

FINAL

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Bisley General Meeting

Minutes of the Bisley General Meeting
held in the NRA Pavilion, Bisley
on Wednesday 22nd July 2026 from 9.00pm

Present:

Vice Chairman of Council
Secretary General
Treasurer

Ms AN Gran
Mr SN Lee
Mr A Reynolds

Members:

21 Registered Members

BISLEY GENERAL MEETING

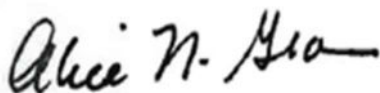
Notice of the Bisley General Meeting

The notice of the Meeting was taken as read.

ITEM 1 - SPEECHES

The Speech of the Secretary General, on behalf of the Chairman is attached hereto and initialled by the Vice Chairman.

ITEM 2 - OPEN FORUM



Vice Chairman of Council

PROCEEDINGS

Vice Chair

Welcome to the Bisley General Meeting of 2026.

I am Alice Gran, Vice Chair elect of the Trustees. With me on the stage is Andrew Reynolds, our Treasurer and Trustee, and Simon Lee, our Secretary General to whom I will now turn over the meeting. Thank you for joining us today.

ITEM 1 - SPEECH

Secretary General

Unfortunately, our Chairman, Jonathan Djanogly is unable to be here this evening. and I am happy to be presenting this year's speech on his behalf.

I would like to start by welcoming all our Vice-Presidents who have joined us this year, particularly those from overseas – Philippe Ginestet from France, Mahendra Persuad from Guyana, Clifford Mallet from Jersey, and Norris Gomez from Trinidad.

On to the competitions and we started the 2026 Imperial with the Service Rifle Meeting, held this year at Hythe & Lydd in Kent.

This was followed by the Military Adaptive Championship held on 16th June on Melville Range, attended by competitors from all three Services. Their determination and positive approach in the face of life-changing injuries sustained while serving our country is an inspiration. The event brings together a like-minded camaraderie but is also very competitive, as you might expect.

The winner of the Veteran Military Adaptive Championship this year was Jon Flint with a score of 300.28v.

At the same time, the Services were finishing their Operational Shooting Competitions and we are delighted to recognise the recipients of the respective King's Medal for 2026:

For the Royal Navy, Sgt Andrew Robinson Royal Marines; for the Army, Lance Corporal Milan Buduja Pun, 1st Royal Gurkha Rifles; for the Army Reserve, LCpl P McClure 152 Regt Royal Logistic Corps; and for the Royal Air Force, Corporal Nathaniel Webb.

The Civilian Service Rifle meeting that followed saw 141 individual competitors. The class winners were:

Historic	Mir Jah
Iron Sight	Steven Page
Practical Optic	Henry Russell
Service Optic	Roy Wade

45 teams competed in the Falling Plates competition, slightly up on the 40 teams we saw in 2025, held again this year on Stickledown. Shot in two classes, the winners of the Modern was Old Windsor Rifle & Pistol Club B team, while the Historic Class was won by the Lee Enfield Rifle Association Roos team.

The CSR Meeting culminated in the Methuen Cup Match, which saw 22 teams competing.

The NRAA Green team won the Historic Class with 786 points, while the London Practical Shooting Club A Team won the Practical Class with 1308 points.

Turning to F-Class, 60 competitors entered the F-Class matches across 5 days of competitions. Peter Dommatt won the F Class St George's title in F/TR with a score of 143.7v, with Miss Laura Lambert of Germany winning the F Open St George's with a score of 142.14v.

Arnaud Martin was the winner of the prestigious Farquharson for 2026 in F/TR with 268.16v. The F Open Farquharson champion was Tony Price with 273.9v.

Now on to Match Rifle which had 140 entrants. The Hopton was won by Nick Tremlett with a score of 1006.122v, with Rob Lygoe second on 1001.115v. Mike Barlow won the Albert, the last shoot in the Hopton, with a score of 221.26v.

This year's winners of the 152nd Elcho Match were England, retaining the match with a score of 1717.164v, closely followed by Scotland, only 13 points behind, with Ireland third on 1656.132v.

The Imperial Gallery Rifle meeting had over 793 cards returned, an increase on 2025's event. Our thanks go to all the Range Officers, stats and admin team who help organise this very enjoyable and relaxed event on our Melville range.

The McQueen competitions, sponsored by Accuracy International, has had a very successful meeting and our thanks go to Alan Ward and John McDonagh for the smooth running of this popular competition. The winner of the McQueen 'A' – the issued rifle – was Stuart Woods. Jacques Bideau won the Under 25 prize.

Moving onto Target Rifle, I would like to start by making a short statement regarding the Imperial ammunition.

We have communicated on the NRA website the challenges we are facing this year with extreme weather affecting the performance of the TR Imperial ammunition. Tests were carried out by GB shooters from 300-1000 yards, gathering data about three types of GGG ammunition. Following analysis of the results, we took the decision to use the 2026 GGG Imperial ammunition at short range, and GGG .308 WIN for all long-range team and individual competitions, and at four specific competitions. Further investigations are underway to establish the causes of this issue, and discussions are being held with the manufacturer. However, results are not expected until after the Imperial meeting.

