

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
Held at the Pavilion, Bisley
On Friday 10th September 2010 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 PR Coley
Mr MG Farnan
Mr CN Farr
Mr EJ Gardener
Prof AR Horrocks
Mr P Hunter
Mr JM Kynoch
Mr GAE Larcombe
Cdr M Magan
Mr CC Mallett
Mr MF Martel
Mr CJ Murton
Mr K Nash
Flt Lt IW Robertson
Mrs KD Robertson
Mr IW Shirra Gibb
Mr JD Warburton
Mr DD Watt
Mr WDC Wilcox

In attendance:

Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary
Mr MJ Ensor	-	Assistant Director Range Office & Armoury
Mr G Gold	-	Head of Finance
Mr D Jennings	-	(for John Watson) Sporting Rifle
Mr JC Ragg	-	Trustee
Mr JES Staples	-	MD NSC
Mr B Thomas	-	Assistant Director of Shooting
Mrs HL Webb	-	Membership Secretary

Apologies for absence: Mr MJ Black, Mr CM Brooks, Wg Cdr DP Calvert, Dr A Cargill Thompson, Mr JH Carmichael, Lt Col ARK Clayton, Mr DGF Evans, Maj SB Fraser, Mr PH Hobson, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Col WJ O’Leary, Mr M Maksimovic, Mr AJD Saunders, Miss J Scrimshaw, Brig JR Smales, Mr MP Watkins, Mr James Watson, Mr John Watson Mr RHF Wills, Mr MJ Wood, Mr DG Young

CHAIRMAN’S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Taff Wilcox to his first meeting as a member of General Council, and Graham Gold, as the new Head of Finance. He also welcomed Iris Bennett on her return after a period of ill health and to Martin Farnan who had concluded his differences with the Association.

The Chairman asked whether the General Council would accept him signing the Minutes of the meetings when they went final rather than waiting until the next General Council meeting as this allowed actions to be undertaken as required by the Minutes sooner. The meeting agreed.

G223 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 11th JUNE 2010 (G206)

G208: (S303) - Chamber Check Procedure – Iain Robertson.

Iain Robertson advised the meeting that the procedure adopted for 2010 had been the same as 2009. He explained that for 2011 there would be a further review of the procedure with the intention of alignment with ICRA Rules if judged appropriate.

Action continues.

G210a: (T878a) - Queens Lodge – MD of NSC.

The meeting was informed the Rent Review documents had been agreed and signed.

Action closed.

G210b: (T881) - Owning the Night – MD of NSC.

A question was asked as to whether it was possible to include staffing in the costs for future events. The MD of NSC advised the meeting that currently to include the full staff costs would make the events appear unprofitable at this stage as we are trying to build our business. In future when the business becomes more profitable he gave the view that it would be possible to include staff costs. However, it was agreed that all staff costs/time would be recorded, even if that time would not be charged out.

Action closed.

G216a: Procedure & Rules for the Appointment of TR GB & NRA Team Captains – Iain Robertson.

The meeting was informed that contrary to opinion it was not possible to introduce a single selection procedure for deciding on who should captain a team because of the different discipline sub-committee arrangements and structures. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Shooting Committee would look further at this matter and bring any proposals to General Council from the Shooting Committee

Action continues.

G217a: Landmarc License Fees – Secretary General

&

G219: MoD & Range Wardens Overtime – Secretary General

The Secretary General advised the meeting that this issue had originally arisen because of the different charging regimes being used by regional range managers as opposed to the national agreement with Landmarc and Defence Training Estates. He stated that events had overtaken this matter with the announcement by the MoD that they would be reducing military use of ranges at

weekends to cut costs. Presently the NRA were in communication with Landmarc to get details of what ranges would be available to civilian shooting on what weekends as there was the potential on commercial grounds for clubs to get greater access than at present. The intention on the NRA's part is to publish availability on the website so that clubs can get more not less shooting.

There were no other matters arising.

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of the 11th June 2010 were received and agreed.

G224 FINANCE

The Chairman asked if there were any questions on his statement on finance (ANNEX A).

