendance:**

Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary
Mr JE Staples	-	MD NSC
Mr B Thomas	-	Assistant Director of Shooting
Mrs HL Webb	-	Membership Secretary
Mr B Pollard	-	Finance Manager

**Apologies for absence:** Mr MJM Black, Mr T Bobbet, Wg Cdr DP Calvert, Mr JH Carmichael, Mr ARK Clayton, Mr EJ Gardener, Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz, Mr JEM Hartwell,

Mr C Higginbottom, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Mr M Martel, Mr K Nash, Mr JD Saunders Wg Cdr M Symonds, Mr MP Watkins, Mr JA Watson

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

The Chairman welcomed George Gilpin, a new member, who was attending his first General Council meeting.

### **G149 CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NRA POST 2009**

The Chairman reminded the meeting that he had been elected for a term of twelve months, which expires at the end of the General Council meeting in February 2009. The meeting was informed that under Rule 7 b iii either the Council or any two members of the General Council may nominate any other registered member by giving notice in writing to the Secretary General at least fourteen days prior to the General Council meeting at which the election will take place i.e the General Council meeting in February 2009.

### **G149 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2008**

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were received and agreed following an amendment to G141 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LIMITED (G134) showing that the working party members were Iain Robertson, Charles Murton and Martin Farnan.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

### **G150 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008 were received.

### **G151 BISLEY GENERAL MEETING**

The Minutes of the Bisley General Meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 were received.

### **G152 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G138)**

The Minutes of the Membership Committee meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008 were received and adopted.

The following points were specifically raised by Charles Murton, standing in for James Watson:

- a) M191 Young Shooters Fund (G132) – later on the agenda under AOB
  - b) M192 NRA Honours – Council approved Hon Life membership for Mrs Barbara Hobson
  - c) M196 Membership Categories – From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 Council had approved the removal of life membership as a category of membership – notification to go out in the Winter Journal
- i) A question was asked why there were no Regional members elected to the Membership Committee an more?

The meeting was informed that it had been decided the Membership Committee should be both representative and skills based. An election had taken place on this basis leading to a position where there were presently no regional representatives on the Committee. However

Chris Webb the Regional Development Manager was an invitee and represented the regional view.

ii) A question was asked regarding how far negotiations had reached with the MoD relating to centralising licensing and regional booking services.

The meeting was informed that negotiations were still taking place and that recently the Association had received draft Heads of Terms for consideration to progress the project which will be followed by meetings with Defence Training Estates in October 2008.

### **G153 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G140)**

The Minutes of the Shooting Committee meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2008 were received and adopted.

A verbal report of the Shooting Committee meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 was received.

- a) MOD/NRA Ammunition Agreement – Payment had been received for military use of Bisley ranges up to and including CENTSAM. Another payment for military use was expected for the rest of the year in March 2009. The total payment will accord with budgeted revenue from this source. In the meantime negotiations continue to reach a longer-term agreement starting in 2009.
- b) GB TR Tours (\$497) – It was announced the touring calendar will be published in advance, annually, to present an opportunity for Home Nations tours to feature and avoid conflict where possible.  
The meeting was reminded that GB Teams/NRA Teams Captains are elected by the Council – **It was agreed that Goodwill Team Captains can be elected by the team members and would be self funding.** Funding arrangements for GB/NRA overseas touring teams is a matter to be discussed at Shooting Committee.
- c) Imperial Meeting 2008 Questionnaire results are being processed by Iain Robertson.
- d) The meeting was informed that there had been several adverse comments about the performance of the ammunition at the 2008 Imperial Meeting. Discussions had taken place with RG regarding the specification of the 2008 Imperial Meeting ammunition. RG had informed the NRA that the ammunition had been made to the same specification as 2007. Regarding 2009, ammunition testing was taking place over an extended period evaluating ammunition from 4 manufacturers, including RG. It was announced that the result would be publicised giving a full explanation as to how the chosen ammunition was selected. The decision will be based on a combination of factors; accuracy, reliability of supply and price.
- e) Imperial Meeting Disciplinary Incident – the meeting was informed that following discussion in the Shooting Committee the firers’ primary responsibility to clear their rifle would be re-emphasised. There was further discussion on the means of clearing a rifle, including ‘bolts out’. It was decided that the current system is safe as long as the Rules are enforced and transgressions punished.
- f) Open Days – the meeting was informed that NSC had bought more scoped rifles to improve quality of equipment.
- g) Imperial Meeting 2009 - The meeting was informed that a working party is looking at the details of how the Imperial Meeting 2008 ran, with a view to introducing any necessary improvements and changes.
- h) ICFRA Rules – The General Council were informed that other countries were adopting ICFRA Rules which could adversely influence overseas teams visiting GB in

years to come. It is the intention of the NRA to write to the other national shooting organisations to express concerns to see if there is any support for the GB position.

#### **G154 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LTD (G141)**

The Minutes of the meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> May 2008 were received.

- a) N647 Karen Robertson wished the fact that she did not receive a fee for work on the Open Day to be recorded
- b) N648 Marketing Plan – The meeting was informed that the Marketing Manager had produced a Marketing Plan. An observation was made that the NRA needed to target public sector business.
- c) A question was asked about progress in relation to Hobson's Way and the Clock Tower – the meeting was informed that Hobson's Way would be finished within the next few weeks and the Clock Tower's foundations had been inspected by GBC and found to be sound. The external fabric of the Clock Tower would be repaired and the clock mechanism replaced before Christmas.

