

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
Held at the Pavilion, Bisley
On Saturday 20th February 2010 from 2.00pm

Present

Chairman: Dr R Pizer

Members: Mr G Alexander
Mr HRM Bailie
Mr GV Barnard
Mr CM Brooks
Mr DP Calvert
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson
Mr JH Carmichael
Lt Col ARK Clayton
Mr PR Coley
Mr CN Farr
Maj SB Fraser
Mr GMLN Gilpin
Mr EJ Gardener
Mr MJC Haszlakiewicz
Mr PH Hobson
Prof AR Horrocks
Mr GAE Larcombe
Mr M Maksimovic
Mr CC Mallett
Mr MF Martel
Mr CJ Murton
Flt Lt IW Robertson
Mrs KD Robertson
Mr JD Saunders
Mr IW Shirra Gibb
Mr S Wallis
Miss A Welford
Mr MP Watkins
Mr JA Watson
Mr DD Watt
Mr RHF Wills
Mr MJ Wood

In attendance:

Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary General
Mr MJ Ensor	-	Director of Operations
Mr B Thomas	-	Assistant Director of Shooting
Mrs HL Webb	-	Membership Secretary

Apologies for absence: Mrs ID Bennett, Mr MJ Black, Mr JPS Bloomfield, Mr JM Kynoch, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Maj MG Farnan, Mr K Nash, Col WJ O'Leary, Miss Jo Scrimshaw, Brig

JR Smales, Mr JD Warburton, Mr J Watson, Mr D.G. Young.

G196 ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman was elected unanimously, with no abstentions, for a period of three years.

G197 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 11th September 2009

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of the 11th September 2009 were received and agreed.

G198 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G186)

The Minutes of the meeting of 25th September 2009 were received and adopted.

It was reported that the association currently had 6377 individual members with 64 new members having joined in 2010,

G199 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G187)

The Minutes of the meetings of 10th September 2009 and 28th January 2010 were received and adopted.

The General Council expressed its thanks to Mr and Mrs Robertson for their extensive work in the production of the Bisley 'Bible'.

Electronic Targets

Concern was expressed at the inability of NSC to provide satisfactory and reliable targets and it was reported that in New Zealand they have a different electronic system, which is reliable and can also function on a normal target. The Vice Chairman was asked to provide the information to NSC so that they can evaluate other systems against the current Haring product.

Action : Prof AR Horrocks to provide details of New Zealand system to NSC

G200 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LTD (G188)

The Minutes of the meetings of 9th September and 25th November 2009 and 27th January 2010 were received.

Matters arising.

a) Electronic Barrier

A view was expressed that the proposal to consider putting in a new barrier at the entrance would interfere with the normal business of the camp. It was acknowledged that it might be appropriate when major events are taking place.

The meeting was informed that although the matter is under review there are no plans to fit an electronic barrier currently.

b) Owing The Night

It was reported that Owing the Night (OTN) had been a success for OTN, Battlespace and the NRA.

Provisional dates had been set for a further event in November 2010 on the basis that more manufacturers had indicated that they wished to be involved and the MoD had stated they were

likely to double their involvement.

The meeting was informed that as the scale of the event and any others grew it would be necessary to bring in a professional events company to manage matters on behalf of all the interested parties. Proposals to allow this change would be made to first the NSC Board and then to the Council.

Action : PH Hobson to put forward proposals to NSC Board

c) RUAG Contract

A question was asked whether the empty cases from the 2009 Imperial Meeting had been sold as per the returns policy. It was reported that the matter was still being progressed to be finalised on signing of the contract.

The view was expressed that the current 24hrs returns policy was not feasible in relation to events run external to Bisley. It was confirmed that the policy was under review to afford a reasonable time period for the return of once fired cases. A message to this effect had already been posted on the web site.

d) Restructuring

It was reported that NSC were currently in the process of restructuring. One of the key posts to be filled will be a Clerk of Works to be appointed in April to oversee a major refurbishment programme.

e) Roads

A question was asked regarding the progress of the approach to Ringway to repair the roads at Bisley as a charitable investment. The meeting was informed that recently Ringway had informed the Association that a senior manager had decided that the work at Bisley did not meet their charitable criteria as agreed with Surrey County Council.

The Secretary General informed the meeting that this decision was in conflict with the current drive by Surrey County Council to promote Bisley as its 'Jewel in the Crown' to visiting overseas teams for pre-Olympic training. He stated that Gary Alexander and himself were dealing with this issue quietly with the expectation that at least some of the Ringway works will be undertaken.

f) Short Siberia Road 'Hobsons Way'

There were a number of complaints about the condition of this road and the damage that the potholes were causing to peoples' vehicles.

