

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

**FINAL**

THE GENERAL COUNCIL  
Minutes of a Meeting held by Video Conference Call  
on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020 from 3.00pm

**Present:**

**Chairman**

Mr D Lacey

**Members:**

Mr HRM Bailie  
Cdr NJW Benstead  
Mr JPS Bloomfield  
Mr N Brasier  
Mr CM Brooks  
Wg Cdr DP Calvert  
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson  
Mr PAE Charlton  
Mr M Cotillard  
Mr DC Crispin  
Mr AJCB de Launay  
Mr CES Dickenson  
Mr HF Dunton  
Mrs A Gran  
Mr J Harris  
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley  
Mr RS Kenchington  
Miss SS Lohmann  
Mr D Lowe  
Mr M Pountain  
Mr A Reynolds - Treasurer  
Mr B Ritchie  
Mr R Roberts  
Mrs K Robertson  
Mr D Stimpson  
Mr NF Thomas  
Mr IR Thomson  
Mr MK Townsend  
Mr G Trembath  
Dr JD Warburton  
Mr MP Watkins

**In attendance:**

Mr A Mercer - Chief Executive  
Mrs G Thatcher - Secretary to Meeting

**Apologies for absence:** Mr GK Alexander, Mr GV Barnard, Col WGC Bowles, Mr M Charlton, Mr L Christy, Mr PR Coley, Maj. Gen IC Dale, Mr E George, Dr N Fyfe, Mr J Harper-Smith, Mr A Hunter, Mrs G Jarvis, Mr JM Kynoch, Mr GAE Larcombe, Mr T Lehman, Mr J Longhurst, Mr M Maksimovic, Mr MF Martel, Dr J Martin, Mr W Mott, Brig. WJ O'Leary, Mr AJD Saunders, Mr R Sayer, Mr I Shirra-Gibb, Mr C Steele-Benny, Mr N St Aubyn, Mr S Wallis, Dr AP Wolpe, Mr MJ Wood

## **INDEX G603 to G615**

### **1. G603 – APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received as noted above.

### **2. G604 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **3. G605 – MINUTES OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING – 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2020 had been, circulated, approved and published.

### **4. G606 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

4.1. There were no matters arising.

4.2. RK asked for an update on the noise complaints, particularly those raised about the noise from Short Siberia. RK mentioned he is trying to promote long range .22RF which is very quiet and believes the NRA should try and promote the use of .22RF on Short Siberia as it is quieter.

4.3. The Chairman responded that noise is going to continue to be an issue, especially as there have been a few months of non-shooting. AM and the NSC team do monitor noise regularly.

4.4. AM informed the meeting that there are no outstanding noise complaints at this time, but the ranges are quieter at the moment. Most of the complaints come from the side of the camp near Long and Short Siberia ranges and particular attention is given to that area.

4.5. The promotion of .22RF is a valid point, but the NRA and NSC need to ensure the maximum range of shooting on all ranges is possible, retaining and protecting what we have.

4.6. RK asked for an update on lead ammunition.

4.7. The Chairman responded that the debate on lead ammunition is ongoing. The NRA have a good case against the banning of lead ammunition as a lot of work is undertaken to capture the lead in the stop butts and reclaim it. The NRA are closely monitoring developments in the European Union which is taking the lead on the banning of lead ammunition. Stalking on Forest Enterprises land is also now lead-free, so there is precedence in England for a move to lead-free bullets.

4.8. RK asked for an update on the NRA's version of JSP403 and how that differs from the military version.

4.9. The Chairman has reviewed the NRA's version of JSP403 and believes it will provide a great deal of assistance for range operators. JSP403 was developed for the military and their purposes and types of shooting. Civilian shooting differs in a number of key ways so the new civilian range construction and operation guide is designed to reflect that and provide guidance for civilian range operators.

4.10. AM added that the NRA's version is due to be tested and shared with regional range operators for their input and hope to have this available by September 2020. MC asked if he could be included in the distribution of the draft document. AM confirmed he would send a copy and would appreciate any feedback.

4.11. PCh asked when newly elected members take up their role on General Council, as RB, elected as a lay member of the Disciplinary Committee had not received the recent election papers for the Chairman of the Disciplinary Body.

4.12. AM will confirm the date for new members of committees and will revert, and apologised for RB not receiving the election papers and believes that was an error on the NRA's part. AM confirmed later in the meeting that electronic papers had been sent to RB.

