

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting
Held at the Pavilion, Bisley
On Friday 10th June 2011 from 2.00pm

Present:

Chairman: Dr R Pizer

Vice Chairman: Prof AR Horrocks

Members: Mr G Alexander
Mr HRM Bailie
Mr GV Barnard
Mrs ID Bennett
Mr JPS Bloomfield
Dr A Cargill Thompson
Mr JH Carmichael
Lt Col ARK Clayton
Mr PR Coley
Mr DGF Evans
Mr EJ Gardener
Mr JA Horton
Mr JM Kynoch
Mr GAE Larcombe
Mrs DE Meredith - Treasurer
Mr K Nash
Mr IW Robertson
Mrs KD Robertson
Mr IW Shirra Gibb
Mr JD Warburton
Mr James Watson
Mr DD Watt
Mr RHF Wills

In attendance:

Mr GWJ Alger	-	Secretary
Mr R Boyd	-	Non Exec Director NSC (G248 to G254)
Mr G Gold	-	Finance Manager
Mr R Neighbour	-	Non Exec Director NSC
Mr B Thomas	-	Assistant Director of Shooting
Mrs HL Webb	-	Membership Secretary

Apologies for absence: Mr CM Brooks, Wg Cdr DP Calvert, Mr MG Farnan, Mr CN Farr, Maj SB Fraser, Mr GMLN Gilpin, Mr PH Hobson, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, P Hunter, Mr. TL Kidner, Mr CC Mallett, Mr CN McEachran, Cdr MJC Magan, Mr M Maksimovic, Mr MF Martell, Mr C Murton, Col WJ O'Leary, Mr R Pooley, Mr AJD Saunders, Miss J Scrimshaw, Brig JR Smales,

Mr DE Spittles, Mr JE Staples, Sqn Ldr P Upham, Mr MP Watkins, Mr John Watson, Mr WDC Wilcox, Mr MJ Wood, Mr DG Young.

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed Debbie Meredith (the candidate for Treasurer position) and John Horton Roger Boyd and Russell Neighbour who were attending the meeting for the first time

G248 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2011 (G237)

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of the 19th February 2011 were received and agreed.

Matters arising:

G223: (G208) (S303) - Chamber Check Procedure – *had been discussed at the Shooting Committee and John Bloomfield was asked to put a proposal to the May Meeting of the Committee which the Committee had agreed* – John Bloomfield. **Action Completed**

G227a: Level of MoD Range Use - Glynn Alger. GA informed the meeting that a circulation had been made to all the clubs but to date the only response that had resulted in any action was in the NE where the Regional Rep. had reported potential difficulties. Discussions with DTE and Landmarc indicate that if there is a problem it is due to local interpretation of the national arrangement. *A regional meeting had been held in the North East.* **Action Closed.**

G227b: Discussion paper on NRA producing ammunition – *to be presented to the Council at its 18th August meeting* - John Bloomfield. **Action Continues.**

G227g: Working group for reducing bureaucracy experienced by clubs – Glynn Alger. GA reported that current discussion with ACPO, Home Office and James Brokenshire the Minister responsible have overtaken this action as the shooting associations try to negotiate a better position for license holders. *Clubs had been emailed asking for input to the Working Group with a nil response.* **Action Closed.**

There were no other matters arising.

G249 FINANCE (G238)

The meeting was informed that a great deal of work had gone into sorting out the problems for last year and we had a cash flow projection showing an anticipated continued solvent position for the Association through to June 2012. Expenditure would have to be very carefully monitored and staff had been informed that only essential expenditure should be undertaken at this time. However, it had been agreed that the road at the rear of Century would be repaired in time for the Imperial Meeting

The meeting was advised that the reason the AGM had to be adjourned was that it took a long time to get the 2010 Accounts sorted out. We could have had qualified Accounts at an early date which would have affected our ability to borrow money and our credit rating, so it was therefore felt far better to wait and to have Accounts that were not qualified in any way even if it meant adjourning the AGM.

