

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like to follow on from the Chairman and the Treasurer's presentation by cherry-picking a number of salient points out of the annual report, really just to fill in some gaps which I think are important.

The first point I'd like to make is regarding how increased membership has yielded significant greater demand on the NRA training programmes. In 2015 training activity increased by 44%. This included 628 members who took part in the five new probationary modules. This demand continues to increase. As at today we have 160 active probationary members.

Included in the training is work done to support the 4,200 trained RCOs. The RCOs play a key role in civilian shooting, their competence is carefully assessed to ensure the highest standards of range safety and last year we delivered courses to 448 of them.

On a wider point, both the NRA and full-bore shooting greatly depends on the work of volunteers. They act in a host of roles including RCOs, officers of affiliated clubs etc. Our recent Phoenix meeting was a very good example. It could only be delivered with the skill and enthusiasm of 85 volunteers acting as range officers, match officials and working in the stats team.

Every single one of our 800 or so affiliated clubs depends on these willing volunteers who act as RCOs, club secretaries and other officers. In particular, the process and administration that supports shooting which is often seen as tiresome, is actually a critical component that supports a great deal of civilian target shooting.

In fact, when I look at what are the challenges to shooting we tend to think what restricts shooting is the obvious things like range access and cost, but I think the dealing with administration is right up there as one of the big threats.

Whilst I'm talking about volunteers it would be very wrong of me not to mention the many officials who represent the NRA and I think, in particular, our Trustees deserve special praise. Their unstinting support for the work of the Association means that they are bombarded with emails, subject to vigorously expressed opinions, yet receive no reward, save I hope the satisfaction of their service to the NRA.

We are investing increasing resources to improve the profile of the NRA and full-bore shooting. A couple of small examples of that is the fact that we invite police firearms liaison licensing teams and Home Office staff to Bisley for one to three-day training courses designed to explain the often confusing world of full-bore shooting. All of these courses include an obligatory time on the range; trigger time we find is absolutely perfect to communicate the magic of shooting.

Moving onto communication, social media is becoming an increasingly important vehicle to communicate with our members, the wider shooting community and indeed, the non-shooting world. The main NRA Facebook page has a weekly reach of up to 65,000, the Bisley NSC Facebook page reaches around 3,000. Current 'likes' on the Facebook page of the NRA total 11,700 and for Bisley NSC 2,500. We also are supporting and feeding more targeted Facebook pages for the Target Shotgun League, the Handgun League, the Civilian Service Rifle League, and the National Clay Shooting Centre. Many of our more mature members view Facebook and

social media as the spawn of Satan; it is however a fabulously effective communication tool which we are investing a great deal of time and effort in.

More work which engages the staff and Trustees is the monitoring and influencing of changes in legislation and regulation. This is very demanding. We are involved at both UK and European levels and also engaged with regular discussions with the MoD, Landmarc, DIO, the Home Office, the Police, insurers and underwriters. A small example is that we have recently negotiated new Home Office Approved Club regulations that will shortly allow clubs to grant temporary membership to members of other Home Office Approved clubs and FAC holders. However, there are, as is so often the case, clouds on the horizon. We have just heard that the Home Office has recently proposed that fees for club approvals are to increase from £84 to £1,000. We feel that it's not going to be £84 and it's not going to be £1,000, but where it finally sits is going to be the amalgamation of a substantial amount of work.

Finally, I'd like to give you some details of our plans for the Pavilion. In essence, it will become the welcoming heart for visitors to Bisley and improve the experiences for shooters and my hard-working staff alike. The current Range Office, as so many of you will know, is not fit for purpose. It is often ridiculously busy and as the Chairman has alluded to, has received 17,000 range booking enquiries in the last 9 months. And it also, as an aside, supplies over 1 million rounds of ammunition annually. The new Pavilion will accommodate a new range reception in this very room. This very room will also have a new armoury, and a greatly expanded retail offering, selling a wider range of shooting supplies, a new cafeteria and bespoke training rooms that are already being used.

In summary, the good news is that demand for our ranges and interest in full-bore shooting are both growing. The challenge is to manage this change in an effective manner that respects tradition but allows modernisation of facilities and processes to appeal for future generations of full-bore shooters.