

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

## **24th NOVEMBER 2012**

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

With effect from the beginning of November the Board of Management appointed me to the post of Chief Executive of the Association, in succession to Allan Boosey.

In the limited time I have been working for the NSRA it is clear that the organisation has two very distinct assets in its members and its staff. I look forward to working with all those involved in small-bore rifle shooting to sustain what is happening at the moment and further develop the sport and the NSRA itself. I realise that it will take me some time to fully understand how everything knits together but I am confident that with help from all those involved that I will have a grasp of the essentials relatively quickly thereby enabling me to carry out my role effectively. I am anxious to hear the views and opinions of the membership either directly or through club and county representatives and will be at various meetings and events throughout the year to help facilitate this. I also look forward to working with the Board of Management and its supporting committees to move small-bore rifle shooting forward.



Iain Root

### **SHOOTING MATTERS**

#### **National Meetings**

##### **Scottish Rifle Meeting**

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

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

The number of entrants fell again from 786 in 2011 to 664 plus a number of others who only entered the Classic and Veteran events on the first weekend. All medals, prizes and prize medals have been distributed there are some vouchers still to be sent out and will be dealt with once we have them.

Following a suggestion from Bideford Rifle Club, a scheme to give assistance to first-time entrants to the meeting was established. Information packs, including notes about how the meeting operated and what to do, maps and accommodation lists, were sent to each entrant in advance of the meeting and a help-desk adjacent to the meeting reception desk was available over the first weekend. This facility was well used and appreciated, not only by newcomers but also by shooters who had attended the meeting previously. The desk was manned and the majority of the advisory notes were prepared by members of Bideford RC, to whom the Rifle Committee is very grateful for their suggestion and hard work in bringing the scheme into being.

##### **Pistol Championships**

Held over the weekend of 7 to 9 September, there were a total of 67 competitors compared with 74 in 2011. Competitions Department did all the required paperwork in the run up to the event, but the PAC committee members ran the event. All medals, prizes, vouchers and prize medals have been distributed.

##### **50 metre Rifle Championships**

The Championships were held on 21 to 23 September. Despite the enforced change from its usual timing in early June, there was an increase of ten in the number entrants to a total of 129. The lateness in the season meant that changes were made to the timetable to take account of the shorter

daylight hours, which resulted in reduced capacity for the Men's Prone Elimination relays on Saturday. The meeting will return to its traditional time in early June in 2013.

### **Airgun Championships 2013**

In view of the very short time between the ISSF confirming its rule changes from 1 January 2013 (the final decisions having been taken in the last few days) and our Airgun Championships in February, it was decided and announced that the Championships will be run to the same rules as in 2012. The small number of objections to this decision came principally from officials in organisations which use scores from the Championships as part of their Squad selection arrangements. However the decision was taken for the benefit of the shooters, the majority of whom have no interest in seeking places in Squads at the present time, and from whom there has been no significant expression of concern. It was also relevant that to change to the new rules could expose some shooters to extra costs which might in the event prove unnecessary and would give them limited time to get used to shooting to significantly altered timescales and formats for finals.

It is noticeable that some foreign National Federations have made similar decisions in respect of their domestic events in 2013.

It is hoped that the officials manning Equipment Control at the Championships will be able to offer advice to competitors in relation to the extent to which their equipment does not conform to the ISSF's new standards.

### **Eley Finals (August and October)**

The Eley finals were held on the first weekend of the Bisley Rifle Meeting (for prone and 3P rifle) and on 6 and 7 October for the other seven events. They ran quite smoothly with no major problems and thanks are particularly due to Dave Poxon for his help in the run up to the event as well as during the October finals.

Phil Martin is in discussions with Eley on a total revamp of the competition which will take place over 2013 and 2014. The discussions will include topics such as the introduction of new prizes for 2013 and enlarging the numbers of people qualifying for the finals, thus encouraging greater participation.

### **Summer Postal Leagues (2012)**

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

### **Winter Postal Leagues (2012-13)**

The first round of the winter leagues has just passed and we will be endeavouring to distribute the results on the same timescale as the summer leagues, i.e. two to three weeks from last date of shooting to the results being received by clubs.

