

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Minutes of the General Council Meeting

held via ZOOM

on Saturday 7th September 2024 from 2.00pm

Present:

Chairman

Mr D Lacey (DLA)

Members:

Mr GK Alexander (GA)	Elected Member
Wg Cdr DP Calvert	Elected Member
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson (ACT)	Match Rifle Rep
Mr A Dagger (AD)	Gallery Rifle and Pistol Rep
Mr J Harris	Target Shotgun Rep
Ms A Gran (AG)	Greater London & SE Rep / BSRC Chair
Mr MD Jenvey (MJ)	Elected Member
Mr R Kelvey (RKe)	Eastern Rep
Mr RS Kenchington	West Midlands Rep
Mr GAE Larcombe (GL)	Southern Rep
Miss SS Lohmann (SL)	Elected Member
Mr D Lowe (DL)	Elected Member
Mr N Macfarlane	Historic and Classic Arms Rep
Mr C Rennick (CR)	Sporting Rifle Rep
Mr B Ritchie	Scotland Rep
Mr R Stebbings (RSt)	Elected Member
Mr I Thomson (IT)	Elected Member
Mr G Trembath	Northern Rep
Mr MP Watkins	Wales Rep
Mr JGM Webster	Target Rifle Rep

Ex-officio:

Mr D Stimpson (DS) HBSA Chair

In attendance:

Mr A Mercer (AM) Secretary General
Mr R Bruce Trustee

Apologies for absence:

Mr S Aldhouse	300 Metres Rep
Mr HRM Bailie (RB)	Northern Ireland Rep / Chair SF of NI
Mr JPS Bloomfield (JPSB)	Elected Member / East Midlands Rep
Mr N Brasier	Elected Member
Mr P Dommett	F Class Rep
Dr J Marsden	North Western Rep
Mr FPR Northam (PN)	Elected Member
Mr CG Perry (CP)	Elected Member
Mr A Reynolds (AR)	Treasurer
Mrs K Robertson	Elected Member
Mr T Rylands	Elected Member
Mr N St Aubyn	CSR & Practical Rifle Rep
Mrs G Thatcher	Secretary to Meeting
Dr JD Warburton (JWar)	Yorkshire & Humberside Rep
Mr P Wolpe	Muzzle Loading Rep

Ex-officio:

Cdr NJW Benstead	RNRMRA Chair
Mr G Burns	NSRA Chair (rep)
Mr M Cotillard	Jersey Rifle Association President
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley	Welsh Target Shooting Federation Chair
Dr J Martin	CPSA Chair
Brig. M Pountain	CCRS Chair (rep)
Mr AJD Saunders (AS)	English Target Shooting Federation Chair
Mr C Steele-Benny	RAFSAA Chair (rep)
Mr AM Whiffin	MLAGB Chair (rep)

INDEX G782 to G795

The Chairman declared the meeting open.

1. G782 – APOLOGIES

- 1.1. Apologies were received as noted above.

2. G783 – 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 all members declare any conflict of interest at the start of the meeting, based on the agenda items. No declarations were made at this time.
- 2.3. The Chairman requested that members declare any conflicts of interest that may arise during the meeting.

3. G784 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

- 3.1. The Chairman confirmed the minutes of the meeting of 7th June 2024 had been approved.
- 3.2. The Chairman asked if anyone had any matters arising from the minutes of the June meeting that did not relate to members' questions from the last meeting and proposed that matters arising from members' questions at the last meeting be heard with members' questions for this meeting.
- 3.3. MJ asked for an update on the production of the Guide to Procedures and Meetings. The Chairman confirmed that most of the comments received from GC members had been incorporated into the final draft, and Council had approved the document at its August meeting. The Chairman noted it is likely that the Guide will need amendment in light of experience of its use and invited feedback from GC and committee members accordingly.
- 3.4. MJ asked for an update on his request for the CAPEX figures on the Pavilion refurbishment. The Secretary General stated that the NRA does not publish such granular financial information, in line with the practice of other large charities.
- 3.5. There were no further matters arising.

4. G785 – REVIEW OF ACTIONS

- 4.1. The Chairman proposed that the items with requests for information from GC members be closed, noting that comments are always welcome and do not require an action item. There was no objection.
- 4.2. MJ suggested surveys be conducted to gather more detailed information on membership demographics and preferences to help with the annual Membership and Imperial Meeting Entries analysis.
- 4.3. The Chairman asked all GC members to email GT informing her if they are willing to share their email addresses for communication with other GC members.
- 4.4. The Chairman confirmed no decision had been taken regarding the implementation of an Electronic Video Conferencing System and noted there had been no feedback from the AGM except that recorded in the minutes. A review is planned for the next relevant meeting. RK remarked that having a hybrid meeting option would be very helpful to those members who live far away from Bisley.
- 4.5. Richard Vary (RV) asked whether updates to member questions and queries raised on Facebook could be replied to. The Chairman informed the meeting that all member questions should be directed through a GC member and that GC member should respond with the answer. All answers are included in the GC minutes which are published on the NRA website once approved.
- 4.6. The Secretary General confirmed a number of grab handles had been installed in the ablution blocks and further work on the ablution blocks and dishwashing facilities will continue over the winter period. An update will be provided at the February GC meeting.
- 4.7. MJ expressed his disappointment that a summary of the NSC survey had not been shared with GC members before being published in the Autumn journal, which is due to be published in the coming week. The Secretary General informed the meeting the survey is an NSC matter and the summary had been published in the Journal which GC members should receive very soon.
- 4.8. No further questions were raised.

5. G786 – ESTATE WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 5.1. The meeting received the draft Estate Working Group Terms of Reference (ToRs) for review and approval provided by Silke Lohmann (SL) and Iain Thomson (IT).
- 5.2. The Secretary General recommended the document be amended to replace the reference to the NSC Chief Director with the NRA Secretary General as it is an NRA document. The meeting agreed.
- 5.3. The meeting unanimously approved the amended document and the Chairman thanked SL and IT for their work updating the ToRs. Any GC members interested in joining the EWG should contact Iain Thomson.
- 5.4. The meeting noted there were no updates from the EWG for this meeting.
- 5.5. No questions were raised.

SL and IT left the meeting.

