

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

## **AUGUST 2009**

### **Tony Clark MBE**

Tony Clark, who was the Association's Chairman from 1982 to 1989, died on 16th June. He represented Great Britain in rapid-fire pistol at the Olympic Games four times between 1960 and 1972 and was six times British Rapid Fire Pistol Champion. There was a private funeral, but the NSRA was represented at the subsequent memorial service by Mr. Loughridge and Dr. Antal.



### **SHOOTING MATTERS**

#### **National Meetings**

Two National Meetings have been held since the previous Council meeting – the 50 metre International Rifle Championships in mid June and the Scottish Rifle Meeting at Forres.

In the case of the former, there was a small reduction in entries of 14 competitors, following the substantial increase the previous year. It is nevertheless thought to be the second-highest entry since the meeting started in 1997. A notable result was Wales' win in the Home Countries Men's Prone Rifle International, which came 100 years and eight days after their last win in a prone rifle international match at an NSRA meeting.

The number of entrants for the Scottish Meeting at Forres was 236, a rise of four compared with the 2008 meeting at Dumfries.

The current number of entries for the Bisley Rifle Meeting is 785, which is 26 lower than last year's final figure.

Dates for 2010 are:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 19 – 21 February  | British Airgun Championships, Bisley   |
| 11 – 13 June      | 50 metre Rifle Championships, Bisley   |
| 26 June – 2 July  | Scottish Rifle Meeting, Thirlstane Castle, Lauder (not on the previous very muddy field) |
| 14 – 22 August    | Bisley Rifle Meeting   |
| 10 – 12 September | Bisley Pistol Meeting  |

Initial plans are that the 2011 Scottish Meeting will be at Caithness.

#### **International Matches**

The circuit of international matches in Europe has continued to be supported by shooters selected either by British Shooting and/or the Home Countries. These have resulted in a number of successes and good performances. In particular:

#### **European Championships, Osijek, CRO**

The Women's Prone Rifle Team of Johanne Brekke, Michelle Smith and Sharon Lee won the Gold Medal, beating Finland by one point with Germany in third place. Johanne was one of five shooters who tied with the highest individual score of 593

and was placed fifth under the new ISSF tie-breaking rule of taking the total count of inner-tens. Under the previous rule Johanne would have won the Individual Gold Medal.



In the pistol competitions, Georgina Geikie was placed seventh in the Women's 25 metre Pistol competition with a score of 781.2, adding 8.8 points to the British Record. This was a very creditable performance in a strong European event against over 50 other shooters, and using a pistol which has been on the banned list in England, Scotland and Wales for over 10 years.

#### **40th Grand Prix of Liberation, Pilsen, CZE**

The most remarkable results from the other competitions attended came at Pilsen in May. The Scottish contingent set new Scottish Team records for Men's Prone Rifle and Men's 3 Positions. The English team set eight new or equal British Records, four in Individual and four in Team events. Perhaps the most outstanding was the 599 ex 600 by Michelle Smith in the Women's English Match.

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

Six yard shooting at the Centre has now been made available shooting across the new 25 metre range, meaning that events such as Bell Target do not now need to take place in the meeting room. The plans to provide a ceiling to this room in the next few months will enhance the uses to which it can be put whilst shooting is taking place in the main hall. The deteriorating lighting on the 10 metre range is being looked at as a matter of urgency.

Although additional work remains to be done later this year, it is noticeable that a number of users have taken the trouble to pass on positive feedback on the improvements being made at Aldersley. An advert is being taken in the Wolverhampton Wanderers desk diary with a view to seeking additional bookings for corporate events, linking them with the general facilities available elsewhere on the leisure village site.

The needs of the Lucas club to have access to the range is being pursued through the route of allowing the club's qualified Range Conducting Officers to have keys to the Centre. The re-launch of the former NISC Club for the benefit of local individual airgun shooters is being investigated.

