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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> November 2013

There was a very good attendance at the November meeting although the CEO was again unable to attend.

Several Shooting Council members complained at the time being taken to get the NSRA website fully up and running as it has now been several months since the site was hacked. The time being taken to put the results from National Meetings on the website was also of concern. The reason given for all the delays was the limited number of man hours available to do the work although progress was being made.

As some 270 people are now qualified scorers after satisfactorily completing a scorers course the NSRA is hoping that counties will be able to start running their own scorers courses with their assistance.

Slight changes to and clarification of the rules regarding averages submitted for postal competitions were voted in at the meeting to be implemented in April 2014.

The issue of the increasing cost of hiring military ranges which are used by many clubs was raised, however the NSRA has no control over their charges.

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

The next Shooting Council meeting is due to be held on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

P.L.Ralph

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

### **23rd NOVEMBER 2013**

#### **Ken Nash**

In recognition of his work in establishing and nurturing the discipline of air rifle shooting for those who are blind and visually impaired, Ken Nash has received an award from British Shooting's Disabled Shooting Project for the

#### **Outstanding Individual Contribution to Disabled Target Shooting 2013**

The award was presented at the conclusion of the Disabled Shooting Gala, held at Lord Roberts Centre on 8 September, the presentation being made by Michael Whapples, one of Great Britain's leading Blind/VI shooters.



It has subsequently been announced that Michael has been appointed Chairman of the Shooting Committee of the International Blind Sports Association. This appointment, together with the excellent work being done by another Briton, Sarah Bond, as Shooting Manager at the International Paralympic Committee, means that Great Britain's profile in the world of disabled target shooting is rising rapidly.

## **SHOOTING MATTERS**

### **National Meetings 2013**

#### **National Rifle Meeting, Bisley**

The National Meeting ran between 10th and 18th August and the attendance at approximately 660 competitors was nearly the same as 2012. Because of the reduction of the number of firing points (which was only discovered late in June and was mentioned at the previous Council Meeting) discussions were held with the NRA in trying to find a solution. However it became apparent that a workable compromise could not be found, which meant a decision was made to cancel the Classic and Veteran Rifle events and the Services competitions which are shot alongside ours.

The other major problem was the parking. Only shortly before the meeting started was it finally confirmed that parking would not be allowed behind the 300-metre firing point, and instead most cars had to be left adjacent to the edge of Century Range. The parking arrangements will be the same for 2014. It is understood that we are not being singled out as nobody will be able to park behind the 300-metre firing point.

There were no major problems during the meeting. The weather was good for the most part although it did rain very heavily on the Saturday of the Roberts final. For a second year Bideford Rifle Club ran a scheme to give assistance to first-time entrants to the meeting. This was again very well received, the information available at the desk being used and appreciated by not only the first timers but also regular participants at the meeting. All medals and vouchers should have been distributed in the last couple of weeks.

We have held the first discussions with the NRA about the meeting for 2014. It is hoped that once we have agreed the smaller details we will reach an agreement that will secure the National Rifle Meeting at Bisley for the next three years.



### **Pistol Championships Meeting, Bisley**

This year's Pistol Championships Meeting was held over the weekend of 20th to 22nd September. There were a total of 55 competitors shooting in six or more events; unfortunately this was down on last year's entry of 67. Competitions Department did all the required paperwork in the run up to the event, but the Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee members ran the event with help from the volunteer Range Officers. We are waiting a delivery of Bisley Championship medals and once they have arrived and been engraved they will be sent out.

### **Meeting Dates for 2014**

The programme of dates for next year is (at Bisley unless otherwise stated):

21 – 23 February	British Airgun Championships
1 – 2 March	Blind Air Rifle Championships, Aldersley
30 May – 1 June	British International 50 metres Rifle Championships
28 June – 4 July	Scottish Rifle Meeting, Lauder
5 – 6 July	Sporter Air Rifle Open Meeting
8 August	Sporter and Precision 3P Air Rifle Championships
9 – 17 August	National Rifle Meeting
19 – 21 September	British Pistol Championships

Other relevant dates are:

21 June	Dewar Trial and Match, Appleton
10 August	NSRA-Eley Finals (Prone & 3P)
4 – 5 October	NSRA-Eley Finals (Other events)

### **Postal Competitions**

#### **Summer Leagues (2013)**

All medals, prizes, vouchers and prize medals have now been distributed.

