



Mars & Minerva Shooting Club
Club Constitution

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Issue No.2 – March 2010

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1. TITLE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB

- 1.1.1 The title of the club shall be The Mars & Minerva Shooting Club.
- 1.1.2 The object of the club is the promotion and encouragement of Marksmanship by providing instruction and practice in the use of arms among the subjects of Her Majesty so that they will be better fitted to serve their country in the Armed Forces, Territorial Army or any other organisation in which their service may be required in defence of the realm.
- 1.1.3 The Club shall operate at all times within the criteria laid down by the Secretary of State for the operations of Home Office approved Clubs.

2. AFFILIATIONS

- 2.1.1 The Club shall be affiliated to the NRA and to such other associations as the committee shall decide.

3. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB

3.1 Club Composition

- 3.1.1 The Officers of the Club shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. All officers will be elected annually.
- 3.1.2 To be eligible to serve as an officer or member of the committee a person shall have been a Shooting Member of the Club for a minimum of two years.
- 3.1.3 To be eligible for nomination as Chairman or Secretary the member shall in addition to the requirements of section 3.1.2, be required to be a Category A Member.
- 3.1.4 The Artists Rifles Clubhouse will nominate a member of staff to serve on the committee as Club House Liaison.
- 3.1.5 The committee may appoint a Shooting Manager. Where this is the case, the Shooting Manager will also be a member of the committee.
- 3.1.6 Additional members may be appointed to the committee as required.
- 3.1.7 The Club shall only exist while based at the Artists Rifles Clubhouse, Bisley.

3.2 Management

- 3.2.1 The Club will be managed by a Committee, elected annually at the AGM. Fifty-five percent of the Committee will constitute a quorum. The power will rest with the Committee to legislate upon any point not provided for in club rules and regulations.
- 3.2.2 The Committee may make and amend Rules in regard to the use of the ranges and the proper running of the Club.
- 3.2.3 Any rules and amendments made by the Committee under section 3.2.2 shall be published and shall thereafter have all the force and effect of these Rules, but shall be submitted for confirmation at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 3.2.4 The Committee shall have the right to legislate on any matter not provided for in the Constitution, to promulgate such rules as it considers necessary, or to interpret the Constitution. Any decision by the Committee shall be final and binding on the Members, subject to an appeal to a General Meeting.

3.3 Voting Rights

- 3.3.1 Only Full Shooting Members are eligible to vote. Social Members and Probationary Members, irrespective of their membership category may not vote.
- 3.3.2 Only Category A Shooting Members may vote on the following issues:
 - 3.3.2.1 Constitutional matters as defined in this document.
 - 3.3.2.2 Election of Chairman or Secretary of the club.

3.4 Dissolution of The Club

- 3.4.1 In the event of the dissolution of the Club, any assets remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among members of the Club but shall be given or transferred to the Artists Rifles Clubhouse, Bisley.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1.1 Irrespective of category, members may be either Shooting or Social Members. Social Members are not permitted to handle Club Section 1 firearms or ammunition.
- 4.1.2 The total of Category C Members shall not at any time exceed 40% of the total membership of the Club. The Committee shall from time to time review the lists of Category C Members and may, terminate the membership of any such Member who has not participated in any Club activity for two years or more.

4.2 Categories of Membership

4.2.1 Category A (Privileged and Life Members)

Category A1 - Former members of 21, 22 or 23 S.A.S.

Category A2 - Current members of 21, 22 or 23 S.A.S.

Category A3 - Honorary Members.

- 4.2.1.1 Category A3 Honorary Members must be either Category A1 or A2 Members who, in the opinion of the Committee, have made a **sustained** and **outstanding** contribution to the Club. Election to Honorary Member is made by the committee.

4.2.2 Category B (Specialist Unit Member)

Category B1 – Specialist Unit Member.

Former and current serving members of specialist units within the Navy, Army, Air Force, MOD, Civil Service and Police or members of the Special Forces Club. Applicants would normally be expected to be eligible for membership of the Special Forces Club.

