

LancashireBULL N° 28

January 2006

The Newsletter of the County of Lancaster Small-bore Target Shooting Association.

Award for “Dot” Bannister



Dorothy Bannister pictured with CLSTSA Hon. Sec. Paul Holdstock & Patron Reg Cox at the presentation of the NSRA’s Special Service Award Bronze Medal.

As Dorothy was not able to travel far due to illness, the award was presented at a lunch in a restaurant near her home, in December.

Reproduced below, is the text of the letter that accompanied the application to NSRA by CLSTSA: -

Dorothy cut her shooting teeth in 1962 at some exotic locations, such as the Public Records Office Somerset House, the Royal Mint Refinery and the Tower of London.

A move to Wimbledon Park polished her shooting prowess; at this time she had been club secretary for some two years.

In 1966 London’s loss was Oxfordshire’s gain with a move to Wantage, county representation and administration followed. Bisley and the “Scottish” became annual pilgrimages, “Pots” won at both. Later Air Rifle was taken up and Cardiff was added to the list. As well as County Rifle Organiser, Dorothy worked on Pistol Bisley.

In 1989 a move to Lancashire was made, County Representation and Rifle Section Secretary was the norm. In 1992 her contribution to our sport was recognised with her appointment as Ladies International Captain at the “Scottish”.

An award of the bronze medal of the U.I.T was made for her work as the secretary to the organising committee to the European Championships, held at Manchester in 1991.

At about this time her shooting activities had to come to an end through ill health. However, for the last six years she has been Lancashire’s Chief Stat’s Officer, whilst still scoring Oxfordshire’s leagues.

John Billbrough, President, CLSTSA.

Hon. Sec’s., Report of Council

Individual memberships and club affiliations have remained similar to those of 2004 – 143 members this year compared to 142 last year, and 20 affiliated clubs compared to 22 last year. This is a pleasing indication that the increase in club affiliations from 15 in 2003 was not just a temporary blip.

County teams have been active in a number of disciplines this year with some successes to report.

In rifle the first team came one place lower than last season by becoming runners-up in Division 2. The reserves team lost more matches this year, but continue to improve on past performances by winning their division. The first team average for the season was 97.45 (97.67 last time) and the average for the reserves was 96.22 (95.88 last time). Ten people shot an average of 98 and over compared to eight last season. The two highest averages were Heather Doyle (98.82) and Joe Thompson (98.64).

Unfortunately, we did not run a Ladies County Team last season because insufficient women were prepared to shoot. Equally sad, is that we are in the same position again this year.

This year Kevin Hindle took over from Dorothy Bannister as Competitions Secretary for the rifle section. We extend many thanks to Dorothy for all her sterling work over the years and offer our sincere best wishes for her retirement from shooting administration.

We also thank John Billborough for his guidance and assistance in the Preston Cup and Short Range Championship, and to Dorothy Bannister, Ernie Entwistle and Hugh Dodson for scoring the leagues.

A full list of league and championship results will appear in the next edition of the *Lancashire BULL*. However, a couple of results do stand out for special mention: The Short-range Championship and the Ladies Competition – both won by Heather Doyle.

Looking forward; Kevin is intending to get more people interested in the Short-range Championship by introducing classes and a handicap competition. He is also thinking about long-range competitions.

Geof McHugh took on the role of acting captain of the air rifle team just before the start of the 2004/05 postal leagues. Our previous captain, Steve Glaysher, had done a marvellous job in guiding Lancashire to a very strong position as one of the leading teams in the country. We must offer him our thanks for his leadership and getting us into this position.

Unfortunately, largely due to pressure of work, Steve was finding too little time for his shooting and felt he had to relinquish the captaincy. He has also taken a break from shooting and has therefore not been able to shoot in the county team over the past year. We certainly hope that we see Steve in action again before too long.

In view of our somewhat weakened team for the last postal league season, Geof set an objective to try and maintain our Division 1 status. We had to start a process of developing our up-and-coming shooters, to provide a sufficient resource for the team. We should hope to reach the position whereby we have competition for places in the team.

