

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

THE GENERAL COUNCIL
Minutes of the General Council Meeting
held in the NRA Pavilion, Bisley Camp
on Friday 7th June 2024 from 3.00pm

Present:**Chairman**

Mr D Lacey (DLA)

Members:

Mr GK Alexander (GA)	Elected Member
Mr HRM Bailie (RB)	Northern Ireland Rep / Chair SF of NI
Mr JPS Bloomfield (JPSB)	Elected Member / East Midlands Rep
Mr CM Brooks (CB)	Vice Chairman / Elected Member
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson (ACT)	Match Rifle Rep
Mr A Dagger (AD)	Gallery Rifle and Pistol Rep
Ms A Gran (AG)	Greater London & SE Rep / BSRC Chair
Mr MD Jenvey (MJ)	Elected Member
Mr R Kelvey (RKel)	Eastern Rep
Mr GAE Larcombe (GL)	Southern Rep
Miss SS Lohmann (SL)	Elected Member
Mr D Lowe (DL)	Elected Member
Mr FPR Northam (PN)	Elected Member
Mr CG Perry (CP)	Elected Member
Mr A Reynolds (AR)	Treasurer
Mr R Sayer (RS)	Elected Member
Mr R Stebbings (RSt)	Elected Member
Mr I Thomson (IT)	Elected Member
Dr JD Warburton (JWar)	Yorkshire & Humberside Rep

Ex-officio:

Mr D Stimpson (DS)	HBSA Chair
Mr AJD Saunders (AS)	English Target Shooting Federation Chair

In attendance:

Mr A Mercer (AM)	Secretary General
Mrs G Thatcher	Secretary to Meeting

Apologies for absence:

Mr S Aldhouse	300 Metres Rep
Mr N Brasier	Elected Member
Wg Cdr DP Calvert	Elected Member
Mr PR Coley	South Western Rep
Mr P Dommett	F Class Rep
Mr J Harris	Target Shotgun Rep
Mr RS Kenchington	West Midlands Rep
Mr N Macfarlane	Historic and Classic Arms Rep
Dr J Marsden	North Western Rep
Mr B Ritchie	Scotland Rep
Mrs K Robertson	Elected Member
Mr T Rylands	Elected Member
Mr N St Aubyn	CSR & Practical Rifle Rep
Mr G Trembath	Northern Rep
Mr S Wallis	Sporting Rifle Rep
Mr MP Watkins	Wales Rep
Mr JGM Webster	Target Rifle Rep
Mr P Wolpe	Muzzle Loading Rep

Ex-officio:

Cdr NJW Benstead	RNRMRA Chair
Mr G Burns	NSRA Chair (rep)
Mr M Cotillard	Jersey Rifle Association President
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley	Welsh Target Shooting Federation Chair
Dr J Martin	CPSA Chair
Brig. M Pountain	CCRS Chair (rep)
Mr C Steele-Benny	RAFSAA Chair (rep)
Mr AM Whiffin	MLAGB Chair (rep)

INDEX G769 to G781

The Chairman declared the meeting open.

1. G769 – APOLOGIES

- 1.1. Apologies were received as noted above.

2. G770 – STANDING REMINDERS

- 2.1. The Chairman reminded the meeting that, in line with Charity Commission guidance, the meeting should be cognisant of the distinction between the role of the NRA as the charity, and the National Shooting Centre Limited (NSC) as the commercial subsidiary of the Association.
- 2.2. The Chairman requested that all members declare any conflict of interest at the start of the meeting, based on the agenda items. No declarations were made at this time.
- 2.3. The Chairman requested that members declare any conflicts of interest that may arise during the meeting.

3. G771 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 3.1. The Chairman confirmed the minutes of the meeting of 24th February 2024 had been approved.
- 3.2. The Chairman asked if anyone had any matters arising from the minutes of the February meeting.
- 3.3. The Chairman reported that at the last meeting he had said that no-one had responded on the paper from Tim Webster on better access on Camp for pedestrians and cyclists. This was a mistake as David Calvert had sent in comments on the paper. The Chairman apologised for this error.
- 3.4. There were no further matters arising.

4. G772 – REVIEW OF ACTIONS

- 4.1. The Meeting noted the AGM will be livestreamed to trial an online system before Council considers whether to purchase a Video Conferencing System for future meetings and events.
- 4.2. The Meeting noted that Member Questions had been separated into separate categories for NRA and NSC matters to reflect the separation between the two organisations. NSC questions were considered at the meeting because of the important financial and reputational interest the charity had in the operation of its subsidiary.
- 4.3. The Meeting noted discussions are ongoing with the Army Rifle Association regarding inviting a representative to future GC meetings. The Secretary General reported that he had spoken to the Chairman of ARA three weeks ago, who will be looking at co-ordinating a representative to put forward for General Council. SL expressed her disappointment that the ARA had only been approached in the past three weeks, and not after the February meeting, which may have allowed attendance at this meeting. The Meeting noted that there are representatives on GC for the Royal Navy (Neil Benstead) and RAFSAA (Conrad Steele-Benny).
- 4.4. RSt asked for an update on the request for GC members to inform GT if they are willing to share the email address with other GC members and whether that meant sharing just with GC member or the wider membership. The Chairman confirmed the email address would only be shared with GC members. GT confirmed that she had confirmation from around six members of GC. GT confirmed only Regional Reps and Discipline Reps have NRA email addresses. JPSB added that all correspondence should be answered officially by the Secretary General on behalf of the Association. GT can circulate any relevant documentation to the GC members, as is the current practice. GT to ask the IT Manager if a Group General Council email address can be set up so members can communicate to each other and also respond with NRA email address. GT to update the GC declaration form to include the use of email addresses for internal communication. **Item ONGOING.**
- 4.5. SL asked for an update on the Estates Working Group (EWG). The Secretary General confirmed nominations had been sought for members of the group on two occasions. This had produced only one, invalid, nomination. Further discussion will be held under the EWG agenda item later in the meeting. **Item ONGOING.**
- 4.6. PN asked for an update on Site 103. The Secretary General informed the meeting that architects have provided designs for the building, and there are currently two prospective shooting-related tenants in discussion with the NRA. Various options are being considered for the use of the building. The Chairman confirmed that anyone who may be interested in the building should register their interests. PN asked whether the NRA would consider a consortium of NRA members, as a Limited Company, as potential tenants. The Chairman welcomed any financially viable proposal that would benefit the charity. MJ asked whether consideration is being given to a Museum/Visitor Centre to provide access to all the silverware and history of the NRA, which would attract

government grants to help set up. The Chairman responded that this was a possible option for site 103 but having a commercial tenant paying rent would provide a valuable financial contribution to support the charitable work of the Association.

- 4.7. GL remarked that Simon Shouler had put forward a number of offers but had not received any response from the Secretary General. The Secretary General will check his emails and respond.
- 4.8. RSt asked for an update on the vacancies for committees, noting that the Membership Committee had two GC members willing to sit on the Committee, and asked what the next steps would be to have them formally nominated/elected. The Secretary General confirmed that nominations would be sought after the GC elections had taken place to allow new GC members to be considered for the various committee vacancies.
- 4.9. No further questions were raised.

5. G773 – BUSINESS PLANNING & OPERATIONAL UPDATE

- 5.1. The Secretary General and Chief Executive reports were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any questions.
- 5.2. AD asked for an update on Exhibition Hut. The Secretary General confirmed that the exterior of the building will be painted, including the roof, with a view to offering the building out to tender to interested parties later in the year.
- 5.3. ACT remarked that the number of new members not already on the NRA database is good to see, and asked that the number of affiliated club members converting to full NRA membership would be a good figure to be included in the report. ACT would also like to see the number of new Gift Aid subscriptions, following the recent article in the Spring Journal. The Secretary General confirmed that could be included in the year-end membership figures, adding there had been a good response to the recent Gift Aid promotion.
- 5.4. MJ asked for an update on the amount of CAPEX that has been spent on Exhibition Hut to date. The Secretary General does not have those figures to hand. MJ believes it would be useful to know the amount spent to date, and future expenditure.
- 5.5. IR asked for an update on progress of the Strategic Framework 2022-2027 document, The Secretary General confirmed the Trustees will be reviewing the document at their meeting in August, and a report will be produced for General Council's September meeting.
- 5.6. Rst asked that the new Elsan point on Sit Pet field be a ground level facility as caravan owners are struggling to use the above ground units on other parts of the camp. PN added the NRA must ensure that all Elsan units are discharging into the sewerage drainage, not mains drainage. The Secretary General confirmed he would take that into account and ensure that drainage complied with water regulations.
- 5.7. RSt remarked that the CivSR League figures reported in the Annual Financial Report appears to be the cumulative total of participants on all weekends of the CSR League (831), which would mean some people are counted more than once. Whereas the published results for the CSR League shows that the actual number of participants was 216. The Chairman thanked RSt for pointing that out.
- 5.8. ACT is pleased plans are being considered to install EV charging points on camp and asked when this is due to commence. The Secretary General responded that no date has been set yet, but added the CNC have an interest in the points being installed and a location near the Lord Roberts Centre is being considered.
- 5.9. PN commended the NRA for installing drop down seats in the ablution blocks on Camp, and asked that grab handles be added in at least one toilet stall within the ablutions for ease of use.
- 5.10. PN asked whether the Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera at the new security barrier at the front gate will be linked to the police. The Secretary General confirmed the barrier will have ANPR recognition installed but it will not be linked to the police, or any other government agency. Security staff will be able to open the gate remotely via an app on the security phone. Signage will be installed to inform visitors to the camp. PN remarked that the security had improved considerably on Camp in recent months and expressed his thanks.
- 5.11. AD asked for clarification on where Hut C21 was situated. The Chairman confirmed it was the white building adjacent to C Lines, and that will be refurbished and put out to tender in the coming months.
- 5.12. MJ remarked that the recently widened 300-yard firing point on Butts 18-19 needs more protection to allow the grass to grow before the Imperial Meeting. PN remarked that one of the F-Class shooters manages a PGA golf course and PN would be happy to put him in contact with the Secretary General to offer any advice on types of grass which may be suitable. The Secretary General thanked PN for his offer.
- 5.13. SL asked which filming contract is due to be at Bisley in July, and whether that will affect the Imperial Meeting. The Chief Executive cannot recall the location of the filming, but confirmed it had

been carefully organised to take place between shooting events and will not affect the Imperial Meeting.