Once our investigations are complete and have been shared with the manufacturer we will publish our conclusions as to the cause of the problems.

Moving onto the competitions themselves.

Target Rifle has seen 828 entries, with 23 overseas countries represented. We continue to be grateful and delighted by this support to the Imperial.

The Grand Aggregate had 645 entries, with David Luckman taking the prize, with a winning score of 766.5v, with James Corbett a very close second on 765.94v, and Theo Dodds third on 760.78v.

We held the inaugural Youth Imperial Meeting which was very successful with an excellent cohort of young shooters, from a variety of organisations, taking part in the event. Our special thanks go to Sam Frost, the NRA's Youth Development Officer, along with the competing organisations' shooting masters and staff for supporting the young peoples' attendance. We would also like to extend thanks to our excellent volunteer instructors, our sponsors and our friends at the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting for their invaluable support that ensured the event ran smoothly. Congratulations to Epsom for their Ashburton win, and Ayaan Bhagat for his success in the Duke's Prize.

We're already looking forward to next year, and cannot wait to see this event grow!

Supporting the NRA's 'charitable objectives', we have a 273 strong 'Relevant Person' contingent with 86 serving personnel, 97 ex-serving personnel and 90 school cadets taking part in the meeting, which is 33% of all entries.

We wish all the best to James Lewis with his Kolapore team on Friday, and extend good luck to all teams and competitors for the remainder of the Meeting.

Now I would like to extend my thanks to those who have worked very hard over the last 5 weeks of competitions.

To our Chief Range Officers: John Miller, Lisa Railton, Matt Jeffes and Mick Williams.

To our Chief of Staff, David Camp, Chief Butts Officers, Colin Scoles and Eleanor Lowry on Stickledown, and Owen Libermann and Martin Danks on Century, and all the RCOs and Butt supervisors who have kept things going for us. My sincere thanks also goes to all the markers who have done such a sterling job throughout the Meeting, especially through the challenging hot conditions, and to the staff who have prepared the Camp and Ranges.

I would also like to thank the front counter team for ensuring everyone had their squadding cards on time, the Stats team who have produced all the results, the Range Office and Armoury staff who have ensured the ranges run smoothly, as well as all those working diligently behind the scenes to ensure a successful Imperial Meeting for all.

We had an election for the Scottish Regional Representative on General Council this year. Ron Scaglione has been elected with 44 votes.

My congratulations go to Ron and we thank him for agreeing to contribute to the work of the NRA by serving on General Council. I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Bryden Ritchie who has been an extremely dedicated member of General Council during his tenure.

ITEM 2 – OPEN FORUM

I now throw the meeting open to the floor for questions.

If we could please take questions on ammunition at the end so that we can cover other questions first.

We have a microphone on the left-hand side of the room and it would be helpful if you could introduce yourself at the start.

Paul Charlton, Stock Exchange Rifle Club

Is a point hopefully for the Shooting Committee to take up.

The special duties allocation is currently supposed to be only for those domestic competitors who are under the age of 70. As we move towards the Palma year, there's going to be an increasing range requirement for range officers, and I would suggest that included on the entry form should be an option for those of us who are still fit and able and over the age of 70 that we might volunteer for one, two or any special duties to help the running of competitions as we move through 2027 and 2028.

There's also an issue that I experienced today where the timings of special duties in King's first stage to do three details and then have to shoot on the fourth, was very tight and perhaps this should be considered to be split into two and two.

Secretary General

Thank you for your question.

On your first point, I have had a conversation with Peter Cottrell during this competition, and we would welcome people over the age of 70. If you or anyone who's interested, just let us know, have a conversation and then hopefully we can accommodate that.

Paul Charlton

If the entry form is amended to reflect that option, that is the best way of collecting that volunteership.

Secretary General

Yes, absolutely. I think we need to get the message out as well.

On the second point, thank you for your feedback and suggestions of all of which we will take away with us.

Paul Charlton

I note there are unintended consequences of changing timing and competitions, and it is a complex process to change the schedule, but I think this is one that has fallen through the gap when it was changed from five details to four.

Secretary General

Thank you very much.

Richard Winney

I was particularly concerned with the recent circular from the NRA, restricting the number of gas cylinders per caravan on this site. Back in the good old days, there was gas available on this site so that if you ran out of gas, you could simply walk across the road and get another gas cylinder. That doesn't happen anymore. We have to go 5 or 10 miles elsewhere to get a gas cylinder or get somebody to come down and deliver it to us.

When they deliver it to us they expect to take away an empty cylinder for each one they collect. That means you've got to have empty cylinders and full ones on site. Furthermore, we have two refrigerators in our caravan, one of which only works on butane, and one only works on propane. So what you really want is two propane cylinders, one empty, and one full, and two butane cylinders, which means four cylinders are a basic essential.

Secretary General

Thank you.

I wasn't aware these had all been restricted. I don't know when this happened and I don't know the reason for the restriction. I'll take that away to our Real Estate team and discuss that.