The meeting was informed that the construction material used to create the surface of Hobson's Way was used at the insistence of English Nature, as the road was in the SSSI area. As a result the road could cost up to £20k a year to maintain. Solutions to this problem were being sought.

g) Ablution Blocks

It was reported that the NSC would be refurbishing two blocks at a cost of £120k (Site No.2 and Site No. 5) immediately before the main shooting season with an undertaking to carryout a refurbishment programme of two further blocks per annum.

h) CNC

Work with the CNC was progressing with plans to update Cheylesmore range and to provide training facilities and accommodation. These facilities would be available for use by the members at weekends and during the course of major competitions such as the Imperial Meeting.

A question was asked about whether a classroom would be included in the development to cut down on the use of the BCRC. The meeting was informed that the development included

classroom, toilets, shower facilities and a new armoury for Heritage Pistol.

i) General Appearance of Camp

A view was expressed that there was still a problem with general cleanliness, and tidiness at Bisley although there had been some obvious improvement around some of the club houses. It was reported that with the employment of the new Clerk of Works it would be his responsibility to inspect the camp and ensure dilapidations requirements were met and that there was a general improvement in the look of Bisley.

The comment was made that at present the worst offender in relation to cleanliness was the NSC in that there were a number of 'official' dumps that were bringing down the appearance of the site. This matter was acknowledged and was identified as an early priority for the new Clerk of Works.

Mr & Mrs Carmichael were thanked for their interest and the extensive amount of work they had put into identifying the issues for NSC to address. The meeting was informed that a further inspection would be undertaken by Mrs Carmichael in July to assess any improvement.

G201 THE COUNCIL (G189)

The Minutes of the meetings held on 20th August, 15th October, 24th November, 10th December 2009 and 11th February 2010 and Written Resolutions T818 of 15th October, T837 of 11th November 2009 and T 858 & T859 of 5th January 2010 were received.

Matters arising.

a) Waste Management

The point was made that the Association failed to re-cycle any of its waste.

It was explained that NSC had looked at this issue 2 years ago and had found the cost of introducing a full re-cycling philosophy was prohibitive.

However, the Association is currently seeking advice from two members who have expertise in this field.

b) Objects of the Association

In 2006 the Aims of the Association had been removed from the Second Schedule of the Charter. Informal legal advice had recently been received that this limited the Association to the Objects in the First Schedule – which specified rifle shooting. This was obviously an unintended – and undesirable – consequence of the change to the Second Schedule.

This was causing some problems for the Association in its ability to support both the GB Pistol Team, currently training at Bisley and Heritage Pistols.

The meeting was informed that formal legal advice is currently being sought to clarify the current position and – if the suspected limitation applies – how best to remove it.

c) Selection of NSC Directors

The meeting was informed that in excess of 20 applications had been received from members volunteering to become Directors of NSC as a result of a recent advertisement. A paper sift would be carried out to select the candidates for interview who had the strongest match to the skills profile required for the Board of NSC.

d) Overtime

The General Council were informed that a new overtime policy and budget had been agreed for office staff at the NRA/NSC in recognition of the additional hours they often work.

e) Data Protection

The meeting was informed that the Association had recently undergone a full Data Protection audit by external consultants. The results had been comforting in that the NRA/NSC were found to be largely compliant. The only significant requirement had been for all existing (annually) and new staff (when starting) to have training, to ensure on-going compliance.

f) Child Protection

It was confirmed that the new Child Protection Policy and supporting documentation and processes had been approved by the Council for publication in the Journal and on the website. The meeting was informed that the documents would continually develop as Government guidance was updated.

The meeting was advised that clubs and individuals needed to analyse what activities they undertook against the advice contained in the policy to make a judgement as to whether they needed to apply for CRB checking. Having made a decision that an individual did need to comply with Child Protection requirements the Association had made it simple to apply for CRB checks via the website.

g) Structural Review

The meeting was informed that an attempt had been made to attract students from two well known Business Schools to undertake the review. Unfortunately there had been little interest. Consideration had also been given to employing consultants but it had been decided this would have been too costly.

