

THE GENERAL COUNCIL  
Minutes of the General Council Meeting  
held by Video Conference Call  
on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2022 from 2.00pm

**Present:**

**Vice Chairman**

Mr CM Brooks (CB)

**Members:**

Mr HRM Bailie  
Cdr NJW Benstead (NBe)  
Mr JPS Bloomfield (JPSB)  
Mr N Brasier (NB)  
Mr G Burns (GB)  
Dr AMW Cargill Thompson (ACT)  
Wg Cdr DP Calvert (DCal)  
Mr DC Crispin (DCr)  
Mr A Dagger (AD)  
Mr CES Dickenson (CD)  
Mrs A Gran (AG)  
Mr J Harris (JH)  
Wg Cdr CJ Hockley (CH)  
Mr RS Kenchington (RK)  
Mr GAE Larcombe (GL)  
Miss SS Lohmann (SL)  
Mr J Longhurst (JL)  
Mr D Lowe (DL)  
Dr J Marsden (JM)  
Mr FPR Northam (PN)  
Mr A Reynolds (AR) - Treasurer  
Mr B Ritchie (BR)  
Mr R Roberts (RR)  
Mrs K Robertson (KR)  
Mr T Rylands (TR)  
Mr R Sayer (RS)  
Mr R Stebbings (RSt)  
Mr D Stimpson (DS)  
Mr IR Thomson (IT)  
Mr S Wallis (SW)  
Mr MP Watkins (MW)  
Dr AP Wolpe (AW)

**In attendance:**

Mr A Mercer (AM) - Chief Executive

**Apologies for absence:** Mr GK Alexander, Mr PR Coley, Mr M Cottillard, Mr J Harper-Smith, Lt. Col. RG Jeffrey, Mr D Lacey (Chairman), Mr J Lawrie, Mr N Macfarlane, Mr M Maksimovic, Mr MF Martel, Dr J Martin, Brig. M Pountain, Mr AJD Saunders, Mr I Shirra-Gibb, Mr C Steele-Benny, Mr N St Aubyn, G Trembath, Dr JD Warburton, Mrs G Thatcher (Secretary to Meeting)

## **INDEX G683 to G696**

The Vice Chairman declared the meeting open and welcomed all members attending. He reminded attendees to keep microphones on mute when not speaking, and to raise hands or use the icons to raise any points throughout the meeting.

### **1. G683 – APOLOGIES**

1.1. Apologies were received as noted above.

### **2. G684 – STANDING REMINDERS**

- 2.1. The Vice Chairman reminded the meeting that, following Charity Commission guidelines, the meeting should be cognisant of the distinction between the role of the NRA as the charity, and the NSC as the commercial subsidiary of the Association.
- 2.2. This meeting is held to discuss the role of the NRA as a charity, reminding attendees of the role of the Trustees in terms of the executive authority and decision making on behalf of the charity, and recognising the very valuable work General Council does as an advisory body to the Trustees.
- 2.3. The Vice 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.
- 2.4. The Vice Chairman requested that members declare any conflicts of interest that may arise during the meeting.

### **3. G685 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

3.1. There were no matters arising.

### **4. G686 – REVIEW OF ACTIONS**

- 4.1. The Secretary General confirmed that steady but slow progress is being made on the draft range operator's guide and a final draft will be put forward for approval at the General Council meeting in June 2022. **Item ONGOING.**
- 4.2. BR reported that the Regional Ranges Working Group met via ZOOM on 15<sup>th</sup> February and held a wide ranging discussion and Nic Couldrey, Regional Ranges Manager was also in attendance. BR will circulate the minutes of the meeting to General Council once approved by the Group. The Working Group would like to broaden the remit of the Group to include membership and affiliation in the regions. BR would also like to seek permission of General Council to circulate the Working Group's meeting notes to the Regional Reps before providing a formal presentation to General Council. The meeting agreed to circulating the meeting notes to Regional Reps before presenting to General Council. **Item ONGOING.**
- 4.3. The Second Schedule update will be discussed later in the meeting. **Item CLOSED.**

No further questions were raised.