Obviously this is all minuted, so the actions from this meeting are circulated to myself and the team and we will follow up on that question and I'll try and understand why that decision was made.

Thank you.

Who is next please?

Stefan Fielding-Isaacs, North London Rifle Club and Overseas Competitor

I won't ask the second question yet because it's about ammunition, but the first question is what is the plan to deal with the decreasing membership of the Imperial meeting? And I would like to put forward that the NRA should expose the finances as much as possible so we can have a collaborative venture between the shooters who are participating in the NRA and trying to save this meeting.

We are in a death spiral right now. Every year the numbers are lower, and every year the costs are higher. This is my fifth year here over the last 10, and I'm really concerned having bought a place on camp that I've just thrown my money away.

So I would like to know what are the plans going forward for dealing with this decreasing membership of the Imperial meeting, and can we not have a collaboration rather than the antipathy between the shooters and the NRA about this?

Secretary General

Obviously, it is a concern that the numbers have been falling. I have been discussing with Council conducting a review of things like membership, pricing, the offer to members and shooters across the board, and the time has come for a really wide-spread review of everything that we do here.

I've been here a year now and I'm starting to understand how this place operates. It's quite complex and quite challenging in parts, but I feel now is the right time after the Imperial to have a really good review of exactly that point, because we will look at the statistics, we're collecting them obviously, and any downward trend in any of our figures is a concern.

So I can assure you we will be reviewing it but I can't give you the overall strategy right now.

As to your question on open finances, I might just ask Andrew (Reynolds) to cover that one off.

Treasurer

So the finances are definitely shared within Council and they may also be shared with General Council. The Imperial is a net loss-making competition. We use this event as an opportunity to contribute as a charity, as the NRA is a charitable enterprise. If we wish to make less money on it by perhaps discounting further, we could do that, but we would have to give somewhere else.

In my speech that I made at the AGM, I spelled out where we were spending our charitable money. Helping under 25s, for example, with the discount here, and youth shooting more generally.

There is a finite pot of money. We can choose to split that differently for sure, but at the end of the day, it's the same pot of money. So again, I would very much welcome

the membership to feedback to the executive what their ideas are. But we can only contribute as a charity the amount of money that we make as a non-charity from the trading subsidiary and the activities in the NSC.

So all of those profit-making enterprises that we have, BSG for example, they assist us in gift aiding up the amount of money that we have as a charity, to then either spend on the estate, or to spend on other charitable purposes.

As I said, it is a finite pot, but I'm sure Simon would be interested to hear members' feedback on how they would like us to fulfil our charitable purposes.

Phil Northam, General Council, North Herts Rifles

The Inter-Counties were delivered at approximately £2.63 a bang for a 2 and 10 competition. It was quite enjoyable. The weather was good. The ammunition performed adequately.

The 2 and 10 competitions in the Imperial are £4.00 a bang. That's a huge disparity. There are plenty of people on this camp who are accountants and managers. They run businesses. They know how to add up costs, they know how to work out finances. And when they do that, the estimates from many people here is that every competition makes between £10 and £18 per person. And if you scale that up by the number of competitions and the number of entrants - approximately 600 – and approximately ten 2 and 10 competitions, there is a £100,000 of margin over and above weekend hire rates for lanes over and above enhanced payments for markers, over and above additional staff for cleaning, stats, front desk, etc, all the butt supervisors, the CROs, the RCOs taking into account as much as people know, they still can't account for the massive difference between the cost of, say, the Inter-Counties using exactly the same people, exactly the same CROs, the staffing as the Imperial.

The comment about the Imperial making a loss, I don't believe anybody on this camp believes that because we've never been transparent with those costs. We might make a loss across the entire Imperial from Military to F-Class to TR and Young Shooters and CSR, but people do not believe that we make a thumping loss on Target Rifle. In fact, they believe exactly the opposite! Target Rifle is being milked and the costs that are being charged for Target Rifle are out of kilter with other competitions and certainly out of kilter with other open meetings. And that money is being used to fund other things. I think we need a rational rethink of how we fund one bit of the organisation, potentially from another bit of the organisation.

And if we want the membership on side - partnership was mentioned - I think we have to have a level of transparency which shows that actually what we say is true. But at this moment in time, I can assure you vast majority of people out there don't believe that this meeting, the TR Imperial makes a loss at all.

Treasurer

I can't comment on that specific element. I know that we published within Council, and I'm sure I've shared it in the General Council Financial Pack, and certainly Andrew (Mercer) used to produce this, the Imperial meeting and it's probably as you rightly say, all disciplines correct to their P&L, which is net loss making.

If you want to delve into that, I think this is something for Simon to take away. I have no problem sharing it. I've never had any problem sharing the financials. You can pour over them as much as you would like.

Phil Northam

It may actually be enlightening and very useful.

Treasurer

And if it challenges the executive and the board, so be it. But as I said, at the end of the day we still end up with the same pot of money. So I think we need to think more fundamentally how we grow the pot as opposed to how we're dividing it potentially. And that's again something that I think Simon is taking away.

