

Cornwall Target Shooting Association

Registered Charity Number 258147



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

NSRA Shooting Council report 27th July 2013

After the snow and ice that greeted us at the March meeting near 30 degree heat and a very large turnout for the hot rod event was a welcome change for this weekend.

The AGM was held at 12pm and the Shooting Council meeting at 1pm.

There will be a reduction in the number of firing points available on the Century Range for the small bore meeting which has resulted in the Historic arms and TA competitions at the weekend having to be cancelled.

Some updating of the computer systems for the electronic targets on the Malcolm Cooper range has taken place but as the system is now 13 years old the NSRA is awaiting a report from the manufacturers following an inspection.

Following the decision last year to change the way in which the association charges counties for competition entry fees there had only been about a 10% drop in entries but the income to the association had remained about the same.

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

The next Shooting Council meeting is due to be held on the 23rd November 2013.

P.L.Ralph

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT TO THE SHOOTING COUNCIL

27th JULY 2013

SHOOTING MATTERS

National Meetings

50-metre Rifle Championships, Bisley

The Championships were held at the beginning of June and was the first NSRA meeting to follow the new ISSF rules on shooting times and the format of finals. However it was decided not to use decimal scoring for the Elimination and Qualification phases of the Prone Rifle matches, as the electronic target systems had not yet been updated to make this feasible whilst maintaining a rapid results service.

The entry rose from 129 last year, when the meeting had to be held towards the end of September, to 145.

Scottish Rifle Meeting, Lauder

It was disappointing that despite the return to Lauder, a venue that has been popular with shooters in the past and is amongst the most accessible to shooters around the country, the final entry did not get back above the 200 mark. In fact at 191 it was virtually unchanged from the entry of 193 at Dumfries in 2012.

The Board of Management will consider what action to take at their meeting on Friday, 26th July. The event itself was blessed with good weather and ran smoothly.

National Rifle Meeting, Bisley

The latest estimate from Competitions Department is an entry of 667 competitors, the final entry for 2012 being 664.

The NRA has decided that it is necessary for their purposes to further reduce the number of firing points available to us. In consequence of this and the continuing popularity of the Weekend Aggregate, it was decided that it would not be possible to make the usual space available on the first weekend for the Classic and Veteran competitions, and also events for the Territorial Army. It is the firm wish that these will be temporary measures only and that these competitions will be re-instated in the programme for 2014.

It was also decided to cancel the Lightweight Sport Rifle competition, for which space on Century Range needed to be reserved throughout the meeting and which in 2012 attracted entries from only two people. The Pistol, Airgun and Crossbow Committee are, however, undertaking a review of LSR shooting, which will include looking at options for future shoulder-to-shoulder competitions. The more popular Benchrest competition has been retained, and following comments from the competitors last year, two purpose-built shooting benches have been obtained for the meeting. The annual match between the British and Danish Schools will also go ahead, but has been re-located to the Malcolm Cooper Range, where the new ISSF timings have allowed additional capacity to be made available.

In 2012 the Rifle Committee accepted an offer from Bideford Rifle Club to undertake a scheme to provide information both before and during the meeting to competitors entering it for the first time. This was a very successful and well-received experiment and the help desk set up at the meeting also give advice to many individuals who had shot previously at the meeting.

The scheme is being repeated in 2013 and information packs containing maps of the camp and surrounding area, details of clubhouses on the camp providing food and other facilities, and notes about how the meeting is run and other useful advice, have been sent to a total of 71 competitors

whose entry forms indicated that they were first-time entrants, i.e. about 11% of the UK-resident entrants. Not all entrants give a date of birth, but of the 71 newcomers who did, 31 are juniors and nine are aged 60 or over. 47 have entered the Weekend Aggregate, 30 the Championship Aggregate; 13 have entered both.

The breakdown of the prone classification of the 71 shooters is Class A – 3; Class B – 9; Class C – 20; Class D – 38; plus one competitor shooting only three position competitions.

National Pistol Meeting, Bisley

The Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee will be meeting following the conclusion of the Council to finalise the programme for the National Pistol Meeting on 20th to 22nd September. The entry form will be made available as soon as possible after thereafter.

