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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 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016

At the AGM the treasurer was able to report a small profit for the year of £13,000, an improvement on the £28,000 loss reported in the previous year.

Mr Nash thanked all members of staff for their hard work especially as staff numbers had reduced from 37 to 34 during the year.

During the year there has been a slight increase in the number of clubs and associations affiliating to the NSRA.

The association is still asking for volunteers to help at the Bisley rifle meeting, the shortage of helpers mainly being due to people going to the Olympics. As can be read in the Chief Executive's report the number of entries for the Scottish meeting remained about the same as last year but the Bisley meeting entries are down substantially again this year. Entries to the Bench-rest championships in June were so low the meeting was cancelled but the British 50 Metre Championship was successful with an increased entry.

The Board was still unable to give an update on the claim made by the NRA in relation to the triggering of a covenant in the original sale agreement for the land that the Lord Roberts Centre is built on.

Mr Newman was still unable to give a firm start date for the hotel project.

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 19<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

P.L.Ralph

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT TO SHOOTING COUNCIL**

### **30 JULY 2016**

#### **Obituaries**

It is with regret that I report the death of:

**Bob Wingrove:** Bob had a lifelong involvement with shooting and held various positions within the Association including that of Board Member

#### **SHOOTING MATTERS**

##### **National Meetings**

###### **British 50 Metre Championship 2016: 3th to 5th June**

This year's meeting was a great success. We had a total of 143 competitors which is up on last year. We ran the Championship on Match Manager with the help of Kaz and Ian Morris. As part of the meeting we provided the results live to the web. I understand that over the weekend we had a large number of hits on the web site. We were also able to stream the final of the Men's 50M prone live to the web with each target showing the shots arriving on the target face in real time.

###### **Bench-rest Championship: 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> June**

These Championships were organised to run over the weekend of 10 to 12th June. Both WRABF and the first NSRA Championships were combined to run in tandem over one weekend. Unfortunately due to lack of entries (there were a total of 12 entries for NSRA and 11 for WRABF, with a total of nine competitors overall) there was no alternative but to cancel these championships. The WBABF will be organised for later in the year and potentially not at Bisley. Considering the growth of Bench-rest as reported, and the need for the Association to respond to this growth, the number of entries was very disappointing.

###### **Scottish Meeting 2016(Lauder)**

The Scottish Meeting this year was again held in Lauder. There were 200 entries which is a slight decrease on last year's entry of 203. Over the last four years the average number of competitors has been 200 so this year's entry falls in line with the average. It would be great if we could attract more competitors. If we could boost numbers by 25 or 30 each year over the next three years it would secure the future of the Scottish Meeting and hopefully provide the financial basis for a potential move of venue. The weather was mixed with rain showers falling each day. The wind at the Lauder Range can be tricky but this year there was an unusual situation that on the days when X & A classes were shooting the wind was strong and gusting but on the days when B,C & D were shooting there was no wind at all. The meeting itself ran without any major hitch. The Haig was shot in strong winds and was won by Mr K Greenway.

###### **Bisley 2016**

The number of entries as of the extended closing date is 504. Normally it is expected that another small number of entries will be received before data input is completed but it would seem that the number of entries will be down by approximately 40 compared to last year. As with last year, a number of other



problems have been encountered including with the number of volunteers (the Meeting may well be short staffed this year) and accommodation. Both of these problems will hopefully have been addressed by the time the meeting starts.

### **Summer Postal Leagues**

Most of the Postal Leagues are progressing well and the timetable in regard to the issuing of results is being adhered to. The only time that the Department is not able to return scores with in an approximate 2-3 week time scale is when preparations for the National Meetings in Scotland and Bisley is taking place.

### **Winter Postal Leagues 2015/16**

The entry forms for this year's Winter Postal Leagues were distributed a while ago and the closing date is the 26<sup>th</sup> August. Unfortunately to date only a few forms have been received. Hopefully the numbers will pick up and it would be very helpful if members of the Shooting Council could encourage clubs within their county to enter our postal leagues.

### **Local Scoring**

As reported at the last meeting of the Shooting Council, Local Scoring has been trialled again in the National Long Range Competition (100/101) Postal Competition. Local Scoring has also been trialled in the "National Short Range" (110) Competition. The standard of the local scorers was checked on the first round which involved all local scorers scoring Round One and completing a scoring sheet, which was then sent to the Association.

In Competition 100/101 there were a total of 48 Local Scorers for a total of 90 teams. 13 scorers made errors which meant they needed to send in Round Two cards. One scorer received a red so was asked not to score any more cards (the club in question has decided to revert to central scoring). Three scorers received warnings as they made one error. Of the 13, all made at least one serious error (orange on the traffic light system). If you compare this to last year there were 58 Local scorers so we have ten less scorers but the number of error made were identical.

