
Cornwall Target Shooting Association

Registered Charity Number 258147

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



NSRA Shooting Council report 25th March 2017

It was reported at the meeting that there had been a large number of responses to the Home Office Public consultation on firearms licensing fees that closed on the 9th of March.

With the American team coming to Bisley again this year it has been necessary to reschedule some of the meeting timetable to make range space for the Roberts Match, namely the county 50m match which is now to be shot concurrently with competition five.

Every year a large number of trophies are being returned un-engraved to the NSRA. On the day of the meeting I collected the Minor Counties Cup that was won by Cornwall last year and have had to arrange for three years engraving to be done to bring it up to date!

After a long debate over the new LSR rules and concerns aired by Devon and one or two other counties the new LSR rules were voted in.

On reading the Chief Executive's report it can be seen that there is concern that there are still a significant number of clubs that have not reviewed their constitutions to bring them up to date. I trust that all Cornish clubs have reviewed their constitutions and have updated them as required!

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

The next Shooting Council meeting and AGM are due to be held on the 29th July 2017.

P L Ralph

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT TO SHOOTING COUNCIL

25 March 2017

Obituaries

It is with regret that I report the deaths of:

Bob Wingrove: Bob was involved with shooting from the vast majority of his life. He represented GB and England in a number of competitions and was a very active shooter at county level. He fulfilled many officer roles for Sussex and was a member of the Board of Management. He was awarded the NSRA Special Service Gold Medal in 2002 in recognition of his achievements and dedication to our sport.

Bernie Allsopp: Bernie too was involved with shooting throughout his life and was still competing up until his untimely death. He fulfilled many officer roles for his club in Colchester as Club Secretary; for his County as County Secretary and as a member of the Shooting Council. Bernie entered many NSRA Events and was a permanent fixture at both the Scottish and Bisley Meetings.

KEY NSRA MATTERS

Home Office Consultation

The Home Office is conducting a consultation on their proposed changes to Firearms Licensing and in particular in relation to the fees that would be applied. Articles have been uploaded to the Charity Website and an email has been sent to every individual and club that has provided an email address contact address to encourage as many shooters as possible to respond to the consultation. Situations such as this highlight how useful it is to have email addresses for as many members as possible including members of club who aren't individual members of the Association. Those wishing to reply to the consultation can use the consultation form on the Home Office website. However the questions asked and space for reply is limited. Everyone is encouraged to send a letter to the Home Officer expressing all the concerns they have about the proposed changes. The website article guides those happy to write to the Home Office about what would be useful to include. Shooters have also been encouraged to contact their MP by writing to them and arranging to see them where possible. The consultation closes on March 9th but letters to MPs can be sent after this date but preferably by the end of March after which the response to the consultation will be discussed.

Members of the Shooting Council are encouraged to reply to the consultation, contact their MP and encourage everyone within their clubs and counties to do likewise. If the proposed charges go ahead as planned, many small clubs will be unable to cover the costs and will probably have to close. That would be a travesty.

The link for the Home Office Consultation is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/firearms-licensing-fees>

Membership Renewal and Club Re-Affiliation

As reported at the last Shooting Council Meeting the NSRA is working with a new Broker and Insurer. This had lead to a delay in getting the paperwork out to individuals and clubs. Due to a fantastic response from members and clubs the paperwork was returned very quickly. The paperwork had been simplified which was helpful but a major effort by the Membership Team has meant that all the paperwork that has been received has been processed and they are 5-6 weeks ahead of where they were at the same time last year.

Very positive feedback has been received about the new brochures and also the changes made to the forms. The feedback also extends to the savings that have been made by clubs as a result of the cover provided being vastly improved compared to previous cover has obviously been well received. The Association has received thanks from numerous Club Secretaries about the savings made. Those needing to make contact with the Bluefin Sport Call Centre have also complimented the approach taken by Call Centre staff and the manner in which their enquiry/issue was dealt with.

Unfortunately and very inevitably some negative feedback has been received about the new affiliation paperwork. The majority of this was in relation to the request for information on the names of club members and their contact detail. There was a suggestion that this request was contrary to Data Protection Legislation with some suggesting that the request was illegal. Disappointingly it was assumed that this was not checked out prior to the request being made.

