

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

FINAL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the NRA Pavilion
on Friday 7th September 2018 from 2.00pm

Present:

Vice Chairman

Dr JD Warburton

Members:

Mr GV Barnard
Mr HRM Bailie
Mr JPS Bloomfield
Mr N Brasier
Mr CM Brooks
Dr A Cargill Thompson
Mr PAE Charlton
Mr PR Coley
Mr DC Crispin
Mr AJCB de Launay
Mr S Dixon
Mr CES Dickenson
Mr HF Dunton
Mr DGF Evans
Mr J Harris
Mr RS Kenchington
Mr JM Kynoch
Mr GAE Larcombe
Miss SS Lohmann
Mr D Lowe
Mr JF Miller
Mr N McFarlane
Mr B Ritchie
Mr R Roberts
Mr I Shirra-Gibb
Mr D Stimpson
Mr NF Thomas
Mr IR Thomson
Mr S Wallis

In attendance:

Mr A Mercer	-	Chief Executive
Mrs G Thatcher	-	Secretary to Meeting
Mr D Lacey	-	Trustee
Ms A Gran	-	Trustee

Apologies for absence: Mr GK Alexander, Mr T Bobbet, Col WGC Bowles, Maj R Bruce, Wg Cdr DP Calvert, Mr M Charlton, Mr M Cotillard, Mr L Christy, Maj. Gen IC Dale, Dr N Fyfe, Mr E George, Mr J Harper-Smith, Mr K Hocking, Wg Cdr CJ Hockley, Mr A Hunter, Mrs G Jarvis, Mr D Kent, Mr T Lehman, Mr M Magan, Mr M Maksimovic, Mr MF Martel, Mr W Mott, Mr K Nash, Brig. WJ O'Leary, Mrs K Robertson, Mr P Ryder, Mr AJD Saunders, Mr R Sayer, Mr C Steele-Benny, Mr MK Townsend, Mr G Trembath, Mr PDC Turner, Mr MP Watkins, Mr J Webster, Dr AP Wolpe, Mr MJ Wood.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Vice Chairman of General Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

INDEX G530 to G546

G530 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as noted above. The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that the Chairman was unable to attend due to being in America awaiting the birth of his first grandchild. Harald Dunton (HD) asked that the best wishes of the members be sent to the Chairman. All agreed.

G531 – 2018 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS & WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Vice Chairman welcomed the following new members to General Council following the elections held in July.

Martin Townsend – Ordinary Member
Simon Dixon – Ordinary Member
Richard Kenchington – West Midlands Regional Representative
Steve Wallis – Sporting Rifle Discipline Representative
Conrad Steele-Benny – Ex-Officio Member – RAFSAA
Nicholas (Nick) Thomas – Ex-Officio Member - BSRC

G532 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Vice Chairman requested that all members declare any conflict of interest at any relevant point of the meeting.

G533 – MINUTES OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING – 15th JUNE 2018

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of 15th June 2018 had been, circulated, approved and published.

G534 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 15th JUNE 2018

John Miller (JM) had asked for the breakdown of legal fee expenditure at a previous meeting, especially the cost of fighting the clubs on leases, and would like to know what they are. He declared an interest as a member of the Artist Rifles Clubhouse and the London & Middlesex Rifle Association.

Andrew Mercer (AM) responded that he had answered the question when raised at the AGM. The figures for 2017 in terms of legal and professional costs totalled £150k, of which £94k were legal fees and around half of that fee was spent on contentious matters and litigation. The figures would not be broken down into individual cases.

HD asked whether further comment could be made on GP fees.

AM responded that the agreement that was reached over 2 years ago was that the GMC and the Home Office and the shooting organisations has not been executed or delivered by the GPs as they are independent businesses. The Police are looking to move the cost of getting the initial medical reports from the GP onto the individual applicants and it is live issue which the shooting organisations are working through.

No further matters were raised.

