

APERTURE

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1

March 1996

SSRA 1995 AGM Highlights

A quorum of 25 was not present, but the chairman suggested any decisions could be agreed at a future council meeting if there was no objection from the membership when the minutes from 1994 were distributed.

The chairman informed the meeting that the secretary **Anne Hamilton** had recently resigned and thanked her for all the hard work she had put into the association over the years and praised her professionalism and dedication.



New Committee for 1995/96:

Chairman:	Angus Dick
Vice Chairman:	David Sheridan
Secretary:	Cyril De Jonckheere
Treasurer:	John Silcox

Council Members:	
Moirra Main	Bill Vaughan
Alister MacKenzie	John Buchanan
Ronnie Sellar	

The remaining places to be filled by coopting people from the regions showing shortages.

94/95 Chairman's Report: **Alister MacKenzie**

He opened by thanking the past committee for their hard work, in particular the treasurer. He updated the meeting on facilities and reported that Seat Hill will not be the site of a National facility for Smallbore Shooting.

In 1995 two projects in Fife were put forward as possible sites for regional facilities one by Cluny Clays the other by Kinross & Milnathort Smallbore Rifle Club. The SSRA and the Fife & Kinross Rifle Association were supporting the latter. We were supporting the development of a National facility at Strathclyde park, but this awaited the regional council reorganisation. The ground was owned by the sewage department and was due for development.

He reported that Linwood outdoor facility had closed during the year and the club were actively looking for an alternative site. The Denwood range may be expanded in the near future, but no further information was available.

The mini-games due to be held in Scotland in September had been cancelled as most countries were sending teams to India to a commonwealth shooting event in November. Scotland would be sending a full team and he wished them every success under the captaincy of Angus Dick.

The A squad training had been curtailed due to illness to Harry Milne and his wife, who is now making slow progress from a near-fatal illness. She was wished a speedy recovery.

He reported that Alastair Allan had commenced some work with the B squad.

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

SSRA 1995 AGM Highlights

94/95 Treasurer's Report: John Silcox

He reported that the accounts had been prepared with the assistance of Shirley MacIntosh and asked for questions on the two sets of accounts presented to the meeting. Jack Lavety asked what the membership was for the past year, but no accurate figure was available. It was suggested that it was about 250.

Cliff Ogle asked about the reduced spending on training, it was explained that most of the funding that year had been through the STSF for the Commonwealth games participants.

The 93/94 accounts were proposed for adoption subject to inspection by the auditors.

On the 94/95 accounts the low figure for fund raising was raised and it was pointed out that fewer people attended the race night and it had been expensive to hire a video projector as the Sports council one was not available, this resulted in a profit of about £100 instead of the usual £600.

The 93/94 accounts were proposed for adoption subject to inspection by the auditors.

Auditors J Adamson and J Kennedy.

Annual Subscription

The outgoing committee had recommended no change, since a full statement was not available at the time of discussion.

Bereavements

The following members died during the year and were to be recorded:

Ewan Moffat

Mike Brand

Ken Walker

Bill Macdonald

94/95 Team Reports

This was presented by Donald MacIntosh and he referred to the newsletter distributed at the AGM. In general the UIT and air disciplines were doing well at the National meetings, but the main team in the Home Countries at Bisley and the Scottish were losing as a result of poor performances at 100 yards.

There had been problems raising a team for the police match prior to the Scottish meeting and so a heavy defeat ensued.

J. Adamson raised the question of selection for the ladies international in view of the shortage of people especially at Bisley. The problems relating to selection were discussed with Adam Gordon reminding the meeting of the successes of the team when it was selected from a squad. This was also raised by Bill Hamilton in his captain's report from Bisley in the newsletter. There was no specific proposals from the floor, but it was suggested the committee was to give consideration to returning to a squad selection system, especially as England now had some measure of pre-selection.

Cliff Ogle mentioned that the NSRA had put forward proposals that would affect the timing and form of future home countries internationals.

AOB

Adam Gordon informed the meeting of a series of lectures to be given by Alastair Allan at Denwood commencing last November.

Adam Gordon proposed that Anne Hamilton be proposed by the SSRA Council at next years AGM for Life Membership in view of all the hard work she had done for many years. This was seconded by Cyril De Jonckheere and supported by the meeting.

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

New SSRA Chairman Angus Dick

Having been elected Chairman of the Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association at the A.G.M. in October, I would like to let you know what the council have in mind for this year.

We have already formed a junior squad to try and develop shooting skills at an early age. Along with this we still have an "A" and "B" squad. These are necessary as part of our remit to be able to send the best possible team to Commonwealth Games every 4 years. In the Commonwealth Games, Scotland's team of seven shooters won seven medals at the games in Canada.

Some of our members and a great number of shooters who are not members are always saying **what does the SSRA do for me**. Let me turn that around and say what do you want the SSRA to do for you. Write or phone me with your suggestions provided they are sensible.

Angus J. Dick



Club Secretaries

If you do not have in your club a GBTSF Primary Coach or a NSRA Club Instructor and would like some basic technique coaching send me your name and address and the SSRA will try and get something organised for you this winter session. I will get back to you and fix up a date that is convenient to your club and a Coach.

Your club will be expected to pay the expenses for the Coach how much this will be is uncertain but it will not be a large amount.

Angus J. Dick



Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

SSRA Treasurer John R. Silcox

If you have ever asked yourself the question, where could I get some financial help in following my sport ? Then read on.

The **Scottish Sports Aid Foundation** was set up in January 1980 with a remit to provide grant aid to talented young sportsmen and women who have the potential to represent Scotland or the United Kingdom in their chosen discipline. Since its inception the Fund has helped almost two and a half thousand athletes from thirty five different sports. Most of the work goes to the encouragement of the younger age group in the 14 -22 year age range.

Grants are awarded by the trust, via the governing bodies of sport and they generally fall into 5 categories:-

1. Encouragement grants

These are awarded to young competitors who are beginning to show potential to be able to go on and compete at National level. Grant level is around £250.

2. Phase II grants

Awarded to young competitors who have reached the level where they are ranked in the top three in their age group in Scotland. Grant level £300 to £400.

3. Phase III grants

Awarded to competitors who are Age Group Champions in Scotland and are competing with distinction at British Age Group level. Grant level £450 to £750.

4. Bursaries

Awarded to young competitors who are Age Group Champions in Scotland and are competing with distinction at British Age Group level, competing at Senior Championship level in Scotland, and at European/World level in their age group. Grant level £1000 - £1500.

5. Elite Awards

Awarded to the more established competitors who are, or have, real potential to be Senior Champions in Scotland, and are competing regularly in major championships at European and World Levels. Grant level £2000 - £3000.

Grant levels indicated above are guidelines and as such of course not binding on the Grant Committee.

I should be pleased to hear from any member of the Association who believes that they might qualify for a Scottish Sports Aid Foundation Grant and will do everything to assist in their application.

John R Silcox

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

ASSOCIATION CLOTHING ORDER FORM

		PRICE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT
Sweatshirts Blue with White SSRA Logo	S	£ 10.00		
	M	£ 10.00		
	L	£ 12.00		
	XL	£ 12.00		
T - shirts White with Blue SSRA Logo	S	£ 6.00		
	M	£ 6.00		
	L	£ 6.00		
	XL	£ 6.00		
Blazer Badges	WIRE	£ 7.50		
	THREAD	£ 4.00		
Tie, Woven-in SSRA Design		£ 6.00		
Enamel SSRA Button Badge		£ 1.00		
SSRA Decals		50p		
SSRA Embroidered Lambswool Navy Sweater, 1 ONLY		£ 10.00		
Post & Packing (£1 per Sweatshirt , 75p per T- Shirt or Tie , MAX. £3 per order)				
Total Remittance				

I enclose a cheque
/postal order for £ Signature

Customer Name:

Address:

Delivery Address (if different):

Send with payment to: J.R. Silcox,

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

History of Kinross & Milnathort Rifle Club

Established in the 1920's in Kinross Drill Hall, in 1932 driven by the efforts of Tom Walker the club moved to the Old Mill in Milnathort and became the **Kinross & Milnathort Rifle Club** in 1933, 6 firing points at 40 yards. Tom Walker was Scottish Representative for the NSRA from 1933 until 1975, was a fundamental influence in the development of the NSRA Coaching Scheme in 1965, to mention but a few of his great services to Scottish shooting.

During the War the range was requisitioned by the army and only use of Kinross outdoor range sustained the club until new premises were found. In 1957 after some remodelling of the Old Saddlers Workshop in Milnathort the current range was opened, a traditional 4 firing points 25 yard prone range. In 1960 Alister Allan and Bob Norman joined the club. Bob went on to become secretary of the SSRA and develop its status to be accepted by the Sports Council as the governing body in Scotland. Alister becoming one of the truly great international shooters, Olympic medalist and world record holder, over the last 20 years. Alister rejoined the club in 1993 when he return to the area.

In 1993 Kevin Holland joined K&M a qualified GBTSF Coach Educator he has run one Primary Coaching Course so far in Fife using K&M as the venue. The proposed new facility would offer both coaches and shooters a venue to develop their skills in new and existing disciplines.

In 1990's K&M began exploring the possibility of redeveloping the current site remodelling the range and clubrooms, but this would offer little in the way of new disciplines and was found to be less likely to receive the funding necessary or indeed any funding. It was decided that the club should seek a new site and release the financial asset of the current site. Following the failure to secure an earlier site, a six acre site close to junction 8 of the M90 motorway was available and could accommodate both indoor and outdoor facilities. A range of hotel, B&B accommodation and a Caravan park available in nearby Kinross or Milnathort.

In March 1995 a committee was set up to produce an action plan for the Scottish Target Shooting Federation, (STSF), as governing body responsible to the Scottish Sports Council (SSC) for facilities at this level, for the provision of a Sub-National Multi-Discipline shooting facility to UIT Standard in Central Fife. This arose because of a possible conflict of interests for funding. Robin Shedden of Cluny Clays has declared an interest in developing his clay pigeon business into a full multidisciplined commercial shooting facility.

Representatives from the Scottish Target Shooting Federation, (STSF), Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association (SSRA), Scottish Rifle Association (SRA), Scottish Pistol Association (SPA), the Scottish Clay Target Association (SCTA) and 22 Shooting Clubs in the region, also in attendance David Kemp of the Scottish Sports Council (SSC).

After a number of meetings and presentations by the Secretary David Sheridan Kinross & Milnathort Rifle Club and Robin Shedden Cluny Clays, **the Committee decided to put their full backing behind the Kinross & Milnathort Rifle Club proposal.** Kinross is ideally situated for accessibility for shooters in Fife, Tayside, Central and Lothian regions.

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

Proposal for the new Kinross & Milnathort Rifle Club

After discussions with Individuals, Clubs and Federated Bodies it has been concluded that the new club would provide the following facilities. It would be a multi-discipline centre covering Smallbore Rifle, Smallbore Pistol, Air Weapons and Archery.

- 1) 10 x 50 metre 3P UIT Indoor firing points
- 2) 10 x 25 metre 3P Indoor firing points
- 3) 10 x 10 metre Indoor Air Weapons UIT firing points
- 4) 40 x 50 metre 3P UIT Outdoor covered firing points
- 5) 15 x 100 metre Outdoor covered firing points
- 6) Possibly a 25 metre Outdoor covered Pistol Range
- 7) Capable of hosting a large Air Weapons event by using the width of the 50 metre indoor range.