4.2.3 Category C (Family / Friend, Honorary and Associate Member)

Category C1 – Family / Friend.

Immediate family and close friends of Category A and B Members.

On the resignation of the Category A or B Member who sponsored their application they are required to reapply with a new Sponsor. The committee reserve the right to terminate their membership at the end of the current year.

Category C2 – Associate Member.

Associate Membership of the Club may, at the discretion of the Committee, be granted to members of other Services and to such other individuals as the Committee considers will further the Aims of the Club.

Category C3 – Honorary Member.

Category C3 Honorary Membership of the Club may, at the discretion of the Committee, be granted to members of other Services and to such other individuals as the Committee considers will further the Aims of the Club.

4.2.4 Temporary Membership

In accordance with Home Office regulations, there is no form of Temporary Membership of the Club.

5. MEMBERS PRIVILEGES

5.1 Non-Members

- 5.1.1 Any person who would qualify for Category A membership and who is not a member of the club, is entitled to the full privileges of a Category A social member. Therefore all Category A member subscriptions are deemed to be a donation as they receive no additional benefits.

5.2 All Members

- 5.2.1 Members are entitled to use the Artists Rifles Clubhouse facilities.
- 5.2.2 They may use club firearms, which are not Section 1 firearms.

5.3 Probationary Shooting Members

- 5.3.1 Are permitted to use Club Section 1 firearms, whilst under supervision of a full club member.

5.4 Full Shooting Members

- 5.4.1 Are entitled to draw club firearms and ammunition from the club armoury for use by club members, including probationary members.
- 5.4.2 DELETED.
- 5.4.3 Members with a Firearms Certificate may apply for a Club locker, for which a fee is payable, subject to availability.
- 5.4.4 May vote at meetings, subject to Section 3.3.

6. CONDUCT OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS

- 6.1.1 All members and their guests are required to abide by the club rules (MMSC-SD-001), the current NRA/NSC Range Regulations for Bisley and the camp rules as laid down in the Bisley Bible, at all times.

7. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

7.1 Proposal of New Members

- 7.1.1 Category A Members do not need to be proposed or seconded. However the Club reserves the right to conduct checks prior to accepting their application.
- 7.1.2 All new Category B and C Members must be proposed and seconded by two existing Category A or B Members.
- 7.1.3 Category C1 and C2 Members also require a Sponsor who must be a Current Category A or B Member.
- 7.1.4 No Member may sponsor any other person for membership of the Club until that Member has completed a minimum period of one year as a Full Member of the Club.

7.2 Application Procedure for All Members

- 7.2.1 Application for Membership shall be made to the Secretary. The Committee may refuse to admit any person for Membership without assigning any reason.
- 7.2.2 All applications for membership require the applicant to meet the requirements for membership in accordance with section 4.
- 7.2.3 All applicants must sign a declaration stating that they are not prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition by virtue of section 21 of the 1968 Firearms Act (as amended). This applies to both Shooting and Social Members.

7.3 Additional Procedures for Shooting Members

- 7.3.1 Once approved by the committee, the police shall be notified of the prospective application and police approval is required for the application to proceed.
- 7.3.2 Once approved and on receipt of all the fees due, the new member will be admitted as a Probationary Member.
- 7.3.3 Before being eligible for Full Member, Probationary Members shall complete an approved probationary course, attend a number of club shoots and demonstrate their safety and competence on the range.
- 7.3.4 The minimum probationary period from completing the Probationary Course is 3 months; this is a Home Office requirement. Probationary members, who fail to complete their probationary period within 12 months of attending the initial training, may either have their membership terminated or be required to retake the initial training at their own cost.
- 7.3.5 Election to Full Member is subject to Committee approval.

7.4 Unsuitability for Membership

- 7.4.1 The Committee may remove from the Roll of Members, any Member who's conduct on the range, or elsewhere, is unsafe, criminal, unseemly, objectionable, or likely to bring the Club into disrepute, or who fails to comply with any Rule or Regulation made by the Club or by the Committee.
- 7.4.2 Such Member shall have no claim on the Club for any subscription or entry fee paid.