Questions were asked on the published statement that the NRA were facing a potential deficit of over £100k as to how much over? The Chairman answered that there was still too much uncertainty to be more precise at that time. Also whether these uncertainties were in income or expenditure and the Chairman replied there were uncertainties in both.

A further question was asked as to whether the costs incurred in the settlement with Martin Farnan had formed part of the recently identified budget problem. The Chairman replied there was a signed confidential agreement between the parties concerned so he was prevented from answering the question.

There were no other questions.

G225 CUMBRIA SHOOTING TRAGEDY (G222)

The Secretary General reported that, through BSSC the, NRA had been able to meet with the Home Office Minister responsible for firearms issues. He reported that within Government there was no perceived drive to actually change legislation or further encumber the shooting community. He reported that the Association working with BSSC and the NGB's had encouraged a large number of shooters to respond to the request for evidence by the Home Affairs Committee and that this had resulted in the crash of the Government computer system had necessitating a re setting of the deadline until the end of October.

It was further reported that a Home Affairs evidence session was scheduled for Tuesday 14th September 2010 looking at the structure and controls that exist within the club environment. It was stated that as the natural experts both the NRA and NSRA would be represented.

The other areas that had so far been identified as specific interest to the Home Affairs Committee were:

- Young people and gun ownership
- The possible reclassification of shotguns as Section 1 Firearms
- Airgun ownership and controls

The meeting was informed that through the BSSC these questions and others had been examined and policy agreed on the joint approach of all member organisations to avoid ambiguity when dealing with the Committee.

A question of whether the Home Office were considering a change in the criteria for owning air weapons in that they would be required to be certificated as they were in Scotland. The meeting was advised that the Home Office were not considering such a move at this time.

The meeting was informed that at the strategic level BSSC had visited the question of whether there ought to be a full firearms review. The preferred option for change was to move towards a Consolidation Act to simplify Firearms Legislation, thus avoiding the need for a long process before any meaningful change is delivered.

John Bloomfield advised that he had a CD that had been written to look at the possibility of a Consolidation Act. He stated that it had been written some time ago, thus did not include elements of the Violent Crime Act but it could be a useful starting point. He agreed to supply a copy of the CD to the Secretary General who could supply copies to others if required.

G226 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (G184)

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 11th June 2010 were received.

G227 BISLEY GENERAL MEETING (G185)

The Minutes of the Bisley General Meeting of 21st July 2010 were received.

Matters arising.

- a) Fired brass – it was reported there had been no further progress in re-selling the used cases and a formal tender process was being proposed which was for formal discussion as an item on the Agenda for the NSC Board meeting on Wednesday 15th September 2010.
- b) Tree cover on the left hand side of Stickledown – Iain Robertson reported that this was a matter he was addressing as Chairman of the Shooting Committee and would be making proposal to be considered during the 2011 budgeting process.
- c) Target operation difficulties – it was reported that target operation difficulties were investigated and addressed regularly but that they needed to be reported in the first instance. It was proposed that butt supervisors and butt markers should be asked at the end of a marking session whether they had encountered any operational difficulties. It was agreed by NSC that they would consider this proposal.
- d) Service charges – the Chairman asked for volunteers to assess how best the apportionment of service charges could be implemented. It was announced that this work and any proposals need to be completed within a month to be incorporated into the budgeting process. Gary Alexander, Richard Bailie volunteered to assist Martin Townsend in this task.
- e) Access to MoD ranges – The Chairman requested that GC members survey their membership so that a quick survey could be carried out to report on which clubs use which MoD ranges and any difficulties encountered so that full report could be made to the to the General Council at its June meeting by the Regional Manager Chris Webb.

Martin Farnan advised that such an exercise had been carried out some years ago and there was both electronic and hard copy of the spreadsheet which was held by Chris Webb.

Action G227a: Secretary General to email all club secretaries to discover the level of MoD range use and any difficulties experienced.

- f) Hand loading ammunition – It was proposed that when the RUAG contract for the supply of ammunition came to an end, in another four years, that the NRA produced its own ammunition. It was envisaged there would be problems over planning consent and health and safety in terms of explosives storage and a study of the pitfalls of undertaking such an exercise was urgently needed.