- 5.14. MJ asked for an overall figure of the CAPEX spent on the Pavilion refurbishment over the last 10 years. The Secretary General does not have that information to hand, but will be able to provide a figure at a future meeting.
- 5.15. MJ asked for an update on the NSC website and the associated issues. The Chief Executive confirmed a new NSC website has been launched following a recent malware attack. The most likely source of the problem was that the contractor had failed to maintain the licensing of plug-ins used on the website. The Chief Executive confirmed there had been no data breach. The NRA and NSC will review the security of all their websites. MJ remarked that he had written to the IT Manager on 10th April informing him of the malware attack and hadn't received a response. The Secretary General confirmed the IT Manager had informed the website contractors and they could not replicate the problem.
- 5.16. MJ asked the Secretary General to confirm who the NRA's Data Protection Officer (DPO) as he has written on a number of occasions, and has not received a response. The Secretary General stated that the NRA does not name the DPO¹, but will address the outstanding questions. MJ remarked that the DPO should be an independent person, according to ICO guidelines.
- 5.17. SL asked for an update on the new range booking system. The Secretary General confirmed an initial launch of the new system for testing will be done in the Autumn.
- 5.18. ACT reminded the meeting of his comment at the previous meeting regarding the Cyber Security Centre Cyber essentials scheme, which is aimed at organisations to help them get key aspects of cyber security right and strongly encourages the NRA to review the advice provided.
- 5.19. RSt asked the NRA to consider providing multi-factor authentication options on the various websites to help increase security.
- 5.20. PN remarked that the improvements to the 300-yard firing points with the new artificial grass is very good and asked whether the 600 and 1000-yard firing points will also be given the same consideration. The Chief Executive stated he is awaiting feedback from the members on the new astroturf which will be part of future planning for firing point improvements. JPSB remarked that firing point improvements are now a standing item on the Real Estate Committee agenda, with a programme of improvements being considered for long range firing points with the F-Class Long Range and TR World Championships taking place at Bisley.
- 5.21. No further questions were raised.

7. G774 – FINANCE

- 7.1. The Treasurer's report to 31st March 2024 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any questions.
- 7.2. MJ asked for clarification of what the second valuation for Wharncliffe Site works related to. The Treasurer reported that payments are made to the contractor based on the valuation of the completed works by the architects. Payment by instalment, with payments linked to valuations of works completed is a common practice used in construction.
- 7.3. The Treasurer added that subscriptions come into the NRA at the end of the year, which reflects positively on the NRA's cash position at that time, but the subscriptions are fed into the business throughout the following year, so members should be aware that the NRA is very much a 'hand to mouth' association in terms of liquidity, and does not hold significant cash reserves. CAPEX and maintenance costs are managed carefully throughout the year when funds allow. High levels of ammunition stocks have adversely impacted liquidity, but are necessary in light of the uncertainty surrounding supplies of ammunition.
- 7.4. No further questions were raised.

8. G775 – COUNCIL

- 8.1. The Chairman noted that the report from Council had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 8.2. The Chairman reported that a Guide to Procedures, Meetings, Selections and Appointments had been drafted and the Trustees agreed the document should be shared with General Council members for their input. GT will circulate the document to GC members in the coming week.
- 8.3. DL asked for clarification on point 11.1.3. of the 19th April Council minutes regarding the Veterans Team to Australia 2026 and the statement that the team is self-funded and does not require any support from the OTF. DL stated the Veterans Team has not yet been decided and therefore it is not known whether they will require assistance from the OTF. CB remarked that the 2024 Veterans team had received a

¹ Post-meeting Note: See ICO guidance here confirming there is no obligation to publish the name of the DPO: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/uk-gdpr-guidance-and-resources/accountability-and-governance/guide-to-accountability-and-governance/accountability-and-governance/data-protection-officers/#ib14>

grant from the OTF. CB declared an interest as Captain of the 2024 GB Vets team. The Chairman asked the Shooting Committee to review the point to ensure this team is treated consistently with other teams and to report any required correction for minuting by Council.

- 8.4. MJ asked what the emerging issues had been in the Audit Findings Report and why they had not been brought to the NRA's attention. The Treasurer had expressed his disappointment that the auditors had not discussed the emerging issues as part of the close-out meeting when he would have expected them to be brought to the NRA's attention, and instead had only included them in the final report. The Treasurer confirmed there was nothing material in the emerging issues.
- 8.5. No further questions were raised.

9. **G776 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE**

- 9.1. The Chairman noted that the Chairman of Shooting Committee was not in attendance. ACT, as Vice Chairman of Shooting Committee offered to answer any questions for Shooting Committee.
- 9.2. MJ understands the minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2024 had been finalised and asked that they be circulated as soon as possible for information. ACT confirmed they were still in draft format and had not been finalised for circulation. ACT confirmed that meeting had focused on finalising the requirements for the 2024 Imperial Meeting.
- 9.3. No further questions were raised.

10. **G777 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

- 10.1. The Chairman of the Membership Committee had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked for any questions on the Report.
- 10.2. PN asked whether the minutes of the April Membership Committee meeting had been circulated. The MC Chairman confirmed the minutes had not yet been drafted. SL remarked that the MC members had asked that minutes be circulated within two weeks of the meeting, and approved within four weeks. The Secretary General confirmed that the minutes were still being drafted by his part-time assistant. The NRA Chairman noted that the Investment Committee (of which he is a member) prepares its own minutes. This speeds the process and he invited the Membership Committee to consider doing this. SL offered to review and draft the minutes of Membership Committee meetings if the recordings can be converted into text. The Secretary General thanked SL for her kind offer and agreed to send the converted text files of future meetings to her for preparation of the minutes.
- 10.3. PN asked whether the Youth Shooting Paper, drafted by the Membership Committee, has been reviewed by the professional staff and if not could this be requested. The MC Chairman confirmed the paper had been discussed at the Council meeting and the professional staff will be asked to revisit the document.
- 10.4. RKel remarked that the NRA is very 'Bisley-centric' and asked whether the Membership Committee could consider what the membership offering is for regional shooters as he believes a large number of regional shooters would join the NRA if there was a good offering for them, such as insurance, legal support etc, and how they can be part of the NRA and help give their input to supporting the NRA on fighting the ban in lead ammunition for example. RKel also believes it would benefit the NRA to have support for shooting with higher membership numbers. SL remarked that there should be more Open Days both at Bisley and in the regions to promote NRA membership. CP remarked that Open Days had been run around 10 years ago in Altcar to promote the local clubs' membership, but it would be more beneficial to promote the NRA, as the NGB. CP added the regional Open Days were very hard work and very time and resource heavy for very little benefit to the NRA, and maybe offering Open Days in different regions each year may be more beneficial.
- 10.5. MJ remarked that the NRA can get some oversight to the membership and who comes to Bisley, what disciplines they shoot, but they do not know across the whole membership, who does what and where, so you should ask the membership so as to be better able to support the regional shooters. The Secretary General remarked that the open forum held in Solihull in March had been very enlightening with clubs from Aberdeen all the way down to Cornwall. The lively subjects were lead in ammunition, access to MoD ranges and training: topics which are rarely mentioned in General Council meetings. A recent meeting of Regional Reps has resulted in the development of a strategy for regional shooters to engage more with the regions
- 10.6. RS asked what the members for example in Scotland get for their membership, do they have access to ranges in Scotland? The Chairman remarked that is a valid point and it is a challenge to reflect the membership offering for regional members who do not use the facilities at Bisley. The membership offering includes insurance, but that can be purchased elsewhere, the right to vote at an AGM, an SCC to shoot on MoD or Bisley ranges, a quarterly magazine.
- 10.7. AD asked whether the NRA had considered a regional membership, charging less for those members who live in the regions. ACT remarked that the NRA used to offer a regional membership about 15 years ago, but when the Association had to separate the two functions of the business into the NRA and NSC, the regional membership was dropped because the range hire fees were paid by the members to

the NSC. ACT added that communication is the key to successfully promoting the NRA membership and this needs to be revisited, especially the point of supporting the charity and its charitable objectives. The Chairman added that the membership fee is a donation to the charity. Under HMRC rules the charity may only provide benefits in value of up to 25% of the membership fee².

- 10.8. ACT remarked that he had received an email from the Charity Commission yesterday which sets out what charities can and cannot do with regards to the upcoming elections. The NRA cannot back a particular political party, but it could comment on party policies and promote relevant shooting information to potential candidates.
- 10.9. PN remarked that a reduced insurance offering be provided for regional members, but include the legal assistance and an SCC.
- 10.10. AD asked why the overseas members pay a reduced fee if the NRA is unable to offer the same to regional members. The Chairman agreed that was a good point and it would be looked into.
- 10.11. RSt remarked that the NRA should ask the regional shooters what they would want to consider NRA membership and build an offering on their responses. RSt added the NRA membership could offer the same for all members and then charge a range pass fee to all members who shoot at Bisley, like the affiliated clubs do.
- 10.12. AG, as MC Chairman informed the meeting that all of these items have been discussed by the Committee in the past.
- 10.13. MJ remarked that membership subscriptions amount to just over 7% of the total NRA income in 2023 to put it in context.
- 10.14. AG remarked that the value of NRA membership is supporting the National Governing Body of fullbore shooting, whose charitable objectives are marksmanship and Defence of the Realm. AG added that the regional reps could help promote the NRA in the regions, noting that only five regional reps had attended the recent meeting arranged by Nic Couldrey. JWar stated he did not receive the initial invitation from Nic Couldrey. GT was asked to check the regional ranges mailing group to ensure it includes all the regional reps.
- 10.15. No further questions were raised.