#### **Use of MOD Ranges**

Landmarc is the private commercial company which manages military ranges, including setting hire charges. There has been no change in the charges for 25 yard indoor ranges for the last 10 years, but we know that they have issued a new scale and hiring regime, resulting in increases which are likely to affect the viability of some clubs. This includes raising of the annual licence fee from £15 to £60, and having a minimum hire period of a half-day (6 hours) at a price of £16.35 per lane.

Following discussions with Geoff Doe, the Reserve Forces Association in East Anglia considers Landmarc's proposals excessive and will have its own price structure, with a standard hire period of a quarter-day (3 hours) at £6.87 per lane.

The prices above exclude VAT, but most clubs avoid having VAT added to their invoices by making block bookings.

The East Anglian arrangements also foresee that clubs will have to provide proof that they have qualified RCOs and an up-to-date risk assessment. These needs can be met using the NSRA's RCO scheme and following the guidance in the joint NSRA/NRA Range Management Manual respectively.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Sport England**

An award agreement offering a total amount of £750,000 over the next four years has been received from Sport England, the conditions of which are being considered at the present time. This matter is being given the highest priority and should be resolved soon.

Ipsos MORI have now concluded their initial survey into measuring and tracking "people's satisfaction with the quality of their sporting experience" as part of the research that they will be conducting over the next three years for Sport England.

This research provides for the first time, a detailed picture of what is important to people when they participate in sport, and satisfaction with their sporting experience, across 45 sports, including Shooting.

Sport England will be meeting with NSRA in late August to elaborate on the survey and explain what the data actually means for actions coming out of it. It is envisaged that the information gained will help the NSRA to better understand what shooters currently think and to determine what needs to be done to improve their satisfaction with the quality of their experience in the sport.

Further information on the survey can be found on the Sport England website:

[www.sportengland.org/research](http://www.sportengland.org/research)

### **NATSS**

Late on 28th July, the Chairman of the CPSA Board, Terry Bobbett, contacted Mr Ken Nash as the Chairman of NATSS and Vice Chairman of the NSRA to advise of a decision by the CPSA Board that the CPSA would be withdrawing from the NATSS project.

Subsequently, on Wednesday 29th July, the following press release was posted on the CPSA website:

*"Press Release:*

*Following the scheduled CPSA Board meeting held last week, Chairman Terry Bobbett, on behalf of the CPSA Board of Directors, yesterday advised Ken Nash, Chairman (sic) of the NSRA and Robin Pizer Chairman of the NRA, that CPSA is withdrawing (with immediate effect) from the National Association of Target Shooting Sports (NATSS) project."*

The information received by Mr Nash was passed on to the NSRA Board members. The first opportunity for them to discuss the matter was at the Board of Management meeting held yesterday afternoon, i.e. Friday 31st July.

There has been no reason given for CPSA's withdrawal, and the extent to which they may be willing to cooperate with the NSRA and the NRA in the future on the development of the target shooting sports, including the Sport England project, is not known at this time.

However every effort will be made by the NSRA to engage with both the NRA and the CPSA, to establish what common areas of interest there are that all parties could work on to further the interests of target shooting.

### **2012 Olympic and Paralympic Shooting Venue**

Whilst LOCOG and the ODA confirmed in March 2009 that the venue will be at Woolwich, there have been a number of Parliamentarians, particularly in the House of Lords, who have continued to question the decision and advocate that Bisley be considered.

The NSRA's position is that it would prefer the venue to be Bisley and if the opportunity arises again for Bisley to be considered, the NSRA has in place some very specific proposals to put forward for consideration relating to the layout of the venue.

However the reality is that at the present time it appears that LOCOG, the IOC and also the ISSF all prefer that the venue be Woolwich. In these circumstances NSRA will continue to do whatever is necessary to ensure that there is a legacy of some sort, in the form of equipment, for small-bore shooting.

### **British Shooting**

The Chairman of *British Shooting*, Mr Phil Boakes, sent the following statement to LOCOG on 1st July.