4.13. ACT asked whether the NRA had given any further thought or consideration to competitors in full time education or Under 25s being included as part of the NRA's charitable objectives. ACT believes education is another strength in terms of what the NRA and its members do to support younger shooters, and suggested more consideration be given to capturing information on this as evidence of charitable activity.

- 4.14. The Chairman confirmed the NRA has engaged with the Charity Commissioners on the NRA's charitable purposes and have highlighted education and work with schools and universities as part of that. The NRA believes there is broad acceptance from the Charity Commission as they have not objected to shooting by schools as being charitable. Their focus has been on efficiency of the armed forces and so we are reporting to them the involvement of current and former military, police and emergency services and current cadets.
- 4.15. DCa asked whether a Vice Chairman had been elected.
- 4.16. The Chairman confirmed that Reg Roberts had been elected as Vice Chairman of the Council. Charles Brooks was elected as Vice Chairman of General Council in February 2020.
- 4.17. HD asked for an update on the clean-up of the contamination on the NCSC shotgun ranges.
- 4.18. AM confirmed that NCSC had conducted a clearance of the clay debris on their ranges and removed 300 tons of lead shot which was recycled and that will be conducted periodically. The NRA also routinely screen out the copper jackets and bullets from the rifle stop butts which is sent for recycling.
- 4.19. The Chairman responded that he is unable to discuss any debris clearance on Cottlesloe Heath or Long Siberia Ranges due to the ongoing legal proceedings between the NRA and Bisley Shooting Ground (BSG).

## **5. G607 – REVIEW OF ACTIONS**

- 5.1. G481a – The Chairman confirmed the NRA is still awaiting an update on mixed motive investment from the Charity Commission. Guidance provided by the Charity Commission is regularly reviewed and the NRA will continue to review the guidance and update the meeting should any further update be provided on mixed motive investment. **Action ongoing.**
- 5.2. G566a – NSRA update regarding asbestos on Site 103 and other issues raised with the NSRA. The Chairman informed the meeting that he held an introductory telephone conversation with the Chairman and Treasurer of the NSRA to establish a dialogue on the various outstanding issues. A follow-up call will be made in the coming weeks to start focusing on the detail and Site 103 and the asbestos issue will be discussed during that call. **Item ongoing.**
- 5.3. RK thanked the Chairman for commencing communication with the NSRA.

## **6. G608 – FINANCE**

- 6.1. The Treasurer presented his financial report to the meeting.
- 6.2. The effects of Covid-19 are being felt by the NRA. The consolidated numbers show an operating loss of £344k to the end of April and a further loss of £81k from the restricted investments, giving a total figure of loss of £424k.
- 6.3. The acid test ratio shows the liquid assets comprising cash and the trade debtors are insufficient to cover the current liabilities
- 6.4. An overdraft facility of £750k has been granted by Barclays Bank which will help bolster the 2020 forecast of a £600k loss, due to the lack of competitors over the summer.
- 6.5. Overall, the NRA's liquidity has been significantly hit and the Trustees have put measures in place to support the NRA's ability to continue to function and believe the NRA is in the position to weather the current pandemic.
- 6.6. PCh asked what the approximate payroll cost is to the NRA of furloughed staff.
- 6.7. The Treasurer responded that the furloughed payroll cost from the Government is £120k with a nett £80k being borne per month. The Treasurer would like to record how responsive the Government's scheme has been and is working very well. There is no timing gap between the NRA's claim for furlough pay and the receipt from the Government.
- 6.8. RR added that the NSC are also seeking a £250k Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan to help support the commercial business through the pandemic.

No further questions were raised.

## **7. G609 – SECRETARY GENERAL’S OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

The Secretary General presented his report to the meeting.

