



Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT
President: Lieutenant General AR Magowan CB CBE
Chairman: Brig M P Lowe MBE
General Secretary: Brig (Retd) MN Pountain CBE

CCRS/8000A/21

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See Distribution

CADET SHOOTING 2021

This letter is to notify addressees formally of CCRS's decision to cancel the Summer 2021 Central Meeting at Bisley and of alternative planning arrangements, including competition for our International teams.

'Cadet Bisley' – Summer Central Meeting 2021

Addressees will be aware of a series of discussions that have taken place from the beginning of this year with regard to 'Cadet Bisley' – the Central Meeting traditionally held in the Summer at Bisley for cadets. This includes the Inter Services Cadet Rifle Meeting (ISCRM – typically 700 plus Community Cadets), the Schools'/CCF Meeting (typically 350 plus cadets) and the Cadet Imperial (fired alongside the NRA Imperial for promising young Target Rifle (TR) shooters with a view to their development and potential to represent their country in international competition).

We had to cancel last year's Central Meeting owing to Covid, and while we all await the Prime Minister's announcement next week with anticipation and expectation of a graduated return to a more normal way of life, CCRS's trustees have regretfully had to make the decision, following a series of consultations, to cancel this year's Central Summer Meeting. This is based on one key factor – Brunswick Camp will not be available to support the meeting as it is fully committed to support recruit training for the remainder of this year.

Notwithstanding, CCRS is ambitious and absolutely committed to support the Cadet Forces (CF) and a return to shooting. Planning is firmly in hand to deliver, as circumstances allow, a series of events and competitions to meet Cadet Force aspirations. Our planning is based on feedback from the CF, and from schools and from parents, which acknowledges the importance of physical health and safety, and which also underlines the importance of sport and co-curricular activity in addition to academic development as essential for the mental health and wellbeing of young people.

We undertook to examine options for an alternative to a Summer Central Meeting, and discussions with HQ Army Regional Command (RC) as the tri-Service lead for shooting found favour with a decentralised 'Regional Cadet Bisley' in principle. We are now in detailed discussions about how this may work, and we are working with your training and shooting staffs to realise the best option we can. This work:

- Recognises that the Cadet Forces have commonly a stepped approach to a return to collective Face to Face (F2F) training;
- Respects that single Service delivery of that approach varies in application and over time;

- Includes an understanding how we may support the training and re-qualification of adult volunteers who are, of course, key to the delivery of the Cadet Experience;
- Aspires to deliver a Final at Bisley, should that be achievable.

International Teams

In terms of other activity, I am delighted to confirm and highlight that we have secured entry to competitions of international standing for our Cadet teams, despite being unable to compete against the Royal Canadian Army Cadet National Rifle Team or the South African Juniors as a consequence of the impact of Covid. Competitions include:

- An invitation from the Jersey Rifle Association (JRA) for the United Kingdom Under 17 Rifle Team (UKCRT) to compete in its Summer Meeting (last week of August) as usual;
- Similarly, an invitation extended by the JRA for the British Under 18 Cadet Rifle Team (BCRT – ‘The Athelings’) to enter the same Meeting;
- An invitation by Chairman Scottish Target Shooting for the Great Britain Under 19 Team (GBU19 – not formally a cadet team) to enter the Scottish Open (16-21 June).

We very much hope that policy and circumstances will permit all teams to compete. In particular, I ask that Cadet Force headquarters note our intent to run a training weekend for the teams (15-16 May for GBU19, and one weekend in June for UKCRT and BCRT), so we may be requesting exemptions, depending on whatever conditions may apply at the time.

Other Planning

Finally, we remain alive to the fact that the situation remains fluid and full of uncertainty, but also full of possibility, potentially. We have a close working relationship with the National Rifle Association (NRA) that owns the ranges at Bisley, and which is keen to support cadets through us; we also know of various accommodation and feeding possibilities, so we shall be open to discussions about opportunity shooting days or weekends as the year progresses, on a detachment/unit/school basis.

I should be grateful if this information could be disseminated, and I undertake to keep you updated. In the meantime, should you have any questions or would like to discuss anything, my email address is below.

[ORIGINAL SIGNED]

Mark Pountain
General Secretary
For CCRS Trustees

Distribution:

Action:

External: All Cadet Force HQs (for Comd/Comdt)
Internal: All CCRS Staff

Information:

External: SecGen NRA, Shooting & Competitions Manager NRA
Internal: CCRS Trustees, Chairman ISMC, Chairman Schools/CCF Committee