

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

FINAL

Minutes of a Meeting held at the NRA Pavilion
on Saturday 23rd February 2019 from 2.00pm

Present:

Vice Chairman Dr JD Warburton

Members:

Mr HRM Bailie
Mr JPS Bloomfield
Dr ANW Cargill Thompson
Mr PAE Charlton
Mr DC Crispin
Mr SCW Dixon
Mr CES Dickenson
Mr HF Dunton
Mr DGF Evans
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley
Mr RS Kenchington
Mr JM Kynoch
Mr GAE Larcombe
Miss SS Lohmann
Mr D Lowe
Mr JF Miller
Mr B Ritchie
Mr R Roberts
Mr I Shirra-Gibb
Mr D Stimpson
Mr NF Thomas
Mr MK Townsend
Mr S Wallis
Dr AP Wolpe

In attendance:

Mr A Mercer	-	Chief Executive
Mrs G Thatcher	-	Secretary to Meeting
Ms A Gran	-	Trustee
Mr A Reynolds	-	Treasurer elect

Apologies for absence: Mr GK Alexander, Mr GV Barnard, Mr T Bobbet, Col WGC Bowles, Mr N Brasier, Mr CM Brooks, Maj R Bruce, Wg Cdr DP Calvert, Mr M Charlton, Mr PR Coley, Mr M Cotillard, Mr L Christy, Maj. Gen IC Dale, Mr AJCB de Launay, Dr N Fyfe, Mr E George, Mr J Harper-Smith, Mr J Harris, Mr K Hocking, Mr A Hunter, Mrs G Jarvis, Mr D Kent, Mr T Lehman, Mr M Magan, Mr M Maksimovic, Mr MF Martel, Mr N McFarlane, 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 IR Thomson, Mr G Trembath, Mr PDC Turner, Mr MP Watkins, Mr J Webster, Mr MJ Wood.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Vice Chairman of General Council welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2019. The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that the Chairman was unable to attend due to still being away in New Zealand. The Vice Chairman also introduced Andrew Reynolds to the meeting as a guest attendee/observer. Andrew Reynolds is the candidate for the new Treasurer of the Association, as proposed by Council.

INDEX G547 to G561

G547 – APOLOGIES

Apologies were received as noted above.

G548 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

G549 – MINUTES OF GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING – 7th SEPTEMBER 2018

The Minutes of the General Council meeting of 7th September 2018 had been, circulated, approved and published.

G550 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF 7th SEPTEMBER 2018

John Kynoch (JK) raised action point G493 which is for John Bloomfield (JSB) to produce and circulate a synopsis of the presentation on Rule 150, as this remains outstanding, despite confirmed at the previous meeting that this would be done, as shown in the minutes of 7th September. JK would like the action point completed to ensure that what has been decided in the meeting is done.

JSB confirmed that a copy of the synopsis is available for any GC members who wished to receive a copy. Copies are available from Andrew Mercer and requests should be made by email.

Richard Kenchington (RK) wanted to make a point regarding G541, paragraph 3, the lease of Bisley Shooting Ground. RK has been approached by the owner of Bisley Shooting Ground, Alexander Roupell, following the publication of the minutes, who is devastated that he has been told that the lease is not being renewed. RK provided some background information that in 1998, BSG were offered and granted two 20 year leases, the object being that in 2018 at the end of the first 20 year period, they had an agreement to renegotiate for a further 20 years, which they want to do.

RK has been told by Mr Roupell that when the term expired in June 2018, Mr Roupell contacted the NRA and asked to discuss the renewal of the lease but was told the NRA refused to look at their proposal. BSG pay a rent of £70k per year, and maintain the club house at their own expense and use the grounds extensively. They do not understand why the NRA are not allowing them to renew their lease. RK informed the meeting that it is the intention of BSG on the cancellation of their lease to remove all equipment from the site (valued at £500k) and fight the decision, through the courts if necessary.

AM responded that he believes RK has received some interesting and inaccurate information. The 21 year lease on the Council Club and the 21 year licence on Cottesloe Heath and Long Siberia both expire in June 2019. A proposal was presented and accepted by the Trustees for the NRA to take over the operation of sporting clay business, as being in the Association's best interest. With regards to the equipment on site, the BSG accounts suggest the value to be nearer £100k. It is understandable that the current licensee and tenant is unhappy, they run a very lucrative and profitable business.

