

## News

(See [disclaimer etc](#) at the bottom)

(See [bottom of page for archives](#))

### Headlines *(Items of continuing interest that have scrolled off or remain from last season)*

- **A Chairman, a County Captain and an Awards Convenor are still required.**
- **Applications to Police Scotland for airgun licences in Scotland can be made from 1st July 2016. It will be an offence for anyone (including visitors) to be in possession of an air weapon in Scotland without a licence from 31st December 2016. [This link gives information.](#)**

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### Shoulder-to-Shoulder League

28th August 2016

The Fixture Meeting for the forthcoming season's S/S league will be held at Prestonpans RC on Thursday 29th September commencing at 7.30.

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### Affiliation and Entry forms for 2016-17 season

4th August 2016

The Affiliation and Entry forms for all next season have recently been emailed to representatives of all affiliated club by the Association Secretary.

These documents are also available in the Secure Area (click on the tab at the top). If any non-affiliated club wishes to access these forms with a view to entering any of our competitions this coming season, please use the contact form to be found in the Secure Area's introduction page to request the password.

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### NSRA Scottish National Meeting - Lauder

10th July 2016

The 'Scottish' meeting has just finished. There were several successes for Lothian shooters, mostly in the lower classes. Only representatives from Watsonians, George Watson's and Edinburgh University attended, and the GWC shooters won several trophies, notably by Georgia Gooch who won, I think, about five on her own in 'D' class, but other competitions (not necessarily with a trophy) were won by Steven Brown and Robin Shand (GWC) and Rhona Dove (2), Ian Thomson, James and Daniel Gutteridge and Gordon Neill (Watsonians). (E&OE - let me know if I missed anyone)

[The County Sextette team](#) did not fare too well, coming 7th out of nine. Most of the Lothian shooters had to shoot their cards at the weekend when conditions were at their worst. It was won by Aberdeenshire who have won this more times than any other county (Lothian are second in the all-time list).

The McLennan Medal for the Lothian outdoor championship for 2016-17 was won by Adam Dove (Watsonians), with the handicap version for the Ettrick & Lauderdale trophy being won by Georgia Gooch (GWC).

The Statistics for all Scottish Meetings in the Miscellaneous tab on the left have all been updated to include this meeting.

The NSRA confirmed that the meeting will be held at Lauder again next year, from 1st to 7th July.

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### Licensing of Airguns

30th June 2016

Forms for applying for Air Weapons Certificates by both individuals and clubs [are now available here](#).

On a reading of the notes it might appear that the last paragraph in the item below might not be accurate. Please do not take it as gospel.

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### Licensing of Airguns

23rd June 2016

For those interested in licensing their airgun, a visit to [this Police Scotland webpage](#) might be instructive. Among other things it tells us that application forms for airgun certificates will be available from 1st July. It also gives the fee payable - a whopping £72 for a 5-year certificate.

There is an opportunity on this webpage to provide your email address for them to notify you when application forms become available to download, and where from.

Note that if you already hold a full firearms certificate you will not need apply for an airgun certificate until your FAC comes up for renewal.

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### Selkirk Rifle Club

10th May 2016

It was revealed at the AGM of the Scottish Southern Counties Association last night that Selkirk Rifle Club have been told that they must vacate their premises by early August. And so yet another range is consigned to oblivion: the reasons are not known to this writer.

The membership is planning to move their activities to the Hawick club, where apparently there are plans for improvements to the range. It's unclear whether the Selkirk name will survive or if the membership will shoot under the Hawick banner in future. Several of them do so already as a second club in any case.

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### Annual General Meeting

14th May 2016

The AGM was held last Thursday. Your correspondent wasn't present but he is led to believe that nothing earth-shaking occurred.

There are new faces running the Team Postal league (Robin Thomson of Watsonians) and the Shoulder-to-Shoulder league (Greg McMillan of Prestonpans). We wish them well.

None of the other vacant posts was filled so we are still without a Chairman, County Captain and an Awards Convenor. If anyone is interested in taking on any of these roles, please get in touch with the Secretary.

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### Scottish Meeting - appeal

10th May 2016

As noted below, the NSRA's Scottish meeting will be held at Lauder from 2nd to 8th July. The local organisers have sent out a request for help in running the meeting, and in particular for Range Officers. One full-time or two part-time RO's are required. If you are prepared to help out (or know someone who could), [please get in touch with George Lawson](#) as soon as possible. Full training will be given.