7.1. The following points were highlighted:

- 7.2. Since re-opening the ranges on 23rd May 2020, the work in the office has increased significantly with a strong demand from new members looking to join the NRA, and members wishing to recommence their training. The professional staff are looking at how to manage the process with care to ensure there is the opportunity to continue to provide the services to the membership.
- 7.3. The camp is in good order and the retained staff have worked hard to keep the ranges open. The demand for ranges is likely to rise once the accommodation reopens and club houses are able to offer hospitality, and this will be challenging.
- 7.4. A great deal of work has been done supporting affiliated clubs in the regions which is increasing as they face the challenges of reopening their ranges or gaining access to the MOD ranges. A significant piece of work is ongoing with the NRA looking to help facilitate access for civilian clubs across the MOD range estate.
- 7.5. The NRA are working with other shooting colleagues on the British Shooting Sports Council discussing the ban on lead in ammunition. The European Union are reviewing the situation and despite the UK leaving the EU, the UK Government may be influenced by their decision and therefore the NRA and other shooting organisations will be paying close attention over the coming months.
- 7.6. DS added that shooting organisations coordinating the efforts against the potential ban on lead in ammunition through the BSSC, including the HBSA and MLAGB, and who mostly don't have a viable substitute for lead in ammunition, are looking for exemptions, especially on ranges. The work is ongoing.
- 7.7. HD raised a point of interest on Europe's review on the ban of lead ammunition, as part of the justification was following the lead of Norway. This is surprising as the five year experimental ban on lead ammunition in Norway had been voted out by the government on 27th February 2015, two months before the EU's announcement.
- 7.8. The Secretary General apologised to the meeting as the Trustees, having consulted with the Disciplinary Committee, had changed the Disciplinary Code on the 19th October 2019, but the Bylaws hadn't been shared at the same time to reflect that. The current Bylaws had been circulated to General Council and the Secretary General pointed out that Bylaw 8 had been changed from quoting the page of the disciplinary code and now reflected that the disciplinary code would be established and maintained by the Council. This now gives one point of reference which is the Disciplinary Code published on the NRA website.
- 7.9. The Secretary General reminded the GC members that approved 2019 Trustee Annual Report and Accounts had been published on the NRA website.
- 7.10. The refurbishment works being conducted on the Camp have largely stopped due to the pandemic and will recommence later in the year as the lockdown lifts.
- 7.11. CB asked whether the NRA would have qualified for a grant from Sports England.
- 7.12. The Secretary General responded that the NRA's rateable value fell outside of the bracket of being able to qualify for a grant.
- 7.13. CB asked whether the 674 individuals who had not renewed their 2020 membership means they had resigned or just hadn't paid up for 2020.
- 7.14. The Secretary General confirmed the members had not yet renewed their membership to date and a large number usually renew when they are next due to visit Bisley.
- 7.15. Guy Trembath (GT) remarked that he has been involved with Nic Couldrey in assisting clubs getting back on the regional ranges. The difficulty has been the limit of only 6 people being allowed on the range together and the NRA have been talking to the MOD at Warminster about access.
- 7.16. The Secretary General informed the meeting that they are encouraging the MOD to consider allowing six people on the firing point at any one time but also to allow other groups to have access to the ranges and wait their turn to move forward onto the firing points as the group, as is being done at Bisley. Some progress is being made, but there is a reputation issue for the MOD which needs to be considered.
- 7.17. BR remarked that Scotland still have a five-mile transport limit rule in place for recreation which is impacting considerably on the ability to travel to ranges. The limit may be lifted soon.

## **8. G610 – NOTES FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE NSC**

The Chief Executive presented his report to the meeting.

- 8.1. The ranges opened on 23rd May and the NSC is planning to open the ranges progressively from June 2020. The major difference is moving from a very prescriptive and carefully managed operation signing people onto each target and marshalling the progress of people on the ranges, which is not sustainable and the NSC will now allow the shooting community to use their own common sense to maintain social distances and apply by the rules and regulations in place. That will allow the NSC to start opening up the butts and use paper targets across all ranges including Short Siberia.
- 8.2. The demand for targets is mixed and there are a number of reasons – the booking system has been purged of all bookings up to and including the end of July which means new bookings are back filling the booking system. The limit on numbers means it is problematic for clubs who have bookings made months in advance.
- 8.3. The NSC will honour all August bookings. A move back towards standard shooting is underway, maintaining the social distance regulations.
- 8.4. As previously mentioned, the opening of the accommodation and hospitality venues will help increase demand and allow clubs to increase their use of the ranges with their members.
- 8.5. Chobham Ridge range has been opened up for bookings and there is a good demand for the range.
- 8.6. The National Clay Shooting Centre (NCSC) also opened again on 23rd May and is working well.
- 8.7. A new suite of competitions is being planned for September and is most likely to include Match Rifle, Target Rifle and Civilian Service Rifle competitions. The membership had been canvassed for their potential participation and believe there is sufficient support to continue planning. The competition will be wholly dependent on have the accommodation and club houses open. A deadline for final decision has been set for 14th July 2020.
- 8.8. The competition will be organised by the NSC for NRA honours.
- 8.9. RK mentioned that the online booking system is irritating having all bookings going back to 2017 and wondered whether it was possible to delete completed and cancelled entries from the system so that you are not constantly looking through bookings to find the relevant ones.
- 8.10. The Secretary General will take that under advisement.
- 8.11. PCh recommended that old bookings be archived rather than deleted.
- 8.12. KR remarked that it was useful having old bookings available on the system as it is extremely helpful being able to copy old bookings to make new ones, rather than having to do them from scratch every time.

