

**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting**

**Held at the Pavilion, Bisley**

**On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 from 1.00pm**

**Present:**

**Chairman:** Dr R Pizer (from G163)

**Vice Chairman:** Prof AR Horrocks

**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  
Lt Col ARK Clayton  
Mr PR Coley  
Maj MJ Farnan  
Mr CN Farr  
Mr EJ Gardener  
Mr GMLN Gilpin  
Mr MJC Haszlkiewicz  
Mr JM Kynoch  
Mr M Maksimovic  
Mr CC Mallett  
Dr P Monaghan  
Mr C Murton  
Mr K Nash  
Flt Lt I Robertson  
Mrs KD Robertson  
Mr J Saunders  
Miss J Scrimshaw  
Mr JA Watson  
Mr DD Watt  
Miss A Welford  
Mr RHF Wills  
Mr D Young

**In attendance:**

Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary
Mr JEM Hartwell	-	Vice Chairman of the Council
Mr B Thomas	-	Assistant Director of Shooting
Mrs HL Webb	-	Membership Secretary

**Apologies for absence:** Mr MJ Black, Maj SB Fraser, Mr I Shirra-Gibb, Mr JC Ragg, Mr DG Young, Mr JD Warburton, Mr DD Watt.

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

The Vice Chairman gave Bill Richards apologies to the meeting and advised that Bill had chaired the last meeting of the Council where a presentation was made to him.

**The members of the General Council expressed their thanks to Bill Richards for the work he had done during his period as Chairman and approved the Council's offer to him of Honorary Life Membership which Bill had accepted.**

### **G161 APPROVAL OF THE ELECTION PROCEDURE**

A question was raised, asking what would be the outcome if the candidate did not receive a majority of 'yes' votes. The meeting was informed that in these circumstances the candidate would not be elected.

A question was asked that if successful, would the new Chairman be elected for a period of one year or three years. The meeting was informed that the period for the Chairmanship would be for a period of up to three years (see Second Schedule Rule 7 b) i). It was recommended that the same procedure was adopted as that for 2008 which was for a period of one year.

- a) **The election procedure was approved.**
- b) **The election of the Chairman for a period of one year was approved.**

### **G162 PRESENTATION AND QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

The Meeting and the candidate were informed that there would be 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.

Following the presentation the vote would take place.

**The scutineers, Miss Sarah Bunch and Mr Ted Molyneux were introduced and approved.**

The presentation and vote took place without incident.

### **G163 ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VOTE**

Total Number of voting papers received	38	
Dr Robin Pizer	31 yes votes	7 no votes

There were no abstentions and no spoilt papers.

**The new Chairman was congratulated on being elected and invited to join the meeting with The Vice Chairman continuing in the Chair.**

## **G164 A PRESENTATION ON NATTS AND THE WHOLE SPORT FUNDING BID**

A presentation was jointly made by Roger Moreland (NATSS) and John Perry (Whole Sport Funding Bid)

Following the meeting the General Council were invited to ask questions on NATSS and the Whole Sport Funding Bid as per **Questions and Answers APPENDIX 1**

- a) **The Vice Chairman asked that any further questions in respect of NATSS and the presentation be sent to the Secretary General outside the meeting.**
- b) **It was agreed that the questions and answers received would be circulated to all of the members of the General Council for their information.**

A question was asked about whether it was desirable to enter into a full amalgamation of the NSRA, CPSA and NRA or whether the preferred way forward was to create an interim body.

- c) **The General Council were asked to indicate their preference by way of an informal vote. A vote took place regarding the formation of an interim body versus the full amalgamation of the three Governing Bodies. The General Council unanimously voted for the formation of an interim body only.**

## **G165 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009**

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> September were received and agreed.

**There were no matters arising. The General Council agreed the Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008 which the Vice Chairman signed.**

## **G166 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE ((G152)**

The Minutes of the Membership Committee meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were received and adopted.

There was a discussion on Regional Representation on the Membership Committee. The Chairman of the Committee said that the Regional Manager attended Committee meetings to present the opinions of the Regional Representatives. He informed the meeting that there was rarely any feedback from the Regions. He further stated that the composition of the Membership Committee was continually reviewed but at the present there was no plan to enlarge the Committee.

It was reported that the latest statistics showed that the membership was now over 6070 with 117 new members so far in 2009.

The Secretary General reported that in terms of the current down turn in an effort to maintain membership numbers or possibly to increase them, a number of initiatives had been introduced. The meeting was informed that a company had been employed to contact new members who joined in 2008 to give them a welcome call with the intention of encouraging them to stay and to enquire whether they knew of any friends that may wish to join the NRA. Additionally as from the end of March, lapsed members will also be contacted to encourage them to stay within the organisation.

A concern was raised that the Membership Committee as one of the major committees had only 4 elected members. The view was expressed that the Regional Representatives should be members of the Membership Committee.

Additionally the Regional Representatives complained that there was lack of communication from the Regional Manager to them. The Secretary General stated that the Regional Manager had been tasked with sending out a Regional update monthly to keep the Representatives abreast of current developments.

The Chairman of the Committee stated that this was a matter that would be under discussion with the new Chairman to seek better regional communications.

