NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION **FINAL**

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council Meeting held
on Friday 6th June 2025 from 3.00pm in the NRA Pavilion

Present:

Chairman	Mr D Lacey (DLa)	
Members:	Mr GK Alexander (GA)	Elected Member
	Mr JPS Bloomfield (JPSB)	Elected Member / East Midlands Member
	Mr N Brasier (NB)	Elected Member
	Dr AMW Cargill Thompson (ACT)	Match Rifle Member
	Mr A Dagger (AD)	Gallery Rifle and Pistol Member
	Ms A Gran (AG)	BSRC Chair
	Mr R Hallows (RH)	South Western Member
	Mrs J Hilger-Ellis (JHE)	Elected Member / Trustee
	Mr R Kelvey (RKel)	Eastern Member
	Mr GAE Larcombe (GL)	Southern Member
	Miss SS Lohmann (SL)	Elected Member
	Mr D Lowe (DL)	Elected Member
	Mr FPR Northam (PN)	Elected Member
	Mr A Reynolds (AR)	Treasurer
	Mr B Ritchie ((BR)	Scotland Member
	Mr R Stebbings (RSt)	Elected Member
	Mr I Thomson (IT)	Elected Member
	Dr JD Warburton (JWar)	Yorkshire & Humberside Member
	Mr JGM Webster (JW)	Target Rifle Member
Ex-officio:	Mr D Stimpson (DS)	HBSA Chair
	Ms C Halloran	Fullbore Chair Scottish Target Shooting
In attendance:	Mr A Mercer (AM)	Secretary General
	Mrs G Thatcher (GT)	Secretary to Meeting
	Mr N David (ND)	Trustee
Apologies for absence:	Mr S Aldhouse (SA)	300 Metres Member
	Mr HRM Bailie (RB)	Northern Ireland Member / Chair SF of NI
	Cdr NWJ Benstead (NB)	RNRA Chair
	Wg Cdr DP Calvert (DC)	Elected Member
	Mr P Dommett (PD)	F Class Member
	Mr J Harris (JH)	Target Shotgun Member
	Mr MD Jenvey (MJ)	Elected Member
	Dr J Marsden (JM)	North Western Member
	Mr N Macfarlane (NM)	Historic and Classic Arms Member
	Mr CG Perry (CP)	Elected Member
	Mr C Rennick (CR)	Sporting Rifle Member
	Mrs K Robertson (KR)	Elected Member
	Mr T Rylands (TR)	Elected Member
	Mr N St Aubyn (NSt)	CSR & Practical Rifle Member
	Sir FC Sykes (FS)	Elected Member
	Mr R Vary (RV)	Greater London & SE Member
	Mr G Trembath (GTr)	Northern Member
	Mr MP Watkins (MW)	Wales Member
	Mr AM Whiffin (AW)	MLAGB Chair (Member)
	Mr P Wolpe (PW)	Muzzle Loading Member
Ex-officio:	Mr G Burns (GB)	NSRA Chair (Member)
	Mr M Cotillard (MC)	Jersey Rifle Association President
	Wg Cdr CJ Hockley (CH)	Welsh Target Shooting Federation Chair
	Dr J Martin (JM)	CPSA Chair
	Brig. M Pountain (MP)	CCRS Chair (Member)
	Mr AJD Saunders (AS)	English Target Shooting Federation Chair
	Mr C Steele-Benny (CSB)	RAFSAA Chair (Member)

INDEX G810 to G824

The Chairman declared the meeting open.

1. G810 – APOLOGIES

1.1. Apologies were received as noted above.

2. G811 – STANDING REMINDERS

2.1. The Chairman reminded the meeting that, in line with Charity Commission guidance, the meeting should be cognisant of the distinction between the role of the NRA as the charity and the National Shooting Centre Limited (NSC) as the commercial subsidiary of the Association.

2.2. The Chairman requested that members declare any conflicts of interest relating to the business of the meeting. No declarations were made at this time.

3. G812 – CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

3.1. The Chairman introduced Simon Lee, the incoming Secretary General, to the meeting. Simon had been invited to attend the meeting to observe proceedings.

3.2. No further items were raised.

4. G813 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

4.1. The Chairman confirmed the minutes of the meeting of 15th February 2025 had been approved.

4.2. The Chairman asked if anyone had any matters arising from the minutes of the February meeting.

4.3. There were no matters arising.

5. G814 – REVIEW OF ACTIONS

5.1. The Meeting received the review of actions report and noted the updates from the professional staff.

5.2. **Membership Analysis** – a report on the granular growth in membership will be presented at the September meeting.

5.3. **Strategic Framework 2022-2027** The Chairman confirmed the strategic framework will be reviewed and updated by the Trustees now that the new Secretary General has been recruited. An update will be provided at a later meeting.

5.4. **On-site Ablution Facilities** – The Chairman noted the current Elsan point design is typical of those installed on caravan sites. RSt stated that whilst that may be true, the elevated Elsan point does not allow an elderly or disabled member to lift their Elsan units to be able to dispose of the waste, and suggests a ground level facility be installed. PN added that some caravan sites provide a gully option which allows Elsan units to be tipped into them to drain into the relevant disposal sites with a hose to wash away any matter if necessary and that would be a cheaper option to consider.

5.5. **Ablution Facilities –** The Meeting noted that handrails had been installed in some toilet and shower units on camp. The Chairman reported that accessibility signs had been installed on the relevant ablution blocks to raise awareness of the facilities.PN asked whether handrails could be installed in more than one cubicle in each of the ablution blocks, to provide more assistance for those requiring greater support and accessibility.

5.6. **Caravan and Membership Checks –** the meeting noted that no evidence had been received that any caravan owner failed to meet the requirements for a caravan licence. **Action closed.**

5.7. **ABC Lines Upgrade –** The meeting noted that bookings are prioritised for ABC Lines and all NSC accommodation for shooters by withdrawing bookings from on-line platforms for competition dates. Room allocations are released to the booking agent to fill late availability, which will help generate greater occupancy and revenue income while giving competitors priority. The Secretary General confirmed there are plans being developed to offer a two-day shooting package, including overnight accommodation for members, which will be trialled in the Autumn once finalised.

5.8. **Chairman & Treasurer Tenures –** The Chairman reminded the meeting that GC members have been asked to identify potential candidates for the positions of Chairman and Treasurer. Both the Chairman and Treasurer are available to speak to anyone interested in either role to discuss what the roles involve.

5.9. **Estate Working Group (EWG) –** The meeting noted that PN had been elected as Chair of the EWG.

5.10. **Journal Article –** BR confirmed he had written an article for the Spring Journal providing a summary of the answers to Member Questions. **Action closed.**

5.11. **Accommodation Bookings –** The Secretary General confirmed that bookings are blocked from Bookings.com during the key competition periods. The Imperial Meeting accommodation is largely sold out, as expected. **Action closed.**

5.12. No questions were raised.

6. G815 – BUSINESS PLANNING & OPERATIONAL UPDATE

6.1. The Secretary General and Chief Executive reports were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any questions.

6.2. No questions were raised.

7. G816 – FINANCE

7.1. The Treasurer presented the Finance Report to the meeting.

7.2. No questions were raised.

8. G817 – COUNCIL

8.1. The Chairman noted that the Report from Council had been circulated prior to the meeting.

8.2. No questions were raised.

9. G818 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE

9.1. The Chairman confirmed there was no report from the Shooting Committee.

9.2. No questions were raised.

10. G819 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

10.1. The Chairman confirmed there was no report from the Membership Committee.

10.2. No questions were raised.

11. G820 – ESTATES WORKING GROUP

11.1. PN confirmed the EWG had met and minutes are being produced. The group had discussed and agreed its Terms of Reference. There was no report from the Estates Working Group.