*'British Shooting accepts that there is a requirement for a compact Games and this rationale is the main reason why we reluctantly admit that Bisley is not viable as the Shooting venue for London 2012. We also know that 'Britain's home of Shooting' does not have the support of the International Shooting Sports Federation or the International Olympic Committee due to its geographical location and therefore half-heartedly, see no ground for continuing to try to promote this venue.*

*We do however, still want to work with the London 2012 Organising Committee in order to maximise all possible legacy opportunities for Shooting from the Games and we look forward to playing a key part in these discussions."*

This statement was used in the House of Lords on 14th July to support LOCOG's decision to confirm Woolwich as the venue for the Shooting events at London 2012.

As a result of dissatisfaction amongst members of the *British Shooting* Board, an emergency meeting of the Board was called for and held on 20th July, at which it was agreed that the following press release be circulated:

*'British Shooting's board of directors met on 20th July to revisit the statement issued by the chairman on 1st July. The board has decided to withdraw this statement.*

*In light of further information, British Shooting continues to seek a shooting venue for London 2012 which is a permanent "bricks and mortar" legacy.*

British Shooting *therefore wish to make it crystal clear that their preferred option is to host the 2012 shooting event at Bisley.*

*We affirm that British Shooting will continue to work with LOCOG to maximise legacy opportunities and we will do all that is necessary to ensure that the shooting events at the Olympic Games are truly successful.*

*The following bodies were represented at this meeting:-*

*British International Clay Target Shooting Federation, National Rifle Association, National Small-Bore Rifle Association, English Target Shooting Federation, Welsh Target Shooting Federation, Scottish Target shooting Federation, Target Shooting Federation of Northern Ireland, Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain, Disability Target Shooting Great Britain”.*

On Tuesday, 28th July, Phil Boakes advised the *British Shooting* Board members that the CPSA Board had considered his involvement with the position of Chairman of *British Shooting*, and their view was that he should concentrate his time on CPSA matters. As a consequence of this Phil Boakes tendered his resignation as Chairman of *British Shooting* with immediate effect.

### **Disabled Shooting Project**

The questionnaire issued to clubs in the last two issues of *The Rifleman* has now brought in 150 responses, covering almost 20% of NSRA-affiliated civilian clubs and over 5,000 shooters. This has provided a very useful base from which to extrapolate the position for small-bore and airgun shooting as a whole in relation to the proportion of people who shoot with some level of disability. It has also provided valuable information about the extent and quality of facilities available to meet their needs.

A four-page section on the project and related matters was included in the Summer edition of *The Rifleman* and *NSRA News* and has therefore been distributed to all clubs and individual members, including Associate Members.

Amongst the articles was one about plans for a new individual postal competition specially designed to allow the participation of any shooter in any discipline, but particularly to cater for the needs of more severely disabled shooters. It is therefore likely to show a number of radical departures from the current normal practice. Expressions of interest are being collected as a result of the article with a view to running a pilot competition during the autumn.

### **Shooting Club Directory**

In recent years Blaze Publishing (which publishes various shooting titles, including the former Target Sports) has produced a directory of clubs annually. The latest edition was issued early in July. The NSRA is one of the organisations sponsoring the directory, and as part of this sponsorship we receive a number of copies that can be used for various publicity purposes. A copy is available for any Council Member who would like one.

The directory includes details of many NSRA-affiliated clubs, but these are supplied direct to Blaze Publishing by the club, not by the NSRA. It is intended to circulate a copy of the directory to clubs with the Autumn edition of *The Rifleman*, highlighting the fact that if clubs wish to update their entry, or be included for the first time, they will need to contact Blaze Publishing direct in early 2010.

### **Shows**

The Association was again invited to share the NRA's stand at the CLA Game Fair, which was held last weekend at Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire. Attendance was 136,000 over the three days and the stand was manned by both members of the NSRA staff and local volunteers, the latter being able to provide advice on local clubs and facilities to those enquirers who lived locally.

The NSRA's attendance at the British Shooting and Countryman Show, Newark was mentioned in my report to the March Council meeting. The Board has agreed that we shall attend the next show in February 2010, for which the organisers will be providing us with an airgun range, including a facility to demonstrate shooting for the blind.