

REPORT TO THE SHOOTING COUNCIL - JULY 2010

Shortly after the last Shooting Council meeting, news was received of the death of **Dr Laslo Antal** on Tuesday 30th March. At the Council meeting Dr Antal had been re-appointed as a Vice President of the Association. The funeral took place on Thursday 8 April in Liverpool.

Dr. Antal was Hungarian by birth and escaped to Britain during the troubles in that country. He made his mark on the pistol shooting scene over here and represented Great Britain at the highest level, including the Olympic Games of 1976. He was also a medalist at the European Championships.

On the domestic shooting scene he won several of the major pistol trophies during the 1970s, including the Gallie, the Allies and the Freeman, which were respectively the British Championships for 50 yards .22 Pistol, 20 yards .22 Pistol and 10m Men's Air Pistol.

He became deeply involved in the administration of the sport in a number of ways. In addition to his activities as a National Coach and Team Manager for GB teams at overseas championships, he also served for many years on the NSRA's Board of Management and its International, Pistol and Airgun Committees.

In mid-April news was received of the death of **Frank Spittle**, who was a lifelong promoter of airgun shooting around the country, but particularly in his home area of the Midlands of England. He served on a number of the NSRA's Committees, including the Executive Committee (prior to the establishment of the Board of Management).

SHOOTING MATTERS

National Meetings

50m Rifle Championships

The entry for this meeting remained fairly static, increasing from 2009 by just three to 146 competitors. All four of the individual competitions were notable. Jen McIntosh won the Women's 3x20 Championship, setting a new British Junior Record Score in the final of 674.9, whilst Emma Sigournay won the Women's Prone despite suffering from a heavy cold.

In the Men's Prone event Neil Stirton produced the highest score, 596, in the elimination rounds and repeated the score in the qualifying stage giving him a lead of four points going into the final. This lead proved unassailable. The Men's 3x40 was won by Chris Hector, his fifth win in the 14 years of the Championship and possibly his last major title as he prepared to stand down from competitive shooting.

Attempts to use the Sius Ascor Control Room to run the matches with the full graphics proved impossible because of a technical fault, and we are grateful to Dave Goodfellow whose alternative arrangements worked very well at short notice. We are also grateful to Donald McIntosh of Edinkillie Sport Services for his continued sponsorship of the event.

Scottish Rifle Meeting

The Scottish Meeting competitor numbers matched those of 2009 (232) with a small reduction in non Scottish competitors which was balanced by a compensatory increase in Scottish competitors. The meeting went well, mainly due to having good weather throughout, however more involvement is

required for 2011 to reduce the costs of supporting the meeting. The Scottish Champion is Ms Sheena Sharp, who won the British Championship at Bisley two years ago. The meeting also saw the re-

introduction of the chairing of the Haig winner along the range. The 2011 Scottish Meeting will take place in Castletown, Caithness between 2 and 8 July 2011.

Bisley Rifle Meeting

The latest number of entries (Friday 30 July) is 780. This is lower than the final number in 2009 (879), when there was large USA contingent in connection with the Roberts Match. However, it will go up somewhat because of entries on the range during the first weekend for the Classic and Veteran competitions. Two new trophies have been donated this year by Auto Kenya Ltd and Simba Shipping Ltd and will be awarded to the leading Juniors in the Double English Match.

International Matches

This year has seen a significant advance in our international shooting prospects. Apart from winning medals at InterShoot at The Hague, ISAS at Dortmund and the CSF Championships in Delhi, Jennifer McIntosh attended her first two World Cups, at Fort Benning and Belgrade. At both venues she finished in 10th place in the Women's 3 Position Match, her qualification scores being 581 and 578 respectively. These are the best 3x20 results we have had at this level of international competition since the days of Sarah Cooper. The two matches have projected her immediately in the World Ranking at No 23, and the European Ranking at No 10. Jen is one of only six juniors appearing in the Top Ten of the 16 European rankings in all disciplines (rifle, pistol, shotgun and running target).

