

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

**FINAL**

Minutes of a Meeting held at the NRA Pavilion  
on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 from 3.00pm

**Present:**

**Chairman:** Mr JGM Webster

**Vice Chairman** Dr JD Warburton

**Members:** Mr GK Alexander  
Mr GV Barnard  
Mr HRM Bailie  
Mr JPS Bloomfield  
Mr N Brasier  
Mr CM Brooks  
Wg Cdr DP Calvert  
Dr A Cargill Thompson  
Mr PAE Charlton  
Mr PR Coley  
Mr DC Crispin  
Mr AJCB de Launay  
Mr CES Dickenson  
Mr HF Dunton  
Mr DGF Evans  
Mr J Harris  
Mr JM Kynoch  
Mr GAE Larcombe  
Miss SS Lohmann  
Mr D Lowe  
Mr N McFarlane  
Mr I Shirra-Gibb  
Mr D Stimpson  
Mr MP Watkins

**In attendance:** Mr A Mercer - Chief Executive  
Mrs G Thatcher - Secretary to Meeting  
Mr D Lacey - Trustee

**Apologies for absence:** Mrs ID Bennett, Mr T Bobbet, Col WGC Bowles, Mr M Bradley, Maj R Bruce, Mr AM Bullen, 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 DR Lamb, Mr T Lehman, Mr M Magan, Mr M Maksimovic, Mr MF Martel, Mr JF Miller, Mr W Mott, Mr K Nash, Brig. WJ O'Leary, Mr B Ritchie, Mr R Roberts, Mrs K Robertson, Mr P Ryder, Mr AJD Saunders, Mr R Sayer, Mr IR Thomson, Mr G Trembath, Mr PDC Turner, Sqn Ldr P Upham, Dr AP Wolpe, Mr MJ Wood.

## **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS**

The Chairman of General Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **INDEX G517 to G529**

### **G517 – APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received as noted above.

### **G518 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

### **G519 – MINUTES OF MEETING OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING – 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 had been, circulated, approved and published.

### **G520 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 17<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**

Harald Dunton (HD) asked whether the Trustees had agreed to circulating the minutes of Council meetings to General Council members once approved.

The Chairman agreed that the minutes would be circulated once approved and added that the April minutes had not been signed off until today's Council meeting due to a contentious issue which needed to be discussed at today's meeting. The Chairman would look to have minutes circulated in a more timely manner.

HD asked whether there was any further update on the formation of a Bisley Advisory Committee. The Chairman noted that it is the view of the Trustees that the formation of such a group would be a matter for General Council, not Council, as an Estates Advisory Committee should be part of General Council. The Chairman also believes that to be a successful committee, it should have a level of expertise amongst at least 50% of its members, in the same vein as the Disciplinary Committee. Further discussion on how such a committee could be put together will be held later in the meeting.

Peter Coley (PC) asked for an update on the £20 surcharge for Imperial Meeting paper entries. Andrew Mercer (AM) has been unable to find the minute which agreed to this discount and asked for guidance. The Chairman believes the agreement was that anyone entering online would pay less than paper entries. PC put forward a proposal that if the discount had not been applied, all those who have paid the £20 surcharge should be refunded and in future years the discount should be levied against the online entries, not paper entries. The members agreed to that proposal. Richard Bailie (RB) also asked that the paper forms have the £20 surcharge fee crossed out for any further entries this year. AM agreed.

HD asked for an update on the prohibition of 50 calibre firearms. AM confirmed that we were still awaiting proposals from the Home Office and therefore had no further update for this meeting.

No further matters were raised.

## **G521 – THE COUNCIL**

The Chairman asked for any matters arising from the Council Minutes of 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

HD asked for an update on the membership proposals which had been put forward. AM had no update at present.

HD asked for an update on fees payable to GPs for background checks associated with firearms licensing . AM remarked that the NRA's official position is that no fees should be paid for the initial request from the police to the GP. Other shooting organisations take a different view. The Home Office is currently trying to undo the muddle they have got themselves into; a three way agreement was reached between the shooting organisations, the Home Office and the GPs, however, the organisation that was negotiating on behalf of GPs has no authority to ensure they accepted those terms. AM believes that the Scottish model which has an obligation to pay a fee of c.£30 will be the one that becomes accepted in England.