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### Annual General Meeting

4th May 2016

The AGM will be held at Balerno & Currie's range on Thursday 12th May at 7.45pm.

[The Agenda can be seen here](#). Last year's draft Minutes can be viewed in the [Secure Area](#).

The vacant posts of Chairman, County Captain, Shoulder-to-Shoulder League Secretary, Awards Convenor and one member of the Management Committee require to be filled.

A prize presentation will take place after the meeting. See the [Prize List](#) here. Any club or individual who currently holds an Association trophy is cordially invited to return it either at the meeting or arrange to deliver it to the Secretary beforehand.

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### Team Postal League

4th May 2016

The final results of the Team Postal League are now available. Take the link in the sidebar to see all the details, but to summarise, the winners are:

Division 1: Watsonians A  
Division 2: Watsonians B  
Division 3: Lanark A

Division 4: Edinburgh University C  
Division 5: Orkney B

The best average (for the Duncan Cup) was by O M Barron, Watsonians, with 99.4.  
The Best Improvement (for the Smith Shield) was by T Deakin, Orkney.

Congratulations to all.

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## Appeal

29th April 2016

The Site Administrator has received the following with a request that the sender remains anonymous:

*"I wonder if you could put this on the LSSA website please?*

*This is an appeal to anyone with any interest at all to stand for election as Team Postal League Secretary at the AGM on 12th May and if elected take over the running of that competition from the present Secretary. It's obvious to all who take part in it that Mr Buchanan is doing a very poor job. The competition started very late in the season and goes on far too long at the end. The issuing of results is a joke - clubs were shooting round seven before the results for the first round appeared and as I understand you update the website as soon as the you receive the files from Mr Buchanan [I do] then he must take all the responsibility. It's been like this for several years now, ever since he took it over from your good self in 2012, in fact. If results aren't forthcoming and there is no feedback from their efforts, people lose interest and entries will decline along with the reputation of the Association.*

*That is not the kind of service expected or deserved for any competition. All the other Association's competitions are run much better and this one could (and must) be so it's obvious that it requires a new organiser for that to happen. Please could someone stand up and take this on? How hard can it be? You don't even have to score the cards these days, and I understand there is a simple computer system for producing the results files.*

*Please consider standing for this post."*

The Site Administrator has no comment except to say that he hopes there will be a good turnout at the meeting.

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## County Teams - Final Results

25th April 2016

**Lothian storm to an unexpected victory!** Having been 5th at round 8, the mathematical chance of our Main Prone team had of winning a very closely-fought Division 3 actually panned out, and we won thanks to various scores and results going our way. Winning our last five matches helped a lot, though. The top three teams all lost four matches but the 2nd and 3rd placed teams had drawn against each other in round 8 so Lothian topped the table by a single point. Congratulations to all who shot in what must have been the most stable team for many years - their winners' badges are in the post!

The Women's team finished what might be considered a slightly disappointing 2nd in Division 2 and the two Junior teams came 6th and 4th in their divisions. The Junior A team can count themselves unlucky as they had the same average as the 2nd-placed team, who won twice as many points.

The top average was by Ollie Barron (Watsonians) with an impressive 99.6 and the County Medal was won by Dave Caughey (Watsonians).

County Awards were made to Ollie Barron and Peter Brett of Watsonians and Peter May of Balerno & Currie (Main Prone), and to Andrew Williamson (Juniors).

Take the County Teams button in the sidebar to see full details.

We all owe Ian Thomson a huge vote of thanks for stepping up to run these teams in the absence of an official County Captain. PLEASE would someone volunteer for this important role in the Association's affairs. We cannot and should not rely on Ian doing this again.

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## **NSRA Scottish National Meeting 2016**

18th April 2016

Entry forms for the NSRA's Scottish meeting are now available. Download one from the [NSRA website](#) if you don't have one, but copies were emailed to previous entrants and it was also included with the most recent On Target magazine (the Rifleman as was). Entries close on Wednesday 25th May.

The meeting will be held in the grounds of Thirlestane Castle in Lauder from Saturday 2nd July to Friday 8th July.

This future of the Scottish Meeting remains in serious doubt due to falling attendances in recent years. Numbers are still historically very low and if this meeting is not well attended the NSRA might well just pull the plug on it. Please, please support this meeting. so that it has a chance of continuing into the future.