The transfer over to a new broker and insurer has also highlighted the misconceptions that clubs and individuals have about the breadth of cover. The best examples relate to the cover afforded to members of affiliated clubs who are not Annual or Associate Members of the NSRA. Equipment owned and used by those members at their club is **not** covered by their club insurance. Only club equipment is covered as part of the club's affiliation and insurance. This has been the case for the last 25 years.

Similarly premises owned and used by clubs, or leased on a fixed term basis are **not** covered in insurance terms as part of the Club Affiliation Fee and Insurance cover provided. If clubs wish to insure their premises a separate policy will need to be purchased. Bluefin Sport can provide quotes for this. This too has been the situation for many years. Those clubs that hire their facilities to other clubs or organisations need to ensure that the club has Hirers Insurance.

Over the last four years clubs have been guided to review their Constitutions and Byelaws. The NSRA has produced templates that could be used to update the constitutions and byelaws used by clubs but many clubs have not reviewed their documentation. For some this is now causing problems. The weaknesses of the documentation do not become apparent until a problem arises and it is then too late to amend vital paperwork.

The most common examples are in relation to Disciplinary matters, Equity matters and Child Protection. The absence of a robust and relevant constitution and byelaws could both negate the insurance cover and make Club Officers personally liable for problems that occur. The Association will send out more reminders highlighting that a review of club documentation is beneficial in the hope that more clubs will be encouraged to do so. It would be helpful if County Associations could do the same both in terms of reviewing their own documentation but also encouraging clubs to look at their constitutions and byelaws and change them where change is needed.

We have one club that has not reviewed its constitution since 1930 and 22 clubs that have not reviewed their constitutions since the period 1952-1972.

Shooting Science Seminar

The Association is hosting its second seminar at the Royal Society of Medicine in London on 1 April 2017. This seminar is designed to inform any shooters interested in 'upping their game' about the latest techniques, equipment and thinking to help increase scores and improve performance. It is ideal for shooters and coaches alike.

Individuals can attend in person and join in at the prestigious Royal Society of Medicine or can sign in online and watch at home on the day. Online access will also be available at any time for up to one month after the event. More details are on the NSRA Website.

Members of the Shooting Council are asked to disseminate the information within their counties.

SHOOTING MATTERS

National Meetings 2017

Scotland

The Scottish Meeting is being held at Lauder for the next four years. In terms of preparing for this Ian Burton and the team at Lauder are working on improving the infrastructure at the range. A more detailed discussion about the Meeting will take place at the beginning of March. The event will again include un-squadded competitions for both Bench-rest and LWSR.

Bisley

The meeting this year will include the Roberts Match against the USA and planning for this is well under way.

British Open Airgun Championships 2017

The entry for this year's Championship is 285 competitors. This is approximately the same entry as last year.

Winter Postal Leagues (2016-17)

The completion date for the 5th Round of the Winter Leagues has just passed. This date has taken into account the two week break over Xmas. We are presently up to date and working on the scores of Round 5 in a number of competitions.

Eley Competition 2017

The first round scores for 2017 Eley Competition have been processed with round two having to be shot by mid-April. The second stage stickers were issued early February. A total of 2940 competitors entered this year. This compares to a total of 2830 last year so the increase is encouraging.

County and Team Knock Out Competitions

The Third Round of all the Knockout Competitions has started. All the competitions are running to the timetable set out at the beginning of the season.

Summer Leagues 2017

The Closing Date for entry into the Summer Leagues was the 4th February 2017. A reminder was sent out to clubs as entry was very low two weeks before the closing date. Despite the reminder the total entry is lower than last year.

The following new competitions are being introduced for summer 2017:

- Veteran's Individual League
- Veterans Team League (Club Team of 3)
- Airgun League
- Bench-rest 100yds Individual League
- Bench-rest Individual Competition (3 Stage)
- Bench-rest Individual Short Range Competition (3 Stage)
- Bench-rest County Competition (one off Shoot)

There has only been a small take up in all of the above competitions, It was hoped that more entries would be received especially in certain competitions those being the Veteran's and Bench-rest. The reason for this is that the Association is being told that these two disciplines are the ones which should be of interest to a large number of our members. The competitions were publicised in a number of different ways namely via the Competitions Newsletter and email to both Clubs and Individuals on a number of occasions. It is important to understand that if the members of the association do not take part in postal competitions then we will need to assess which competitions are viable to run in practical terms. Any competitions with less than two divisions of physical teams are not financially viable or sustainable.

