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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 01<sup>st</sup> August 2015

On reading the Obituaries in the Chief Executive's report below many Cornish shooters will have known one or more of the three people in the report, Mary Maiden, Jenny Page and Jack Hesketh.

At the AGM the Treasurer reported a loss of about £28,000 during the year but was pleased to report a slight profit in the first six months of 2015.

At the end of the AGM I attended a tree planting ceremony in the grounds of the Lord Roberts Centre in memory of the late Eric Douglass.

A "bat licence" has now been obtained for the hotel site and work should commence by spring 2016.

The proposal to reduce the size of the county teams in the prone rifle Inter County League and the Inter County Knockout competitions from 20 to 15 was narrowly defeated so the team size will remain at 20.

There will be a collection made for Brian Woodall who left the association in April.

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

The next Shooting Council meeting is due to be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2015.

P.L.Ralph

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

### **1 AUGUST 2015**

#### **Obituaries**

It is with regret that I report the deaths of the following:

**Mary Maiden** – A stalwart of the Hampshire County Association and Small-bore Shooting generally. The Association and Board were officially represented at the funeral by Robert Loughridge

**Jenny Page** – A former member of Wimbledon Park Rifle Club and a member of staff at the NSRA. The Association and Board were represented at the funeral by Dee Fuller and a number of other staff members.

**Jack Hesketh** – Previously Chief Statistic Officer and Assistant Secretary for the NSRA. The Association and Board were represented at the funeral by Dee Fuller and John Elliott.

#### **SHOOTING MATTERS**

##### **European Championships Maribor**

Jen McIntosh secured a place in the final of the 3 x 20 European Championships and her performance in the final was rewarded with a Quota Place at the Rio Olympics in the same event.

Hannah Pugsley took Silver medals in the 300m Prone Championship and the 300m 3P Championship.

##### **World Cup**

Kenny Parr qualified for the final of the 50m Mens Prone event at the Munich World Cup event in May the first British man to do so for a considerable length of time.

##### **National Meetings**

##### **British 50 Metre Championship 2015 (5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> June)**

This year's meeting was a great success. We had a total of 141 competitors, which was an increase of 10 on last year. The targetry did not cause many problems and allowances were made for those lanes that were not working either properly or at all and had been identified at competitions run earlier in the year. Taking this into account we were only able to squad 7 competitors per bay which meant that there were restrictions. This meant that we were very close to capacity. Repairing broken targetry is made more difficult as we no longer have spare parts all that we have had have been used. The only alternative therefore is to replace the targetry and this has a significant cost associated with it. Options are being explored.



### **Bench-rest Championship 2015 (12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June)**

The NSRA ran its first Bench-rest Championship over the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> June. These Championships were run under WRABF rules ( World Rimfire & Air Rifle Benchrest Federation). Although the number of competitors was small, the Championships went well and will be used as a blueprint for next year. It is envisaged that the Championships next year will be a joint WRABF/NSRA Championship and the NSRA element of these championships will include 25Yd indoor & 50 Metre outdoor as well as the WRABF disciplines. There are a large number of potential competitors around the country so we will require another ten benches so that we can accommodate the potential numbers which will enter. It would be helpful if County Representatives can disseminate to their constituent clubs information about the Championships and the fact that it will be expanded next year.

### **Scottish Meeting 2015 (Lauder)**

The Scottish Meeting this year was again held in Lauder between 4 -10 July. There were 197 entries which was lower than the 205 that entered last year. The actual decrease was larger as the number of competitors this year included an extra 10 juniors from one of the Scottish schools. This means that the actual number of competitors was down by approximately 10% on last year. There needs to be a concerted effort to increase entry at the Scottish Meeting to ensure its longevity. The meeting itself went very well and the occasional rain shower didn't detract from the competition. The 2016 Scottish meeting will again be held at Lauder

