

SCOTTISH SMALL-BORE RIFLE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, MARCH, 1988.

From the Ivory Tower

Your Chairman's note in the last Newsletter was headed by our Editor, Anne, as "From The Hot Seat". This time, one of our members has kindly provided the heading.

In the summary of the Press release on the Home Secretary's Firearms Legislation proposals, I suggested that if you were so inclined, you could write to your M.P. endorsing the proposals. This I am glad to say provoked some comment, probably the first time ever that a Newsletter has produced any response from the members. I make no apology for my remarks which were my own and based on the Press Release only.

The Home Secretary's Press Release was read out in full at the Annual General Meeting and the response was that although its proposals did not affect small-bore shooters, all shooters must stand together, which comment was endorsed at the November meeting of your Council.

The White Paper on "Firearms Act 1968, Proposals for Reform" (H.M.S.O. £2.20) was issued in early December. However the Government appear to be in a hurry, for before we could send a report to you which I had prepared, the Firearms (Amendment) Bill was published on 24th December, 1987 and that report had to be scrapped.

The Bill is as follows in brief :

Section 1 adds the following to prohibited weapons -

- any continuous fire weapons,
- any self-loading or pump action rifles other than .22,
- any self-loading or pump action smooth bore with a barrel under 24 inches or under 40 inches overall excluding detachable or movable butt stock,
- any rocket launcher or mortar.

Ammunition includes explosive bullets, grenades, etc. None of these affect Small-bore Shooters, although shotgun sportsmen may be affected. Powers are being given to the Secretary of State to alter the description of any weapon or ammunition 'which appears to him to be specially dangerous' by means of a statutory instrument, the drafts of which must be approved by each House of Parliament.

Section 2 limits the exception in the 1968 Firearms Act for shotguns by redefining it as smooth bore, designed or adapted to fire 5 or more shots "simultaneously" (sic) and not be less than 24 inches barrel length and not self-loading, pump action or revolving magazine. Shotgun owners should study this section of the proposal and we as small-bore shooters should support any objections raised by shotgun bodies, as mandated at a recent meeting of the Council of this

PLEASE NOTE the Secretary's
new address -

Mrs A.M. Hamilton,


Association and as stated through the Scottish Shooting Council Chairman Bob Aitken.

Section 3 amends the provisions for grant and renewal of shotgun certificates. Again shotgun owners should take note.

Section 4 relates to transfer of shotguns and Section 5 deals with restrictions on the sales of ammunition for smooth-bore guns.

Section 6 relates to shortening of smooth bore gun barrels and Section 7 ensures that prohibited weapons or those requiring a firearms or shotgun certificate remain classified as such notwithstanding any conversion.

Section 8 provides that 2 photographs will be required when applying for firearms or shotgun certificates and that the form of certificate will include it bearing a photograph of the holder.

Sections 9 and 10 apply to firearms dealers, auctioneers, carriers and warehousemen.

Section 11 deals with exemptions.

Subsection 1 provides that "A member of a rifle club, miniature rifle club or pistol club approved by the Secretary of State may without holding a firearm certificate have in his possession a firearm and ammunition when engaged as a member of the club in, or in connection with, target practice."

In subsection 3 and 4, approval under this section is to continue for 6 years and be renewed at 6 yearly intervals. Each renewal is to cost £33. THIS IS AN EXTRA CHARGE.

Subsection (5) allows an authorised constable to enter and inspect the premises and "anything on them" for the purpose of powers ascertaining compliance with this section. This appears to be too wide a power. He should inspect things relevant to the approval to be issued and subsection (6) creates an offence to obstruct a constable in exercise of his powers.

Subsection (8) adds pistol clubs to the exemption from a fee for firearms certificates to responsible officers of rifle clubs, miniature rifle clubs and cadet corps or for the variation or renewal of such certificates.

This section, i.e. Section 11, provides approval of a club every 6 years for a Fee but the existing firearm certificate fee exemption under Section 32(2) of the 1968 Act continues. Existing clubs' approvals will expire (without prejudice to renewal) 3 years after Section 11 comes into force. £33 every 6 years (£5.50 per annum) may not be much now but if the costs rise, it may become a burden on clubs. Would it not be preferable if this duty were performed by the governing bodies of the Sport concerned through their Officers?

The important matter for us is the continued exemption under 32(2) of the 1968 Act of rifle clubs, miniature rifle clubs and pistol clubs from the fee for a firearm certificate.

The new fee is the approval fee above. MOST IMPORTANTLY THERE IS NO PROCEDURE FOR APPEAL UNDER THIS SECTION IF APPROVAL IS REFUSED.

Section 12 makes a charge for visitors permits, Firearms £33, shotguns £12. The application must include the weapon number, etc.

What should we write to our M.P. about?

The Bill has already had its first and second readings and is now in Committee Stage. It must also pass through the House of Lords. The Government and the Opposition both favour the Bill so amendment is going to be difficult. Letters to M.P.s and members of the House of Lords may have some effect. Any comments must be succinct and not more than one side of a page otherwise it may not be read.

