

LOTHIAN SMALLBORE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Myreside Pavilion at 7.30 on 16th May 1996

Present.

The President, Secretary, Treasurer and 38 members.
The President Mr C I H Thomson was in the chair.

1 Chairman's Statement

The chairman opened by paying tribute to three well-known shooters who had died over the last year.

Firstly, Ewan Moffat was one of the County's most promising shooters who was just beginning to make his mark as a very accomplished shooter. He will be missed by everyone who knew him, and especially by his clubmates at Balerno & Currie.

Secondly, Bill MacDonald. Bill had been a stalwart of the Association for many years, before he latterly transferred his attentions to the SPA. He had been a past Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Association.

Thirdly, Gordon Allan. As a member of Watsonians, he had been a personal friend for many years so this loss was harder for him. Gordon had only recently become involved with the affairs of the Association, becoming Shoulder-to-Shoulder League Secretary three years previously and was instrumental in introducing the local Schools to this league. He had taken part in shooting in this area for more than 40 years.

The Chairman then went on to discuss Dunblane, and its effects on the sport. His opinion was that the media had hyped everything up, and portrayed all shooters as 'gun fanatics'. He had been in the sport for many years and had yet to meet one. The NSRA had issued some guidelines which all shooting members ought to have received, and he summarised the situation by reading part of the minutes of an Executive Committee meeting which discussed this topic recently, and which he considered expressed the Association's stance:

"There was a discussion on this momentous event for our sport. The Chairman said that all range projects throughout the country were being held back by shooting bodies, and the Sports Council were withholding all capital grants for the shooting sports prior to the Cullen Report. The British Target Shooting Federation had circulated a letter on behalf of the British Shooting Sports Council to all affiliated bodies, (also to be circulated to individual NSRA members in the next Rifleman Newsletter), which indicates that the BSSC be should take the lead in not only making representations to the Enquiry, but also in communicating with the media in all aspects of the Dunblane fallout. It makes the point that a united front is vital in representing all the shooting sports, and individuals and bodies should maintain a dignified silence in the meantime. People who think they should still be doing something might wish to write to their MP simply asking him not to prejudge the issues, but to await the outcome of the Enquiry.

The BSSC also appealed for funds to support their activities in making their case at the Enquiry, and the Committee approved the sum of £50 to be sent by the Treasurer."

He went on to say that we should all look at our local situations. Clubs should examine their security, and should be seen to be proactive in ensuring that the storage and handling of

weapons and ammunition is exemplary, and that visitors have no grounds for concern at any stage. We must strive to improve the public's perception of the sport with the emphasis on security and safety. The Cullen report might well require Clubs to be more selective in accepting prospective members, and although legislation may well be directed more toward handguns, rifle clubs are also bound to be affected. He urged all clubs and members to play everything by the book.

2. Apologies

D Syme, J Fisher, J W Hermiston, Mrs A M Hamilton, N B Brown, Miss P Littlechild, Mrs S J McIntosh and D S Proudfoot.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated and copies were available to the floor. Two errors in the version previously circulated were pointed out by the Chairman: in Item 3, the name of the proposer for the adoption of the minutes at that meeting should have been Mrs M J Brown, and in Item 8, the office of Shoulder-to-Shoulder League Secretary had been omitted from the list of Office Bearers. These had been corrected in the minutes issued to the meeting, and they were taken as read. The proposer for approval was Mrs M J Brown, the seconder was J Scott Jun, and the minutes were duly approved.

4. Matters arising

- 4.1 The Chairman spoke about the Scottish meeting at Lauder, jointly run by LSSA and the Border League. The meeting had been declared a great success, both by participants and the NSRA.
- 4.2 He also mentioned the Mobile Air-Weapons Range. The minutes indicated that it would be at Lauder, and it was. In fact it was very popular and was used extensively. We have been offered a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts for its construction and kitting-out. The range is available to anyone who wants it, and he said that Bill Hermiston can be contacted for details.

5. Financial Statement

Copies of the Accounts were distributed.

The Treasurer apologised for the fact that the accounts had not been audited, despite appointing an Auditor last year. This was due to his unorthodox style of accounting, and the auditor did not have time to understand the method and complete the audit in time. He blamed himself for this state of affairs, and said he would try to revise his methods to be more orthodox.

He made some general points about the accounts, pointing out that funds were generally quite healthy.

There were no questions and the accounts were adopted, proposer J R Buchanan, seconder W J Grant.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for doing a difficult job, and commented that he thought he was being too hard on himself as others had had difficulty in the past in understanding previous Treasurers' systems of bookkeeping.

6. Captain's Report.

The County Captain was not present at the meeting, but her report had been provided, and the Chairman read it out. The following summarises the main points:

The Commonwealth Cities match was entered for the first time in several years in 1995, and the team score of 85 off from a team of 30 was sufficient to win it by 25 points. The 1996 match has just been shot and our estimated score is 97 off. The result will not come out till October.

At Bisley last year the 3P team again won the County Championship.

