

# SCOTTISH SMALL-BORE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

MAILSHOT - NOVEMBER 1990

Another AGM comes and goes. This year's must have been one of the shortest and most peaceful on record. It lasted all of two hours, and hardly a voice was raised. So, despite the disappointing attendance and lack of input from many members, what was decided?

We have a new council - it hasn't changed much from last year though. The names of those who have committed themselves to running your association are given below, along with their club and region. There have to be at least two people on council from each region, and not more than four. We seem to have a reasonable balance this year, although the North remains poorly represented - despite the strength of the Caithness and Aberdeenshire County Associations.

Chairman - Cyril De Jonckheere (Dumfries & South West)  
Vice Chairman - Cliff Ogle (E U Alumni & South East)  
Treasurer - Shirley Smith (E U Alumni & South East)  
Secretary - Nick Baker (Kinross/Milnathort & Central)

#### Ordinary Members -

Angus Dick (Clachnacuddin & North)  
Brian Duncan (Bon Accord & North)  
Gavin Lemon (Glasgow Rail & South West)  
Sinclair Bruce (Stirling Royal Infirmary & South West)  
Peter Oatley (St Andrews & Central)  
Jim Ward (St Andrews & Central)  
Donald McIntosh (E U Alumni & South East)  
Bill Vaughan (Selkirk & South East)

So, we have a new Treasurer and a new Secretary. Shirley has been on the SSRA Council before and is familiar with the way the Association's finances are run. Nick is a new face to the Council, and bravely volunteered to become Secretary at the AGM, when it was beginning to look like we weren't going to have one. He will take over from Peter at our next council meeting on the 11th of November.

As far as the ordinary council members go, Gordon Winch, Mike and Mary Melvin have been replaced by Angus Dick, Gavin Lemon and Peter Oatley. The other five members have remained since last year.

It is intended to avoid the secretary having all the work to do by allocating specific tasks to specific council members. This should prevent a repeat of the overloading that Anne Hamilton suffered from in earlier years. A list of what we are all doing should be included in the next newsletter, just in case you think we don't do anything!

You can now see who your 'local' council members are, so if you have anything to say, then address it to them, or the Secretary and it shall be given due consideration.

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#### Communications

It has become obvious to us that, while we have members throughout Scotland (and of course, scattered throughout England), there are many clubs with whom we have no communication. There may be some clubs who, for their own reasons, wish to have nothing to do with us, but there are many clubs who simply don't receive anything from us.

The main point of contact for most clubs is their county association. We will be in communication with the county secretaries soon, trying to build bridges between them and us. It is hoped that the county sec's will help in the distribution of entry forms and newsletters to all of

their affiliated clubs - probably by providing us with a list of them. In return we will be offering to aid counties in communicating with other Scottish clubs/counties through our newsletters. Please do your best to encourage your county to take an active part in our association.

So, we intend to ensure that ALL clubs receive Newsletters and Entry forms from us. It is hoped then that more clubs will become involved with the Association's activities, and will provide more guidance as to what we should be doing. Without this essential feedback, it's difficult to tell if we are doing any good or not. If you know of any club who hasn't heard from us, then please let us know.

Why should people join the Association? Well, we represent the views and interests of Scottish small-bore rifle shooters through the framework of the Scottish Target Shooting Federation (STSFF). In this day and age, money talks. The more people we can claim to represent, the more influence we wield with such bodies as the Sports Council. If we could truly claim to represent a large proportion of the estimated 4000 small-bore rifle shooters in Scotland, then perhaps we might be listened to a bit more. Currently, we can claim to represent about 400. This doesn't help when trying to have an influence in the ongoing firearms legislation debate, or trying to persuade council planners to approve range applications. Think about it.

As a benefit, members of the Association gain reduced entry fees to all of our competitions. As these are used as a basis for selecting most of the Scottish teams that compete in various events, the more people that take part in them, the better chance we have of selecting the best possible team.

Remember also, that if a club makes it mandatory for all of its eligible members to become individual members of the SSRA, then each person gets that membership for a reduced fee (2-50 this year). This is NOT a different class of membership, merely another - cheaper - way of paying for it.

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#### Budget 1991

The first task taken on by the new council has been the preparation of the 1991 Budget and Grant Aid submission. This document is collated with those of the other shooting bodies that form the Scottish Target Shooting Federation. This is then presented to the Sports Council who will (hopefully) provide the STSF with a grant. We are allocated a share of this grant, based on our budget needs, and this goes towards our Training and Match programmes.

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#### Training and Match Plans

There are some proposed extensions to the Training and Match programmes this year. A guide to the squads that we intend to run is given. Full details of the Match programme are not yet available, but some new ideas are provided.

#### Training Squad

As in previous years, there will be a Training Squad. This consists of about 20 up and coming shooters, especially those showing a desire to learn along with the potential and determination to shoot for Scotland at some time in the future. There will be approx 12-15 places available for prone shooters, with the remainder of the places going to 3P shooters. While a good number of the people in this squad tend to be juniors and/or students, nobody should feel put off applying to be in this squad. It would be good to see some more female shooters taking

part in this too.

#### Senior Prone Squad

As last year, all those who have shot in full Prone Internationals (Home Countries - including ladies, Mini-Games, Commonwealth Games) in the last two years, plus a few others selected, will be invited to take part in this squad's sessions. The emphasis is on group discussions of various aspects of shooting in teams, along with the finer points of technique and mental preparation. Investigations into the availability of experienced coaches are currently being undertaken.

#### Senior 3P Squad

A new addition, the senior 3P squad will be open to all those who have shot in Scottish 3P teams in the last two years. Full caps will not be required, as there aren't very many about! Again, experienced coaches are being sought, and more details will be provided when possible.

If you are interested in being in any of these squads, or wish to nominate anyone else, then please get in touch with Donald McIntosh, 1 [REDACTED] (Tel [REDACTED]). Names for the Training Squad are required by the 30th of November 1990. If you have any comments on any aspect of these squads, then please also get in touch with Donald.

#### Match Programme

The matches in which we competed last year should still be on the calendar next year. There are some proposed additions however.

The most significant of these is the proposal to send a team to a major open shoot on the continent. We are currently looking at the ISAS shoot in Dortmund in March of next year. We are looking at sending a team of 10, including male and female prone and 3P shooters. Team selections will be made as soon as we have more definite information, so that training programs can be altered/made up as required.

Also we intend to speak to the various NSRA Regional Squads about the possibility of having a junior match. This would probably be open to under 21's, and will probably take place somewhere in England. Further information will be provided as soon as possible, although interested under 18's would be well advised to enter the new Junior league.

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Membership/Entry forms should be included with this mailshot. The astute amongst you will notice that Anne Hamilton is taking the entries and memberships. Anne resigned from the post of secretary in 1989, but has continued to act in an unofficial capacity for the Association, doing what must be the worst of the admin jobs. We all take Anne's continued work too much for granted - even those on council who do a lot - and she deserves much more thanks than she gets. So here's a very public thank you, Anne. Your continued hard work is much appreciated.

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This mailshot was edited by Donald McIntosh, and - if, when the plaster comes off tomorrow, his wrist has healed - will be his last.