

NATIONAL BENCH REST SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 24, 2005

The annual meeting of the NBRSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS was called to order by President Dennis Thornbury at 12:10 PM on Saturday, September 24, 2005, in Meeting Room 116 of the AmeriHost Inn, located in Warrenton, Missouri. In attendance were:

Dennis Thornbury, President
Pat Ferrell, Business Manager
Hobie Bond, Eastern Region Director
Scott Hunter, Gulf Coast Region Director
Butch Fjoser, Mid-Continent Region Director
Bud Mundy, Mississippi Valley Region Director
Ron Miller, North Central Region Director
Wilbur Harris, Southeastern Region Director
Don Nielson, Southwestern Region Director
Jim Erickson, NBRSA Financial Officer
Don Powell, US World Benchrest Team Chairman
Mike Ratigan, Assisting US World BR Team Chairman

Thornbury opened the meeting and turned the floor over to Don Powell, NBRSA International Representative to the World BR Championships. Don Powell then gave a report on the 2005 World Championships held at Kelbly's Rifle Range in North Lawrence, Ohio. He reported that this match was the largest ever and was a well-run shoot.

He made note that since George Kelbly is not going to register the 2006 Super Shoot with NBRSA, the 2006 Super Shoot will not be a qualifying match for the next World Championships. He then recommended the following matches to serve as the World Championship qualifying matches:

- (1) Fairchance Rod and Gun Club Match (Smithfield, PA) on May 6 – 7.
- (2) Eastern Regionals Championships at Kelbly's Rifle Club (N. Lawrence, OH) on Labor Day
- (3) East – West Shoot-Out at the Bench Rest Rifle Club of St. Louis in June
- (4) Cactus at the Arizona Benchrest Shooters (Phoenix, AZ) in March
- (5) NBRSA Nationals (Raton, NM) in July

If the Board approves these recommended matches, each competitor's top 3 matches from any of these 5 matches would then be used for points to qualify for the World Championships. Thornbury thanked Powell for his report and for all of the work he has done on behalf of NBRSA.

Thornbury then introduced Jim Erickson, NBRSA Financial Officer. Erickson gave a financial report comparing the cash overview of the previous 2½ years. He noted that the major source of income is from memberships and the major expense is the magazine printing costs. Erickson stated that NBRSA is not increasing its revenue as much as it has in the past. He said there were three possible areas where increases in fees might be considered in order to bring in more revenue: the annual dues, the match fees, and the amount charged for targets. He pointed out that there has not been an increase in Membership dues since they were raised to \$40 in August 1996, and the Associate Member dues have not been increased since they were raised to \$10 in November 1994.

Erickson asked about the status of the liability insurance for the NBRSA Board and Officers. In 2001, Don Creach, who was the NBRSA President at that time, had requested that Perry Morton check into getting the appropriate liability insurance. Currently, NBRSA has no such insurance. Bond volunteered to contact Morton regarding this subject to see what Morton had been able to accomplish. Erickson suggested that personal umbrella insurance for a board member would probably run about \$70 to 80 per year and might be a possible solution. Mundy stated that in the state of Missouri, if you served on the Board of a not-for-profit organization, you were automatically covered.

Erickson then suggested that an NBRSA audit should be done every 4-5 yrs. Since NBRSA is a Not-for-Profit Organization, it would probably be wise to do this regularly to help assure that we are doing things correctly.

Bond moved to reword the two paragraphs under **B. Definitions. 3. Heavy Varmint Rifle.** (on page 2 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”) to read as follows:

A Heavy Varmint Rifle is any rifle having a safe manually and mechanically operated firing mechanism and must not weigh more than 13 ½ pounds inclusive of sights. The stock would have a flat or convex forearm not more than 3 inches wide and having a toe formed by an acute angle that conforms to the Varmint Rifle diagram (on page 68 of Rev. Ed. No. 36).

The barrel would not be less than 18” long forward of the bolt face and a diameter of not more than 1.250 inches from the bolt face forward 5 inches. From said 5-inch point, the diameter would not be greater than would be defined by a straight taper between such point and a muzzle diameter of .900 at 29 inches.

Harris seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Bond moved to reword the first sentence under **C. Targets. 2. At All Matches** (on page 5 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”) to read as follows:

At All Matches, no competitor shall remove his/her or any competitor’s targets from the display area until the aggregate for that course of fire is posted.

Nielson seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Bond moved to punctuate and reword the second sentence under **D. Tournament Rules, 10. Courses of Fire, (c) Heavy Varmint, Light Varmint, and Sporter Championships.** (on page 9 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”) to read as follows:

The smallest 100 yard aggregate for each class shall be the 100 Yard Champion; the smallest 200 yard aggregate for each class shall be the 200 Yard Champion; the winner of the Grand Aggregate for each class, combining the 100 and 200 yard aggregates (expressed in minute of angle) shall be the Grand Aggregate Champion.

Nielson seconded and the motion was unanimous.

After discussion, Bond withdrew his agenda item concerning the need to clarify the wording under **F. Tournament Procedure, 2. Registration Fees, (d) Money Shoots.** (on page 16 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”).

After discussion, Bond withdrew his agenda item concerning the need to clarify the wording under **F. Tournament Procedure, 3. Match Entry Fees.** (on page 17 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”).

Bond moved to add wording to the paragraph under **I. The Host Club, 2. Preliminary, Wind Flags** (on page 29 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”) so that the first two

sentences read as follows: *It is recommended, but not mandatory, that the Host Club furnishes wind flags or wind indicators. No competitor may post or adjust flags after the first match of the day except for changes in yardage or classes.* Nielson seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Bond requested a review and discussion on the use of the stock angle checking mechanism made by George Kelbly, Sr. However, since there was no device available for the Board to examine and review, no action was taken.

Hunter moved to add a number 11 under **E. Safety (on page 15 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”)**. It will read as follows: *11. Muzzle Attachments Used As Tuners. There shall be no adjusting of muzzle attachments at the firing line once the command “Commence Firing” is given by the Range Officer.* Fjoser seconded the motion. Bond, Hunter, Fjoser, and Mundy voted in favor; Miller, Harris, and Nelson voted against; motion carried by a vote of 4 to 3.

Hunter moved to add a last sentence to **14. Rests, (c) Sandbag, (1) The Front Sandbag (on page 4 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”)**. That sentence will read as follows: *Tape on sandbag is legal.* Miller seconded the motion; Mundy opposed; Bond, Hunter, Fjoser, Miller, Harris, and Nielson favored. Motion passed with a vote of 6 to 1.

Hunter withdrew his agenda item regarding clarifying a current rule by changing the last sentence under B. Definitions, 14. Rests, (b) Unlimited Rests (on page 4 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”). The item would have the last sentence to read as follows: *An Unlimited Rest may be mechanically clamped to the bench top.*

Mundy moved to add a last sentence under B. Definitions, 14. Rests, (b) Unlimited Rests (on page 4 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”) that would it would read as: *An Unlimited Rifle must be capable of being lifted straight up from the bench without resistance. For safety purposes, a stock block plate will be allowed on the front.* This agenda item was tabled until after lunch.

Mundy moved to delete all of section **4. In Front of Firing Line**, which is listed under **E. Safety (on page 15 of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”)**. Nielson seconded the motion; Bond, Hunter, Mundy, Harris, and Nielson voted for; Fjoser and Miller opposed; the item passed with a vote of 5 to 2. **The following will be deleted from page 15: 4. In Front of Firing Line. No competitor will be allowed in front of the firing line after the first shot is fired and until the end of that aggregate is completed. This does include the warm-up match.** Fjoser noted that the first paragraph on page 22 (of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”), should also be deleted because it needs to agree with the deletion just approved on page 15 of section “4. In Front of Firing Line”. **DELETE: No competitor will be allowed in front of the firing line after the first shot is fired and until the end of that aggregate is completed. This does include the warm-up match.**