### **G167 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G153)**

The Minutes of the Shooting Committee meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2009 were received and adopted.

- a) **Chairmanship of the Shooting Committee** - The Chairman of the Shooting Committee reminded the meeting that there was a vacancy for Chairman of the Committee and asked any prospective candidates be encouraged to contact him.
- b) **Pistol and Gallery Rifle (S556)** - A question was asked regarding as to whether Pistol and Gallery Rifle events would still be subsidised. The Chairman of the Committee advised that this was still under discussion.
- c) **Imperial Meeting Ammunition** - An observation was made that there was a discrepancy between the pricing details given in the minutes and the written resolution. This was explained as having changed due to recent currency fluctuations.
- d) **Under Match Rifle (Rule 244)** – The recent Rule change was challenged as not being correct. The meeting was asked whether the change had been approved by the Shooting Committee. After a debate it was agreed to refer the Rule change back to the Match Rifle Sub-Committee for further consideration.
- e) **Sponsorship of Membership Cards** – The meeting was informed that Sierra Bullets had given substantial sponsorship for the Membership Cards for 2009. **The General Council asked that their thanks to the MD of Sierra Bullets be recorded.**

**The Vice Chairman, on behalf of General Council thanked Paul Monaghan for his hard work and input during his time as Chairman of the Committee and wished him luck in his move to Australia. A presentation was then made to Paul Monaghan on behalf of the Trustees and Shooting Committee.**

### **G168 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LTD (G154)**

The Minutes of the meetings of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were received.

- a) **N685 Wandsworth Rifle Club** – A question was asked regarding the ambiguity over whether the application for a new pavilion was being made by Wandsworth Rifle Club and/or the Wandsworth Pavilion Group. The Secretary General replied that this matter had been under discussion at the Council meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and that the MD of NSC had been asked to clarify the position.
- b) **N661 City Rifle Club Armoury** – It was pointed out that the minutes were incorrect in that the City Rifle Club armoury had been built with the full consent of the NRA. It was agreed that this would be addressed with the MD of NSC.

- c) **N687 – NRA Armoury Review** - A question was asked as to what disciplinary action had been taken over the matter of armoury procedures. The meeting was informed that the matter is currently under review with Surrey Police Firearms Licensing and when the investigation is completed the outcome will be reported to General Council.

### **G169 THE COUNCIL (G155)**

The Minutes of the meetings 21<sup>st</sup> August, 30<sup>th</sup> August, 12<sup>th</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> October and 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008 and Written Resolutions T738 and T739 were received,

A verbal report was made by the Vice Chairman on the Council meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> February 2009

#### **Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> August 2008 Council Meeting**

- a) **T706 - Bisley Development** – a question was asked as to how the development was progressing. The Vice Chairman of the Council reported that the Bisley Development was progressing but uncertainties as to whether the Olympics were coming to Bisley or not had affected timescales because necessarily any development had to be considered as a whole. However the Bisley development was not necessarily dependent upon the Olympics, although if they were to be at Bisley it would facilitate planning and government money would be available. He emphasised that the chalet development was vitally important in order to fulfil the need for accommodation and unlock money for improving facilities for shooting generally and to improve the Camp infrastructure.
- b) **Bisley Roads** – A request was made for the urgent repair of the roads at the National Shooting Centre prior to the main shooting season starting. **It was agreed that this matter would be referred to NSC for action.**
- c) **Olympics** - A question was asked that if we do host the Olympics at Bisley what measures will be put in place to ensure the funding and expenditure will be ring-fenced bearing in mind the past experience with the Commonwealth Games. The Vice Chairman of the Council replied that this was something the Council was very concerned about in that the ODA would be looking to contract with the Shooting Associations to provide specific facilities at a specific time to a specific standard at an agreed cost. That price would have to reflect the cost to the NRA in raising the facilities to that level but also would have to include provision for compensation for those adversely affected by Olympic-associated activities i.e. clubs, traders and individual members. He stated that the issues are very complicated and the Council and Executive Officers will not be able to make such decisions without high level external advice which will come at a considerable cost. There is nothing in the budget to cover the cost of such experts, therefore we will only proceed if the appropriate funding is made available from the ODA to enable the provision of professional advice. As landowners we must make sure we are not exposed to any risk. A comment was made that following the Games the NRA should not be exposed to having to finance and run facilities that are not cost effective. The Vice Chairman replied that legacy was one of the drivers which has made the ODA take a fresh look at Bisley because legacy can be delivered on this site. The key to legacy was that it had to be sustainable in a financial sense, thus one of the core requirements from the ODA was the provision of a business plan that showed, following the Games, that what remains can be run on a commercially viable basis.

- d) **Fullbore Olympic shooting** - A question was asked about Fullbore shooting as an Olympic sport and the fact that Olympic Fullbore could take place at Bisley at no cost and the response was the cost of providing such facilities would be too expensive internationally as other countries do not have such facilities.

12<sup>th</sup> September 2008 & 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008

- e) **NATSS Co-ordinator Salary (T688)** – A question was asked regarding the process under which the agreement was reached to pay a proportion of the NATSS Co-ordinators salary. The observation was made that it appeared that the money had been spent without the appropriate authorisation being in place. The Secretary General stated that the appointment of John Perry as the co-ordinator for NATSS had been discussed and agreed at a NATSS meeting. Following the meeting the three Chairmen of the shooting bodies agreed to jointly fund the post. The funding arrangements to allow monies to be released had been achieved by direction to the finance manager. Unfortunately the finance manager could not find any paperwork. However, the matter had been regularised by agreement in Council to allow on-going payment for the co-ordinator role. The observation was made that this process was potentially irregular and as such should be looked at in greater depth. **It was agreed that the matter be referred back to the Council for further investigation and report.**
- f) **Sport England NATSS Funding** - A question was asked on how the £150,000 from Sport England had been used and what was there remaining. The meeting was informed that Performance Matters had been selected and funded by Sport England as the consultants to assist with looking at the feasibility of a merger between the national governing bodies for target shooting. It was reported that £20,000 was left. A question on value for money was asked. The meeting was informed that Performance Matters had worked on both the NATSS project and the Whole Sport Funding bid. The latter piece of work had taken up 6 months and had impacted upon the NATSS budget and timescales. It was agreed that it was probable the shooting associations would have to ask for more funding to complete the project. A request was made to see a set of accounts for NATSS. The meeting was reminded that being funded by Sport England, Performance Matters were accountable to them not to the NRA.

Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008 Council Meeting

- g) **Imperial Meeting Ammunition costs 2008** - A question was asked regarding the reported anomalies in accounting for Imperial Meeting ammunition. It was reported that this had been due to incorrect accounting which had been addressed during the year end stock take.
- h) **T711 – Reserves Policy** – A question was asked as to why a copy of the Reserves Policy did not accompany the minutes. The meeting was informed that the Reserves Policy forms part of the long-term budgeting process. The document referred to in the minutes is currently incomplete and not agreed. At the stage that the policy has been agreed by the Council the General Council will be supplied with a copy.

## Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008 Council Meeting

- i) **T738 Ammunition Testing** - A question was asked on when the ammunition test results were to be released. It was reported that they would be published in the Spring Journal and on the web site.
- j) **T735 – Captaincy Nominations** – A question was asked as to whether the procedure presented by the Secretary General was a modified version or is it the same as that produced by the TR Sub-Committee. The Secretary General confirmed it was a modified version and will be circulated via the Shooting Committee to the discipline sub-committees.
- k) **U25 TR Captaincy Nominations** - A question was asked as to why the U25 TR captaincy nominations did not go through the TR Sub-Committee. The meeting was informed that there had been a long-standing arrangement with the U25 Committee that they should make the recommendation regarding U25 captains to the Trustees. It was proposed that the U25 Sub-Committee should be represented on the Shooting Committee. **It was agreed that the U25 Committee would be asked to propose one of their members to represent them on the Shooting Committee.**
- l) **T737 Whole Sport Funding** - A question was asked as to who would be funding the 'new national staff'. The Secretary General explained that one of the responsibilities the new interim body would perform would be to appoint and manage new staff called Regional Development Officers who will be funded by Whole Sport Funding.

## Verbal report on the 12th February 2009 Council Meeting

- m) **Clock Tower** – It was proposed the repairs to the Clock Tower should be funded using an appeal to the members. **It was agreed that the Clock Tower Appeal should be launched in the Spring Journal 2009.**

## **G170 ELECTIONS AND CO-OPTIONS TO GENERAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES (G156)**

The following took place:

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

**Lt Col T Lehman 19 yes votes and 5 no votes** - **Co-opted**  
**Mr MJ Wood 21 yes votes and 4 no votes** - **Co-opted**

There were 5 abstentions

### **Lay Member of the Disciplinary Committee**

**Lt Col T Lehman 19 yes votes and 10 no votes** - **Elected**  
**Mr MJ Wood 19 yes votes and 10 no votes** - **Elected**  
**Mr JPS Bloomfield 15 yes votes and 14 no votes** - **Not elected**

There were no abstentions

### **Membership Committee**

**Mr CN Farr** - **Elected**

### **Young Shooters' Fund Committee**

**Mrs KD Robertson** - **Elected as Chairman**  
**Mr M Maksimovic** - **Elected as a Trustee member**

A question was asked as to the procedure of co-options to the General Council to fill vacant Committee places. The Rules state that “The General Council shall form and appoint the following Committees from among Members of the General Council”. The Rules further state that “Vacancies on the Disciplinary Body may be filled at any time by the General Council and, subject to prior notification of such vacancy; nominations may be made by any Member of the General Council”. The point was made that any vacancies on Committees should be first filled by any General Council member who wishes to apply, following which vacancies are opened out to the wider membership. It was requested that the Rules should be reviewed on this point.

### **G171 VICE PRESIDENTS ((G148)**

**After discussion and a show of hands from the members of the General Council present it was agreed to propose to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> June that Mr Eric McGibbon and Mr Richard Van Lingen become Vice Presidents of the Association.**

The meeting closed at 5pm

**Chairman**

### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.**

Date	Time	Venue
Friday 12 <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