

Minutes of the 65th Annual General Meeting held on

11th October 2012

Present

Dave Hargreaves, John Rogers, Mark Bellringer, Alan Jennings, Chris Hunter, Steve Williams, Harry Thompson, Mo Morrish, Tim Hardwick, Iris Bennett, John Bennett, Paul Kennett, Roger Lewis, Bill Willetts, John Grove, Chris Griffiths, John Bibby. (17)

Represented clubs

Seeco, Halesowen, Dudley, Malvern, Kidderminster, Bromsgrove, Stourport, Smethwick, Wyre, Worcester West Unit. (9 + 1 not affiliated)

The meeting opened at 8.09 pm

Apologies

James Bennett, Alun Cross, Mervin Lee, Keith Bates, John Madgwick, Nick Glover, Bob Cooper, Steve Dunbar, Hugh Webber, Pam Webber.

Approval of minutes

The Chairman asked if those present had read the minutes of the 2011 meeting, after which he asked if it was considered that they were accurate.

Alan Jennings proposed that the minutes be accepted this was seconded by Mark Bellringer and agreed by the meeting.

There were no matters arising.

Officers Reports

Chairman's address

Dave Hargreaves opened by talking about the Olympics & Paralympics. BBC coverage was fair for the Olympics, not the Paralympics.– successes for Korea, Italy and China as well as the usual strong showing from USA.

Paralympic success for China and Korea., 1/3 of all medals

Sadly Paralympic Team GB had limited success; 3 medals, Matt Skelhon silver (10m prone rifle) and bronze (50m prone); James Bevis – Bronze in 10M.

The legacy for shooting from the Olympics was nil.

Many clubs are struggling to get and keep members – losing facilities. A problem for many of our own county clubs.

On the plus side Stourport are hopefully close to securing their range on a 99 year lease.

Although shooting gets a bad press, with several anti-shooting lobbies, the recent Sport England satisfaction survey puts shooting at the top end of sports that people actually enjoy.

There were various positive quotes from shooters, negatives being financial pressures increasing.

Within the county there are similar problems that he hoped might be aided by people and clubs helping each other if they are able.

Secretaries report

The secretary reported that due to his ill health over the last year he had been less than organised and hoped that there would be someone in the County organisation who would take the post, if not this year then next.

This year being an Olympic year, many of the officers have been on Olympic duty and meetings have been much harder to organise. Only one formal meeting has been held, the remainder of business being dealt with at informal gatherings.

Issues raised have been trophies and the need to return them for engraving and presentation at the AGM, County clothing, The LSR competition and the potential to form a county team.

The organising of the leagues and the County open meeting was done by Hugh and Pam.

Treasurers report

Mark Bellringer circulated copies of the financial statements, a summary of the accounts which had been examined and approved by the independent accountant.

In brief the County made a loss during the last year of £90.63. This loss did include the payment of both this and last year's NSRA affiliation.

The NSRA affiliation fee has changed to £170 per county; however County competitions are now to be paid for. To date this year over £100 has been spent on entering teams. The county reserves B team has been dropped, which will save the entry fee, but it had been Pam's intention that a reserves B team would not be entered this year as it has been difficult to field this team over recent years. County A and County Reserves are entered in competitions this year.

So in summary although a small loss is recorded we are in credit

We have had in the region of £300 income, but in terms of cash in and cash out we made over all a slight loss.

The accountee's version – shows slightly different figure as it includes assets such as trophy centres and stock as well as income and expenditure.

We expect to do roughly the same this year as last but due to the need soon to buy a further supply of county cards and increase in expenditure, postage particularly, we are unlikely to make any profit. Pessimist in Mark says we will break even.

Thank you to Steve for LSR and associated income. Trophies go down to division 9. This brings in £260+ per annum. Remove this, and we would be in a sorry state.

For this reason he was not suggesting an increase in affiliation fees, as he thought that he would at this time last year, and predicts that we will be running on an even keel.

CH – mentions consideration of an increase of individual league cost. It is currently thought that this should remain at £3.50 but due to lack of entries there is a probability that it will need to increase in due course. There was brief discussion and agreement that both individual and team entries should remain at the current levels this year.

C.H. is looking for clubs out of county to enter teams.

The reports re. the County and reserves teams and the Ladies team were prepared by Pam Webber and read in her absence.

Pam regretted missing the AGM, but due to it being rearranged (from end of Sept) was on holiday.

She thanked all the shooters and club officials who made the job easier by prompt shooting and returning of cards and turning up for team shoots in exchange for the bribe of tea, coffee and biscuits or occasionally beer!

To summarise, we retained the Three Counties Cup, comprehensively beating Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

In the postal shoots we were 2nd in the Western County Bowl keeping up our recent success, and third in the County Cup, but only 6th in the BSA Cup. Silver and bronze medals will be presented to the team members.

