

*Lancashire*BULL N°24

The Newsletter of the County of Lancaster Small-bore Target Shooting Association
Issue N° 24 January 2005

Report of Council for 2004

Overall this has been a successful year for the Association. Individual membership increased from 132 in 2003 to 142 this year and Club Affiliations increased from 15 in 2003 to 22 this year. The increase in affiliations being largely due to the no-cost offer made to those clubs that were not affiliated in 2003. We were pleased to see Wigan Target Sports Club and Southport & District Rifle Club re-affiliate, both clubs now having new premises. In November of last year Association Officers joined other invited guests at the official opening by Kate Hoey MP of the new ranges in Wigan, probably the finest indoor ranges in the UK.

The news from Ashton-under-Lyne was less positive, the club having been asked to leave their premises by the local council. We hope that their search for new premises will soon be resolved.

The Rifle Teams did particularly well in competitions this year. The first team improved on their performance last year by winning Division 2. The reserves also improved on last season, finishing second in their Division having lost only two matches.

The team excelled in the Knockout Cup, finishing runners-up by only 10 points from the winners, Surrey.

In 10m Air Pistol Competitions, the first team and reserves both finished 4th in their respective divisions, as did the first team in 20yd Air Pistol. The reserve team in 20yd Air Pistol shot well together as a team and won their division.

This year we had two teams of juniors shooting 10m Air Pistol. Their scores were good when they shot, but unfortunately not one of the six managed to complete a full ten rounds. In many cases, cards were posted late, had not been signed, or witnessed, etc. This is a problem that we must address. Having spoken to Dick Shaw, the Air Pistol Captain, we have now asked Peter Plunkett to act as a mentor to juniors.

The Open Airgun Championships had record entries this year thanks to some excellent organisation and the added attraction of NSRA Nominated Status. The Autumn Meeting was also very successful, but lacked the large entry of the Championships, probably due to the removal of nominated status following the re-structuring carried out by NSRA earlier in the year. We are continuing to talk to NSRA about the re-instatement of our nominated status.

This year saw the welcome return of cartridge pistol shooting and CLSTSA have been amongst the first to offer competitions for this discipline. Competitions were held at the same time as the Open Airgun Championships and the Autumn Meeting, and Reg Cox is organising a postal league. Peter Taylor has now been appointed as Free Pistol Captain.

The popular badge competition was also re-introduced this year covering just about all small-bore disciplines.

In May the government issued a consultation paper on control of firearms. After consultation with our affiliated clubs, CLSTSA prepared a detailed response, which was sent to the Home Office, with copies also sent to NSRA and every MP with a constituency in the County of Lancaster.

The next year may well see government trying to score political points by attacking our sport once again. CLSTSA is committed to fighting against this and to protecting the rights of every law-abiding shooter in the County. We need to work on the successes we have had this year both in attracting new members and in the competitions we have entered so that next year will be even more successful.

Dr. Paul Holdstock, Honorary Secretary.

Election of Officers

At the Annual General Meeting of the CLSTSA on 27th November 2004 the following Officers of the Association were elected:

President:	John Billbrough
Vice Presidents	None appointed
Chairman	David Pritchard
Vice Chairman	John Lloyd
Honorary Secretary	Dr. Paul Holdstock
Minutes Secretary	John Lloyd
Membership Secretary	Bob Clevely
Honorary Treasurer	Phil Sadler
Patron	Reg Cox

Further appointments will be made at the election during the Council Meeting of Saturday 22nd January 2005

Financial report

At the AGM in November '04, Hon. Treasurer Phil Sadler reported a healthy financial situation, even though we have made some considerable purchases during the year. The current credit balance being in excess of £5,000.00.

Lancashire Air Pistol Teams

Dick Shaw, our Air Pistol Team Captain, is on the lookout for talented shooters, for both 10m and 20yd teams.

If you think you are good enough and are shooting consistently high averages, get in touch with Dick on 01229 833455, or email at <Richard@tmrashaw.fsnet.co.uk>

Lanc's Airgun Champ's

This years "Spring" meeting will be held on 9/10 April. As well as ISSF Rifle & Pistol there will also be Free Pistol, Standard Pistol and 20yd Pistol events.

All those entering in the last three years will receive entry forms by post. If you have not entered this popular shoot before and would like an entry form contact Neil Roberts on 0151 226 6832, or email n.roberts@blueyonder.co.uk

GBTSF Pistol Course

It has been proposed that Lancashire host a course for Great Britain Target Shooting Federation Pistol qualifications. This is a basic course which must be passed to qualify for the "ISSF Judges Courses"

Holding an ISSF Judges License renders you available for invitation to National and International championship events, with your expenses paid by various bodies.

If we have enough candidates, CLSTSA propose to host a course over a weekend, run by GBTSF's Jon Turner and a colleague.

About April / May '05 for a course up here over a weekend, (two days). Cost of the course would be about £500, if we can attract ten candidates, that would mean £50 each, plus £10 each for certificate. More candidates would reduce the individual cost.