Phil Northam

I share the concerns that this meeting is in a death spiral, as is the NSRA meeting, unfortunately, which continues to go down. I believe there are some 80 less in the Grand than last year, and that's including a number of foreign competitors who have come especially to take part. And obviously the 80 down also includes a loss of cadets.

As someone who runs a club, I ask my Target Rifle members why do you not come and do the Imperial - a day of it, a weekend of it? Cost is the primary answer. A campsite is £20. Down the road towards Farnborough there's a campsite that charges £8 and the ablutions are far nicer. But the competitors want to be here. They want to be part of the festival of shooting that this meeting is, but they are all citing cost. If we don't do something about cost and take the membership with us, this meeting will go the same way as others, and that's down.

Treasurer

I think the message that you've given about not forever looking at the revenue line is taken, and I think we are no longer looking at the top line. I think it's fair to say, and I think rationalising perhaps, I think it is recognised that cost is an issue. We've recognised that with the withdrawal of cadet support. But it isn't purely about bullets, but it's about the general cost that is now put on those young people to come to the camp, for their transportation, for their accommodation. I think all of that is recognised.

We still have the same pot. How we support that is not obvious.

Phil Northam

My parting word is ironic. I run a club which is primarily based in a very profitable industry, making stuff not that far away from ammunition, but generally equitable or bigger. And my membership is heavily loaded with commercial science engineering management people who are struggling to afford to come shooting at Bisley. And you're talking about graduates probably in the top 5 to 10% salaries in the country. And are struggling as people who are earning to come here and enjoy this meeting as I have when I didn't earn as much as some of them.

So I would like them to experience what I experienced and then retire as a boomer and be able to afford it anyway.

Thank you.

Secretary General

Can I just pick up on one point about transparency.

I've come on board and have made a lot of effort to be transparent and open and I think the recent General Council Meeting is evidence where I have tried to, or I have been open and answered questions openly and transparently.

There really is nothing to hide from my perspective. I like the idea of a partnership. We're all in this together. We all love shooting, we all love visiting and it's in our interest, all of us. I don't want a sort of them and us feeling.

I can tell you that from the heart. I do not want us feeling like that. So I'm open to discussions, partnership ideas, listening to people, and I'm getting a lot of feedback at the moment, walking around firing points, talking to people, and getting a lot of emails.

I'm listening. I assure you of that, and thank you for those questions.

Any more general questions before we go on?

Griff Morgan, General Council, Abergavenny Rifle Club

I started as a cadet in the late nineties, .22 rifle, 5.56, 308 as well. That's what got me into shooting 30 years ago.

I don't shoot .308 anymore. I refuse to pay the costs. I will not pay £900 entry fee for this meeting, but I'll enter bits and pieces where I can. But that's with my rifles, with my calibres. My rifle is a target rifle, for all intents and purposes, it's just the bore that is different.

There is a group of people out there who are more than happy to pay the administrative costs, less the cost of ammunition and put bums on those firing points to actually put money back into the NRA. However, what we are continuously being

told is choose a different discipline, you're F-Class, you're Match Rifle. Whereas those of us who have target rifles set up as target rifles want to shoot Target Rifle.

We are being excluded and it befuddles me how an organisation wants to say, you are not welcome here just because we have this that has always been. If we need to diversify, there's a group of people who want to participate and we are being actively excluded. There are also a group of people who have failing eyesight, which has been brought up in various General Council meetings as well, who find seeing the target numbers difficult, regardless of the communication regarding eagle eyes, where perhaps a scope rifle going back to the original F-Class, they may be able to stay in shooting. We've lost people because of eyesight and they don't want to go to Match Rifle, they don't want to go to F-Class. They would prefer to be able to shoot with everybody else and participate and be part of the spirit.

In that there is a hand-loading ammunition element as well because you can't issue the ammunition that we would use at an affordable cost from a factory perspective. Those of us sign the hand-loading declaration to say that our ammunition is safe and be it on our heads if it's not. And there are rules in the Bible to make that absolutely clear. So if you want to have more people on the firing point, please look to actively include us rather than exclude us.

And there are people in other countries who would be more than willing to come over as well for a meeting like that. We're not saying include us within the Grand or anything like that, have a separate class, different to issued ammunition. So that's my request for Council to take away, to be more inclusive rather than exclusive.

Thank you.

Simon Lee

Thank you very much.

Do we have any other general questions before we go on to any questions on ammunition?

Would anyone like to ask any question on ammunition?

Peter Hobson, a Vice President of the National Rifle Association and a member of all the clubs on the Common

Good evening everybody.

This place is important to me as it's been to many of us, but we have a problem which needs to be addressed. It is a reputational problem to do with ammunition. It's actually more closely to be defined as the use of a special barrel called Rule 150, which is a tight specification barrel, which was originally designed for military 7.62 by 51 ammunition.

It is now a reputational problem for the NRA, for anybody who wishes to work with them in the ammunition field, because of risks associated with that barrel, with modern ammunition are too high.

Those who use it are at an advantage. That's why it's been prolonged. We now have a new Chairman, a new General Secretary. We have a new Head of Shooting Committee and it is time to address this anomaly. It is reputational to anybody in the ammunition industry who wants to work with the NRA.

