

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council Meeting held via ZOOM  
on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025 from 2.00pm

**Present:**

**Chairman**

Mr D Lacey (DLA)

**Members:**

Mr GK Alexander (GA)	Elected Member
Mr HRM Bailie (RB)	Northern Ireland Member / Chair SF of NI
Mr JPS Bloomfield (JPSB)	Elected Member / East Midlands Member
Mr N Brasier (NB)	Elected Member
Wg Cdr DP Calvert (DC)	Elected Member
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson (ACT)	Match Rifle Member
Mr P Dommett (PD)	F Class Member
Dr J Marsden (JM)	North Western Member
Mr FPR Northam (PN)	Elected Member
Mr CG Perry (CP)	Elected Member
Mr A Dagger (AD)	Gallery Rifle and Pistol Member
Ms A Gran (AG)	BSRC Chair
Mr J Harris (JH)	Target Shotgun Member
Mr R Hallows (RH)	South Western Member
Mr MD Jenvey (MJ)	Elected Member
Mr R Kelvey (RKel)	Eastern Member
Mr RS Kenchington (RK)	West Midlands Member
Mr GAE Larcombe (GL)	Southern Member
Miss SS Lohmann (SL)	Elected Member
Mr D Lowe (DL)	Elected Member
Mr N Macfarlane (NM)	Historic and Classic Arms Member
Mr A Reynolds (AR)	Treasurer
Mrs K Robertson (KR)	Elected Member
Mr B Ritchie ((BR)	Scotland Member
Sir FC Sykes (FS)	Elected Member
Mr I Thomson (IT)	Elected Member
Mr G Trembath (GTr)	Northern Member
Dr JD Warburton (JWar)	Yorkshire & Humberside Member
Mr MP Watkins (MW)	Wales Member
Mr JGM Webster (JW)	Target Rifle Member

**Ex-officio:**

Cdr NWJ Benstead (NB)	RNRA Chair
Mr D Stimpson (DS)	HBSA Chair
Mr AM Whiffin (AW)	MLAGB Chair (Member)

**In attendance:**

Mr A Mercer (AM)	Secretary General
Mrs G Thatcher (GT)	Secretary to Meeting
Mr R Bruce (RBr)	Trustee

**Apologies for absence:**

Mr S Aldhouse (SA)	300 Metres Member
Mr C Rennick (CR)	Sporting Rifle Member
Mr T Rylands (TR)	Elected Member
Mr N St Aubyn (NSt)	CSR & Practical Rifle Member
Mr R Stebbings (RSt)	Elected Member
Mr R Vary (RV)	Greater London & SE Member
Dr JD Warburton (JWar)	Yorkshire & Humberside Member
Mr P Wolpe (PW)	Muzzle Loading Member

**Ex-officio:**

Mr G Burns	NSRA Chair (Member)
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 (Member)
Mr AJD Saunders (AS)	English Target Shooting Federation Chair
Mr C Steele-Benny	RAFSAA Chair (Member)

## **INDEX G796 to G809**

The Chairman declared the meeting open.

### **1. G796 – APOLOGIES**

- 1.1. Apologies were received as noted above.

### **2. G797 – 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 members declare any conflicts of interest relating to the business of the meeting. No declarations were made at this time.

### **3. G798 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- 3.1. The Chairman congratulated Silke Lohmann on her appointment as Vice Chair of General Council following the election held in 2024.
- 3.2. The Chairman reminded the meeting that 2025 will be his final year as Chairman and asked members to start considering candidates for election to replace him in February 2026. The Chairman was happy to talk to any potential candidates about the role.
- 3.3. The Chairman reported that the current term of the Treasurer ends in September 2025. The Treasurer is willing to stand for re-election but is also happy to talk to potential candidates to replace him in this role.
- 3.4. No further items were raised.

### **4. G799 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

- 4.1. The Chairman confirmed the minutes of the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024 had been approved.
- 4.2. The Chairman asked if anyone had any matters arising from the minutes of the September meeting.
- 4.3. There were no matters arising.

### **5. G800 – REVIEW OF ACTIONS**

- 5.1. The Meeting received the review of actions report and noted the updates from the professional staff.
- 5.2. MJ asked for an update on the production of the Guide to Procedures and Meetings. The Chairman confirmed that Council had approved the document and it had been published on the NRA website.
- 5.3. MJ asked for an update on his suggestion that surveys be conducted to gather more information on membership demographics and preferences to help with the annual membership and Imperial Meeting entries analysis. The Chairman responded that suggestions from GC members are always welcome but do not automatically result in an action item.
- 5.4. MJ asked for an update on plans for midweek shooting packages as one-day packages are suitable for members who live close to Bisley, but two-day packages would be more attractive for those living further away. The Secretary General will take that suggestion back to the relevant teams for consideration.
- 5.5. PN asked whether handrails were being installed in showers as well as ablution blocks. The Secretary General confirmed the provision of handrails in a number of ablution blocks is being reviewed for installation.
- 5.6. PN asked for an update on the provision of low-level Elsan points for caravan owners to dispose of their waste as they are tipping it into the main water waste disposal. The Secretary General reported that there are numerous Elsan points throughout the Camp and low-level options will be considered for new installations only. Caravan users must not dispose of Elsan waste except at a designated Elsan disposal point. PN requested a low-level disposal point on Site 7 as the current provision requires lifting Elsan containers in order to empty them. The Chairman asked whether the installation of a ramp would assist. PN agreed that would be helpful. The meeting asked that the professional staff review and consider the installation of a ramp to the current point on Site 7.
- 5.7. PN asked whether the foul drainage on Site 7 goes to sewers or mains drainage. The Secretary General responded the foul drainage goes to the sewers. PN asked that be checked as he believes it drains into the mains drainage.
- 5.8. IT asked that all review of action points be included at the end of the minutes so they can be reviewed easily. ACT added that the meeting should agree action points at the end of each discussion to ensure they were captured for the minutes.
- 5.9. No questions were raised.

**6. G801 – BUSINESS PLANNING & OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

- 6.1. The Secretary General and Chief Executive reports were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any questions.
- 6.2. MJ noted that the membership figures show a gradual decline for both individuals and clubs, schools and associations and asked if there was any trend behind this. The Secretary General reported that individual membership is holding steady with the main churn being aged members giving up shooting, which is the figure MJ is looking at, not the overall membership figure. The Secretary General added that club numbers are declining due to smaller clubs deciding to close or amalgamate with other clubs.
- 6.3. FS noted the loss of support by the MoD for cadet rifle shooting is a key risk and asked whether the NRA have a strategic plan in place to help support cadet shooting. The Secretary General responded that it is a strategic risk to the NRA and the future of rifle shooting as it is an important feeder for the NRA's marksmanship activities. The NRA is consulting the CCRS and other organisations and is keen to acquire the cadet rifles and then develop plans to support youth shooting both at Bisley and in the regions. Plans will be shared with GC in due course.
- 6.4. DS added that cadet shooting is very important to the military especially with the reduction in military numbers and commends the NRA to review the Government's recently published Review of Defence document as part of the youth shooting plans.
- 6.5. MJ noted that the Membership Committee has been discussing the matter noting that previous withdrawals of rifles for cadets by the MoD resulted in the firearms being destroyed and not offered to civilian or commercial entities.
- 6.6. AD asked for an update on plans to upgrade C Lines for use by Range Officers as they are in a relatively poor condition, or whether ROs could be accommodated in the newly-refurbished A Lines as they provide important support to the NRA as volunteers. AD added that the money spent on improving parking for ABC Lines could have been better spent on refurbishing the rooms. The Secretary General responded that more promotion is being done to drive up the accommodation income which in turn will provide funds to refurbish the remaining rooms. AD added that A Lines is available for booking on Booking.com despite being told by the NRA that they have been booked out and are not available. The Secretary General will discuss this with the accommodation team to ensure the rooms are reserved for shooters and ROs during the competition season.
- 6.7. PN noted that the NRA is intending to charge caravan owners for the installation of lighting on the various sites around camp and expressed his view that this is unacceptable especially due to the vast amount of money paid to the NRA over the years by the caravan owners. The Secretary General responded that lighting is a requirement of the caravan site licence and has to be installed following complaints made to Guildford Borough Council. The Secretary General and Council consider it appropriate that any improvements are paid for by those who benefit from them. This avoids any need to shut the sites. PN declared an interest as a caravan licence holder. The Chairman suggested that the matter be taken up by the Estates Working Group (EWG) as a project and reported back to GC for consideration. This proposal was endorsed by the Meeting. The Chairman asked that the EWG elect a chairman and convene a meeting to discuss the topic of site lighting and other caravan-related matters for a report back to GC. MJ added that there are better options for lighting such as solar lights on top of posts which would be a better and cheaper option. The Chairman asked that MJ put that forward to the EWG for consideration as part of their discussions.
- 6.8. AD asked for clarification on the Secretary General's note on changes in procedures on MoD ranges. The Secretary General commented that a meeting will be held in March with the 140 MoD-licensed NRA clubs to inform them to ensure they meet all MoD regulations and requirements when shooting on the MoD ranges to ensure continued access to them.
- 6.9. RK expressed his thanks for the list of commissioned projects in 2025 and minuted his gratitude at all the different projects being undertaken.
- 6.10. MJ asked for an update on the recently implemented customer feedback system. The Secretary General reported that the system was installed for testing in the National Clay Shooting Centre over the winter period and positive, but moderate, feedback has been received. The system will be installed more widely over the Camp as the shooting season begins and the ranges become busier.
- 6.11. PN asked for an update on any potential ranges for purchase in Suffolk or elsewhere. The Secretary General commented that discussions related to Dechmont Range in Scotland is still ongoing. RKel remarked that the Rose Hill Range in Suffolk, a 100m indoor range, has been built by an individual and RKel will be visiting the range with Nic Couldrey, Regional Ranges Manager to discuss whether there is potential for a partnership with the NSC to operate the range.

