

Derby Rifle and Pistol Club 1999 AGM 2019

Meeting commenced at 10.00am Sunday 27th January 2019

Members Present

S Jolliffe, J Starley, R Hufton, M Kohut, J Rowlands, D Holt, S Walters, B Hall, P Lomas, P Holder, G Beard, F Nagy, R Kerr, C Leoni, J Sinclair, M Heath, T Mephram, K Mephram, M Ashley, D Jones, J Bullick, K Robinson, J Liew, I Shaw, B Gwinnutt, P Wood, G Wood, C Craven, S Fraser, J Jablonski, S Bold, K Rodgers, I Bunting, J Thomas, M Atkin, M Harlow, L Schofield, D Wheatley, A Manfredini, S York, M Mears, B Barnard, G Riminton, K Sidle, A Whitby, N Waring, A Kwa, M Greenfield, G Hutchinson, R Beastall, M Blake, F Upton, A O'Dowd, M Savory, F Murphy.

Apologies

T Tuckwell, A Watson, J Smith, R Phillips, R Hammond, C Pannell, A Liew, D Harlow, N Kohut, S Beastall, A Exton Russell.

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Peter Lomas opened the meeting by welcoming those present to the meeting

Before moving on to the main business of the AGM he explained the H&S procedures for the meeting and then explained the purpose and conduct of the meeting, the agenda and timing

Referring to the Agenda he stated that the purpose of the meeting is to look back at the past year, which will be through a series of reports from each of the main positions on the Management Committee. Also, the meeting will give Members a sense of the overall well being of the Club and an insight into the future for the Club, as he sees it. He encouraged Member to ask relevant questions and seek clarification of any point if needed at the end of each report. Also for the benefit of all Members present speakers were asked to give their name by way of introducing themselves to everyone present.

Following the reports on 2018 the meeting will then be asked to ratify one proposals being put forward by the Management Committee then elect Committee Members for 2019. The meeting will then deal with any motions proposed by the members and finally with any non-constitutional rules or matters.

After the meeting has finished club competition medals will be awarded.

Previous Minutes

Accepted as read.

Matters Arising.

A bank of 16 new lockers has been constructed and these are now all hired out.

The Range Safety Document has been fully re-written and brought up to date.

The Moving Target donated by Mattersey is still under review at present.

The Membership empowered the Management Committee to make the club RCO course mandatory for all members.

The Membership empowered the Management Committee to be able to set the cost of future club fees, this is now in place.

Chairman's Report

This is the third AGM in recent years that I've had the privilege of chairing and again I will talk about things relevant to the Club and to Members now and for the future. Firstly, I will talk about the wellbeing of the Club. I can report that we have had no complaints about the Club; its activities or Members, no issues with any of the authorities that govern our activities and Range. The Club has improved H & S record keeping and introduced a more proactive regime for monitoring and maintaining the backstop. Ammunition records and the Club's firearms licence are in order and Club financial accounts have been independently audited. Overall, I am confident that our house is in order and DRPC (1999) is one of the best run clubs in the UK.

I gauge Member satisfaction by what I see and hear. Club Sessions are busy with a good atmosphere, attendance levels at Club sessions remain high, member retention/re-joining and joining rates remain high, friends and family days are popular, training events have been quite well attended and there is generally a good response from Members when we call for volunteers to help with the Derby Open Competition and PR events; all indicators that as a Club we are getting many things right. I want to extend my thanks to members who turned out to support range maintenance activities in 2018 e.g. DE leading the sand.

I appreciate that not every member is able to labour on behalf of the Club, but in 2019 please come along and help as much as you can, and encourage others to do so as well. We are a club run by members for the benefit of members and without volunteers to carry out maintenance activities membership fees will have to go up.

This brings me to my second topic, 2019 Membership fees and other financial matters. Last year Membership agreed to entrust the Management Committee to set the annual Membership fees. You should already know that it has been decided to keep the 2019 fees at the same level as 2018. You will hear from the Club Treasurer that the Club is financially sound and 2018 has been a modest year in terms of expenditure. Neither the less it will be quite challenging to balancing the books in 2019 and it is unlikely that the Club will be able to add to the Reserve Fund this year or next. I will come now to the reason for this.