## **9. G611 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

- 9.1. AG remarked that the Membership Committee hadn't met for a long time, but will discuss with AM about arranging a meeting before the next General Council meeting in September.

## **10. G612 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE**

- 10.1. The Chairman of the Shooting Committee confirmed the committee had not met since February 2020. The draft minutes of the February meeting had been circulated.
- 10.2. DS remarked that the minutes reflected an increase in requests to shoot boutique calibres and wondered what that referred to and why requests had to be made in writing.
- 10.3. The Chairman remarked that an example of the issue was when the Short Range Heavy Bullet day was arranged on Stickledown, one person wanted to shoot using a .375 calibre cartridge. A .375 Holland and Holland cartridge would fit within the short range heavy bullet limits, but a .375 Cheytac cartridge is much more powerful and would not fit within the limits. Therefore the professional staff are requesting details in writing so they are able to ensure the cartridges fit within the range's safety limits.
- 10.4. BR informed the meeting that he has been working with Neil Macfarlane and others on the historic handbook which will come through to the Shooting Committee for review.
- 10.5. BR added that he believes the NRA need to move towards being much more specific about muzzle energy and muzzle velocities when coming up with calibres which are not standard factory

issues. Bullet manufacturers should be aware of the limits of the items they are producing so this information can be passed onto the customers.

- 10.6. JH confirmed he will put bullet velocities on the agenda for the next Shooting Committee meeting.
- 10.7. MKT asked whether the zero range could be extended to make it bigger or whether another area on camp could be found to assist shooters with their zeroing when busy. MKT also remarked that the ability to run-in and clean barrels is not offered on the zero range and what could be done about that. MKT remarked that it hasn't affected other people when he has been running a barrel through on the zero range as other people can use the other targets on zero range.
- 10.8. AM responded the Winans Bay B is also used as a zero overflow option. If there are any particular issues with requirements for zeroing or the cleaning of barrels, he would gladly take those offline and discuss with the professional staff.
- 10.9. CESD remarked that writing a procedure for breaking in a barrel would assist in helping people and reduce the time needed on the zero range, or for having to hire a range.
- 10.10. RK added there has been a requirement for .22RF zeroing as currently you are unable to zero .22RF on the zero range and asked for this to be clarified.
- 10.11. AM confirmed he would review this and respond to RK accordingly.
- 10.12. DC asked where he could find details on the Chobham Ridge range as he is unable to locate them on the NRA website.
- 10.13. AM confirmed the details were listed under the NRA website.
- 10.14. The Chairman noted his thanks to AM and the professional staff for the careful negotiation conducted over the last couple of years with the MOD to be able to take back the Chobham Ridge range and to make it available to NRA members and clubs.
- 10.15. The range points back down into Stickledown range with steel targets from 400 yards to 900 yards, with a troop shelter. The range has a real potential for a first class, high-end, long distance shooting facility. All shooting is carefully supervised.
- 10.16. The Chairman added that he spent a fantastic afternoon on the range and remarked that if you wanted a great afternoon of shooting, you couldn't find a better range on which to do that.
- 10.17. AM added that it is very much a work in progress with 3-4 shoots having been conducted there to date and the models are gradually being worked through. The range is restricted to .308 and carefully supervised by an NRA Instructor/RCO. The offer is hosted trips by an NRA RCO with small groups of up to 5 shooters to partake of a shooting experience which runs between 10am and 2pm. The price is £500 for the range for the 4 hour duration.
- 10.18. PCh added that the information is provided on the NRA website.
- 10.19. AM confirmed there has been good demand for the range but will proceed on a limited basis this year and ensure the type of shooting provided is attractive and rewarding in the future.
- 10.20. JSPB had provided an update through the chat facility on the video conference confirming that .22RF was prohibited on the zero range due to members shooting for the full day rather than just for zeroing.

No further questions were raised.