The Chairman updated the members on the two Council meetings held in April and today. The main discussion areas for both of those meetings were surrounding property issues, electricity and service charges which will be discussed in more details later in the meeting. The Chairman also added that questions surrounding the propriety of the notice given of the AGM were discussed today. The issue is the degree to which the notice of a change to the Second Schedule raises the bar of how we would circulate the agenda items. The Chairman remarked that the Trustees had gone to the Privy Council to ask to have the Second Schedule changed and whilst this was going on had not circulated the change to the Second Schedule on the use of electronic voting to the membership prior to the AGM. The Council discussed and agreed that the AGM would proceed this evening with the usual agenda. The Second Schedule amendment would not be discussed. The proper notices of the AGM were published in the Journal and on the NRA website, and the agenda was published on the Chairman's noticeboard outside the NRA offices.

Silke Lohmann (SL) asked whether the noticeboard allowed all NRA members to see the agenda. The Chairman asked SL who she believes had been disadvantaged by that. The Chairman believes the AGM should proceed as proper notice of the meeting itself had been published in the NRA Journal and on the website. The agenda was published in the customary way, as it has been done ever since he has been a Trustee, other than last year which was the change to the Second Schedule. The Chairman continued that we can take the change of the Second Schedule off the agenda and no one is disadvantaged. The Chairman believes that anyone interested in attending the AGM has not been disadvantaged and therefore the meeting should proceed.

SL doesn't totally disagree with that and believes the AGM should proceed. However, communications should allow the NRA to email the membership with the agenda. Paul Charlton (PCh) commented that is the reason for the amendment to the Second Schedule. SL added that she believes the NRA should apologise to the membership at the AGM.

Charles Brooks (CB) remarked that he does not believe there has been any issue with the calling of the AGM. The NRA has done what it has always done in the past, which is put the notice on the Chairman's noticeboard and the notice of the meeting was done well in advance. The issue is an agenda item which requires a change of rules which requires at least 14 days' notice which has failed to be done so that item should be pulled. The Chairman agreed that is what would happen.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Association had lost four of their Vice Presidents in the last year; Haddon Donald of New Zealand, Sir Roger Bannister, Richard van Lingen of South Africa and Jim Thompson of Canada. The Chairman would like to put forward a proposal for two new VPs for agreement and if approved, the proposal would be made at the AGM this evening. The first candidate is Mahendra Persaud from Guyana. The Guyanan Rifle Association have celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> birthday and Mahendra has been a frequent visitor to Bisley and also instrumental in the celebrations for this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The second candidate is Des Vamplew of Canada. Des is the Executive Vice President for the DCRA who also celebrate their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and is a former Commonwealth Games gold medallist and not infrequent visitor to Bisley. The Chairman commended both candidates to the meeting.

The meeting approved both candidates.

## **G522 – FINANCE**

The Treasurer informed the meeting that he has written a finance article for the Summer Journal and will be speaking at the AGM this evening. The content of both include comments on the increasing revenues in 2017 to just under £6M from £5.75M in 2016. Capital expenditure was around £700k last year which brings the total to £2.8M over the last 5 years. The NRA generated around £3.5M of cash for the operations over the same period and the remaining £700k was used to repay financial debt that fell due in 2013 and to improve the overall cash balance over that time. Cash balance at the end of 2017 stood at £584k. The NRA has a policy minimum of £200k to allow for unforeseen eventualities including any possible opportunities to invest in new ranges etc. The recent strategic review has increased this minimum cash balance to £250k based on an increased operational footprint. The surplus in the general fund in 2017 was £106k and the presentation of that now excludes investment returns, so the equivalent of that number in 2016 was £64k and the budget for 2018 is £150k, alongside capital expenditure of £700k.

The most recent management accounts after April were slightly ahead of budget on surplus to that date, but we have the busiest part of the year ahead of us.

Other comments in the AGM speech will include striking balances between different competing interests and opportunities, which may be geographical, between shooting disciplines, access to ranges, property interests etc. The Trustees have to strike a balance between all of those in the decisions that we make on the NRA's behalf. The Trustees also believe it a fair approach that shooters pay the cost for delivering shooting, services and goods, particularly on the ranges at Bisley and the estates, which avoids one shooting constituency being asked to subsidise another, either explicitly or implicitly. The NRA also needs to ensure it applies its financial resources to serve shooting both in the present and in the future and we need a reliable generation of surpluses and cash to be able to do that.