Action G227b: John Bloomfield undertook to prepare a discussion paper on the plausibility of the NRA producing ammunition. It was agreed that the report would be completed by March 2011.

- g) Reducing bureaucracy – it had been reported that club officials were experiencing problems over the time they had to spend on administration of their clubs, particularly in dealings with the Police and MoD, and the demands by the MoD for certification. The Chairman proposed the best way forward was to form a working group, from within the clubs, to look at the problems and identify best practice.

Action G277g: Glynn Alger to write to club secretaries to ask if they wished to participate in such a working group.

G228 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G186)

The meeting received a verbal report from the Chairman of the Membership Committee James Watson regarding the Membership Committee meeting of 5th September.

Membership Rates

It was reported the Council decision to increase all individual membership costs by £5, returning to the 2009 rates and essentially covering the cost of the Insurance increase for this year and 2011 - this rise still does not take into account the true effect of inflation. Whilst we would hope that the rates would remain similar in 2012, they are of course dependent upon costs and inflation. At the same time, the Council decided to reduce the discount offered for the direct debit from £5 to £2.50 for 2011.

G229 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G177)

The Minutes of the meeting of 13th May 2010 were received and adopted.

The meeting received a verbal report of the Shooting Committee meeting of 9th September.

- a) Probationary Courses – it was reported that Phyllis Farnan was trialling a new modular training system that allows greater flexibility for the customer when taking their probationary course, using recently qualified probationers.
- b) Match Rifle – Alex Cargill Thompson had raised the issue of the poor state of the firing points. NSC stated they had a list of works to be carried out on the firing points that will be progressed when feasible.
- c) NSC announced that it was working-up a detailed plan to utilise range space more effectively allowing more scope for range maintenance, accepting there would be restrictions in terms of distances being shot and possible time banding.

- d) Scottish marking system – a proposal had been received to replace the current marking system with the Scottish system in order to save the cost in marking paddles. A vote was taken and the Committee unanimously voted against the proposal. Furthermore it was proposed by the Committee that the Match Rifle Sub-Committee consider whether they wished to continue to use the Scottish marking system.
- e) Tie shoots – the Committee had agreed to revert for 2011 to operationally simpler tie shoot system previously used in 2008.
- f) Target sizes – the Committee had agreed to the proposal for a new F Class target for short range and not to change the current TR target.
- g) Silver trophy - a silver trophy had been donated by Brigitte Yeshim and Dave Lee from King Edward's School, Bath for the Air Pistol Team at the School's Meeting in July. The Committee considered the trophy, which met the criteria of the new trophy policy, and agreed to the request.
- h) Bisley Bible Revision Timetable – it was reported the Rules would be revised as per the following timetable and the meeting was asked for any proposed Rule changes to be addressed through the appropriate shooting discipline representatives.

20.12.10. All proposed amendments to be sent to Chairman Shooting Committee by this date.

27.1.11 Shooting Committee reviews final document, discusses and approves.

3.2.11. Trustees Meeting - review final document, discuss and approve.

4/5.2.11. Bible sent to printers.

End Feb Bible ready for distribution.

The Rules would be effective from 1st April 2011

- i) Practical Shooting - a request had been received for the Shooting Committee to consider Practical Shooting be recognised as course of fire acceptable on Bisley Ranges. It was reported that there were no objections in principle and a working group had been set up to consider and report.
- j) Squadding of the Queen's Prize - a paper had been prepared by David Calvert on the stats for squadding of the Queen's Prize 2010, which was a work in progress. It was reported that statistically the current squadding procedure was effective, giving no obvious advantage on any of the butts, despite stated concerns regarding the affect of the trees on Stickle-down.
- k) TR Unlimiteds – a request had been received to re-instate the TR Unlimited facility. It was reported that the Committee was looking at how best to achieve this.

G230 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LTD (G188)

The Minutes of the meetings of 12th May and 16th June 2010 were received.