In the winter leagues, The County team Won 6 Lost 4 in a very tight division and came 3rd but only beaten by two teams who won 6 and tied 1.

The Wilf Elmes trophy is retained by Mark Bellringer with an average of 98.6!

Reserves A, Won 4, Lost 6, came 5th.

Congratulations to the Reserves B team who had a very good winter Won 7, Tied 1, and so running out winners, badges to be presented.

The Ladies story was similar to the main team, Won 5, Tied 1, to gain 11 points and finish 4th with the first three teams all on 13 points. It could have gone any way in the last two rounds.

At Bisley the congratulations go to Alistair Norman, who was in fine form winning promotion to X class.

Karen Webber was our County representative in the Champion of Champions competition finishing a very creditable 11th of 33 counties with a score of 585 and only just missing the final shoot off.

This winter we have only entered one reserves team as we are struggling to find enough shooters to maintain two teams.

This decision will be reviewed next winter and if more people come forward we may be able to run a second team again. The reserves B team only averages 92-94 and the aim is to give shooters experience of representing the county so we are not necessarily looking for high averages.

The main concern is that those left out this winter have no way of fighting their way back into the teams. I would welcome any feedback on suggestions of sets of trial cards, parallel internal league or simply club officials feeding back averages and of course names of any volunteers for the teams. (Discussed later under any other business)

Worcestershire County Open Meeting 2012

Hugh Webbers report was read in his absence.

He reported that this year we had a total of 34 entries, the same as last year. Every year he asks for more County shooters to come and support the meeting, especially in class C where the chance of winning a prize is high, given the low entries. This year we only had 8 County shooters, down from 11 last year and I know we have more people who shoot outdoors. As before Ellesmere school brought the only juniors, 9 this year.

This year we made just over £190 profit, which helps keep costs down for County Clubs. We now hold a stock of targets for next year, but their cost is taken into account when determining profit.

Again we anticipate holding the meeting on the 3rd Sunday in May 2013, which is the 19th.

The results were held back until later in the meeting during the presentation of trophies, but are summarised below.

The overall Worcestershire Champion was Karen Webber, just beating last year's winner, John Grove by virtue of a better score at 100yds. The other trophy winners were:

Class A	Karen Webber	Class B	H Webber
Class C	B Cooper		
Open Pairs	Dave Hargreaves & John Roger	C&D Pairs	No County entry this year
Veterans	John Grove	Ladies	Karen Webber
Dewar	Karen Webber	English Match	John Rogers
Carton Bulls	Dave Hargreaves	Best 100yds	Karen Webber

Hugh thanked, as usual, those who helped run the meeting, Bob Cooper for running the range (with help from Dave Hargreaves), Alan Jennings and Keith Bates scoring, Mark Bellringer taking entries Pam and Karen Webber, refreshments and all the rest who filled in doing the odd jobs needed around and about.

And he reiterated, "Can we see more of the County shooters competing? It helps to support the county and keeps our costs elsewhere down."

Air rifle Captain

Hugh reported re this post Air rifle, 10m standing.

This was the second year of running an Air Rifle team. We managed to improve on last year's performance, rising to 4th place, exceeding our entered average in 9 out of the ten rounds. In particular Joe Mills increased his average by 24 points, a gain of 10%. The team had the third highest average of the division (the two top teams being 10 points per round better on average) and were unlucky to lose rounds by as few as 5 points in a score of 1200. However the good news is that we beat the Gloucestershire team that was in our league, always nice to win the local derby.

This year, as they have now completed 2 seasons, County badges are due to Steve Williams (Seeco), Tom Beeston and Joe Mills (both Dudley).

For the coming season we still have a team as Chris Hunter has agreed to shoot, replacing one team member who is no longer available.

If required I am happy to continue as Air Rifle Captain.

Report re the Lightweight Sports Rifle discipline

Steve Williams summarised this year's LSR postal competition;

All existing WSRPA clubs were sent details and personal invitations for their members to join.

A total of 26 clubs, within Worcestershire and surrounding counties, were sent details of the competition and an entry form.

Responses were mixed and slow. Many clubs said they were already doing many other competitions and were somewhat busy but at least, through our efforts, awareness grew.

There were eventually 9 clubs participating with a total of roughly 64 entries, raising approx. £320 .

Thanks were received from many club coordinators. Their feedback was that it was considered fair and affordable, at a time when money is tight for many folk. There has been widespread support for the contest to continue.

The decision to award 1st and 2nd place was definitely well received and likewise keeping the divisions to 8-9 people.

Generally, averages declared were close to those achieved.

