

# SCOTTISH RIFLE ASSOCIATION

THE GOVERNING BODY FOR FULLBORE TARGET RIFLE SHOOTING IN SCOTLAND

*(Incorporating the former Scottish Rifle Association and the Scottish XX Club)*

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## Chairman's Letter

Dear Member,

I am very pleased to have been elected as your Chairman for the next 3 years and I hope to carry on with all the good work that Bob Aitken has done as Chairman over the last 6 years. This year was due to be the year for us to run the National Match at Barry but this has had to be cancelled because of uncertainty about availability of the range because the stop butt is being rebuilt due to safety concerns. However, the stop butt is now being rebuilt so we are able to go ahead with the Scottish Championships at Barry on June 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> (Saturday-Monday) with the same programme as last year and I encourage as many as possible to enter – you can enter for 1, 2 or 3 days. A full programme of other events is planned for this year and I encourage you all to enter these events so that they can be maintained for the future – the first Championship event is the West of Scotland on May 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> at Blair Atholl. One change that has been made for this year is that the Regional Team Competitions will be run on the same day -- the Pentagonal Match will revert to being a Target Rifle team match and the Finlux Match will be for F-Class teams. These matches will be held at Blair Atholl on July 6<sup>th</sup>.

The West Atholl Club have decided to install electronic targets for using at all ranges back to 1200 yards and the targets have now been installed -- the first Championship event using the electronic targets will be the West of Scotland Championships. The benefits will be faster shooting because the shooter will get an instant result and eliminating the need for markers thereby avoiding the time lost for changing the butt markers. The Club has also decided to use moveable gazebos on the firing points so that shooting can continue in most weather conditions. Using electronic targets will result in changes, particularly for coached matches and no doubt there will be problems to overcome but I support the change and I'm sure that electronic targets will become more common in the future.

The new rules agreed between the NRA and MOD concerning muzzle energy will affect some F-Class and Match Rifle shooters and this will require anyone using more muzzle energies in excess of 4,500 Joules to shoot a zero card before being allowed to start the competition – Target Rifle shooters using standard bullet weights will not be affected. On MOD ranges (including Bisley) this will need to be carried out at 200 yards under the control of a specially qualified RCO and the SRA will be organising courses to upgrade RCO qualifications to RCOHME (high muzzle energy) and existing RCOs will be advised when these courses will be taking place. The muzzle energy rule comes into effect from the beginning of April. Another change is that by the end of this year anyone using MOD ranges will need to be certified by their club chairman to confirm that they are competent and safe to shoot and the records for these certificates will be administered by the NRA.

The Scotland Team matches start with the match v RAF and Wales at Bisley on May 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> and this weekend is also used for training – a Scotland Team availability form is enclosed with the membership information and anyone interested in taking part in this training weekend should apply accordingly. I will be issuing more of these Chairman's Letters through the year which will be published on the SRA website [scottishrifleassociation.org.uk](http://scottishrifleassociation.org.uk) – entry forms for the various championship events will also be posted on the website.

Good shooting -- Tim Kidner