The Treasurer believes the timely publication of the statutory and management accounts helps ensure good communication between the Association and its members. The Treasurer recorded his thanks to the NRA support team, led by Ray Hutchings, for their timely production of the management and statutory accounts.

The Treasurer has written an article in the Spring Journal regarding the Overseas Team Fund (OTF) and has also asked for a webpage to be created on the NRA website which includes the contents of the journal article and team accounts for the last four years of GB and NRA TR teams and MR teams. He recorded his thanks to Murray Hossack, NRA IT Manager, for his assistance.

PCh asked whether any other teams other than TR and MR had been supported by the OTF. DL confirmed that the TR and MR teams appoint a captain and officers for the team up to 2 years in advance and then set up their own bank accounts and operate an independent set of finances for that team which includes an application to the OTF for a grant. This is considered by the Team Finance Committee, with a recommendation proposed to and approved by Council. A set of accounts are then produced after the tour which are checked by the NRA and are now published on the OTF webpage. The Gallery Rifle team is a little different in that they tend not to travel so far or for so long. The practice for those teams is to pay for their own costs, entry fees, ammunition, accommodation, transport etc. The teams for the matches are selected at the actual events so there is no concept of a touring team. The OTF supports Gallery Rifle by receiving eligible expenses submitted through the Gallery Rifle rep and an amount of £150 per shooter per tour is available to the team to claim against; a typical annual grant for Gallery Rifle is £5k.

PCh asked how the funds are raised by the team. The Treasurer confirmed that the Gallery Rifle discipline have different events which generate funds which are paid into the OTF and only those amounts are available to them to claim.

SL asked whether there were any stats available as to how much money the NRA spends on tours as well as supporting youth shooting, disabled shooting and regional shooting. The Treasurer does not have those figures to hand but will be happy to respond once the figures have been gathered.

The Chairman added that previous estimates had suggested that the Under 25 subsidy offered for competition entry, training and membership amounts to around £100k per annum in aggregate.

AM added that the NRA runs the Adaptive Championships for disabled shooting during the Imperial meeting and provides the range services, range officers, rifle hire and ammunition. The volunteers don't do that for free but the NRA does not monetise that expense.

SL would like to see the figures and what the plan is for the future.

John Bloomfield (JPSB) added that the money which is 'given' by the NRA to overseas teams is not NRA money. The OTF is money which has been raised by people for the specific purpose of teams and is a separate account created entirely from this revenue. Each discipline raises its own funds for itself which is then spent on touring teams. The money does not come out of the NRA revenue.

SL believes as the national governing body, the NRA should be supporting the four areas mentioned. The Chairman added that in addition to subsidising youth and disabled shooting, and promoting regional shooting, GB and NRA teams get a contribution from the NRA including discounted target hire toward team training.

Alex Cargill Thompson (ACT) added that it would be quite difficult to come up with an accurate figure for the support the NRA gives to the different areas as this would include calculating staff effort.

Charles Dickenson (CD) wanted to reinforce what has been said as there is a feeling in the regions that they are the poor relation compared with those who shoot at Bisley and CD believes that any publicity as to what the NRA is doing to support these areas would help to reduce that feeling. Also, with regards to the younger shooters, there is a lot of work going on with British Young Shooters Association (BYSA) and the NRA, but those youth shooters are the future and to be seen to be investing in that future would be very beneficial.

No further questions were raised.

## **G523 – OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

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

AM reported on three updates since the report was circulated.

The planning application for works to create storage facilities in the area formally used as the staff camping site behind Canada House have been approved.

Regarding the noise complaint lodged with Guildford Borough Council by the caretaker of the Surrey Rifle Association, AM recorded his grateful thanks for the assistance from David Crispin and Peter Chance, Trustees of the SRA, following a meeting yesterday which has resulted in a promise that the complaint will be withdrawn today. The NRA has set out a three day plan to research the problems raised and try to identify potential solutions.

AM reported that as of yesterday, there have been 835 Imperial entries which compares favourably to last year's figures. The staff are cautious about the final figures because of the meeting being a week later this year, it may impact adversely on entries for the Schools meetings.

SL remarked that a lot of people book the Imperial in the last week before the early entry discount ends. SL asked if there could be a way around that. AM responded that people will always respond to a deadline.