- 6.12. AD noted there is a filming contract due to take place at Bisley in July/Aug and asked whether that would have any impact on the competitions or accommodation during the Imperial Meeting. The Chief Executive confirmed there will be a film set built near Melville Range with a few weeks of set up, two to three days of filming and a few weeks break down, but there would be no impact to competitions. There will be some impact on accommodation availability in August but only after the major competitions and events have finished.
- 6.13. PN remarked that the extension to the 900-yard firing points have been well received but asked whether consideration has been given to the drainage at the rear of the firing points as heavy rainfall creates a large amount of water running off the steep banks at the back, and also whether the grass at the front of the points may be damaged by the use of muzzle brakes. The Chief Executive is comfortable that the firing points will be OK and noted that the professional staff will keep an eye on the ranges for any issues and address them should they appear.
- 6.14. SL asked for an update on the air rifle range in the Pavilion as the Membership Committee minutes reflect that the installation was under consideration only. The Chief Executive confirmed the air rifle range construction is ongoing and asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that. The Chairman added that the range is coming together well and will include access ramps and disabled toilets which will promote access to the new facility.
- 6.15. No further questions were raised.

## **7. G802 – FINANCE**

- 7.1. The Treasurer presented the Finance Report to the meeting and reported that the NRA has had a successful 2024, generating a good surplus allowing for an increased budgeted Capex spend of £840k in 2025.
- 7.2. PN asked for a breakdown on the £300k legal expenses. The Treasurer confirmed the figures cover all aspects of the business including lease renewals, general advice and dispute resolutions. The Chairman noted that legal proceedings are confidential and added that the NRA Dispute Resolution Policy is to use negotiation and mediation wherever possible rather than legal proceedings.
- 7.3. MJ noted that salary costs are very high, being almost a third of the NRA's outgoings. The Secretary General agreed that salary costs are one of the highest parts of the business, and that salary levels had returned to pre-Covid levels. The Government's changes to NI contributions will add ca. £75k to the NRA's salary expenditure, equivalent to around 2 FTEs. The Secretary General pointed out that the addition of BSG to the business has increased the salaries, but is negated by the increase in profit from that business unit. There is no current plan to review the staff levels.
- 7.4. No further questions were raised.

## **8. G803 – COUNCIL**

- 8.1. The Chairman noted that the Report from Council had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 8.2. ACT asked for more information on point 12.1.1 on the Investment Committee's request to amend the purpose of the Special Prizes Fund. The Treasurer confirmed that Council is looking to combine the funds to be able to invest them to create a better return on the value as well as review the restrictions on the use of the funds to be able to use income for other competitions or consider an increase in the current prizes offered.
- 8.3. AD asked for clarification on the Aged Debtors Report in terms of what constitutes an aged debt and how far back do they go. The Secretary General responded that the aged debtors are made up of a number of different items including outstanding rent, utility payments, and legal expenses, and is reviewed regularly by the Treasurer and Trustees at each Council Meeting.
- 8.4. PN raised the topic of the 300m Discipline not meeting the 15% Relevant Person requirement and believes the NRA is looking to close down the discipline 'through the back door', having strangled their use of the range, thereby reducing the number of members shooting the discipline. PN would like the NRA to look at ways to support the discipline such as opening the range up during the winter for use by members, rather than closing it for BSG at the weekend, and suggested moving the electronic targets to that butt would be beneficial. PN asked how much income does BSG make on a Saturday compared to filling the 300m range. The Secretary General confirmed BSG can make up to £5k per day during the winter months as this is one of the busiest, popular time of year for clay shooting, and added that moving electronic targets is not a viable option. The Secretary General added that additional dates have been offered to the 300m discipline for 2025 and hopes that participation will increase, but the NRA and NSC will always consider what is best for the business in terms of generating income for the Association.
- 8.5. No further questions were raised.

## **9. G804 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE**

- 9.1. The Shooting Committee Chairman had circulated the Shooting Committee minutes of 17 September 2024, 21 November 2024 and 16 January 2025 to the meeting and the Chairman asked if there were any questions on any of those minutes.
- 9.2. MJ asked whether the costs for the Service Imperial meeting will be reduced as the RAF was quoted a significant amount of money to hold their event at Bisley in 2024 and only held the final there. The Secretary General responded that the Service meeting was under contract with the MoD for 5 years and that was still in place so the costs would have been the same as in previous years. The Chairman asked MJ to send all queries to the Secretary General direct. This will provide facts rather than people relying on speculation.
- 9.1. No further questions were raised.

## **10. G805 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

- 10.1. The meeting received the minutes of the Membership Committee meetings held on 20 November 2024 and the draft minutes of 15 January 2025. The Chairman asked for any questions.
- 10.2. MJ informed the meeting that Alex Radovski had been co-opted to the Membership Committee which will provide a younger person's point of view to assist the Committee.
- 10.3. PN remarked that his term of office on the committee is expiring at the end of February. The Secretary General confirmed GC members will be invited to put themselves forward for election to the various committees in due course and PN will be able to put himself forward for consideration as part of that process.
- 10.4. No further questions were raised.

## **11. G806 – ESTATES WORKING GROUP**

- 11.1. The Chairman requested that the members of the Estates Working Group convene a meeting to elect a Chairman and then consider the caravan issues discussed earlier in the meeting.
- 11.2. No further questions were raised.

## **12. G807 – GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

- 12.1. The Chairman noted that for information under Rule 7 (g) (iii) the following members of the General Council who retire in 2025 have been invited to declare if they wish to stand for re-election:

### **Ordinary Members**

MD Jenvey  
D Lowe  
CG Perry (not re-standing)  
Mrs KD Robertson  
IR Thomson

### **Regional Members**

G Trembath – Northern (not re-standing)  
Dr JD Warburton (GM, GC, SB3) – Yorkshire & Humberside  
R Kelvey - Eastern

### **Shooting Discipline Members**

JGM Webster – Target Rifle  
PA Dommett – F Class  
Dr AP Wolpe – Muzzle Loading

Guy Trembath confirmed he is stepping down as Northern Member but will be putting himself forward as an Ordinary Member.

