



Honours for Lancashire shooters



At the 93rd Lanc's AGM on 25th November '06, Eric Dougliss, (on the left of the above group) Chairman of NSRA's Pistol Airgun & Crossbow Committee, travelled to Blackburn to present awards for services to shooting to CLSTSA President John Billbrough and Patron Reg Cox. Vice Chairman John Lloyd was presented with an Honorary Life Presidency from the Association. Hon. Sec. Dr Paul Holdstock is on the right of the group.
Potted histories of the recipients appear elsewhere in this newsletter.

93rd Annual General Meeting

Held at Blackburn R&PC, 25th November 2006

Report of Council

The number of affiliated clubs for 2006 remains the same as last year at 20. Individual memberships have fallen, down from 143 last year to 118 this year.

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

In rifle the first team finished fourth in their Division and the reserves team won their Division for the second year running. The two highest averages were Joe Thompson (99.00) and James Dummer (98.75).

The absence of the Ladies team for the past two years has now thankfully been rectified. Kevin Hindle has taken over as Captain of the Ladies team and is keen to encourage greater participation from our Lady shooters.

We are pleased to report that after Steve Glaysher's short sojourn he is now once again shooting and has resumed his role as Captain of the air rifle team. Our thanks go to Geof McHugh for taking on the Captaincy during Steve's absence.

Our air pistol shooters performed well in their respective leagues under the new Captains Tony Power and Nigel Miller. Of particular merit was The B Team, winning their Division in the 20 yard Pistol League and The C Team winning their Division in the 10 m Air Pistol League. The A and B Teams finished 3rd and 2nd respectively in their Divisions of the 10 m Air Pistol League.

At the end of May, NRA organised an Open Day at Altcar Training Camp, their first outside of Bisley. A group of vol-

unteers from The Association participated in the Open Day, including John Lloyd running the airgun ranges and Graham Readyoff running the muzzle loading ranges. Although the number of visitors was lower than might have been hoped for, useful lessons were learned that should help make future events of this type more successful.

On a sad note, this year we lost two of our members. In April, John Sutcliffe of Blackburn Rifle & Pistol Club passed away following a stroke. Patricia Schoolden of Ashton-under-Lyne Rifle Club passed away peacefully on 28th May. An obituary for Pat was published in *The Rifleman* (Vol. LXXI No. 767 Autumn 2006).

Two events were organised this year in the County that provided invaluable services to our members. Kevin Hindle single-handedly organized a Club Instructor course in the County, which gave access to expert NSRA instructors at a much lower cost to participants compared to the costs of travelling down to Bisley. Kevin intends to run such courses again in the future if there is sufficient demand.

In October Blackburn Rifle & Pistol Club hosted the first ever Mick Gault Master Class. A group of 19 members spent a weekend learning skills and techniques from Britain's greatest pistol shooter. Feedback from the participants has been outstanding and we are so encouraged by the success of this event that we have now started planning another Master Class for prone rifle.

We finish our report by thanking the Captains, Competitions Secretaries and Event Organizers who have worked hard to provide our members with opportunities to participate in County and National competitions and gain new skills in shooting sports.

CLSTSA's 93rd AGM

The 93rd AGM of the Association on 25th November 2006 was attended by representatives of 8 affiliated clubs, as well as the officers of the Association.

Elections of the major Officers resulted in the following:

President: John Billbrough
Chairman: David Pritchard
Vice Chairman: John Lloyd
Hon. Sec.: Dr Paul Holdstock
Hon. Treas.: Phil Sadler
Patrons: Dorothy Bannister & Reg Cox.

John Lloyd was elected to the position of Life Vice President.

NSRA Rep.: Dr Paul Holdstock.

CLRA Rep.: Graham Readyoff.

Official Witnesses for 2007:

John Billbrough, Reg Cox, Paul Holdstock, David Pritchard and Peter Taylor.

As reported elsewhere, our Guest of Honour, Mr Eric Dougliss, Chairman of NSRA's Pistol, Airgun and Crossbow Committee, presented awards for Meritorious Service to John Billbrough and Reg Cox. CLSTSA's Life Vice Presidency to John Lloyd and bouquets of flowers to Mrs Ina Cox and Mrs Billbrough (in absentia).

The Executive Sub-Committee recommended that the Individual Membership fees for 2007 remain the same as present, i.e.:

General Membership, £5.00

Senior Members (Over 65) £4.00

Junior Members (Under 21) £4.50.

A proposal from the Executive Sub-Committee to raise the current Club Affiliation Fees was passed by a majority vote.

