



# LOTHIAN SMALL-BORE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

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Minutes of the 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Lothian Small-Bore Shooting Association, held at the Balerno and Currie range on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

Chair: J R Buchanan

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Mrs. A. M Hamilton, Mr R Leather (Balerno & Currie), Miss B Burnside (Watsonians) and Mr C Mackenzie (Herriots FP)

2. Minutes of the 102nd AGM on 31st May 2007.

Adoption of the minutes of the previous AGM was proposed by J Hind and seconded by S Mackenzie. The motion was approved nem con.

3. Matters arising from Minutes of the 102nd AGM on 31st May 2007.

J R Buchanan pointed out that there had been no Treasurer's report and no accounts presented last year. These had not been forthcoming since the last AGM. Similarly, there had been no report from the NSRA rep.

Mr Buchanan thanked Mr Cummings for taking over running the Individual League. Mr Cummings said that he had encountered no problems and was willing to continue.

4. Chairman's Report

J R Buchanan reported that we had provisionally won the Cities and Boroughs competition. He had not yet received the official scores but had received the news during a telephone conversation with the NSRA. He said that the Commonwealth Cities competition was unlikely to be run this year as the NSRA had only received two entries.

5. Shoulder-to-Shoulder League Secretary's Report.

Only seven teams competed in two divisions this year. W F Hamilton noted that Watsonians, who had won division 1 for the last nine years, were unable to raise a team this year. Division 1 was won by Lauder with Balerno & Currie coming second. Lauder also won the matchplay with J Micheal of Lauder having the best average. Heriot's FP won division 2 with Dalkeith coming second. Heriot's FP also won the matchplay but Dalkeith came a very close second. D Aitken had the best average.

6. Treasurer's Report.

J R Buchanan said that the accounts were not complete but the association had approximately £8,000 in the bank. Mrs Hamilton is standing down as Treasurer and Mr Buchanan proposed a vote of thanks to Mrs Hamilton for all her work as treasurer over the years.

Mr Buchanan said that a new treasurer would be appointed and that they would not be expected to do any retrospective work on the accounts.

7. County Captain's Report.

At the Scottish Meeting at Lauder in July 2007, the County Sextette team was Sinclair Bruce of B&C, myself, Matthew Thomson, Beverley Burnside, Susan Jackson (all of Watsonians) and Nicola Sammels of George Watson's College. The result was a win for Aberdeenshire, but due to the NSRA not bothering to post Nicola's scores, which she had shot on the very last possible details, we don't know where we finished.

At Bisley, August 2007, unfortunately there were insufficient numbers attending to enter any sort of competitive team in the Sextette and County 50m comps. We had no representative in the County Champions match as there was nobody available to shoot in it.

Indoor Leagues 2007-08:

The Main Prone team finished last in Division 1 last year and were back in Division 2. We had won this division the previous year, so I was expecting a high finish, but it wasn't to be. We started well with a really good score of 1 960x2000. We immediately followed it with 1937, one of our worst efforts in recent years. Round 3 wasn't much better but scores levelled out a little from then on and we won our last three matches to bring us up to five wins out of ten, finishing in 4th place. I expect we shall again be in Division 2 next season.

I'd like to congratulate Alasdair Home of B&C for his average of 99.5 in this team - this must be one of the best in the whole league.

The Main Reserves were again put in Division 5, perhaps slightly surprisingly as we were there last season and with a weakened team had finished last with the lowest average. It goes on declared averages, however, so it must have been right. However, standards in this division seem to have improved and we were again somewhat out of our depth finishing 5th, again with the bottom average. I hope we can find a more competitive division next season. Richard Leather of B&C had the best average with 97.8 and was promoted to the main team after round 5 where I'm glad to say he continued in much the same form.