## **13. C808 – MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS**

- 13.1. 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 General<sup>1</sup>.
- 13.2. The Chairman thanked the GC members for collating the questions and opened the floor for discussion on the various questions raised.

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of the Membership Questions and responses provided by the professional staff is appended to these minutes.

- 13.3. **Journal Article** – ACT informed the meeting that he had written an article providing a summary of member questions and answers which had been published in the Winter Journal. He asked that GC members consider volunteering to write articles for each Journal providing feedback on the questions asked by the membership. Bryden Ritchie offered to write the article for the Spring Journal and will include an update on the Regional Members
- 13.4. **Accommodation Bookings** – The Chairman informed the meeting that accommodation availability is removed from Booking.com during the main competitions to ensure the accommodation is available for competitors and families. IT remarked that Booking.com is showing availability for July. The Chairman asked the Secretary General to take that up with the accommodation team to ensure bookings are only available through the NRA. The Chairman noted that whilst members may find it easier to book via Booking.com and may receive loyalty incentives for doing so, the NRA/NSC would prefer members to book direct as that saves having to pay a commission to Booking.com. MJ asked that this be communicated to the membership so they are aware of the required process.
- 13.5. **Firearms Licensing Fees/6.5mm ban on MoD Ranges** – The Chairman reported that the NRA is working closely with the MoD, Home Office and Police Firearms Licensing alongside other stakeholders such as BSSC, to raise various issues including licensing fees, firearms ownership and ammunition on MoD ranges. These negotiations are sensitive and the Chairman asked that members not contact the MoD or police licensing departments as it could prejudice sensitive discussions. PN remarked that the costs to amend a firearms licence is now excessive especially for University clubs whose officials change annually and asked whether alumni could be asked to assist by offering to take on the firearms licence on behalf of the university to avoid annual charges.
- 13.6. AD remarked that there seems to be a subtle change for firearms variations only allowing like for like (rather than one for one) firearms and ammunition. BR remarked that there are differences between police forces and it appears that common sense is being used. DS remarked that FELWG have advised police forces to use common sense for variations.
- 13.7. MJ asked whether anything can be done to address the time it is taking the police to process licence renewals. The Secretary General remarked that there is very little the NRA can do to influence the licensing department.
- 13.8. MJ remarked that the most recent government response to firearms licensing changes to allow police access to property where firearms are kept without a warrant is worrying. DS remarked that BSSC are aware of this and will be lobbying through Westminster and other channels.
- 13.9. **Lead in Ammunition** – The Secretary General reported that the HSE report has gone forward to DEFRA for consideration and the NRA will await DEFRA's decision on whether to accept the HSE's report. The NRA will provide guidance and work with the Regional Range operators if the lead restrictions are implemented.
- 13.10. **Communications** – MJ asked whether there is a communication plan in place and what had happened to the recruitment of a Comms Manager. The Secretary General reported that communications are being managed on a departmental basis and the recruitment of a Comms Manager is ongoing. The Chairman asked GC members to put forward any suitable candidates for consideration.
- 13.11. **Regional Members** – BR reported that the Regional Members have held meetings to review their role on GC, noting that the Second Schedule shows they report to Shooting Committee. BR put forward the proposal that GC allow a Regional Member Update item to be included on future GC agendas so a report can be provided for discussion and information. The proposal was accepted by the Meeting.
- 13.12. **Membership Fee** – IT remarked that a question had been raised by a member for consideration for changing the renewal date for direct debit payments as December is an expensive time of the year for many people. The Chairman apologised that the question had not been included in the responses. The Chairman remarked that the timing of renewals is specified in the Second Schedule and any change would require approval of NRA members at an Annual Meeting.
- 13.13. **Speeding on Camp** – PN remarked that the professional staff are speeding through Site 7 caravan site to Cheylsmore range as well as on other parts of camp and should be asked to adhere to the speed limit.
- 13.14. No further questions were raised.
14. **C809 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 14.1. GTr asked for an update on the recruitment of a new Secretary General. The Chairman confirmed the recruitment is progressing well and noted the significant number of applications received in response to the advertised role.
- 14.2. BR asked all Regional members to attend the regional meetings as often as possible to help support the regions. JM asked if the meetings could be held later in the day as 2pm is not practical during the working day.
- 14.3. BR reported that he is working on the Historic & Classic handbook and will be contacting the Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading disciplines to discuss the various classifications of firearms.

- 14.4. RB asked when the caravan licence renewals will be coming out for 2025 and what the proposed increase is for 2025. The Secretary General informed RB that the increase is 4%. RB asked what the justification is for such an increase, which is greater than inflation. The Treasurer remarked that pricing is not tied to RPI and reflects increasing salary costs, utilities and other costs of the NRA.
- 14.5. RKel remarked that there is a misunderstanding in the regions of the insurance cover provided to affiliated club members as many believe they are covered for shooting as individuals. The Secretary General confirmed that the club insurance only covers shooting activity undertaken at a club event. Club members are not covered for personal accident cover under the club insurance policy and should source their own personal accident cover. Only full individual NRA members have personal accident cover provided as part of their membership.
- 14.6. SL remarked that a new communications Manager should be recruited as soon as possible to implement a good communication strategy, and not to wait until the new Secretary General is in place.
- 14.7. FS informed the meeting that he had spoken to Brig. Tim Seal of Army Rifle Association who has confirmed he will be happy to join the General Council. The Secretary General thanked FS for that update, and was very glad to hear that Tim Seal had decided to accept the NRA's invitation having spoken to him earlier in the week.

No further questions were raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 16.30pm



D Lacey  
Chairman

Date of next meeting: Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2025 from 3.00pm in the NRA Pavilion

## REVIEW OF ACTIONS

Action Item	Responsibility	Action to be Taken
<b>Membership Analysis</b> – General Council asked for a report on the granular reasons for the growth in membership on an annual basis, including analysis by regions and disciplines, and gift aid donations. A copy of the Azolve database had been taken at the end of 2023 to provide a base for analysis. The first report will be prepared at the end of 2024 once the first year of information has been gathered, and then on an annual basis.	Secretary General	Secretary General to report on the granular growth in membership at the end of 2024 once the first year of information has been gathered from the Azolve database.
<b>Strategic Framework 2022-2027 document</b> – IR asked for an update on progress on the Strategic Framework document.	Trustees Secretary General	The Strategic Framework document to be reviewed and updated by the Trustees with the new Secretary General once recruited
<b>On-site Ablution Facilities</b> – PN asked for an updated on the installation of ground level Elsan points #as caravan owners are struggling to use the above ground units, and asked for confirmation that all Elsan units are discharging into the sewerage drainage, not storm water drainage. The Chairman asked whether the installation of a ramp would assist. PN agreed that would be helpful. The meeting asked that the professional staff review and consider the installation of a low level Elsan point or ramp to the current point on Site 7	Secretary General	Secretary General to ask the professional staff to review and consider the installation of a low level Elsan point or ramp to the current point on Site 7.
<b>Ablution Facilities</b> – PN asked whether handrails were being installed in showers as well as ablution blocks. The Secretary General confirmed the provision of handrails in a number of ablution blocks is being reviewed for installation.	Secretary General	Secretary General to update on the review of installation of handrails in a number of ablution blocks.
<b>Membership Offering</b> – The Membership Committee was asked to review the membership offering for regional members and whether a discounted fee could be introduced for members who do not use Bisley.	Membership Committee	Membership Committee to review the membership offering for regional members with a view to offering a discounted fee as is offered to overseas members.
<b>Caravans and Membership Checks</b> – MJ asked for the NRA to review and expand on its definition for the minimum requirement for members to have caravans/huts on camp, including a minimum number of times someone is expected to shoot at Bisley to stay in their caravan throughout the year, and also look at getting some legal advice on action that could be taken by the NRA should a member fail to meet those requirements.	GC Members	Secretary General confirmed licences granted only to NRA members. Monitoring of members activities considered intrusive and unworkable.  Evidence sought from GC members that problem exists.