The Club Affiliation Fees for 2007 are as follows:

	2006	2007
Up to 10 members:	£12	£14
11 to 20 members	£21	£25
21 to 35 members	£32	£38
36 to 60 members	£39	£47
Over 60 members	£50	£60

"Potted Histories"

John Billbrough learned to shoot at a time when, as he puts it, "they were shooting back"; referring of course to his service with the Royal Air Force. Like many servicemen, John continued his interest in shooting in civilian life. As a rifleman John has enjoyed many years shooting and has always been keen to put as much back into the sport as he took from it. When it came time to hang up his sling John maintained his close involvement with shooting through a number of administrative roles. The list of John's contributions to shooting at club, County, National and International level is almost endless. John helped establish and build clubs and ranges at Euxton and Blackburn and has been County Rifle Coach, Treasurer and Chairman of the County Association in the County of Lancaster. He has organised competitions, been a scorer, statistics officer, range officer and all-round helper at many County events and has represented the County on the NSRA Shooting Council and on the local Fire-

arms Users Liaison Committee.

At the National level, John has been ESSU Secretary (1990) and Captain (1991) for the Home Counties Match at Bisley, and has RO'd at Bisley, Aldersley and Cardiff for National meetings. John was a member of the Organising Committee for the European Airgun Championships held in Manchester in 1991. Being an ISSF qualified judge he has officiated at Commonwealth Federation Games and Commonwealth Games and conducted equipment control at National Trials and Nominated Meetings. The list could go on, but even this brief summary shows just how much John has contributed to shooting over his 40 year involvement with the sport.

Today John is President of the County of Lancaster Small-bore Target Shooting Association, a role which he undertakes with enthusiasm and pride. Not content to be a figure-head, John continues to play a vital and active role in all the Association's activities and is a familiar and esteemed character at many clubs throughout the County.

John Lloyd started shooting as a member of Stourport RC in 1966/1967 with BSA Martini SB rifles then in 1997 he started shooting pistol and has progressed from there.

John has served on the CLSTSA Council for many years in various offices, currently Vice Chairman and Captain of the Black Powder Team.

He has helped establish Blackburn R&PC, of which he is Chairman, as one of the best clubs in the Country and has been Chairman of the club since 1997.

He has made a major contribution to the success of the County Airgun Championship and Autumn meetings and is now continuing to serve the sport as a member of NSRA's Pistol, Airgun and Crossbow Committee. Nowadays he is a member of the County Air Pistol Team and also shoots Free Pistol, muzzle loading pistol and rifle and occasionally has a go at .22 prone and air rifle.

John is the Shooting Advisor for the Scout Association in the North of England and has run training courses for Scout Leaders for the past twenty years as part of the effort to bring more young people into shooting via the major youth organisations. These courses allow the Leaders to run their own shooting activity bases during the course of the Scout activity programme. He recently ran a course in Scotland for Scout Leaders at the Auchengillan International Scout Centre near Loch Lomond.

He has produced the BRPC club newsletter "Epsilon" since its inception in 1995.

Reg Cox started shooting seriously in the Army Cadet Force in 1943, then changed colour to RAF blue, when he signed on for 8 years. Reg became a member of the RAF VIII in 1950, shooting Service Rifle (a) in the Inter Serv-

ices Comp. and started pistol shooting in the "Whitehead".

On demob in 1954, he wrote to NSRA to find out about local clubs, firstly joining Fiveways R&PC and then Mossley Hill. He started entering competitions and met up with Colin Bennett, whom he'd known in the RAF. Through Colin he met Laslo Antal, who joined Mossley Hill and showed them how to shoot. Mossley Hill's record of wins in Free Pistol and Air Pistol in the 70's and 80's, stand as tribute to Laslo's teaching and example.

Reg became Pistol Section Secretary of CLSRA in 1971, taking over from Alex Hurley. The Secretary in those days ran the whole caboodle, all the county pistol teams, the outdoor comp's, and little details like the finance and, of course committee meetings.

Lancashire was a force to be reckoned with, as well as Laslo, there was Steve Hewitt, John Tomlinson, Fred Cooper, Mick Meggison, Phil Howarth, Dick Horrocks and we mustn't forget Vic Kelston, to name a few. Lancashire was once challenged by a Southern County to a postal match and Reg suggested a team of 40. They didn't reply.

