

HAMPSHIRE SCOUT RIFLE CLUB COMMITTEE MEETING

26/11/2018
19:35 to 22:00
Hiltingbury District Room

Attendees: Terry Metcalfe (TM) *Chairman* Trevor Draper(TD)
Andy Travell (AT) *Secretary* John Barnes (JFB) *Armourer*
Kevin Earl (KE)
Pat Killen (PK) Doug Millard (DM) *County Shooting Advisor*
David Alderman (DA) Lorna Knights (LK)
Roger Monksummers (RM) Craig Knights (CK) *County Shooting Advisor*
Chrissy Monksummers (CM) John Westerman (JW)
Chris Ward (CW)

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Fraser Skirrow, Steve Batchelor, Tony Moles, Jess Burridge, Tony Perrett, Elenor Perrett and Clare Young.

Minutes of last meeting

- The minutes from the Committee Meeting of 24th September were approved.

Work Towers

- TM reported that progress had been made in regard to the 'Training' work tower. LK has agreed to be the Training Administrator for HSRC. A draft job description has been prepared and will be further developed. Collation of information on coaches, disciplines, qualifications is underway and it is expected that this will be validated through direct email contact in the next few weeks. The aim is to start getting dates for a training programme onto the web site, hopefully by the end of the year.
- The intention is to run three YPS Tutor Rifle courses, one YPS Tutor 3P Upgrade, and two YPST Crossbow courses in the year. Also it is hoped to run five 'Club Instructor' courses, for Airgun, Prone, 3P, LSR and Pistol. Additionally it is hoped to run two RCO training courses per (school) term. CM noted that RCO is often considered to be an 'easier' option than YPST as it enables the trainee to gain the qualification to run a range. However, it does not enable delivery of any coaching, as covered under YPST. The risk is that 'unqualified' coaching may be detrimental to beginners. We should therefore be careful that RCO trainees also have or be seeking to obtain coaching qualifications.
- As an aside to the planning of training courses there was a discussion about methods for payment of fees. TM advised that some alternatives were under consideration.
- There are no plans at present to schedule/deliver 'Club Coach' training.
- DA asked what kind of assistance would be required for RCO courses. TM described some options and CM suggested that some form of role play to support scenario-based-learning had proven to be very useful.
- RM reminded the meeting that when an individual undertakes and qualifies as a Club Coach they are only covered at that level for the disciplines in which they already have a Club Instructor qualification. (The exception currently is Sports Crossbow).
- LK reported a potential issue with NSRA records and suggested that everyone should check with the NSRA to confirm that their personal record and the NSRA record are the same, and to resolve any discrepancies that may be identified.
- AT reported that John Dohoo intends to run a YPST rifle course in Shropshire on 26/27 January 2019. JD has requested the loan of appropriate equipment from Hampshire for the course. He has suggested that profit from the course should be divided equally between Shropshire and Hampshire. The planned training has been approved by Shropshire County,

and the proposal to divide profits seems acceptable.

- JW reported that he will run a Club Instructor Airgun course at Farnham on 5th/6th January 2019.
- JW also reported that he has started his Regional Coach training.
- Although there are no training courses currently publicised on the HSRC website, all correspondence in regard to training should be addressed to 'training@hampshirescouterifleclub.org.uk'.
- JFB stated that he will run 'Air Rifle Maintenance' training courses in March, April and May. The dates for these will be advertised by LK and will be available via the website.
- AT reported that there had been no further progress with the other two work towers currently under development.

