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# Cornwall Target Shooting Association

Registered Charity Number 258147

Affiliated to The National Rifle Association & National Small-Bore Rifle Association

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NSRA Shooting Council report 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2019

At the March Shooting Council meeting we were met with the sad news that Mr Ken Nash (NSRA Vice Chairman) had passed away in hospital the previous evening, after a minutes silence was held the meeting continued in a sombre mood.

Dave Froggett is acting CEO while Ian Root is on sabbatical leave; his wife had been very ill and has recently passed away.

The issue of targets is still on going and it will still be some time until all the different targets are up to specification but supplies of most popular targets are now available.

There was some discussion regarding the costs and levels of membership, competition costs and other expenses with the constant need for the association to cut costs and increase income.

A proposal by Suffolk County Rifle Association to amend rule 3.3.1 to allow county team members to be either from their county of current residence, or a neighbouring county in which their principle club is resident, was discussed and voted upon. The proposal did not find sufficient support.

The new Club Finder is now live on the NSRA website, the association has previously requested information from clubs for inclusion on the new Club Finder. To date I note that only four Cornish clubs are listed (Bodmin, Polperro, St Austell and Truro), so club secretaries of all other clubs in the county should contact the NSRA immediately with the appropriate details for inclusion on the Club Finder.

The Chief Executive's report to the Shooting Council follows below.

The AGM and next Shooting Council meeting are due to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 2019.

P L Ralph



Unfortunately, Iain Root has had to take sabbatical leave from his role as the NSRA CEO. The Board have asked that I cover his duties as acting CEO for this period to maintain the continuity of the good work Iain is doing. On a day to day basis I'm still covering some of the parts of my Coaching and Development Manager's role but clearly that is prioritised along with the new requirements of the CEO role.

### **100<sup>th</sup> Scottish Meeting**

The preparations for the 100<sup>th</sup> Scottish meeting are well underway. A commemorative brochure outlining the history of the event, information on the area, an overview of the competition and other interesting material has been put together and will be made available to all members and clubs.

The event this year will include a new event the Earl Haig Champion of Champions which is free to enter for any previous Earl Haig Champions and is separate to the main event.

Work is also being done on the firing point to make this year's experience even better.

### **Staff**

We have staff leaving. Grace, a well known figure in the NSRA shop has left for pastures new whilst Lucy from BSW will be taking maternity leave. We wish them both all the best.

A new Marketing Manager is being appointed to the NSRA Charity and a new member of staff has started in the NSRA Shop.

We are planning to produce a diagram in the near future to show who all the staff are and briefly what their roles involve so that you might better understand how the NSRA works and who is the best person to contact about any issues that you might have.

### **Targets**

The situation with targets is gradually being resolved. We are still working hard with the printers to correct their errors and will soon have all our targets back to specification and available for sale. We fully appreciate the issues this has caused and thank you all for your patience whilst we get back on track. From our perspective it is vitally important that we maintain the standards of targets to ensure our competitions are fair and consistent. We will also continue to exchange targets that are not within the specifications.

There will continue to be updates on the position with targets posted on the NSRA website and we suggest you visit it regularly to monitor progress. The competitions department will endeavour to minimise the impact this has had and extensions to shooting dates will be granted as appropriate. However, we do need to maintain the standard and only targets that are in specification will be accepted.

### **Communications**

Communications continues to be an area where we keen to improve and as part of this a new club finder system is being put in place. The new version should be ready soon and accessible via our website. We are keen to hear from clubs who have not already given permission to be included and we can add them to the list.

In the NSRA Shop we want to make your visit a better experience and to this end we have issued name badges to identify shop staff and there is an email address displayed so you can let us know how well we did during your visit. We are keen to gain this feedback so that we can continue improve the service. Whilst on the subject of the NSRA Shop it's worth noting that it has the unique feature that ALL profits are put back into helping support your sport. When buying from the NSRA you are not only getting the things you want at a reasonable price but helping us to help you.

The Association is continuing to improve its use of its website and social media. There is a significant rise in social media viewings/visits as a result of championships video postings and more pro-active communications. The statistics indicate uplift in social media engagement with members over the past 12 months

### **Legislation**

The NSRA continues to fight on your behalf to preserve the sport we all enjoy. Recently there have been a run of amendments to the firearms act that could result in potentially damaging legislation. We have been working hard to resist these changes, both via BSSC and independently, but realise we could do it more effectively. To this end we are introducing a new working group on legislation that will enable us to react more quickly to legislative change and provide a more proactive stance on this issue.



## **New Events**

As ever, we are keen to improve the competitive opportunities available to shooters and, after some consideration; we are working on the possible introduction of black powder pistol shooting on the 25 m range at LRC.

This will further enhance the training opportunities for this discipline but also allow muzzleloading pistol competitions to be included in our National Pistol Meeting.

## **Hotel Project**

Chesham Estates have been in contact asking for further information to support the planning application. They have asked for more data on potential demand for the accommodation during events at Bisley. This will be used as part of the planning statement.

## **Club Support**

**Chippenham Rifle and Pistol Club** – Chippenham Rifle and Pistol Club are planning to make some substantial improvements to the range, including refurbished firing points on the 50m and 100yd ranges, a new indoor 25m range and a new indoor air weapon range. This will allow the club to offer national standard facilities.

**Lincolnshire Development** – Long Sutton Target Shooting Club has requested support for their grant application. They are also upgrading their Child Protection procedures.