In 1984 he became Chairman of Lancashire Association and one of the things that he managed to do was change the name of the Association. Reg wanted County of Lancaster Target Shooting Association, so that it would cover all sorts of sports as well as rifle and pistol, we could have included archers and darts players, but he had to settle for the current title of County of Lancaster Small-bore Target Shooting Association (CLSTSA).

Reg enrolled several Liverpool shooters into the CLSTSA. Bob Green used to run the Badge Competition, Phil Sadler is still our Treasurer and for seventeen years David Pritchard was our excellent Hon. Sec. In 1993 he was promoted to Patron of the Association and David Pritchard took over as Chairman. There were a few years of chaos before we found our current highly efficient Hon. Sec. Dr Paul Holdstock, who is also an excellent pistol shot.

Laslo enrolled Reg into NSRA's Pistol Committee in the late 70's, the Pistol Com., in those days, defined the meeting, but it was organised by the NSRA staff, who decided in 1989 that it was too much for them and handed it all over to the Pistol Com. They ran the meeting for three years from 1992. Then Derek Ivy and the British Target Shooting Association took over, but soon handed it back.

Reg's job was to find the Range Officers and other helpers that run the meeting. Not an easy job, as unlike Rifle Meetings, Pistol events are very labour intensive. On Cheylesmore Range, in the old days, running 25m Rapid Pistol, there are three RO's for every two shooters, with three bays

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of two shooters each, plus a CRO. Finding sufficient people was always a problem, and is now even worse.

In 1998 he was elected as a Director of The NSRA and started making the monthly 500 mile round trip to Bisley, as he says "Just to TALK!"

In 1989 he was appointed Manager of the Great Britain Shooting Team for the European Championships at Zagreb in Yugoslavia, where, as a "rookie", he relied heavily on the help and experience of Laslo, David Parrish and Barry Dagger. Barry and Reg led the team on in the opening ceremony, all five foot nowt of Barry and six foot four of Reg. It must have caused some smiles.

He resigned from the NSRA Board in 1994. After six years of thrashing up and down the motorways, once a month; he thought that was enough. He was elected to the NSRA's Shooting Council and retained membership of the Pistol Committee.

Reg is proud to have captained teams of both Great Britain and England. Frank Leatherdale made him Adjutant of the Mayleigh Team in 1981 and that year we won, beating USA. After 2 years he became Captain and the team won again in 1984. John Hunter and ESSU made him Captain of the England Air Pistol Team in 1979 and 1995, winning on both occasions.

As a Graphic Designer he's done a few things. The logo for the European Air Gun Champ's in Manchester was his. He was on the Organising Committee with Dot Bannister, Laslo Antal and John Billbrough, among others. Reg designed the logo for the Nordic Games in 1992 and was responsible for the NSRA logo with the initials and half a target, used for many years, and his design for the Great Britain Target Shooting Badge is still in use. Reg also redesigned the Lancashire County badge.

He resigned from active membership of NSRA's Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee in 2004, handing over to John Lloyd. He was pleased to be made an Honorary Member of Blackburn R&PC in 2005 and still shoots (badly, he says) in the Postal Air Pistol League. He plans to keep on going for a bit longer...

CLSTSA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP 2007

Membership of the County of Lancaster Small-bore Target Shooting Association for 2007 is now available on application to the Honorary Secretary.

Please note: membership is now administered centrally and all applications must be made directly to the Hon. Secretary (Dr Paul Holdstock). In order to qualify for discounted competition fees, you must be in possession of a valid membership card bearing your unique membership number. **Membership cards will only be issued by the Hon. Secretary.**

The membership fees for 2007 are

unchanged from 2006 and are:

General Membership	£5.00p
Senior Membership (over 65 on 1/1/2007)	£4.00p
Junior Membership (under 21 on 31/12/2007)	£2.50p

The benefits of membership are:

- Free entry into Member's Prize Draw
- Regular copies of the Association's newsletter "The Lancashire Bull"
- Reduced entry fees to CLSTSA competitions

Member's names will be entered into a cash prize draw to be made in February 2007. There will be three prizes of £30, £20 and £10. To be eligible for the prize draw, membership applications must be received by the Hon. Secretary before 31st January 2007.

If you have any comments or suggestions on how the CLSTSA may improve its service to Members please inform the Hon. Sec.

Membership application forms may be obtained from the Honorary Secretary:- Dr P Holdstock, 46 Beech House, The Beeches, West Didsbury, Manchester M20 2AH. Or may be down loaded from the CLSTSA website: www.clstsa.org

NSRA Inter County Air Pistol League 10m.