Being so close, there is really no excuse for shooters in Edinburgh and Lothian not to attend and it behoves us to do our utmost to enter a strong County Sextette team being one of the local Counties and winners not that long ago. You can go for just the weekend, or from Saturday to Friday or just days in between. It's run in five classes with Junior and Veteran competitions as well as club teams so shooters of all skill levels and ages can join in.

For the first time, the meeting offers both Benchrest and Lightweight Sporting Rifle (LSR) competitions as well as the traditional prone shooting.

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## **Annual General Meeting**

15th April 2016

The 111th AGM of the Association will be held at Balerno & Currie's range on Thursday 12th May, commencing 7.45pm. Last year's draft Minutes can be viewed in the [Secure Area](#).

Items for the Agenda should be sent as soon as possible to the [Association Secretary](#).

The vacant posts of Chairman, County Captain, Awards Convenor and one member of the Management Committee require to be filled. Nominations prior to the meeting for any post on the Management Committee should be made to the [Association Secretary](#).

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## **Individual league - Final results**

6th April 2016

The results for the March and final round of matches in the Individual League have been released. Congratulations to Ollie Barron (Watsonians) on retaining the Division 1 title, beating off, as last season, a strong challenge from Sinclair Bruce (Balerno & Currie).

Take the link in the sidebar to see full details, including lists of averages for all participants.

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## **Championship Final**

5th April 2016

The finals of the Association's Individual Championship took place at Balerno & Currie's range on Saturday 2nd. The winner was Oliver Barron of Watsonians, who beat clubmate Peter Brett in the final. Here are the round-by-round results:

Round 1:

P Brett beat A Anderson 198 - 194

A Dove beat W Vaughan 199 - 195

O Barron beat T Diggie 199 - 189

R Thomson beat K Nixon 195 - 191

Semi Final:

P Brett beat A Dove 200 - 199

O Barron beat R Thomson 195 - 191

Final:

O Barron beat P Brett 199 - 198

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### Choose-your-own Handicap Team Knock-out Final

5th April 2016

The result of the final of the CYOH has also been released. The trophy was retained by Selkirk. Take the link in the sidebar for full details.

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### Shoulder-to-Shoulder League - Champion of Champions match

2nd April 2016

The match took place at Prestonpans last night. Take the link on the left for the details.

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### Shoulder-to-Shoulder League (revised)

12th Mar 2016

The last match in division 1 took place last night, and Selkirk retained the Younger Shield by beating Balerno & Currie. That left Selkirk tied on points with Watsonians, but they took the title with a superior gunscore. Keith Nixon took the awards for the highest average in the division and the league.

Selkirk also pipped Watsonians to the Matchplay title by virtue of the six points won against Balerno & Currie last night, taking that trophy by a single point.

Selkirk and Heriot's, the winners of Division 2, will now go head-to-head in the 'Champion of Champions' match at a neutral venue on a date to be decided between them.

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### Individual Postal League

8th Mar 2016

The results of the February round of the Individual Postal League are now available. Please take the link in the sidebar to see the details.

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### Individual Championships

7th Mar 2016

The results of the first stage of the Individual Championship have been released, including the winners of the subsidiary Championships. The eight qualifiers for the Knock-Out Final of the Main Championship meet at Balerno & Currie's range on Saturday 2nd April, commencing 7pm sharp. Finalists should be there by 6.45 at the latest for the draw or risk elimination!

The qualifiers for the Final are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Score</u>
K Nixon	Selkirk	198
A Anderson	Selkirk	197
O Barron	Watsonians	197
P Brett	Watsonians	196
C Broughton	Masonic	196
R Thomson	Watsonians	196
A Dove	Watsonians	196
T Diggle	Merchiston Castle	196

The first three reserves were all tied on 195 - order decided by regauging::

<u>Name</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Score</u>
1. C Gray	Edinburgh University	195
2. W Vaughan	Selkirk	195
3. R Olley	Edinburgh University	195

### Subsidiary Championships:

<u>Championship</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Score</u>
Ladies	B Fraser-Burn	Edinburgh University	194
Veterans	A Anderson	Selkirk	195

<b>Junior</b>	S Brown	George Watson's	193
<b>Inexpert A</b>	C Conway	Prestonpans	284
<b>Inexpert B</b>	S Singh	Edinburgh University	279

Congratulations to all these winners, especially to S Brown on winning the Junior for the third year in a row, which is something that has never been done before (but he's not the first 3-time winner though).