### **5. G687 – BUSINESS PLANNING & OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

- 5.1. The Secretary General's report was circulated prior to the meeting.
- 5.2. The Secretary General gave an update to the report to the meeting:
  - 5.2.1. The membership renewals are continuing well with around 94% of affiliated members have renewed their membership. Around 87% of affiliated clubs have also renewed to date.
- 5.3. The NSC Chief Executive's report was circulated prior to the meeting.
- 5.4. The Chief Executive gave an update to the report to the meeting:
  - 5.4.1. Demand for the ranges continues to be strong into 2022 with a particularly busy January.
  - 5.4.2. Both NCSC and BSG have been getting increasingly busier over the past two months.

- 5.5. RR asked whether the shortage of ammunition is affecting the demand for bookings on the ranges, or whether numbers are being restricted.
- 5.6. The Chief Executive reported that there has been no obvious effect of bookings due to ammunition levels, and is not reflected in the targets that have been booked to date. The effect may not be seen until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2022. The NSC is procuring ammunition from a variety of sources, including Hornady ammunition, which should keep the armoury stocked through the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2022. The significant price rises of ammunition may affect the future demand for targets.
- 5.7. CD remarked that a public statement on the position of ammunition was promised by the Secretary General and asked whether this was available or whether there is a delay awaiting confirmation of orders.
- 5.8. The Secretary General confirmed that there is one outstanding transaction to conclude in the next week, and will look to have the statement published by the end of the following week (4<sup>th</sup> March).
- 5.9. CB asked for an update on the incidents involving hand loaded ammunition and whether it was all under control.
- 5.10. The Secretary General responded that the challenge, particularly on the MoD estate, is that having three safety incident that results in injury in a 9 month period is exceptional and has caused real disquiet amongst the MoD personnel. The NRA will be launching a survey as one of the first steps of a review, to see if a structure can be implemented around hand loaded ammunition to reassure the MoD that it is still fit, proper and safe to be used on their ranges. It will also help address growing concerns the NRA's professional staff have regarding safety incidents at Bisley.
- 5.11. AD asked whether there has been any change in the MoD's stance on Covid restrictions and the use of MoD ranges by civilian clubs.
- 5.12. The Secretary General responded that there is no indication at present that the restrictions will be eased on MoD ranges and the 30 person limit remains in place. The restrictions are being implemented across all the MoD's range users including their own personnel.<sup>1</sup> Nic Couldrey, Regional Ranges Manager, is in constant dialogue with the MoD regarding the restrictions.
- 5.13. JL asked whether the reports into the incidents involving hand loaded ammunition will be made available to General Council members to understand what went wrong with a view to understand how hand loaders are going wrong, and whether it is a common mistake to help mould the training required to mitigate future errors.
- 5.14. The Secretary General responded that it is a good idea, but there are sensitivities. There is no particular trend at the moment with the most recent incidents, and the technical analysis is difficult to do. The NRA will look to have a protocol/procedure for recording how home loaded ammunition is assessed and managed safely and will share this with NRA and club members.
- 5.15. PN asked whether there is a standard risk assessment for the failure modes for hand loaded ammunition and can that help guide training to put in place, similar to the Safe System of Shooting model implemented by the NRA which could be expanded to include safe hand loading practice.
- 5.16. The Secretary General stated that having hand loaded ammunition included on the NRA's Shooter Certification Card (SCC) is being considered for implementation.
- 5.17. RK remarked that there is an appendix in the Bisley Handbook which describes the various ways in which ammunition can become over-pressured and dangerous, so it is already mentioned in the rules. RK asked whether the 30 person limit imposed on MoD ranges going to apply to the Birmingham Bisley event held on Kingsbury range, and does it relate to the number of people on the firing point, or in the butts as well.
- 5.18. The Secretary General responded that the current restrictions will apply to the Birmingham Bisley event, and the 30 person limit rule has been interpreted as 30 people actively engaged in shooting. There have been a number of MoD regional commands allowing waves of 30 firers to go onto the firing point, but it is down to local interpretation of the rules. The 2021 Birmingham Bisley event ran successfully.

