

Vintage Arms Scotland

Annual General Meeting

12 November 2020 by Zoom

Minutes - Unapproved

Present

Roger Horsnell Chairman
Martin Armistead Treasurer
Ryan Bain
Robert Beale
Ian Calder
Sandy Cormack
David Field
Fraser Hansen
Chris Hodgson
Arthur Robinson
John Roy
John Sim
Darrie Tighe
Bob Webster
Bryden Ritchie Secretary

The meeting opened at 1900. The secretary asked permission to record the meeting. There were no dissenters.

1. The chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the members. He explained that, due to COVID, the shooting season had been “rubbish” with little or no shooting activity.
2. Secretary report. The secretary covered the following issues

Landwarrior – We saw the opening of the Landwarrior range at the beginning of the year. We have been looking for such a range for several years, and the Landwarrior facility provides a convenient venue for expanding our offering. The range was developed with assistance from the NRA for range design and licencing. The range, although it is short at 17m will accommodate ME up 645Joules and MV 520 M/S. In practice we have been shooting pistols and rifles up to .44Special loadings using solid lead bullets to save the linatex curtain.

As Landwarrior was not budgeted for in this years programme, it was decided to charge an interim range fee of £5 ph to partially offset the cost.

Landwarrior have kindly offered us free use of the range for beginners introduction sessions. We hope to start these as soon as the restrictions allow. By using Landwarrior, we hope to reduce the burden of beginner training time and space on the other ranges. Besides the range, Landwarrior has a large meeting room/café that we can use.

Membership.

Club membership has remained reasonably high, although of course we have not seen many on the range this year. Because of the limitations on contact post COVID we have had to suspend new memberships in the meantime. I have continued to receive membership enquiries, however I have had to put them on a waiting list with the promise to get back to them when the situation improves. I have around 12 individuals on the list, some with prior shooting experience, and some with none. I was about to start feeding in folk with prior experience when Nicola shut things down again.. As soon as Lothians get back down to Tier 2, I will start this again.

We will not be running the “no show” sweep this year! All members who re-join by the end of the month will be re-certified as competent with the NRA.

COVID

The main impact on our activities has been COVID. When we finally got back on the ranges in August, we imposed a prior booking and distancing scheme, which although has reduced the range space available, has been able to provide opportunities for members to continue shooting.

The latest regulations have unfortunately shut down our use of the ranges yet again. Under the present scheme we are caught by two restrictions imposed by the Lothians being in Teir 3:

1. Joint services range, although being in a Teir 2 area, cannot run because the majority of shooters and RCOs are in Teir 3 and are not allowed to travel to a Teir 2 area.
2. Landwarrior is in Teir 3, however as it is an indoor facility, cannot be used by groups.
3. Castlelaw perversely, could be used by Lothian residents, however it is closed until the new year for repairs.

Can I take the opportunity to thank those who have attended shoots for their patience and perseverance! Can I again remind people not to turn up early for shoots and to disperse quickly after them. There is a real risk of someone calling the Police if they see groups of people milling about beside ranges. We do not want to get into conversations with the Police over this!

Range Report

The chairman then gave a report regarding the provisional range programme for next year:

24 Shoots at Landwarrior

20 Shoots at Joint Services

9 at Castlelaw starting in April.

2 at Blairadam

The Chairman expressed his intention to lay on long range shoots and to get the turning targets working at Joint Services. Potentially this may require us to buy our own controller.

Treasurers Report

The treasurer explained that his reports basically fall into two areas, the accounts for the current year, and the budget set for the following year and how we have calculated our subscriptions.

The current year's budget has, because of the COVID restrictions, ended the year with a surplus of around £5000. He explained that we took in around £10000 in subscriptions, but did not take in any extra range fees as a result of range sharing or guests. A sum of £360 came in from Landwarrior shoots as a result of the surcharge, which covered about 1/3rd of the range cost. There was also a £20 refund to a member who had paid a family fee in error.

Covering expenses, the treasurer explained that the fees for Joint Services were paid in advance and that we would be charged a reduced fee this year as a consequence. Other expenses this year included the annual NRA membership and insurance payment.

The treasurer explained that we had a couple of attempts at setting the budget, the first attempt was based on an incorrect estimate of Landmark/Castlelaw fees and did not include the discounted cost of Joint Services in 2021. It was calculated that the annual subscription needed to be £175 per head. Because of the surplus carried over from the current year's cancelled shoots and the reduced charge on JSPC this will be reduced to £65 per head for members who paid in 2020.

The family membership will be charged at £195 or £85 for members who paid in 2020. The Treasurer reminded members that a family membership covers the member and one other family member. Additional family members can be added at a cost of £40 per head.

The Chairman commented that we had not increased the subs for a number of years, and the method of calculating any savings as a result of cancelled shoots and returning this to continuing members in the form of a discount should continue in the future, as it is clearer to understand where the costs lie.

Election of Office Bearers and Committee

The chairman explained that he had spoken to the current committee members, and that they had agreed to continue in the meantime until we could have a proper AGM in 2021. The membership present indicated they were happy with this arrangement.

The treasurer pointed out that he intends to resign at some point in the near future. The chairman acknowledged this and said he had this in hand.

David Field asked if there was a contingency in the income if not all the members renewed. The Treasurer explained that there was sufficient capital available, and that we were expecting some income from new members.

The meeting closed at 1726.

Bryden Ritchie

Secretary