



Scottish Pistol Association

Bullet-in

Gallery Rifle Update

Irish Open County Kildare.

The Irish open was attended by five of the Scotland squad who competed as individuals under the banner of Gallery Rifle Scotland. For all it was the first venture over to Ireland to compete in what is the largest shooting competition over the water, attended by over 260 competitors coming in from all parts of Europe. Great help was given by the Irish club processing the required FA visitor's passes, they basically handled the process in its entirety. Traveling to Southern Ireland via England then Wales to avoid the extra paper work required within Northern Ireland made it a long haul and possibly we need to take the short cut next time. The competition was extremely enjoyable with the Scot's mixing well and taking advantage of the local hospitality and opening hours.

For a first attendance great success was had, the squad returned with two rifle class wins and extraordinarily Johnny Cormie taking a win in two events, competing using borrowed kit in two of the most popular events - an amazing achievement. The Irish open is a must do for 2015 and hopefully more of us will head over to the Harbour House range. Expect to enjoy the local banter and a big welcome from the Irish.

National Gallery competition Bisley 23- 24 August.

Seventeen member squad headed south to compete in the 2014 Gallery Rifle national event at Bisley.

This year we formed very strong five person teams for both centre fire and small bore in accordance with the rules of no shooter participating in both. We also for the first time completed in a Home countries national match revolver and pistol match again entering two five person teams.

The rifle matches where we form two five person teams offer the most challenges for us. Encouragingly although we came third this year, seeing the gap between the National team scores reduce again to a margin of less than 1% . The teams confidence is at an all time high and its only a matter of time until the skill levels shown during practice transpose into the arena of competition. Knowing that the Scotland squad possessed some of the top pistol and revolver shooters in the UK we supported the discussion of extending the Home counties national event to include Long barrel revolver and pistol matches. We saw at this year's Nationals the home countries of England, Wales and Scotland complete for titles for the first time and as anticipated we saw Scotland shoot not to its full potential but certainly well enough to secure the revolver title and coming a close second to Wales, by only three points in the pistol event. Individual success also came to many of the squad including a new British record.

David Rees SB rifle 25mtr precision event winner

Norman Veitch Advancing target SBR event winner
British record (to be verified)

Norman Veitch America match GRSB GRCF event winner
Jonnie Cormie GRSB, TP2, Phoenix A and MT3 event
wins including a Small bore pistol tile for Mutli target .
Glen Gordon MT3 event winner.

Home Countries national match. Centre fire and small bore aggregate match.

England 3307, Wales 3286, Scotland 3275 (sounds a lot but its 1% behind England and 0.3% behind Wales).

Home Countries national match. Centre fire revolver small bore pistol.

Revolver Match - Scotland 1167 , England 1164 , Wales 868 .

Pistol Match - Wales 1178 , Scotland 1175 , England 1171 .



Winter Grand Prix series

With the turn of the leaves it's time for the start of the winter Grand Prix series. This year there are a few exciting developments from previous years. Due to the high demand for firing points, the decision was made to run two of the competitions over two days to double the number for firing points available. In addition to this, the opportunity to use electronic targets has arisen. The competitions at Denwood, Carlisle and Glenrothes (Nov, Jan and Feb respectively) will be run on the same weekends as the SSRA grand prix so that we can use the electronics the day before or after their rifle matches. This is an excellent chance to get a bit of practice on the electronic targets before the Scottish Championships in the spring. Entry forms can be found on the website. For those that haven't seen the dates or locations, the competitions will be:

- Denwood – Nov 1st
- Bearsden – Dec 13th & 14th
- Carlisle – Jan 18th
- Glenrothes – Feb 15th
- Callander – Mar 14th & 15th

Air Weapons Licensing

As many of you will be aware, the Scottish Parliament has prepared a bill which includes 'air weapon licensing'. The SPA has written a response to this which outlines the potential consequences of the bill which could fatally damage the grassroots of the sport and project a negative stigma on the sport through the terminology of 'air weapons' rather than 'airguns'. The response submitted points out the dangers of over stretching the police force to enable to processing of the thousands of license applications which could be detrimental to the goal of reducing crime. It also stresses that there are not enough airgun clubs in Scotland to cope with the influx of members which would inevitably arise due to the restrictions in the bill of where airgun training can take place. Along with the impact on young shooters trying to enter the sport and the difficulty in policing visitor permits with no border control, the fact that gun



safety and awareness training is given to youngsters using airguns, therefore enhancing their understanding and safety around firearms was outlined. The Scottish Police Federation has also submitted a response which supports the idea of stricter controls on airguns but outlines the difficulties and restrictions which are caused by the bill. They highlight that the bill will highly likely result in an increase in work being generated for officers working in the licensing department which could not be provided without significant disruption. The Scottish Police Federation have asked for further clarification on a number of issues including, further clarity on the extra staff required to facilitate the proposed licensing system, confirmation that the current ICT system will have the capacity and functionality required along with requests for further information on costs and time required amongst other uncertainties. All responses can be found online at <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/79893.aspx>



STS Strategic Plan

Mentioned in the last newsletter, Scottish Target Shooting have been preparing plans for the next 4 years to outline strategies for improving not only the high performance end of the sport but also developmental grassroots. This plan has been made in discussion with all the governing bodies of the four disciplines, and shows how our sport plans to improve and develop and also show the focus of STS shifting to include development plans as well as high performance programs. This is great news for the sport and we look forward to the development pathways which will be created. The Chairman of STS and the STS National Development Manager will be attending the next SPA committee meeting on 23rd November, to discuss STS Strategic plan.





