

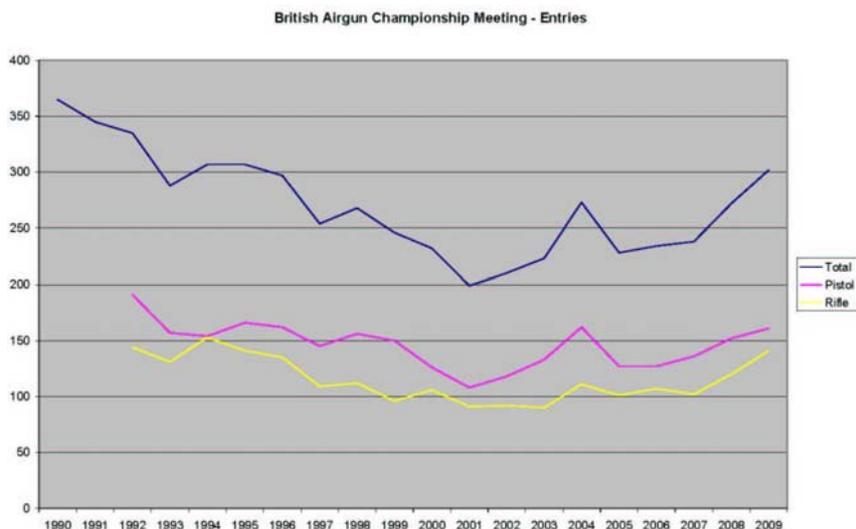
REPORT TO THE SHOOTING COUNCIL - MARCH 2009

SHOOTING MATTERS

National Meetings

Airgun Championships

The Championships were held on 20th to 22nd February and entries exceeded 300 for the first time since 1995.



In view of the continuing upward trend in entries and the resulting congestion on the most popular squads, a questionnaire is being sent to this year's competitors to gauge views on options for the future. The questionnaire will also be available on the NSRA website.

Scottish and Bisley Rifle Meetings

The results of the questionnaire issued last year were considered by the Rifle Committee at its most recent meeting. Among the findings were that the majority of shooters preferred the one-hour break between Aggregate shoots on Monday and Tuesday of the Bisley Rifle Meeting, rather than having one shoot in the morning and one in the afternoon (62% to 38%).

It also appeared that the possibility of the Scottish Meeting being held in the most northern part of England would not be likely to have a detrimental effect on the entry for the meeting. Geoff Doe will be shortly be contacting the relevant County Associations in Scotland and the north of England.

On Thursday this week Geoff Doe and I had a most constructive meeting with Jeremy Staples, Managing Director of the National Shooting Centre. This addressed a number of issues, particularly those related to our Rifle Meeting in August. Jeremy acknowledged that it would be in their interests as well as ours if the Hot Rod Rally could be separated from the first weekend of our meeting. Although it is not possible to do this for 2009, the point will be taken on board in settling arrangements for 2010 and beyond.

The question of access routes to the car park on Century Range was also discussed. For 2009 access will be via the path immediately behind the hut on the 300 metre firing point from the first Saturday until the Thursday, during which period the NSC have agreed not to use the clay stand on the far right. On the Friday and final Saturday, because of a major event being hosted which will require the

use of all the stands, we will need to move the access route to the 400 yard distance, with pedestrians using the firing point itself and vehicles using the land immediately adjacent to the point.

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Shooting Venue

LOCOG and the ODA have announced that the venue will be at Woolwich. Together with the NRA CEO and the Chairman of British Shooting, the NSRA CEO attended a couple of meetings with the ODA and LOCOG, and also a meeting with the Minister for the Olympics to advocate Bisley as our preferred option for staging the event.

However it was clear that with LOCOG, the IOC and also the ISSF all preferring that the venue be Woolwich, the will for LOCOG and the ODA to look seriously at Bisley as a serious option has to be questioned. NSRA's priorities now will be to ensure that there is a legacy of some sort, in the form of equipment, for Small-bore Shooting.

British Shooting

It was not until late January that *British Shooting* was informed by Sport UK of the funding it would receive for training and international participation in the period up to the London Olympics. The amount is £1.225m, a reduction of 78% on the amount received for the previous four-year period. *British Shooting* has announced that this will result in a reduction in the number of shooters on the World Class Plan, although some will no doubt receive some financial support through their Home Country Federations.