It would be very helpful to know the reasons for declining numbers of entrants and what new competitions would be if interest. I would hope that members of the Shooting Council can be a key part of the process that identifies the answers to these important questions by talking to clubs and individuals within their counties.

The Competitions and Events Team are working on a number of new competitions for the winter 17/18 season. Any new competitions will be announced nearer to the start of the season.

50 Metre Meeting 2017

The number of working targets on the 50m Range has been declining over recent years making competitions such as the 50m Rifle Championships more difficult. We have reached the situation where LRC have no spare parts so if any lanes are found to be faulty we will lose use of these lanes. A way needs to be found to replace the targetry and this may need to involve clubs and counties and fund raising. Again the Shooting Council needs to play a part in addressing this issue.

Local scoring 2017

In terms of the Summer Leagues Local Scoring is being used on the following competitions 100, 101, 103, 105 & 110. Errors are still occurring meaning that secondary checking is still required. The Competitions and Event Team will need to assess whether it is practical for Local Scoring to continue taking the overall situation into account. This will need to include the practicalities of the checking process on a scale which has not been tried before. It would be a shame if Local Scoring could not be rolled out across all the competitions but this can only happen if the level of accuracy is improved and is what is required removing the necessity for detailed checking to be carried out.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Scorers Course

The current number of qualified scorer's is now 1100 from 101 courses.

GB Talent Squads

Following the resignation of John Kelman as head coach of the Pistol Talent Squad David Pennell has been formally appointed as Head Coach with George Darling as assistant. The squad training sessions are being moved back from Cardiff to Aldersley and Bisley as originally intended. The appointment has been flagged up to British Shooting and England to try to develop a closer relationship between the squads.

The Rifle Talent Squad had a recent training weekend that took place at Wigan which was attended by Donald and Jen Macintosh who gave presentations to the squad and coaches and some individual coaching.

South East Talent Network

The first meeting of the South East Talent Network is planned to take place at the Surrey Sports Park on 18th March. This will include schools, scouts, cadets etc. as well as the standard clubs and associations. Topics to be covered at the meeting are tenure of clubs, funding, talent development (including a Regional Squad workshop) and regional classification for shooters with disabilities. Although it is unlike the West Midlands Network it is thought this is the best fit for what is required in the South East and links well with the Surrey "Shooting Futures" discussions.

A list of contacts has been compiled from information held by NSRA and British Shooting. An email inviting the first group of coaches and county representatives has been sent out from the NSRA Office to those contacts from the NSRA.

Project Pistol

British Shooting held an engagement session on pistol development at Bisham Abbey on 8th February. Coaches and others involved in development of the discipline discussed BS plans for the British Shooting Pistol Talent Pathway, moving into the next funding cycle as they start to look for potential shooters for the 2024 Olympic Games. This will involve a programme of Talent Identification in schools, Scouts, Cadets, Modern Pentathlon, the Schools Championships and Clubs etc. Once identified a schedule of training and development of this raw talent will hopefully help to populate the GB Academy and other sections of the Pathway. It was clear that

only a small number of those who engage with the project will meet the criteria to move forwards and so it is important that those that “fall-out” from the programme are found places within the sport to continue their participation and development.

County Development Plans

Sussex has requested information on the Lincolnshire plan to help develop their County Plan. The Lincolnshire Association have allowed the document to be passed to Sussex to help their efforts. Discussion has also started to take place in Hampshire about the development of a plan for the county.

Running Target

Running Target was offered as a sweepstake event at the recent Surrey Open Airgun meeting. The sweepstake was popular and provided a good insight into how it could be delivered at the British Open Airgun Championships.

Reepham Moor Rifle Range has requested information on the development of a Running Target range in Lincolnshire. John Rossiter of BSRC has supplied specifications for 10m air rifle, 50m Running Boar and 100 yard Running Deer ranges.