Her next 3 Position competition is on 5 and 6 August in the Junior Women's event at the World Championships.

West Midlands Regional Shooting Centre, Aldersley

From early August Tony Taylor will be in hospital having a bypass operation. Time off will, at the moment, be unknown but the Centre will be open as normal, covered by Melvin Dykes and a few other regular helpers.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Staffing

Having joined the Association in January, Mr Alistair Aitken took over the responsibilities previous held by Mr Geoff Doe in April. Mr Doe moved to a part time role with the prime task of assisting Mr Aitken at the Scottish and Bisley Meetings and completing the hand over to Mr Aitken before retiring from the Association in September.

Mr Brian Woodall has suffered ill health and this impacted on staff resources in relation to the production of The Rifleman and other administrative tasks normally undertaken by Mr Woodall. Nevertheless a Spring/Summer issue of The Rifleman was published in early July and it is envisaged that the next issue will be ready as scheduled by the end of September. On this subject the Board has established a Rifleman Sub-committee to review and make recommendations on the content and format of future issues of the magazine.

Mr Grant Dorrall has been appointed as the Retail Manager and has already re-organised the extended Gun Shop. The Directors of NSRA Limited believe that Mr Dorrall has the skills to take things forward and have charged him with the task of reviewing and being responsible for the pricing structure, margins and stock level amongst other managerial duties.

2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Legacy

A meeting was held with LOCOG and the Government Olympic Executive in late May to discuss the Legacy Plan submitted in January. LOCOG was represented by four senior staff members at the meeting, including its Director of Sport and their Competition Manager – Shooting, and the Government Olympic Executive had two representatives, including its Deputy Director. Representing the sport were the NSRA's Chief Executive, Director of Shooting and Board Member, Mr David Parish (who is also the ISSF Technical Committee Chairman). Mr Peter Croft (President of BICTSF) unfortunately was unable to attend at the last minute.

LOCOG advised that it was their intention to hire/lease the 'electronic targetry equipment' rather than purchase it, and that the equipment would be secured via an IOC sponsor, Swiss Timing (Omega).

However, by accepting Mr Parish's offer to assist with procurement negotiations with Sius Ascor, and by inviting us to provide them with our "shopping list", LOCOG have not ruled out the possibility that there may still be the possibility that there may be a change of mind and that the equipment may be purchased.

The purpose of Mr Parish's offer is to potentially help secure an agreement with Sius Ascor that is sufficiently attractive to enable the electronic targetry equipment to be purchased and left as a legacy to the sport.

Subsequent to our meeting, Mr Croft has similarly offered to assist LOCOG with any negotiations with Laporte in regards to the procurement of the equipment for the Clay Target competition.

In order to provide LOCOG with our "shopping list" of what equipment we would like to receive, we have reviewed their Shooting Equipment Inventory list and provided them with our shopping list identifying the equipment that we wish to receive at no cost to the Shooting NGBs.

We are still waiting to hear from LOCOG on a meeting they were brokering with Omega, Swiss Timing and Sius Ascor for David Parish to attend to help with procurement negotiations. Peter Underhill has indicated that he will press LOCOG to facilitate this as soon as possible.

Advice received indicated that the range buildings that the ODA had agreed to build were of a quality that would not lend itself to relocation on a permanent basis. However, we have now been provided with the opportunity to review the plans for the structural work to be carried out at Royal Artillery Barracks that could potentially be utilized by the sport Post Games.

A meeting is being arranged for our sport's representatives to meet with a Sport England surveyor in August to review the plans to determine whether any of the structures are usable Post Games.

Apart from the electronic targetry equipment and the build structures referred to above, LOCOG will be acquiring a number of other items for use at the Olympic and Paralympic Shooting competitions and we have requested LOCOG to provide all these items to us as a legacy from the Games as this could also be redeployed consistent with our Shooting Legacy Plan, and this did not seem to be a problem.