The Women's team had a somewhat unhappy season in Division 2. In 2006-7 we were placed third but this year we were 5th, and with only marginally the second worst average. There was some good scoring along the way, though and by pulling out our best score by six points in the last round we spoiled Sussex's day by beating them and consigning them to runners-up by one point. Beverley Burnside had the top average of 98.0

The Juniors team had won Division 1 by a street last season, and I'm happy to report that this season there was a repeat performance. We could even afford to lose our last match, with a dreadful score it has to be said, and still win the division by three clear points. The team's average was almost identical to the previous season's when we had Junior World Champion Matthew Thomson in the team. We lost him this time, but apart from his replacement the team was the same. They all

improved their averages and the replacement didn't disappoint either. A well-deserved win. Top average was Oliver Barron with 98.6 .

The 3P team were second again, with a somewhat different team this time. This year, Ronnie Sellar decided not to shoot and his replacement Sinclair Bruce is still learning the game and is struggling for consistency. Also, Andrew Coates from last year's team decided to retire from shooting, and as his replacement was Commonwealth Games medallist Susan Jackson, the balance might have been restored. As it turned out, our average was only one point lower than last year, but critically somewhat less than our main rivals Hampshire, who have improved over the last two or three years. We lost important matches. We did beat the winners Hampshire once, but lost to them in the return match, but crucially we also lost to third-placed Surrey with our worst score to their best score. Graham Rudd had the best average (283.4 which I think was the best in the league), including an excellent standing average of 93.9.

In the Knock-out competition we were knocked out in round 1 rather ignominiously to a minnow team as one of our shooters forgot to sign his card. I share the blame as I did not notice before sending the cards away . We would have won had his score been included.

BSA Cup: This was shot in April and our estimated score is very similar to our scores for the last two years when we were runners-up both times, so I expect we shall be there or thereabouts again. Congratulations to Alasdair Horne for scoring 200. The result won't be out till November or so.

Women's Indoor: A team of ladies could not be found to shoot on the appointed day, so we shall try again in September, as we did last year.

Cities & Boroughs: We won this with a record score last year, and the estimate for this year is the same score we won with in 2006, so I'm expecting another win.

Commonwealth Cities: We shot the 2007 version of this in September last year and won it again by quite a large margin.

SSRA Inter-Region shoot: This took place on 13th April at Denwood in Aberdeen where both indoor and outdoor Regional matches are held. Lothian had won them both for the last two years, but this year we could field a team containing only one of the original selection. However, we did manage to win the indoor competition, perhaps surprisingly with our theoretically weakened team.

On the County's behalf, I'd like to thank everyone who participated in all these teams this season, and congratulate the Junior team for being our only league winners this season.

I was disappointed to see that there was a very poor turnout of Lothian shooters at the Scottish Meeting at Lauder last year. Apart from GWC who had 12 and Watsonians who had 6, there were only three other Lothian-based shooters who attended, from three different clubs. There have been several Scottish Meetings at Lauder, and compared to previous ones this number of attendances was very poor. There have to be more than a couple of clubs interested in outdoor shooting. Perhaps it's considered too expensive to enter this meeting, and I can't deny it isn't cheap, but one thing I'm sure of is that if an outdoor range existed in this area then there would certainly be more enthusiasm for this type of shooting. It's no surprise to me that the really successful shooters from Lothian over recent years - Matthew Thomson, Susan Jackson and Martin Sinclair to name but three - all come from clubs with a history and ethos of outdoor shooting. I'd like to urge other clubs to make the effort to dip their toes in the water. The SSRA All-Ranges shoot in April which incorporates the

Inter-Region competitions is an ideal opportunity to try it out. You don't have to be or even aspire to be a champion like the guys I've mentioned, just go and enjoy a different dimension to the sport you already know at whatever level you're already at. Rifles can shoot at more than 25 yards.

W F Hamilton - County Captain

8. NSRA Representative.

No report.

