

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

FINAL

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the Pavilion Bisley
on Friday 4th September 2015 from 2.00pm

Present:

Chairman: Dr J Warburton (Vice Chairman)

Members: Mr HRM Bailie
Mr GV Barnard
Mrs ID Bennett
Mr JPS Bloomfield
Mr CM Brooks
Mr AM Bullen
Wg Cdr DP Calvert
Mr PR Coley
Mr HF Dunton
Mr S East
Mr DGF Evans
Maj SB Fraser
Mr JS Harris
Mr P Hobson
Mr JA Horton
Mr TLW Kidner
Mr JM Kynoch
Mr DR Lamb
Mr M Maksimovic
Mr CC Mallett
Mr MF Martell
Mr TS McDowell
Mr JF Miller
Mr K Nash
Mrs K Robertson
Mr I Shirra-Gibb
Sqn Ldr P Upham

In attendance: Mr A Mercer - Chief Executive
Mrs G Thatcher - Office Manager
Mrs A Gran - Trustee

Apologies for absence: Mr GK Alexander, Mr T Bobbet, Col WGC Bowles, Dr A Cargill Thompson, Mr M Charlton, Mr ARK Clayton, Mr DC Crispin, Maj. Gen IC Dale, Sqn Ldr A Fox, Mr NJ Francis, Dr N Fyfe, Mr GMLN Gilpin, Mr J Harper-Smith, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Mr K Hocking, Mr P Hunter, Mr A Hunter, Mr GAE Larcombe, Mr T Lehman, Mr D Lowe, Mr CN McEachran, Col. Brig. WJ O'Leary, Mr WCP Richards, Mr R Roberts, Mr J Rossiter, Mr P Ryder, Mr AJD Saunders, Mr R Sayer, Brig J Smales, Mr D Stimpson, Wing Cdr M Symonds, Mr G Trembath, Mr PDC Turner, Mr MP Watkins, Mr JGM Webster, Mr MJ Wood, Mr D Young

CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Vice Chairman of General Council welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chairman, John Webster is unable to attend due to a family emergency.

INDEX G406 to G419

G406 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received.

G407 – 2015 GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS & WELCOME

The Vice Chairman announced the results of the 2015 elections.

John Morgan-Hosey is the new CSR/PR Discipline Rep.
James Harris has been re-elected as the Target Shotgun Discipline Rep.

The Vice Chairman welcomed them both to the meeting.

G408 – MINUTES OF MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING – 12th JUNE 2015

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of 12th June 2015 were received.

KR requested that the wording to the second sentence under G402 be reworded to show that the Membership Committee will be working closely with the Young Shooters Fund to help promote young shooters.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate account of the meeting and duly approved with the requested corrections made.

G409 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 12th JUNE 2015

Harald Dunton wanted to report that he had received positive feedback from the F-Class shooters in his area following the Imperial Meeting. The improvements to the roads and ablutions blocks were well received and the Spencer Site caravans were a great asset to the camp. The members felt that the meeting was well run and the marking was fast and accurate. Thanks were given to the trainers of the markers. The F-Class competitors also felt like an integral part of the meeting. The firing point presentation after the final was well received. The only negative feedback received was the number of details shot per day. AM and JSB confirmed that the Shooting Committee are reviewing this and all other issues raised for next year.

The Vice Chairman thanked HD for feeding back the comments and asked HD to acknowledge to those that raised them that they were greatly received by the staff.

No other matters were arising.

G410 – THE COUNCIL

The Vice Chairman confirmed that the members had received the minutes of Council meetings held on 24th April and 12th June 2015.

There were no issues arising from these minutes.

The Vice Chairman of Council, David Evans, gave a verbal report of Council meeting held on 22nd August 2015.

Disciplinary Matters

DE reported one incident which related to irregularities in register cards. The incident was dealt in the first instance by the Secretary General, Chairman and DE interviewing the individual concerned. The decision from that meeting was endorsed by the Disciplinary Committee

The Trustees have asked the Chief Executive to write to Masters in Charge and Commanding Officers asking them to impress on cadets that cheating will not be tolerated.

The particular case involved exceptional circumstances and in view of those and the age of the competitor, it was decided not to publish the details of the case, following discussion and endorsement by the Trustees.

Charles Brooks raised a query regarding any steps being put in place by the Shooting Committee to consider keeping register cards on the firing point after shooting, rather than allowing competitors to withdraw behind the firing point thereby reducing the opportunity to 'doctor' cards.

DE responded that this has been discussed in Council and referred to the Shooting Committee. JB confirmed it is a current item which has not yet been resolved.

Deputy Vice President of NRA

The Chairman of Council has recommended Lord Richard Dannett to fulfil the vacancy of Deputy Vice President of the NRA which was approved by the Trustees. The Chairman will be making an approach in due course.

Vice President of Council

David Evans appointed as Vice President of Council was approved for a further year by the Trustees.

Rule 150

David Lacey and Alice Gran have conducted interviews with a number of members and received additional material from those interviews. The remaining interviews will be conducted over the coming weeks.