### **Bisley 2013**

At this point we are still in discussion with the NRA (Derrick Mabbott) they are asking for better terms than 2012, I am hopeful that we can continue discussion and come to an agreement for 2013.

### **Meeting Dates for 2013**

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

22 – 24 February	British Airgun Championships
2 – 3 March	Blind Air Rifle Championships, Aldersley
7 – 9 June	British International 50 metres Rifle Championships
	29 June – 5 July Scottish Rifle Meeting, Lauder (subject to final confirmation in the next few days)
6 – 7 July	Sporter Air Rifle Open Meeting, Aldersley
9 August	Sporter and Precision 3P Air Rifle Championships

20 – 22 September British Pistol Championships

The National Rifle Meeting would normally be expected to be held at Bisley on 11 – 19 August. Negotiations with the NRA are ongoing, but should these prove unsuccessful, an alternative venue (and if necessary alternative dates) for this meeting will be announced as soon as possible.

Other relevant dates are:

22 June Dewar Trial and Match, Appleton

### **International Matches**

#### **Olympic and Paralympic Games**

It was important that Great Britain should enjoy success at the Games, not only for raising the profile of shooting with the public at large, but also to help maintain shooting in the funding arrangements of UK Sport. To that extent a total of four medals was good – the Olympic Gold for Richard Wilson in Men's Double Trap, together with a Paralympic Silver and Bronze for Matt Skelhon, and Bronze for James Bevis. All three have our heartiest congratulations.

Despite what has been said in recent years about increases in sport participation at grass roots level not being a realistic legacy from hosting the Games, we have been advised by a number of clubs that they have received a significant number of applications for membership in recent months with the Games being a motivating factor.

#### **Postal International Matches**

2012 has been a somewhat disappointing year in the rifle internationals, Great Britain's only success being in the Wakefield Match.

On the other hand, although the official result is awaited from the NRA of America, it is known that our team in the pistol international for the Mayleigh Trophy beat the score posted by the United States, which has won the trophy of the last 18 years in succession. The match was shot on the Malcolm Cooper Range during the Pistol Championships in September.

#### **Postal International Match Officials**

The Rifle Committee has appointed Mrs Yvette Edwards and Miss Linda Smallbone as Captain and Adjutant respectively of the Randle team for 2013 and 2014.

#### **Pershing Match**

The trials for the Great Britain team to Camp Perry in July next year were completed in October with the qualification of the following:

##### **Team**

Dave Binney, Hallamshire  
Ken Bowley, British Airways  
Sinclair Bruce, Alloa & District  
Nick Clark, Chippenham  
Robert Dowling, Chichester  
Wendy Foith, Bedford  
Richard Fowke, Headley Park  
Phil Martin, Beaconsfield/Marlow  
Graham Shedden, Dumfries  
Richard Simpson, Greenock & District  
Peter Stanley, Appleton  
Bill Yates, Felixstowe

Non-travelling reserves  
Richard Wilson, Shanklin  
Alison Leech, Wimbledon Park  
Lina Jones, Bookham

The team officials are Neil Gibbons (Captain), Phil Strong (Adjutant) and Jon Leech (Coach).

### **Benchrest**

A Benchrest European Championship and World Cup is to be held in Pilsen in August 2013. A preliminary team selection has been made and those on the list have been contacted in the last few days for them to confirm their availability for selection.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Staff**

**Jenny Page**, who had worked in the Secretariat since 1995 as well as assisting Membership Services and Competitions Department in times of peak load, retired at the end of October. However she has offered to give some occasional help in dealing with some items, particularly the current workload on re-affiliations.

The vacancy in Membership Services was filled at the beginning of November by **Elaine Grant**, although we continue to receive the occasional help of **Helen Robins**.

### **Committees**

Nomination papers for the 2013 elections will be sent out in December to voting members of the Shooting Council. In the meantime on recommendation of the Pistol, Airgun and Crossbow Committee Chairman, the Board has appointed **Michael Gault OBE** to fill the vacancy on that committee.