All ranges will be built for UIT competitions and Matches as appropriate, and be fully accessible to able bodied and disabled shooters. The facility would also cater for:

- 1) Club/function Room.
- 2) Armoury
- 3) Gun Room
- 4) Stats Room
- 5) Kitchen
- 6) Toilets
- 7) Car parking for 40/50 cars

The costings that have been made are based on a standard paper target system in the 50 & 25metre ranges with wire retrieval systems in the 10metre range. It would be essential that all UIT firing points were built to be able to be fitted with 'Gehmann boxes', fan folded single diagram target systems, for trails and international training. However, it is felt that if a target retrieval system were installed in the longer ranges then there would be several benefits:-

- 1) Safety: There would be no requirement for shooters to cross the firing line on a regular basis.
- 2) Range management: Each firing point could be independant with shooters coming and going as they complete or start their competition/training.
- 3) UIT finals could be easily staged.

Since the completion of the Denwood Shooting Complex the Aberdeenshire area has seen a steady increase in participant numbers and it is for this reason that the proposed development at Kinross would not only be a boost to target shooting in Fife, but also in Scotland.

Air weapons ranges at grass root level on the Continent over the last forty years have developed a massive youth following and produced some prolific 3 postional air rifle and smallbore shooters who continue to dominate the international circuit.

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

1995/6 Winter Individual Air Rifle League

ROUND 4

DIVISION 1		1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	TOT	POINTS	
		CARD	CARD	CARD	CARD	CARD	CARD		RND	CUM
A	R. LAW	95	97	97	96	96	98	579	6.0	24.0
C	D.A.M. McINTOSH	93	95	94	95	95	90	562	3.0	12.0
D	A. RYCRAFT	94	96	96	91	95	92	564	4.0	11.0
E	P. LITTLECHILD	93	92	95	93	86	91	550	0.0	9.0
G	A.M. COATES	92	91	92	97	94	90	556	1.0	6.0
F	C.W.C. OGLE	91	93	92	94	91	97	558	2.0	3.0
B	D.W. RATTRAY							0	0.0	0.0
H	P. GRAY							0	0.0	0.0

DIVISION 2		1ST	2ND	3RD	4TH	5TH	6TH	TOT	POINTS	
		CARD	CARD	CARD	CARD	CARD	CARD		RND	CUM
A	E.G. WATT	91	87	89	89	87	83	526	5.0	21.0
C	S. QUINTELA	88p	82p	93	87	85	76	511	3.0	16.0
F	A. CREDLAND	84	83	83	84	84	84	502	2.0	11.0
I	S. MORGAN							0	0.0	11.0
B	C. DE JONCKHEREE	84	86	80	85	83	83	501	1.0	4.0
D	N. BARTON							0	0.0	1.0
E	E. GRIEVE	72	72	73	80	82	85	464	0.0	1.0
G	G. LANE							0	0.0	0.0
H	J.R. WARD							0	0.0	

Scored by Angus J. Dick Compiled by Myra E. Main

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

1995/6 Winter Short Range Individual 3-P League

ROUND 4

DIVISION 1		P		S		K		TOT	POINTS	
		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	1ST CARD	2ND CARD	1ST CARD	2ND CARD		RND	CUM
A	R. LAW	100	98	88	94	95	98	573	4.0	16.0
B	C.W.C. OGLE	98	98	87	86	93	93	555	1.0	7.0
D	A.M. COATES	99	95	85	86	95	97	557	2.0	5.0
C	P. LITTLECHILD	94	97		88	91	86	456	0.0	1.0
E	M. SINCLAIR							0	0.0	0.0

DIVISION 2		P		S		K		TOT	POINTS	
		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	1ST CARD	2ND CARD	1ST CARD	2ND CARD		RND	CUM
A	W.G.R. WALKER	99	99	93	92	95	91	569	5.0	17.0
C	J.R. SILCOX	98	98	81	78	93	93	541	2.0	14.0
E	N.B. BAKER	96	97	88	94	89	94	558	3.0	8.0
D	W.P. BAIRD	94	98	80	83	88	95	538	2.0	4.0
B	D.P. SHERIDAN	96	98	84	78	85	86	527	1.0	3.0

DIVISION 3		P		S		K		TOT	POINTS	
		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	1ST CARD	2ND CARD	1ST CARD	2ND CARD		RND	CUM
A	S. QUINTELA	93	91	85	74	83	87	513	0.0	9.0
D	A. CREDLAND	94	96	80	79	82	85	516	2.0	4.0
B	E.G. WATT							0	0.0	1.0
C	G. LANE							0	0.0	0.0
E	J.R. WARD							0	0.0	0.0

Scored by Angus J. Dick Compiled by Myra E. Main

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association 1995/6 Short Range Individual Prone League Round 4

DIVISION 1		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	TOT	POINTS	
					RND	CUM
A	D.A. DUNCAN	99	99	198	6.5	37.0
D	W.H. MacDONALD	98	100	198	6.5	32.0
J	K. M. MacDONALD	98	98	196	4.5	29.5
K	I. SHANKS	100	100	200	9.0	24.0
L	D. GARROW	98	99	197	5.0	24.0
I	G. MORTON	97	99	196	4.5	20.0
G	A. HERON	97	99	196	4.5	12.5
C	B. YOUNG	96	96	192	0.0	10.0
E	W. CRAWFORD	98	98	196	4.5	9.5
H	S.M. HENDERSON			0	0.0	9.5
B	W.P. BAIRD			0	0.0	4.0
F	M. SINCLAIR			0	0.0	2.5

DIVISION 2		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	TOT	POINTS	
					RND	CUM
I	M.E. MAIN	99	99	198	9.0	26.5
A	J.R. SILCOX	99	98	197	7.0	25.0
F	J.R. WARD	97	98	195	4.5	24.0
C	N. McNAUGHTON	95	96	191	1.0	21.0
J	A. FLETCHER	98	97	195	4.5	18.5
B	B.A. DUNCAN	96	97	193	2.5	18.0
H	J.R. BROWN	99	94	193	2.5	16.5
D	W.T. VAUGHAN	97	99	196	6.0	16.0
G	I. HALLEY			0	0.0	6.5
E	M.L. JOY	94	95	189	0.0	3.0

Congratulations to:
I. Shanks on his Double Possible in Division 1
W.H. MacDonald's & D.A. Manson Possibles in Division 1 & 4
J. Hammond Jr's Possible in Division 3

DIVISION 3		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	TOT	POINTS	
					RND	CUM
B	J. HAMMOND(JNR)	100	98	198	9.0	35.5
C	G. PHILIP	97	99	196	6.0	34.0
E	J.A. MANSON	97	96	193	3.5	26.0
M	J. CRAN	97	95	192	1.0	24.5
H	P. FOR	96	97	193	3.5	18.0
A	P. DINGLE	99	98	197	7.0	14.0
D	C. CAMERON	98	95	193	3.5	13.0
J	H. RAE			0	0.0	12.0
L	J. MACRAE	97	96	193	3.5	12.0
F	G.A. LAWSON	94	97	191	0.0	9.0
I	M. RODIGAN			0	0.0	6.5
G	J.L.S. ALLAN			0	0.0	3.5

DIVISION 4		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	TOT	POINTS	
					RND	CUM
A	D.A. MANSON	100	98	198	6.0	21.0
D	E.M. WRAY	97	96	193	3.0	20.5
C	R. RONNIE			0	0.0	14.0
H	B. MACKIE	95	94	189	1.5	12.5
I	J. MOODIE	99	98	197	4.0	10.0
F	A.G.M. JONES	94	95	189	1.5	9.0
G	M. STRUTHERS			0	0.0	8.0
B	R. HARPER	91	92	183	1.0	2.0
E	G. LANE			0	0.0	0.0

DIVISION 5		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	TOT	POINTS	
					RND	CUM
B	J. HAMMOND	98	95	193	8.0	28.5
C	A. MILLAR	98	94	192	6.0	25.0
A	P. KANE	90	97	187	4.0	13.5
E	S. QUINTELA	97	91	188	5.0	13.5
D	A. BLAKE	90	93	183	3.0	12.5
H	G. GREENHOWE	88	94	182	2.0	6.0
F	R. McCONNELL	90	90	180	1.0	5.0
G	L. RENNIE	88	92	180	0.0	5.0

Scored & Compiled by Myra E. Main

DIVISION 6		1ST CARD	2ND CARD	TOT	POINTS	
					RND	CUM
I	N. STIRTON	95	92	187	6.5	32.5
D	A. RICHARDSON	94	93	187	6.5	25.5
F	S. ETHERSON	97	92	189	9.0	22.0
G	M. KNOWLES	93	92	185	3.5	21.0
A	J. TAYLOR	94	92	186	5.0	17.5
C	W. RAE	93	92	185	3.5	11.5
H	E. GREIVE	88	93	181	2.0	5.5
E	S. McGINTY	88	89	177	0.0	2.5
B	L. BISSETT	92	88	180	1.0	2.0

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

THE FIRST COMMONWEALTH SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS NEW DELHI, INDIA 1995 (or "Playing The Waiting Game")

As a new venture this year, The Commonwealth Shooting Federation (CSF) held The First Commonwealth Shooting Championships. These are the same level of competition as the full Commonwealth Games but only for the Shooting Sports. The event was hosted by The National Rifle Association of India at the Dr Karni Singh Ranges, Tuglakabad, near New Delhi. A full complement of UTT disciplines was shot including 300m big bore rifle (These were held at a separate, but close by, venue) which replaced the usual Commonwealth Games full bore events. As usual the STSF did not manage to be a true Federation and the pistol, shotgun and rifle teams all travelled separately. The team was made up as follows.

Management: **Tony Lithgow** (Overall manager)
 Angus Dick (Rifle)
 Terry McCarthy (Pistol)
 Peter McGregor (Shotgun)

Shooters: **Lynda Marlow** (Ladies prone, 3P and air rifle)
 Tricia Littlechild (Ladies prone, 3P and air rifle)
 Martin Sinclair (Mens prone)
 Gordon Winch (Mens prone)
 Robin Law (Mens 3P and air rifle)
 David Rattray (Mens air rifle)
 Ronnie Sellar (Mens 3P)
 Alastair McDonald (Mens air pistol)
 Alan Salt (Mens air pistol)
 Hugh Hunter (Mens rapid fire pistol, Standard pistol and Centre fire pistol)
 Jim Tollan (Mens Standard pistol and Centre fire pistol)
 Ossie McLean (Trap)
 Errico Palazzo (Trap)
 John Pirie (Skeet)
 Robin Todd (Skeet)

Travel out. As previously mentioned the different parts of the Scotland delegation travelled separately. The smallbore rifle section travelled out by British Airways (because of the excess baggage deal) on Friday 17th November, leaving Edinburgh Airport at 13:00. Travelling with us was Cliff Ogle who was meeting his Irish colleagues at Heathrow. Angus asked everyone to be at the airport for 11:00 so that we would have plenty time to get all the gear checked in. The first shock of the morning was that Cliff and Tricia were almost the first to arrive.

Angus checked with BA that we could check our luggage right through to Delhi from Edinburgh. They said that as long as we had our Passports that would be no problem. It was a problem for Cliff though as he was to collect his passport from the Irish management when he got to Heathrow upon producing proof that he was taking his malaria tablets !! So all he could do was check in his luggage to Heathrow. This he promptly did and to make up for being early he decided that he had enough time to get back to his flat in Edinburgh and pick up the insect repellent spray he'd forgotten. And so he departed against Tricia's advice. Soon the whole team were assembled and we duly checked in our luggage hoping to see it all again in Delhi. The flight to Heathrow was uneventful and we disembarked and left Cliff to collect his luggage. He had to get his luggage to Terminal 4 himself whereas ours was taken there by BA !

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

In the departure lounge in Terminal 4 we met up with the entire Northern Irish and English teams who were travelling on the same flight as us. This caused some confusion while boarding the Delhi flight as we heard one stewardess asking another why we all had different coloured tracksuits !! Further drama as we wait to take off and Robin is called forward to the door of the plane and asked to identify his gun case (more on that later). Some managed to sleep on the plane while others watched the in flight movie "Apollo 13", an amazingly appropriate film for an aircraft. By the way if anyone can tell us what happened to all the main characters we would be glad to know since the Pilot interrupted the film soundtrack at the appropriate moment to tell us where we were !!

Saturday 18/11/95 and so at 0700 local time, we arrived in The Indira Ghandi International Airport, New Delhi where we were immediately sent to the wrong parking slot and had to wait on the plane while this was all sorted out. Eventually we got through to Passport control where we were greeted by representatives of the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI). The four teams (we were also accompanied by Malta on the flight) were left to their own devices to get through passport control and customs while John Hunter and his wife were led off through the VIP lounge and given a car and driver for the duration. And I thought it was the competitors that were supposed to be important.

All luggage arrived in Delhi and so we headed off to customs. It took three hours to get all the teams weapons through the Delhi Police checkpoint. This was also delayed because they were not expecting Scotland to have anyone on the flight and so did not have our Indian Firearms passes ready. This must be a result of the team travelling in bits and pieces. All future events must be organised better in this respect. It was at this point that Robin opened his gun case (the one he had been asked to identify at Heathrow) to find that his Centre 10 stock was in two pieces instead of the usual one !! Some delay was further added while Robin and Angus and an NRAI representative tried to find a BA desk to lodge a claim.

That done we were all embarked on to some ramshackle buses and driven off to the range. We were surprised when as the bus left the airport we were joined on the bus by four uniformed men carrying sub machine guns! This combined with the general poverty and squalor evident on the journey prompted all of the team at one point to think "What am I doing here?" David summed up the state of the place by saying its like the "Bring out your dead" scene from "Monty Python and The Holy Grail".

With all the weapons deposited at the range we were driven to the Hotel. On arrival we were greeted with garlands and given appropriate "Caste Marks". I must say that we were not impressed by the Hotel when we first arrived but after speaking to the other teams we found that we had the better deal. They were not staying in the Hotel but in a series of huts on the other side of the "campus". The whole hotel complex and the road to the range was swarming with Delhi police. Dinner that evening (as on every other evening) was served outside by the pool.

Sunday 19/11/95 Every one in the smallbore team was rudely awakened at about 0400 on Sunday with people knocking on room doors or in some cases coming into the rooms. At breakfast we discovered that it had been Hotel staff unsure of what rooms had been allocated the previous day trying to find empty rooms for the pistol boys who had just arrived from Amsterdam. This was opening ceremony day and the overall team manager decided to have a team get together before hand to meet everyone and tell us what was happening.

Security was tight for the opening ceremony as it was being attended by the Indian President and as we are all aware they seem to have some difficulty in keeping the holder of that post alive. As part of the security measures we were told that no cameras would be allowed into the ceremony. This decision seemed to be reversed at the last minute and some cameras were allowed in. Much to our annoyance this was only announced once we were at the range and had left all our cameras at the Hotel.

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

We also had the problem that we were sent to the wrong starting place. All the teams were supposed to meet up in the 50 metre range, but we were sent straight to the back of the arena. We ended up going through the same security check three times before we met up with the rest of the teams. It was at this point that we met up with our Indian representative for the event. She was a young shooter called Shweeta who was tasked with looking after both the Scottish and English teams. The opening ceremony was fairly unimpressive in fact the only incident I can remember from it was Martin tripping over one of the flags that marked the arena because he was too busy smiling at the President !! We got our first view of New Delhi from the back of the arena. It was a cloudless blue sky except for over New Delhi where there was a huge black smog cloud. That cloud was there all week !! Dinner was supplemented by cocktails sponsored by an Indian Whisky company.

Monday 20/11/95 Training day. This was the chance for all of the smallbore team to get familiar with the target system on the 50m range. This was a Spieth system similar to ones used on full bore ranges in this country. The target end had two boards for each target mounted in a scoring pit. Only one board for each target was in view at a time and when it was slid down into the pit the other board came up in its place. They were mounted on the back wall of the pit one behind the other so that you were in fact shooting a two slightly different distances, but not enough to make a difference. The targets were changed manually by people working in the pit. Each shooter had a box with four buttons on for communicating with their target changer. The buttons were marked 'Sighter', 'Change Target', 'Record' and 'Off'. The way it worked was that this box would light one of three lights in the pit, depending on which button was pushed, and also sound a buzzer. The target changer would then change the target according to the main emphasis from the Indian range officers on this day was on what they called your 'Shooting Zone'. These were basically lines drawn on the firing point to try and ensure that shooters did not interfere with each other. We were told that they would deal severely with anyone who transgressed this rule.

The range turned out to be rather windless on this day. It was baffled so that no sky was visible and also had netting almost all the way down every eight firing points (there were about 50-60 in all). Everyone in the team got a shoot except for Robin whose gun was handed over to an Indian gunsmith for a temporary repair. Meanwhile great interest was being shown in Lynda's gun. She has a standard Anschütz barrel and action mounted in a stock made by Robert Nibbs. The action is bedded in aluminium and this greatly interested the Indians and particularly the New Zealanders. In fact quite a bit of time during the week was spent showing the Indians any esoteric pieces of kit we had, though most interest went in Lynda's stock and Ronnie's 'Nibbs' butt plate.

As usual, dinner was outside and quote of the evening (and probably the week!) came from Angus as we headed down. He asked Lynda, and i quote, "Lynda, will you rub your hands all over me?" Perhaps I should explain the situation. Angus had forgotten to put any insect repellent on before going outside and when Lynda said that she hadn't forgotten and had even put some on her hands, Angus came out with the question. At this point I would like to point out the problems we had with currency. As you may know the Indian currency is the Rupee. It is in fact illegal to pay for anything in India in anything other than Rupees. The NRAI would only take US Dollars or Sterling. This was the first of many things to annoy Angus.

