

# **REPORT TO THE SHOOTING COUNCIL - MARCH 2010**

## **SHOOTING MATTERS**

### **National Meetings**

#### **Airgun Championships**

The Airgun Championships were held over the weekend 19 to 21 February with 290 entries which is a slight decrease on 2009 (302). This was due to a number of competitors who would normally attend being absent due to commitments in India. There were 1730 individual competition entries compared with 1652 in 2009. Country, County and Club teams were down slightly.

The prize list was enhanced by two new sponsorship arrangements. Walther provided vouchers for the winners of the ten Aggregate competitions, and AirArms donated pellets for the winners of the 11 British Open Championships.

As announced at the last Council Meeting, a system had been devised to allow complete lists of scores to be placed on the NSRA website during the weekend. These included scores in the Aggregate competitions, which were posted on Friday evening and subsequently updated 24 and 48 hours later. Others were posted as soon as possible after the end of the particular competitions, which were the Championships and the club, county and International team matches. The work was helped by the fact that every competitor who shot at the meeting agreed to his or her name, club and scores being published on the internet.

A link was placed on the Home Page of the NSRA website, taking visitors to a short, single page which comprised links to the various competition results. At the present time this page has received almost 1,900 visits, and the 41 separate pages of results have received a total of over 5,500 hits.

#### **Other Meetings**

The dates of the remaining meetings in 2010 are:

11 to 13 June	British 50m Rifle Championships, Bisley
26 June to 2 July	Scottish Rifle Meeting, Lauder
13 August	Junior Sporter and Precision Air Rifle 3P Championship, Bisley
14 to 22 August	Bisley Rifle Meeting
10 to 12 September	Pistol Meeting, Bisley

Confirmation has just been received that the 50m Rifle Championships in June will again be the recipient of £1,000 in cash prizes, generously provided by Edinkillie Sport Services.

#### **International Matches**

At the Commonwealth Shooting Championships in Delhi there were a number of the leading Commonwealth shooting countries which were not present in great numbers or at all. Nevertheless the Home Country teams felt the full force of India's strength across the disciplines, giving a clear warning for the Commonwealth Games at the same venue in October.

The full medal table (including the Badge Matches) was:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
India	35	25	14	74
England	4	15	13	32
Wales	4	2	7	13
Australia	3	7	9	19

Scotland	3	2	5	10
Bangladesh	2	2	3	7
New Zealand	2			2
Northern Ireland	1		2	3

### **Targets**

Following further correspondence with Targets Direct of Southampton, who were selling NSRA and ISSF targets online, their website has been taken down. Target Directs' solicitors are understood to have advised them that they have infringed the NSRA copyright in the NSRA-designed targets, such as the 25-yard .22 rifle target, in that the copyright includes the target itself as the NSRA defined the size and position of the elements of the target such as the scoring rings and the aiming mark. It is now clear that the NSRA's copyright is not limited to the NSRA logo or Lord Roberts' signature. The terms of a settlement, including compensation, is being negotiated with Targets Direct.

Consideration is now being given to initiating discussions, and taking legal action where necessary, against any other organisations which are reproducing NSRA-designed targets without authority.

### **National Shooting Week**

The British Shooting Sports Council is sponsoring the fourth National Shooting Week, which will be held between 23 and 31 May. Further information, including a link for clubs to register as participants, can be found at [www.nationalshootingweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalshootingweek.co.uk).

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

Agreement has been reached with two local clubs to have access to the outdoor range without the need for a member of the NSRA staff to be present.

The latest improvements to the Centre undertaken by the NSRA Junior Squad have included adding a ceiling to the training room, so it can now be used for meetings with considerably reduced noise interference from the adjacent range. The toilets and the washing-up area have been renovated and some walls moved to give access from the range and shop area, rather than from the entrance lobby.

### **Benchrest Working Group**

A number of individuals are about to be invited to join the group being set up to look at the way forward for this discipline under NSRA Rules. In an unrelated event, the UK Association of Rimfire & Air Rifle Benchrest Shooting (UKBR22) has affiliated to the NSRA as a Category D organisation.

### **Postal Competitions**

It was reported to the last Council Meeting that a decision had been taken by the technical committees to discontinue some Inter-County competitions which attracted very few entries. Subsequently a number of suggestions have been put forward on how these competitions might be saved, and these are under consideration.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

### **Staffing**

Alistair Aitken joined the Association in January, taking up the position of Assistant Technical Manager. Initially he has concentrated on the organisation of all the major competition meetings this year, starting with the Airgun Championships. He is also working with Geoff Doe on other areas of Geoff's job and will take over the role upon Geoff's retirement.