## **11. G613 – COUNCIL**

- 11.1. The minutes of the Council meeting held on 7th February 2020 were presented to the meeting.
- 11.2. ACT asked for an explanation on the rationale of point T1815 paragraph 13i regarding not recognising international team status unless at least two other international teams are participating. ACT remarked that cuts across what has been done in the MR world since 1997, and may well also cut across some TR events and also has unintended consequences eg if a GB team to were attend an event with two international partners in good faith, and one doesn't turn up, would the GB team lose its status?
- 11.3. CESD remarked that the Woomera Match is solely between Australia and GB, because there are no other countries that participate in Match Rifle. Equally the GB tour to Canada, amongst others, are generally only competing against one other international team, unless the USA decide to send a team. Therefore this could be an issue for international teams.

- 11.4. JH responded that this was discussed at Council and will be taken back to Shooting Committee to produce a policy for GB teams and this will be raised for discussion at the next meeting. There is no attempt being made to strip GB status from any teams.
- 11.5. ACT remarked that the minutes do not read as such and imply something different, but he notes the comments.
- 11.6. CESD asked for clarification as to who is eligible to attend the NSC AGM which was due to be held immediately after the NRA's AGM.
- 11.7. The Chairman responded that the original idea was to hold the NRA's AGM and follow that with the NSC's AGM. The NSC attendees would be the shareholders of NSC Limited, which is the NRA. But it is also possible for companies to open their AGM more widely to stakeholders, ie people who have an interest in the activities of the company. This is partly a reflection of the separation of functions between the NRA as a charity, and the NSC as the wholly owned commercial subsidiary. Holding the separate meetings will help demonstrate the commitment to the separation of function, which is important to the Charity Commission, and it would enable people to raise issues related to the charity at the NRA's AGM, and to the operation of the NSC in the appropriate forum at the NSC's AGM.
- 11.8. This year's AGM was held as a remote conference call and was limited to standing items which required voting by the membership as per the Second Schedule.
- 11.9. A Special General Meeting will be held later in the year to allow the speeches from the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary General, and open forum questions from the membership.
- 11.10. CB asked for some background to the queries raised by Haysmacintyre on the Overseas Team Fund (OTF) and whether the charitable status of the NRA would have any effect on how that is managed.
- 11.11. The Chairman confirmed that the OTF produces an interesting situation in terms of charitable purpose. The Charity Commission's position is that the charitable function is limited to promoting the efficiency of the Armed Forces; disbursed funds from the OTF to support a civilian team travelling abroad may not be seen to be promoting this. That is an issue of charity law for the Trustees to understand, and also from Haysmacintyre in terms of the administration of the charity.
- 11.12. The NRA may need to look at whether something else that could be done with the OTF fund that doesn't conflict with charity law.
- 11.13. CB asked whether raising funds for overseas teams is a charitable issue.
- 11.14. The Chairman remarked that anyone is welcome to support the charity in whichever way they wish. But the charity need to ensure it manages the fund correctly.
- 11.15. The Treasurer informed the meeting that the OTF is a restricted fund and when money is raised into the fund, they can only be used for those purposes. If those purposes are found to be non-charitable, then that is where the problem begins and the potential is that funds are being raised and cannot be used. The restriction on the charity is such that the funds cannot be reallocated easily and more work needs to be conducted to understand what can and can't be done.
- 11.16. RK asked whether NRA members are able to vote on behalf of the NRA at the NSC AGM. The Chairman confirmed this is not possible based on English Company Law and only shareholders can vote.
- 11.17. ACT remarked that a good reason for exploring the opportunity of including educational activity within the charity's remit would be the opportunity to mitigate the restrictions on the OTF as students are often included as team members in overseas teams.
- 11.18. ACT also asked about the mention of the installation of an Automatic Number Plate Recognition camera on the front gate linked to the police and if that is possible and whether that is affected from a GDPR perspective and what benefit will it provide to the NRA. ACT believes that if it is a police led and operated camera then it is a sensible suggestion and good to follow up.
- 11.19. AM confirmed that it was an offer made from Surrey Police and is encouraged by the NRA and would certainly help increase the security cover for the vehicles entering the camp.
- 11.20. JH added that the police are keen to increase their network of cameras but are unable to provide funding to do that. Therefore the NRA would provide the funding for the installation and the police would monitor the camera. JH will be re-engaging with the area commander soon and will discuss the installation with him.
- 11.21. MKT remarked that there are a lot of people currently coming onto site, including pedestrians and cyclists, through the exit gate and a camera on the exit gate would be extremely useful.
- 11.22. AM thanked MKT for raising that and will take up the points made with security.