Please go back and look at why we're allowing tight barrels, which were generally used for military 762-51, not the .308 ammunition. I cannot be persuaded by a ballisticsian of the advantages.

F-Class uses a standard .308 barrels. Match Rifle uses a standard .308 barrel. We haven't had any problem - we shoot tight groups. We've got a man here who at 1200 yards shot a half minute of angle group using a .308 barrel.

The ammunition is the problem because we won't get anybody to work with you.

I had a big meeting in London yesterday. It's so reputational. You don't have a future unless you handload or you get an ammunition which is suitable and safe in all weapons. It doesn't break extractors, doesn't do this, doesn't do that. We don't get that in any other sport. But you do in Target Rifle. It's got to end – your reputation is on the line.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

Secretary General

Peter, we've had a couple of conversations recently and thank you for your comments and your thoughts and we will listen and review a number of different view points, but thank you. We will certainly bear in mind all that you have said.

Any other questions on ammunition?

Stefan Field-Isaacs

We all know this year's ammunition was quite terrible. I have four guns here. I tried several and I managed to achieve one-minute groups, both in short range and long range with it. I still had flyers.

I'm friends with many members of the Canadian team, of which I used to be a member and many members of the US team. These are top-flight shooters. They're in the top 5% of the world, easily, probably the top 1%. If you're only seeing two of them at the very top of the top 50 there's a reason. Our barrels are having a very hard time with this ammunition and we're not shooting terribly tight core barrels. Perhaps that's an advantage that one has locally here in the UK.

But my point is we're looking at a World Championship here in the next two years. We spend a great deal of money to come over here and it doesn't help business

reputation when people who can shoot with handloads a quarter minute or a half minute group at 600 yards, can't keep the bull here with the issued ammunition, there has to be something done.

So I guess my question is not just why the discrepancy? My question is more along the lines is more what happened to the testing process, the specification process that we failed so miserably this year? How do you prove that? I mean, obviously if we're testing this ammunition in what would be 14 C, 15 C, and then we hit 30 during the meeting, that's a problem.

I understand that the ammunition factory is capable of testing the ammunition at higher temperatures and that we're still waiting for them to give us results. We all have suspicions about what the powder was that was used, and the treatment of that powder in order to allow it to function properly.

I've used what I think is the same powder at home and it works fine at normal temperatures. So I guess my question then becomes, what is the testing regimen that we're going to put into place because it's twice in the last six or seven years that we've had ammunition that's caused real problems. This has to be fixed because why would anybody send an international team if the issued ammunition that we're required to use is not fit for purpose? And I would argue that it is not this year. And if you go back and you look at the statistics, somebody just sent me the statistics this evening, I can't quote them directly, but basically most people who have made it into the top 50 this year who would normally make it. There's a cast of characters who repeatedly make it, so there's a big discrepancy. I think the figure quoted to me was a 2.2% reduction in quality of the ammunition, and that's huge at the level shooting.

So that's all I have to say. I'm hoping that the NRA will announce some form of enhanced testing regimen that will make sure that this ammunition is fit for purpose at all temperatures.

Secretary General

Thank you very much.

I'm going to ask John Bloomfield who's been assisting me along with others in this matter, to just say a few words and answer that question.

John Bloomfield

Simon, thank you.

Just to answer your questions directly, as far as temperature is concerned, it's extremely difficult, in fact, it's nigh-on impossible to replicate what conditions you shoot in out on the range in a laboratory.

Yes, you can heat the ammunition, you can probably heat the barrel somewhat, what you cannot heat is the atmosphere that you're shooting the ammunition through, which may well have an effect on it as well.

So there are difficulties in replicating the conditions. That said we used exactly the same specification of ammunition, same type of powder, same brass, same primers, same bullets in 2022. And those of you that were here in 2022 will remember that we had two days in the middle of that meeting at 36 degrees C and 39 degrees C, where we had no problems with the ammunition.

So there is something different this year, and at the moment we have a fairly extensive investigation going on to try and establish what the problem is. And basically you cannot address a problem and you can't find a solution to it until you know what the reasons for it are.

So I can't say much more about the investigation. It's in the relatively early stages, and we've got a long way to go to try and work out between ourselves and the manufacturer what the source of this problem is. And it may be one thing, it may be more than one thin, we just don't know.

The other point that somebody made, which I think or a couple of points that somebody made, why do we do our testing here at 200 yards and the point they made, which I think superficially is valid was we don't shoot at 200 yards.

But there's two reasons for it. One is that it's the tightest bullseye that we have and if it doesn't group at 200 yards, it isn't the group anywhere. And the second thing is that you minimise the outside effect on the ammunition for wind, etc and wind can produce vertical dispersion as well as horizontal as we all know.

To that I would add that those of you that looked at the results from the Palma Match two years ago, the British team shot extremely small groups at long range. All of the development and testing work for that ammunition and the barrels we used was done at 200 yards.

So clearly it doesn't have a particular problem. You don't have to shoot it at every distance or a lot of distances to get the answers that you need.

What we did do with the Palma ammunition was the fine tuning that was necessary was done at 1000 yards in conjunction with shooting it out at a test ring at 200 yards.