11.2. The EWG felt it would be beneficial to have a professional person in the group, with surveying, building or managing estates experience to assist the group in reaching recommendations for GC. The Chairman suggested that the EWG provide a notice for publication in the Journal explaining the role of the EWG and seeking suitably qualified people to join the group.

11.3. The EWG had also walked around the site looking at various issues such as site lighting and asked the Secretary General to provide the site lighting plan from Guildford Borough Council to assist with discussions. The Secretary General will consult the professional staff as to whether this is possible. The meeting noted that the site lighting needed to be addressed in 2025.

11.4. The meeting noted that it would be helpful if the EWG provided a report for each GC meeting, with minutes of meetings, as it would provide useful information for General Council.

11.5. No further questions were raised.

12. G821 – GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

12.1. The Chairman noted that for information under Second Schedule Rule 7 (g) the following members have been nominated for the following vacancies and are elected unopposed.

Ordinary Members

MD Jenvey
D Lowe
GW Morgan
Mrs KD Robertson
IR Thomson

Regional Members

R Kelvey - Eastern
G Trembath – Northern
Dr JD Warburton (GM, GC, SB3) – Yorkshire & Humberside

Shooting Discipline Members

PA Dommett – F Class
Dr AP Wolpe – Muzzle Loading

GT will send confirmation letters to all elected GC members in the coming week.

12.2. The Chairman noted that for information under Second Schedule Rule 7 (g) the following members have been nominated for the following vacancy and an election will be held

Discipline Members – Target Rifle
CES Dickenson
JGM Webster

13. C822 – PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL AND GENERAL COUNCIL

13.1. The Chairman informed the meeting that GC members are asked to decide on the process for electing the next Chairman of Council and General Council.

13.2. The following options were put forward for consideration:
(a) Option A – an electronic ballot commencing after the date for nominations had passed, with the result announced at the General Council meeting in February 2026; or
(b) Option B – an in-person ballot held at the General Council meeting in February 2026.

13.3. The meeting noted that Option A allows for the widest participation in the vote, whilst Option B enables General Council to hear presentations from, and ask questions of, the candidates.

13.4. Following discussion, the meeting approved Option B, noting GC members would know who the candidates are when the agenda is circulated, and candidates would be invited to the meeting. GC members will then be able to ask questions which would be followed by an online electronic ballot via the ZOOM voting option of everybody attending the meeting. The result would be announced at that meeting.

13.5. No further questions were raised.

14. C823 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1. **Resolution** - The Meeting considered the resolution proposed by PN and seconded by MJ:

> *"It is the view of this General Council to suspend for the remainder of this season, and for the Imperial Meeting, Rule 212 of the Handbook, that NRA competitions allow hard material in mats that 'even out lumps & bumps but otherwise would follow the general contour of the land"*

14.2. The Chairman noted that the resolution (if passed) would not change Rule 212, as General Council does not have the power to change Rules.

14.3. PN put forward the case that a large number of firing points are uneven which can result in an unfair 'playing field' for all shooters, and would like the professional staff to consider allowing a hard or firm material which would follow the undulations in the ground but negate any uneven surfaces allowing competitors to shoot to the best of their ability on an even surface, in the fairness and good spirit of competition. PN asked whether the poor firing points could be rolled or dragged before the meeting. The Secretary General will put that suggestion to the professional staff for consideration.

14.4. JWar raised the point that there would need to be clear guidance set out as to what would be allowed to avoid competitors taking advantage of any rule change, if a change were made. JW and RSt noted that they wouldn't take advantage of any rule change (if one were made) as they are happy to shoot under the current terms, as they have always done.

14.5. The meeting noted that not all firing points are used during the meeting, and asked whether consideration could be given to allocating the best firing points for the various competitions where possible.

14.6. The Chairman put the resolution to a vote. The resolution was passed with 7 in favour and 5 against. It is important to note that Rule 212 remains unchanged.

14.7. The Chairman noted that it was up to Shooting Committee to consider whether it wished to recommend any change to Rule 212.

14.8. **Security on Camp** – PN informed the meeting that he would like to see the Association have a security plan which would include security risks, analysis or assessment of security risks such as perimeter, internet, on-site working etc. There are members of the public who come onto camp to walk their dogs, including professional dog walkers who are being priced away from council parks, or dump their rubbish, at a cost to the membership. PN has worked in secure environments including the MoD and would be happy to provide advice on this.

14.9. The Treasurer noted that the NRA's Risk Register is reviewed regularly and suggested that security on camp be added to the register.

14.10. AD remarked that opening up accommodation bookings on Bookings.com is bringing non-shooters to the site. The Secretary General noted that non-shooters have been visiting Camp for many years, attending weddings and events at the Pavilion and at various clubhouses.

14.11. RSt remarked that there have been incidents reported to the security on camp but nothing had been done about it. The Chairman asked that any incidents be reported to the professional staff as soon as possible rather than being reported anecdotally so that an issue can be dealt with quickly, and evidence can be gathered to guide decision-making.
14.12. GL asked whether communications could be circulated to membership informing them what to do in case of an incident on camp. RSt added that a note stating "please contact…..in case of incident" would be useful. The Secretary General noted the suggestion.
14.13. PN offered to provide a pro-forma security plan for consideration.
14.14. ACT asked for confirmation of the date of the next meeting. GA confirmed it was 20th September 2025, via ZOOM.
14.15. BR confirmed he would be happy to continue to summarise member questions and provide articles for future journals.
14.16. SL asked that a working group be set up to discuss Cadet Rifle shooting, following the withdrawal of MoD support at the end of 2025 because time is running out to support youth shooting. The Chairman confirmed discussions are ongoing with the MoD and are very sensitive and asked GC members to encourage NRA members not to contact the MoD or CCRS as negotiations are ongoing. The Secretary General confirmed a Youth Shooting Development Officer is being recruited, whose role it will be to promote youth shooting to the community, including air rifle, target shotgun and fullbore shooting.
14.17. AD asked whether the wifi on ABC Lines could be improved. The Secretary General will ask the IT department to review the service provided.
14.18. No further items were raised.