In competition 110 there were a total of 20 Local Scorers out of 36 teams. In Round One four scorers made errors that meant they needed to send in Round Two cards and 4 people received warnings as they made one error.

Local Scoring seems in theory to be the way to proceed but trials cannot be run again. Consideration needs to be given to whether we are willing to tolerate mistakes or scrap the concept if the quality of scoring is so variable. It is an unnecessary time consuming exercise to allow Local Scoring but then have to continually check the score cards because of the number of errors being made. The kind of errors being made is still simple and avoidable but the clubs need to be made aware that the continuation of Local Scoring is dependent on there being no errors. This message needs to be taken back to clubs.

### **General**

With the number of entries to competitions declining or at best staying the same, there is a need to review the competition and events structure and look to introduce competitions that will be of interest to individuals and clubs. The Shooting Council has a key role in this in terms of canvassing the views of clubs within the constituent counties and making these feelings and opinions known.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Staffing**

Elaine Johnson joined the LRC Team in June. Ruth Mansell joined the Commercial Department in July in the role of Marketing Communications Executive.

### **Scorers Course**

The current number of qualified scorer's is now 1033 from 94 courses.

### **Review of Regional and GB Talent Squads**

Further meetings have taken place with the GB Talent Squads to look at their progress, formalise reporting procedures and to work out their current and future needs as the squads leave the review process and move towards "business as usual". All of the original recommendations show signs of progress.

**GB Talent Squad – Pistol** The final Pistol Squad selection took place at the March training weekend and shooters leaving the squad have been offered support. Each of the remaining six squad members has made good progress. The admin support is now being provided by Helen Walton and Adrian Thomas. Both will work closely together to provide mutual back-up. To ease the burden on the head coach John Kelman, it has been agreed to move the Pistol Squad training to the High Performance Centre in Cardiff.

The changes were discussed with parents and shooters and despite the effect on one or two people's travel, all were happy with the arrangement. The High Performance Centre does not have a specific 25m pistol range and so arrangements for this are being explored.

A simple logo and a tracksuit is being discussed to rebrand the squads

**GB Talent Squad- Rifle** The squad is progressing well with a very positive attitude on the part of the shooters. The Squad Handbook is being re-written and will be produced for later this year in digital format. This will be shared with the Pistol Squad who may adopt all or part of it as appropriate.

It has been noted that there is a need for coaches to be supported to develop skills in Planning, Sports Psychology, Nutrition and Physical Skills. This is likely to be achieved on training days away from squad weekends and possibly involve input from Manchester Metropolitan University.

A further meeting took place over the last training weekend with parents of the Rifle Squad at their request. Discussion centred around shooters who did not make the 'cut', the role of regional squads and some more performance orientated clubs and the need for shooters/parents to be prepared to cooperate in the process.

As a result of the closer working relationship between the squads and British Shooting, British Shooting has funded members of the Rifle Squad to take part in an international competition in Pilsen to support their development.

**Eastern Regional Squad** - As emphasis now moves to development of Regional Squads, the Eastern Region has returned their submission for recognition as a NSRA recognised squad. The submission has been assessed and the squad has met the necessary criteria. A letter has been sent to the squad to acknowledge this and formally recognise the squad. As part of this process Bert Bertoloni has been formally appointed as their Head Coach.

The squad's submission will be used as a template to assist other regions to submit their application.



### **British Shooting Talent Hubs**

A meeting took place with British Shooting to address the perceived disconnect between British Shooting and NSRA in building the talent network. It was agreed that the Regional Squads should be directly involved in the network(s) for their region and this might even become part of the requirements for recognition. British Shooting assured that the Regional Squads were recognised by them as an integral part of the talent pathway but not the only route a shooter might take.

Four locations for Talent Network Hubs have been identified by British Shooting; these being Surrey, Hampshire, West Midlands and the North East/Scotland. Meetings have taken place in the first three of these regions and have all been very different in their composition and the development direction those present wish to take. The main points from the meetings were

Generally:

- Changing the name to “Talent Network” would make it easier to align with other organisations (like the Regional Squads) and not appear to be a parallel track.
- A lot of the discussion was around how communications could be improved
- The networks need to involve links to outside organisations as well as clubs (e.g. schools/cadets/scouts etc.).
- The importance of social media in the improvement of communication was emphasised. It will be necessary to identify clubs that are ready willing and able to engage with network as all the clubs may not wish to take part.