During the 2017 Open Competition and again in 2018 we had issues with range detritus (sand, grit, lead fragments and bullets etc.) being expelled from the backstop of "B" Range and landing beyond the range curtilage. After a thorough investigation, we concluded that a primary cause is the firing of target shotgun solid slug; but we can't ignore other factors including the high utilisation of "B" Range and firing high velocity rifles at short range. We do know that we have not been able to solve the problem through frequent and thorough DE leading of "B" Range. Consequently, the Management Committee has faced a very difficult decision, which largely came down to choosing between ending the use of target shotgun or erecting a bullet catching canopy over "B" Range.

Whichever way you look at it the cost/benefit is not an easy decision. At the January Management Committee meeting after very careful consideration and taking advice from Frank Haxton who issues our Range Certification, the Management Committee agreed in principle to spend £24,000 to construct a canopy over "B" Range backstop. This sum to be taken from the 2018-operating surplus with the balance coming from 2019 Membership Fees.

I want to be clear on two points (1) this project depends upon us being able to construct the necessary foundations for the canopy. If we cannot do this for practical reasons or within budget the canopy is very unlikely to go ahead. And (2) spending £24k of Club money weighs heavily on my mind and others on the Management Committee. So, I ask Members to understand this expense will mean we have to be even more careful with money over the next couple of years. I hope that building the Reserve Fund, as a way of securing the future of the Club will be a priority for 2020 and beyond.

For my final topic today, I want to communicate my thoughts on the Management Committee. People joining the Management Committee may expect to have to make some difficult decisions. But I think many are surprised at how complex and involved managing the Club is; we deal with Member issues, financial management and reporting, GDPR, Safeguarding, Health & Safety, public relations, website development, online banking and firearms legislation etc. Without Members volunteering to serve we won't have a club. For the most part I've been content with how the 2018 Management Committee has acted and behaved. The "new/newer" committee members have brought new ideas, for example the Club chronograph, new Club rifles, trauma kits on all ranges, a new website and Club Email addresses. And those new committee members have had the drive and conviction to see their ideas through and not be disheartened when ideas are not always received with overwhelming enthusiasm. The "old hands" have mostly given wise counsel, accepted change is not automatically a bad thing and supported well-presented and well-argued proposals. As a rule, we have had constructive, well-mannered discussions. So, on the one hand it's good to see many of the 2018 Management Committee standing for re-election. But on the other hand, I think all committees benefits

from a flow of people joining and leaving. Indeed, a three/five- year rotation of people is how many committees work to stay in touch with the membership and produce a constant stream of new ideas.

Through changes to the Club Constitution, which I hope Members will endorse today, we are seeking to remove some old barriers to new people joining the Management Committee. Some roles need less Club experience than others and are ideal positions from which Members can get a good grounding in the working of the committee before moving to another committee role. So, I choose to end today by giving fair warning that in my opinion the Club needs the new generation to step forward and take a more prominent role in Club activities.

Questions from members.

Q - Is it possible to change the backstop sand to an alternative media like rubber granules. A – We have looked at various types of media but have found that sand is the most cost effective and suitable for our ranges.

Q – Is there a cap or rule on the amount of money the Management Committee can spend without consulting the membership. A – No, the Management Committee has the right to spend whatever it considers appropriate to keep the facilities in a safe useable condition. As always if a member has any concerns they can contact any Committee member to have them raised.

Q – Does the sum for improvements on B range include the repair of the roof over the firing point? A – No it is only for the construction and commission of the canopy over the backstop.

Treasurers Report

Simon Walters Presented a fully audited copy of the club accounts for 2018.

He went through the main points with the members present, highlighting the main incomes and expenses for the year.

The club accounts are in a healthy state.

Income for 2108 amounted to £37,373.76

Expenses for 2018 amounted to £22,799.62

Balance on 2018 £14,574.14

Total club cash assets £72,857.53 (£5408.56 key account)

Secretaries Report

Overall I am pleased to report it has been another successful year for the club, no major issues have arisen and the administration side of things has gone smoothly. All the required insurances are up to date as are the affiliations to the NRA, NRSA and MLAGB.