### **Fees for 2013**

#### **Affiliation and Membership**

The affiliation fees for 2013 were agreed by the Board of Management as:

#### Clubs

Over 75 members	£265
31 to 75 members	£210
16 to 30 members	£145
15 members or fewer	£110 (no change)

#### Junior Clubs

Over 15 members	£140 (no change)
15 members or fewer	£110 (no change)

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

£170

The membership fees for Individuals were also agreed as:

Annual	£81
Junior and FTE	£40 (no change)
Associate	£61

### **Competitions**

The Board has decided that there should be no increase in postal competition entry fees for the second year running with the single exception of the NSRA-Eley Competition, for which the price has been unchanged for a number of years. The basic fee for a single entry has risen from £5 to £6, but the fee for three entries by a shooter in any one of the nine events is unchanged at £10.

Fees for National Meetings, which also remained unchanged in 2012, will increase by an average of 2.5%.

### **Insurance**

At the request of our brokers, Perkins Slade, special attention has been drawn within the 2013 re-affiliation papers to the need for all affiliated clubs and organisations to have up-to-date provisions on disciplinary matters within their constitutions and/or bye-laws. A request was issued at the same time for all affiliated organisations to send the NSRA a copy of their current governing documents so that they can be advised if the existing disciplinary rules appear to be lacking in any material respect which could lead to the insurers declining cover in the event of a claim.

### **Criminal Records Bureau Checks**

We have been advised that under changes which have come into effect during the autumn, some of our existing arrangements will also have to change. In particular we can only request a check on a licensed coach or instructor has frequent and regular contact with children, now broadly defined as at least once a week. We can no longer have a CRB check as a mandatory requirement for the issue of a coach/instructor licence. This has caused an inevitable hold-up in processing applications whilst revised arrangements are settled and will necessitate contacting individually all those people for whom there is a CRB check request outstanding. The new arrangements will not affect a mandatory check being made on those persons appointed by a club or association to be their Child Protection Officer.

### **Coaching and Development**

#### **Scorers Course**

The roll-out of the scorer's course has continued with a course taking place at Holwell in September. 15 candidates successfully completed the course. A further course Scorers Course is planned in December 2012 at Box Rifle Club in Wiltshire. As part of the development higher category scorers from the Holwell course have been taken through the material and will deliver the course forming the next stage of development of the qualification. These courses have been supported by funding from the Sport England Project.

#### **Regional Coach Course**

Following discussions on the content of the new Regional Coach Course a meeting of National trainers took place at LRC in September to formalise the syllabus and plan the delivery. The syllabus has been decided and the time allocation over the 2 weekends of the course is being finalised. Further development is taking place on the materials for the new course. It is likely that the course will have to be moved back to May 2013. The new course development and its delivery can be funded by the SE Project.

### **Sport England Whole Sport Plan 2013 – 17**

The secondment of the NSRA Coaching and Development Manager to British Shooting ended on 30 September. However British Shooting was assisted with the delivery of the new 2013 – 17 Whole Sport Plan presentation on 25 October at Sport England. The response to the presentation was favourable the main questions being around the delivery and infrastructure supporting the plan and the "insight" that BS had which had led to the plan and outcomes in it. BS should know by early December to what extent the plan is to be supported and what measures will be required to demonstrate the targets which must be achieved.

#### **British Field Target Association**

The AGM of the BFTA in November will discuss the rules for disabled inclusion. The BFTA have also been advised that some funding is available to support the development of the NSRA/BFTA Marshal's course – the Field Target equivalent of RCO.

### **Shooting Show 2013**

The British Shooting Show is to take place on 9 and 10 February at a new venue, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire. As well as the usual NGB presence in the main hall an airgun range, Scatt range and Blind/VI shooting is planned. The organisers plan to make the Blind/VI shooting a feature and perhaps offer a prize for it. Target changers and guns will be required from the LRC to operate the range. Staffing will be provided by Scout leaders and local coaches.

### **NSRA Sport England Project**

In the West Midlands the current progress to date is that 4 Club Instructor Courses (2 x LSR, 1 AGI, 1 prone) have been delivered along with 4 RCO courses.

A Club Coach Course and, a further Club Instructor (prone) are planned – the latter at Ross on Wye (in response to re-issued request for local support for courses). A County Coach Course is planned in Jan/Feb dates to be advised.

A meeting between the two West Midlands Regional Squads (rifle and pistol) is being scheduled to work out the needs of the squads and what they can do together.