Action Item	Responsibility	Action to be Taken
<p><b>ABC Lines Upgrade</b> - AD asked for an update on the consideration to upgrade C Lines for RO's as they are in poor substandard condition, or whether ROs could be accommodated in the newly refurbished A Lines as they provide important support to the NRA as volunteers and should be provided with suitable accommodation. AD added that the money spent on improving parking for ABC Lines could have been better spent on refurbishing the rooms. The Secretary General responded that more promotion is being done to drive up the accommodation income which in turn will provide funds to refurbish the remaining rooms, but noted it is a fine balance to get it right. AD added that A Lines is available for booking on Booking.com despite being told by the NRA that they have been booked out and are not available. The Secretary General will discuss this with the accommodation team to ensure the rooms are reserved for shooters and ROs during the competition season.</p>	Secretary General	The Secretary General to ask the accommodation team to ensure the ABC lines are removed from Booking.com during the competition season to allow shooters and ROs to book during the competition season.
<p><b>Mid-Week Shooting Packages</b> - MJ asked for an update on plans for midweek shooting packages as having one day packages are suitable for members who live close to Bisley, but providing two day packages will be more helpful for those living further afield. The Secretary General will take that suggestion back to the relevant teams for consideration.</p>	Secretary General	Secretary General to ask the professional staff to consider two-day mid-week packages for members who live far away from Bisley.
<p><b>Chairman &amp; Treasurer tenures</b> –The Chairman informed the meeting that 2025 will be his final year in post as Chairman and asked the members to start considering new applicants to replace him in February 2026. DLa added that he would be willing to talk to any potential candidates about the role.</p> <p>The Chairman also informed the meeting that the Treasurer is due to step down in September 2025, and whilst he is willing to remain in post to retain corporate knowledge and consistency due to the pending exit of the Secretary General and Chairman, he would rather be replaced and assist a new incoming Treasurer into post</p>	GC Members	GC Members to consider potential candidates for the positions of NRA Chairman and Treasurer
<p><b>Estate Working Group</b> – The Chairman asked that the EWG convene a meeting to elect a Chairman and review and discuss any items put forward by the GC members including Elsan points, caravan charges and on-site ablutions.</p>	Estate Working Group	To convene a meeting, elect a Chairman, and review and discuss items put forward by GC members including caravan-related matters.

Action Item	Responsibility	Action to be Taken
<b>Journal Article</b> – ACT informed the meeting that he had written an article providing a summary of member questions and answers which had been published in the Winter Journal and asked that GC consider asking volunteers to write articles for each Journal providing feedback on the questions asked by the membership. Bryden Ritchie offered to write the article for the Spring Journal and will include an update on the Regional Members.	Bryden Ritchie	Bryden Ritchie to write an article on member questions for the Spring Journal and include an update on the Regional Members.
<b>Accommodation Bookings</b> – The Chairman informed the meeting that accommodation availability is removed from Booking.com during the main competitions to ensure the accommodation is available for competitors and families. IT remarked that Booking.com is showing availability for July. The Chairman asked the Secretary General to take that up with the accommodation team to ensure bookings are only available through the NRA. MJ asked that this be communicated out to the membership so they are aware of the required process.	Secretary General	Secretary General to ask accommodation team to ensure bookings are blocked from Bookings.com during the key competition periods. MJ asked that this be communicated to the membership so they are aware of the required process.

## MEMBER QUESTIONS – FEBRUARY 2025

### 1. 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.

#### 1.1. Question from Griff Morgan (12110) – Gauges

Please can NRA could issue gauges to NRA markers & supervisors to use when targets are being marked & maybe they could be sold to clubs / pvt markers. Benefit of shots being gauged = to remove doubt & increase confidence in marking and remove 'marker cost me points'.

Also, not just a smaller calibre issue as the shot hole shrinks back to the screen so everyone could benefit from gauging. For smaller calibres, all shots are scored to the size of a .308" hole (keeps gauging simple, 1 size for all) so 'clear separation' based on smaller hole isn't representative of the size of hole to which scoring should take place.

Also, gauging isn't just for challenging but is a part of the butt officer duties when challenged. Markers can gauge if they think a shot is close to touching the line.

Several matches I have challenged and asked for a gauge to be told:

Not available in the butt's

Or

RO claiming it has been gauged when there was no call to confirm it took place.

There is a gauge size to use (R306?) So why isn't this being facilitated and could it be implemented. Scoring should be either in or out and not left to 'markers judgement' when the hole size shrinks on impact.

#### ANSWER

*Target scoring gauges ("TSGs") are not routinely issued to markers and NSC has no plans to make them available as part of routine target bookings or to offer them for sale in the Armoury. TSGs are available to Butt Supervisors in major competitions such as the Imperial. They can also be provided for other major competitions on request at the time the competition is booked, and competition organisers are free to bring their own TSGs for use by markers. Not all markers will be familiar with TSGs so organisers should allow time to brief markers on their use for them to be most effective.*

#### 1.2. Question from Chris Fopp (1609) – Accommodation

What is the business plan regarding the commercial advertisement of camp accommodation to non-shooters, specifically with regard to high-season and prioritisation to shooters and what ramifications / risk is associated with its external commercialisation. For example, are we the membership assured that shooters will not find themselves unable to source affordable accommodation in the A Lines. Why was this development not published to the membership ahead of it being advertised?

#### ANSWER

*NSC manages the accommodation on Camp as it is a commercial activity. Low occupancy rates have been a continuing problem, and represent lost income opportunities. NSC has recently listed some accommodation on booking.com to help improve occupancy rates and the economic return to the charity from accommodation on Camp. NSC will closely monitor the bookings received through on-line sources to make sure the bookings are in addition to shooters booking for competitions rather than displacing those bookings. NSC must balance communicating key developments to members against causing email fatigue and did not consider that this recent initiative warranted a special notice to all NRA members.*

### **1.3 Question from Cameron Smith (95827) – Electronic Targets**

My query is why is there not an electronic targetry session at 500 yds, this is a standard competition shooting distance, and practice distance, but you can never book 500 yds on electronics. I as a club secretary (Thames valley Police Shooting Club) book the ranges at least 16 times annually, but 500 yds is not offered as an option, and I have heard numerous individuals and clubs complain that this is not an option.

#### **ANSWER**

*NSC provides electronic targetry based on demand from its customers. At the moment, 300-yard and 600-yard targets are the most popular distances and so electronic targets are focused at those distances. NSC has not yet received sufficient interest for 500-yard electronic targets to justify the investment in electronic targetry at that distance. If individuals and clubs do want electronic targets at 500 yards, they should let the Range Office know so the demand can be properly assessed.*

## **2. 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.

**NOTE:** *There are four questions relating to the Sporting Rifle ranges and the British Sporting Rifle Club. As there are a number of common elements to these questions there is a single answer provided at the end of the questions*

### **2.1 Question from John Watson (8692) – British Sporting Rifle Club**

I'm sure you're aware that the Trustees are not prepared to renew the British Sporting Rifle Club Lease. I live in Kent, am a member of the NRA and British Sporting Rifle Club, assume you are my General Council Contact. Would be grateful if you would raise the issue at your next meeting. I am in contact with Lacey and below is a copy email I sent to him this morning. A very sad state of affairs, clearly the Trustees have no interest in Moving Target Shooting.

"Morning Mr Lacey,

Thank you for your ambiguous email of 9th January sent to all BSRC members who contacted you. I sought clarification for the fiscal justification of taking over the British Sporting Rifle Club Range, please confirm that a Discounted Cash Flow has been undertaken to support this initiative, what is the estimated pay back period? We're all aware the NRA's finances are not in good shape, clearly the development of site 101/ 103 "The Trench Experience" has been delayed due to financial pressures even though it is in the Estate development Plan 2024/ 28. Please clarify whether the budgeted funds flagged for 101/ 103 are to be used for refurbishment of the Sporting Rifle Range or are the NRA Trustees expecting it to come from hiring the range to CNC, the Police and Corporate activities? Clearly the Trustees do not understand Moving Target shooting or the income the Sporting Rifle Range will generate.