We have continued to maintain and improve the facilities to a good standard, there is always something to be done and we try to keep on top of it as far as funds and the availability of labour allow. The Management Committee is always open to suggestions for improvements and ideas so please feel free to contact us should you wish. I must thank the Committee and members for the support they have given over the year it really does make my task so much easier.

As you all know we hold the Derby Open in June and last years event was a great success with well over 100 competitors shooting in excess of 1000 score cards, The now annual Derby Home Countries trophy was won by team Wales. Not only does this event bring in a good boost to club funds but also it promotes the club nationwide. Few people realize the huge amount of organization that is required to run this even. The time and dedication of the people who give up their time to help not only run it but to prepare the ranges leading up to it is a great testament to our club members. Thanks must also go to the sponsors who generously support the event with prizes for the competitors.

2019 has seen some changes from the NRA with regards to the new Shooter Certification Cards, this has put a lot of work onto the club but we have managed to get them all out to those who wanted one. As we were unsure of the costs involved this year we decided to charge £5.00 per card and cover any additional cost from club funds. Unfortunately these cards cost £9.50 so that will be the cost of renewal for next year. Please remember these cards must now be renewed annually if you wish to shoot at Bisley or any MOD range.

In order to try and de-clutter the clubhouse we have decided to do away with the for sale board on A range. As from the 1st of February any shooting related item for sale can be placed on the members section of the club website, this is a secure section not available to the public so you can place your contact details there in the knowledge only registered club members can see them. Hopefully this will allow better adverts with decent photos rather than cramming it all onto a bit of A4. Contact Carl Leoni the club PR officer and Webmaster for details.

2019 will see the 50th anniversary of the club. This summer we hope to have a celebration competition day that will include friends and family. The idea is to hold various events throughout the day then drinks and a barbecue/buffet in the evening, members will be able to camp overnight if they wish.

Finally as always please keep me up to date with any changes in contact details so I can amend the club records.

Safety Officers Report

Thanks go to Steve Fraser and John Jablonski with help to a rookie Safety Officer treading the path to getting Trauma kits installed on site. John Jablonski also led a series of Presentations at sessions aimed at informing members of what was in the kits and how that kit might be used. 51 Members attended those 5 presentations. Richie L presented aspects of CPR training and also use of the club Defibrillator at 2 sessions, thank you Richie. That covered 10 Members. Last and by no means least, or the smallest – Mark S for giving essential assistance in the regular quarterly DE leading of all DRPC Ranges. Tough work but the crack was good.

Choreographing Muzzle Long Guns in combination with the Armourer has gone well. Out of 9 weapons tested, 4 initially failed A Range limits. So the Committee took the right decision on that one.

We had no accidents or injuries (shooting and non shooting) and a proactive plan for inspecting and maintaining the sand has been prepared and implemented. This is laid down and required by the Club procedures.

For those who haven't noticed – The first Aid Box (minor scratches) Defibrillator and one of the 4 Trauma Kit are on the right hand side of the door as you enter A Range, I know you are all perfect safety-wise, but we need to get better. Read the brand new Range Safety Document, I guarantee you will learn something.

Questions from members.

Q – Has any progress been made on identifying the person using solid slug on B range. A – No, it is extremely difficult to identify any one person, we can however recognise when slug has been used and then remind members about its suspension on B range.

Membership Officers Report

I apologise for my absence and hopefully some will be reading this out for me.

Although the committee agreed to increase the membership cap to 165 at the last AGM, we did not quite use all the capacity, however all but one of the junior extra spaces were filled. Already we know of several members who are not re-joining and I have started to fill the spaces. The waiting list has dropped below 10 as some of those contacted recently had changed their minds. The induction sessions take a considerable amount of time and effort to arrange and is better suited if I induct 3 or 4 together then let them get established before inviting more.

If you do need a replacement ID badge, leave a photo with your name on the back in the envelope provided on the notice board on the left as you enter the lounge, although this may change as Carl is investigating a new style badge.

The Christmas Charity Shoot in aid of the Air Ambulance Service raised £300 and we raised a similar amount at the Derby Open in June.

