

## Initial Re-Opening of Sneedham's Green Range for Affiliated Clubs Only



### 1. Background

With indoor ranges likely to be closed by Government order for the foreseeable future, but with an easing of restrictions on outdoor shooting and meetings of six socially distanced people permitted, it was proposed by the Chair that re-opening of Sneedham's Green be considered by the GA.

Advice from the various shooting NGBs has been disparate. The NSRA published draconian guidelines, the NRA implemented more practical recommendations and opened Bisley, whilst the CPSA seem to have created a split between compulsory pre-booking at commercial grounds and what appears to be a free for all at local private shoots. Pragmatic experience from the opening of other small-bore and centrefire ranges (Babdown, Greensleeves, Bisley), visits to commercial clay grounds and their websites (Ian Coley Sporting, Barbury, Mendip), plus feedback from local clay shoots, have all now informed members of the GASRPC Range Management sub-committee about the key management criteria for safe, but limited, re-opening of Sneedham's Green.

### 2. GASRPC Options for Sneedham's Green

GASRPC Chair (Paul Balmer) and General Secretary (Nigel Brooks) met with key members of the Range Management sub-committee (Mike Johnson, Colston Clements, Steve Goodwin) outdoors at Sneedham's Green on the evening of Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June to consider the four options currently available to the GA:

1. Keep the range closed until lockdown is lifted to avoid divisive restrictions and risk of liability.
2. Open the range to individuals/groups on a highly restricted booking schedule with RO cover.
3. Open the range to Affiliated Clubs under their own Risk Assessment on a pre-booked basis.
4. Combine 2. and 3. with RO cover for individuals and Risk Assessment for Clubs, both pre-booked.

The key issues for consideration were:

If the range is to re-open it should do so with the maximum safe opportunity for inclusion and not be divisive whereby at-risk groups are particularly discriminated against.

With the GA being a volunteer organisation and RO cover in particular an ongoing issue, even with a booking system the risk of numbers of individuals greater than six arriving would require ROs to manage those potential issues. This in turn would complicate and restrict access times.

The GA is an association of small-bore rifle and pistol CLUBS and as such should attempt to put affiliated clubs first, whilst also recognising the responsibility of club officials to risk-manage the competency and safety of their members whilst on the GA, or any other, range.

Putting club-level range booking under the direct control of club officials has the benefit of reducing the complexity of an on-line booking system and increasing the likely-hood of compliance through a club-specific diary access code.

The Chair, Gen. Sec. and Range Management Group will undertake to keep Club Access conditions under review and modify the Policy as experience and Government guidance dictates.

### **3. Policy for Sneedham's Green Re-Opening to Affiliated Clubs**

With the support of the Chair, Gen. Sec., the Range Management Group and a unanimous majority of the wider GA committee, the following re-opening criteria have been agreed for **Affiliated Clubs ONLY** to access Sneedham's Green:

*3.1. GASRPC will make Sneedham's Green accessible to Affiliated Clubs from w/c 15<sup>th</sup> June on condition that:*

3.1.1 Each Club conducts a Risk Assessment of Sneedham's Green taking into account the profiles of its own members. An example format is provided for each Club if they do not have one.

3.1.2 A Club Official pre-books the range via email to the webmaster and confirmation goes on-line.

3.1.3 No less than two and no more than six shooters *including* the RO are present at any one time.

3.1.4 Specific range times are booked which will be 09.00 to 12.00; 13.00 to 16.00; 17.00 to 20.00.

3.1.5 If the range is not shown booked on the GA website it can be booked but is otherwise closed.

3.1.6 Designated Club RO to raise/lower flag and set out/recover targets after each session.

3.1.7 Designated Club RO to ensure individuals keep personal shooting record from the session.

*3.2. Sensible precautions and conditions for each session are to include:*

3.2.1 Club and/or members to provide own hand sanitiser/targets/pins.

3.2.2 There will be no access to the range box or range log.

3.2.3 No sharing of rifles or equipment, no guests, no Exemption Certificate rifles.

3.2.4 Full Club Members only as close proximity supervision and coaching is not permitted.

3.2.5 All used targets and shot brass to be cleared up and taken home for disposal.

3.2.6 All used firing point tables and any used bench-rest tables to be sanitised after use.

*3.3. Entry, Exit, Lane Control and Facilities at the site:*

3.3.1 No car sharing unless from same household.

3.3.2 Upper and lower car parks will be in use with sufficient space for social distancing on arrival.

3.3.3 A one-way foot flow to and from the car parks will be implemented.

3.3.4 The gated firing point entry will be locked back.

3.3.5 Only five socially distanced designated firing points will be open plus one for the RO.

3.3.6 There will be no toilet facilities open, but hand sanitiser may be available for those who forget.

**Paul Balmer**

**Chairman GASRPC**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2020