The Chairman added that a lot of money has to be paid out for the issued ammunition and if the NRA doesn't have a deadline to incentivise people to enter and pay for the meeting early, there wouldn't be the available cash to meet that commitment. The TR membership is less than half of the total membership of the Association and it is not fair on the other half to subsidise that cost.

SL is concerned that she entered in the last week and was given the entry number 419 and someone who booked at midnight of the closing date had 701. So in the last week almost 300 people had entered which is nearly half the total amount of entrants. Could it be encouraged that they book even earlier? JPSB remarked that it's always been that way.

AM added that the lesson learnt this year is having a deadline of midnight is not a good idea because people who have issues entering and the NRA staff were working until 11pm dealing with emails. AM takes SL's point but believes that it won't matter when the deadline is set.

ACT remarked that the early entry draw is a good incentive to enter early and he's happy if there are fewer people entering that!

SL remarked that people believe the entry figures are low. The Chairman remarked that the numbers are comparable to last year's figures, but the school's entries may be lower due to the change of dates.

AM highlighted the continuing and encouraging positive signs of the new member applications. There have been 520 new applications for the year to end of May compared to 448 in 2017. This is despite limited overt advertising for membership. The 'stickiness' of members is very good. AM expects the membership to be reaching upwards of 9,000 members by the end of 2018 which is good news for the NRA but can in turn put pressure on the use of the Bisley range complex.

AM reported that the central issuing of Safety Competency Cards will commence in 2019 and the renewal paperwork and information will be sent out to all clubs by the end of June 2018. We will be contacting a few 'friendly' clubs to ensure what we are asking them for is achievable.

GDPR has been a very large undertaking and AM believes we have all suffered with the number of emails received. Emails have been sent out to the membership and we are dealing with the responses accordingly.

The NRA are currently reviewing the service charges levied to Bisley tenants and held a lively discussion with the Trustee board today. The headline news is the method of calculating service charges is under consideration, but first blush suggests that we might be under-recovering. The plan is that the NRA will seek professional advice on the draft proposals and then go out to the tenants for consultation as we work our way through 2018. There will be no material changes to the methodology of service charge calculations for the 2018/19. We will be consulting on the proposals to become effective in 2019/20.

Discussion was also held surrounding the charges to tenants for electricity. The NRA pays the entire supply to Bisley camp which amounts to £172k annually, a proportion of this is then charged out to tenants. AM has conducted some archaeology on this and the current policy has been in existence for at least 18 years. AM is confident that the NRA are complying with the letter of the leases which states the charges levied will not exceed the maximum charges fixed by the electricity authority in respect thereof. The maximum charge fixed from our supplier is between 17.38p and 18.89p per unit. The NRA charges two rates – 14.6p to commercial tenants and 11.5p to the residential tenants. The 3p margin between what the NRA is charged and what the NRA charges the commercial tenants equates to the share of the additional costs incurred by the NRA to maintain the electrical supply network from the substations to the individual properties. EDF are responsible for maintaining the supply to the substations, while the NRA supports and maintains the infrastructure from the substations to the individual distribution points.

AM also wanted to raise the point that the NRA bills the tenants on an annual or quarterly basis, and is paid by cheque or bank transfer. The NRA pays on a monthly basis by direct debit which helps secure the best rates for the large quantity of electricity procured for the site.

The Chairman added that the consultation on service charges could be a good thing for the Estates Committee to help with. Richard Bailie (RB) believes it is important that the NRA follows the RICS best practice standards and do as much as they can to have 'open book' accounting on service and electricity charges, which the Trustees agree with. The Chairman would also like it noted that the NRA pay around £170k per annum to EDF and a further £40k to service the infrastructure and bill around £140k to the tenants. Therefore the NRA incurs an annual net cost of c.£70k for supplying electricity to their own buildings.

PCh asked for clarification that there are some electricity provision to certain buildings which are not provided by the NRA. AM confirmed that Hogleas Hall and Victoria Chalets have their own supply and there are some other substations, none of which AM has factored into the overall costs.

PC remarked that the online entry for the Imperial meeting hadn't worked for everyone and if the programme would be adjusted to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Nick Brasier (NB) remarked that the CCTV cameras on camp have been improved, and did they now include automatic number plate recognition technology. AM responded not at the moment. The new cameras have been placed at the front of the gate to capture vehicles as they enter and leave the site.