- 11.23. The Chairman gave an oral update on the Council meeting held on 17th April 2020.
- 11.24. The main point of discussion was the Covid-19 pandemic. A request for an overdraft facility was made to Barclays Bank and that was granted and will assist with the NRA's financial management going forward.
- 11.25. The Bisley Handbook has been updated and published and now shows a much clearer separation of the NRA and NSC function. That will be a recurring theme.
- 11.26. The Key Risk Register is also being revised to separate out the areas of risk for both the NRA and the NSC. There is some overlap between the two parts of the organisation, but there are separate risks as well.
- 11.27. The impact of the restrictions introduced as a result of the pandemic and the effect on the charity and range income were also discussed at length.
- 11.28. The Chairman believes it has been very good that the NRA has been able to take advantage of the new rules and endorsed the approach AM and the professional staff have taken of reading the rules, working out what is allowed and informing members what we are going to do to get the ranges reopened and functioning.
- 11.29. AM confirmed that no objections have been received to date, other than the police being called by a member of the public when the ranges reopened on 23rd May.
- 11.30. Shooting Committee reported to the Trustees on the possibility of a competition calendar later in the year, which is now looking more positive as the restrictions lift, and continue to lift. The NRA are positive they will be able to hold some competitive shooting before the end of the year.
- 11.31. The arrangements for the limited AGM were also discussed including the election of Vice Presidents.
- 11.32. Covid-19 is occupying a lot of the work of both the Trustees and the professional staff.
- 11.33. The Chairman then gave an oral update on the Council meeting held on 12th June 2020.
- 11.34. The response to Covid-19, the reopening of ranges and the challenges faced by the caravan sites and hospitality venues including club houses having to remain closed was the main point of discussion.
- 11.35. The competition calendar being run by the NSC with NRA awards was also discussed.
- 11.36. The finances and the work done by the professional staff in cash management, furloughing and controlling the expenses to help the NRA get through the current pandemic situation was also discussed. The Chairman is optimistic that financially the NRA will weather the storm but will then need to reduce its borrowings.

No further questions were raised.

## **12. G614 – ELECTION TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

- 12.1. For information, under Rule 7 (g) the following Elected Members of the General Council have been proposed and seconded for the vacancies:

### **Ordinary Members**

GEW Blakeney  
 JPS Bloomfield  
 NRJ Brasier  
 Wg Cdr (Retd) DP Calvert MBE  
 DC Crispin  
 SS Lohmann  
 FPR Northam

- 12.2. For information, under Rule 7 (g) the following Elected Members of the General Council have been nominated for these vacancies and are unopposed:

### **Four Regional Members**

HRM Bailie – Northern Ireland  
 Dr J Marsden – North Western  
 JPS Bloomfield – East Midlands  
 BD Ritchie – Scotland

## **Four Shooting Discipline Members**

Dr AMW Cargill Thompson – Match Rifle  
AJ Dagger – Gallery Rifle & Pistol  
I Shirra-Gibb – 300 Metres  
N Macfarlane – Historic & Classic Arms

- 12.3. The Chairman thanked all candidates for agreeing to continue to contribute through General Council to the work of the NRA.
- 12.4. AM added that this is the first electronic vote that the NRA has undertaken and around 200 paper ballots have also been sent out. A series of reminders will be sent to members for the electronic vote.
- 12.5. The Chairman added that a very significant cost saving had been achieved through electronic voting and hopes that it will encourage greater engagement amongst the younger membership.
- 12.6. CESD asked for an idea of how many responses had been received to date. AM responded that we have had 1200 members respond to date, which is comparable to the paper ballot.
- 12.7. ACT asked whether a journal article could be produced with the outcome of the electronic voting process and summarising the savings.