G535 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF 15th JUNE 2018

G481 – AM confirmed the Charity Commission had still not published any guidance on mixed motive investment. **Item ongoing.**

G491 – AM confirmed that all refunds from the Imperial Meeting were being processed and will include all £20 paper entry fees. **Item closed.**

G492 – James Harris(JH) confirmed that this was a matter for ICFRA and the ICFRA representatives who are part of the NRA will discuss any issues and go to ICFRA who will then revert if they consider it worth doing. **Item closed.**

G493 – John Bloomfield (JSB) will produce and circulate a synopsis of the Rule 150 presentation to the General Council members. **Item closed.**

G498 – AM informed the meeting that the review of muzzle brakes is part of the wider noise testing protocols that the NRA are currently conducting. AM had a very helpful meeting with the Surrey Rifle Association and the DIO's noise expert. The broad outlines of the noise testing agreed will include muzzle brakes. **Item ongoing**

G512 – The members of GC were asked by the NRA to contact the Commonwealth Games Federation to keep shooting on the Games programme. Paul Charlton (PCh) informed the meeting that Martin Watkins (MW) had reported that there is a 2 day meeting being held in Birmingham this weekend and shooting is very high on the agenda for discussion. The Indian's have offered to buy the electronic targetry that would be required for the air weapons section and a proposal that it be held at the NEC in Birmingham. The suggestion that fullbore shooting may be held at Kingsbury range is also under discussion but this would only be to 600 yards. The Indians are very keen that this goes ahead as it is the bulk of their medal tally at the Games. JWar thanked PCh for this encouraging update. **Item ongoing.**

G516 – The consideration of an Estates Advisory Committee will be dealt with later in the meeting. **Item superseded.**

G522 – Derek Lowe (DL) had produced a report on the figures the NRA spends on youth shooting, disabled shooting and in the regions as part of his Treasurer's report.

In 2018 to date the NRA have invested £114k in youth shooting including competition entry discounts, probationary training discount, membership fees and support to youth teams.

The role of the Regional Range Manager has been extremely beneficial to the regions including liaison with the MoD and Landmarc re access to military ranges, negotiation and assistance with new regional range opportunities and building relationships with the regional clubs. The NRA have also granted £13k and loaned a further £15k to a regional club in Yorkshire to assist their range development.

The NRA have also invested c.£40k in total in disabled shooting by investing in the disabled facilities across 7 locations on camp as well as holding the Military Adaptive Championships which are free to enter.

DL thanked the NRA staff for producing the figures.

Silke Lohmann (SL) thanked DL for the information and asked whether the NRA had any plans to increase the investment across those areas.

AM remarked that a large amount of the work the NRA does including liaising with the Police, working with the MoD, supporting individual members, and the different NRA staff costs incurred are not necessarily separated into Bisley or regional investment.

SL believes the NRA should do more to invest in shooting across the regions.

AM remarked that the Strategic Plan 2018-2020 has a commitment for the NRA to invest 15% of their capital expenditure in facilities away from Bisley.

SL thinks the NRA should invest more in disabled shooting and encourage them to join the NRA.

AM remarked that the NRA are working closely with the British Shooting who have a disability club scheme to make shooting at Bisley more accessible for disabled shooters.

SL would like more investment to be made to promote shooting to the disabled and encourage them to try the sport with a view to joining the NRA.

AM responded that he would take that point to the Trustees for discussion.

Bryden Ritchie (BR) asked that some visibility be given to the members of General Council as the NRA creates the plans so that they can help with the engagement of various bodies in the regions or disciplines and assist the Trustees with some input before the final decisions are made.

AM thanked BR for that point. AM added that the NRA will be at the South Yorkshire Show at the end of the month and be there in the capacity of promoting fulbore shooting in the region, and Nic Couldrey the Regional Range Manager has been in contact with the local clubs to help promote their club and increase their membership.

G536 – ESTATES WORKING GROUP

AM has produced draft Terms of Reference for an Estates Working Group for discussion.

AM asked David Lacey (DLA), one of the Trustees, to explain the relationship of the NRA and NSC and how the estate is managed. DLA informed the meeting that there is a service agreement between the NRA and the NSC under which the subsidiary deals with the administration of the estate so leases are negotiated by the NSC with ultimate approval of the arrangements going back to the Trustees with a Charity Act report where required under legislation. The management of the estate is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees, and the day to day logistics of managing the estate rests with the NSC.