Currently the Association is looking at specialist companies and organisations that support the charity sector which might be willing to assist with the review for a lower cost.

h) Strategy Review

It was pointed out to the meeting that the current draft strategy had been sent to them for their consideration and comment. To date few replies had been received. As a result a questionnaire had been supplied to the General Council for them to complete and return at the completion of the meeting.

This piece of work was identified as critical to the future planning of the Association as it will help set the key objectives for the NRA and NSC, feeding through into Business Planning and the financial plan for 2011.

i) Victoria Chalets

A question was asked about whether a resolution of the problems with the tenants of Victoria Chalets had been achieved. It was reported that the Victoria Chalet issue was hopefully close to resolution with ongoing negotiations with the individual tenants.

j) Risk Register

A view was expressed that with all clubs who are classified coming under the Charities Act and thus being required to produce a Risk Register that the NRA should provide guidance.

It was reported that the NRA was working with a consultant to address its own need to provide a Risk Register. It was explained that both the NRA and NSC are currently creating Departmental Risk Registers that would be used to construct the strategic Risk Register for the Trustees and NSC Board, which they would inspect regularly. At Departmental level the Risk Register would be assessed monthly to identify any negative or positive changes to the business.

It was anticipated that it would take another 3-4 months before the NRA will be in a position to finalise its own Risk Register following which basic guidance could be made available to the clubs.

G202 NATSS, & BRITISH SHOOTING (G191)

It was reported to the meeting that NATSS had ceased. Some aspects of joint working had been picked up by the Great Britain Target Shooting Federation (GBTSF). This was the vehicle to handle the Sport England Grant of £750k over the next 3 years managed by the NSRA and NRA to develop Regional services away from Bisley.

British Shooting it was explained is effectively two entities, the first of which is the Olympic Performance Group that professionally oversees the management of the Olympic Funding from UK Sport, set the criteria for athletes getting onto the World Class programme and manages the needs of the athletes that achieved the criteria to potentially win medals at the 2012 Olympics. Secondly, is the British Shooting Board which has representatives from a mix of NGB's, Home Countries and others was supposed to oversee the work of the OPG.

It was reported the Board had been largely indecisive until recently, relying heavily on the professional representatives of the OPG to deal with the Olympic requirement independently.

Fortunately the OPG had impressed UK Sport and as a result of their efforts funding had recently doubled to £2.5 million with the chance of more as more athletes came onto the programme having met the strict criteria.

As a result of the ineffective nature of the British Shooting Board it was currently under review in structural and process terms.

G203 BISLEY DEVELOPMENT (G191)

It was reported that the planning for CNC was going ahead with an expectation that building will commence in July/August 2010. This development was essential to the Association because it would act as the enabling phase prior to any further development.

Additionally, the meeting was informed that there was currently a utilities review looking in particular at the electricity supply with a view to an upgrade.

A question was asked regarding the amount of money already spent on the planning and Master Planning with 'developer'. It was pointed out that Guildford Borough Council had stated they required a Master Plan to work with because they would not be sympathetic to piecemeal development. Additionally in meetings with GBC it became obvious that they were supportive of the Association's wider approach and had an obviously good relationship with the architects and planning consultants. The opinion of the Council was that the money spent to date would benefit the Association going forward as its plans became more detailed.

G204 OLYMPICS 2012 (G190)

The meeting was informed that in breach of both the UK safety standards for clay shooting and some planning processes it had recently been announced that Woolwich had or was going to get planning consent.

This being the case the Association, working with others, was still trying to achieve legacy from the Olympics through its friends in Parliament.

A question was then asked regarding the standard of the NCSC and its suitability for training. The meeting was informed that under the arrangements with Sport England the Association had to offer the Clays for Olympic use. It was also stated that the Clays were suitable for training in that they covered all of the Olympic Training disciplines.

A view was expressed that the NRA should apply for funding to upgrade the facility. It was pointed out that the upgrading of the facility was the responsibility of the Association under the debenture and in the current financial climate access to additional funding for this purpose would not be forthcoming from the Olympic or national funding bodies. It was then suggested that Surrey County Council be approached for funding to upgrade the facilities.

G205 150th ANNIVERSARY (G194)

A brief outline was given of how the Association might celebrate its 150th Anniversary.

The majority opinion of those present was that the opportunity for developing the event and supporting material was past and that the NRA should work on delivering those parts of the proposal that are deliverable, namely the fireworks display and a party for members on the final Friday of the Imperial Meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.10pm

Chairman

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Date	Time	Venue
Friday 11 th June 2010 (Followed by AGM at 5.30pm)	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 10 th September 2010	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion