

SCOTTISH SMALLBORE RIFLE ASSOCIATION. NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY, 1987.

The Way Forward

The S.S.R.A. is the Governing Body in Scotland for your sport of Small-bore Rifle Shooting. Although we are small when compared with other major sports Governing Bodies, there will come a time, I hope, when Scotland will have a large element of autonomy over the sport within its boundaries. We must bear that in mind and prepare for the time when we have greater powers. Many people are working towards this and we owe it to all shooters to preserve the future for the newcomers into the sport and the younger age groups to ensure that, when the time comes for the S.S.R.A. to take its place along with other shooting organisations in any future and, for that matter, the current Scottish Shooting Council, the S.S.R.A. is prepared.

In order to have a strong voice, we need more members.

If you have read this and are not a member of the S.S.R.A., PLEASE see your local Area Council Member and join. In dealing with grants, public bodies, the Sports Council, the Press, etc, **numbers count**, especially numbers of individual members. The message bluntly is more members and more people will listen to us. Fewer members and we shall just fade away.

JOIN NOW.

You can find a list of the Council elected for 1986/7 in the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting which accompany this Newsletter and the Secretary's address is on page 3.

Stuart Guild, Chairman.

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The 1986 Sponsored Shoot

The accounting for last year's Sponsored Shoot was not available at the time of the A.G.M. and the final reckoning came to £834.70. While this did not match the sum raised in 1985, it was nonetheless a much appreciated and major contribution to the Match and Training Fund.

Organiser Jack Lavety particularly thanks everyone who took part last year for their help in making the 1986 fundraiser at Lauder a great success. The prize for best collector, £50, went to Jocelyn Chamberlain-Mole of Peterhead and the best shooter was Richard Simpson from Greenock who received 500 Tenex, which was generously donated by Eley.

Jack is already planning this year's Sponsored Shoot and forms will be available soon.

Haven't you wondered what you could achieve with 50 rounds and 10 minutes at 100 yards? Join in this year's event and find out!

Register early and ask your friends and family to help support the Team and Training Squad who are already planning for the 1990 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand.

PROGRAMME FOR 1987.

			<u>Contact</u>
March	1 & 7-8	Perth Indoor Meeting Perth C & C	Ian Gray
	15th	Final of the Speedway at Perth C & C.	
	29th	Scotland v North Island, N.Z. at Perth C & C.	
April	^{Sat} 4th	Scottish Shooting Council Seminar - The Future Organisation and Administration of Scottish Target Shooting	S.D.O.
	12th	Final of S.S.R.A. 3-Positions Championship	
	^{Eastn} 19-20	Appleton Invitation Easter Shoot	
	25-6	S.A.R.P.A. Inver-clyde Air Weapons Championship	Eric Wallace
May	2-3	Devon Match (provisional)	
	10	Denwood Grand Prix Meeting	Jack Lavety
	16-17	Combined Shoot, Blair Atholl	Stuart Nicoll
	23-4	Perthshire Open Meeting	Ian Gray
	30-31	Aberdeen & District Confined (prov.)	Jack Lavety
June	7	S.S.R.A. Open and Grand Prix Meeting	Jack Lavety
	13-14	^{Perth} Aberdeen Eley Meeting (provisional)	Jack Lavety
	21	Linwood Open & Grand Prix Meeting	Jack Lavety
	21	Border Open Day	Mrs Stevenson
June	27	N.S.R.A. Scottish Meeting, Irvine.	
July	- 3	including the Freuchie.	
July	18 - 19	Caithness Grand Prix (Sat, prov) and County Open Meeting	Mrs MacDonald
Aug.	8-9	Perthshire Eley Meeting (prov.)	Ian Gray
	15-22	N.S.R.A. National Meeting, Bisley.	
	30	Northern or Irvine Open & Grand Prix Meeting	Jack Lavety
Sept.	12 13	Gagie Open Meeting & Grand Prix	Jack Lavety
Oct.	25	S.S.R.A. Annual General Meeting	

THE GRAND PRIX SERIES

Jack Lavety may have retired as Chairman but he certainly hasn't hung up his computer. Jack has shouldered the task of coordinating the Grand Prix Series as well as running another Sponsored Shoot!