8. SUBSCRIPTIONS

8.1 General

- 8.1.1 The Committee shall determine the Annual Subscription.
- 8.1.2 Subscriptions become due at the start of the Club financial year. The amount payable at that time being the current agreed sum.
- 8.1.3 Any member, whose subscription is not paid within the first month of the start of the Club financial year, will be excluded from the privilege of membership and Firearms Licensing informed. Any lapsed member on wishing to rejoin shall pay the back subscription.
- 8.1.4 In exceptional cases and at the committees' discretion, subscriptions may be waived or reduced.

8.2 Subscription Rates

- 8.2.1 The current individual rates are:

Category	Monthly Rate
A1 – Former members of 21, 22 or 23 S.A.S.	£13.00
A2 – Current members of 21, 22 or 23 S.A.S.	£9.00
A3 – Honorary members (eligible for A1 or A2)	N/A
B1 – Members or former members of specialist units	£15.00
C1 – Family or friend	£17.00
C2 – Associate member	£17.00
C3 – Honorary members (not eligible for A1 or A2)	N/A
Reduced Rate	£9.00

- 8.2.2 DELETED.
- 8.2.3 The reduced rate is applicable to: Senior Citizens, Overseas Members, Junior Members (Under 18), Full time Students and Members living over 150 miles from Bisley.
- 8.2.4 In addition there is a shooting supplement of £5.00 pm, payable by all shooting members.
- 8.2.5 The subscription rate for couples is one and a half times that of the appropriate individual subscription rate.
- 8.2.6 There is a joining fee of £50.00 for all new members.

9. FINANCIAL CONTROLS AND AUDITS

- 9.1.1 The financial year of the Club shall be from the 1st of May to the 30th April, to which date the accounts are to be balanced.

10. AGMS AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

10.1.1 A General Meeting shall be held annually, at such time and place as the Secretary shall arrange and giving the required notice for the purpose of conducting the following business: -

- Minutes of the previous General Meeting
- The Secretary's report
- The report of the Treasurer and presentation of Accounts
- Any other report required by the Committee
- The fixing of fees for the following Year
- The election of Officers
- To debate, propose and second motions intended to alter the Constitution of the Club. Any motion must be carried by not less than two thirds of the Members present. Notice of any such motion is to be circulated to the Membership at least seven days before the meeting.
- Any other competent business.

10.1.2 Voting may be by ballot or a show of hands at the discretion of the Chair.

10.1.3 In the event of a split vote the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

10.1.4 A quorum of a General Meeting shall be not less than 10% or six of the current Membership of the Club, whichever is the lower.

10.2 Notice of Meetings

10.2.1 A minimum of twenty one days notice will be given for all general meetings.

11. REVISIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

11.1 Issue 2 March 2010

Section	Change
3.2.1	[Revised] The requirements for a quorum are revised from 3 to 55% of the committee.
5.4.2	[Deleted]
5.4.3	[Revised] Amended to full members with a Firearms Certificate.
7.3.4	[Revised] Probationary members, who fail to complete their probationary period within 12 months of attending the initial training, may either have their membership terminated or be required to retake the initial training at their own cost.
8.1.2	[Revised] Revised from 1 st of April to the start of the Club financial year.
8.1.3	[Revised] Revised from 30 th April to one month after the start of the club financial year.
8.2.1	[Revised] Subscriptions updated and annual rate removed.
8.2.2	[Deleted]
8.2.4	[Revised] Shooting supplement revised.
8.2.5	[New] The subscription rate for couples is one and a half times that of the appropriate individual subscription rate.
8.2.6	[New] There is a joining fee of £50.00 for all members.
9.1.1	[Revised] Clarified the Club financial year.
10.1.1	[Revised] Removed 'normally in May or'. Replaced 'twenty-one days' with 'the required notice period'.
11	[New] Details of the changes made to the constitution at each issue.