
Cornwall Target Shooting Association



Registered Charity Number 258147

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

NSRA Shooting Council report 25th July 2020

Following the cancellation of the March meeting the July meeting was held virtually for the first time via Zoom, this proved to be reasonably successful with about 36 people joining.

The Lord Roberts Centre will be remaining closed for the immediately foreseeable future and the NSRA is operating on a very limited staffing level.

Following the cancellation of competitions this year NSRA shooting classifications will be carried forward to next year.

The Rifle Committee has been considering the composition of the Inter County Short Range League Competitions No 610 and 611 and has decided that competition 610 will be open to teams of 12. Counties can enter multiple teams, in division's dependent on averages. The Inter County Reserves League will be discontinued.

While the current restrictions remain the association proposes to allow some competitions such as the BSA Cup to be shot on team members own ranges over a period of time.

The NSRA will be using Survey Monkey to carry out surveys to assist the association in its reorganisation.

Please note the extended final shooting dates for the 2019-20 winter league competitions and round 2 of the Eley competition contained in the Chief Executive's report to the Shooting Council that follows below.

The next Shooting Council meeting is due to be held on the 28th November 2020.

P L Ralph

VIRTUAL SHOOTING COUNCIL MEETING 25 JULY 2020

CHIEF EXECUTIVE BRIEFING REPORT

Obituary

It is with sadness that I have to report the passing of David Hargreaves. David was the County Representative for Worcestershire on the Shooting Council and had fulfilled the role for several years. He was always responsive to requests and involved in discussions in a pragmatic way. I have sent David's family the sympathies and condolences of the NSRA and Shooting Council.

Staffing during the pandemic

The majority of NSRA staff has been furloughed from the 19th March with a skeleton staff being retained to manage things as a best they can. They have focused on the priorities as they have arisen and have tried very hard to keep things ticking over. I am very grateful for the understanding of all the staff and am particularly grateful for those staff that have continued to work in what has been a very testing time.

The Board of Management

Conscious of the difficulties arising out of the Covid-19 situation the Board have been very proactive. Through the use of tele/video conferencing they have met on an extremely regular basis of at least every two weeks. In both May and June meetings were held every week which was a significant commitment. I would like to thank the directors for their commitment and for making themselves available on such a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues many of them complicated by the pandemic. Everyone has tried to do their best and hopefully the membership is grateful for what has been done and also understands that resources have been very limited.

NSRA Shop

The shop opened for trading on Thursday 18 June and has been open for four days of the week, Thursday through Sunday. Online sales are also available and it was hoped that the opening of the shop would be seen a positive thing. Patronage has been variable but hopefully once clubs reopen on the 25 July 2020 business will improve and be part of the overall process of shooting restarting in earnest.

Guidance for Clubs and Members

The Association has attempted to respond to Government Guidance and restrictions and has issued two detailed Guidance Documents. As always the guidance tried to cover most eventualities. The intention has been that clubs would apply the guidance to their own particular situation whilst trying to follow the essential elements of the guidance. It has been impossible to write the guidance to cover every

circumstance and the intention has been for clubs to adapt the advice as best they can. A sample Risk Assessment was included with the Guidance most recently issued to give an example of the kind of things about which the risk needed to be assessed. Feedback has suggested that it was not appropriate for many clubs because they are much smaller than the club where the risk assessment was carried out. It was the principle of risk assessment that was being demonstrated and the need to look at what are the simplest of matters that need to be assessed. Overall the Guidance is about applying common sense in the first instance alongside the guidance and restrictions from the Government. Inevitably questions have been asked and the Association once again is trying hard to respond to all of the issues that are raised.

Competitions

The Covid-19 Lockdown necessitated the NSRA to close its offices and furlough the Competitions Team. This impacted upon the Winter Postal Competition 2019-20, the early part of the Summer 2020 Postal Season and sadly all Summer 2020 Team and Individual Leagues were cancelled.

In addition all shoulder to shoulder events, meetings and championships have been cancelled for 2020.

Winter Postal 2019-20

To assist in completing the competitions an extended shoot by date of 31 August 2020 has been introduced. No further extensions or reshoots will be permitted and cards must be received by the scorers no later than 5 September. This shoot by date (31 August) does not apply to the ELEY Competition or County Competitions such as the County Cup or BSA Cup.

Every effort is being made to upload Winter 19/20 Postal Competitions results onto the NSRA website (at <https://www.nsra.co.uk/index.php/results/postal-winter-19-20>). Everyone has been asked to check regularly for updates as the Association is unable to email results at the present time. If results are not posted for a particular competition then either teams still require the extension until the end of August, or the results are still to be uploaded.