Jack will be organising and circulating entry forms for the Grand Prix Series and also keeping track of competitors classification and points gained in the series.

Please note that the Grand Prix Series includes 6 venues this year. Competitors completing 6 events in the series will drop their worst placing from the 6 events for the best 5 to count for the 50 Metres Championship.

Following on from the policy decisions made in 1986, DRUG TESTING may be carried out at any Grand Prix meeting in 1987.

S.S.R.A. classification will be in operation this year. Competitors entering other than class 'A' will be required to submit a certified average. Further entries in the Grand Prix Series will be according to classification. After each Grand Prix, Council Members will meet to determine promotions and demotions, taking the standard of competition and weather conditions into account. Competitors will be notified of any change of classification for the next event in the series. By thus eliminating improper re-entry in the inexperienced classes, it is hoped that this will encourage more entries from inexperienced competitors. At the end of the season, this will also allow Council to assess the case for an S.S.R.A. 'X' class and also to review the classification boundaries.

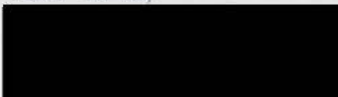
Please note that the Caithness Grand Prix is planned for SATURDAY, 18th of July, with the Caithness Open Championship on Sunday 19th. This meeting will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Addresses :

Jack Lavety



Ian Gray



S.D.O.

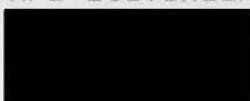
Bill Murray



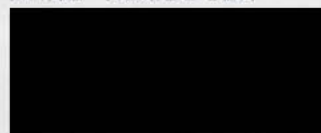
Mrs J MacDonald



Mrs Stevenson



S.S.R.A Secretary
Anne Hamilton



Stuart Nicoll



Eric Wallace



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Winter Competition Finals

The final of the **Speedway** will be held at Perth C & C Range, with their kind permission and cooperation, on Sunday 15th March at 11 a.m. This shoot, with its distinctive format, is always exciting and spectators and supporters are cordially invited.

The final of the **3-Positions Championship** will be held at Linwood on Sunday 12th April. This final will be shot at 50 metres and again spectators and supporters are invited to what promises to be a final of high scores and great interest.

Irvine 1987.

Irvine is a hive of hustle and bustle at the moment. The range for the Scottish is about to be planted and work continues on the Irvine Shooting Club development, with attention now turning to the roof!

Irvine have been invited again this year to host a Grand Prix at the end of August in place of the second Denwood Grand Prix. Should Irvine be ready in time, there will be 30+ covered firing points, in a range complex which also includes a 25yd indoor range with 25 firing points, which may also be used as a 10M air weapons hall, but not simultaneously. We should know by the end of June whether or not the Irvine Grand Prix is on, so watch for an announcement at the Scottish Meeting.

In the event of Irvine not being ready in time, Denwood have offered to host the Northern Grand Prix as usual.

Queries re. accommodation for the Scottish Meeting should be directed to the local organisers or the local tourist offices :

Tom Lawless,

Ronnie Ramsay,

Irvine Dev. Corp. Information
Office Irvine 72431

Ayrshire & Burns Country Tourist Board - 0292-284196
Cunninghame District Tourist Office - 0475-673-765

A new municipal caravan park should be ready in/near Irvine in time for the Scottish so there should be room for all!

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Association Clothing and Memorabilia

Tom McGregor and Cyril De Jonckheere have, between them, a stock of sweaters, sweatshirts, silk and wire embroidered coat badges, lapel badges, spoons, keyrings, etc. The embroidered badges are most suitable for wearing on a blazer and are a very attractive way of flying the flag for your sport and your association.

All stock available will be displayed at the Grand Prix Meetings and most items out of stock can be ordered from :

Tom McGregor

or

Cyril DeJonckheere

Entry form the the 1987 Freuchie for the Wilkinson Sword
and for the Freuchie C & D Sqian Dubh

Name.....Club.....Tel.....

Address.....Post.code.....

Entry Fee is £1.50 for individual members and £2.00 for club members.