NB also asked for an update on Exhibition Hut. AM confirmed that the building will be used as a 'club house for hire' and be made available for clubs to hire on a daily, weekend or weekly basis for any events they may have or wish to hold. The hut will have disabled toilets, a small kitchenette and a large open space for clubs to use.

SL asked what income the NRA will look to make by hiring the Exhibition Hut. AM confirmed he had no predicted figures at the moment, however a minimum of £20k per annum would be realised just by moving the current business from the Pavilion over to Exhibition Hut.

SL then asked how much the NRA had spent on renovating the Pavilion to date. AM responded £350k to date with a further £200k projected to completion. SL remarked that was an amazingly low sum. AM responded that the NRA does not capitalise payroll cost and the large amount of work has been done by NRA staff. The Chairman added by using NRA staff the NRA are able to meet the cash balance amount of £200k it has committed to by not using this on capex.

SL asked that these figures and explanation be communicated to the membership as a lot of them believe that the NRA have spent a lot more and the timeline has extended considerably, thereby costing yet more money.

CD remarked that the delay in completing the main area of the Pavilion is actually holding up revenue generation which is effectively a cost to the Association. The Chairman agreed, but the Association believe that investing in the ranges, such as electronic targets, is a more effective use of the available cash balance and has a higher yield. Also the Trustees were not minded to borrow funds to complete the Pavilion project.

ACT asked whether the electronic targets are generating a good income for the Association. AM confirmed that they are extremely well received and well used.

AM added that a lesson learned from the Pavilion project is to be much more critical in terms of the adherence of tenants to repair covenants and the dilapidations schedules.

SL asked about whether the asbestos had any great effect on the Pavilion costs. AM confirmed that a report had been received and that more issues became apparent when works commenced on the Pavilion because of certain areas which need to be addressed. The Chairman confirmed that the reports did not 'hide' anything but some areas where there was asbestos had to be disturbed in order to be able to achieve the intended design of the Pavilion by the NRA.

SL then asked why it has taken so long to respond to the clubs enquiring about electricity prices 18 months ago. AM responded that there had been an enquiry from a club which also included a number of contentious issues which have had to be worked through. There has been a significant amount of work involved in going back through the archaeology of the agreements and cost profile which has taken time.

CD raised the proposed programme for the 150<sup>th</sup> Imperial Meeting in 2019 and wanted to ask if we had any indication from overseas teams who may be attending as it is a main Palma year in New Zealand. The Chairman responded that the Americans were intending to send a team, but have not yet heard from the NRA of America whether they will allow us to hold the America match.

CD remarked that the proposed teams matches day will move the majority of the programme one day earlier and there are already a number of comments circulating about the fact that people will not be able to afford the extra time or money and those wishing to attend the Grand Aggregate will have difficulty if they can only take leave in weekly increments. Last year's meeting saw 120 fewer people shooting on the Friday than on the Saturday and a lot of those due to not being able to take the extra day off. That number will need to be made up through the team events and CD would like to caution that this be looked at carefully before going firm on the programme.

AM remarked that the programme had been put in front of the Shooting Committee, on which CD sits, prior to being approved by the Committee and it has been recommended to Council who have also approved it. CD remarked that the publicity for the events had only gone out after the Shooting Committee was held and the comments coming back are raising some questions which may need a rethink so that we don't seriously impact on the entries to the Imperial without having some compensating benefit from increased overseas team attendance.

JPSB remarked that the proposed programme is essentially what was done in 2000, the only difference is the Match Rifle meeting starts a day early, which was agreed by the MR Committee. The difference in the TR meeting from 2000 and next year is that the order of the competitions next year remain the same whereas in 2000 they were moved about. The programme needs to be set a minimum of 12 months in advance which has been done and changes cannot be made once approved.

ACT remarked that the event needs to be promoted early and repeatedly to help with the competitor numbers.

AM remarked that he hears what CD is saying but the programme has been agreed and promoting it confidently and aggressively will hopefully reap the results.

CB asked why the final Sunday has been dropped for the team matches as was held in 2000. JPSB responded that the main reason is that most of the competitors have gone home by the final Sunday.

PCh asked whether overseas club teams could be invited to enter the team events if the international teams aren't present so could there be some flexibility when advertising the events. JPSB confirmed that the NRA intends to make the event as all-encompassing as they can.