6. G787 – 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. MJ asked for an update on the Estate Development Plan and whether GC members would receive a copy of that. The Chairman confirmed the plan had been circulated and reviewed extensively by GC members and was now published on the NRA website.
- 6.3. MJ asked for an update on Site 103. The Secretary General confirmed there were some exciting plans for Site 103 which will be going to Council for consideration and will be shared with GC members for consultation once considered by the Trustees.
- 6.4. ACT asked for an update on Lead in Ammunition. The Secretary General reported that he is bound by a duty of confidentiality as part of his involvement in the consultation process but expects UK REACH's final report and recommendations to go to DEFRA in October for consideration.
- 6.5. AD asked for an update on the refurbishment to ABC Lines, noting that A Lines are being refurbished and asked if B and C Lines will also be updated. The Secretary General confirmed B Lines will be updated in 2025 and C Lines will be updated the following year due to CAPEX budgets. AD asked if the C Lines refurbishment could be reviewed sooner as the majority of RCOs stay in C Lines during competitions and the plumbing is unusable. The Secretary General will review the refurbishment plans and report back at the next meeting.
- 6.6. ACT noted the positive 15.7% increase in BSG income between January and July 2024 and asked whether that was due to price increases or activity. The Chief Executive responded two thirds of the increase was attributable to an increase in activity, and the balance to price increases.
- 6.7. RK expressed his thanks to the NRA Training Staff for their excellent work as highlighted in the NRA Probationary Training article published in the Rifle Shooter Magazine.
- 6.8. RK and MJ asked for an update on any plans for a new 100m and 300m range. The Secretary General responded that the costs for creating new ranges would be considerable. MJ asked if the membership could be surveyed for their views. The Chairman noted that the NRA first needed to identify what it could provide. There was no value in asking people what they wanted, if the NRA could not provide it.
- 6.9. AD asked for an update on the College of Policing FEO Training, noting that it would be extremely helpful for FEOs to better understand target rifle shooting especially the amount of ammunition required for competition shooting in some disciplines. The Secretary General informed the meeting the training is to inform FEOs in collaboration with BSSC (British Shooting Sports Council) of the issues faced by FAC and SGC holders, and the target shooting community including ammunition requirements and it will also give them an opportunity to shoot a variety of firearms and shotguns. The training will be conducted in association with UKPSA, HBSA, CPSA and MLAGB. The first session is taking place on Thursday 12th September, and will be rolled out nationally with up to 10 sessions per year.
- 6.10. RK asked whether the Emergency Services Training can be expanded into the regions to help inform the local emergency services of potential incidents and how to deal with them. The Secretary General remarked the current course is held at Bisley as it involves live firing demonstrations. The Secretary General asked RK to email him separately to discuss with the National Training Manager, David Camp, who has written the current training session.
- 6.11. BR remarked having FEO and emergency training sessions held regionally, rather than just at Bisley would help engage the clubs and FEOs and emergency services locally as it is currently non-existent, rather than expecting people to travel to Bisley. The Secretary General confirmed the FEO training will be a national project, not just Bisley based, with around 70% of courses being held regionally and the remaining 30% being held at Bisley. The Secretary General is already in

discussions with Police Scotland to hold a course near Glasgow. MW added that the police in Wales are already engaging with clubs and this formal FEO training will certainly help cement relationships between the clubs, shooters and FEOs. DS added that the shooting associations have a strong relationship with the Police and FELWEG and the College of Policing and this umbrella programme will be very positive for the shooting community.

6.12. No further questions were raised.

7. G788 – FINANCE

- 7.1. The Treasurer's report to 30th June 2024 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked the meeting if there were any questions.
- 7.2. ACT noted that the NSC is holding high levels of ammunition stocks which ties up a large amount of working capital, but is needed to ensure supplies. ACT asked whether the NSC should consider increasing the cost each year the stock is held so it is not subsidised by those who purchase it in the first year. The Chief Executive thanked ACT for that very helpful suggestion, and agreed that could be considered, but noted the NSC faces a careful balance of maintaining 12-18 months of ammunition stock levels to ensure competition and shooting can continue at Bisley, against the availability of ammunition and components, whilst acknowledging the pressure this places on liquidity. The Chief Executive added that sales of some stock lines have been very positive.
- 7.3. RSt asked for an update on the Wharncliffe Caravan Site, noting the project has committed expenditure costs of £687k, and has received funds to date of £349k. The Secretary General confirmed 20 sites had been sold to date and expects the remaining 8 sites to be sold by the end of the year as there are a lot of live enquiries. The Secretary General confirmed the sales projection compares very closely to both the Spencer and Waldegrave sites. The Chairman noted positively the promotion of the Wharncliffe sites at the F-Class European Championships.
- 7.4. MJ noted that staff salaries had increased by c.£250k in the previous year. The Secretary General confirmed salaries were tracking against budget and reflects pay rises needed to remain competitive in the recruitment market.
- 7.5. No further questions were raised.

8. G789 – COUNCIL

- 8.1. The Chairman noted that the report from Council had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- 8.2. MJ asked for an update on upgrading the electricity supply on camp. The Secretary General confirmed this was ongoing and had nothing further to report at this meeting.
- 8.3. MJ asked for an update on the implementation of a customer feedback/reporting system. The Chief Executive confirmed the NSC Directors were exploring two options at present which are being trialled by the professional staff. RV and ACT agreed that allowing members to report issues is important, but also providing responses to the complaints to the wider membership is equally important as it would help reduce the number of reports being received about the same complaints. ACT suggested that an article with the answers to queries be published regularly in the NRA Journal to help communication with the membership. The Chairman agreed that is an excellent suggestion and asked any GC members willing to volunteer to produce a regular article for the Journal to send it to GT for inclusion. ACT offered to provide an article for the next Journal but believes the work should be shared between GC members.
- 8.4. No further questions were raised.

9. G790 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE

- 9.1. The Chairman noted that two suggestions had been put forward at the Bisley General Meeting for consideration by Shooting Committee and asked that they be considered at their next meeting:
 - 9.1.1. Publication of the rules for testing rifles for compliance during the Imperial Meeting; and
 - 9.1.2. To consider whether the King's Prize Final cut-off should be announced at the end of the Bisley General Meeting to help increase attendance at the BGM.
- 9.2. GL asked for an update on the suggestion for adding a diagonal white stripe on marker paddles to assist competitors with visual impairment. The Secretary General confirmed the stripes had been added to the marker paddles and had been in use at the recent North London Open Meeting on Century and Stickle-down ranges.
- 9.3. RSt asked for an update on the new seeding of grass on the 300 yards firing points. The Chief Executive is hoping the recent warm and wet weather will help the seed take root and grow. Turfing is another option but grass grown from seed is preferable.
- 9.4. RK asked for consideration offering the 300m shed to TR cadets and young shooters in March and April to provide covered firing points during the wet months. The Chief Executive remarked it is a difficult balance to consider as the winter months are the busiest months for BSG, which is in the danger area for the 300m shed, and offering the 300m shed for a small number of shooters would not be a financial viable option. The GC members asked for consideration for covered 300-yard firing points elsewhere for

use throughout the winter months. The Chairman noted the 300m shooting is raised under Members' Questions and held the discussion over to later in the meeting.