Entry is restricted to 81 places. Entries accepted on plain paper.

ID TO ANNE HAMILTON,

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S NEWS

Scottish Shooting Council Seminar

How many people in the S.S.R.A. (and outside it, for that matter) ask themselves why on earth it is that shooting seems to have one of the most complicated set-ups in terms of leagues, associations, governing bodies, competitions, etcetera? One N.S.R.A. person recently expressed the opinion that we seem to have everything except a governing body for standing-on-the-head-blindfold shooting. Shooters are so fed up with being asked to pay affiliations to large numbers of different bodies, that it is hardly surprising that the S.S.R.A., which is the only body recognised as governing smallbore rifle shooting in Scotland, has trouble getting more than 10% of Scottish smallbore riflemen to join. The situation is even worse if you want to take part in other forms of shooting. It was recently calculated that you could easily spend £70 a year in subscriptions over and above your club membership fee, just to be allowed to shoot in every target sport at top level.

This is one reason why I am organising a one-day Seminar at Glasgow University for the Scottish Shooting Council on Saturday 4th April, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. (approximate times). The subject will be The Future Organisation and Administration of Scottish Target Shooting and the aim will be to secure broad agreement on the benefits to shooting of a common membership, a common full-time administration, and a common approach to grant-aiding bodies, like the Scottish Sports Council. Full programme details will be circulated later in February. It may be necessary to limit numbers attending, in which case club and governing body officials will be given priority over ordinary members. The N.S.R.A. will be invited both to attend and to speak. A Discussion Paper will be circulated by the Shooting Council to the S.S.R.A. Council in early February, so if you wish to have further details about the proposals, contact your local Area Council member.

National Facility - Manor Powis

For the next couple of months, make sure that you touch wood as often as possible. Few of us dare to hope too much at the moment, but there are at last signs that the cherished dream of the Shooting Council, a National Shooting Centre at Manor Powis, on which Scotland could host UIT Championship events, may be off the drawing board and on the landscape soon. I have been, and will be, doing everything I can to help the progress of the project.

Firearms Law Advisory Leaflet

On the eternal subject of firearms and the law, I have produced an advisory leaflet for the use of clubs, as there have been several conflicts lately between clubs and the police, the central issue being how much control clubs are obliged to exercise over whom they allow to shoot, and the conduct of shooting within clubs. The leaflet is at present with the Scottish Office and the Association of Chief Constables for comment, and hopefully approval, before publication.

Bill Murray

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Scotland v New Zealand N.I.

The result of the 1986 New Zealand match :

Scotland :						North Island, N.Z. :	
	Card	1	2	3	4	Set	Set
T. Kidner		0	0	0	0	0	0
W.T. Vaughan		1	1	0	1	3	4
A. MacKenzie		1	0	1	1	3	5
R.R. Simpson		0	0	2	1	3	5
W.G. Marr		2	1	1	0	4	6
H. Simpson (Jnr)		1	2	1	0	4	6
H. Simpson (Snr)		1	1	3p	0	5	6
G.B. Winch		2	2	0	1	5	7
S.C. Riley		1	3	0	1	5	8
I.B. Robertson		3	0	1	1	5	9
A.M. Hamilton		0	1	2	2	5	9
T.F. Hodgson		1	4	0	1	6	9
A.A. Reid		2	1	2	1	6	9
W.A. Murray		2	2	0	3	7	10
W.F. Hamilton		2	0	3	3	8	11
Total						69	104
						5931 x 6000	5896 x 6000

This win for Scotland levelled the series at 6 all but missed the team score record by 1 point, set by North Island in 1985.

In 1986, New Zealand had sent their best shooters to Edinburgh for the Commonwealth Games and were not up to full strength - on to the 1987 match and do battle again.

Members and supporters are welcome at Perth on the 29th March to lend moral and practical support to the team in the 1987 match.

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Course for Coaches

A refresher course for County 3-P coaches is planned for early summer, probably in Stirling. Anyone who is a) interested and b) eligible may contact Geoff Webb to express their interest. Geoff will be at the Shooting Council Seminar - come and speak to him about it.