DLA went on to explain that the proposed working group would be a committee set up by the General Council members in the same way that other committees would such as the Shooting Committee or Membership Committee, and the working group would offer advice to General Council who are an advisory group to the Board of Trustees. The General Council would then be able to put forward any proposals or suggestions to the Board of Trustees for consideration.

AM commented that the proposal he had put forward for the working group was a hybrid of what has gone before and also how current committees are structured, especially those who have qualified and lay members.

AM is proposing a working group of 6 members, 3 from General Council who fall into three of the property categories - the club tenants, annual licensees or caravan owners, and one with no Bisley property interests, and 3 co-opted members, and also include and ex-officio Chairman, the Vice Chairman of GC, the Treasurer and the MD of NSC Limited.

Charles Brooks (CB) asked for clarification that General Council are to populate the working group with property issues brought to GC members for discussion and proposals back to GC for discussion.

JWar remarked that he believes that is the understanding of the Chairman and Trustees.

Alex Cargill Thompson (ACT) would like to know that the working group might come to General Council with issues that they feel should be considered and also that the Trustees may bring issues to the attention of GC for discussion by the working group.

JWar believes the former of that would happen anyway.

JWar would like to ask that this suggestion now be agreed and moved forward if agreeable by the members. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that the Estate Working Group would be formed under the guidelines in the proposal and the vacancies would be advertised.

AM asked the GC members to complete and return the Real Estate interests paper which will help potential members for the Estate Working Group to be canvassed.

JWar asked GC members to put forward any members of the Association who have the necessary skill set for the working group such as land agency, chartered surveyor, quantity surveyor etc.

SL added that she has spoken to a few people regarding the working group and although they may not be able to commit to 3 meetings a year, they would be happy to assist. Would it be acceptable to ask them for assistance?

JWar remarked that the meeting had voted on establishing a sub-committee of General Council with 3 lay members and 3 professional members with a view to meeting 3 times a year. We should therefore be looking for people who can afford to give that time to the committee.

SL asked whether a database of interested parties could be maintained should there be any questions in the future where additional assistance could be sought.

JWar thought that is a sensible suggestion.

Nick Brasier (NB) asked whether the register of property interests would be published to anyone.

AM remarked that it would not be published as it is an internal document but it will assist when creating the working group to ensure the different property interests of the working group are represented. The register will also show the representation of the various property categories at Bisley of GC members, ie 50% of GC members have a direct interest in property at Bisley and where any conflicts may lie.

DL added that declarations of interests in property should be made by GC members when discussing estate issues.

NB believes that sharing the register of property interests would be beneficial for that purpose. DL remarked that could be considered.

SL asked that a timeline be agreed to create the working group.

AM remarked that the working group would be elected by the General Council members and that a paper ballot could be organised for year-end following advertisement in the next NRA Journal and on social media with the working group being set up in the new year.

G537 – THE COUNCIL

The Vice Chairman asked for any matters arising from the Council Minutes of 20th April 2018.

HD asked whether the late delivery of the 600,000 rounds of GGG ammunition had any connection with the quality of the ammunition.

AM confirmed that the late delivery was due to transport issues.

No further questions were raised.

The Vice Chairman asked for any matters arising from the Council Minutes of 15th June 2018.

NB asked for an update on the Pavilion refurbishment.

AM responded that the roof of the kitchen area is currently being addressed and the kitchen and café area will be fitted out once work on the roof has been completed.

No further questions were raised.

David Evans (DE), as Vice Chairman of the Council, gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 4th August 2018.

DE informed the meeting that the Council approved the purchase of electronic headsets for GB teams.

The Council also commissioned a painting of Canada House which was presented by the Chairman to DCRA during the recent GB team tour on the occasion of the DCRA's 150th anniversary. The painting was very well received.

CB asked if the headsets were being purchased by the NRA or the Oversea Team Fund (OTF). DL responded that the headsets were bought by the OTF, funded by an interest free loan from the general fund.

