

President's Report 2010

Firstly I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their input and commitment to the club over the last 12 months. There has been a lot of work undertaken by the membership to improve our facilities over that time and there is still a bit to go. However, I think that the improvements that have been made are very evident and will assist us in growing a club that we can all be proud of. I'm quite sure that our continuing work will attract new members and ensure that the club has a strong future.

As a result of the work that we've undertaken we are now in a position where we have:

1. An 'Internet Home Page' that has attracted over 900 visits to date. This page gives members and prospective members/visitors' ready access to, general club information, joining instructions, club protocols and rules and the syllabus amongst others. We have also attracted at least one new member via the site and received a number of other inquiries.
2. A dedicated Air Pistol Range. Whilst there is still a lot of work to do to make the range compliant with the ISSF rules, it is usable in its present state. In any case the work is continuing and we should have a fully functioning and compliant Air Pistol Range within the next 6 to 9 months.
3. Shooting Bays that are ready to be installed on Range 3, that will improve range safety and make that range compliant with the ISSF rules associated with shooting those disciplines. (We are one small working bee away from completion.)
4. Significant work has been undertaken on the turning targets in Range 4. These works will be completed in the very near future and will enable us to provide more opportunity for members to participate in the ISSF and Service Match disciplines. I also envisage that there will be opportunities to incorporate these turning targets into some very interesting IPSC matches.

As most people are aware not all of the work being undertaken has been particularly physical in nature. We have had a number of issues arise during the course of the year that have caused concern to the membership and sleepless nights for members of the committee. The most notable are the following:

1. In April of this year I received a call from Licensing Services Division informing me that we hadn't submitted our 'Handgun Participation Report' and as a consequence, consideration was being given to taking punitive action against the club, which could include the seizure of all handguns owned by club members. A few inquiries and a visit to our very fastidious Club Secretary revealed that Licensing Services Division had actually acknowledged receipt of the Handgun Participation Report. This alleviated the immediate issues associated with the suggestion that we hadn't complied with the legislative requirement. At this point in time

the original records that were received by Licensing Services Division have not been located. The committee intends to pursue this matter until such time as we receive a satisfactory explanation as to what has happened to our report, which contains significant amounts of members' private information.

2. The long running saga with our Liquor Licence application continues. As a result of recent administrative changes at Liquor Licensing Victoria the committee now feel that we are likely to achieve a satisfactory outcome in the near future. Whilst I understand that there are some members expressing concern at the restrictions that will initially be placed on this licence, if we are successful, I ask that people be patient, keep foremost in their minds that we are primarily a target shooting club and that opportunities to modify the licence to better meet our needs will be available in the very near future.
3. A club newsletter has been published on a number of occasions during the year and distributed via the Club's webpage and also in hard copy format at the range. The newsletter is a valuable tool that assists in keeping members abreast of issues that are impacting on the club. Feedback from members in relation to the newsletter has been very positive and tends to indicate that there is a need for this publication. However, continued publication of the newsletter will require a commitment from members to provide relevant information and assistance in sharing the load associated with the publication and distribution of the newsletter.

As with past years we have continued to provide the pistol shooting public with a number of very well organised and managed State level matches. Both the IPSC State Selection Match and Service Match Open were very well attended and received. These matches are very important to the club and provide us with; funds that would otherwise have to come from members pockets, along with opportunities to catch up with old friends and find out what's going on in the broader shooting community. We are currently in the process of making arrangement for the IPSC State Selection Match which will take place on the 27th and 28th of November.

It has been very pleasing over the year to watch match results as they are published in various forums. I don't intend to steal the thunder of the Club Captain and will leave the finer detail up to him but suffice to say that we have been very well represented by a number of our members, who have achieved tremendous results with their shooting endeavours.

The past year has seen our membership remain reasonably steady with a few new members joining the club and our levels of participation continuing to grow. Everyone needs to keep this thought firmly in their minds 'The more the merrier'. To this end I encourage members to convince any of their family or friends that show even the slightest glimmer of interest in our sport to come along and have a go. Remember, every new member is another voice in the politically tumultuous environment that is continually associated with our sport.

In looking to the future I have taken the opportunity to do some critical analysis of the way that we run the club. The relaxed manner in which we've run the club has served us well in the past and is very much responsible for where we are at present. Whilst I would hate to see too much change in this area, there have been some very poignant revelations during discussions that I have had with representatives from government agencies that we will be looking to for funding opportunities in the future. There is a lot of public money available out there that we should and will hopefully, be able to access to assist us in growing the club and building better facilities that will enable us to better enjoy our wonderful sport.

The reality is that in this day and age of accountability, particularly as it relates to public funding, some of our management practises are preventing us from accessing funding grants. The good news is that we don't have to do a lot to meet the required level of accountability and I suggest that we discuss this issue and make appropriate resolutions during the following meeting.

In conclusion I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last 12 months. I've enjoyed the challenges that have been associated with representing the club and look forward to continuing to support the club and the membership in whatever capacity I can into the future.