Mundy introduced discussion on the **minimum Host Club requirements for holding National Matches.**

Mundy then moved to use the following 10 items as an outline for a proposal to determine clubs suitable to host NBRSA Nationals:

- 1. 50 covered benches*
- 2. Provide a seasoned target crew chief and range officer*
- 3. Provide experienced measurer and statistical person*
- 4. Have at least 8 restroom facilities at range (permanent/portable) and 2 showers*

5. *Covered loading facility for a minimum of 150 people.*
6. *Camper hook-ups:*
 - (30) – 30 amp.
 - (15) – 15 amp.
7. *Access to safe drinking water, via well, utilities or storage tank*
8. *Allow range to be available for practice prior to match and evenings after the match*
9. *P.A. system for range, loading area and camping area*
10. *A “backer system” in good working order with a quantity of spare parts.*

Nielson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of adopting these “Minimum Requirements for a Range to Hold National Matches”.

Mundy read a list of duties for Regional Directors. He then moved that he should continue to work on this list of duties for NBRSA Regional Directors. He would then mail copies of the Regional Directors’ Duties to the Business Manager and to the Board for their suggestions. Bond seconded the motion and it was unanimous.

Board Meeting was recessed for a one-hour lunch break at 2:25 PM. Board Meeting resumed at 3:20 PM.

Nielson moved to make the 8-match, 10-shot Unlimited Rifle Class ONLY for the National Championship Matches. Mundy seconded the motion. Bond, Mundy, and Nielson voted in favor; Fjoser, Miller, and Harris voted against; in order to break the tie vote, Thornbury voted in favor and the motion passed with a vote of 4 to 3. Fjoser noted that this ruling should be inserted **on page 21 (of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”)**, following the paragraph: “Combination of 200 yard and 300 yard aggregates in all classes is recognized as a simple aggregate only.” It will be a separate paragraph and will read as follows: *The following aggregates will be recognized for the National Match Course of Fire ONLY.*

Nielson moved that a new shooter may shoot one time without joining NBRSA. Miller seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The last sentence on **page 16, under F. Tournament Procedure, 1. Registration (of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”)** will read as follows: *New Shooters may shoot their first match without being an NBRSA Member.*

Nielson moved to use the NBRSA Varmint Nationals as the ONLY qualifier for the World Benchrest Championships. Harris seconded the motion. Harris voted in favor; Bond, Hunter, Fjoser, Mundy, Miller, and Nielson voted against. The motion failed with a vote of 6 to 1.

Nielson asked that the selection of the qualifying matches for the World Benchrest Championships be determined by the Board of Directors. After discussion, the Board decided that they wanted further clarification from Don Powell regarding his suggestions for the 5 matches to be used as the qualifying matches for the World Benchrest Championships. This item was tabled until Friday night after the Awards and General Membership Meeting.

Nielson moved that the NBRSA Board of Directors should be the ones to select the person to serve as the USA Representative for the World Benchrest Championships. After discussion Nielson withdrew this item. It was clarified that Don Powell, as the NBRSA International Representative, serves as the chairman of the USA World Benchrest Championship Team. He is under the authority of the NBRSA Board. He has the authority to make recommendations as to whom the next USA Representative might be and to make recommendations for the qualifying matches used in determining the team members, but the final ruling comes from the NBRSA Board.

Nielson asked that a factory class for the 600-Yard Benchrest be added to the list of NBRSA Recognized Classes and presented a list of rules, which had been submitted by Tim Erwin (an NBRSA 600-Yard Benchrest competitor). Mundy suggested that the SW Region have a “trial” 600-Yard Benchrest Factory Class for one year and if needed, to use the SW Regional Director’s annual budget to support it. Those matches held for the “trial” 600-Yard Benchrest Factory Class will NOT be NBRSA Registered, NO Match Fees will be paid to NBRSA, and NO World Records can be set. If participation warrants, then the matter should be brought up for discussion at next year’s Board Meeting.