#### **Winter Leagues (2013-14)**

The first results are already back with the clubs; in fact a couple of the competition results were emailed out one week after the last date for shooting.

#### **Knock-Out Competitions**

A number of the knock-out competitions have completed their first rounds and some results are already in the post to clubs.

#### **NSRA-Eley Competition Finals**

The Eley finals were held on 11 August for the Prone and 3P Rifle and over the weekend of 5 and 6 October for the other events. From an organizer's point of view they ran quite smoothly with no major problems. Particular thanks are due to Dave Poxon for all his help in the run up to the October weekend and during those finals as well.

### **International Matches**

#### **Postal International Matches**

Successes in 2013 Rifle Matches were achieved in the Randle (by a single point) and the Wakefield, by a considerable margin. The scores were:

##### **Dewar**

United States of America	7838
Great Britain	7788
South Africa	7692

##### **Randle**

Great Britain	3989
United States of America	3988
South Africa	3946

**Wakefield**

Great Britain	5934
South Africa	5869
New Zealand	5854
Australia	5849
United States of America	5829
Canada	5827

**Drew**

Junior Men team of 3	
South Africa	1744
Great Britain	1743
United States of America	1721

**Junior Women team of 3**

United States of America	1740
New Zealand	1734
Great Britain	1716
South Africa	1707

**Junior team of 10**

United States of America	5753
South Africa	5750
Great Britain	5748

The scores for other teams in the Mayleigh Pistol Match, including the USA, are not yet known. However as the GB score of 2547 ex 3000 was 100 points lower than in 2012, it looks extremely unlikely that we will have successfully defended the trophy.

**Postal International Match Officials**

The Rifle Committee has appointed Mr John Dallimore and Mr Richard Watchorn as Captain and Adjutant respectively of the Dewar team for 2014 and 2015.

**ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS****Vice Chairman**

At the Meeting on 28 September the Board of Management re-appointed Mr Ken Nash as a Vice Chairman of the Association under Article 31 of the Articles of Association.

**Staff**

There have been several changes in the staff of Competitions department since the last Council meeting. **Charlotte Bates** has left the NSRA to return to New Zealand. **Jen Sumner** has returned to the department on a part-time basis, having left several years ago to start her family, whilst **Bryan Smith** joined last month.

**Fees for 2014****Affiliation and Membership**

The affiliation fees for 2014 were agreed by the Board of Management as:

**Clubs**

Over 75 members	£275
31 to 75 members	£215
16 to 30 members	£150
15 members or fewer	£115

**Junior Clubs**

Over 15 members	£145
15 members or fewer	£115

**Cat. B, C, D & E organisations**

£185

The membership fees for Individuals were also agreed as:

Annual	£83
Junior and FTE	£41
Associate	£63



### **Competitions**

The Board has decided that there should be a 5% increase in postal competition entry fees. However the Board is concerned at the variation in the levels of income and expenditure between the various National Meetings and will therefore review each case on its merits rather than setting a percentage increase across the board.

### **Christmas/New Year Break**

The NSRA Offices and BSW Ltd will close at 5.00 pm on Friday 20 December. The Shop closes at 5.00 pm and the Centre at 6.00pm, both on Sunday 22 December. All will re-open at 9.00 am on Thursday 2 January 2014.

### **Shooting Council Meeting Dates**

Council meetings in 2014 are scheduled for 15 March, 26 July (plus the Annual General Meeting) and 22 November.