11. **G778 - ESTATES WORKING GROUP (EWG)**

- 11.1. The Chairman noted that the EWG had not submitted a Report for the meeting.
- 11.2. MJ stated that in order to move the EWG on, would the meeting consider electing members today to allow the group to function, noting the Terms of Reference are too restrictive and need amending. The Chairman noted that elections need to be conducted in accordance with established procedures and asked the Secretary General to circulate paperwork to GC members calling for nominations for the EWG, along with other vacancies for various committees.
- 11.3. The Chairman asked who the current members of the EWG were. IT confirmed he was a member, along with NB, and two non-GC members who have professional experience.
- 11.4. RSt remarked that the current Terms of Reference of the EWG were no longer suitable. The Chairman noted that it was open to the EWG (or any member of General Council) to put forward new Terms of Reference as an Agenda item with a request that General Council approve them.
- 11.5. No further questions were raised.

12. **G779 – ELECTION TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

- 12.1. The Chairman expressed General Council's thanks and appreciation to the following GC members who will be stepping down from the end of this meeting. The meeting expressed its approbation with applause.

Charles Brooks who has served 27 years on General Council. He will be remaining on the Disciplinary Body. His role as Vice Chair of General Council will also come to an end, so a new Vice Chair will be sought from GC members

Peter Coley who has served for 20 years as the South Western Regional Representative. His replacement will be advertised as a casual vacancy.

² Post-meeting clarification – the benefit limit (cap) is 25% of the donation for donations up to £100, plus 5% in respect of any amount donated above £100. See: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/charities-detailed-guidance-notes/chapter-3-gift-aid#chapter-318-benefits-received-by-donors-and-connected-persons>

- 12.2. For information under Second Schedule Rule 7 (g) – the following members have been proposed and seconded for the vacancies. Elections will be held for both sets of vacancies

Ordinary Members

GK Alexander
FPR Northam
AR Radkovskii
TG Rylands
R Sayer
Col (Retd) Sir FC Sykes Bt

General Council expressed its best wishes to Tom Rylands for a speedy and successful recovery.

Regional Members – Greater London & South East Region

AN Gran
RAH Vary

- 12.3 For information under Second Schedule Rule 7(g) the following members have been nominated for these vacancies and are unopposed.

Regional Members

RS Kenchington – West Midlands
GAE Larcombe – Southern
MP Watkins – Wales

Shooting Discipline Members

JS Harris – Target Shotgun
CW Rennick – Sporting Rifle
N St Aubyn – Civilian Service Rifle & Practical Rifle

12.4 **Casual Vacancies**

For information under Second Schedule Rule 7g(xi) the following casual vacancy will be advertised.

- South Western Regional Representative

13. **G780 –ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 13.1. MJ remarked that campervans have been parking in the 300yard car park on Century range, taking up space for up to 6 cars, as well as causing a danger for other cars, and ask that they be required to park separately nearer the trees.
- 13.2. RSt remarked the point he raised on Squadding Security Risk has been dealt with by the Competitions department. He informed the meeting that competitors could change their GRID number in the URL link to the squadding document which would reveal another shooter's squadding and rifles being used. RSt believes this has now been resolved.
- 13.3. DL asked whether questions on service charge apportionment, raised by Doug Stewart of the LMRA have been addressed. The Secretary General confirmed he will be addressing the matter with Doug Stewart directly next week when the new service charges are circulated to tenants.
- 13.4. GLa asked that future meetings not be held in the Ballroom as the acoustics are terrible. The Chairman agreed and asked that future meetings be held elsewhere.
- 13.5. PN asked whether GC meeting documents could be projected on a screen for ease of following the meeting rather than using a PC or paper.

14. **C781 –MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS**

- 14.1. The Chairman noted that a list of questions received from the general membership had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman thanked the GC members for collating the questions and informed the meeting that future requests will provide a longer timeline of 2 weeks for the professional staff to prepare answers prior to the meeting.
- 14.2. The Chairman confirmed that GC members should respond to any questions they have received from the membership after the meeting with the relevant answers provided by the professional staff and any

further input from the GC members. Any further request for information should be directed to the professional staff through the Secretary General³.

- 14.3. The Chairman noted there was ten minutes to discuss the questions due to the upcoming AGM, and asked if there were any specific questions from the floor.
- 14.4. **Licensed Section 1 Firearms** – GA asked whether the answer to the question posed by Nicolas Clifford regarding the reinstatement of Licensed Section 1 Firearms could be expanded on, as it was very short. The Secretary General confirmed that the NRA works with a number of shooting associations through their membership of the British Shooting Sports Council (BSSC) to help put forward suggestions to the Home Office on legislative changes to help minimise the impact for all UK shooters, including this topic. GLa asked that a fuller explanation be given to Mr Clifford in explanation. The Chairman confirmed he will respond to GLa with more details for Mr Clifford.
- 14.5. **GC Voting Rights** – JPSB informed the meeting that although he has two votes in his capacity as an Ordinary Member and Regional Representative on General Council, he has only ever exercised one vote.⁴
- 14.6. **.223 inclusion in TR Imperial** – SL noted that .223 ammunition in the TR Imperial has been referred to the Shooting Committee for consideration and informed the meeting that the Canadian shooters are also very keen that it be included and asked that be included with Shooting Committee.
- 14.7. **Site 1 Facilities** – RSt remarked that the dishwasher on Site 1 had been removed 3 years ago, and in that time the residents have been forced to wash their eating utensils in the Site 1 toilets, a place where there is human faeces, which is unsanitary and a health risk. Furthermore, the dishwasher facilities across camp are inadequate, not just on Site 1, and asked that dishwasher facilities be reinstated or installed on Markers Field, Site 1 and the Marines site to avoid members using the shower facilities to wash their crockery and cutlery which could become a health hazard. RSt asked what the risk to the NRA would be if there was an illness among the butt markers during our main meeting caused by lack of adequate dishwashing facilities.
- 14.8. **300M range** – PN asked for an update on the consideration of a 300m baffle range. The Chairman reported that there was a written question on this subject at the AGM later today.
- 14.9. **Caravans and NRA Membership Checks** – MJ asked for clarification on the questions raised by Gareth Corfield particularly the definition of 'target shooting' under the use of property on camp in the Real Estate policy and asked that definition be expanded to include the number of times someone is expected to shoot at Bisley, as if they only come to Bisley once a year to shoot they could still stay in their caravan all year round. MJ then asked why the NRA has not taken any legal advice on the action that will be taken by the NRA if a member fails to meet the requirement, and asked that be done. The Chairman noted both points.

No further questions were raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 17.32pm



D Lacey
Chairman

Date of next meeting: Saturday 7th September 2024 from 2.00pm via ZOOM

³ A copy of the Membership Questions and responses provided by the professional staff is appended to these minutes.

⁴ *Post-Meeting Correction – the Chairman notified Silke Lohmann on 11 June that two other members of General Council have two votes: Alice Gran and Richard Baillie. Each of them has one vote as an elected members and one as an ex officio member.*

National Shooting Centre Limited

The NSC is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the NRA that carries out a range of commercial activities including operating rifle and clay shooting ranges. The NSC operates independently of the NRA in accordance with Charity Commission guidance. The NRA has an interest in the effective operation of the NSC for commercial and reputational reasons. Questions from Members that relate to the commercial activities of the NSC are set out below.

1. Question from Chris Gray (16786) – Range Bookings / Imperial Meeting Calibres

Please could the range booking system, specifically for electronics, be revised? I understand when large bookings are made with markers required an enquiry form is needed. However, for simply booking one electronic target the back and forth asking about timeslots and range availability is unnecessary. Would it be possible to have a simple calendar showing what's available and can be booked with no range office interaction.

After several years of investigating different options and comparing various providers, we have now commissioned the development of a comprehensive online range booking system that will show "live" target availability and enable bookings to be made on-line and confirmed automatically. The work on the new system started in February 2024 and we are expecting to see a phased rollout of the new system commence in the autumn of this year.

And what long term measures (change of calibre at the Imperial etc) are being considered?

Any proposals to change calibre in the Imperial meeting would be considered first by the Shooting Committee who would then make recommendations to Council concerning any changes. Council is responsible for the decision to make any changes. This issue has not been raised in recent Shooting Committee meetings. Any NRA Member who wishes to ask Shooting Committee to consider any matter relating to shooting activities or events should contact their Shooting Discipline Representative.

2. Question from Janet Howden (7549) – Site 1 Facilities

I have asked on a number of occasions about Site 1 and washing up facilities, since the old ladies block was replaced with the green ablution blocks, there are no washing up facilities, during the Imperial, people from the tent site and from vans are using the showers and ladies sinks in the toilets to wash up.

I end up filling a bucket with warm water from the shower and taking it back to my van to wash up, then have to drag out the grey water collection and hump it to a drain to get rid of it, probably not even an appropriate drain, I am not sure.

I was told three maybe four years ago, it's on the job list and will be done next year.....

We have identified a suitable location for a wash-up facility and Elsan point behind Stamford Huts. We will commission the works later this year, once we have confirmed there is access to foul drainage needed for the facility.

3. Questions from Charles Dickenson (1187) – Disabled Shooter Facilities / Electronic Targets / Constraints on Target Availability / 100m Indoor Range / Alternative 300m Range / Affordable Accommodation / Bisley Estate Plan / Bisley Caravan Site Licence / Inspection Reports

3.1 Disabled shooter facilities. Nowhere in the development plan is there any mention of improvements to support disabled and less able shooters, notably in terms of access to firing points (disabled people should be able to access ALL firing points easily, not just butt 14 at 600 yds) and suitable disabled facilities in the ablution blocks. These improvements should be included in the plan and should be top priority. As a minimum, the NRA should comply with legal obligations for facilities for disabled people and should consult with members who are disabled to determine how their needs could be addressed.

All organisations are obliged to make reasonable adjustments to prevent people with physical limitations suffering a substantial disadvantage because of those limitations. This includes providing access to their facilities for customers and visitors with limited mobility.

Bisley is a large estate with buildings and ranges constructed over many decades to the standards of the day. Those historical standards did not require the same level of accessibility that is required today and the needs of disabled shooters were often overlooked in the past as a result.

Improving accessibility is considered whenever we carry out improvement work on existing facilities or we develop new facilities: for example, the new toilet blocks installed / existing blocks refurbished at Cheylesmore, Century (600 yards), Short Siberia, Melville, adjacent Fat Tony's etc. See plan attached. This strategy will drive steady improvement across the whole Camp.