- 9.5. The Chairman of the Shooting Committee informed the meeting the next committee meeting is on 17th September and the main subject for discussion will be suggested changes to the 2025 NRA Handbook. JH asked for all suggestions to be emailed to Iain Robertson or himself for consideration.
- 9.6. No further questions were raised.

10. **G791 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

- 10.1. The meeting received the minutes of the Membership Committee meetings held on 15th February 2024 and 24th April 2024. The Chairman asked for any questions.
- 10.2. MJ asked for an update on the implementation of a Digital Wallet for membership and shooter certification cards (SCCs). The Secretary General informed the meeting that the expectation is to launch membership cards digitally in 2025 with SCCs coming online in the latter part of 2025/2026 as there is more development work to be done with those. ACT remarked that it would be problematic to have digital membership cards and physical SCC cards. The Secretary General agreed there will be some initial disruption until both cards are available digitally but hopes the new process will be widely accepted by the membership. Any members who do not wish to move onto the Digital Wallet will still be able to receive a physical card. The Membership Department will be reviewing whether a cost will be allocated to that in future years once the digital option is fully implemented.
- 10.3. MJ remarked that BYSA have implemented a 'My Clubhouse' package which provides an easy process for clubs to administer their membership. RSt remarked that the suggestion isn't for the NRA to move across to the package, but clubs could consider taking it up to help manage their own membership, reducing the burden on club secretaries and chairmen.
- 10.4. GTr asked if the NRA could consider offering a regional membership package for those members who do not visit Bisley but require insurance and an SCC to access to MoD ranges. AG responded that the committee has discussed such an option on numerous occasions without reaching any decision to date, but discussions will be ongoing.
- 10.5. No further questions were raised.

11. **G792 – GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS**

- 11.1. The Chairman expressed the Council and General Council's thanks and appreciation to Nick Brasier for all his hard work and input as an NRA Trustee, following the end of his 6 year term on the Trustee board. The meeting expressed its approbation with applause.
- 11.2. For information under Second Schedule Rule 7 (g) – the following members have been elected to General Council

Ordinary Members

GK Alexander
FPR Northam
J Hilger-Ellis
TG Rylands
Col (Retd) Sir FC Sykes Bt

Regional Members

RS Kenchington – West Midlands
GAE Larcombe – Southern
MP Watkins – Wales
RAH Vary – Greater London & South East

Shooting Discipline Members

JS Harris – Target Shotgun
CW Rennick – Sporting Rifle
N St Aubyn – Civilian Service Rifle & Practical Rifle

The Chairman welcomed Charlie Sykes and Richard Vary to General Council.

11.3. **ELECTION RESULTS**

The results of the following elections were announced:

- **Elected Trustee on the Council** – Richard Stebbings
- **Membership Committee Members** – Mike Jenvey, Rob Kelvey, Bryden Ritchie and Richard Stebbings
- **Estate Working Group Member** – Phil Northam
- **South Western Regional Representative** – Robin Hallows

The Chairman thanked all those who put themselves forward for consideration.

11.4. **OTHER VACANCIES**

The Chairman informed the meeting that vacancies remain for the following Committees:

- Non-Lawyers on the Disciplinary Body
- Shooting Committee Members

The Chairman encouraged all GC members to put themselves forward for the vacancies.

GL asked if the position of Vice Chairman had been advertised following the retirement of Charles Brooks from General Council. The Secretary General thanked GL for the reminder and confirmed the post will be advertised to GC members for nominations.

12. **C793 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 12.1. The Chairman informed the meeting of a correction to an answer at the last meeting. Three members of GC have two votes – Alice Gran as Chairman of BSRC and as Regional Representative¹, Richard Bailie as a Regional Representative and Representative of Chair of SF of NI, and (as reported at the last meeting) John Bloomfield as an Ordinary Member and Regional Member.
- 12.2. The Chairman encouraged all members of General Council to attend AGM and BGM meetings to hear the concerns of members and asked GC members to send him any suggestions on how attendance can be promoted to the membership. MJ remarked that an email reminder should be sent to all members the week of the AGM, or the day of the AGM, and also range announcements should be made during the Imperial Meeting to remind competitors of the BGM meeting.
- 12.3. The Chairman passed the meeting over to MJ to talk on the subject of Grand Aggregate entries. MJ remarked that around 10 years ago the NRA used to offer free entry to one deserving regional competitor who were unable to afford the entry fee, but this seems to have stopped. The Secretary General confirmed the implementation of free membership to Under 21s and 40% discount on entry fees for Under 25s may have been the main reason for this and has certainly helped increase the number of Under 25s taking part in the Meeting. The cost of offering the discounts to the NRA is £77,000. MJ asked if consideration could be given as to how such a scheme could be re-introduced for those competitors who cannot afford to enter competitions at all. The Chairman proposed any suggestions be put to the Shooting Committee for consideration. RV remarked that offering subsidised pricing to cover the cost of ammunition and marker rather than only full price may encourage more attendees and the costs wouldn't be subsidised by others if the main costs are covered.
- 12.4. MJ asked for an update on the proposal to offer discounted two day mid-week shooting packages including accommodation. The Secretary General commented that the refurbishment of the accommodation had taken priority and he will review the options to provide shooting packages with the professional staff and report on progress at the next meeting.
- 12.5. GL expressed his thanks to the ammunition teams during the Imperial Meeting who were extremely enthusiastic and helpful throughout the meeting. He also reported that he has spoken to some people from the Army who have expressed their disappointment at the high range hire costs which prevents them from shooting at Bisley and asked if a discount for service personnel could be considered.
- 12.6. BR asked for an update on the issuing of SCC renewals to members who have an RCO qualification. The Chairman informed the meeting he will recirculate the answer provided to a member question from the previous meeting. RSt asked that any amendments to criteria requirements for SCCs be circulated to inform the membership.
- 12.7. GTr asked that RCO cards also be included as part of the Digital Wallet implementation.

¹ Post-meeting note: AG is no longer the Greater London & South East Regional Rep so only has one vote as Chairman of BSRC.

