

On Target

A quarterly publication of the St. Lucia Shooting Association.

Motto: "Shooting Safely and Sensibly"

October 31, 2001

Volume 3, Issue 1

A new initiative announced by the outgoing President Mr. Anthony Bristol has been adopted and implemented by the incoming executive. This initiative saw the formation of 4 teams within the association and they are being captained by:

Lyndon Arnold—Team Renegades; Anthony Bristol—Team Brigands; Gregory Jean-Baptiste—Team Bandits and Charles Serieux—Team Maroons. See page 2 for teams colours and members.

New Range is Coming!

The newly elected president of the association, Mr. Lyndon Arnold, vowed to make the acquisition of a new range one of his main achievements for his term in office. He indicated that for the association to take the sport of shooting to the next level, it was imperative that a proper facility be developed in order to advance the skills of the members. He lamented the fact that it was very disheartening that during periods of inclement weather, members were



not able to practice, as well as having to run for shelter whilst at the range during periods of rain. In achieving this goal, he called on all members of the association to support in whatever means they can, so that at the end of the day, this new facility would benefit each and every one of the members.



New Executive for 2001/2002

The Association wishes to express its congratulations to the following members who have been elected to run the affairs of the association for the year 2001/2002.



Lyndon Arnold
President



Charles Serieux
Vice President

Congrats to you all as you continue to work towards the advancement of Sport Shooting and proper firearms use in St. Lucia.

Remember

- Always** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction
- Always** keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot
- Always** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use
- Always** treat a gun as being loaded when handling



Secretary
Leslie Mondesir



Treasurer
Michael Ferdinand



Simon Hood
Range Master



David Coathup
PRO



Armand
Immediate Past President

Team Spirit—very keen and competitive

The team spirit within the association is being taken to the next level with the establishment of 4 keenly contested groups.

It is the intention of the Executive to award points to teams for their contribution to social activities, payment of annual membership dues, assisting in the coordination of activities at the range during competitions and practice days, participating and placing in tournaments both locally and regionally.

Through this measure the Executive is hoping to raise the level of involvement of the members in some aspects of the administration of the Association and ideally to become more involved in Sport Shooting.

The membership of these teams are:

Team Renegades

- Lyndon Arnold ©
- Lorne Theophilus (VC)
- Gordon Charles
- S'Andre Auguste
- Leslie Mondesir
- Desmond Destang
- Dorothy Agard
- Lancelot Arnold
- Eric Charles
- Peter Charlery
- Simon Desir
- Richard Devaux
- Michael Eddy
- Peter Foster
- Irvine James
- Ezechiel Joseph
- John Calixte Leon
- Matthew Mathurin
- Peter Murray
- Ainsworth Peter
- John Quinland
- Andrew Richardson

- Paul Thompson
- Treverne Yorke

Team Brigands

- Anthony Bristol ©
- Bernard LaCorbiniere (VC)
- Teresa Jean-Baptiste
- Simon Hood
- Brian Charles
- David Coathup
- Johann Alexander
- Timothy Atkins
- Daniel Belizaire
- Walston Clement
- Francis Devaux
- Stephen Devaux
- Samuel Eudoxie
- Clement Gibbs-Francois
- Rock Jean
- Kirth Joseph
- Orjan Lindberg
- Pantaleon Mathew
- Anthony Nicholas
- Trevor Philip
- Chris Renwick
- Hazel Sanchez
- Raymond Volney



Team Bandits

- Gregory Jean-Baptiste ©
- Lester Arnold (VC)
- Ricardo Giraudy
- Cyril St.Jour
- Errol Gustave
- Norman Johnson
- Baden Allain
- Brenda Boland

- David Lisle Chase
- Keats Compton
- Nicholas Devaux
- Ellery Didier
- Keith Fletcher
- Nigel Fulgence
- Thomas Jean
- Michael La Grenade
- Leo Lionel
- Joseph Maxwell
- Keith Nicholas
- Patrick Prince
- Stephen Renwick
- Ernie Seon
- Nicholas Ward Jr.

