

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT TO THE SHOOTING COUNCIL

24th MARCH 2012

Eric Dougliss

Reference is made in the report from the Chairman of the Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee of that committee's decision to launch an appeal for a permanent memorial to Eric Dougliss. Bearing in mind the occupation from which he had so recently retired, the Committee decided that the funds raised by the appeal should be use to acquire trees for planting. Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund can obtain a donation envelope from Brian Woodall. There is provision, where appropriate, for donations to be Gift Aided, which will add a further 25% to the fund. Envelopes can also be made available to individuals, clubs or associations which would like to promote the appeal in their local areas.

Some of Eric's former colleagues in Oxfordshire County Council, in concert with members of Eric's family, are planning a memorial walk through one of the woods in Oxfordshire. This will take place at the Centenary Wood, Charlbury on Thursday 24 May. Further details will be published in *The Rifleman* and on the NSRA website as soon as they have been confirmed.

SHOOTING MATTERS

International Match Appointments

Jon Leech has accepted the offer from the Rifle Committee to be Coach to the Great Britain Team for the Pershing Match at Camp Perry in 2013. Jon undertook this role with the British Team in the Roberts Match in 2009, when our team won with a record margin of victory.

John Dallimore has accepted the offer of the position of Adjutant to the Dewar Team for 2012 and 2013.

International Matches

The performances of the Great Britain team at the European Airgun Championships in Finland, the last event at which Olympic Quota Places could be won, can at best be described as very disappointing. However there was more success with a clutch of medals at InterShoot in The Hague, when perhaps the most impressive performance was by James Huckle, who raised the British Men's Air Rifle Record from 596 to 598, and then broke the record for a final with 698.8 the following day.

There are a number of British shooters at ISAS Dortmund which ends this weekend. So far Kristian Callaghan has won two Bronze medals, in the Junior Men's 10m Air Pistol and 25m Rapid Fire Pistol, whilst Jen McIntosh shot 586 and 684.9 for fourth place in the Women's 3x20, both scores being higher than the existing British Records, but not counting as Dortmund is an indoor range.

National Meetings

British Airgun Championships

The total entry for the British Airgun Championships on 24 to 26 February was 303, although eight entrants did not collect their stickers. This compares with a gross entry of 294 in 2011. This is despite of the absence of a number of leading shooters because of the proximity of this event to the European Airgun Championships, the final event at which they might win Olympic Quota Places.

It is recognised that there were an excessive number of problems experienced by competitors, some of whom have written to us to point out their discontent and their particular areas of concern. All of these will be reviewed very closely by the Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee, which has its next meeting later today, as well as by the Board of Management.

The Airgun Championships was particularly hard hit by the absence of a number of people who had filled key roles in previous years. The absence of some regular volunteers had always been foreseen as likely because of the time commitments of those people to their work related to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

However the death of Eric Dougliss (the Chairman of the organising committee), the non-availability of Jim Mallows (a Chief Range Officer for a number of years) and the absence of Brian Woodall (representing the NSRA at the Shooting Show at Newark) all meant that the roles they had filled in previous years fell on individuals who did not have the same depth of experience in the complexities of the event. Hard as the new volunteers worked, it was inevitable that they would need to seek guidance in dealing with some of the questions and problems as they arose, when their predecessors would have known the answer or solution immediately.

Continual problems with the database system used for this event, on the lead up to and during the event, resulted in the late posting of results which was regrettable. The same system allowed too many people to enter squads with restricted numbers which resulted in many details being delayed. This is a subject due for several rounds of discussion by the Pistol, Airgun and Crossbow Committee.

Complaints have been received in relation to Range Control and Equipment Control which have been passed to the appropriate volunteers for comment. In the case of Equipment Control the complaint is not accepted as it was felt that there was little in the way of backlog and the only time there was a problem was when people arrived at a time too close to their allocated shoot time.

The Chief Range Officer accepts that there were a few less-experienced Range Officers on duty but felt that on a whole they did well with only 16 noted incidents, all minor.

Other Meetings

Both the Scottish and Bisley Rifle Meetings for 2012 have been the subject of rumours that they would not be going ahead. However the negotiations with the landowner in Dumfries and the NRA respectively were successfully concluded and a notice was posted on the NSRA website on 21 February that both meetings were going ahead on the previously-announced dates. We regret that potential competitors have faced this period of uncertainty, but this was caused very largely by matters outside the control of the NSRA Board, Committees and staff.

The one meeting in 2012 that has been subject to a change is the 50 metre International Rifle Championships, which was announced in my previous report as being held on 8 to 10 June. For reasons of the non-availability of the range, this event has now been re-scheduled for 21 to 23 September. It is recognised that this date is far later in the season than preferable, but the congestion during alternative dates in the summer meant that no earlier date could be found that would not cause major knock-on effects to shooters or the organisers of other events.

To prevent similar problems arising again, early discussions have taken place with NSRA Ltd staff to ensure that our preferred dates are reserved for meetings based in Lord Roberts Centre in 2013. Some of the dates have been referred to elsewhere in papers received by Council Members, but the full list is:

22 – 24 February	British Airgun Championships
7 – 9 June	British International 50 metres Rifle Championships
6 – 8 September	British Pistol Championships.

Work is continuing on dates and potential venues for the Scottish and August Rifle Meetings.

Postal Competitions

With effect from the Summer season 2011, a new results system was introduced with the twin intentions of improving the handling of scores between the scorers and Competitions Department, and

enabling results to be issued by email as an alternative to post. The latter objective has been warmly welcomed by those taking part, although there have been some teething troubles.

However there have been some unforeseen difficulties in the score-processing arrangements which have been contributory factors in the delays in issuing results during the last two seasons. There have also been a number of procedures which were available on the old Dataease system, but which were not included in the design of the new system, such as the calculation of the averages of individual shooters in the team leagues. This means, inter alia, that we will be unable to publish leading individual averages in the forthcoming Results Supplement covering the Summer 2011 competitions. However a major clerical exercise has been completed to ensure that the National Rankings emanating from the National League and Lightweight Sport Rifle League will be published as usual.

The delays with issuing results continued into the Winter season, due in part to the decision that the new system was not working well enough to continue and that we should revert to the Dataease system for the time being. Nevertheless ways were found to convert the results to a pdf format so that the results could continue to be issued by email, and a major effort was made to reduce the results backlog during January and February.

Shooters have now reached the end of the 2011/12 Winter season leagues, the final date for shooting round 10 having been last Monday, 19 March. This means that the cards for club team leagues are due to be received by scorers by today and for county team leagues by today week. Results have been issued for virtually all club and county team leagues up to round 7.

Entries for most of the Summer 2012 season club and individual postal competitions were due in by early February and are now being processed. 29 entries have been received for the experimental Individual Lightweight Sport Rifle league.

Benchrest Shooting

The Board of Management has agreed that the NSRA should apply to the World Rimfire & Air Rifle Benchrest Federation and the European Rimfire & Air Rifle Benchrest Shooting Federation for membership as the National Association representing Great Britain. Following the withdrawal of UKBR22 from membership of these two Federations, there is no British organisation in membership. Affiliation of a national organisation is an essential prerequisite for British shooters to be able to take part in the Championships organised by the Federations.

Information on the NSRA's membership database suggests that over 200 of our affiliated clubs include benchrest as part of their activities and they probably cover in excess of 1,500 active benchrest shooters. Accordingly to protect the interests of these shooters and to support the aspirations of those who wish to shoot at international level, the NSRA will be making an immediate application to join WRABF and ERABSF.

It is known that there are shooters already working towards taking part in international events during 2012 and beyond. An urgent analysis is being undertaken to identify the actions required to enable shooters to realise their international ambitions. Further information on progress will be announced as soon as possible.

LRC 25 Metre Outdoor Range

The Directors of NSRA Ltd have undertaken an exercise to establish the design parameters for a permanent roof and back wall to the 25 metre range and quotes have been obtained. These have indicated that the cost is prohibitively expensive when compared with the current earnings from use of this range. The Directors are considering various options in relation to the long-term development of the whole Centre, during which the need for an enhanced 25m range will remain on the table.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Staffing

Mrs Fiona Rhodes has been appointed as our new Membership Manager, replacing **Mrs Helen Robins**, who retires on 30 March after 28 years of continuous service to the NSRA. I would like to thank Helen for not only carrying out her duties as the Membership Manager during my time at the NSRA with the utmost professionalism, but also for the role she has played in acting as my Personal Assistant.

LOCOG requested the NSRA to assist with British Visitor Permits (BVPs) for the Shooting participants at the Test Event, Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, and an agreement was reached with LOCOG for **Alistair Aitken** to work on this task, with the help of an Administrative Assistant. This has resulted in Mr Aitken's withdrawal from various responsibilities that he previously held, much of which is being picked up by other staff members. His sole continuing activity for the NSRA is in the area of range construction advice and inspections.

Sport England

British Shooting Secondment & Agreements

Following the Sport England award being novated to British Shooting late last year, we have now entered into two agreements with British Shooting. Firstly, an agreement has been put in place where we have seconded our Coaching and Development Manager, Dave Froggett, to British Shooting to act as their National Development Manager until the end of the current award from Sport England, i.e. 31 March 2013, after which Dave will return to his position with the NSRA. Dave Froggett's role with British Shooting requires him to be responsible for the implementation of the Whole Sport Plan across all disciplines falling under the banner of the NSRA, the NRA and the CPSA.

The second agreement with British Shooting relates to the NSRA undertaking to continue to follow the original Whole Sport Plan for the remaining period of the current award, with an emphasis on regional development in three target regions, and this has been done with the agreement of Sport England. The NRA and the CPSA have decided to deviate from the original Whole Sport Plan and each will follow their own paths.

NSRA's implementation of its undertaking re the Sport England Plan

Edward Kendall, Trevor Haynes and Bob Sanderson have been appointed as part time Regional Development Managers (RDM) for the North East, West Midlands and the South East respectively. They are tasked with improving communication and organising support for coaching at regional level. Their work will also include club benchmarking, developing officials' courses and also the distribution of publicity materials promoting and assisting the development of our disciplines of the sport of Target Shooting.

Progress has already been undertaken and continues on our Project as follows:

- In the North East, a pilot Scorers Course has been devised and run at Easingwold (the NE hub) and a plan of supported coach training courses has been put together for the region.
- The West Midlands Regional Development Manager has been in place for only a short period of time but a plan of work and timeline has already been written up for the region. Communication with clubs associations and CSPs in the region has started with visits to county meetings and clubs.
- The South East RDM was only appointed at the start of March and is working closely with the British Shooting NDM on developing a plan of work and timeline for urgent implementation.

Information for Schools

The company Sport IQ have been engaged by Sport England to develop materials for schools carrying general information about Olympic sports. The company has been supplied with information on shooting and a cross discipline submission has been put together for inclusion.

Forward Plan

The NSRA is assisting British Shooting with putting together a forward plan for submission to Sport England for funding in the next four year cycle of 2013-17. The submission needs to be with Sport England in May 2012.

Ipsos Mori Survey

The 2012 Sport Satisfaction Survey has been launched. Invitations to members of clubs, talent pool and under 16 talent pool to contribute to the survey (as well as the standard on line survey) are being requested by the NGBs. Feedback to Ipsos Mori on the distribution of the survey has been provided.

Disabled Coordinator

British Shooting has employed Mrs Liz Woodall as a full time 'Disabled Coordinator' to ensure that the disabled project can be implemented in the short time scale left. It should not be forgotten that the NSRA has had a Disability Shooting Project (DSP) going for several years and much of the ground work done by Mr Charlie Blow (NSRA Board Member), as the Honorary Chairman of our DSP, and his committee of volunteers which included Mrs Woodall (who did much of the administration work), has laid the foundation of what British Shooting is now trying to achieve across all disciplines with some of the funding from the current Sport England Award.

Progress on the Disabled Shooting Project being implemented by British Shooting's "England Development Group" to date includes the following as reported by Mr Froggett:

"Communications: Website - In the post-launch period there were about 100 hits each day for the first couple of days, then dropped to about 40 per day. Twitter – this is proving very useful for finding more organisations to approach, and the number of followers is rising steadily.

British Shooting Show: 25/26 February 2012 – a stand was set up specifically for the project. The show produced a lot of useful contacts and information. Further dates 2013 dates:

The International Shooting Show at Norfolk Showground (new event) – 26/27 January

The British Shooting & Countryman Show at Stoneleigh (new venue) – February (dates TBC)

Blind/VI: David Parish (member of NSRA Board of Management and of the ISSF Executive Committee) has asked for the creation of a Power Point presentation for him to show to a meeting of the ISSF in October 2012, explaining the basics of blind/VI shooting. There has been a lot of discussion recently about the preparation of rules for Blind/VI shooting. Also it is apparent that there is a need for development of shooting coaching for blind/VI shooters. The blind/VI community generally is keen to have more competitions available and a wider range of disciplines. There are currently 28 clubs with acoustic equipment.

Contacts with Disability Organisations – Contact has been made with the following organisations: Dwarf Sports (DSAUK), Sportability, Parasport, Wheelpower and Royal London Society for Blind People

Media Inclusion – Plans to include the DSP in the following magazines and journals:

- *The Rifleman* - 4-page supplement in Spring issue in hand.
- *Target Shooter* on-line magazine have offered one page in each issue (monthly).
- *Field & Rural Life* on-line magazine would like contributions about individual shooters

- Enquiries have been made about DSP contributions to the *NRA Journal* and *Pull!*

Accessibility Audit - Braunton TSC has been involved in completing an audit and they will be asked to report on the process to help other clubs.

Talent Development

The work to develop the Talent Pathway has commenced with a meeting with Neil Tunnicliffe who has been engaged to analyse the pathway and start to align with current SE thinking in this area. The initial meeting at Easingwold covered an outline of the WSP interventions and where talent development sat in the process, what was currently in place in the NGBs/discipline splits and what was currently in place through World Class. Neil will also consult with Tim Newenham and liaise with Simon Wergen to start the analysis."

News by Email

Over the last three months a number of information emails have been sent to clubs and individual members for whom the NSRA has email addresses. The distribution list currently comprises about 2500 recipients, although a delivery failure rate of about 15% is being experienced, caused by one of a number of reasons. These may include incorrectly recorded or discontinued addresses, but most appear to be related to email receipt settings put in place by the ISP (particularly supanet), the organisation (where business email addresses have been given) or the member himself.

To date the number of individuals who have chosen to unsubscribe from this service has been small, totalling about 15, some of whom were not on our distribution list, but may have received a copy forwarded on a club circulation list.

Any members not currently receiving these emails can do so by sending their email address to Membership Department on membership@nsra.co.uk.

Electronic Targets

Publicity was given last year to the ISSF's approval of certain 10m and 50m electronic targets manufactured by Megalink, and which the NSRA Board had subsequently approved for use in NSRA postal competitions. Information has been received that Megalink are in possession of the dimensions of the NSRA's 25 yard rifle target and are able to include this in the software. The exact position is currently being checked, but when confirmed will raise the prospect of Megalink targets being available for competitions such as the National Short Range League.

Visitors Firearm Permits

The Surrey Constabulary Firearms Licensing Branch, which deals with Visitors' Permit applications sponsored by the NSRA and NRA, have advised that they have a backlog of work on processing applications. Their latest advice (as of last week) is to allow at least six to eight weeks for the processing of an application, rather than the usual four weeks.

Olympic and Paralympic Games

Quota Places

Great Britain ended the round of events at which Olympic Quota Places were available having won four – two in Men's Double Trap and one each in Men's Skeet and Women's 25m Pistol. These are in addition to the nine Quota Places awarded to Great Britain as the host nation. It seems likely that three of the four pistol quotas will be returned to the ISSF, but it is not known if Great Britain will receive substitute places for all or any of these, and if so in which alternative events.

The selection of the shooters to fill the British Quota Places will be on 2nd May.

With only eight of the total of 140 shooting Quota Places for the Paralympic Games remaining to be allocated, eleven have been awarded to Great Britain, which is only exceeded by the 12 to Korea and is followed by eight each to Germany and Russia.

Legacy

The NSRA has been endeavouring to secure a practical legacy for the sport from the London Olympic Games through several efforts over the past two years, in particular in the form of the electronic targetry equipment that will be used at the Games. This included the submission of proposals and business plans to the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) for use of the equipment post the Games.

