

# **REPORT TO THE SHOOTING COUNCIL - NOVEMBER 2008**

## **John Evans**

News has been received of the death on 11 November of John Evans, the well-known gunsmith and pistol shooter. His funeral will take place at 2.45 pm on Thursday 27 November at the Harwood Park Crematorium, Watton Road, Stevenage.

Mr Evans was a member of the Board of Management from 1993 to 1995, and also served during the early 1990s as an Administrative Member of the Shooting Council and member of the Pistol and International Committees.



## **SHOOTING MATTERS**

### **National Meetings**

Entries to the Bisley Rifle Meeting reduced by 25 to 937, but for the Pistol Meeting increased by 16 to 95, despite the change to the intended date of the meeting to a week later in September. The aggregate number of entries for the five National Meetings in 2008 was 1694, 13 higher than in 2007.

The highlight of the Rifle Meeting was that Sheena Sharp became the second woman to win the Roberts, following the first-ever win in 2007 by Michelle Smith.

The full programme of dates for 2009 is:

20 – 22 February	British Airgun Championships
12 – 14 June	British International 50 metres Rifle Championships
4 – 10 July	Scottish Rifle Meeting, Forres
14 August	Junior 3P Air Rifle Championships
15 – 23 August	Bisley Rifle Meeting
11 – 13 September	Bisley Pistol Championships

A survey of rifle shooters about aspects of the Bisley and Scottish Rifle Meetings was issued with the Bisley results, and copies of the questionnaire are also available in the NSRA website. Responses are needed by early February so that the results can be analysed before being considered by the Rifle Committee at its meeting on 14 February. A copy of the questionnaire is attached. To date over 170 completed forms have been returned.

### **International Matches**

#### **Olympic and Paralympic Games, Beijing, CHN**

The Olympic Games results in Beijing were disappointing, only Richard Faulds in the Double Trap competition reaching the final. Jonathan Hammond shot in all three men's rifle events, his highest position being 29th out of 51 competitors in the Air Rifle match.

At the Paralympics, GB had a team of four shooters ranging from the highly experienced Di Coates to newcomer Matt Skelhon. In fact it was the latter who provided the Gold Medal with a score of 600 + 104.9 in the Mixed R3 Air Rifle Prone

SH1 event in a field of 44 entrants. Such is the tightness of competition in the Prone competitions that the final consisted of two shooters starting on 600 and the remaining six on 599, with four more 599s counted-out, including that of GB's Nathan Milgate.

### **European Junior Championships, Pilsen, CZE**

The Junior Women's Prone Rifle team of Kay Copland, Sheree Cox and Nikki Sammels won the Silver Medal, only losing out on the Gold on countback.

### **Olympic Shooting Hopes, Pilsen, CZE**

The same team shot in the Prone Rifle event at the Olympic Hopes Match, held at Pilsen a month earlier. Their score of 1770 won the competition and set a new British Record, which is two points higher than the equivalent record for Senior Women. Another record was set by the Junior Women's team in the Air Rifle event.

### **Commonwealth Youth Games, Pune, IND**

England finished just behind the host nation, India, in the shooting medal table, James Huckle winning Gold in all three of his events and Sheree Cox taking a Gold and a Bronze. Kay Copland won Scotland's Gold in the Women's Prone Rifle, Jennifer McIntosh took Silver in the 3x20 and Rory McAlpine Bronze in Men's Prone. Northern Ireland's Silver came through Matt Hall in the Men's Prone and Wales were unlucky to come away empty-handed having three of its five shooters finishing in fourth place.

### **Pistol Shooting**

In October *British Shooting* announced its selection arrangements for cartridge and air pistol over the period 2009 to 2013. These are set out on the *British Shooting* website.