The entry in all competitions was much higher than recently - long may it continue!

### Outdoor Championship

The scratch and handicap outdoor championships are shot for concurrently with the Unsquadded Aggregate at the NSRA Scottish Meeting the previous summer, this time at Lauder in 2015. It is confined to Lothian residents (students from there studying elsewhere have a dual residency qualification).

The **McLennan Medal** was won by **A Hay (Redcraig)**

The **Ettrick & Lauderdale Handicap** trophy was retained by **A Littlejohn (Robert Gordon's)**.

### "World Cup" Championship

6th Mar 2016

The Final of LSSA 'World Cup' Championship was held yesterday at Balerno & Currie's range. It was won by Richard Simpson of Greenock The Plate was won by Ian Henderson (Larbert), and the Bowl by Heather Doyle (Wigan)

Take the link in the sidebar to see full details.

### Shoulder-to-Shoulder League

29th Feb 2016

The last match in division 2 took place tonight and it was a must-win match for both Redcraig and Heriot's if either wanted to end up as champions. When the dust had settled it was Heriot's who emerged as winners, also taking the Matchplay trophy by only three points over their opponents by virtue of the six points they won tonight. Take the sidebar link for full details.

Redcraig's Andy Hay won the award for the best average in the division.

There are two matches left in Division 1, with Selkirk involved in both. They will have to beat arch-rivals Watsonians - the current league leaders by two points - if they want to retain the Younger Shield as they would win the league with the better gunscore. The Borderers' home advantage might be important here. Selkirk also have an advantage in the Matchplay stakes as they are only five points down on Watsonians with a match in hand.

### Licensing of Air Weapons in Scotland

28th Feb 2016

Police Scotland have just issued a statement that from 1st July, members of the public will be able to apply for a licence for any air weapons they hold. From 31st December 2016 it will be an offence to possess an airgun without a licence. There will be an 'amnesty' period where unwanted airguns can be handed in. The dates for that are unclear but will probably not extend into 2017.

More publicity will be given nearer the time with details of the hand-in period and how to apply for a licence. Clubs which practice airgun shooting will also have to register: again, no details have been given about that yet.

### Team Postal League

27th Feb 2016

The results for round 1 of the Team Postal League are now available- take the link in the sidebar to see the details.

### Choose Your Own Handicap team KO

25th Feb 2016

The first round of the CYOH has taken place - take the link in the sidebar to see the details and which teams have made it to the final.

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### **Individual League - January**

14th Feb 2016

The results for the January round of the Individual League are now available. Take the link in the sidebar to see.

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### **Sport Rifle**

7th Feb 2016

With the new airgun laws in Scotland approaching fast, local clubs might find that they are contacted by members of the public who own an airgun and want to join a club so that they have a 'good reason' for owning it in order to apply for a licence for it. Most clubs in this area do not have facilities for airgun shooting, but that need not continue to be the case.

It should not be too difficult to adapt an existing 25-yard range to allow Sport Rifle shooting at 20 yards. It just needs a flat place to stand and a purpose-built target holder / pellet catcher. Special supportive clothing is prohibited so it's an easy and inexpensive sport to take up.

Sport Rifle shooting involves shooting standing with either a .177 or .22 air rifle, with or without a scope. This could allow such new members to keep their air rifle and also boost club membership. Competitions are offered by the NSRA as well as other organisations such as the Cumbria & Northumbria TSA. It is already one of the fastest-growing shooting disciplines in the UK but is set to explode in Scotland due to the legislation about to come into force. Clubs might like to be prepared to offer this facility. They should note that if they do they would have to register as an Airgun Club with the police so that 'good reason' is valid.

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### **Choose Your Own Handicap team KO**

4th Dec 2015

The draw for the first round of the CYOH has taken place and can be seen via the link in the sidebar.

Unfortunately there are only three entries this season. Let's have a few more next time please.

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### **NSRA Scorers Course in Perth**

30th Oct 2015

Ian Gray is holding a scorers course in Perth on Sunday 15th November and there are a few places left. The cost of the course will be £15.

Anyone interested should [contact Ian directly](#) as soon as possible.