NSRA Scorers Course

Bearsden and District Rifle and Pistol Club are running an NSRA scorers course the weekend Nov 15th/16th. The course will run 10.00-16.00 with a lunch break. This course is compulsory for anyone who wishes to score postal league targets to save on postage costs. Saturday 15th still has a few places left and Sunday 16th will run subject to sufficient interest. If you are interested in a place on this course, please contact George Hanna directly at gh028a7162@ntlworld.com

National Shooting Centre Update

The National Shooting Centre described in the last email has taken a step forward – it is now out for tender and applications for stage 1 must be submitted by noon Monday 19th January 2015. Any questions regarding the bid document, the application process or general enquiries should be directed to David Ewart at david.ewart@sportscotland.org.uk

This is exciting news, seeing the prospect of top class facilities in Scotland getting one step closer to reality.



Performance Program Update

Congratulations to our four pistol shooters who competed at the Commonwealth Games in July. All shooters did themselves proud under difficult conditions and high pressure. The experience gained stands them in good stead for future matches and games. Special congratulations to Alan Ritchie for completing his 4th Commonwealth Games before going on to compete at the World Championships for GBR along with teammate Alan Goodall – congratulations to both for selection.



Development Dates

22/11/2014, 24/01/2015, 28/02/2015, 28/03/2015, 25/4/2015

Club Profiles

In this edition we have introduced a section on Club Profiles and thanks to Balerno and Currie agreeing to be first! Next edition will be Bearsden's turn.

Balerno & Currie Rifle Club

This club is situated in the west of Edinburgh, in Currie, about 25 minutes from the city centre. It was formed in 1945 from the local Home Guard Company, as were many clubs around that time. Until 1976 the range was an old nissen hut. Thankfully, the building of the by-pass and the wishes of the Council meant that it was removed and with financial help from many quarters, including the 35 members, a new range was built in the present

location. Further improvements have been made over the years and we now have a club that has an armoury, two ranges and a club room with a small kitchen.

One of the ranges has 8 firing points for .22 prone rifle and the other has 4 firing points for air guns at 10m and 1 firing point for 20yards. When the club is running an open meeting, the 'air range' can be converted to another 8 firing point .22 range. On these occasions, obviously there is no air shooting, but we can take part in all the fun by helping in the kitchen (they sometimes have pies left over) or just laughing at all the kit these poor people have to cart around with them!

The club is run by a committee and is open every Monday and Friday from 7pm till 10pm, with senior club members taking about 3 turns per year as the duty officer, being responsible for taking range fees and selling ammunition.

Among the club members we have the SSRA squad coach, 2 ISSF Jury, 1 ISSF Class 'C' Judge, NSRA range officers, scorers and club instructors.

The club, or the SPA will run courses whenever there is sufficient demand.

At the moment, we have 6 people shooting air pistol in the club. We shoot in the Cumbria and Northumbria Postal League and in some of the SPA postal competitions. We have just received a grant which has enabled us to purchase 2 new Steyr LP2 compact pistols, so anyone thinking of trying air pistol has something decent to shoot with. We've even got one of the pistols with a 'Universal' grip, so if you shoot left-handed, this is the one for you!



Junior International Bisley

After running many development squad training sessions over the past year, the SPA was pleased to send a full team of boys and girls down to the Junior International. The girls started the competition off with the Air Sport Pistol match. All the girls put in some strong scores securing them the bronze medal in the team event.

Results:

Catriona Loughran	550
Katie Knowles	546
Kerstin Dodd	511
Team score	1607



The men were next to shoot with the Mens 10m Grand Prix later that day. The boys got off to a steady start with Aedan Evans finishing in fourth place.

Results:

Aedan Evans	539
Hamish Barker	529
Jamie Hay	498

The men had an early start the next day with their Air Sport Pistol match starting at 8am. The early morning was not to put them off though as they all shot well and came fourth as a team.

Results:

Hamish Barker	556
Aedan Evans	539
Jamie Hay	528
Team Score	1623

Fuelled by their success the boys were ready for the 10m Air Pistol Qualification match on Thursday morning. Aedan shot an outstanding score qualifying him for the final. The other two boys weren't far behind and their combined score secured them a team bronze.

Results:

Aedan Evans	541
Hamish Barker	533
Jamie Hay	487
Team Score	1561



The girls however were not to be outdone in the Ladies 10m Air Pistol Qualification which followed. This time the girls had an extra teammate on the firing point with them as Beth Ross joined the line up. Both Catriona and

Katie shot fantastically to secure their places in the final with Kerstin just missing out, 1 point off making the final. The combined scores put them on the podium in silver medal position in the team event.

Results:

Catriona Loughran	353
Katie Knowles	352
Kerstin Dodd	347
Team Score	1052
Beth Ross	317

A tense afternoon of finals followed with the men going first. Aedan had a strong start and finished up in 6th place. Fantastic effort!

The girls were watching closely to see how it was done and both shot well. Katie matched Aedan and also finished up in 6th place. Catriona had a brilliant final maintaining a top three position throughout gaining the lead going into the last shot. An uncharacteristic 8 ring shot dropped her to silver medal position by a narrow margin of 0.4! Incredible results from the whole team. Congratulations.

SPA Dinner and Jack Aitken's retirement

This year's annual dinner is at King's Musselburgh, EH15 2NP on 15th Nov 2014. <http://www.kingsmanor.com/>

7.00 for 7.30
Dress smart -
Jacket/lounge
suits and as per
ISSF rules no
Jeans! Dinner is
£30 and good
company free.
Accommodatio



n available at discounted price of £40 B&B. Book your tickets by emailing Jack Aitken to jackaitken177@hotmail.com

Next Edition – Winter 14/15 – items to liddon@globalnet.co.uk by Christmas (2014!) please. Any photos would be much appreciated
Membership renewal due by 31.12.14