More specifically:

**Surrey** - As part of general discussion about development, the standard of facilities was thought to be important as were good introductory programmes. To back this up the development of coaching resources and materials for coaches to use would be necessary. The transition to ISSF disciplines from other disciplines was discussed (as talent development generally follows the route to these disciplines) but also the showcasing of all shooting events to help retention.

**West Midlands**- A training day is being planned to assist current coaches in the region and to involve current Regional and County Coaches to further develop the network. Also an online discussion platform would be set up for the network.

**Hampshire** - Representatives from the Isle of White gave examples of how good communication and structure had worked on the island. Representatives from the Hampshire Scout Rifle Club gave their views on the structures and connectivity between them.

### **Bury Rifle Club**

The club has received notification that it has been successful in its grant application and the “Bury Bunker” will be constructed. This will allow greater use of the facility in that it secures equipment at the club for use. This not only has positive effects for the club but also for Cadet Development. The Club has formed links with Thetford ATC. The cadets have attended the club (out of uniform) and used club equipment and coaches to support their shooting. This is backed up by a formal letter of agreed

collaboration with the club and the club is considering a different level of membership to better facilitate this link to Cadets.

Also Bury have formed links to Thetford Grammar School shooting club to encourage further development of junior shooting.

Derbyshire Cadets project has currently stalled but discussion with Staveley Rifle and Pistol Club suggests they are still keen to engage with local units. This is to be taken up with John Wilson from the ACF.

Paul Langford who operates with the ATC at national level is keen to become involved in the Cadet Project.

### **County Development Plans**

Further discussion has taken place with Andy Bowman around the Devon County Development Plan. Andy has received a copy of the Lincolnshire plan to assist and is starting to look at the coaching provision across Devon.

Work continues on the Warwickshire Development Plan. Despite offers to visit clubs to scope out their needs no response has been received. The next stage is to conduct a survey of the 600 members of clubs within the county to ask what are their needs and priorities. This is being done on-line using Survey Monkey.

It would be useful for other counties to consider the benefits of developing a County Plan and identify what guidance they require to initiate this.

### **Policies and Rules**

#### **Gender Reassignment Policy**

The NSRA Gender Reassignment Policy approved by the Board has been uploaded to NSRA Charity website in the same format as the other NSRA Documents. The policy is in alignment with the current British Shooting policy and gives information and procedure for the application of the policy within the NSRA. It is not proposed do a print run of this document but place it on the website and sign-post interested parties to it.

British Shooting has been provided with an electronic copy of the document. The next policy document under development is the NSRA Whistle-blowing Policy.

#### **NSRA Rules**

Following the changes discussed and ratified at the Shooting Council the NSRA Rules have been updated and submitted for inclusion on the NSRA website.

The proposed changes to the LSR Rules will be a subject of further discussion at the meeting of the Shooting Council.

### **Legislation**

#### **Scottish Airgun Legislation**

Following requests from several outdoor companies and Scout Association a brief outline of the legislation has been produced. This is in a draft form and will need to be supplemented as cases evolve to illustrate the way the legislation is applied. The Scout Association is currently looking



at how shooting may continue to take place at their centres in Scotland as they operate "recreational shooting facilities" but as they are substantially not profit making this will not exempt them from certification.

### **Lead Ban**

The Secretary of State has released a letter on the findings of the Lead Ammunition Group. The key statement is:

*"In both instances – human health and wildlife – the report did not show that the impacts of lead ammunition were significant enough to justify changing current policy; we therefore do not accept your recommendation to ban the use of lead ammunition. "*

This is good news for shooting sports in general and will be placed on the website and in the "On Target" magazine.

### **London Metropolitan Police**

Following on from issues in London with young people and airguns, Roger Arditti of the Metropolitan Police (Inspector, Firearms Enquiry Team SCO19) has been in contact with regard to "Outreach" programmes for young people. It was discussed how education and training might be the way to reduce problems of young people with airguns alongside opportunities to use airguns in a safe supervised environment. Mr Arditti was given an overview of the NSRA YPS Scheme and how this might help support this. Mr Arditti is going to float the idea of a pilot programme with his colleagues and the "Trident" team. From their perspective the programme would obviously have a political element to any decision to support it and also as an organisation the NSRA would need to decide if it was politically viable for the sport to operate in this area.

### **Laser Shooting**

As Pentathlon GB has moved towards using laser shooting equipment, concerns have been raised about range standards during these sessions as observed by some NSRA Coaches. It has always been emphasised that similar protocols should be followed for laser shooting as for normal airguns – not just for the safe running of the laser sessions but to prevent bad habits developing in laser shooting that might cross over if participants then move on to use real rifles and pistols. To this end the laser shooting module is being advised as a bolt-on to the standard RCO Course – not as a separate entity.