National Championships

- The 2018 National Championships have been completed successfully, and there has been quite a lot of positive feedback from parents, competitors and others. As usual it has been a substantial effort to organise and run the event and the committee wishes to record thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the successful completion of the event.
- AT reported that the finances of the event had not been finalised, e.g. some bills are still to be received, but that the outcome will be positive.
- The planning and management of the 2019 National Championships has already commenced. Noting the likely absence of the Match Director at next year's event, TM proposed that we should establish a 'steering group' to take forward the planning. The steering group would provide oversight but would delegate specific actions in order that familiarity with the many and varied elements of the Championships is disseminated across a larger number of people. The concept of a steering group and delegated actions will also serve to support succession planning. It is anticipated that the steering group will consist of three or four individuals.
- The immediate concerns for the steering group will be to address comments and suggestions for change to the event, such as removing the '10m Finals'. Additionally it will be appropriate to undertake a cost analysis for each of the supported activities so that informed decisions may be taken regarding fees and/or subsidies.
- AT reported that the 2019 Championships have already been approved through the 'LONE' approval mechanism. However, LONE approvals for future years will be required in order to advertise dates in advance. AT requested that the committee should consider the HSRC sponsorship and support of the Championships for the foreseeable future, and in committing to continue that sponsorship to approve the preparation and submission of the LONE approval request for 2020-22. The committee unanimously approved this request.
- DA suggested that ideas and comments regarding the National Championships should be distributed for comment and responses sent to the steering group.
- It will be useful to get feedback from the the range staff from each of the the activities at the Championships. AT will contact the CRO's for their comments and will also request comments from the individuals on the Championships contact list.

National Squad

- TM noted that the Squad newsletters normally contain useful dates (of forthcoming competitions, of Squad training sessions, of the National Championships, as relevant at the time of issue) and reminded the committee of this useful source of information.
- It was noted that there had been issues with getting equipment allocated and transported to the recent Squad training sessions at Aldersley. Knowing that HSRC owns a great deal of equipment, it is disappointing that getting equipment together for the Squad should be so problematic. Improved management of the equipment inventory (register) should help resolve this type of issue. However, it was noted in particular that 'ancillary' items such as air bottles and filling adaptors seem to not be as available as we would wish. There should be sufficient adaptors available to provide a complete set to be held permanently at Aldersley without diluting the availability elsewhere.

- SB has moved the equipment register from the web site to a Dropbox, where it is more easily accessible. He has issued instructions regarding access and update of the register.
- JFB has some shooting jackets and other items that might be useful for the Squad. TM took ownership of these items post meeting and will allocate/distribute as appropriate.
- JFB also has approximately £800 worth of Air Arms spares, collected from PW, which will be useful in maintaining the current pre-charged inventory.
- TM recommended attendance at a Squad training session. CM endorsed this opinion, noting that every adult attendee will learn a lot from the experience and be better able to understand and support the operation of the Squad.
- DA asked if the Worplesdon range has been booked for the December Squad weekend. This will have to be checked with the current squad Manager.
- RM reported that the current platform for booking attendance at Squad weekends will be turned off after the December weekend. A new platform will be available for booking in at subsequent weekends. Instructions for accessing and using the new platform will be distributed early in the New Year. The rationale for the change is that the new platform will make it easier to comply with the requirements of GDPR, and will enable improved management of information with the potential for alternative methods of processing fees payable for training sessions and other future developments. The solution will be based upon the Online Scout Manager (OSM) application, which is endorsed by UK Scouting. It will necessitate the procurement of an OSM licence at a cost of £45 per annum. The committee approved this expenditure. TM/RM will manage the progression to the new platform.

Secretary's Report

AT reported that the paperwork for renewal of NSRA affiliation had been received. The cost of re-affiliation will be in the order of £185. The committee approved this expenditure. AT will proceed with the re-affiliation, and will liaise with County regarding insurance cover.

Treasurer's Report

- In the absence of the Treasurer AT gave a brief update of the account status.
- This year to date there has been income of £39K and expenditure of £38K. This gives a current balance of £40K (all figures rounded).
- Most of the income for the National Championships has already been received, approximately £19K. However, not all of the expenditure has worked through to date. So far £13K has been accounted but we expect more bills shortly. Nevertheless, it is clear that the 2018 Championships will make a profit, albeit a smaller profit than in previous years.
- The account is in a healthy state and the current balance provides sufficient funds for the expected procurement programme.

Open floor discussion

- JW reported that another shooting club is interested in using the Basset range on the nights previously reserved for HSRC. Given the minimal use taken up recently by HSRC it is most likely that we would lose those time slots. Future smallbore shooting at Bassett is therefore at risk. However, there may be options available for other times. JW will monitor the situation and investigate alternatives.
- RM asked about progress in regard to identifying a 'Match Director' for the National Championships next year. TM said that this is one of the priority tasks that will be addressed once the proposed steering group gets underway.

