

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MASONIC CLAY SHOOTING SOCIETIES

Annual General Meeting, Freemasons Hall, Park Street, Bristol, 10th. March 2018

Secretary's Report

The past year has again been busy and offered us the opportunity to welcome further Provinces into the National Association, Dorset and Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have formed provincial shooting societies and also advice has been sought from Staffordshire, Nottinghamshire/Lincolnshire as well as the Island of Jersey. The pivotal point of these communications has been our involvement with the "Jonathan Spence Challenge Trophy" which we held to celebrate three hundred years of craft masonry last September at the wonderful Eriswell Lodge Shooting Ground in Suffolk a shoot which attracted the largest ever attendance of freemasons, their family members and friends for our sport. Added to which we were joined by the Deputy Grand Master himself who took part and offered some very profound and welcoming words to the two hundred members and guests in attendance. We also held our annual National Competition at West London Shooting School hosted by the Masonic Province of Essex. A wonderful days shooting in splendid weather at a venue which it would be very difficult to better.

Within the circulation of information we send details to 28 provinces in an attempt to encourage those not currently in membership to respond and possibly develop an interest in joining the National Association. However it is with great regret that I have to also report that the Masonic Province of Cornwall have decided to withdraw from the National Association

The 2018 championship is to be hosted by Surrey at Bisley (please see the events page on our web site www.namcss.org for more details) and 2019 by Suffolk with the applications already circulated for 2020. The national web site has been live for over a year and still need provinces to use the facility it offers, in this way provinces planning events can check dates and avoid the clashes that we have experienced in the past.

The Association is maintaining a steady passage with communications being sought with Provinces currently not in membership and this continues. We are as mentioned 19 current provinces in membership with 5 new members currently forming shooting societies and have applied for membership information. However at the last count several had yet to renew their subscriptions. Our Treasurer will have more up to date knowledge of this situation.

With the exception of Cornwall's withdrawal it has been a very successful year and while remembering it is only our third since formation, we continue to move forward and with the support of our membership it would appear that it will continue to prosper as time goes on.

A very successful year with a view to even more success to come in the future.

Roger Wilkes
Secretary
February 2018