So those are the points that I would make at this stage. Is there any other question that anybody's got that I can perhaps answer given the restrictions on where we are investigation?

Tom Harrison

What checks are made on the bullets themselves. Is it still the Sierra 155?

John Bloomfield

It's still the Sierra 2155 that is in use. I have not yet done any real investigation of the bullets themselves because I'm looking particularly at the moment at the powder, because that appears to be, for the moment the principle source of the problem.

Tom Harrison

I handloaded 155 from Sierra and I was weighing the bullets and I had a batch of Sierra with a very wide range in weight. Next time they sent me some, after complaining, they were a very narrow, beautiful set. So it could be the bullets that are the problem.

John Bloomfield

It could be. To answer your point directly, I have weighed bullets and are within Sierra's specification, which is plus/minus half a grain of nominal weight. In fact, they're well within it. So I don't particularly the moment think that the problem is the bullet.

Tom Harrison

They are capable of producing batches with at least a one grain spread.

John Bloomfield

This is less than one grain, and that is from measuring, I think I pulled and weighed 200 bullets.

Tom Harrison

Yes, but when you are bringing in three quarters of a million rounds, are they all the same or is there a batch they have snuck in that is below standard?

John Bloomfield

I don't think so because the box of ammunition that was pulled apart was selected at random from what we've got. You can't measure all of them and you can't measure a very large number of them. All you can do is take a sample and see what the sample gives you. Inevitably, there may be the odd one that is outside that weight range, but I didn't find them.

Stefan Fielding-Isaacs

I'm a UK citizen and a Canadian citizen living in the States. I can walk into any store in the United States currently, buy Black Hills, Winchester, Remington. I can order a Berger through the mail, and I will get ammunition that will perform in any .308. So my question about earlier about the finances of the Imperial meeting was sort of tied to this. If we knew exactly what the finances were, then we could discuss the question of whether or not this ammunition supplier should be the one that we choose.

I know for a fact that Berger offered Andrew Mercer a deal to provide ammunition for the Imperial meeting. I think that was about six years ago, maybe seven, and it flatly turned down on the basis of cost. I think this is a question worth revisiting. If major ammunition manufacturers could produce absolutely reliable ammunition

consistently, which would be fit for purpose, why are we not reopening that discussion?

John Bloomfield

If I can answer that particular question. One of the difficulties with buying ammunition on the world market is that this is a regulated environment. Something called CIP, which is the overall governing body for ammunition standards in Europe and a number of other countries.

CIP set a series of standards that you have to comply with, one of which is a maximum overall cartridge length of 2.8 inches. You cannot load a Berger 155.5 to that length and expect it to work because it won't. Most of the bullet will be inside the cartridge case. So that's one fundamental problem that we cannot overcome.

And in actual fact, you cannot sell ammunition in this country which does not comply with CIP regulations. So that cuts out quite a lot of the rest of the world's manufacturing. We've gotta stick within the rules on that.

It's unfortunate but that's one of the reasons why we have stuck with the Sierra 2155, because you can load that to 2.8 and get good results out of it, except when we have the odd problem.

Stefan Fielding-Isaacs

I'm not suggesting that we change the bullet, it's a fine bullet and it's perfectly capable for our purposes. What I'm suggesting is that it might be worth opening discussions with some of these major manufacturers about whether they would produce a million or a million and a half rounds, because almost all of their registered .308 rifles will fit 2.8 inches with a 2155 bullet because it has to be loaded from a magazine. That's part of their specification.

John Bloomfield

I agree with you, but I took a particular instance or issue which you raised. As you say, if Berger loaded Sierra bullets, which I suspect they wouldn't be terribly keen on doing, they could keep within the 2.8 inches.

Stefan Fielding-Isaacs

But their ammunition representative will be here for the F-Class worlds, and will be staying in my caravan on Wharnccliffe. I'm sure he will be more than happy to talk to you about potential solutions, and I have no dog in that fight.

John Bloomfield

We have no problem with talking to people about potential solutions. And if I can just add to that, if people have constructive comments to make about this years' ammunition, they will be gratefully accepted.

What is not so interesting is the people who just rant and rave about, you must do this, you must do that, when not knowing what the problems are. There have been a few that we've had letters from. We have had constructive suggestions from other people, which we will take on board going forward.

Griff Morgan

We've had 'primer-gate', we've had 'projectile-gate' and we've now got this issue that I don't know what it is exactly, but that's three years worth of Imperial Meeting ammunition, which doesn't affect me because I don't shoot it so I have no interest on this except for the wider community of TR. At what point will there be a consideration to look at a different supplier if we're having all of these three years of issues, which may be putting people off shooting because it is "Oh, it's Triple G again, what we gonna get this year?"

We might had that in the past with various batches of RG, but the reliability and trust is very important to get the international shooters here, and to get our domestic shooters on the fire point. And the age-old problem is always going to be the cost of the ammunition, and the reliability, because that is putting a lot of people off, as well relying on fewer and fewer people in a world of greater and greater inflation.

Is there going to be a point where we are going to be looking at alternative suppliers.

