



95th AGM Report

Subscription Rates:

Individual members subscription fees were proposed to remain at the 2008 rates, i.e. general membership £5.00p, senior membership £4.00p and junior membership £2.50p

Club affiliation fees

 were proposed to remain at the 2008 rates, i.e.:

- Up to 10 members £14
- 11 to 20 members £25
- 21 to 35 members £38
- 36 to 60 members £47
- Over 60 members £60

Elections:

The following Officers were re-elected en bloc by unanimous vote.

Patrons: Mrs Dorothy Bannister and Mr Reg Cox.

President: Mr John Billbrough.

Chairman: Mr David Pritchard.

Vice-Chairman: Mr John Lloyd.

Hon. Secretary: Dr Paul Holdstock.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr Philip Sadler.

There were no nominations for Vice-President or Life Vice-President.

Representative member of the National Small-bore Rifle Association:

Dr Paul Holdstock.

Representative to the County of Lancaster Rifle Association:

Dr Paul Holdstock.

The Hon. Sec's., "Report to Council" appeared in Issue 39 of the BULL, dated November 2008.

Lancashire Constabulary Firearm Users Liaison Group - Update

Last year Lancashire Constabulary Firearms Enquiry Officers (FEO) reported that during home inspections they were handed loaded rifles and shotguns on a number of occasions, mainly by non-target shooters.

A message was sent through various channels emphasising the importance of always checking a firearm or shotgun is unloaded and safe before handing it to anyone else. We are now pleased to report that there have been no recent incidents of this nature, so clearly the message has hit home.

There are a couple of other points that need attention: Firearms Certificates (FAC) and Shotgun Certificates (SGC) not being signed by the holders, and unreasonable requests for ammunition allowances. Certificates are not valid without the holders signature, so please make sure you sign your certificates as soon as you receive them.

There is a perception that Firearms Licensing Departments will automatically reduce the quantity of ammunition requested by applicants when issuing FAC and therefore applicants have a tendency to ask for more than

they really need, sometimes unreasonably so. There have been examples of applicants asking for several thousand rounds when they only have room in their cabinet for several hundred!

There is no policy in Lancashire to automatically reduce ammunition quantities. The Firearms Licensing Department will authorise the purchase and possession of any reasonable quantity provided there is good reason and adequate storage facilities. So, please exercise common sense and only ask for the ammunition that you actually need.

It is now over four years since Lancashire Constabulary introduced civilian FEO. The feedback from FAC and SGC holders has been very positive with most people indicating that they like dealing with civilians and have established good relations with their respective FEO.

Paul Holdstock

Forthcoming Events

Lanc's 2009 Air Championships and 50m Free Pistol 9/10 May 2009.

For an entry form contact Neil Roberts
British Airgun Championships.

Friday, 20-22 February 2009

Location: Lord Roberts Centre, Bisley.

Now in colour!

North West Success

At the NSRA/Eley Inter Regional Match 2008 for Air Rifle and Air Pistol, held on the 18th January 2009 at the National Indoor Shooting Centre Aldersley and other locations, the NW A/P teams did very well, taking 1st place in the Mens Team event and 2nd place in the Womens Team.

The team events were for teams of two and NW put up several teams. The Men also took equal 2nd, 7th, 8th, 9th & 12th.

Individual scores for the Ladies were: Vicky Tripney, 354; Abigail Vernon, 358. For the winning Mens Team they were: Stewart Nangle 571, Ian Jones 550. A complete score list is available by email from Reg Cox at: <regcox@mac.com> or the Hon. Sec.



NW Team members: L-R Ian Jones; Altrincham. Stewart Nangle; Blackburn, Vicky Tripney, Grange & Abigail Vernon, Wigan.



NW Teams: L-R Adam Ditzel, Grange; Ian Jones, Altrincham; Paul Holdstock, Blackburn; John Lloyd, Blackburn; Stewart Nangle, Blackburn; Vicky Tripney, Grange; Abigail Vernon, Wigan; Hugh Owen, Grange; Peter Taylor, L'pool Uni; Peter Plunkett, Blackburn.

The competition was organised by Geof & Sandie McHugh, the main match was held at Aldersley with satellite shoots held simultaneously in Jersey, Isle of Man and Cornwall and the results e-mailed in to Aldersley.

Photography by: John Lloyd.

