

SCOTTISH SMALL-BORE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

13th October, 1978.

NEWSLETTER

WORLD CHAMPION

For those who may have missed it in the papers, Alister Allan topped his magnificent season by winning the World Championship in the prone rifle event in Seoul, S. Korea, on 30th September, 1978. He equalled the world record of 599 ex 600 and was flanked on the rostrum by those two crack Americans (on 598), Lones Wigger and Lanny Bassham, who between them have a clutch of World & Olympic titles. Earlier, Alister had taken the gold for Scotland in the Commonwealth Games and returned to defend successfully his British Championship at Bisley in August.

It is also a pleasure to record that Anne Hamilton was selected to shoot in the Ladies' event in the World Championships, John Knowles was Alister's partner in the Commonwealth Games and Alan Stewart won the British Junior competition at Bisley.

SPORTS COUNCIL

We were fortunate during this year to receive a generous capital grant from the Sports Council for the purchase of target-changing equipment. This extends to 6 Gehmann target boxes for training and trials for U.I.T. international matches and 10 RX units for developing the growing discipline of air weapon shooting.

We must also record the financial encouragement given by the Sports Council for one overseas match (match in Holland cancelled at short notice but likely to be replaced by an air weapons match in January) and squad coaching (to be run this winter).

WINTER COMPETITIONS

The reverse side of the Agenda serves as a programme and entry form for the winter competitions. Note that the entry fees are held unchanged for the fifth year and represent magnificent value!! The first three are attractive .22 prone rifle competitions requiring no additional explanation and air pistol stands on its own. However, your Council wishes to draw attention to the two covering the lesser developed side of smallbore rifle shooting.

3-position shooting is grossly neglected in Scotland despite Pete Sneddon winning the British short-range championship a year or two ago and the British team collecting several medals in the World Championships. The individual leagues offer an excellent opportunity for individual enthusiasts to have a go and will be sharpened up this year. If there is a reasonable growth in interest a coaching weekend will be organised during the winter.

Air rifle is a good way into full 3-P shooting as well as great fun in itself. It enjoys the particular advantages of low running cost (pellets are around £1 for 500 against about £11 for 500 Eley Match) and the ability to set up ranges almost anywhere while retaining the high degree of accuracy of equipment required by the discriminating marksman. The writer will be happy to advise on and assist with the setting up of air weapons sections in Clubs and the third Scottish Open will be held in March.

MATCH RESULTS

Scotland were second to England in the Home Countries matches at Inverness (narrowly) and Bisley and the Army dealt out a firm thrashing, reducing the series deficit to 3 - 2. We also lost the 1977 postal match to New Zealand by one point. In the 1978 Mini Games in Jersey, John Knowles took the silver and Sheila Robertson the bronze. The Freuchie was won again by Alec McConnell and the C & D prize by G. Farquhar.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

1978 has seen the inauguration of two new Scottish championships. In April, Alan Campbell-Smith confirmed his top of division I position by winning the Air Rifle Championship in Stirling.

The 50-metres Championship was held over a series of five Grand Prix (U.I.T.) events added to five regular open meetings throughout the country. Sheila Robertson emerged the worthy winner by one point from Bill Moonie after a nail-biting finish in the fifth event. Both Championships proved worthy of their titles and are firmly established in our calendar.

U.I.T. - misconceptions

A substantial majority of club shooters appear to dislike any reference to U.I.T. regulations as they believe them to be too restrictive and alien to "our normal shooting". The common misconception is that only standard rifles are permitted - THIS IS WRONG!

Only Juniors' and Ladies' competitions require standard rifles. All the regular models in use will comply with the Free Rifle regulations under which all open class competitions are shot. The one restriction is on the use of any form of optical lense in the sights.

The shooting coat may give practical problems. U.I.T. limits the thickness of padding (6 mm. compressed), does not permit an elastic strap across the back (bras do not count!) and restricts the front closure to one-third the length. Effectively it rules out the common full-bore type Tenex and N.S.R.A. jackets (unless modified) but properly designed cloth U.I.T. coats are cheaper than both of these models (around £25) and give better support where it matters. The glove may not exceed 12 mm. thickness compressed or extend more than 5 cm. over the wrist; otherwise, not too many jerseys under the coat!

The use of equipment complying with U.I.T. regulations is no handicap in general club shooting under N.S.R.A. rules. Indeed it may be a benefit when one looks at Alister and all the other top shooters at Bisley. All the major international championships are shot under U.I.T. regulations and the object of the Grand Prix series is to introduce additional events to give competitive experience in Scotland under these conditions.

SQUAD COACHING

With the Sports Council assistance regional coaching sessions will be held during the winter and again during next summer possibly in conjunction with the Grand Prix events. Invitation will not be restricted to current Squad members as there is also the need to build the teams of the future from promising young shooters.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The changes passed at last year's A.G.M. have been difficult to implement due to lack of accurate data on current clubs and their secretaries. The help of all members, and particularly County Secretaries, in furnishing details would be greatly appreciated.

FUNDRAISING 1979

There will be two ventures but no Prize Draw. First is the Sweepstake Club where subscribers pay £6 to take part in 6 draws during the year. 50% will be returned as prizes and 50% to the Funds. Lack of opportunities to make the draws means that we shall have the first three at the A.G.M. so - JOIN NOW.

The second venture will be a social evening with a difference at the Scottish in St. Andrews next June. The difference is the excitement of betting on filmed horse races at our own tote as well as the buffet and bar. Each of the races will have sponsored prize lists and socially-minded clubs can win these prizes by becoming "owners" of the eight horses in each race. Watch out for details!!

MEETINGS IN 1979

We shall issue a Calendar of Events for 1979 in January/February and early advice is sought from organisers wishing extra publicity will be appreciated. It may also help prevent the clashing of dates. Offers of additional open outdoor meetings to include a Grant Prix event would be appreciated.

Bob Normand
Secretary.

P.S. £15 from late sponsored shoot (Max Miller & Ian Burgess). The Lord said "....".