AM added that there is a clear and explicit obligation on the licensee of Cottesloe Heath and Long Siberia to clear all shooting debris from the ground. That hasn't been done at all during the 21 year period and there is a very substantial liability that has accrued in terms of the removal of all clay debris and lead shot on those ranges. That has not been addressed by the current licensee, despite several reminders. There is also a significant dilapidation schedule on the Council Club.

ACT wanted to make the point that one of the reasons for the NRA wanting to reacquire the licence is to increase the use of Stickledown and when the licence was originally let it was making use of dead space that the NRA would now like to use better.

AM added that the rapid growth in membership and demand for Bisley ranges, to have a very prescriptive and restrictive agreement with the licence holders of Cottesloe Heath is something that the Association would not want to do again. The NRA have received other offers of interest from commercial operatives, but the NRA are going to make sure that the area is used to best advantage for the NRA, and that will include expanding the use of Century and Stickledown ranges.

Simon Dixon (SD) raised a question regarding the legal fees expended by the NRA. SD had submitted a paper and questions, raised by members, to the Chief Executive on 8th February, following publication of an article by the Chairman on the Association's recent legal costs. SD would like to know how much money has been spent by the Association fighting the Artists Rifle Club lease in the last 4 years.

AM responded that a number of queries had been raised in the paper submitted by SD. Firstly the paper suggests that the article published by the Chairman is misleading and distorted the facts. It also asks about the costs incurred by the Artists Rifle Clubhouse and the NRA. It also mentioned that members raising the questions are minded to correspond with the Charity Commission depending on the published answers to those questions. AM remarked that the NRA have categorically stated that they will not disclose legal fees on a case by case basis and the figures have been published and validated in the Chairman's accounts, and shared with the Charity Commission as part of their report. To suggest they are misleading is an interesting position for these members to take. The fact that this particular query calls into question the integrity of the Chairman who is not at this meeting, AM believes it unfair to respond on behalf of the Chairman when it is a direct attack on his integrity.

SD responded that their comment was that it was the use of spin in order to conceal the actual costs. SD is happy to share a copy of the paper should anyone wish to see it.

JSB asked SD whether he has a conflict of interest in this matter. SD responded that he doesn't in terms of the Artists'. JSB remarked that SD does have a conflict on the figures in total. SD responded that there could be a case in the second part of the question. JSB then asked why SD had not declared an interest before he raised the point. SD responded that the point raised was regarding the Artists.

AM responded that there are two points which SD has raised; the Artists and the total cost the NRA has spent on legal fees. As President of the North London Rifle Club, SD would be conflicted.

SD confirmed he is conflicted as President of the North London Rifle Club.

The Vice Chairman summarised that the request for a detailed breakdown, on a case by case basis, of the expenditure on legal fees associated with leases, reminding the GC members that we are a body who are here to scrutinise and advise Council, and Council have stated their policy is that they do not breakdown or publicise the expenditure on a single case, so there is nothing further to say on that. The second point is that some members have approached SD and said they do not believe what the Chairman of the Association has said.

SD's main concern is that we want to keep this to ourselves and SD is concerned that if he goes back and says nothing, they may well seek to take it further. SD is trying to create a situation where we can keep it within the NRA, rather than into the public domain.

AM asked whether SD was a member of ABCAT. SD confirmed he was. AM asked SD to confirm whether he was aware of the efforts ABCAT have been making in terms of the complaint and enquiry to the Charity Commission. SD stated he was not aware of the details of the complaint.

The Vice Chairman remarked that SD has made his point and we have recorded the request through this committee to the Council committee. The Association's current policy is not to release individual lease figures. It was agreed that we would wait for the return of the Chairman to comment on the content of his published announcement.

ACT asked whether we had received a response from the Prince of Wales regarding attending the 150th Imperial Meeting. AM confirmed we had receive a response and HRH would not be attending.

RK asked whether anything could be done with regards clearing Site 103, especially as we have the 150th Meeting this year. AM confirmed that it is the responsibility of the NSRA and therefore the NRA were unable to action any progress on the site.

The Vice Chairman remarked that there used to be advertising canvases on the fencing in years past and it would be beneficial to source some similar advertising for the Imperial Meeting as it would 'hide' the site, as well as provide advertising space for companies.