NSRA Inter County A/P League 08-09

Lanc's "A"	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Average
S Nangle	282	284	278	283	562.8
A Hopkins	281	275	279	283	559.2
P Taylor	268	270	278	277	549.2
J Ball	272	271	271	279	548.0
P Holdstock	275	259	272	241	518.4
Total	1378	1359	1378	1363	
Versus	Bed's	Sussex	Wark's	Dorset	
Win/Lose/Draw	W	L	W	W	
League Pos'	4th	5th	4th	3rd	

Lanc's "B"	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Average
R A Shaw	284	272	270	269	548.0
N Carter	257	265	276	265	534.8
G Radcliffe	259	264	273	270	535.2
P Plunkett	267	260	267	264	529.2
C Brown	259	264	264	253	518.8
Total	1326	1325	1350	1321	
Versus	York's	I o M	Sussex	Cumbria	
Win/Lose/Draw	L	W	W	W	
League Pos'	4th	4th	2nd	2nd	

Lanc's "C"	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Average
N Miller	270	268	266	270	535.2
A Vernon	269	269	248	262	526.8
N Roberts	260	260	259	255	520.4
A T Power	245	246	253	257	502.8
M Tsang	239	246	250	251	486.0
Total	1378	1359	1378	1295	
Versus	Bed's	Bye	Som'set	Heref'd	
Win/Lose/Draw	W	W	W	W	
League Pos'	1st	1st	1st	1st	

Performance Matters December 2008

The High Level Strategic Plan for the main shooting bodies to collaborate more closely has now been agreed by the co-ordinating body – The National Association of Target Shooting Sports. There is now clear commitment between the three main shooting bodies to create a single body that is responsible for growing the sport in England and the other Home Nations. This is now not about if, but when, as there are a number of practical issues to work through before the proposed new structure can be brought before the various committees and members can be asked to vote.

No new structure will be put in place without a vote by members. All parties agree that the nature of the practical issues to be overcome means that we should all take significant time and care to resolve them so that when any new organisation begins to operate there is a consensus on the modus operandi.

After one year of working together towards a new organisation, there are a number of milestones that have been achieved:

1. All of you have had an opportunity to put your point of view via an online questionnaire and workshops held across the country.

2. This has helped to create a clear mandate for what the new organisation has to achieve.

3. A funding document has been produced by the three main Target Shooting Governing Bodies which looks for the first time at drawing down money to plan the future of the sport together.

What Happens Next?

We are acutely aware via feedback from members of the three main shooting bodies – N.R.A, N.S.R.A and C.P.S.A. - that you would welcome

more regular communication from us on the developing process and particularly the answers to certain questions.

We are currently compiling a Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q) summary which will answer the key questions that we have received from a variety of sources.

These questions will be ultimately answered by the five project groups which have been set up to move the process on to the next stage. These groups are currently working on:

1. Finance
2. Management Structure
3. Membership
4. Governance
5. Communication

These five groups will continue work on the detail of the new body. They will report progress to the next N.A.T.S.S Group meeting early in 2009. Once this work is complete, and there are some complex and thorny issues to deal with, we will take firm recommendations to another national forum to 'test' the proposals with those working at the grassroots of Target Shooting under the auspices of the N.R.A, N.S.R.A and C.P.S.A. This Forum is likely to take place during Spring or early Summer 2009.

The next milestone, however, will be the decision taken by Sport England on whether to award the sport of Target Shooting a proportion of Government money set aside for 'new sports' or more specifically sports that have not received funding before. As far as we are aware, we are one of 15 development sports competing for a yearly slice of around £5M available to develop these 'new' sports. It is testimony to the work put in by the three main target shooting bodies through a joint working party of senior executives and the feedback we received from the Regional workshops earlier in the year that this submission has at least got to the starting line. Performance Matters will continue to work with the main shooting bodies to ensure that the plans to develop the grassroots of target shooting in the

other Home Countries will bear fruit Sport England will make their decision in mid December on the funding bid submitted, and if successful the first tranche of money would be received in April 2009. Consideration is being given

to how similar bids to the respective Sports Councils in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales can be supported.

Advice for shoots

There has been a recent report of police stopping a vehicle containing two men returning from a day's shooting. Both men were breathalysed, on the grounds that the passenger could be committing the offence of being drunk in charge of firearm. Neither man was over the limit and proceeded on their way.

We know that drinking and shooting do not mix, but what about if the passenger, having finished his usual sober and enjoyable day's shooting, felt like a glass of wine or two before being driven home by his friend? If he was over the drink-drive limit but not visibly drunk, could he still be charged by police?

The Countryside Alliance has taken legal advice on this very subjective area. The law, however, is clear - it is an offence to be drunk in charge of any loaded firearm, which would include a shotgun. If the policeman has reasonable grounds to believe that you are drunk [slurring, aggressive or rude behaviour, argumentative language] then he can arrest you. Having arrested you he can seize your shotgun. He may well do so anyway if you cannot produce your shotgun (or firearm) certificate. All shooters should carry certification at all times when in charge of a shotgun (or firearm). Most forces will accept a photocopy.

As a passenger, you are entitled to politely refuse to provide a breath sample and ask why the policeman feels it necessary to breathalyse you. The police have no power to require a passenger to provide a breath sample unless they have a reasonable suspicion that the passenger had recently driven a motor vehicle. But do you really want to get to that point? Of course, the vast majority of people always act responsibly, but to avoid unnecessary situations like this one, a minority of people may do well to make alternative travel arrangements or forego that final glass of wine.

(From Countryside Alliance.)

I'll drink to that! Ed.