"Pass rate" is about 97%. This would qualify candidates to take the ISSF "B" License Course, which is a whole different ball game. Much more difficult.

Applicants require ISSF Rule Book, obtainable from ISSF website. New Rule Book coming out in 2005, don't buy until then. Also, "Guide to Range Officers", from ISSF or NSRA Bisley.

Anyone interested in taking part should contact Reg Cox ASAP: on 0151 727 2177 or email <regcox@mac.com>.



Obituary. Geoff Pierson

16th March 1930 –
17th October 2004

It is with deep sadness that Leyland Motors R & PC report the death of Geoff W. Pierson, after a long struggle against cancer.

I first met Geoff in June 1980, when we were both attending a course at Wigan Rifle Club to become NSRA Club Instructors. At that time he was a member of Southport Rifle Club, a Club that he first joined in the 1950's.

Like a lot of men of his generation he had started shooting during his National Service. Geoff, who was posted to Egypt as member of the Royal Artillery took part in the Regimental Skill at Arms competition. Geoff shot his way to the final round. At the completion of the shoot he was 2nd to the Regimental Champion. The following year Geoff became Regimental Champion.

Upon his return to England and demob from the Army Geoff once again took up the tools of his trade and as he call himself "Artist in Baked Clay" (Bricky). Because he had his own building business even on a Sunday people would be knocking on his door

asking him to do jobs for them. To avoid this, he returned to shooting by joining Southport Rifle Club and spending his Sundays at Altcar Rifle Range.

In 1982 Geoff became a member of Leyland Motors RC. He became Club Captain in 1992 and in 2003 Geoff was appointed Club President. Geoff was well known to shooters nationally, he became an unofficial ambassador for the Leyland Tiger Shoot meeting fellow shooters who had got through to the final at Leyland and would spend the day talking to shooters from all over the country.

Geoff was a member of the Lancashire Rifle Team, representing Lancashire at Bisley.

He could also laugh at himself. Geoff always arrived early where ever he was going, usually about an hour early. Once he had been invited to a shoot between Bury RC and Kendal RC so off he set to Kendal and sat on the car park outside Kendal RC only to realise that he should have been at Bury, 80 miles away.

Geoff loved other sports and followed Bolton Wanderers FC only two weeks before his death Sam Allardyce, the manager of Bolton Wanderers FC came to visit him. He was very keen on boxing and as well as shooting in the Army Geoff also boxed for his Regiment

Sailing was also one of his past times, and in 1979 he and some friends were fishing in the Irish Sea off Blackpool when the boat began to sink and they had to be rescued by an air-sea rescue helicopter.

Astronomy was also one of his interests and Geoff built his own telescope which included grinding the lens for it.

Ornithology was also amongst his passions as were aircraft and Geoff loved to attend air shows. Geology was also one of his hobbies.

Geoff was extremely proud of his children Valerie, June, Karl and Linda and he would talk about them and also his grandchildren.

His death is a sad loss to the sport of shooting. He was respected and revered by all who knew him. To Priscilla, we offer our sincere condolences.

To sum up Geoff's life he was a Jack of all Trades and Master of Most.

I would like to offer a final epitaph. And these are Geoff's words not mine "If I'd known that I was going to live this long I would have taken better care of myself".

Peter Byers Leyland Motors R&PC

Free Pistol Postal League

With the growing popularity of once again shooting Free Pistol, it was suggested that CLSTSA should run a Postal League for the now legal guns.

Reg Cox took on the job of getting it together and put out information both countywise and nationally, through NSRA.

Sadly only four shooters sent in their names, as being interested, and as it is not economical to run a competition for so few shooters, it has been decided to shelve the project.

However, if sufficient interest shows in the future, the project will be resurrected. Anyone wishing to be kept notified of developments should contact **Reg Cox** on 0151 727 2177 or email <regcox@mac.com>.

Proposed ISSF Rule changes for 2005.

One key one for most clubs is the new Rule (provisionally) No 6.3.15.2.1 "The nearest edge of the bench or stand must be placed 10cm forward of the 10m firing line. This Rule change will need to be incorporated in the design, or the refurbishment of all ranges.

Rule 6.3.15.4 will change, increasing minimum lighting requirement to 1500 lux.

Rule 6.3.16.7 specifies 1500 lux minimum for 25m indoor ranges - but recommends 2500.

Badge Comp. 2005

The new Badge Comp's are proving popular, with comp's available for a wide variety of disciplines:- Gallery Rifle. 10m Match Air Rifle. 20/25yds .22 Rifle. 10m Match Air Pistol. Air Pistol 20yds. .22 Free (Long Arm) Pistol. & Standard Pistol (Air). Muzzle Loading Pistol and Sport Pistol.

Any aspiring shooter, wishing to prove his ability should apply to:-

Phil Sadler, 8 Pentland Ave. Liverpool L4 5SS. email <sadlerp@btinternet.com>. Or visit our website <cltsa.org>.