Regards

John Watson"

### **2.2 Question from John Rossiter (12078) – British Sporting Rifle Club**

Like many BSRC members I was shocked by the recent NRA announcement that they were taking over operation of BSRC ranges which have been built up over the last 60+ years since the NRA declared no interest in the site.

Some enterprising NRA members who were keen on the Running Deer discipline which had been brought from Wimbledon put in a bid for the ground and have developed it into the current set up which includes a fully automated 100M Running Deer, two fully automated Running Boar 50M Ranges, a 100yd static range. All equipped with electronic scoring which works, years before the NRA ventured down this route; and still don't seem to have got it right.

During that time BSRC members have been successful in the Olympics and World Championships and enjoyed many International Competitions and hosted many overseas teams. But BSRC as its name suggests is all things relating to Sporting Rifles, not just moving target and it has become a broad church of shooting interests.

Currently all the maintenance of this complex is undertaken by members and makes no demands on NRA Range Staff. In addition, the ranges are made available free of charge to the NRA on about 20+ days a year and BSRC members run events on behalf of the NRA.

Very unexpected therefore that after all these years the Trustees have decided that these Ranges which make no demands on NRA resources; put on events for the NRA and generate £20K a year in rental income are to be taken back under NRA Control!

So, an immediate loss in rental income, the need for more maintenance staff coupled with an undertaking to spend about £200K on new targets and facilities in recognition that the current ones are due for replacement.

And it all seems to have been decided in haste! BSRC's lease ended on 31.12.24 and we were in the process of negotiating for another when during the Christmas recess we were given 3 months' notice to remove all our equipment. Not only will this be seen as a disappointment amongst the almost 300 BSRC members, the majority of whom are also individual NRA members, but also to several NRA Affiliated Clubs who rent time on the Ranges from BSRC.

We are told that the reason for this decision is that BSRC provides discounted shooting with exclusive use for BSRC members and that under NRA leadership the facilities will be accessible to all NRA members and affiliated Clubs. Sounds very egalitarian but also suggests that there will be significant price increases, and I believe some risks.

Given that those events which BSRC runs on behalf of the NRA are not particularly well attended one really wonders where this expected influx of participants will come from? And BSRC has always had a rule that NRA members can rent time on the BSRC STATIC range at guest rates, but this is seldom taken up. The reason this doesn't include the moving target ranges is that these disciplines are shot to International rules which require a 'gun up' starting position, because it is as much a test of gun mounting as it is target accuracy. All new BSRC members and those of affiliated Clubs are trained how to do this safely during their probationary period.

It all rather leads one to the conclusion whether this action, by the NRA, particularly the economics and safety aspects, have really been thought through. It suggests an immediate loss of revenue for the NRA; staff increases, maintenance costs and an undertaking to invest in new targets and facilities. I don't doubt that Council Members can think of other priorities for this sort of investment at Bisley and wonder whether adequate market research and consultation has been done?

Or is this just another example of the recent NRA thinking - forget the shooters, just go with the money??

The BSRC Ranges are somewhat different from the remainder of NRA Ranges at Bisley in that they have no mantlet where a marker might lurk to tend or change targets. Hence the need for electronic scoring. It is possible to manually mark both Running Deer and Running Boar from the target motor rooms which are bulletproof, but this is somewhat laborious and labour intensive.

Without any electronics the static targets can only be marked/changed by going forward which requires closing down all of the other ranges and carrying a red flag and operating warning sirens to create a safe environment.

Despite these difficulties the NRA have given us 3 months to remove our equipment. If they have any real intention of running the range as they say then it would be far more economical to buy our equipment to enable a seamless transfer.

### **2.3 Question from Clive Rew (13484) – British Sporting Rifle Club**

As you may know, I have a keen interest in Sporting rifle and have been a member of the BSRC for many years, I also have a very keen interest in Short Range Heavy Bullet, championed by David Lacey.

In comparison to the whole shooting world, both these disciplines are composed of a relatively modest number of participants. I have long been proud of the ethos of the NRA, which is to support all shooting disciplines, I think that you have done us proud over the years and I'm grateful.

I am concerned at the news that BSRC is to lose its facilities. This club has promoted the discipline of sporting rifle for so long, both in the UK and internationally. Indeed the BSRC has represented the world of shooting and presented the NRA in a good light by the hosting of injured veterans from the wars in the Middle East, I was proud to have assisted in these events.

The decision to end the BSRC has greatly surprised and concerned me, and seems at odds with the promotion of all shooting disciplines.

I do hope that there is a way for the BSRC to continue promoting sporting rifle at Bisley after all they have given to our sport.

## 2.4 Questions from Steve Wallis (9552) – British Sporting Rifle Club

At the beginning of January 2025 a notice was posted on the NRA website advising that following the expiry of the British Sporting Rifle Club's (BSRC) lease at the end of 2024 the operation of the sporting rifle ranges, which have been developed to what they are now by the BSRC at their own expense since taking them on in 1962, would be taken over by the National Shooting Centre Ltd (NSC).

The decision not to offer the BSRC a new lease was one taken by Trustees at their meeting on 14 December, some two weeks prior to the expiry of the then lease. Prior to that meeting negotiations had been ongoing between the BSRC and the NRA Secretary General Andrew Mercer. These negotiations had been around the detail of the terms, duration and rent for a new tenure by the Club that would enable them to make significant investment in new targetry and ensure the range was accessible to all those who use it at present and also to all NRA members as well as for use by the NRA/NSC. The options under negotiation being the proposal from the NRA and a counter proposal made by the BSRC which were to be considered by Trustees and a preferred option selected.

Details of these two options had been set out and it is expected that these would have been presented to Trustees ahead of the meeting on 14 December to enable them to make a considered decision as to the way forward.

It is understood that at the meeting on 14 December a third option of 'no new lease' was presented and that there had been no prior notification of this to Trustees, but that despite this was the option chosen by them on the day.

Could the Chairman, Treasurer and Trustees of the NRA please individually provide written answers to the following questions:

1. What due diligence was undertaken and presented to Trustees including *inter alia* the following, by whom, in what capacity, how was it presented and what indemnities were secured from them in terms of financial accuracy?
  - Existing facilities
  - Scope of upgrading work both in terms of equipment and firing points
  - Scope of upgrading work in terms of clubhouse and other buildings
  - Cost of, upgrading the existing targetry
  - Cost of upgrading work in terms of clubhouse and other buildings
  - Cost of enabling works
  - Loss of rental income from BSRC both during upgrading works and as a comparison with projected income from operation by NSC
  - Whether the work can be completed using NRA staff or would require outside contractors/specialists
  - Costings for outside contractors/specialists
  - Timescales for implementation of the upgraded facilities
  - Whether the works can be completed without impacting on scheduled events open to all NRA members
  - What the expected income revenue from the upgraded facilities would be
  - What the ongoing costs of maintenance and replacement would be
  - How much revenue would need to be generated per annum to make the ranges cost neutral to NRA members
  - What the breakeven date would be.
2. Who carried out the verification of the due diligence work and under what brief issued by whom?
3. Who presented the due diligence work and proposed 'no new lease' to Trustees?
4. Can the Chairman and Trustees please explain why, as part of the due diligence process, neither the Sporting Rifle Discipline Representative or the Sporting Rifle Sub-Committee were consulted, given that they are the recognised discipline authorities?