An apology has been offered for problems that have occurred with the Winter 19/20 competitions, both prior to Lockdown and since. Large packages of shot cards were lost in the post on the way to replacement scorers. Teams affected in the 50/50, National Short Range and Inter-County Air Rifle Leagues (comps 203, 210 and 660) were to be contacted and details of the next steps for these competitions given. A specific email address has been established to help manage the Winter Postal Competitions (2019-20Winter@nsra.co.uk)

Announcements regarding National Meetings, ELEY, Queen Alex, County and International Postal Competitions, the Summer 2020 Season and the Winter 2020/21 Season will be issued as progress is made. Again, everyone has been asked to keep checking www.nsra.co.uk or social media

Summer Postal 2020

Summer 2020 Individual Competitions were also cancelled with the exception of the following:

- **(302) 50m Individual Any Sights Competition**
2 sets of 60 shots.
Set 1 to be shot by end of August, Set 2 to be shot by end of September.
- **(304) 100 Yards Individual Any Sights Competition**
2 sets of 60 shots.
Set 1 to be shot by end of August, Set 2 to be shot by end of September.
- **(392) 50m Individual Benchrest Any Sights Competition**
3 sets of 40 shots.
Set 1 and Set to be shot by end of August, Set 3 to be shot by end of September.
- **(395) 100 Yards Individual Benchrest Any Sights Competition**
3 sets of 40 shots.
Set 1 and Set to be shot by end of August, Set 3 to be shot by end of September.

In an attempt to be flexible it was agreed that each set may be shot as series of 20 shots which may be shot on separate days within the shooting period.

Although entries had been closed it was decided that additional entries to the above competitions would be taken in an attempt to offer something for as many shooters as possible. The closing date was established as the 15 July 2020.

Eley Competition 2019-20

Once again the consequences of Covid-19 resulted in an extensive reassessment of the Eley Competition because we would normally be at the Finals stage by now. It was decided that the priority would be to continue and complete the Competition in an appropriate format. With that in mind changes were introduced.

Stage 2 now has an extended shoot by date of 21 September 2020 for all Stage 2 qualifiers. Unfortunately no further extensions will be permitted and cards must be received by the Scorers no later than Saturday 26 September.

There will be no Shoulder-to-shoulder Finals for any of the 9 events (3P, Prone Rifle, 20 yard Air Pistol, LWSR Precision, LWSR Timed, 10m Air Rifle, 10m Air Pistol, Benchrest and Cartridge Pistol).

The ELEY Finals will now run as a Postal Final to end on 30 November 2020. Competitors will shoot their Finals cards at their home club, on the same course of fire as Stages 1 and 2. Our NSRA Scorers will score the Finals cards as they are doing for Stage 2.

Medals and Gun Box Stickers will be distributed following the completion of Stage 2. The NSRA is currently working with ELEY to confirm the Prizes for Finalists and competitors have been advised to check the NSRA website www.nsra.co.uk for further announcements.

Specific enquiries regarding the Eley Competition can be made using a dedicated email address – eleycomp@nsra.co.uk and everyone has been advised to keep checking www.nsra.co.uk and social media for further information.

Refunds

With the majority of the Summer Postal Competition cancelled and all of the shoulder to shoulder events suffering the same fate refunding entry fees is an important piece of work that must be undertaken.

A simple process has been established and a dedicated email address provided for those who qualify for a refund to use.

Those applying for a refund need to provide their name, address, contact phone number, membership number, entry and bank details where necessary.

1. There are 3 ways in which an entry fee can be refunded or credited:
 - a. Carry over to 2021 at the same price plus an option to enter an additional competition Free of Charge in terms of the Scottish Meeting and the Summer Postal Competitions
 - b. A Voucher Refund equivalent to the same value as your entry fee and valid for purchases in NSRA Charity, NSRA Shop and Lord Roberts Centre. Alternatively with these troubled times in mind you are welcome to convert your refund to a support donation to the NSRA Charity
 - c. All other refunds will be made by BACS
2. There are a significant number of refunds to process and with a only a small team still in place the refunds will be processed as quickly as possible and with the ultimate aim to complete the majority of refunds by 21 August 2020

Organisational Change

Last November the Shooting Council received a presentation regarding the structure of membership and the issues that the NSRA needed to address. The presentation was seemingly well received and members of the Shooting Council were asked to disseminate the information to their respective counties and organisations. This was done by the majority of representatives but in some situations the presentation was forwarded on without any context or explanation being given. The response to this was understandably varied and in many instances was negative. Dangerous assumptions about the financial position of the Association were made and ultimately lead to many members not rejoining the Association for 2020 alongside a significant number of affiliated clubs who did not re-affiliate.