In the South East Region the re-formed South East Regional Squad first meeting has taken place. The meeting was aimed at the coaches meeting prospective members, finding what was on offer and getting some idea of what the shooters wanted. The first training day will take place in January 2013. The squad has a website which outlines the training schedule.

Further courses supported by the project are also scheduled in the region. Some of these are being run by the already successful South East Regional Training Team but others organised by clubs on a more local basis including Prone, LSR Club and County Coach courses planned in the region.

In the North East, Club Instructor (Prone) and Club Coach courses have been re-scheduled and re-advertised due to a relatively low uptake.

To ensure the money available for coach development is used a decision has been made to open up the support for courses beyond the target regions. Several Club Instructor courses are planned for the South West Region as part of this expansion.

Other work to be carried out under the project includes the update of the popular "Truth vs. Myth" pamphlet.

### **Sports Coach UK**

Sports Coach UK have been working on a set of National Minimum Standards for each sport for working with schools, local authorities and clubs. Smallbore and air rifle shooting is now included in the list.

### **Cambridgeshire Target Shooting Association**

Further support has been provided for the CTSA who are still pursuing funding for the proposed indoor 50m range at Norman Cross. The effects of the new Community Infrastructure Levy can be seen on this development and its effects for all range development measured. Sport England and British Shooting have been made aware of the problems to raise awareness and to see if a general solution for shooting clubs be found.

### **Talent Development**

The Clay Target and Full-bore disciplines are still considering the document. Neil Tunnicliffe has been contacted to assist the development of the talent pathway after the end of the NDM secondment.

## **Equality**

As part of the self-assurance process required by UK Sport and Sport England a new British Shooting Equality Policy was produced, together with an Equality Monitoring Form for the last British Shooting board meeting. Some members of the board suggested that the document went too far and may affect their internal HR systems if not now in the future. The document has since been altered in conjunction with British Shooting HR support and is being given further consideration by the British Shooting Board.

## **Skills Active**

Skills Active is offering on-line support packages to help develop club officials, staff and other volunteers. These packages are delivered as an e-learning option and there is currently a special offer (80% discount) on purchasing a licence. The cost of the licence gives access for up to 25 online courses from a list of 150.

## **Disabled Shooting Project**

### **Disabled Shooting Year**

The Year is approaching its final phase, aimed at consolidating what has been achieved. This will include Regional Conferences, certification of disabled-friendly clubs, and a closing ceremony when Disabled Shooting Awards will be presented.

### **Communications**

Leaflets have been one of the most successful means of promoting the DSP at shows; events etc. and the existing range of leaflets have been overhauled and up-dated to reflect developments over the last six months. Further to this the following new leaflets are at various stages of production:

- F Class
- Participation by Deaf/hearing impaired Shooters
- Participation by People with Learning Disabilities, including autistic spectrum

John Kelman will be assisted to produce a leaflet explaining his equaliser device, and the permutations of it that cater for different disabilities. This may encourage more clubs to accept members with severe disabilities who can use it.

Other promotional material has developed including new leaflets for Clay Target and 'Welcome!' (What the DSP does), new PowerPoint on Blind/VI shooting is available and the Info-packs now available on a USB card.

Further contacts have been established by the DSP to the following organisations:

Access Association, BEWSA (British Ex-Services Wheelchair Sports Association), Bisley FT Organisation, DTSGB, Scouts, Sportability, Surrey SBRA and Wheelpower.

The DSP continues to be included on the websites of British Shooting, CPSA, DTSGB, NRA and NSRA and has articles in *NRA Journal*, *Pull!*, *The Rifleman* and *Target Shooter* magazines.

### **NSRA Rifle Meeting**

There were DSP stands in the Stats Tent and at Lord Roberts Centre throughout the week with a Disabled Shooting Year banner next to the entrance to Stats. The result was very satisfactory, with a good number of new contacts being made, including several clubs that said they would be considering developing their facilities.

## **NRA Open Day**

The new stand was set up opposite the NRA offices. The day was worthwhile with more visitors than the previous open day. Discussions took place on a range of topics, as well as straightforward advice for individual aspiring shooters.