No further matters were raised.

G551 – FINANCE

The Treasurer presented his report to the meeting. The surplus in the general fund is £85k, which is slightly lower than budget mainly due to the delays in the opening of the Pavilion. Overall cash generation was £539k. Capital expenditure was £478k. The NRA maintain the policy of having a minimum cash balance of £250k. The cash balance at the end of 2018 was £630k, mainly due to membership income.

The auditors were in a couple of weeks ago and spent a week going through the finances. A feedback meeting is due to take place in c.3 weeks time, with a view to publishing the report and accounts by the end of March.

ACT asked for more detail on the net current assets and liabilities as the current table is not as helpful as it could be. DL will be suggesting the inclusion of some items into that table to provide more information to the Council for agreement.

No further questions were raised.

The Vice Chairman extended the thanks of General Council to Derek Lowe for all his hard work and commitment during his time as Treasurer.

G552 – OPERATIONAL UPDATE

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

AM apologised for the late presentation of the CAPEX breakdown by headings.

The Offensive Weapons bill has been discussed by the Grand Committee and there were a number of unhelpful amendments – one for controls on miniature rifle ranges to prohibit the Section 11(4) Miniature Rifle Range exemptions and the other was to impose greater restrictions on the possession of ammunition components with the intent to manufacture. Both of those have subsequently been withdrawn.

The Government now seem to be trying to finesse the Offensive Weapons bill and remove the contentious items with a promise to put any such matters to be subject to further bouts of public consultation. The position is quite fluid at present and we are having to be very attentive.

With regards to MARS and Lever Release firearms, the efforts to persuade the House of Lords to differentiate between the two types of firearms failed. The shooting organisations have struggled to garner any significant political support to save MARS and Lever Release, but the efforts to differentiate the two types of firearms have also failed to gain support.

The NRA contact 2200 members known to have MARS or lever release firearms and only 30 people responded stating they suffered from some form of impairment so we have been unable to present the fact that MARS and lever release are attractive to disabled shooters.

The shooting organisations have been very good at speaking with one voice on this subject.

AM remarked that it is very difficult to deal with legislation once it has been presented to politicians. It is very tough and we need to be much more proactive and work with the firearms licensing police and Home Office.

ACT asked for an update on the Pavilion opening. AM confirmed that the work on the Pavilion café will be finished by April 2019.

Martin Watkins (MW) informed the meeting that the feedback from the Commonwealth Games Committee regarding having shooting events in the 2022 Games was due back in January. MW has been informed by Peter Underhill that we are now expecting feedback in March.

AM believes that the longer it goes on, the more difficult it is going to become and to lose shooting in its entirety will have significant long term consequences for shooting in the Games.

Harald Dunton (HD) informed the meeting that the last remaining gallery range in Essex (Middlewick) is scheduled to close in late 2020 with the range being developed for housing. This will leave only 3 ranges in the Eastern region.

Paul Charlton (PCh) noted that the planned site layout for the new Waldegrave caravan site had a greater density of units planned compared to the original proposal and asked why there has been an increase in the number of pitches.

AM responded that the original plan included some plots for larger units, which has since been amended and therefore the number of available pitches has increased from 34 to 39.

PCh also asked why there were only a limited number of visitor parking places. AM remarked that the more visitor parking spaces you have the less space you have for units, making it more expensive for the new units. Providing car parking for the peak times is not a good use of planned space.

Bryden Ritchie (BR) informed the meeting that Scotland now has a national police force and they have been making moves to take further interest in shooting clubs. Just before Christmas they sent out an extremely detailed demand for information for club members and firearms. This has been rebuffed, but reading between the lines, there is an issue here that we need to clarify in both politician and police minds as to who is responsible for each area. Police are clearly responsible for firearms licensing. However, the control and approval of shooting clubs sits with the Home Office (England) or the Scottish Ministers (Scotland) and BR thinks the police think they own the shooting clubs and can therefore direct activities.

AM believes this is a live issue and the challenge is that the Home Office believe their eyes on the ground are the police and the distinction of where responsibilities start and finish is not clear. It is subject to too much interpretation by local forces.