We are not all that well endowed with air rifle shooters in Lancashire, so we would ask all clubs in the County to encourage their members to take up the discipline. One interesting observation from down the years made by Geof: juniors who start shooting air rifle, do appear to develop quickly and can reach a very high standard within a year. Maybe this is to do with starting without inhibitions, or fear of the difficulty of standing shooting. It could be that the young person knocking on the club door next week is a potential air rifle champion for London 2012.

It is tough competition in Division 1 as might be expected. Our team performed well throughout the year. We won rounds where we might have expected to win and lost where we might have expected to lose. Having two sets of cards unshot in the last round was something of a blow, though Geof suspects we could not have bettered Shropshire anyway.

The County team has achieved the objective that Geof set his mind on, in that we would have stayed in Division 1 under the promotion/demotion system. However, the NSRA have changed the system for 2005/06. All teams have had to submit averages and the divisions have been completely reworked. As it turns out, we are in Division 1 under the new system.

On the basis of the postal league 2005/06 the following qualify for the County badge: Gary Barker, Stephen Barker, Geof McHugh, Sandie McHugh, Gary Bateman. Congratulations particularly to Gary Bateman; this is the first occasion on which he has qualified.

Our air rifle team did not take part in any other competitions this year. Hopefully, we can persuade enough shooters to attend the British championship in 2006, to be able to enter the inter-county competition there.

As with air rifle, we have a change of captain for our air pistol teams. We offer our thanks to the out-going captain, Richard Shaw, for all the hard work he has done in running the air pistol teams for many years. Although this year did not see the same successes we had in previous years, the County teams acquitted themselves well in the leagues and in competitions. It was particularly pleasing to see our Juniors (Alex McIlwaine, Thomas Miller and Samantha Murray) as runners-up in the 10m air pistol competition behind a strong Cheshire team.

At the start of the current league season, Tony Power took over as captain of our air pistol teams, with assistance from two of his Whalley Pistol Club members, Jonathan Ball and Nigel Miller. Despite difficult personal circumstances for both Tony and Jonathan, the new captains have made an excellent start in organising three teams in 10m and three teams in 20yd leagues.

The Airgun Championship and Autumn Meeting continue to be well supported despite losing Nominated Status. The popularity of these meetings is in no small way thanks to the dedicated volunteers from CLSTSA and the hosts at Blackburn. The quality of the range facility is also a contributing factor and improvements have been

made this year to the lighting and to the shooting benches. Thank you Blackburn R&PC.

As well as participating in shooting competitions, CLSTSA plays an active role in shooting administration. Our President, John Billbrough, having been our Representative on the NSRA Shooting Council for a number of years, continues to be involved with local firearms liaison committees, as does Graham Readyoff. Our Honorary Secretary, Paul Holdstock, has taken over as the NSRA Representative and our Vice-Chairman, John Lloyd, has been elected to the NSRA Pistol, Airgun and Crossbow Committee. Our Patron, Reg Cox, has retired from the PAC Committee but continues to be involved with the organisation and running of National meetings, as does our Chairman, Dave Pritchard. Graham Readyoff continues his role as liaison officer with the CLRA.

The County website www.clstsa.org has continued to improve. Organised by Neil Roberts, it provides a host of information and news, with links to many other shooting organisations. Recently, it has included the county newsletter, the *Lancashire BULL*, complete with photographs.

We very much appreciate the work of Reg Cox as editor of the *Lancashire BULL*. In fact Reg is not only the editor, he is also chief reporter, photographer, typesetter and printer. Thanks to Reg, we have one of the finest newsletters of any County Association.

We finish this years report on a high note with the news that two of our Life Vice-Presidents have been awarded prestigious NSRA Special Service Medals and Certificates. The presentation of a Gold Medal and Certificate was made to Dr Laslo Antal during the British Airgun Championships (*Rifleman* No. 761, p13). A Bronze Medal and Certificate will be presented to Dorothy Bannister by Officers of the Association as soon as a convenient date can be arranged. A full report will appear in a future edition of the *Lancashire BULL* and the *Rifleman*.

Dr. Paul Holdstock, Honorary Secretary.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

Phil Sadler reported that the Association accounts have a credit balance of £4,813.46, down £1,393.96 on last year, though there was a large purchase of targets, which are now in stock. Concern was expressed at some competitions running at a loss, despite an agreement in Council, that all comp's should be organised so that there is an excess of £1.00 per competitor.