*British Shooting* has also announced its intentions for running Olympic Cartridge Pistol Training Squads on specially-approved MOD ranges. This note reads:

#### **BACKGROUND**

You will probably be aware that the Home Secretary has agreed in principle to allow cartridge pistol training in England and Wales for those aspiring to compete at the Olympic Games in 2012. However, to ensure public safety, the Home Office will impose certain conditions on this activity. The first is that all cartridge pistol training will be administered by British Shooting, and access to cartridge pistols will be strictly limited to those genuinely attempting to achieve Olympic Games selection. The second is that all cartridge pistol shooting will take place on specifically approved Ministry of Defence ranges.

#### **HOW WILL IT WORK?**

British Shooting will run Olympic Training Squads for each cartridge pistol event (50m Pistol, Rapid Fire Pistol and 25m Pistol), but these will be limited by available resources to a maximum, subject to selection, of around 6 to 8 athletes per event. British Shooting will select athletes from the Olympic Training Squads to represent Great Britain at international competitions and ultimately, subject to British Olympic Association agreement, at the 2012 Olympic Games.

At the next level down, there will be a number of regional Cartridge Pistol Training Centres (CPTCs) across the country, each located at a suitable Ministry

of Defence range and based wherever possible on existing regional squad arrangements. British Shooting will appoint Range Conducting Officers and Coaches to run training sessions at these CPTCs. They will also run a number of selection shoots to allow athletes to compete for places in the Olympic Training Squads.

**SO WHAT CAN I DO NOW TO GET SELECTED FOR THE OLYMPICS?**

The first stage is to be selected to attend the training sessions at one of the regional CPTCs. This selection process will be run centrally by British Shooting as every prospective cartridge pistol shooter will have to be approved in advance by both the Home Office and their local police. British Shooting will select athletes who are demonstrating both commitment and performance. Commitment means a willingness, if selected, to put in the training necessary to achieve Olympic standard. Performance means results achieved in national-level air pistol competitions.

Our advice to all prospective Olympians in any of the cartridge pistol events is to train regularly with an air pistol – this is the best possible type of training for any Olympic event. Then enter as many shoulder-to-shoulder competitions as possible, particularly those run under the auspices of the NSRA or the BPC. Be assured that British Shooting will be scouring the results lists of these competitions for new talent.

There are links to both these documents in the News section of the NSRA website.

**Postal International Matches**

The Rifle Committee has appointed Chris Scott as Captain and Sheena Sharp as Adjutant of the GB Randle Team for 2009 and 2010.

Great Britain won the Dewar, Randle and Wakefield Matches in 2008 and although second, the Junior Men’s team of 3 in the Drew set a new British Record. The full results were:

<b>Dewar</b>		<b>Mayleigh</b>	
Great Britain	7841	United States of America	2661
United States of America	7776	South Africa	2407
South Africa	7660	Great Britain	2352
Canada	7100	Australia	2154
<b>Randle</b>		<b>Drew</b>	
Great Britain	3991 – 296x	Junior Men team of 3	
United States of America	3972 – 212x	New Zealand	1766
South Africa	3964 – 231x	Great Britain	1761
		South Africa	1750
		United States of America	1744
		Australia	1725
<b>Wakefield</b>		Junior Women team of 3	
Great Britain	5921	New Zealand	1750
New Zealand	5909	South Africa	1729
South Africa	5859	Great Britain	1724
Canada	5840	United States of America	1711
Australia	5809		

Junior team of 10	
New Zealand	5834
Great Britain	5786
South Africa	5755
United States of America	5736

### **West Midlands Regional Shooting Centre, Aldersley**

The Board of Management visited the Shooting Centre when the adjacent Leisure Centre was used as the venue for the October Board Meeting.

Plans are being drawn up for a weekend working party on maintenance and improvements to be held early in the New Year. This will involve local volunteers and some staff and parents connected with the Junior Rifle Squad.

### **Use of MOD Ranges**

The final decision on small-bore shooters using MOD ranges being required to have certificates of competence has been restricted to those using semi-automatic small-bore rifles. This covers the users of some (but not all) rifles that fall within the Lightweight Sport Rifle and NRA Gallery Rifle (Small-bore) categories. Those clubs which use MOD ranges should contact Headquarters to ask for the application form and explanatory notes.