SL asked whether the Prince of Wales had agreed to attend the 150th Imperial Meeting. AM responded that a decision would be made in November when HRH's diary is planned and agreed.

G538 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the AGM were published and available on the NRA website.

Richard Kenchington (RK) remarked that the Friday evening had been raised as inconvenient for some attendees and RK would like to know whether any further thought had been given to changing the date of the meeting.

AM responded that some discussion had been held and the only other credible alternative would be to move the AGM to the Phoenix meeting weekend. There is a very large number of NRA members who attend that weekend. The AGM must be held by 30th June each year.

RK added that could the meeting be held on the Saturday evening in June rather than the Friday. AM responded that there are other events held during that weekend including the Inter-Counties meeting.

ACT remarked that if the date is published well in advance, then the members will be aware of the change and a greater support and attendance may be reached.

CB remarked that sufficient time be given for any questions to be raised at the meeting, and also to ensure that a meeting room is available before agreeing a new date.

AM remarked that the 'Meet the Clubs' day is usually held on the Saturday of the Phoenix meeting but if that was closed by 4pm, then it would give enough time to turn the room around for the AGM at 6pm.

PCh asked whether there would be any knock-on effect of holding the meeting earlier in the year, such as the election of Vice Presidents.

Following discussion it was agreed that the date for 2019 AGM would be moved to the Saturday of the Phoenix Meeting as a trial and the 2020 date be considered following the attendance in 2019.

It was agreed that the General Council meeting would still be held in June.

RK remarked on the difficulty Universities face with the administration of their shooting clubs as the officers of the club change frequently. RK believes that permanent adult university staff should be involved in the management of the rifle club and the NRA should approach the universities to discuss how that can be achieved.

JSB remarked that a meeting had been proposed to discuss some of the university shooting club problems during the Imperial Meeting this year, which involved JSB, Richard Stebbings and Phil Northam. The meeting is still to be organised for sometime later this year and they hope to include some university members for their input.

BR remarked that he has been involved in university administration for a long time and the students of sporting associations are at least one or two steps away from the university core structure and very few universities have permanent staff associated with the sporting clubs. There may not be an easy answer to the problem.

G539 – BISLEY GENERAL MEETING

The minutes of the BGM were published and available on the NRA website.

RK remarked that Chris Law had brought up the topic of Corex target backing material and the issue of not being able to find shots on the white. RK stated that Bisley is the premier target shooting range in the UK, if not the world, and he is shocked that when going down to the butts to prepare a target on Century range, the target faces were covered in old patches, with many holes not patched, tears and creases in the targets. Contrasted with the beautifully kept and maintained targets at Kingsbury, it is not acceptable to have such targetry at Bisley. RK asked that investment be made in the targets on camp.

ACT remarked that the alternative of re-facing the entire target with paper periodically ran the increased risk that the target face could peel off in strong rain / wind and that both options (Corex and paper faces) had pros and cons.

JSB added that an investigation had been conducted into the use of Corex as the backing board following a large number of misses in the Queen's Final that year. The results of that investigation showed that of the 9 missed shots, 1 was down to a rifle malfunction, 1 was unknown as the Canadian cadet didn't provide any information, and the other 7 were shots on other targets.

Steve Wallis (SW) asked why electronic targets aren't being used for the competitions as they accurately show the fall of shot and score it each time. JSB remarked that those type of targets don't record sub-sonic shots, which can be problematic on Stickledown.

AM remarked that electronic targets are being rolled out at Bisley, and we are getting more comfortable with them. The investment needed to make all 108 targets on Century electronic is not available at this time. There are also still some reliability and confidence issues with them. AM remarked that the F Class Association have asked for more electronic targets on Stickledown so they can shoot their European Championships on them next year. The support of electronic targets at Bisley is growing but we do need to recognise that they are not the answer to every discipline's requirement.

SW asked how the 'fact finding' visit by NRA staff had gone in Norway. AM remarked that the visit had been very interesting and provided some areas for thought. However, the challenges for Bisley is the rate of attrition with over 5.5 million rounds of ammunition shot on the ranges each year.