Nielson moved to have a “trial” 600-Yard Benchrest Factory Class for a period of one year within the Southwest Region, following the rules as set out in the letter from Tim Erwin and addressed to Karl Hunstiger. Other regions interested in this class may also participate in this “trial” period as long as they use the same rules.

The letter requested that the only stipulations on the Factory Class 600-Yard Benchrest rifle will be that the rifles must have a factory barrel, factory stock, factory receiver and bolt. A trigger job can be done on the factory trigger and the factory stock can be bedded. A device may be placed on the forearm of the stock so it will ride the bags correctly. There must to have been a run of at least 800 rifles per year to make this a factory rifle. Bond seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous.

Since du Plessis was not present, Thornbury read his agenda item. He had asked that all “difficulties in getting the European Regional Match Schedule published in the *NBRSA News*” be cleared up. Thornbury requested that Pat Ferrell send a note to Frieda Cross regarding this issue. The match reports from Europe should be treated as the match reports from the United States...published in the order that she receives them.

Thornbury then called for more discussion regarding the agenda item submitted earlier by Hunter regarding the rule clarification on clamping Unlimited Rests to the bench top. Thornbury had previously tabled this discussion. Hunter had already withdrawn his motion regarding this subject prior to it being tabled. Fjoser moved to not allow anything contacting the Unlimited Rest to be attached to the bench. Nielson seconded the motion. Bond, Hunter, Fjoser, Mundy, Harris, and Nielson voted in favor. Miller opposed the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 6 to 1. This will be added as a last sentence to **page 4, under 14. Rests. (b) Unlimited Rests (of “Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36”)** and will read as follows: *Nothing contacting the Unlimited Rest may be attached to the bench.*

Thornbury reported that he had spoken with Frieda Cross, NBRSA Editor, and she had agreed to the same contract as the previous year. **NBRSA will continue to pay Cross Printing \$1.75 per issue mailed to subscribers using the labels furnished by NBRSA and for each copy furnished to directors and officers.** Miller moved to approve the contract with Cross Printing; Mundy seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Fjoser moved to authorize Harris, if he is willing, to bring a proposal to the board next year for building a system for an electronic newsletter computer system (printing match fees by Internet). Harris agreed to do this and said he will use his Director’s Annual Budget to pay for any expenses. Bond seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous.

Thornbury opened up the discussion regarding the weight variance in some of the NBRSA Weight Sets. **Fjoser moved that all Regional Director's Weight Sets be certified by a certified lab & be marked as certified.** The Board instructed Pat Ferrell to refer questions about the weight variance to the Regional Directors. Hunter seconded; motion was unanimous.

It was also mentioned that the supply of weights is getting low. Nielson will talk with someone to see about getting more weight sets made.

Thornbury informed the Board that he had recently approved the purchase of a laptop computer. Pat Ferrell had been using her personal Pocket PC for the last few years to facilitate her in note taking at the Board Meetings. Her Pocket PC recently "crashed". Thornbury requested approval from the Board for the purchase of a reconditioned Dell Inspiron 2650 Laptop computer (including a one-year warranty). Fjoser moved to approve this purchase; Bond seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Thornbury reminded the Board that at the 2004 Annual Board Meeting, Cody Haslett, NW Regional Director, had moved to make an immediate ban of all muzzle brakes, based on recent events that took place at the 2004 Hunter Nationals and under the recommendation of the Hunter Standing Committee. The motion had passed with a vote of 7 to 1. Since those attending the Hunter General Membership Meeting had already approved this "emergency ban", no action or vote would now be necessary because it was approved as an "emergency ban" based on safety.

