

Charter

OF THE

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

VICTORIA, by the grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, to all to whom these presents shall come GREETING:

WHEREAS an humble petition has been presented to us in our Council by Field Marshal His Royal Highness Prince George William Frederick Charles Duke of Cambridge, K.G.; the Most Noble Hugh Lupus Duke of Westminster, K.G.; the Right Honourable Francis Charteris, Earl of Wemyss and March; the Right Honourable John Poyntz Earl Spencer, K.G.; the Right Honourable Robert James Baron Wantage, V.C., K.C.B.; and others of our loving subjects, setting forth (among other things) that in the year 1860, an Association, called the National Rifle Association, was formed for the purpose of giving permanence to Volunteer Corps, Naval and Military, and to encourage rifle shooting throughout our dominions, and that such Association has continued in existence to the present time, and has annually held a meeting for prize shooting, and comprises a large number of Members, and is in connection with a large number of Rifle Associations in Great Britain, Ireland, India, and the Colonies. And also setting forth that it is desirable that the said Association be formed into a corporate body by the name of the National Rifle Association, and may thereby be enabled to acquire and hold land, and that our said Petitioners believe that it would tend greatly to promote the objects for which the said Association was formed, and is being carried on, if a charter of incorporation were granted to the said Association.

Now KNOW YE that we, being desirous of promoting and encouraging rifle shooting throughout our dominions, have of our special grace certain knowledge and mere motion given and granted, and we do hereby GIVE and GRANT that the said Field Marshal His Royal Highness Prince George William Frederick Charles Duke of Cambridge, Hugh Lupus Duke of Westminster, Francis Charteris Earl of Wemyss and March, John Poyntz Earl Spencer, and the several other persons named in the second part of the first Schedule hereto, as Members of the Council, and such others of our loving subjects as are now registered Members of the said Association, and their successors, who shall at any time hereafter become Members of the Corporation established by this our Charter, under or according to the provisions of these presents, shall be, and are hereby created and constituted a body politic and corporate for the purposes aforesaid, by the name of "The National Rifle Association," with perpetual succession and a Common Seal, with power to sue and be sued in their said corporate name, and to acquire and to hold lands for the purposes of the said Association without license in mortmain, and WE DO HEREBY GRANT OUR LICENSE unto all and every person and persons, bodies politic and corporate (otherwise competent) to grant, sell, alien and convey in mortmain unto and to the use of the said Association, and their successors, any messuages, lands, tenements or hereditaments for the purposes of the said Association. AND OUR WILL AND PLEASURE is, and we further grant and declare that there shall be a General Meeting of the Members of the said body corporate to be held from time to time as hereinafter mentioned, and that there shall always be a Council to direct and manage the concerns of the said body corporate, and that there shall be a Patron, a President, Vice-Presidents, a Chairman of Council, and a Treasurer, and that the direction and management of the said body corporate shall be subject to the rules contained in the second Schedule hereto, or other the rules of the said Corporation which may for the time being be in force under the authority of this our Charter. AND WE DO HEREBY ALSO GRANT AND DECLARE that the Council shall consist of the Treasurer, and other

Members of the Corporation to the number of thirty, or to such other number as the rules for the time being of the said Corporation shall direct, and that the first Patron shall be His Royal Highness Albert Edward Prince of Wales, K.G., and that the first President shall be Field Marshal His Royal Highness Prince George William Frederick Charles, Duke of Cambridge, and that the first Vice-Presidents shall be the persons named in the first part of the first Schedule hereto, and that the first Chairman of Council shall be the Right Honourable Lord Wantage, V.C., K.C.B., and that the first Treasurer shall be the Right Honourable Arthur Fitzgerald Lord Kinnaird, and that the thirty Members of Council shall be the persons named in the second part of the first Schedule hereto. AND WE DO HEREBY FURTHER GRANT AND DECLARE that the Council shall, subject to these presents, have the entire management of the property and funds of the Corporation, and the direction of all the affairs and concerns of the Corporation, and, in particular, the Council shall have power to purchase or otherwise acquire on behalf of the Corporation lands and tenements and other property, to erect and maintain buildings required for the purposes of the Corporation, and to dispose, by sale, exchange or otherwise, of any lands, tenements, or other property of which the Corporation may become possessed; also to borrow money for the purposes of the Corporation on the security of the property of the Corporation or any part thereof or otherwise. AND WE DO HEREBY FURTHER GRANT AND DECLARE that it shall be lawful for the Members of the Corporation in General Meeting to alter or revoke any of the said rules, or other the rules for the time being of the Corporation, and to make such new and other rules with respect to the qualification, privileges, admission, and a motion of Members, the appointment, emoluments, and tenure of office of the officers and servants of the Corporation, and with respect to any other of the matters contained in the said scheduled Rules, and generally for regulating the affairs, property, business and interests of the Corporation, and for carrying out the objects of the Corporation. Provided that no such altered, new, or other rule shall be repugnant to these presents or to the laws and statutes of this our realm, and that if any rule so repugnant as aforesaid shall be made, such rule shall be void. IN WITNESS whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made Patent. Witness Ourselves at Westminster, the 25th day of November, in the fifty-fourth year of our Reign.