## **Headley Court**

Disabled service personnel from Headley Court took part in Field Target Shooting at the BFTO club at Bisley at the end of October. The participants were effectively doing field target from a bench-rest shooting position. The DSP Coordinator has now been invited to Headley Court in November to discuss wider involvement, and how best to provide information to patients on the opportunities available. The next event is in the spring, when they will be doing "safari FT" (doing a more conventional woodland course from 4x4s).

## **Club Support**

Support and/or advice provided for the following clubs who are or may be interested in developing further opportunities for disabled shooters; Bedford RC, Cambridgeshire TSA, Cardiff RC, Chipperfield TSC, Christchurch Gun Club, Diggle Ranges, East Barnet RC, Ellesmere College RC, Highfield R&PC, Hurn R&PC, Kendal R&PC, Phoenix RC, Swansea RC and Uckfield HG RC.

Further to this the following clubs are known to aspire to develop into centres of excellence, with significant provision for disabled participation; Paighton R&PC (South West), 1066 R&PC at Hastings (South East), Cambridge TSA (East), Keighley R&PC (North) and Cardiff RC and Swansea RC (South Wales).

It is also hoped to provide support for the setup of new clubs for disabled shooters. The Working Group wishes to develop materials to assist in this process.

The DSP Working Group is developing the standards for disabled Focus Clubs to enable them to be "benchmarked" as particularly suitable for disabled shooters. This will allow potential shooters who have disabilities to be directed to the most suitable venue. Another level of benchmarking for clubs is under development to run alongside the proposed Focus Clubs. These will be clubs that whilst they cannot achieve Focus Club status are clearly engaged with the project and want to promote disabled shooting. DSP Club status will be awarded to clubs that demonstrate that they are making a significant effort to cater for disabled and/or less-able shooters.

## **Forthcoming Events and Activities**

- **Shooting Show** 9/10 February 2013 – the DSP will be represented more fully at the Shooting Show with two DSP presences; one with the three NGB stands, and one in Airgun City. Blind and VI shooting will again be on the Airgun range and Warwickshire College would be willing to provide live CT shooting for disabled visitors.
- **Regional Conferences** – Six regional conferences are planned (NW, NE, Midlands, East, SW, SE) to inform and motivate clubs.

## **Technology Development**

There is a need for national co-ordination of the development of equipment to benefit disabled shooters. In the same way as solutions are being found in shooting technique, hardware solutions are being created and developed, and information about those also needs to be gathered and made available to others who will need it. Chris Lacey has offered to act as the focal point and clearing house for information about all sorts of disabled shooting equipment. Also, Steve Shears has offered to provide free advice to any clubs that are planning to improve their facilities for disabled shooters, on how to get the best value for their money, and avoiding unnecessary overspends.

### **International Participation**

One of the tasks for 2013-17 will be to develop international participation opportunities for shooters who cannot meet IPC classification, or who do non-IPC disciplines. A front-runner for these programmes is the GB Junior Rifle Squad which has recently accepted a disabled junior who cannot be SH classified. The squad will oversee her training and development with a view to non-IPC international matches being available by the time she is ready to take part in them.

### **Forward Plan - British Shooting 2013-17 WSP**

The DSP is a major component of the Whole Sport Plan forward from 2013. If further funding is agreed by Sport England the DSP will continue to work in the following areas:

- Focus Clubs development
- Coaching module development
- Develop disability awareness workshop
- Develop Shooters' Assistants' course
- Continuing development of communications network
- DTSGB talent identification
- Promotion of shooting via external organisations and events
- Working with disabled young people
- Annual Disabled Shooting Week

### **Certification for Using Military Ranges**

Discussions about arrangements on Certificate of Competence are in hand within the Defence Land Range Safety Committee and it is hoped that these will be completed before the end of the year.

Some information has recently been sent out by the NRA, but NSRA-affiliated clubs are strongly advised to take no action until the revised policy has been agreed and promulgated. As soon as this is done, information will be issued to clubs and organisations by email and the policy will be published on the NSRA website.

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

The Offices and Showroom will close for the Christmas/New Year break at 5.00 p.m. on 21 December, and will reopen at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday 2 January 2013.

### **Shooting Council Meeting Dates**

Council meetings in 2012 are scheduled for 23 March, 27 July (plus the Annual General Meeting) and 23 November.