- 3.2 Electronic targets.** Andrew Mercer and the NSC Directors have seen the report submitted by the Shooting Committee's Electronic Target Working Group. [Comments redacted due to confidentiality agreement] Before any more electronic targets are purchased, a requirements document, along the lines of the NRA of Australia's document 'National Rifle Association of Australia – Essential Requirements for Electronic Targets' (attached for information), should be compiled to guide the procurement of all future electronic targets, to ensure they are suitable for the intended uses. Each discipline that is likely to use electronic targets should be invited to contribute to the requirements document by providing their minimum acceptable accuracy criteria for each potential activity (e.g. practice, competition, zeroing, load testing, etc.) as well as any specific user interface requirements, with each requirement being designated as either Essential, Highly Desirable or Desirable. Potential purchases should be assessed against the agreed requirements document to ensure they meet all the requirements or any shortfalls are documented and agreed with the potential users as acceptable.

We note these helpful comments and will bear them in mind when considering upgrades and new electronic targets suitable for the particular requirements of Bisley ranges. All electronic systems involve the need to balance cost and functionality, with the goal of providing a system that meets the needs of the majority of our range users at an affordable price.

- 3.3 Constraints on target availability for matches and competition shooting imposed by additional electronic targets.** [Comments redacted due to confidentiality agreement] converting some of the manually marked targets on Century and Stickledown into additional electronic targets will reduce the number of targets available for matches and competitions at weekends. There are already too few manually marked targets to meet the demand for matches and competitions on most weekends between April and October - this will exacerbate an already bad situation. I recognise that electronic targets are popular for casual shooting, but I have yet to see all the electronic targets fully booked on weekdays, and the ranges are generally full on weekends in the high season - adding more electronic targets would simply shift the balance towards casual shooting and away from competitive shooting (which is the essence of the NRA, especially with respect to its charitable objectives and international reputation).

The NSC has seen a steady growth in demand for targets, which is a reflection of the increasing interest in shooting activities. The NSC has to balance these competing demands and allocate fairly the available space at Bisley, which often means people not getting all the targets they would like or the dates they would prefer. Electronic targets provide a valuable opportunity for competitors to practice between matches and the one-hour booking slots have proved to be very popular. The annual range booking conference provides the opportunity for clubs and competition organisers to discuss prioritisation of range use for the coming year.

- 3.4 100m indoor range.** I question the value of an indoor 100m range, especially for its stated purposes of zeroing and load development.
- a. Initial zeroing should never be done on an electronic target - for many shooters there is no knowing where the first shots will go and the risk of hitting the vulnerable electronics will be much higher than with users of the current electronic targets (who already hit the electronics too often - for this reason the recommendation is that people should not be allowed to use electronic targets until they have demonstrated that they know their zeros and can be certain to hit the target away from the edges). On the current Zero Range, shots that don't hit the target simply land in the sand, where the position can be seen and corrections made. This cannot be done with an electronic target. Furthermore, to establish appropriate zeros for all distances to 1000 yds, elevations need to be raised by over 30 minutes. On the current Zero Range, this puts the impact point about 8 inches above the nominal aiming mark, and the targets are designed to accommodate this with plenty of room to spare. At 100m/yds, the impact point for the highest (long range) elevations will be over 30 inches above the aiming mark - over the top of a 4 ft target if the aiming mark is in the middle. The current Zero Range is far better suited to establishing zeros for all distances than a 100m indoor range with an electronic target. Zeroing on a 100m indoor range is really only suitable for people who only usually shoot at 100m/yds, i.e. predominantly game shooters wanting to confirm their zero and for whom a zero on the zero range is not accurate, due to the significant effects of the height of the telescopic sight above the bore line at this shorter distance. The height of the telescopic sight makes much less difference at 100m.
 - b. While some people do develop loads at 100 yds, the groups achieved at 100m/yds are small, with shots keyholing each other, and are not necessarily representative of how well the load will perform at the longer distances at which it will be shot. Load development is far better conducted at the longest distance at which it is intended to be shot.
 - c. A competent shooter should be able to zero a rifle inside 10 minutes. Load development may need an hour or so (depending on how many different loads and rounds per load are used). With both types of shooter on the range, time management is likely to be a major problem that would need to be carefully controlled.
 - d. In the winter months, I suspect an indoor 100m range would be used more by people who would usually have a half day session shooting on Short Siberia or Butt 19 at 100 or 200 yds, but fancy being warm and dry rather than out in the open. This would block up the range for those wanting to zero or develop loads (if there really are any who would want to use the range for that purpose).
 - e. With the stated purposes of an indoor 100m range being highly questionable, it is difficult to justify the cost of such a structure, unless the real requirement is to meet the needs of the CNC, who will effectively pay for the cost of building the range through the income from the CNC contract.
 - f. The proposed position of the 100m indoor range makes the building vulnerable to damage from stray shots from the 300m shed (or from 600 yds if the 300m shed is removed - see comment 5 below). A better and safer location would be on the other side of the Century butts markers' access walkway, where there was originally planned to be a 200 yds range that was never completed. This 200 yds range is still shown on the plan circulated! Making it a 200m range would increase the options for using such an indoor range and provide a more versatile and, therefore, more cost effective development.

We note these extensive observations and will take them into account as we develop the project for an indoor 100m range.

- 3.5 Need for alternative 300m range.** The current 300m range is the only one in the country but is not working, either for 300m shooters or for other range users.
- a. With only 5 half days allocated to 300m shooters, many (especially those who live in Scotland, Northern Ireland or the Isle of Man) cannot afford the cost of travelling to

Bisley for what, for most, is just 2 hours of shooting. 300m is the NRA's only ISSF discipline which, internationally, has regular World Championships and a higher profile than any of our other disciplines. Shooters need to train at least once a month to be competitive, as they are up against competitors from other countries who train at least weekly. The inability to train regularly and affordably is the reason so few people are currently shooting 300m and it is a vicious downward spiral - fewer shooters lead to fewer days allocated and that leads to fewer shooters. Having spoken to Simon Aldhouse (300m Discipline Rep), it is clear that there is a significant number of smallbore and fullbore shooters who would like to shoot 300m but who will only commit if they can do it often enough to have a chance of being competitive. The country needs a 300m range where shooters can ideally shoot at least once a fortnight and, to make the travel cost effective, for both days of a weekend.

- b. In its current location, the 300m range requires Cottesloe Heath to be closed and Century Range butts 11, 12 & 13 can only be used at 300 yds, severely limiting the use of those other targets freed up by the closure of Cottesloe Heath, which would otherwise be used by shooters wishing to fall back from 300 yds to 500 and 600 yds. Using the 300m range significantly reduces potential income and needs full occupancy to minimise the lost income.
- c. Bisley desperately needs a 300m range in a different location where it doesn't block up other users on Cottesloe Heath and Century, and that can be used regularly (at least once a fortnight, and for a full weekend at least once a month). Serious consideration should be given to designing the proposed 100m range on the BFTO Sponsors' range site as a 300m multi-purpose no danger area (baffled) range suitable for 100m, 200m and 300m shooting. That way it could replace the 300m shed, providing more regular 300m use, could allow CNC to shoot at 100m during the week and could be used by other disciplines or casual shooters at other times, easing the pressure on the oversubscribed Short Siberia and Butt 19. If the range could accommodate 22 300m targets, it could be used for international 300m competitions, including World Championships. This would bring shooters from many other countries to Bisley, where they could see for the first time, and perhaps be tempted to try, the many other disciplines that we have on offer. It would also allow the 300m shed to be demolished and the mound flattened, opening Butt 10 to 12 more targets back to 600 yds. Prove that you mean what you say in the pledge (item 5 in the covering News item) that you are 'endeavouring to support smaller disciplines such as 300M.'

The 300m range has attracted small numbers of shooters even when the days allocated were much higher. The average number of competitors in the annual 300m Championship between 2015 and 2019 was 21, while there were an average of 18 full weekend days allocated for 300m shooting. In 2022 there were 20 competitors and in 2023 there were 26 competitors; for both years 2 full / 4 half-weekend days plus 2 full / 4 half mid-week days were allocated for 300m shooting.

Assessing potential demand and forecasting revenues are important steps when considering major investments in new range facilities.

3.6 Affordable Accommodation. There are plenty of members who would love to have fully serviced accommodation at Bisley but who do not have the spare money to afford the current Site 5 caravan pitches or, more importantly, cannot justify the effective 'per night' cost for the number of nights they would use it. Waldegrave site took a year to sell all the pitches. At the last reckoning, Site 5 only had sales for 10 of the 25 sites. The rate of selling pitches will inevitably slow down as those who can afford them have already bought them. Many of those who can't afford or justify the current sites could afford, and would be perfectly satisfied with, smaller accommodation that has a lower up-front cost and a lower annual rent. Richard Stebbings' survey has shown that to be the case. With greater packing density, the total income could be just as high, but would reach further down the income ladder.

At the lower end of accommodation spectrum, there is plenty of evidence that a significant number of university shooters and other young shooters, who have very little spare income but still want to shoot, do not enter the Imperial Meeting because the cost even of pitching a tent puts the total cost of entering beyond their reach. There needs to be some form of accommodation that helps them to be able to afford to stay at Bisley for the week of the TR Imperial.

The proposal in the Development Plan should be to provide such affordable accommodation, not just to explore its feasibility. The BCH site should be considered as a site for more affordable serviced accommodation rather than top-end caravans.

The NRA provides a wide range of accommodation on Camp to meet different budgets. This includes 273 unserviced caravan pitches (available on annual licence for a fee from £1,263.60 per year), ABC Lines (available from £41.00 per night for 2 people) and JK lines (available from £26.00 per night for up to 4 people). We also encourage clubs with clubhouses on Camp to make accommodation available, and a number of them do this. Investing in accommodation for all providers is challenging as annual occupancy rates rarely exceed 30%, which are considered unsustainable by commercial operators. Providing accommodation for short periods of high demand eg at the Imperial is also financially challenging. We provide camp sites from £19 per night and Bunkabins for £98 per night to assist with this.

- 3.7 Bisley Estate Plan** From the email sent 01 Dec 2023 (contents forwarded separately to be included please as an attachment for any discussions), to the Accommodation Manager & the NRA Chairman, what points of influence were made please in the proposed estates plan to consider the key areas mentioned?

