



## EDITORIAL

In most organisations there are a number of "willing horses" that do most of the work, whilst the rest sit back and either accept things, or moan about how things could be better. Shooting, and its various governing bodies, is no exception to this rule.

The sport has lost many thousands of shooters since "Dunblane", but even before then there was a slow decline in the number of people willing to commit themselves and try to help improve the status and facilities of our sport.

You, as an individual member of the Association have made a commitment by joining the CLSTSA

Most shooters are happy to pay their sub's and enter the various competitions run by the association. The members of the committees do their best to provide what you, the shooter, wants, but without feed back from you and the affiliated clubs, the committees cannot know if they are providing what the members want, or not.

Do you know that each club affiliated to CLSTSA should send two members to Council Meetings to find out about future plans, and to input information and suggestions. Without that input it is difficult to run the association as the members wish it to be run.

Do you know who your club representatives are? Do they keep you informed about our activities? Do they attend Council Meetings and present your ideas and suggestions? If not, why? We can provide a better service to you the shooter only with your help.

The next Council Meeting is at Leyland Motors Sports & Social Club at 2.30 15th April. Why not come and put in your penn'orth?

## NEW LANCS CHAIRMAN

At the Council Meeting in January, John Billbrough stood down as Chairman and Tony Powers of Vulcan Rifle Club was elected as Chairman for the coming year. Many thanks to John for all the hard work he has put in for the CLSTSA. The other Officers that were elected are as follows:-

Elected Officers for 2000

### President

Ken Sykes, Morecambe

### Chairman

Tony Power, Whalley

### Secretary

David Pritchard, Mossley Hill

R&PC

### Treasurer

Phil Sadler, Mossley Hill R&PC

### Vice Chairman

John Lloyd, Blackburn

### Rifle Statistical Officer

Dorothy Bannister, Southport

### County Captain, Short Range

Martin Fairhurst

### County Captain, Long Range

Pete Byers, Leyland Motors

### Stand'g & Kneel'g Captain

Sandie McHugh,

Euxton

### Air Rifle Captain

Steve Glaysher, Liverpool

### Air Pistol Captain

Dick Shaw, Vickers

### Sporting Rifle Captain

Derek Waterworth, Burnley

### Badge Secretary

Linda Lloyd, Blackburn

### NSRA Representative

John Billbrough, Chorley

### Patrons

Bert Gibbs, Vulcan, and  
Reg Cox, Liverpool

All the above people may be contacted via the Secretary David Pritchard

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Last year Association stalwart John Billbrough sat and passed the ISSF Judges "B" Licence (Rifle and Target Control) Exam, and is now qualified to officiate at all but Olympics and World Championships. If any up and coming shooters would like him to run the rule over their gear, either rifle or pistol, to check that it complies with regulations, then John would be delighted to help.

Contact John on 01257 268718.

(Now that he's got his bee licence, I look forward to receiving a pot of honey. Ed.)

## Winter Rifle League 1999-2000 Winners

Division 1	Bury
2	City of Salford "A"
3	Leyland Motors "C"
4	Urmston "B"
5	City of Salford "B"

The shoot off for the John Conway Memorial Trophy was won by City

## Speak Up!

Clubs are reminded that it is their duty to warn anyone entering a range where shooting is taking place of the danger involved in not using ear defenders.

You only have to look at the number of "senior" shooters, who wear hearing aids to prove the point. (Me included Ed.)

You could also lay yourself open to a claim for negligence.

## Affiliated Clubs.

The clubs that are currently fully paid up Affiliated Clubs of the Association are as follows:-

Ashton under Lyne, Blackburn, Blackpool, Bolton, Burnley, Cheadle, City of Salford, Colne British Legion, Euxton, Furness, LANCON, Leyland Motors, Morecambe, Pilkington's, Preston, Southport, Vickers, Vulcan, Whalley and Wigan.

## Thanks a bundle.

It is said that one of the reasons that shooters are packing in, is because their wives will not have a firearm in the home. No doubt due to the adverse publicity from the Press. Thanks "Grub Street"!