## **Membership**

### **2009**

The final figures for the number of UK clubs and other organisations affiliated to the NSRA in 2009 show a net reduction of 17 compared with 2008, down from 1040 to 1023, which is a reduction of 1.6%. Although this is higher than the 1.1% drop the previous year, it is still an improvement on the net losses of 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 24 clubs, eight of them being junior clubs. Of these 12 were affiliating for the first time and 12 re-joined after a period of absence.

### **County Associations**

During the last decade, the number of County Associations affiliated to the NSRA has fallen from 55 to 49. Of the six losses, three were the result of mergers and three (Guernsey, Monmouthshire and Orkney) were associations ceasing to affiliate. The latter cases increase the number of areas where shooters are not able to take part in our Inter-County programme of competitions, the other major one being around Moray and Nairn.

Two further associations have informed us that they will not be re-affiliating as County Associations in 2010 – Leicestershire & Rutland and South Wales Counties. The former is in negotiation with an adjacent county about a possible merger, which will be put to the Council later for approval if agreement is reached between the counties. A letter suggesting some options has been sent to South Wales Counties.

### **Field Target**

Reference was made in my report to the last Council of the potential influx of field target clubs. This followed the decision of the British Field Target Association to cease offering an insurance package to its member clubs.

Of the clubs which previously obtained their insurance through the BFTA scheme, 49 have affiliated to the NSRA, 45 for the first time and four after a period of absence. These are in addition to the 13 field target clubs which were already affiliated to the NSRA, together with over 60 other NSRA-affiliated clubs which have field target listed as one of their declared activities. Also affiliated to the NSRA are the British, English and Welsh FT Associations and three of the seven English Regional Associations.

## **2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games**

### **Legacy**

Although any legacy in terms of equipment from London 2012 would primarily be of relevance and benefit to the NSRA and its members, British Shooting indicated that it was the body that would deal with any approaches to LOCOG on this matter. Consequently in April 2009 the NSRA submitted its own legacy proposal to British Shooting for forwarding on to LOCOG.

Nothing eventuated from this action other than the then British Shooting Chairman requesting all other British Shooting Board Members to submit to him their own thoughts on legacy.

After several months of inactivity on this important matter, common sense prevailed and it was agreed in early December 2009 that NSRA be allowed to lead on this matter on behalf of British Shooting.

With not much time to spare as the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) wanted to hold a meeting with Shooting's representatives before Christmas, the NSRA Chief Executive prepared for and attended the meeting with GOE along with the NSRA Director of Shooting and the President of the British International Clay Target Shooting Federation (BICTSF).

GOE placed a deadline of the end of January 2010 to receive a Shooting legacy plan. The NSRA Chief Executive facilitated discussions and a meeting with the BICTSF, the Army and Disability Target Shooting Great Britain, and an agreed plan was submitted to GOE by the deadline. The plan includes all the electronic targetry being relocated at the Lord Roberts Centre (LRC) and in turn the existing targetry at LRC being relocated to the regions.

The receipt of the plan has been acknowledged and we were advised that following the Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver, a meeting would be arranged with LOCOG and the ODA to discuss the plan. We are waiting to hear from GOE in regards to this proposed meeting.

### **Volunteers**

The Assistant Secretary attended a briefing earlier this month about publicity arrangements relating to the recruitment of volunteers to help with the Games in both specialist and general roles. LOCOG has not yet announced the dates for the launch of its appeals for volunteers, but this is expected to be later this year. When relevant information is announced by LOCOG it will be given coverage on the NSRA website and in *The Rifleman*.

### **Postage Stamp**

The NSRA was one of a small number of shooting bodies consulted by Royal Mail about the design of a postage stamp dealing with shooting. This will be one of the 10 stamps in the second set of Olympic and Paralympic Games commemoratives. The shape of the stamp was particularly conducive to the use of a circular target as the principal element of the design, thus linking it to the rifle/pistol events rather than shotgun. The NSRA's shop was visited to get preliminary ideas and photographs. Subsequently the designer, David Hillman, made adjustments in direct response to the NSRA's suggestions, whilst retaining the overall concept that it should be a graphic representation rather than a literal or photographic design. The stamp is due to be issued on Tuesday 27 July 2010.