5. Are the Chairman and Treasurer both fully satisfied that there is a sufficiently sound audit trail around the due diligence to satisfy any future investigation into the charitable activities of the Association?
6. Are the Chairman and Trustees both fully satisfied that there was sufficient detailed information made available to Trustees ahead of and at the meeting on 14 December to ensure a fully informed decision was made regarding what is a significant commitment of capital outlay and loss of guaranteed rental income and that this too would stand scrutiny should there be any future investigation into the charitable activities of the Association?
7. Are all Trustees individually satisfied that there was sufficient detailed information made available to them ahead of and at the meeting on 14 December to enable them to make a fully informed decision regarding what is a significant commitment of capital outlay and loss of guaranteed rental income and that this would stand scrutiny should there be any future investigation into the charitable activities of the Association?
8. Will the Chairman and Trustees give a guarantee that the ranges will be operational to allow their unfettered use by NRA members for the scheduled NRA events during 2025, including *inter alia* The Spring and Autumn Gallery Rifle Action Weekends, the Gallery Rifle Nationals, the Gallery Rifle Phoenix Meeting, the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting, the Trafalgar Meeting, the Imperial Sporting Rifle Meeting including the British Running Deer Championships and the Running Deer Unlimiteds and the British Running Boar Championships and Unlimiteds?
9. Will the Chairman and Trustees give a guarantee that, subject to closures for maintenance and events such as those referred to above, the ranges will be available to book and use by any Full NRA member holding a valid safe shooter card and by affiliated Clubs and that these will be given priority over their use by non NRA members and organisations in accordance with the Associations charitable status?
10. Will the Chairman and Trustees individually and collectively give a guarantee that the upgraded facilities will enable the use of the ranges for practice, training and competition using targets that conform to international standards, as is the case at present and would have been the case had the BSRC been permitted to implement their planned program of improvements, including *inter alia* 50m and 10m moving target ranges and firing points that comply with ISSF rules and regulations?

## **ANSWERS TO SPORTING RIFLE RANGE QUESTIONS**

### **ANSWER**

*The NRA doesn't publish the proceedings of Confidential Council Meetings at which lease renewals are discussed or comment on the circumstances of individual lease renewals. In considering any lease renewal Trustees must always consider whether it is better for the charity that the property is used by the charity (or in the case of commercial properties, the NSC) rather than being leased to a third party. The NSC pays a licence fee for property it uses at Bisley and its profits generated from that property eg ranges, accommodation etc are Gift Aided to the charity.*

*NSC is keen to work co-operatively with the BSRC to ensure a smooth handover of the Sporting Rifle range to minimise disruption to users of the range and to enable the competitions planned for 2025 to go ahead as planned. NSC will provide targetry that reflects the needs of the customers using the Sporting Rifle range in the same way that it does for the other ranges on Camp.*

*The NRA doesn't publish financial information in addition to the accounts that are provided to General Council for each of its meetings and to all members each year as part of the Annual Report. The future of the Sporting Rifle ranges was discussed at some length at the 2019 Annual General Meeting, starting at page 26 here: <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/AGM-Minutes-2019-1.pdf> which provides further background.*

*These new arrangements will provide much greater access to this unique range complex. Bookings will be available to individual NRA members and affiliated clubs on an hourly, daily and half-daily basis. The ranges will provide training facilities for police and military personnel. The Spring Action and*



*Phoenix Meeting will also continue at the Sporting Rifle Range. There will be a separate announcement once arrangements are in place for NSC to start taking bookings.*

*The NRA looks forward to increased participation in Sporting Rifle shooting as a result of greater access to, and new investment in, the Sporting Rifle range. The Sporting Rifle range is a valuable facility and as a result of the changes, the benefits of the range complex will be available across the wider shooting community. BSRC will be able to book the range, along with other NRA-affiliated clubs and NRA members, meaning that BSRC members will continue to be able to enjoy the range facilities as well as benefitting from the improvements planned by the NRA for 2025.*

*The NRA is keen to emphasise that the new arrangements for the Sporting Rifle range is not intended to end the BSRC, which we hope will continue to thrive and provide a valuable network for its members. Many clubs, both at Bisley and away from Bisley, provide valuable services to their members without a lease of a range or a clubhouse. BSRC is not losing access to the Sporting Rifle range. NSC will welcome range bookings from BSRC as a valued customer of the Sporting Rifle ranges, alongside bookings from individuals, NRA-affiliated clubs and commercial customers. The NSC is keen to promote the Sporting Rifle discipline as part of its operation of the Sporting Rifle ranges for the benefit of the wider shooting community.*

## **2.5. Questions from Chris Clingham (22178) – 6.5mm ban on MoD Ranges / Firearms Licensing Renewals / Firearms Licensing Fees / Firearms Ownership**

What is the NRA doing to protect the interests of NRA members and the wider shooting community when it comes to the 6.5 blanket ban on MoD ranges?

What is the NRA doing to protect the interests of NRA members and the wider shooting community when it comes to the unacceptable delays in Firearms Licensing Departments where new grants are taking up to 2 years and renewals up to 1 year in some Licensing areas?

What is the NRA doing to protect the interests of NRA members and the wider shooting community when it comes to government announcements on license fee increases without any consultation with shooting bodies / shooters?

What is the NRA doing to protect the interests of NRA members and the wider shooting community when it comes to what appears to be a concerted attack on the sport and firearms ownership from a variety of different quarters with the ultimate aim of taking firearms out of private ownership and destroying the sport?

### **ANSWER**

*The NRA is actively engaged with the MoD, Home Office, police firearms licensing and other stakeholders regarding these issues. Our interaction is both direct and by working with other shooting organisations such as the British Shooting Sports Council.*

*Much of the work we do is sensitive and we have found promoting evidence based discussions the most effective route to acceptable outcomes.*

*Police firearms licensing teams are often poorly resourced and trained, and the NRA is delivering firearms awareness range training days for FEO's for the College of Policing. This work is helping us improve our relationship with individual licencing teams.*

*Regarding 6.5mm calibre we have had several detailed discussions with MoD; we understand their concerns and recognise the prescriptive regulatory environment in which they operate. We discussed the NRA's rationale to continuing to allow the use of 6.5mm at Bisley. We will continue this dialogue as the MoD progresses their assessment of this calibre.*

## **2.6. Questions from John Crouch (12048) – 6.5mm ban on MoD Ranges / Rifle and Ammo Requirements on MoD documentation / HSE Final Report / Firearm Licence Fees**

I have been very disappointed by the Association's response and lack of engagement to members and affiliated clubs regarding; the MoD restrictions on 6.5mm calibre use on DIO ranges, the requirement for rifle/ammunition specific information to be notated on new MoD documentation in advance of range bookings, the HSE final report and recommendations on lead ammunition and the government drive for full cost recovery of firearms licences; this last issue just yesterday resulting in a sudden announcement of a fait accompli by the Home Office.

The situation around the progressive restrictions on 6.5mm has been fluid, with initially only 6.5 Creedmoor subject to moratorium at Salisbury Plain Training Area, then on ranges not passed suitable for 8.59mm/.338, followed by all gallery ranges, finally with inclusion of all 6.5mm calibres. This was only communicated to clubs by members monitoring the news page on the NRA site or following the NRA on facebook, triggering self perpetuating speculation bouncing around Internet groups due to a lack of information, with our club officers having repeatedly seek clarification from our local DIO TSO. Club secretaries were finally advised by email of the inclusion of all 6.5mm calibres in the restrictions on 4 December, along with the notification of the Civilian Safe Activity Assurance Form (CSAAF), but this information was not broadcast to individual members as above.

#### **ANSWER**

*The MoD issued a notice in November restricting the use of all 6.5mm ammunition on constructed ranges. This restriction applies to all range users including NRA Clubs. We expect the restriction to remain in place whilst MoD completes a detailed evaluation of a new weapons system using the 6.5 Creedmoor cartridge and subsequent development of new advice for danger area templates. We understand that the restriction applies to the majority of constructed MoD ranges used by NRA Clubs.*

*The NRA email advising clubs of this restriction was sent on 4 December to officers of affiliated clubs who are licenced to shoot on MoD ranges. We did not circulate the email to all NRA members because it relates solely to MoD ranges.*

The replacement of the MoD RASP with the new CSAAF was communicated by MoD through a Regulatory Notice received by our club liaison, and in context of the above restrictions the requirement to pre notify of firearms and ammunition to be used 15 days in advance of attendance is of great concern, as is the need of club chairman's legal guarantee of all ammunition being compliant with limits specified in Standing Orders and the 906 form for the range. No guidance has been received from NRA towards this, which was enforced from 1 January.

