

SCOTTISH RIFLE ASSOCIATION AGM 8TH MARCH 2015

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Good afternoon Ladies and Gentlemen,

We ran a full programme of events in 2014 with entries of 61 for the Scottish Open Championships which was the highest for the last 4 years – there were 60 entries for TR but only 1 for F/TR Class. David Calvert won the Grand Agg. 2 points ahead of Tom Rylands but in the Scottish Championship the result was reversed with Tom Rylands winning by 1 point ahead of David Calvert. The Caledonian Trophy was won by Kenny MacDonald by a significant margin of 5 points ahead of Simon Glen. The Lawrence Trophy International Match was won by Scotland which makes 7 wins in row for Scotland. The David Hossack memorial trophy for the top individual score in the Lawrence Trophy Match was won by Tom Rylands, the captain of the England Team, with a score of 148 and the trophy was presented on the range by David Hossack's sister Alison Young. The Darnley Plate Match for club teams of 4 was won by West Atholl Rifle Club, 11 points ahead of the Old Glenalmond Rifle Club.

At the Long Range Championships we had F-Class teams from Ireland and Wales for the Celtic Challenge International Team Matches so entries were higher than normal at 34, of which 23 were F-Class shooters. The TR Grand Agg. was won by myself, 2 points ahead of Peter Glen and the Grand Masters final was won by Richard Scott. The F-Open Class Grand Agg was won by Mark Bannon from Ireland just 1 point ahead of Peter Hunt. Laurie Holland won the F/TR Class Grand Agg. beating Paul Crosbie by a significant margin of 11 points. The Celtic Challenge International Matches between Scotland, Ireland and Wales for teams of 4 shooters were held on the day after the Championships – the F-Open match was won by Ireland 14 points ahead of Scotland and the F/TR match was won by Scotland 13 points ahead of Wales. The whole weekend went very well and thanks are due to Paul Crosbie for organising the international matches and the plan is for these to become an annual event to be organised alternately by Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

There was a good entry for the Pentagonal TR and Finlux F-Class Regional Teams matches with 3 teams in the Pentagonal Match which was won by West of Scotland, 2 teams in the Finlux F-Open match which was won by Tayside and 4 teams in the Finlux F/TR match which was won by Fife and Kinross.

At the Bisley Imperial Meeting the top Scot in the Grand Agg. was Angus Mcleod in 34th place and he was also 3rd in Queens II and 6th in the Queens Final – Angus was selected for the GB Kolapore Team and he is also in the GB Palma Match team for this year. Mike Barlow won the Admiral Hutton and also represented Scotland in the Champion of Champions Match coming 4th. Ian Shaw was 2nd in the Lovell and 5th in the Daily Telegraph.

Following immediately after the Bisley meeting we had the Commonwealth Games shooting events at the Barry Buddon ranges near Carnoustie. The SRA helped with the planning and preparation for the fullbore shooting events and provided all the technical staff for running the range. Richard Scott worked for a month preparing the range which included setting up new wind flags, repairing the target frames and resurfacing some of the firing points and getting the range ready on time. Allan Mabon was Chief Range Officer, ably assisted by Julia Adamson as deputy and the range officers were Mike Barton and James Bell with Jim Brown as armourer carrying out all the checks on competitor's rifles and any rifle repairs as necessary. Mark Joyce was the Chief Butts Officer assisted by Iain Thompson and John McRae who also built all the targets. Keith Baxby was in charge of the volunteer range staff which included allocating the markers for the butts and finally Peter Burbridge was responsible for checking all the scores and passing them on to the stats office. We were very lucky with the weather with only one serious rain shower but some time was lost as a result the targets disappearing in the sea mist on a couple of days. However the events were completed on time and the Scotland team of Angus Mcleod and Ian Shaw won the Bronze medal for the Pairs event. The competitors were very pleased with the organisation and particularly the butt marking which was very quick and reliable. The only adverse comments were about the limited visual display of scores for spectators when compared to the smallbore shooting events. Unfortunately nothing has been retained at Barry Buddon and after a spend of approx. £4 million and the legacy from the Games is limited to some equipment and materials.

At the AGM last year I reported on the very good results achieved by the Scotland Team during the tour to the USA in February and March under the captaincy of Matt Charlton. This included Scotland winning the California State Palma Team Match, beating a USA National Team by 10 points. At the end of the shooting season the Scotland team achieved another significant result in winning the European Long Range Championships for the first time, beating England by a big margin of 37 points.

The shooting programme for this year is attached to my report. The Scottish Open Championships will be on June 5th-7th and the Long Range Championships will be the weekend of June 20th/21st. The Pentagonal and Finlux Regional Teams Matches will be on May 24th and the Scotland v RAF and Wales match at Bisley will be on the weekend of May 16th/17th. The match against the London & Middlesex RA will be at Bisley this year on October 4th/5th. The F-Class European Championships at Bisley are on 7th to 13th September. The list includes the dates for the Regional Championships and the Scottish F-Class League shoots.

The work on setting up a Scottish National Shooting Centre for all the target shooting disciplines has continued. As I reported at last year's AGM the proposal is for the NSC to include a 300 Metre fullbore range as well as smallbore rifle, clay pigeon and pistol ranges. Total costs are estimated at around £2.3 million and SportsScotland will provide funding up to a maximum of £1 million. Bids have now been received from potential developers and if the project goes ahead the plan is to have the NSC ready in 2016.

At the last AGM I reported that a review is being carried out on the structure of the target shooting Associations in Scotland. Scottish Target Shooting is recognised as the governing body in Scotland for target shooting sports and during 2014 there have been a number of meetings to look at the options for STS to incorporate the 4 target shooting Associations – the Scottish Rifle Association, the Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association, the Scottish Pistol Association and the Scottish Clay Target Association -- in order to create a single unified body. Oliver Barsby who is the STS National Development Manager has been leading a group made up of 2 representatives from each Association to come up with a proposed structure and a development plan for the future. A larger single body should provide a stronger voice with SportsScotland and the Scottish Government and result in increased levels of funding for developing all levels of target shooting sports in Scotland. Later on Allan Alstead and Oliver Barsby from STS will present the proposed structure for the new body and explain how it is expected to work but it has been agreed that the earliest the new structure will be in place is January 2016. Once the work on the new structure is completed the proposals will be put to a vote by the members each of the Associations – it is likely that we will need to arrange an EGM towards the end of this year, which will include postal votes, so that the membership can vote on whether or not the SRA will become part of the new structure.

Later on Hamish Hunter will take us through the Association accounts for last year which continue to look satisfactory. SRA membership based on paid subscriptions is around 135.

My thanks to everyone who has helped in running the SRA events during the year and particularly those members who gave up several days of their own time to help with the Commonwealth Games. My thanks also to the members of Council whose efforts are essential in running Association and also to Jim Brown for running the SRA website and keeping it up to date through the year.