Tuesday 21/11/95 The first competition day. The ladies prone event was today's smallbore shoot. Amazingly enough the shoot started on time. Lynda had a good steady shoot estimated by Martin as 586. Tricia was also quite steady until her fifth string when the wheels came off. A string of a seven followed by two eights sank her chances. When the scores were finally posted (the time taken to score them indicated that they were not being scored in the pit but back in the admin. building) we found that Lynda's 586 had become a 582 and she was fourth. The other scores were two 585s and a 583 so Angus was straight in with a challenge. Unfortunately the challenge failed so since there is no final in this event Lynda was left fourth only one point off the bronze. A creditable effort for her first major championship.

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

Standard Rifle Prone Results

Individual		Team			
1 Jackie Hay ENG	585	1 England	Jackie Hay	585	
2 Kuheli Gangulee IND	585		Linda Smallbone	581	1166
3 D Pussella SRI	583	2 Sri Lanka	P. Ramanayake	580	
4 Lynda Marlow SCO	582		D. Pussella	583	1163
10 Tricia Littlechild SCO	572	3 India	Deepali Sirsat	577	
			Kuheli Gangulee	585	1162
		4 Scotland	Tricia Littlechild	572	
			Lynda Marlow	582	1154

After the womens shoot was over it was announced that a practice session would start at 1:30. This was later cancelled for no apparent reason. Robin's gun was still away getting fixed so having practised air rifle in the morning he, David and Gordon headed into Delhi to do some shopping/sightseeing.

Wednesday 22/11/95 Today was air rifle day. The men's event was held in the morning and the ladies in the afternoon with both finals after the ladies 40 shots. The results took so long that the finals were delayed until after the daily medal ceremony. The men's results were surprisingly low. The leader was on 577 and David and Robin were tied for 3rd/4th on 574. In the ladies event it was Lynda's turn for a disaster and Tricia managed to get into the final in 7th place.

The 60/40 shot courses were shot on paper targets but the finals were to be shot on Spieth electronic targets. This turned out to be a complete disaster for our shooters. David's pre final statement that he preferred the hard evidence of a paper target was given extra weight when one of his shots was registered as a 0 (yes that's a zero). He instantly complained and he was given an extra shot at the end. This also failed to register and so he was given another one. This did register but was too late to repair the damage already done. One of his earlier shots had been registered as a seven and due to the erratic behaviour of his target this must now be in doubt. This was acknowledged by the jury and he was eventually offered a reshoot but he was so disgusted he refused. We tried to argue for a complete reshoot on paper but nothing came of it.

Some consolation was gained in that David and Robins 574s were enough to secure them the Gold medal in the pairs event. Some relief was also evident that the team had managed to get its first medal though it was felt that David had been robbed of an individual medal.

Air Rifle Men Results

Individual		Team			
1 Abdul Matalib MAS	676.7	1 Scotland Robin Law	574		
2 Heinrich Sauer RSA	676.0		David Rattray	574	1148
3 Saiful Alam BAN	672.0	2 Bangladesh Saiful Alam	571		
4 Robin Law SCO	670.8		Asbab Ali	566	1137
5 David Rattray SCO	665.9	3 Wales Andy Lawrence	569		
			Adrian Morris	568	1137

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

Air Rifle Womens Result

Individual		Team		
1	Louise Minett ENG	494.3	1 Sri Lanka P.Ramanayake	390
2	Pushpamali RamanayakeSRI	490.7	M.Wickramasinghe	387 777
3	Fanovlla TheofanousCYP	489.5	2 England Louise Minett	390
8	Tricia Littlechild SCO	470.8	Tessa Lunn	378 768
15	Lynda Marlow SCO	350	3 India Suma Dixit	379
			Deepali Sirsat	384 763
			6 Scotland Tricia Littlechild	379
			Lynda Marlow	350 729

Several theories were put forward for the misbehaviour of these delicate electronic instruments but the most plausible was the way they were powered. Delicate instruments are very fussy about the mains power they get. The Indian mains is not best known for its consistency. As a result the equipment should have been protected by mains filters to remove any spikes or dropouts. No such filters were used. In fact they didn't even use a plug !! The wires were just pushed into the socket and held by small pieces of wood !!!!!

Tricia was selected for a drugs test so Angus stayed at the range and asked Ronnie if he would make sure that David got the taxi and Indian escort to the airport which had been arranged for him. When we got back to the hotel the travel desk denied all knowledge of any taxi and said they could arrange one for 300 Rupees. Unsure of what had been arranged Ronnie waited until Angus came back. Angus went to the desk and asked again. They still denied all knowledge and the price had now gone up to 500 Rupees ! As it was getting late Angus got David a taxi and sent him off. I don't think I've ever seen anyone so happy to be leaving ! Angus was now getting a little more annoyed.

Thursday 23/11/95 Attention switches back to the 50m range for the men's prone event. This was easily the biggest field in all the smallbore events. Martin and Gordon turned up at the range not even knowing their firing points as Tony Lithgow had collected all the draws but not handed on the smallbore draws to Angus. He allegedly explained this by saying he was only interested in the shotgun events !

This was sorted out by getting a look at Don Baker's (Northern Ireland) list. Martin shot well and was confident of a good score. Lynda's estimate was anywhere between 585 and 590. Gordon however was today's disaster. His estimated score of 577 was summed up by Robin as "Not even a good air rifle score !" Marking today took even longer but by now we were getting used to waiting around. In fact they took so long that it was dark by the time they came out and the final had to be delayed until the next day. Gordon's estimate turned out to be correct and Martin ended up with a 590 and seventh place in the final just ahead of Cliff Ogle.