### **Targets**

Up to now the NSRA has been using the SPA1 target, a 25 metre target proportional to the ISSF 50m Pistol and the 20-yard PL14 targets. We have now had our own target printed which is available, currently in limited quantities, as PL19. The SPA1 target remains valid for use in NSRA postal competitions.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Shooting Council Meetings**

The dates of Shooting Council Meetings in 2009 are 28 March, 1 August and 28 November.

### **Club and Association Affiliation**

The 2009 affiliation papers have been despatched to all clubs and associations. The rates are:

Clubs	2009	2008
30 members or fewer	£120	£115
Over 30 members	£165	£155
County Associations	£380	£360
Cat. B, D & E organisations	£135	£128
Individuals		
Annual	£72	£69
Junior and FTE	£41	£39
Associate	£49	£46

For individuals, the **New Deal Membership Scheme**, launched two years ago, gave new, existing and lapsed members the opportunity to sign up for three years' membership at discounted rates, subject to the fees being paid either by Direct Debit or in one lump sum covering the three years.

The lump sum arrangement has provided the Association with a useful addition to its working capital. In 2007 the option was taken up by 304 Annual and Associate Members, who paid a total of about £34,000 in advance, whilst so far in 2008 a further 160 members have taken this option adding another £18,000.

For 2009 the Board has approved the launch of the **Welcome Scheme**, which gives a substantial first-year discount to those joining the Association for the first time as an Annual Member and paying by Direct Debit. This is similar to schemes already run by the NRA and CPSA, although in the case of our scheme a new member's primary club, if affiliated to the NSRA, will receive a bounty of £10 for each Annual Member and £5 for each Junior Annual Member. Details of this scheme were circulated to clubs with their affiliation packs and a copy is attached to this report.

2008 renewals of individual memberships continue to be received, so it is not yet possible to comment on the end-year figures. However this can be done in the case of clubs and associations. The net reduction in UK-based affiliates in 2008 compared with 2007 was 13. The equivalent figures were 24 last year and 53 the year before.

### **Staffing**

In the last few months there has been a significant downturn in bookings for the Lord Roberts Centre and this has led the NSRA Limited Directors to carry out a review of operations, and details of any restructuring of the business will be announced shortly.

### **Sport England Initiative**

The requirement of Sport England that there be only one submission from the sport of Target Shooting provided the opportunity for the NSRA to work with the CPSA and NRA in conjunction with John Perry, the Coordination Manager for NATSS and also with Performance Matters, the company that is assisting NATSS. With consultation and advice from Sport England, a comprehensive submission was developed and provided to Sport England by their deadline of 24 October.

Sport England has advised that a decision on funding can be expected around the middle of December.

### **NATSS**

Although the Sport England submission delayed the work of NATSS, work is carrying on apace, and the next Steering Group Meeting is scheduled for 13 January 2009. At that meeting Performance Matters is expected to provide some recommendations on structures that are required for the new body.

Currently there are Working Parties of specialist groups addressing issues relating to finance, membership, governance and communication) in consultation with Performance Matters. The NSRA is represented on each of the Working Parties.

It is expected that there will be a Chief Stakeholders meeting towards the end of February, 2009, and following this meeting there may be a need for Performance Matters to undertake further work to finalise the Whole Sport Plan, before the matter is considered by the Boards of the three governing bodies.

### **CLA Game Fair**

The arrangements to share a stand with the NRA at the Game Fair worked well and further collaboration in this sort of promotion activity is being investigated. The

NSRA will have its own stand (as will the NRA and CPSA) at the British Shooting and Countryman Show, a new show to be held at Newark on 28 February and 1 March 2009.

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE - .....

SCOTTISH RIFLE MEETING

Over the years it has become increasingly difficult to find venues for the Scottish Meeting which meet the three basic criteria – an area of land available on which to build a temporary range, a sufficient and suitable mix of accommodation available within reasonable travelling distance and sufficient local volunteers to undertake the local organisation.