Dave Carter is developing a new three year development plan for the county

## **Squads**

**Regional Squads** – The South East Regional Rifle Squad and the South West Regional Pistol Squad have successfully completed their submission for recognition as an NSRA Accredited Regional Squads.

Mercia Regional Rifle Squad are currently updating the squads constitution, byelaws and coaching philosophy. They have supplied some documentation to support their application as an NSRA accredited squad.

**GB Squads** – Following discussion about the possibility of reforming the NSRA National Squads for senior shooters, the NSRA Pistol Squad has been launched. It was generally felt that the BS athlete pathway has very little to offer for people who are over 30 years old. This creates a lack of opportunities for these shooters, either from regional squads or otherwise – including those who leave GB Talent Squad and have not made the BS standard at that time.

The squad, supported by the NSRA, will train alongside the Talent Squad at the LRC with George Darling as the lead coach, together with Paul Richardson as the Talent Squad Coach.. It is hoped that this will not only provide training for the senior squad but also provide a better training environment for the developing Talent Squad shooters, using very little extra resource

## **Chelsea Pensioners**

Royal Hospital, Chelsea (Chelsea Pensioners) has been in contact and they want to form an Air Rifle/Pistol club at the hospital. They wish to build a permanent air range on the premises and are after some advice on what is required – they are at the initial planning stage.

## **British Open Airgun Competition**

The British Open Airgun Championships took place over 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The competition entries were slightly up on the previous year and the new competitions team, assisted by some experienced volunteers, provided an enjoyable and well run event. For the first time this year the scores were streamed live to the internet so that the progress of shooters and competitions could be viewed remotely as they happened. A lot of positive comments have been received about the event.

## **Commonwealth Games 2022**

The Birmingham Assessment Panel for the 2022 Games decision is not now going to be announced on additional sports inclusion until end of March or even into April. The Assessment Panel have not yet made any final recommendations to Birmingham Organising Committee or Commonwealth Games Federation, since their initial proposals/thoughts now require more financial and budgetary work to be conducted. This is ongoing as part of a wider sport budget review by Government. The Assessment Panel have said they will have a final recommendation to the Executive Board of Commonwealth Games Federation, ready for an Extraordinary Board in March.



## **Scout Association**

The Scout Association has completed the update of their operating procedures for shooting activities. As part of their overall activities update they have decided to remove the post of National Advisors for various sports. Instead advisors for groups of sports are being appointed to work with a single point of contact at their HQ. The HQ staff will now liaise directly with NSRA on the majority of issues.

## **Lord Roberts Centre:**

A trial corporate shoot took place at LRC and was considered a great success. Feedback from the people taking part was positive and positive referrals are anticipated. Photographs have been taken to help produce marketing materials for future sessions..

To increase the amount of crossbow shooting delivered at the centre, John Lloyd has completed some basic training on crossbow shooting for NSRA Staff. This is to enable the staff to deliver the activity at LRC.

Netting is being installed in each bay of the Malcolm Cooper Range to provide a better shooting environment whilst still operating within the rules. The netting should be fully in place for the BFRC Meeting.

## **British Shooting**

**British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships** – The British Shooting Schools Pistol Championships took place at Stoke Mandeville on 16<sup>th</sup> January. The event was again very well received. Overall 315 schools have been involved in the series with 70 teams and 600 young people. This represents a 20/5 increase on last year. A new schedule of competitions and a final has been published by British Shooting and is available on their website. .

**Cadet event** – The BS/NSRA Cadet Training day held last year was very successful and is planned to be repeated in November 2019. The NSRA are again supporting the event which gives Cadets and their leaders the chance to train under the guidance of NSRA Talent Squad Coaches and offers a talent identification opportunity.

**Disability Hub Club Coach Development Workshop** – A Coach Development workshop took place at Stoke Mandeville Stadium on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January. The topics covered included Disability Awareness, Athlete Classification, an Athletes Story, an overview of the World Class Programme and a Coaching Demonstration.

**British Shooting High Performance Centre** – The plan for BS to use the LRC Hall D area (range and hall) as an High performance training facility (including the installation of Meyton Targets at 50m and 10m and the indoor 50m build) has fallen through. The reason given is that the response time from NSRA made it necessary to seek an alternative venue. The targetry is now being installed at the indoor range at Wigan.

**British Shooting Website** – The new British Shooting website is now live. The site navigation is also more streamlined and the site has been more usable on mobile devices. It now includes an area for "news suggestions" that enables members of the public to make content suggestions. The site is clearer, easy to navigate and better for mobile devices.

**Athlete Appearances** – British Shooting have mapped the location of elite shooters and this will be made available via the website. This will help find shooters to make athlete appearances to support development and other activities.

**Target Sprint** – the calendar of events has been released for 2019. Focus will be on growing the discipline domestically, developing strategic partnerships, regional centre and hub development and training leaders.

**European Games** – the selection policy is live on the BS website.

**BS Non-executive Director** – Sara Heath, the BS Non-executive Director, has been appointed the CEO of Pentathlon GB. She intends to retain her position on the BS Board.

## **UK Sport**

Following the UK Sport Board meeting, the British Shooting world class programme investments in both Olympic and Paralympic shooting remain unaltered. In addition, having integrated the two programmes both structurally and culturally during 2018, there are no longer any specific funding conditions in place on either programme. The milestone target events in 2019 will be at the European Games in Minsk (Olympic) and World Champs in Sydney (Paralympic).