### **Insurance**

For many years most of the NSRA's insurance needs have been met by Royal Sun Alliance. However, RSA has withdrawn from providing the breadth of cover demanded by many sports organizations, including NSRA. The NSRA's brokers, Perkins Slade, has put replacement cover in place through Hiscox Insurance Ltd. The NSRA and Perkins Slade Ltd have worked together to ensure that cover provided to member clubs and individuals as part of their package of affiliation benefits, is comparable, and in some situations an improvement.

### **Club and Association Anniversaries**

As announced in the last edition of *The Rifleman*, the Board of Management has decided that it would like to do more to recognise such anniversaries when they occur, and to do so wherever possible without the need to be prompted by the organisation itself. Provision has therefore been made on the membership database to record an affiliated organisation's year of founding and they have been invited to include this information, if known, on their re-affiliation papers for 2014.

### **British Shooting & Countryman Show 2014**

The British Shooting & Countryman Show will again be taking place at Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, but for 2014 has been extended to a three-day event taking place on Friday 14 to Sunday 16 February. As in previous years there will be an NSRA presence alongside the stands of the NRA, CPSA and other shooting organizations, and there will be also be an airgun range run by NSRA coaches.

### **Firearm Certificate Fees**

At a meeting on 8 October 2013 between the Home Office, BSSC (of which the NSRA is a member) and the police, it was agreed that a Working Party consisting of representatives of shooting organisations, Home Office, police and other interested parties would take part in a "back to basics" review of the costs of issuing Firearm Certificates and Registered Firearms Dealers Certificates.

It was stated that there would be no increase in fees until the review had been completed, which is unlikely to be before 2015.

### **Home Office Guidance on Firearms Law**

The Home Office has produced a new edition of its Guide to Firearms Licensing Law, which is available to download from the Government website. There is currently a link to the download on the NSRA website Home Page.

There was very little time available for members of the British Shooting Sports Council (including the NSRA) to digest and comment upon the new edition. As a result work is continuing and further amendments may be made in due course.



### **GCSE Shooting**

Following contact from Hartismere School in Suffolk the PE department have been provided with criteria to assess small-bore shooting for GCSE PE. These have now been given to the examining board (Edexcel) to allow GCSE candidates to use small-bore shooting as one of their preferred sports. This came about from a student who wished to use clay target shooting (who already had criteria in place) and small-bore shooting as separate sports. The assessment criteria were used to display how the two shooting sports are significantly different and can be used in separate submissions to Edexcel.

### **Range Officer Pack**

The NSRA Range Officer pack is under discussion. The final draft of the new pack has been circulated to the Coaching and Development Committee.

### **Durham Constabulary Consultative Meeting**

A meeting took place at Durham Constabulary HQ on 24th June to consult with the shooting community both nationally and locally. No papers or agenda were provided prior to the meeting as it was to be open forum discussion. However it became clear the main focus of the meeting was to discuss the measures being suggested by Durham police after the enquiry into the murders perpetrated by Michael Atherton at Horden. Atherton was a certificate holder and so the issue of certificates (for Section 1 and Section 2) has been under scrutiny – in particular the elements concerning the mental stability of certificate holders/applicants information on depression, medication etc. and other psychological factors.

The Durham Constabulary have been working in consultation with BASC for around 14 to 16 months on what may be done to prevent further occurrences of this type of crime and address the recommendations of the enquiry.

The main points were from the enquiry discussed were:

- Medical information - it appears that people are not telling the truth on this section of the form and the police were not investigating the declarations where nothing was declared. (Recommendation 7)
- The shooting community has low confidence in the Police and were unlikely to report problems. (Recommendation 10)
- FEOs were not trained well enough to make enquiries/decisions on the suitability of people to hold firearms. (Recommendation 13)

These are currently to be addressed by:

- Use of both Police National Computer information about convictions and also the Police National Database - which includes intelligence on individuals not necessarily resulting in conviction.
- Further medical involvement – using a system where the certificate holder/applicant copies the front of the application form and takes it to the GP who produces a letter providing further information to the Police. Clearly the medical profession have a view on this e.g. GPs are not qualified to make decisions on firearms licensing and are not agents of the state. Also there is a cost associated with this which would be variable and borne by the shooter.  
A pilot of this screening process was to be launched during July in Durham. However as it is not a legal requirement applicants may “opt out”.
- More training nationally and locally for FEOs.
- Steps to create a more open and honest dialogue between the Shooting community and the Police e.g. inclusion of the shooting community in PACT meetings (Police and Communities Together).

