



Scottish Pistol Association

Bullet-in

Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill (as Passed)

The Bill has been passed by Scottish Parliament and now has to receive Royal Assent from HM The Queen to become law. This will happen in the next 6 – 8 weeks. Once the Bill becomes an Act certain technical provisions come into force. It will be the decision for the Scottish Ministers to decide the date or dates that the main sections of the Act will come into force – such as the air weapons certificate system

When the Act comes into force it will be an offence for a person to use, possess, purchase or acquire an air weapon without an air weapon certificate. An individual aged 14 years or more may apply to the chief constable for a grant of an air weapon certificate. Such applications will have to be verified by a third party in a similar way to that is in place for firearm and shotgun certificates. The applicant will need to be fit to be entrusted with an air weapon, must not be prohibited under section 21 of the 1968 Act, have good reason for using, possessing, purchasing, or acquiring an air weapon and can be permitted to possess an air weapon without danger to public safety.

The chief constable can impose conditions, such as the holder may use and possess an air weapon only for sporting purposes or target shooting on private land. Certificates will run for 5 years, and can be set up to run concurrently with FACs.

There will be a process for visitor permits which will be able to be applied for individually or on behalf of a group (2-20). They will be for periods of no longer than 12 months.

Air weapon clubs can gain approval via application to the chief constable and there is provision for alignment of approval dates where the club is approved as a rifle club under section 15 of the firearms (amendment) Act 1988.

Individuals with air weapon certificates can sell, repair, transfer, or test an air weapon to another individual with a certificate, (as long as the individual exhibits their certificate) and also with registered firearms dealers. But only registered firearm dealers are allowed to carry out the above by way of trade or business. There is also a requirement for commercial sales of air weapons to be in person.

Within the Act there is provision for revocation of certificates, power of search with a warrant, forfeiture and disposal of air weapons, and appeals. The above has been extracted from the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Bill. In conversation with other representative bodies it appears as though the Police Scotland have a desire to make the Bill work, but we should not underestimate the challenges ahead. The evidence will become clear over the coming months however.

The link below is to a BASC Q and A on the subject



<http://basc.org.uk/basc-scotland/airguns-in-scotland/airgun-licensing-in-scotland-frequently-asked-questions/>

PVG

A reminder to all affiliated clubs that October 2015 is the cut off date for retrospective applications for membership of the P.V.G. scheme.

The matter was discussed recently at an S.T.S. meeting, after which the SPA President contacted Volunteer Scotland for confirmation. The following is the response.

As you know, retrospective checking is due to be completed by 29 October 2015. At this time it will then be that the regulations, to be made under section 35 of the PVG Act, will make it an offence for an employer to have an individual in regulated work if the individual is barred from that type of regulated work. The aim of this offence is to assist in the reduction of the risk of harm to children and protected adults.

The only way of ensuring your organisation is not committing an offence by employing somebody in regulated work who is barred and putting your client group at risk is by obtaining a PVG Disclosure from Disclosure Scotland.

As you will see it will be an offence for the club and the governing body if any Coach, Instructor or other person giving any advice or instruction to a child or protected adult is barred from that type of work. Volunteers are defined as employed.

This will have serious implications for governing bodies and affiliated clubs, it seems likely that any club without the required Child Protection Officer and Policy in place will not be accepted as an affiliated club.

Further information please email
admin@scottishpistol.co.uk

The View from 25 Metres

The SPA Colmsliehill Summer Series underwent major changes in 2015. In previous years, the Series consisted of five Sundays during the summer months, offering both Gallery Rifle and half-course ISSF events on the same day. With attendance falling, the Committee decided to try a new approach, with two days solely devoted to Gallery

Rifle, and the remaining three days dedicated to the ISSF events.

Gallery Rifle decided to hold a SPA Championship, split into two parts: Shorts (25m events) in July, and 1500 matches in August, hosted at Drums Range north of Aberdeen.

On the ISSF side, the opportunity to use the range throughout the whole day offered some intriguing possibilities, and we have been experimenting to find a format that meets the needs of the attendees.

At our May 3rd event, which occurred on a bitterly cold and blustery day, the morning was given over to a training session, to allow people to become familiar with shooting outside again (a harsh lesson that day) and to adjust sights from 10m to 25m. In the afternoon, we ran several half-course (30 shot) events: Precision, Sport Pistol, and Standard Pistol. The weather really did put a dampener on the day, but everybody coped surprisingly well with the poor conditions – proof that Scottish shooters are a hardy bunch!

Following positive feedback for the idea of running full courses of the ISSF pistol events from attendees at the May event, June 7 gave shooters the opportunity to shoot a 60-shot Free Pistol event (SPA1 targets) if they had a free pistol, and concurrent with that, users of air pistols had the opportunity to shoot a 60 shot precision match on PL7s.

In the afternoon, full (60 shot) Standard Pistol and Sport Pistol events were held; the latter can be done with a single-shot air pistol with a little dextrous reloading during the Rapid Stage, but the former really does require a multi-shot pistol, so entrants were a little lower.

For our final meeting of the ISSF Series, to be held on August 2nd, we are planning to offer the opportunity of entering even more events during the day. There will be two separate 60 shot Precision / Free Pistol events (with time to rest between them), as well as Sport Pistol, Standard Pistol, and an introduction to, and a chance to try,



Rapid Fire Pistol. It promises to be a busy, but hopefully enjoyable, day of competition.