Rifle Section Results

Winter League 2004-5

Division 1

Wigan A

Division 2
City of Salford B

Division 3
City of Salford C

Division 4
Colne BL

Division 5
Leyland Motors E

Individual League 2005

Pos	Name	Club	Avg
Division 1			
1 st	I Thomson	Wigan	98.54
2 nd	J Wilkinson	Morecambe	99.18
Division 2			
1 st	S Duncalf	Wigan	97.90
2 nd	E Chadwick	Vulcan	96.90
Division 3			
1 st	D Hoose	Wigan	97.45
2 nd	N Brown	Wigan	96.00
Division 4			
1 st	C Harrison	Colne BL	96.18
2 nd	P Shaw	Ashton U Lyne	94.55
Division 5			
1 st	R Boughton	Vulcan	95.73
2 nd	F Slater	Ashton U Lyne	94.27
Division 6			
1 st	A Borresen	Leyland Motors	95.18
2 nd	D Ormerod	Vulcan	91.82
Division 7			
1 st	S Galvin	Wigan	93.36
2 nd	N Aitkin	Morecambe	93.27

Summer League

Division 1
Wigan A

Division 2
Blackpool A

Division 3
Leyland Motors B

Division 4
Leyland motors D

The Short-range Championship

Winner	H Doyle	Wigan
Runner Up	M Miller	Leyland Motors

Ladies Winner	H Doyle	Wigan
Ladies Runner Up	KM Young	City of Salford

Junior Winner	B Young	City of Salford
Junior Runner Up	A Goad	City of Salford

Pic, P1010205.JPG Heather Doyle

Heather Doyle of *Wigan Target Sports Club*, winner of the Short-range Championship overall and the Ladies Competition.

NSRA (550) Inter County Lightweight Sport Rifle Competition 2005

LANCASHIRE A

N. Carter	353
P. Holdstock	360
B. Hopkinson	356
G. Longbottom	345
K. Nash	341

LANCASHIRE "A" finished 16th overall.

Did you contact your MP regarding the Violent Crime Reduction Bill?

In the last issue of the BULL, you were warned about the proposals to make changes to the Firearms Law and the need to speak to your MP to give them our side

of the story. On the cards are plans to prevent you sending your airgun to your favourite gunsmith.

The Government has proposed a large number of changes to the Bill, included among them are: - a prohibition on the sale or transfer of air guns by way of trade or business by anyone except registered firearm dealers; *Do we have to travel to where the guns are for sale to make a purchase? Ed.* – A prohibition on the sale or transfer of air guns by way of trade or business except on a face to face basis, (i.e. mail order sales would be banned); *Would we be able to mail our guns to our favourite gunsmith for servicing? Ed.* **These amendments are likely to be considered in the Commons quite soon, so now is the time to write to your MP, or go to see them to express your views. Don't dither – DO IT!**

Violent Crime Reduction Bill

Excerpt from the Countryside Alliance newsletter “On the Front Foot”:

The Alliance opposes Government proposals that look set to affect law-abiding shooters and rural businesses that sell airguns. Users of blank firers, including gun dog trainers, could also be caught up. This is in the absence of any evidence that the restriction will curb airgun misuse. The Government is unrepentant and we will need all our contacts in the House of Lords to back the shooting community.

County Rifle Results.

Pdf Air Rifle Postal League 2004/05

Vote, vote, vote for;

British Clay Shooter Elena Little has been selected as one of the final three nominees for the Champions Award in the Sunday Times Sportswoman of the Year competition.

The Champions Award category received the most nominations this year as it is for athletes who have achieved exceptional results, but whose achievements were overshadowed by the larger sports. Olympic Skeet shooter Little, who broke the world record earlier this year, has had an outstanding twelve months, during which she won the gold in the World Cup in Belgrade, followed by the silver in the European Championships. More at www.gbtsf-world-class.co.uk.

Congratulations

Prof. Dick Horrocks, veteran member of Lancashire teams, has been appointed Vice Chairman of the National Rifle Association's General Council.