### **Bisley 2015**

The planning for the Bisley Meeting is progressing well. Unfortunately at the closing date of the 8th July we had only received 520 entries. We have allowed late entries and as of the 27<sup>th</sup> July we have 571. This number of entries is approximately 30 down on last year. Last year's entry was the lowest on record. The decrease in entries is severely impacting on the profile of the meeting with some competitions only attracting a hand full of entries. Lower entries also impact on the finances of the meeting and with the Competitions and Events Team being asked to decrease their losses the lower entries for Bisley don't help that objective. Costs are increasing annually in relation to range hire fees etc so there needs to be a way to make the Bisley Meeting more financially viable. It would be very useful if County Representatives could go back to their counties and clubs and identify what would encourage more shooters to enter Bisley and indeed all of our competitions and events. The Association is presently reviewing the medals and awards structure because this too has a considerable cost associated with it.

Attempts are being made to secure Century range for the Bisley Meeting in 2016 and 2017 to allow for better forward planning.

### **Eley (2015)**

The second stage of the 2015 Eley Competition was completed back in April. The results were processed upon receipt of all the scores and the finalist lists for all the disciplines were published.

### **Summer Postal Leagues**

Most of the postal leagues are progressing well and we are keeping to the timetable in regard to the issuing of results.

### **Winter Postal leagues**

Due to problems with the number of inserts which could be included with the Summer Rifleman the Winter Postal Entry Forms were sent out by post and not with the Rifleman.

### **Pistol Championships**

Entry forms for the Pistol Championships being held in September have been sent out by email and are also available on the web site.

In general results have been uploaded on to the NSRA Website as quickly as possible after an event. The Association has received positive feedback about the speed with which results have been made available.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Staffing**

Elaine Grant, who worked in the Membership team, left the Association at the end of April.

### **Scorers Course**

The current number of qualified scorer's is now 931 from 80 courses held. The update of the course materials is completed and will be distributed to trainers ahead of forthcoming courses.

### **Run Shoot/Target Sprint**

Following the development of Run Shoot (combination of running and air pistol shooting) in partnership with Modern Pentathlon the development of the Target Sprint (combination of running and air pistol shooting) has commenced. This will include not only the ISSF "full" version of the event but includes NSRA versions using shorter distances and larger targets appropriate to the age and stage of the participants. A meeting took place at LRC on 9<sup>th</sup> June to discuss the development of the discipline. It was agreed that the ISSF version of the event should provide the basis for development but variants would be necessary to help introduce it to Scouts, Cadets etc. This could be labelled "NSRA Target Sprint" to differentiate it from the full ISSF event and would probably use larger 45mm targets at 10m, use Sporter type rifles and involve a shorter 200m run. The minimum qualification for delivery of Target Sprint would be YPS Tutor Rifle with a Target Sprint add-on. A fact sheet is being produced on the new event along with materials for the deliverer's course similar to those produced for Run Shoot.

Pilot competitions have taken place as part of the Surrey Games on 21<sup>st</sup> June at Guildford and at the Sainsbury's Somerset School Games held at Millfield. The Target Sprint events prove far easier and simple to organise than Run Shoot which uses Modern Pentathlon style scoring. Target Sprint is proving more straightforward for the athletes & spectators to understand.

### **England Development Group**

British Shooting is attempting to improve the data they collect and use it to identify the measures they have to enable them to report the success of the programmes funded by Sport England. They need



measures on membership to back up the system measures they have for the various projects (e.g. numbers of disabled people attending taster sessions) which will show a real change in participation.

### **Cadets on Target Programme**

The next steps in this programme have been discussed. It was agreed to encourage and develop activity with cadets at a grassroots level. It is thought that this can be best achieved by more direct communication with County Shooting Officers and Cadets to raise awareness of the Talent Pathway and opportunities available to them such as:

- Encouraging and supporting local activity between clubs, counties and units
- "Twinning" between clubs and units – forming more formal links between clubs and units
- Sharing information on the talent pathway in particular forming links to Regional Squads
- Identification and linking units to NSRA coaches/ instructors that might help support shooter development
- Increase presence at Cadet Competitions where appropriate to raise awareness of these opportunities.

