



National Small-bore Rifle Association

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Patron
Her Majesty the Queen

10 April 2012

Dear County Secretary

During the 1990s, the Southeast Region Rifle Squad was considered to be one of the premiere regional training squads in the UK being a major contributor to the National Squads. Sadly, this is no longer the case as the coaching staff left to pursue other options leading to a decline in the number of shooters who wished to become members.

Although very successful, the original Regional Squad received little or no support from the County Associations and only limited backing from the NSRA. While the squad was able to use the Rimfire range at Bisley, costs to the squad members were able to be kept to a reasonable level but the move to the Malcolm Cooper range meant that the range fees for a training weekend at Bisley became prohibitively expensive for many.

With the appointment of Regional Development Managers, something is now being done to address the lack of training opportunities at regional level generally and to introduce a more professional approach to both shooter and coach training, especially in the Southeast Region.

In order to provide a more holistic approach to training within the region, a new structure is being established which provides shooters with a wide range of coaching support while also providing a more formal career path and training for coaches. This would require the active support of the County Associations who would act as feeder for both shooters and coaches into the regional squad structure. The existing South East Training Team, based at Bisley, will also work within this new structure and the intention is to modify the courses to include coaching practice within the Squad as part of the assessment process.

With support from the County Associations, promising individuals may be identified and introduced to the Regional Squad. Shooters will also be able to book coaching sessions as individuals. This would avoid the need for shooters to take coaches courses when all they want is to improve their own performance. Adopting a 'two tier' approach to shooter training at Regional Squad level would provide club and county level shooters with exposure to better coaching than they might otherwise enjoy.

Coaches who wish to extend their experience by working alongside established coaches at squad level may be nominated by their County Association or book shorter sessions as individuals in the same way as shooters. The intention is to extend this approach by introducing the assessment of new coaches at County and Regional levels alongside, or even instead of, the existing diary approach.

This would have the benefit of providing new coaches with direct experience of working at a higher level than they might otherwise achieve in their home environment and would also give a more accurate indication of the individual's abilities than the current system.

I hope that you will be able to support this initiative and look forward to receiving applications for both shooters and coaches to join the South East Regional Rifle Squad. Should you require any further information or wish to discuss this, I can be contacted on 07906 529747 or by e-mail at bs.seregion@gmail.com

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Sanderson." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Bob Sanderson

Regional Development Manager, South East.