

North Walsham Rifle and Pistol Club 88th AGM

held on 28 April 2022, at the North Walsham Community Centre

Welcome by Hon. Secretary

The Secretary welcomed those present and thanked them for attending the meeting. He said that it had been a year where the club had started to get going again after the various disruptions from the pandemic. The club had restarted probationary evenings and with hard work from various committee members and other volunteers, it had got through the backlog of prospective members who had been waiting. He reiterated that the club was made of the members, and urged those who could to help with the running of the club, that it was a non-commercial club and we were all volunteers; however, without more help it would be necessary for the club to consider getting jobs done professionally which could then have a knock-on effect on the level of membership fees.

Apologies

The secretary had received a number of apologies from members of the club that they were unable to attend the meeting. They were: Bill Hudson, Christine Hudson, David Hagan-Palmer, Simon Wilson, Martin Craddock, Andrew Baxenden-Kirk, Anthony Green, Robert Lawless, Peter Swatman, Colin Ross, Michael Mannings, Dave Wicks, Paul White, Andrea White, Steve Phillips, Liam Drake, Terry Chadwick, Matthew Watts, Paul Meacher, Chris Gould, James Usher, Peter Rand, Richard Martin, Paul Doney, Max Pinching

Elected Committee Present:

Election of a Chairman for the meeting

The secretary proposed that Mike Kirkham, the outgoing Development Officer, be elected as Chairman for the meeting. This was seconded by Tony Heaps, and the subsequent vote was unanimous.

Minutes of Previous AGM: These were voted on and agreed, with one amendment to correct a typo so as to show Robert Lawless being elected as Pistol Captain

Matters arising from last AGM

Officers reports

Chairman

The chairman echoed the welcome to the meeting, and said that it had been tough years through the pandemic and the various lockdowns but that the club had made it through with some hard work put in by members of the committee. Thursday probationary nights were up and running again and we had picked up a number of new members from the waiting list. However, the club had seen a fall in membership numbers as a result of existing members losing interest because it had been so difficult for them to attend in the last couple of years. So, it was upto those remaining to try to recruit prospective members.

Hon. Secretary

Richard said that much of what he wanted to say had already been said in his welcome and the Chairman's address. However, he did want to reiterate that the club was only as strong as its members, and that they need to recognise that the committee are all volunteers giving their time freely, and that sometimes they need help. Richard said he had been attending most of the Thursday night probationary nights on Range 3, and it was heartening to see new enthusiastic members, and also a number of existing members who were volunteering to help run these evening; and he thanked them very much.

Hon. Treasurer

The annual accounts were presented to the meeting, and thanks given to Fabian Halstead and Malcolm Fisher for helping the new Treasurer settle in. The club had had a fall in

revenue in the last couple of years, a reduction in ammunition sales as a result of the closures. However, this was now being managed by fees coming in from an increase in probationary members as the club works its way through the waiting list. The club has also benefited from some Covid Grants for sports clubs. The field purchase has gone through and the club will be in the process of paying back those members who have subscribed to the field purchase loan for the next few years. Members were reminded that for membership fees while cash and cheque are accepted the preference is for the amount to be made by bank transfer, remember to include your name as a reference.

Rifle Captain

Thursday nights have opened up again and we have an influx of new members who are starting on Range 3. However, there are not any volunteers who will act as RCOs for Range 2 in case any new members want to try out prone rifle, and it is important to try and get some new blood into that part of the sport. The scouts have not yet returned, but it is hoped that this will happen soon, and moves are afoot to facilitate this. The important thing is to get people into the club, existing members are not shooting as much since the opening up after lockdown and we have to try and encourage increased footfall, and new members.

Pistol Captain

As the Pistol Captain had sent his apologies for the AGM, Richard thanked the ROs and RCO's who had volunteered their time on Thursday evenings to help out. He appreciated their help for the evenings that he had run.

Airgun Captain

The airgun section had returned and numbers were picking up again, with Thursday nights busy again. They had managed to run a Vintage rifle competition since returning and the placings for this were 1st Colin Abbs, 2nd John Francis, 3rd Andy Goodhand. The county air pistol competition had new North Walsham members placed well, these were Richard Moore, and Sean Leate. Thanks were given to all those who had supported the airgun range; but especially Fabian, Olly, and Jack Wones.

It was raised with the need for members to assist in the running of the club and at work parties, that a number of members had felt their contributions on work days were not appreciated and they were not thanked for the work carried out.

Olly Crysell apologised to anyone if they felt that this had happened on his watch. Richard echoed those apologies if they felt that they weren't thanked; and that he tried to make sure he got round to everyone and had a chat when he was able to attend a work day.

Development Officer

The club had carried out lots of work to bring the club forward. However, one of the effects of the closures and lack of activity was that much of that work was now undone and would have to be brought up to date. The club needed a plan for what should be its priorities going forward. It would need the new Development Officer to continue the work of the Development Sub-committee that had met a few times in making sure the club could improve as time went on.

Youth representative

Unfortunately, due to the effects of the lockdowns and changes in leadership, ZeroPoint had ceased to exist as an Explorer unit. However, there are moves for it so become an Active Support unit; this would mean that there would be no limits on ages, the DBS for various helpers, RO, RCOs was in the process of being completed. The hope was that the group would relaunch, firstly on airguns before opening it up for 22 rifle.

Proposals

I) A proposal to amend the constitution to change the time period for the first stage of the disciplinary process from 14 to 28 days, to allow more time to find out what has happened.

This was proposed by Olly Crysell and seconded by Tony Heaps, and the subsequent vote was carried unanimously.

