

LOTHIAN SMALLBORE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Myreside Pavilion at 7.30 on 15th May 1997.

Present.

The President, Secretary, Treasurer and 34 members.

The President Mr C I H Thomson was in the chair.

1. Chairman's Statement

The Chairman referred to his statement last year concerning Dunblane and its potential effects. The Cullen inquiry has become a political issue, following the General Election Labour will continue with the reforms already implemented by the Tory party. The meeting was then shown a poster circulated by the British Shooting Sports Council (BSSC). It read 'Tories .22 Labour All'. Mr Thomson suggested that circulars from the BSSC seem to have gone to secretaries and no further, we thought that rifle clubs would be safe, and that may not turn out to be the case. So far the effect of Dunblane within the Association has led to Eastfield Rifle Club being refused an extension of their lease at the George Watson's College range. There has not been enough support from the rifle disciplines for the pistol shooters, and now the reforms may extend to rifle. Two of the letters circulated by the BSSC, the first titled 'Political Roundup', and the second, an appeal from Patrick Johnson, were read. The Chairman summed up these letters by saying that they implied that there were lots of new Labour MPs to be won over. The Association has a list of all the MPs in Lothian, which shall be made available to Clubs so that they may lobby their respective MP. Balerno and Currie Rifle Club did this last year, so for advice speak to Mr Alastair McDonald. It is up to the shooters to defend their sport.

2. Apologies

Mr & Mrs McIntosh, Mr David King, Jim Fisher, Trish Littlechild, Anne Hamilton, Mr Norman Brown, Carl Broughton, David Proudfoot.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the previous AGM had been circulated and copies were available to the floor, they were taken as read.

The proposer for approval was Mr W F Hamilton, the seconder was Mrs Muriel Brown, and the minutes were duly approved.

4. Matters arising

The Mobile Air Range had received a grant for the sum of £2,000 from the Foundation for Sports and the Arts. The association had paid for the construction initially and was now being reimbursed from the grant. Bill Hermiston has the range and it is available for summer fetes and other bookings.

5. Financial Statement

Copies of the accounts were made available to the floor. In general income is slightly down on expenditure. Whether we want to increase entrance fees is a possibility that could be considered in the forth coming year. The treasurer pointed out however that there were several items of expenditure which were one offs, the donations made to the South African Junior Team and the BSSC. He also highlighted the tent hire at the Scottish, where the number of users could not justify the hire fee, and the bank charges of £75.00. These will be removed from the equation in next years accounts and that should present a healthier picture. The Chairman announced that there would not be a tent provided by the Association at the Scottish in future years unless it was held at Lauder.

The treasurer asked if there were any questions from the floor. Mr W. F. Hamilton asked what the NT Score Cards were. The Chairman explained that Mr A. G. E. Allan had arranged with the National Trust to print the Score Cards for the Shoulder to Shoulder League. The Chairman asked if there were any more questions, there were none, he pointed out that the accounts this year had been audited, and asked for them to be approved.

Proposed Mr C. Drysdale Seconded Mr C. W. C. Ogle

The Chairman thanked Mr Bryson who had managed to complete the accounts despite having been ill.

6. Captain's Report

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

At the Scottish meeting held in Forres there had been a pleasing County turnout, which enabled a 6 point win over Aberdeenshire in the county sextette. A large number of County shooters were represented in the prize list but there are some who deserve special mention: Donald McIntosh and Sinclair Bruce represented Scotland in the main international team which won the Home Countries International match. Susan Bell shot in the Ladies team and John Gray in the Under 21 team (of which Stephen Dunlop was captain). The 1997 meeting is to be held at Blairgowrie and the captain hopes that as many if not more County shooters will attend.

There were far fewer Lothian representatives at the National meeting, Bisley. Sinclair Bruce represented Scotland in the Home Countries international, Cliff Ogle represented Northern Ireland and Natasha Davies shot for the Scottish Ladies and Junior teams. Ronnie Sellar and Donald McIntosh made up two thirds of the winning Scottish 3P team.

Due to a lack of results from the SSRA Grand Prix series and Inter Regional matches the captain was unable to comment on individuals and county successes.

The Scottish Air rifle championships at Largs saw Donald McIntosh winning the men's title and Shirley McIntosh winning the ladies. The captain commented that it was encouraging to see Allan McCallum and Stuart Rillie from Fetlor Boys Club travelling through to the championship. The captain expressed her hope that young talent like this would continue to be encouraged after the closure of Fetlor Boys Club (due to the organiser's retirement).

The winter leagues saw nine teams entered in the national county competitions.

The results were as follows:

Prone team	Division 1	3th
Prone reserve	Division 3	1st
Women's team	Division 1	6th
Women's reserve	Division 1	6th
Junior team	Division 1	5th
Junior reserve	Division 2	1st
3P team	Division 1	1st
Air Rifle team	Division 1	4th

The 3P team set a new Scottish and British record in round 5 of the competition.

In the British Air rifle championships at Aldersley the county team of Sellar, McIntosh, McIntosh and Littlechild became the first Scottish county to win the county championship.

In the Inter County Knockout we staggered through to round 4 where we lost by 4 points to Yorkshire.

Summer competitions.