No further questions were raised.

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<sup>1</sup> Post Meeting note: The MoD has since removed Covid restrictions applicable to NRA affiliated clubs shooting on ranges in England and Wales. Restrictions still apply to Scotland and Northern Ireland.

## 6. G688 – FINANCE

- 6.1. The Treasurer's report to end of December 2021 was circulated prior to the meeting.
- 6.2. The Treasurer highlighted the following:
  - 6.2.1. The performance to end of December show a significant operating profit of £754k, versus an equivalent loss of £447k in 2020, and a consolidated net profit of £759k, which has exceeded expectations especially with only a 9 month operating year due to the pandemic shutdown.
  - 6.2.2. CAPEX for 2021 totalled £212k, following an increase in the budgeted amount of £120k approved by the Trustees in November.
  - 6.2.3. The KPIs showed a slight increase in the approved maintenance CAPEX figure, and this will be monitored more closely to ensure future spend does not exceed the agreed budget figure.
  - 6.2.4. The Acid Test Ratio is currently over the level of 1 times cover agreed by the Trustees, driven by the seasonal income of membership renewals. The balance sheet resilience has not yet recovered to pre-Covid levels and the current level will drop over the coming year.
  - 6.2.5. The Association has recorded significantly higher levels of income above the forecast and budget figures due to the unexpected levels of return to the ranges due to Covid.
  - 6.2.6. The Association's 2022 budgeted profitability will not be as strong as 2021's due to the benefit of residual months of furlough, and the cancellation of maintenance expenditure, which helped the Association rebuild its balance sheet.
  - 6.2.7. The Business Unit Performance slide provides more information on the financial impact of the different areas of the business. BSG has performed better than expectations, and shows a forecast payback period of 4 years, and the Trustees have passed on their thanks to all involved.
  - 6.2.8. No overdraft facility has been used by NRA or NSC at year end.
  - 6.2.9. The investment advisers have demonstrably performed as expected over the last 24 months and shows a better return has been achieved through these investments rather than being managed through the FTSE.
  - 6.2.10. AD asked whether there is a formal position of how the OTF is being managed and has everyone been informed of that.
  - 6.2.11. The Treasurer responded that the Team Finance Committee have been informed of how the fund can be utilised. The Secretary General informed the meeting that there is a statement on the NRA website informing people how OTF grants can be dispersed.
  - 6.2.12. CB asked whether there is any difference that the NSC is no longer going to be paying for the main expenses of CAPEX and so suffering the depreciation charge, given that CAPEX will become the responsibility of the NRA, and why is the change being made.
  - 6.2.13. The Treasurer responded that the inter-company balance has been exacerbated by CAPEX occurring in the NSC. There is a licence fee structure which should be the mechanism for the NSC to contribute for the capital assets it uses for which the NRA has acquired on its behalf, and that is the preferable route to follow. There is a deed arrangement for the NSC as a charitable trading subsidiary where all profits chargeable to corporation tax are deeded to the NRA, but that needs to be funded and to avoid corporation tax, we are not going build up sizeable amounts of cash in the trading subsidiary because it is being given to the charity. If you then saddle the trading subsidiary with the obligation to pay for capital assets on top of that, it will not have the ability to fund capital assets and operating liabilities. Therefore the best approach within the NRA Group is for the NRA to be the acquirer of capital assets.
  - 6.2.14. The Treasurer was thanked for his stewardship of the Group's finances.

No further questions were raised.