Matters arising:

Minutes of 12th May 2010

N834 RUAG – a question was asked as to whether the NSC would be supplying RUAG to the Canadian Cadets as per the minutes. The meeting was advised that, the deal had not been confirmed at the time the Minutes were written and, in fact, the Canadians had potentially pulled out, possibly because they had gone direct to RUAG.

N851 RFD Pro – the comment in the Minutes that NSC/NRA currently use six databases was questioned and it was confirmed that was the case and that a consolidation into one database was in process.

Minutes of 16th June 2010

N884 Electronic Targets – A question asked about the re-instatement of the electronic targets. The meeting was advised they would be installed and tested on Thursday 16th September 2010.

N861 Future Events – the NSC were asked whether they now had a contract with Shephards. The meeting was advised that the NSC had a Memorandum of Understanding for the three day event in 2011 and that it was proposed to have a one day event in October 2010.

N870 Imperial Meeting – Karen Robertson advised that with the change of date of Queen's Final having moved to the third weekend in July 2011 she was currently working on a revised calendar of events for the Imperial Meeting which will form part of the new Marksman's Calendar which will be posted on the website shortly.

N879 Ammunition – A question was asked regarding the statement by NSC that they would no longer offer any discount for returned cases. NSC advised the meeting that they would continue to offer a discount on any cases bought from 2009 stock ammunition where the customer has a written agreement.

G231 THE COUNCIL (G189)

The Minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 17th June 2010 and Written Resolutions T903 dated 28th June and T925 dated 11th July and T926 and T927 dated 10th August 2010 were received.

Matters arising from the Minutes and questions.

Minutes of 17th June 2010

T907 (para 13) Road Repairs – NSC were asked about the report produced by Mick Barr and David Hossack as to what priority would be given to the report in relation to the road defects mentioned in the report. The meeting was advised that prioritisation of road repairs would be worked out along with other items as part of the budget setting process.

The meeting received a verbal report of the 19th August 2009 Meeting

- a) Trench Experience – The meeting was advised that the Trench Experience had formally withdrawn their case against the NRA. The NRA was now seeking to recover its costs incurred as a result of the action by the Trench Experience. A question was asked as to how the Trench Experience leased the building and Ken Nash advised that they had a lease with the NSRA on a rolling 3 monthly basis.
- b) McGilligan Ranges– It was reported in February 2010, the MoD offered the NRA the opportunity to enter a partnership with them to develop and run the McGilligan ranges in

Northern Ireland. This opportunity was advertised to Northern Ireland clubs in order to seek their engagement. A meeting between MoD (specifically Defence Training Estates, DTE), the NRA (represented by Glynn Alger) and several clubs took place on 5th August 2010.

McGilligan ranges have considerable development potential. It would be possible to have ranges operating anywhere between 25m and 1000 yards, supporting all NRA (and NSRA and CPSA) disciplines. The ranges would also need to be suitable for military use to support the TA and cadets.

A Project Working Group was formed, from the club representatives with Simon Carson as Project Manager, who will work with DTE to take this project forward. The NRA is supportive but has made no substantive commitments as yet. The first phase of the project is for a range specification to be supplied to DTE by 6 September 2010 so that a project costing can be agreed. Approaches are then likely to be made to the NRA and the Northern Ireland Sports Council for funding with a view to creating a Centre of Excellence for Target Shooting.

In addition DTE will be examining with the project team and the NRA what form the partnership should take and what agreements will need to be in place.

- c) GBTSF – it was reported that the National Development Manager had resigned and that David Frogget of the NSRA had taken over the role as a short term temporary appointment. Working groups had been appointed and had met, ensuring the project was on-going.
- d) NSRA – a proposal had been received from the NSRA to enter into a joint membership and insurance arrangement. It was reported that the Council had made a risk assessment of the proposal and had decided to reject the proposal.
- e) Charles Murton had confirmed that he was willing to continue as Vice Chairman for a further period of one year and the Council had unanimously re-elected him as their Vice Chairman.
- f) The Chairman had reported two retirements:

David Young – The Chairman stated that on behalf of the Association he wished to thank David Young for his six years spent as a trustee on the NRA Council and for all his hard work, help and advice during that period.