Another impact is that John Leighton-Dyson, *British Shooting's* Performance Director during the last two Olympic cycles, has been declared redundant and vacates the post at the end of this month.

On the other hand funding of Disability Target Shooting GB for the period 2009 to 2013 has been increased to £2.1m.

International Matches

British shooters have experienced some success in the first international matches of 2009.

At the **Grand Prix of Pilsen** Georgina Geikie won the Individual Gold Medal in the second of the Women's Air Pistol matches.

A team of seven juniors attended the **Australian Olympic Youth Festival in Sydney**, and all of them returned with a medal. James Huckle and Rory McAlpine won Gold Medals, Sheree Cox and Matthew Hall won Silvers, whilst Jen McIntosh and Victoria Mullin won Bronze. The seventh member was Hannah Polak, who won a Gold and a Silver in her two events.

Both England and Wales had teams at **InterShoot in The Hague** and came back with many medals, England's tally including six Individual and five Team Golds, and Wales gaining one Team and one Individual Gold. Both James Huckle and Sheree Cox set new Junior Individual Final British records in the Air Rifle.

Further details of the performances are available on the NSRA website.

Dewar International Match Centenary

2009 is the centenary of the first match between the UK, the United States and Australia for the Dewar International Trophy. To celebrate this there will be special medals for the members of all of the participating teams.

In addition there will be an Individual Unsquadded Competition, which may be shot at either the Scottish or the Bisley meeting, entry to which will be restricted to those who have represented their country in the Dewar International. Apart from the competition awards, there will be a special commemorative medal for every entrant.

The design of the special centenary medals has been based on the Dewar International Match winners' medal from 1909, an original of which was recently acquired by Mr. Wingrove. The same design has been used as the logo for this year's NSRA/Eley Competition medals and stickers.



An approach was made to John Dewar & Sons, the whisky distillers, to see if they would be willing to sponsor the Dewar International Match and the Centenary Individual Competition, but we have now heard that they are not able to help. However I would be happy to give further information to any County or other association which might be interested in sponsoring part of these centenary celebrations.

Targets

We have been advised by Sykes that there will be an increase in target prices from 1st April.

Sykes have also advised that they are about to bring on stream a new target board from Europe. It is heavier than the current board, being 200 gsm instead of 170 gsm. However tests have shown that a trimmed set of five 2510BM/89 cards in a C4 envelope can still be posted for the minimum Letter Rate.

One feature of the new board is that it creates the halo-effect of a light-coloured ring around the shothole. It is thought that this will considerably ease the problems of spotting shots at 100 yards in difficult light conditions.

The downside is that it tends to cause more surface disturbance around the edge of the shothole. Extra care will need to be exercised in scoring targets printed on this board as it will be more difficult to judge by eye the exact position of the edge of the shothole in relation to the white of the scoring ring. There may therefore be a tendency for scorers of inward-scoring targets to be over-generous to the shooter, whilst outward-scoring targets, such as those for short-range rifle, may be scored too harshly. Scorers will be urged to make greater use of the gauge to check the value of shots, and in particular to use the relevant over-size gauge so that they can score the shot against an undamaged ring.

Certificates of Competence

It was reported to the last Council meeting that the only small-bore shooters who would be affected by the need for Certificates of Competence on MOD ranges would be those using semi-automatic rifles. The requirement for these certificates came into effect on 1st January 2009, and arrangements were in place prior to then for clubs to obtain blank certificates and guidance on their issue from the NSRA. As a result of this exercise the NSRA now has guidance on a Probationary Member course which can be used by any club to fulfil the relevant Home Office Approval criterion.

National Shooting Week

The British Shooting Sports Council is sponsoring the third National Shooting Week, which will be held between 23rd and 31st May. Further information, including a link for clubs to register as participants, can be found at www.nationalshootingweek.co.uk.

West Midlands Regional Shooting Centre, Aldersley

The proposed working party, mentioned in my report to the last Council, undertook some improvement work at the Centre last weekend. The working party was composed of parents and staff of the GB Junior Rifle & Pistol Squad together with the WMRSC staff and some local volunteers.

Apart from taking the opportunity to clear out much redundant equipment and having a general clean-up, a dedicated shop area and storeroom was constructed. This will give us the opportunity to stock a much wider range of shooting equipment and stores at the Centre. An open area with tables has also been created which can serve as a café and social area. The access route to and the space behind the 10 metre firing point has also been considerably cleared.



