



admin@scottishtargetshooting.co.uk



0131 467 2489



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Scottish Target Shooting
Caledonia House
1 Redheughs Rigg
Edinburgh
EH12 9DQ

Annual General Meeting of Scottish Target Shooting

Date: Saturday 28th April 2018, 3.00pm

Venue: Caledonia House, 1 Redheughs Rigg, Edinburgh EH12 9DQ

Chair's Report

On the back of feedback from members and to better fit into the programme of members, this year's Annual General Meeting of Scottish Target Shooting (STS), the third since the body started, has been moved back to April to better fit into the competition schedule of our members. Despite this being our third AGM, 2017 was our first full year in operation as a Governing Body, a fact which is easy to lose sight of but that does not mean our Board and members should not and do not hold the body, rightfully, up to the highest standards and have the same expectations of governing bodies that have been in place for much longer.

Our relationship with Police Scotland, as evidenced by the session held last year and earlier today, is an extremely positive one. One of the rationale's behind forming STS was to better represent and engage the target shooting community with Police Scotland. I strongly believe this has been achieved and we are now in regular dialogue with numerous bodies involved in shooting from the Gun Trade Association (GTA), Scottish Association of Country Sports (SACS), British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC) as well as Police Scotland and the Scottish Government resulting in not just the target shooting being united but the wider shooting community in Scotland being joined up. This has been a body driven by STS in its creation and now means Scotland is well ahead of its counterparts down south in many aspects of partnership working and the effective implementation of firearms legislation.

On the note of Police Scotland, this year STS was included in a consultation being run by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) into Firearms Licensing and responded on behalf of our members through a direct meeting as well as passing on comments that came in from members. One of the underlining comments was the positive feedback on the process in Scotland and improved engagement after an initial dip following the formation of single policing unit in Scotland. The second comment was a thread across STS and our members thinking was the role clubs can provide in helping to police individuals in the sport and recognising concerns at an early stage. It is in all our interests to prevent individuals damaging the reputation of the sport in Scotland and clubs are ready to help the police – STS responded that clubs could be better utilised for helping in local communities.

On the international stage, our performance athletes and teams have once again been exceptional. At the European Championships in Baku in the summer of 2017 Jennifer and Seonaid McIntosh came away with three Gold medals between them with Jennifer winning Gold in the Prone, Seonaid in the 3P and then teaming up with a third athlete from England to win the team competition. In the shotgun disciplines, Scottish athletes Allan Ritchie and Mike Drever were selected to represent Great Britain at the first Para Trap World Cup in Lonato Italy in 2017. Allan has since gone on to have a great season and only last month, he and an Australian athlete set a new joint world record qualification score in Para-Trap of 110/125. There were also some great results achieved by David McMath at the World Championships and Sharon Niven at events in Cyprus and Serbia. In Pistol, Aedan Evans has had an incredible 12 months, rising through the ranks and competing at the World Junior Championships where he finished 7th. The

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season has also seen some great results for Jess Liddon who is building a wealth of international experience. At the Commonwealth Championships held out in Brisbane in November, Scotland came back with four medals, including a Gold medal for Jennifer McIntosh and Silver for Seonaid in the 50m Prone and a Gold for Seonaid in the 50m 3P event, while the pairing of Sandy Walker and Ian Shaw came away with a Bronze in the full-bore pairs competition. This was to set the scene for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, held in the Gold Coast, with the shooting element of the competition taking place at the Belmont Shooting Centre. Supported at the games by Donald McIntosh as Team Coach, Lindsay Peden as full-bore coach and Marco Micheli as the shotgun coach, Scotland sent a team of thirteen athletes. It was my privilege to be at the Games to represent STS and witness Scotland achieve six medals with a Gold for David McMath (Double Trap), Silver for Neil Stirton (50m Prone) and Bronze medals for Seonaid McIntosh (50m Prone and 50m 3P), Linda Pearson (Double Trap) and the pairing of Sandy Walker and Ian Shaw (Queens Prize Pairs), surpassing our pre-Games target of five medals.

However, performance sport is not without its challenges. As many of you will be aware, shooting is not currently in the proposed programme for the 2022 Commonwealth Games taking place in Birmingham. The failure to include shooting has an impact across the whole sport, from grassroots to elite and across all disciplines, as Scotland's involvement impacts on both the investment made in the sport and removes one of the few opportunities it gets to be showcased to a wider sporting audience and therefore promote participation. The Board has been working with our partners at Commonwealth Games Scotland, as well as our fellow commonwealth nations and the ISSF to push for the inclusion of shooting in Birmingham and we will continue this fight over the next twelve months.