BR also added a regional issue which has been flagged up which is the unfortunate demise of the Glasgow University Shooting Club. They have lost access to their smallbore range and their university sports committee have pulled their membership. This is very unfortunate and BR, with Scottish Target Shooting and the NRA are trying to help rescue the situation.

BR would like to say to everyone who may be aware of a University shooting club near them, please help and reach out to them. They are our future and we cannot lose these strategic clubs.

No further questions were raised.

G553 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Vice Chairman remarked how glad he was to see the Membership Committee active again.

Silke Lohmann (SL) presented the minutes of the 21st July meeting and 13th October meeting. No questions were raised.

SL then gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 9th February 2019.

Discussion was held surrounding Glasgow University Shooting club. Young shooters, universities and disabled shooters are very much the committee's main focus going forward. The Committee are working on a document which they hope to present at the next General Council meeting and would appreciate any feedback.

The membership figures were presented to the meeting. The Committee are hoping to get more accurate membership analysis to see how we can help to find new members and encourage others not to leave.

The committee had also discussed the 'Meet the Clubs' day which had been held over the previous two years. It was decided that they would not hold the event in 2019 but would look to hold a 'Meet the Disciplines' day in 2020.

The renewal of RCOs was also discussed and ideas of how renewals can be improved are being suggested and will be discussed with Shooting Committee.

The Committee have also tasked themselves with looking at the communication with members and clubs.

RK asked why SCCs for affiliated club members cannot be issued for 4 years like those issued to NRA members.

AM responded that it is something that we are considering, but in this first year we decided to satisfy ourselves that the competency process is fit for purpose and we will be reviewing for future years.

RK remarked that there are a large number of RCOs and RSOs who are qualified by the NRA but are not members of the association. RK believes they should be members of the association. AM agreed!

RK believes that they could be NRA members by virtue of being a qualified RCO and they should be charged a nominal fee to be a member of the NRA and benefit from the protection and privileges of being a member.

AM responded that RCOs provide an integral and valuable service. We are looking to improve our systems for RCOs and RSOs and we hope to develop this moving forward.

Charles Dickenson (CD) asked whether RCOs who are members of the NRA are fully insured and those who are club members would be covered under the club's insurance. AM confirmed NRA members are fully covered under the NRA's insurance policy and affiliated club members would be covered under the club's insurance policy.

BR raised the point that there are only a handful of NRA members north of the border as they don't feel there is any advantage in being an NRA member. Communication needs to be better with both clubs and affiliated members to increase the NRA's membership.

AM believes that the NRA needs to be more persuasive further away from Bisley. Membership is growing by over 1,000 members per year. The benefits of membership needs to be better communicated as it isn't only about Bisley, but about everything the NGB of fullbore shooting can offer. The NRA is the largest home office approved club in the UK and we need to ensure we can continue to offer support to all members. The change in SCC renewals has garnered a great deal of knowledge of where the fullbore shooters are and we will have the opportunity to look at membership categories on offer.

Paul Wolpe (PW) asked for confirmation of whether the Meet the Clubs day would run in 2019. SL confirmed that it would not be held in 2019 and that the Meet the Disciplines would be arranged for 2020.

David Crispin (DC) remarked that he believes anyone coming on camp and using the facilities should be a member of the NRA. If we halved the cost of membership and doubled the number of members, we still have the same revenue. DC believes there is some mileage increasing the membership but the fee should be dropped to encourage it.

AM remarked that there is no shortage of people wanting to become members of the NRA with 1,027 joining in 2018.

DC remarked that there are 50,000 shooters in the country and only 9,000 are NRA members.

AM responded there are 15,000 SCC holders and the NRA have 9,000 of those as members. There is however a capacity issue that needs to be considered. Doubling the membership and halving the fee is not something the NRA would consider!

BR added that an affiliated club member category would make people feel more included and supported.

PCh remarked that it would be easy to think that it would be great to double the membership and halve the fee, but it misses two points. One is if we are going to grow the association, we would need to be offering more to encourage new members and it would cost more to run the membership department to bring in more members.

ACT asked whether it would be a good idea from an administrative point of view if the NRA membership cards and SCCs could be combined to produce only one card. AM agreed this could be considered.

HD wanted to raise the point raised by Richard Stebbings (RS) in the July minutes recommending a review of membership categories as school affiliation offers very little value as insurance access to MoD ranges was already in place for cadet units. HD wanted to make the point that not all school rifle clubs are dependent upon their cadet status. SL confirmed she would take that point back to RS and the committee.