#### **ANSWER**

*The regulatory notice was published, after discussion and input from the NRA, by the MoD on 29 January.*

*NRA Affiliated clubs who are licenced to shoot on MoD ranges were notified about the changes, with sample forms, guidance and copy regulatory notice by the email dated 4 December referred to in the previous question.*

The HSE report on lead ammunition, proposing an effective outright ban on lead shot and rifle ammunition  $\geq .243"$  or 6.17mm with a derogation for rifle ranges which comply with NRA best practice on de-leading, was circulated with little comment but commitment to update on consideration of the document. BASC made a comprehensive statement on the day of release of the report.

The HSE proposals detail a requirement for sites (i.e. private ranges) subject to the derogation to be listed on a publicly accessible database, which is to include site location, name of person responsible (i.e. club chair) and their contact information; this would, if enacted, not only be a considerable breach of UK GDPR but also a major issue for both security of club assets and the office bearer's personal security, as well as causing potential firearms security risk. This is in addition to the obvious impossibility of continuing practical shotgun in any way near its current form, with short range steel plate not being suitable for engagement with non-lead shot, and the incompatibility of lead alternatives with historic shotguns.

#### **ANSWER**

*The NRA played the lead role in securing the inclusion of the derogation for the continued use of lead ammunition on outdoor rifle ranges in the final HSE report; this was the result of detailed evidence, careful lobbying and demonstrations how lead is managed at Bisley and other regional ranges. Efforts to secure derogations for the continued use of lead shot for anything other than elite Olympic shooting proved fruitless.*

Finally, the proposal to pursue from application fees the full recovery of costs incurred by police forces in firearms licensing has been widely reported in both shooting sports media and mainstream output, yet I have been unable to find any NRA commentary on the issue. Without consultation or public engagement, the Home Office have submitted a statutory process for enactment to increase all firearms licensing fees by well over 100%, drawing online condemnation from BASC, CLA, Countryside Alliance etc.

The frequent criticism of the NRA from its individual and affiliated members is of its centrality to Bisley and operations there and there alone. Nothing I have noted in relation to these issues will serve to disabuse any of that notion, and I would have expected an organisation with the responsibilities of governance and representative powers of the NRA to operate better for and on behalf of its membership.

## **ANSWER**

*The NRA was a member of the Home Office Firearms Fees Working Group, and we provided robust evidence to challenge Home Office calculations of "full cost recovery". Furthermore we promoted a 3 yearly inflation linked increase to these fees.*

*These and other representations caused the Home Office to delay the implementation which has resulted in the decision being made by the new government.*

### **2.7. Question from Kevin Faulkner (1461) – Training Videos**

Can the NRA and and provide training videos:

- on how to be a range officer
- how to pass a shotgun course
- how to load a black powder pistol
- a video on all the disciplines, rules and regulations when shooting at Bisley

## **ANSWER**

*The NRA has no plan to provide training videos on these topics, given the cost and time of producing them. In-person training provides a more effective method of communication on these important topics. NRA provides a range of training courses and all members are encouraged to book a place on relevant courses to enhance their skills. Members are also encouraged to use the resources on the website, especially in relation to range regulations as there are important differences between different ranges at Bisley. Clubs also play a vital role in providing training to members on a range of topics.*

### **2.8. Question from John Steeples (9101) – Moderators**

One unresolved point does come to mind which seems to have disappeared from current interest and that concerns the continuing need to have Moderators/ Silencers/ Suppressors/Cans entered on our FACs.

You will understand that unless it is screwed on to a propelling device (like a firearm), then it is a sterile lump of small, moveable, contained metal parts. Unless it is actually thrown at someone or thing, it poses no possible threat to anyone or thing. Granted, when it is fixed to a firearm it is reported to reduce recoil and some would argue improves accuracy; but I see no other value (apart from noise reduction to fellow Shooters on the firing point), or threat to the general Public, so question the degree of protection it attracts.

Are you and/or General Council aware of and do you know of any progress regarding the Government using a Legislative Reform Order under the Reform Act 2006 that removes the need for Moderators to be placed on FACs?

## **ANSWER**

*There was a Home Office public consultation on this topic last year. You can read more about it here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/firearms-licensing-sound-moderators> The consultation is now closed and the Home Office has announced it is reviewing the results. The NRA will review the*

*situation again once the Home Office has published its response. The NRA supports the proposal to remove sound moderators from section 1 of the Firearms Act.*

*The NRA gave a practical impact of moderators on 7.62 calibre rifles on Stickledown range to members of the Home Office Firearms Policy Unit; this did much to improve the understanding of moderators and facilitated the support for a change in legislation*

## **2.9. Questions from Derek Stimpson (3962) – Cadet Rifle Shooting**

I have two questions re the above for General Council's consideration. The first may be too early at this stage so an interim report might be useful and the second which is a question.

- 1) whether a report to the next G C meeting may be possible regarding the cadets and MOD
- 2) how our case may be put to MOD and Government bearing in mind the Defence Chiefs initiative with government.

I had been pondering the above following the news re the MOD deciding not to continue funding the cadets and the full bore rifles going out of service next year. This will affect the shooting of CCF and Schools plus the Ashburton with various other effects as well.

Whether cadet shooting and competition may continue with air rifles, .22RF and .5.56 (.223) and funded or otherwise remains to be seen.

However, the Government is currently carrying out a defence review of the UK. Our military services are woefully below strength. Recruitment is a major issue. The cadets are an important potential recruitment source, directly and indirectly, for the military, although whilst they are a source, I understand current military policy is not to recruit directly from them. Nevertheless training civilians to shoot is important towards "Defence of the Realm", especially via the NRA, affiliated clubs and schools.

The defence chiefs have warned the Chancellor to boost defence spending, especially with the many current "war" situations worldwide including pressure from the new US President.

A recent newspaper article stated "Putting British troops on the ground in Ukraine comes amid a backdrop of cuts to the Armed Forces which had called its credibility as a fighting force into question. The number of Army soldiers fell below 73,000 in May for the first time since the Napoleonic era as all three military services have struggled to recruit and retain personnel in recent years."

Should not, therefore, the NRA start using its position and influence as a Governing Body on MOD and Government, in order to strongly underline the significance of military intake and recruitment, and the role that civilian shooting and marksmanship can play in "Defence of the Realm" in the initiative to strengthen our military capacity? I believe we should have the right contacts with MOD.

This might also lead to further interaction with the Charity Commission which I believe is also short sighted both in this respect and in the lack of recognition of the mental and physical benefits of shooting as a sport and charitable purpose, or even that shooting is a sport. There will never be a better time to pursue this.

I am aware of the difficult background to the charitable issue and to lobbying but the dynamics have now radically changed and I believe the topic needs revisiting by the NRA, our Governing Body, to the benefit of shooting as an all inclusive sport for all ages, genders and levels of ability, as well as contributing to the country's military strength.

## **ANSWER**

*The NRA is in discussions with CCRS to see how cadet target rifle can continue in light of the announcement that there will not be a replacement for the cadet fullbore target rifle after it reaches its end of service life in 2026. The NRA is keen to encourage cadet and youth shooting in all its forms. The NRA continues to keep the case for the contribution that civilian-only target shooting makes to Defence of the Realm under review.*

## **2.10. Questions from Mike Jenvey (2385) – Reports form Regional Representatives / Communication Plan / Wharncliffe Site / Online Contact Page / Firearms Fees**

Can GC confirm that they would prefer any future Regional Representative Meetings to have proper minutes generated / circulated for each such meeting.