## “Club Cameos”

Nº3 of a series about Lancashire clubs

### **Blackburn Rifle & Pistol Club**

Blackburn Miniature Rifle Club was formed in 1936, when the annual subs were ten shillings (50p), and an indoor range was built in Quarry Street Mill, which was conveniently owned by one of the members. The club had to be disbanded, due to the war, in 1940, and was reformed in 1945 as Blackburn Rifle Club. Small-bore shooting was practised at Canterbury Street Barracks, where the members got a target and ten rounds of ammo for four pence in the old money, 1.7p today, with full-bore being shot at Holcombe Ranges. It wasn't until 1952 that pistol shooting was accepted as a “serious activity”, and only four years later, the never to be forgotten Fred Cooper, left off his steeple jacking to shoot Free Pistol for Great Britain at the Melbourne Olympics. Fred set a good example, and was followed by Blackburn club members John Tomlinson, Marcus Doughty and Mark Hilliard, who all represented their country in pistol shooting. In 1958 the club opened an outdoor small-bore range at Mill Hill, which had to close in the early 1970's, when the land was required for development. In 1962 the club amended its name to its present title “Blackburn Rifle & Pistol Club”. By that time, range space at Canterbury Street was very limited and some of the rifle shooters persuaded Darwen Council to build a new 25 yard range in that town, and Central Lancashire Rifle Club was born. During the 70's the range at Canterbury Street was closed for major alterations and the members were scattered among other clubs, whilst the hunt started for a range of their own. After much searching a large chunk of Audley Hall Mill was purchased with the help of a grant from the Sports Council and interest free loans from some of the club members, who then rolled up their sleeves and got stuck in to building a 50 yards Small-bore and Centre fire range. Later a 25 metre SB/CF range was added, followed by a 10 metre airgun range. Blackburn R&PC offers a quite exceptional choice of shooting for its members. There aren't many places where you can shoot air rifle or pistol in a six lane 10m range with returning targets, small-bore rifle, prone, benched or standing in a four point 50 yard range, small-bore or centre fire in a 25m range with turning targets and also moving targets, play Pool, or have a cuppa and a natter in a comfortable club room, all with the added attraction of an indoor car park as part of the building. Small-bore and centre fire carbines are fired as well as Muzzle Loading guns and .22” cal airguns. Those with a bent to toxophily can practice with their bows, either long or cross. On the 25m and 50 yd ranges a specially designed air extraction system keeps the air moving away from the shooters. Club members shoot full-bore rifle at Altcar and go clay busting with their shotguns at Rishton or Craven Shooting Grounds. There is also a club shop, managed by Brian Chappell, where club weapons can be borrowed and ammo and targets purchased. Annual subs' are £65, with a £25 joining fee and a £1 range fee, with special terms for senior and junior shooters, and there are currently vacancies for membership. Visitors with FAC's are always welcome. The club is open every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7.30 to 10pm and on Saturdays from 9.30am until 4pm. Scouts and Duke of Edinburgh Award Juniors receive training in the Airgun Range on Saturday mornings. The Club's Chairman is CLSTSA's Vice Chairman John Lloyd, and the man to contact for membership and all other enquiries is the Hon. Sec., Duncan Smethurst, at Blackburn R&PC, Unit 5, Audley Hall Mill, Dickens Street, Blackburn BB1 1RN.

## **Forthcoming attractions:-**

### **Lancashire Open Airgun Championships.**

Shot to ISSF rules and regulations for both air rifle and air pistol at 10m. Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2000 at Blackburn Shooting Centre. For an entry form contact John Lloyd, 17 Cypress Ridge, Hollytree Village, Blackburn BB2 5AQ. tel 01254 209 851.

### **Long-range Rifle Championships and County Cup**

Appleton Rifle Range, 11th June starting at 1pm.

### **Lancashire Open Rifle Meeting**

Appleton Rifle Range, 24th September starting at 10am. Contact Dorothy Bannister for entry forms for the rifle meetings, tel 01704 51 44 58.

## **Preston Cup 1999**

The final of the Preston Cup Competition for teams of four rifle shooters, took place at Leyland Motors Range on 16th December '99.

The result was a win for Bury “A” over Vulcan “B” by a margin of seven points.

Bury was awarded a special trophy as the Preston Cup has gone missing. Does anyone know of its whereabouts? If you do, please ring the Secretary, David Pritchard on 0151 228 6578.

## **Extract from the Constitution of the CLSTSA**

9 Executive Sub-Committee

a The Executive Sub-Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and two members of the Council of whom three shall form a quorum.

The Association's Executive Committee for the current year is:- Chairman, Tony Power, Vice Chairman, John Lloyd, Secretary, David Pritchard, Treasurer, Phil Sadler and Council Members Dorothy Bannister and Reg Cox.