Geoff's address is [REDACTED]

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Perthshire Summer Competition

This summer Perthshire is offering a Short-Range Summer League for all comers, 2 cards per fortnight starting in May. All enquiries should be made to Ian Gray (Address on page 4) .

Sports Council for Glasgow - Talented Sports Performer Awards.

If you live within the boundaries of the City of Glasgow, you may be eligible for a District, Regional or National standard award. Get your form now by sending an 10"x12" S.A.E. to The Director of Parks and Recreation, 20 Trongate, Glasgow G1 5ES, marking the envelope with "Talented Sports Performers Awards" or call at the first floor, 37 High Street.

PROFILE - Stuart Guild

Our new chairman, Stuart Guild, by profession the Senior Partner of a firm of Solicitors in Edinburgh has a wealth of experience in the shooting world. A member and past Captain of the Watsonian Rifle Club, he started target shooting in his school days with the Shooting VIII at George Watson's College and, apart from an enforced break in which he saw service with the Royal Artillery in Burma and the Far East, he has been involved in shooting for his club and at county level.

After many years service to the Territorial Army, he was appointed Lt. Col. Commanding Officer of the local Army Cadet Force where he helped to improve the standard of shooting. He is presently Convener of Shooting for the Army Cadet Force Association in Scotland.

He is the President of the Lothian and Peebles Home Guard Rifle Association and the Vice President of the Lothian Small-bore Shooting Association. He has served on the Executive of the latter Association for a considerable number of years during which he has been their representative on the N.S.R.A. Council.

Always an active shooter, Stuart's greatest feat of derring-do in shooting is well remembered in Lothian. Taking part in an invitation 50 metres match for a trophy presented by Watsonians for competition among Lothian clubs in celebration of their 50th anniversary, Stuart was last man in to score a 198, best score in the match, to pinch the trophy from Balerno & Currie by one point.

DJG

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The Scottish Training Squad - from the inside.

Many will ask - those who turn up to the A.G.M. anyway - when they read the S.S.R.A.'s statement of accounts; "What is the point of spending so much money on such an unruly rabble?"

The plain fact of the matter is that Scotland badly needed an injection of potentially good enthusiastic young shooters - the encouragement of those who will form our national teams in the future - and some not so young. So two years ago, the Scottish Training Squad was formed.

Scotland's shooting teams can no longer exist solely on prone shooting, so the squad provides a chance for the increasing number of 3-P shooters to exchange ideas and training techniques to the benefit of all. This does not mean to say that the prone shooter does not benefit from the sessions, for if he/she/it comes to the sessions with an open mind and a willingness to listen and contribute, he has the opportunity to benefit from others views and insights; not only into the techniques involved, but also into attitude and approach, which is so important to anyone wishing to advance in the sport.

Is the squad appreciated by those invited to join? The very fact

that many go to great trouble to be at Meadowbank, where the sessions take place, for the early start must say something for their enthusiasm. This is highlighted by the fact that in the bad weather during January, the Aberdeen contingent travelled through very bad conditions to arrive on time.

At this point, we should like to acknowledge the efforts of the coaches - Harry Milne, Adam Gordon, Geoff Webb, Anne Hamilton, Cyril DeJonckheere and Ian Robertson - who have put a lot of effort into preparing (?) for and getting to each session.

When will you see the results of this expenditure? Some of you have already seen. There was last year's Devon Match where the team won the 3-P event the first time fielding a 3-P team, and there's the increasing number of quality shooters from whom to select teams for the Home Countries Internationals.

If anyone knows of somebody whom they think would benefit from and be interested in the squad as described, they should contact Harry. Every year others are invited to join as the more experienced members leave having benefited from their term in the group.

Anon.

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Down your way -

Leven & District Rifle and Pistol Club

Throughout Scotland are many clubs, active and competitive, about which little is known outside their own area. Such a club might be Leven and District, in Fife. They have a steady membership of around 35, including a small pistol section and 7 juniors among whom is Philip Tippetts-Aylmer, a member of the Scottish Training Squad and of the Great Britain Junior National Squad.

The club members enjoy competing in the Fife and Kinross Leagues and in the Perthshire Leagues as well as in the N.S.R.A. Individual Championships. This winter, the club have reached the final of the Fife and Kinross Burton Cup in which they meet Perth C & C.