Taking into account comments received from shooters saying they are very busy and may enter less contests in 2012, it is expected that in 2013 entries will be reduced without significant additional time and effort.

Steve advised that the entry fee is held at £5 for adults and £3 for juniors.

Junior Captain

Mo Morrish gave her report.

Over the last year Mo has contacted all the county clubs and the NSRA re any of the local schools that were registered. She now has names and addresses that may be of use.

Over the last year she has been heavily committed to the Olympics and the Paralympics and has had little opportunity to visit the schools and pursue the clubs.

Mo's commitment this year didn't do the role justice for 2012; she hopes to do more in 2013.

4 people are needed for a junior team, and they are juniors to the age of 21. Mark pointed out that there are 3 schools with ranges within the county. Ellesmere College may have pupils who are Worcestershire residents.

Competition Secretary

Chris Hunter reported that in the county competitions we had 16 teams compete in the summer league and 18 wishing to shoot in winter. It is being considered that the costs for individual competitions are increased. It currently is £3.50 per entry.

In the winter leagues he has looked outside the County for entries and had interest from other clubs, Oxford University submitting teams. He plans to continue looking out of county for other clubs that may be interested.

He thanked the scorers.

NSRA Representative

Dave Hargreaves gave his report having attended the 3 NSRA council meetings during the year.

His report addressed;

The National meetings,

Attendance at Bisley Rifle meeting fell from 869 to 786.

The entry for the British airgun championships was 303, an increase from 294 in 2011,

The Scottish meeting was held at Dumfries the total entry was 193, about the same as last year.

Fees

For clubs over 75 members, £240.00, 31 – 75 members, £190.00, 16 – 30 members £140.00, and under 15 members £110.

County associations £170.00

Ammunition prices.

The NSRA shop has introduced discounts for bulk purchase of Ammunition, from 3% for 5,000 rounds to 5% on 20,000.

Benchrest

A conference was held on 7th July in order to discuss the format of benchrest shooting within the NSRA, to better fit in with benchrest internationally.

Olympic Legacy

It is now known that there is no legacy from the Olympics. The electronic targets were rented from Suis Ascor, but it is hoped that the Association will benefit from the acquisition of some items of smaller equipment.

NSRA Ltd websites

The new e-commerce website for the NSRA shop, www.nsrashop.co.uk, went live in June although some aspects need further attention.

Approval of accounts

Dave asked if the meeting would approve the accounts. Alan Jennings proposed, Mo Morrish seconded.

The accounts were approved

Election of Officers

The first officer to be elected traditionally has been the Chairman.

The secretary invited the Vice chairman to take the floor, and Alan Jennings duly suggested that Mr Hargreaves should again be proposed as Chairman he was seconded by Paul Kennett and was voted in unanimously.

The election of officers progressed with the en bloc election of

Alan Jennings	Vice chair
John Rogers	Secretary
Hugh Webber.	Open Meeting Organiser, Air rifle/ Pistol Captain.
Pam Webber.	County M & F Captain
Mark Bellringer	Treasurer
Stephen Williams	LSR Captain
Dave Hargreaves	NSRA rep,

Proposed Paul Kennett, seconded Alan Jennings, carried

Other business

Prior to the AGM Pam raised the concern that if we entered only one reserves team there would be up and coming shooters left out of County competition. It is important to find a way to include and encourage them.

She suggested that trial cards be shot/parallel internal league. Chris Hunter suggested that they could shoot in individual leagues, John Grove suggested that a county official within each club that provide county shooters could provide trial cards for potential reserves shooters and send cards or scores to Pam. It would help if these cards be shot on the same dates as the county comps. Mark suggested that this gives some match pressure. This would also identify shooters as potential reserves/ substitutes for the County team members. If these people shoot alongside the county shoots then they would feel valued, particularly if we send the cards in to Pam. It was decided to put this to Pam.

It was asked which clubs shoot LSR (Air rifles can also be used if the air rifle meets the spec, i.e. under 4.5 Kg total weight with trigger weight of over 500 g).

Seeco; Halesowen; Malvern; Dudley; Somers; Stourport; Stourbridge & Stourbridge Old Edwardians do shoot LSR. Smethwick could but don't, Kidderminster don't shoot LSR.

It was mentioned at this point that Birmingham University have a shooting team and it could be worth approaching them.

Mark talked about County clothing.

In 2007 he used A4 Apparel, a company no longer in existence. He has found another supplier,- Colour Cube, who have a catalogue on website (details to follow). 700+ different garments (available in bottle green). Polo Shirts + county badge (whatever colour/size) is £11 per shirt. Sweat-shirt, 12.25; Fleeces (semi waterproof) - £21.95. Rugby shirts, good quality - £21.85. Baseball caps scarf etc. are available. Your own name can go wherever for another £3 on the garment. Total anonymity is free! This will include a small cut for the county. Bulk order can go to them if details of garments required can be gathered. Local company, www.colourcube.co.uk

Can John circulate info to all clubs.