	Round 1	Round 2
Lancaster "A"		
A Hopkins	281	284
P Holdstock	276	280
J Brown	274	268
N Hodgson	266	265
P Taylor	264	274
Team	1361	1371
Beat	Mdsex	Devon
Lost to		
League Position	2nd	1st
Lancaster "B"		
J Ball	273	276
N Carter	269	280
R A Shaw	268	258
T Miller	250	257
J Lloyd	wrong cards	268
Team	1060	1339
Beat		
Lost to	Cornwall	Hertf'd
League Position	6th	6th
Lancaster "C"		
N Miller	273	240
N Roberts	256	260
C Brown	255	266
B Ward	236	236
I Collinge	210	221
Team	1230	1223
Beat	Bye	
Lost to		Durham
League Position	4th	4th

NSRA Elections

A full list of all those elected to committees is on the NSRA website at www.nsra.co.uk. Lancashire shooters can raise any queries with either our own John Lloyd, or Cheshire's Peter Ainsworth.

Pistol, Airgun & Crossbow Committee Elected

Mr. A.E. Dougliss
Mr. D. Poxon

Mr. P. Ainsworth
Mr. R. Green
Mr. J.O. Lloyd

Target pistol shooting petition

The opportunity to petition the Prime Minister online asking to "change the law to permit our target pistol shooters to prepare properly for international and Olympic competition" has been signed by almost 5,000 so far, and is extremely worthy of your support. Sign this petition now at:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/TargetPistols/>

British Airgun Championships, Bisley

Organiser: NSRA

Venue: Lord Roberts Centre

Date: **23 - 25 February 2007**

Contact: NSRA Competitions Dept
PO Box 122, Brookwood, Woking, GU24 0YW

Tel: 01483 485508

Fax: 01483 476392

E-Mail: competitions@nsra.co.uk

Appleton RC

Double Dewar + optional 40 @ 100yds A/S and 3x40 & 3x20

Organiser: APPLETON RC

Date: 7 - 8 April

Contact: B Leyland, 56 Springfield Lane, Eccleston, St Helens WA10 5HA. Tel: 01744 739348

Olympic Games Selection Policy Announced

GBTSF have announced the publication of the selection policy for the Team GB Shooting Team at the Olympic Games in Beijing for what promises to be the largest and most exciting Games ever.

We have good medal prospects and are determined to field a competitive team capable of winning medals in Beijing while providing the platform for a successful medal winning team in London 2012".

The document (8 pages) can be accessed at:
www.gbtsf.org.uk/images/stories/docs/gbtsf-ogselect-231206.pdf

National Ranking Sponsorship Deal

NSRA is pleased to announce that a sponsorship agreement has been reached with RUAG Ammotec UK Ltd., of Liskeard, Cornwall, the British sales arm of RWS, the German ammunition manufacturer.

Under the agreement RUAG will sponsor all the NSRA Postal Team Leagues which are feeders into the National Ranking Scheme. The sponsorship will be in the form of a voucher given to the winning team in each division of the relevant leagues. The voucher will be exchangeable in the NSRA shop for any RWS .22 or .177

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National Ranking Sponsorship Deal product. The value of the voucher will be approximately equal to the relevant team entry fee.

There are currently six leagues connected to the NSRA National Ranking Scheme:

Summer Season

Long Range Rifle The National League (Comp. 100)

Winter Season

Short Range Rifle National Short Range League (Comp. 210)

Positional Rifle Standing & Kneeling League (Comp. 241)

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Slowfire Pistol Club Pistol League (Comp. 270)

Air Rifle 10 metre Air Rifle League (Comp. 260)

Air Pistol 10 metre Air Pistol League (Comp. 280)

The Pistol, Airgun and Crossbow Committee has noted the growth in popularity of Lightweight Sport Rifle in recent years and has agreed that a National Ranking for LSR should be established. This will be on the basis of the LSR Standing Any Sights League (Comp. 250) run during the Summer season, starting in 2007, and this competition will also attract the same RWS sponsorship.

Entry forms for the National and LSR Leagues were issued, along with forms for the other Summer season competitions, with the Autumn 2006 edition of The Rifleman. They are also available on the NSRA website. Entries for these competitions close on 7 February.

NSRA is most grateful to RWS for this generous offer, which is worth over £2500 a year to the sport.

Fire Risk Assessment

Under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, responsibility for fire risk assessment now rests with those who have control, or a degree of control, of certain types of premises. These include community halls, schools and sports centres, and clubs.

With effect from 1 October 2006 those responsible should have completed risk assessments, whether undertaken by themselves or by outside experts. Previous Fire Safety certificates are now void.