## **7. G689 – COUNCIL**

- 7.1. The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that the NRA's Strategic Review has been circulated before the meeting and the Trustees have requested feedback from General Council, with comments to go to Andrew Mercer or Robert Bruce. Once feedback has been received from General Council, the review will be circulated to the wider membership for input.
- 7.2. CB remarked that point 10 of the review discusses the Service Charge Review and that work is ongoing and the Secretary General will provide a separate report, and asked if that would be circulated at a later date.
- 7.3. The Secretary General stated that matters are in hand regarding service charges and the NRA has engaged the specialist services of surveyors, Vail Williams, to review the service charges. Progress has been slower than expected, and the NRA will be changing how service charges are apportioned. They are currently charged on a rateable value basis, which doesn't work well on the buildings at Bisley, which has been confirmed by Vail Williams. Vail Williams have proposed that the alternative method of charging by gross external area is more sensible, and the NRA has undertaken a survey of the building stock at Bisley to assess this figure. A proposal will be drafted for review and consideration by the Trustees at their April meeting before being communicated to tenants.
- 7.4. ACT believes the Strategic Review document is an excellent initiative and thanked the Trustees for sharing it with General Council for their input. ACT noted that he felt the strategic goals were generally a bit too high level and generic and it would be more helpful to have more detail attached to each point without being over descriptive.
- 7.5. RK recorded his thanks that the Council has asked the MoD to support the view that competitive marksmanship does support the charitable objective of Defence of the Realm with a view to the Charity Commission accepting that target shooting is a charitable activity.
- 7.6. RK asked whether the Regional Working Group will be involved in the strategic review item of creating more regional ranges/hubs across the UK.
- 7.7. RK also remarked that he is pleased to see the NRA is looking to improve its relationship with other national governing bodies.
- 7.8. RR wanted it noted that Andrew Mercer and the professional staff have done a fantastic job in a very short period of time to achieve the results for the Association during a tough period.
- 7.9. The Vice Chairman thanked Council for their report.

No further questions were raised.

## **8. G690 – SHOOTING COMMITTEE**

- 8.1. The Shooting Committee report was circulated prior to the meeting:
- 8.2. The Chairman of Shooting Committee asked the members of General Council to approve the draft procedure for the Appointment of NRA and GB Team Captains for submission to Council for final approval.
  - 8.2.1. CD stated that the draft procedure had been circulated to GC members for comment and suggested changes in December 2021, having been approved by Shooting Committee, and no responses have been received.
  - 8.2.2. KR asked that it be noted that she had expressed her views on the paper which still stand.
  - 8.2.3. The Vice Chairman asked the General Council members to comment on whether they accept the draft procedure or whether they wish it to be reviewed further.
  - 8.2.4. RR remarked that he believes the proposal adds another level of bureaucracy and the current method has worked successfully for 20 years and it will remove the option for GC members to vote for team captains.
  - 8.2.5. The Secretary General stated that the TR Sub-Committee was not properly formed and therefore the review of the procedure to elect team captains was required. However, a TR sub-committee can be formed from the TR members of Shooting Committee and also any list of TR captains for the proposed procedure would require maintenance and updating by the professional staff.