SL asked whether there would be any sponsorship for the 150<sup>th</sup> Imperial Meeting. AM responded that one of the professional staff has been tasked with selling sponsorship for various events which is bearing fruit already with new sponsors and new trophies. SL asked whether the Queen's Prize would be sponsored as it is very expensive to enter that event. AM remarked that it isn't a daft idea. The Chairman questioned whether the Queen would like her event to be sponsored.

Anthony de Launey (AdL) remarked that three competitions, Daily Mail, Times and Daily Telegraph which used to receive around £1,000 now receive no support from those newspapers. Could there be an opportunity to drop those three competitions and find other sponsors to replace them. The meeting agreed.

No further questions were raised.



## **G524 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were presented to General Council. No questions were raised.

James Harris (JH) then gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

The main points of that meeting were the process for the publication of the NRA handbook for the 2019 Meeting has been brought forward to August 2018. Any comments or requests for changes will need to be received by James Harris, or Iain Robertson as Shooting Committee Secretary, by the end of August 2018.

The Imperial Meeting of 2018 started today with the Service Rifle events. This year the delegated powers will be the same as in force for 2017 and the 10% chamber checks will be conducted on competitors.

Team Captains – there was no nomination received for the F-Open Team Captaincy and this has been re-advertised.

The NRA will bid to host the World Long Range Team Championships at Bisley in 2027.

JH expressed his congratulations to Stuart Young who has been elected as the NRA Channel Island Team Captain 2019.

No questions were raised.

## **G525 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

GA informed the meeting that Mik Maksimovic had resigned as Chairman of the Membership Committee and therefore the committee would like to put out a request for GC members interested in joining the Membership Committee to put themselves forward for consideration. A new Chairman will be elected in due course.

No questions were raised.

## **G526 – ELECTION TO GENERAL COUNCIL**

For information under Second Schedule Rule 7(g) the following four members have been re-elected unopposed for the vacancies.

### Ordinary Members

GK Alexander  
CM Brooks  
MJJ Charlton  
JM Kynoch

### Regional Members

PR Coley - South Western  
GAE Larcombe - Southern  
JF Miller – Greater London & South East

### Shooting Discipline Members

JS Harris - Target Shotgun  
M Bradley - Civilian Service Rifle and Practical Rifle

The Chairman expressed his congratulations to all the successful candidates.

There were two further vacancies for Ordinary Members – a three year elected vacancy and a one year casual vacancy. Nomination papers were distributed and the results of the election are:

Martin Townsend will fill the three year elected vacancy  
Simon Dixon will fill the one year casual vacancy

For information under Second Schedule Rule 7(g) the following members have been proposed and seconded for the vacancies. Election papers have been distributed for these elections.

Regional Members - West Midlands

Peter Kelly  
Richard Kenchington

Shooting Discipline Members – Sporting Rifle

Alistair Bullen  
Steve Wallis

**G527 – SECOND SCHEDULE AMENDMENT – ELECTRONIC VOTING**

The Chairman confirmed that this subject would not be discussed as it had been taken off the agenda for the AGM.

ACT agreed that the topic wouldn't be discussed at the AGM but asked whether there was any reason it could not be discussed at the Bisley General Meeting (BGM) rather than delaying a further year.

The Chairman remarked that the BGM is an open meeting for all attendees, not just NRA members, and therefore the subject could not be discussed in an open meeting. JPSB remarked that you would have to make the BGM a Special General Meeting which would restrict the attendance to NRA members only.

PCh felt that more money would be spent in order to call a SGM which defeats the issue and therefore suggested delaying this until next year's AGM. AM believes this would be the sensible thing to do and give the NRA time to get everything in line.

CB asked that because the papers had been circulated to the General Council members, whether the views of the room could be taken at this meeting as to whether they would give the proposal their approval.

The Chairman asked whether everyone was happy to give their feedback at this meeting and use the feedback as a basis to update the suggested amendment.

ACT remarked that the title of the suggested paragraph be renamed from Electronic Communications and just be called Communications as it covers both electronic and postal communication.

NB is pleased to see that those members who do not wish to vote electronically can do so by paper format. NB wants to ensure that a piece of paper is posted out to those members rather than having to go to a website to print a piece of paper.