Two major points come to mind.

1. The approval under section 11 of rifle, miniature rifle and pistol clubs contains no provision for appeal against any refusal of approval. APPEAL PROCEDURES MUST BE INSERTED.
2. The visitors firearms permit procedure in Section 12 is such that it will be a cumbersome procedure in the case of visiting teams. Provision should be made that Teams from visiting countries should count as "one visitor" and their details provided on one form and sponsored by the Organisation holding the event. If the fee is to be £33 for one firearm permit it should be the same for a National team. In the case of the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, U.K. fees should be the same as theirs. If at all possible, there should be no fee or possibly a nominal one.

Other points are :

- a) that the Government is determined that Shooters should pay for the costs of legislation in Fees, etc. This means costs will escalate. We all know that Police Forces are not geared to the additional bureaucracy involved. I would suggest Firearms Certificates be extended to 10 years and in the event of a variation, full renewal will be earned for the period covering the ensuing 10 years.
- b) In subsection 5 of section 11, the words "and anything in them" should be deleted. The power is too wide.

On a general point, the amount of extra Policing demanded by the Bill does not appear to reduce crime with firearms and is an unfair burden for legitimate shooters to bear. In fact apart from banning certain weapons and adding photographs to certificates none of the provisions appear to affect the firearms criminal act.

You can of course object to the approval system completely but since both parties favour the Bill there's little point in flat objection. Attempts to modify proposals are more likely to succeed. Equally, outright objections may be made which result in modification.

Since the above was written, a) compensation is to be paid for weapons which become illegal and b) a self-loading shotgun firing no more than 3 shots will remain under a shotgun certificate approval.

The Home Office Minister responsible is Mr Douglas Hogg and an M.P. favourable to the shooting lobby is Sir Hector Munro (Dumfries). The Bill has still to go to the Lords. The Government hopes to get it passed by June 1988.

Stuart Guild, Chairman.

Editor's note

The last Newsletter was indeed the first in this editorship to receive comment from members. The two subjects commented upon were the annual subscription and the forthcoming firearms legislation proposals, each invoking much the same numbers of letters or telephone messages. However, taking "enhanced subscriptions", i.e. those supplemented to approximately £5 by donations, into the reckoning, this was, in fact, a far greater source of concern.

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Representative Match Programme and Team Selection for 1988.

At the last Council Meeting on February 14th, Council decided that Scotland would be represented in the following Matches and Championships and that selection for the matches would be as follows :

New Zealand (North Island) Postal Match, 27th March.

The Team will comprise the leading 8 competitors in the Speedway A & B Final plus 7 others invited by the Selection Committee which will meet immediately after Speedway final. Team members receive a New Zealand Association cloth badge.

Devon May Day Invitation Match (Prone only), 29th April-1st May.

This will be a self-financing trip. Places in the representative team are offered in order of merit in the 1987 Grand Prix Series, (pub. in November Newsletter). Members interested in making this trip and taking part in the match should contact the Secretary a.s.a.p. The Association will meet team entry fees only.

C.S.F. (E.D.) Championships (Mini-Games, prone and 3-P), 13-15 May.

Teams will be selected by trials. The trialists for prone will be the leading 10 from 1987 Grand Prix plus 5 invited by Selection Committee. Trialists for 3-p (12) will be the leading 8 finalists in the 3-P championship plus 4 invitees and leading 2 in the final trial will attend the Championships. A further 2 teams places may be offered to trialists who exceeded a standard of performance of 1120 ex 1200. If 3rd and 4th in the trial do not exceed the standard, these places may be offered to shooters who have exceeded the standard in this year but were unable to attend the trial.

Note that we have not yet received any official intimation from Guernsey that the 3-P is off. Keep training!

Dale Farm Ulster Games (Prone and 3-P), 11-12 June.

Small-bore is a new event in these Games. The Association will meet travelling costs and entry fees but team members must pay their own accommodation and meals. Team places (4 prone and 3 3-p) will be offered to Mini-Games teams members and trialists in order of placings in the Mini-Games trials.

Army Match (Linwood), 3-4 Sept. : Arrangements to be announced.

Home Countries Internationals at the Scottish Meeting and Bisley will be selected from the leading scores in 'X' and 'A' class for the Scotland Teams and in all classes for the Scotland Womens' Teams.

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The Selection Committee for 1987-88 is Stuart Guild, Cyril DeJonckheere, Bob Normand and Anne Hamilton.

S.S.R.A. Calendar of Events

Date	Discip.	Place	Event	Ref.
APRIL				
Sat 9	-----	Stirling	SSRA Council Meeting	1
Sun 10	3-P	Linwood	SSRA 3-P Champ. Final	1
W/E 16-17	Air	Inverclyde	SARPA Air Weapons Champ	9
W/E 23-24	Rifle+3-P	Linwood	SSRA Mini-Games Trials	1, *
Fr-Su 29-2	Rifle+3-P	Budleigh, Devon	Open + Invit'n Match	11, *
MAY				
Fr-Su 6-8	Air/P	Portlethen	Open Air Pistol	10
Sat 7	Rifle	Linwood	SSRA Training Squad	1, 3
Sun 8	Rifle	Aberdeen	SSRA GRAND PRIX-1	4
Fr-Su 13-15	All	Guernsey	C.S.F. (E.D.) Mini-Games	1, *
W/E 14-15	Rifle	Linwood	Lanarkshire Open	2
Sat 21	3-P	Linwood	SSRA 3P-GRAND PRIX-1	1
Sun 22	Rifle	Denwood/Banchory	ADSRSA Open Mini-G.P.1	4
W/E 28-29	Rifle	Perth	Perthshire Eley Open	8
JUNE				
W/E 4-5	Rifle	Aberdeen	ADSRSA Open Rifle Meeting	4
SUN 5	-----	Stirling	SSRA Council Meeting	1
Fr-Su 10-12	All	N. Ireland	Dale Farm Ulster Games	1, *
Sat 11	Rifle	Linwood	West of Scotlad Open	2
Sat 18	3-P	Linwood	SSRA 3P-GRAND PRIX-2	1
Sun 19	Rifle	Linwood	SSRA GRAND PRIX-2	2
Sun 26	Rifle	Lauder	Border League Open Day	6
JULY				
Week 2-8	Rifle	Wick	NSRA Scottish Meeting	5
Sun 3	E.G.M.	Wick	EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MTG	1
Sat 16	3-P	Linwood	SSRA 3P-GRAND PRIX-3	1
Sun 17	-----	Stirling	SSRA Council Meeting	1
W/E 23-24	Rifle	Caithness	SSRA GRAND PRIX-3	7
Sat 30	Rifle	Wolverhampton	NSRA Dewar Trials	5
AUGUST				
W/E 6-7	Rifle	Perth	SSRA GRAND PRIX-4	8
Week 13-20	Rifle	Bisley	NSRA British Meeting	5
Sun 28	Rifle	Denwood/Irvine	SSRA GRAND PRIX-5	4
SEPTEMBER				
W/E 3-4	Rifle+3-P	Linwood	SSRA v Army Match	1
Sun 11	Rifle	Gagie	SSRA GRAND PRIX-6	4
OCTOBER				
4-day 7-10	Air	Cardiff	NSRA Air Championships	5
Sun 30	-----	Perth	SSRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	

* Please refer to Match Programme 1988 in this Newsletter.

MORE AND YET MORE : New this summer, the S.S.R.A. 50 metres Match-play League (entry forms with this newsletter to club reps.) will be run for teams of 4 and Perthshire (contact Ian Gray) are offering their Summer Indoor League again.

Contact Names, Addresses & Telephone Numbers:-

1 Anne Hamilton, [REDACTED]	2 Bob Normand, [REDACTED]	3 Cyril DeJonckheere, [REDACTED]
4 Jack Lavety, [REDACTED]	5 N.S.R.A., Lord Roberts House, Bisley Camp, BROOKWOOD, Woking, Surrey GU24 ONF	6 Ian Stevenson, [REDACTED]
7 Jean MacDonald, [REDACTED]	8 Ian Gray, [REDACTED]	9 Eric Wallace, [REDACTED]
10 Chas. Morrison, [REDACTED]	11 A. Harvey [REDACTED]	12 Stuart Guild, Chairman [REDACTED]

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Scotland v New Zealand (North Island), 1987.

True to Sod's Law, the N.Z. scores arrived just after the last Newsletter was sent out. Team members and statisticians among you may be interested in the table below with both teams in score order plus comparative figures showing team members score difference and also that accumulated for the team so far. The bottom line is that the N.Z. team were ahead all the way down the order till the last man, eighteen points ahead.

From previous correspondence with N.Z., I know that Miss Critchley is 18 years old. How much can we raise for a transfer fee?

				Ind.	Accum.
Scotland		New Zealand		Diff.	Diff.
W. Moonie	398	Miss Y. Critchley	399	1	1
W.T. Vaughan	397	L. Bowring	397	0	1
A.F. Mackenzie	397	S. Petterson	397	0	1
A.A. Reid	396	R. Dixon	397	1	2
G.J.B. Winch	396	A. Dixon	396	0	2
T.F. Kidner	396	R. Dean	396	0	2
I.A. Kerr	395	R. Harvey	395	0	2
W.F. Hamilton	394	R. Travers	395	1	3
I. Shanks	393	G. Tayler	395	2	5
A. Horne	392	R. Caie	394	2	7
H. Simpson, Jnr	392	D. Gibson	394	2	9
C.I.H. Thomson	390	J. Cockerill	393	3	12
S.D. Nicoll	390	K. Burt	393	3	15
W.G. Marr	387	M. Spear	390	3	18
H. Simpson, Snr	387	M. Stone	380	-7	11
Team Total	5900		5911		
Shooting Reserves					
C.G. DeJonckheere	398	T. Wallis	395		
J.R. Buchanan	393	R. Dudson	394		

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The 1988 Speedway Championship
for the Bill Dick Memorial Cup
Perth 20th March, 1988.

	Match points						Gunscores										Agg
	1	2	3	4	5	Pnts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
T Kidner	4	6	4	6	6	26 !	1	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	8
RR Simpson	6	3	6	6	4	25 !	1	0	1	1	3	0	0	1	1	1	9
CB DeJonckheere	5	6	5	4	4	24 !	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	2	1	3	12
WF Hamilton	5	6	6	3	2	22 !	2	1	1	1	0	1	2	0	1	2	11
Miss L Buchanan	4	0	5	6	6	21 !	2	0	0	3	2	0	1	0	3	0	11
AF Mackenzie	6	2	4	2	6	20 !	0	0	1	3	0	2	2	3	1	0	12
H Simpson, Snr	2	3	2	5	6	18 !	1	3	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	1	14
BA Duncan	6	3	6	0	2	17 !	2	0	1	2	0	0	8	1	3	4	21
A Paul	4	4	0	1	4	13 !	0	4	1	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	21
H Simpson, Jr	1	6	0	5	0	12 !	3	1	2	1	2	4	1	2	2	2	20
W Shoreman	2	0	2	4	4	12 !	4	2	1	3	3	1	1	3	1	2	21
AA Reid	2	3	4	1	1	11 !	4	1	2	1	1	3	2	3	4	2	23
AS Bruce	0	4	2	2	0	8 !	7	5	3	1	2	2	3	3	4	2	32
REF Illsley	1	0	2	0	2	5 !	2	2	4	5	3	3	3	3	3	2	30
ED Lovie	0	0	0	3	1	4 !	3	5	5	2	6	6	1	1	3	3	35
J McKinney	0	2	0	0	0	2 !	5	3	3	2	5	5	4	2	7	4	40

The 1988 C & D Speedway Championship
for the Boston Bowl
Perth, 27th March, 1988.

	Match points						Gunscores										Agg
	1	2	3	4	5	Pnts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
W. Liddell	6	5	6	6	2	25 !	1	3	2	4	1	2	3	3	4	2	25
tie shoot 6 off																	
R Reid	6	2	6	5	6	25 !	2	2	5	4	3	1	3	3	0	1	24
tie shoot 10 off																	
DJA Lawson	4	6	2	6	6	24 !	3	2	0	4	5	2	2	0	2	2	22
J Stewart	2	4	6	4	4	20 !	6	13	0	8	4	1	4	5	7	2	50
W McAulay	3	6	4	6	0	19 !	6	3	2	4	2	2	6	2	5	7	39
N McMillan	6	4	4	0	4	18 !	7	0	2	3	6	2	6	7	4	1	38
JR Ward	0	2	4	5	6	17 !	7	7	6	3	3	4	2	4	3	4	43
W Gray	4	0	2	4	6	16 !	5	5	4	11	2	7	3	3	2	3	45
A Finlay	2	5	0	4	4	15 !	7	3	5	1	6	4	4	5	6	3	44
JB McCutcheon	3	6	2	2	0	13 !	5	4	1	5	3	5	3	4	4	6	40
JJ Mennie	6	2	0	2	2	12 !	4	3	6	4	5	6	3	5	7	7	50
R Brian	0	2	6	0	4	12 !	8	9	5	7	3	4	4	10	7	2	59
R Bryce-Stafford	4	0	4	0	2	10 !	7	2	4	8	5	7	7	12	8	2	62
D Walker	2	4	2	2	0	10 !	4	7	3	4	5	8	4	7	10	16	68
RB Fraser	0	0	0	2	2	4 !	5	6	6	5	2	13	7	5	5	8	62

The C & D Speedway was shot for the first time at Perth on a Sunday when everyone would rather have been out of doors.

This competition was introduced to encourage C & D shooters to aspire to higher competition by offering an opportunity to fire the same gruelling course as the Speedway for the same prizes and hence under similar match pressure.

Many thanks to Lynda Marlow and Stephen Dunlop for taking charge of this event which produced 5 possibles.

A Secretary's Troubles....

Dear Member,

Pull up a chair, get yourself a drink, make yourself comfortable, this may take some time. Above all, PLEASE DON'T TURN THE PAGE.

There's no getting away from it. Politics and sport don't mix but they can't be separated either as long as sport depends on politicians for recognition as Governing Bodies and for Grant Aid.

What am I leading up to? Got it in one! MONEY! This Association has a severe financial problem. We are not generating enough income to support the activities we undertake.

This is a convoluted subject for discussion, a cat's cradle of inter-connected issues. Let's start with BEING A GOVERNING BODY.

No association can set up shop and say "We are a Governing Body!" and get away with it. To be a governing body, an association must assume and discharge responsibility for the management of its sport. This encompasses a wide range of activities,

- enrolling as members the majority of participants of that sport,
- representing the members' views and interests and holding regular (annual) general meetings to consult the membership on major issues,
- administering the sport, maintaining membership records, etc,
- running the affairs of the association in accord with the association's constitution,
- developing the sport at every level from beginner to international including recruitment, education, facilities, fund raising,
- running members' competitions and national championships,
- regulating the sport by maintaining and administering the rules of the sport, including drug control,
- selecting, managing and financing representative teams,
- hosting and financing representative matches.

The Association must also convince the Scottish Sports Council and Scottish Sports Association that it is achieving this. Quite an undertaking! You don't believe me? Then join the Council for a year or two and see for yourself.

While we're on the subject, it is worth mentioning that the British Sports Council places the same expectations and requirements on the National Small-bore Rifle Association as a British Governing Body.

The greatest problem for the S.S.R.A. is recruiting the majority of target small-bore rifle shooters. We solve this by enrolling all members of Scottish Clubs as club members but the situation is really far from satisfactory and the "system" doesn't help.

All small-bore shooters who own their target rifle are obliged to join a club in order to obtain a firearms certificate. Joining a club can cost anything between £10 - £30 per annum, and often with further charges per visit to the club on top. Then the club affiliates to the National Small-bore Rifle Association, which affiliation obliges all members of the club to be members of the N.S.R.A., either individual at £14.75 per annum or club at £3.25 per annum. The bonus so far is

that N.S.R.A. membership brings with it insurance. However, clubs which do not affiliate to the N.S.R.A. must ensure that their members are properly insured against accident and liability.

So after this extravagance (but compare with your local golf club, squash club etc), we ask the shooter to support the S.S.R.A. and take out yet another subscription of £2.00, not a large sum, less than the price of 50 rounds of Tenex, but still too much for some.

Further, this Association has no lever. One cannot participate without joining a club and probably also joining the N.S.R.A. but membership of the S.S.R.A. is entirely elective.

Club membership has often been considered by the S.S.R.A. Council, but we need to look very carefully at what we can offer. Our agreement with the N.S.R.A. precludes us from running club competitions and since the N.S.R.A. already provide insurance, it is very difficult to attract members on a club basis thus club membership is offered at a nominal fee.

The bottom line is that 382 target rifle shooters (i.e. YOU, friend and reader) have elected to join the S.S.R.A. this year. However, there are substantially more who do not - estimates of total numbers of target small-bore rifle shooters in Scotland run as high as 2000 - and, while enjoying the benefits of the S.S.R.A., make no contribution to supporting the activities of the S.S.R.A.

If you have any ideas on attracting more members, please pass them on to your nearest Council member or to the Chairman or me.

What benefits do non-S.S.R.A., sorry - let's say club, members receive by virtue of the existence of the S.S.R.A.? The short answer is that the S.S.R.A. fulfils the Governing Body functions in a Scottish context that the N.S.R.A. cannot. The Scottish Sports Council requires that the Scottish Governing Body is **exclusively** Scottish and the N.S.R.A. **cannot** meet this qualification without a major reorganisation, especially financially.

Let's look again at the list of Governing Body responsibilities. In the last several years, this has included Commonwealth Games and Mini-Games team trials and selection, team funding, the Grand Prix Series for the 50 metres Scottish Championship, the 3-position Championship, the Freuchie Knockout Championship and the Speedway round-robin Championship, Training squad, Coaching, representing small-bore at the Scottish Shooting Council, the Scottish Sports Association and the Scottish Sports Council, setting standards for competition and administering them, including drug control.

Through membership of the Scottish Shooting Council, where membership is only extended to governing bodies of shooting disciplines who each nominate three delegates, the list goes on to include the appointment and management of the Shooting Development Officer and development of facilities at every level. Manor Powis IS getting closer. Any one who worked with Bill Murray will vouch for his success in moving Scottish Shooting forward. The N.S.R.A. contributed cash to the S.D.O. appointment but the largest contribution was from the Scottish Sports Council and was obtained through the efforts of the Scottish Shooting Council delegates. And what about the Firearms Legislation? The Act has moved so fast, we have been unable to update or consult members as much as we'd like but a great deal of work was

done including travel to London to liaise with the Home Office.

Having established that we merit Governing Body status, we thus become eligible for GRANT AID. Grant Aid is a vital part of the many support services which the Scottish Sports Council extends to Governing Bodies. Each year the Association submits a development plan for several years ahead and a budget for the next year with projections for several years. This submission is considered by Officers of the Scottish Sports Council and a meeting is held with Officers of the Association. The final offer extended to the Association is always dependent on the success of the Association in achieving its plan for the previous year(s) and the desirability and viability of the projected plan and budget.

Grant aid does not come free. It has to be earned by accomplishing at least the major elements of the development plan. In 1987/88, the Scottish Sports Council awarded us a 0% increase because we had failed in meeting our goal for subscription income, a direct consequence of the A.G.M.'s decision to turn down your Council's recommendation of an increased subscription of £5 without an offsetting increase in the number of members.

An alternative motion to return to the original 50p subscription was also tabled at the A.G.M. with the prospect of enrolling many more members, but consider what service to individual members could be provided for 50p per member. It wouldn't even pay the postage for the newsletters and A.G.M. notices, without even thinking about the Association's administrative costs. The subscription must at the very least cover the real costs of running the Association and allow it to fulfil its Constitutional commitment.

Do we need Grant Aid? It would be nice not to BUT WE DO.

Look at the A.G.M. minutes. At the end of them, and there should be a set with every copy of this Newsletter, is a copy of the Accounts presented for the last financial year. These show a gross turnover of £5.5K and grant aid of £1.5K. Income from competitions was £1.4K while subscription income was £650 and fund raising, wait for it, was £70. (Check if you like this is not a typing error, seventy pounds.) Fund raising is supposed to be a means of providing a service in the form of an entertainment, fun competition, lottery, whatever, in exchange for income from sources which would not otherwise be available to the Association. Perhaps we shouldn't fund raise at all and should pay our own way, be self-sufficient! Again your thoughts and ideas, please. We don't want to go bankrupt.

Still with me? Please persevere - this is important, honest!

I hope we've established what the Governing Body status means and the value of that and the Grant Aid.

A new development in the last two years is the statement made by the Scottish Sports Council that no further individual applications for Grant Aid will be accepted from individual Shooting Associations and that they must be made jointly through a single body.

The Scottish Shooting Council originally came into existence to select and run Scotland Shooting Teams at Commonwealth Games but has now expanded beyond this original role to include the appointment and management of the Shooting Development Officer and also a very strong

liaison role on Facilities Development with the Scottish Sports Council. The latest addition to their growing list of duties now includes assisting their members Associations, i.e. S.S.R.A., Scottish Rifle Association, Scottish Clay Pigeon Association, Scottish Pistol Association and Scottish Air Rifle and Pistol Association, to find a sensible way forward in light of the Scottish Sports Council's statement on future Grant Aid, viz the Federation Working Party.

Again note that the British Sports Council issued a similar but apparently stronger statement to the British Governing Bodies. The Scottish Sports Council requires a single grant aid application from the shooting bodies either as a single body or jointly under a federation or union of the existing associations. The British Sports Council requires one application from one body, i.e. compulsory federation. Thanks to some very hard work by delegates from all the disciplines, the Scottish Shooting Council is well ahead of its British counterpart in tackling this subject.

Now the S.S.R.A. must take its place among the other shooting bodies in the Scottish Shooting Council and persuade them of its worth in the single application and its subsequent dividing of the Grant Aid pie among the member bodies. The Federation Working Party is debating and weighing the possible models on which a Scottish Federation might take shape, but, whatever model is adopted, the merits of each discipline within the Federation will again be measured. But how? Care to have a guess? Representative strength? Number of members? Subscription income? Annual gross turnover? Any combination of these things, but the first two, the familiar tools of the Scottish Sports Council, are most likely to prevail.

Then where does the S.S.R.A. stand? The figures in the following table are approximate but do not as far as I am aware misrepresent the other Associations.

	Ind. Members	Sub.	Club Members
Scottish Air Rifle and Pistol Ass.	30	£ 4.50	320
Scottish Clay Pigeon Assoc.	1400	£ 8.00	---
Scottish Pistol Assoc.	70	£11.50	---
Scottish Rifle Assoc.	100	£12.00	---
Scottish Small-bore Rifle Assoc.	382	£ 2.00	2000

We have no information on how many shooters of other disciplines are not members of their respective Associations but do know that there are many more small-bore rifle shooters than 382.

Each Association also offers its members different services so a direct comparison is very difficult to make. However, the S.S.R.A. provides its members with a service comparable to that of any other sports Association. Why do its members place so little value on it? This places the S.S.R.A. at a severe disadvantage, especially when the Federation Working Party makes its necessary statistical comparisons. We now need the support and membership of all shooters more than ever.

Within the foreseeable future, the S.S.R.A. must decide whether it will stand with the other Shooting bodies under a union or federation or take its own course.

One of the federation models under consideration is a minimal level where each body continues in its present form but comes together

under the Scottish Shooting Council for Grant Aid purposes, each Association submitting its own application in full to be collated with the others for a joint submission and subsequent re-division either as stipulated by the Scottish Sports Council, as they have indicated may be done, or in proportion to the individual submissions under each financial section. No secrets here, and even a chance for highly constructive collaboration.

To achieve this, it has been recognised that this will be a great deal easier if the ends of financial year for the Associations were better aligned and the S.S.R.A., at end of July, was clearly the odd Association out, all others falling between September and December, including the Scottish Shooting Council itself at the end of December.

The S.S.R.A. is calling an E.G.M. at Wick during the Scottish Meeting on the 3rd July to ask the Membership to approve this change. This will not commit us to Federation but will keep a clear option open and show at least a willingness to explore the possibilities.

As with the alternative forms of Federation, the consequences of opting out of Federation seem rather grim. The one clear outcome would be no further Grant Aid and Governing Body status may also be forfeited. This would remove all authority from this Association to select representative teams, which was its original and founding purpose and is still a major part of our activities. With no voice for target small-bore rifle, this would also put in severe jeopardy future aid from the Scottish Sports Council towards facilities development for target small-bore rifle. (Remember Manor Powis? Don't blow it now!)

This Association is working for all target Scottish small-bore rifle shooters (see Constitution - copies available from Secy). Most importantly, while our turnover is increasing, our annual deficit is also increasing, eating into our reserves.

It is only fair that the cost should be carried equally by all who benefit. The only real difficulty is that the benefits are not always immediately obvious or tangible.

Please give this most serious matter some thought. Discuss it with anyone you know who is interested in target small-bore rifle shooting and is not an active member. Persuade them to join us.

Most important of all, please come to the E.G.M. at Wick if you possibly can and to the A.G.M. at Perth, last Sunday in October.

Your vote is your most important contribution.

Thanks for listening..... I'm off for a stiff drink,

See you around,

Anne.

P.S. Did you know that the free-rifle (3-P) event is the longest single competitive session in the Olympic programme, demanding the highest levels of stamina and concentration? Do you realise that if you got to the end of this article, you must have great potential?

Anne.

Scotland v North Island, New Zealand
27th March, 1988.
Balerno & Currie Midlothian

Estimated scores

B.A. Duncan	Durris	1	0	1	1	3
T. Kidner	S.P.P.M.	2	0	1	1	4
W.T. Vaughan	Selkirk	1	1	1	1	4
C.I.H. Thomson	Watsonians	2	0	1	1	4
Miss L. Buchanan	Stirling R.I.	2	1	1	1	5
W.F. Hamilton	Watsonians	0	2	1	2	5
H. Simpson, Jnr	Wick O.S.	1	0	2	2	5
C.W.C. Ogle	E.U. Alumni	3	0	1	2	6
H. Simpson, Snr	Wick O.S.	3	1	2	2	8
W. Shoreman	Portlethen	3	1	3	2	9
A. Paul	Wick O.S.	2	0	5	2	9
A.F. Mackenzie	Stirling R.I.	2	1	1	5	9
A. Horne	Livingston	2	2	5	1	10
J. Ronaldson	Wick O.S.	4	3	2	5	14
I. Michael	Selkirk	9	5	6	5	25
Team Total (Est.)						120

Shooting Reserves

D. Hume	Heriot's F.P.	1	3	1	2	7
D.A.M. McIntosh	E.U.R.C	2	0	1	1	4

The Selection Committee selected the above team to fire the annual postal match with North Island New Zealand, taking the leading 8 competitors in the Speedway final plus, in this case, 9 others as Richard Simpson and Cyril DeJonckheere had other commitments. The final team selection included 6 new members, including Brian Duncan who was estimated best individual score.

It was decided to hold this match at Balerno and Currie instead of Perth to make way in the calendar for the C & D Speedway.

The Balerno & Currie range, in Currie, Midlothian, just outside the Edinburgh City boundary, has two indoor ranges each with 4 up and 4 down firing points, i.e. 16 in total, which should allow a team of 15 plus two shooting reserves plenty of opportunity to find a firing point without too many delays, and also allowed team members with a long journey ahead to make an earlier start homeward. Balerno & Currie also has a very well appointed clubroom and offers (non-alcoholic) refreshments and snacks.

No one had any adverse comment to make on the range facility so perhaps the poor result can only be attributed to an absence of hardship. A full post-mortem will follow with the final match result in a later newsletter.

The mail to New Zealand will be dispatched wrapped in a white flag.

Many thanks to Keith Anderson and Ronald Sellar for turning out to control the unruly masses and to John and Christine Purchase for photographing the team and making the tea.

Wick '88

For those who have not made arrangements yet, the Scottish at Wick looks like being well attended. Self-catering accommodation has been in great demand but there is still plenty of B&B and half-board available. Contact Ian Sargent, the Tourist Officer at the Caithness Tourist Board, Whitechapel Road, Wick KW1 4EA (Tel 0955-2596).

The Social programme for the week so far :

Saturday Scottish Hour & Dance, Watten Gala.

Sunday S.S.R.A. E.G.M.

Monday Concert, John D'Groats.

Tuesday Barbecue by U.S. base + entertainment, Riverside, Wick.

Wednesday Ceilidh, MacKays Hotel, Wick.

Thursday Racenight & Dance, S.S.R.A., Wick

Wick Old Stagers plan to run an English Match competition on several evenings at the Wick Range, which will be the venue of the Caithness Open Meeting and Grand Prix No 3, providing a chance for familiarisation with the range. The S.S.R.A. plan to run the Freuchie and Sponsored Shoot again and the Caithness Association hope to run a Visitor's Freuchie for those from South of the border.

Also on the itinerary are visits to the Caithness Glass Factory at Harrowhill, to the Old Pulteney Distillery and Dounreay Power Station, boat trips to lighthouses (weather permitting) and coach and boat trips around Caithness and across to Orkney.

This looks like being the most strenuous Scottish's yet!