- 8.2.6. JPSB remarked that the previous system with the elimination of the steps involving the TR Sub Committee worked perfectly well. Elected General Council members represent the NRA membership and therefore should continue to be allowed to vote for team captains.
- 8.2.7. CD responded that less than half of TR members of the GC have been in a GB team with less than a quarter having been a team captain and the proposal being put forward for consideration has been discussed by all TR members of the Shooting Committee and the majority selected the draft proposal being discussed today.
- 8.2.8. RR asked again why the process needs to be changed as it has worked successfully for 30 years, with very successful GB teams.
- 8.2.9. CD responded that those responsible for selection GB teams cannot be complacent and other countries are catching up, therefore to have a selection panel of successful GB captains would be more beneficial than a sub-committee who may have never been involved in GB teams.
- 8.2.10. RK asked whether a TR sub-committee could be reconstituted. CD responded that it can be but there is no guarantee that it would have the necessary knowledge or experience to perform its one and only official role of selecting GB team captains. All the other disciplines have different approaches such as electoral college for Match Rifle, which are very successful, and that is what is being suggested with the draft proposal.
- 8.2.11. KR remarked that over the last 20 years there has been very few times when she hasn't known the candidates being put forward for team captain vacancies and to say that the GC members who have not been involved in teams would be less suitable to select team captains is quite upsetting.
- 8.2.12. RS asked whether the proposal creates a self perpetuating clique where people in the future select people from their own number rather than offering opportunities to new shooters.
- 8.3. The Vice Chairman asked the GC members to vote for the draft proposal for recommendation to Council.
  - 8.3.1. The meeting voted 16/11 **against** the proposal. There were 0 abstentions. CD and AM will inform Council of the result.

No further questions were raised.

## 9. **G691 – MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

- 9.1. The Chairman of Membership Committee apologised for not producing a report prior to the meeting and gave a verbal update:
  - 9.1.1. The Membership Committee have conducted a survey of affiliated clubs to ask who would be interested in taking on new younger members. 217 clubs responded (out of 700) of whom 50% indicated they would be happy to welcome new young members. NB has prepared an overview of the results and that can be shared with GC members for review.
  - 9.1.2. The Membership Committee continue the project work on supporting universities' shooting clubs.
  - 9.1.3. Discussions are underway on a strategy for supporting youth shooting.
  - 9.1.4. The Committee will help support the Strategic Review by working on the 'increase membership' goal including increasing membership and participation of 'Relevant People'.

No further questions were raised.

## 10. **G692 – ESTATE WORKING GROUP**

- 10.1. The Secretary General informed the meeting that the Estate Working Group had met in 2021, but the minutes have not yet been received. These will be requested again and circulated to General Council members once received.
- 10.2. The Secretary General confirmed that there are no outstanding items of business for the Estate Working Group.
- 10.3. No questions were raised.

## 11. **G693 – SECOND SCHEDULE AMENDMENTS**

- 11.1. The Vice Chairman confirmed that a Working Group had been set up with himself, Alice Gran and John Bloomfield to review the Second Schedule. They have held a few sessions to review the suggestions put forward for consideration and a draft paper with recommendations has been circulated for discussion and consideration at this meeting.
- 11.2. The Vice Chairman expressed the Working Group's thanks to members of General Council and Council for their inputs, and handed over to AG to take the meeting through the suggested amendments.
- 11.3. AG informed the meeting that:
  - 11.3.1. there is a conflict of interest having a member of the Disciplinary Body on the Board of Trustees and the Working Group felt that separating the judicial review process from the running of the Association is most appropriate. The recommendation is that the vacant position on the Board of Trustees be filled by an elected member of General Council.
  - 11.3.2. A proposal was also discussed and approved to put forward to give General Council the right to remove any Trustee from the Board for any reason with a vote of 75% of all members of General Council.
  - 11.3.3. The remaining proposals deal with all the items felt to be inappropriate for the Second Schedule such as the connection between the committees and the Trustees through the Principal Committee chairmen being ex officio Trustees. It was felt important that the Principal Committees, as well as GC, are fully represented on Council, and also that the committees are aware of the what the Trustees are doing through direct feedback.
  - 11.3.4. Some procedural issues can be addressed by writing bylaws for committees or GC.
  - 11.3.5. The Working Group seeks approval to the recommendations put forward so they can be taken to Council for consideration and approval for submission at the AGM for members' approval.
- 11.4. IT remarked that General Council should approve the Chairmen of the Membership Committee and the Shooting Committee. AG remarked that this would be an additional amendment to the Second Schedule.
- 11.5. JPSB clarified that only elected General Council members can become Chairmen of the Shooting Committee or Membership Committee and have therefore been elected by the GC members and the position of Trustee is part of that Chairman role.
- 11.6. RR and CD expressed their concern at the figure of 75% of all members of General Council being required, rather than 75% of those who voted, as not all members attend meetings or engage with General Council, notably some of the ex officio members. It was felt that those members should be spoken to about their engagement with GC. The Vice Chairman will take that discussion offline with the NRA Chairman.
- 11.7. ACT asked whether the Shooting Committee should be smaller as it is currently made up of the discipline representatives plus not less than an additional six members of GC and wondered whether the additional members date back to when there were fewer disciplines recognised.
- 11.8. CB remarked that it has been difficult to have any recommended changes to the Second Schedule approved by the membership, therefore GC members should only put forward proposals they feel will gain traction with the membership. CB remarked that the Working Group is proposing only two important changes to the Second Schedule which are points 1 and 2 in the circulated paper.
- 11.9. ACT noted the points made and accepts the difficulty in proposing amendments to the Second Schedule.
- 11.10. The meeting would like the figure of 75% to be clarified as to whether it should be 75% of all GC members, or 75% of those who did partake in the vote. The Secretary General noted that all GC members are now invited to vote electronically so no one is disenfranchised from any vote.
- 11.11. AG suggested some bylaws be drafted for General Council so any questions or challenges raised by GC members can be addressed in a timely fashion. The meeting agreed. AG, JPSB and CB will produce some draft bylaws for consideration by the GC at its September 2022 meeting. CD noted that both Council and the Shooting Committee had bylaws which could help in the drafting of GC bylaws.

