

Minutes of the 60th Annual General Meeting held on 27th September 2007

Present

R. Cooper, J. Rogers, A. Norman, N. Stallard, J. Madgwick, P. Kennett, I. D. Bennett, J.S. Bennett, P Webber, H. Webber, A. Jennings, J. H. Jones, H. Thompson, D. Royle, M. Bellringer, J Grove, M. Morrish. (17)

Represented clubs

Dudley, Seeco, Smethwick, Worcs. West Unit, Kidderminster, Down Hatherley, Halesowen, Bromsgrove, Stourport. (9)

The meeting opened at 8:13 pm

Apologies

K. Webber, D. Hargreaves, James Bennett, S. Moncrieff, G. Milligan, A. Symmonds.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM, (3/10/06) were read and accepted as a true record. (proposed A. Norman, seconded N. Stallard)

Matters arising

Bob Cooper pointed out that the purchase of County sweatshirts had now been achieved.

Chairman's address

The chairman reported on an active and successful year within the county as far as the Association is concerned, and thanked the officers concerned.

He pointed out that the national pistol team is still practicing in Switzerland and despite the Olympics being only 4.5 years from now there is still no change in the legislation relating to pistol shooting, nor in the plans to not use Bisley as the venue for the shooting competitions. Mark Bellringer has been active in this context on behalf of the sport.

He reminded the meeting of the need to take on board child protection issues. Those who are coaching children need CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) certificates.

If people are raising funds Clubmark is a useful resource he will send out information to anyone who is interested.

Following his report the chairman announced that Karen Webber was having to step down as Junior Captain and in her absence he read her report.

Junior captain's report

The juniors had a strong year with all the shooters continuing to show improvement. They finished 2nd in the league, yet had the 3rd highest aggregate.

Ross had the top average of 94.8 and Todd showed the biggest improvement.

This year it has not been possible to put a team together due to 2 of the current team going to university and Karen being unable to find replacements. King Edwards School in Birmingham did not have anyone available to shoot from within the county boundaries, and despite repeated efforts she was unable to contact shooting masters at other schools.

She remains confident that it should be possible to field a team next year particularly if contact can be made with Kings School.

The reports re the County and reserves teams and the Ladies team were presented by Pam Webber.

Pam said that the County teams had lost two of their top shooters recently, Mel and Ian and they were missed.

Last September she was able to muster teams to shoot in the BSA cup and Western Counties Bowl

At Bromyard we defended and again won the 3 counties cup, making this the 6th successive win.

Last winter, a ladies county team was entered and came 3rd; we fielded a county team and two reserve teams. The reserves A team were 4th in their division and the B team were a very close 2nd following their win last year.

Reports re the Lightweight Sports Rifle, Air rifle and Air pistol teams were presented by John Jones.

Two LSR teams of 5 were entered in the NSRA Inter-county competition last winter. The A team shot in division 3 and finished 3rd, and the B team in Division 5 finished 5th out of 6. John wrote to all club secretaries who have teams shooting in the midland league but received no replies.

John also reported that in summer he introduced an LSR individual league. There were 28 entrants from a number of clubs, only two being within the county, Seeco and Dudley.

He proposes that this is repeated next year, with the top 3 shooters from each club being entered as a club team at no extra charge.

He made a plea for everyone in county clubs to consider entering, at £3.00 per entry.

Air rifle and air pistol teams were entered in the NSRA Inter-county competitions, but due to a number of people shooting too late to post (or not at all) the teams finished bottom of their respective leagues.

John thanked Hugh and Karen Webber for their enthusiastic support.

Competition Secretary.

Alan Jennings reported that last year four divisions in both the winter and summer leagues were run successfully. This winter with 27 team entries there will be 5 divisions, and the details and stickers will soon be circulated.

Worcestershire County Open Meeting 2007.

Hugh Webber reported that the meeting this year was well supported with 38 entries. The profit of about £200 helps keep other costs to County clubs down.

Again most of the entries were in A and B classes. It would be nice to see more in C & D where the chance of winning is much higher, given that there are fewer competitors.

The overall Worcestershire Champion was Mark Bellringer, despite his manning of the desk taking entries most of the morning.