- 12.8. ACT asked whether updates and relevant information, such as insurance cover, can be sent to club secretaries with the request that they pass it to affiliated members to keep them informed of changes. The Chairman noted that the NRA had agreed not to make direct contact with club members and therefore communication was sent to club secretaries to forward onto their members. It is not practical for the NRA to monitor whether they do so.
- 12.9. No further questions were raised.

13. C794 - PROPOSED DATES FOR 2025

- 13.1. The following meeting dates for 2025 were approved by the meeting.

Saturday 15th February 2025	from 2.00pm	ZOOM Video Conference
Friday 6th June 2025	from 3.00pm	NRA Pavilion
Followed by the AGM	from 6.00pm	NRA Pavilion
Saturday 20 th September 2025	from 2.00pm	ZOOM Video Conference

14. C795 – MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS

- 14.1. The Chairman asked if there were any matters arising from the membership questions discussed at the previous meeting on 7th June 2024.
- 14.2. MJ asked if consideration could be given to holding the GC meeting earlier in the day in June to allow more time to discuss the member questions as the meeting ran out of time due to the AGM being held after the GC meeting. The Chairman highlighted the fact there is a Council meeting held in the morning before the GC meeting so it would be difficult to move the start time any earlier than 3pm.
- 14.3. MJ raised the fact that the upgrade to caravan site facilities have been delayed since April/May 2024 and will not be addressed before February 2025 which is almost a year, which cannot be in line with the site licence and asked that facilities be addressed regularly, rather than when questions are raised. The Secretary General reiterated that the facilities are being addressed during the winter period and GC members will be informed of the improvements at the next GC meeting in February. MJ noted the importance of complying with the site licence. The Secretary General remarked that Guildford Borough Council (GBC) inspect the sites on a regular basis and the NRA will address any suggestions for improvement made by GBC. There is a cost to doing this, with the alternative being to close the affected sites until the work can be done.
- 14.4. RSt wanted to update the meeting on the question raised by Gareth Corfield on the member checks required for caravan owners at Bisley as there is no clear definition of what the “shooting activities” are that NRA members should meet to be able to own a caravan at Bisley and the NRA should consider reviewing and expanding these requirements to ensure members are using the caravans to shoot at Bisley on a regular basis. The Chairman suggested that the EWG review the current membership requirements for caravan ownership and produce a proposal for consideration at a future meeting.
- 14.5. The Chairman noted that a list of questions received from the general membership had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman confirmed that GC members should respond to any questions they have received from the membership after the meeting with the relevant answers provided by the professional staff and any further input from the GC members. Any further request for information should be directed to the professional staff through the Secretary General².
- 14.6. The Chairman thanked the GC members for collating the questions and opened the floor for discussion on the various questions raised.
- 14.7. **Muzzle Brakes** - The Meeting noted the response given to the use of muzzle brakes on Bisley ranges. MW expressed the concern that whilst the muzzle brake reduces recoil, it is also noisy and can be uncomfortable to shoot next to. The Chairman informed the meeting that anyone shooting next to a muzzle brake should inform the Range Office who will check the booking and move targets if needed. The Chairman noted all firearms make a noise and having different shooting groups arguing between themselves on noise was not constructive. JH remarked that he lives on the edge of the range complex and the Army creates the most noise on the ETR targets and they don't use muzzle brakes.
- 14.8. **Covered Firing Points** – RV asked whether the NSC could consider providing more gazebos for covering the firing points during the winter months/bad weather to increase bookings. The Chief Executive confirmed gazebos are available to rent should clubs or individuals wish to shoot under cover.
- 14.9. **Road Junctions – Safety** – MJ remarked that the entrance to the new Wharncliffe site has no road markings and there have been some near misses with both pedestrians and cars. MJ asked that road markings be painted as soon as possible to avoid potential accidents. The Chief Executive confirmed the white line contractors have been booked in September to paint the new one-way road markings on Wharncliffe site, as well as other junctions around camp.

² A copy of the Membership Questions and responses provided by the professional staff is appended to these minutes.

- 14.10. **Trees** – The Chairman asked all GC members to inform Shelly Fletcher, NRA Real Estate Manager, of any potential issues with trees around the camp to help keep the professional staff informed of potential problems.
- 14.11. **Renaming the Grand Aggregate** – The Chairman of Shooting Committee will add the topic to the next Shooting Committee agenda for consideration.
- 14.12. **Proposed Rifle Bans** – The Meeting noted with approval the importance of the BSSC and the work it does to support shooting throughout the UK with the 20 national governing bodies of shooting.
- 14.13. **Meeting Membership Fees** – The Chairman thanked RSt for putting together a table of costs across the different disciplines for meeting membership and believes it will be a valuable tool for the professional staff to review all meeting entry fees for future years to ensure they are consistent. ACT remarked that the meeting membership fee for the Imperial Meeting had been set around 15 years at a level comparable to full NRA membership with the aim of incentivising competitors to become full NRA members. The Chairman noted this was a useful opportunity to review all entry fees to ensure competitors were being treated consistently across all disciplines.
- 14.14. **Competition Profit/Loss** – RSt asked the Secretary General to confirm whether the 5% loss on competition entries was an NRA loss or a group loss for the NRA/NSC. The Secretary General responded it is an NRA loss as effectively the income cost less the direct cost that the meeting has incurred. It does not cover any profit the NSC makes over the same month. The Secretary General confirmed the NRA looks to run each competition with a 5 percent surplus of direct income over direct costs, but have failed to do that on the Imperial for the last three or four years. The NRA makes up the shortfall from charitable funds because the Imperial meeting is recognized as a charitable activity.
- 14.15. The Chairman reminded all GC members to respond to the members with the answers provided by the professional staff.

No further questions were raised.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 16.30pm



D Lacey
Chairman

Date of next meeting: Saturday 15th February 2025 from 2.00pm via ZOOM

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 are set out below.

1.1 Question from Nigel Dennis (92144) – Muzzle Brakes

As a target rifle shooter, why do we have to put with shooting next to people with muzzle brakes? These things are awful and really disturb others.

ANSWER

The purpose of a muzzle brake is to reduce the perceived recoil of a firearm. The mechanism by which a muzzle brake operates means that the shot generates more noise for people either side of the shooter. Of course, the perceived sound produced by any rifle shot will be affected by environmental factors and depend on the cartridge for which the firearm is chambered.

The reduction in perceived recoil can be helpful for people who may be suffering injury or disability to their shoulder or upper arms. It also makes the firearm more comfortable to shoot and can encourage new shooters to participate.