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### **Open Meetings Galore**

22nd Oct 2015

Both Balerno & Currie and Watsonians have announced the dates for their Open Meetings this season. The former's will be held on 14th/15th November, and the latter's on 5th/6th December.

At Balerno's meeting, the course of fire is two 30-shot competitions plus an aggregate in four classes, with a concurrent Junior competition along with Pairs and club teams of three. There is a trophy for each Class winner plus unique BCRC medals to be won. The first detail each day is at 10am. Catering will be provided. To request an entry form, please [email this contact](#).

At the Watsonian meeting, the competition consists of 60 shots at 25 yards shot in six 10-minute timed details (not necessarily consecutive). There are 5 classes A-E with additional prizes for Under 21, Under 18 and Under 15's, and there are also Veterans, Ladies and Team competitions. Catering is provided both days. Further information and entry forms can be [requested here](#).

At both meetings, entries can be made on the day subject to range space.

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## Bill Hermiston

29th Sept 2015

Another one.

Bill Hermiston died on 22nd September. Bill was one of the founder members of Prestonpans Rifle Club. He, along with other local businessmen, doctors and lawyers, secured the area used by the club in 1967. He was a regular shooter in PRC, Lothian and Peebles and Lothian and Borders Police until circa 1990's, when he retired from both shooting and the police. All members at PRC have much to thank him for. All their members condolences are extended to his family.

He was a police sergeant of the old school, latterly serving at Dalkeith until his retirement. He was heavily involved in Police shooting both smallbore and fullbore, and during his time he was Chairman of the SPRA and also L&B Police Rifle Club.

All relatives and friends are invited to attend at Mortonhall Crematorium, Main Chapel, on Thursday, October 1, at 11 am. Family flowers only please, but a collection will be taken on behalf of Marie Curie.

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## County Teams

21st Sept 2015

Here is a message from Ian Thomson, who has once again taken the unofficial role of County Team Organiser as there is no County Captain to do that job this season:

*I have taken on the running of the County Teams again reluctantly. Since there were no volunteers for County Captain I can't accept that we don't enter any Teams. There are several people in Lothians who are very capable of being County Captain, we just need one to put their hand up.*

*To select the Teams I have combined the scores from last year's County Teams and the LSSA Prone League and have taken the best averages. I had to submit the Teams at very short notice so apologies to anyone who doesn't want to represent the County or anyone I have missed.*

*If you don't want to shoot or know anyone I have missed please let me know as soon as possible. I have entered two Junior Teams to encourage our younger shooters so let me know about any Juniors I may have missed.*

*Ian Thomson*

Take the County Teams link in the sidebar to find out who has been selected in the teams for this winter's County Leagues. If anyone wants to send a comment to Ian on these selections please pass your message to him via the Site Administrator, whose address is at the bottom of this page.

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## Norman Brown

15th Sept 2015

News has just reached us of the death of Norman Brown, on 6th September. He was 92. He had been in hospital for some time at the start of the year, but settled in well at a nursing home where he had been very happy until his passing.

Norman was heavily involved in all aspects of smallbore shooting in Edinburgh and the Lothians in the post-war period and beyond. He was one of the founders of the L&P Association immediately after the war, and was a member of Eastfield RC in Edinburgh, running the club virtually single-handedly until its disbandment in the 1990's(?). He held office in the 'Home Guard' Association, mainly as General Secretary, for many years, as well as in the LSSA.

Our condolences go to Muriel, who also used to shoot for Eastfield, and their family.



The funeral will be held at Warriston Crematorium, Cloister Chapel on Thursday 17th September at 3.30pm

If anyone wishes to contribute a fuller obituary or even wishes just to share some memories of Norrie, please send it in (to the address at the bottom of this page).

*(Revised 21/9/15)*

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### **Scottish Air Weapons Legislation**

12th Sept 2015

It has been announced that the new legislation to licence air guns in Scotland will commence on 1 April 2016. It has also become apparent that people with existing FAC or shot gun certificates will not need to apply for an air gun certificate until their existing section 1 / section 2 certificate is due for renewal.

Here is a link to a [page on the BASC website](#) which gives a lot of useful information on the topic.

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### **County teams**

12th Sept 2015

Ian Thomson is again stepping into the breach and will be running county teams again in the absence of an official Captain. Main, Women's and Junior teams will be run.