

NORTH WALSHAM RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB

Minutes of the 92nd AGM held 24th April 2025 at the North Walsham Community Centre

Present were 40 members. Apologies were received from F.Giles, B.Hudson, R.Drake, S.Woods, P.Meacher, D.Cooper, F.Halstead, D.Alexander.

The Hon Secretary called the meeting to order and called for the election of a Chairman for the meeting. Mr.C.Abbs was proposed but declined as he was going to take the minutes. Mr J.Sharman was therefore proposed and elected by the members.

Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of last year`s meeting had been circulated previously. There were no issues and they were approved by the members and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

Reports from Officials.

Chair:

Thanked everyone for coming. Thanked everyone who helped the club over the last year, especially the range officers and instructors who are essential for new members and so often overlooked. As always there is a massive amount of work and paperwork just to keep the club going. Reminder that we are all volunteers so if you do see us at the range please have the decency to let us enjoy our shooting before you start with the questions and complaints.

It's not been an easy year for the committee –we lost three members midterm, two for illness, and they have not been easy to replace with new volunteers. Reported on a work party that took place recently, which was very poorly attended, only 15 members attended. Asked that everyone makes the effort to attend at least one work party a year – no job too small, even making the tea is appreciated! Proposed lead ban is still not sorted, so not sure how this will affect the club. All costs are up, as is ammo and reloading components if you can find them but we will continue to struggle on and remember-

` No matter what they throw at us, Keep shooting! `

Hon sec:

Primarily concerned with insurance, and making sure our certs are up to date which they are. Reported on two disciplinary hearings this year, which need to be reported at AGM. There was an altercation between four people on Range 1. This was verbal, with accusations from both parties which lead to two investigations into one incident. It was found there was cause for some of the complaints that were made, and as a result two individuals received written warnings which were on their record for 3 months. These have now expired from their records. Second one was a complaint about a breach of procedure, aimed at an individual, and was investigated. No fault was found and it was closed out.

Treasurer:

Accounts have been audited by Fabian again. Accounts were circulated by email prior to the meeting. Reported an increase in subs, more ammo and equipment sales. Some costs are expected to be higher, and some new expenses including the fence between Range 1 and 2 and grounds maintenance. Have made a surplus this year but need to consider higher costs of mains electricity going forward.

Rifle Captain:

Reported on Thursday night attendance, which is going well, including some new faces present this evening. Membership close to 300 now. Good numbers. Had some difficulty getting people to run Range 3, and sometimes Range 1 on a Thursday nights. Asked for anyone interested or able to help out to assist. Lending out 8-10 rifles to new members on a Thursday.

Pistol Captain:

Our Pistol Captain was one of the members who had to step down mid term due to health issues. Still looking for a volunteer, role vacant. Range 3 is suffering from the lack of one. Asked if anyone will take it on or could help out with RO duties on range 3 on a Thurs night.

Airgun Captain:

Thanked the ROs on Thursday nights, and expressed appreciation for their help as without them they wouldn't run. A lot of changes on Range 1 in the last year, all started back end of 2024 with a suggestion that the lanes were not aligned correctly and there were ricochets onto Range 2. John, Colin and I did a full range survey, from lane 10 to lane 1. Now have 11 lanes rather than 10, and a fence has been erected to help stop any ricochets reaching range 2. Also got 3 new 100yd metal frames, thanks to Carl Brady for producing these. New 25 yd rail organised at the last work party – thanks to Jeff Saville for all his help with this. Range 1 attendance has been pretty flat all year. Range 1 makes up 44% of the club membership. Ran a 25yd Bench Rest competition this year which Andy organised, and scored by Jack, both thanked for their efforts. Results are – third place Paul Shreeve with 1166/1200, second place Carl Beaumont 1184/1200 and first place was Carl Brady with 1199/1200.

Development Officer:

Reported no money coming in currently, and money for big projects is on hold. No funding that we can get. Has been involved with planning for the car park, and currently fighting Highways. Have arranged to meet with planning officer at Highways Agency next week to try to resolve some of the queries and issues. Noted that we are only looking at a difference of about 20 car spaces in the car park. Positive but a lot needed to make it work. Cost the club a considerable sum to produce drawings etc that are needed for the application.

