



A Happy New Year To All Our Readers.

2016

The past season is probably the busiest one most of us can remember with clubday attendance, competition entries and membership numbers all very much improved.

During the year we welcomed some enthusiastic and well motivated recruits.

The installation of heating in the form of a big wood burning stove has made the winter Sundays a little warmer. Lighting over the targets and the firing points has made the winter evenings a little lighter. Many thanks are due to the Tonner Clan for this work. The upgrading of the target system means that we now have probably the best turning targets of any club in Scotland. We can also claim to be one of the most eco-friendly—all the power needed to turn the targets and provide the lighting is provided by our solar panels.

2017

We have some challenges to meet this year. The membership is now full and applicants will join a waiting list. However after June we usually find that a few members have dropped out. If this is the case the cap will be eased.

The improved numbers attending on Sunday will mean that—especially in the morning—a system of time rationing may have to be imposed so that everyone has a fair share. We may also run some Saturday meetings for specific purposes — precision targets, sighting in, muzzle loading etc., to relieve the pressure on Sundays. In order to satisfy the welcome increased interest in club competitions, we have doubled up on some match days—check the calendar—printed copies are available at the range.

We propose to dedicate one of our competitions to fund raising for the Erskine organisation for the care of Veterans. This will simply take the form of an entry fee of, say, £5.00 with the option of non participants subscribing a similar amount. Watch the notice boards.

As usual there are twelve 'guest' days during the season when family and friends who do not have a FAC may shoot under supervision. If you are bringing a 'visitor' from another club please try to avoid guest days. During last year they were uncomfortably congested. You can bring a club visitor at any time. Make sure that the fee of £ 5.00

AGM

The Club AGM this year will be on the evening of Wednesday 17th May. As usual you will receive a letter inviting you to attend and renew your membership. The present committee and officials have been serving for some time now. Perhaps you think it's time for a change. You may have a good idea that you would like to air. Put it in writing.

Probation

The system we have put in place for the processing of Probationary members has gone a long way towards avoiding the confusion of the past and avoiding the situation where new members were 'lost' or ignored. There are a couple of other measures which we are considering for even more efficiency. Meanwhile, if you are considering introducing a new recruit please explain the commitment required during probation and be prepared to play your part in it.

Competition

The life blood of all sports is competition and we provide ample opportunity for all members to take part either as contenders or as organisers. We run two well attended and well organised Open Shoots during the year. We also host the 'short' part of the Scottish Gallery Rifle Championship under the STS banner. Together with the '1500' and the Wapinschaw at Aberdeen we now have sufficient accredited matches to enable a shooter to qualify for a Grid Number and inclusion in the National Standards without having to go south of the border. These events would not have been possible without the support of club members.

It has been heartening to see the increase in numbers at the club matches. In the past these were poorly supported but we are now seeing full line ups. As you will see from the calendar some of the club competition days will feature two different disciplines.

In order to be acclaimed champion you will have to take part in at least six club events during the season out of a possible ten, your six best scores being chosen.

Robert J Tonner Club Champion 2016.

Take look at the Scottish GR Squad report for 2016 to see what you are missing !

If you are interested in Air Pistol or Free Pistol, STS run a series of five Saturday shoots. Entry forms are now available on the STS website.

Other Bits and Pieces

As the Colmsliehill range is in a 'dead' zone for mobile reception, the club rule is that anyone using the range at any time must be accompanied by at least one other person—over 16 and capable of dealing with an emergency. There are no exceptions. A 'phone signal can only be found by moving about half a mile south on the road or by climbing up to the high flag. We will be running a course covering the action and aid required in the event of an accident at the range.

If you will be shooting on a MOD range—including Bisley — you will require a range pass. Please be aware that we can only endorse the firearms we use at Colmsliehill. If you want target shotgun, TR or HME rifle you will need another club!

Maintaining and improving the range is forever ongoing as members may have noticed. The bulk of this work is carried out on a few work days by a small minority of the membership. Other work is accomplished by members during the week. Over the years many members have seen the work days as an opportunity to have a day off . They are mistaken. Work days are a chance to show a little appreciation to the people running the club year by year.

You will be aware of some changes in your application or renewal of your FAC. You will have to pay a fee to your doctor which can range from £25.00 to £65.00 !! This an ongoing discussion. The Home Office also want to raise the fees for club approval. This may be covered by a moderate increase in your subscription. Also be aware that some Firearms Enquiry Officers are expecting to count the number of rounds you have in your possession. You may be asked to justify the number in your allowance. An entry form for the Phoenix or Trafalgar may come in handy ! If you are a 'one day a year' member please do not expect the club officials to endorse your renewal application. Lying to the police has never been a good idea !

We always welcome offers of help and advice from our members. If you have any particular knowledge or skill you would like to pass on, don't be shy ! Any comments or suggestions please put them in writing . They will be seriously considered. We do not pay the slightest attention to tittle—tattle or gossip.

Enough for now ! Lets's get on with