- 11.12. BR and ACT both noted that there would need to be a process in place to allow full engagement by the GC members so that any important decision can be made successfully.
- 11.13. The meeting was asked to vote on three aspects of the recommendations put forward by the Working Group:
- 1a) The WG recommends that the Second Schedule be amended to eliminate the ex-officio Trustee position for the Chairman of the Disciplinary Body. **APPROVED** 27 agree, 1 disagree, no abstentions
- 1b) The WG recommends that the position be replaced with another elected member from General Council. **APPROVED** 25 agree, 2 disagree, 1 abstention
- 2a) The WG recommends that the Second Schedule be amended to provide that General Council may remove a Trustee (including an ex-officio Trustee) for any reason by a vote of three-quarters of all members of General Council. **FAILED**<sup>2</sup> 14 agree, 12 disagree, 3 abstentions
- 2b) The WG recommends that the Second Schedule be amended to provide that General Council may remove a Trustee (including an ex-officio Trustee) for any reason by a vote of three-quarters of the members of General Council who elect to vote. **APPROVED** 22 agree, 6 disagree, no abstentions.
- 11.14. The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that the recommendations will be reported to Council for discussion at the April Council meeting. Council may wish to circulate the wording of the proposals for consultation with General Council in advance of its June meeting before being put forward to the Annual General Meeting.
- 11.15. The Vice Chairman stated that any changes to the Second Schedule need to be approved in advance of implementation by the Privy Council<sup>3</sup> and a resolution is therefore likely to be put forward to the AGM that “*subject to approval of the Privy Council*”, the membership is asked to pass the following resolutions by way of changes to the Second Schedule.
- 11.16. The Vice Chairman added that Council would like GC to approve the text of the resolutions (and therefore the new provisions of the Second Schedule) before it goes to the AGM, so an item will be added to the agenda of the GC meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The AGM will be held at 6pm that evening when the resolutions will be put forward, if approved by GC.
- 11.17. ACT asked if Council could consider the resolutions outside of their scheduled April meeting to progress it more expediently to General Council. The Vice Chairman will take that to the NRA Chairman for consideration.