15. C824 – MEMBERS QUESTIONS

15.1. The Chairman thanked the GC members for collating the questions and for reporting the answers to the relevant members.
15.2. RSt asked whether the question order could be changed so that question related to NRA were first, followed by questions relating to NSC. The Chairman asked GT to amend future documents.
15.3. **Electronic Targets** – GL informed the meeting that the question on electronic targets had been sent to him, and the response to the question wasn't deemed very helpful when he sent it to the relevant member. GL added that there seems to be far too many occurrences of failing electronic targets and no obvious response of what is the plan to resolve these. Generally, electronic targets seem to be very well respected, but here they don't seem to work. The Chairman asked whether the member called the range office to report the targets weren't working? GL confirmed they had and it was fixed, but it seems to be a wider problem across all electronic targets on camp. Members aren't booking them so much any more because they are not consistent. The Chief Executive responded that actual bookings do not reflect that remark and electronic targets remain one of the most widely used targets on camp. The Chairman added that all members should be told to contact the Range Office immediately with any problems on the electronic targets so issues can be fixed straight away by the team and NSC can collect evidence on reliability to guide future investments.
15.4. **Zero Range Targets –** A question was raised as to why members needed to purchase more than one Zero target when zeroing more than one rifle, and that new shooters could take longer than the allocated 20 minutes to zero a rifle. The Chairman responded that members can purchase two slots, giving more time to compete the task. However, there is a concern that some clubs might misuse the range by booking extended time for training which is not its intended purpose. The Range Office manages bookings to ensure fairness, preventing excessive blocking of targets. Mutual cooperation is essential and in times of high demand, users must respect the queue system. Training of new shooters should be conducted away from the zero range, with a practical shoot on the zero range being conducted after the training.
15.5. **Firing Points** – The Chief Executive noted that shooting from benches on the electronic targets causes more damage to the firing points than prone shooting and NSC is considering moving the benched position to the rear of the firing points to allow the main firing points to recover for the competitive season. The concrete benches on Stickledown range will be refurbished and brought back into use, including vegetation clearance from the right-hand side of the range. The grounds team will monitor all firing points to ensure they are suitable for competitive shooting.
15.6. **Dog Mess Bins –** AD asked whether dog mess bins could be installed around the camp as there has been a number of times where their gazebo bins have been used in the evenings by dog walkers which is extremely unpleasant and unhygienic. The Chief Executive confirmed dog mess bins would not be installed as there was no staff to empty them and asked that all members and visitors to camp ensure their dog waste is disposed of in the main bins.
15.7. **Weed spraying on Camp** – The meeting requested that the professional staff advise that weed killing is being conducted on camp, either by the professional staff or contractors, when possible to keep members with dogs informed of potential risk to health. The Secretary General responded that would be

very difficult to do. Spraying is a routine grounds maintenance activity and he is not aware of any local authority or major landowner who publicises in advance the location / timing / type of chemical etc of the spraying done by their staff or contractors. Spraying is weather dependent and can be rescheduled at late notice.

15.8. **Disabled Toilet Facilities** – GL informed the meeting that Martin Osment (MO) who had asked the initial question was disappointed with the response given and asked if fully disabled facilities will be installed at all. The Secretary General responded that a number of ablution blocks have disabled facilities and there is no plan to create a fully disabled facility as described by MO as this would require considerable funding which is currently allocated to other important range and building improvements. The ablution blocks had been built at a time when there was far less attention on disabled access. New facilities would take disabled access into account. The Chairman invited the EWG to consider funding and grant options and provide a proposal for consideration to improve accessible facilities on camp.

15.9. **Facilities on Camp for Families/Children** – The meeting discussed the possibility of providing crèche/children's playground facilities on camp, noting that this had been trialled with little success a few years ago. RSt remarked that the installation of a children's playground would be helpful, and there used to be one on camp a number of years ago, and the local council may provide funding. The Chairman invited the EWG to provide a proposal for consideration at a future meeting.

15.10. **Competition Fees for Non-Members** – RSt raised the issue of different meeting membership pricing for different events, and suggested the pricing be reviewed and a daily rate implemented to ensure fairness for all. The £70 fee for the five-day TR competition is seen as a barrier to participation, particularly for newcomers. The meeting agreed that the Trustees and professional staff should review the pricing structure to ensure it is fair for all, whilst maintaining participation levels and financial sustainability.

15.11. No further questions were raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 17.10pm

D Lacey
Chairman

Date of next meeting: Saturday 20th September 2025 from 2.00pm via ZOOM

REVIEW OF ACTIONS

Action Item	Responsibility	Action to be Taken
Membership Analysis – General Council asked for a report on the granular reasons for the growth in membership on an annual basis, including analysis by regions and disciplines, and gift aid donations. A copy of the Azolve database had been taken at the end of 2023 to provide a base for analysis The first report will be prepared at the end of 2024 once the first year of information has been gathered, and then on an annual basis.	Secretary General	Secretary General to report on the granular growth in membership at the end of 2025 once the first year of information has been gathered from the Azolve database.
Strategic Framework 2022-2027 document – IR asked for an update on progress on the Strategic Framework document.	Trustees Secretary General	The Strategic Framework document to be reviewed and updated by the Trustees along with Secretary General
On-site Ablution Facilities – The Chairman noted the current Elsan point design is typical of those installed on caravan sites. RSt stated that whilst that may be true, the elevated Elsan point does not allow an elderly or disabled member to lift their Elsan units to be able to dispose of the waste, and suggests a ground level facility be installed. PN added that some caravan sites provide a gully option which allows Elsan units to be tipped into them to drain into the relevant disposal sites with a hose to wash away any matter if necessary and that would be a cheaper option to consider.	Secretary General	Secretary General to consider whether a ground level Elsan point or drain could be installed to assist elderly or disabled members.
Ablution Facilities – The Meeting noted that handrails had been installed in some toilets and shower units on camp. The Chairman confirmed that accessibility signs had been installed on the relevant ablution blocks to make members aware of the accessible ablution blocks.PN asked whether handrails could be installed in more than one cubicle in each of the ablution blocks, to provide more assistance for those requiring greater support and accessibility.	Secretary General	Secretary General to consider whether handrails can be installed in more cubicles to provide more assistance for those requiring greater support and accessibility.
Membership Offering – The Membership Committee was asked to review the membership offering for regional members and whether a discounted fee could be introduced for members who do not use Bisley.	Membership Committee	Membership Committee to review the membership offering for regional members with a view to offering a discounted fee as is offered to overseas members.
ABC Lines Wifi - AD asked whether the wifi on ABC Lines could be improved. The Secretary General will ask the IT department to review the service provided	Secretary General	Secretary General to ask the IT department to review the wifi service provided to ABC lines to see if it can be strengthened and improved.
Mid-Week Shooting Packages - The Secretary General confirmed there are plans being developed to offer a two day shooting package, including overnight accommodation for members, which will be trialled in the Autumn once finalised.	Secretary General	Secretary General to update the meeting on the trial of the two day shooting package, including overnight accommodation for members, being trialled in the Autumn.

Chairman & Treasurer tenures –The Chairman informed the meeting that 2025 will be his final year in post as Chairman and asked the members to start considering new applicants to replace him in February 2026. DLa added that he would be willing to talk to any potential candidates about the role. The Chairman also informed the meeting that the Treasurer is due to step down in September 2025, and whilst he is willing to remain in post to retain corporate knowledge and consistency due to the pending exit of the Secretary General and Chairman, he would rather be replaced and assist a new incoming Treasurer into post	GC Members	GC Members to consider potential candidates for the positions of NRA Chairman and Treasurer
Journal Article – BR to continue to provide journal articles summarising Member Question responses.	Bryden Ritchie	Bryden Ritchie to continue to write articles on member questions for future journals.
Estates Working Group - The EWG felt it would be beneficial to have a professional person in the group, with surveying, building or managing estates experience to assist the group in reaching recommendations for GC. The Chairman suggested that a calling notice be published in the NRA Journal, explaining the role of the EWG and seeking experienced members to join the group. The EWG had also walked around the site looking at various issues such as site lighting and asked the Secretary General to provide the site lighting plan from Guildford Borough Council to assist with discussions. The Secretary General will discuss the matter with the professional staff as to whether it is considered appropriate to share a professional document with the EWG. The meeting noted that the site lighting needed to be addressed in 2025. The meeting agreed that the EWG should produce its own report for each GC meeting in future, and provide relevant minutes of meetings for information, as it would help members of the committee get credit for all the good work that they do and enable GC to see what's going on and raise issues.	EWG Secretary General EWG	EWG to draft a calling notice be published in the NRA Journal, explaining the role of the EWG and seeking experienced members to join the group. Secretary General to discuss the appropriateness of providing the GBC report on site lighting to the EWG with the professional staff. EWG to produce a report for future GC meetings, including minutes of meetings for information
Facilities on Camp for Families/Children – The meeting discussed the possibility of providing crèche/children's playground facilities on camp, noting that this had been trialled with a small amount of success a few years ago. RSt remarked that the installation of a children's playground would be helpful, and there used to be one on camp a number of years ago, and the local council may provide funding. The Chairman asked the EWG to take this on as a project and provide a proposal for consideration at a future meeting.	EWG	EWG to take the provision of facilities for children and families on as a project and provide a proposal for consideration at a future meeting.