Various appeals have gone out in the past seeking information from Scottish members on potential new sites, but these have not been very successful. We are therefore now reduced to a circuit of about four regular venues – Caithness, Dumfries, Forres and Lauder. It is known that a proportion of Scottish Meeting participants support the meeting as part of a longer holiday in the area, and are therefore less inclined to go if they have been to the area a number of times in the past.

In an effort to increase the number of venues available, it has been suggested that the Scottish Meeting might become a “Scottish and Northern England” or “Northern Area” Meeting, bringing in the possibility of new venues being found in Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham and Cleveland and the northern parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

How many times have you attended the Scottish Meeting during the last five years. ....

Would the possibility of the meeting being held in northern England from time to time make you:

More likely to enter ..... Less likely to enter ..... No difference .....

BISLEY RIFLE MEETING

Several years ago a change was made to the timetable for shooting the Championship Aggregate on Monday and Tuesday. The previous arrangement had been to shoot one 40-shot competition in the morning and one in the afternoon on each day. Each competitor therefore had two squaddled shoots with a 4 ½ hour break between.

The more recent system has been to have two shoots on the morning of one day and the afternoon of the other, each with a one-hour break between. The advantages which had been foreseen included opening up greater options for shooting other matches, for example those held on the Malcolm Cooper Range. Also it would leave a longer time slot for shooters to do other things off camp, particularly those who have brought non-shooting members of their families.

Some people found disadvantages with this system. This was particularly centred on the fact that competitors needed to spend about 3 ½ to 4 hours on the range with little opportunity to leave during the one-hour break between the two shoots. Although this course of fire (hour-on, hour-off, hour-on) is used by many shooters at County Open Meetings, these are generally run on small sites and with smaller numbers where there may be more convenient options for temporary secure storage of equipment, etc.

The first year of the new system did not work well since it was during a heatwave and some competitors, particularly amongst the older age groups found the arrangement very tiring. Similarly the wait between squads can be unpleasant in the events of the rain and muddy conditions that have occurred in the last two years.

How many times have you attended the Bisley Meeting during the last five years. ....

Do you normally take part in the Championship Aggregate on Monday to Thursday: Yes ..... No .....

Do you stay on camp or commute daily? Stay on camp ..... Commute daily .....

What is your preference for the Monday and Tuesday shoots?

Two 40-shot courses with a 4 ½ hour break between: Yes ..... No .....

Two 40-shot courses with a 1 hour break between: Yes ..... No .....

Some other arrangement: Please state what:

At the last couple of Bisley Rifle Meetings there has been considerable disruption to the first weekend caused by the camp hosting a Hot Rod Rally. In particular this has limited the amount of NRA accommodation available, including precluding the use of some campsites. This disruption is known to have resulted in a number of former competitors deciding not to take part, particularly amongst those who only attend for the Weekend Aggregate, the Three Position Matches or the NSRA/Eley Finals.

What are your normal accommodation arrangements for the Rifle Meeting?

At home .....      Locally but off camp .....      Static caravan .....      Bisley Clubhouse .....  
Arranged via NRA Accommodation office      Hut .....      Touring caravan .....      Tent      .....

Have your accommodation arrangements been directly affected by the Hot Rod Rally?    Yes .....      No .....

#### Future of the Bisley Rifle Meeting

Do you think it likely that you would continue to support the NSRA's principal National Rifle Meeting if:

It was held at Bisley at a different time?      Yes .....      No .....

It was moved away from Bisley to a different venue?      Yes .....      No .....

#### Your shooter profile:

Age:    Under 21 .....    21-35 .....    36-50 .....    51-65 .....    Over 65 .....

National Classification (Prone Rifle) or nearest equivalent if not currently holding a Classification.

X .....      A .....      B .....      C .....      D .....

Form to be returned to: Denise Doe, NSRA, Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0NP

Electronic copies to [ddoe@nsra.co.uk](mailto:ddoe@nsra.co.uk)