John Bloomfield reported that the trials being conducted by the Proof House will be concluded within the next couple of weeks and we await their report.

No further matters were raised.

G411 – AGM MINUTES

The Minutes of the AGM meeting of 12th June 2015 were received.

There were no questions raised.

G412 – BGM MINUTES

The Minutes of the AGM meeting of 15th July 2015 were received.

JB addressed the matter brought up by Chris Law regarding shot holes in targets. JB confirmed that this is being addressed in a number of ways. Peter Cottrell is examining the targets in conjunction with some markers and the Range Office. Chris Hockley has gone through the Queens Final score cards and produced a report which has gone back to him with further questions. JB will also go through the other score cards from the long range shoots to see whether this is an issue. JB will report further in due course.

The Vice Chairman reported that all the items raised by members during the BGM are currently being dealt with and reviewed by either the Chief Executive, Council or Shooting Committee.

There were no questions raised.

G413 – FINANCE

The Chief Executive presented the Treasurer's finance report to the meeting in his absence.

The figures presented to the meeting are up to date and shows the current trading position, cash balances and net current assets as of 31st July 2015.

The budgeted surplus to July 2015 was £192k with an actual of £184k. The cash balance budget was £406k in credit, the actual figure is £353k. The net current assets stand at £157k.

The financial performance is steady and currently on budget. The monthly accounts are delivered in detail to the Trustees by 21st of the following month.

The forecasting for 2016 is currently underway and will be presented to the Trustees in October.

No questions were raised.

G414 – OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The Chief Executive's report was presented to the meeting.

The main issues to raise at the meeting were:

Regional Range Survey. Nic Couldrey, Regional Ranges Manager, and James Harris met the Regional Representatives before this meeting for an update and seek their support on the survey. The survey is yielding some fascinating information with some very helpful data which will help develop a plan and strategy for the future of regional shooting. An interesting fact was 55% of all full-bore shooting appears to take place at Bisley.

Imperial Meeting report. The meeting went well overall. One of the learnings to come from the meeting is that if you drop the prices to TR shooters, less of them come! The budgeted performance was a surplus of £25k with the actual of £11k realised. The choreography of successive waves of shooters taking part in a considerable variety of shooting competitions over four weeks works remarkable well.

A staff organogram has been published following the recent recruitment of Rick Wells as the Range Services Manager, who is settling in well.

Harald Dunton asked whether the point made regarding club bookings, having two clubs sharing a range means that something needs to be done about EEF5665 paragraph 4 needs to be amended as it shows that any member who is not a member of the club who books the range shall fire any weapon on the premises

without the permission of the Range Commandant.

HD believes that the Charlie Orpenson incident where it was mentioned that members of another club were present has been noted by someone in authority and the conduct of the RCO was being investigated.

The Chief Executive believes that the reports are written for general consumption and there are elements which must be treated carefully.

The early indications by Nic Couldrey who has met with DIO and Landmarc is that the NRA need to help them make civilian bookings more efficient and less administrative for Landmarc and DIO.

Karen Robertson mentioned that during a Palma year there can be dips in the number of members who attend the Imperial Meeting and believes that the numbers will rise again next year.

DE mentioned that all the competitors who attended in 2014 but not 2015 would be written to to discover why they did not attend in 2015.

No further questions were raised.

G415 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May had been circulated. There were no questions.

The Shooting Committee Chairman gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 3rd September 2015.

The harmonisation of eligibility rules for the major matches is almost complete. The National Match council has issued new rules for the National match and the Elcho captains have decided they are happy to go along with the National Match Council.

The Historical Match Records have been updated by Karen Robertson and will be published on the NRA website shortly and will take the records from 2011 up to the end of the Imperial Match and include the associated teams.

The Imperial Meeting issues which have been received are being dealt with.

The number of F-Class details will be reviewed with initial thoughts proposing either two short range shoots and one long range shoots in the day or two long range shoots and a short range shoot. All 2015 entrants will be written to and the majority choice will be implemented.

The F-Class shooters now receive badges for appearing in the F-Class St. George's Final and the F-Class Farquarson Final which was been well received.

There were two safety issues, both during the Imperial Meeting. One being a cartridge case fired when the bolt was open on a Barnard Match Rifle. Investigation found it could happen with any Barnard rifle and a safety notice was issued. Subsequently a message was received from the USA that it happened in the US around two years ago but they hadn't published it to anyone else within the shooting community.

The second safety issue was with a Sako 222 when the head of a cartridge failed. This is still being investigated and is initially believed to be a hand-loading issue.

Range matters were also discussed. Six electronic targets will be installed on targets 103-108 on Century Range and usable back to 300 yards. They should be available for use by 1st October 2015.

JB and AM have toured the ranges to review firing point issues. The major issues will be addressed over the coming months including the hump at the front of 600 yards will be levelled, 300 yards will be levelled, extending the firing point backwards for ETRs for use in the winter period with increased parking spaces at

the back of Butt 19.