An offer has been received from the Squad to assist with a further maintenance weekend later in the year to undertake more improvements.

An additional member of staff, Melvyn Dyke, has recently been taken on from the beginning of April to work with Tony Taylor. This will allow the Centre to be fully open for extra time during the week.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Staffing

It was reported to the last Shooting Council meeting that due to a significant downturn in bookings for the Lord Roberts Centre, a review and restructuring of the business was being undertaken. This resulted in three positions being made redundant and some reduction in working hours for two members of staff.

The restructure has enabled us to continue to operate the Centre and to put policies in place and make the required efforts to continue operating successfully in the current recession.

A new full-time Accountant, Michael Rietschy, has been appointed and will be starting in mid-April.

Membership

The final figures are now available for the number of UK clubs and other organisations affiliated to the NSRA in 2008. The number showed a net reduction of 12 compared with 2007, down from 1052 to

1040, which is a drop of 1.1%. This is the smallest reduction for a considerable time, the equivalent figures having been 2.2% in 2007 and 4.7% in 2006.

The loss of clubs through closures, loss of ranges and other reasons was partly offset by the gaining of 17 clubs, six of them being junior clubs. Of these 11 were affiliating for the first time and six re-joined after absences of between one and eight years.

Sport England

Following the decision last year by Sport England to include the sport of Target Shooting as one of forty six sports that it would consider in its 2009-13 funding programme for development, and Sport England's requirement that there be just one application from the sport, the NSRA worked with the CPSA and the NRA in conjunction with John Perry, the Coordination Manager for NATSS to prepare and submit a Whole Sport Plan application.

Sport England has notionally approved a total of £750,000 over the four year period. As the amount approved was a fraction of what was requested, Sport England requested that we review the Plan and determine the interventions, outcomes and financial breakdowns that could be achieved with the funding that has been awarded.

Sport England is currently considering the revised interventions and outcomes and it is expected that an agreement will be reached soon and a contract signed.

To comply with Sport England's wish to have a dedicated special purpose vehicle (SPV) to receive the funds and oversee the implementation of the Plan, it has been agreed that the SPV be the Great Britain Target Shooting Federation (GBTSF).

GBTSF has been a dormant company of British Shooting and, it has been agreed that the new Directors of GBTSF would be the CEO and a Board Member from each of the three NGBs, i.e. the NSRA, the NRA and the CPSA.

Sport England has asked Ipsos MORI to conduct a major three year research programme to measure and track peoples' satisfaction with the quality of their sporting experience. The survey will be conducted across all 46 sports that Sport England is funding.

The aim of Ipsos MORI is to survey 900 people from each sport, broken down into 300 members of talent squads and 300 club members from each sport, as well as 300 general participants in each sport similar to those included in Sport England's previous "Active People" survey.

The survey results will not be used to look at the performance of clubs on an individual basis and the details of any respondents will be kept strictly confidential – the aim of the study is to gauge the quality of experience across the sport of Target Shooting. The survey should help with determining our future activities and improvement plans.

NATSS

At the last NATSS Steering Group Meeting on 28 January 2009, a proposal was put by the NRA that an incremental, staged approach towards amalgamation be adopted, and that the SPV set up for overseeing the Sport England development funding, i.e. GBTSF be contracted to provide services in the form of addressing issues and interests common to all three NGBs.

However before agreeing to any particular way forward, the NSRA wishes to see a clear timescale agreed upon, and to also wait until the working groups had undertaken substantially more work, particularly the Finance working group.

Also at the NATSS meeting on 28 January 2009, the NRA expressed dissatisfaction with Mr. John Jackman continuing as Chairman, and at the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Jackman resigned.

At a recent meeting of the General Council of the NRA, they voted, in a straw poll, for a Federation instead of amalgamation. Whilst the NRA Council's (Trustees) position is as expressed at the NATSS meeting on 28 January, any NRA constitutional changes would of course require the support of the General Council of the NRA.

Whilst the NSRA Board is willing to merely explore the principles of a Federation to enable dialogue to continue with the NRA and the CPSA, it is the NSRA Board's intention that work continue towards amalgamation rather than a Federation.