The NSC does not ban muzzle brakes and does not mandate the use of moderators. The Range Regulations contain rules on the use of muzzle brakes to balance the interests of those who use muzzle brakes and those who do not. A person who wishes to use a muzzle brake must declare it when making a booking and the Range Office will leave a clear target between the muzzle brake user and the next shooter. Also, muzzle brakes cannot be used at any time under the canopy at Short Siberia. Anyone who is on a target next to a muzzle brake user should contact the Range Office for assistance.

1.2 Question from Kempton Spence (44043) – Digital Transformation of the NRA range, firearm hire and course booking, and management.

- 1) I would like to propose updating the NRA website to be more user friendly and intuitive that both engages members and provides for a better customer experience and journey.
 - a. The current website setup has siloed and disconnected processes which leads to confusion and frustration.
 - b. Continually having to go back to the Menu bar to navigate the website.
 - c. Format and navigation issues when using mobile/smartphone/tablet devices.
 - d. Range booking and firearm hire process is convoluted and requires a follow-up telephone call to confirm booking, which is then often changed by the NRA closer to the booking date (at the frustration of the members).
 - i. This could be because there is not an integrated or automated process between the website and back office (range scheduling) systems.
- 2) Introduce a smartphone app to drive a quicker and frictionless way to book a range, firearm hire, and course booking.
 - a. The NRA website just isn't optimised for the mobile/smartphone/tablet devices.

ANSWER

The NSC is currently in the process of converting from the original fully-manual process to the eventual fully-automated process. The process is made more complicated by the need to separate the NRA and NSC websites to demonstrate the separate functions between the two organisations. The current system suffers from requiring extensive manual input to the on-line system, especially as real-time information is not available to customers. Both the NRA and NSC

websites lack important functionality, including the ability to use theme effectively from a phone or tablet.

After several years of investigating different options and comparing various providers, we have now commissioned the development of a comprehensive online range booking system that will show "live" target availability and enable bookings to be made on-line and confirmed automatically. The work on the new system started in February 2024 and we are expecting to see a phased rollout of the new system commence in the autumn of this year.

1.3 Question from Rob Kitson (5134) – 300M Covered Range

I am concerned the NRA wishes to close/demolish the 300m covered range. I, and many Army team members have used this range the past and is an invaluable training tool, especially when wet/inclement weather. The NRA should be supporting this discipline – it is the National RIFLE Association. More could be made of this facility – especially for team training prior to tours, for BYSA and other youth orientated organisations and for those who wish to learn 300m ISSF disciplines. I am even more concerned the alleged reason is to expand clay target days - who would appear to have a near monopoly already. I appreciate it is a money spinner which subsidises shooting, but perhaps there are too many employed running Clay Target within the NSC, instead of focussing on the charitable aims of the NRA, to promote marksmanship in the interests of Defence of the Realm.

ANSWER

See answer below to question 1.4

1.4 Statement from Robin Carter (8807) – 300M Range

Our issue is the NRA attitude to the only 300 mt range in the UK (yes the only one!!!), Whatever the rights and wrongs and the economics of the range, (the Shed) the simple facts are the NRA are destroying the 300 mt discipline in the UK by severely restricting access to the range. I hear that the entry for the National meeting 300 mt championships (the Imperial) is pathetic, which will further add to their desire to close the discipline. But why is all this happening? First, OK it's a specialised sport and requires expensive kit, and is a long match course, and it's difficult, that means it's never going to be mainstream. But our real problem is we do not get grass roots basic shooters, partly because of above, but primarily because of lack of access to a range, so in fact the discipline is losing members rather than gaining, and this is purely down to the NRA restricting range use! An example, My wife and I always did the national championships, Ok we have had health issues, but this year there is so little range access we have not shot at all!!!! We could have shot at the Imperial event, but we have had no practice this year at all!! Would you shoot in the Imperial as your only event in a year? We wish to return after my HA, but there are no more club bookings this year, other than one Monday morning at the end of Aug, that's it for the year!! We live in Norfolk, so a round trip of 400 miles (M25 Monday mornings!!) for a Monday morning? So two £6K rifles and much hand-loaded ammo sits unused! And two disciplines shooters consider retiring, and that's just us, for many its already happened. Its the ONLY range and the NRA is killing the sport. The other issue is the 300 mt club, hmmm.... being diplomatic, confidentially its not always been the friendliest, and the prima donna GB team members are happy to shoot abroad, and have little interest in grass roots shooters, so those are not encouraged. So they play into the NRA's hands. The range should be taken out of the clubs hands, and we speak as members! BUT, its the best facility at Bisley, it should not be just for the GB300m club, or just 300mt shooters, it should be a Bisley amenity available to all NRA members and clubs, any time century is open, its the only all weather range, with all electronic targets, Its ideal for TR, yet we as GB300m members or NRA members cannot book it to practice!!! It would be the best training facility at Bisley, for all precision target shooters TR and 300 mt. We've heard all the excuses, and some lies, and the justifications, but the simple fact is below! Its a great but wasted facility, by the NRA's management of it they are killing a discipline, for us its personal, as its OUR, discipline. We planned to retire when we were not capable of shooting, not when the facility was unavailable. Quite how you raise this I don't know, the GB300M club attitude doesn't help, that the facts, how you raise it I'm not sure, but we are sad that we see our sport being crushed.

ANSWER to 1.3 and 1.4

The 300m shed on the left-hand side of Century is used by a small number of NRA members. 26 competitors entered the 2023 300m Championship in 2023 and 13 in 2024; this compares with an average of 21 competitors between 2015 and 2019. When in use, the 300m shed reduces the number of targets available on Century and closes our shotgun ranges on Cottesloe Heath. We endeavour to schedule 300-metre shooting alongside other Century and Stickledown bookings that close Cottesloe Heath.

Balancing the requirement for the ranges to serve all rifle shooting disciplines fairly, whilst enabling the commercial operations to generate funds for NRA capital expenditure, maintenance and repair, remains a considerable challenge. Range hire income for one day of the 300m range is equivalent to around 7% of the income sacrificed from Cottesloe Heath alone.

Converting the 300m range to a No Danger Area range³ ("NDA range") would avoid the need to close Cottesloe Heath but requires major modifications to the range. We would need to re-profile the ground between the firing point and the butts. The height of the stop butts would have to be increased. We would need to install canopies to capture shots that would otherwise go above the stop butt and may also need intermediary baffles between the firing points and the targets to catch mis-directed shots. All of this is possible, but the cost is significant. The Trustees would need to be satisfied that incurring this cost would be in the best interests of the charity, having regard to the other competing demands for expenditure on Camp. Assessing potential demand and forecasting revenues are important steps when considering major investments in new range facilities.

