

LOTHIAN SMALL-BORE SHOOTING ASSOCIATION

Vice-Chairman

J R Buchanan
50 Priestfield Road
Edinburgh
EH16 5HY
0131-667-6797

Secretary & Treasurer

C Broughton
16 Campbell Road
Edinburgh
EH12 6DT
0131-337-9894
secretary@lssa.org.uk

Minutes of the 107th Annual General Meeting of the Lothian Small-Bore Shooting Association, held at the Balerno and Currie range on 31st May 2012.

Chair: J R Buchanan

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies were received from Mr W Vaughan and from Pentland Rifle Club.
2. Minutes of the 106th AGM on 26th May 2011.
Adoption of the minutes of the previous AGM was proposed by Miss B Burnside and seconded by N Fraser.
3. Matters arising from Minutes of the 106th AGM on 26th May 2011.
Mr. Buchanan explained that last year's accounts have not been examined and also that there would be no Count Captain's report at this meeting as no County Captain was appointed for the past season.
4. Chairman's Report
Mr. Buchanan began by reiterating that there had been no county team shooting during the past season due to the County Captain's position remaining vacant. He said that he intended to raise a team to shoot the Cities and Boroughs competition and that he would phone round potential team members within the next three weeks.
5. Treasurer's Report

C Broughton presented the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2012. He highlighted that this year the Association had made a profit of £416. This was largely due to a reduction of over £200 in the NSRA affiliation fee. It was also noted that there were no secretarial expenses submitted during the year, but that these would certainly be less than £100. The Association continues to maintain a balance of over £7,000 with a typical annual revenue and expenditure of approximately £1,000.

6. NSRA Representative.
Mr Buchanan said that he had already covered some NSRA matters in the Chairman's report. He said that he had attended 2 meeting during the year but had not attended the AGM as the timing was inconvenient, being very close to the Bisley meeting. He said that the NSRA was struggling for funds and that it was currently leasing some office space to the Nuclear Police for training. This brought in approximately £60,000 p.a. The NSRA were also leasing out the Cooper range at weekends for weddings as this was more lucrative than letting it out for shooting. Mr. Buchanan did speculate whether this was likely to cause problems if members were wishing to shoot on the range at weekends.

7. Items of Business

7.1. Rule 5g of the Shoulder-to-shoulder league.

Mr J Scott told the meeting that during this year's shoulder to shoulder competition the Watsonian team was shooting in division 2 and had made a substitution of a shooter with another of a higher average. This happened on three occasions. According to rule 5g, this is not allowed and the scores of the substitute shooter should be disqualified (rule 5h).

There was a lengthy discussion about whether the rule needed to be changed as other competitions would impose a penalty for a similar situation. Questions were asked about why the league secretary (Mr W F Hamilton) had allowed the substitute shooter to continue to shoot in the competition. Mr I Thomson said that there was no need to change the rule and that there must have been a good reason as Mr Hamilton has a reputation for sticking to rules. Others said that the rule 5g had clearly been broken and that rule 5h should be implemented.

The chairman asked the meeting to vote on whether rule 5h should be imposed retrospectively on Watsonians. It was noted that this would mean that Pathhead would replace Watsonians as league winners. There were 10 votes in favour and 1 against with the members of Watsonians and Pathhead abstaining.

Mr. C Watson volunteered to recalculate the points for each team in the league and to publish a revised set of results for division 2.

Mr. Scott said that his complaint was brought in the spirit of fair play and was not intended for gain for the pathhead team.

Mr. Buchanan said that the rules should be applied as written in the future.

7.2. Self-scoring for LSSA competitions.

C Broughton said that he had received several enquiries asking whether LSSA postal competitions could be self-scored. J R Buchanan said that he was of the opinion that the Team Postal League could change to self-scoring and he was joined by D Cummings who said that he had no issues with the Individual League changing over to self-scoring.

C Broughton asked what the rules would be concerning self-scoring. The following were proposed: The first round scored by any new scorer will be submitted for checking. After that, one round of cards will be chosen at random for checking. If there are any discrepancies between the scorer and the League Secretary, the whole season's cards will be returned for checking. Any diagrams that are gauged should be marked to indicate that a gauge has been used.

7.3. Outdoor range opportunity

I Thomson has made enquiries with an architect to get an estimate for drawing up initial plans and costs to develop the site. He said that it would cost approximately £1500 to produce drawings and an initial specification. However, a quick layout could be provided for £500 plus expenses, but this would not provide accurate costs.

Before anything can be constructed we would need planning consent, a building warrant and an environmental assessment. The architect was prepared to do this work, but this would cost several thousand pounds. Mr Thomson volunteered to speak to East Lothian Council to find out their attitude towards developing the land for shooting. He suggested that an organizing committee would need to be setup to take this project forward and he asked the meeting if the Association was prepared to spend some money on the initial feasibility stage. Mr Buchanan suggested a sum of £3500, which is approximately half of the funds currently held. There were no objections to this proposal. A future meeting will be called to discuss how to progress this project.

8. Election of Office Bearers.

J R Buchanan asked for nominations and for volunteers to put themselves forward for the open positions of President (Chair), Secretary or Treasurer and County Captain. The following office bearers were proposed unopposed:

Chair - No nominations

Vice Chair - J R Buchanan, proposed by D Cummings, seconded by Miss B Burnside

Secretary - C Broughton, proposed by Miss B Burnside, seconded by J Buchanan

Treasurer - C Broughton, proposed by Miss B Burnside, seconded by J Buchanan

County Captain - No nominations

Shoulder-to-Shoulder League Secretary – A Paterson, proposed by E Brown, seconded by Miss B Burnside

Team Postal League Secretary – J Buchanan volunteered

Awards Secretary - D Duff, proposed by J Buchanan, seconded by C Broughton

NSRA Rep. - J R Buchanan

Individual League Secretary - D Cummings, proposed by J Hind, seconded by J Scott

A Paterson suggested that a grants committee should be established, but there were no nominations or volunteers.

9. Other Business

Shoulder-to-shoulder League division 1 – P May

Mr May said that there was some confusion over announcing the winner of the division 1 this season. Selkirk and Balerno and Currie tied on points and it was expected that the winner would be decided on gun score, but the rules (12c) state that a tiebreak should be shot. Organising a tiebreak shoot had been problematic as it comes right at the end of the season and Mr May wondered whether the result should be decided on gun score. There was some discussion about whether the rule should be changed after which Mr Buchanan asked for a vote. 20 people voted to change the rule to decide a tie on gunscore and one person voted against.

C Watson asked when the tie shoot to decide last season's division 1 would take place. J Hind said that it could be shot at Pathhead at anytime. D Duff suggested that it be shot at the beginning of the next season; during the first week of October. The date for the fixture meeting will be 20th September and it was agreed that Balerno and Currie and Selkirk should agree between themselves when to hold the tie shoot during this meeting.

C Broughton asked the meeting whether the Association should recognize the work done by W F Hamilton for the Association over many years with an award or gift. As Mr Hamilton is still involved as organizer of the World Cup competition and as Webmaster the meeting felt that it was probably to early.

The meeting closed at 9:45pm and was followed by the Prizegiving. Mr Buchanan thanked the Balerno and Currie Rifle Club for the use of their clubhouse for the meeting.

Attendees:

D Cummings - Prestonpans
C Watson – Balerno & Currie
A Parlett - Pathhead
E Brown - Selkirk
D McConnell – Redcraig
Ms. C Plag - Selkirk
A Paterson - Prestonpans
P May – Balerno & Currie
Ms. M Galea – Balerno & Currie
D Duff - Prestonpans
J Scott - Pathhead
C Broughton - Masonic

F Gifford - Balerno & Currie
Miss B Burnside - Watsonians
G Fraser - Edinburgh Civil Service
N Fraser – Edinburgh Civil Service
R Beale - Selkirk
D Brown - Selkirk
J Hind – Pathhead
R Thomson - Watsonians
M Westwood – Balerno & Currie
J. R. Buchanan - Masonic
I Thomson - Watsonians