Internationally a Europa Cup is being planned to take place over 3 events in the Czech Republic, France and Germany. The event will be run using the proposed new format of mixed gender teams shooting mixed runs at 10m. This format has been put to the ISSF as a possible demo event as it ticks many of the boxes required for inclusion.

Republic of Ireland

Following a request from University College Dublin Rifle and Pistol Club two RCO course were delivered at the University by a County Coach from the UK. 24 candidates successfully completed the course which was well received. Mike Folan who requested the course has recommended it to other clubs and associations in the Republic of Ireland to take up the opportunity.

Muzzleloading

The Muzzleloaders Association of Great Britain has relaunched their Muzzleloading RCO course. The course is not stand-alone but designed to supplement current NGB RCO qualifications to cover the disciplines. Following discussions with Alan Wiffin from MLAGB it has been agreed that we recommend this training to NSRA Clubs wishing to cover Muzzleloading disciplines.

Target Sprint

The Target Sprint Manual draft has been completed and sent out for further consultation prior to being fully adopted as a bolt-on to the YPS Tutor (Rifle).

Target Sprint is to be included as part of the Junior International competition this year and it is to be included as an event at the British Shooting Show and Northern Shooting Show. The NSRA will be present at the latter.

British Shooting Development Group

British Shooting Update

- Following Rio Olympic and Paralympic success UK Sport funding has increased by 77% to £7m covering the Olympic Performance Programme. As of 1st April 2017 the DSGB Paralympic Performance Programme will be integrated within British Shooting. This will bring a different approach to where knowledge sharing will hopefully benefit all. As of 1st January Pasan Kularatne (DSGB Performance Manager) has joined the British Shooting Senior Management Team which meets monthly. .
- Following the BS submission, Sport England has decided to invest £1.29million into Shooting over the next four years. This represents a small percentage increase from the last funding cycle and has been verbally agreed with the formal Sport England Letter of Intent to follow.

British Shooting will be moving away from Regional Activators to national leadership working with partners including the other National Governing Bodies to deliver programmes including the further development of Target Sprint and Disability Hub Clubs. The £1.29m includes Talent (£590k) and the remainder (£700k) going towards Leadership and Development. Details of the plan are still to be finalised. The NSRA will be involved in these discussions.

- Governance will be a key priority to meet Sport England's objectives. Openness of information, transparency and general good practice of governance are to continue for British Shooting and they would ask the other Shooting NGB's to reflect this in their systems.
- The development of a British Shooting National Centre at EJ Churchill in Buckinghamshire is being explored and funding discussed. When constructed the centre would be a multi discipline and inclusive venue. The proposed facility opening is to be in 3-4 years

Disability Hub Clubs

There are 25 accredited Disability Hub Clubs (DHC) and 5 that are being worked with to bring the total to 30 by 1st April. Following the success of the Disability Hub Club workshop in October a "SamePage" online platform had been created to maintain communications within the network. The circulation of this now covers 40 club representatives.

Eight £500 club bursaries are still available between now and the end of March 2017. These will be awarded on a first come, first served basis.

Target Sprint

British Shooting is planning a Target Sprint National Series for 2017 including GB Ranking Events. This will enable the selection for the Target Sprint World Championships in June 2017.

Target Sprint is to be included in the Air Arms Experience at the British Shooting Show, Northern Shooting Show and Midland Game Fair in 2017. A specific Target Sprint website is being organised.

British Shooting Show

For the first time British Shooting had a stand at the British Shooting Show on 10-12 February 2017. Coaches, athletes and British Shooting staff manned the stand communicating to the public who and what they are. Also, a Shotgun has been donated by Kevin Gill/Anglo Italian Arms and it was being raffled at the Show and on the British Shooting website. This competition is to end on 1st May 2017.

Schools Pistol Championships

The final stage of the Schools Championship took place at Cardiff on 25th January. Over the series (Southern, Northern and Final) a total of over 300 students have competed in the Regional Qualifiers and of these 70 qualified to attend the National Final hosted by the WTSF. The future of the event is still under discussion and it is proposed to have a meeting after the event with interested parties to discuss who might take on the running of the event in the future.

