

Tees Valley Target Sports Club
Minutes of Meeting – 5th August 2025

CONFIDENTIAL – this document contains personal and confidential information regarding identifiable persons and must not be copied or communicated without written authorization from the Chair.

Attendance

Richard Frankland (Chair) - RF, David Pengilley (President) – DP, Pete Costello – (Treasurer) – PC, Mick Lord (Secretary) – ML, Rocky Wright – RW, Tony Curry – TC, Geoff Bell – GB, Phil Hughes – PH, Les Cook – LC, Barry King - BK, Clare Pinnegar – CP, Peter Nicol (Note Taker) – PN Steve Nicholson (Part)

Summary of Steve Nicholson's representation regarding his safety concerns in 'B' Range

Steve expressed his concerns from a Safeguarding perspective. The air rifle fraternity included a number of vulnerable, handicapped and elderly members. Some were on medications with dosages that varied, that brought *its* own problems. Some of the older members are forgetful and not strong enough to hold and handle their air rifles or other firearms properly and safely This could lead to rifles being knocked off benches or being dropped. This could result in unexpected and unplanned discharges. The older members forget the safety rules and try to handle firearms on the firing point when other shooters are forward. There have been several instances of unsafe practices. Such practices in the past were evidenced by the number of holes in the walls and ceilings. In some instances, the elderly and vulnerable have to be directed where to sit.

Air rifle shooting has also attracted a number of children that require extra supervision.

As a CASC and in response to these issues by suitable help being provided and interventions undertaken as necessary, TC/RW are providing a very safe range with children welcome.

Steve concluded by saying RW/TC need the committee and RCO's to support the importance of the range orders and the safe practices that have been established in response to these issues and to resist any suggestions that they are spoiling members' fun and are unnecessary

and onerous. Any weakening of these arrangements could lead to accidents and intervention by the authorities.

RF thanked Steve for bringing his Safeguarding concerns to the attention of the committee. Steve left the meeting. RF asked the meeting if they shared Steve's concerns. RW/TC said that some of the issues were historic and had been dealt with. This was evidenced by the significant decrease in holes in walls and ceilings. The general consensus was that safety rules were being enforced. **AGREED-** Steve's concerns were noted and TC/RW will continue to pay special attention to those members with special needs. **ACTION** -ML to write to Steve Nicholson to thank him for raising his concerns and acknowledging the need to closely supervise those members using 'B' Range that have special needs.

1. Apologies

Andy Cook, Mark Grimwood and Ian Lindsay

2. Minutes of last meeting – 1st July 2025

The minutes were moved as a correct record by LC and seconded by BK with the exception of the last sentence of Paragraph 2 under the heading 'The Club's RFD application' that should be deleted.

3. Matters arising (Not on the agenda)

- 1) Item 3.1 **ACTION** - CP to supply ML with a copy of the certificate to show she had successfully completed her Safeguarding training.
- 2) PC gave an update of work by Vit and Roger Johnson for uploading data from BK's records, on to the Range Mate system **NOTED** – that the Club has adopted the Range Mate app with Vit being the administrator. New membership information will be added as soon as an application is received. Annual subscriptions can be renewed via Range Mate. Anomalies identified in the loading up of data on to Range Mate are being ironed out. The planned launch date is sometime in October. Members will get an email to request details of firearms ownership (make, calibre and serial number) plus FAC details. It is up to members to enroll on Range Mate if they want to, those who do not will remain on the manual system which will remain in place. It is expected over time that these will diminish/cease.

