



Worcestershire Small-bore Rifle and Pistol Association.

Chairman Mr D Hargreaves. Secretary Miss K Webber. Treasurer Mr P Kennett.

wsbrpa.org

Minutes of the 72nd Annual General Meeting Held on 26th September 2019

Present

Dave Hargreaves, John Rogers, Paul Kennett, Karen Webber, Mark Bellringer, Pam Webber, Hugh Webber, Keith Bates, Sarah Lloyd, Kevin Marshall, David Salt, Ron Gough (12)

Represented clubs

Seeco, Halesowen, Kidderminster, Dudley, Smethwick, Down Hatherley, (5 + 1 not affiliated)

Apologies

Steve Gough, John Grove, Alistair Norman, Mo Morrish,

Approval of minutes

The Chairman asked if those present had read the minutes of the 2018 meeting, after which he asked if it was considered that they were accurate.

Proposed Mark Bellringer, Seconded Hugh Webber

Officers Reports

Chairman's address/NSRA report

Dave Hargreaves presented the Chairman's address

Obituaries:

Ken Nash: As many of you may know Ken dedicated the last forty years to the NSRA and his contribution is difficult to accurately quantify. The summer edition of "On Target" carried a tribute to Ken and a summary of the many roles he performed for the NSRA. Both Ken and his contribution will be greatly missed.

Harry Hancox: Harry was very active at club level and was also Chairman of the Competitions Committee for Herefordshire organising the annual 'Cider Shoot'. He was involved with improving the skills of shooters at several clubs and with the West Midlands Regional Squad. A regular competitor at the Bisley Meeting he won the Lord Roberts Trophy for the British Championships. Latterly he became involved with shooting for the visually impaired at Hereford College for the Blind

Scotland 100 (Lauder 2019)

This year's Scottish Meeting was the 100th to be held. Support for the event was very positive with more than 100 competitors entering compared to last year. Significant improvements had been made to the firing point and these changes were exceptionally well received. The weather was unusually dry but exceptionally windy which made conditions extremely tricky.

Bisley Meeting

The Entries for this year's event dropped by approximately 100. This may be due in some part to people choosing to enter Scotland 100 rather than Bisley. This is not encouraging because the cost of hiring Century Range has risen and is more than £30,000. This cost does not change with either an increase or decrease of entries. This meeting runs at a huge loss to the NSRA and has an uncertain future.

On the international scene, there have been successes in both Olympic and Paralympic qualifying events. Seonaid Mackintosh took the Silver Medal in Air Rifle and Gold in 3P at the World cup event at Rio de Janeiro making her the World Ranked Number One in 3P which she followed by taking another gold in 3P at the European championships last week with a world record 599. And our own Karen Webber was again selected to represent GB in the Randle match vs USA and Others and was among the 20 finalists in the British Championship, 'The Earl Roberts' as well as taking 19th place in the X Class aggregate.

Worcester County

The number of regular shooters competing in the county continues to fall, there being only four or five ranges in operation. The county is financially supported by competitions open to those out of the county. Other areas of the UK have had similar difficulties and have merged areas to form a larger organisation.

I want to end my introduction with a question. Should we consider an amalgamation with Herefordshire to give us a larger organisation, albeit spread over an even larger area? Let you Committee know your views on this.

County Captain's Report

Pam Webber presented the County Captain's report.

Starting at last summer's results we came 7th in the County Cup, 3rd in the Western Counties Bowl and runners up in the BSA Cup after a very impressive 198 from Mo Morrish. I have medals to distribute later.

The winter season became tiresome to say the least after target printing errors came to light. This resulted in delayed starts and round compressions. 20yd targets were not available until late January meaning those clubs had barely 2 months to shoot all their winter club and County cards. I would like to thank all of you for your help in getting cards shot and delivered in time. Some counties decided not to shoot at all and withdrew. This meant that there were only 4 teams in our division of the County Team. There was so much shooting against bye that it became a lottery. However we did manage to come second. The reserves with only one bye in their division shot very well and won. For the second year running the veterans also won their division.

The Wilf Elmes Trophy will be shared this year by John Rogers and Alistair Norman. They averaged 98.1 in the County Team and just to prove they were equal also shared the top average of 98.4 in the Veterans team!

I usually have winners badges to award tonight but I have not yet received them from the NSRA. Teams have been entered for the coming winter but I have no information as to when they will start. The ladies are very stretched at the NSRA. They have been learning on the job and the competitions manager appointed to replace Phil Martin has been almost permanently on sick leave. In fact Phil came back from Australia to help organise both the Scottish and Bisley Meetings. It was the 100th running of the Scottish meeting and so for once was well attended. Karen won the trophy for top lady.

After a glorious summer it was almost certain that Bisley would be windy, cool and wet! Entry was down again perhaps in part because more went to Scotland. The County was well represented although we no longer have enough people to make up inter county teams. Dave Hargreaves won silverware, Andy Lee a papers competition and Karen has made a habit of shooting for the Randle team, England Ladies and for the second consecutive year reaching the Roberts Final finishing 12th.

As always if anyone knows of other members who could shoot for the County please let me know. We are increasingly very short and average is not an issue in the reserves.

County Air Captain's Report

Hugh Webber presented the County Air Captain's report.