The module is available for clubs and organisations wishing to use laser shooting for development. Also Laser Shooting has been added to the list of activities covered by NSRA insurance to cover clubs which may wish to use it.

To support disabled shooting development at the Pinderfields Centre their staff have been trained in the correct use of the Laser Rifle Shooting system.

### **Running Target**

Some time ago The British Sporting Rifle Club loaned a SuisAscor Running Target range to the LRC. The idea was to place the equipment in an environment where more people could have access to running target shooting. To try to improve the usage of the range Centurions Club at LRC has been contacted to identify an evening at which Running Target could be a regular feature. It is also planned to have a

“round table” discussion about shooting technique with BSRC members and others with a view to producing an add-on module for running target discipline. This running target module would be a bolt-on to the existing NSRA Airgun Instructor qualification to qualify instructors for the discipline.

### **British Shooting Development Group**

#### **Sports Show**

The Sports Show planned for July at the NEC has been cancelled. The organisers are rescheduling the event in 2017.

#### **Home Nations**

The Home Countries funded bodies are to be invited to the October DG meeting post Olympics and Paralympics which reflects the closer working relationship that's developing between British Shooting and the Home Countries. There are many areas of common interest between Home Nation Development and Talent initiatives and there is a need to engage and simply share information.

The meeting will cover Talent, Growing the Sport and Integrated Inclusion, with the outcomes being 4-5 development initiatives and better collaboration and communication between the Development Group and Home Countries.

#### **Southern Schools**

Southern Schools 10m Air Pistol Championship that was first held last year and proved popular is being repeated, including a National Final taking place in Cardiff in January 2017. The age groups for this year's competition are Junior (Years 6, 7 & 8), Inter (Year 9 & 10), Senior (Years 11, 12 & 13). The final closing date for entries is Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016

#### **British Shooting's 2016 Target Sprint Series**

The third and fourth legs of British Shooting's 2016 Target Sprint Series were held at Lincoln Castle Academy and Rugely Rifle and Pistol Club. Successful competitors will now move on to the grand final in Cardiff.

#### **Staff**

British Shooting has appointed Alison Webb as British Shooting Development Activator. Her background includes Project Managing/Club Development/Volunteer Recruitment at Sport England prior to working with CTC (now Cycling UK).

#### **Sport England Planning**

Sport England has been undertaking a number of consultation events/meetings to understand and develop their own strategy. This strategy (launched in May) will ultimately outline outcome and funding priorities for the 2017 – 21 period and provide British Shooting with parameters within which to develop and submit a funding application. British Shooting is attending a “scoping meeting” later this month with Sport England to lay the foundations for the plan for the next 4 year cycle. Late autumn NGB's will be fully informed about the next steps. It is generally felt that Sport England funding will have a broader scope than previous funding rounds but cover the 7 key Sport England outcomes. National Governing Bodies have a Core Market interest but will



have to look at other areas. The funding for Talent is still unclear, specifically the divide between UK Sport and Sport England and the difference in the way they approach talent development.

### **Disability Hub Club Activity**

Currently there are 25 Disability Hubs registered with British Shooting and a further 10 that British Shooting is working with. A condensed application document has been produced containing discipline specific add-ons, links to resources to help fill in document and supporting section where a club can access British Shooting personnel support to help clubs complete the application.

A Disability Hub Club Workshop at Stoke Mandeville with DSGB has been set for Saturday 15th October the content of which is being discussed. It is hoped the workshop will help support the clubs to develop, improve their relationship & connectivity to DSGB and strengthen their ability to link to the wider community.

The Disability Hub Club Bursaries for the 2016/17 year have been reduced to £500 each from £750, to a limit of the first 20 signed up. This is due to the popularity of the scheme and that BS wants to support and encourage a wider network.

## **Olympics and Commonwealth Games**

### **Opportunities during the Olympics and Paralympics**

The Rio Test Event was considered overall a good learning experience for the organisers and GB team ahead of the Rio Olympics and Paralympics. The Rio Olympic Team was kitted out at the beginning of July and the event formed an opportunity to promote the sport, including a Media Day for each athlete.

The Rio Olympics and Paralympics are opportunities for the whole of shooting sport to be celebrated. It is felt that communications between BS and CPSA/NRA/NSRA need to be stronger in preparation in order to together showcase shooting sport as part of the event.