Subscriptions:

Presented a proposal – a letter has been written to the committee and countersigned with the proposal that subs do not go up this year. A total of 8 individuals have voted by proxy.

Counter proposal by the committee proposes that subs go up a little bit, as they didn't go up last year.

Vote in favour of subs staying the same: 6 + 8 proxies

Vote in favour of subs being increased: 34. Carried.

Noted that the increase in costs for utilities, currently unknown quantity but estimated to be more than double the current costs. Currently spending 13p/KwH for electricity, looking at an increase to 27p/KwH. Working with base average figures currently. Suggestion of looking into solar panels.

Another proposal received was that any increase for adults is also reflected in junior membership. Voted on this proposal – 1 voted for plus 8 proxy votes, everyone else against.

- Proposal of £20 increase for adult membership, and £5 for junior membership . Second proposal that the increase should be a percentage for both. Majority voted for the increase in fees to be £20 adults and £5 juniors. It was pointed out that this was approximately 15%each but kept fees whole amounts and did not end up with pennies being involved.

New fees – Adult £150.00, juniors £45.00 and probationer half subs plus £5 joining fee.

AOB:

- A proposal was made that all new members must attend at least one work party before they are accepted to membership or pay an additional fee.

Votes for : 7 Against :30 Not carried

- Toilets – currently cleaned by a volunteer using their own supplies. Can the club buy supplies. Agreed that they would send the committee a list to purchase cleaning supplies.
- Booking system – could this be used to find another person to shoot with if they don't have a buddy. Noted that it's already possible to see this on the website following a recent update but only works if members actually book in advance.
- Trees at the back of the range need to be looked at. A health check has been done unofficially by a professional and R.Martin will present this to the committee at another time for discussion
- Query re the word 'fullbore' in recent emails. It was stated that the club is Home Office approved for `fullbore rifle`, allowing members to own some fullbore rifles as a member, but the range safety certificate only allows the use of `rifles in common pistol calibre` on range 3. The problem is that Home office do not actually differentiate between high velocity centrefire (eg .303) and low velocity centrefire (eg .357 mag)
- Change in use of lead bullets – lead removal. Currently this is done by members, noted that there is a log and a set of scales for weighing in the clubhouse. Law hasn't changed yet, but is under discussion. If the law changes we may have to record number of bullets fired into banks as well as weight of lead cleaned out.
- Target frames on Range 2 – these frames are constantly being wrecked and costing a lot in replacements. Suggestions included CCTV, supervising shoots and an email to be sent out regarding use of appropriate frames and targets.
- Zero Point – thanks to the club for giving up Monday nights, junior shooting is and continues to bring huge successes with past and present junior members. Thanks in particular to Jeff Saville and all the other helpers involved in Monday nights.

- Rotary sieve – suggestion for purchasing or hiring one to get the lead out of the range. Committee to look into this and if practical to implement at a work party
- Toilet in Range 3 – This was approved at a previous agm but has not moved forward due to a lack of volunteers. Andrew Barber offered to manage this project, assisted by Tony Heaps .
- It was suggested that members should be assessed before they are allowed to shoot on any of the ranges to ensure they understand the intricacies of each range. This would be difficult to do for existing members but could be enforced for new members joining us as part of their probationary period. It would however require a volunteer to oversee everything.

Election of Committee Members:

The following committee members were elected:

- Chairman – Colin Abbs
- Hon Sec - John Sharman
- Assistant Sec – Claire Grasby
- Membership Sec – Paddy O'Brien
- Treasurer – Issy Snell
- Police Liaison Officer – Tony Clarke
- Rifle Captain – Geoff Snell
- Pistol Captain – Andrew Barber
- Airgun Captain – John Francis
- Safety Officer – Terry Thacker
- Development Officer – Post not Filled / currently vacant
- Junior Representative – Freya Giles
- Website Manager – David Sherwood
- Competition Secretary – Colin Abbs
- PR & Publicity – Jack Denby

Awards

- **Chairman's Cup** awarded to Richard Spinks, and collected on his behalf.
- **Jenny Giles Memorial Trophy** (50m Prone) – jointly awarded to Colin Abbs and David Sherwood.

Meeting closed 2045.