The other trophy winners were:

Class A Mark Bellringer
Class B Pam Webber
Class C T Hardwicke
Class D Bob Cooper

Open Pairs Mark Bellringer & John Grove
C&D Pairs Bob Cooper & Neil Stallard
Veterans Pam Webber
Ladies Pam Webber
Dewar John Grove
Carton Bulls Alistair Norman
Best 100yds Alistair Norman

Our thanks as usual go to those without whom we could not run the meeting, Bob Cooper for running the range, Alan Jennings scoring, Pam and Karen Webber, refreshments and all the rest who filled in doing the odd jobs needed around and about.

NSRA Representative

Dave Hargreaves' reports of the NSRA Shooting Council meetings were summarised in his absence. This summary included the following.

In November he reported that the improvements to the National Indoor Shooting centre at Aldersley were due to be completed by 1st September.

He reported on the "New Deal membership Scheme". Individuals can sign up as members for a 3 year period with their fees pegged at 2007 rates. Clubs can receive a cash bonus for encouraging their members to join the NSRA. The bonus is £20.00 for each individual member and £10.00 for junior or associate members.

The NSRA were about to circulate information re child and vulnerable adult protection to all affiliated clubs. Provision is to be put in place for NCRB checks to be undertaken at the request of affiliated clubs.

Fire risk. Previous fire safety checks are void. From 1st October 2006 the responsibility for conducting fire risk assessments rests with the people who have control of the premises, the committee.

Courses were being arranged re training of staff for the Olympic Games. Detail will be published in the Rifleman.

New target sizes were to be trialled, the PL14 size is to be discontinued.

The MoD no longer approve ranges, this is now done via the NSRA and NRA. There will be a consequent change to the wording of FACs and the relevant insurance will be covered by the clubs NSRA affiliation.

In July it was reported..

The Scottish Rifle meeting suffered from heavy rainfall as did the Bisley meeting previously.

The plans for the Olympic facilities have been redrawn but not yet approved.

Following the report being presented John Jones raised the issue of target and postage costs. He asked if it could be considered for two diagrams to be put on a card of A4 size card to reduce the thickness of the package to be posted.

Treasurers report

Mark Bellringer presented his report; copies of his account sheets were circulated. He also pointed out the county sweatshirts etc. were now available (and on display)

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Alistair and seconded by John Madgwick and the meeting approved the proposal

Mark then explained the reason that the amendment (circulated with the invitation to the AGM and the agenda) was being proposed.

The auditor of the accounts has said that he has to charge a fee to audit but is able to complete an inspection of the accounts free of charge. It was suggested that we change the wording of that part of the circulated constitution from "audited" to "externally inspected".

The amendment was proposed by Mark Bellringer, seconded by Alan Jennings and unanimously accepted by the meeting.

Mark then presented reasoning for his suggestion that the County affiliation fee be increased. There was some debate particularly regarding whether the increase in affiliation should include the smaller clubs in the county. It was proposed that the fee be increased to

£30.00 from next year, across the board, by Mark, seconded by Alan Jennings and carried by the meeting

Election of Officers

The Chairman thanked the officers for their work throughout the year and announced to the meeting that Karen Webber would not be re-standing as Junior Captain this year. It is necessary to involve juniors for the future of the sport but at this point we do not have anyone available to stand for this office. This needs to be looked at by the committee during the course of the year. With the exception of this office all others are up for re-election.

Chairman, Bob Cooper was proposed by A. Norman, seconded by M. Bellringer

It was proposed by P. Kennett that the remaining officers be re-elected en-block. This was seconded by N. Stallard and carried by the meeting.

These being;

Secretary:	J Rogers,
Treasurer:	M Bellringer
Air Rifle Captain	John Jones
Vice Chairman:	Alan Jennings
Competition Secretary:	Alan Jennings
NSRA Rep:	Dave Hargreaves
Open meeting Organiser:	Hugh Webber
County Captain	Pam Webber
LSR:	John Jones

Presentation of Trophies

Trophies and prizes were awarded for the 2006-07 competition season.

Any other business

John Grove reminded the meeting that the Stourport range had facilities for 50M and 100 yards and 3P. There is a core of prone rifle shooters and any new members will be made welcome. It is available 7 days a week (except weds and sun am when there are a lot of black powder shooters using the range) and members get their own key.

Subs are £50.00 a year and £20.00 one off joining fee. Anyone interested could turn up on a Saturday morning or contact John Grove.

Harry Thompson wanted to know whether to have the trophies engraved. He was advised that it is the winners honour to engrave the trophy with their own name.

He also made observations upon the constitution. It could benefit from being updated particularly he commented on the use of the words "weapon" and "defence of the realm". This is currently under revision by the committee

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10:10pm