### **Sport England**

As reported to you previously, the prime purpose of GBTSF Ltd, the company that will administer the award on behalf of the NSRA and the NRA, is to manage a programme of activity to deliver the agreed outcomes to Sport England, and this will be the day to day responsibility of a National Development Manager (NDM).

Due to difficulties in recruitment and the absence of a NDM Sport England requested the NSRA and NRA to second staff to the project until such time that a suitable NDM could be appointed. The NSRA Board agreed that both, the Chief Executive and the Coaching and Development Manager, be seconded for a certain amount of time to work on getting the project operational. The NRA also agreed to second a couple of staff, and NSRA Board Member, Mr Edward Kendall, agreed to take on the role of Regional Development Manager for the North East, which has been identified as a priority.

However an NDM has now been recruited, and Miss Amy Jankiewicz began her employment on 1 March and is operating from the NSRA office. Her background includes a sport science degree, being a participant in many sports and a four year short service commission in the Army after being Sandhurst trained.

Whilst it has also been reported to you previously that the prime objective of the Sport England award is to facilitate the creation of a programme to improve a variety of areas thereby providing greater

satisfaction to target shooters and volunteers, and also to improve the current talent identification strategy, it might be helpful to explain further to you the key elements of the delivery plan.

- **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV):** The reason why GBTSF was chosen as the SPV to deliver the award has already been reported to you, as is the fact that GBTSF presently consists only of NSRA and NRA representatives. For this reason self assurance governance frameworks for the NSRA, NRA and GBTSF was undertaken online and Sport England are currently reviewing the results. It has been a useful exercise and whilst there are some gaps that need to be filled we anticipate that Sport England will provide a pass, along with some assistance to fill any gaps identified. The NSRA Vice Chairman, Mr Ken Nash has been appointed as the GBTSF Chairman, and the NSRA Chief Executive has been appointed as the Liaison Officer to Sport England. Mr Mark Haszlkiewicz, the NRA's Treasurer, has been appointed as the GBTSF Finance Director.
- **Communications:** Improve this internally so that there is better interaction with the clubs and the members, and also externally to reposition target shooting in the eyes of the media and improve public perception. The latter will be done by focussing on the benefits target shooting sports have to offer.
- **Shooter Satisfaction:** The aim is to create a programme to determine measures of participant satisfaction in the sport, in tandem with Sport England's Active People Survey, and subsequently develop appropriate interventions and messages to improve satisfaction.
- **Quality Standards:** Work with one of Sport England's partners, "Skills Active" to consider existing standards of quality control measurements in relation to facilities, systems, employees and volunteers. Subsequently establish desired standards and implement.
- **Recruit to Coach:** Creation of a coaching development programme to provide a 20% increase in the number of qualified coaches by 2013.
- **Clubs & Facilities Programme:** Work initially with Sport England's Facilities Unit to research and audit the existing club base nationally, and then develop a national standards base for all clubs. Identify "Focus Clubs" for regional development and talent identification.
- **Volunteer Programme & Workforce Development:** Improving the existing workforce and volunteers by identifying the sport's future requirements, and work with Skills Active and other key bodies to identify gaps and develop a strategy to train to fill the gaps and improve the quality of the volunteers and workforce in target shooting.
- **New Regional Development Networks:** The Regional Development Managers (RDM) will target certain County Sport Partnerships (CSP) and key Higher Education and Local Authority partners to 'open out' further participation opportunities and new delivery networks for the sport. CSPs received funding from Sport England to assist the 46 NGBs receiving support from Sport England. The RDMs will work with clubs and where possible incorporate their goals in relation to coaches, facilities, equipment and courses into the regional development plan.
- **Developing Talent:** Establish talent systems encompassing early talent identification and a pathway for individuals with ability and the desire to progress.

### **Disabled Shooting Project**

In addition to the items mentioned elsewhere in this report (demonstration of shooting for the blind at the Newark Show, review of benchrest shooting), recent progress with the project has included:

- work on the criteria and arrangements for recognition of clubs as Focus Clubs for the disabled;

- improvements to the communications arrangements with those interested in the Project through emailed bulletins and *The Rifleman*;
- preparation work on a module about coaching the disabled for incorporation in the NSRA Coaching Scheme;
- seeking Patrons for the Project and the Disabled Shooting Year.