Action Item	Responsibility	Action to be Taken
Competitor Non-Member Entry Fees - RSt raised the issue of different meeting membership pricing for different events, and suggested the pricing be reviewed and a daily rate implemented to ensure fairness for all. The £70 fee for the five-day TR competition is seen as a barrier to participation, particularly for newcomers. The meeting agreed that the Trustees and professional staff should review the pricing structure to ensure it is fair for all, whilst maintaining participation levels and financial sustainability.	Secretary General	Professional staff to review the pricing structure to ensure it is fair for all, whilst maintaining participation levels and financial sustainability.

MEMBER QUESTIONS – JUNE 2025

1. National Shooting Centre Limited

The NSC is the wholly-owned subsidiary of the NRA that carries out a range of commercial activities including operating rifle and clay shooting ranges. The NSC operates independently of the NRA in accordance with Charity Commission guidance. The NRA has an interest in the effective operation of the NSC for commercial and reputational reasons. Questions from Members that relate to the commercial activities of the NSC (which include the operation of the ranges at Bisley Camp) are set out below.

1.1. Question from Martin Gurney, Member 15736 – Electronic Targets / Target Provision

I shoot at Bisley either as a member of the Basingstoke (1945) RC or as an individual member of the NRA. On virtually every occasion where I use electronic markers (Stix, Century) I find the equipment unreliable (failing to record shots or equipment misbehaving). Sometime this is really disruptive to shooting.

Can anything be done to improve reliability?

Secondly on the last 3 or 4 occasions when I have booked (or friend booked) multiple lanes (generally 3) on Melville Bay A there are not enough targets provided (only 1). We pay for 3 lanes so why only one target (target on frame) Surely this is not right.

ANSWER

It is important that users contact the Range Office at the first sign of electronic targets not responding as they should. There is a range radio at each set of electronic targets for this purpose. The Range Office will send specialist staff to investigate any issues. This enables the NSC to gather evidence on performance and reliability and ensure the best experience for NSC customers. It is much harder to address reliability issues after the shoot has finished.

If there are not enough targets on Bay A at Melville, shooters should use the range radio located at Bay A to contact the Range Office and the staff on duty will arrange additional targets.

As a general comment, shooters should notify the Range Office immediately of any problems so NSC staff have an opportunity to correct those problems promptly.

1.2. Question from Mike Jenvey – NSC Complaints Procedure

When please is the NSC going to adopt a formal complaints procedure? This has been discussed numerous times in General Council but to no avail. Introducing a complaint procedures should not be difficult (copy NRA's policy?) & is essential for this important customer-facing element of Bisley

ANSWER

NSC delivers a wide range of goods and services to a variety of customers including corporate clients, NRA members and affiliated clubs. NSC receives regular feedback from customers by Google and Booking.com reviews, in person, email and letter. We strive to resolve complaints on the day to ensure the minimum disruption to the customer experience. Drafting a comprehensive Complaints Policy for NSC that covers all business elements and all customers is a significant undertaking that has yet to be resourced by the NSC board.

1.3. **Question from Mike Jenvey - Disabled access to ranges during Imperial Meeting;**

Why can't people who are registered disabled bring their cars onto the range during the Imperial, yet during the team matches, teams of 18+ able-bodied people are permitted to because they have to carry team ammo & team equipment like coaches chairs and SWATCOM headsets?

Is the NRA really saying that people in teams are incapable of sending a couple of able bodied people 100m back to a car for a second trip to collect their paraphernalia?

Why are teams getting a priority over disabled people?
(Note - this rule is preventing at least one person entering the Imperial who can only shoot from an approved bench. The buggy service during the Imperial does not work for this type of equipment.)

ANSWER

The Imperial Meeting is one of the busiest times for the ranges at Bisley Camp. Since 2013, we've restricted the use of vehicles on Century and Stickledown ranges. We do this for the safety of the many pedestrians on the ranges, and to protect the ground which can be soft even in Summer. We print information about the restrictions on the competitor envelopes and the restrictions are enforced by the Chief Range Officer and his team and the NRA staff.

We're conscious of the importance of making reasonable adjustments to prevent competitors with physical limitations suffering a substantial disadvantage in our competitions because of those limitations. As part of this, there are various exceptions to the restrictions on vehicles. Golf buggies are welcome anywhere on the ranges, so long as they remain at least 20 metres behind the firing points. Each team is allowed to bring one vehicle to their firing point for team competitions. Competitors may take vehicles displaying a disabled pass issued by the NRA forward of the 1,000-yard firing points on Stickledown. There are designated disabled parking spaces, which may only be used by vehicles displaying a Blue Badge or a disabled pass issued by the NRA. Competitors may also use non-motorised carts and trolleys to transport their equipment to the firing point.

There is a free shuttle service to transport competitors with limited mobility and their equipment to and from the firing points. Competitors are welcome to bring folding chairs to avoid the need to stand before shooting. We can also arrange wheelchair access to firing points with advance notice.

We know many disabled competitors would benefit from being able to wait in their own car behind the firing point. The difficulties in allocating this space fairly and the need to protect pedestrians and the range floor make this impractical, which is why we provide the free shuttle service instead. The service can transport benches by prior arrangement.

1.4. Question from Michael Cooper, Member 12452 - Cost of GGG ammunition:

With the cost of shooting spiralling and many people now finding it too expensive to participate in the Imperial Meeting, can the NRA advise on the cost they pay for issued 155gn GGG ammunition please?"

ANSWER

Ammunition is purchased by NSC as a commercial activity. It is sold to NRA for issue at Imperial Competitions and NSC sells it direct at the Armoury. The NRA sets a maximum price at which NSC may sell GGG Imperial ammunition (but not any other ammunition). The price charged by GGG is commercially confidential.

1.5. Question from Lee Winter, Member 6978- Fall Back Charges

Why are clubs charged for a fall back a 'pin on charge' £4.75 per lane. Its described as a 'fall back' charge by some in the Range Office & as a 'pin on charge' by others.

The Range Office advise its for a 2nd target frame if used within a session. (I have said its poorly worded vs that) so only applies to eg 300 > 500 or 300> 600. But not if a pin on is used! so not applied at 500>600 thats not clearly stated in fact its contrary. Clubs also report they have been charged for pin-ons between 500 & 600.

But then if FClass shoot they have to pay for Pin-ons at each distance because their target is different?

RO say it covers the labour cost of changing a frame out? (not the cost of a 2nd or 3rd frame) the markers are there anyway, they are already paid to mark & manage the targets. If private markers are used & changing the frames, then why are clubs paying NRA for it too? Why cant a club change their own targets over & save the cost?

Why can't there be a universal frame with pin-ons for 300, 400, 500 & 600? & F class? why do we have a different frame at 300 vs other distances fitted in the same lifting frame?

The pin-on is subject to VAT vs targets are not? WHY? that seems absurd.

This adversely penalises TR & FTR, are these & charges reviewed by the Shooting Committee before being applied?

