

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATIONTHE GENERAL COUNCILMinutes of a Meeting held at the Pavilion Bisleyon Saturday 18th February 2012 from 2.00pm**Present:****Chairman:** Dr R Pizer

Members: Mr GK Alexander
 Mr HRM Bailie
 Mr GV Barnard
 Mrs ID Bennett
 Mr JPS Bloomfield
 Mr CM Brooks
 Dr A Cargill Thompson
 Mr JH Carmichael
 Lt Col ARK Clayton
 Mr PR Coley
 Mr AJ Duffy
 Mr DGF Evans
 Mr MG Farnan
 Mr CN Farr
 Mr NJ Francis
 Mr GMLN Gilpin
 Mr KJ Hocking
 Prof AR Horrocks
 Mr JM Kynoch
 Mr GAE Larcombe
 Mr D Mabbott
 Mr CC Mallett
 Mr MF Martel
 Mr J Miller
 Mr CJ Murton
 Mr IW Robertson
 Mrs KD Robertson
 Mr AJD Saunders
 Mr I Shirra Gibb
 Sqn Ldr P Upham
 Mr S Wallis
 Mr MP Watkins
 Mr JA Watson
 Mr DD Watt
 Mr RHF Wills

In attendance: Mrs L Gendall - PA to the Chief Executive

Apologies for absence: Mr DG Young, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Mr MJ Wood, Mr EJ Gardener,
 Mr M Maksimovic, Mr J Horton, Wg Cdr DP Calvert, Mr G Trembath, Mr WDC Wilcox,
 Mr PH Hobson, Mrs DC Meredith, Maj.(Ret'd) SB Fraser, Brig.JR Smales, Brig.WJ O'Leary

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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G274 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th SEPTEMBER 2011

Mr RHF Wills stated that he had been present at the meeting on 9th Sept and asked that this be recorded.

G227b: Discussion paper on NRA producing ammunition - *John Bloomfield reported that Mik Maksimovic had been assisting him with this proposal and a number of possibilities has been identified which are being investigated. A more specific report would be made to Council when completed. Action continues.*

G262: Acting Secretary General to write to Bisley and Altcar clubs asking for evidence of benefits to clubs holding Open Days - *Derrick Mabbott advised that he had not yet had this conversation with David Young. Action continues.*

G265a: RP to investigate the production of one caravan bill per annum – *RP confirmed that this had been completed and one invoice covering the year would be sent out shortly.*

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of 9th September 2011 were received and agreed.

G275 RESTRUCTURING (G273)

A detailed presentation was made to the meeting by Derrick Mabbott, Acting Chief Executive, a copy of which is attached.

A member asked if the Council had obtained Charity Commission permission to employ a trustee as Acting Group Chief Executive; the answer was yes. Another member asked the Acting Group Chief Executive if he was going to apply for the Group Chief Executive post; the answer was no. A further question concerned the restructuring and whether the Council had obtained legal and financial advice that the changed role of the NSC was compatible with Charity status. It was confirmed that the Council had received legal advice that the change was within Charity Commission rules and that there was no need to approach the Charity Commission directly on the matter, and that the Association's auditors had given their blessing to the restructuring although they were working out some of their minutiae of the accounting arrangements with the NRA's accounts team.

G276 FINANCE (G262)

Concern was expressed over the continuing delay in the availability of Management Accounts. The Chairman advised the meeting that the Management Accounts for the end of 2011 were now close to completion and also a substantial amount of work was being carried out in relation to the debtors list.

A question was raised regarding the investment of the Overseas Teams Fund and it was confirmed that Debbie Meredith was chairing a meeting on this on the 2nd March.

It was suggested that the finance section of the agenda should in future be entitled "Financial Report". The Chairman advised that a copy of the Management Accounts would be attached to the Minutes of the Council in future as had been done in the past.

The Chairman replying to a further question stated that he was not yet in a position to give any forecast as to the outcome of the 2011 year end accounts.

G277 GB RIFLE TEAM to the WEST INDIES 2013

Charles Murton outlined the decision making process behind the Council's rationale on the above team captaincy. It had been felt that the addition of the Australia Match to the tour itinerary had warranted a

review of the Captain appointment.

This had been based on the best information available at the time. At a later meeting following responses from a number of previous GB Captains as well as General Council members, more detail had been made available and the original decision was changed, confirming Nigel Penn as Captain for the tour including the Australia Match.

Concern was expressed in the way this matter had been dealt with by the Council with particular questions regarding the procedures for selecting Captains of Great Britain Teams. It was noted by members of General Council that the minutes of the Council meeting recorded Council had made a decision to offer the Captaincy for the Australia Match to another individual and suggested that this was a variation of the adopted procedures for such appointments. Further questions were asked regarding the process for selecting and appointing a GB Captain and General Council were informed that since Captains were representing the National Rifle Association, the responsibility and therefore the final appointment must remain with the Trustees.

A number of members expressed their views on one of the statements regarding the Council decision that had been posted on the website. This had been prepared by Council and then verbally agreed by Nigel Penn over the phone although due to the timing, had not been given to him in writing for a more considered review. It was felt that the original statement from the Council had caused offence to some members and it was proposed that this statement now be removed from the NRA website. The proposal to delete this post from the website was voted on and carried without dissent. The statement was immediately removed from the website and the Chairman confirmed that the Council fully supported Nigel Penn in his position.

