



VICTORIAN RIFLE ASSOCIATION INC

COUNCIL MEETING

11th February 2018

VRA Office –
Wellsford Rifle Range

Meeting Opened: 09.30

PRESENT: Garry Kay, Alan Wright, Frank Conner, Albert Van Wyk, Trevor Rhodes

APOLOGIES: Michelle Fletcher, Marcus Cave, Peter Farley

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Held on 11th February 2018.

Accepted as tabled.

Business arising from previous Minutes: Following the Council Meeting on 11th February 2018, AVW submitted a letter from the VRA to SSCV regarding LRD's proposed stricter requirements to be implemented for licence holders who own more than 14 rifles.

It was VRA's opinion that this requirement would cause undue inconvenience for their members who already promote and practice safe handling and storage of weapons. SSCV have met with LRD to discuss this proposed increase in obligations and subsequently LRD have decided that if a person is a member of a shooting organisation (including VRA) then no further restrictions/obligations would be imposed.

REPORTS

1. Chairman's Report

The chairman did not present a report due to the content being covered in the agenda items

2. Treasures Report – not available at time of publication of minutes.

Bank Account Balances as of 25th March 2018.

| | |
|---------------|--------------|
| Term Deposit | \$254,676.95 |
| IBD | \$63,331.83 |
| Trading A/C | \$30,650.70 |
| Statement A/C | \$3266.38 |

3. Shop Sales Report

The shop sales report was submitted by Geoff Wells (GW), presented by Garry Kay and accepted as tabled.

Shop stock levels are nearing capacity in anticipation for the Queens requirements; some supply issues have been identified due to the NRAA closing over the Commonwealth Games period.

Discussions were held regarding the pricing of goods and how to achieve the balance between providing low cost prices for the members and the shop making enough profit to remain sustainable.

4. Executive Officer Report

NR presented a report regarding her work on increasing the visibility and communication channels for the VRA. She is currently producing a marketing and communications strategy for the short and medium term, this includes such things as the publishing of a bi-monthly newsletter, updating the content on the website and the development of a facebook page. The Agenda and Minutes of council meetings will also be published on the website. All of these tasks are achievable within the next 2 months.

NR also discussed her vision for the updating of the presentation area for the Queens. Banners and posters have been printed and the painting of the wall behind honour boards.

“Come and Try May Day” Colac is the only club that has registered for this national program. It would be disappointing for the VRA if we can only have one club participating in this initiative.

5. Wellsford Range Report

- A maintenance report was submitted by Robin Hall (RH), presented by Nikki Rees and accepted as tabled.
- A quote was submitted for major repairs of the mantlet at both ends and repair of the stop butt. A further quote was requested by the council and for RH to seek clarification of the quote provided.

6. Grants Report: The grants report was submitted by Ken Reither (KR) presented by Garry Kay and accepted as tabled.

Planning Permit - CFA have raised questions about emergency plan for the current camping area. A consultant will need to be engaged to produce a Fire Management Plan which will be submitted to Council for the planning permit. Grant subcommittee members have requested a meeting with Bendigo Council to discuss any potential impact of the Bendigo Rifle Clubs submission for their clubhouse. No date has been confirmed for this meeting. A new site sign has been designed and is currently with Dept. of Sport for approval. The sign frame currently under construction to save time with hopes it will be available prior to Queens.

7. Queens Committee Update: A report was submitted by Ken Reither (KR), presented by Garry Kay and accepted as tabled.

Range staff, catering and bar staff have been finalised. All other tasks are on track for completion.

Cleaning of the pavilion is required with NR to send the resident clubs an email requesting they provide a volunteer to assist with this task.

General Business

8. Councillor Vacancy – Nil response from request for EOI for vacant councillor position.

9. F Class Competition 2021

AVW requested the support of council to compile a submission to the NRAA requesting the selection process of captain and coach of F class teams for 2021 be conducted as soon as practicable. AVW spoke of the success of the Australian F Class team and that they have won the world championships twice in a row. This is a highly competitive and prestigious event with locations chosen for the next eight years. The competition will be held in South Africa in 2021, Great Britain in 2025 and USA in 2029.

Great Britain and USA have already selected captains and coaches. If the Australian team was selected at least 12 months in advance then it would enable competitors to plan and seek corporate sponsorship. The VRA agreed to draft the letter that will be signed by GK.

10. Queens Dates 2019

Symes: Wednesday 10th April, Thursday 11th April 2019

Queens: Friday 12th, Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th April 2019

11. Response to motions submitted by ECDRA at council meeting held 11th February 2018.

Motion 1: ECDRA is requesting that the VRA submit a request to the NRAA to issue an amendment to the SSR's, which incorporates as an Annex a "standard design" of "bullet catcher" compliant with Chapter 3 Section 1 "Falling Plate Targets" (page 22 of 81) and Chapter 3 Section 2 "Falling Plates" (page 31 of 81) of NSW Pol Range Users Guide Version 10 issued September 2017.