The consultation on the draft Estate Development Plan yielded 4 responses; these were carefully considered when finalising the Plan. It is not practical, given the time and staff resources required, to provide a point-by-point review of each item raised in each response or how or if it has been reflected in the new plan, but we thank everyone who responded for their input.

- 3.8 Bisley Caravan Site Licence / Inspection Reports** - There are several issues with Site 7 that need to be made widely known, not just limited to restricted distribution / discussion as per the CEO' inappropriate policy:

1. From Elcho Road, there is no direction sign to Site 7 - essential for visitors & more importantly, emergency considerations. Point 20.1 from site licence. *Sign erected*
2. The track road is in a poor condition despite recent repairs It should be tarmacked. Action point 7.8 from inspection report dated 15 Mar 2023. Condition / materials as specified as per site licence, Appendix II. *Road upgraded*
3. As per previous Guildford Council site inspections (Action point 6.0 from inspection report dated 15 Mar 2023 + other comments), the overall ground drainage is not up to acceptable standard - as this is a long-standing issue, this should attract a rent reduction / refund until fixed. Pictures / videos clips have been sent covering 2 wet weekends - little or no water outflow. The existing drains were installed several years ago & the recent spells of heavy rain should not distract from the fact that the drains do not seem to work for whatever reason. There is a very clear need for a solution to be found, such as additional French drains or perhaps modern technology - this might also be of benefit to clay soil firing points:

<https://www.terrainaeration.co.uk/>

<https://www.greenkeepingeu.com/how-injecting-seaweed-helps-soil-breathe-underground/>

<https://www.terrainaeration.co.uk/deep-drill-surface-and-root-aeration.html>

Very high levels of rainfall over the winter and spring have tested the recently-installed drainage. Investigations suggest the lateral flow of water to the drains is being impeded by areas of surface clay capping. We will consider the benefit of further works to address this once we have a better understanding of the precise causes.

4. Car parking - due to the water logging issues, there is no suitable car

- parking for van residents. Points 8.1 - 8.3 in site licence. *Three new car parking areas were recently installed.*
5. Grass cutting - down to the water logging issues, grass cutting is problematical. *Agreed*
 6. Paths - contrary to the site license, there is only one path (paving slabs) (from the rear of the site toward the front tarmac road) - I would suggest that there should be 3 equally spaced paths. Condition / materials as specified as per site licence, Appendix II. *Grass paths are provided on all un-serviced caravan sites*
 7. Lighting - similarly, contrary to the site licence, there are no lights towards Site 7 along the (very dark access road) from Elcho Road (between HAC & Hythe Lodge - this is very dangerous for pedestrians in the dark. Lighting = action point from inspection report 15 Mar 2023. Point 7.7 in site licence. The attempt to site some solar powered lights was a reasonable first effort, but these only put out a very weak light, with very local illumination only when you walk close the light & activate the PIR. Photos can be provided; in particular, the access road is pitch black. There needs to be continuous light of a suitable intensity to show the road, trip hazards & any potential personal security risks. *The trial installation of the new lights has prompted praise from Site 7 caravan owners. We are assessing the performance and durability of the new lights prior to further installations across Camp.*

Please can you advise on urgent work plans to rectify the above & any linked issues (e.g. lighting) for other sites.

4. Questions from Col John Fennell (20131) –Target Hire Costs / Discounted Membership for Serving and Retired Members of HM Forces

- 4.1 Target Hire Costs** From my organising of year round (every week throughout the entire year) ATSC veterans club shooting in the week on either Melville / Short Siberia or Century / Stix I have detected since COVID a very noticeable falloff in active regular shooters participating in my shoots through a combination of health / age / commitments yes - but far more importantly and simply the costs of shooting - particularly full bore rifle. The ammunition is now what £1.25 / round which there is little control over, however the raising of target hire charges to new highs does significantly contribute in my experience to the fall off in interest. Costs in the region £29 / hour in the week (recognising discount Tuesday on which I exclusively book makes this £21.75 / hour) are prohibitive when shared at 15 minute shoots 4 ways - £7.25 for 15 rounds down! making the cost per shot £1.25 48p = £1.73 per pull of the trigger!! I would contend that a reduction in hire charges to attract more business in the week and greatly extending the low season to much of the year might help increase both range usage and income / fixed cost recovery - for currently a rather unimaginative NRA business strategy of increasing prices simply works against long term growth in shooting and the use of Bisley year round more specifically. The marginal costs of one electronic target being used in the week - as opposed to 10 in staff and fixed costs must be marginal - and thus it makes no sense to this business analyst (which I was for my Defence Support Agency) to keep increasing range prices and seeing range usage in decline. The NSRA Lord Roberts facility sits idle because shooting 22 is massively cheaper elsewhere - do we want to see Bisley ranges go the same way as local clubs using their own or MoD ranges become ever more attractive? I'd propose increasing use - particularly year round / in the week and weekends by increasing the off season to 8 plus months, and reducing electronic range fees across the board to about £15 / hour. Stack em high and sell em cheap encourages growth!

Variable pricing of range hire has some positive impact on increasing weekday and low season use. However, target shooting (rifle and shotgun) is predominately a weekend activity; the cost of targets being one element of the total that include fuel, ammunition, refreshments and accommodation. NSC provides a 25% discount for target bookings on Tuesday as well as a lower week-day rate. The Pavilion is also offering a package of accommodation and target hire to promote mid-week shooting. Given that many people cannot shoot midweek at any price because of work, education and family commitments,

it is unlikely that further significant discounts on mid-week target hire would drive the increased use needed to offset that reduction in income. It would provide a significant benefit to those who are able to shoot mid-week but that is not a sufficient justification for discounts.

- 4.2** Given the charitable aims of the NRA regarding defence of the realm etc, would it not be an excellent evidence of this to the charity commissioners and NRA membership if serving and retired members of HM forces were given a substantial discount on NRA membership (perhaps 50%) and a similar discount on target hire charges? The net cost might be offset by pursuing the successful deed of covenant push with individuals and clubs, and bringing in significant increased membership subscriptions by a far wider membership uptake by a massive cohort of serving and retired HM forces personnel not to mention increased Bisley range usage and overall net revenue increase eating into the fixed cost of running the NRA and Bisley year round? As a full career senior Regular Army officer I have to admit I never joined the NRA till a couple of years back, beyond club affiliations, as I could see no benefit in doing so. Now well retired and living within 20 minutes of Bisley it has value - but the argument for individual membership by serving and retired forces personnel remains very thin unless the NRA takes some positive steps towards proving its case that it exists to encourage marksmanship for defence. I would contend that offering serving and retired in receipt of a forced pension and especially war disability pension would be an easy win for all concerned.

Discounting membership and target hire charges for sections of the NRA membership would reduce income and the ability to fund improvement and development projects and to pursue its charitable objects for the benefit of the public. There are many calls for discounts, concessions and special treatment for groups and categories of members, all of whom are thoroughly deserving. These discounts would need to be recovered from other people, and explaining why those people are being charged more to fund such subsidies is rarely straightforward. We have not seen a compelling case that it would be in the best interests of the charity to offer significant discounts to current and former members of the Armed Forces.

5. Questions from Neville Stebbings (10591) –Caravan Site 7 various

- 5.1 Drainage on Caravan Site 7** - Site 7 is currently waterlogged. Although there has been heavy rain recently, the site is waterlogged more-or-less every year for much of the year. Is it fair that the caravan annual license holders pay the same rental fees for site 7 as license holders on other sites when the conditions on Site 7 are far worse than the conditions on other sites? Any recent attempts by the NRA to improve the drainage on Site 7 have failed to make any improvement. We have been repeatedly told that the NRA is monitoring the situation. When will monitoring stop and improvement works start? *See responses to 3.8.3*
- 5.2 Foul Water Drainage Point on Site 7** - The recently installed foul-water drainage point on Site 7 is unusable for anything other than small Portaloo cassettes. For caravan license holders using the roll-along 'Watermaster' type foul-water containers the disposal point is unusable. When full, these containers contain over 35L of water and weigh around 40Kg. There is neither a ramp to roll the container up to the edge of the disposal point nor any platform to place the container next to the disposal point while the cap is drainage-cap unscrewed. Whoever installed this has clearly never used one! What is the NRA going to do to correct this? The disposal point should be set lower into the ground. The Camping and Caravanning club recommends a ground-level Elsan point for this.

The installed Elsan point (also known as a "Chemical Disposal Point" or "CDP") is designed for caravan sites. These points come in many different designs, both ground

level and raised, with and without ramps. We don't have any plans to rebuild the existing points.

5.3 Ablutions on Site 7 - The NRA has recently installed 'accessible showers' in the site 7 ablutions, except that, to get to them, the user still must negotiate a sizeable step to get into the ablution building, which does make them rather inaccessible. The modifications to the shower cubicle consist of nothing more than a grab rail and a folding seat. The resultant shower cubicle does not meet the current building regulations requirement for an accessible shower cubicle; it doesn't even come close to that. There is no equivalent 'accessible toilet. There are two questions arising from this:

- Is it the NRA's intention that only disabled people with stoma bags will be allowed on site? *No*
- When will the NRA address the issue and provide a proper accessible shower and accessible toilets. *The current facilities were built to the building standards of the day. We have made reasonable adjustments to improve accessibility for less mobile members and their guests including grab rails and folding seats in the showers. Any redevelopment of the facilities will take into account modern building regulations and practice.*

5.4 Site 7 Redevelopment - When will the NRA abandon the threat of redeveloping Site 7, which nobody wants, and stop using this as a justification for not doing the improvement works that are required for the existing licensees, who have paid around half-a-million pounds in license fees to the NRA over the last 10 years. *The development of serviced sites for accommodation complying with the definition of "caravan" in the Site Licence is driven by demand from the membership. We have published the proposed order in which sites could be developed (BCH followed by site 7) to inform owners of the expected timescales. Caravan licence fees contribute to the overall £1.4 million of Real Estate income that helps fund the charitable activities of the NRA.*

6. Questions from Mike Jenvey (2385) – Wharncliffe Site / Communication Issues / NRA Facebook Page / Audio-Visual Equipment for AGMs / Reporting of Issues / Results of NSC Survey / Campervans on 300 yards

6.1 Cost of Wharncliffe Unsold Pitches – Groundworks - There are (as last advised) 15 unsold pitches on the Wharncliffe development.