No further questions were raised.

G554 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the 6th September 2018 were presented to General Council by John Bloomfield in the absence of James Harris. No questions were raised.

JSB gave a verbal report of the meeting held on 21st February 2019.

The bible updates were agreed and the 2019 handbook will be published by mid March, and will come into effect from 1st April 2019.

The Team Captains handbook is in process.

A number of rule changes have been considered for 2019. F-Class will revert to their 2017 rules for the international match. There will be an additional match on Middle Sunday for the F-Class version of the celebration match and will be for GB teams.

Additional competitions have been created for Sporting Rifle by Steve Wallis.

A new rule change coming into effect is that snap caps will no longer be permitted for use on the firing point during the Imperial Meeting. There have been an increasing number of incidents over the last few years where people have fired in the preparation period.

The programme for the 150th Imperial Meeting has been set. The meeting will start a day early on the Thursday.

There will be a celebration match on the 2nd Thursday – The America Match – which is being contested by the Home Countries, not GB, giving more people the opportunity to shoot in it. We are looking at having c.10-12 teams competing.

There will also be an America Match for Under 25 team, which will be teams of 4, and the Chairman will be writing to the Americans to confirm they are happy for an Under 25 team match.

The cadets will also be holding a celebration team match at short range on Century.

There will be a scratch teams match held on that day for everyone else which will be shot long range in the morning and short range in the afternoon. It will be for teams of 4 with no more than 2 X-Class in each team.

MW asked whether the ban on snap caps would also affect the cadet meeting. JSB confirmed that the cadets are not allowed to use snap caps and haven't done for a number of years.

The investigation into last year's ammunition issues has produced a report which has been published on the NRA website. The major finding is that there was an issue with the bullets. Sierra have accepted this and are addressing their quality issues as a result of the investigation.

More information will be published in the coming month regarding additional testing undertaken which will show results which came out of that. A report will be produced for circulation in due course.

We are expecting a sample of this year's bullets from Sierra in the coming weeks for testing before the GGG ammunition is loaded.

Chris Hockley (CH) asked how much ammunition was still to be sold. AM confirmed there are 75,000 rounds which we expect to sell in the next two months.

PCh asked what additional testing will be undertaken and what timeline will there be for the competition ammunition for 2019.

JSB confirmed that the same testing procedure will be undertaken as that which has been adopted for the last 35 years and a batch of ammunition will be received and tested in the coming weeks once received from GGG.

SL asked a question on behalf of Iain Thomson asking whether we will be informing the members by social media or the journal about the GGG situation.

JSB responded that GGG are awaiting this year's delivery of bullets and we are expecting a delivery of the ammunition by 27th March 2019. AM confirmed that we will publish a report on the ammunition once all the testing has been completed for the new season.

CD asked whether tests will be run on different batches of the new ammunition if more than one batch is received. JSB confirmed that would be the intention.

PCh asked if the suggested symbols were printed on the new targets to let people know they were using the new targets. HD confirmed that the new targets have a diamond printed above the bullseye, whereas the old targets have a square.

No further questions were raised.

G555 – THE COUNCIL

The minutes of the meetings held on 4th August, 19th October 2018 were presented to the meeting by David Evans (DE), Vice Chairman of Council.

HD asked why the Proof Masters have decided to dispense with the 1999 Memorandum.

AM responded that the Proof Masters are not proofing any barrels to the 1999 Memorandum spec.

JSB added that the Proof Masters confirmed at a meeting in June that they proofed rifles to three standards; CIP, 1999 Memorandum and non-standard. The proof masters felt that the number of rifles declared as 1999 Memorandum rather than non-standard, does not make it worthwhile maintaining the three standards of proof. Therefore they are going to treat everything that is not CIP as non-standard. The NRA will continue with the present dimensions which the ammunition is made to comply with, so it will not affect anything here.

AM confirmed that the road leading up to Sit Pet Hut and beyond is on the list for repairs this year, before the meeting in July.

ACT asked whether the policy on refunds for the Imperial Meeting had received any further thoughts or update. AM responded that the policy will remain unchanged.