RK reiterated the shocking state of the targets in the butts on Century. AM asked whether he had reported it to the range office. RK remarked that he hadn't. AM accepts that it shouldn't have happened and the staff do not deliberately put out inferior products. AM asked that any issues be reported directly to the range office so it can be dealt with at the time.

SD asked whether dual monitors are being considered for each target as flipping the target around each time is very inconvenient. AM responded that this is not currently planned.

BR remarked he would be concerned if all targets were made electronic at Bisley at the same time and that it be done in batches to allow the replacement to be done in batches from an affordability point of view.

Nick Brasier (NB) asked for an update on the investigation into the quality of the ammunition at the Imperial Meeting this year.

JH remarked that the investigation had been discussed at yesterday's Shooting Committee meeting. It is being conducted by the NSC and a report will be produced at the end of that investigation for the NRA. JH added that further discussion would be held later in this meeting as part of the Chief Executive's report.

G540 – FINANCE

The Treasurer presented his report to the meeting. The budgeted revenue for 2018 is £6M with a budgeted surplus of £150k. Capital expenditure is £263k to date. A minimum cash balance of £250k is maintained. The cash balance as of the end of July is £408k, in line with budget.

SL remarked that a lot of members are questioning the amount of money spent on the Pavilion and that the accounts are not very detailed. SL asked whether more detail could be provided on the accounts and expenditure. DL remarked that the accounts meet the requirements of charity accounts and are pretty lengthy. PCh added that changing the content of annual accounts can be a very lengthy process and also very expensive so consideration should be given to that before changing any future accounts.

ACT remarked that more pro-active communication be given to General Council and the general membership via mention in the Journal by the Trustees on the key items the NRA is spending its money on. A short paper setting out more detail of the expenditure would be very helpful.

AM remarked that in the last 2 years no comment had been received from the membership on the published accounts.

Peter Coley (PC) remarked that if there are set standards for accounts to be produced then those should be followed and not waste any additional NRA money elaborating on them.

Iain Thomson (IT) remarked that a short report from the Chief Executive of what the capex has been spent on would be very useful.

AM will be happy to split the capital expenditure in to the different areas to show the spend and will produce a report for the next meeting.

No further questions were raised.

G541 – OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The Chief Executive presented his report to the General Council members.

AM reported that the membership team are extremely busy with two projects, one being the increasingly large number of new member applications; we have received over 800 new membership application to date this year alone and expect the membership to top 9000 this year. The second project is the production of new club shooter certification cards which has raised a large number of queries and questions which are being dealt with. The team are currently busy inputting the returns we have started to receive.

RK asked why the NRA have decided to terminate the lease of Bisley Shooting Ground after June 2019. AM responded that the demand for rifle range space at Bisley is growing rapidly and the BSG complex includes a large area of the estate on Cottlesloe Heath which restricts the NRA's access on Century and Stickledown ranges. The NRA want to be able to think more creatively on how sporting clays can fit into the Bisley range complex and how the Cottlesloe Heath area can be utilised. Licensing the area to a commercial operator is therefore difficult until the NRA have worked out how to utilise the area so the NRA will take the licence in house and work out the best way forward for the Bisley range complex before making any further decisions.

SL asked how much income would be lost by not renewing the licence.

AM responded that the income which can be realised by bookings on Century range as well as maintaining a sporting clay business would be greater than the loss of income from BSG.

HD queried the wording in brackets in the second line of the declaration for SCCs (attends at least three times annually) and AM stated that this is advisory only.

HD stated that correspondence from the NRA regarding the SCCs had led clubs to question whether they were insured through the NRA, and, as a consequence, the value of affiliation to the NRA. AM requested information on these clubs as this was a matter to be dealt with by the NRA

No further questions were raised.

G542 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the 10th May 2018 were presented to General Council. No questions were raised.

James Harris (JH) then gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 6th September 2018.

The F Class team captains were announced as David Rollafson as the FTR Captain, and David Kent as the F-Open Captain for World Championships to South Africa in 2021.