Ticketing and Volunteers

Amongst recent LOCOG announcements have been the arrangements for the ticketing and volunteering. There is a link already in place on the NSRA website Home page where those who would

like to register their interest in obtaining spectators' tickets can do so. This will be joined very shortly with a second link for those who would like to volunteer to help in some capacity at the Olympic and

Paralympic Games.

It is anticipated that in the region of 70,000 volunteers will be required in both "specialist and generalist" roles.

Quota Places

The ISSF has announced the Quota Place arrangements for 2012. As previously expected, Great Britain will receive nine Quota places as the host nation. These are in events which, taking account of a typical pattern of multi-event shooting (e.g. a man filling the 3x40 Quota Place might also have MQSs in Prone Rifle and Air Rifle), should mean GBR could be represented in 14 of the 15 events, the exception being Men's Double Trap.

The major change to previous Olympic cycles is that Quota Places in World Cups will only be available in 2011, but in each of the four World Cups that year there will be three places in each airgun event, and two in each event for .22 guns and shotguns.

The number of places available at the World Championships in Munich, which starts today, varies between two and six per event. The remaining places available for Great Britain to win will be at the European Championships in 2011.

Sport England

Amy Jankiewicz has resigned from the position of National Development Manager and her last day in the post will be Friday 6 August.

Amy indicated that she has accepted another job more suited to her skills. She also indicated that the travel to Bisley on the M25 has been a lot worse than she anticipated and "has become demoralising".

To ensure the continuity of the project, Mr Dave Froggett has been seconded to immediately pick up the NDM role he held on a temporary basis prior to Amy being employed.

Many of the planned interventions are based around Regional Development and a pilot region has been selected in the North East. This region was selected as Sport England's 'Active People Survey' shows that Yorkshire and the North east (which form one region in the context of shooting) are below the average line for participation and so could show the effectiveness of the interventions. The region also has a well established regional squad for small-bore disciplines and has some suitable facilities.

A Regional Development Manager has been identified and a hub established at Easingwold Rifle and Pistol Club to support the project. A workforce audit within the region has commenced. This will help better organise courses for coaches and officials.

The formation of a Regional Pistol Squad is under discussion which will build on the already successful Regional Rifle Squad.

This region will help to form the template for future development.

Development of communications, national standards, coaching and pathway development continue at national level. Working groups are being established with representatives from each of the NGBs and also from external bodies where appropriate to implement the interventions.

Disabled Shooting Project

The Disabled Shooting Project is still alive and well despite the problems with communications over the last few months. It is hoped that these are now resolved and an up-dated programme for the Projects' work will be published very shortly. The Working Group is also exploring the possibility of linking into the GBTSF "Whole Sport Plan".

Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

The new Coalition Government has put the Vetting and Barring arrangements, which were due to come in this year for volunteers, on hold pending a review. It is not known how long this review might take and what effect it may have on future procedures for child protection.

However the NSRA's guidance issued last November had been prepared on the basis of how matters stood at that time, i.e. when no specific advice from the Independent Safeguarding Agency had been issued on how Vetting and Barring would apply in detail to private members sports clubs. Accordingly the NSRA policy and guidance issued in November 2009 remains current.

Firearms Legislation

The Firearms (Amendment) Regulations 2010 came into effect on the 28 July 2010. The effect of the regulations is - on this date - to raise the age at which people in England, Wales and Scotland may purchase or hire firearms or ammunition from the current 17 years to 18. There are also changes to the exemptions for lending and borrowing firearms regarding adult supervision of under 18's. There are also changes to Northern Ireland legislation.

The regulations stem from the European Weapons Directive 1991 as amended in 2008. The UK is obliged to adopt changes within two years of any new Directive being passed. Below is a summary of the changes.

