

OBITUARIES

FRED JENNINGS



The City of Birmingham Rifle Club is sad to report the death of another of their members, Fred Jennings, who died suddenly on 18 October, 2015 at the age of 74.

He started his career in the Merchant Navy but on marrying his wife, Mary, joined the West Midlands police force in their firearms department and on his retirement from the police worked at the Birmingham courts.

Fred was at one time rifle captain and up to the time of his death chairman of the City of Birmingham Rifle Club and was a member of their record scoring National League "A" Team. He was also a Dewar and English International team member. He was at one time the Warwickshire representative on the NSRA Council and was elected to the NSRA board of management in 1986 and served on its rifle, airgun and match crossbow committees. Fred was elected a member of the Centipede Club in 1983 and was chief range officer at the 2002 Commonwealth Games.

In 2010 Fred was awarded the NSRA Gold Award for his Special Services to shooting. The medal and certificate were presented by the Staffordshire President, Major (retired) Peter Martin MBE at their 2011 Annual General Meeting held at the Rugeley Rifle Club where he was also a member.

Fred will be remembered for his thoroughness in everything that he undertook; he would spend hours researching a subject so that come the discussion he would be fully conversant with the subject.

Our condolences go to his widow, Mary, and to his sons Steven and Ashley and their families.

FREDERICK NICHOLAS COOK 1931-2016

It is with great sadness that we have to report the sudden death of Frederick Nicholas Cook on 21 January 2016. It was doubly tragic as he lost his wife Ann so recently, in December 2015.

Born in 1931, Fred started shooting for the Newcastle PO club shortly after National Service in the RAF. He continued shooting for several clubs including MTSA, Billington Sythonia, Darlington and Easingwold. He represented the counties of Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and Yorkshire. Fred shot regularly at the National Smallbore Rifle Meeting at Bisley and at the Scottish National, shooting for England in 1966 and 1997. He was a member of the Wakefield team in 1979 and was three times winner of the VAUX.

After the sad death of his wife, Peggy, Fred visited his daughters Helen and Janet in Australia where he met Ann who was also visiting family. They remained friends and eventually married and settled in Herefordshire. There Fred joined the Golden Valley Rifle Club and continued successful shooting, representing The Marches Rifle Club and the county on many occasions. He was a valuable member of the club, always willing to lend a hand and lead from the front in any working party.

ALEX MACRAE

It is with sadness that we report on the passing of Alex, Durham and Cleveland Small-bore Rifle association vice president. Alex spent his early life driving lorries and buses for a living before he joined the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society, rising to the position of North East regional manager.

He joined the Darlington Railway Athletic Rifle Club in the 50s, shooting small-bore prone rifle up to county level. As age crept up on him, he transferred his energy to air weapons, helping to develop the Hurworth Air Gun Club with his friend, the late Dr Mark Robson, where he was an ever present member offering and giving assistance to all, especially to the new and younger members. He was always there, willing to involve himself, but never being pushy or overbearing.

During his time with Darlington he became involved with the county committee, becoming the chief stats officer in 1976, and the vice chairman in 1980 progressing to chairman in 1982, a position he held until being appointed vice president in 2010. At the age of 93, Alex attended the county AGM, requesting he be deselected as a vice president, however, the meeting unanimously advised him that this was a position for life. Alex is and will be sadly missed, and our commiserations go out to all of his family, and his many friends in the shooting world.

Brian Lamb, Chairman DCSRA