



Lancashire **BULL** N°9

The Newsletter of the County of Lancaster Small-bore Target Shooting Association
Issue N° 9 September 2000.

C.S.O. BERT GIBBS Pistol Captain MARKS HIS LAST CARD dies at 65

Bert Gibbs, one of the founders of the County Association, and until recently Chief Stats Officer died on 16th August in Warrington Hospital. The funeral at St Mary's in Great Sankey on 23rd August was attended by many of Bert's shooting friends.

Bert was a real stalwart for the County and there will be few people who will surpass his efforts on our behalf. There are not many who will remember when he started but there are many who will remember his unstinting work with the Rifle Leagues and his wisdom.

The following eulogy was written by Bert's friend and shooting colleague John Woods.

Bert was in his eightieth year and was for many years Stats Officer for the County of Lancaster S.B.R.A., later C.L.S.T.S.A. His shooting started many years ago in Liverpool. He shot full bore and small bore at various levels and at many ranges throughout the country including Bisley. His love of shooting was always to the fore. He encouraged anyone who showed any interest in the sport with words of advice and would get down on the point to help in any way.

With ready wit and a twinkle in his eye every shooter felt welcome when Bert was there. As a Stats Officer he was known for being very fair and honest. At work he was a craftsman and this dedication to do things to the best of his ability came through to the shooting world.

He will be missed greatly. He leaves a widow Nancy, with whom he shared the last thirty years of his life, who wishes to thank all the friends who sent cards and donations to Bert's memory, £300.00 has been raised for the RSPB, Wane Farm in Scotland, a place Bert loved to visit. Thanks also go to all friends from the various shooting clubs and county officials who attended the funeral, which was, as it should have been a memorable occasion for a great man whose memory will live on for a very long time.

Autumn Airgun Shoot Cancelled.

The Autumn Airgun Meeting at Blackburn had to be cancelled as there were only seventeen entries and it was decided that with such a small number of entries it was not viable to go to all the trouble of setting up the range. There were a number of other shoots going on at the same time, including the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships in the Isle of Man and the Fuel Blockade was another complication that would have made it difficult for some people to get to the range. We don't like cancelling meetings, but in this case it was necessary. We apologise to those of you who entered in time, as for the rest of you - get your entries in early in future! However there is another air pistol shoot at Blackburn on 7th and 8th October, the Standard Pistol (Air) Competition, which is the .22 shoot fired with air pistols. If you've got access to a five shot air pistol and would like to enter, contact John Lloyd on 01254 209851.

MIKE POPE was until recently and for many years, one of the County Pistol Captains who, himself, excelled at Standard Pistol. He was the epitome of a good captain, encouraging his team and showing them how it's done. He could always be relied upon to help, often without being asked.

Mike was born in London in 1935 moving to Blackpool with his parents to get out of the way of the Blitz, growing up to take over his fathers business. He took up pistol shooting about 25 years ago joining Blackpool and later Preston Grasshoppers, shooting full bore and .22. He was usually to be seen at most meetings, including Bisley and passed the shooting bug on to his son Ashley. He qualified as an NSRA Instructor and was Lancashire Pistol Captain for many years keeping up his high standard of shooting, becoming a specialist at Standard Pistol. Though after the handgun ban he took up Air Pistol.

We send our sympathy to his wife Rita and his family.

Situations (becoming) Vacant

David Pritchard, our long standing Hon. Secretary is standing down at the end of this year and we are looking for someone to take his place.

The position involves keeping track of the Association's correspondence, arranging meetings and a host of other tasks. It can't be all that difficult, as Dave always has a smile on his face. Well most of the time.

We're not asking for a lifetime commitment, so how about putting something back into the sport and giving it a go for a couple of years? Contact David on 0151 228 6578

“Club Cameos”

N°4 of a series about Lancashire clubs

Ashton-under-Lyne Rifle Club

The club was formed in 1939, rather unusually as a Ladies Rifle Club, as their menfolk were away in the Armed Forces in World War II. At that time the range was in the basement of the old Cornecroft Mill in Audenshaw.

In 1942 the Ladies Club was affiliated to the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs, now the N.S.R.A. In 1945 the name of the club was changes again to the present title and men were allowed to join and the club also became affiliated to the C.L.S.R.A. (now C.L.S.T.S.A.).

1949 saw another move, this time to the Compo Soap Works, off Crescent Road in Dukinfield, and three years later they were off again, this time to the top floor of Nordown Engineering, also in Crescent Road, the premises being owned by one of the members Mr M. Downs.

Although the range at Nordown Engineering was technically an indoor range, it was very much akin to shooting outdoors, as the roof leaked, (rain drops keep falling on my head), and during the winter months your breath formed icicles. In the summer months there were windage problems, for to keep cool disused loading doors were opened. Despite all these problems the range was used until 1989 when Nordown Engineering closed down.

For some months before the closure of the outdoor / indoor range the club set about looking for new premises without any success. Eventually Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council came to the rescue with the offer of the club's present range, which is in a sub-basement of Dukinfield Town Hall. (I imagine that shooting is discouraged during Council Meetings. Ed.)

Prior to the building of a thirty five yard long wall of six inch concrete blocks, there were several dozen filing cabinets, containing old Council records to be moved and an endless line of rubbish skips to be filled. All work being completed by the members. Surprise, surprise! Unable to obtain a Sports Council Grant the range was built and funded wholly by the Members. The entrance from the clubroom to the four shooting lanes is ramped for access by wheelchair. The Range being officially opened by the Mayor of Tameside in May 1990.