It was reported that the problems in regard to finance dated back as far as 2007 when there was a change of Financial Director and a change in processes from paper-based to computer-based accounts. Prior to that date it had been working adequately. It had become clear that at this point in time no effort had been made to recover the previous year's outstanding debts and the Auditors have agreed to write off these long outstanding debts, which does not necessarily mean that efforts will not be made to try and recover some if not all of the amounts outstanding. There is a

long list of outstanding debtors, which will take many hours or work to sort out and where debtors are being identified they are being invoiced, including for 2010. The failings in the Finance Department meant that throughout 2009 the Management Accounts produced were seriously flawed which will become obvious when the audited 2010 accounts appear. Prior to this audit the senior management had met with the Finance Director and the Treasurer to discuss budgets and budget variances and every other month there was a further balance and check of the management accounts where the Finance Director explained the accounts and the numbers appeared to be believable. Unfortunately on the basis of these inaccurate Accounts it had been agreed to employ more staff and to renovate Site 2 and 5 ablutions blocks in 2010 and, had the true position been known, these would not have been done. Due to the ill health in 2010 of the Finance Director and his subsequent resignation, the then Treasurer spent a considerable amount of time in the Finance Department but invoices were not sent out and it only became apparent in August last year that there was going to be a cash flow problem which was reported to the 10th September 2010 meeting of the General Council and at which time the membership were also apprised of the situation. Some of the checks and balances that should have been in place were not working properly during that period if at all and one of the steps that has now been taken, in addition to cutting back on non-essential expenditure, is to hold fortnightly Management Group meetings. These meetings involve three of the Trustees with not only Senior Staff but also middle level managers in a forum to enable timely decision-making to occur and reconciliation of income from the departments made with what is being banked and to ascertain what costs are involved in funding our various activities.

The question was asked as to who was the direct supervisor of the then Finance Director up to the point when the Treasurer had to intervene and the meeting was advised that as the Finance Director was a director of the NSC he came under the Board of NSC reporting to both the Board and the Managing Director. It was further asked if any action was being taken over the clear negligence shown in supervision and the response was that because of employment law such a matter could not be discussed openly.

In response to a question concerning the expenditure on two further staff positions when there were strict controls in place on staff spending, could not the positions be covered by existing staff and was the expense affordable? The answer was that the money was available and that an Estate Manager and a Commercial Manager were needed.

The Chairman was asked if it was thought the Accounts were adequate up to 2007 that the Auditors issued a certificate in 2008 given that the purpose of the Auditors is to pick up on this sort of thing, were we content to continue with the current Auditors or was it recommended to change the Auditors at the forthcoming AGM? Were the Auditors and the Finance Director liable for the NRA's losses? The Chairman responded that courses of action had been considered by the current Treasurer who had taken the matter up with the present Auditors.

When asked whether it would have been better for the General Council to receive a summary of the Accounts for the meeting so that they could ask specific questions prior to the AGM the Chairman responded that the Council felt that the General Council should have the full Accounts when signed off to be able to consider them properly and that Council would welcome any questions prior to the AGM.

G250 THE TREASURER (G239)

It was reported that James Ragg, who had been appointed in September 2010, had given notice that he wished to stand down at the end of April 2011 but had wished to remain in post until the 10th June meeting of General Council. The Council recommended that Debbie Meredith be appointed Treasurer and after the General Council had informally interviewed her, Debbie was unanimously appointed. The Chairman expressed thanks to James Ragg for the massive amount

of work he had undertaken on the NRA's behalf during his short period as Treasurer.

G251 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G241)

The Minutes of the meeting of 12th September 2011 were received and adopted.

M244 Young Shooters Fund Accounts –it was requested that the true state of the Fund be made known.

M252 Membership Survey –a question was asked as to why in the survey there were no questions regarding the NSC and Bisley Camp and the meeting was advised that to include questions regarding the facilities and not just membership issues had made the survey far too long and it was proposed to put out another survey addressing these questions in due course.

M253 Recruitment of New Members – A concern was expressed in relation to the interface with the NSC and the members in that it was perceived not to exist and it was pointed out that the majority of questions arising at the AGM and BGM were concerning the state of the Camp and NSC-related matters which were not the responsibility of the General Council or NRA and historically there had been no senior person present to take comments of this nature and the task had fallen on the NRA Chairman and Vice Chairman. It was requested the General Council and NRA insist of the NSC that at the AGM and BGM the Chairman and/or Managing Director be seated at the top table and take questions from the floor concerning the Camp and its facilities.

Glynn Alger reported that as a result of the financial situation, fortnightly meetings were now being held and one of the understandings at those meetings is that the NRA and NSC act jointly on issues, particularly in relation to what happens on the Camp. He pointed out a number of areas where he had taken over responsibility but emphasised that if satisfaction was not to be had from NSC, the General Council and members had every right to contact him for action.

