

## Improved security at Bisley Camp

To all NRA members.

As Acting Chief Executive of the NRA and NSC, I have now been in post for 12 weeks. In that time, I have come to understand the challenges we have in making Bisley the place that we would all wish it to be. The NRA needs to significantly enhance facilities which will ultimately be for the benefit of all members of the NRA; either those who visit Bisley or those we seek to benefit by generating revenues at Bisley.

Sadly, we need to accept that crime is an issue on site. Theft, whether from clubs, caravans or from the NRA itself, appears to be on the increase. Vandalism is a constant problem. Combined, they represent a challenge to the quality of life at Bisley, to our individual sense of wellbeing, as well as the risks to the property of the NRA and our members. In discussion with the local police, I have come to realise that this situation will only get worse unless we take action. As other locations increase their security, criminals will look for less well-protected targets. I am determined that Bisley will not be that target. Groups like the neighbourhood watch demonstrate the desire for increased security and we are determined to help.

Our ambition is that improved security will mean less crime and less vandalism whilst not inconveniencing our members.

If you have visited Bisley recently, you may have seen new signs pointing out that we have CCTV in operation. I have also gained the approval of my fellow Trustees to initiate gate security and night patrols which will enhance security for everyone on Camp. Clearly, we want this to improve the wellbeing of all, but there is a tension between maintaining gate security and enabling access. We are committed to working with you to achieve the best collective benefit for us all, and need your input to make this a success. **We are not looking for any contribution to costs, but we do need your input in terms of how we make this work.**

### Initial Trial Period and Consultation

Our current plan is that we get the gate manned from sometime next week (week commencing 10<sup>th</sup>) as an initial trial period to understand how this might best work and to gain your input from that. You may have already seen a blue gate house on the right as you drive into Camp, and we will be installing a gate as well. This trial period will likely last for a month or so, but in practice until as we feel we have workable procedures.

Whilst the security will be operative:

- This will initially only be from 7.00 pm till 7.00 am (the hours of darkness)
- The guard will be on the gate / in the blue guard hut by the entrance for most of the time, mixed with irregularly timed patrols (by vehicle) of camp, the clubhouses, caravans etc.
- He will not be refusing anyone access to Camp except in circumstances where he feels there is a clear need to do so. Put simply, if you turn up to go to your hut, caravan etc. at 10.00 pm, that is

clearly no problem. If someone turns up with a low-loader and three guys in the back at 2.00 am and cannot give a good reason, he is going to think twice!!!

- In the event that the guard is on a late-night patrol around Camp, he will lock the gate, but the gate will have his mobile number on it to call and he will return in his vehicle to open the gate for you.

### **Your feedback**

We have set up a special e-mail address: [security@nra.org.uk](mailto:security@nra.org.uk), which we would like you to use to give us your feedback. Alternatively you can write to us at Security Trial, NRA Building, Bisley Camp, GU24 0PB.

We will be holding a meeting for all Camp users later this month to solicit feedback and understand how best to maintain security whilst minimising the inconvenience to legitimate users of Bisley.

### **Longer Term plans**

Ultimately, as funds allow, we hope to have 24 hour security on Camp and to deter the professional and opportunist criminal to the maximum extent, whilst protecting the character and atmosphere of this great site. Again, I stress we aim to ensure that this is a benefit to all except the criminal fraternity, and look forward to working with you to that end.

Regards

Derrick Mabbott

Acting Chief Executive

NRA/NSC