JPSB remarked that the normal situation with communication is that it is deemed to be delivered once posted. We need to ensure this is covered for email communication as well. JPSB would like to see an amendment in the communication that confirms delivery once an email or letter has been sent.

ACT remarked that there are a large number of large membership organisations including building societies and charities like the National Trust who have successfully gone down this route and will have negotiated many of these issues so the NRA should mirror best practice.

**G528 – OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

SL asked for a discussion on the proposed Estates Committee.

The Chairman suggested that he had no recommendations of what the Committee should look like other than it should have a similar split of experienced and lay members – 50/50 – like the structure of the Disciplinary Committee. Having specialists on the Committee would be very helpful to give the right advice.

SL asked whether people could be co-opted onto the Committee.

The Chairman believes that this would be the best way forward as the Disciplinary Committee is allowed to co-opt members of General Council and can revert to specialists when required.

Guy Larcombe (GL) asked whether, apart from Richard Bailie, there were any other surveyors on General Council that could be considered for the Committee. The answer was no at this time.

JPSB suggested that the General Council agree to starting with a working group or 'Advisory Group' of 6 people, 3 professional (building contractors, surveyors, land management experts) and 3 lay members. The chair of the Committee should be a member of General Council to be able to report back to the meeting. JPSB added that it should not be a formalised body as there would have to be changes to the Second Schedule in order to do that.

The Chairman asked the GC members to confirm they were happy with that suggestion. The meeting approved.

It was agreed that should more than six applications be received then the applicants would be put forward to General Council for approval. The Chairman added that more than 6 candidates could be selected. Richard Bailie was suggested as a possible chair for the group.

It was also agreed that a call for possible candidates be made.

CB remarked that the constitution allows General Council to form committees or working parties as it shall require and upon the terms it may lay down. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of General Council and the Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all committees. CB would also like to see draft terms of reference created before going out to advertise the vacancies.

ACT remarked that the Trustees should use the working party as a tool for advice on estate matters that are of particular interest.

NB asked whether it would be preferable for the working party to report directly in to the Trustees. JPSB remarked that it is a committee of General Council and therefore would have to report into General Council but the input would still go into Council. The minutes of any meeting would be sent to the Trustees.

HD asked that advertisements be placed for both professional and lay candidates.

It was agreed that AM will look at the terms of reference of the old Estates Committee and draft a new set of terms of reference for agreement at the September meeting. JPSB remarked that Mick Barr may have a copy of the old terms of reference as the Chairman of the old committee.

No further questions were raised.

## **G529 – REVIEW OF ACTIONS**

### **G491 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

AM believes the repairs to the floor of the shower block next to the Target Shed have been actioned.  
**Action closed.**

It was confirmed that the minutes of Council meetings would be circulated to General Council in a timely fashion, except in instances where further discussion is required by the Trustees to approve the minutes.  
**Action closed.**

AM reported he has had no update from the Charity Commission on mixed motive investment. **Action ongoing.**

AM will look into the £20 paper surcharge for Imperial Meeting entries and adjust accordingly as discussed earlier in the meeting. **Action closed.**

#### G492 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

GA confirmed that Northern Ireland put a proposal to the Commonwealth counties of ICFRA that a paper would be produced on how to get a world ranking system for fullbore shooting. It is hoped the paper will go to the full ICFRA meeting in New Zealand in January 2019 which will produce a world ranking system for individuals.

John Warburton (JWar) asked what was the purpose of a world ranking system.

GA confirmed that the purpose of having a ranking system depends on the country you come from. Should shooting not make it into the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the fear is that with fullbore shooting not being an Olympic sport or a Commonwealth sport, then all funding may be stopped which would affect such countries as Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and possibly England. Other countries such as South Africa have a great deal of difficulty travelling around the world because of the expense, but their country won't allow them to enter competitions because there isn't a world ranking system to prove they are good enough to do so. From the organisers point of view, they are very keen that all the NGBs have world ranking systems because they want the guarantee that the athletes are bonafide athletes.

Martin Watkins (MW) added that at future games there will be a quota system imposed on all countries to guarantee the numbers attending the events. They will need to select athletes through a ranking system. In order to get a ranking system in place with ICFRA it is proposed that some fullbore events are renamed as 'world cups' to get the ranking points.