Member States shall permit the acquisition and possession of firearms only by persons who have good cause and who:

- (a) are at least 18 years of age, except in relation to the acquisition, other than through purchase, and possession of firearms for hunting and target shooting, provided that in that case persons of less than 18 years of age have parental permission, or are under parental guidance or the guidance of an adult with a valid firearms or hunting licence, or are within a licensed or otherwise approved training centre;

The wording requires two changes to UK legislation. The first is to raise the purchase age to 18 years and the second to ensure that adult or parental supervision is applied to under 18 year olds. The following outlines those changes according to the types of firearm.

General Changes

Airguns

The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 previously raised the age at which air rifles and pistols could be purchased to 18 years. This already complies with the EU directive.

Section 1 Firearms

Purchase/sale to minors – Section 22(1) & 24(1) of the Firearms Act 1968

The purchase age is raised from 17 years to 18 years. The law is also amended to make an offence to sell to under 18's. This does not affect the age at which a young person may be granted a firearm certificate i.e. 14 years and upwards, nor does it affect the gifting of firearms and ammunition to persons aged 14 years or older.

Hire of firearms and ammunition – Section 24 of the Firearms Act 1968

It is currently illegal for persons under 17 to hire firearms and/or ammunition, this age will be raised to 18 years.

Borrowing rifles – Section 16 – Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988

As the estate rifle exemption allows those aged 17 years of age to borrow a firearm, the exemption will be amended to meet the EU Directive requirement for people under 18 to have "parental permission, or be under parental guidance or the guidance of an adult". When lending to the 17-year-old age group, the lending occupier or servant must always be 18 or over. For borrowers who are 18 years or older, the lender may include certificate holders aged 14 years upwards providing they are an occupier or servant of an occupier and hold a firearm certificate for the rifle being lent under the provisions of Section 16.

International Shooting Sport Federation

Earlier this week David Parish was succeeded as Chairman of the ISSF Technical Committee by Max Mückl of Germany. David accordingly relinquishes his ex-officio position on the Administrative Council. However he has been elected and Derek Ivy has been re-elected amongst the 15 directly-appointed members of the Council.

The ISSF's highest award, the Blue Cross, was awarded to Derek Ivy during the ISSF General Assembly in Munich on Thursday 29 July 2010. He is currently a member of the ISSF Administrative Council. The award was presented by ISSF President Olegario Vazquez Raña in recognition of Derek's long service within ISSF, and for his great contribution to the development of the shooting sports. He is an Individual Member of the NSRA.

Shooting Club Directory

The 2010/11 edition of the directory published by Blaze Publishing was issued in early July and for the third year the NSRA is one of the organisations sponsoring the directory. A copy is available for any Council Member who would like one.

The directory includes details of many NSRA-affiliated clubs, but these details have been supplied direct to Blaze Publishing by the club, not by the NSRA. However this year the NSRA sent the publishers a list of clubs where the club's affiliation record for 2010 showed that it is open to enquiries, particularly from prospective members. These have been included in the directory as just the club name and the phone number of NSRA Membership Services, through which enquiries can be routed. The NRA has used this arrangement for many of their clubs for several years. NSRA clubs listed by this means will have the opportunity to change the reference to them in the next edition, either by opting out, or continuing with the same format of entry, or by providing additional information direct to Blaze. There is no charge made to clubs for their entries.

Lords Roberts Centre

Several meetings and discussions have taken place with representatives from Sport England's (SE) facilities unit regarding the operation of the Lord Roberts Centre (LRC).

SE is unable to relinquish its hold on the building prior to the agreed date when the building has been fully depreciated, as it has been built with public funds. However SE is prepared to assist the NSRA in developing the commercial activities of the LRC. Whilst SE would like to see some sporting elements kept at LRC, they agree that the focus must now be on commercial activities to assist the NSRA to improve the current financial situation.

The business plan being developed for the LRC in the short and medium term will focus on commercial activities, but in the long term the focus will be on legacy and Shooting's facilities strategy that is being developed on the back of the Whole Sport Plan being implemented as part of the Sport England project.