Main points discussed at the 7th December meeting have already been shared through the Chief Executive's report, Finance Report and Shooting Committee minutes.

A question was raised as to the plan for improving accommodation on camp. AM confirmed any improvements are considered 18 months in advance of any lease renewals and upgrades are being considered and dealt with by NRA staff where possible to save costs.

A verbal report was given on the meeting held on 15th February 2019. One of the main items discussed was an enquiry being undertaken by the Charity Commission as to the charitable status of the NRA. There is a meeting set for the 20th March 2019 to meet with the commission and discuss various items. David Lacey (Trustee) has undertaken a great deal of work in preparation for the meeting and we have also been helped by Julian Smith of Farrers, an expert lawyer in charity law.

The matters which the Charity Commission want to look at relate primarily to leases and lease renewals. The definition of the NRA's charitable objectives are also being reviewed, as well as the relationship between the NRA and the NSC (National Shooting Centre) which was set up in 2005, which may result in an additional non-executive director being sought.

The Charity Commission in their letter to the NRA, referred to the policy on leases and lease renewals and DE would like to read what was said in that letter.

"They have previously advised that the support of non-charitable shooting clubs is not in itself charitable. NRA tenants and affiliated clubs are not themselves established for charitable purposes, so we expect tenants to be charged at full rent. It does not fall within the purposes of the NRA to support and subsidise its tenants. The Trustees will need to be able to demonstrate at the meeting, the long term strategy for the Bisley estate. We will also have some questions about the advice received and the valuations but until we see the documents, asked for previously, it is difficult to say".

DE remarked that it is quite clear as to what in the Charity Commission's view we should be doing in relation to lease renewals and rents. On the face of it, it endorses the policy which the Trustees have adopted.

Chris Hockley (CH) remarked that the opposite to that would therefore seem to be that the NRA's attitude to those clubs and tenants who are registered charities, whose charitable aims match the NRA's should be given preferential treatment.

DE doesn't believe that follows, but isn't actually addressed in the letter from the Charity Commission.

CH asked whether it might be addressed at the meeting on 20th March. AM confirmed it will be. CH looks forward to the response.

PCh remarked that there are a lot of charitable rifle clubs that are affiliated to clubs on the common who are themselves not charities so it is a very complex situation, mostly caused by the wholesale withdrawal of charitable status from rifle clubs 20 years ago.

DE remarked that a number of charities decided not to fight the Charity Commission on the issue.

ACT declared an interest as a member of English VIII club, which is a charity. PCh declared an interest as the independent examiner of the English VIII (not a member). ACT added that the English VIII does make the clubhouse available to Oxford and Cambridge Universities so supports youth shooting.

No further questions were raised.

G556 – ELECTION TO GENERAL COUNCIL

For information under Rule 7 (g) (iii) – Elected Members of the General Council who retire in 2019 who have been invited to declare if they wish to stand for re-election.

(* not standing)

Five Ordinary Members

M Maksimovic *
RM Roberts
Mrs KD Robertson
I Thomson
SCW Dixon

Three Regional Members

G Trembath - Northern
Dr JD Warburton – Yorkshire & Humberside
HF Dunton - Eastern

Three Shooting Discipline Members

CES Dickenson – Target Rifle
D Kent – F Class
Dr AP Wolpe – Muzzle Loading

G557 – ELECTION OF NRA TREASURER

The NRA Treasurer is an officer of the Association and it is the responsibility of General Council to approve the nomination put forward by the Trustees of Council. A CV had been circulated for consideration.

Andrew Reynolds (AR), the candidate put forward for election, gave a brief introduction of his experience and qualifications as well as his shooting history. Derek Lowe fully endorsed AR's nomination.

The members of General Council voted unanimously and Andrew Reynolds was elected as the new NRA Treasurer who will take up position after the 2018 accounts are published.

G558 – RESULTS OF TEAM CAPTAIN ELECTIONS

Kolapore Captain 2019

CD remarked that there is a procedure which was approved by Council in February 2014 which has not been superseded and has not been followed for the Kolapore Captain ballot. As far as TR captains are concerned, the recommendation comes from the TR Sub Committee and for any ballot “the Secretary will conduct a postal ballot to assist the TR discipline sub committee in their deliberations. Only those members who have previously declared TR as a discipline (not necessarily their primary discipline) to the Membership Secretary shall be eligible to vote”. “The result, if any, of the ballot, shall not be binding”.