What please is the cost to be borne by the NRA for the proportion of the groundwork invoice against these unsold pitches. The overall expected amount for the site development (as per specified unsold pitches 09 May) is **£384.5K**, a very significant sum.

Please do not try to claim "*commercial in confidence*" - the membership have the right to full transparency to know how their money is being spent, especially as the "self-funding" mantra was espoused very frequently by the NRA.

Income from annual membership subscriptions accounted for just over 7% of total NRA income in 2023. The cost of the groundworks for Wharncliffe site will be paid by rent in advance and lease premiums paid for the 28 pitches. The contract sum for ground works completed by Callingtons is commercially confidential.

The funding of capital projects by such payments inevitably leads to periods over the 12 months from commencement when funds received at some times exceed and at other times are less than payments made to contractors. This was the case with the previous developments of Spencer and Waldegrave Sites. We expect, in line with the experience of Spencer and Waldegrave sites, that all Wharncliffe pitches will be sold by the end of this year. The alternative would be not to pursue any development project unless it was pre-sold in full before any work was done. That is not a practical approach to maintaining and improving Bisley Camp. It would also not have been possible with Wharncliffe given the uncertainty created on social media as to whether the project would go ahead.

6.2 Discrimination in Chain of Communication - Please may I ask why I am being discriminated against in my chain of communication to NRA personnel / departments? Are there other members in a similar position?

The CEO directed (17 Apr) that I should only contact him about estate matters (probably about 90% of all Bisley matters related to estate issues?) on the basis of limited resources amongst the staff. My enquiries were about Site 7 issues, originally directed to the SME, the Accommodation Manager.

This is against the Policy Statement 4 in the NRA Policy, Section 14 of the Bisley Bible, quote:

Policy Statement 4

The NRA will endeavour to ensure that all people involved in shooting may do so without discrimination from any quarter, the only restrictions on their participation being that the people concerned should act lawfully, safely and with due respect for others.

This is not the first time that this has happened to me; further significant administrative action was taken previously to revert the communication route into one of a normal standing. As a GC member especially, I do not expect to be on the end of what I perceive as controlling / coercive behaviour.

Being forced to go via the CEO for all communications is not productive; it excludes the subject matter expert (SME) or associated manager, prevents the SME / manager from picking up a composite picture of issues & negates any ability to discuss resources or give solution-based feedback. It also loads up the CEO which is not desirable at all.

In particular, I asked the CEO on 18 Apr how many pitches had been sold on the new Wharnccliffe site; he did not answer the question. I asked the same question several times in the weeks that followed; he did not answer. This was undoubtedly a known fact to him, as it would have been for the SME, the Accommodation Manager. On 09 May, the CEO deigned to reply (**one month after my first enquiry**) but only pointing me to the NRA news page, rather than simply quoting the specific number that I had requested. At that date, only 13 had been sold, 2 more since the last GC Meeting.

However, on 07 May or thereabouts, 3 ordinary members asked the same question to the SME, the Accommodation Manager; they were given a very quick (& accurate) direct response, one in less than 24 hrs. This contrasts markedly with the one month for me to ascertain the correct information & clearly shows that resources are not an issue.

This is not acceptable.

On 06 May, in order to research figures for this GC meeting, I asked the SME (Accommodation Manager) as to how many vacant / occupied unserviced pitches were currently on Bisley site. Again, this should have been known information for the SME. However, this was forwarded to the CEO on 08 May; he answered on 14 May (19 vacant pitches & 254 occupied). He also stated this:

"NRA staff will no longer forward any such correspondence to me so in order they are not missed please address them directly to me."

This is not acceptable.

More recently (evening of Sun 12 May), I followed up to the SME (the IT Manager) about data security concerns linked to the NSC website hacks (originally reported 10 Apr); on 13 May, the IT manager forwarded my email to the CEO rather than answer my questions. For IT concerns, I fail to see why the SME would not respond to my email - other than direct instructions from the CEO. This is especially important considering the on-going issues with the NSC website.

This is not acceptable.

Please ensure that my communication route (& that of anyone else so affected) reverts back to open communication across all NRA departments.

We welcome engagement with our members and the public and our staff deal with questions on a wide range of topics every day. There are occasions when the scale and scope of requests for information and action from an individual risk limits the ability of our hard-working staff to delivery services effectively to the wider membership and the public. In such cases, the Secretary General requests that individual to direct their questions to the Secretary General to ensure effective prioritisation of tasks set to NRA staff and the fair allocation of staff time.

- 6.3 NRA Facebook Page – Wharncliffe Post – Discrepancies in visible comments** - From looking at this link, the time of viewing (15 May, 1930 hrs), the post showed 14 comments; however, when looking at all the comments (not just "recent" or "newest"), there were only 6 visible.

Please can the Comms Manager / team outline why this might be? I can provide screen shots if required. <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/3pGF5MrBjfwckLD3/>

This post was initially set as read only, with comments only from profiles and people mentioned in the post. Comments were received from others due to a Facebook issue; these have been hidden.

- 6.4 Proposal for Audio-Visual Equipment – Conference Room** – I note the plan to use a Facebook live stream for the AGM in Jun, This was not the concept discussed with GC meetings (15.20 of minutes 24 Feb 2024).

A Facebook live stream seems to be a zero cost option that not does not allow member engagement of any kind other than to view the meeting. A professional audio visual AV set-up would allow members to participate / interact (with suitable methodology such as Teams) which would enhance the democratic process in a much better way.

As mentioned in separate email, there should not be any acoustic issues; modern AV equipment copes with this easily.

Please can you expand on the VA equipment / set-up that will be installed in the conference room.

Council decided to use a live stream for the 2024 Annual General Meeting to assess interest from members before incurring further expenditure. The live stream will provide a useful trial of the effect on this technology on promoting engagement with members. The equipment and personnel used in the live stream trial are those used in the successful broadcast of the 2023 range booking conference.

- 6.5 Reporting of Issues to NRA / NSC** - Why is there no defined standard procedure for the logging / monitoring of issues on camp?

Across all NRA / NSC departments, there should be reporting functionality which generates a logged reference number to be sent to the reporting person, & shortly thereafter, if not an immediate solution, a timeframe / resource allocation sent to the reporting person (with updates at regular intervals if the timeframe is more protracted. Finally, when fixed or addressed, a closure report should be notified. That would give much better monitoring capability to the different departments & help with correct allocation of resources / priorities.

Currently, it's a hotchpotch at best, confusion at worst; members are left completely in the dark about any issues that they report, which is very poor customer service.

NSC directors are considering options for a customer feedback system(s) for the diverse range of its commercial activities (BSG, NCSC, accommodation, catering, event hire, armoury sales and range hire)

- 6.6 Results of NSC Survey** - At 3.2 of the last minutes: *MJ asked for an update on the outcome of the NSC customer service survey. The Chief Executive informed the meeting the NSC Directors are considering the results of the survey and a summary will be circulated to GC members, and published in the NRA Journal.*

Why is the summary taking so long to circulate to GC members/be published?

The detailed review of the survey is complete and the summary will be published in June.

- 6.7 Camper Vans Parking on 300x Gravel Car Park** - (previously sent in)

Please can the GC consider the matter of camper vans parking on the 300x gravel car park. On one weekend day, 3 camper vans were blocking cars at the 300x firing point car park.

They are too big to park on the gravel; the suggestion is that only cars should be permitted to do so. Camper vans could park off the gravel area nearer to Hobson's Way.

Camper vans provide low-cost accommodation at Bisley for shooters especially for those who need to travel long distances and want to combine their accommodation and transport. Preventing them from parking at the ranges would adversely affect their ability to use the shooting facilities at Bisley. We are monitoring the impact of parking larger vehicles including camper vans and mini buses on the ranges and staff have been asked to watch out for instances where parking is causing an issue for other range users. We encourage considerate parking by all Camp users.

7. Questions from Richard Stebbings (10566) – Site 5 Development / Site 5 Funding

- 7.1 Decision making and justification for the Site 5 development** - This is now my fourth attempt to ask the NRA this question and I am yet to receive a full answer to this question, so I am asking it again.

For the Site 5 development the Trustees considered two possible options, one was the current development, and the alternative was for a larger number of smaller, pod-sized pitches. These options and the funding model were presented in the GC pack in June 2023. A summary is provided at Fig 1 below. Ultimately, the Trustees determined to go ahead with the current development and the reasoning given was that *"The Trustees concluded that pod-sized pitches were not economically viable and it would not be in the best interests of the charity to use them for Site 5"* Doc04b – GC June 23

Fig 1:

Site 5 - Comparison between Serviced Caravans and Serviced Pods Financial Models			
General Council June 23 - Doc 04b: "The Trustees concluded that pod-sized pitches were not economically viable and it would not be in the best interests of the charity to use them for Site 5."			
	Serviced Caravans	Serviced Pods	Remarks
NRAs Overall Financials			
Total build cost for site	£ 686,000.00	£ 663,000.00	
Total Annual Rent to NRA	£ 84,400.00	£ 81,600.00	Difference of £2800 which is equivalent to £82 per pod pitch per year. £2800 is less than the NRA's own definition of 'marginal', which is £7000.
Costs per unit (to member)			
Ground works cost per unit	£ 24,500.00	£ 17,500.00	
Average cost of caravan/pod	£ 43,714.04	£ 18,323.71	
Total up-front cost to member	£ 68,214.04	£ 35,823.71	
Annual rent per pitch	£ 2,900.00	£ 1,900.00	
Affordability (to average member)			
Compared to median salary for FTE	2.07 x	1.09 x	Pods/smaller sized pitches are twice as affordable to the average member
Compared to median household disposable income	2.11 x	1.11 x	
Compared to median UK household savings	5.46 x	2.87 x	
Other considerations			
Demand (expressions of interest)	70	369	Demand for pods is 5.2x that of serviced caravans
Summary			
Is it economically viable according to the NRA?	Yes	No	
Which one did the NRA Trustees select?	Yes	No	
Key			
Yellow	Objectively the best option, whether that be price, demand, or affordability to the member etc.		
Green	The NRAs decision		

Even though the NRA's own proposed pod development:

- Has the same cost for groundworks as the caravan site proposal,
- Generates almost exactly the same annual rent for the NRA,
- Would enable 20% more units on site,
- Would cost members between 46% and 48% less than the caravan proposal,
- Has a demand of 5 times greater than that of caravans,
- Is far more affordable to the average member, in particular those members of the Armed Forces and Emergency Services who are 'relevant members'.