Part of this will be the #IGOBeyond publicity campaign to be launched mid-July. Initially this will be launched using Shotgun disciplines followed by Rifle. It has been highlighted that the media will not only need to include elite level but also participation level activity. One focus of the campaign is on "how does shooting make you feel..." for participants. The campaign will require photos and video, these will need to be generated to support the initiative. Although social media will be the key tool used part of the way the campaign message will be spread is by using posters that will be distributed to clubs and shooting grounds together with support information.

Also British Shooting has been invited to be a part of events during the Olympics and Paralympics by the BOA and BPA. The BOA is hosting "Fansites" in nine major cities across the country throughout the Olympics, where a large screen and focal point will be created. NGB presence at these sites is available, where the public can either have a taster of the sport practically or simply be informed of and signposted to local opportunities. Plymouth, Leeds and Bristol are the three locations selected to have a shooting presence for one day selected because of the availability of local clubs/volunteers to deliver. Similarly the BPA are hosting a roadshow of one day events in six locations (Stoke Mandeville, London, Nottingham, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast) over the Paralympics from 2nd – 18th September. Shooting will have a presence at all the events apart from Belfast.

### **Commonwealth Games**

Christian Schofield is the England Team Manager for the Commonwealth Games and the number of England attendees will be 21 Athletes and 5 Coaching staff across all disciplines. The Shooting Events will be in Brisbane so unlike Glasgow, the athletes will be based in the main Athlete Village.

### **Commercial Developments**

As previously reported Ruth Mansell has joined the Commercial Team and her primary role will be to focus on the new Charity membership system and website development programme and to support SB in delivering our marketing communication plan, with a particular emphasis on membership recruitment and retention.

Work is progressing well with the database design. There should be a fully functional beta release by September. Once the test release is approved the development work will continue to plan. The uploading of membership data will then follow, which can only be done once the system functionality has been fully approved. Further meetings are being arranged this month to finalise website and systems specifications and user requirements.

Realism is needed with regard to the 'go-live' timetable for this very major change in the systems development and working practices. Discussing timings internally with due regard for peaks in NSRA re-affiliation workload and resource, the Association is realistically working to Q2 2017 for launch of the complete membership database and website project. The website is key to this as it will be the access point and portal for the membership system.

The summer issue of 'On Target' mailed to schedule on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Content included a feature on Jen McIntosh and her preparations for Rio. Jen also took the front cover position. The NSRA will be following Jens progress closely throughout the Olympics and also the Paralympic shooting team. Due to the timing of the events however in relation to magazine publication dates, much of this news will need to be posted on the website in 'real time'. However cover 'post Olympic' will be made with results / achievements made fully available in the next edition of the magazine. The NSRA is working closely with British Shooting to ensure maximum coverage is achieved during this high-profile period for shooting sports.

Now that there is an additional resource in place within the Commercial team, Simon Barber will have more time to concentrate on building the portfolio of NSRA 'Commercial Partners', offering discounted products and services to the membership.

As previously flagged however, 'take up' to member offers to date continues to be very poor or non-existent, so there may have difficulty going forward in retaining those 'affinity partners' that are already in place. There is also a relatively small membership base and this does not help when trying to negotiate special member offers.

A review of the content of the NSRA Range Manual is continuing and the final sections will be reprinted following the same specification as the NSRA Range Manual documentation already produced as well as other recent publications.



The Commercial team has been working on a membership recruitment campaign, targeted to recruit new members via press and on-line advertisements in a selection of well read target shooting titles and on related websites. A poster campaign directed to all clubs of 30 members and above is about to be launched. This campaign is intended to raise awareness within the club membership community with the objective of generating new Individual Annual NSRA Members. This campaign will run for a 12 month period from August 2016 and be constantly monitored to ensure objectives are being met.

The club promotion takes the form of a direct response poster advertisement, highlighting the 'additional benefits' of Individual NSRA Membership and also promotes the bonus scheme payable to the club when individual members join the NSRA. We have identified 447 clubs meeting the criteria for the initial poster promotion.

Ruth Mansell is driving this campaign together with Simon Barber and results / response will be tracked and reported wherever possible over the coming months.

Although in certain areas it may be difficult to analyse accurate response levels from individual publications, we can track any increase from the launch of the campaign over a 3, 6 and 12 month time-frame.

The promotion of NSRA membership and the raising of the NSRA's profile are critical to the growth and retention of the membership holding. This has been recognised by the Board and following the presentation of the marketing plan.

By actively promoting Individual membership the NSRA will also be seen to be competing in the marketplace with the other shooting sector NGB's and sporting organisations offering similar insurance cover for shooting sports. This type of sustained activity is critical if the Association is to grow and maintain membership revenues long term.

Members of the Shooting Council have the ability to play a key role in these developments by sharing the information with clubs and individual shooters and advocating the benefits of membership.