A lot of my time is taken up cascading news and information from the Club Officers to members, so it is important to inform me of any changes in your contact details otherwise you will not receive news and updates about competitions, events etc. So if you are not receiving mass mail or have changed your email or home address please let me know later or via the website

My other roll is Match Director of the Derby Open and although I do the entries and squadding, on the weekend it is the tremendous team effort that ensures its success and I would like to repeat my thanks to all who helped and have established it as the prestigious event it has become. More than £2,500 profit was made for the club.

Ammo Officers Report

On behalf of the club I'd like to thank you, our members for your support in 2018

DRPC members and their guests have got through some 22,500 rounds of .22 and 2050 rounds of .38 club ammunition in 2018. This along with sundry sale such as breech flags has amounted to £2650.80 in sales. This is an increase of over 10% on last year.

Due to increasing wholesale prices of ammunition and the fact we are selling .22 at a slight loss we will have to increase it's price to £5.00 per box. The price of .38 will remain the same while stocks last, this may have to change in the future dependant on the costs of restocking.

We shall be looking into some alternative brands of ammo this year and subject to testing we may be able to stock some cheaper makes in the future.

Competition Officers Report.

Many thanks to those members who have helped run the club competitions throughout the year. Unfortunately due to personal circumstances some Club competitions have had to be cancelled or rescheduled over the last year.

Many thanks must go to R Kerr for taking on the Postal Completion entries

There will be a new competition diary published soon so look out for that, it will have something for everyone so get practising.

There will be a presentation of medals to Club Competition winners after the meeting.

P.R. Officers Report

In 2018 we ran a total of 6 F & F Days as I believe more were requested at the 2018 AGM by members. I attempted as much as possible to spread them out evenly over the year as well as trying to avoid any club competitions clashes.

With a full club competition calendar for 2019 it will be my intention to do the same this year, you will now find on the club website calendars page a list of F & F days along with internal and external competitions.

We held 2 PR events in 2018 one for Swadlincote Round Table and one for Church Wilne rotary club. Both were very well attended and the praise from both organisations towards the club and the RCO Instructors was humbling.

I would like to personally thank those members who gave up there time and in most cases permitted our guests to use an assortment of personal firearms during the two events. Without their support we could not hold such events.

The primary purpose of such events is public perception of the sport in which we all partake, showing that as a club we are first and foremost a safe and professional organisation and secondly that we are able to allay any preconceptions that those outside the sport may have

In the first quarter of 2018 after some testing and consultation the club launched a new website drpc1999.club the new site as well as containing all relevant information from the previous site also contained additional club related information in a more secure, dynamic and visual way.

One of the primary features was a member's only secure section, this gives the club the ability to secure some of our data we would not wish to be publically viewable, such as the lone attendance policy while at the same time making it accessible to members who registered via the page for access in the member's only area.

The website received in the first few months around 3000 visits and continues to receive a healthy throughput of traffic on a monthly basis.

The club website will continue to develop along with the club, and if members wish to make recommendations relating to its development such as things you would like to see included or excluded then email the webmaster@drpc1999.club and if it is possible I will do my best to accommodate the input of member's.

I hope thus far members have found the website to be a useful source of information for club related information, which in turn helps take the pressure off disseminating information by other methods.

Target Officers Report

Stock levels have been maintained at a high level throughout the past year and are very good at present, with targets running short. There was a problem with the 10 bull 2510BR targets, in October/November, because the NSRA could not supply them due to a printing problem, however, this has now been resolved and they are back in stock.

There are still several targets in the cupboard that get very little usage, or have been replaced with a more up to date version. These will not be replaced when they eventually run out, which could take several years. We currently have over 30 different styles of targets in stock.

Recently there have been a few of occasions when members have been seen shooting non approved targets that have not been bought from the club. Although the club does not make a lot of profit from target sales, the profit it does make goes towards the running of the club and I would ask all members to ensure that they are using targets that are approved and bought from the club, the obvious exception is if you are shooting a competition target supplied by another organisation.