## **13. G615 – OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 13.1. The Chairman wanted to seek General Council's view and response to a question raised at the AGM regarding the renaming of The Times prize, which hasn't yet been considered by the GC members.
- 13.2. Following discussion, at which views were expressed in favour and in opposition of the proposal, it was agreed that Shooting Committee will discuss the subject at their next meeting and produce a proposal for consideration at September's General Council meeting.
- 13.3. The Chairman presented a paper from Martin Osment regarding creating a Governance Committee and delegating governance issues to working groups of General Council.
- 13.4. The GC members discussed the proposal and decided that the majority of what ABCAT was suggesting was already covered under the sub-committees of General Council and additional committees were not required.
- 13.5. AG would respond to ABCAT thanking it for its proposals but that the GC's opinion was that more working groups were not necessary.
- 13.6. A number of questions had been raised in writing by David Crispin on behalf of Sit Pet Lodge Rifle Club prior to the meeting regarding their lease renewal.
- 13.7. The Chairman remarked that the NRA is of the strong opinion that tenancy matters can only be discussed with the tenants direct rather than with third parties.
- 13.8. The Chairman also confirmed that the Trustees considered all tenders put forward and any conflicted Trustees would leave the room when considering the tenders.
- 13.9. The Chairman would be very happy to have direct communication with Sit Pet Lodge Rifle Club to answer any outstanding queries or issues and asked DC to inform them to make contact directly with the Chairman using the email address [chairman@nra.org.uk](mailto:chairman@nra.org.uk)
- 13.10. The Chairman informed the meeting that he is happy to receive any requests for discussion from members, clubs or tenants and asked that his email address be passed on.
- 13.11. BR asked that a video conferencing option be provided for all future meetings to support those GC members who live long distances away from Bisley. KR, MC, HD and DS supported that proposal.
- 13.12. The Chairman also supported this and confirmed this would be provided for future meetings.
- 13.13. DC asked why the NRA are still selling the 2019 GGG match ammunition when it continues to break extractors.
- 13.14. AM, as Chief Executive of the NSC, confirmed that the NSC had sought advice from the Proof Masters who confirmed the ammunition conforms to CIP standards. The NSC had also consulted lawyers who confirmed the NSC is able to sell the ammunition and agreed the content of the waiver which all persons are requested to sign when purchasing the ammunition. The NRA have provided complete transparency and have sold 10,000s of rounds at a discounted rate with only a couple of instances of broken extractors reported.

- 13.15. DC remarked that a number of his customers have had issues with broken extractors with both the 155g and 175g GGG ammunition and believes the issue could still be happening and could be just the tip of the iceberg.
- 13.16. RB asked why the electronic target prices had increased from £18 to £25.
- 13.17. AM responded that the price included the use of the zero range and also the significant increase in the infrastructure which had been put in place ensuring the safety of the ranges for both professional staff and members, including PPE and additional staff to monitor each range. The NSC believe the price fairly reflects the increase in overheads.
- 13.18. RK asked whether the cost of manual targets would increase as the electronic ones have when brought back for bookings.
- 13.19. AM responded that protocols are still being worked for manual targets so is unable to advise on any expected increase in range hire costs. He would anticipate only a modest increase.
- 13.20. JM introduced himself to the meeting as the new North Western Regional Representative and thanked the Chairman for an enjoyable first meeting.
- 13.21. MW, BR and MP thanked the Chairman for chairing the meeting so well.
- 13.22. CB commented following the earlier discussion (point 4.11) that the Second Schedule says elected members of GC are due to retire as at 31<sup>st</sup> July, with new members take up post from September's GC meeting.

No further questions were raised.

The meeting closed at 17:40pm

**Chairman**

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020                      2.00pm                      NRA Pavilion

## REVIEW OF ACTIONS

| Action Point & Date  | Ownerships   | Action Required   |
|--|--------------|---|
| G481a – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017<br><br><i>Updated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020</i> | AM           | The Chairman confirmed we are still awaiting an update on mixed motive investment from the Charity Commission. Guidance provided by the Charity Commission is regularly reviewed and the NRA will continue to review the guidance and update the meeting should any further update be provided on mixed motive investment. <b>Action ongoing.</b>   |
| G566a – 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2019<br><br><i>Updated 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020</i>     | The Chairman | NSRA update regarding asbestos on Site 103 and other issues raised with the NSRA. The Chairman informed the meeting that he held an introductory telephone conversation with the Chairman and Treasurer of the NSRA to establish a dialogue on the various outstanding issues. A follow-up call will be made in the coming weeks to start focusing on the detail and Site 103 and the asbestos issue will be discussed during that discussion. <b>Item ongoing.</b> |
| G6060a – 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020  | AM           | AM will circulate the NRA’s draft range operators guide, based on JSP403, for review and feedback.  |
| C610a – 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2020   | AM           | AM will ask the professional staff whether old range bookings can be archived to reduce the number of completed club bookings being visible.  |