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SPONSORED SHOOT '88

We plan to run our Sponsored Shoot again this year, offering Best Shooter and Best Collector Prizes. In 1986 and 1987, Eley donated 500 Tenex for the Best Shooter Prize. The 1990 Commonwealth Games are now in our competitors' sights and they need your help in preparing for these Championships and the 1988 and 1989 Mini-Games.

Make sure you get your form for the Sponsored Shoot early from J. Lavety or A. Hamilton.

Entry Form for the 1988 Freuchie for the Wilkinson Sword and for the Freuchie C & D Sqian Dubh

Name	_____	Club	_____
Address	_____	Tel	_____
	_____	Mem. No.	_____
	_____	Entry fee is £1.50	
		for individual members	
Post Code	_____	and £2.00 for club	
		members.	

CLASS

☐

Entries will also be accepted on plain paper. First 81 entries only.
Please return with remittance to the Secretary, Anne Hamilton,

[REDACTED]

S.S.R.A. Grand Prix 1988

1. Denwood 8th May
2. Linwood 19th June
3. Caithness 23rd July
4. Perth 7th August
5. Northern 28th August
6. Gagle 11th September.

Details from Jack Lavety

S.S.R.A. 3-P Grand Prix 1988

1. Linwood 21st May
2. Linwood 18th June
3. Linwood 16th July

Details from Anne Hamilton

Aberdeen and District
Small-bore Rifle Association.
Open Meeting, 1988

Weekend of 4th - 5th June
at Denwood

A Double Dewar Competition in
4 classes plus Junior for the
Shiela Robertson Trophies
plus team competitions.

Contact J. Lavety,

for more information, entry forms
and assistance re. accommodation
and range location.

SUMMER (OUTDOOR) MATCHPLAY LEAGUE 1988

Your club correspondent will have received an entry form for this
league for teams of 4 individual members from the same club, 20 shots
at 50 metres/yards each per round.

This competition format which offers the challenge of one-to-one
competition along with the pressures of team shooting will be even
more interesting outdoors.

Clubs within travelling distance are invited to use the facilities
at Linwood at a charge of a visitor's fee (£1.00) plus targets. Club
rates can be also negotiated. Linwood has been modified to 50 metres
only and offers 20 covered firing points plus clubroom and toilet
facilities.

Contact Bob Normand for more details.

Entry Form for the 1988 Freuchie for the Wilkinson Sword
and for the Freuchie C & D Sqian Dubh

Name	_____	Club	_____
Address	_____	Tel	_____
	_____	Mem. No.	_____
	_____	Entry fee is £1.50	CLASS ☐
	_____	for individual members	
Post Code	_____	and £2.00 for club	
		members.	

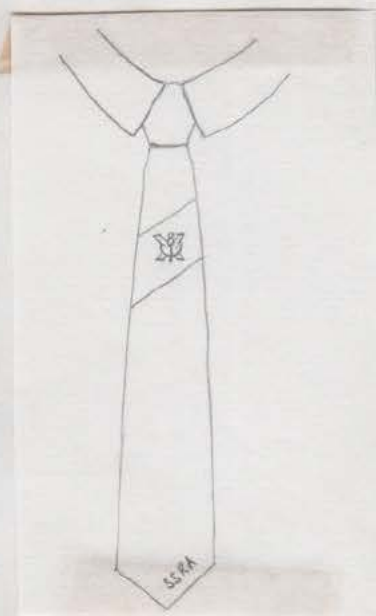
Entries will also be accepted on plain paper. First 81 entries only.
Please return with remittance to the Secretary, Anne Hamilton,

Association Clothing and Memorabilia

Association ties are in stock and have been most favourably received by those who have purchased one.

The ties are made of top quality polyester with woven-in design of the thistle on the St Andrews Cross from our Association badge on a navy blue background with light blue diagonal stripes above and below with the Association initials at the hem, price £6 + 40p p&p.

Ties and other emblematic items are available from the Secretary or Treasurer and will also be available at Grand Prix Meetings.



S.S.R.A. 1988 Free-Rifle (3-P) Grand Prix Series

All events will be held at Linwood and will be run as far as possible to U.I.T. rules. The course of fire will be a free-rifle match (3x40). N.S.R.A. targets and detail timings will be used. Equipment control will be in operation. Drug testing may also be carried out.

At each event, equipment control will open not later than 10.00 a.m. and the match will commence not later than 11.00 a.m. The entry fee for each event is £6.00 (£6.50 for club members) plus a late entry fee of 50p which will be levied if the entry + fee is not received by 1 week before the event. PLEASE QUOTE YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER IF CLAIMING LOWER ENTRY FEE.

Entry forms and remittance should be returned to Anne Hamilton,
[REDACTED]

3-P GRAND PRIX SERIES ENTRY FORM

Name	Mem. No.	Ind. Mem.	Club Mem.
Club	Entry fee/event	£6.00	£6.50
Address	3P GP 1 May 21st		
	3P GP 2 June 18th		
	3P GP 3 July 16th		
Post code	Late entry fee		
Telephone No.	Total remittance		