The comment was made that the Managing Director of NSC rarely attended General Council meetings the dates of which were known well in advance and that NSC were a branch of the NRA that the General Council were representatives of and as the senior employee of the company the MD should attend the meetings to enable the members of the General Council to put points and questions to him. The Chairman took the view of the meeting on board and confirmed that the MD of NSC would be seated on the top table at the forthcoming AGM and at future AGMs and BGMs.

M247 Discounts from companies to members - It was confirmed that there was no external exposure of membership data and all members' details were retained internally within the membership server on site.

James Watson notified the meeting of his standing down as Chairman of the Membership Committee in September having been in place for six years, also that there were spaces on the Committee to be filled.

G252 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G243)

The Minutes of the meeting of 27th January 2011 were received and adopted, and the draft Minutes of the meeting of 12th May 2011 were received.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of 27th January 2011

Minutes of the Meeting of 12th May 2011

Matters arising:

Action 602.1 Armoury Inventory – it was reported that the NRA and NSC currently held approximately 300 firearms the issue being that when looking at the commercial requirement (hiring, open days, corporates and training) for firearms there was only a need for eighty to one hundred firearms. A review was currently being undertaken with a view to reducing the number held and offering for sale to members those superfluous to requirement.

Action S603 (G223) Chamber Check Procedure – it was reported that a non-invasive chamber check procedure had been adopted which would enable wide-ranging checks to be carried out.

S649 Target Shotgun – the Committee had recommended to the Council that Target Shotgun be adopted as an official NRA discipline. The Council had approved the recommendation and the Committee were working on the mechanics of the introduction.

S650 Cadet Coaching – it was felt that a little expert intervention could result in a great gain for cadets' shooting performance to this end we have asked for the help of Regional Representatives in getting appropriately qualified NRA experts to give a little of their time to cadet organisations in the regions.

S652 Five Year Events Calendar – it was asked who was responsible for considering future events and would they would bear in mind that with a GB team scheduled to visit Canada each year there was no opportunity for Home Countries to send teams and England had had an outstanding invitation to send a team to Canada for a number of years and had not been able to fulfil that because of the GB team's now annual attendance. The meeting was advised that the responsibility for Target Rifle organisationally lay with the TR Sub Committee to recommend but ultimately it was a Council decision and if England wished to send a team in any particular year (post 2013) the English XX should submit the request to the Chairman of the TR Sub Committee.

S653 Imperial Meeting – the Committee delegated powers to a variety of people and had approved, in principle, to appoint Match Directors for the full international matches (Kolapore and Mackinnon) being John Bloomfield and Iain Robertson to fill these roles as appropriate between them.

S658 ICFRA – the meeting was advised that Dick Horrocks was standing down, after eight years, as ICFRA Vice President and the Committee had proposed to the Council, which Council had agreed, that Colin Cheshire be formally nominated by the NRA as the GB candidate for the post.

Glynn Alger reported that he was Acting Chair of British Shooting for a period of time whilst a permanent Chairman was being sought. He advised that he had made representation at the 12th May meeting the subject of having a Disability Representative on the Shooting Committee. UK Sport and Sport England see Shooting as being naturally one of those sports to which they would direct potential paralympians or people who were disabled and we have no disability focussed representation. Discussion ensued as to whether a Disability Representative should be a member of the Shooting Committee or was it more pertinent for that representative to be a co-opted member of the General Council and Glynn Alger was asked to approach Disabled Target Shooting Great Britain (DSTGB) for advice.

Action G252: GA to approach DSTGB for advice on disability representation for the NRA.

G253 NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LTD (G243)

The Minutes of the meeting of 24th February 2011 were received.

Matters arising:

N989 Bisley Live – the meeting was informed that the Home Office would only give approval if shooting at the event met the same criteria required for Open Days i.e. pre-registration and numbers would be restricted to approximately 1200 per day and the shooting to take place on targets at 300x on Century Range. Concern was expressed at the ability to raise sufficient volunteers to staff an Open Day event over a three-day period and no clear picture of what the actual requirement would be. The Chairman suggested that the matter be put on the agenda for the fortnightly Management Group meeting scheduled for 17th June to determine the precise requirements necessary to run the event and to define the events team and responsibilities.

N990 HAC - the meeting was advised that should the current contractual negotiations fall through, where there was no residential accommodation and zero risk, there remained a range of very significant revenue opportunities from other interested parties.

N991 Estate Charges. – The meeting was advised that an explanatory letter on how the new estate charges had been calculated had already been drafted. This would accompany the invoices when they were sent out to club secretaries.