#### **G155 THE COUNCIL (G142)**

The Minutes of the meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 and Written Resolutions T688 and T689 were received,

A verbal report was made by the Chairman of the Council meetings of 21<sup>st</sup> August and 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

- 1) NATSS/Whole Sport Funding/Olympics/Development - In particular the meeting was informed that until two months ago the Council had been working on two key projects, NATSS and the development of Bisley. However, in the last few weeks the NRA had been invited to submit a joint funding bid with the NSRA and the CPSA to solicit funding from Sport England. Shooting had been identified as one of 46 recognised sports eligible to bid for funds over the period 2009/13. One of the reasons for this was the work being undertaken by the 3 NGB's to produce a coherent framework for the target shooting sports

Further, during the course of a recent meeting with Sport England, the Chairman had been informed (informally) that there would be support from that quarter should the Shooting sports seek to have Bisley selected as the venue for the 2012 Olympics.

The point was made that both of these opportunities were exciting and positive for shooting. On the basis that appropriate safeguards were put in place there could be real benefit for both Bisley and the sport of Target shooting. The funding could help shooting broaden its appeal nationally, while the Olympics would potentially assist smooth any planning issues for the development of Bisley.

- a) A question was asked about the potential impact of the Olympics on the Imperial meeting and the Bisley shooting season. It was likely that the Imperial Meeting would have to be moved from its traditional place in the calendar. However, if the Olympics did come to Bisley, examination of the site had revealed an opportunity to build the facilities required within current land holdings but off the main camp and ranges, which could reduce the impact on normal shooting activities. Further examination would be required.

- b) A question was asked about the potential Phase One development behind Century Range. The meeting was informed that because of concerns expressed by Surrey Heath, this development would have to be deferred. However, a new potential Phase One site had been located which was being currently evaluated. A question was asked about the future of site 103. The meeting was advised that the Association had expressed concerns to the NSRA about the way the site is currently used. In addition discussions were taking place involving the NSRA regarding the whole site development and the future of site 103.
  - c) A question was asked about site infrastructure. The meeting was informed that any development would require upgrading of power supplies and other services which would be included in the costings of any development.
- 2) NRA Organisational Structure – The meeting was informed that following the NRA staff working group which had identified future structural, staffing, accommodation and equipment requirements, the Secretary General had been asked to draw up a Business Plan identifying the short and medium term requirements for the Association. Based upon this document the Council had agreed to increase the NRA budget spend by £33k to allow the immediate employment of in-house IT personnel, a full-time Trainer/Coach and purchase of IT equipment.

The requirement for this spend was largely as a result of the additional workload and requirements demanded by the MoD of the NRA to meet its obligations pursuant to the Agreement reached on Muzzle Energy.

- 3) The General Council was asked to ratify the re co-option of Julian Hartwell for one year and James Ragg for three years. **It was agreed to re co-opt Julian Hartwell and James Ragg.**
- 4) Skills Profile of the Council – It was announced that the Council was currently looking at its composition and the necessary skills profile that would be needed going forward to deal with the obvious challenges that the Association faces.

### **G156 ELECTIONS**

The following took place:

**Miss J Scrimshaw 27 votes - Co-opted to the General Council as Regional Member for London & the South East**

**James Watson 30 votes - Re-elected Chairman of the Membership Committee**

### **G157 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY (G146)**

The Vice Chairman of the General Council observed that he had had a low response rate to his questionnaire relating to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which indicated a low interest level. Another concern was that the Association did not replicate the mistakes it made for the Millennium, which was very costly.

**It was agreed:**

- a) **There should be no special event, in that significant competitions at Basely and regionally should be budgeted for the purpose**
- b) **There should be a special edition of the Journal**
- c) **Consideration should be given to having a concert that had proved popular on previous occasions.**

The meeting was informed that HRH could not give us a date for his attendance until the middle of 2009 at the earliest

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**G158 YOUNG SHOOTERS' FUND (G132 a)**

The Terms of Reference of the Young Shooters Fund as approved at the Council meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008 were received.

**G159 VICE PRESIDENTS ((G148)**

The following had been referred to the General Council for recommendation to become Vice Presidents:

Ron Matthews – Australia  
Richard Van Lingen – South Africa

**After much discussion it was agreed that the matter should be held over until the next General Council meeting giving time for alternative candidates to be nominated.**

**G160 MAKE UP OF DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

A question was asked regarding whether or not possession of a Law degree made a member a Legal as opposed to a Lay The Chairman stated that possession of a Law Degree did not make someone a Legal member for the purposes of the Disciplinary Committee

**It was agreed to review the Rules.**

**OTHER MATTERS**

- a) Chris Law wished it to be noted that he was delighted that Jo Scrimshaw had been elected as the London and South-East representative and thanked everyone present for the support they had given him over the years. The Chairman thanked Chris Law for all his work.
- b) The disparity in sentencing relating to the Imperial Meeting incident 'clearing rifles' was mentioned. The meeting was informed that this matter was still being discussed and was not a General Council matter.
- c) A proposal was made that those hanging signs on trees at Bisley should be fined. The MD of NSC was asked to consider the issue.

The meeting closed at 5.30pm

**Chairman**

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

Date	Time	Venue
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> June (followed by the AGM at 5.30pm)	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion