

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
Held at the Pavilion, Bisley
On Friday 11th September 2009 from 2.00pm

Present:

Chairman: Dr R Pizer

Members: Mr G Alexander
Mr HRM Bailie
Mr GV Barnard
Mrs ID Bennett
Mr JPS Bloomfield
Mr CM Brooks
Mr JH Carmichael
Lt Col ARK Clayton
Mr PR Coley
Mr EJ Gardener
Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz
Mr P Hobson
Mr JM Kynoch
Mr GAE Larombe
Mr M Maksimovic
Mr CC Mallett
Mr MF Martel
Mr CJ Murton
Mr K Nash
Flt Lt IW Robertson
Mrs KD Robertson
Miss J Scrimshaw
Mr IW Shirra Gibb
Mr JD Warburton
Mr JA Watson
Mr J Watson
Mr DD Watt
Mr RHF Wills

In attendance:

Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary
Mr MJ Ensor	-	Assistant Director Range Office & Armoury
Mr B Thomas	-	Assistant Director of Shooting
Mrs HL Webb	-	Membership Secretary

Apologies for absence: Mr MJ Black, Wg Cdr DP Calvert, Dr A Cargill Thompson, Mr CN Farr, Maj SB Fraser, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Prof AR Horrocks, Col WJ O'Leary, Mr B Pollard, Mr AJD Saunders, Brig JR Smales, Mr JES Staples, Mr MP Watkins, Mr DG Young

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman informed the meeting that since the statement he had read out at the last meeting of General Council Martin Farnan had referred his case to an employment tribunal and that being the case he was unable to comment further.

G183 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12th JUNE 2009

There were no matters arising.

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of the 12th June 2009 were received and agreed.

G184 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (G150)

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 12th June 2009 were received.

G185 BISLEY GENERAL MEETING (G151)

The Minutes of the Bisley General Meeting of 22nd July were received.

A question was raised about the length of time taken for the Prize Giving and the meeting was advised that this was a subject of the Imperial Meeting review. The meeting was informed that as part of the review the Shooting Committee would be looking at the programme.

G186 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G174)

The Chairman of the Committee advised that there had been no meeting of the Committee since the last meeting of the General Council and that the next meeting was due to take place on 25th September 2009.

The General Council was informed that the Membership Committee had recommended to the Council that the Membership fees be cut once again to reduce the annual full membership by £5, which benefitted 60% of the membership. This meant the subscription rate would normally be £60 with those paying by direct debit paying £55. This reduction in Membership fees had been agreed by the Council. It was noted that this would be the last time that fees would be reduced, due to the fact that the amount of benefits offered was close to the limit afforded by Gift Aid. In addition the cost of administering membership was increasingly limiting the ability to cut fees further.

In respect of club membership the meeting was informed that the Council had agreed to retain the capitation fee at the same level, with the exception of a possible increase in the cost of range passes to account for any increase in insurance costs which would be passed onto the clubs when any increase in premiums were known.

G187 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G175)

Iain Robertson was congratulated by the Chairman of the General Council for being elected as the Chairman of the Shooting Committee. He was then invited to make a verbal report on the issues raised during the meeting of 10th September.

The Chairman of the Committee reported as follows:

1. Imperial Meeting

- a) TR target sizes, on the basis of the Imperial Meeting statistics (5 scores of 50.10) it had been decided not to reduce the size of the V-Bull for 2010.
- b) A clarification of the definition of a 'sporting rifle' was recommended for approval.
- c) It was recommended that there should be no charge for HME zeroing at the Imperial Meeting.
- d) Target Shotgun were continuing their efforts to find an adjustment to the understandings relating to Section 2 shotguns, enabling them to be used to provide an introduction to the shooting discipline.
- e) It had been identified by the Shooting Committee that Stickledown Range had significant issues that amounted to some shooters gaining a substantial unfair advantage and that, as far as possible, butt zero would not be used for TR events. In future it was intended to run all F-Class competitors on Butt Zero for the Grand and pre-Grand. It was also confirmed that the Rule with regard to Queen's III would change in that the draw for the butts would not move 2 butts left but that the draw would become an 'X' pattern.
- f) Scrutineering would continue in a similar manner and to a similar extent as in 2009 and that the procedure to be used and items checked would be published. The Committee would be recommending to the Council that a 100% recheck of chambers be organised using new stickers for 2010.
- g) The issue of 5 extra tie shots for competitors making a HPS 50.10 in TR events would continue.
- h) The policy which had arisen, by default, allowing motorised buggies behind all firing points should be kept under review and that NSC needed to urgently review the question of insurance.
- i) The format of the Imperial Meeting should not be altered to accommodate competitor marking but wider publicity would be given to the availability of casual marking work during the Meeting. Competitors who wished to reduce their costs by marking, as had been the case some time ago, would be able to apply for any slots that their shooting programme would allow.
- j) The Committee would recommend to the Council that the rule requiring Astor heats to be shot with ammunition bought from the NRA be withdrawn.

2. Other Matters for Report

- a) The meeting was advised there would be a recommendation to the Council that International Gallery Rifle teams are given GB status.
- b) The RUAG ammunition, as provided for the 2009 Meeting, was recommended as acceptable for 2010. (h) refers) The Shooting Committee are tasked by the Council with setting the specification requirement for the RUAG ammunition.
- c) A major review of the Bisley 'Bible' was in progress and a request was made for any suggested changes to be provided to the Committee Chairman by email in MS Word so that they could easily be 'cut and pasted' into the document.

- d) It was reported that for the next meeting of the Shooting Committee the Under 25 Team Captain would be invited to attend. The Under 25 organisation would be invited to reconsider its proposal that the GB captain be their representative on the Shooting Committee, which would not give the required continuity.
- e) The meeting was advised that it was considered there was a real risk in using No 4 rifles with ammunition they were not designed to fire and it was proposed to redraft the existing NRA advice given.
- f) A proposal has been made to look into the feasibility of earthworks being carried out on Stickledown with the dual aim of improving the opportunity to provide a level playing field to all shooters by lowering the right hand end of the 1000 yard firing point and of increasing the number of TR lanes that can be used while the Gallery Rifle layout is in use.
- g) A proposal to set the dates of the Imperial Meeting so that there were always the same number of weekends between the late May Bank Holiday and the Meeting was under consideration with a possible change effective from 2011. A request was made by the Shooting Committee Chairman for views on this to be made known to him by email.
- h) The length of contract to be entered into with RUAG for the supply of ammunition was discussed. **The General Council supported the Council's decision to seek a 1 year contract immediately, to ensure the supply of ammunition for 2010, followed by a 5 year contract, noting that appropriate break-point clauses would be included in the 5 year contract.**
- i) A concern was expressed on the timing and number of tie shoots causing delay to later details and the meeting was advised that with the '45 second Rule' there should be no cause for concern. The meeting was informed that this would be kept under review possibly necessitating in the future a move to reduce the size of the V Bull.
- j) A suggestion was made that fewer 'sighters' should be allowed, which would reduce the amount of ammunition used. **It was agreed that this would be considered by the Shooting Committee.**
- k) The meeting was advised that Mr Tim Elliott had written over concerns at the amount of hours being worked by Range Officers during the Meeting causing insufficient times from breaks during the day. **It was decided that this was a matter for consideration by the NSC.**

G188 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LTD (G176)

The Minutes of the meeting of 3rd June 2009 were presented by Mik Maksimovic Director of NSC.

Questions were asked on the following items:

- a) N740 – Management Accounts – An observation was made that the item on Imperial Entries was incorrect. Karen Robertson informed the meeting that the reason for delay was that the entries came in later this year thus there were no delays in processing the entries as had been stated in the minutes.
- b) N726 – Electronic Targets – A comment was made that although the NSC had reported that volunteers would be asked for help no approach had been made in this respect.

It was reported that the refurbishment of the targets had been made at the supplier's (MSI) cost and that the targets were being reinstated. It was observed that it was of paramount importance that NSC staff followed strict maintenance programmes in line with the maintenance contract.

- c) N742 – Armoury Shop – Concern was expressed at the NSC aggressive pricing policy which was causing great concern among traders. The view was expressed that ammunition was being sold below cost which was potentially detrimental to the interests of the Association and it was requested that this policy be reviewed.
- d) N746 – Phoenix Meeting – A question was raised as to whether a proper disciplinary procedure had been followed in the case where a trader had been banned from Bisley. The meeting was informed that having been banned the person concerned did have the right of appeal to the Discipline Committee, however, the MD of NSC did have the authority to take the action he did under Camp Standing Order No 7.
- e) N728 – Armoury Management – The meeting was advised Matt Ensor was carrying out a complete review of Armoury processes and procedures. In future the Range Office will be the subject of modernisation, resulting in much of the work being computerised and automated to improve efficiency and service.
- f) N735 – Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) – It was reported that CNC had confirmed 26 weeks' use of the ranges and that they would pay to rebuild Cheylesmore Range. They had expressed a need for 14-16 en suite rooms. The meeting was informed that CNC would be investing £250k in the new range construction and the Association intended to build the accommodation at its own expense expecting to cover the cost of build in 2 years, which is a good return on investment.
- g) N739 – The meeting was advised that Brigitte Rushmore had resigned and that that Health & Safety would be covered in future under a consultancy contract.

A verbal report on the meeting of 9th September 2009 was then given by Mr Mik Maksimovic.

- h) Camp Maintenance – Mr John Carmichael was thanked for the work he and his wife had put into the extensive report on the state of the toilet and ablution blocks. It was reported that the cleaners took only 8 minutes to clean the toilet and washroom block behind the Old Sergeant's Mess and no chemicals were used. A 74 year old lady had cleaned the ladies section on at least one occasion.

A proposal was put to the meeting that a business plan is drawn up with a view to a complete overhaul of the roads, toilets, water main and other facilities on Camp. The meeting was informed that the current repayment to the bank was held in abeyance with the potential that it would be invested in the National Shooting Centre. Further that there needed to be consideration given to borrowing more money, possibly up to £1m to upgrade the facilities taking advantage of lower interest rates. The proposal was considered and approved for recommendation to the Council, subject to the presentation of an appropriate business case.

Mr Gary Alexander advised the meeting of a potential offer by a major building/maintenance company as part of their social responsibility programme to carry out road building and/or maintenance work on camp. The time and use of machinery would be provided as a charitable donation to the Association. In return the company concerned would seek to use Bisley to hold a trade event during the winter months. It was

possible that the materials might also be provided as donations by other companies taking part in the trade event. It was agreed that Mr Alexander should continue discussions with the company and bring any firm offer to Council for its consideration.

- i) Trees – A question was asked as to who was responsible for maintenance of the trees on Camp as branches were breaking off and older trees needed replacing. The meeting was advised that Mr Charles Oliver-Belasis was undertaking a review of the trees, their maintenance and replanting of avenues etc. Merrist Wood College would be asked to consider returning to Bisley to carry out arboreal training as in the past in order to keep the trees in good condition.

G189 THE COUNCIL (G177)

The Minutes of the meetings of 18th June, Written Resolution T794 dated 15th July 2009 and a verbal report of the meeting of 20th August 2009 were received.

Minutes of 18th June 2009 Council Meeting

- a) T783 – Owning the Night – A question was asked whether the Owning the Night event was open to the public. The meeting was advised it was an invitation only event.
- b) T786 a) – Ammunition Testing – A member of the TR Sub Committee advised that they were not aware of being asked to provide a summary of testing results to go on the website in layman's terms. **Mr Bloomfield offered to produce an article for the Journal explaining the technical terminology used in the report and results.**

Minutes of the 20th August 2009 Meeting

- a) The meeting was advised that, having served as a trustee for the maximum period of 6 years, Mr Julian Hartwell had retired from the Council and his position as Vice Chairman and that the Council had elected **Mr Charles Murton as the new Vice Chairman. It was agreed to attach the new Terms of Reference for the Vice Chairman to the Minutes of the meeting ANNEX A.**
- b) Bank Loan – It was reported that the Council had agreed to defer repayment of the final tranche of the loan for three months and review at their meetings in October and December 2009.
- c) Team Captains – Flt Lt Iain Robertson was congratulated on being elected GB team Captain of the TR team to South Africa in 2012.
- d) The meeting was advised that the Council were carrying out a review of the Strategic Objectives of the Association and that a Trustee working group was currently being formed.
- e) Certification – the Chairman of the Membership Committee reported that the MoD had agreed to allow the NRA to certificate individual members for a period of up to five years. Going forward the Association would certify 20% of its members annually on a rolling five year plan, substantially decreasing the amount of administration time taken and allowing the process to be carried out more efficiently. Currently 3,000 certification cards had been produced for this year. Consideration was being given to producing the new cards with photographs as per the current membership cards.

Affiliated clubs would have to continue to certify their members on an annual basis for the time being.

A meeting would take place on Tuesday 15th September to discuss the new process and a report would be made as soon as possible thereafter.

G190 OLYMPICS 2012 (G169)

The meeting was informed that since 19th March 2009, when the 'final' decision had been reached that Bisley would not feature as a potential venue for the Olympic shooting, the shooting associations had continued to brief Members of both Houses of Parliament at their request and to support their inquiries. This stance had been adopted to ensure that relationships that had been developed in both Houses were maintained after the resolution of the Olympic Shooting issue.

On this basis there had been several meetings in the Houses of Parliament and letters of complaint had been written in an effort to get the Olympic Board to consider viewing the Bisley Bid in person.

In particular a recent meeting with Boris Johnson had resulted in him referring the matter back to the Olympic Delivery Authority in an effort to get them to explain their reasons for rejecting Bisley, with the potential for him to request a presentation of Bisley before the Olympic Board.

Also on 10th September 2009 a meeting had taken place in Parliament before some of the Lords where the ODA were present to explain their rejection of the Olympic bid. In this meeting the ODA had acknowledged that the Bisley bid had not been given proper consideration by them and that the supposedly independent review carried out by KPMG on the ODA's behalf had in fact been written by the ODA. However, they believed it was now too late to reconsider Bisley as the shooting venue.

The meeting was informed that the shooting associations would continue to exert whatever pressure they could for Bisley.

A question was asked about the cost of the Olympic development bid. The meeting was informed that the development team had been working on a pro bono basis, thus apart from some minor expenses relating to attending meetings the costs were minimal.

A question was asked about sites within the UK for pistol shooting by the Olympic squad. It was explained that although DCMS had recommended 20 sites, the Home Office had cut this to 3 which were all at MOD premises. However there was no funding to upgrade the 3 sites, so pistol shooters continued to have to train in Europe.

G191 NATSS, GBTSF & BRITISH SHOOTING (G164)

It was explained to the meeting that in relation to the whole Olympic issue there had been agreement across the board from all shooting bodies that Bisley was the preferred venue for the shooting 2012. Despite efforts to divide the CPSA, NSRA, NRA and British Shooting on this point the Olympic Authorities had failed.

That was until 1st July 2009 when they appeared to have split opinion when the chairman of British Shooting made a statement withdrawing support from Bisley. There was an immediate reaction to this from the NATSS organisations and the Board of British Shooting which resulted in the unauthorised statement of the Chairman of British Shooting being withdrawn and his later resignation from the post having been asked to consider his position by the CPSA.

The CPSA recognised it had internal issues and that NATSS was an external diversion it could not afford at this point in time. As a result the CPSA withdrew from NATSS.

Following the withdrawal of the CPSA there were a number of meetings and discussions involving the NSRA and NRA following which agreement was reached that they would continue with the project on an open ended basis and that the on-going work could result in amalgamation or no coming together at all. In addition they agreed to look at areas where they can work on joint projects which would demonstrate their ability to work together.

One of those projects is GBTSF which is being used as the delivery vehicle to handle the Whole Sport Funding from Sport England. Meetings and agreements with Sport England have been reached to allow the NSRA and NRA as partners to continue with the project without the CPSA while keeping clay pigeon shooting on-board by using the BICTSF as advisors to the project.

G192 BISLEY DEVELOPMENT (G169)

The meeting was informed that the work on the Bisley Development Master Plan had been put on hold while work was carried out on the Olympic bid. The view was expressed that it was unlikely that the shooting would come to Bisley and that it was therefore essential that we focussed primarily on the development of Bisley going forward. The site needed to be modernised to enable the NRA to deliver better quality facilities and a better experience for those using the site – and thus to generate more income in support of the sport.

It was noted that no feedback had been made available to General Council on the response to the outline chalet proposals on show at the 2008 Imperial meeting. The NSC was asked to provide a report on this.