They impact Empire 300>600 & Kings 300>500 fall backs. So clubs are eg organising non std series shoots 300 am & 500 pm to avoid it, some have even suggested shooting 300 then falling back to 500 & use the same faces. (I have shot 300 face at 500 its 'interesting'). So this charge is having an unforeseen impact on the sport & thus in time the NRAs ability to introduce new shooters from clubs to teams, who have had less experience of fallback & mixed distance shooting.

TR shoot a series of well known & long established fallback series. Why are they being changed & charged extra for?

Other add hoc charges are being applied - eg there is a limitation to 20mins to use the zero range to Zero a rifle. (fair enough re people hogging it - other than how is a club expected to train members to zero rifles for their SSCs in that time?) but RO are applying a 2nd Zero range charge for a 2nd zero card or gun, I can easily Zero 2 rifles inside 20mins - why should i pay per rifle when there is nothing in any range regs or T&Cs to justify this & the charge is to use a facility for a set time? Its counter productive to eg valuable electronic targets to inhibit proper zeroing of rifles with punitive charges & conditions. The Zero range is a means of achieving safety not a revenue stream.

The main point here is it feels like these 'rules' are just made up, not thought through, & not consulted with the membership (shooting committee) who understand them & their effects on members & the sport.

These are regarded as a 'Ryanair charging structure' charging national & normal extras for what was previously supplied.

Membership respect?

ANSWER
The limit of 20 minutes on the Zero Range was introduced to manage the increasing demand for people wanting to zero their rifles. The Zero Range is not a training venue and clubs should train members on how to use the Zero Range away from the Range. There is a fee for using the Zero Range because that provides funding that goes towards repair and maintenance to keep the range operating. You can zero multiple rifles in a 20 minute session and there is no additional charge for each rifle. Range Office staff will be reminded of this to ensure consistency.

Fall backs from 300 to 500 / 600 require a change of target centre; this is either provided by using another target (moving across the range) or by replacing the target centre on the same target (the traditional fall back). Both options incur cost for NSC which results in the additional charge to the hirer of the target.

1.6. Question from various numbers of RCOs including Phil Northam – Range Safety raised on behalf or various clubs, training squads & counties who have mentioned this. (LMRA, TNHR, Army, F class & more) Its being discussed in RCO communities & shooting groups.
Range Safety (RS) seem to be applying processes & procedures that are not reflected in the range regulations, RCO manual, or Camp rules. That's caused some conflicts.

Generally it's been good to see RS 'out there' & being visible. It helps with some behaviours & to reinforce the ranges are not a free for all. Things that are regarded are - checking in on use of Muzzle brakes on a crowded range, checking members & SSCs for those waiting (not whilst shooting as Ii have seen), ensuring bins are not overflowing, guns safely stacked & not left abandoned, & people are wearing hearing protection etc. A bit like HSE, reinforcing some of them is a continual task. The problem areas are when they begin to perform what many RCOs are taught is their role.

Eg 'Authorising restart of shooting on a fall back' Vs previously liaising with the RCO in charge of the shoot, that a gate or barrier as closed so the range safe to continue. That now includes RS not only closing gates, but also ensuring the fallback from distance is clear, (an RCO task) then resuming at the fall back distance to then 'approve' carry on or dress forward. The RCO who signs for the range is responsible in all aspects for its operation. Its their clubs insurance, RCO qualification etc on the line for any unwanted event. The RCO in charge of a fall back event has the responsibility & accountability for authorising eg soft kit on the FP, then rifles & then a restart of shooting or message 1. They may advise the RO via Ch16 of that. They don't need the permission of Range Safety, as they now seem to apply?

We now seem to have 2 officers with overlapping responsibilities: RCO in charge, & NRA Range Safety officers. In any world of safety, regulation & MoD that would be an audit failure.

There has been instances of Range Safety rebuking members for going forward eg after the hooter, & after the RCO for the butt & area verified the range was clear of firearms etc & gave them permission to go forward, & collect eg dropped / lost kit, or plot diagrams blown fwd. In those cases the range was out of shooting hours, the RCO had verified their signed for range was clear, the hooter had gone 2x, & it was safe to go forward.

Members have also been told the NRA Range Safety close the range at the end of the day, until then its not safe to go forward, walk across, walk dogs etc yet there is no rule, regulation, signal, announcement or message for that (remembering members will have returned radios etc) again if an RCO closes their range & ensures it clear of ammo/firearms & after the end of shooting hooter, then it is in all respects safe to d0 so. So again we have confusion.

Can the role of Range Safety be properly considered & defined, or new rules proposed to GC for the NRA hand book.

ANSWER
Range Safety ("RS") play a vital role in the safe and effective operation of the ranges at Bisley Camp. In order to be effective, RS must administer published rules on an impartial basis. NSC is aware of cases where this has not happened and has taken steps to enhance the training for RS. It undermines the role of RS for them to be seen as "making it up as they go along". RS staff are issued with a copy of the Range Regulations and NSC customers can expect RS to be able to explain exactly what rule they are enforcing and where that rule is published. If NSC wishes to change the rules applicable to fallbacks (as described in the question) the NRA expects it to amend the Range Regulations so everyone is clear what those rules are.

1.7. Question from BYSA members via Phil Northam – Target Heights
On behalf of a university club (and possibly all short people?)
Have the legs on the Century target frames been made longer? the targets seem higher vs before & some people can no longer reach shot holes in the 4 ring at 12 o'clock. The person in the pic is 6foot tall. (allegedly) & cannot reach the top of the target with the target fully down.

If they have been made longer..... why? & does this also correlate with the regular range closures in higher winds? (if higher > more bending & so less able to withstand wind loading).

The photo below was taken when I was coaching pre competition, unable to indicate high shots. This has happened when I have been RCO too (even at 500yds score 4 too high to mark).

ANSWER
Thank you for raising this issue; this has been passed to the range operations team to review

COMBINED QUESTIONS
The next three questions relate to the same topic and are covered by a Combined Answer below.

1.8. Questions from various members through Phil Northam – Firing Points (Neil Gould, Ian Chenery, Richie Jones and others)

The firing points on Stickledown and Century are in great need of rolling with a 120 bomag type twin drum roller as the firing points are so uneven and bumpy.. Not so good for us F Classers. (Neil Gould)

They all point out that golf courses, football pitches, parks & more all grade the surface by adding sand, peat, mulch & dragging frames over it, then roll it to create an even surface & they all question why can't NRA do the same?

Keeping grass & grass surfaces in good condition for competition & recreation needs to be a core competence for NRA. It's not perceived to be able to do that by users & members.

A key issue seems to be supply of water to help irrigate new seeded FPs, Only Stickledown 1000yds seems to have any form of supply? The organisation might consider to lay temporary pipes across the ranges in the ditches to help do this or establish water butts & soak away pipes that can drain overnight & so reduce evaporation. Possibly IBC containers as water butts on the shelters & 300m Shed might generate enough water to help in unusually dry conditions.

At a previous GC meeting, AM took away an action to contact an F-Class shot who helps develop PGA std golf courses & who offered to bring a groundsman & walk thru some areas with NRA estates or ranges staff to help. He has received no contact to date. (Ian Chenery).

Other Firing Point Issues:

- No dog poop bins, only mixed recycling at 600 & 1000 right hand side / Melville.
- Rake back angle on some is large & inconsistent (creating a warped surface), causing difficult shooting positions & muzzle blast (NB not brakes as per GC minutes) on the fore ground damaging the competition or forward FP surface.
- 300yds recreational rearward FP is all but destroyed by wear.
- Chair & bench holes punched into FPs. (can they be fitted with flat ends/feet?)
- Drainage at the back of FPs on Stickledown is the surface behind, (Century has trenches) so water runs down the hill washing over kit & washing soil away making things worse.
- Hayride people camping on the actual 1100/1200 FPs.
- Are the disability FPs in the right place to be able to be used?
- Debris (shotgun wads, rubber bullets etc) on the 800 FP Butt zero are never raked or scarified off.