This has started by facilitating meetings between Cadet Leaders and NSRA County Representatives in Derbyshire and Berkshire.

### **British Shooting Talent Programme**

The Performance Director Steve Seligmann has been asked about the status of single discipline shooters in the current pathway. Historically development of multi discipline shooters has been encouraged to give best chance of selection. No decision has been made as yet but this is important in that it shapes the way forward with Regional and Junior Squads.

To help sub-elite recruitment another Target Tokyo project is being considered by British Shooting. It is interesting to note that 2 of the 3 selected at the final stage of the last Target Tokyo campaign were ex-Scouts.

Following the cancellation of the Coaching Conference British Shooting has arranged for the funding to be carried over for a similar future conference. The format of this is under discussion. Alan Olive the consultant on coaching development, and who organised the conference, is no longer working with British Shooting.

Sport England has recruited a new Relationship Manager for shooting who is Chris Coleman. Chris was formally a Community Sport Relationship Manager.

### **England Appointments**

England has now completed their interviews for new squad coaches. Steve Downes has been appointed lead coach for the Rifle Squad and George Darling for the Pistol Squad

### **British Shooting Disability Work**

Over the past 6 months BS has provided opportunities for 600 disabled people to try the sport with a target of 1500 by April 15. They are now looking at how to track retention and which partnerships prove the most fruitful.

In October British Shooting are looking to run a weekend coach education course with DSGB. This will be based on the current DSGB module on disabled coaching. This will be an opportunity to involve NSRA educators so that the course can be delivered more regularly outside Stoke Mandeville.

British Shooting have been speaking to the Disabled Shooters Group about opportunities to introduce more disabled people to clay shooting and met with CPSA in May.

### **National Paralympics Day**

Following on from the Paralympics 2012, a National Paralympics Day was organised to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> July. Events took place throughout the country in a variety of sports – British Shooting put together a calendar of events involving NSRA affiliated clubs and others that formed the shooting section of the event.

### **Dwarf Sports Association UK**

The Dwarf Sports Association UK now has received 12 rifles and 6 pistols to support their development project. Clubs are being identified at which these can be placed and work continues on the development of a portable range for the association to use.

The recent DSAUK Games took place at Aldersley with the shooting event at WMRSC. 36 participants took part in the event - Warwick Davis doing well in the senior rifle event.

### **Visually Impaired**

The IPC has commissioned a team from Cambridge to look at the classification criteria for Visually Impaired Shooters. During the competition at Stoke Mandeville the VI shooters were assessed by a group of sports scientists who have then gone on to look at a Welsh Squad training session at Cardiff to compare their findings with able bodied shooters. This combined research should help produce a system for classification and will be reported back to the IPC in Bonn.

### **Benchrest Development**

Discussion and testing of prototype NSRA Benchrest targets has taken place. The target will be usable with either telescope or aperture sights. The prototype 50m and 25yard/metre targets have been trialled at Glevum by international style BR shooters and also at Sywell by NSRA rules shooters. The shooters report that the target is useable and the difference from the international target is acceptable to that style of shooter.

The NSRA BR Championships took place at LRC on 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June under International Rules. The quality of the competition is important to Benchrest shooters as National Championship scores can be included in World Rankings. Following the event quite a few people have made positive comments and many others (some not shooting in the competition) requesting that future championships in the event include NSRA style BR shooting.

For NSRA BR to be included in the next National Meeting at least another 10 benches would be required to facilitate the competition. To encourage more participation in the main event it is felt that a pilot 25 yard NSRA BR meeting at LRC in advance of the National Championships would be a good lead-in. This would use the new NSRA targets and take place in March 2016 with the main Championships taking place in June 2016.

The competition also provided an opportunity to see the flow of competition, the application of the rules and to gain more information for inclusion in the Club Instructor Course.