Information and results are to be placed on the British Shooting website and social media.

Sport England

Community Asset Fund

Sport England has launched their new investment strategy, 'Towards an Active Nation' (2016 to 2021). The strategy responds to the government strategy, 'Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation', published in December 2015. This sets out five key outcomes around Physical Wellbeing, Mental Wellbeing, Individual Development, Social and Community Development and Economic Development.

Instead of the current programmes Sport England have created 7 new investment programmes that will focus on:

- Tackling Inactivity
- Children and young People
- Volunteering
- Taking sport and activity into the mass market
- Supporting sport's core market
- Local delivery
- Facilities

To support facility development Sport England will create a new Community Asset Fund which is designed to:

- Increase the percentage of the population taking part in sport and physical activity at least twice a month
- Decrease in the percentage of people physically inactive
- Increase in the percentage of adults using outdoor space for exercise/health reasons
- Percentage of publicly owned facilities with under-utilised capacity

Clubs will be able to access up to £50K of funding for projects. Future applications will need to be more "customer focussed" and show that information has been gathered locally to support this.

More information is available at:

<http://www.sportengland.org/funding/community-asset-fund>

Sport England Online resource

Sport England has launched a free online resource for clubs, providing support with finance, management, marketing and people. This can be accessed via:

www.sportenglandclubmatters.com

Commercial Developments

Website and Membership System

Work with regard to the Charity Database continues with the target being to have the system ready to test at the NSRA Offices at the end of March 2017. As previously reported this will allow time for further improvements and "tweaks" to be made. It will also allow for staff to be fully trained on the new system and adapt to the new way of working. Stage 2 of the Website design will follow the launch of Stage 1 which is key as it will be the portal to the new database. The "Public Launch" will occur during Q2 2017.

The new website will also integrate the PACC Webpage and also introduce a Blind/Acoustic Shooting news site. With an expanded website the Association will be somewhat dependent on content being generated by the NSRA's staff, committees etc as well as members and clubs.

The Charity Website is being updated on a daily basis with daily news and membership information.

Social Media

In line with the new website and membership communication programme a new NSRA Twitter Account has been launched. There is a link to this on the NSRA Website. At the time of writing the account has over 30 followers which is an encouraging start. The account can be accessed

@NSRAHQ

Iain Root
Chief executive Officer

February 2017

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT TO SHOOTING COUNCIL

25 March 2017

Supplementary Report

KEY NSRA MATTERS

Home Office Consultation on Firearms Legislation

The Home Office Consultation period is now closed but it is clear that several individuals and clubs responded to our request to write to the Home Office. Hopefully it will have the desired impact.

Annual Membership, Club Affiliation and Insurance

A number of questions have been asked recently regarding the benefits of becoming an Annual Member of the NSRA. It is clear there is confusion about the level of cover given to Members of Affiliated Clubs. In order to clarify the situation a simple note has been prepared to highlight the differences of cover between Annual, Associate and Members of Affiliated Clubs. The note is attached for information and hopefully will help members of the Shooting Council if they are ever asked about the differences in the cover and benefits afforded to the various types of member of the Association.

We are continuing to make changes to the cover and I am pleased to announce that the upper age limit on cover has been removed. Previously cover was not provided for any shooter over the age of 80. I have been able to negotiate a change which means there is no upper limit in terms of age with shooters being covered until they wish to stop shooting unless they are shooting against medical advice in which case cover is not provided.

The Membership Renewal and Club Affiliation process has initiated questions about the cover for downloading. The cover is as it has been previously in that cover is in place if the person using down/home/self-loaded ammunition has signed the appropriate declaration in advance of using the ammunition and a copy of the declaration is kept on file at the range where the ammunition is being used.

For the last four years The Association has been asking clubs to review their Constitutions and Byelaws every time Affiliation Paperwork has been sent out. Follow up letters are then sent a further three times. To assist clubs the NSRA produced template constitutions and byelaws. Despite the effort put into encouraging clubs to review their paperwork there are still a significant number of clubs that have not done so.