9. Election of Office Bearers.

J R Buchanan asked for nominations and for volunteers to put themselves forward for the open positions of Chair, Treasurer and County Vice Captain. The following office bearers were elected unopposed:

Chair - no proposals

Vice Chair - J R Buchanan, proposed by W F Hamilton, seconded by S Mackenzie

Secretary - C Broughton, proposed by J R Buchanan, seconded by J Hind

Treasurer - C Broughton, proposed by J R Buchanan, seconded by D Cummings

County Captain - W F Hamilton, proposed by S Mackenzie, seconded by D McConnell

Shoulder-to-Shoulder League Secretary - W F Hamilton, proposed by S Mackenzie, seconded by D McConnell

Team Postal League Secretary - W F Hamilton, proposed by S Mackenzie, seconded by D McConnell

Awards Secretary - D Duff, proposed by J R Buchanan, seconded by A Horne

County Vice Captain - no proposals were received and Mr Hamilton said he was happy to continue to run the county team on his own.

NSRA Rep. - J R Buchanan, proposed by W F Hamilton, seconded by J Hind.

10. Inspection of Accounts.

It was noted that this item should probably be appointment of an accounts inspector, but as No accounts were presented, no inspector is required.

11. Other Business

1. Association Communications - The Secretary proposes that the Association should make greater use of electronic methods of communication to reduce both costs and workload.

C Broughton explained that he would like to use email where possible, to communicate with affiliated clubs as this would significantly reduce the work load. A significant amount of the secretaries time is taken up with printing and mailing documents to all of the clubs. If electronic documents could be emailed then the secretaries workload would be reduced. Given the difficulty the association faces in getting volunteers to fill positions. Anything that can be done to reduce the amount of work could help to reduce the reluctance of potential volunteers. Using email would also have the additional benefit of reducing postage costs.

Mr Hind remarked that using email would not reduce costs for the clubs as they still had to return cards for association competitions. He asked whether the Association should move to self scoring. W F Hamilton said that 10 years ago the Association agreed that it did not want self

scoring due to scoring inconsistencies. A discussion ensued comparing the experiences of self scoring in competitions offered by both the Perth and the Borders Associations

2. Mr S Mackenzie raised an incident during a shoulder-to-shoulder match at Heriot's FP when the visiting team (Dalkeith) arrived with only three team members. Heriot's loaned a team member to Dalkeith to make an even match. However, the score was not allowed to stand as the loaned shooter had shot for Heriot's earlier in the season and the rules stipulate that any participant can only shoot for one club in a season. Mr Mackenzie felt that the decision was not within the spirit of shooting and that we should be more flexible to allow opportunities for people to participate in shooting. A discussion ensued and it was suggested that one possible solution would have been for both teams to shoot with just three members. The feeling of the meeting was to keep the current ruling.

Mr Hind said that Pathhead would like to propose that the end of the S-S match season should be extended to the end of March. It was understood that the reason for the season to end around the 15<sup>th</sup> of March was to ensure completion before the AGM, which used to occur earlier in the year. Mr Cummings seconded the proposal and there were no objections to the proposed change.

Mr Horne said that he would prefer to get his communications via email, as proposed at the last AGM. The Secretary said he was very willing to do this and that anyone who wished to get LSSA documents by email should give him their email address.

## 12. Prize Giving

Prizes were presented by Mr Buchanan and Mr Duff.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm. Mr Mackenzie proposed a vote of thanks to the executive committee for their work during the year and Mr Buchanan thanked the Balerno and Currie Rifle Club for the use of their club for the meeting.

### Attendees:

David Cummings - Dalkeith  
Alasdair Horne - Balerno & Currie  
Jim Michael - Selkirk  
W Vaughan - Selkirk  
Stewart Mackenzie - Heriots FP  
Graeme Fraser - Edinburgh Civil Service  
Jim W. Scott - Pathhead  
D Duff - Prestonpans  
Carl Broughton

Frank Gifford - Balerno & Currie  
Peter R May - Balerno & Currie  
Robin Macmillan - Lauder  
Jimmy Scott - Pathhead  
Keith Karle - Balerno & Currie  
Jim Hind - Pathhead  
David McConnell - Redcraig  
W. F. Hamilton - Watsonians  
J. R. Buchanan