G193 CO- OPTION TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL (G156)

The following were co-opted:

Mr CN Farr **Co-opted to the General Council for a period of 2 years as Gallery 28 Rifle and Pistol discipline Representative**
yes votes
3 no votes

Mr MD Jones MP **Re co-opted to the General Council for a further period of 3 years**
28 yes votes
1 no vote

Mr HJ Malins MP **Re co-opted to the General Council for a further period of 3 years**
29 yes votes
1 no vote

Mr CJ Murton **Co-opted to the General Council for a period of 3 years**
28 yes votes
2 no votes

G191 ELECTIONS TO GENERAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES (G156)

The following were elected:

The General Council

Mr MJCH Haslakiewicz **Re-elected as Treasurer for a further 3**

29 yes votes
0 no votes

years

Prof AR Horrocks
30 votes
1 no vote

Re-elected Vice Chairman for a further 3 years.

The Council

Mr M Maksimovic
32 yes votes
0 no votes

Re-elected to the Council for a further period of 3 years

Mr CJ Murton
33 votes
2 no votes

Re-elected to the Council for a further period of 3 years

Shooting Committee

Mr GV Barnard
yes votes
2 no votes

Re-elected to the Shooting Committee for a further period 25 of 3 years

Mr JPS Bloomfield
22 yes votes
7 no votes

Elected to the Shooting Committee for a period of 3 years

Wg Cdr DP Calvert
yes votes
1 no vote

Re-elected to the Shooting Committee for a further period 29 of 3 years

Mr JH Carmichael
yes votes
2 no votes

Re-elected to the Shooting Committee for a further period 29 of 3 years

Mr ARK Clayton
28 yes votes
1 no vote

Elected to the Shooting Committee for a period of 3 years

Mr GAE Larcombe
30 yes votes
2 no votes

Elected to the Shooting Committee for a period of 3 years

Membership Committee

Mrs KD Robertson
32 yes votes
0 no votes

Re-elected to the Membership Committee for a further period of 3 years

Mr M Maksimovic
31 yes votes
0 no votes

Re-elected to the Membership Committee for a further period of 3 years

Disciplinary Committee

Mrs M Gooden **Re-elected to the Disciplinary Committee for a further period of 3 years**
26 yes votes
3 no votes

Wg Cdr DP Calvert **Re-elected to the Disciplinary Committee for a further period of 3 years**
31 yes votes
0 no votes

Mr DGF Evans **Re-elected to the Disciplinary Committee for a further period of 3 years**
25 yes votes
2 no votes

Mr JM Holmes **Re-elected to the Disciplinary Committee for a further period of 3 years**
28 yes votes
1 no vote

Mr RHF Wills **Re-elected to the Disciplinary Committee for a further period of 3 years**
24 yes votes
3 no votes

G194 150th ANNIVERSARY (G781)

Proposals had been received on holding a match at the end of the Meeting

- a) A mini 1 day Palma
- b) Australia Match (Sunday)

Iain Robertson was asked to write a proposal for Dick Horrocks to put to ICFRA

A suggestion was made to the meeting on how best to put to use the £15k that Council had approved to make available for the celebrations. **The proposal was that clubs on camp hold parties/dinners on Final Friday with separate themes. Mrs Karen Robertson agreed to approach the clubs to ask their views and also to advertise the suggestion in the Journal. If successful this would leave funds available for a large fireworks display and also sufficient for medals/badges to be produced.**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

G195 HELP FOR HEROES

Headley Court - The meeting was advised that discussions had taken place with General Parker on a proposal for rehabilitation facilities to be provided at Bisley. There was currently a pilot scheme underway at a centre in the North of England, for the rehabilitation of soldiers, which was proving very successful. The NRA had been approached to offer similar facilities at Bisley and with the facilities for disabled athletes, currently already available at Surrey University including 1250 new rooms, 50% of which were disability compliant, there was a unique opportunity to offer superb rehabilitation facilities. The meeting was reminded that this proposition would need to form part of any Master Plan development.

The meeting closed at 5pm.

Chairman

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 20 th February 2010	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 11 th June 2009 2010 (Followed by AGM at 5.30pm)	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion

ANNEX A - Vice Chairman of the Council – Terms of Reference