A number of clubs are now experiencing problems and their Constitutions and Byelaws are not fit for purpose. They are invalidating their additional officer's insurance cover if their procedures are not modernised and made robust. Unfortunately our persistence in reminding clubs of the need to do this is not resulting in the response needed. It may well be that clubs will only do what they need to when they hear of problems that have arisen for clubs attempting to invoke the club officer's cover having failed to deal with things such as a disciplinary issue in an appropriate way. If the insurance is invalid any consequences of something such as legal action by an aggrieved individual will result in the club officers being personally liable for any compensation that may be ordered by a court. Assistance in making clubs aware of the dangers of not reviewing, and where necessary modernising, their Constitutions and Byelaws is necessary and it would be appreciated if members of the Shooting Council could do this whenever an opportunity arises.

Home Office Approval

The Home Office have reduced the number of staff working within their Firearms Team and because of this they are not sending out reminders about Home Office Approval. Several clubs have discovered that their approval has lapsed and this has created difficulty. The Home Office have also suggested that it will take several months to process applications so it would pay clubs to be mindful of when their Home Office Approval expires and apply for a renewal well ahead of the expiry date. The situation has also illustrated that there is some confusion over the need for, and benefit of, Home Office Approval and Section 11/4 Exemption. An article clarifying the situation regarding both things and their need/application is available on the NSRA Website.

Staffing

The Association is always looking for part time staff to support its key operations including the NSRA Shop. Part time staff are particularly useful and important during the Bisley Meeting as well as at other times. The role would suit an active member who has retired and has some shooting knowledge. Anyone interested should make contact with Dee Fuller at the NSRA.

The Association is also looking for someone to take on the role of Minutes Secretary for the Board and National Committees. Experience of the role would be an advantage. Anyone interested in the role should also make contact with Dee Fuller.

SHOOTING MATTERS

British Shooting Update

British Shooting will be moving away from Regional Activators to national leadership working with partners including the other national governing bodies to deliver the plan that has been submitted in outline. Sport England, as previously reported, has awarded £1.29m and this includes Talent (£590k) and the remainder (£700k) going towards Leadership and Development. Details of the plan are still to be finalised.

Olympic Shooting

Discussions have been taking place with regard to the potential changes to the Olympic Shooting Events. The IOC has established new standards for the 2020 Olympics that require all sports to have 50:50 men's and women's events and participation quotas. If this was to be achieved this would mean that the current nine men's events and six women's events will not be accepted by the IOC. The shooting programme in Rio would therefore not be replicated in Tokyo. The final decision will be made by the IOC and the ISSF has been asked to submit their proposal on how to achieve gender equality by the beginning of March.

Information circulating is that the ISSF considers that cooperation with the IOC is the most effective way to achieve gender equality but also more importantly maintain and secure shooting sports in the Olympic Games. The ISSF has therefore, reluctantly, concluded that the best way to do this is to eliminate three men's shooting events namely 50m Rifle Prone, 50m Pistol and Double Trap and instead add three mixed team events. It would appear that the three mens events recommended to be deleted from the programme are the lowest in ISSF and IOC popularity whereas the mixed gender events have proved their ability to attract new participants and especially youth to join the shooting sports community. This would be very sad for those involved with the 50m events but there is still an opportunity for the shooting community to write to the ISSF to let them know that there is considerable support for a "no net loss" to Olympic

shooting events. Prone Rifle shooting has been a staple of the NSRA and it would be a shame to see it disappear from World Class events with the same being said for 50m Pistol.

Targets

It has been noted that some clubs are using non NSRA targets for competitions. The rules of the NSRA's competitions are that NSRA targets must be used. I am also aware that some clubs are paying for NSRA targets to be reprinted or copied. The targets are copyrighted and the Intellectual Property of the NSRA and therefore protected in law. The practice of copying the targets must cease. Disseminating this information through the Shooting Council Representatives would be appreciated.

Rules

When the Shooting Council Papers were circulated the proposed wording for LSR Rules 8.3.3 and 8.9 were sent. The wording has been refined but without the meaning or intent changing. The amended proposals are attached and will form the basis of discussion under Agenda Item 11.

Iain Root
Chief Executive Officer

24 March 2017