Mo Morrish told us that whilst at the Olympics and Paralympics she got a T-Shirt signed completely by shooters including medal winners. Can this item be used for the county? It must be worth something. Mo also has backing to add value to the T-Shirt once framed. Mo is offering the T-Shirt to the county. Some people have suggested to her that she should put it on ebay; The NRA and NSRA want it already. A raffle is a possibility. Widest possible audience required. We speculated on how much it might be worth? Mo said that it has been suggested that it could raise £500! CH suggests promoting on shooting forums (e.g. Stirton)

Roger Lewis has asked if a list of committee members and club secretaries with contact details could be circulated please? JR to circulate.

John Grove is the co-ordinator of the 4 old WFRA clubs. Competitions used to be organised within these clubs, military style shooting competitions but this no longer happens. John suggested that the Trophies might be used if an appropriate competition is set up. Would the county be interested in taking on the trophies, and running such a competition? He said that this used to involve a deliberate and a rapid fire card, and was shot indoors. There also was an outdoor Dewar style competition.

Mark and Alan agreed that they are beautiful trophies and it is sad that they are no longer used.

John has one of the trophies, Alan has the veterans; Mark has one; Bromsgrove have some fullbore trophies. DH added that the county is invited to shoot in the Queen Alexander competition, but has no one who shoots such discipline. 90 secs for 10 shots, shot on a 10 bull. Any type of rifle although traditionally prone target rifle. Dioptre sights.

If there is any interest then the 4 clubs would firstly need to decide if they were happy with this.

The time being 21.40 a break was called.

Restart 9.54

Presentation of Trophies

Trophy winners in the winter league 2011/12 were as follows.

Div 1 Halesowen A (D. Brown, J. Grove, G. Milligan, M. Bellringer) Top averages, M. Bellringer and D. Hargreaves, Seeco, both with 98.5

The Rose Bowl trophy was not available; won by Dudley last year.

Div 2 Smethwick (C. Griffiths, J Madgwick, A. Lumley, F. Thomas) Top average, C. Griffiths, (96.5)

The News & Times Challenge cup was not available won by Down Hatherley last year.

Div 3 Kidderminster (M. Cope, Mrs M. Chipp, T. Ives, M. Royal) Top average, T. Ives (94.1)

The J.C.Baker Challenge cup was not available won by Smethwick in 2010 and Seeco in 2011 ???

Div 4 Malvern (G. Burgess, J Stewart, A. Thomas, J. Worth) Top average J. Milner (Dudley C),

The Crowle Challenge cup was not available, but is currently with Malvern having been won by them the year before last.

Individual competition

Class A D Hargreaves Seeco The Westwood Trophy was not available but is being engraved

Class B Tim Hardwick Dudley 770

County Champion

The County Champion was Mark Bellringer. He is currently in possession of the Wilf Elmes Trophy

Winners in the summer league 2012 were as follows

Div 1	Seeco A	(J Rogers D Hargreaves C Hunter)	Top average	J Rogers,	(99.0)
Div 2	Kidderminster A	(P Johnson, K Bates M Cope)	Top average	C Griffiths,	Smethwick (97.3)
Div 3	Kidderminster B	(B Cooper, M Royall, N Grazier)	Top average	N Jones,	Dudley (97.7)
Div 4	Worcester West Unit	(C Rogers, D Rogers P Kennett)	Top average	C Rogers,	(92.7)

LSR League

Medals were awarded to;

Div 1	Gold	Gareth Rowlands	Malvern	Silver	Adam Boothroyd	Glevum
Div 2	Gold	Ray Jukes	Seeco	Silver	Dave Hargreaves	Seeco
Div 3	Gold	Dan Bickley	Old Silhillians	Silver	Peter Hodge	Leominster
Div 4	Gold	J. Tromans	Leominster	Silver	I. Blomeley	Leominster
Div 5	Gold	Andrew Rondel	Old Silhillians	Silver	Dave Delaney	Leominster
Div 6	Gold	Ian Rigby	Glevum	Silver	J Harris	8 th Warwicks
Div 7	Gold	Kevin Knight	Seeco	Silver	Adrian Whinney	Glevum
Div 8	Gold	Nathan Hadley	Dudley	Silver	Adrian Barlett	Glevum
Div 9	Gold	Malcolm Barlam	Dudley	Silver	Steven Dunbar	Dudley

The County open winners were listed above in Hugh Webber's report and these medals were awarded.

The meeting closed at 10.25pm