NSC has offered a number of alternatives in discussions with the 300m Discipline Representative on General Council including shooting facilities (a) at 300 yards on Century range; (b) 300m adjacent to Melville and next to the 1000x FP on Stickledown, placing Shotmarker targets at 300m in the RDA; and (c) 300m at the 900x FP on Stickledown, again placing targets 300m into the RDA on the range floor. None have been taken up by the 300m community.

1.5 Question from Peter Robey (18638) – Banned Calibres at Bisley

Could you please inform clubs what calibres are banned at Bisley. We get this question raised often from newcomers to our club and there is nowhere on the website to tell you. So could you please make the list known to our club Ashford and District Rifle Club Kent.

ANSWER

It is important that all NSC customers are aware of the Range Regulations that apply to their use of ranges at Bisley. The National Shooting Centre Range Regulations contain important rules that apply everywhere at Bisley. There are also Regulations specific to each range. All of the Regulations are available here: <https://www.nscbisley.co.uk/the-ranges/range-regulations/> These Regulations restrict the cartridges that may be used on Bisley Ranges.

The only calibre banned at Bisley is .338". No rifle chambered to use a .338" bullet may be used anywhere at Bisley - see Range Regulation 10 of the National Shooting Centre Range Regulations.

The Range Regulations for each range prohibit certain cartridges on that range. For example, rifles chambered for the .22 Hornet, .17HMR, .300 Blackout and .300 Whisper cartridges cannot be used on Winans Bay A.

In all other cases, the cartridge must comply with the limits on velocity and muzzle energy set for various ranges. These are set out in Regulation 7 and 6(b) of the Range Regulations.

³ A range in which all shots can reasonably be expected to be captured within the range, including ricochets from ground strikes

Regulation 6(a) restricts the use of certain types of bullets, including tracer ammunition.

In summary, before using any rifle at Bisley check that the velocity and muzzle energy fall within the limits in Regulation 7, that it does not use a .338" bullet and is not chambered for a cartridge prohibited under the regulations for the particular range on which you are shooting.

1.6 Question from Jon Ford (14558) – Road Signage

Why no signage where the exit from the RAFSAA loop joins Spencer Site road (Queen Victoria Way?). There is a new road from what was Site 5 (now Wharncliffe) with no priorities, signs or road markings; this is an accident waiting to happen.

ANSWER

This point was raised by Paul Charlton at the 2024 Bisley General Meeting (see page 9 of the Proceedings here: <https://nra.org.uk/all-downloads/bisley-general-meetings/> Clear road markings make a valuable contribution to safety and the road markings and signage will be refreshed in 2024.

1.7 Question from Chris Fopp (1609) – Caravan Sites – Trees & Hedges

Why please are the trees and hedges surrounding the caravan sites not maintained to the site requirements? Trees on site 8 now overhang so much they're dropping wood into vans in bad weather and recently one van lost its aerial and mount as they were ripped out of the side of the van by flailing branches

ANSWER

Para 12.1 of the Caravan Site Licence states that "Trees...shall be provided on the site and maintained as necessary to preserve visual amenity". In addition, the NRA recognises the importance of managing dead and dying trees and the risk of falling branches. As part of this, the NRA engages consultant Quaife Woodlands to carry out a survey of all trees on Camp. The last survey report was done in October 2023. This is a valuable tool to assist the professional staff identify trees requiring attention that need to be addressed over 3, 12, 24 or 36 months as part of our ongoing tree maintenance program. The tree survey is an internal management document and is not published, in line with the practice of other major charities.

We also welcome feedback from site occupants on particular trees that may become an issue. Please send that feedback to Shelly Fletcher at the NRA. It is very helpful if you can include photos of the area.

1.8 Question from Mary Nathan - (3473) – Speeding on Camp

It now seems commonplace for the posted speed limit on camp to be exceeded. Among the worst offenders are NRA vehicles. Sooner or later, someone is going to be hurt: deaf shooters ambling along, to say nothing of children, don't stand a chance. What can/will be done to enforce the speed limit? Speed bumps are of little help it would seem.

ANSWER

It is up to everyone on Camp to observe the speed limits. Speed bumps are installed on main roads and on the caravan sites in accordance with para 7.6 of the Caravan Site Licence. We have no plans to install speed cameras or other monitoring devices and so compliance depends on the goodwill of all road users. All members of staff are aware of the importance of observing the speed limits. If you see any NRA vehicle not observing the speed limits, please send the details to Andrew Mercer, including date, time, location and the description of the vehicle.

1.9 Question from Caravan Owners put to Phil Northam – Car Parking for Caravan Sites

Will hardened parking, solar lights on site 7, be extended to other Un serviced caravan sites? Site 8 is also near impossible to park on when wet. Parts of site 2 become impassable when waterlogged.

ANSWER

The new car parking and solar lighting have been well received by site 7 caravan owners and we will review extending these facilities for next year. No decision has been made on this as yet.

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 activities are set out below.

2.1 Question from Neil Fyfe (1520) – Renaming the Grand Aggregate

Via Charles Brooks – “You may recall I contacted you last year about renaming the Grand Aggregate. Now that HM The King has confirmed his Patronage of the NRA, I was wondering about the progress of discussions on the matter.”

The background to this follows:

8 August 2023: This message is in response to the notice circulated recently by Georgina inviting members to submit any questions they may wish to put to the General Council. Mine is not so much a question, more a suggestion. It is that GC and ultimately the Trustees consider changing the name of the TR Grand Aggregate with the object of creating a lasting memorial to Her Late Majesty the Queen, our former Patron. I suggest that the Grand be renamed The Queen Elizabeth II Grand Aggregate. I believe that not only would this be a fitting tribute, but it would also extend the precedent of naming competitions after Royal personages. We have the Alexandra, The Queen Mary (in SR), the Victoria and the Albert (in MR). Others include of the Duke of Gloucester - later renamed The Prince of Wales - and the Duke of Cambridge.”

16 September 2023: The question was raised on the membership questions part of the GC agenda and was referred to the Shooting Committee to consider further.

21 September 2023: The Shooting Committee considered the matter and agreed that we should first wait for the decision from the Palace on Royal Patronage of the NRA and that the matter would be revisited in 2024.

ANSWER

This should be reviewed by Shooting Committee in line with its earlier consideration of the matter and is a matter for General Council.