Team Maroons

- Charles Serieux ©
- Michael Ferdinand (VC)
- Wally Coulson
- Dwight Desir
- Neville Hassell
- Anthony Atkinson
- Patricia-Ann Allain
- Clement Charles
- Leo Clarke
- Christopher De Freitas
- Peter Devaux
- Hilford Deterville
- Gregor Franklyn
- Calvin George
- Anthony John
- Leslie Lake
- Egbert Mathurin
- Norman Mercier
- Neil Parker
- Clement Prospere
- Mario Reyes
- Eugene Skeete
- Ian Winter

The colours selected by the team captains are:

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-------|
| Renegades | - | Red |
| Brigands | - | Blue |
| Bandits | - | Green |
| Maroons | - | Black |



Team Competition

The first team competition was held on Sunday October 14th 2001. Fifteen shooters representing all 4 teams participated in an International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) course. It was a day of keenly contested shooting. At the end of the day the top five placing are (1) Ricardo Giraudy — Bandits; (2) Anthony Bristol—Brigands; (3) Adrian “Wally” Coulson—Maroons; (4) Charles Serieux — Maroons; (5) Lester Arnold—Bandits.

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Practical Shooting Pointers - A. Bristol-Team Brigands

Many of us are fairly competent with target shooting yet seem to have some difficulty with practical shooting. For most association members who have pistols for protection of property, learning practical skill is possibly the most useful thing that can be done. It is very unlikely that in the rare event when the use of a firearm is required that there will be target conditions; it is most likely to be poor light, moving target, very little time, and shooter movement as well.

Practical shooting courses are designed to assess speed accuracy and power. As we are still in the infancy of the sport here power is not focused on and .380 caliber is allowed. In international events the smallest acceptable caliber is 9mm

Set out below are some of the key areas of practical shooting. The one most important thing I have learned is that for you to improve you must practice and that practice must be meaningful, that is planned to develop skills or eliminate weaknesses.

Acquisition and Accuracy- you must be able to acquire targets quickly and to shoot accurately. It is important that you can shoot well from all positions, standing, kneeling, prone, squatting and on the move. You should also be able to shoot single handedly.

Prepare equipment- clean your gun before each shoot, ensure magazines are feeding properly, magazine holders are tight and well positioned, your sights are firmly secured to your gun and well adjusted.

Know your gun- you must be

able to release magazines without looking, clear jams quickly, shoot accurately and quickly, double tap, all of which mean practice with your firearm to become very familiar with its operation and preferences. For instance ammunition Brand X may not feed properly, while Brand Y may feed well but shoots high/low.

Identify weaknesses- IPSC is speed accuracy and power. Power comes from the firearm. Speed and accuracy are the shooter. We all have strengths and weaknesses. You must identify those and practice to deal with them. From observing the Association shooters the biggest weakness is planning of the courses followed by speed and movement.

Plan the course- mentally, and a walk through, where you will shoot, how many targets, where do you slow down where do you speed up. I prefer to shoot first as I am confident that I can plan the course well and stick to my plan. If you are not so confident plan first and then if possible watch a few competitors first to assess your plan. However when you get to the start you must be single minded about how you will shoot the course and confident with the plan you have developed. If in doubt chat with someone more experienced than yourself.

Breathing- between stages and in the boxes. When you are running between stages breathe. When you get to the box/shooting point be composed and ensure that when you get on target your breathing is regulated so that you can fire. Panting or breathing hard while shooting will cause you to miss or to score low.

Eyes on the target- never take your eyes off the target. Move your firearm to your eyes to ac-

quire the target, from one target to another move your head first and then the firearm. Note do not move your head until the previous shot has been fired.

Clearing jams- even with the best preparation of equipment there may be occasions when your firearm will miss-feed, fail to eject or otherwise stop cycling during a shoot. Being able to clear these jams quickly is essential and the ability to recover may determine your performance in the overall shoot.

