North Walsham Rifle and Pistol Club 89th AGM held on 27 April 2023, at the North Walsham Community Centre

Welcome by Hon. Secretary

The Secretary welcomed those present and thanked them for attending the meeting. He thanked all on the Committee and all those who help out on the probationary evening on Thursdays. A special thanks to Geoff Snell, Brian Greenwood, Charles Cain, Terry Chadwick, and Colin Abbs for all the hard work repairing the generator and sorting out the electrical problem at the club. Thanks to Malcolm Fisher who has been the club's auditor for a number of years and is standing down this year. As you should all know I'm standing down his year, and that is not negotiable; Liam is sitting at the back as my wife's envoy to make sure I don't do anything stupid. I first became secretary of a club when I was 18, I've been Secretary for a number of clubs, and I feel I've done my time. I also feel that other people have done their time as Secretary. I think the club needs new blood in this role. So, it's time for someone new to take it on. If you think you don't know enough to do it, just imagine what an 18-year-old me knew when I started.

Apologies

The secretary had received a number of apologies from members of the club that they were unable to attend the meeting. They were: Simon Wilson, Ros Wilson, Fabian Halstead, Chris Gould, Peter Rand, Viv Minett, Ian Keeley

Elected Committee Present: Colin Abbs, Richard Drake, Geoff Snell, Isabel Snell, Michael Manning, Tony Barnard, Tony Heaps, David Sherwood, Terry Thacker, and Freya Giles

Election of a Chairman for the meeting

The Chairman proposed that Richard Drake, the outgoing Secretary, be elected as Chairman for the meeting. This was seconded by Charles Cain, and the subsequent vote was unanimous.

Minutes of Previous AGM: These were voted on and agreed.

Matters arising from last AGM:

Kevin Gunn informed the meeting that owing to a change in the requirements he was no longer able to conduct a First Aid Course for the Club. Committee to investigate cost and whether a 'shooting club' specific course was available from St. John Ambulance. Richard Martin said that another club he was a member of had a First aid course that covered trauma and he would find out who was the provider and cost.

Officers reports

Chairman

Colin thanked everyone for coming. Last year I reported that things were still quiet on the ranges as we emerged from the pandemic. I am pleased to see that range attendance is improving. We have picked up some new members this year and I am glad to see Zero point are back with us. We must support these youngsters. and recruit more if possible as they are the future of the sport. This year has not been without its hiccups- mostly weather and electrical problems and I would like to thank those who gave up their shooting time to help with repairs. I think I should point out that these problems were not generator related and would have caused problems with any electric supply system. The last work party was wet and rather unpleasant and my thanks to those who attended. At present the proposed lead ban is still being discussed. Hopefully we will all still be here next year but we may have to take steps this year to ensure our shooting in the future if any rule changes are forced upon us.

Hon. Secretary
Richard said that much of what he wanted to say had already been said in his welcome. 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.

Hon. Treasurer
The annual accounts were presented to the meeting, and thanks given to Malcolm Fisher for auditing them. Generally the club finances are in good health with a cash surplus.
The club is in the process of paying back those members who have subscribed to the field purchase loan for the next few years, and this represents a liability to the club which needs to be taken into account when looking at the accounts. 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. Of special note is that the club has changed its bank and members need to use the new details on the AGM invitation letter. Olly Crysall queried the increased cost of targets and frames, this was explained to be both due to the increased costs of the raw materials and the increased rate of attrition with target frames getting 'shot up' and needing replacement more often than previously.

Rifle Captain
Thursday nights are pretty busy with a number of new members coming in through the website. However, there are only a few 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 important thing is to get people into the club, encourage increased footfall, and new members.

Pistol Captain
The club is picking up new members to Range 3, in part thanks to the good club standing which North Walsham have with licensing. Many thanks to Charlie, Terry and Colin for sorting out the electrical problem in range 3. The target frame supporting woodwork has been replaced and improved, so that we don't now have to contend with the spigot holes getting blocked or flooded in the winter.

Airgun Captain
Thursday probationary nights busy again. Range 1 used regularly with 1,800 attendances and 73 airgun members. They had managed to run a Vintage rifle competition, and a 40 yard benchrest competition and the placings for these were: 40 yard 1st P Waller, 2nd I Shrive, and 3rd W Debbage; Vintage rifle 1st C.Abbs. An NSRA RCO course had been run with around a dozen members qualifying. The club table top sale was a success. Thanks were given to all those who had supported the airgun range; especially Vic Price for fabricating the stainless steel pellet catchers, and those who attended a workday.

Youth representative
Zero Point has reformed as an Active Support Unit; this means that there are no limits on ages. It restarted in September with a variety of ages, with 10 in the junior section, and there has recently been an increase in prospective members. Attendance at competitions will hopefully start later in the year.

Other Officers
Tony Barnard, as Police Liaison Officer reminded all members that the guest book needs to be completed in addition to the Attendance book for all guests.
David Sherwood, as webmaster noted that the calendar for seeing when firing points are booked is now up and running online.

Proposals

I) Membership fees proposal for 2023/2024
The committee proposes that the fees for Full adult members remain at £115 per annum for adults, and for a full junior member at £40 per annum.
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 £15 to £130, and the fees for full junior members remain at £40. T**he Secretary said there was a concern that the increase at this time would increase the number of members choosing to not renew and so therefore the increase in funds would not occur
The counter proposal was proposed for a vote by Jeff Saville, and **the subsequent vote was carried with 32 votes for the counter proposal**.