Free Rifle Prone Team Result			
1	Isle of Man Harry Creevy	586	
	Stewart Watterson	593	1179
2	Sri Lanka D. Chandrasiri	583	
	Daya Rajasinghe	595	1178
3	England Trevor Langridge	587	
	Neil Davis	590	1177
7	Scotland Martin Sinclair	590	
	Gordon Winch	577	1167

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

The journey back to the hotel was by bus as usual but tonight the Indian driver decided to wander off after everyone had boarded his bus. After a few minutes wait and general barracking one of the Australian shooters decided to drive the bus to the hotel himself. This got a very quick response out of the security guards (who would not let him out of the range) and the driver who came running after his bus !!

This evening's entertainment was a trip to the house of the Indian Minister for Sport. This involved a one hour fifty minute journey across smog bound Delhi for about fifty minutes of more curry, dodgy drinks and excellent coffee. The trip back to the hotel only took about fifty minutes so I suspect our bus driver was lost on the way over. The journey probably seemed longer for Gordon. Ask him about a Welsh shotgun shooter !

Another of the Indians who were helping us was a man called Dua. It was with Dua that Angus had arranged David's taxi for the previous night. When he heard that nothing had been done Dua was most upset and threatened to quit straight away.

Friday 24/11/95 This was supposed to be a free day and we had planned to either go sightseeing in Delhi or possibly even to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. This was all scrapped of course because the men's prone final was now being held this morning and Robin had still not been presented with his pairs medal for the air rifle

In the prone final Martin had a bad start but recovered to maintain his seventh place. This event was dominated by the Isle of Man since Stuart Waterston won the individual Gold and with partner Harry Creevy won the pairs Gold as well. This was Martin's first international never mind his first major championship and seventh place was an excellent result.

Free Rifle Prone Individual Result
1 Stewart Watterson IOM 695.8
2 T. Palangapa IND 695.5
3 Stephen Petterson NZL 693.7
7 Martin Sinclair SCO 690.6
23 Gordon Winch SCO 577

Also held today were the men's and ladies air pistol events. The same format was used as for the air rifle events only this time the Spieth target changers had gone and paper targets were used in the final. This was as a result of all the complaints they had received after the rifle finals. Not just from the Scottish team but from all the others as well. Scottish interest was retained by Alistair MacDonald who was placed third going into the final.

Unfortunately he was not able to keep up the good work and slipped to seventh, but he was the only non rifle shooter to make a final. The other major event of the day was that Robin finally got his gun back in one piece and was able to try it out. It seemed to shoot okay. He was also presented with his Gold medal. David's absence was explained as an illness not that he'd gone home. Also missing was Andy Lawrence from Wales who had won the pairs bronze. He really was ill and was reputedly bringing up blood. His weight loss over the 12 days was allegedly one and three-quarter stone !!

Saturday 25/11/95 The ladies standard rifle was today's event. Tricia looked as though she was on to a good score with 198 prone and a good standing string but her kneeling left something to be desired. Lynda had a three standing but recovered. The final was again delayed due to the time taken to score the targets. When the result was finally published Tricia was eighth a point ahead of Sue Hartop from Wales. Everybody got ready including Tricia. She had all her gear on the firing point when it was announced that the Welsh had challenged Sue's score and the challenge had been upheld (the only one all week !). That meant that Tricia was out of the final on count back. She was naturally upset and we all felt for her. This result meant that this was the only smallbore rifle final without Scottish representation.

It also turned out to be the most tense final with a sudden death tie shoot for the Bronze medal between Julie Malcolm of Wales and an Indian shooter. Julie won it with an 8.5 versus a 5.7.

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

Standard Rifle Result

Individual			Team		
1 Jackie Hay	ENG	654.4	1 Sri Lanka P.Ramanayake	561	
2 Pushpamali Ramanayake	SRI	652.9	M.Wickramasinghe	558	1119
3 Julie Malcolm	WAL	652.3	2 England Jackie Hay	566	
9 Tricia Littlechild	SCO	551	Linda Smallbone	551	1117
11 Lynda Marlow	SCO	544	3 Wales Julie Malcolm	566	
			Sue Hartop	551	1117
			5 Scotland Tricia Littlechild	551	
			Lynda Marlow	544	1095

This was also the day that India started to wreak its revenge on the Scottish smallbore team. Up till now every one had been surviving quite well. Today Angus came down with a tummy bug that was to keep him at the Hotel most of the next day, both Gordon and Ronnie now had cold symptoms and Robin wasn't eating very much.

Sunday 26/11/95 The final event of the meeting and Ronnie finally gets to shoot something. Due to Angus's illness Robin and Ronnie head to the range on their own only to find that Ronnie has stupidly left his ammo box key back at the hotel. Just before the match starts Lynda and Martin appear and Lynda and Shweeta go back to the hotel for the key. Ronnie meanwhile shoots the prone with some of Robin's ammo. Both have a good prone shoot but Ronnie starts to feel it during the standing. He felt it was the hottest day of the meeting but is not sure whether his cold was influencing that. Both held it together for the standing which was more than one Sri Lankan and a New Zealander managed. The Sri Lankan fainted on the firing point and was rushed to hospital. He later returned quite well. The New Zealander was unable to get all his shots off in time and so retired. The kneeling proved to be Ronnie's and especially Robin's downfall. Both ran out of steam and had disappointing scores.

Again there was a long delay in results being posted. This time the excuse was that the computer had broken. Eventually they were posted (hand written) at 3.45 and the final was started at 4.15. It was not possible to delay the final to the next day since that was the closing ceremony and there were no medal ceremonies that day. Both Robin (5th) and Ronnie (8th) made the final but neither excelled themselves in it. The pairs result gave some cheer though as they had managed to hold it together enough to get the Bronze medal. In fact they were only four points behind the Malaysians in second place which made them even more sick about their kneeling effort. The final finished in almost darkness and the shooters were hurried off to the medal ceremony before they could get packed up. It seems the Indians couldn't keep their medal presenters waiting but they could keep everyone else waiting.

