

Constitution
of
The Welsh
Rifle
Association



Preamble

The Association was founded in 1904. Its aim was, and is, to promote and encourage marksmanship throughout Wales in the interests of the defence of the Realm and the permanence of the Volunteer and Auxiliary Forces, Naval, Military and Air.

After the First World War, in which many members of the Association became casualties, the function of the Association were assumed by the Welsh XX Club from its clubhouse at Bisley, until the Association was restarted under a new Constitution in 1976.

This Constitution replaces the 1976 Constitution and is effective from the end of the Bisley Meeting, 1988. Further dates of minor revisions are recorded at the end of the document.

The Association

Title

1. The Association shall be called *The Welsh Rifle Association* (incorporating The Welsh XX Club the Welsh XIII Club and the Welsh Gallery Rifle Club).

Objects

2. The object of the Association will be:
 - a. To act as the Governing Body for full-bore target rifle, gallery rifle and muzzle loading shooting in Wales.
 - b. To represent these shooting disciplines on the NRA Council, The Welsh Target Shooting Federation, The National Match Council and The Commonwealth Games Council for Wales.
 - c. To develop these shooting disciplines at all levels within Wales.
 - d. To organise coaching courses at national level and to assist counties, clubs, schools and cadet units in their coaching programmes as required.
 - e. To organise national competitions throughout Wales and at Bisley.
 - f. To establish a National Range in Wales for these disciplines.
 - g. To provide headquarters in Wales and at Bisley for all Welsh competitors in these disciplines.
 - h. To obtain financial assistance for shooting in these disciplines.
 - i. To select and train teams to represent Wales in international and other representative matches.

Patrons and Vice Presidents

3. The Council may invite a distinguished person to be the Patron of the Association.
4. The Council may invite a distinguished Welshman or others who have made a particular contribution to Welsh shooting to be Vice Presidents of the Association. Such appointments will normally be for life, but as an exception, the General Officer Commanding Wales for the time being may be invited to be an ex-officio Vice President.

5. Vice Presidents who wish to take an active part in the affairs of the Association may be invited to attend Council meetings, where they may speak, and vote, as if they were elected Members of the Council.

Membership

Classes of Membership

6. There shall be four classes of membership: Honorary Life Members, Ordinary, Junior and Associate Members:
 - a. The Council may invite any person to become an *Honorary Life Member* of the Association, such person having, in the opinion of the Council, shown himself (or herself) to be worthy of such membership through services to shooting; except that any member who was a Life Member of the Welsh XX Club before 1st of July 1976, shall be deemed to be a Life Member of the Welsh Rifle Association.
 - b. *Ordinary Membership* shall be open to any shooter who is qualified to shoot for Wales in the National Match, on payment of an annual subscription determined by the Council.
 - c. *Junior Membership* shall be open to any shooter qualified as above, who is under the age of 25 on 1st of July of the current year, on payment of an annual subscription determined by the Council.
 - d. *Associate Membership* shall be open to all those who support the objects of the Association, including non-shooters, families of Life and Ordinary Members, and members of Affiliated Clubs and Associations, on payment of an annual subscription and/or a capitation fee determined by the Council.

Election of Members

7. Any person eligible for Ordinary or Junior membership (see Rules 6b and c above) may be proposed by one Ordinary or Honorary Life Member of the Association. When a properly completed Membership Application Form, with the appropriate subscription, has been received by the Secretary or Treasurer, the person concerned will be admitted to membership on probation. His or her name will be submitted to the Council at its next meeting, for confirmation. On such confirmation his or her name shall be entered on the Roll of Members by the Secretary as an Ordinary or Junior Member and he or she will then be entitled to the privileges and responsibilities of such membership.
 - a. Probationary membership shall be applied to Ordinary and Junior Members for a period of at least 3 months for the purposes of vetting and training, during which time they are to be supervised at all times and must attend regularly.
 - b. Probationary membership may be waived by the Council for those who are already full members of another Home Office Approved Club, or who hold an FAC, or who are members of the armed services or police and can show that they have been trained.
8. Should the Council decline to confirm the grant of membership to any person, the Secretary will return any subscription paid. His or her probationary membership will cease immediately the Council has made its decision.

Removal from Membership

9. The Council may remove from the Roll of Members any member whose conduct on the range or elsewhere is unseemly, objectionable or calculated to bring the Association into disrepute. Such a member may appeal to a General Meeting of the Association to be reinstated.

Affiliated Organisations

10. Rifle Clubs and Clubs or Associations representing particular disciplines may be affiliated to the Welsh Rifle Association on payment of an annual affiliation fee and/or capitation fee determined by the Council.
11. County Associations, Universities, Colleges, Schools and Cadet Units may be affiliated to the Welsh Rifle Association on payment of an annual affiliation fee, irrespective of the number of members concerned. The annual affiliation fee for such units will be determined by the Council on a case-by-case basis.