Thornbury asked the Board what they wanted to do regarding the Northeastern Region. This region has not had a Regional Director since the resignation of Tom Cole in August of 2004, and had been without a Regional Director for some time prior to Cole's election in early 2003. Several requests have been made to the members of that region asking for nominees for this position and no replies have been received. Currently, the Northeastern Region has only 40 Regular Members, 10 Life Members, 4 Associate Members, and no NBRSA Affiliated Clubs. Fjoser made the motion to **move the Northeastern Region into the Eastern Region**; Nielson seconded; motion was unanimous.

Thornbury informed the Board that Pat Ferrell had not yet purchased the new desktop computer already approved for purchase at the 2004 Annual Board Meeting. She has consulted with a computer programmer regarding rewriting the current membership program so that it will be compatible with the "bug hole" program. She is also considering having a computer built to NBRSA's specifications by this same computer company.

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2006 Long-Range Varmint Nationals. **There were no bids for the 2006 Long-Range Varmint Nationals.**

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2007 Long-Range Varmint Nationals. **There were no bids for the 2007 Long-Range Varmint Nationals.**

Mundy moved to suspend the Long-Range Varmint Nationals. Fjoser seconded the motion. Discussion followed and Mundy removed his motion. It was decided to "let it ride" for a year or two and see if there will be any bids in the future. At the 2003 Board Meeting, the Board had voted that Clubs wishing to host the Long-Range Varmint Nationals (LV and HV at 200 and 300 yards) must submit their bid at least one year in advance. Otherwise, there will be no Long-Range Varmint Nationals for the next year.

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2007 Varmint, Sporter, and Unlimited Nationals. (The 2006 Varmint, Sporter and Unlimited Nationals will be hosted by the NRA Whittington Center, in Raton, New

Mexico on July 24 – 29.) Bond bid Kelbly's Rifle Range, in North Lawrence, Ohio, beginning on September 17, 2007. Nielson seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous. **The 2007 NBRSA Varmint, Sporter, and Unlimited Nationals will be hosted by Kelbly's Rifle Range in North Lawrence, Ohio, beginning on September 17, 2007.**

Bond then moved to recognize **Members who have competed for 50 yrs with NBRSA**; Hunter seconded; motion was unanimous.

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2007 Hunter Nationals. (The 2006 Hunter & Long-Range Hunter Nationals will be hosted by the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico on August 15 – 18. Bob Maedgen of Bruceville, Texas will be the primary person running this match.) **There were no bids for the 2007 Hunter Nationals.**

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2007 Long-Range Hunter Nationals. **There were no bids for the 2007 Long-Range Hunter Nationals.** Since the Northwest Regional Director was unable to attend this meeting, the Board decided to make some inquiries to see if any club wants to host these nationals for 2007.

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2006 Rimfire Nationals. **There were no bids for the 2006 Rimfire Nationals.**

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2007 Rimfire Nationals. **There were no bids for the 2007 Rimfire Nationals.**

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2006 1,000-Yard Nationals. Fjoser bid the Colorado Rifle Club in Lakewood, Colorado on September 29 – October 1, 2006. Nielson seconded; the motion was unanimous. The date for this Nationals was later changed to September 8 – 10, 2006, with September 7 being set aside for registration and practice. **The 2006 1,000-Yard Nationals will be hosted by the Colorado Rifle Club in Lakewood, Colorado on September 8 - 10, 2006, with September 7th being set aside for registration and practice.**

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2007 1,000-Yard Nationals. **There were no bids for the 2007 1,000-Yard Nationals.**

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2006 600-Yard Nationals. **There were no bids for the 2006 600-Yard Nationals.**

Thornbury asked for bids for the 2007 600-Yard Nationals. **There were no bids for the 2007 600-Yard Nationals.**

Thornbury then asked for items from the floor:

Miller moved to introduce varmint-for-score shoots for NBRSA. Motion died for lack of a second

Hunter referred to Erickson's recommendation to **have an audit for 2005 (prior to Nationals 2006)** and so moved. Harris seconded; the motion was unanimous.