Free Rifle 3P results

Individual		Team	
1 Daniel Henn	RSA 1236.5	1 England Trevor Langridge	1144
2 Trevor Langridge	ENG 1230.1	Ken Parr	1123 2267
3 Shaari Jasni	MAS 1228.0	2 Malaysia Abdul Mutalib	1116
5 Robin Law	SCO 1214.8	Shaari Jasni	1137 2253
8 Ronnie Sellar	SCO 1210.2	3 Scotland Robin Law	1127
		Ronnie Sellar	1122 2249

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

The shotgunners were due to fly out tonight. They had arranged to leave the hotel at 8:30 but Tony Lithgow was still seen in the lobby at 9:15. More waiting!

Monday 27/11/95 The closing ceremony was not due to start until late afternoon so it was decided that the entire smallbore team would head into Delhi and do some shopping. We met Shweeta outside the Wimpey restaurant and she showed us some places to buy things. Transport was provided by two taxis at 400 Rupees each for 8 hours. That's only eight pounds each! The closing ceremony was more memorable than the opening one. After the speeches though things livened up and we were treated to a pipe and military band display, some gymnastics, traditional dancing and some children telling us how to use traffic lights (!?!). The finale was an excellent fireworks display although we did wonder if one of the larger ones which went off quite near the ground was deliberate or not. Back at the hotel team managers were presented with mementoes and a certain Indian pistol shooter called Jaspal Rana was presented with a trophy just for being himself I think. In general he was treated as being nothing less than a god all week (he did win eight Gold medals mind you) and it struck me that he probably thought he was a god.

Conclusions At first the haul of only two medals seemed to be rather disappointing but closer inspection showed that we didn't do too badly. It was only cruel luck which robbed David and possibly Robin of a medal in the air rifle individual. Who knows what would have happened if it had been shot on paper? Lynda was also unlucky not to pick up a medal in the ladies prone. We also managed to get at least one finalist in every event except the ladies 3P where again Tricia was unlucky not to make it.

For some of the team this was their first major championship and their results were encouraging. This however does not mean we can sit back and relax now. There's work to be done if we want to expand our medal haul at the next championship in Malaysia in 1997. Hopefully the team for this event will be the team for the 1998 Commonwealth Games as they will be held on the same ranges.

One opportunity we missed for medals was in the 300m events. These were held instead of the usual full bore events. These are open (ie both men and women shoot together) and consist of a free rifle prone event (60 shots) a free rifle 3P event (3x40) and a standard rifle 3P event (3x40). The winning scores were appallingly bad in both 3P events (1080 in the 3x40) that any one of half a dozen Scottish 3P shooters would at least have got a medal if not won the event! This must be rectified if these events are held again in Malaysia. Though the low turnout in some of the events must leave this in doubt.

I'm sure the team would like me at this point to thank Angus for all the work he did both before and during the event. The organisation as far as the smallbore team was concerned was excellent though there seemed to be a lack of communication at times from the overall team management.

Pistol

Hugh Hunter was 17th in the Centre Fire Pistol and 6th in the Rapid Fire Pistol.

Jim Tollan was 11th in the Centre Fire Pistol and 15th in the Standard Pistol

Alastair MacDonald was seventh in the Air Pistol final, shooting a personal best on the way to the final.

Allan Salt was 15th in the Air Pistol. The team of Alistair and Alan were 4th.

Shotgun

Ossie Mclean was 10th in the Trap.

Errico Palazzo was 16th in the Trap.

John Pirie was 11th in the Skeet. **Robin Todd** was 16th in the Skeet.

Match Journal/Diary by Ronnie Sellar

Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association

SSRA 1996 Calendar

Sun 10th March - A & B Speedway Final
Venue: Perth City & County Rifle Club

Sun 17th March - C & D Speedway Final
Venue: Perth City & County Rifle Club

19th to 24th March - ISAS, Dortmund

Sun 24th March - New Zealand Match
Venue: Perth City & County Rifle Club

25th to 31st March - European Air Championships, Budapest

Sun 31st March - Air Rifle Grand Prix No 2
Venue: Linwood Rifle Club, Glasgow

Sun 14th April - Inter Regional Match
Venue: Perth City & County Rifle Club

18th to 30th April - World Cup, Atlanta

Sun 21st April - Air Rifle Grand Prix No 3
Venue: Linwood Rifle Club, Glasgow

Sat 4th May - 3 Positional Grand Prix No 1
Venue: Denwood Rifle Club, Aberdeen

Sun 5th May - Prone Grand Prix No 1
Venue: Denwood Rifle Club, Aberdeen

Sat 18th May - 3 Positional Championship
Venue: Denwood Rifle Club, Aberdeen

25th to 31st May - World Cup, Atlanta

Sun 26th May - Prone Grand Prix No 2
Venue: Gagie Rifle Club

1st to 8th June - World Cup, Milan

Sat 16th June - 3 Positional Grand Prix No 2
Venue: Denwood Rifle Club, Aberdeen

26th to 30th April - Nordic Championships, Denmark

Fri 28th June - Police Match
Venue: Forres

Sat 29th June - 5th July - Scottish Meeting
Venue: Forres

Sat 27th July - Prone Grand Prix No 3
Venue: Wick Rifle Club, Caithness

Sun 5th May - Caithness Open
Venue: Wick Rifle Club, Caithness

Sat 10th - 17th August - NSRA Meeting
Venue: Bisley, Woking, Surrey

Sat 24th August - 3 P Grand Prix No 3
Venue: Denwood Rifle Club, Aberdeen

Sun 25th August - Prone Grand Prix No 4
Venue: Denwood Rifle Club, Aberdeen

Sun 1st Sept. - Prone Grand Prix No 5
Venue: Gagie Rifle Club

Sat 7th Sept. - 3 P Grand Prix No 4
Venue: Denwood Rifle Club, Aberdeen

Sun 8th Sept. - Inter Regional Match
Venue: Denwood Rifle Club, Aberdeen

20th to 22nd April - CSF (ED) Championship, Denwood

27th October - SSRA AGM, Perth

Friday 3rd May 1996
LAST DATE FOR
June 1996 ISSUE ITEMS TO:

Kevin Holland