### **ANSWER**

*This is a matter for General Council. Any member of General Council can ask for this item to be added to the Agenda of a future Council meeting. It is then open to General Council to request that Regional Representatives provide minutes of their meetings to assist General Council.*

Please can General Council (& the wider membership) have a detailed communication plan to cover 2025 & onwards, including proposed types / frequency of emails to members (to include regular updates), use of social media (noting that the NRA Twitter / X account has been dormant since 11 Jun 2023), & specific point of contact(s).

### **ANSWER**

*The NRA does not currently have a detailed communication plan covering the points listed above. The NRA concentrates its social media outreach via Facebook, supplemented by email messages to members as needed with useful information. The NRA is keen to recruit a Communications Manager and would welcome introductions to suitable candidates by General Council members.*

How many pitches are unsold on Wharncliffe site. What is the capital amount that is tied up against these unsold pitches?

### **ANSWER**

*There are 8 pitches still available on Wharncliffe Site. Each lease granted on Wharncliffe contributes around £25,000. We expect to see more interest in the remaining properties as the 2026 shooting season commences.*

When members try to contact a GC member (or rep, etc) via the NRA "who are we" webpage, they do not receive a copy of their message. Please can the web message system be amended so that they get (at the very least) an acknowledgement so that they can confirm receipt of their input. On other similar message / feedback systems, there is often a tick box to ask if the sender wants a copy of their message. (I had one message sent to me - but only the first few words were "transmitted" so I had to go back to the sender so that they could re-write / re-submit their question. This was fixed very quickly at the time - bug within system.)

### **ANSWER**

*We will keep this in mind for future website updates. We do not plant to implement it as a standalone project.*

The Home Office have just announced increases in Firearms fees; please can the NRA outline what input they made to the Home Office to try & limit the size of the increases.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circular-0012025-firearms-variation-of-fees-order-2025/circular-0012025-firearms-variation-of-fees-order-2025?utm\\_campaign=HM%20Firearms%20Licensing%20Fees%20Variation%20Order%202025&utm\\_medium=link&utm\\_source=gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circular-0012025-firearms-variation-of-fees-order-2025/circular-0012025-firearms-variation-of-fees-order-2025?utm_campaign=HM%20Firearms%20Licensing%20Fees%20Variation%20Order%202025&utm_medium=link&utm_source=gov.uk)

### **ANSWER**

*The Home Office recently announced increases in firearms licensing fees; these are largely in line with those proposed in 2023 on the basis of their full cost recovery calculations. These calculations were roundly criticised by the NRA and other members of the Fees Working Group.*

*It appears Home Office delays in resolving this issue through 2023 and 2024 have resulted in the decision being made by a government with different priorities.*

### 2.11. Question from Richard Stebbings (10566) – Imperial Meeting Membership

I asked a question in the September 2024 meeting regarding Meeting Membership fees (Bullet point 2.4) to which the NRAs response was "; the inconsistencies highlighted, including discounts offered, will be reviewed when setting the rates for 2025."

What is the result of this review and what are the new fees for the 2025 Imperial meeting?

#### ANSWER

*Fees have been reviewed and simplified on the following basis:-*

Non-Member Fee	Max Days	2025	Notes
		Fee	
<u>NRA Standard Annual Membership</u>	365	£125.00	
<u>Over 65 / Overseas</u>	365	£117.00	
<u>NRA Junior Annual Membership (22-25)</u>	365	£63.00	
<u>NRA U21 Annual Membership (U21)</u>	365	£30.00	
TR Imperial	10	£70.00	
Present Serving	10	£63.00	10% Off
Over 65/ Overseas	10	£63.00	10% Off
U25	10	£42.00	40% Off
U21	10	£30.00	40% Off capped at U21 Full membership
U21 - 1st Entry	10	£0.00	FREE
MR Imperial	6	£50.00	
Present Serving	6	£45.00	10% Off
Over 65/ Overseas	6	£45.00	10% Off
U25	6	£30.00	40% Off
U21	6	£30.00	40% Off capped at U21 Full membership
U21 - 1st Entry	6	£0.00	FREE
F Class Imperial	4	£30.00	
Present Serving	4	£27.00	10% Off
Over 65/ Overseas	4	£27.00	10% Off
U25	4	£18.00	40% Off
U21	4	£18.00	40% Off capped at U21 Full membership
U21 - 1st Entry	4	£0.00	FREE
300m Imperial	2	£16.00	
CSR Imperial	5	£16.00	
GR&P Imperial	4	£16.00	
IHAM	2	£16.00	
McQueen Imperial	10	£16.00	
Sporting Imperial	2	£16.00	
Team Individuals Imperial (Shooter)	10	£16.00	
Team Individuals Imperial (Non-Shooter)	10	£10.00	

### 2.12. Question from Tim Webster (4474)– Policy for Pedestrians, Cyclists and Disabled Shooters

Does the NRA have a policy in favour of pedestrians, disabled and cyclists

#### ANSWER

*Bisley Camp is a shared space enjoyed by a wide range of users. We encourage everyone to behave responsibly and to respect other Camp users. In particular, road users are expected to give way to cyclists and pedestrians in the same way as they would under the Highway Code outside Bisley Camp.*

### **2.13. Question from Barry Morse (15742) – Black Powder License Holders**

It seems that the delays in firearms licencing are also affecting black powder licencing but whereas there is a mechanism to extend firearms licences there is no mechanism to extend black powder licences. The response from the FLU is simply that if our black powder licence has expired then we can't hold it. Effectively putting us into the position of holding black powder illegally.

I was wondering if the matter has already been discussed at the NRA and what action had been taken.

#### **ANSWER**

*If your Explosives Licence has expired you should lodge your blackpowder with an authorised person. You must not retain possession of it illegally. The statutory extension for firearms and shotguns certificates does not apply to explosive licenses so it is important you lodge your renewal application in good time.*

### **2.14. Follow up Question from Nicolas Clifford (12640) – Licensed Section 1 Firearms**

In June 2025 I asked the following question and received the answer below. Please can I have an update on the representations made.

"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."

#### **ANSWER**

*This issue is regularly raised at meetings with the Home Office; they have given no firm indication that it will be progressed in the near future.*

### **2.15. Questions from Phil Northam (12713) – Site 1 Dishwash Facilities/Speeding on Camp**

When will the site 1 caravan dish wash & sanitary waste disposal facility be installed? Its been promised for over 3 years now & not done. As of today there are no works have started. Can you give an assurance it will be installed in time for the 1st March when the site reopens.

#### **ANSWER**

*Work are expected to be completed by the end of April 25.*

The response on speeding on specifically site 7, but possibly applicable to others, isn't accepted by the questioner. Members do not want to report NRA staff or other members. They need & want to work together. The reply isn't appropriate to a membership based organisation & avoids any actual or realistic proposals. This issue is now a highlighted risk, (in writing) that needs to be managed. What proposals to manage it do NRA wish to put forward to assure its members?

#### **ANSWER**

*The NRA can respond most effectively to the issue of speeding on Camp if it has information on specific examples so it can take targeted action. NRA staff have been reminded of the importance of respecting speed limits. Speed limits are clearly sign-posted for visitors. Speed bumps are used as a traffic-calming measure. There are no plans for electronic monitoring or speed cameras. The NRA will act where specific problems are identified, so we urge people to report speeding incidents to enable the NRA to take effective action based on evidence. To take action in the absence of evidence risks being seen as arbitrary and disproportionate, neither of which are conducive to good management of the estate.*

## **2.16. Question from Warren Hathaway (39494) – Membership Renewal Date**

Would there be any chance reviewing the date that subscriptions come out. To have them come out in December can have a significant financial impact owing to it leading up to the Christmas period. Ideally in line with the financial year would be of help, would allow enough to recover. Apologies if I am out of place and somewhat a personal issue but it does impact me greatly. Many thanks for your consideration.

### **ANSWER**

*The NRA membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December. This is set out in paras 2(f)(iii) and (iv) of the Second Schedule which you can read here: <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/NRA-rules.pdf> Changing the Second Schedule requires approval of NRA members at an Annual General Meeting. Moving the renewal date would have significant impact on the cash flow of the NRA and is not something Council is currently considering.*