

# On Target

A quarterly  
publication of  
the St. Lucia  
Shooting  
Association.

Motto:  
"Shooting Safely  
and Sensibly"

January to March 2006

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## President's Address 2005

The following report was delivered by the outgoing President for 2005 Lyndon Arnold at the Annual General Meeting held at the Auberge Seraphine Hotel on Wednesday December 14, 2005.

Once again we are gathered here to review the performance of the outgoing executive committee before selecting a new group to manage the affairs of the SLSA in the year ahead. 2005 was certainly a year of mixed fortunes for the SLSA but nonetheless it was a pleasure to have served as your president during this term.

We started off the year late and somewhat behind schedule for the hosting of our Annual Independence Tournament. As a result, we were forced to postpone this event, a decision which was necessary but at the same time cost us in terms of participation. We saw the support of our friends from Martinique hold true. The same can be said of our friends from Barbados but with a reduced presence, and to be exact – only 2 members. The team from Guyana was affected by the postponement and as a result they were unable to make the trip.

Despite this low turn out at the tournament this year, the event was successful since it was held without inci-

dent and was also enjoyed by all the participants. No body went away empty handed. We were also fortunate this year to have the Bank of Saint Lucia sponsor the event through a generous donation of three thousand dollars, which was used to produce the tournament polo shirts. There are still shirts available for purchase at a cost of fifty dollars each.

The hosting of this event severely cost the association financially but it was important to have undertaken the exercise in order to maintain the event on the regional shooting sport calendar. It is an event that our regional friends look forward to attending and if we can continuously improve the hosting of this event, then it is certain to become one of the premier shooting matches in the region.

The successful hosting of this event was made possible by the contributions of several persons, namely Simon from Construction & Industrial Equipment who initially provided the heavy duty equipment to clear the range and also from Neil George who was contracted to finish the preparation of the site. I must also thank the executive and members of the SLSA who assisted throughout the weekend event. It would not have been possible without your assistance and I hope that



Lyndon Arnold  
President



Pinkley Francis  
Vice-President -  
Training



Ricardo Giraudy  
Vice-President -  
Sport Shooting



Avery Trim  
Secretary



Lorraine Debra Glace  
Treasurer

Clement Prospere  
Public Relations  
Officer



Richard Julien  
Range Master

### 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

2006

Executive Committee

we can continue to look forward to your support in future activities.

The next major planned event was the inaugural National Target Shooting Match which would have seen participation from the several armed security companies, the Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, the Air & Sea Ports Police and the shooting clubs on island. Unfortunately this event had to be postponed initially due to weather conditions and later cancelled due to the closure of the range as a result of increased mining activity at the site. This event was already beginning to generate much excitement amongst the participants and I would strongly like to urge the new executive committee to place it on their calendar of events for 2006.

Since the canceling of this event in June of this year, there has been no sport shooting activity organized by the SLSA. This has been as a result of the unavailability of a shooting range. Our formed landlord indicated to us earlier this year that the facility would have been closed to facilitate mining activity and if any of you have been to the site you would have noticed that it is absolutely impossible to conduct any shooting activity there.

I would like to thank Mr. Rayneau Gajadhar who has allowed us to use this area for the past several years, even putting his equipment to work to facilitate the site preparations for several of our past tournaments. We must however recognize that Mr. Gajadhar runs a mining business and we need to understand that there will be some displacement since the site we were using was always a temporary facility. There is no place for self interest in the conduct of our sport and we must learn to co-exist if we are to maintain the status quo of our

sport shooting activity.

The closure of this site severely affected our programme for the year and forced us to look elsewhere for a facility. Several sites were identified and discussed with the Commissioner of Police with a view to getting permission. The sites identified included lands at:

- Cul-de-Sac
- Jacmel
- Roseau
- Dauphine
- Babonneau

Of the locations just mentioned, the sites at Cul-de-Sac and Jacmel were struck off the list by the Commissioner of Police, as they were thought of as being too close to habitations. A site visit to the lands at Dauphine had the team from the SLSA to strike if off the list as this site required intensive capital investment to make it accessible and usable. This left the sites at Roseau and Babonneau the two last options.

The SLSA wrote to the National Insurance Corporation seeking permission to use their lands at Roseau as a shooting range. The NIC indicated that permission could only be granted if the facility was approved for such activity by the Commissioner of Police. After a site visit by a representative from the COP and several weeks of deliberation by the Commissioner of Police, the SLSA finally got written approval from the COP for the use of the lands at Roseau. This approval was however based on the several conditions which related to the site preparation works.