Late last year the GOE indicated that they would be preparing documents and inviting tenders. However the last we have heard via British Shooting in regards to GOE is that "*there remain significant delays in articulating the full scope of the legacy offer. This is clearly not helpful in moving forward at pace on updating the applications and business plans*".

Regardless we are also still waiting to hear officially from GOE whether they are buying or leasing the electronic targetry equipment, and if they decide to lease the equipment then there is obviously no chance of any legacy in the form of equipment for the sport.

London World Cup Tickets

The NSRA did not receive details of the arrangements for the sale of London World Cup tickets to NSRA members until the beginning of this week. A notice was immediately posted on the NSRA website homepage and the first applicants have already received confirmation of their allocations. Anyone wishing to apply for tickets should do so immediately. The World Cup takes place at Woolwich, the competitions taking place between 19 and 28 April.

NSRA Ltd Websites

Two new websites have been prepared covering the activities of NSRA Ltd.

A complete revision of the site for the shop will be launched shortly, once the final approval is received from the finance houses dealing with the e-commerce aspects.

A separate site has already been launched to promote the non-shooting activities of Lord Roberts Centre. This is at www.thelordrobertscentre.co.uk.

Ammunition Prices

The NSRA shop has introduced an enhanced discount structure for bulk purchases of ammunition. For all makes of ammunition, in mixed bricks of 500:

5,000 to 10,000	3% discount.
10,001 to 20,000	4%
20,001 +	5%
40,001 +	discount on application.

Election Results

At a recent meeting the Board of Management decided that the announcement of the election results should include the number of votes cast for each candidate.

62 voting forms were issued, of which 33 were returned.

The outcome of the elections is as follows:

Chairman	Mr. R.W. Newman	Elected unopposed
Vice-Chairman	Mr. R.B. Loughridge	Elected unopposed

Board of Management	Mr. E. Kendall	32	Elected
	Mr. C.E. Blow	17	Elected
	Mrs. J. Coleman	15	

Administrative Members	Mr. C. Aston		All elected unopposed
	Mr. M.J. Chapman		
	Mr. A.N. Gibbons		

International Committee	Mr. W.J. Dallimore		All elected unopposed
	Mr. D.A.M. McIntosh		
	Mr. D.R.V. Parish		
	Mr. P.C. Scanlan		
	Mr. P.F.C. Underhill		

The Board has re-appointed Mr. Parish as Chairman.

Rifle Committee	Mr. H.C. Taylor	28	Elected
	Mr. F. Jennings	27	Elected
	Mr. K.I. Nash	27	Elected
	Mr. P.N. Peters	22	Elected
	Mr. D. Poxon	11	
	Mr. D.R.V. Parish	7	
	Mr. M.J. Chapman	6	

The Board has re-appointed Mr. Nash as Chairman.

Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee	Mr. D. Poxon	30	Elected
	Mr. J.O. Lloyd	26	Elected
	Mr. C. Aston	25	Elected
	Mrs. E. Twyford	24	Elected
	Mr. R. Green	23	Elected
	Mr. R. Monksummers	18	

The Board has re-appointed Mr. Lloyd as Chairman.

Referees Committee	Mr. K.I. Nash	29	Elected
	Mr. M.J. Chapman	21	Elected
	Mr. W.N.G. Gilmour	18	Elected
	Mr. R. Heath	13	
	Mr. R. Monksummers	13	

The Board has re-appointed Mr. Nash as Chairman.

Coaching and Development Committee	Mr. E. Kendall	32	Elected
	Mr. A. Collick	31	Elected
	Mr. H.C. Taylor	29	Elected
	Mr. M. Woodhead	26	Elected
	Mr. D.R.V. Parish	25	Elected
	Mr. R. Evered	6	

The Board has re-appointed Mr. Kendall as Chairman.

Special Awards Committee	Mr. A.W. Batten		All elected unopposed
	Mr. D. Brigden		
	Mr. G. Lawson		
	Mr. D.A.D. Mottram		
	Mrs. J. Nicholl		

The members of the Committee will elect their own Chairman at their first meeting after 1 May.