A useful starting point for clubs and others falling within this net will be a document titled "A short guide to making your premises safe from fire". It is available in print or can be downloaded from <http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1500383>

The same page has a link to "Guide 6 - Small and Medium Places of Assembly", a 145 page guide that will be most relevant to clubs.

Future Club Instructor Course

Anyone interested in taking part in a future Club Instructor Course, based in Lancashire, should contact Kevin Hindle on 0161 792 0517 or email at K.hindle@mmu.ac.uk

Rifle Master Class

It is proposed that the Association will run a Master Class for Rifle, along the lines of the recent, very successful Master Class given by Champion Pistol Shot Mick Gault.

Anyone interested in such a class should contact the Hon. Sec. Dr Paul Holdstock on 0161 434 0192, or email at: holdstock@regusnet.com

CLSTSA 2007 Airgun & Free Pistol Championships

The very popular event will again be held at the excellent ranges of Blackburn R&PC on Sunday 13th May.

As well as 10m Air Rifle and Air Pistol, there will also be competitions for 20yd Air Pistol, a full course of Standard Pistol (Air) and 50m Free Pistol.

Entry forms may be obtained from Neil Roberts at 18 Farrar Street, Clubmoor, Liverpool L13 9DH or by email at neil@cltsa.org

Blackburn R&PC 100

As well as being Liverpool's 800th birthday, Blackburn R&PC are celebrating their 100th birthday.

One of the best clubs in UK, certainly in the North West the club is currently undertaking a major redevelopment and redesign of their excellent facilities.

The Association is greatly indebted to Blackburn R&PC, its Officers and Members for the use of their ranges for competitions and other activities and wish the club and its members every success in the future.

Bob Nuttall

Blackburn R&PC Club Committee have appointed Bob Nuttall as its first Life Vice President in recognition of his services to the club and shooting in general over many years.

Bob who is a CLSTSA Life Vice President, was a stalwart of the CLSTSA Pistol Section in the 70's and 80's, organising and running meetings and leagues. He, and his set of gauges, were a familiar sight at shoots at all levels throughout the country.

Sadly Bob had to restrict his activities, due to ill health, some years ago, but many shooters will remember Bob and his unselfish input to the sport.

We add our congratulations and wish him well for the future.

Shooting - a true Sport for All!

Shooting with smallbore rifles, air

rifles or air pistols is part of one of the biggest participant sports in the country.

- open to all ages, genders, abilities
- over one thousand clubs nationwide
- majority of clubs provide equipment and coaching
- male, female, the able and those with disabilities compete equally
- age no barrier - from being big enough to safely hold a firearm until well beyond retirement age.
- various competitions around the country

All you need to bring is yourself and enthusiasm.

For information of the whereabouts of clubs, contact NSRA at: Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, WOKING, Surrey GU24 0NP. tel: 01483 48 55 05. email: info@nsra.co.uk

NSRA's New Deal Membership Scheme - Benefits for All!

The NSRA Board of Management has decided to offer a new membership package which not only offers excellent savings on subscriptions, but is also designed to give financial benefits to clubs. This will take effect on 1 January 2007. The range of benefits for Annual and Associate members is unchanged. However, the New Deal gives members a choice of two new options for savings on subscriptions. It also gives affiliated clubs a real incentive to recruit members for the Association.

Members who commit to joining the Association for the next three years will have two payment options:

1. If they wish to pay by Direct Debit their subscriptions for 2008 and 2009 will be frozen at the 2007 rate less the existing £2 discount for paying by DD.
2. If they pay the whole amount at the start they will enjoy an additional discount compared with Option 1 above. This discount is £10 for Annual members and £5 for Associate and Junior Annual members.

These options are open to all - current members, former members and new members. More details of these options, together with application forms, are available on the MEMBERSHIP section of the website.

The deal for affiliated clubs is that anyone joining the NSRA under the New Deal Membership Scheme who has not been a member of the Association in the previous 24 months can nominate one club to receive a "bounty" payment. The bounty will be £20 for each Full Annual member or £10 for each Associate or Junior Annual member. Details of how clubs can benefit under these arrangements are given in the yellow leaflet sent to them on 17 November 2006 with their re-affiliation packs for 2007.

The New Deal Membership Scheme is based on 2007 subscription rates and has a nominal starting date of 1 January 2007. However if anyone wishes to join immediately and pay at the 2007 membership rates, the New Deal options are available and the first year of membership will be extended to end on 31 December 2007.