N1005 Lunch Hour (S638) – the Minute was questioned in saying that the Board agreed to revisit the proposal in the future when, at the Shooting Committee meeting of 27th January, the decision had been made to recommend to Council no change in the timing of the lunch hour over safety concerns, which had been expressed by the Head of Range Safety. The meeting was advised that if revenue was at stake then the subject may well be revisited in the future but only if such a change could be made safely.

G254 THE COUNCIL (G244)

The Minutes of the meeting of the meetings held on 18th January, 3rd February, and 14th April 2011 and Written Resolutions T995 and T1013 dated 11th February, T1014 dated 21st February, T1015 dated 28th February, T1017 dated 7th March, T1018 dated 3rd March, T1019 dated 10th March, T1020 and T1021 dated 17th March, T1039 dated 26th April, T1040 dated 11 May, T1041 dated 4th May, T1042 dated 13th May, T1043 dated 12th May, T1044 dated 16th May, T1046 dated 19th May were received.

Matters arising from the Minutes and questions.

Minutes of 18th January 2011

There were no matters arising.

Minutes of 3rd February 2011

Matters arising:

T1000 RFD Pro – it was reported that RFD Pro had been installed and was working in the Membership database but it was not interacting with the Dimensions accounts package. Training had been given and the system is currently being used but because there is no connection to the Dimensions package invoices in the Range Office would still have to be raised through the till system. As soon as this phase of the system is working and there are no ‘bugs’ in the software then a view would be taken whether to connect to the Dimensions package, which would then complete the circle. A concern was raised that data was stored offsite by the outside contractor who owns RFD Pro and the meeting was assured this was not the case and data was stored on a

separate server in the Membership Department server room.

Minutes of 14th April 2011

There were no matters arising.

The meeting received a verbal report of the 2nd June 2011 Meeting

G256 GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS & VACANCIES (G233)

The meeting received the memorandum from the Secretary General on the elections and vacancies on the General Council's committees.

G257 CASUAL VACANCY ON GENERAL COUNCIL (G233)

The meeting was advised of a casual vacancy on the General Council caused by the resignation, from 20th July 2011, of the Regional Representative for Greater London and the South East. Glynn Alger advised that the vacancy would be advertised shortly and nominated candidates would be brought to the General Council to be appointed for one year by means of co-option.

G258 BISLEY DEVELOPMENT (G247)

Glynn Alger reported the work currently being done with the Police services may affect in the medium to long term the way Bisley is developed. In the short term a number of police forces are looking for conventional ranges such as are at present at Bisley. Longer term, the issue of specialist range provision is being looked into for the Police service and other interested organisations. Should specialist ranges be built in the future they would be discreet and quite separate from Bisley Camp and its interests and would not seek to affect members' activities. Such provision would bring money into the Association that can be used to support the target shooting sports.

G259 GBTSF & BRITISH SHOOTING (G246)

Glynn Alger advised the meeting that British Shooting is the body that receives money from UK Sport to fund the World Class programme for the selection of Olympic athletes for 2012 going forward. Funding is also received from Sport England into a vehicle for managing money called Great Britain Target Shooting Federation GBTSF for lower level development in terms of regional structures and talent pathways. In order to receive the funding auditing and self-assurance processes have to be undergone with Sport England and UK Sport. We were informed that if we did not comply with their model of a body that manages funding for the sport there was potential for them to withdraw some or all of our funding. A rapid re-organisation was undertaken of how funding was dealt with, the structure of the body and governance and financial issues and the three bodies, the CPSA, the NRA and the NSRA are currently in negotiations. Once the organisation has been re-modelled to meet the required criteria, not only will the Olympic funding be safeguarded but also there will be greater potential to draw down funding post 2013.

G260 GB & NRA TEAM CAPTAINS (216)

The meeting was informed of the following Team Captaincy appointments:

GB TR South Africa	2012	Iain Robertson
NRA TR Channel Islands	2012	Garnett Faulkner
GB TR Canada & USA	2012	Jeremy Langley

GB F Class Open USA 2013
GB F Class TR USA 2013
GB TR West Indies 2013

David Kent
Stuart Anselm
Nigel Penn

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting closed at 5.30 pm.

Chairman

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS.

Date	Time	Venue
Friday 9 th September 2011	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Saturday 18 th February 2012	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 15 th June 2012	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 7 th September 2012	2.00p.m.	Bisley Pavilion