The major addition to the programme will be the shooting of the British Open Pistol Championship for the Gallie Trophy, which in recent years had alternated between Jersey and Northern Ireland.

International Matches

Pershing Match

The match was shot on 23rd July. Preliminary information is that the United States has retained the trophy, but the scores are not to hand at the time of going to press.

Junior International

For the 21st consecutive year the NSRA's Junior Rifle and Pistol Squad will be hosting an international match at Lord Roberts Centre on 5th to 8th August. Having attracted about 160 entries in each of the last six years, the 2013 event has a record registered entry of 206. This includes a team from the United States for the first time in several years, 46 shooters from seven organisations in South Africa and the regular teams from Oldenburg in NW Germany and Denmark. The British competitors are in teams representing the Squad, Home Countries, the Scout National Shooting Squad and Cadet Regions.

The programme covers ISSF air rifle and air pistol as well as Sporter Air Rifle competitions.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

NSRA Committees

Following the retirement of Charlie Batten as Cornwall's representative on the Shooting Council, the Special Awards Committee has co-opted his successor, Philip Ralph, to fill the vacancy.

Staff

Tina Hennessy retired in April, having joined the Association in 1995. She came into contact with many coaches and organisations involved with the Youth Proficiency Scheme in her role providing clerical support for the relevant schemes. The work is covered now by the Membership Services team, which has subsequently been augmented with the appointment of Ruth Tytherleigh.

NSRA Website

Towards the end of June the NSRA website was subject to a hacking attack and was seriously damaged. A temporary replacement site has been put in place with such material as could be salvaged from the former site, but there are major gaps in the material previously available. In particular downloads are not working and the information contained in the calendars and Club Finder has been lost.

Work is proceeding urgently on the construction of a new and secure site, but it is recognised that it will take some time to re-establish features such as the Club Finder, for which clubs will have to be invited to submit new material. The opportunity will also be taken later in the process to seek advances in our electronic interface with shooters, such as on-line entries for National Meetings and wider coverage of competition results.

Scorer's Course

The roll-out of the new Scorers Course has continued. The current number of qualified scorers is 136. Further courses are planned for Wickham (July), Havant (Aug), Maidenhead (Aug), Burnham (Sept) and Middlesex (Sept).

Sport England Funding 2009-13

The 2009-13 funding cycle came to an end on 31st March 2013. The NSRA Projects section of the BS Whole Sport Plan was based around regional and national development initiatives as in the original WSP. Three regions were identified for development based on Active People Survey and internal insight which were; North East, West Midlands and the South East. It was felt that these regions were the places we could have the biggest impact from a development perspective.

In each of the target regions it was felt that a Regional Development Manager post was critical to coordinate interventions and improve communications to clubs, county and regional organisations. However the demands and work "on the ground" were quite different in each region.

In the North East which was the first region to start on the development a RDM was put in place on a part time basis. A Regional Development Hub site was established at Easingwold Rifle and Pistol Club and a program of supported coaching courses set up and run. The region already had a well-established Rifle Squad which was given some support to extend its activities and a new Regional Pistol Squad was set up for the first time.

In the West Midlands a part time RDM was appointed and his initial remit was to improve communications across the region by providing a single point of contact for clubs and associations and for external bodies (CSPs etc.). Next a program of supported coaching courses set up and run to improve the coaching provision. The region had both rifle and pistol squads but these were linked together as part of the project to give economy of scale and some support given to their activities e.g. rapid fire target equipment installed at WMRSC for squads.

In the South East a part time RDM was appointed and the initial task was to set up and run a South East Regional Rifle Squad. This was particularly important as the region contains the National centre and the systems developed during this process were to become a template for future squads. The SE already had a well-established coach education team and so support was given to help them increase the number of courses available in the region to enhance the coaching provision.

Beyond this some national initiatives took place. A leaflet entitled Truth v Myth to counter the negative arguments around shooting was produced and printed to support clubs and other organisations when dealing with outside agencies.

Development of courses for officials started with the Scorers' Course which was developed and piloted and the roll-out of the first courses was supported. Also assistance has been provided to help put in place a Marshals' Course for the discipline of field target via the British Field Target Association.