The NRA will be hosting the Muzzle Loading World Championships in August 2019.

The Shooting Committee has received a proposal that the Champion of Champions match, usually shot at the Imperial Meeting, be moved to the Inter-Counties weekend in June. It was agreed this would happen in 2019.

Guy Larcombe (GL) remarked that a number of the regional reps usually base the results of shooters in the initial stages of the Imperial Meeting to elect their representative rather than earlier in the year.

JSB remarked that the feeling is the Champion of Champions is not well supported and seems to be run on an ad hoc basis. It was felt that it would be more appropriate if it was opened more widely to other people to shoot. Therefore it was proposed that it be held on the Inter-Counties weekend following the long range match with a format of 2 and 15 at 1000 yards and be open to a representative of each of the counties, rather than selected by the Regional Reps. That could increase the number of entrants from the usual 6-8 up to possible 20-25. That would obviate the need for the Regional Reps to organise the regional championship to find the finalists. The Shooting Committee agreed to the proposal and it will be trialled at the Inter-Counties in 2019 and further discussion would be held following that.

AM added that there were 10 entrants in 2015, 10 in 2016, 13 in 2017 and 8 in 2018.

JH informed the meeting that the 300M club have a GB representative at the World Championships in Seoul at the moment. They are doing well.

The Sporting Rifle team have picked up some gold medals in the Running Deer and Running Boar competitions at the Championships in Norway.

Congratulations were offered to both teams.

The GB TR team had a very good tour to Canada. JH extended his congratulations to Derek Lowe who won both the Grand Agg and the Lt. Governor's Prize at the ORA meeting and to David Crispin for finishing 3rd in the DCRA Grand Agg. The cadets' (Athelings) tour to Canada was also very successful.

Congratulations were offered to all.

Any entries or changes for the 2019 Handbook (Bible) were requested by the end of August so that has now closed.

JSB added that the organisation of the Combined Services Match, held on the Friday morning of the Kolapore, Chancellors and Under 25 Match has now been taken in-house. It was previously organised by the combined services and home countries. The conditions will remain exactly the same and it is hoped it will encourage the Irish and the Welsh to enter again. It will also provide an opportunity for the combined forces to promote themselves within their own sporting structure.

JH remarked that in the proposed rule changes there is going to be a fine for all unsuccessful challenges.

PCh asked what controls will be put on those challenges and the monies collected.

JSB responded that the Range Office will apply a sticker to the card and the score on the card will not be entered into the stats computer until the fine has been paid.

ACT added that there had been discussion and a recommendation from members of the Shooting Committee that the funds go towards an able cause such as the OTF of Young Shooters Fund and not into general funds.

AM remarked that there had been a lot of discussion about the quality and inconsistency of the ammunition in the Imperial Meeting. The NRA did conduct tests prior to the meeting and also sold in the region of 140k rounds without complaint prior to the Inter-Countries. The NRA have instigated series of mechanical and other tests on the ammunition. It is a matter for the NSC who order the ammunition from Law Enforcement International, who in turn purchase it from GGG, who in turn purchase the bullets from Sierra. So there is a well defined supply chain, and there are a number of relationships in the supply chain. The NRA has informed LEI of the complaints received, and they have provided a report on the questions raised by the NRA which include the assurance that it was a Sierra 155g and there were no changes to the manufacturing process from previous years.

The NRA will be conducting further tests with the assistance of John Bloomfield and Charles Dickenson. The NRA have also commissioned a survey of 200 of the higher rated TR competitors asking if they had any unexplained shots to see if there is any correlation between barrel, action, time of day, weather, etc.

AM added that out of the 200 competitors that have been surveyed, 50 have responded, which is quite disappointing. Of that 50, 25 confirmed they experienced some problem.

PCh found it surprising that the parameter was to explain shots outside a 2 minute deviation, which is quite a lot of the inner. JSB responded that the questionnaire had been kept to the short range shoots as the variables for long range shooting are too many to make the data reliable. The 2 minute deviation allows the shots which have gone wide due to a problem with the ammunition, rather than the aim of the shooter.

Further reports will be provided to the General Council in due course.