The World Airgun and Rimfire Benchrest Championships have recently taken place in Australia. Support has been given for the GB International BR team with subsidised tracksuit jackets for team members. Also the NSRA was represented at the General Meeting of the World Federation which took place at the event.



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

The final draft of the report on the Regional and Junior Squads has been completed and was presented to the Board on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

### **Child Protection and Safeguarding**

Following meetings with British Shooting and representatives from NRA and CPSA, the NSRA Child Protection document has been upgraded. The final draft of the new NSRA Safeguarding document has been completed in alignment with the British Shooting update and will be launched in August 2015. To support coaches and others working with young people in target shooting an NSRA Safe-Card has been developed. This (not unlike the "Yellow Card" used by the Scout Association) acts as a general aide-memoir on safeguarding and provides a practical Code of Practice. This card has already been printed and distributed in The Rifleman to affiliated clubs, coaches and individual members. British Shooting has been provided with a copy of the "Safe-Card" and is keen to use this for themselves and other NGBs. The next documents to be developed support NSRA clubs will cover Transgender, Equality and Whistleblowing.

### **Crossbow**

A further NSRA Youth Proficiency Scheme Tutor Crossbow Course has taken place and involved several County Coaches and above who attended with a view to delivering the course in the future. In discussions and feedback following the course, several issues emerged about the material and its delivery. As a result a working group is to be formed from these coaches and others to review the material and look at the way Sport Crossbow is rolled-out to Scouts etc. Chris Aston has provided an editable electronic copy of the manual to help with the development.

### **Local Scoring**

As previously reported the check on the quality of, and progress with, Local Scoring is being evaluated on the National Long Range Competition and the Scottish League namely competitions 100 and 101. We are checking the standard of the local scorers over the first three rounds. This is being done in the following way:

All local scorers are scoring round one and completing a scoring sheet. They are then sending in their scored cards. In total there were 58 Local scorers scoring Round 1. Of that 58, 13 scorers made errors that meant they needed to send in Round 2 cards. One scorer received a red so was asked not to score any more cards (he is now being mentored with his club), and Four scorers received warnings as they made one error. Of the 13, eight made at least one serious error.

In Round 2 four scorers again made serious errors and in line with the paperwork sent out at the beginning of the season they have been asked to revert to sending their cards for central scoring. Five scorers made no errors and have been told to continue local scoring, the other scorers have been asked to send in round 3 cards.

Round 4 of the National league has been completed and the checking of the cards and scoring has only recently been started. As with last Year Ken Nash is looking at the cards that have been returned and assessing the quality of the local scoring. A significant number of errors has again been identified however the analysis of these errors and their implication is yet to be done. As a result we are unable to say at present whether the errors are any better or worse than last year.

### **Cambridgeshire Target Shooting Association**

The CTSA is still moving forward with its appeal against the Charity Commission's decision not to grant the Association Charitable Status. The achievement of Charitable Status is vital if the CTSA is to build a new range utilising Sport England Funding. Without it the cost of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which would be applied by the local authority, would be too great to make the project financially viable. The CTSA is trying to raise funds as the appeal is a costly process. A collection tin was arranged for the Scottish Meeting and some contributions were kindly forthcoming. The Collection Tin will be available during the Bisley Meeting in the hope that more contributions will be forthcoming. If successful the appeal will provide a useful precedence that other organisations, including shooting clubs, will hopefully be able to use.

### **Downloading**

Following the last Shooting Council Meeting on the 21 March 2015 Mr Jeffries, the Shooting Council Representative from Durham and Cleveland, met with Dr Holdstock in his capacity as author of the draft Downloading Policy and Procedure. Further simple amendments were made and the Policy was then sent to Perkins Slade, the Association's Insurance Broker, and Hiscox Limited the Associations Insurance Broker and provider. Further discussion took place and the Policy was both approved and adopted by Hiscox. Insurance cover is now provided for all the activities identified in the guidance although it is only applicable if the policy and guidance has been followed. There is a requirement for any shooter practising any of the approved activities to formally sign up the guidance with a copy being held at the club or range where the approved activity is being undertaken.