Equipment

- The issues previously noted regarding management of equipment will not easily be resolved, but one approach proposed is to appoint a 'Quartermaster'. This role would not necessarily involve storing and issuing equipment items, but would be more along the lines of a data

manager using the equipment spreadsheet/database as a tool. It is noted that SB administers the dropbox account under which the equipment database is now located, but is not the manager of the data content held within the register. To date management of the data has been left to individuals to maintain the information relevant to themselves. However, it is now considered that whilst individuals should have access to the information and should maintain that information, there should be an over-manager of the content. The role of 'Quartermaster' is envisaged for this purpose. AT will draft a job description for this role and volunteers will be sought to take up this role.

- It is noted that air bottles should be included in the equipment list.
- As a reminder to all, the committee proposed that the following statement be delivered to everyone involved with HSRC, in whatever capacity:

“Equipment items which are owned by HSRC are made available on loan to Scout Groups and individuals as requested for the purpose of conducting Scout shooting activities such as training and taster sessions. It is preferred that equipment is utilised for the benefit of Scouting rather than languish unused in store from one year to the next. However, as sponsors of the National Squad and of the National Championships, and as organisers of several County-wide events and activities, HSRC requires that equipment items which are on loan should be returned from loan if required for such activities. HSRC will not aim to make life difficult for individuals or Groups who are using loaned equipment, and will endeavour to agree suitable logistics which would maximise to benefit of using loaned equipment, but will prioritise National or County requirements whenever there is a clash of interests. Therefore all loan items are provided subject to the understanding that HSRC reserves the right to recall those items where necessary.”
- It is acknowledged that loans have occasionally not worked out satisfactorily. It is therefore important that a loans 'process' is devised and followed so that the location of all items is known and that all items returned are in an acceptable condition.

PISTOLS

- The condition of the Air Arms Alpha pistols once again gave concern at the National Championships. It is evident that whilst the pistols are of an acceptable quality in terms of price/performance and will serve an individual owner well, they are insufficiently robust to cope with the high level of use (and mis-use) that is a feature of the National Championships. Therefore it is agreed that we should provide more robust pistols for the event next year. To do so will require a purchasing decision in the near future as the alternative pistol will be identified in the Championship rules for 2019.
- CM provided a briefing on the Hammerli AP20 pistol. It is versatile, light, flexible and balanced. It has an upmarket trigger as standard. It is highly adjustable, with an ambidextrous option. The supplier suggests a contract basis for purchase: a purchase cost of £650 with a service cost of £25 per pistol per year for a three year contract (effectively £725 per pistol). It is anticipated that we would need fifteen (15) pistols to run the National Championships, which equates to a sum of just under £11000. Once these pistols are purchased it would be possible to offset this capital cost to an extent by income from the sale of the existing Alpha's.
- Several committee members and Squad coaches have seen and tested the AP20, and it comes with positive endorsement from them all.
- It was proposed that we should go ahead with the purchase of fifteen (15) AP20 pistols as described above. The overall cost was acceptable to the committee and there was unanimous approval of the proposal. AT will notify County of our intention to proceed with this decision and on receipt of their approval will notify JFB and CM who will liaise to progress the purchase.
- It was noted that the Pardini pistols used by the Squad will be returned from their current holder. CM suggested that when this is completed two should then be held by SB with the other two on loan to JD. These holdings will be recorded on the equipment database.

RIFLES

- The longstanding concerns about springer rifles were also discussed. All Delta's, HW25's and CF16's used at the Nationals are old and at risk of failure. The amount of maintenance required for these rifles has been steadily increasing year on year and it is a major concern that the rate of failure may leave us unable to resource all of the firing points for the entirety of

the Championships. Therefore, it was agreed that the replacement programme which has been discussed for several years has to be implemented in time for the 2019 Championships.