## 12. **G694 – ELECTION TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

Under Rule 7 (g) (iii) the following Elected Members of the General Council who retire in 2022 have declared that they wish to stand for re-election where indicated:

### **Five Ordinary Members**

D Lowe  
M Maksimovic \*  
RM Roberts  
Mrs KD Robertson  
IR Thomson

### **Three Regional Members**

J Lawrie - Eastern  
G Trembath – Northern  
Dr JD Warburton – Yorkshire & Humberside

### **Three Shooting Discipline Members**

CES Dickenson – Target Rifle  
J Longhurst – F Class  
Dr AP Wolpe – Muzzle Loading

(\* not standing)

<sup>2</sup> A vote for point 2b above was held following the result of vote 2a given there were more ‘againsts’ and abstentions than ‘for’ votes. Vote 2b was carried.

<sup>3</sup> Post Meeting note: The Secretary General later confirmed that Privy Council approval is not needed in advance.



### **13. G695 – ELECTION TO COMMITTEES**

As per the Second Schedule, Rule 8c(i), the results of the recent election to the two principal committees were announced:

James Harris was elected as a Non-Lawyer Member of the Disciplinary Body  
Gary Alexander was duly elected as Chairman of the Young Shooters Fund  
Phil Northam was duly elected to the Membership Committee

The Vice Chairman extended his congratulations to the successful nominees.

### **14. G696 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **14.1. 2022 Imperial Meeting**

14.1.1. The Vice Chairman informed the meeting that the NRA Chairman has raised the point that 2022 will represent the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first visit to Bisley by a Canadian Team and would like the members of GC to consider ways in which the occasion can be celebrated. The Vice-Chairman spoke of a possible Canadian tree planting ceremony.

14.1.2. KR asked that because it is Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year, is there any plans to hold any event or rename the Imperial Meeting this year to commemorate the Jubilee. The meeting endorsed the use of the Jubilee wording on the front and other relevant pages of the NRA Handbook (Bisley Bible) following the precedents of 1977, 2002 and 2012.

14.1.3. DS asked if it would be appropriate for the NRA to send a letter of congratulations to Her Majesty.

14.1.4. The Secretary General will address both of those suggestions with the Trustees.

14.1.5. MW remarked that the Canadians will be bringing a senior team to Bisley in 2022 and thought it would be appropriate to do something during their visit, and also if the usual events involving the British and Canadian cadets can be replaced as the Canadian cadets are unable to visit.

#### **14.2. Caravan Site Development Plans**

14.2.1. PN raised the issue of the caravan site development which has been announced. PN remarked that a number of members who have caravans on the affected sites are openly talking about leaving the sport. PN does not feel that the membership have been adequately consulted on what sort of accommodation is suitable for the sport and what is needed by way of residences at relevant price points, and PN believes the membership should be consulted for such options on accommodation, rather than testing just the top echelons of the market.

14.2.2. The meeting agreed that following SL's comments, consultation would be taken up through the Estates Working Group. The Secretary General will take the comments back to Council for consideration.

#### **14.3. Electricity Supply on Bisley Camp**

14.3.1. PN asked the NRA to consider bringing in generators to support the camp especially the hooter safety system to allow the ranges to remain operational, following the extraordinary outage of electricity on Bisley Camp due to Storm Eunice. The meeting asked that the Estate Working Group be asked to review the possibility of generators on camp and draft a proposal for consideration.

14.3.2. PN asked that the work of the NRA Estates Team be recognised following the effort and hard work they have achieved in getting the camp safe and open following the storm. The meeting expressed their thanks and appreciation to the Estates Team.

#### **14.4. Range Access and Club/Association issues**

14.4.1. DCr commented on the poor deal the 300M Shed shooters have had with only 7 half days access being approved in 2022 which is affecting their membership, including attracting new members. Also a large number of target rifle open meetings events are struggling to organise and book ranges.