12. The affiliation of any such organisations shall be subject to the approval of the Council.

Management of the Association

The Council

13. The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Council consisting of the Officers of the Association and elected and co-opted Members of Council as shown below.
14. The Officers of the Association are the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Captain, Vice-Captain, Treasurer and Secretary. They will be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
15. There will be seven elected Members of Council. Each will hold office for three years from the date of his or her election. Elected Members retiring after three years are eligible for re-election immediately, but an elected member who is appointed to be an Officer by an AGM under Rule 13 will automatically cease to be an elected Member and his or her place will be filled by election even if his or her term as an elected Member has not run out.
16.
 - a. The immediate past Captain will be co-opted to the Council for one year after leaving his or her office.
 - b. A member of the The Welsh GR Club will be co-opted to Council.
 - c. The WRA nominated Director, or one of the two WRA nominated representatives to the WTSF, will be co-opted to Council.

Powers of the Council

17. The Council shall have power to make such Bye-Laws and Regulations as they consider necessary and expedient for the proper working of the Association and may amend or suspend the same. Such Bye-Laws and Regulations shall be brought forward for confirmation at the next AGM.
18. The Council shall have power to deal with any point not covered by these Rules and to interpret these Rules should any doubt arise as to their meaning.
19. The Council shall have power to appoint Sub-Committees; to co-opt members to Council or its Sub-Committees where needed; and to invite observers from affiliated bodies or other organisations.
20. The Council shall have power to fill casual vacancies among the Officers of the Association, such appointments to be affective until the next AGM.

21. The Council shall have the entire management of the funds of the Association. The Honorary Treasurer shall be responsible for carrying out the directions of the Council in this regard.
- Bank Mandate:-
- (1) The Council shall appoint not less than three signatories to cheques and debits to the Association's Bank Account, normally the Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and at least one other Council member. Cheques and debits shall always be signed by at least two of the appointed signatories. To maximise bank interest earned on the Association's bank deposit account (and any other interest bearing account that may from time to time be opened) the use of internet banking may be authorised subject to (2) below, despite the fact that this will require completion of a bank mandate requiring one signature only on cheques and debits to the account.
- (2) Notwithstanding the bank mandate, use of the internet facility is limited to
- (a) transferring monies between the Association accounts and
 - (b) emergency payments if required. Emergency payments must be authorised in advance in writing by two signatories other than the operator of the account. For the purposes of this clause, authorisation in writing is taken to include email and facsimile authorisation.
22. The Council shall pay bills and incur any normal liability on behalf of the Association. The Council and its Officers are hereby indemnified against any claim or demand in respect of any liability properly and in good faith incurred on behalf of the Association.
23. The Council shall be responsible for the selection of all teams to represent Wales in international and other representative competitions. This responsibility may be entrusted by the Council to the Captain of the Association. The Captain may consult anyone who he may think proper, and may call for such evidence as he may require from County Associations, Clubs and Ordinary Members as to the form and capabilities of any individual, such as the production of properly kept scorebooks.
24. The Council shall be responsible for the maintenance of the Records of the Association, including especially the minutes of Council and General Meetings and the scores of teams and individual members in national and international competitions and matches. This responsibility will normally be entrusted to the Secretary who may appoint (and must then supervise) an Archivist to perform particular duties.
25. The Council shall arrange for the Annual General Meeting of the Association to be held, normally during the Bisley Meeting of the National Rifle Association, or during its annual championship meeting.

26. If, owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Council, the AGM cannot be held at the usual time, the existing Council shall continue in office until such a time as an Annual General Meeting can reasonably be called.
27. The Council shall have power at any time to call a Special General Meeting of the Association, and shall be obliged to do so on receipt of a requisition signed by not less than fifteen Ordinary Members of the Association and addressed to the Secretary.
28. In case of emergency, the Council shall have power to delegate full authority for the management of the Association to two or more of their number as they may deem fit and proper.

Council Meetings

29. The Council shall meet regularly at a time and place convenient to Members. At least seven days notice in writing shall be given by the Secretary of all Council Meetings except those held during the Bisley Meeting and the Welsh National Championship Meeting, when 24 hours notice by posting on the notice board of the Welsh XX Club shall be sufficient.
30. At Council Meetings, five Members of Council including at least two Officers shall constitute a quorum.
31. A resolution in writing signed by at least two-thirds of all Members of Council shall have the same effect as a Resolution duly passed at a Council Meeting.
32. The Chairman of the Council shall have a casting as well as a deliberative vote.
33. Coopted Members of Council, but not Observers or persons invited to attend for particular items of business, shall have a vote.