They have instead chosen an option that is not only affordable to those members in the very top earnings bracket, and which is completely unaffordable for relevant members who are beneficiaries of the charity. We know this because the pay scales for the Armed Forces and Emergency Services are public, and this information has been provided to the NRA.

So this begs the questions:

1. How is a development that costs the NRA no more, that generates the NRA an almost identical amount of annual rent, allows 20% more units, has five times the level of demand, and is accessible to far more members, not economically viable?

The serviced caravan pitch development offers long term value and flexibility to both the NRA and tenants. The bases are designed to last at least 40 years; allow easy siting of replacement caravans; and provide mains electricity, gas, water, drainage and fibre broadband.

New caravans currently available for viewing and purchase on site cost from £24,900 for a 2-bedroom caravan, including delivering, installation, commissioning and testing.

2. Furthermore, how is a development that costs the NRA no more, that generates the NRA the same amount of annual rent, allows 20% more units, has five times the level of demand, and is accessible to far more members and in particular relevant members, not in the best interests of the charity?

Pods are an interesting but untested accommodation option at Bisley, whereas there is a long, well-established tradition of caravans on Camp. The Estate Development Plan includes an action to explore alternatives to caravans testing whether the financial projections are accurate; the Site Licence will permit such units; the additional number of units will comply with the Site Licence; the additional demand for electricity and other services is deliverable; and the flexibility and longevity of the bases constructed.

Furthermore future lease payments from the development will provide future cashflow which in turn will support the wider activities of the Charity.

To an average member of the NRA, the decision-making process the Trustees have followed makes no logical sense.

- 7.2 Site 5 – Funding** - General Council and Members of the NRA have repeatedly been told, for over 18 months, that the Site 5 development will be fully self-funding and that no charity money will be used to fund the development.

However, in the General Council meeting on 24th February 2024 General Council were informed that *"There are timing issues, with 40% of pitches expected to be sold before construction starts, 40% sold during construction, with the final 20% being sold after completion."*

This is the first time that members of General Council have been informed of this. If charity money is being used to fund the development up-front, then it is not true that the development is 'fully self-funding' and 'no charity money is used'. If the NRA must use charity money to fund the development up-front then fundamentally this development is no different to the NRA refurbishing the Pavilion accommodation and then recouping their return on investment by hiring out the rooms.

As charity money is being risked on a development.

Why were members of General Council and NRA Members not explicitly informed that charity money would be used to fund the development?

Why were members of General Council and NRA Members not explicitly informed that charity money, which is supposed to support the beneficiaries, is being risked on funding a development that the beneficiaries of the charity cannot afford and so will get no direct benefit from to support their participation in shooting?

Is it fair and morally right to use beneficiaries' money to fund a development that will not benefit the beneficiaries of the charity?

See response to 6.1

National Rifle Association

The NRA is a registered charity that carries out a range of charitable activities in pursuit of its charitable objects. Questions from Members that relate to the charitable activities of the NRA activities are set out below.

1. Question from Chris Gray (16786) – Finances/NRA Journals

I applaud the NRA for the financial help measures taken in the past few years (paying stage 2 if you get through, 50% Imperial deposit). Are there any other similar, more easy, measures the NRA are planning to take? *Not at present*

Please could the NRA introduce an opt-in for the print copy of the NRA Journal and offer an annual discount on membership for those of us who don't require a print copy? *The membership subscription is a donation to the charity, thereby allowing the NRA to claim Gift Aid. The Journal is provided as an allowable benefit to people who have made that donation. The membership subscription does not operate as a magazine subscription. Members who do not want a posted copy of the journal are encouraged to contact the Membership Department to reduce the cost of distribution for the charity allowing that money to be deployed on other activities.*

2. Question from Nicolas Clifford (12640) – Licensed Section 1 Firearms

Please enquire what efforts are being made to reinstate the previous free movement of licensed section 1 firearms as previously permitted under the EU Firearms Pass?

Efforts are currently underway to allow unhindered work and study to be reinstated so there is certainly an appetite to correct the awful post Brexit situation.

I like many other shooters find ourselves confined to the UK as travel under current arrangements by road/air are near impossible to achieve especially if one intends to participate frequently.

We have made representations to the Home Office on this point through our membership of the British Shooting Sports Council.

3. Questions from Andrew Wilde (8782) – NRA Journal / Range Ground Visibility

- 3.1 NRA Journal** - Is it possible, in these times of every-increasing prices, to offer a reduced membership rate for no printed Journal? This would also enable associations to save, too, given their representatives typically are sent multiple copies. This would enable them to focus more money on encouraging regional shooting. Given the retail price is £4.25 per quarter, that would be £17 a year saving; given the Journal would still need to be produced but have much lower printing costs (est. less than 50% cost is producing it, more than 50% is printing & distribution, based on having produced numerous tour brochures of similar quality / pages). So a reasonable saving per member would be £10 pa with no negative impact to the Association.

See response to 1. above

- 3.2 Range Ground Visibility** - Have any tests / trials / measurements been done to ensure that firers can "see" the target at ranges with long firing points, and we fire from the back of them? I ask, as during the ATSC meeting, a few firers with low positions (Bible height compliant, but low) at 600x (left side of range, targets 01-35-ish) clearly were able to see the target through the sights (i.e. had no idea there was a problem) but the bullet shockwave effect on the grass in front of them made it clear the bullet (line from muzzle centreline, ground height +bible +15mm, to the target centre) was passing very close to the ground, if not through the grass...

Does this affect accuracy?

Do firing points need to either be at the front of the mound or raised high enough that the slope of the firing point doesn't cause a problem?

Taking this to the next obvious thought: Would you be able to, in the Imperial when all points are used, request a new squadding location to have a firing point that doesn't affect your ability to hit the target?

This query will be referred to the Shooting Committee

4. Question from Rob Kitson (19684) – .223 inclusion in TR Imperial

Please can we have .223 promoted by inclusion in TR Imperial, as could be a draw for ladies, youngsters and those with injuries (who may be Armed Forces veterans, or indeed serving) who can't shoot long periods and multiple matches with 7.62..... This may also attract overseas competitors, and regional UK competitors who want to use .223. It would need to have 80 gns to be fair at short range and probably 85-98 to be competitive at LR. There's no advantage unless shooting above 90gn at sufficient velocity to benefit from BC (difficult to achieve even for an experienced handloader, and outwith ICFRA rules for this reason, and would not be within CIP so couldn't be issued) Alternatives are for allowing handloaded .223 or bespoke contract with a company such as HPS. Happy to discuss in person, but suggest NRA has a sub-committee of .223 TR users to address the issues.

This query will be referred to the Shooting Committee

5. Questions from Sasha Radkovskii (17828) – GC voting rights/ Pavilion Accommodation

5.1 GC Voting Rights - I noticed with interest on the minutes of a previous meeting that one of the members of General Council, JSPB, has two votes because he currently holds two seats on General Council. Are there any other members of General Council who have more than one vote? *The Chairman (see answer to next question)*⁵

Are there any members of General Council who have no vote or have casting vote only? *Every member of General Council is entitled to vote on any question before General Council. The Chairman of a General Council Meeting has a second or casting vote if there is an equality of votes on any question before General Council*⁶. *A member of General Council invited to a meeting of a Principal Committee may not vote on any question before that Committee*⁷ Also, there appear to be over 70 seats on General Council but looking at the meeting minutes it seems as though meetings are rarely attended by more than half the members of General Council. Which members of General Council aren't attending and are these reasons for absence ever published? *The attendance record of elected members of GC are published each year in the Journal. We do not record or publish the reasons for absence.*

5.2 Pavilion Accommodation - Additionally, why is the Pavilion accommodation being refurbished again when it has recently been refurbished?

The bedrooms are being refurbished for the first time since 2016

Why are funds not first being invested in other accommodation that hasn't been refurbished in 20+ years, such as ABC lines? Why are the Trustees only going to start looking at quality affordable accommodation in 2026 when there is an urgent need for better quality affordable options now? *See response to 3.6 (NSC) above*

6. Questions from Gareth Corfield (19625) – Caravans & NRA Member Checks / NRA Disciplinary Procedure / Imperial Meeting

6.1 Caravans and NRA membership checks - Caravans and other residential and commercial properties at Bisley Camp are rented out subject to the condition that they are used in connection with "shooting activities" on the camp. As we all know, the camp is located around 45 minutes from London by train from Brookwood station. The suspicion arises that a

⁵ Post-Meeting Correction – the Chairman notified Silke Lohmann on 11 June that two other members of General Council have two votes: Alice Gran and Richard Baillie. Each of them has one vote as an elected members and one as an ex officio member.

⁶ See para 8(i) Second Schedule

⁷ See para 8(c)(x) Second Schedule

canny non-shooter, aware of the camp's location, may buy NRA membership as a way of accessing highly desirable rental property within an hour's commute of the capital.

With the NRA trustees having set a target for the association to make a £400,000 post-tax profit, a further suspicion arises that the charity's moneymaking targets may be causing a certain amount of Nelsonian blind-eyedness towards the members paying the hefty rental fees demanded by the association.

1. What checks does the NRA carry out to ensure that members renting caravans, huts and so on are bona fide members actively taking part in shooting activities?
 - a. For example, are these members' shooting records scrutinised to ensure they have met the same standard as required of an FAC holder, i.e. 3 shoots per year? *No*
2. How many members who have applied to rent residential property from the NRA have been rejected because they are not taking part in shooting activities? *None – membership of a Home Office Approved Clubs such as the NRA is dependent upon recorded shooting activity*
3. What is the definition of shooting activities used by the NRA to uphold this requirement, which I gather is imposed by Guildford Borough Council? *The requirement for properties to be used in connection with shooting activities was set by Council and is contained in the Real Estate Policy published here: <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/NRA-Real-Estate-Policy-2020-approved-170420.pdf>*
4. If a member fails to meet this requirement, what action does the NRA take in these cases? Are they held to have broken the terms of the lease? *We have not sought legal advice on this potential issue*

6.2 NRA disciplinary procedure - The NRA disciplinary rules were reformatted a few years ago following the Charity Commission investigation into the management of the Association's commercial affairs.