As if this wasn't enough, the NIC now requested the legal status of the SLSA to be confirmed and they would only be satisfied in giving formal approval if the SLSA was registered entity.

We are yet to visit the proposed site at Babonneau, due to a development which has come up recently and that I will speak about later.

Earlier in the year the executive committee had taken a decision to register the SLSA as a not-for-profit organization and our diligent treasurer and attorney Lorraine Debra Glace was given the responsibility of seeing this process through. Little did we know that it was not going to be as simple as it sounded because we came up against a Registrar who had her own interpretation of who was the minister responsible for our activity. To date this issue has been resolved and we are currently awaiting the completion of the registration process.

During the course of this year, the SLSA has trained and certified eight-six (86) provisional license holders with only 1 failure from the group. This program has generated approximately forty-three thousand dollars in revenue for the SLSA and has been the main income source. I would like to thank all of the instructors and assistants who contributed to these sessions and let you know that there has been a lot of positive feedback from the students. The complete financial details will be proved later by the treasurer in her report.

We have also been asked by the Commissioner of Police to put together a training and certification plan for the use of pepper spray. This is currently being looked into and again it is one of those initiatives that I would like the incoming executive committee to pursue.



The website continues to receive much attention from me as the outgoing President. I was planning on having the official re-launch of the website done at today's meeting but that is not going to be possible. The site however has been redone with a new look and feel and will be available online shortly. As you can see from the slides, the SLSA will have a new presence online. We will endeavor to use this medium to inform the membership of the activities of the SLSA. We will also continue to use email as the preferred medium of getting information to you, as this is the way of the world today.

The SLSA was also given the opportunity to participate in a continental skeet shooting course in Brazil which was held from November 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2005. Mr. Gregory Jean-Baptiste represented the SLSA at this training programme and as you would have seen from his presentation, it was by far a very interesting session. We look forward to Mr. Jean-Baptiste sharing these experiences with us as continue to develop the shooting sport in Saint Lucia with a view to having token representation on the national Olympic team for the 2012 games in London, England. The SLSA will also continue to work closely with the National Olympic Committee to identify funding or coaching clinics to assist in our development.

The Executive Committee also made the tough decision of cutting the membership due to the non payment of outstanding annual subscriptions. Approximately fifty (50) persons were sent termination notices. Of these terminations, some have since paid up in full and their membership status reinstated. The remaining persons still

have the 17 days in 2005 to pay these outstanding amounts failing which they will be removed from the membership listing and will be required to produce a certificate of firearms competence and proficiency.

Finally, at this point in my report, I will turn to the way forward for the SLSA. The following initiatives are not cast in stone but are worthwhile pursuing in the interest of the continued development of our sport.

First and foremost on this list is the question of a shooting range. To date an ear of land has been identified by our previous landlord Mr. Rayneau Gajadhar for the development of a shooting range. The SLSA has contacted a licensed surveyor to mark out the 3-acre lot that is required based on the site layout that was presented at the last general meeting in September this year. Once this exercise has been concluded by the surveyor, we will then sit down with Mr. Gajadhar and representatives of the other shooting clubs to discuss the way forward as it relates to the development cost, access and management of the facility.

Access to this proposed site is also via the Ferrands Estate entrance off the Castries to Vieux Fort Highway but the location is on the flat as opposed to the previous uphill site. The access road will also allow us to gate the entrance thereby controlling to some extent unauthorized access. This project continues to be the main focus of the executive committee and should remain as such with the incoming committee.

Secondly, once the range project takes off, it will become necessary to establish a National Shooting Council which would be instrument in the management of this shooting range together with such issues as it relates to repre-

sentation at the national level. This council can then become the focal point through which the duty free concessions can be managed and controlled, thereby giving the authorities the assurance that there is no abuse of such.

It is quite apparent that no one local association is capable of providing training in all of the shooting disciplines and through this national council more effective use can be made of funding from such organizations such as the National Olympic Committee.

Thirdly, as we set our eyes to the 2012 Olympic Games in London, we should then begin to focus on one of the nine (9) shooting events at the Olympic games for Saint Lucia to participate in. As you would have heard from Mr. Jean-Baptiste, it is the practice or recommendation that shooters focus on only one event, if you are to master it and get an Olympic place/quota.