Effort was made to try and establish the true situation and 2020 saw the launch of an organisational change process.

In March we issued a press release that set out our initial thoughts about why and how the NSRA needs to change in order meet the needs of our Members, Affiliated Clubs and all the shooting disciplines we represent. It was acknowledged that the statement of intent came about as a result of poorly and inaccurately communicated information about supposed changes to our Membership Structure. We held our hands up, apologised and committed to getting this right in order for the NSRA to be fit for purpose for the next ten years and beyond.

Since then Covid-19 has struck and while this has presented a fresh set of challenges Coronavirus has in no way deflected us from the Organisational Change agenda we must now undertake so we can effectively protect and promote everyone's interests as Shooters. It was confirmed that the process of change would begin with an extensive consultation process. We feel the most important participants will be our Members and Clubs, those Members and Clubs who for various reasons have decided not to renew in recent years and of course the huge pool of potential members out there who are waiting to be convinced the NSRA has the right home to offer them.

It was further confirmed that a series of Surveys will be mailed to all these groups as well as any other individuals and organisations that could benefit from building a dynamic relationship with the NSRA. The Surveys will be distributed in phases. No one needs to worry if they don't receive a survey straightaway at some stage everyone will receive a survey of some kind. Here are some other key points about the Consultation Process:

- All responses are anonymous
- All surveys are quick and uncomplicated
- There will follow be up surveys to ensure we fully understand the views and ideas expressed
- We will publish results and analysis so the exercise is genuinely transparent
- Any conclusions, recommendations and plans from the NSRA will be surveyed before any final decision is taken about implementation
- nsra.co.uk and social media will also be used to maximise the reach of the Consultation
- A prize draw will form part of an incentive and a thank you for taking part

I am pleased that the process of Organisational Change is about to start next week with the first survey being sent out. It is important to remember that everything is on the table and up for discussion. Our Membership is absolutely critical to this process and participation will shape the NSRA and how it goes about its business for years to come.

We want to offer outstanding service to everyone we can, become more efficient, better communicators, a National Governing Body with teeth and bite who can protect and promote the interests of Shooters to the best of our ability. I hope that as we progress the process and its purpose becomes universally understood. Shooting Council Members have a role in the process, initially encouraging shooters to participate in the surveys, but need to be confident that they understand what is happening and why before entering into wider discussion with clubs and shooters generally.

Merger of Lothian Small-bore Shooting Association (LSSA) and Scottish Southern Counties Association (SSCA)

The NSRA has been approached by both of the above mentioned Associations who wish to merge their two organisations to form Lothian Borders Target Shooting Association (LB TSA). At the AGMS of both organisations a motion to merge the two Associations was agreed. In accordance with due process, the two Associations have written to the NSRA asking for the merger to be a topic for discussion at the next meeting of the Shooting Council. They had hoped that the issue could be discussed at the March 2020 Meeting but for obvious reasons this was not possible. Because the meeting on the 25 July is an update and briefing meeting a formal agenda is not being used. Therefore the merger is not up for discussion.

However, the reasons for the merger are very straightforward and identical to the reasons given by other counties that have proposed mergers particularly in Scotland. The merger is being proposed because of:

1. The loss of premises
 - The number of active clubs diminishing both generally and as a result of point 1 above
 - The diminishing opportunities for existing shooters to remain active
 - A low number of active shooters
 - The membership demographic steadily ageing

The merger will provide a much firmer basis for operation and very significantly would allow shooters resident in the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway the opportunity to take part in inter-county competitions something they have been unable to do for several years because of the inability to raise teams as a result of the low number of active shooters in their respective counties. The combining of resources will strengthen the organisational structure throughout the two counties allowing for better competition; the development of excellence in training, instruction, coaching and individual performance. It will also enable the merged counties to improve co-ordination of their participation in the Scottish Meeting which will obviously have a national benefit.

The counties involved have discussed the proposal with the other counties that border their geographical areas and there has been no resistance to the proposal from those counties.

The Board have discussed and considered the request and have agreed to it. Technically they are empowered to do this but have chosen to take this approach because of the delay that has occurred consequent of the Covid-19 pandemic. Hoping that things will have returned to some form of normality by November allowing a meeting of the Shooting Council to be held, Council will be asked to ratify the decision.