It is advisory to the TR sub committee and the sub committee has the ultimate decision which is put through the Chairman of the Shooting Committee to Council as to who their preferred and recommended candidate is.

In this instance, the procedure has gone out of sequence and the ballot went out to those GC members who had TR as their primary discipline only.

CD asked how many members in the current meeting had not received a ballot who had TR listed as a discipline. Only one member raised their hand. CD believes that could effectively invalidate the ballot.

However, because the ballot is only advisory on the TR sub committee, CD is more than happy to take the results of the ballot to the TR sub committee for consideration. If it is a very close result, we may wish to ask those other members of GC who should have received a ballot paper to vote. Alternatively, the TR sub committee could make their own decision using the information available from those who have submitted a ballot paper.

AM announced the results of the vote for the Kolapore Captain 2019. The results were 14 v 9 in favour of Toby Raincock.

CD is happy to report that the TR sub committee had met on Monday and the conclusion of the members of the committee was consistent with the results of the ballot. CD is therefore is happy to recommend to the Chairman of Shooting Committee that Toby Raincock be put to the Trustees as the preferred candidate.

JWar asked CD whether he had no knowledge of the vote for the Kolapore captaincy. CD stated he was aware after receiving the ballot paper.

CD had asked AM in January to send additional ballot papers out to those members of GC who had TR listed as a discipline, which has not happened.

AM remarked that the professional staff have been following customary practice, which is out of step with the published procedure. The published procedure starts with the discipline representative initiating the process, which in this case did not happen. In terms of the process, there is culpability across the board. There needs to be some clarity on the process and procedures and they are worthy of a review.

JWar asked CD to confirm that despite this issue we are able to accept the results of the vote.

CD confirmed that is the case.

GB Under 25 Team Captain 2019

One nomination had been received for the GB Under 25 Team Captain 2019. The TR Sub Committee had been informed of the nomination and the candidate is deemed entirely suitable by the TR sub committee. The candidate is Seth Dowley.

JWar confirmed that the Kolapore Captain 2019 is Toby Raincock and the GB Under 25 Team Captain is Seth Dowley.

G559 – ESTATES WORKING GROUP

AM confirmed to the meeting that a call for candidates from General Council had been made to serve on the Estates Working Group. A deadline of 1st March has been set for nominations to be received. A postal ballot will be held for the General Council posts and the ex-officio posts available.

ACT asked whether one of the topics for the working group to consider could be a strategic review of traffic and parking, including provision for charging electric cars.

G560 – OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

Iain Thomson (IT) had put forward three questions, one regarding CAPEX which has already been dealt with. IT has asked for target dates for action points raised in the minutes. The Vice Chairman believes that where it is applicable to do so we will. The third point raised by IT was a request for an update on the NRA's 3 year strategic plan. AM will update the meeting at the General Council Meeting in June.

CH wanted to record the thanks of the four GB Teams who went to the World Championships in New Zealand for the support from the NRA and from the Team Finance Committee. The Vice Chairman extended congratulations to the teams for what they achieved.

G561 – REVIEW OF ACTIONS

G481 – We are still waiting for the publication from the Charity Commission on mixed motive investment. **Action ongoing.**

G493 – A copy of the synopsis of the presentation on Rule 150 is available by email request to Andrew Mercer. **Action closed.**

G498 – The review of muzzle brakes has been merged into the wider noise testing protocols the NRA are currently undertaking. The complaints remain outstanding and AM will keep General Council updated with any new developments. **Action ongoing.**

G512 – The decision of the inclusion of shooting in the Commonwealth Games 2022 programme remains pending from the Commonwealth Games Council. **Item closed.**

G536 – The request for Estates Working Group members had been advertised. **Item closed.**

G536 – General Council members have been asked to complete and return the register of property interests. Georgina Thatcher will send a further reminder to members with a return date of the June meeting. **Action ongoing.**

C540 – AM had produced a CAPEX report showing the different areas of investment. **Item closed.**

The Vice Chairman reminded the meeting that the 2019 Annual General Meeting will be taking place on Saturday 25th May 2019 at 6.00pm.

The meeting closed at 16.25pm

Vice Chairman

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 14th June 2019 3.00pm 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
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.
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.