2.2 Question from Richard Winney (4425) – New 500 yard targetry

At the Bisley Meeting this year I asked what the competitions department/NRA were doing about distinguishing between the new 500y target and the older versions. This is particularly relevant for clubs who hold stocks of targets from year to year and there is a risk that they will mix up the stocks and people will use targets of different dimensions in the same competitions. I have personally seen this happen in Kenya when the targets were changed for the improved scores with 7.62 rather than .303". I was also a range officer at Bisley when the NRA provided one 500yard target for the Prince of Wales and the shooters on that target didn't notice until shouted at by their neighbours!

So we need a distinguishing mark on the 2025 500y target to distinguish it from both the 600y target and an old (or ICFRA) target. The Chairman at the general meeting evidently had no idea.

I think the NRA should also consider marking the new long range target in such a way that it can be clearly distinguished from the old NRA long range target; but ALSO from the ICFRA long range target, which unless you have an excellent 'scope you may not be able to readily distinguish them in poor light.

ANSWER

We will ensure the new 500 yard target can be visually distinguished by changing the white diamond to a different shape.

Ensuring the same long range target is presented to all competitors is the responsibility of the event operator; ranges will manage out their residual stocks of the old target.

2.3 Question from Maziar Homayounnejad (16861) – Gun Bans

A bit of context will help: when I did my NRA induction in 2016, we were told that the NRA was now dedicated to preventing needless or knee-jerk gun bans like the 1987 semi-auto ban and the 1997 handgun ban. This, we were told, would happen with the NRA taking a more unified and coherent approach to lobbying the Government when illogical prohibitions were being proposed.

I temporarily stopped shooting in 2018, then rejoined in 2023, only to find that the MARS and Lever Release guns (which I intended to buy) had now been banned in the Offensive Weapons Act 2019 - despite there being no criminal activity using these guns and no evidence base to justify a ban!

I am currently in the middle of a series of FOI requests with the Home Office, and am receiving some very weak responses and failures to address my questions, which suggest that the Home Office may have failed to undertake some important aspects of due diligence when preparing the legislative proposal for prohibition.

Therefore, my suggestion is to present the following to the General Council: Home Office firearm prohibitions leave a lot of doubts regarding their due diligence and their compatibility with certain public law obligations. A public authority that wishes to impose a property ban must comply with these legal obligations (e.g. under Article 1 of the First Protocol to the ECHR), or else the ban is not valid and can be challenged before it passes through Parliament.

I would like the NRA to be more actively involved in the consultation and legislative processes whenever firearm restrictions or prohibitions are being proposed, to ensure that property bans proposed by the Home Office do not needlessly disadvantage the shooting community - especially when such bans do not have a convincing evidence base or a clear link to criminal activity. For the NRA to be more proactive in this area, there are multiple guides on the legislative process that are available free on Gov.uk.

ANSWER

The NRA continues to play a very active role protecting and promoting target shooting. Much of this work is coordinated through the British Shooting Sports Council ("BSSC") whose members includes the BASC, Countryside Alliance, CPSA and NSRA. Current areas of issues being addressed by the NRA and BSSC include UK Reach proposals to prohibit the outdoor use of lead ammunition, development of training for Firearms Enquiry Officers, and the review of firearms licensing fees.

The NRA led the challenge to the proposals to prohibit the ban of MARS, lever release and .50" calibre firearms by producing evidence based responses to Home Office consultations and coordinating representations from NRA members and clubs, and other shooting organisations to government. We were able to garner sufficient support in Westminster to our assertion that .50" calibre posed no special threat to public safety; unfortunately this did not extend to MARS and lever release firearms.

2.4 Question from Richard Stebbings (10566) – Meeting Membership

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

Competition	Dates	No. days	Cost	Cost/day
CSR Imperial	3-7 July	5 days	£14.50	£2.90
F-Class Imperial	10-14 July	4 days	£70	£17.50
MR Imperial	12-18 July	6 days	£70	£11.67
McQueen	13-21 July	9 days	£14.50	£1.61
Historic Arms	13-14 July	2 days	£14.50	£7.25
Sporting Rifle	13-23 July	10 days	£14.50	£1.45
Gallery Rifle & Pistol	18-21 July	4 days	£14.50	£3.63
300m Champs	22-23 July	2 days	£14.50	£7.25
TR Team	18 & 19, 24-27 July	6 days	£14.50	£2.42
TR Individual	19-27 July	9 days	£70	£7.78
TR Individual (Grand agg)	20-24 July	5 days	£70	£14.00
TR Individual (Kings I, II & III)	24, 26 & 27 July	3 days	£14.50	£4.83

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

b. The following advertised discounts on meeting membership are also available:

Competition	Discount	Cost
TR Individual	HM Forces Discount	£56.60
TR Individual -	U25 Discount	£30
F-Class Imperial	U25 Discount	£30
MR Imperial	U25 Discount	£30
TR Individual – 1st meeting	U25 Discount	FREE
F-Class Imperial – 1st meeting	U25 Discount	FREE
MR Imperial – 1st meeting	U25 Discount	FREE

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

ANSWER

Meeting membership ensures non-NRA member competitors are properly insured, are subject to the Rules, can share rifles with fellow competitors, and be issued with ammunition.

The costs charged for Meeting membership were based on historic rates for two categories (a) TR, MR and F class and (b) others; the inconsistencies highlighted, including discounts offered, will be reviewed when setting the rates for 2025.

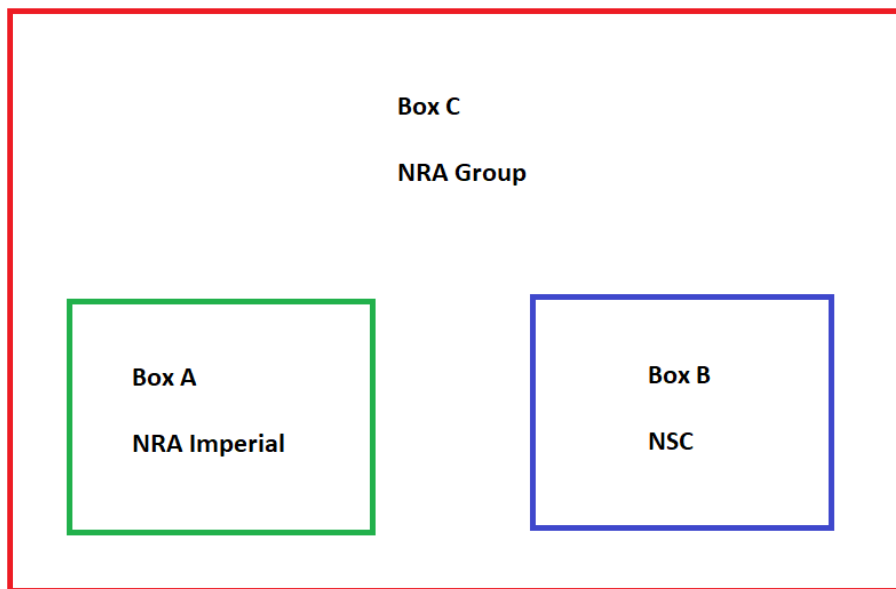
2.5 Question from Richard Stebbings (10566) – NRA Imperial Profit/Loss

At General Council meetings we are provided with reports on whether the Imperial Meeting has run at a profit or a loss.

