



January 2018

A Happy New Year To All Our Readers

2017

2017 saw the completion of several outstanding projects. With only a few points to be ironed out, the air weapons range is now fit for use. Target transport sets have been installed and LED lighting provides illumination. Power for the range is provided by renewable energy. A covered walkway now protects members from the rain when entering the air range.

The interior of the main range building has been given a coat of paint which has greatly improved its appearance. The woodwork on the flanks of the range has also been painted. The club owl has been provided with a fine town house — now we have to encourage him/her to occupy it. As always there will be 'snagging' on all these projects.

2018

The coming season will bring it's own challenges. Two main projects are in the pipeline. The long anticipated 'Advancing Target' has proved to be problematic but with the difficulties overcome it should go ahead. Very much in the early stage is our hope of acquiring space for a 50 metre range. This can not be hurried and is very much a matter of 'softly softly'.

The new calendar is now available and will be distributed by email. Printed copies will be in the clubhouse as usual. Note that there are some new competitions to try this year in the hope of attracting more members to have a shot (sigh). The Spring and Autumn Open Shoots will need your help more than ever this season as they grow in popularity. We expect an invasion from Wales and England burning to avenge our cheekiness last year so please be prepared to help with changing targets etc.

Attendance Register

Monitoring regular attendance and use of firearms, and reporting failings to the police, are some of the criteria for formal Club approval and hence are important functions for the Committee to deal with.

In order to accomplish this task without imposing unreasonable demands on the committee, it is vital that the register forms are completed fully, completely and consistently at each and every visit, which currently a number of members are clearly failing to do.

For example;

- no list of firearms at top of page;
- Inconsistent numbering of firearms from one page to the next;
- Switching between multiple partially completed pages;
- Inconsistent use of number e.g. 1-3 meaning in some cases 1 and 3 and in other 1 to 3 inclusive;
- No counter signature.

All of this makes effective monitoring a more onerous process than it should be. It is not a difficult or unreasonable request to ask of members who should bear in mind that their ongoing membership, and the approval status, of the club are at risk here.

The onus is clearly on the membership to comply—not for the Committee to chase you.

Regular Attendance

Per the 2016 AGM and endorsed at a recent Committee meeting it is a requirement of Club membership that all members attend the Club and use each of their firearms (for which JSPC membership is the justification) at least three times per Club year.

As noted above the attendance register will be monitored to ensure this requirement is met failing which membership will be terminated and a report made to the police. Unfortunately some members have failed this test for some while now and have recently been removed from membership. Going forward this process will be followed promptly after the Club year end.

Demonstration of Usage

This is relevant to members who reload rather than purchase centre-fire ammunition, since in the former case there is no indication on your FAC re. Ammunition quantity being used. Whilst it is not a formal legislative requirement, and it is not a consistent request from police enquiry officers, it would make sense for members to record details of their reloading to try and satisfy any queries re. Firearm usage.

Air Weapons Club Approval

Towards the end of 2017 the Club successfully applied for and was granted formal approval as an Air Weapons Club. This was done primarily for completeness and it should be noted that there will not be a separate air weapons membership class — all members will be regarded as 'firearms' members.

STS Club Membership

The Club is now affiliated to STS. One feature of this is that if the Club has sufficient members who are individual STS members it'll receive a rebate on it's membership fee and potentially a cash payment as well. So feel free to join STS and help out the Club in the process!

When joining as an individual member please be sure to give your discipline as 'Gallery Rifle' and your club as 'Joint Services Pistol Club.'- you don't want your subscription to go into the wrong account!

Over

Membership

A reminder that prospective members need a full Club member to act as a sponsor and should have a genuine desire to actively shoot at the Club and not just use it as a means of obtaining a firearms certificate.

Currently thoughts are being applied to the training process for probationary members with a view to making it more structured and effective. Until this is complete there is a temporary suspension in accepting new probationary members.

Club Year

The current club year runs from 1st June to the following 31st May with the result that the various associated functions (e.g. Processing membership renewals, AGM, accounting, attendance monitoring) all fall in a busy period for competitions.

In view of this it has been agreed that the Club year will move to a calendar year with effect from 1.1.2019.

At the end of the current Club year on 31st May 2018 renewals will cover the 7 month period to 31,12,2018 with fees being pro-rated accordingly .

The May 2018 renewal will also be used as an opportunity to consolidate Club membership records part of which will include the issuing of new membership cards together with revised membership numbers.

Additional Regular Club Day

Currently Sunday is a regular Club day on which members can attend the range in expectation that there will be at least one other member there, which enables them to shoot in accordance with the Club Constitution.

Various members also attend at varying times during the week. To avoid the need to make specific enquiries and arrangements each week, it would be easier if there was a mid-week day nominated as a Club day akin to Sundays.

In principal is there any interest in this suggestion ? If so please give your thoughts on the subject to a member of the Committee.

Communication

Going forward the intention is to make greater use of email as a means of communication with the membership.

If you're reading a paper copy of this newsletter and didn't receive an email copy, it means that we don't hold your email address. If you do have an email address can you please give it to a member of the Committee for future use.

Revised Constitution

The current Club constitution is in the process of being revised to incorporate, where relevant, the various points above. This opportunity is also being taken to incorporate within it the various existing Club forms to try and make the Constitution a more comprehensive and informative document.

Once agreed by the Committee the revised document will be made available to the membership and also placed on the club website for future reference.

Guest Days (Friends and Family)

Remember that you are responsible for the hospitality, supervision and safety of your guests. Make sure that they are properly equipped with Eye and Ear protection and sign the Visitor Register. The fee for each visitor remains at £5.00.

Do not allow guests to shoot Long Barrelled Pistols or Long Barrelled Revolvers. The law—though bizarre—is quite clear on this point. Only people with these arms on their certificate are permitted to fire them.

Footnotes

The post of Club Secretary is now filled by Stuart Russell with Jim Doherty remaining as Armourer. Stuart has wide experience of this type of work and will serve the Club well.

Joint Services is a Club — not an Association like Hawthornden or Braidwood. It is run by a committee of unpaid volunteers supported by club members. Please show your appreciation by helping to run the range and playing your part in range maintenance and club competitions (sigh).

The turning target system we are so proud of cost in the region of 7K. It can be seriously damaged by misuse. For this reason we are confining it's use to members who know what they are doing.

If you wish to know how to operate the system ask to be shown.

If the system fails for any reason do not on any account attempt to turn the targets by hand. This can cause serious damage. Switch off and report the fault.

If you don't know what you are doing leave it alone !!

The NRA has recently introduced a club range officer qualification which goes under the title of 'Range Safety Officer'. We hope to make this available to members so watch the notice boards.

If you have any spare logs or other fuel for the range heater please bring them along - the winter isn't over yet !

Meanwhile get shooting !!