Magazine changes-these you need to be able to do on the move, and must be done strategically. You need to be able to plan for each course when you will change magazines and be able to do so without looking at the firearm or the magazine.

Trigger guard/prep- while you should not run with your finger in the trigger guard, you should prep the trigger properly once you are in a shooting position or about to shoot. Trigger prep saves time which is key in IPSC.

The Mental Game -stay focused, forget errors- the really good competitors expect to hit most times but can deal with missing. When you miss you must remain focused, do not get flustered, keep firing. Keep to your plan. At present the defining difference between the shooters in the Association is not shooting skill but focus and planning. penalty and 5 for not scoring.

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Team Competition (Cont'd)

The 4 teams took to the range again on Sunday October 21st and the rivalry was even greater. There were 3 events with fourteen (14) shooters representing all 4 teams. In the end it was a great day for Team Bandits having secured the most top 5 finishes. The winner of the combined UK Police & Service Pistol Shoot was Ricardo Giraudy of Team Bandits with Gordon Charles of Renegades winning the Glock "M" in a record breaking performance.

In Pursuit of Excellence

In keeping with its promise to continuously pursue higher standards of performance for its members, the St. Lucia Shooting Association has embarked on a practice program designed to achieve this,

Competitive & Prospective Competition Shooters

In an effort to keep Competitive Shooters sufficiently tuned, practice exercises for these now take the form of weekly competitions.

This approach is designed to expose members to the stress conditions of actual competition until this becomes second nature and no longer holds any undesirable level of anxiety for participants.

Competitions, with appropriate trophies up for grabs, are

held as follows:

- 1st Weekend - Rifle
- 2nd Weekend - I.P.S.C.
- 3rd Weekend - Target Shooting Glock "M"
- 4th Weekend - Shotgun

These competitions are open to all members who have satisfactorily completed the certification courses required as pre-requisites to participation.

Comprehensive details of each indicated type of competition, together with targeted objectives, will be given in subsequent issues of *On Target*.

Introductory & Intermediate Members

Special Practice sessions have been planned for new and interested members on Saturdays and Sundays.

Priority will be given to these

members each week-end and training and coaching sessions will be supervised by House Captains and Vice-Captains.

To facilitate this, discussions and special arrangements to obtain the use of the upper and/or lower levels of the existing Range are being held with the property owner.

Once concluded, these members will have their dedicated area for undisturbed practice.

Full details of practice sessions will be provided in subsequent issues. In the meantime members are asked to be available at the Range on week-ends where individual and appropriate practice sessions will be arranged.



Pointers (Cont'd)

The third shot- if in doubt on any target fire a third shot. If you are shooting quickly this is easily achieved and is an insurance policy. Note every miss costs you 15 points, 10 point penalty and 5 for not scoring.

Double tapping- the faster you do this especially with targets under 12 meters the faster you will complete the course.

Shooting on the move- practice this, it saves time and will help you perform better.

Remember, shoot safe and practice often.

Legal Corner—Firearms Act 2001

The Firearms Act 2001, No. 11 came into force on the 20th of August 2001 and members are urged to get their hands on a copy and familiarize yourself with the new laws.

In this issue of 'On Target' we will look at Section 7—Duration of licence or permit. It reads;

7.(1) A licence or permit shall, unless revoked, be for a period of three years, from the date of issue, renewable on payment of the prescribed fee, on a date coinciding with the date on which it was first issued.

(2) The holder of a licence or permit shall submit his or her

firearm every three years for inspection on the date coinciding with that on which his or her licence or permit is granted or renewed and such firearm shall be tested for worthiness by a firearms examiner authorised for that purpose by the appropriate authority.

(3) The provisions of section 4 shall apply in relation to an application for renewal of a licence or permit.

(4) Any person who fails to renew a licence or permit commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term of not less than one year or to both.