So can the estates dept obtain some professional advice (paid or volunteered) develop & publish a FP care & management plan for FPs.
Can Trustees go for a walk (MBWA) & experience them first hand so understand the issues experienced by members.

ANSWER
See Combined Answer below

1.9. Question from Mike Jenvey – Condition of Firing Points

Notwithstanding the improved firing point (FP) area on Stickledown at 1000x, which seems to have used some "lessons learnt" from other repair attempts (apart from firers having to walk across FP#45 at 1000x, not the "flag gap seeded area?), there doesn't seem to be a coordinated repair / care & maintenance programme for the FPs across Stickledown & Century.

Please can the rake back angles & flatness on the new Stickledown 1000x FPs be confirmed, they look to be quite different from other FPs. I would suggest standard framework or a basic jig to help set the standard.

I've never seen Bisley FPs having the surfaces "fed" & graded as with all other grass based sports do - it's simple to drag an H frame over mixed sand, compost, leaf mulch (lots on camp!) & seed to grade it flat, then roll it to remove bumps.

Century doesn't have a fixed water supply for grass watering - options need to be investigated - previous FP repairs have failed due to lack of watering. Basic options for a short-term fix could include using large plastic tubs (100L - 200L, filled from a bowser) on stands overnight, connected to hydroponic tubing. Longer term, put normal water pipework in the various trenches that run adjacent to the FPs - connect to porous pipe / hydroponic tubing for over-night use.

Please can the Trustees to walk the 300x / 600x & 900x FPs in soft thin soled shoes so they can feel the underlying surface - it's very uncomfortable in places. The left / right "drop" & rake angle is very different across the FPs too. Take a long straight edge (3m or more) & a spirit level, it will be very illuminating when taking random assessments.

Members get tired of reporting FPs (via the Range Office) that are in poor condition, as they never seem to see any practical improvements. The topic has been regularly discussed with General Council, with very little action. With the Long Range Championships next year, we need to be planning ahead.

Please can the membership have an accurate picture of what happens when a FP is logged as being in poor condition.

Who is responsible for looking after the FPs? Is it NSC, NRA, or a combination of both? If both parties, how is this coordinated in order to get best / most efficient results?

What priority is given to fixing poor FPs - & what is the associated timeframe?

What seed is used for the FPs? Is it mixed seed of harder wearing / more water resistant grass types?

What consideration is being given to utilise outside expertise (within the membership or elsewhere)?
[Note - I have made a very informal enquiry to Merrist Wood Agricultural College as I seem to remember some type of offer of help to utilise students / staff within their curricular activities - the person concerned will contact the new Sec Gen in due course.)

Why don't the NRA & NSC use a simple fault / issue logging system (available to view on-line) - as used by many companies with an associated customer-facing facility ? A fault (not just for FPs) would be reported, then allocated a "work number" with the name of the responsible member of staff. If over a certain timeframe to fix, then the member should get an automatic update to advise of the expected timeline. Finally, when the issue is closed, this would be notified to the person who reported it.

Having such a database would greatly help the visibility of such issues (& would also save on duplicate reporting).

ANSWER
See Combined Answer below

1.10 **Question from Alastair Brown Member 10590 –The state of firing points around Century and Stickledown**

In recent months there is plentiful evidence that the NRA has been making significant efforts to refurbish and enhance various firing points around Bisley, in particular on Stickledown and the right hand end of 300 yards. This is appreciated, by me at least. It is also noted that this year (and I believe last year) the number pegs at 600 yards have been temporarily moved from the front of the firing point to the middle, presumably with the aim of allowing the front part of the firing points at this range to recover. However, there is no evidence of any remedial work or active enhancement to this front part of the firing points - given the general upward sloping nature of some firing points here perhaps periodic rolling with a heavy duty sit-on rolling machine, augmented with specific remediation work where required (levelling sand, re-seeding), would go a long way to improving these firing points.

There are also many other examples of sub-standard firing points around the ranges. Target three at 300 yards for instance is possibly the worst firing point on camp. When squadded three to a target during the Imperial, this can completely ruin a shoot, with many knock-on consequences for multi stage comps or aggregates. Similarly, many of the firing points on Stickledown roll off to the front and left in some parts of the range, albeit it is noted that some remedial work seems to be taking place here. Given the amount of money many of us now pour into target shooting annually, it would be highly appreciated if a more systemic approach to firing point maintenance could be formally adopted.

Perhaps it could be worth considering a £1 surcharge per shooter per competition, to part finance the cost of employing a full or part time 'golf green' person to design, cost and implement a programme of annual maintenance and upgrade of the firing points, to bring them all up to standard. It would be also good to have some agreement on what 'a good standard' actually looks like. Perhaps there is someone at Merrist Wood that has the expertise to undertake this work.

COMBINED ANSWER

NSC is responsible for the management of the firing points as part of its overall responsibility for operating the ranges at Bisley. NSC is conscious of the poor state of some firing points. NSC is experimenting with artificial turf for PRS events to protect the underlying grass. Range staff will be on hand to ensure the Hayride visitors do not camp on firing points.

2. National Rifle Association

The NRA is a registered charity that carries out a range of charitable activities in pursuit of its charitable objects. Questions from Members that relate to the charitable activities of the NRA (including the management of the Camp) are set out below.

2.1 Question from Mike Jenvey – Wharncliffe Site

How many pitches are still unsold on Wharncliffe nearly a year since sales started)? What is the cost of the capital that is not covered by these sales? At at average of £25K per pitch, it has to be in the region of £200k - £250K of charity money frozen up?

ANSWER

There are seven pitches unsold on Wharncliffe Site. Selling these pitches will yield £187k of income. A negative social media campaign impaired pre-sales of pitches, but with the site now completed, and the endorsement of delighted new Wharncliffe tenants (including one on General Council) we are receiving positive new enquiries from NRA members.

2.2 Question from a club engineer via Phil Northam – Pavilion Decking

The decking built outside the Pavilion looks very good, well made, but is built with 18mm std household decking timbers & std beams. Larger constructions are normally made from 25mm & larger beams. Its a very big area, able to accommodate a large number of people.

What is the weight loading limit, or number of people limit on that decking?

ANSWER

The decking has been designed to accommodate up to 90 people standing or sitting for social interaction.

2.3 Question from John Campbell-Smith, Member 98267

Can you raise the issue again about Long Range Rimfire Club shoots? It's a real pain that folk like myself travel to Bisley for LRRFC matches and are only able to compete on one day. It would be really good to shoot on both Saturday 30 August and Sunday 31 August this year and not just on the Sunday.

I'm travelling to Ireland in mid-July to a rimfire match and will be getting to shoot on 3 successive days.

The rimfire sport is not going to grow outwith the home counties unless there are more incentives to travel to Bisley.

ANSWER

The Long Range Rimfire Club has done excellent work in developing long range rimfire as a new discipline at Bisley. It organises competitions and training events throughout the year. The events are not organised by the NRA and so feedback on the timing and frequency of events should be sent direct to the LRRFC. The NRA supports the growth of long range rimfire shooting by organising Members Days throughout the year to give people an opportunity to try shooting .22RF on steel targets at ranges of 100-500 yards.