Some support was provided for nationally based courses – 2 County Coach courses were run and development of the new Regional Coach course commenced.

The minority group project was aimed at developing shooting for the blind and visually impaired. Blind shooting equipment was acquired to help showcase shooting for blind and visually impaired people in their associations and centres.

The funding for the regional development hub was used to upgrade the target control at the national centre as it was felt that this was necessary to support not only the sub elite development in the region but also have an impact nationally in providing adequate targetry for training and competition.

British Shooting – England Development Group

The new 2013–17 Whole Sport Plan which is being funded by Sport England commenced at the beginning of April. The plan is based around four main areas; support for British Shooting infrastructure, talent development, disability shooting project and NGB projects. As an example of the kind of work being undertaken, cadet development has been identified as a joint activity which would benefit all three NGBs and British Shooting are looking at ways to better engage with the cadet force.

Further to this, British Shooting has started a facilities mapping exercise which aims to map out all the shooting facilities in all disciplines across the country.

As part of the new funding round British Shooting have appointed more staff to implement the plans – these are; Steve Steligman the new BS Pathway Manager and Liz Davidson the new England Development Manager. The Athlete High Performance Manager is Tim Newenham, whilst Liz Woodall continues to drive the DSP.

County Sports Partnerships will continue to have a role over the next 4-year cycle and as a Sport England funded sport, clubs and associations will be able to receive their support locally. This is particularly useful for clubs wishing to access funding for development.

Although the total funding to be received from Sport England during the 2013-17 cycle has increased from that in the previous four years, much of it is being used on activities within British Shooting, and as a result the amount available directly to fund activities within NGBs, including the NSRA, has reduced.

Disability Shooting Project

The new operational plan for the Disabled Shooting Project has been based around the following elements:

- To raise the public profile of target shooting as a disabled-friendly sport.
- To offer people with any disability the chance to take part in target shooting on equal terms with able bodied.
- To provide advice and support to clubs wishing to develop shooting for disabled.
- To offer existing target shooters the best possible chance of continuing to take part in the sport despite any infirmity or disability.
- To encourage the development of target shooting competitions in which disabled and non-disabled shooters are integrated.
- To work with DTSGB to help broaden the base of the talent pathway for disabled shooters.

Current DSP activities

The Regional Conferences have been completed and are considered to have been a success – so much so that further conferences are being planned for the next 12 months and new venues being sought albeit with a similar geographical spread.

A DSP Volunteer group is being formed to provide a focus for those doing volunteer work in shooting. Two members have been recruited from the Regional Conferences, and others are being identified.

The NRA extended the military adaptive shoot they ran last year to include disabled civilian shooters in this year's programme.

The NRA is continuing to investigate the integration of Blind and VI shooting into their disciplines. This requires a NOPTTEL system as the standard blind/VI audio system would be difficult to adapt to their requirements.

The inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities is under discussion. A conference is being arranged to discuss the matter with those currently involved in the area. From this it is hoped to gain insight into what the spectrum of disability is, what special considerations need to be made for certain disabilities and how to cater for this disability group.

In 2013 disabled categories (for standing and sitting) are included for the first time in the CPSA English Open competitions/championships and also in the British Olympic Trap Championships.

The nominations for the DSP Awards closed on 30th June. The presentation event will take place at LRC on Sunday 8th September.

Focus Clubs

The system of benchmarking clubs which cater for people with disabilities has started and these are to be called Disability Focus Clubs. A set of standards for the benchmarking has been developed and piloted and the scheme is ready to launch. Once established this will allow enquiries from disabled people to be directed to the clubs that can best cater for them.

Certification for Using Military Ranges

The following announcement was posted on the NSRA website Home Page on 5th July.

The Ministry of Defence have issued a new policy and guidance on the use of military ranges by civilian clubs. The policy requires clubs to obtain Certificates of Competence from the relevant governing body. In the case of full-bore clubs the certificate needs to be obtained from the NRA. The NSRA continues to grant Certificates of Competence for all small-bore disciplines. The Association has asked the Ministry of Defence to clarify several points within the new policy and awaits their response. Once the response is received we will update members.

No response has yet been received and the position therefore remains unchanged.

Range Safety Inspections

To ensure compliance with the range safety criteria and affiliation insurance, an increasing number of affiliated clubs are requesting range inspections and certification of their ranges. On completion of the inspection, the NSRA issues a NGB Range Safety Certificate which is recognized by the Home Office, the Police and the NSRA insurers. The Association encourages those clubs who have yet to complete this process, to contact Ali Aitken at the NSRA to discuss their requirements and their plans for the future of their ranges.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT TO THE SHOOTING COUNCIL

26th JULY 2013

Supplementary Report

SHOOTING MATTERS

Scottish Rifle Meeting, Lauder, 2014

The Board of Management has confirmed that the Scottish Meeting will be held at Lauder on 28th June to 4th July.

The Board is concerned to do everything it can to increase the entry to the meeting. It has therefore been agreed to enlist the help of shooters who have supported the meeting this year or in the past, and who therefore know how convivial it can be for a group of shooters to attend. Thus any competitor in 2014 whose entry is accompanied by an entry from a person who has not previously taken part in one of our Scottish Meetings will be entitled to a 25% refund of his entry fees for individual competitions.

International Matches

Pershing Match

The NRA of America fielded a team of outstanding quality to defend the Pershing Trophy. It is no understatement to say they did it in style, as their score of 3998 ex 4000 was the highest in the history of the match with the exception of 1989.

The scores were:

United States	3998-339X	Great Britain	3987-298X
Michael McPhail	400-39X	Ken Bowley	400-31X
Eric Uptagrafft	400-37X	Richard Simpson	400-29X
Michael Seery	400-37X	Rob Dowling	399-32X
Reya Kempley	400-36X	Dave Binney	399-30X
Robert Gustin	400-35X	Peter Stanley	399-29X
Katie Bridges	400-34X	Nick Clark	399-27X
Joseph Hein	400-34X	Sinclair Bruce	398-32X
Henry Gray	400-30X	Graham Shedden	398-32X
Nancy Thomkins	399-35X	Wendy Foith	398-26X
Stephen Angeli	399-28X	Richard Fowke	397-30X

Randle Goodwill Match

The letter from the President of the NRA of America inviting the NSRA to contest the Pershing Trophy also included an invitation to British ladies to take part in a Randle Goodwill Match. A small team of ladies did go to Camp Perry and although full details are not yet to hand, the result was a win for the USA team by 1594 points to 1592 ex 1600.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Scoring of NSRA Postal Competitions

Reference was made in the main report to the growing number of Scorers' Courses being run and the increasing number of scorers gaining the qualification.

The Board has now agreed that the detailed work should start with a view to the first NSRA leagues where clubs can submit scores electronically instead of posting cards to appointed scorers taking place

in the Summer season 2014. To be able to use the local-scoring option, the club will need to have the services of a scorer qualified under the NSRA Scheme. Initial thoughts are that the leagues involved would be National/Scottish Long Range Leagues and/or the 50m/50yd League. These leagues have been chosen as ones where there could be the greatest financial benefit to clubs in reducing their postage costs.

This decision is being announced now so that clubs which do not currently have qualified scorers will have time to arrange for appropriate people to take part in courses and be licensed.

Longer Term Strategy

Members of the Board of Management have recently held a series of meetings on a range of issues centred around defining the longer term strategy for the Association and its relationship with its individual members, affiliated organisations and other shooters in the disciplines for which it is the NGB. The Board is expected to consider the first report from these strategy meetings early this autumn.

British Shooting – England Development Group

Although the total funding to be received from Sport England during the 2013-17 cycle was increased by 52% to £1.14m, the amount received by each NGB was decreased by 42% to £50,000. The only bright part is that Sport England has looked favourably on the Disability Shooting Project with funding increased significantly to £220,000. This is excellent news and should enable many more disabled people to take up the sport.

Subsidiary Companies

Jean Coleman has been appointed Chairman of the Boards of NSRA Ltd and BSW Ltd, in succession to Mike Chapman. Mike remains a Director of both companies.