Cheylesmore Range is almost complete with some final works being completed on the Armoury.

Ablution blocks will be installed by the Clock Tower in due course.

The Bisley Bible preparation is now underway for 2016.

The Ages Match is going to be held every other year. The match is now teams of 10 shooters and associated coaches with 15 rounds to count at 300, 600, 900 and 1000 yards being shot on ICFRA targets with any ammunition.

BDMP and other teams can shoot alongside the InterCounties if they wish to, providing space available.

The Committee agreed that Intercounties short range matches will be shot on NRA targets.

GB Team standard size will be 20, as agreed by the Trustees at their August meeting. It is unlikely that any increase on 20 team members will be agreed except in exceptional circumstances.

John Kynoch asked JB to clarify that investigation of the Sako 222 incident is still ongoing and whether the gun was being disposed of and removed from the shooters' certificate.

JB confirmed that to be correct.

Karen Robertson asked whether ICFRA should request reports of all incidents with rifles and ensure they are circulated to everyone to create awareness. JB and Charles Brooks will discuss.

JB reported that Phil Harrison stands down as Secretary General of ICFRA following a successful six years in the post. Charles Brooks had been elected as the new Secretary General.

Thanks were given to Phil Harrison for his contribution and congratulations were extended to Charles Brooks.

Harald Dunton asked when the decision for the revision of the TR target would be made. JB confirmed that a year's notice is required of any change so expects the decision to be made in 2016 with changes implemented in 2017.

No further questions were raised.

G416 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

MM reported that the Membership Committee met during the Imperial Meeting.

Membership is increasing with over 7,800 individual members and 75 new members every month. There are currently 140 active probationary members.

Communication is improving with the membership with over 45,000 engagements per week on Facebook, regular E-newsletters, NRA Journal and the website.

The website is being reviewed with analytics on the current NRA website being collated to ensure a new website is developed for ease of use.

KR remarked that there is more communication for members than in previous years with people being told more which is positive.

The range usage has improved and the new Regional Ranges Manager is looking at better utilisation of ranges for members, both at Bisley and across the regions.

More work is being done to ensure that people using the ranges are either full members or capitated members with valid certification cards.

MM asked HD to discuss any issues regarding multiple club bookings with Nic Couldrey, Regional Ranges Manager.

KR believes that more than one club can book on a range.

No questions were raised.

G417 – ELECTION OF MEMBERS

It was recorded that the following Members have been elected to the General Council and Council.

Muzzle Loading Representative on General Council

Alexander (Paul) Wolpe	31 Yes votes
	0 No votes

Elected Member of Council

Richard Bailie	30 Yes votes
	2 No votes

Congratulations were extended to both elected members.

The Vice Chairman announced that Peter Hobson is retiring from both Council and General Council, this being his last attendance at General Council. The Vice Chairman thanked PH for his enormous hard work over the last number of years which has been extremely helpful.

PH thanked the General Council members for their support over the years and believes the Association, which has gone through tough times over the previous number of years, now has a good management team behind it, with a strong financial position to move forward positively. PH wished the organisation well for the future.

The members applauded Peter Hobson.

G418 – APPROVAL OF DATES FOR 2016

The following dates were approved for General Council meetings in 2016.

Saturday 20 th February 2016	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 17 ^h June 2016 **	3.00pm	Bisley Pavilion
Followed by AGM	6.00pm	Bisley Pavilion
Friday 2 nd September 2016	2.00pm	Bisley Pavilion

** The date is to be checked against the date of the Intercounties Match.

G419 – OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Karen Robertson asked whether there was an update with regards to amendments to the Second Schedule.

JB confirmed that the process is underway and requested any requests for amendments to be sent to him for consideration. The amendments would be put to Council for review in October and confirmed at the December Council meeting.

Steve McDowell offered his assistance to the Marketing & Communications department in contacting the newspapers to publish competition results. AM thanked SMcD.

KR asked AM whether British Shooting could be contacted with regards to asking them to publish competition results as despite KR sending them the results of the Palma Match and Under 25, nothing was published, despite it being the highlight of TR international competitions.

AM responded that British Shooting did publish the results after being asked. More work needs to be done to make TR more interesting both in terms of content and photographs for all publications and social media.

KR is disappointed in the lack of support for the NRA and the coverage of their events and would appreciate that being raised with British Shooting.

Richard Bailie requested that General Council minute congratulations to the GB Teams to the USA as their performances were phenomenal. RB also requested congratulations be minuted for the Cadets in Canada who performed exceptionally well.

The Vice Chairman wanted to note that in recent times, meetings are not as well attended as they used to be. The General Council is a very important group within the governance of the NRA and the link between members and the Trustees. There is a responsibility and expectation for members of General Council to attend the meetings.

It was agreed that the Vice Chairman would write to all General Council members requesting their attendance.

It was also agreed that the attendance of all Committees will be reinstated in the Journal.

No further questions were raised.

The meeting closed at 15.20pm



Chairman (signed 20th February 2016)

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Saturday 20th February 2016

2.00pm

Bisley Pavilion