- 3) Club RFD application – PC reported that the Police had inspected the gun cabinets in the Store Room and declared that the firearm storage arrangements were satisfactory. The RFD certificate had not been issued yet. **NOTED**
- 4) **Bench Rest Shooter** – despite many attempts APC had been unable to ascertain the shooter's bench requirements and dimensions thereof. **ACTION** - APC to continue to pursue.
- 5) **Training for Long Barrel and Pistol shooting.**
GB pulling together a training programme from other sources.
ACTION – GB to report back with a draft programme.
- 6) **Concessionary Membership** – ML awaiting a formal application after the forms had been provided to the potential applicant.
- 7) **Training** – the training organised for 03/08/25 had taken place at Moorsholm. Four attendees – the course went well.
- 8) **Instructor Training Dates** – ML had suggested 6/7 September to Steve Bowser at the NRA. Needs confirmation that dates are agreed. **ACTION** – ML to chase Steve Bowser/NRA.
- 9) **FBR (Item 9 of 01/07/25)** After the last meeting it had been established that Kevin Gair could only RCO in the mornings and that Andrew Wharton is willing 'sometime in the future'. There were three potential RCO candidates, James Palmer, Richard Waller and Andrew Huddleston who have all expressed interest.
ACTION – APC to pursue these three members for RCO training.
- 10) a) TC reported that the tracked dumper had been very effective for moving sand at Moorsholm. A few bags of sand left to move. **ACTION** - TC awaiting return of JPS from leave before organising a working party.
- 11) TC had placed distinctive tape over the trip hazard in 'B' Range. **ACTION** – TC has a permanent repair in hand.
- 12) The previously agreed action to drill a hole in the roof to drain off ponded water is in abeyance due to the illness of the contractor. **ACTION** – TC to monitor and pursue.

4 The Chair's Report

- 1) RF drew attention to the loss of Muzzle Loader RCO's as he (RF), Peter Metcalfe and Ken Hart were no longer active RCOs for operational reasons. This leaves Ron Benson as the only Black Powder Muzzle Loader RCO who regularly attends the Catterick shoots. DP is a muzzle loader RCO running cap and ball

shoots/competitions at Moorsholm and was willing to do duty at Catterick if called upon.

- 2) PC commented that Alan Wiffin is able to do Muzzle Loading long arm as well as pistol at Moorsholm. Some potential candidates might feel insufficiently experienced in muzzle loading to enroll on the RCO course and he offered to do some basic training as he had taken a Bisley course recently (not the RCO course) which was not onerous and felt that he could reproduce the training at Catterick. It was noted that Ian Iceton is an muzzle loading RCO. PC is able to put in hand the training but he needs to know who wants to be trained. TC put himself forward for BP Muzzle Loading training. Alan Wiffin would do the theory on the Saturday morning and the practical on the Sunday. Alan would need to transport to Moorsholm. He may require local hotel accommodation for three nights. Some of the Club's existing RCO's should be offered Black Powder RCO training. **ACTION** – ML to write to existing RCO's to establish if any are interested in taking the Muzzle Loading RCO course including the new prospective candidates James Palmer, Andy Huddleston and Richard Waller referred to above.

5. Secretary's report

5.1 ML had received an email from the Muzzle Loaders Association, enquiring which branch the Club wanted to be affiliated to. **ACTION** – ML to respond pointing out that the Club's range is Middlesbrough and arguably regarded as in North Yorkshire and ask which branch would be best given the Club's location.

5.2 ML had received a request from Leigh Patterson for permission to bring a non-shooting supporter to the Catterick ranges to act as his carer for carrying his oxygen bottle (needed in connection with his respiratory illness) and shooting equipment. **ACTION** – ML to respond confirming that the Carer can be given a Visitors badge and there was no problem with his carer attending in a non-shooting capacity.