2.4. Question from Karen Robertson, Life Member 1107 – Use of Noxious Substances on Camp

Could the Estates Department produce a timetable of when and where they may be using noxious substances such as weedkiller etc so that members can avoid bring their dogs down or walking them in treated areas.

Earlier this year Tigger was ill two nights in a row after his walk and we then found out weedkiller had been used in one of the areas on his walk. I was also told that another dog also had similar issues. Our previous dog Smudge died after eating something poisonous on his walk (although we don't think that particular event was linked to the NRA but more likely a clubhouse using rat poison or the like) so I am a bit sensitive about this.

If a timetable could be produced or even an email sent to a few people like myself, Phil Northam and Sarah-Jane Binder-Swash and to the clubhouse email group then we can promulgate it to the wider membership via the Facebook groups.

Happy to work with people on this to get a solution that works for everyone

ANSWER
Spraying is a routine grounds maintenance activity and is not aware of any local authority or major landowner who publicises in advance the location / timing / type of chemical etc of the spraying done by their staff or contractors. Spraying is weather dependent and can be rescheduled at late notice.

2.5 Question from Graham French, Member 1578 - Potholes

Please can the NRA going to ask the Estates Department to fix the ditch on the road-side of Caravan Site One as it is a positive danger to most cars exhausts.

ANSWER
Elcho Road is a single-track un-kerbed road. The verges on both sides are available to cars to pull over to allow oncoming traffic to pass and to provide access to caravans on Site One. There are some potholes in the verges which will be repaired as part of the general road maintenance program. It is important that cars observe the speed limit and drive with care on the verges, especially when they are wet. The NRA could reduce the impact of traffic on the verges by implementing a one-way system so that cars remained on the tarmac but is conscious of the inconvenience this would cause.

2.6 Questions from Neil Brodery, Member 38237 – Home Loaded Ammunition / SCC Certification

Home Loaded Ammunition.

This is now included on our SCC for any Member of an Affiliated Club for simply stating that they have complied with the NRA Declaration for Home Loaded Ammunition. I had Home Loaded Ammunition on my SCC before this was the case, as I attended the two-day Course with the NRA at Bisley to earn the right to have this.

Therein I propose that there should be two categories here, one for those who just comply and one for those who have 'actually been' certified. There is a huge difference between the two.

This is a real issue for me. What is the point of a Course when people are 'granted a right' for 'ticking a box'.

SCCs

SCC 's are issued as standard for Iron Sighted Rifle and Scoped Rifle, but nothing defines what Ranges they are certified to be safe to shoot at. Therefore, I propose that Long Range Rifle should be a new category.

This should only be awarded if the Member has been put forward by the Club Chairman of an Affiliated Club who are known to have a Range of greater than 300 meters, or have attended an NRA Course at Bisley, like Precision Rifle Skills and/or been assessed at Bisley by an NRA RCO/CI.

I feel less strongly about this second one, but enough to state that shooters should not be allowed to shoot at longer ranges unless they have been certified as safe to do so.

ANSWER
The NRA provides training courses for handloading, but does not require attendance for the grant of a Handloading endorsement on an SCC. The only requirement is that the applicant signs the NRA declaration confirming they have read, understood and will abide by the Code of Practice for Handloading. This reflects the advice and input of Shooting Committee. It is open to affiliated clubs who issue SCCs to impose stricter conditions, including a mandatory course of training.

The NRA does not issue SCCs to its members limited by reference to distance. For example, there is no separate "long range scoped rifle" or "short range scoped rifle" categories. There are distance-limited SCCs issued, for example, by BASC to its members using Bisley. Some affiliated clubs offer training for shooting at longer distances: access to such training is a valuable benefit of club membership. The NRA welcomes the input of Shooting Committee on this issue.

2.7 Question from Martin Osment, Life Member 15602 – Disabled Toilet Facilities

When are we going to get a proper disabled loo facility? It needs to be to "changing places" standard with a wash facility. For the core spec see: https://www.changing-places org

However, at the bottom left of p52 it makes clear that "wash & dry" toilets are not mandatory. However, for those of us with invisible internal issues, they bring considerable relief and hygiene. See https://closomat.co.uk

I have one at home in Shoreham funded by a disabled facilities grant (dfg) from the local council. There is also one at the Freedom Powerchairs mobility charity in Worthing. Otherwise, they are very very scarce and the lack of them is severely limiting.

When in Jersey the St Helier town hall has a 24/7 public access one needing a special key. Whilst only a handful of us have keys, we regard it as a critical resource which makes our lives more easily manageable.

The spec gives facilities for ambulant persons - the wash/dry toilet benefits those of us who are more mobile and would like to play a more active role.

I am told that replacing a standard toilet with a wash/dry unit costs £5k - £10k

Please can I urge you to support this?

ANSWER
The NRA has upgraded various ablution blocks on Camp to make them more accessible. We've published an Accessible Facilities Map, which has been shared with General Council. There are some accessible toilets and showers with grab rails and foldable seats, and one refurbished wheelchair-accessible Pavilion room. There are no step-free toilets or ablution blocks as this was not considered when they were built. Today, there is a much greater awareness of the importance of providing effective access at Bisley for disabled shooters and the toilet and ablution facilities are an important part of that. We take this into account when new facilities are built and existing ones are refurbished, as part of a steady process of improving and enhancing access. It's clear that even small changes, like adding grab rails, can make a real difference to people's enjoyment of Bisley. The links to Changing Places and wash-and-dry toilets will be useful for future design and refurbishment plans.

2.8 Question from Mike Jenvey - General Council elections - reminders to Membership:
There was extensive previous discussion within GC about the need to ensure the maximum democratic participation from the membership by publicising details about the annual General Council election process in good time.

Arguments such as its on the website (this is a very passive approach) or, it was in the Journal (potentially late to arrive to members) should be dismissed as being insufficient to maximise the full potential of direct email.

One reminder email should be sent out no later than mid-March (as nominating members had to be fully paid up by end of that month), & one no later than mid -April to cover the nomination process (required by end of the month).

Why please were these reminders not sent out by email to the membership this year?

(Note - a reminder was sent last year, 24 Mar 2024)

ANSWER
This was inadvertently missed by NRA staff; we have set reminders to ensure this does not happen again in 2026

2.9 Question from Mike Jenvey - Capital Expenditure - Bisley Pavilion:
Please can the membership be advised of the total capital expenditure over the last 10 years against the extensive refurbishments / improvements for the Bisley Pavilion. This has been asked before in GC but the information was refused. This is not an open or transparent process & hides the true extent of expenditure from GC (who cannot therefore "guide") & the membership

ANSWER
The NRA does not publish detailed breakdowns of capital expenditure each year, in line with the approach of other major charities.

2.10 Question from Griff Morgan, Member 12110 - IT question - Imperial Meeting TR entry conditions:
When entering the Match Rifle Imperial Meeting question 13 asks the competitor 'I wish to shoot for Any Rifle Prizes in Hopton events (para 157) and will therefore not be eligible for the main Match Rifle Prizes' 'Yes or

No'

Could this question be included as part of the Target Rifle entry for competitors to select if they did not intend to use issued ammunition or use an alternative calibre without impacting on issued ammunition prizes if allowed or, for example, the upcoming World Long Range Championships where overseas competitors did not want to bring a 'Factory Ammunition barrel'?

ANSWER
The NRA would welcome the views of Shooting Committee on this proposal.