Disabled Shooting Project

The Board has approved a suggestion that a small group, led by Board member Charlie Blow, should look at what could be done to capitalise on shooting's pre-eminent position as a disabled-friendly sport. The group includes Mandy Pankhurst, DTSGB's representative on the Shooting Council, and the initiative has been welcomed by her organisation. DTSGB already does a very considerable amount for disabled shooters, but the project is designed to augment this, not replace it. It has been noted that the NSRA does lose members who reluctantly conclude that they must give up shooting, whether competitive or social, because of increasing infirmity. However for many of them alternative disciplines or techniques, including new forms of competition, could be developed which would extend their participation in and enjoyment of shooting.

A questionnaire was included with the last edition of *The Rifleman* and the responses to date are being analysed. However there are many clubs which have not yet responded and they are encouraged to do so. As the work of the group goes on, there will be updating reports in *The Rifleman* and elsewhere, as well as other articles designed to help clubs retain existing and attract new members.

Child Protection

The NSRA's policy and guidance document on Child Protection was passed to the NSPCC for their comments shortly before the last meeting of the Council. They subsequently responded with a number of suggested amendments and improvements and we are now awaiting their final comments/approval. As soon as this is received, the policy document will be issued to all affiliated organisations. Since the last Council meeting procedures have also been agreed with our insurers on how organisations can sign up to the NSRA policy, and as a result have abuse cover re-instated as part of their civil liability insurance.

The NSRA system whereby affiliated clubs and associations can have CRB checks undertaken on their key volunteers working with children are already in place and an application form can be obtained via the link on the front page of the NSRA website. A CRB check is also a requirement for the issue or renewal of a coaching licence to everyone at Club Coach level and above.

Betty Foster's Skydive

The last sponsorship money arising from Betty Foster's skydive last August was received at the end of 2008. Betty nominated two of the Association's funds, those supporting Shooting for the Blind and Junior Development, to share the sponsorship raised. As a result each the funds has received £1,245. In addition as many of the donations were Gift Aided, the funds will have a further £250 when the Gift Aid payment is received from HM Revenue and Customs.

Portrait of Lord Roberts

In January the Association was presented with a portrait in oils of Field Marshal Lord Roberts of Kandahar by Mr. John Jackman, a member of the NSRA and former Chairman of the National Rifle Association.

It was located by him in an auction late last year. The portrait is the work of Baron von Geusan and is dated 1900 in Maestricht.

The portrait has now been put on permanent display on the first floor landing at Lord Roberts Centre.



British Shooting & Countryman Show, Newark

The show was held on the Newark Showground on 28th February and 1st March, and was the first since its expansion to include the shooting sports. The NSRA was given a stand free of charge by the organisers, and this was situated immediately alongside the stands of the NRA and CPSA. Options for attendance at other shows during 2009 are under consideration.



Election Results

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

The outcome of the elections is as follows:

Vice-Chairman

Elected unopposed Mr. R.B. Loughridge

Board of Management

Elected Mr. E. Kendall

Administrative Members

Elected unopposed
Mr. M.J. Chapman
Mr. A.E. Dougliss
Mr. A.N. Gibbons
Mr. F. Jennings

International Committee

Elected

Mr. W.J. Dallimore
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

Elected

Mr. F. Jennings
Mr. K.I. Nash
Mr. P.N. Peters
Mr. H.C. Taylor
Mr. R.J. Wingrove

The Board has re-appointed Mr. Nash as Chairman and has approved his recommendations for additional appointments to the Committee.

Appointed

Mr. M.J. Chapman
Mr. D. Poxon

Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee

Elected

Mr. A.E. Dougliss
Mr. R. Green
Mr. J.O. Lloyd
Mr. J.A. Mallows
Mr. D. Poxon

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

Referees Committee

Elected

Mr. M.J. Chapman
Mr. A.E. Dougliss
Mr. K.I. Nash

The Board has re-appointed Mr. Nash as Chairman and has approved his recommendations for additional appointments to the Committee.

Appointed

Mr. W.N. Gilmour
Mr. R. Heath

Coaching and Development Committee

Elected

Mr. A.E. Dougliss
Mr. E. Kendall
Mr. D.R.V. Parish
Mr. H.C. Taylor
Mrs. M. Thomson

The Board has re-appointed Mr. Kendall as Chairman and has approved his recommendations for additional appointments to the Committee.

Appointed

Mr. A. Collick
Mr. R. Evered
Mr. M. Woodhead

Special Awards Committee

The five current members, Messrs. A.W. Batten, D. Brigden, G. Lawson and D.A.D. Mottram and Mrs. J. Nicholl, were re-elected unopposed. The members of the Committee will elect their own Chairman at the first meeting after 1 May.