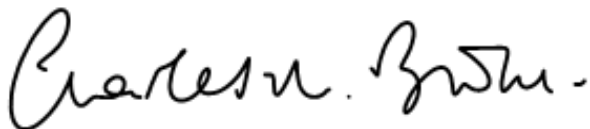
- 14.4.2. The Secretary General responded that the 300M shed is problematic because they occupy a significant part of the real estate of Century Range for a small number of people, and it restricts range access to a significant degree, not commensurate with the number of people on the range, so difficult decisions have had to be made. There is a significant uplift in the 9 months of 2021 in terms of range demand which has continued into 2022 and the staff are doing their best to accommodate all the bookings onto the ranges.
- 14.4.3. MW agreed that Target Rifle is struggling to find range availability and the Regional Ranges Working Group discussed how so many regions have been lost, resulting in people travelling to Bisley, as well as difficulty getting onto MoD ranges and if this situation continues, Bisley is going to be overrun and there will be no access to ranges in the regions.
- 14.4.4. The Secretary General agreed with MW's statement and the NRA needs to build more capacity away from Bisley. The Regional Ranges Working Group is doing some important work and the challenge for the staff will be to work up plans for shooting away from Bisley.
- 14.4.5. RK remarked that significant finance will be required to support any plans for regional ranges.
- 14.4.6. The Secretary General responded it would depend on the model implemented.
- 14.4.7. PN remarked that the 6 week cut-off for range bookings of 6 or more targets is putting substantial risk onto small organisations and clubs trying to organise shoots of such size. Is there a better compromise than paying for all targets not used within a 6 week window.
- 14.4.8. The Secretary General responded that there is a significant issue of clubs booking more targets than they need in the hope they will fill them, and then cancel at the last minute. The people who have been disappointed because they haven't been able to book targets and who then come on the range and see large spaces can become quite exercised. The NRA have had the challenge in the past of back filling targets that have been cancelled at the last minute. The current position will be monitored closely and reviewed accordingly.
- 14.4.9. KR agreed with PN's comment and suggested a waiting list for clubs who wish to book targets and then the Range Office can contact those clubs when targets become available.
- 14.4.10. The Secretary General informed the meeting the Association is about to commission an online electronic booking system which will allow people to book with certainty and commit to targets that are available to them. A waiting list may be manageable under that mechanism of booking targets, but not under a manual system as at present.
- 14.4.11. CD agrees that significant overbooking and cancellation needs to be discouraged, but if clubs are only cancelling one or two targets a week before the event, that puts them in the same position as other clubs and they should therefore have the same cancellation policy for one or two targets that other clubs have, while keeping the penalty for cancelling larger numbers of targets to discourage excessive bookings.
- 14.4.12. The Secretary General stated he has consulted carefully with the Range Office staff as to what size of booking defines the lay-down of the range on that day, and 6 targets may be too low, but this is a new initiative and will be reviewed carefully to see the impact on the capacity of the ranges.
- 14.4.13. JL remarked that the electronic targets provide a cost effective and efficient use of ranges and sessions can be booked easily. The Electronic Target Working Group, now chaired by JL, is looking at suggestions for expanding the offering across all ranges which may ease some of the burden.
- 14.4.14. PN added that many clubs struggle to obtain adequate banking facilities and therefore could the NRA talk to its relationship manager at Barclays and see if some process can be put in place to assist clubs to set up accounts more easily without having to provide so much detailed information.
- 14.4.15. The Secretary General asked PN to provide more specific information to review and consider before going to Barclays to discuss.
- 14.4.16. BR asked whether the NRA have considered using other ranges such as Ash or Pirbright to provide more availability during peak periods.

14.4.17. The Secretary General confirmed that this has been considered in the past but the challenge is replicating the customer experience provided at Bisley on the MoD ranges. The long term strategic thinking is that the NRA should have the capacity to book and make targets available at Bisley and other ranges but there needs to be a better understanding of what is available and what can be provided to the members who book on those ranges. The online system will have the capacity to book targets on other ranges than Bisley in the future.

No further questions were raised.

The Vice Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and input.

The meeting closed at 17.00pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CM Brooks  
Vice Chairman, General Council

Date of next meeting: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 3pm