### **Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults**

The Board of Management and the Directors of NSRA Ltd have agreed a number of actions and procedures in relation to the implementation of the NSRA Policy at NSRA premises. These include the appointment of a Child Protection Officer for appropriate NSRA events and activities. It will also be required that hirers of NSRA premises, including shooting associations and clubs organising open meetings and clubs using NSRA ranges as their home range, have adopted the NSRA policy and appointed their own CPO. These arrangements will be brought in progressively over the next few months.

The National Rifle Association has recently published its updated child protection policy booklet. In the preface the NRA acknowledges the NSRA's assistance in the production of their policy – in fact it is virtually identical, and just takes account of differences between the two associations. This similarity will make life easier for clubs and associations that are affiliated to both the NSRA and NRA.

### **Firearms Legislation**

"Firearms Law – (Guidance to the Police)", which is published by the Home Office, is currently being reviewed prior to re-issue. It is understood that part of the draft states:

*"As a result of the revised Weapons Directive, from July 2010 those under 18 will not be able to purchase a firearm and will only be able to acquire or possess one where they have parental permission; are under parental guidance; under the supervision of an adult with a firearms certificate or are at an approved club or shooting gallery."*

The impact of this is that from July 2010 the age at which a young person may purchase a Section 1 firearm will be raised from 17 years to 18. This will bring it into line with age legislation for airguns.

### **Certificates of Competence for MOD Ranges**

Reference was made in the report to the last Council meeting that agreement had been reached with MOD that certificates could have a four-year validity period. Subsequently it was ascertained that the MOD's relaxation of the arrangements was limited in extent and only applied to those certificates issued by the NRA in its role as a Home Office Approved club. The certificates supplied to clubs by NRA and NSRA in their roles as National Governing Bodies will continue to require annual renewal. This correction was announced at the time on the NSRA website.

### **Lords Roberts Centre**

Mark Cook was appointed as Operations Manager and started on 30 November 2009. He is an experienced operator having run Local Authority sport centres previously. He has a number of new initiatives that he is implementing with a view to improving the usage of the Centre.

A meeting is due to be held soon with a representative from Sport England's facilities unit. The purpose of this meeting is to jointly review the progress made in operating the Centre since it was built for the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

A mezzanine floor has recently been built in the reception area of the Centre and this will enable the Gun shop (on the ground floor) and the Inline Hockey shop (on the upper level) to expand.

Having put in a new rink floor last year for inline hockey, the old tiles are available for sale at £10 per square metre.

### **British Shooting & Countryman Show, Newark**

The show was held on the Newark Showground on 27 and 28 February. The NSRA was again given a stand free of charge by the organisers, and this was situated between the stands of the NRA and CPSA. For 2010 we were also provided with a large indoor area where we were able to have a 10-metre airgun range with six points for air rifle and one lane for shooting for the blind. The air rifle lanes were run by an experienced crew from the 2nd Creswell Scouts. There was also a separate space for the demonstration of two Scatt trainers by Steve Downes and Kevin Henderson.

The total area of the show was about three times the size of 2009 and the attendance grew from about 16,000 to about 25,000.

### **Election Results**

61 voting forms were issued, of which 32 were returned.

The outcome of the elections is as follows:

#### **Chairman**

Elected unopposed Mr. R.W. Newman

#### **Vice-Chairman**

Elected unopposed Mr. R.B. Loughridge

#### **Board of Management**

Elected unopposed Mr. A.E. Dougliss

#### **Administrative Members**

Elected unopposed Mr. K.I. Nash  
Mr. D.R.V. Parish

#### **International Committee**

Elected unopposed 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. K.I. Nash  
Mr. F. Jennings  
Mr. H.C. Taylor  
Mr. P.N. Peters

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.R.V. Parish  
Mr. D. Poxon

### **Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee**

Elected  
Mr. A.E. Dougliss  
Mr. D. Poxon  
Mr. R. Green  
Mr. J.A. Mallows  
Mrs. E. Twyford

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

Appointed  
Mr. A. Lawrence  
Mr. J.O. Lloyd  
Mr. A. Meade  
Mr. R. Monksummers

### **Referees Committee**

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

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

Appointed  
Mr. W.N.G. Gilmour  
Mr. R. Heath

### **Coaching and Development Committee**

Elected unopposed  
Mr. A. Collick  
Mr. A.E. Dougliss  
Mr. E. Kendall  
Mr. D.R.V. Parish  
Mr. H.C. Taylor

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

Appointed  
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 their first meeting after 1 May.