



# **Worcestershire Small-bore Rifle and Pistol Association.**

*Chairman Mr M Bellringer. Secretary Miss K Webber. Treasurer Mr P Kennett.*

[wsbrpa.org](http://wsbrpa.org)

## **Minutes for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting – held via email due to Covid 19 restrictions**

### **Officers Reports**

#### **Chairman's address/NSRA report**

David Stuart Hargreaves 1949 - 2020

Sadly this year we have lost our good friend and County Chairman, Dave Hargreaves. He died in early June of a non Covid illness, although he was shielding during lockdown and we wonder whether the isolation and inactivity might have been a contributory factor.

Dave had been actively involved in shooting since his university days in Manchester, but I met him first when I joined Seeco, about the end of the 80s or early 90s. Some of you will remember the Garringtons range. Well I joined Seeco a few months after it closed. Dave seemed amused to tell me all about this wonderful range that was only half a mile from my home.

He gave me a lot of help and support in my early shooting days. Others have also said how supportive he was with both new and seasoned shooters in terms of setting up kit, suggesting improvements, and coaching. He never forced his way on people, it was always “why not try this?” or “have you tried?” whilst keeping a wary eye on safety. He was also a mine of information on how kit worked and how to clean and repair it.

I had not been shooting very long when he suggested I shot a few cards for the county reserves, then suggested that I come along to one of the county meetings, “you might find it interesting”.. I did not realise at the time that this was code for “we need more volunteers” (he was good at this!!)

Dave was on the county committee in one role or another for as long as I can recall but most recently was our chairman along with being the NSRA county representative. He was always keen to get others involved with both county and national competitions, whatever their standard of shooting. He said “the experience will be enjoyable and good for you and help you improve” Because of his regular trips to Bisley (where he won several prizes over the years) he seemed to know very many people in the shooting fraternity. One example being when I was entering a club team into a Yorkshire league the Yorkshire team co-ordinator asked me to give his regards to Dave.

He was good at the sport, often coming from the firing point saying “I shot ok, not too bad” then at the end of the day being in the prizes. Last month I collected the County trophies that he won last year from his son. They filled a box!

Seeco is a small club with only a handful of prone shooting members yet over the last 25 years the

Seeco team have been up there, near the top of Division 1 in the county. This was largely due to Dave's influence and his enthusiasm for precision, accuracy, and doing things correctly.

He was not involved with any of his many interests only on the periphery, he wanted to be fully involved.

He is going to be sorely missed not only by his beloved family but on both a club and a county level.

### **County Captain's Report**

Pam Webber presents the following County Captain's report.

After last year's problems with targets we thought we could have a more normal winter season but unfortunately we had not yet heard of Covid! Therefore this will be a short report.

Because of the disruption the NSRA have still to post the final rounds scores or results as some counties were given extensions for the last rounds to the end of August. Thus I will report on the current positions.

The County team won 5 of the 9 rounds and although scores for our team have been posted for round 10 we await the result. Currently we are lying third.

The Reserves have won 3 of 8 rounds sometimes losing by just a few points and are fifth.

After winning Div 2 two years in a row the Veterans were promoted to Div 1 where they were a little outclassed and have won 2 of 9 rounds but are rooted to the bottom of the table. This was a new competition 2 years ago but there have been a limited number of entries from counties and so only 2 or 3 divisions of wide average spread. This can lead to teams finding themselves outclassed.

Having actually received all Team scores I can offer congratulations to Henry Nickless for winning The Wilf Elmes Trophy for the highest average with 97.6.

As I notified you all earlier. the NSRA have ended the reserves league moving instead to teams of 12 in one competition. With the difficulties of knowing which ranges will be allowed to open before leagues start and as many of us are of a certain vintage, with the possibility of feeling we need to isolate if Covid resurges, I had decided to only enter one team this winter. However the NSRA have found that many counties have found difficulties in getting shooters to commit as they are unsure of when ranges will reopen and indeed some ranges need considerable work before shooting can commence. Therefore they have decided to set Rds 1-5 shot by 1<sup>st</sup> Feb and Rds 6-10 by 29<sup>th</sup> March and extended the entry date. Hence I have asked again availability of county shooters under these new terms and will reconsider entries after gauging reaction.

We have decided to abandon this summer's shoots. The NSRA have extended the period to the end of October and even allowed the short range BSA Cup to be shot on home ranges, but having spoken to a few I am of the opinion that not enough ranges will be open to raise the best team of 12 by then and shooting in rota would take far too long.

Hopefully next year we will get back to normal and there will be a more upbeat report.

Pam Webber

County Captain

## **County Air Captain's Report**

Hugh Webber presents the County Air Captain's report.

Sadly we were not able to run a team this winter as we did not have enough available shooters. If anyone knows of others who shoot 10 metre air pistol can they please let me know and then we could run a team again.