The club range has 4 firing points at 25 yards and is open every weekday evening, with Tuesdays reserved for pistol shooting. During the summer, Leven & District shares the use of an outdoor range with St Andrews, which is tucked into the corner of a Clay Pigeon facility.

The Club may be contacted through Diane Penman. (Tel. Leven
[REDACTED]).

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IN CASE YOU HADN'T NOTICED -

Things have been happening to the Association Newsletter. The Council are very conscious that this is the members' newsletter rather than just a voice for the Council. Members are warmly invited to send items for inclusion to the Secretary. Obviously, due to copying and postage costs, space is restricted, but we will do our best to fit in as much as possible.

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WANTED - Bill Marr at Portlethen Rifle Club is looking for two Anschütz 1413's, around £300-£350. Contact him via Jack Lavety if you can help.

GROWING UP, FALLING IN LOVE, AND BLOOD ON THE TRACKS

or

The 1987 Scotland Volunteers' trip to the Intershoot in the Hague.

"Rogelund? That's Norway, isn't it? When is it, and how much will it cost?"

"Next week, and about £250 plus pocket money", came the reply. I gulped, fought off the temptation to go AWOL and run up an unauthorised overdraft, and said "That's a bit too much too soon, I think. But isn't there one in Holland in February?"

A few weeks later, at 8:05 a.m. in a rather dog-eared Dutch sports hall, struggling to keep the terror out of my voice, I said to Cliff Ogle, "Whatever else happens, tell them I was here". On my left was Dirr of Austria, on my right, Hauburg of Germany, both of them 585 men. My main recollection of the next two hours and a bit, is that I might as well have been picking up my air rifle for the first time. Shortly afterwards, I was relieved to discover that I had avoided coming last, narrowly beating Cliff and a one-legged man representing the British Amputees. Our Scottish team had come a resounding last in the team competition, a full 20 points per man behind Luxembourg.

Room for improvement, thought we. In fact Ian Gibb, our very valuable guide and senior team member, managed to improve significantly on the second day. Stephen Dunlop, Alistair McDonald, myself and Cliff, all failed to prove that our first showing had simply been a question of acclimatisation. Hillenbrand of West Germany won the rifle matches with 595/591 (the current world record is 594): his face suggested it could have been better but then, of course, Slotbloom was ill, and Heberle, Stenvaag and Nipchow were resting up after the Luxembourg shoot.

We agreed that as we obviously weren't there to win, we must be there to learn, and the first thing we learned was that Swiss and Austrian girl shooters look a bit like their skiers, only nicer. As this was sinking in, we also discovered that they could shoot as well, as a Swiss girl with one of the worst positions I have ever seen methodically put together 393x400.

I fell deeply and instantly in love with Gudrun Sinnhuber of Austria, while Cliff lived up to his surname whenever he saw one of the German female juniors. Ian was heard to admit that he couldn't take his eyes off one -or was it all- of the Swedish ladies' pistol team. McDonald and Dunlop have so far refused to reveal their hearts' desires.

We also learned that it doesn't take superb facilities to organise a competition like this. Inverclyde is big enough and good enough as a venue: it all boils down to getting the other teams to come, and to finding the expertise to run the event properly. With the new finals, there is at least the prospect of attracting some TV coverage, and the mandatory civic receptions are not hard to come by for major events. It would be nice to think of Scotland getting a shoot like this accepted on the international calendar, before it becomes too full.

Then there was the return journey, which was a pain in the neck for us, but not half so much as it must have been for the person who committed suicide by throwing himself in front of our boat train at Leiden (the station before we were due to get on). Thus unhappily a two hour wait became a four hour wait, while we joined everyone else on the station in a mass wild goose-chase fed by rumours in the form of tannoy announcements saying that special buses, trains etcetera, had been laid on for us. Eventually we were bundled into taxi cabs and driven at high speed, at the cost of Dutch Railways, to the Hook of Holland where our boat had been patiently waiting for an hour. A mere 16 hours later, and we were back home, on terra firma and down to earth.