Thornbury suggested that NBRSA should do something in Memory of Skip Otto...maybe a traveling trophy. Fjoser moved for Mundy to investigate this. Nielson seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Harris stated that he would re-write the wind-flag adjustment rule prior to next Friday's Board Meeting.

At 5:45 PM, Nielson moved to recess until Friday following the Awards & General Membership Meeting. Hunter seconded and the motion was unanimous.

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On Friday, September 30, 2005 at 6:40 PM, the NBRSA Annual Board Meeting reconvened in the clubhouse of the Bench Rest Rifle Club of St. Louis, near Wright City, Missouri. In attendance were:

Dennis Thornbury, President
Pat Ferrell, Business Manager
Hobie Bond, Eastern Region Director
Scott Hunter, Gulf Coast Region Director
Butch Fjoser, Mid-Continent Region Director
Bud Mundy, Mississippi Valley Region Director
Wilbur Harris, Southeastern Region Director
Denny Andrews, Incoming NW

Dennis Thornbury called the meeting to order.

Fjoser moved to clarify the already approved wording (approved on 9/24/05) regarding that "nothing may be clamped to the Unlimited Rifle bench". He moved that neither the Unlimited Rifle nor the Unlimited Rest/s may contact anything that is affixed or clamped to the bench, effective 1/1/06 (due to the fact that this is a rule clarification and not a rule change). This will be added as a last sentence to **page 4, under 14. Rests. (b) Unlimited Rests (of "Official Rule Book and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36")** and will read as follows: *Neither the Unlimited Rifle nor the Unlimited Rest/s may contact anything that is affixed or clamped to the bench, effective as of 1/1/06.* Harris seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous.

Fjoser then moved to also add a last sentence to **page 2, under B. Definitions, 2. Unlimited Rifle (of "Official Rule and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36")** and will read as follows: *Neither the Unlimited Rifle nor the Unlimited Rest/s may contact anything that is affixed or clamped to the bench, effective as of 1/1/06.* Harris seconded and the motion was unanimous.

Bond moved to approve the 5 qualifying matches for the US World Benchrest Team as those suggested earlier by Don Powell and that each competitor's top 3 matches from any of the 5 qualifying matches will be used for points to qualify for the World Championships. The qualifying matches are to be:

- (1) "Fairchance Rod & Gun Club Match" (Smithfield, PA) on May 6-7, 2006;
- (2) "Eastern Regional Championships" at Kelbly's Rifle Range (N. Lawrence, OH) on Labor Day 2006;
- (3) "East-West Shoot-Out" at the Bench Rest Rifle Club of St. Louis in June 2006;
- (4) "Cactus" at the Arizona Benchrest Shooters (Phoenix, AZ) in March 2006; and
- (5) "NBRSA Varmint Nationals" (Raton, NM) in July 2006.

Hunter seconded the motion and the motion was unanimous.

Denny Andrews, the incoming NW Regional Director, suggested that he may have clubs wanting to bid for the 2007 Hunter Long-Range Nationals. He will contact Thornbury at a later date.

Mundy read a protest letter from Gene Bukys regarding competitors clamping Unlimited Rests to benches at the 2005 Unlimited Nationals. Fjoser stated that this protest should be disallowed since the subject was already covered beginning on 1/1/06 with a rule clarification approved at the 2005 Annual Board Meeting. Bond seconded and the motion was unanimous. The \$5.00 Protest Fee was given to the Business Manager for deposit.

Bond moved to reword the first sentence under: D. Tournament Rules, 11. Time Limits, on page 10 (of "Official Rule and By-Laws, Revised Edition No. 36") to read as follows: ***For the first match of any aggregate or the first match after a change of distance, the time limit will be 10 minutes for a Sporter/Varmint match and 15 minutes for an Unlimited match.*** Fjoser seconded and the motion was unanimous.

It was agreed that NBRSA should have an audit done for the year 2005.

At 7:20 PM CDT, Fjoser moved to adjourn; Mundy seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the Board Meeting.