II) A vote to determine the membership's view on whether to continue with the booking system.

A wide ranging discussion was had by the meeting on the various options which were:

1) That the booking system be removed and the club return to members being able to visit ad-hoc with firing points being on a first come, first served basis.

2a) That the booking be retained in its present form, with the only exception being the potential to change the length of time for each slot on a firing point (e.g. from 1hr slots to 2hr slots)

2b) That the booking system be incorporated into a hybrid system, where slots could be booked in advance, but members would also be able to turn up and use any unbooked slots.

A vote was held into the various options, and this concluded that the proposal 2b was carried with the highest number of votes for. Colin Abbs said that the committee would seek to enact the meetings wishes and introduce a hybrid system, and that the subject would be revisited at next year's AGM to see if it had worked successfully.

III) A proposal to offer a reduction in fees for those who attend the work parties. There was a proposal discussed by the meeting that the membership fee be reduced by £5 per work day attended.

Attendance would be recorded and reductions agreed in consultation with the discipline captains to determine that an individual had made a meaningful contribution to the work party; merely turning up for 10 minutes would not be sufficient. The reduction would be retrospective and so applied to the following year's membership fee, and that there would be no cash alternative should membership cease. The discussion covered other work done not on work days, and it was decided by the meeting that this would not be applicable because on other days there is the opportunity for an individual to combine this with shooting whereas on a work party individuals incur travel costs without this opportunity.

This was proposed for a vote by Tony Heaps and seconded by Richard Drake, the subsequent vote was 28 for the proposal, 19 against, and 1 abstention; therefore the proposal was carried

IV) Membership fees proposal for 2022/2023

i) The committee proposes that the fees for Full adult members be increased by £10 per annum to £115, and for a full junior member by £5 per annum to £40.

ii) There was a discussion that the club would need additional funds in order to carry out work around the club, and a counter proposal that the fees for full members be increased by £20 to £125, and the fees for full junior members remain at £35.

This was proposed by Fabian Halstead, seconded by Olly Crysell; and the subsequent vote was defeated with 15 votes for the counter proposal and 16 against.

The counter proposal ii, having been defeated, Richard Drake proposed a vote on proposal I, seconded by Tony Heaps, the subsequent voted was carried with 37 votes for, 6 against, and 3 abstentions.

Election of executive Committee members

Chairman - Colin Abbs indicated he would restand; proposed by Olly Crysell, seconded by Tony Heaps; carried by unanimous vote.

Hon. Secretary - Richard Drake indicated that he would restand; proposed by Colin Abbs, seconded by Geoff Snell; carried by unanimous vote.

Assistant Secretary – Vivien Minett indicated that she would stand, no other candidates; Proposed by Freya Giles, seconded by Geoff Snell; carried by unanimous vote.

Membership Secretary – Paddy O'Brien indicated that he would restand; proposed by Richard Drake, seconded by Tony Barnard; carried by unanimous vote.

Treasurer – Isabel Snell indicated that she would restand; proposed by Fabian Halstead, seconded by Tony Heaps; carried by unanimous vote.

Liaison Officer - Tony Barnard indicated that he would restand; proposed by Tony Heaps, seconded by Richard Drake; carried by unanimous vote.

Rifle Captain – Geoff Snell indicated that he would restand; proposed by Richard Drake, seconded by David Sherwood; carried by unanimous vote.

Pistol Captain – Robert Lawless had indicated that he would restand, Tony Heaps indicated that he would stand both candidates were proposed and seconded; the subsequent vote was Robert Lawless 4, Tony Heaps 15. Therefore, Tony Heaps was elected as Pistol Captain.

Airgun Captain – Jeff Saville was not restanding. No candidates came forward on the night so the post became vacant.

Development Officer – Mike Kirkham was not restanding. No candidates came forward on the night so the post became vacant.

Junior Representative – Freya Giles indicated that she would restand, proposed by Olly Crysell, seconded by David Sherwood; carried by unanimous vote.

Safety Officer – Terry Thacker indicated that he would restand, proposed by Richard Drake, seconded by Tony Heaps; carried by unanimous vote.

Election of Non-executive Committee members

Marketing and PR – Vivien Minett was not restanding, No candidates came forward on the night so the post became vacant.

Competition Secretary – Colin Abbs indicated that he would restand, proposed by Richard Drake seconded by Olly Crysell; carried by unanimous vote.

Webmaster – David Sherwood indicated that he would restand, proposed by Richard Drake, seconded by Kevin Hord; carried by unanimous vote.

Election of club auditor – Malcolm Fisher indicated that he would restand, proposed by Richard Drake, seconded by Geoff Snell; carried by unanimous vote.

A.O.B

Paddy said that if any members pay their membership fees tonight, the cards would be available next Tuesday. Members must remember to bring their cards with them when on club premises and produce them if requested.

Olly Crysell mentioned that there had been some news on the BASC website regarding a potential lead ban on ammunition, that would see lead shot banned and could have implications for 22 rimfire ammunition as well; and that this was something that the committee would need to keep up to date with and inform the membership.

It was brought up that while the club has a defibrillator, this needs to be checked regularly, Richard thanked the Kevin Gunn for bringing this up and said the committee would ensure that this was checked and became part of the safety officer's brief. Kevin also said that a First Aid board would be useful, showing members who had First Aid training.

Olly Crysell also said further to the club wanting to attract new members, that the website needed updating; as some sections were significantly out of date.

Jeff Saville presented Jack Wones with a small gift for his contribution to the airgun section over many years.

Charles Cain said could the club look into the potential for using a portacabin or something similar as an indoor 10m airgun range.

Meeting closed: 9:15pm