Fourthly, I would like to see the firearm dealers get more involved in sponsoring shooting events here in Saint Lucia, since their economic activity is dependant upon members who require their services. This is nothing new and obtains in the sister countries of Martinique, Barbados and Jamaica. It seems only fair that if you are making money from firearm and related accessory sales, then you should be prepared to sponsor an entire event, even if you dictate that the ammunition used at the event must be purchased from you. The SLSA will be prepared to engage those interested dealers in discussions as it relates to this initiative.

Fifthly, I would like to see all members of the SLSA com-



plete and become certified in the safe and proficient use of firearms as required in subparagraph 4(4)(a)(ii) of the Firearms Act of Saint Lucia No 9 of 2003. It is my proposal that this certification exercise be discounted down from the regular \$500.00 for members. However, if they fail then they would be required to do the course at the normal fee structure.

In closing, I would like to thank you for electing such a wonderful team even though we lost our Public Relations Officer early in the year but the I would like to personally thank every member of my executive committee for their contributions throughout the year. At this point I would like to call upon Mr. Avery Trim to accept an award of Most Valuable Member for the Year 2005. Mr. Trim has been a tremendous support to the administration of the SLSA and has facilitated the most communication between the executive committee and the general membership. Whilst there was very little shooting activity, we were trying our best to ensure the viability of the SLSA by strengthening the administrative needs of the association. Much of what was accomplished this year was in part due to the efforts of Mr. Trim. Thank you Avery and we look forward to your support in the future.

To the general membership, I say thank you for your expression of confidence by electing me to be your president and it was a pleasure to serve despite the fact that I was unable to fulfill most of our shooting activities for 2005. Thank you.

## Calendar of Activities For the Period January—March '06

<b>January</b>	
Executive Meeting	18 <sup>th</sup>
Firearm Proficiency & Certification Course	28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>
Range Development work	January - March
<b>February</b>	
Copa Columbus – Panama	3 <sup>rd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>
Executive Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> Florida Open	17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
Firearm Proficiency & Certification Course	25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>
8 <sup>th</sup> Annual Independence Tournament	<i>Cancelled</i>
<b>March</b>	
Executive Meeting	15 <sup>th</sup>
General Meeting	22 <sup>nd</sup>
Firearm Proficiency & Certification Course	25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>
SLSA Barbeque & Games Evening	25 <sup>th</sup>



## Annual Subscriptions for 2006

Please be reminded that your Annual Subscription of \$150.00 for the year 2006 are due by January 31st 2006. Members are encouraged to make their payments on time to avoid the embarrassment of being removed from the membership role. Feel free to contact the Treasurer Lorraine Debra Glace at 485-3267 or the Secretary Avery Trim at 284-9898 to arrange your payment.

Your contribution is important to the further development of the SLSA, as we embark on our journey for 2006.

## Shooting at the Olympic Games

In 1896, the modern Olympic Games began, through the efforts of the Frenchman Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who made his life's work to resurrect the Olympic dream that had first begun in ancient Greece several centuries before the common area. In Athens, Greece the first modern Olympic Games were conducted with nine sports and the former French pistol champion, Pierre de Coubertin supported the inclusion of two big-bore rifle and three pistol events on the Olympic program. Up until today Shooting Sport just had missed twice to be on the Olympic program. Shooting Sport competitions were not held at the 3rd Games 1904 in St. Louis, USA and at the Games 1928 in Amsterdam, NED.

The list of events has been modified at successive Games in the light of how guns have evolved, taking account also of customs and tradition. Until 1924, the Shooting program contained a multitude of events that were subsequently dropped: 31 events at all. 17 of these 31 events appeared on the program just once, and further nine appeared twice. This shows how unstable the program was at that time. Of the events that were dropped, it is worth mentioning the 300m rifle, which was included in the program of 12 times until 1972 which had been one of the three shooting events on the program since 1896. Individual and team events were fired until 1948, when team competitions were eliminated by the ISSF-International Shooting Sport federation, former UIT - International Shooting Federation.

### Rifle

- 50m Rifle 3 Position (Men & Women)
- 50m Rifle Prone (Men)
- 10m Air Rifle (Men & Women)

### Pistol

- 50m Pistol (Men)
- 25m Rapid Fire Pistol (Men)
- 25m Pistol (Women)
- 10m Air Pistol (Men & Women)

### Shotgun

- Trap (Men & Women)
- Skeet (Men & Women)
- Double Trap (Men)

(Continued in the next issue)