We are also informed that the NRA purchases some services from the NSC, its wholly owned subsidiary, such as:

- GGG ammunition – purchased at cost
- Butt markers – purchased at the standard retail rate
- Targets – purchased at the standard retail rate

The NSC makes a profit on some of these services, though as this is an NSC matter not an NRA matter, the amount of profit made on these services is not disclosed to GC.



When the NRA reports the 'profit/loss' from the Imperial meeting, is it reporting the profit/loss on the NRA only event (Box A) i.e. excluding any profit that the NSC makes on services such as target hire, or is it reporting the profit/loss on the NRA group as a whole (Box C) i.e. including any profit that the NSC makes on target hire?

ANSWER

Delivering the extensive annual programme of NRA competitions consistently generates more cost than income. In 2023 competition income totalled £996k, direct costs £1,123k, and overheads (mainly staff costs) £253k, producing a deficit of £378k. This deficit is funded by the NRA as promoting marksmanship is a key objective for the charity.

Competition income comes mainly from entry fees; we do have generous sponsors but their support is often in the form of goods in kind.

The main direct costs are for range hire, markers, issued ammunition, range officers, medals and awards, and youth subsidies.

Across all NRA competitions range hire is usually the largest direct cost and is charged at the published rates for members and affiliated clubs. In crude terms the "profit" yielded from range hire income offsets a proportion of the overhead costs (primarily staff) of running the competition department. However, as mentioned above, delivering the full programme of competitions requires significant funding by the NRA as a key part of our charitable activities.

The Imperial includes an extensive programme of competitions lasting nearly 6 weeks from mid-June to the 27th July. In 2024, as in recent years, the Meeting yielded a net deficit for the NRA of around £30k when deducting direct costs from income (before accounting for overheads). Both the NRA and NSC made surpluses over June and July.

It is worth noting that ammunition (issued primarily for Target Rifle competitions) and markers are charged at cost. Furthermore the significant cost of funding Youth Subsidies (40% discount for entry fees for Under 25s) resulted in 330 young competitors entering the meeting.

It is important to highlight the risks of analysing the financial performance of NRA competitions in isolation. Competitions generate range hire, ammunition and accommodation sales for practice and preparation; membership and rental income from competitors; income and support for Bisley clubhouses and so on. The value of NRA competitions should be measured more widely than their financial performance.

- 2.6 Question from an U25 member put to Phil Northam – U25 discounts**
Why is there no U25 discount for this event? EU Long-range. All other events include a 40% reduction. There is a specific Jnr team event but no commensurate discount.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

14th European Long Range Championship Event Notes

Saturday 12th – Sunday 13th October 2024

This event is governed by the rules laid out in the NRA Handbook (Bisley Bible) which is available online via: nra.org.uk/all-downloads/nra-handbooks. Please ensure you are familiar with the rules of the competition

- **Programme & Entry Fees:**
 - **Senior Championship:** Teams will consist of a captain, adjutant, main coach, three sub-coaches, 12 firers and 3 reserves (£1350)
 - **Junior Championship:** Teams will consist of a captain, adjutant, main coach, two sub-coaches, 8 firers and 2 reserves. Senior teams may also enter the Junior Championship (for free) by nominating 8 firers before the start of shooting. A senior team cannot also win the Junior Championship (£900)
 - **Individual Championships:** Open to all team members
- **Match Conditions:**
 - **Saturday 12th October** – Team Practice session

ANSWER

There is no discount available for the Individual Championship, as this is free to enter and part of the Team Fee. If a Junior team were to be entered, and all members are U25, we would be able to offer a 40% discount bringing the entry cost to £540 as ammunition is to be provided by the teams.

2.7 Question from University Team shooters put to Phil Northam – Meeting Membership

Why has a meeting membership of £14.50 been introduced for the Universities matches? They were previously managed alongside guest day events as simply register - many Uni team shooters are not NRA members (members of affiliated clubs etc), the £58 for a team of 4 negates the 40% U25 discount. If it's an admin charge, then the Unis could be asked to preregister their team members & do that work for NRA (send an NRA form to them as part of the entry for them to complete) so reduce any NRA admin burden.

ANSWER

A number of factors has meant we have introduced the 'simple entry form' in recent year:

- *Stats requiring a profile from which the results can then link to*
- *Realisation that some people shooting as part of teams were not entering the main meeting, and therefore had not been checked for membership, or SCCs*
- *All shooters, as per the Entry Terms, are required to be NRA Members (or pay the Meeting Member fee), and possess an SCC (if not pre-approval is required from the competitions team to authorise a temporary SCC)*
- *We encourage all entrants to place their entry in advance of arriving at Bisley, and specifically for Team matches we will need to know the team composition prior to anyone shooting, so early administration is most helpful.*

2.8 Question from University Team put to Phil Northam – Musketeers

We were advised by Competitions that if one of our 4 team members was over 25 then the 40% U25 team discount would be lost for the entire team. We feel that is oblique & unfair. Our over 25 shooter dropped out instead of saddling the team with additional charges & so we weren't able to put our best team forward & perform as well as anticipated & that has implications for SU club funding next academic year. There are a few over 25 students as post grad, diploma students transitioning to degree, gap year, long degrees like medical, or mature students. All are in the same situation with a lack of grants or finances or income. There are probably less than 2-3 people who would benefit from this, vs 8-10 teams of 4 participating. Is it worth the bad press & implications? Not in our view.

The cost of the musketeers with 1 member over 25 & 'meeting membership' is ~£377 less ammo at £1.30/pop leaves ~£205, a normal half day target marked is £141 so after deducting that, the remainder or extra over published costs is £65 per team - that's not only no discount, but seems an excessive additional charge?

ANSWER

The Musketeers itself is only open to University teams, so the entry fee of £260 has already had a 40% discount applied to it. With regards to team U25 discounts all members of the team have to be U25 or in full time education, and the Musketeers is only open to people eligible for the discount. The entry fee of £260 includes £172 worth of ammunition, leaving £88 to cover range, marker, RO and award costs.