- We currently use Delta's, HW25's and Junior Hunters as small rifles for the younger shooters. The Junior Hunters are in good condition and will not need to be replaced, simply supplemented. It was decided to purchase more Junior Hunters so that we have a common small rifle for all shooters. It was agreed that we would need to purchase twenty six (26) rifles to support both Knockout and Field Target ranges. The estimated cost of these is £75 each. Quotations will be sought to confirm actual prices, but the estimate of 26 at £75, total £1950 is acceptable to the committee.
- The CF16 replacement will come in at approximately £150 each, and again it is agreed that we would need twenty six (26) rifles to replace CF16's. This cost, of £3900, is also acceptable to the committee. There will be additional costs for provision of gun slips.
- The committee agreed unanimously to go ahead with the replacement programme. AT will advise County of our intention to incur costs of up to £6000 in replacing these rifles, and once County approval is obtained AT will advise JFB who will obtain firm costs and proceed with the procurement.

ANCILLARIES

- JFB suggested that a decent quality chronograph would be very useful in ensuring the ongoing suitability of the equipment supplied to the National Championships, and estimated a cost of approximately £150. The committee agreed with the suggestion and approved the funding for procurement.
- Pre-charged rifles were purchased at different times and correspondingly the cylinders for these rifles become due for repair/replacement at different times. It is known that Craig Powis (CP) is a certified engineer for pressurised equipment and may be in a position to deal with the cylinders as they come to end of warranted life. In principle the committee is happy to go ahead with CP if he is able to undertake the work. CM will discuss with CP what he is able to cover on our behalf, including volumes, timescale and cost.

Events, Publicity, PR

- A reminder to all – please feed information to LK so that relevant publicity can be delivered.
- Dates proposed for 2019 events/activities are as follows:
 - The Field Target will be run on Saturday April 13th.
 - The Clay Pigeon event is not yet fixed as Wallers Ash cannot support us for 2019. TD is investigating an alternative location at Meon Springs, with the intention of confirming a date in July if possible.
 - The County Competition will be run at Hiltingbury as usual. The date proposed is either 2nd or 3rd March. AT will check availability and confirm the date.
 - TD asked if we could install eyelets in the walls at the Hiltingbury HQ to hang ballistic netting as a protective backdrop. AT will contact the Group and ask if this would be possible.
 - The Inter-County competition is scheduled for the 24th March. CW queried whether this is correct as he thought a different date had been published. The date is to be confirmed.
 - LK reported that the Portsmouth District competition will be held on the 3rd February.
 - A taster session for Crossbow will be organised for the 8th June. This will be run on the basis of allocated timeslots similar to the County Competition. Details to be confirmed.
 - The Target Sprint event will be on 11th May at Romsey, followed on the 12th May by a GB Target Sprint activity.

Development and Training

- All items regarding training were discussed under the Work Tower agenda item.

Any Other Business.

- TM reminded the meeting that the role of 'President' is available to the club, but there is currently no-one appointed to that position. Although this is an honorary position it is nonetheless of value as a President can be a useful representative for the club. TM asked that nominations for President should be notified to AT and an appointment would be discussed at a future meeting.
- DM asked about details of clothing with HSRC logo. TM stated that a logo had been agreed and a range of clothing is available. TM will provide information on the range and on costs.
- It has been reported that there may be an issue with the 'scouts-shoot' domain as emails via that domain seem to have been delayed or lost. It is advisable for the time being to use personal addresses rather than 'scouts-shoot' addresses. It was noted that we now have additional email addresses available via the 'hampshirescoutrifleclub' domain and can use these as an alternative to 'scouts-shoot' addresses. It was suggested that these could usefully be used for events – e.g. 'County-comp@hampshirescoutrifleclub.org.uk' could be set up for all email communication related to the County Competiton.
- Finally, the plan to appoint people into specific roles such as Quartermaster would be better achieved with a job or role description. AT agreed to draft role descriptions for further discussion and future adoption.
- No other business was raised and so the Chairman closed the meeting at 22:00.

Date of Next Meeting

The dates for committee meetings in 2019 will be published by the Secretary.

The meeting ended at 22:00.