General Meetings of the Association

34. If the Annual General Meeting is to be held at Bisley Camp during the Bisley Meeting of the National Rifle Association (see Rule 25) a Notice of the Meeting including the Agenda and a copy of the Accounts shall be posted at least three days before the AGM on the Notice Board of the Welsh XX Club. If only the normal business of the AGM, as detailed below, is to be transacted, such notice shall be deemed to be sufficient.
35. The normal business of the AGM is to receive and approve the Minutes of the last AGM; to receive the Reports of the Officers for the past year; to receive the Accounts and the Auditors' comments thereon, and to approve the same; to elect the Officers and Auditors for the ensuing year; to elect Members of Council to fill

vacancies; and to discuss such other business matters as the Chairman of the meeting shall permit.

36. The constitution may be revoked, added to, or altered by a two-third majority of members present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting called under the provisions of Rules 25 to 27 above, subject only to Rule 37 below.
37. If there is a proposal for amendment of the Constitution, or if the Council considers that there is a need for members to be more fully informed of a matter to be discussed at the AGM, or if the AGM is to be held at any other place or time; then the Secretary shall circulate every Member of the Association whose subscription has been paid for the immediately preceding financial year with a Notice and an Agenda of the Meeting. At least 28 days notice shall be given.
38. If the Council calls, or a valid requisition is lodged with the Secretary for, a Special General Meeting, then a Notice and an Agenda is to be circulated by the Secretary as in Rule 37 above.
39. If a member who has been dealt with by Council under Rule 9 above wishes to appeal to a General Meeting of the Association, his or her appeal should normally be dealt with at the AGM convened as in Rule 34 above. If, exceptionally, he or she wishes his or her appeal to be heard by a Special General Meeting, or if no AGM is to be held within three months of the date on which the decision of the Council in his or her case has been promulgated, he or she may require the Secretary in writing to convene a Special General Meeting, paying herewith a deposit fee to be determined by the Council to cover the costs of convening such a meeting. Any deposit paid will be returned if his or her appeal is successful.

Conduct of General Meetings

40. The President, or in his or her absence, the Chairman of Council, shall take the chair at General Meetings of the Association. In the absence of both these Officers, a member shall be elected by those present to take the chair.
41. Each Life and Ordinary Member of the Association is entitled to vote at any General Meeting. Junior Members who have reached the age of 18 on the 1st of July of the current year may then vote as if they were Ordinary Members.
42. Every Club, Association, or Unit affiliated to the Association under Rules 10 or 11 above may name a member to speak at any General Meeting on its behalf. If such a representative is not a Life or Ordinary Member of the Association, he or she may vote as if an Ordinary Member, provided that notice of his or her appointment has been given to the Secretary before the Meeting, in writing and signed by the Secretary of the organisation concerned.

Miscellaneous Provisions

Accounts

43. The Financial Year shall commence on the 1st of January and end on the 31st of December in the following calendar year.
44. If not required by the Welsh Sports Council to have its accounts audited by a qualified person, the AGM shall elect two members of the Association, not being Officers or Trustees of the Association, to be Auditors for the following year. They shall have power to call for books and papers as they consider necessary to show that the Accounts presented to them truly represent the financial position of the Association and their Certificate to this effect must be attached to the Accounts before they are presented to the AGM.
45. The Accounts for the Association, duly audited by the appointed or by the elected Auditors, shall be presented for approval by the AGM.

Trustees

46. The property of the Association shall be vested in three Trustees appointed by the Council. Trustees shall hold office until death or resignation or until removed from office by a Resolution of Council. The Trustees will deal with the property of the Association in accordance with Resolutions of Council (of which, the entry in the Minutes of Council shall be sufficient evidence). The Trustees shall be indemnified against risk and expense by the Association.

Badges and Bars

47. Members shooting for Wales in an International Match as a member of a team, plus reserves, and the Captain and Adjutant of the team, shall be entitled to have and to wear the Badge and/or Bar appropriate to the match concerned. Badges and Bars for the National and Mackinnon Matches will be issued free, with effect from 1986.

Abuse of Drugs

48. Drug abuse is strictly forbidden.
49. The provisions of Appendix 14, 'Abuse of Drugs', in the National Rifle Association's 'Rules of Shooting' (as from time to time amended) will be considered applicable to the Welsh Rifle Association, the abbreviation 'WRA' being substituted for 'NRA' throughout. Any competitor committing an offence under these rules will be dealt with under Rule 9.

Conflict of Interest Policy

50. Council members or their immediate families are prohibited from conducting business with the Association which might be deemed to provide them with financial gain.

Child Protection Policy

51. The Association fully supports a policy of child protection in the sport of shooting and are committed to the guidelines of both the Sports Council for Wales and the National Coaching Foundation.