The consultation was generally considered to be useful and the involvement of national bodies on this occasion being appropriate. Outcomes of the pilot of the screening process and other measures are awaited with interest.



### **Benchrest**

Initial discussion has taken place with UKBR22 to start the development of a Club Instructor course for benchrest shooting. The representative from UKBR22 has been provided with a copy of the LSR course to look at the layout and start to work out the content. Some of the component sections will be transferable from other courses.

### **Scorers Course**

A total of 20 scorer's courses have now taken place including a course for NSRA staff at LRC. The current number of qualified scorers has increased to 242. Future courses are planned for; Sussex (November), Bedford (Feb), Hampton Rifle Club (Nov), Perth (x2), Nov, Cumbria (Feb), Oxfordshire (Jan), Sheffield (Jan), and for the Scouts (March). Courses in Lancashire, Darlington and Forres are currently being organised. Emphasis will now move to encouraging counties to take on the running of courses.

### **British Shooting – England Development Group**

#### **Cadet development**

Cadet development has been identified by British Shooting as a joint activity which would benefit all three target shooting NGBs.

- Raising the profile and highlighting the benefits of target shooting as a sport.
- Ensuring that the pathway for cadets within and across the target shooting disciplines links into the wider participation, talent and performance pathways in the sport enabling cadets to take full advantage of all opportunities available to them.
- Developing the relationship between the NGBs and the cadets for mutual benefit.

Two strands of activity were identified that centre on linking Cadet Units to clubs and ensuring that the developing talent pathways across the sport are open and accessible to cadets.

**Club and Cadet Engagement Project** – aimed at linking cadets to local club provision with a view to providing additional opportunities for them to participate and potentially compete in the sport and to support their transition from shooting within the cadets to mainstream participation in the sport.

This element of the programme would focus on identifying and overcoming potential barriers to Cadet participation in club shooting, creating a more "cadet friendly" club culture and supporting clubs to engage with Cadet Units at a local level.

**Cadet Talent Pathways** – supporting the identification and engagement of talented Cadet shooters into the recognised talent pathways within the sport.

It was suggested that pilot projects could centre on "hot spots" of cadet activity. In these areas appropriate clubs, local and regional structures within mainstream shooting could be linked to this. The experience of these pilot projects would then help to shape an overall national programme. It was also suggested that clubs who work well with Cadets (and young people generally) could be benchmarked.

The next steps are that an updated plan was to be prepared by the England Development Manager (Liz Davidson) and Brigadier Smales to solicit wider support and buy in for the development of this programme. Also clubs/ cadet units that offer an example of good practice are to be identified.

#### **Disability Shooting Project**

Work continues on the development of the Disability Shooting Project including a new overall plan and key performance indicators to track progress. The activities of the project now come under the



following headings:

- Marketing and Promotion
- Opportunities
- Guidance
- Competitions
- Talent
- Compliance
- Operational

Work has started in most sections but Talent development and compliance are the least advanced.

The main points to note from recent activities are:

- After several meetings with Wheelpower at Stoke Mandeville they have agreed to publicise shooting as a disabled-friendly sport through their communication networks. They have also agreed to facilitate a pilot project using laser shooting at a spinal unit in Sheffield. Discussion with further disability organisations is underway to see how shooting can be included in their activities.
- The DSP Gala event and awards took place at LRC on Sunday 8th September. The event was considered to be very successful and included not only the awards ceremony but also opportunities for networking and trying different disciplines and activities.
- British Team was very successful in the recent World Dwarf Games in which a total of 8 shooting medals were won by GB shooters – 5 in air pistol and 3 in crossbow events. Coaching development is now under discussion.
- Following the success of the DSP Regional Conferences a new season of events is currently being organised. The dates and venues are yet to be finalised.
- The Intellectual Disabilities Conference took place on 26th October at WMRSC. The aim of the conference was to discuss inclusion of people from this group of disabilities and to find examples of good practice currently taking place in the area. The conference was well attended and is likely to be the start of future development for this category of disability.
- The new Disability Shooting Document has been prepared and is being discussed by Clay Target and Full-bore representatives – it is hoped that one single document will be used by all disciplines.
- A video to help support people working with shooter with deafness is being considered by the DSP working group.
- Following a visit of representatives of the DSP to Deanshanger ARC, further development of the Blind/VI leagues is under discussion. Also the training of coaches to operate with Blind/VI shooters being considered.

#### **Focus Clubs**

The small-bore Focus Club standards for disabled inclusion have been applied to Leicester and District R and PC. The club have successfully completed the benchmarking process and are the first DSP Focus Club.

#### **Facilities Project**

Trio Plus, the consultants engaged by British Shooting to carry out the BS Facilities project have presented the returns of their survey. The survey supports much of the current anecdotal information about clubs and shows that:

- 78% of NRA/NSRA clubs are keen to attract new members
- 57% of clubs based at CPSA affiliated grounds are keen to attract new members

There is a range of information currently available that clubs can access via the NGB websites and other sports organisations like CSPs and Sport England on increasing participation, getting funding, marketing and promotion etc. However, this is not always easy to find, up to date or simple to apply specifically to the needs of shooting clubs. To address this, a proposal has been made to pull together



this information, supported by relevant sport specific case studies into a comprehensive toolkit that will provide ideas, tools and tips that clubs wishing to grow membership can utilise.

- Information on where the best opportunities to grow the sport may be and ideas on capitalising on these e.g. Cadets and other uniformed groups,
- Customer insight – what do potential/new participants want from a club?
- Ideas and tools (e.g. sample posters, images, press releases that clubs can access) to help clubs to raise the profile of the sport locally and promote themselves to potential new members.
- Hints and tips on delivering sessions to new participants. Who, where, how etc.
- Information on possible sources of funding to help with increasing participation and membership
- Examples of good practice and how other shooting clubs have increased their membership

The next stage is to confirm EDG support for development of toolkit, agree project budget and timescales and then produce a project plan.

The consultants have also produced a draft document on "Advice for Target Shooting" which, when complete, will give further advice to clubs on facilities development.

### **Pathway Development**

Steve Seligmann has been appointed as the new BS Pathway Manager and has started work on the development of the shooter pathways within the Olympic and Commonwealth Games disciplines.

### **GB Performance Pathway**

A 2 day meeting took place in Cardiff on 27th and 28th August to discuss and begin the development of the Athlete Pathway for Olympic shooting disciplines – in particular the transition between Home Country/Commonwealth Games level and World Class.

It emerged that a GB Academy, which operates in the area between Home Country and World Class Squads, would be necessary to cover the current gap in the athlete pathway.

Further working group meetings are being planned to look at the other sections of the pathway.

### **England Talent Pathway**

An initial meeting took place in September at CPSA HQ to discuss England Talent Pathways.

The objective of the meeting was to bring the respective NGBs together and begin discussions about England Talent Pathways and to build an action plan for the next 12-36 months. The objective is to outline the current England Talent Pathways (shotgun, rifle, pistol), establish what are the mechanisms that feed into the pathway and how the pathway integrates with the GB pathway. From the initial meeting the mission statement has become:

*To deliver an effective and sustainable England Talent Pathway that recruits and develops target shooters from local and regional level to fulfil their potential and to become capable of progressing along the GB Performance Pathway.*

Discipline specific groups have been formed and the smallbore group has representation from NSRA, ESSU and DTSGB. This group has started to map out the optimal ETP for small-bore target shooting and explore how the future ETP can be delivered.

It was generally thought that the best outcome is a simple pathway that was understandable by all. Coaching and competition pathways also need to be developed alongside the ETP.