2.11 Question from Griff Morgan, Member 12110 – Mental Health
Mental Health Awareness Week is / was 12 May - 18 May.

The good and supported mental health of the shooting community is essential to preventing where possible incidents that have been seen in the UK and around the world with devastating consequences.

Mental Health is often seen as something to avoid and ban where it should instead be actively supported to prevent incidents from occurring because no one listened to a need for help.

What initiatives of promoting good mental health has the NRA undertaken and where does the NRA direct members should someone feel the need to speak confidentially to someone about their mental health?

ANSWER
As a charity, the NRA is only allowed to pursue activities within its charitable purposes. Those purposes do not include the advancement of mental health. Therefore, the NRA does not pursue initiatives that are designed to promote mental health. That said, the NRA is of the view that shooting activities have a positive impact on mental health. The NRA recommends that members who have a concern about their mental health contact their General Practitioner who can then advise on the best source of further support suitable to their needs.

2.12 Members Question to General Council - Raised on behalf of the many family groups who reside on camp in caravan's vs buildings etc (G Nelson, L Healy, A Hayley, C Panel, A Sadler & more) presented through Phil Northam
There are No Family friendly or equipped facilities on camp (Loos, showers, or child safe area). There are numerous partners, spouses of shooters who are inhibited from attending events at camp because of this, & mothers who used to shoot who might want to return, so need a form of crèche facility to do so. It's normal for families to meet as groups at home & provide mutual support etc, this is generated by friend, maternity & local play groups. On camp the various family groups network via clubs & as shooters but have no facilities to use for this. It's not appropriate for them to reside in club bars or small caravans. Younger children often need to be protected from heat or cold weather, they can't do that in caravans or tents, & in some cases because of that they & their parents can't attend. Appropriate or adapted facilities are also a means to provide Safeguarding & Child Protection – a basic requirement for many facilities, & like Bisley such as holiday campsites.

1. Loos might be equipped with e.g. a fold down baby change table & in a larger cubicle area,currently the only suitable areas are the few disability loos. The last cubicle in an ablution might be adapted as per the shower suggestion below.
2. Shower needs to be larger & it's been suggested for +10y or more to simply turn the cubicle door on the last shower at the end of a row to include the corridor area outside of it, creating a larger area that can be closed off from the main area. So 'contain' kids & manage showers out of view of others in communal facilities. Los lower height taps for them. This is common on family campsites.
3. The only Crèche operation was member run was Tiny Tyros. That was intensive with play equipment etc. The request for the current generation of mothers & fathers with young children is a simple area with close access to; loos, sink, microwave, kettle & a couple of sofas & maybe a fold down baby change deck. They would self-manage other equipment & eg toys, cleanliness of the area. Consider it more a safe meeting place.

4. The final need, long discussed, never provided, is some form of play area outside that’s; contained, fenced in & equipped with simple play equipment like swings, slide, playhouse, sand pit. There is a requirement for this in the site licence issued by GBC. There used to be such a place on camp but removed before most of us were here. There is a requirement & precedence & a need.

5. There is grant funding for things like play areas safe play equipment. Possibly NRA can access that & then use it to provide some facility. There are members who would help with that.
Bisley has for too long neglected its family members, who often provide the next generation of shooters. In the near future, this may be a vital means to assure the continuation of the sport & the place Bisley. We need to think about NRA/Bisley's place in the 21st century vs its image often more associated with an 18c gentleman's recreational club.

We request the Trustees canvas family members for their needs, & recognise them, then provide direct & facilitate self-help to deliver them

ANSWER
The NRA would invite General Council to refer this topic to the Estates Working Group to develop proposals for consideration by General Council, which can then refer its conclusions to Council. It would be helpful if proposals included recommendations for funding the cost of any works eg subscriptions, pay-per-use etc.

2.13 Questions from Richard Stebbings, Member 10566 – Meeting Membership

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

I raised this again for the February 2025 GC meeting; the response to my question was that *"Fees have been reviewed and simplified on the following basis:"* and a revised table of meeting membership rates was provided for the 2025 Imperial meeting. The tables provided here are an extract from that table response.

Whilst the Meeting Membership rates may have been somewhat simplified, the response provided to my earlier questions has not addressed the underlying issue. The issue is that members are being charged different amounts for the same service depending on what discipline they shoot. We are discriminating against members on a discipline basis.

1. The meeting membership rates for an adult for this year's meeting are as follows:

Competition	No. days	Cost	Cost/day
TR Individual	10 days	£70	£7.00
TR Individual (Grand agg)	5 days	£70	£14.00
TR Individual (Kings I, II & III)	3 days	£16	£5.33
TR Team	10 days	£16	£1.60
MR Imperial	6 days	£50	£8.33
F-Class Imperial	4 days	£30	£7.50
CSR Imperial	5 days	£16	£3.20
McQueen	10 days	£16	£1.60
Historic Arms (IHAM)	2 days	£16	£8.00
Sporting Rifle	2 days	£16	£8.00
Gallery Rifle & Pistol	4 days	£16	£4.00
300m Champs	2 days	£16	£8.00

a) Why are we charging inconsistent meeting membership rates which are arbitrarily different depending on the discipline a member shoots?

b) Why do shooters from some disciplines pay so much more than others? (or,depending on your perspective, why do some pay so much less?)

Points a & b were raised at the February GC meeting and the reasons given were that *"members who shoot some disciplines only want to enter one or two matches, not the entire Grand Aggregate"*.

c) The given reason does not agree with the NRAs published results, for example, almost every competitor who enters either the CSR Imperial or the F-Class Imperial enters the entire Grand Aggregate/Championship; the CSR Imperial is 5 days long and the F-Class Imperial is 4 days long, yet the meeting membership fee is £16 for the CSR Imperial and £30 for the F-Class Imperial. Why?

d) Why are members shooting some disciplines able to pay a lower Meeting Members rate on the basis that they "*only want to enter one or two matches"* while members shooting other disciplines MUST pay a higher rate to over the entire meeting? Is this fair?

2. The supplied table also lists the following discounts:

Competition	Cost	Discount
TR Imperial		
Present Serving	£63	10% off
Over 65/Overseas	£63	10% off
U25	£42	40% off
U21	£30	40% off capped at U21 Full membership
U21 – 1st Entry	£0	FREE
MR Imperial		
Present Serving	£45	10% off
Over 65/Overseas	£45	10% off
U25	£30	40% off
U21	£30	40% off capped at U21 Full membership
U21 – 1st Entry	£0	FREE
F-Class Imperial		
Present Serving	£27	10% off
Over 65/Overseas	£27	10% off
U25	£18	40% off
U21	£18	40% off capped at U21 Full membership
U21 – 1st Entry	£0	FREE
300m Imperial	None	
CSR Imperial	None	
Gallery Rifle & Pistol	None	
Historic Arms (IHAM)	None	
McQueen Imperial	None	
Sporting Rifle	None	

a) Why are these discounts only offered for certain disciplines?
b) Why are equivalent discounts not offered for the other disciplines?

ANSWER
Competition entry fees are an integral part of the Imperial Meeting income. There are many methods that could be applied to try and improve the perceived fairness of the fees, but changes to shift cost between disciplines risk unnecessary discord. There remains some illogicality to the fees levied and discounts offered but there is now greater consistency. There is no evidence that competition entry fees are discouraging participation. Of far greater importance is recognition that the Imperial meeting accounts for the majority of the NRA's investment of £460,000 spent delivering the 2024 programme of competitions. It is surely more productive and less divisive to recognise the significant investment made by the NRA in supporting it flagship event, the Imperial Meeting, and celebrate the rich variety of marksmanship promoted by all the disciplines