

24th. November.2010

Dear Secretary and others,

I attended the 'Shooting Council' meeting at Bisley on Saturday, 20th. November, 2010 and can report that it was a long, but useful meeting. I will, as usual, précis the bits that I think are important to circulate, and should you have any questions, please ask.

There was some sad news in that one of our best known shooters, and the Chairman of 'The centipede Club', Frank Balcombe died on Thursday, 18th, November. Another loss was Irene Daw, known to a lot of the more mature shooters as a long standing British International and Olympic competitor.

The National Rifle meeting will take place commencing on Saturday, 13th. August, 2010 and it is intended to run the Pistol meeting alongside it.

You should all now be aware that Geoff Doe has retired and Alistair Aitken is in post as Geoff's successor. Another change is that the Operations Manager for the Lord Roberts centre has left and will be replaced, in due course with a 'sales manager' hoping to 'sell' the LRC for commercial purposes a lot more, which should, if and when successful, enhance the NSRA finances!

Membership fees have been set for 2011 as:-

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| Clubs with 30 members or less | £130 | Over 30 members | £180 |
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| County Associations | £390 (no change) |
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Individuals: Annual £78 Juniors £40 Associate £55

Something new, on the insurance front, which may affect some of you. Our £10m civil liability cover is being extended to cover rough, game and vermin shooting. It will therefore provide an alternative source of insurance, for those members who currently have to obtain cover for these activities through BASC or elsewhere. Unlike BASC, it will cover shooters' equipment to £5000 for annual and £2000 for associate members.

Those of you with an e-mail address logged with the NSRA will have noticed that they are experimenting with that method of communication. If you are a member, and wish to be included, make sure that Brian Woodall has your e-mail address!

Transport of firearms by rail is looking as though it may be banned by the Office of Rail regulation. This could affect a lot of shooters and, of course includes air guns! Anyone wishing to help should contact Passenger Focus by e-mail on info@passengerfocus.org and voice your disapproval. Every message will help the cause.

RCO courses will now be valid for only 5 years to bring them into line with coaching licences and the NRA RCO licences.

On the air gun side, there has been a suggestion that the 'X' class aggregate competition will be split into two prize lists, one for SH2 shooters and the other for the rest.

There was a long discussion on appoint raised that, where County Teams at Bisley, for the 'Sextet' and the inter-county matches, open and ladies, that a county unable to field a team with their members at the meeting, can call in someone not normally competing at the meeting to make up their County team, however, this additional personnel must not make up more than one third of the team in question. This was eventually agreed for a trial period.

The Counties of 'Leicester & Rutland' and Northamptonshire have been permitted to merge to form a single unit for inter-county competition.

Finally, the Board of Management has been looking at the feed-back on how the NSRA should proceed. As you will be aware, the response, generally, from this County was apathetic! There is to be a major review of the membership scheme. It was not possible whilst there was still the possibility of a merger with the NRA, but as that is now dead in the water, it can be seriously looked at. A committee to oversee the whole organisation has been set up with 4 Board members and 5 members of staff. It is well understood, that any scheme must offer benefits that people want and for which they are prepared to pay. We must remember that 40% of the charity's income comes from membership.

As I said, this was a long discussion, and far too lengthy to publish. However, should any club want more information, I will happily discuss it with the, and even visit club committee meetings, if you wish.

Charlie Batten

A W Batten (Hon Secretary)