Significant discussions occurred about this motion with the outcome being that the VRA will support an investigation into amending this rule in the form of a letter to LRD to enquire about its legislative requirements for changing the rule to incorporate the use of "falling/steel plates". A working party would not be formed as requested by ECDRA due to limited resources however AVW would draft a submission to LRD and begin the process of investigating options for this rule change.

Motion 2: ECDRA is requesting that the VRA Council form a working party for the purpose of developing Peter Farley's ideas for growth of the sport expressed in the article "does target Rifle shooting have a death wish?" printed in the July/August issue (issue 129) of the NRAA on-line magazine Target.

The council held discussion on the concept that most sporting clubs are in a state of decline due to various reasons including lack of member's time and money. The VRA recognises there is a decline in membership and options need to be developed and promoted for the future success of the VRA and of target rifle shooting more broadly. Initiatives such as the Shooting Australia "Come and try May Day" does offer clubs the opportunity to participate in a National programme that is designed to enhance and increase local interest in all shooting disciplines. Unfortunately, only one club in Victoria has taken this opportunity and the VRA strongly encourages others to also participate.

AVW discussed the possibility that clubs could introduce a "field class" competition on a weekly basis to try to increase participation.

Whilst the VRA is supportive of the concept presented in the motion submitted by ECDRA, further consultation would have to occur with Peter Farley (absent from meeting) prior to any working party being formed.

Motion 3: ECDRA requested that the VRA, in consultation and collaboration with the NRAA, develop and implement a formal, documented and transparent marketing and communication plan. The VRA support this concept on a local level and the current Executive Officer is developing a document outlining the model to be implemented subject to available resources and funding. NR will seek assistance from ECDRA representative who has professional responsibilities in this area.

12. DRA Teams

12a:

Date: Saturday 20th October & Sunday 21st October 2018

Price: A price increase has been supported by the council for entry fees to rise from

- Individuals \$30
- Teams (5 Person) \$40
- Teams (10 Person) \$80

12b: A report was submitted by Robyn Jackman, presented by Garry Kay and accepted as tabled.

12c: The VRA has not agreed to include a category DRA X for clubs not affiliated with a DRA.

12d: A submission from TR was discussed regarding holding a separate weekend for Club Champions to compete instead of DRA champions. Whilst the council was supportive of the concept, its practicality and the logistical challenges would not make it feasible in 2018. They did agree to put a motion in place at the AGM for all members to discuss and vote on this concept.

12e: Concerns were raised regarding the champion of champion being spread out on the range and that it may be considered an advantage to shoot from the far-left targets nearer the trees. A discussion will be had with the Range Officer on the day to ensure that target rifle shoots are blocked together.

13. Range Registry Book

A range registry book does exist, however may not in the past been enforced. The book will be placed in the pavilion with a requirement for all shooting on the range to sign in prior to entering the mounds.

14. Set Fees for 2018/2019

Discussions were held by the council on the need to increase the VRA component of fees for the 2018/2019 period. The \$20 levy will remain for the final year of the three-year introduction of the levy and the VRA component will increase by \$10. The NRAA will also be increasing their component by \$10.

Fees for 2018/2019

Existing Members

| Membership Category | Code | NRA Fee | VRA Fee | Levy | Total |
|---------------------|------|---------|---------|-------|--------|
| Full Member | 102 | 65.00 | 125.00 | 20.00 | 210.00 |
| Under 21 | 106 | 37 | 65 | 20 | 122.00 |
| Associate Member | 108 | 65 | 113 | 20 | 198.00 |

15. Range Standing Orders

An updated copy of the Range Standing Orders was submitted, however due to the DELWP request to utilise Wellsford Range for training purposes, the current Range Standing Orders will remain valid until an amended version to include DELWP requirements has been produced.

16. Support of U18 F Class Team

A request was submitted by the South Australian Rifle Association and a VRA member that the VRA support the introductions of a U18 F Class State Team Competition in F Open or FTR. On 20th February 2018, SARA sent a letter to NRAA supporting the establishment of an U18 F-Class State Teams Competition.

Discussion on this subject was conducted by council with the outcome being that the VRA would be supportive of a junior squad; however it would be an U25 Team not an U18 team due to lack of numbers and the requirement that licensed shooters accompany U18 members.

17. Letter to NRAA

An email was received from a NRAA Board Member and VRA Member requesting that VRA submit a letter to the NRAA requesting an alteration to the SSR Rule 20.9.2 regarding rifle weight. This request was supported by the VRA with NR to draft the email.

18. Club Proposal from PRS Australia

AVW submitted a document about Precision Rifle Shooting (PRS) which outlined their shooting discipline which is a rapidly growing competitive sport in the USA. AVW spoke about the possible benefits to clubs and the VRA.

PRS have been running competitions in Australia which have been sold out in two hours for sixty entries at a cost of \$350 for two days and attract large sponsorships. AVW is currently communicating with PRS and hopes that VRA will consider this concept as an ideal opportunity to increase participation and membership. AVW will continue to investigate the suitability and legality of this type of shooting within VRA clubs through discussions with LRD.

Upcoming Council Meetings

- 27th May 2018
- 29th July 2018
- 30th September 2018
- 25th November 2018

Meeting closed at 3.15pm