The annual subscription is £40.00, with a joining fee of £15.00, there is also a range fee of £1.00 per visit, with special rates for Juniors and Senior Citizens. Prospective new members are always welcome, as are F.A.C. holders. The Club is normally open for shooting on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 7.00 to 9.30, but the Range can be opened for shooting on any evening, or Saturday and Sunday afternoons, if the need arises.

The man to contact regarding membership, or any other information on the club, is the Club's Secretary Keith Taylor on 0161 370 8469

NSRA Rifle Championships, Bisley 2000

Although no team entries had been made, Barney Leyland did some scratching around and managed to find enough Lancastrians to enter teams in the County 50m and the County Sextette. Considering that a lot of our “big names” didn't go to Bisley this year, the teams didn't do too badly, both teams coming 10th out of 32. The “Sextette” team were only five points a team member away from winning the shoot. The individual scores were as follows:

County 50m		
M Gardner	568	ex 600
D Hodson	567	
B Leyland	573	
G Love	567	
D Scanlon	574	
J Thompson	575	
Total	3424	
Winner Hants	3482	
County Sextette		
B Fletcher	370	ex 400
D Hodson	375	
B Leyland	372	
G Love	370	
D Scanlon	383	
J Thompson	375	
Total	2245	
Winner Hants	2275	

Individual successes

Helen Vincent of Euxton Rifle Club won GOLD in the 50m Prone Rifle event at the Nordic Championships in Finland recently, with a score of 595 ex 600, followed by an excellent 102.0 in the final.

Mike Babb of Appleton Rifle Club, (OK it's Cheshire, but near Lancashire), is the current World Champion in Prone Rifle, as a result of his winning the event at the World Championships in Atlanta, with a superb 104.7 in the final. Things did not go right for Mike in his shoot and he was not among the contenders. I understand that there was a freak storm that affected one end of the range more than the other.

It's good to see Lancashire folk winning medals with Ian Peel of Blackburn bagging a Silver in Trap and Yvonne McGregor getting on her bike and landing a Bronze medal in the Individual pursuit. Congrats to Mike Faulds for his GOLD in the Double Trap, and all the other Brit gong winners

Laslo Antal, ex Team Captain of the County Pistol Team and several times member of the GB Olympic Team, was also out in Oz as Team Manager of the GB Shooting Team, but unfortunately wound up in hospital and was shipped home, just in time to see the Opening Ceremony on the telly in his own home.

Dave Scanlon of Leyland Motors became eligible for the Champion of Champions event at the NSRA Centenary Meeting in 2001, as a result of his winning the Lancashire Long Range Rifle Championship

Mobile Airgun Range

CLSTSA Chairman Tony Powers has applied for a grant towards the cost of constructing and maintaining a Mobile Airgun Range for the County. Tony would welcome any bright ideas about the proposed range. He can be contacted via the County Secretary Dave Pritchard.

Forthcoming events-

CLSTSA Standard Pistol (Air).
7th & 8th Oct '00. Blackburn.
Double 60. (The old .22 Standard Pistol Comp.) shot with five shot Air Pistols.

For entries contact John Lloyd on 01254 209 851

Open Rifle Meeting, Appleton September 2000

This shoot should really have been called the Lancashire Monsoon Meeting, as it came down in stair rods all day.

Because of the weather, not many people turned up, in fact those that did found themselves shooting not only their cards for the meeting, but representing Lancashire in the NSRA County Cup, for which a team of twenty is required and nearly everyone who came to Appleton on Sunday 24th found themselves in the County Team.

A great big thank you to all those that did support the shoot, especially those who did the grafting as Range Officers etc. Were you one of them? If not why? There is a lot of effort and expense goes into the organising of these meetings, when so few bother to turn up it is disheartening for the people who do the hard work.

Results.

Class A Double Dewar

1st K Ridley. Wilmslow

2nd M J Barnett. Hull

3rd Mrs M Gardner. Bury

Class B

1st E Entwistle. Morecambe

2nd J Kruger. City of Salford

3rd Miss R Ronnie. Eastleigh

Class C

1st J Meekin. Leyland Motors

2nd S Gregson. Ashton u Lyne

3rd A Strickland. Morecambe

Bolton Cup J Kruger. City of Salford

Ladies Mrs M Gardner. Bury

Veterans K Ridley. Wilmslow

Juniors J Meekin. Leyland Motors

Members E Entwistle. Morecambe

Carbine Champ.

Tony Atkins of Burnley Rifle Club has been at it again. Winning competitions, that is!

Tony who used to be one of the top pistol shooters in the county has turned to Sporting Rifle, and the conversion doesn't appear to have affected his winning ways. So far this year he's collected the following trophies:-

Phoenix Meeting at Bisley in May.

Sporting Rifle Precision. S.B., Optical. 1st. Gold medal & Trophy.

Sporting Rifle Timed & Precision, S.B. Optical. 2nd. Silver medal.

Aggregate Rating. "Grandmaster" medal.

Police Athletic Association Championship

Sporting Rifle, Optical, S.B. 300x300 new record. 1st. Trophy

Gallery Rifle, Optical, C.F. 1st. Trophy.

Gallery Rifle, Metallic, C.F. 3rd. Trophy

British Gallery Rifle Championship

Gallery Rifle, Precision, S.B, Optical. 1st Gold medal

Gallery Rifle, Precision, C.F, Optical. 1st. Gold medal.

Keep going Tony and good luck.

Wanted! Information.

Producing a newsletter such as this is comparatively easy, if you've got a computer and the time and the know how.

The difficult bit is getting the stories, results and bits of news.

That's where you come in:

If you have anything that you think may be of interest to your shooting colleagues, no matter how small or trivial, then send it to me and I'll be in pursuit, Reg Cox 0151 727 2177

WATCH THIS SPACE
NEWS WANTED
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APPLY TO EDITOR

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.