GL asked whether other supplies have been considered for next year's meeting just in case there is an issue with the current supplier.

AM responded that alternative suppliers and components are being looked at. The NRA have changed suppliers a number of times in the last 10 years and need to be careful that we can continue to purchase quality ammunition in the volume needed.

JSB and AM confirmed that the ammunition was within the tolerances and specification required for competition ammunition.

AM confirmed that the NRA will work with GGG and LEI to identify what the problem was, if there indeed was one, and what is the best way of addressing that, ie by purchasing the ammo in different batches.

Charles Dickenson remarked that the vast majority of this year's ammunition shot very well, to the standard we normally see, and that it is one shot in every hundred from the evidence we've seen which has had an issue. It is a significant number, but a small number.

JSB added that a detailed report will be produced at the end of the investigation and it will be shared with LEI, GGG and Sierra in the first instance once all the trials and tests have been completed, before coming to General Council and the Trustees. The whole report will be published once seen by the Trustees.

ACT added that the discussion at the meeting yesterday recommended that when the report is ready for release it is emailed around General Council rather than waiting for the next GC meeting in February.

No further questions were raised.

G543 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The minutes of the 21st July 2018 were presented to General Council. No questions were raised.

HD remarked that it would be very difficult for clubs to share range bookings on MoD ranges due to the restrictions under form DIO form 5065, paragraph 4, which only allows members of the club who has booked the range to shoot on the range, and also the last minute cancellations of club bookings which can take place on military ranges. HD asked that thought be given to the regions as it is a completely different beast to Bisley.

ACT asked whether more regional members could be sought to sit on the Membership Committee to assist in any regional matters. The Membership Committee agreed.

Simon Dixon (SD) asked whether the date for the Meet the Clubs event had received any feedback as to whether it is a good date to hold it, or whether it should be moved to an alternative date.

AM believes the 2017 Meet the Clubs day was more successful than the 2018 meeting. Whether the event should be held every other year, rather than every year could be considered.

GL remarked that it could be held at different times of the year, such as the Imperial Meeting, to reach different people each time.

BR added that it could be rotated each year around the three main meetings – the Phoenix, the Imperial and the Trafalgar.

The Membership Committee will consider this and make recommendations once the new Chairman has been elected.

No further questions were raised.

G544 – ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

A number of elections had taken place, the results of which are:

Election of NRA Trustee to Council – Nick Brasier was elected.

Membership Committee – Nick Brasier and Steve Wallis were both elected to the Committee. Alice Gran and Phil Northam were both co-opted to the Committee.

CivSR/Practical Rifle Representative - Nick St Aubyn was elected.

The Vice Chairman expressed his congratulations to all the successful candidates.

G545 – APPROVAL OF MEETING DATES FOR 2019

The following dates were approved for the General Council Meetings in 2019:

Saturday 23 rd February 2019	2.00pm	NRA Pavilion
Friday 14 th June 2019	3.00pm	NRA Pavilion
Friday 6 th September 2019	2.00pm	NRA Pavilion

G546 – OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

SL had raised a question regarding a feasibility study and whether one had ever been done about the estates and the organisation works.

AM responded that he has never seen a feasibility study.

JWar asked whether a company had been engaged back in the John Jackman days to look at the estate?

JSB responded that sometime in the late 1980s there was a team of management consultants who produced a report to the Council. JSB doesn't believe anything came of that report as they didn't understand the nuances of Bisley.

CB added that the NRA did commission outside surveyors and experts to look at the Bisley site to see whether they would be appropriate for development for particular activities but nothing proceeded from this due to cash flow issues.

SL remarked on the new caravan project and whether that would be something the new Estates Working Committee could deal with.

AM responded that the working group would not deal with it as property matters are the responsibility of the Trustees. The proposals have been sanctioned by the Trustees. SL asked when that happened. AM confirmed it happened at the last meeting on 4th August 2018.

SL then remarked that not all the caravan owners had been contacted and it should have also been shared with the General Council as a matter of interest and better communication is needed.