5.3 ML issued all Committee members with a letter of authority to possess Club firearms and ammunition. **NOTED**

6. Membership Secretary's Report

6.1 BK reported the following applications for Club membership:-

Cody Thorpe	Sports membership	No.1002
John Burton	“ “	No.1007
Jane Mary Trainor	“ “	No. 1010
Martin Robert Metcalfe	“ “	No. 1017
Nathan Hall	“ “	No. 2502
Jordan William Scott	“ “	No. 2503
Clare Dowell	Full Member	No. 264
John Dowell	“ “	No. 357
Matthew Lewis Smith	Firearms Member	No. 33
Robert Radstrom	“ “	No.424
Andrew Scott	“ “	No. 425

6.2 For Mr Radstrom, (No. 424) **ACTION** - BK to check if he has been refused membership for any other Clubs. If it is confirmed he has not, his application is approved. For Mr Scott (No. 2503) **ACTION** – BK to ensure a properly completed proposal form has been completed. If this done, his application is approved. All other applications were approved.
NOTED

7. Treasurer's Report

7.1 PC produced documentary evidence in the form of the Club's bank statements for the following standing of the Club's accounts:

Current account	£1,645.76	
General Reserve	£22,767.36	
Land & Buildings	£50,155.90	
Subscription Holding	£229.50	
Tags	(£1,000.00) Refundable	
TOTAL	£74,795.52	(Excluding tags)

7.2 Major Items of Expenditure

Rent	£562.44
Landmarc	£607.12
Sand (Moorsholm)	£504.00
Ammunition	£208.79
Targets	£162.28
Printer for Labels	£43.69
Labels	£29.99
Rates	£94.00

Internet	£22.57
Barclaycard	£18.00
Water Rates	£35.00
Cases (.38)	£67.50

- 7.3** PC explained that for 2026 subscriptions he would produce a sticker for each member to affix on the rear of his metal membership card. The members number would be in manuscript on the sticker. This procedure involved the purchase of a sticker printer at £43.69. A sample sticker was circulated around those present. **ACTION** - PC to explore the possibility of adding a barcode to the sticker.
- 7.4** PC to cancel Barclaycard account as it is superfluous to requirements. **NOTED**

8. Full Bore Rifle

8.1 The club's Lee Enfield No.4 currently with Barbican Armoury for repair/replacement of the foresight. **NOTED**

8.2 The course for SCC theory training/qualification has been booked for probationers on 30 August at Lawson Way starting 9:00 am. **NOTED**

10. Building & Estates

10.1 TC has previously covered outstanding items – Moorsholm tracked dumper, trip hazard in 'B' Range and drilling hole in the roof. **NOTED**

11. Progress on possible Faceby site

11.1 PN presented a paper regarding the next steps to progress the proposed shooting ground at Faceby. He tabled an A1 size drawing (Revision C) showing the proposed location of the firing point and backstop, position for parking, access arrangements and routes of Public Footpaths

11.2 The next **ACTION** is for TC to consult with the landowners to ensure that they are happy with the Club's proposals.

11.3 If the landowners have no comments the plan will be presented to the National Park planners as a Pre-planning consultation – cost £280, to establish if the Club's intended use is likely to be acceptable.

11.4 In the meantime the landowners are happy to host Club member clay shoots on the land. The first is fixed for 14th September. This will help to assess if local residents and neighbours have a problem with noise. **ACTION** – TC to arrange for the nearby Riding School to be notified of time and date.

.

12 Any other Business

12.1 RW asked if Starter Caps could be used as targets in 'B' Range. It was noted that the manufacturers guidance required shooters to wear safety glasses and ear defenders. Several present expressed concern regarding the possible fire risk. **AGREED** – That a trial be organised in 'B' range under controlled conditions and the conclusions brought back to the next committee.

12.2 ML drew attention to the previously circulated email from Matthew Smith offering Club logo gilets at a price he quoted in the email.

AGREED – PC happy for Club to collect payments on the understanding payment is in full up front or a 50% deposit is paid. **ACTION** – ML to re-circulate the original email with details therein.

12.3 DP drew attention to a Friday evening shooter putting primed cases and new .38 cases in the scrap bin. **ACTION** – ML to send out an email to say the practice must cease.

12.4 LC said the next clay shoot at Moorsholm is on 10th August. Another will be held at Faceby on 14th September – **ACTION** - details of access and other arrangements to be provided by LC/TC.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 2nd September 2025.