Mark Haszlakiewicz - The Chairman also thanked Mark Haszlakiewicz, for being the NRA Treasurer for rather more than six years and guiding both the NSC and the NRA through troubled financial waters during that time.

G232 IMPERIAL MEETING 2010 (G187)

- a) Imperial Meeting De Brief - The meeting was advised that Brian Thomas had received various reports on how the Imperial Meeting had been run. At the last Council meeting Council had requested that a full de brief meeting be held and this was to take place on 14th September with the Secretary General tasked with producing a report for the October 2010 Council Meeting.
- b) 150th Anniversary – Karen Robertson reported that the expenditure on the 150th Anniversary celebrations had come in at approximately £3,000 under budget.

G233 CO- OPTIONS & ELECTIONS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL & COMMITTEES **(G193)**

The Chairman reported that he had received a proposal that for any future elections in which members of the General Council were eligible to vote that all candidates should have to provide a suitably comprehensive CV and written election statement for circulation with the ballot papers. The proposal was agreed.

The Chairman reported he had received the resignation of Mark Haslakiewicz as Treasurer as of the 10th September 2010. He pointed out to the meeting that Mark had not only been the Treasurer but had, in the early stages, helped write the changes to the Second Schedule. He further stated that as a result of the financial issues that had arisen, Mark had over the last six months been working virtually full time and it was only because of that hard work that he was in a position to make the financial report.

Dick Horrocks proposed a vote of thanks to Mark on behalf of the General Council.

The Chairman reported that David Young had stood down as a member of The Council under the six year rule. The Chairman expressed his thanks to David for his help and advice with the Bisley development and Olympics 2012 projects, as well as more recently with CNC proposal.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to David on behalf of the Council

The following were co-opted and or elected.

Mr JC Ragg 32 yes votes 0 no votes	Co-opted to the General Council, and elected Treasurer for a period of 3 years
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Mr Peter Hobson 28 yes votes 5 no votes	Elected to the Council for a period of 3 years,
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Miss Jo Scrimshaw	Withdrawn
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Mr John Horton 29 yes votes 2 no votes	Co-opted to the General Council and elected Lay member of the Disciplinary Body Appeal Committee
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Mr RR Bailie 30 yes votes 2 no votes	Re-elected to the Disciplinary Appeal Committee (Lay)
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Mr CM Brooks 30 yes votes 2 no votes	Re-elected to the Disciplinary Body Appeal Committee (Legal)
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Mr CN McEachran 31 yes votes 1 no votes	Elected to the Disciplinary Body Appeal Committee (Legal)
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

G234 GBTSF (G191)

The Chairman reported, with the resignation of Mark Haslakiewicz, there was a NRA directorship vacancy within GBTSF. Details of the appointment had been circulated to the General Council and only one application had been received and that person was not in a position to take up the appointment until summer 2011. In this event the Chairman announced he was proposing to circulate wider, via email and the web site, the details of the appointment to the membership as it was very important to have someone in place in GBTSF to secure the NRA's future in regional activities.

G235 NATIONAL MATCH

It was reported that the Home Country representatives on the National Match Committee had been reminded that within the rules now in place there is the option, every four years, to hold the match away from Bisley and 2012 is the next time that option could be taken. The meeting was advised that the Altcar Committee would be honoured to host the National Match in 2012 if the National Match Committee decided the venue was suitable. Altcar have twenty three targets which would allow four Home Country teams five targets each, separated by a target, back to 600 yards and it has been suggested it would take place in August before or after the County of Lancaster Rifle Association Annual Meeting which is traditionally held on the third weekend in August each year.

G236 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

A discussion on the dates for 2011 took place and Saturday 19th February was confirmed as the date for the next meeting, the Chairman advised he would not be available to Chair that meeting. The dates for the meeting of 10th June were also confirmed. The date of 9th September would be reviewed and possible take place on Friday 23rd September 2011

The meeting closed at 4.15 pm.

Chairman

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Date	Time	Venue
Saturday 19 th February 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 10 th June 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Followed by the AGM	5.30p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Friday (tba) September 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion

Enc: ANNEX A