

September 2, 2016

2016 Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Report

It has been a busy year at the Newfoundland and Labrador Shooting Association (NLSA). Traditionally the year after the Canada Games comes with a drop in activity. This year we have not seen so much of a drop but rather a change in emphasis from high performance to grassroots.

With the drop in commodities prices hitting our province hard, we have had our provincial grant reduced. More significantly without the Canada Games our overall budget has been slashed by 80%. As a part of coming to terms with this new reality the NLSA completed its Strategic Plan for the next three years. While we will continue to support advanced competitive training, we are putting a stronger effort into developing new clubs and revenue streams.

Our Learn to Shoot (L2S) program continues to do well, with both junior and seniors participating. We are pleased to see that parent child participation is growing. This past spring, we began connecting with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and Easter Seals. We have run two, successful trial sessions of shooting with visually impaired athletes (SH3). Their vision ranged from 0 to 10 %. We have been invited to work with them more broadly in the fall. We expanded our equipment inventory to support SH1 and SH2 in upcoming training opportunities with the Easter Seals. Though it is early days, the indication is if Easter Seals adds target shooting to their offerings it will do so as an independent club under the NLSA umbrella. Also, we are collaborating with Dr Kyoung June Yi of Memorial University's School of Human Kinetics and Recreation by offering with hands on demonstrations of adaptive shooting to his undergraduate students. Upon graduation these students could become rehabilitative therapists and physical education teachers. Making connections with the disabled community will feature prominently in our activities for the up coming year.

This fall, we will be working with individuals interested in opening air gun clubs in Mt. Pearl, Conception Bay South and Goose Bay. Also, we are offering an inaugural Learn to Shoot 3-P course for our L2S graduates.

Brenda Greene has begun training as a Competition Development (Comp-Dev) coach. Likewise, Mario Dimitrov and I were deemed trained as Comp-Dev Rifle coaches. Full certification will be a one year to two-year process. We offered a coaching clinic but had no participants. We will try to do this again in the Fall.

We conducted a series of three air gun matches and the provincial championships. Numbers have been holding steady at about 15 – 17 competitors per event. For the first time in several years we have had competitors in Labrador. This year our women's air rifle champion is Samantha Marsh and our men's champion is Ben Taylor. Our air pistol champion is Narjes Nilipour and Mario Dimitrov is our men's champion. Daniel Dimitrov and Kelsey Power are our air rifle junior champions while Martin Dimitrov and Emily Keeping are our air pistol junior champions. Unfortunately, all the indoor small bore events were cancelled due to lack of participants.

Ben Taylor, Dean Chaulk and I took part in the Canadian Small Bore Nationals in Ontario. Taylor earned a position on the National Development Team and Chaulk earned a position on the Adaptive Team.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Woolridge