Lancashire now has representatives at both NRA and NSRA's top levels. If you have a gripe, use these contacts. Don't just moan!

NSRA News

Update from the Board of Management

Since it became apparent some months ago to the Chairman and Directors that the Association was heading for a further financial loss this year, we have commenced

a recovery plan to guarantee the Association's long term future and have been developing new strategies and working relationships within the NSRA group.

We have been seeking additional use of the Lord Roberts Centre by other sports and fitness groups to earn extra income and economising on non-essential works. Nevertheless we have regrettably been forced to impose compulsory redundancy on a third of the charity staff, plus a further two staff members from the shooting centre, to save money. We shall of course miss them and thank them all for their many years of service.

It may not be known by you all that, apart from monies from the Centre, including the shop, we have no other income except that from individual members, clubs and county associations' subscriptions with which to run the Association and the services it provides.

We have been endeavouring not to raise subscriptions unduly and to make them as fair as possible to all types of membership, but our income is thus restricted. However may we assure you that, even with these cut backs, we will still be doing our very best to maintain all the services provided in the past, and develop them further to meet the future needs of our sport. Meanwhile please help us to attract new members and clubs into the Association and reverse the present trend.

In the light of reduced staff members, we would ask members to bear with us if some delays occur in replying to correspondence or in sending out competition results.

It is not expected that the actions taken so far by the Board will improve significantly the financial outcome in 2005. However they will make all the difference in 2006, when we expect once again to be trading profitably and reducing the current level of borrowing.

20 October 2005

Police State?

X of somewhere in Thames Valley has had his FAC revoked and his rifles confiscated.

His house was broken into, nothing stolen but X found out who did it. He did not report it to the Police but threatened the person should he do it again. He was reported to the Police who immediately took his rifles and later his FAC. Even his flintlock guns on the wall were taken. He was also told that he had too many firearms in any case. His security arrangements were, apparently, second to none. The Police hadn't even the wherewithal to provide a proper receipt for the property taken and only reluctantly signed a bit of scrap paper.

It's not exactly clear what X said to his unwanted visitor but it really comes to something when a burglar, who has effectively been let off, complains to the Police, who then persecute the burgled. It's difficult to know if we should be concerned about the Police State or the state of the Police.

The matter proceeds.

Another little local snippet - news came yesterday of a very fine Brocock revolver spotted (by a shooter, of course, not a rozzer), in pride of place, in the window of an Oxford charity shop and priced at a very reasonable £9-99!

UK Sport, the national anti-doping organization for the UK, has today announced that Canada has become the first country to follow its lead in providing online drug information to its athletes. Following on from UK Sport's hugely successful Drug Information Database™ (DID), the two countries have joined forces. The expanded DID now found at www.didglobal.com to start what is hoped will be a service adopted by other National Anti-doping Organisations. The announcement came on the day that UK Sport released the latest set of results from the national testing programme.

Record for Mick Gault

Marksman Mick Gault is aiming to make a piece of history at the 2006 Commonwealth Games.

The 51 year old was named in Team England's 29 strong shooting team for Melbourne. Gault needs just three medals to become the most medaled Commonwealth Games athlete of all time. Gault will compete in six events in Melbourne. He will shoot in the individual and pairs competitions in the 10m Airpistol, the 25m Standard Pistol and the 50m Pistol and needs just one more medal to equal the most medals won by an English shooter, (the late Malcolm Cooper) who won 12 medals between 1974 and 1990.

The England team for Melbourne also features Mike Babb of Cheshire, Charlotte Kerwood and Richard Faulds amongst others.

More at: www.gbtsf-worldclass.co.uk

Views on sport funding wanted

Tim Hollingsworth 25/11/2005

Everyone involved in sport in the UK is being urged to make their views known as the Government launched its public consultation on Lottery funding today.

Responses to an dedicated online questionnaire – the first ever on Lottery funding – will be used to help the Government decide in June 2006 how Lottery money should be shared between the four good causes – sport, arts, heritage and film – after 2009. It will also influence whether there should be change to the policies affecting how the money is spent.