### **Shutters in the Ground Floor Ranges at the Lord Roberts Centre**

At the last meeting of the Shooting Council I outlined the situation and problem in relation to the shutters. The Association has had support trestles/columns made which are placed underneath the doors. The HSE are happy and have accepted these safety supports as an interim measure. We can continue to use the range as previously, with the supports in place, until the court case with the manufacturers of the doors has been concluded. The HSE's lead officer very much liked the way we had dealt with the situation and the safety mechanism that was developed. He complimented the speed with which the Association had responded and asked if he could refer other venue operators who had the same problem to us. Work continues with other suppliers who are working on acceptable additions for the doors if the court case finds that the doors are fundamentally dangerous and unsafe. The Association is also costing alternatives but initial research has shown that the cost of replacement will be very expensive.

### **Rifleman**

The autumn edition of the Rifleman will be dispatched Week Commencing 28 September 2015.

### **Law Commission Consultation**

The Law Commission published a scoping consultation paper on the 21 July 2015. This paper identifies the most pressing problems in firearms law, making provisional proposals for remedies and asking consultees for their views on the suitability of those remedies.

The current law fails to define some of its key terms. Early consultation with stakeholders suggested that the failure to define "lethal" and "component part" causes considerable difficulties in practice for the police and CPS as well as the licensed firearms community. The aim in provisionally proposing how these terms ought to be interpreted is to aid clarity, which will benefit everyone who has to deal with the law. It is also hoped that this will mean that enforcement becomes more efficient.



Some areas of firearms law have failed to keep pace with technological developments. For example, the test for determining whether an imitation firearm can be converted into a live firearm originates from 1982. The aim is to ensure the law reflects the ease with which firearms might be converted in the modern world.

From the Law Commission's perspective it is clear from meetings held with a broad range of stakeholders that the current law is unsatisfactory in a variety of different ways. It is the provisional view that there is need for a wholesale reform of firearms legislation, and consultees are being asked whether they agree. The NSRA and all other major shooting governing bodies are working with the British Shooting Sports Council to formulate a collective and comprehensive response.

### **NSRA Websites**

The Association is undertaking a process to ensure we communicate with our members and the outside world as regularly and effectively as possible. A website for the Lord Roberts Centre was introduced in 2014 with the intention of promoting the centre and all the activities that it hosts. The intention behind this was to increase usage levels and income. It has stimulated more interest which is positive. This website is presently being refreshed.

A new website for the NSRA Shop was launched in late March this year again with the intention of attracting more business particularly for online purchases. The website has received very positive feedback and both hits and sales have increased since it was launched.

Members of staff have been trained on how to update the present websites including the existing Charity website. More photographs have been added and we now have the ability to upload key information quickly. This was demonstrated by the speed at which the results of the Scottish Meeting were uploaded. Rapid dissemination of results is something that has been requested for a considerable length of time and the positive feedback we have received about our ability to do this augers well for the future when a completely new Charity website and membership system will be introduced. Work has started on both of these elements.

### **NSRA Conference: The Inner Skills of Sport**

The NSRA hosted a successful one day conference on the Inner Skills of Sport at the Royal Society of Medicine in London on April 11 2015. The conference had over 50 delegates at the conference with more joining online. It was very well received and the feedback encouraging. Many of the speakers are involved with a number of sports and commented that in terms of what we were attempting to achieve at the conference was light years ahead of many other sports. The conference was the brainchild of Jean Coleman one of the NSRA's Directors. She put a great deal of work into making the Conference a success ably supported by a number of NSRA staff. DVDs of the different presentations and sessions are being made and will be available for purchase. It is hoped to run another conference in 2017.

### **Eric Dougliss Memorial Tree**

A tree in memory of Eric Dougliss has been planted in the grounds of the LRC and will shortly have a plaque commemorating Eric and the work he did for the NSRA and shooting generally. A formal ceremony marking the planting of the tree was held after the Associations AGM on Saturday 1 August 2015.