John Bloomfield

I can't answer that question directly. What I can say is that GGG are very pleased to have us as their premier customer. They are falling over backwards at the moment in order to try and help us resolve what this particular problem is.

I think it's incumbent on us to work with them to start with, to see that process through. If we go to choose to go in a different direction at some point in the future, that's another discussion altogether. At the moment, we're trying to resolve what the problem is. As I said earlier, you cannot solve the problem until you find out what the cause is.

Griff Morgan

Absolutely, this year is bad, but people are looking at the number of instances of issues.

John Bloomfield

Well just to go back to what you mentioned and call 'bullet-gate' and 'primer-gate'. With bullet gate, the only part of the round that GGG make themselves is the cartridge case. The rest of it's an assembly operation. So in 2018, what we got was a batch of duff bullets from Sierra, and when the evidence to show what the problem was, was produced to them, give them their credit, they held up their hands and said, yes, it's a manufacturing problem on our part. And they undertook to try and resolve that for future years.

In 2019, it was the primers that were the problem. They, again, are a bought in component. And that was a problem that nobody had ever come across before causing the cases to stretch, and it was the stretching of the cases and the primer forcing the case forward that caused the broken extractors.

Now by unfortunate coincidence perhaps, particular action that we use for testing, which is a swing action, very common, still in use, was the only one that did not suffer from extractor problems, which is why we did not find that problem in our initial testing. Neither did anybody else, and I did an extensive internet search after the meeting and found no example of that particular problem being found by anybody else. I don't think it's happened again to anybody.

Griff Morgan

Thank you for all those points - all valid points. But the shooter, the general shooter only sees GGG, not all the different components, and it's the psychology of it, the customer experience as we've talked about, and the customer offering, it doesn't seem very good at the moment. So we need to change the narrative in some way, shape, or form.

John Bloomfield

That is fully understood.

Tom Harrison

I'd just like to draw people's attention to a few years ago we changed to Portuguese ammunition, and Radway Green had to bail them out pretty quickly for the Imperial Meeting.

John Bloomfield

That was a very long time ago. Yes, we were bailed out by Radway at the time who when we rang Radway and said, we've got a problem, they went and had a look and said, "yes, we've got three days' supply in stock, we will send that down now and you will get the next supply in three days' time". So we were actually shipping ammunition in throughout the meeting to cover it. Great credit to Radway. The problem now is Radway will not sell into the civilian market, having made that decision a number of years ago.

Tim Goodger, Life Member

I'd like to ask, since when has it become acceptable practise for people to receive issued ammunition and then roll ammunition to see whether it's actually the ammunition that they like and swap rounds in and out at the ammunition table where the rest of us who, like me who is just a jobbing shooter, really don't know what they're up to. It certainly seems that they are picking their rounds.

John Bloomfield

That should not be happening. You get your 12 rounds and unless there is some physical defect, which is visible, you should not be allowed to change it. That's an administrative matter that we will have to take up.

Tim Goodger

Well I'm told, just to supplement, that one of the excuses or reasons for the ammunition being given back is because either the bullet is said not to be seated properly in the cartridge, or that the cartridge head is actually not square. It's squared off or there's an irregularity with it. So I don't know whether this feeds John into your review of the ammunition generally, but it's certainly a practise which, you know, if we all do that, we approach the ammunition desk, there'll be a queue as long as this room, as we swapped ammunition in and out.

John Bloomfield

As I say, it shouldn't have been happening. If you see it happening, I think you need to report that into Shooting Division and we'll deal with that as necessary.

Phil Northam

Possibly related to the point that was just made, there are a number rumours going around, and I would urge you to quash those rumours with facts and evidence. One of them is the bullet is not a Sierra bullet, but a GGG copy, which is inferior.

John Bloomfield

It is not a GGG copy – it is a Sierra bullet.

Phil Northam

The other rumour is that some people have put these bullets into runout gauges and they're saying it's anything from 10 to 20 thou out on something like 18 to 20% of the rounds they've tested.

John Bloomfield

There's no reason why people can't use a runout gauge. They're welcome to do that. What you cannot do with the ammunition is alter it. You can't stick it into something and bend it straight.

Phil Northam

What they're saying is the run out is out of specification for anything they would make themselves.

John Bloomfield

Well, it may be out of whatever specification they've dreamt up for themselves. There is no specification for runout to apply to the ammunition, and we've never needed to do so.

Stefan Fielding-Isaacs

I've personally observed roughly one bullet in every box issued had shards of the jacket sticking out from the case. Some could be removed with a finger nail, some could not. This suggests to me that the crimping is not consistent or the seating of the bullet somehow is not consistent. But it's a very consistent problem with all the ammunition I shot with the last week.

John Bloomfield

It's something I picked up on taking the bullets and the ammunition apart. It's a point that I need to raise with GGG as to why this is happening. What I think, it is a nick in the mouth of the cartridge case, they're not crimped at all because there's no crimping available in the bullet. There is clearly a sharp projection at some point rounding out of some of the bullets.