GA reported that two papers had been put to ICFRA – one for a world ranking system, and the other to bring fullbore shooting in line with other competitions such as smallbore who have a series of world cup events which are funded.

David Calvert (DC) remarked that he has been tasked by GA as the Northern Ireland rep on ICFRA to summarise and work on a couple of papers produced for the Northern Ireland Sports Council around 4 years ago which addressed similar issues. DC will share those documents with the NRA through the Shooting Committee once completed.

JPSB remarked that world cups are all usually directed towards generating quota places for the Olympics and is nothing to do with the Commonwealth Games so there is a risk of muddling things up with regards to funding. He also added that if you start going down the route of earning quota places, you are likely to remove a lot of 'small country representation' which is a great feature of the Commonwealth Games and the absence of which would detract from the event.

MW confirmed this had been recognised and discussed in depth by the Commonwealth Games Association at the last meeting. Quota places are being imposed whether we like it or not.

#### G493 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

JPSB has not yet produced a synopsis of Rule 150 as this has been overtaken by events with the meeting with the Proof Masters. JPSB is happy to produce a synopsis if people want one, but thought everyone had now had enough of hearing about Rule 150.

SL asked whether rifle checks would still be done during the meeting. JPSB confirmed that 10% of competitors would have a chamber check done and foreign competitors will have to have their rifle checked if not done so before.

#### G498 – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017

The NRA has conducted some testing on muzzle brakes with some interesting results and more tests need to be done before a final report is produced.

GL asked if an intermediate report on the testing could be circulated as GL had heard that a potential lawsuit could be on its way from a school. AM had not heard that.

AM reported that the readings of the muzzle brakes had not shown any material difference in the noise and further testing needs to be done.

GL asked when the one target separation for muzzle brake will be enforced as they currently are not. AM remarked that if they are not being enforced it is because the club has not informed the range office when booking that muzzle brakes are being used. The Range Office staff are policing the ranges more and dealing with any reports of muzzle brakes brought to their attention.

JPSB reported that an incident had taken place that morning on Stickledown with the use of muzzle brakes and when it was reported to the Range Office and checked, the booking had not included any mention of muzzle brakes. The Range Office staff went up to the firing point and told the members of the club to remove the muzzle brakes, so the system is clearly working, but if clubs are not declaring on their bookings there is little the Range Office can do unless it is reported to them. **Action ongoing.**


#### G512 – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018

AM confirmed that the NRA are doing all they can to keep shooting on the programme for Commonwealth Games but are gaining little traction. **Action ongoing.**

#### G516 – 17<sup>th</sup> February 2018

The creation of an Estates Committee was discussed earlier in the meeting. **Action closed.**

The meeting closed at 17.00pm



**Chairman**

#### **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

2.00pm

NRA Pavilion

## REVIEW OF ACTIONS

Action Point & Date	Ownerships	Action Required
G481 – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 <i>Updated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018</i>	AM	AM confirmed we are still awaiting an update on mixed motive investment from the Charity Commission. <b>Action ongoing</b>
G491 – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 <i>Updated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018</i>	AM	AM to confirm £20 paper surcharge fee for Imperial entries is removed and a discount given to online entries. <b>Action ongoing.</b>
G492 – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 <i>Updated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018</i>	Trustees/AM	ICFRA have been approached with two papers for a suggested implementation of a world ranking system for fullbore shooting. <b>Action ongoing</b>
G493 – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 <i>Updated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018</i>	JPSB	JPSB will produce and circulate a synopsis of the presentation on Rule 150 if required by the GC members. <b>Action ongoing</b>
G498 – 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 <i>Updated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018</i>	AM	Additional tests are to be conducted prior to the production of a review of the use of muzzle brakes. <b>Action ongoing</b>
G512 – 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2018 <i>Updated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018</i>	ALL	The NRA continue to encourage members of various Commonwealth Games elements to get in touch with the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) as much as they can to try and keep shooting on future Games programmes. <b>Action ongoing</b>
G516 – 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2018 <i>Updated 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018</i>	Trustees	To consider the creation of an Estates Advisory Committee to assist the Trustees in real estate issues. <b>Item superseded</b>
G522 – 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	Treasurer (DL)	To produce figures on the amount the NRA spends on supporting youth shooting, disabled shooting and the regions.
G528 – 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2018	AM	To produce terms of reference for the Estates Committee Working Group for approval at the September General Council meeting.