## **Treasurers report year end 2019/20 i.e. up to March 2020**

Paul Kennett provides the following Treasurer's report.

First of all, thanks to Mark Bellringer for completing the Bank account change to Lloyds (which finally happened in June 2019) and then passing over the job to me in good order.

A few notes on the attached accounts. Although our turnover has increased so have our expenses, hence the lower overall profit for 2019-20.

The NSRA affiliation for 2019 was not paid in 2018-19 due to an error by the NSRA which is why there are 2 entries for payment (for 2019 and 2020) in the years accounts.

We have also had to re-register our web domain and pay for the extra security on it.

Lower entries in the Open meeting 2019 resulted in a reduced profit margin but increased entries in Winter and Summer postal comps have offset some of these losses.

We also pre-paid entries for County teams in Summer 2020 competitions, which of course didn't happen. Negotiations are still ongoing as to what will happen to these fees.

We are still in a healthy financial position but with the lack of Summer (and possibly Winter) leagues and an Open Meeting in 2020, we are almost certain to make a small loss in 2020-21. We are also at the mercy of any changes in Affiliation fees and Insurances imposed on us by the NSRA as a result of the consultations ongoing at national level. Clubs and individuals may also find changes here.

I would not wish to increase Club affiliation fees to the County at this time. These fees are due now as per the forms sent out with the AGM notices.

Any questions can be emailed via the Secretary.

Paul Kennett

John Grove proposed accepting the accounts, Andrew Lee seconded

## **Secretary's Report**

Karen Webber provides the following Secretary's report.

There were 2 actions for the committee from last year's AGM. Firstly for the Committee to look for someone to stand in the President's role, secondly the Secretary to formally write to Alan to let him

know that the county have appointed him as Vice President. The Chairman wrote to the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire to invite him to take up the role of President. To date no response has been received. A letter was sent to Alan appointing him as Vice President and thanking him for his long service to the county.

The committee has continued to hold it's regular meetings through the year. Since the restrictions these meetings have moved online but this has not hindered our ability to discuss items as required. As always, if anyone wants anything to be raised during the year then please let me know. The calendar is available on the website if you want to know when the next one will be. The minutes from the meetings are also put on the website and if anyone wants to raise anything in relation to the matters discussed then again, let me know

The website continues to be the main result distribution tool with results for all competitions published there – [wsbrpa.org](http://wsbrpa.org). If there are any suggestions for things clubs would like to be published on the website please let me know. As last year, as the results are available on the website they have not been included here.

Karen Webber

### **Worcestershire County Open 2019**

Hugh Webber presents the following County Open report

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic no meeting was held this year.

The meeting for 2021 is scheduled for Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Hugh Webber

### **Competition Secretary's Report**

John Rogers provides the following Competitions Secretary's report

Last winter we ran 3 prone team divisions and 10 individuals.

The competition was changed in that we gave clubs the option of self scoring, of which all entrants took advantage. Whilst most clubs were able to complete all 10 rounds of the competition there were some shooters that didn't finish for Covid reasons. This would have been more of a problem if those shooters and teams had been unable to win the league because of it, or if they had been scheduled to shoot against someone who won the league due to their absence, but fortunately this was not a problem.

In summer several clubs entered and sent in cheques. The league never got off the ground and the cheques that were written in March are still on my desk and are now out of date.

A league can be run over the coming winter if there are enough entries, Individuals if not teams. The dates will have to be more flexible than usual. I would be grateful if you can let me know when you can and we can start to get things back together.

Results and awards are outlined separately

J. Rogers

## **Lightweight Sports Rifle and Benchrest Competition Secretary's Report**

Hugh Webber presents the following Lightweight Sports Rifle and Benchrest Competition Secretary's report.

This event year has been disrupted by Covid-19. We managed to run competitions through the winter and complete before the lock-down disrupted everything.

In the winter we had 11 divisions of bench rest, 16 of LWSR and 4 of LWSR pairs.

The summer competitions were not held due to Covid-19, but we are hopeful of being able to run competitions again in the winter. Naturally this will be governed by considerations of people's health and, if necessary, will be run in a more flexible timing manner to accommodate this.

It is good for the County finances, making a small profit each season. This helps to pay our affiliation fees and entry fees for NSRA sponsored competitions. Hence the hope that 2020-21 will be better.

Hugh Webber

## **Junior Captain's Report**

No Junior Captain's report is submitted for the AGM as the post remains vacant.

## **Votes**

See above for the acceptance of the accounts.

All respondents accepted the 2019 AGM minutes as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

Keith Bates proposed Mark Bellringer as chairman and NSRA rep, Pam Webber seconded.

Keith Bates proposed to elect the rest of the committee on block, Paul Kennett seconded.