

North Walsham Rife & Pistol Club

Minutes of the 93rd AGM held 30th April 2026 at North Walsham Community Centre

Present were 46 members. Apologies were received from W. Debbage, S. Watson, M. Bygraves, A. Hudson, R. Drake, L. Drake, B. Grange, M. Pinchin, S. Wilson, M. Watts, I. Keeley, R. Spinks, D. Murrell, F. Giles, A. Barber, A. Goodhand, J. Sharman, K. Samson.

In the absence of the Hon Secretary, Chairman called the meeting to order and called for election of a Chair for the meeting. C. Abbs was proposed and elected by the members.

Minutes of 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. Noted that there is so much work that goes on behind the scenes just to keep the club open.

This has been a difficult and at times frustrating year. Reported on the difficulties caused by the shooting up of target frames on Range 2 and 3, and asked members if they see anyone to please let them know. The lead ban is coming, and will result in changes to the attendance register. Noted that attendances are up this year despite the cost of living and shooting increases, it is nice to see that you are not letting that get in the way of your sport. Looking positive, thank you.

Hon Sec:

Not at meeting, and no report.

Membership Secretary:

Reported that membership is up from last year, and that renewals are due now, so asked members to do this within the 2 month window.

278 members at this date.

Treasurer:

Accounts have been audited by Fabian again. Accounts were circulated by email prior to the meeting.

Reported that last year the club finished paying the loan on the field next door, so no capital repayments or interest this year. There has been an increase in membership and a new income line for events, such as the Norfolk Winter Open. There has been an increase in ammo costs, and increased spending on targets. Generator fuel has increased. New club kit has been purchased. A new Junior Development Fund has been set up by the committee this year.

Rifle Captain:

Reported on Thursday nights throughout the year, which has had a steady stream of new joiners. Have built up a busy gallery evening, also reported on a lot of new members wishing to take up prone rifle of all ages, as well as a lot of shooters transferring from prone to benchrest for various reasons. Reported on maintaining the field so parking to be opened on a Thursday evening. Noted that there are a few delays with getting people through probation at the moment due to the time it's taking to get a firearms certificate.

Pistol Captain:

Sent apologies, no report sent.

Airgun Captain:

Thanked all the ROs and RCOs on Range 1, without them it wouldn't run and it's appreciated and not taken for granted. Attendance numbers on R1 have dropped by about 5%, thought to be due to members moving into HFT and FT. Last Thursday the club was full, but noted that we need to get more young people into the club. Carl Brady will be running a 25m benchrest competition this year, please look out on the notice board for more information on this.

A member asked is Thursday night the only night? No, just for use of club guns. Noted we need to find a way to communicate when people are at the club.

Subscriptions:

Committee Proposal is that Subs stay the same: Adult £150.00, juniors £45.00 and probationer half subs plus £5 joining fee.

Vote in favour of subs staying the same - unanimous.

AOB:

- **Field section sale** – C. Abbs updated on the request to purchase a piece of the field by one of the neighbours, and on J. Sharman's recent meeting with them. Noted that there has been a low offer, but the club needs permission from membership to sell. This was discussed and several members protested strongly against the sale. Outcome: majority voted *not* to sell the land.

- **Car park update** – J. Sharman has been dealing with this, update report not received on the application for change of use of the field from agricultural to a carpark.
- **Abolish work party day payments** – currently anyone who does a work party has £5 off their subs. Noted it hasn't worked and hasn't increased attendance on work party days. Noted that anyone bringing machinery will be given fuel, so won't be left out of pocket. It was put to the vote, and majority voted for the abolishment of these payments.
- **Forming of the club work team** – A. Barber has proposed that the club has a dedicated team to do the building / maintenance work. This will not affect work parties, which will still go ahead. It was believed that this was intended for larger jobs that could not be tackled at a work party but unfortunately Mr Barber was not present to confirm. Proposal that is ` a work team shall be formed ` was carried with a majority vote of 21, however the team needs to create a list of projects and circulate this to the membership and the team needs an approved leader.
- **Update on electrical connections** – no update from J. Sharman. G. Snell updated on where we are. Noted that the electrician that started the work has disappeared and is not replying to phone calls or emails, however, a recent new member started at the club is an electrician and may be able to help the club take this forward. G. Snell is meeting with new company tomorrow morning at 0800 and will update afterwards.
- **Range 3** – a member spoke on behalf of all users of Range 3 to ask committee not to tar everyone with the same brush. All the problems were likely to be caused by just one or two members only. Agreed that everyone will be vigilant and report anything untoward to the committee and Chairman pointed out that some committee members were pistol shooters and had been very defensive of the innocent range 3 users.
- **CCTV** – this was questioned, and committee updated on the use of CCTV in range 3. In accordance with data protection laws, only one person has been nominated to access the footage, J. Sharman. There are currently 2 cameras in the gallery, and these are motion activated, battery operated and only record 7 days of footage. The CCTV will only be looked at in the event of an incident being reported to the committee. Members have been signposted to a report button on the website, or to contact committee as soon as something has happened.
- **Lead update** – this doesn't affect individuals, but does affect the committee. Noted that the club has re-sanded in the last 2 years, but that someone will have to be brought in to de-lead. Committee need to inform authorities and make changes to attendance register to note number of rounds fired.
- **Lighting at 25yds on Range 3** – could this be improved. C. Abbs will investigate this and pass it on to electrically minded members if improvement can be made.
- **Range Office Course** – a few people signed up to one recently, but didn't take note of the date. D. Sherwood will run more Scorers and RCO courses, and will publicise these on the club noticeboard.
- Congratulations to the newly formed County benchrest team for their first win, and welcome to our new prone shooters.

Election of committee members:

The following committee members were elected by unanimous vote except where noted:

- Chairman – Colin Abbs

- Hon Sec - John Sharman
- Assistant Sec – Claire Grasby
- Treasurer – Issy Snell
- Membership Sec – Paddy O` Brien
- Police Liaison Officer – Tony Clarke
- Rifle Captain – Geoff Snell
- Pistol Captain – Andrew Barber (4 voted against)
- 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
- Marketing & PR – Jack Denby

Awards:

- Jenny Giles Memorial Trophy (50m Prone) – awarded to Colin Abbs.
- John Mills Memorial Cup (muzzle loading rifle at 25yds) – awarded to Tony Heaps
- Chairman's Cup (muzzle loading pistol at 20 yds) – awarded to Tony Barnard.

Noted thanks to:

- Tony cashing in all the brass last week. £374 back to the club.
- All the members involved in the work on Range 3, it's looking great.
- The committee for all the work they do.

Closed: 20:29