G278 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE (G265)

The Minutes of the meeting of 24th September 2011 were received and adopted.
No questions were raised.

The new Chairman of the Membership Committee, Steve Wallis wished to record his thanks to the outgoing Chairman James Watson.

Steve Wallis advised that a further meeting of the Membership Committee was scheduled to follow this meeting. Future discussions would include plans for increasing the membership figures and initiatives to increase membership revenue in the future.

G279 SHOOTING COMMITTEE (G266)

The Minutes of the meeting of 8th September 2011 were received and adopted.

The Vice-Chairman of the Shooting Committee briefed the meeting on the content of the Shooting Committee meeting of 26th January 2012, from the notes taken at the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting will be circulated in due course.

The Chairman of the Shooting Committee advised that the existing three electronic targets were to be operational at the beginning of March. This date was dependent on delivery of spare parts etc.

A letter had been received regarding a rumour concerning the cancellation of the Vizianagram competition this July. The Chairman confirmed that this competition will definitely take place although a review of all Imperial Meeting costs was to be undertaken by John Bloomfield in conjunction with Brian Thomas.

G280 THE COUNCIL (G268)

The Minutes of the meetings held on 18th August, 7th September, 13th October, 16th December 2011 were received together with written resolution numbers T1092 dated 5th September, T1100 and T1101 dated 3rd

October, T1117 dated 4th October, T1118 dated 30th November, T1132 dated 4th January 2012, T1133 dated 23rd December 2011, T1134 dated 25th January and T1136 dated 30th January 2012.

It was noted that the special Council meeting held on 27th January was specifically for budgets and pricings. The agreed new prices have now been published and are effective. The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 9th February were still in draft form.

Matters arising from the above Minutes were as follows:

Minutes of 7th September 2011

T1097 - RUAG ammunition - the Chairman confirmed that the price of RUAG for 2012 would be 98p per round. The agreed price for the Imperial Meeting 2012 was to be 90p per round.

T1083 - Disciplinary appeal process – the Acting Chief Executive confirmed that the appeal process was still ongoing on two cases of alleged cheating from the Imperial Meeting and the findings would be published in the Journal and on the website once this process had been completed.

Minutes of 13th October 2011

T1071 – Changes to Cheylesmore range layouts – the Acting Chief Executive advised that approval had been given by Surrey Police and this now sat with the Home Office for final authorisation for use by pistols.

T1092 - Journal – a question was raised regarding the transfer of information to Blaze Publishing. The Acting Chief Executive confirmed that the details of all Discipline and Regional Representatives had been passed across and the new Journal would be enhanced and improved over time.

Minutes of 16th December 2011

T1121 – A question was raised regarding the circulation of the OTF investment proposals.

Action G280 – Charles Murton to check with Debbie Meredith regarding the publication of these proposals.

G281 BRITISH SHOOTING

The Chairman advised that British Shooting were planning to appoint new non-executive Directors with the necessary skills to help with fund raising etc. As previously advised there was a total of £90K from British Shooting as funds available for fullbore shooting. The NRA would present a revised proposal to British Shooting this week.

If successful in obtaining these funds they would be used for coaching, training RCOs especially outside of Bisley, and also for equipment for disabled shooters. The funds would require to be spent before 31 March 2013.

British Shooting are now commencing discussions for funds from 2013 through to 2017, the indications from Government are that these funds will be aimed at 16 – 25 year olds. The idea is to promote talent development i.e. taking new shooters to the sport through from initial training to Commonwealth/Olympic Games standard. Also it was proposed to concentrate on Gallery Rifle shooting in view of the cost of Target Rifle. Investigations will also be made as to whether some of the privately owned Gallery ranges [ie 300-1000 yards] require help in running their clubs and attracting commercial income to ensure their survival.

Proposals will also be submitted by the NSRA and the CPSA at the British Shooting meeting on Tuesday 21st February. British Shooting proposals have to go to Government by the end of this month.

BSSC Initiatives

The Chairman advised that he had been involved with meetings with the Police in relation to the technical

side to improve the process. The Police are looking at the top ten ideas for speeding up the process, particularly IT. It is hoped this will ease some of the problems that people experience.

A question was asked as to the benefits of British Shooting to the NRA. The Chairman explained it was our contact with Sport England and UK Sport. These two organisations are likely to merge after the Olympics and the Government are looking for one voice for shooting.

G282 CO-OPTIONS AND ELECTIONS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES (G270)

The following were appointed, co-opted or elected.

Lt Col T Lehmann was co-opted to the General Council as a Lay Member of the Disciplinary Body

24 Yes votes
1 No vote

Mr M J Wood was co-opted to the General Council as a Lay Member of the Disciplinary Body

26 Yes votes
0
No votes

The Membership Committee

Mr S Wallis was elected to the Membership Committee for a period of 3 years

26 Yes votes
1 No vote

It was proposed that whilst the CV attached to voting papers is helpful, a summary of why the candidate would like that particular post and relevant aspects of their experience to support this, would be more appropriate.

G283 ELECTION TO GENERAL COUNCIL

It was reported that there are currently two vacancies for members of General Council and the Chairman asked that existing members encourage candidates to stand for these.

The meeting closed at 5pm

Chairman

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Friday 15 th June 2012	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion
Followed by the AGM	5.30pm	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 7 th September	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion