

**NATIONAL BENCH REST SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION
2014 ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Saturday, September 14, 2014**

The annual meeting of the NBRSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS was called to order by President Dennis Thornbury at 9:20am on Saturday, September 20, 2014 at the North Shores Library in Muskegon, Michigan. In attendance were:

Dennis Thornbury, President
Don Nielson, Vice President
John Horn, Financial Officer
Audrey Brown, Board Secretary
Jack Neary, Eastern Regional Director
Scott Hunter, Gulf Coast Region Director
Butch Fjoser, Mid-Continent Region Director
Bud Mundy, Mississippi Valley Region Director
Terry Meyer, North Central Region Director
Wayne Campbell, Southeast Region Director & International Representative
Dan Zaccanti, Northwest Region Director
Tom Libby, Southwest Region Director
Gene Bukys, World Records Committee Chairman
David Halblom, Score Records Committee Chairman

RE: Gene Bukys, World Records Report:

Mr Bukys asked to post committee forms on the NBRSA website. He will send these forms to the Business Manager who will then post them online. He stated he has three groups of targets that have been submitted and that it has been a slow year for group world record submissions.

RE: David Halblom, Score Records Report:

Mr Halblom stated it was a slow year for score world record submissions as well. There had been three records submitted for consideration. He submitted a match statistics report which displayed the shooter days including the 2014 Score Nationals attendance. He said score shooting is growing quickly but small in comparison to the overall match attendance. He suggested the Board begin referring to the "HTR/VFS Nationals" as the "Score Nationals" to demonstrate that it is one national event with two entities; a long and short range format. He said that words are important especially for the general public so they understand what we are doing.

RE: Wayne Campbell, WBC-13 Review:

Mr Campbell said there is not much going on presently and that Scott Pieper (from Bench Rest Rifle Club of St Louis) has things under control and is very detail oriented. Mr Campbell said the point totals are set. At present, the top 30-35 group shooters are still in the running. One question he has is since the 2015 NBRSA Group Nationals will be held one week prior to the

WBC13, international participants are asking whether they must pay the full \$120 to participate in the NBRSA Group Nationals and would the Board consider waiving the membership fee?

After Board discussion, Mr Meyer made a motion to charge the US fee \$60 with no magazine subscription for these international participants. They can opt to pay for full membership of \$120 if they want to subscribe to the magazine. Motion seconded by Mr Libby and approved unanimously.

RE: John Horn, Target Committee Report:

Mr Horn said NBRSA has sufficient target paper quantities on hand for 2014 but in 2015 the inventory levels will need to be reviewed. He said the Board can defer a decision until 2015 at which time he feels they will probably convert to purchase as needed. Mr Libby suggested gathering a few shooters to test target paper options and report back to the Board on their findings. Mr Libby asked Mr Meyer to look further into the target paper options along with Mr Bukys. Mr Mundy said he foresaw two problems with the targets; how they are cut and the fuzzy rings. Mr Neary said how the paper responds in rain is also an issue. Mr Meyer said the reprocessed paper will be absorbent but a shellac coating will help to slow this process down. The clarity of the lines is determined in the printing process. Discussion ensued about shipping costs, vendor selection and paper quality.

RE: John Horn, Financial Report:

Mr Horn reviewed the Profit & Loss Statement. He said there is a new shooter in Texas, Matt Harris, who is a CPA and has reviewed the NBRSA books at no charge. Mr Horn said one problem is that the organization has dropped sixty members this year which affects revenue; however, shooter attendance at matches has increased, which is encouraging. Advertising revenues and percentages is the same as last year. Trophies and awards are up substantially. Payroll is the same as last year. He said the CPA projects a net income of \$6000 for 2014. Mr Horn said we have stopped the financial losses but need to gain more members.

Mr Mundy noted expenses in trophies and awards increased due to the one-time purchase of group national traveling plaques. These plaques were sponsored to replace the traveling trophies which are now housed at Bench Rest Rifle Club of St Louis. Sponsorship donations were reported as income.

Mr Horn said the Balance Sheet Assets were up and Liabilities are primarily payroll taxes. He said there is nothing wrong with the finances that 500 new members would not fix.

RE: Audrey Brown, Business Manager Report: Mrs Brown had passed out company information, national event attendance historical and membership data for Board review. The Board requested a format change in the monthly membership renewals to include only active and non-Renewal members in their report.

The Board also asked to have a cell phone app which reveals current NBRSA individual membership status. Mrs Brown said she will ask Mr Brown, NBRSA's technical advisor to do this.

The Board requested the Manager to email Membership Contact Information quarterly to the Regional Directors which should include member addresses, phone and email.

Mrs Brown reviewed attendance levels at different national events; LR Varmint Nationals had 10 participants for the last 2 years; LR Nationals had 38/39 participants. She inquired whether the title of "National" event should apply when numbers are so low and the Board felt the title was not delegated based on attendance levels.

Mr Libby displayed a certificate to be designed by Mrs Brown that can be accessed online and allow match directors to personalize a certificate and save money in club event recognition. Club delinquencies and target inventory levels were discussed with the Board.

RE: Scott Hunter, Rulebook Committee: Mr Hunter said printer issues caused lengthy delays and eventually the printer was changed to a more productive new vendor. Mr Hunter reviewed the revisions to the rulebook and bylaws.

RE: Score Rules Discrepancies: Mr Mundy and Mr Meyer will pursue resolving these. *Mr Meyer made a motion to table the Score Rules for two weeks pending receipt of the current score rules that Mr Mundy will provide. Second by Mr Libby. President Thornbury stated action item will be submitted by email and the Regional Directors will vote for approval upon receipt. Motion passed unanimously.*

RE: Audrey Brown, Traveling Trophy Committee: Mrs Brown said the traveling plaques are completed and on display at Holton Gun Club. The original traveling trophies have been retired and enshrined at Bench Rest Rifle Club in St Louis.

2013 Open Item Minutes

1. F-Class Benchrest. Mr Libby said Sloughhouse Benchrest was the only club to hold an F-class benchrest match. The number of shooters who attended was around thirty. Sloughhouse did not submit for the 2015 LR Nationals. Mr Neary said there are few ranges that have both pits and covered concrete benches to accommodate this type of shooting.

Mr Libby made a motion to disband the Fclass committee due to lack of traction. Second by Mr Mundy and passed unanimously.

2. Alternate director motion. Item was completed last year and progress is being made to accomplish this goal.

3. The 2013 Hunter Nationals case capacity review is still ongoing. The Board will review this next year at the completion of the 2-year trial period.

4. Certificate for matches is in process and when complete will be placed on the NBRSA website.

5. Clarify stock dimensions. Mr Nielson and Mr Libby have a plan in place to be used at the Group Nationals at Referee's discretion.

Mr Hunter made a motion that we have the Australian stock checker available to the referees to use at their discretion at the Group Nationals only. Mr Zaccanti seconded and motion passed unanimously. Mr Mundy will be responsible for getting one made by commencement of WBC13.

6. BR101 Clinics. Mr Neary said there is a lot of interest but no one to step up and run these. Holton Gun Club is a prospect for a clinic in 2015. Mr Mundy stated an "Introduction to Benchrest" has been held the last two years at the open house at Ben Avery range in Phoenix and participation is strong but has not resulted in new members. Mr Neary said money is part of the concern and youngsters seek the 50 calibers. No further action was pursued by the Board on this item.

Mr Neary said that Holton's Group Nationals will not rotate relays as was previously decided by Board vote in the 2013 approved minutes.

Mr Fjoser made a motion that the Board grant a variance to the relay rotation for the 2014 Holton Nationals. Second by Mr Libby and unanimously passed.

The Board discussed the feasibility of this mandatory rotation.

Mr Neary made a motion to make the relay rotation at the discretion of the Regional Director at the Group National event. This will amend the 2013 approval. Motion failed for lack of a second.

North Central Agenda Items:

1-2. Review trophy/national fee structure and recognition for National Events.

Mr Meyer made a motion to initiate a committee to find alternatives to existing recognition items for all national events. This committee will determine which recognition items to provide; which placements receive recognition and the fee structure for all ranges holding National events with the goal of achieving at least a breakeven status. Second by Mr Libby. All in favor except Mr Neary who said his region likes the bolo ties and wants it to remain the same. Motion passed.

3. Lower International and Canadian dues and obtain magazine online.

Item died due to lack of a motion.

4. Email membership cards and have members print these themselves.

Item died due to lack of a motion.

5. Clarify quorum needs and how Alternate Directors are elected. Should they be added to the membership ballot that is mailed to members or at the regional meeting?

After discussion, it was determined that both processes are used and therefore acceptable.

6. Mr Meyer said there is conflict of interest concern raised in the NC region because the Board Secretary's husband is the Alternate Director for the NC region. Mr Meyer asked the Board to determine whether this is a conflict or not. *President Thornbury noted that in years past, Mr Buchtel was a Director while his wife was Secretary of the NBRSA. He felt this was no different. The Board determined no conflict exists.*

7. Mr Meyer asked about quorum requirements and how to meet these according to NBRSA By-Laws. At general membership meetings, there may not be sufficient participants to meet the quorum. This is a concern across all disciplines.

The Board decided that meetings held with lower numbers will be conducted as opinion polls by member shooters. Their decisions and wishes will then be forwarded to the Board for consideration.

Mississippi Valley Agenda Item:

1. Group Nationals Format Change.

Mr Mundy made a motion to change format of 2015 Group Nationals to Unlimited Monday and Tuesday, remaining format is unchanged. This would apply to 2015 year only. Second by Mr Fjoser. Motion failed.

Break for lunch at 12:10pm. Reconvene 1:50pm.

Eastern Region Agenda Items:

1-8. These items were not considered by the Board because the submitter was not a current member.

9. No late fee for National events imposed. *Died due to lack of a motion.*

10. No smoking in the loading area. *The Board stated it is in the new rulebook.*

11. New rule targets must be hung before the next group.

Motion made by Mr Neary. Motion died with no second.

12. Rifles should be weighed before beginning match. Should it be range officer or referee?
After discussion, no motion was made.

13. Referee for disqualification.

Mr Neary made a motion to ensure Referees are consulted when a DQ is considered with the exception of a safety violation, which is solely at the discretion of the Range Officer. Second by Mr Zaccanti and unanimously passed.

14-15. Yardage wins and recognition at regional and national matches.

No motion made.

16. Bolo ties handed after each group.

No motion presented.

17. Support caliber neutral scoring for score shooting.

Mr Neary made a motion to approve this. No second. Motion failed.

18. Revert to old course of fire for Group Nationals.

No motion.

19. Cartridge feeding p.8, (g) addresses.

No motion.

Northwest Items:

1. Discuss options when rules are not followed.

Board discussed and decided the Directors need to determine the rules are followed, especially at national events.

2. Score Nationals can be separated by long or short yardages but not separate as Hunter or Varmint For Score.

The Board decided the above is correct and so stated in the rules.

3. Recognize Score Nationals 100-200-300 yardage for Hunter and Varmint For Score.

Mr Zaccanti made a motion to recognize the 100-200-300. Motion died due to lack of a second.

4. Add Long Range Rules to NBRSA Rules & ByLaws as a separate section. At the Long Range Nationals, Mr Zaccanti said the members were in favor of this.

After Board discussion regarding the size of the Long Range Rules and likely need to order a thicker binder to accommodate the increase in size, it was determined it is not cost effective to do this at this time.

5. Allow cell phones at the bench (on silent mode only) so they can use the stopwatch function.

The Board decided this is okay if used as a timer only but if there is a discrepancy, the Referee has the final decision.

Gulf Coast Items:

1. Electronic instruments round off after certain decimal places. There was an incident in the region where the two gun winner did not have the smallest aggregate due to rounding.

Mr Hunter made a motion that for the Group Nationals only, if two people appear to be tied for multi-gun aggregates, the scorer will do an add-up with the lowest total to determine the winner. Second by Mr Neary and unanimously passed.

Southwest Items:

1. Mr Libby discussed letters received by members regarding rules.

The Board decided the rules in place are sufficient at this time.

Other Items:

1. Screamer patches will be mailed to the Regional Directors requesting them along with screamer patch qualifications (yardages).

2. The "250 Club" patches.

The Board did not authorize the purchase of these patches because of the great number of shooters that have attained this score. The recognition appeared superfluous.

3. Eastern Region Ranges: Mr Neary stated Camillus Range was shut down but that Canistota Range may return to NBRSA with Bob Hamister as Match Director.

4. Mr Neary would like a section on the NBRSA website for mentoring volunteers at various ranges. Mrs Brown will consult the Technical Advisor, Mr Brown regarding this.

5. Mrs Brown will send out Non-Renewal lists of members for each director with contact information.

National Events:

Mr Campbell noted in qualifying years, the Group National should be the last qualifying event of the year. The Board made the following selections for upcoming National and major Events:

2016 Group Nationals:

Ben Avery Range, Phoenix, Arizona - October, 2016

*Cactus will be March 14-15, 2015. The Rattlesnake & Cactus will again be a point matches.

2015 Long Range Nationals:

Colorado Rifle Club, Byers, Colorado – Date to be announced*

2015 Score Nationals:

Boone Valley Ikes, Webster City, IA. (Short Range Only)

1st week of August, 2015

2015 Long Range Varmint Nationals:

Palomino Valley Gun Club, September, 2015

Executive Nominations:

Mr Fjoser nominated Mr Nielson for Vice President for another two-year term. Second by Mr Libby and unanimously passed.

Mr Thornbury was nominated for another two-year term as President by Mr Hunter. Second by Mr Neary and unanimously passed.

Mr Meyer made a motion to recess at 4pm until the conclusion of the the General Membership meeting on September 24th. Second by Mr Hunter and unanimously passed.

General Membership Meeting

The 2014 General Membership meeting was called to order at 1:46pm on Wednesday, September 24, 2014. President Thornbury discussed the relay rotation at Holton and why this was not done in accordance with the 2013 Board decision. He said the Board voted to leave relay rotation to the Regional Director. Member Dennis Wagner said the membership voted to have the relays rotated and was disappointed that this was not done in this National event. Tom Libby said he voted against this as this was the vote his region wanted him to make. Jack Neary said it was his decision to keep the relays standard. His direction from the Eastern Region members was concern that members would miss their rotation and that it would cause too much confusion. He said there will be issues at future Nationals if relay rotations occur. He wanted this in the minutes. He stands by his decision and feels it would be going down the wrong direction to make relay rotation mandatory. Don Creach said he is okay with anything in the rulebook but doesn't agree with arbitrary changes to the rules that are not as stated. He said this is not keeping the business intact. He said he's opposed. Rod Brown stated the purpose of rotating is that each person has a fair shot. Conditions change during the day and it is not fair for the person stuck on the third relay that is always getting poor conditions. He has shot over ten years and says traditionally conditions deteriorate as the day progresses. Jack Neary said he referred to Bill Gammon's research that showed the facts did not support that you have to be on first relay in order to have favorable conditions. Mr Gammon said he did the stats at WWCCA and the most wins were at bench 1, however, he only checked one range. He said he would need to do the same at other ranges to develop their statistics. Ron Miller asked why everyone wants to be on relay one if there is no benefit? Mr Ocock said everyone is right. He said when we spend as much money as we do to compete, you want the fairest opportunities that are available. Dennis Thornbury said the members need to tell their Directors what they want. He said if the members are feeling strongly about this, we can go to a traditional vote but for now he will take an opinion poll of the members present.

President Dennis Thornbury then discussed the agenda items and the Board's decisions as well as the 2015 scheduled National events and locations.

Rex Reneaux discussed the Hall Of Fame program and presented the members present with a raffle opportunity for two rifles donated by Dave Kiff of Pacific Precision Tool. Ferris Pindell made both actions. The Hall Of Fame is funded by these donations. When someone is inducted, it costs about \$300 per person. He challenged the existing members to contribute.

Vera Carter from the Canadian World Team said Vickie Holmes has a raffle for a quilt and an afghan to support the Canadian World Team.

Regarding the NBRSA finances, Don Creach said we are obligated to print the financials in the magazine. He wants a full accounting. President Thornbury said Mr Horn has had a CPA oversee our accounting and he provides the statements. He audits the books and has changed the forms. Business Manager Audrey Brown said as the documents are presented and approved by the Board, they will be published by year end. John Horn said the books were downloaded to

the CPA. He compiled it to current and projections for 2014 and 2013 comparative. He said our cash balances are holding. In the last few years we slid financially but this has now stabilized.

There was a question about target paper acquisition. It is unlikely NBRSA will continue to participate in a bulk purchase partnership with the printer. He said once existing inventory levels are depleted, the targets will probably shift to direct-purchase.

Manny Garcia said one of the reasons the clubs do not keep holding matches is they cannot get enough help. He wants to know if some people would want to help Lakeland Club to hold matches. He said there are also very few junior shooters who pursue benchrest. He said over the years he has seen some medical conditions that can wreak havoc during a shoot at a range. He suggests the ranges become equipped with a defibrillator.

Ron Miller said respect the ranges by tidying up your area.

Chris Harris said he wanted to compliment Bob & Nancy Scarbrough on a well run shoot to which there was a show of applause. He said everyone knows the rules. He suggested limiting the taped rules to the beginning of the day to save time during the match. He also asked whether the members would consider a "handicap system". He said with a couple smart minds together that it might work. He also said marketing would bring more shooters into the game. He said there are cheaper forms of marketing available to enlighten others as to the benchrest sport. There are free advertising opportunities and perhaps this may increase membership.

President Thornbury asked if someone wants to form a committee to examine social media opportunities for the NBRSA. Chris Harris said he would do that.

Wayne Campbell said WBC13 donations are down because the event is in the states and the perception is it will not cost as much. He said it is still not a cheap venture. Corporate sponsors have been great but for the members to help the brothers out if you can. The team will appreciate your help. Walt Berger said he will sponsor the shirts for the USA team again.

Motion to adjourn by Ed Adams; second by Wayne Campbell and passed at 2:45pm.

Board of Directors Meeting Part II:

The Board reconvened 6:30pm at Holton Gun Club. All Regional Directors were present except for Mr Hunter.

The main topic from the General Membership Meeting discussion was relay rotation. The Board decided to let stand the 2013 Board decision as written in the 2013 minutes stating that relays must rotate at the Group Nationals.

Regarding 2015's Group Nationals, the Board decided to convene the meeting the morning of the Sporter competition, which is traditionally Tuesday the week of the Group Nationals and then recess until the General Membership Meeting to ensure a quorum is achieved.

Rod Brown, North Central Alternate Director discussed internet security.

Audrey Brown, Board Secretary suggested including the two existing individual books for Long Range Rules and Score Rules to be included in the current binder for By-Laws and Group Rules. She said everything could fit inside the existing binder by changing to double-sided paper inserts. The Board decided not to pursue this due to costs and noted that all the NBRSA rules for each discipline are on the website and members can download these at will, so the need to print these again would likely pose an unnecessary expenditure at this time.

The Trophy Committee timeline was discussed with Terry Meyer to see if he can obtain the needed information to present options to the Board by November 1, 2014 in order to ensure time to purchase recognition for the 2015 National events. He said it is aggressive, but he will try to meet this timeline.

Long Range Nationals for 2015 were discussed. Colorado Rifle Club would like to hold the 600 & 1000 yard Nationals. Butch Fjoser asked if the Board wanted him to continue discussions and decide in the next month.*

Dan Zaccanti said Rogue Valley Shooting Sports Assn in Oregon was very interested in holding 600 & 1000 yard Nationals in 2015 as well. Butch Fjoser and Dan Zaccanti will work together to select the best range for this event.*

Terry Meyer said Casper Score Shooters changed their bid date for the 2015 Long Range Score Nationals to June. He said he does have concerns the event will not generate enough trophy fee money to offset the cost of procurement; however, he asked the Board to award the Long Range Score Nationals to Casper Score Shooters June 6-7, 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

Butch Fjoser made a motion to adjourn. Second by Dan Zaccanti and passed unanimously.

*The Board voted to award Colorado Rifle Club the 2015 Long Range Nationals on Oct 23, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted: *Audrey Brown*, Secretary