County Cup	4th	ICI Challenge Cup (shot June 1996)
Women's County Cup	2nd	(shot June 1996)
Provincial Cities		Shot results due in October
BSA Cup	" "	" "
Women's County	" "	" "
Provincial Cities	" "	" "
Air Rifle	1st	

The captain also drew attention to the fact that Donald McIntosh and Susan Bell had join Trish Littlechild in the British Squad. Members of the Scottish A squad include; Donald McIntosh, Ronnie Sellar, Martin Sinclair, all four of the ladies are from Lothian; Susan Bell, Lynda Marlow, Tricia Littlechild and Shirley McIntosh.

Alasdair Horne, Sinclair Bruce and Andrew Coates are in the Scottish B Squad.

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

The captain finished her report by advising the meeting that she would not be standing for re-election. It had been an honour to serve the county but she now felt that as a continuing international shooter, more of her energies should be devoted to her training for the next Common Wealth Games and of course her children. There is also the possibility that the family will be moving outside Lothian in the near future. She thanked everybody who had helped her through her term of office and wished the next Captain good luck.

The Chairman finished reading the Captains report with the addition that Stephen Dunlop and Mr Halmond had started a Scottish Junior squad for shooters between 12 and 19 years. If anyone was interested they could contact Stephen for further details. He finished by thanking the McIntoshs for all their efforts over the past years.

7. Motions for the AGM.

The following motion was submitted by George Heriot's F.P. Rifle Club.

"In an attempt to bring on new shooters and give them team experience it is proposed to allow teams to be one more than the number to score. The lowest score to be discounted. This could apply to shoulder to shoulder, postal and C.Y.O.H. teams.

This would help to reduce teams being under strength at matches as well as giving people match experience".

The Chairman asked if Mr Wilkie (the secretary of Heriot's) was present, and if he was could he explain his proposal to the floor. This was done by Mr Wilkie. Several points were raised during the explanation. Mr Ogle suggested that the purpose of the shoulder to shoulder league was to increase pressure on the shooters and that having six to count from seven would reduce the pressure. It was pointed out by the Chairman that the Home Guard League competed in this way. Mr Buchanan raised the point that it may be difficult to enforce with postal teams and averages would be harder to calculate. The Chairman held a vote from the floor, there were 3 votes in favour and the majority against.

8. Election of Office Bearers.

The Vice-President (Mr Buchanan) nominated Mr C. I. H. Thomson as President and that was seconded by C. Drysdale. There being no other nominations, Mr Thomson was duly elected as 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. Mr Thomson read the following list of those currently standing, he asked for nominations from the floor.

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

Vice-President	J R Buchanan
Postal League Secretary	J R Buchanan
Air Weapons Secretary	Miss S Stewart
Individual League Secretary	D King
Competitions Secretary	D Duff
NSRA Representative	C W C Ogle
Awards Convener	D Duff

Proposed by Mr J. Hind

Seconded by Mr D. Nicoll

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In the previous year there had been no secretary elected Andrew Coates came forward after the meeting and was elected as acting secretary at a later committee meeting. This year Mr Coates has agreed to stand as secretary, there being no other nominations for this post, he was duly elected. Mr Bryson has been treasurer for 5 years and at the last AGM he intimated that if a replacement could be found, he would stand down. Miss S. Bell has agreed to take over the post, and was elected. Mr Thomson thanked Mr Bryson for his efforts as Treasurer. Vacant posts - no nominations had been received for County Captain or Vice Captain. The Chairman read out a brief job description of the posts, and asked if there were any volunteers from the floor. Mr W. F. Hamilton nominated, Mr C. W. C. Ogle for Captain. This was seconded by Mr David Nicoll. There were no nominations for Vice Captain.

With Susan Bell taking over as Treasurer the position she held as an elected member needed to be filled. Mr J. Bryson agreed to stand for this post. The Committee nominated Mr J. Bryson. One other nomination had been received from Mr Bob Aitken of Heriots and he was elected to the remaining position.

10. Any Other Business.

The Chairman asked if there were any other questions or comments

i. Mr Bill Grant asked what happened to 9. from the Agenda. The Secretary could not answer and so it was put down as a typing error.

ii. Mr A. McDonald commented about the Captain's Report from last year. He pointed out that there are other shooters representing the Association, and he felt their achievements had not been taken into account.

iii. Mr C. Drysdale asked if an update could be given on the County's search for an outdoor range. Mr Thomson explained that a range which already had approval had been found at Eddlestone near Peebles. This is currently being used by the West of Edinburgh Pistol Club, but is in need of development. The site has a 21 year lease at £800 per year, and the WEPC is looking for assistance in developing the site. A visit is planned for the 15th June.

iv. Mr W. F. Hamilton asked if a newsletter would be produced in the following year. The Secretary apologised for there not having been one in the past year and explained that he would attempt to do better.

11. Presentation of Prizes

Mrs Mary McDonald was invited to present the prizes. There was a special presentation given to Mr W. F. Hamilton for 25 years of service to the Association.

The meeting closed at 8.52 with a vote of thanks to the chair, proposed by Mr J. R. Buchanan and seconded by acclamation.

J.R. Buchanan Chairman PP.
A.M. Coates Secretary
14 May '98 Date