Other match results were as follows:

BSACup	6th
Women's SR	5th
County Cup	20th
Women's County Cup	11th
Summer 3P	2nd
Air Rifle	4th
SSRA Long Range Inter-Region match	2nd
Cities & Boroughs	3rd
SSRA Short Range Inter-Region match	1st

At Aldersley at the British Air Weapons Championships, the air rifle team was placed second in the County Championship.

The winter leagues produced mixed fortunes. The Juniors won Division 1 of the Junior Reserve league, and the air rifle team were 2nd in Division 1. The prone reserve team were also second, in Division 3 of the reserves league. Our normally successful 3P team suffered from the changes to the team sizes imposed by the NSRA. As the team sizes had been cut from 6 to 4 we were able to field two teams. Unfortunately the B team were in Division 1 along with the A team! The A team finished 3rd and the B team finished last with one point (from a draw with the A team).

The other teams finished as follows:

Prone team	Division 1	4th
Women's	Division 1	5th
Juniors	Division 1	5th
Women's Reserves	Division 1	4th
Air Rifle reserves	Division 1	3rd
Air Pistol	Division 5	6th

There were many steady performances in the leagues. However, the efforts of the many were marred by a few careless cards scattered throughout each of these leagues by a number of

individuals. She urged those participating next year to consider the other members of their team and to take these competitions seriously.

Congratulations were given to individuals who had distinguished themselves during the last 12 months, particularly Ronnie Sellar, Martin Sinclair, Lynda Marlow and Tricia Littlechild and Cliff Ogle, all of whom had attended the first Commonwealth Shooting Championships in India last November. Extra congratulations were given to Ronnie on his bronze medal in the 3P pairs.

Finally in her report, Mrs McIntosh thanked everybody who participated in the teams, and also thanked her husband Donald for running the postal teams so efficiently.

7. Proposal from the Executive Committee to alter Paragraph 3 of the Constitution.

The Chairman read out the proposed alteration, (as specified in the Agenda of the meeting):

"Any rifle and/or pistol club whose headquarters are within the area administered by the Lothian Regional Council ... shall be eligible for affiliation to the Association ..."

Due to the recent local government reorganisation this must be altered. The Committee proposed one of the following alternatives:

- i. "... whose headquarters are within Edinburgh and the Lothians..."
- ii. "... whose headquarters are within the area administered by Edinburgh and East, Mid and West Lothian Councils..."

A vote was taken by a show of hands and Option i was carried by a large majority.

8. Proposal from the Executive Committee to alter Paragraph 15 of the Constitution.

The Chairman read out the proposed alteration, (as specified in the Agenda of the meeting):

"An Executive Committee of nine members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Any nine members may constitute this Executive Committee."

The proposal is to replace the word 'nine' in both places with the word 'six'.

A vote was taken by a show of hands, and the proposal was passed *nem con*.

9. Election of Office Bearers.

The Secretary (Mr W F Hamilton) nominated Mr C I H Thomson as President and that was seconded by D A M McIntosh. There being no other nominations, Mr Thomson was duly elected President of the Association.

The Chairman intimated that he would accept an *en bloc* nomination of the existing members for the remaining *ex-officio* posts, excluding those of Secretary and Shoulder-to-Shoulder League Secretary. This was proposed by J Macvicar and seconded by W J Grant, and was passed *nem con*.

There being no other nominations, the following were thus duly elected :

Vice-President
Treasurer

J R Buchanan
I Bryson

County Captain
County Vice-Captain
Postal League Secretary
Air Weapons Secretary
Individual League Secretary
Competitions Secretary
NSRA Representative
Awards Convenor

Mrs S J McIntosh
D A M McIntosh
J R Buchanan
Miss S Stewart
D King
D Duff
C W C Ogle
D Duff

The position of Shoulder-to-Shoulder League Secretary was vacant due to the death of Gordon Allan, and the Chairman proposed R A Sellar for the post. That was seconded by D A M McIntosh. There were no other nominations, and Mr Sellar was duly elected.

The Chairman re-iterated that the Secretary was retiring. Mr Hamilton had been doing the job for 6 years and was retiring for personal reasons unconnected with the Association. He asked for nominations. There were none.

The Chairman then explained that due to the amendment to the Constitution just passed, there were three Elected members' positions to be filled this year in order to make the required complement of six. As no prior nominations had been received, he asked for nominations from the floor. The following were received:

G Sweeney (Masonic)	prop. J R Buchanan	sec. Miss J Craig
J W Scott (Pathhead)	prop. J Scott Jun	sec. Mrs L Steele
Miss S Bell (EU Alumni)	prop. D A M McIntosh	sec. R A Sellar

There being no other nominations, these were elected to the Executive Committee.

10. Any Other Business

There was none.

11. Presentation of Prizes

Bill Hamilton was invited to present the prizes in recognition of his 25 years of service on the Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.32 with a vote of thanks to the chair, proposed by W F Hamilton and seconded by acclamation.

 Chairman
..... Secretary
..... Date