With that in mind, if there is a target that you need for a competition that the club does not stock, please let me know and I will do my best to buy some in, however, you will need to give me plenty of notice, it's no good asking the week before you need it.

Target Frame Officers Report

I am pleased to report that no serious issues have arisen over the past year.

Armourers Report

Towards the beginning of the year, the Management Committee agreed to purchase a club chronograph, and after thorough research I selected the Labrador Chronograph as the most suitable product for our needs. This chronograph features state of the art Radar Doppler Technology, to track the projectile down range, and report the velocities at multiple distances, all from a position sat on the bench next to the firearm (so nothing to shoot through, and no risk of shooting the chronograph itself!). Many of you have already taken advantage of this excellent piece of kit already (which is free for all club members to use), but I would encourage more of you to give it a try. Whether you are reloading, checking your rifle against range limits, or just interested in the velocity, the Labrador Chronograph is an excellent asset to the club.

My main job, as Armourer has been to clean and maintain the club rifles. I have introduced a maintenance log, and the rifles have been cleaned once a month on average, to ensure probationary and full members are able to access a reliable rifle, and fully enjoy their shooting.

Despite regular cleaning though, it soon became clear that the existing club rifles (Ruger 10/22's) were coming to the end of their useful life, Therefore the committee has agreed to purchase 4x brand new Ruger 10/22 Target Lite Rifles. These new rifles have many of the features of custom 10/22's (laminated thumbhole stock, target profile barrel, lightened trigger etc.), but at a fraction of the cost. The new rifles will be fully commissioned, and available for members to use in the next few weeks.

As a club, we have excellent facilities, and now we have excellent new club rifles to match these. These new rifles will help new members enjoy shooting, without being put off by worn out rifles, and will hopefully encourage more young people to take up the sport.

As the Armourer I have donated a fullbore rifle (.223 bolt action) to the club, to allow probationary and full members to try out longer range shooting, and take part in all club competitions. We've had some difficulty commissioning this rifle (finding cost effective ammo to match the barrel twist), but hopefully it (or an equivalent rifle) will be commissioned soon.

If any of you have issues with the club rifles, would like to use the chronograph, or have general shooting related issues or concerns, let me know, and I'll try to help. I'm around during most club sessions, or my email address is on the board.

Club CRO's Report.

I consider my year as Chief Range Officer to have been a success. My main role has been to implement the new club RCO training, I must thank the Committee and especially the Chairman for the support they have given me in this. Virtually all the membership has now completed the course and the feedback has been very positive.

I would like to remind any members who have not completed the course that they must not attend the range alone until they are qualified as RCO's

Club membership fees for 2019.

The Management Committee have discussed the current level of membership fees and as a result of this it has been decided that there will be no increase in the annual fees in 2019.

Proposals for changes to the club constitution or rules.

The affairs of the Club shall be administered by a Management Committee, which should as a minimum comprise the following positions: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer and Safety Officer. Additional named Management Committee positions as called for by the retiring Management Committee or by the Members at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) may be specified. To be eligible to serve in the position of Chairperson or Secretary, Members shall have served on the Management Committee in another position for two consecutive years immediately prior to seeking election to the position of Chairperson or Secretary. All other Management Committee positions shall be open to any Full Member.

The Management Committee will normally meet to discuss Club matters on the first Tuesday of each month, unless an alternative date has previously been arranged. Meetings will start at 19.00 hrs. And end at 21.00 hrs.

The proposal was put to the membership and a vote taken, the proposal was passed unanimously.

Election of Management Committee for 2019

The following names were put forward for election to the Management Committee.

Chairman, P Lomas. Treasurer, S Walters. Secretary, R Hufton, Deputy Chairman, N Waring / D Jones. Safety Officer, J Rowlands. Membership Officer, J Smith. Armourer, J Starley, Target Officer, B Hall, PR Officer, C Leoni. CRO, D Holt, Competition Officer, T Mephram.

As the position of Deputy Chairman was contested by 2 members, Each nominee presented his case for election, a ballot was then taken. The result was a vote in favour of D Jones by 46 to 16 with 2 abstentions.

The meeting was concluded by the presentation of medals to the 2017 club competition winners.

Meeting finished at 11.55 am