2) The committee has proposed that the constitution be amended to remove the distinction between non-executive and executive members of the committee.
There was a number of minutes of debate regarding the proposal, centring around the overall size of the committee if the distinction between Non-exec and executive members was removed. The proposal was put to the meeting, and the vote was 26 for, and 4 against. **The proposal was carried.**

3) The committee has proposed that the constitution be amended to give members co-opted into committee roles a vote. The discussion centred around whether people could be co-opted onto the committee without a vote by the membership and then this be used as a mechanism to move the club in a particular direction to the detriment of the wider membership leaving them without representation. It was established that co-option can only take place into vacant positions on the committee and that the constitution limits the number of committee members as per proposal 2 above. Olly Crysell suggested a modification to the proposal that an online vote would be run for a co-opted committee member and following the results of this, if elected then they be given a vote. **This was put to the meeting and the vote was carried unanimously.**

2) That as there is now an online calendar to enable bookings to be seen easily, all firing points should become bookable so that those travelling a distance can see whether there will be other members present so that they can shoot?
Following discussion this was put to the meeting and the vote was 5 for, and 40 against; **the proposal was defeated.**

3) That the membership approve the committee to plan and implement a move from the current diesel generator, to mains electricity?
3a) an alternative proposal has been that the club purchases a modern duty generator and standby generator to replace the current generator?
There was discussion over a number of minutes regarding the pros and cons of the proposal and it's alternative. The proposal and its alternative were put to the meeting. Proposal 3) votes for 20, votes against 19; Proposal 3a) votes for 6, votes against 34.
Proposal 3 that the club plan and implement a move to mains electricity was carried.

4) The main entrance gate to the club be moved back down the ramp to allow the gate to be opened/shut without the members car having to be on Happisburgh Road?
The proposal was put to the meeting; votes for 5, votes against 30. The proposal was defeated.

5) That an extension to the car park be constructed on the field next to the club, so there is enough room when the club is busy such as on Thursday evenings?
After discussion, the proposal was put to the meeting; votes for 38, votes against 2. **The proposal that the club build a car park extension was carried.**

6) That the club agrees to start planning the construction of an indoor 10m airgun range in a suitable location?
After discussion, the proposal was put to the meeting; votes for 17, votes against 9. **The proposal was carried**

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 – John Sharman indicated that he would stand, no other candidates; proposed by Michael Mannings, seconded by Tony Barnard; carried by unanimous vote.
Assistant Secretary – David Sherwood indicated that he would stand, no other candidates; Proposed by Colin Abbs, seconded by Richard Drake; carried by unanimous vote.
Membership Secretary – Paddy O'Brien indicated that he would restand; proposed by Colin Abbs, seconded by Charles Cain; carried by unanimous vote.
Treasurer – Isabel Snell indicated that she would restand; proposed by Colin Abbs, seconded by Richard Drake; carried by unanimous vote.
Liaison Officer - Tony Barnard indicated that he would restand; proposed by David Sherwood, seconded by Tony Heaps; carried by unanimous vote.
Rifle Captain – Geoff Snell indicated that he would restand; proposed by Colin Abbs, seconded by David Sherwood; carried by unanimous vote.
Pistol Captain – Tony Heaps indicated that he would restand; proposed by Tony Barnard, seconded by Richard Drake; carried by unanimous vote.
Airgun Captain – Michael Mannings indicated that he would restand; proposed by Richard Drake and seconded by Terry Thacker; carried by unanimous vote.
Development Officer – No candidates came forward on the night so the post remained vacant.The Chairman indicated that this post would need filling if all the developments agreed to were to be achieved during the coming year.
Junior Representative – Freya Giles indicated that she would restand, proposed by Jeff Saville, seconded by Richard Drake; carried by unanimous vote.
Safety Officer – Terry Thacker indicated that he would restand, proposed by Colin Abbs, seconded by David Sherwood; carried by unanimous vote.

Election of Non-executive Committee members
Marketing and PR – Freya Giles indicated that she would stand; proposed by Richard Drake and seconded by Colin Abbs; carried by unanimous vote.
Rifle 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 Colin Abbs, seconded by Issy Snell; carried by unanimous vote.

Election of club auditor – Fabian Halstead had indicated that he would stand, proposed by Colin Abbs, seconded by Richard Drake; carried by unanimous vote.

A.O.B

Olly Crysell proposed a vote of thanks to all the members of the committee over the last year.
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.
Tony Barnard proposed that a member of the club had given many years of service to the club including attending virtually every probationary night, storing and managing the club firearms, giving the safety brief to probationary members, as well as many many hours maintaining the club premises especially the generator. TB proposed that in gratitude of all this work, Geoff Snell should be awarded Honorary membership of the club, seconded by Richard Drake; and carried by unanimous vote.
The question of a toilet on Range 3 was raised, as it had been decided to build one at a previous AGM but this had not yet happened. It was reported that since the decision the regulations regarding disposal of toilet waste had changed and the septic tank/soakaways of old were no longer allowed and that the waste would have to go through a treatment plant, and that these were expensive around £12k, and required mains electricity. Jeff Saville said that there were now non mains electric options and that he knew of one which was only £3.5k. Olly Crysell proposed that the committee put in a toilet on Range 3 with a non mains electric treatment plant, seconded by Colin Ross; the vote was 32 for, and nil against. **The proposal was carried.**
Olly Crysell also said that the bullet catcher on Range 3 required reprofiling and some additional sand. The committee were already looking in to this.

Meeting closed: 9:20pm