Additionally, we have been in discussions with **sportscotland** regarding the process of transitioning the performance programme to STS. The decision regarding the Commonwealth Games in 2022 has been a catalyst for this and the short timescales for reintegrating the programme have been challenging but it is a positive recognition of the position STS is now in and this has been recognised by **sportscotland**. This process continues to require significant resources but ultimately it presents a great opportunity for STS to directly manage the programme and positively influence the development of the sport, not just at the high performance level but reevaluating how we support and identify athletes further down the pathway showing ability in the sport.

Our relationship with British Shooting has also developed positively and over the past twelve months we have seen increased engagement and interaction with several meetings taking place between the two organisations, in part bonded by the common goal of keeping shooting in the Commonwealth Games, but also as our goals for developing the sport align and they recognise the work we are doing in Scotland. We will continue to push British Shooting on the matter of improving the distribution of events to the north of England and Scotland so Scots can access the same opportunities as those in the South of England. However, events such as the British Schools Pistol Championships have started a positive trend of STS delivering British Shooting events in Scotland and we hope this can be expanded to other events and disciplines.

We will continue to work with our partner at Commonwealth Games Scotland to lobby for the inclusion of shooting in 2022 and all future Games because of the important role the sport plays, not just for Scotland but for the Games as a whole. I have been buoyed by my experience in the Gold Coast and all Commonwealth Nations will be working with their CGAs to influence a change and I am pleased to say that Scotland is one of the leading bodies in this movement.

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STS continues to work closely with our key partner, **sportscotland**. Away from performance matters, this year has seen a change in our Partnership Manager with Gemma Fay leaving to go to Scottish Rugby. We thank Gemma for all she has done for the sport over her four years with us and we welcome Lindsay MacKenzie as our new Partnership Manager. Lindsay will be working with us through this critical time of transitioning the performance programme and more broadly, planning our next four years (and beyond) as we look to present our plan for 2019-23 to sportscotland in October this year. However, for the next twelve months, I am pleased to say our investment has remained at £75,000 which is a positive reflection on the work we are doing at a time when many sports are facing cuts due to financial pressures put on **sportscotland** by the Scottish Government.

A key area that has not progressed as I would have liked is the National Shooting Centre. Over the past year **sportscotland**, the preferred bidder and our selves have met on numerous occasions but we have hit a stumbling block with regards the indoor 50m range. We are continuing to work with our partners to find a solution but with the closure of Meadowbank, this issue is now critical, especially if Scotland is to continue the success mentioned earlier. I am disappointed not to have a more positive report on this area but we are putting all our efforts into finding a solution and ensuring we are not committing ourselves and our members to anything we should not.

I would like to stress that while the majority of my report has focused on performance sport, STS is and remains to be a body with an equal focus on grassroots shooting. Our Company Secretary will cover more of the domestic achievements and developments in his report but it is important to confirm the Board's commitment to supporting Scotland's clubs and grassroots shooters. The partnerships we have forged with **sportscotland**, Police Scotland and Scottish Government and other bodies involved in shooting in Scotland and across the UK are all crucial in keeping STS members central in any debates relating to shooting. As mentioned, Scotland's involvement in the Commonwealth Games does not just impact on the performance end of the sport but is a crucial shop window for the sport to sell itself to the public and increase interest and participation. The Board has and will continue to look at new and innovative ways it can support existing members and appeal to new ones. The current membership numbers are undoubtedly a concern to the Board and if we are to really widen the services we can offer and get further engagement with partners then we need to greatly increase this number. The Board will continue to look at ways of doing this but we also welcome feedback and ideas from the membership.

Finally, we will also cover this later on in today's AGM agenda, but I am pleased to say the Board is once again at full strength. At the last AGM the Shotgun AMG Chair Iain MacGregor was replaced by Keith Shields following a closely fought election. Our Communications & Marketing Director, Paul McFarlane, stood down at the end of last year but I am pleased to say we have found an excellent replacement in Cait McLaughlin who started with us at the beginning of the month and we hope to see an improvement in our communications over the next six months as a result. I am also pleased to say that in February the Board also approved the reappointment of John Kemp as our Coaching & Officials Director and Gareth McKenna as our Performance & Pathways Director after serving their initial first term of two years. With the changes and opportunities that face us over the coming few years, their experience and expertise will be vital. I would like to thank them for all their work to date and welcome their reappointment. I would also like to thank all my colleagues on the board, the staff and our members for their support and hard work over an extremely busy 2017. There are stern challenges ahead of us, not least trying to grow the membership, but with the people we have I know we are well placed to meet them head on.

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