## Mobile Airgun Range

A proposal has been made that the CLSTSA should operate a mobile airgun range, to spread the good word about our sport and to encourage newcomers, especially young shooters. Cheshire Association might also be interested in being part of the scheme.

There are at least two other mobile ranges in the country, one operated in the name of NSRA, and another down in Cornwall, but neither of them get north of the Midlands very often.

The idea is to erect the range at Country Fairs and other such venues and let people have a go at 50p for five or ten shots. The range would have information on all the clubs affiliated to the Association, where they are, what days they meet, how much it costs to become a member and who to contact.

An estimate of £1,000.00 would be required to build the range, then there are a number of questions. Who will design it? Who will make it? How do we move it around? Who will staff it at its various venues? Where will it be stored when not in use? And, most importantly, will it benefit the CLSTSA?

We would like to hear what you think about the idea. Are you able to lend a hand at any stage of the proceedings; have you had experience of such a project. Do you know a man who may be able to help?

If so come along to the next CLSTSA Council Meeting on April 15th, or contact David Pritchard on 0151 228 6578.

## Legal Eagle Wanted!

In view of the complicated legislation of this day and age, and so that CLSTSA can give you, the shooter, good advice, the Association would like to hear from any of its members who are Barristers or Solicitors, and who are willing to oversee any situation that is beyond the ken of laymen.

If you can help, please contact David Pritchard on 0151 228 6578.

## Big Bangs & a Lorra, Lorra Smoke!

Although the CLSTSA is a "Small-bore" organisation, Muzzle Loaders, (The people who bring a real meaning to the term "slow-fire".) are one of the groups of shooters that we cater for.

We recently sponsored a course for shooters who wish to qualify as competent to run ranges for Muzzle Loaders. Organised by Warrington R&PC and Bill Grint, the course was very successful and made a modest profit.

If there are sufficient people interested then we'll run another in the Autumn. Anybody interested please contact Hon. Sec. Pritchard.

## 1984-Big Brother & all that!

The "Data Protection Act 1998" could be a problem for any organisation that keeps a record of its members, names, addresses, 'phone numbers, that sort of thing.

This new act is no longer restricted to data stored electronically; it now covers information which is recorded and stored manually.

New provisions cover: membership records, register of members, subscriptions paid etc., data held by comp., league or open shoot organisers, and so on.

Any such club is required to register. Contact either Secretary Pritchard, or write to - Data Protection Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK5 5AF

## THOUGHTS IN PASSING.

Comedy is the only job you can be bad at and people won't laugh at you.

Twice as many people as expected turned up at last night's discussion on schizophrenia.

I'm sorry to return to the subject of premature ejaculation, but my post bag's full of it.

The above are the sole responsibility of the Editor. Mea culpa!

# HELP!

The Editor needs more news, stories, results, and a huge Lottery Grant wouldn't go amiss.

## NSRA News

At the meeting of NSRA's Shooting Council in London on 25th March, it was reported that the new 50m small-bore and 10m airgun range, being built to accommodate the shooting events in the 2002 Commonwealth Games, has actually started being built after much prevarication by "Sport England".

It is planned that the range will be opened on 24th March 2001, in time to celebrate NSRA's 100th anniversary. It will be in use for appropriate meetings from then on.

Firearms fees will be the subject of a Parliamentary "Fees Order" later this year - we all know what that means!

It is understood that one of the changes planned to the "Home Office Approved Clubs" legislation, is that FAC holders will nominate one "Primary Club", which will then be the only one required to inform the Police of attendance.

NSRA has a website, [www.nsra.co.uk](http://www.nsra.co.uk), which now has an "on-line sales catalogue". Get with it & log on.

Membership is still falling, due to the effects of "Dunblane". If each club could get one more member each to become a member of NSRA, it would make a big difference.

Lancashire members of NSRA's committees are:- John Billbrough, who is our County Representative. Dr. Laslo Antal, who is a Board Member, an Administrative Member of the Shooting Council and Chairman of the Pistol, Airgun and Crossbow Committee, and our Editor Reg Cox, who is also an Administrative Member, and a member of the Pistol Etc. Committee.

The "**Lancashire BULL**" is edited and produced by Reg Cox, phone / fax 0151 727 2177. Articles for future issues should be sent to CLSTSA Secretary David Pritchard 0151 228 6578 or direct to Reg Cox. Pu-lease!