We managed to field a County Air Pistol team last winter, but despite winning 8 of the ten rounds came second. We were beaten by Lancashire, despite being equal on points we lost out on aggregate. A close run competition but just missing out. The star of the team was Lucinda Evans who went from strength to strength throughout the season. A promising junior.

Sadly we will not be able to run a team this winter as we are down to only 3 available shooters. If anyone knows of others who shoot 10 metre air pistol can they please let me know and the we could run a team again next winter.

Treasurers report year end 2018/19 i.e. up to March 2019

Mark Bellringer provided the Treasurer's report.

Meeting unanimously voted to accept the report.

Hugh Proposed a vote of thanks to Mark as there was a lot of work involved in setting up the new account with Lloyds but now it is in place it is a much smoother process.

Secretary's Report

Karen Webber gave the Secretary's report.

There were no actions for the committee from last year's AGM. The committee has continued to hold it's regular meetings through the year. As always, if anyone wants anything to be raised during the year then please let me know. The calendar is available on the website if you want to know when the next one will be. The minutes from the meetings are also put on the website and if anyone wants to raise anything in relation to the matters discussed then let me know

The Junior Captains post is still vacant. If anyone present knows of someone willing to take up this role then please let one of the committee know.

The website has become the main result distribution tool with results for all competitions published there. As they are easily available on the website: wsbrpa.org in a bid to shorten the minutes of this meeting and save a bit of paper when people print them out I will no longer be adding the

results to the minutes. If there are any suggestions for things clubs would like to be published on the website please let me know.

Worcestershire County Open 2019

Hugh Webber presented the County Open report

Entries were well down this year, to a poor 14. As always I ask 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. There were only 7 entries from the County which is poor support from County members. That said it was half the total entry. Again we had quite good weather this year although the light wind and shimmer made it difficult to achieve great scores.

Despite the low entry we still managed to make a small Balance of Income over Expenditure, again largely helped by the excellent catering provided single handed by Karen Webber, along with the raffle.

Again we anticipate holding the meeting on the 3rd Sunday in May 2020, which is the 17th. Please put this date in your diary and come next year.

The overall Worcestershire Champion this year was Dave Hargreaves.

Our thanks, as usual, go to all those without whom we could not run the meeting, John Grove and Mark Bellringer for running the range, with help from myself, Keith Bates scoring, myself taking entries, Karen refreshments and anyone else I have forgotten who filled in doing the odd jobs needed around and about.

As I said before can we see more of the County shooters competing. It helps to support the county and keeps our costs elsewhere down.

Competition Secretary's Report

John Rogers gave the Competitions Secretary's report

Last winter we ran 3 prone team divisions and 10 individuals. In summer very much quieter with 2 divisions for teams and 6 individual.

The major problem in running the leagues has been cards arriving late. I don't want to declare NCR because we are thin on the ground as it is.

This problem has been compounded by the postal service having lost items on 3 separate occasions in the last 3 months. Two rounds from Dudley and one from Smethwick have gone missing.

For some time I have been thinking about clubs doing self scoring and this has pushed me into giving it a try this season. I am thinking that I might ask for a couple of rounds of shot cards to be sent to me part way through the season as an audit of how it is going and take it from there.

If clubs have a NSRA qualified scorer then this should work well.

I hope to get stickers out for the coming season soon, but I am still awaiting entries from clubs that have traditionally shot with us so I will check with them before I finish doing this.

Results and awards later

Lightweight Sports Rifle and Benchrest Competition Secretary's Report

Hugh Webber have the Lightweight Sports Rifle and Benchrest Competition Secretary's report.

Again we had another successful run of LWSR and Bench Rest leagues, both winter and summer.

In the winter we had 9 divisions of bench rest, 18 of LWSR and 5 of LWSR pairs.

In the summer we had 8 divisions of bench rest, 18 of LWSR and 4 of LWSR pairs. I do keep promoting it and am still hoping to increase numbers. It is good for the County finances, making a small profit each season. This helps to pay our affiliation fees and entry fees for NSRA sponsored competitions.

Junior Captain's Report

No Junior Captain's report was submitted for the AGM as the post remains vacant.

Election of Officers

Dave Hargreaves was proposed to resume his post by Hugh Webber. This was seconded by Pam Webber.

It was raised that the vice chairman is in poor health and has not been able to attend meetings. It was proposed by Pam Webber that Mark Bellringer takes on that role due to his dedicated service over the last 11 years. Paul Kennett seconded.

Mark proposed that as Alan has served the county for so long that he be appointed to the Vice President's role. The constitution was checked and this is an existing role that has been vacant for some years. Mark Bellringer proposed, Pam Webber seconded

AP – Committee to look for someone to stand in the President's role.

AP Secretary to formally write to Alan to let him know that the county have appointed him as Vice President.

It was suggested to elect all other officers on block except for the Junior Captain. This was proposed by Mark Bellringer, seconded Ron Gough.

Any Other Business

Kevin suggested a review of the competition entry fees given the cost of postage and trophies. The committee fed back that this has been reviewed for this season and the team reduced to 3 members which should increase the number of entries. It was raised that the majority of clubs and associations around the country are struggling financially and there is a delicate balance to be found.

Presentation of Trophies

Trophy winners were presented in line with results on the website: wsbrpa.org

Meeting Closed 21.35