- a) What is the definition of "bringing the NRA into disrepute"? Is this a natural language phrase or is there some agreed list or schedule of actions that fall into this phrase? *There is no list or schedule of actions that constitutes bringing the NRA into disrepute. The interpretation of that expression would be a matter for the Disciplinary Committee hearing the particular case.*
- b) Who decides whether a member has met the threshold for bringing the NRA into disrepute? Is this in the gift of the CEO/secretary-general, the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, a vote of disciplinary committee members, or some other person or body? *The decision whether a member has brought the NRA into disrepute would be made by the members of the Disciplinary Committee hearing the matter.*
- c) Can NRA members decide that another member has brought the association into disrepute, for example by making a referral to the disciplinary committee? Is there a formalised process for this? *Members can make allegations of breaches of the Rules using the process set out in para 3.2 of the Disciplinary Code <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/NRA-Disciplinary-Code.pdf>*
- d) How is the disciplinary process applied to different categories of NRA members and stakeholders such as trustees, salaried staff, other persons paid by the association to discharge its commercial or charitable functions on its behalf, General Council office-holders, and so forth? *The NRA Disciplinary Code applies to "Respondents", which is defined in para 1.1 of the Disciplinary Code as:*

"any of the following in respect of which an allegation is made under these Rules:

- (a) any Affiliated Body and any director, manager, chairman, secretary, committee member or other officer of that Affiliated Body and any person purporting to act in any such capacity;*
- (b) any person who was a member of the NRA at the time the breach of the Rules is alleged to have occurred;*
- (c) any person who holds a Credential; and*
- (d) any person in respect of conduct at any event at any place conducted under the auspices and rules of the NRA; and "Rules" means Volumes 1 to 6 of the NRA*

Handbook and any further Volumes approved by Council, in each case as amended from time to time.”

6.3 Imperial Meeting - Every year entries to the Target Rifle Imperial Meeting are declining. TR shooters see this as a cause for concern.

- a) What research has the NRA carried out to establish why entries are declining? See table below – TR entries are relatively static
- b) What action has been taken based on that research? Discounts are offered to certain categories of members, but are those discounts solely based on those classes of member whose activities help the NRA meet its charitable objectives or are other factors taken into account? See table below – TR entries are relatively static
- c) How are entries for all the other disciplines administered by the NRA faring in terms of entries to their respective Imperial Meetings, e.g. CSR, MR, McQueen, F-Class, GR and so on? Will the NRA publish a comparative table going back to 2019 for the main disciplines, breaking down entry numbers? See table below
- d) The TR Imperial Meeting consumes a significant portion of NRA resources. If entries to this are falling year-on-year while other disciplines' Imperial meetings are increasing in popularity, will the NRA consider cutting back the TR meeting and redirecting its resources to focus on growth disciplines of greater relevance to the membership? See table below – TR entries are relatively static
- e) Despite the decline in TR Imperial meeting entries, the NRA's headline membership figure continues to grow year-on-year, for which the current management team are to be commended. What are the top five reasons that people join the NRA? See table below – TR entries are relatively static

	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
<i>CSR Imperial</i>	136	162	143	142	139
<i>MR Imperial</i>	133	156	130	fire	133
<i>F Class Imperial</i>	58	81	64	fire	40
<i>IHAM</i>	90	72	76	fire	62
<i>McQueen Imperial</i>	180	246	141	138	163
<i>TR Imperial</i>	870	970	740	838	866
<i>Total Entries</i>	1,467	1,687	1,294	1,118	1,403

Note – 2019 was 150th Anniversary Meeting; 2020 discounted due to Covid; 2021 affected by Covid; 2022 Meeting impacted by RDA fire

7. Question from Charles Dickenson (1187) – Target Frame Replacement

7.1 Target Frame Replacement - I realise the time for comments on the Bisley Estate Development Plan has now closed, but there was one item I forgot to make comment on - replacement of target frames.

Can I encourage the NRA/NSC to look at alternatives to the current Hythe design of target frame before committing to start replacing the frames. A lot of ranges are now fitting cantilevered target frames and users have reported that they move much more freely than the pulley arrangement frames we currently have, to the point that they can easily be raised and lowered with a single finger but still remain in place (both raised and lowered). They also do not suffer from the same level of breakdown or need as much maintenance. There is plenty of room behind the targets to accommodate the cantilever mechanism.

It is also important to ensure that the markers can reach the top of the targets, something they are often unable to do at the moment, so high shots cannot be marked with a spotting disk, or patched out. I have mentioned to Peter Cottrell that part of the problem on Century is that the wooden target holders have legs that are considerably longer than necessary. While it is important that the bottom of the target is a good 6 inches above the mantlet, some of them are nearer 3 feet above it. Shortening the legs will not only bring the top of the target within the marker's reach, but will also make targets less vulnerable to breaking in strong winds, with the associated risk of injury to markers and the need to close the ranges (thicker, knot-free legs would also help in this respect).

Please also note that for face-mounted electronic target sensors such as ShotMarker and Silver Mountain, the accuracy and reliability of the electronic targets is very dependent on them being held rigid, so that they don't move or rock in the frames in windy conditions. The current Hythe design frames allows the targets to rock backwards and forwards in the frames in even quite light winds, to the extent that some shots are deemed not genuine and therefore not reported, which is unacceptable.

These comments have been forwarded to the professional staff responsible for managing the target systems.

8. Questions from Richard Stebbings (10566) – Value of Active Participation of Beneficiaries of the Charity / General Council Follow-up

8.1 What value does the NRA place the active participation of beneficiaries of the Charity? It appears that the NRA has selected the 'Serviced Caravans' option for Site 5 based purely upon the fact that it would generate an additional £2800 per annum in rent (see Fig 1)

In doing so the NRA has, perhaps unknowingly, placed a value on the active participation of relevant members and beneficiaries of the Charity, and that value is £2800 i.e. it appears that the NRA would rather have an additional £2800 in rent than have a development/facility which is affordable to and directly accessible by the relevant members and beneficiaries of the Charity to support their participation in shooting. This 'value' equates to just £82 per pitch, per year.

Why does the NRA value the active participation of the relevant members and beneficiaries of the Charity in our sport at such a small amount?

The NRA, as a charity, exists for the public good and so our beneficiaries are the public. The income generated by serviced caravan pitches makes a valuable contribution to funding the charitable activities of the NRA. The charity does not put a monetary value on participation by Relevant People in NRA activities - that participation is instead a key element of establishing the charitable status of competitions organised by the NRA. We offered everyone on the unserviced pitches on Site 5 an alternative unserviced pitch on Camp. We also moved caravans at no charge to their owners. As a result, everyone on Site 5 who wished to continue keeping a caravan on Camp was able to do so.

8.2 General Council Meeting – 24th Feb 24 Follow-up - From the meeting minutes **15.9 Service Charges** – RSt remarked that he, as a tenant, had not receive the letter of the proposed service charge allocation in June 2022. The Secretary General confirmed that letters had only gone out to tenants who were paying service charges at that time. RSt remarked all tenants should have been made aware of the proposed charges, whether they paid them at that time or not. The Secretary General accepted that point. RSt added that the letter did not request any responses from tenants as stated under answer b. The Secretary General confirmed he will check that. Rst declared an interest as Chairman of BYSA, tenant of SitPet Lodge, and a tenant of a caravan on Site 7. DLa and IT declared an interest as a tenant of Waldegrave Site.

Has the letter sent out to tenants been checked? What was the outcome?

The letter did not explicitly request responses but invited recipients to contact the SG with any queries.

9.Question through Charles Brooks from Member (name withheld)– Police Laws with FAC Holders

Background: I had a disagreement with a family member in my own home and the police were called, by the other party. The police officers spoke with me and the other person and decided there was no offence, and I was not arrested or detained, but I was told I had to hand over my guns which I did, this was in August 2023. I was interviewed by my FCO in February 2024 and I'm now just waiting in the system. Back in August I spoke with Iain Robertson who seemed to think the police may have overstepped their powers, but more to the point he said I was not the first and I believe it is a new law the police are using. I have spoken with several firearm dealers, and they are telling me similar stories to mine, it may be a bit of a wife's tale but I have heard that people are having their guns taken for speeding tickets. Surely this is over stepping of police powers, if you can be Prime Minister and receive a fixed penalty notice and still be Prime Minister you can have a speeding ticket and have guns?

My first question is: are the NRA going to do anything about the police's overuse and heavy-handed use of laws to bringing us shooters to our knees?

The NRA is actively engaged with the College of Policing to assist the delivery of a UK-wide police Firearms Enquiry Officer training programme. This programme will provide FEOs with a greater appreciation of the value of shooting and in some cases, will be the first opportunity an FEO has had to try target shooting. We are keen to prioritise education and engagement over confrontation.

My second question is: about the insurance which NRA members get. For myself the insurance doesn't kick in as my licence hasn't been revoked or changed, but I have been left in no man's land for over 7 months. I believe the insurance cover needs to be amended because if this is the avenue the police are taking us members need help. To note on the insurance whilst it may put the premium up, I was informed by my FCO that a larger local firearms dealer now has over 700 guns in their vault which is a combination of people giving up shooting and in my situation. Last year when I spoke to a large firearms dealer up north, he said his vault was also nearly full as he was also taking guns in from outside of the county because smaller firearms dealers are maxed due to the police's policy.

Police firearms licensing teams are under considerable pressure to reassess their procedures after recent shooting incidents; and are becoming increasingly risk adverse. Domestic arguments are often seen as "red flags" and police quote on average 10 domestic incidents occur before police are called. In most cases certificate holders voluntarily hand over their firearms to the police. Persuading an underwriter to issue an affordable insurance policy to cover legal and other costs to recover their possessions is challenging.