AM responded that the caravan population at Bisley is declining; caravans are deteriorating and there a significant number of caravans on site which do not meet the Guildford Borough Council site licence. The NRA are challenged with trying to improve the level of facilities and are trying to see if there is a demand for better quality serviced pitches. Therefore a proposal has been put to the caravan owners to see whether they would be interested in serviced pitches. To date we have had 30 positive responses which is enough to trigger the next stage of a topographical survey which has been commissioned this week. This survey will show us how many pitches could be fitted in and have some decisions to crystallise the expressions of interest received to date.

RK asked whether Site 103 could be bought back or rented from the NSRA and used as the next serviced pitch rather than developing current sites.

AM responded that the NSRA's ownership of Site 103 is a matter which has been discussed for a number of years and terms have not been agreed between either party.

AM believes there is a demand for better quality accommodation at Bisley and the next stage of looking at providing serviced pitches will be undertaken.

SL remarked that not everyone had received the communication about the serviced pitches and were feeling aggrieved at being removed from their site again.

AM understands that people have been on the pitches for a number of years and that small communities have been built up but wanted it noted that the caravan pitches are leased on an annual basis only.

If it is decided that serviced pitches are popular then these will be developed and other caravan owners will have an alternative pitch allocated to them upon renewal of their annual licence. The request for expressions of interest has shown an interest for serviced pitches so the NRA will be moving forward with plans for the site.

SL would like to see better communication with the membership.

JWar remarked that as one of the members of the Membership Committee she has an opportunity to put a proposal forward to General Council for better communication with the membership for discussion. SL agreed that a proposal would be put forward.

No further questions were raised.

The meeting closed at 17.05pm

Vice Chairman

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Saturday 23rd February 2019 2.00pm NRA Pavilion

REVIEW OF ACTIONS

Action Point & Date	Ownerships	Action Required
G481 – 8 th September 2017 <i>Updated 7th September 2018</i>	AM	AM confirmed we are still awaiting an update on mixed motive investment from the Charity Commission. Action ongoing
G491 – 8 th September 2017 <i>Updated 7th September 2018</i>	AM	AM confirmed all refunds were being processed which would include the £20 paper surcharge fee. Action closed.
G492 – 8 th September 2017 <i>Updated 7th September 2018</i>	Trustees/AM	James Harris (JH) confirmed that the implementation of a world ranking system for fullbore shooting is a matter for ICFRA and the ICFRA representatives who are part of the NRA will discuss any issues and go to ICFRA who will then revert if they consider it worth doing. Item closed.
G493 – 8 th September 2017 <i>Updated 7th September 2018</i>	JPSB	JPSB will produce and circulate a synopsis of the presentation on Rule 150. Action ongoing
G498 – 8 th September 2017 <i>Updated 7th September 2018</i>	AM	AM informed the meeting that the review of muzzle brakes is part of the wider noise testing protocols that the NRA are currently conducting. The broad outlines of the noise testing agreed will include muzzle brakes. Item ongoing
G512 – 17 th February 2018 <i>Updated 7th September 2018</i>	ALL	Paul Charlton (PCh) informed the meeting that a 2 day meeting is being held in Birmingham this weekend to discuss the inclusion of shooting at the Commonwealth which is very encouraging. Item ongoing.
G522 – 15 th June 2018 <i>Updated 7th September 2018</i>	Treasurer (DL)	DL produced a report giving the amount the NRA spends on supporting youth shooting, disabled shooting and the regions. Item closed.
G528 – 15 th June 2018	AM	The ToRs for the Estates Working Group had been presented to the meeting as part of the Chief Executive's report and would be discussed later in the meeting. Item superceded.

Action Point & Date	Ownerships	Action Required
G536 – 7 th September 2018	AM	To advertise in both the NRA Journal and social media and on NRA website for interested members to put themselves forward for the Estates Working Group with a view to putting candidates forward to GC by the end of the year. Item ongoing.
G536 – 7 th September 2018	ALL	To complete and return the register of property interests. Item ongoing.
G540 – 7 th September 2018	AM	To produce a report of CAPEX showing the different areas of investment for the next meeting in February. Item ongoing.