Launching the Consultation, Secretary of State Tessa Jowell said:

“The National Lottery has made possible so many things that simply wouldn't have happened without it. I think it's something we should all be proud of. But every so often it is right that we ask the people that make it possible what they want their money spent on. That's why we've launched this consultation today. I want to hear just what projects within sport, arts, heritage and film that they want to see funded. We'll listen carefully to this and what they say will guide our decisions on what the Lottery continues to fund and what new things it may fund in the future”.

UK Sport is one of five distributors of National Lottery Funding to sport, allocating £15.5 million a year to 37 summer and winter Olympic and Paralympic sports, and a further £1.6 million a year to help attract major sporting events to venues across the UK. The remaining share of the Lottery Sports Fund – around 90% - goes to sporting projects via the four Home Country Sports Councils.

Tim Hollingsworth, Director of Policy & Communications at UK Sport said:

This is a tremendously important consultation for everyone involved in sport. The National Lottery has transformed our ability to offer the facilities and services that make a real difference at all levels of Sporting activity – from the clubs in the community right up to those athletes with Olympic and Paralympic medals around their necks.

“It is vital that we demonstrate to Government our continued support for sport as a Lottery good cause and provide the information needed to guide future policy. I would therefore urge all sportsmen and women to complete the questionnaire by the completion date of 28 February – and let the Government know their views.”

For more information visit the website at: www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk

Sportengland National Lottery Evaluation Report (pdf 502kb)

Sportengland National Lottery Evaluation Report (Word 455kb)

To give some idea of the spread on funding, here are a few samples of funding to various sports. Athletics; £19,600,308. Badminton; £17,903,641. Bobsleigh; £687,341. Association Football; £500,000. Modern Pentathlon; £2,538,478. Table Tennis; £6313,702. Shooting; £544,323. *So, we get more than Soccer, which is a commercial entertainment. Big Deal! But, £6M for Ping Pong... Look at the ratio of funding per sport to medals achieved in Internationals. Get cracking and fill in your forms – NOW! (Ed.)*

Individual Membership

In recent years there has been some confusion over procedures for renewing Individual Membership of CLSTSA. This is a result of trying to rationalise and modernise our membership subscription and administration process whilst still ensuring some continuity with the old system that some members are more accustomed to. In order to prevent further confusion Council have agreed to adopt the following system.

- The membership year will continue to run from 1st January to 31st December.
- Membership fees must be paid by 30th April.
- New memberships and renewal of existing memberships may be made either by:
 - a) Applying directly to the Membership Secretary using an Individual Membership Application Form, or by:
 - b) Entering a CLSTSA competition or league and paying the Individual Membership Fee with your entry fee.
- Competitors in CLSTSA Prone Rifle competitions and leagues must apply for membership through the Rifle Section Competition Secretary (Mr Kevin Hindle) at the time of entry, i.e. option b) above. Competitors in other CLSTSA competitions and leagues may use either option a) or b).
- Individual Membership Application Forms are available from the Membership Secretary, from Affiliated Clubs, or as a download from the CLSTSA website (www.clstsa.org). The forms will also be printed in our newsletter the *Lancashire BULL*.

- When applying directly to the Membership Secretary, please remember to enclose a postal order or cheque payable to CLSTSA to cover your Individual Membership Fee, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the return of your Individual Membership Card.
- Reminders will be sent out during April to all existing Individual Members who have not already renewed their Membership. This reminder may be ignored if a membership application has already been made or if renewal is not required.

Individual Membership Fees 2006

- General membership: £5.00p
- Senior Citizens (over 65 on 1/1/06): £4.00p
- Juniors (under 21 on 31/12/06): 2.50p

Individual Membership Application

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name

Club

Address

Postcode

Email

This is my Home Address Club Address (please tick one box)

New application or renewal (please tick one box)

Standard membership £5.00

Senior Citizens (over 65 on 1/1/06): £4.00p

Juniors (under 21 on 31/12/06): 2.50p

(Please tick box if eligible for Senior or Junior membership.)

Please send the completed form to: Mr R Clevely
8 The Farthings
Astley Village
CHORLEY PR7 1TP

REMEMBER to include a Postal Order, or cheque payable to CLSTSA for the correct amount and a **stamped, self addressed envelope** for the return of your Individual Membership Card.