Looking forward to 2016, we have ideas about how to grow and improve the Series, but we would like to hear your views on what the SPA ISSF Summer Series should be; the Committee welcomes suggestions as to how this Series might be adapted to best serve the needs of our members.

Profile of the Joint Services Pistol Club (JSPC)

David Rees

Founded in the late 1950s, the JSPC has enjoyed the use of a range a few miles from Lauder, in the Scottish Borders, for several decades. Set into the side of a cliff, the outdoor range offers 10 shooting lanes for guns ranging in calibre from .177 air to .44 Special, to a maximum distance of 25 metres. To provide shade in summer, and protect from the elements in winter, the 25m firing point is covered. Adjoining the range is a clubhouse, incorporating a communal room for eating and chatting, a kitchen for food preparation (of which more later), a proper W.C., and a work room for minor gun repairs, etc.

Behind the clubhouse is a nearly finished air gun indoor range, which will permit between two or three shooters to practice or compete at 10m.

The club has use of this facility every day of the week, but the main club meeting takes place on Sundays, from 10am until the light goes, or until everyone is too tired to shoot any longer. Always a cheerful and convivial clubhouse on Sundays, the ambiance is enhanced by the presence in the kitchen of Tam, our cook, who comes along to cater for us all. A variety of hot foods is available at lunchtime, along with drinks both cold and hot, all at extremely reasonable prices. It is believed by many that several of our shooters just come along for the food, so good it is!



So much for the facilities: what is the club about? We are not specifically focused on one discipline; the range is suitable for guns of many types, and on a typical Sunday a variety of guns, and targets, will be on display. But it would be fair to say that the growing sport of Gallery Rifle, in all its forms, influences much of what we do.

In common with many clubs, we have a commitment to competitive shooting, but perhaps we take it a little further than some. Within the club, we run various competitions scheduled in our annual range calendar; and for those that are interested, participation in competition against shooters in other clubs via postal leagues is encouraged. We have a strong cadre of shooters who compete both regionally and nationally, and recently one or two of us have started to compete in international matches. The club also hosts two classified Gallery Rifle Open competitions each year, which attract the best shooters in Scotland and the north of England. In addition, our range is normally the venue for the Scottish Gallery Rifle Squad training days. Our website (<http://joinservicespistolclub.com>) is a good place to see more about us.

Above all, though, the club is a friendly and helpful one, and we recognise that shooting takes many forms. Though not actively seeking members (we're pretty full), there may be room for one more keen shooter, whether novice or expert, so don't be afraid to get in touch.

Profile of the Bearsden District Rifle & Pistol Club

George Hanna

Bearsden District Rifle & Pistol Club was formed as the Bearsden District Home Guard Rifle Club in 1945 for the promotion of Target Shooting and has been in continuous existence since then. The range was opened on its present site in 1947 but was extensively re-built in the 1980s.



The BDR&PC range is on Jubilee Path, Bearsden and is a fully enclosed 25 yard 6 position range. Although the main shooting calibre is .22LR the range is certified for low-velocity centre-fire ammunition and some shooting of that type takes place. The range is also used for air weapons and a 10-metre arrangement is used on one evening and one morning a week.

A variety of club weapons are available for use and we also keep a range of jackets, slings, mats etc for use by members. Ammunition is available typically costing, for .22LR, between £3.00 to £9.00 for a box of 50 rounds. The Club has full-bore rifles and from time to time takes part in open range shooting. Regrettably there is no current full-bore open range available in the West of Scotland and the nearest facility is in Edinburgh.

We have a Clubhouse adjacent to the range with both kitchen and toilet facilities allowing the discussion of shooting performance in a degree of comfort.

BDR&PC provides a safe and friendly environment where a member can learn the correct use of firearms for competitive target shooting. All levels of new members are welcome from experienced competitive shots to complete beginners. For the latter the Club offers as part of the induction process a course of training in the basics of target shooting including the safe handling of firearms.

Up and Coming Competitions

2nd August Colmsliehill 25m See above – entry forms on the website

<http://www.scottishpistol.co.uk/>

Dates for Winter Grand Prix will be available late August – Events will move around Scotland to make them more available. E-targets will be used at at least two events in conjunction with SSRA. We will run monthly events between November and March, inclusive, at 10m.

The winter Postal shoot will be run October to March and entry forms will be available in September.

National Shooting Centre

The National Shooting Centre continues to progress with a second round of tendering. The NSC committee are still optimistic that a centre can and will be delivered hopefully in 2016

STS Proposal Update

Their proposal for the future of target shooting is now well advanced and details can be found on STS website.

http://www.stsf.org.uk/development_28.html

One of the most frequently asked questions is about

finance and what happens to any reserves of cash that associations may have when they join with STS. Part of STS structure will be Association Management Groups (AMGs) which will look after and organize the events for each Discipline – pistol small bore etc. The funds transferred from the joining Association will be placed in a ringfenced account for the sole use of that Discipline.

Later this year in October SPA will hold a postal vote so that all our members may decide whether they want

- SPA to remain in its current form – an independent governing body for Pistol and Gallery Rifle
- OR whether they would prefer SPA to accept STS proposal and merge with STS as the governing body for all target shooting..

We would encourage all members and affiliated clubs to become informed of the relative merits of both options and take part in the vote. The postal vote result will be announced at an EGM (details to follow) in October.

Next Edition

We would like your contributions for the next edition – have your say - email to admin@scottishpistolassociation.co.uk