My personal view of this, and it is only a view rather than something that I've tested to find out, is that the bullet will get so beaten up in the course of going through the barrel that it won't make a great deal of difference. However, I take the point it makes a difference in people's minds. They see something that they think is not right and therefore, and it shouldn't be there - quite right. It's an issue we'll have to deal with, but thank you for raising it

Mike Jenvey, NRA and General Council member

Apologies for being late.

Earlier on, I believe there was discussion about the profitability of the Imperial meeting based on the NRA's accounting and that generally the Imperial runs at a loss.

So obviously there has to be some provision by the NRA to the NSC, which of course is the NRA's wholly-owned subsidiary to buy the targetry, or whatever it's going to be to do that.

How much profit does the NSC make based on that purchase from the NRA to provide all facilities for the Imperial meeting?

Treasurer

So it is a good question, and transfer pricing might be part of the issue that we can look at. But at the end of the day, the overall profitability of the NRA is where we get our pot to make charitable purpose expenditure.

So if we choose to make less money from competitors at the Imperial, it will be offset against what we do currently in terms of either capital expenditure on the estate or other charitable purpose donations, for example, supporting youth shooting discounts to under 25s. We can certainly look at transfer pricing. We look at apportionment of overheads, allocation of overheads. All of this is up for debate and I know that Geetha is working on this keenly for general business unit performance and preparation of budget.

I completely agree with you. There are many ways of looking at the accounting and trying to come up with what is designed for not for profit. But certainly on the method that has been used during my tenure, we have aimed at making a break-even or a small profit at a gross profit level and a net loss, and we have also included a contribution from the SPF (Special Prizes Fund) to cover the prizes, which has been somewhere around the £11,000 to £15,000 mark.

The Imperial has never been a profit-led enterprise, so please don't come away from here thinking that we are out to fleece. But if we wish to subsidise it further, it will be to the detriment of something else, and this is where everyone needs to tell us what do we pick?

Mike Jenvey

I understand, but on this transfer purchase the NRA is buying the goodies from NSC. So if the NSC is making a very large profit from that....

Treasurer

It donates it all back to the NRA for redistribution in charitable purposes. It doesn't make the pot any bigger.

Alice Gran

The NSC doesn't make a profit from the NRA in any event.

Treasurer

I don't have the transfer pricing details in front of me today, but it is possible the allocation of overheads mean that the NSC is receiving something beyond cost.

I can't say for certain, I don't have the breakdown in front of me, but at the end of the day, any penny extra above its cost NSC makes is donated through gift aid back up to the NRA.

Mike Jenvey

Otherwise it could be in contravention of the charitable objectives because you are providing money to your profit to the subsidiary, not to the NRA and it's charitable objectives.

Treasurer

If the transfer pricing arrangement is to cover, for example, fixed overheads element, that's well within the charitable aims, to cover off the cost. Define cost - cost is definable in different ways. But at the end of the day, anything that NSC has that is surplus comes back up to the NRA and is redistributed in charitable purposes.

We need to grow the pot fundamentally, fully aware of the fact that events are costly. I get that, but squaring that circle is difficult.

Secretary General

Okay. I think we'll take one more question.

Phil Northam

It's a suggestion and it's to do with ammo.

It's normal in my industry to take the requirements of the product, define them - that's a bit of a committee job by its nature - and to flow those requirements down, not only to the supplier, GGG, but through them to their supplier, the supplier of the brass, the supplier of the primer, the powder, and then Sierra for the bullet. We do that by defining key characteristics. That might be weight, it might be balance points, it might be dimensions, or the powder, it may well be the energy yielded, which is easily testable. I'll put my old university up as a place that can do that. So should we not put together a small committee which has expertise in procurement, specification, contracting, quality and ammunition, and together collaborate to produce what I would call our design standard for our bespoke bullet round, and to define the key characteristics that must be met for it to work and to push them by contract down through GGG to their suppliers to help prevent future problems.

Thank you.

Peter Hobson

Unfortunately, we do not have a rifle that is compliant with .308 ammunition. Every commercial ammunition manufacturer in the world doesn't make bad ammunition. They wouldn't be in business. And it all fits a .308 CIP rifle. It's meant to, because that's what CIP is all about, commonality. So it fits everyone's rifle. Fortunately here we have non-CIP ammunition, 50 psi. How on earth do we reconcile two lots of ammunition for one CIP rifle, when the CIP rifle is not a CIP rifle?

John Bloomfield

I think I can answer that question quite easily. If you put a full CIP chamber in a barrel which is 300/308, in other words, it matches CIP's dimensions, it doesn't shoot very well.

Secretary General

I think this is a debate that will probably go late into the night.

Thank you very much indeed for all your questions. I just have one more point to make before we finish.

For those of you who have not seen the results of the King's Prize Stage I score, which was shot earlier today on Century Range. The results were published on the stats scoreboard this afternoon.

745 competitors shot the first stage of his Majesty, the King's Prize.

The bronze badge was won by Henryk Golaszewski with a score of 105 and 18vs. The provisional last score is in 100.9v, finishing 33.3v at 600 yards.

That concludes the meeting and I'll declare the meeting closed.

Thank you very much for your attendance and all your questions.

Meeting closed at 10.05pm