



SCOTTISH TARGET SHOOTING FEDERATION



REPRESENTING: SCOTTISH CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION, SCOTTISH PISTOL ASSOCIATION,
SCOTTISH RIFLE ASSOCIATION, SCOTTISH SMALLBORE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

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5th May 2008

164 Ledi Drive
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Consultation Paper
Scottish Government
Area 2 – F(S)
Victoria Quay
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EH6 6QQ

Dear Sir,

Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland Response by the Scottish Target Shooting Federation

The Scottish Target Shooting Federation (STSF) welcomes the consultation process and is pleased to have the opportunity to input to the Legacy Plan for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

STSF is the umbrella body representing the Scottish Clay Target Association, the Scottish Pistol Association, the Scottish Rifle Association and the Scottish Smallbore Rifle Association – each of which is the governing body for its specific target shooting discipline in Scotland – set up to liaise with sportscotland in all matters relating to the funding and development of Scottish target shooting sports. It also submits to the Commonwealth Games Council for Scotland the names of shooting athletes to be considered for inclusion within the team to represent Scotland at Commonwealth Games.

Representatives of the above disparate associations meet on a regular basis to discuss target-shooting issues, are fully cognisant of the opportunities afforded all sports by Glasgow's being the Host City for the 2014 Commonwealth Games and unanimously support the views expressed in this Response which is, of course, specific to the future of target shooting in Scotland in relation to the 2014 event and beyond.

At the present time of writing, the medal-winning history of Scottish target-shooting athletes at Commonwealth Games – and indeed at World level – is commendable, in spite of the paucity of decent home-based venues on which to train and compete. Our individual competitors have already shown that they have the skills and the dedication required to compete with the best. If, however, this record is to be maintained and even further extended, it is of vital importance that, in an era when competitors' psychological preparedness is often the key factor that separates winners from also-rans, our athletes have access to the sort of facilities that can inspire in them winning levels of performance. Unfortunately, current plans for the provision of target sports facilities for 2014 are unlikely to contribute to the achievement of such a goal and will certainly do little to ensure continued success beyond 2014. STSF therefore firmly believes that the provision of an up-to-date permanent national facility for target sports in advance of 2014 is unequivocally the crucial element in our athletes' abilities to deliver the medal-winning performances that all of Scotland would like to see as Host of these Games and that we as an organising body would like to see continue well beyond that point in time.



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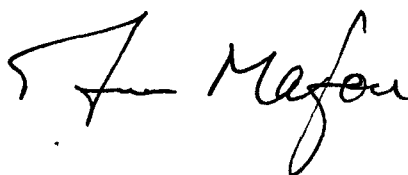
The last Commonwealth Games to be hosted by a Scottish city, Edinburgh, in 1986 provided no legacy of international-standard target-shooting facilities whatsoever. Instead, a temporary venue for small-bore target rifle and pistol disciplines was established on the race course at Musselburgh and dismantled immediately upon conclusion of the Games. Full-bore target rifle events were staged for minimum fiscal outlay on the Barry Buddon military training area adjacent to Carnoustie Golf Course, no readily accessible ongoing facility thereafter remaining available for civilian use. A clay target (shotgun) facility was established at Kippen in Stirlingshire and does indeed continue to be utilised to this day but planning restrictions prevent its opening on a Sunday, the one particular day of the week on which most competitors might be free to train and compete. No other new target-shooting facilities capable of acting as venues for events as prestigious as a Commonwealth Games have been built in Scotland since that time.

Plans for the 2014 Commonwealth Games envisage yet more temporary target sports facilities: this time both full-bore target rifle and shotgun events are scheduled for Barry Buddon whilst small-bore rifle, pistol and air events are to be accommodated at the Police training facility at Jackton near East Kilbride. Estimated costs exceed £2.5 million, a sum which would go a long way towards the provision of the sort of permanent multi-discipline legacy facility that could act as an attractive training base for visiting teams ahead of the 2012 Olympics, provide our shooting athletes with the level of support required for their development on both Commonwealth and World stages and showcase to the whole nation's advantage the target-shooting events of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

In short, having access to permanent modern facilities built to full international standards is vital to the ability of Scotland's future target sports athletes to continue to deliver success, both at the Commonwealth Games of 2014 and beyond. So far our proud record has been achieved against all the odds; we are convinced it can be further enhanced if these odds can be greatly reduced through provision of the sort of facilities that will ultimately enable our athletes to develop to their full potential, able to perfect their competitive skills without the physically tiring diversion associated with having to travel long distances to training camps outwith Scotland and the consequent psychological distraction arising from worries about their abilities to afford the attempt to win the right to represent Scotland in their chosen sport. A major first step on the way towards achievement of this goal would be identification of a suitable site on which a permanent national target sports facility might be built and STSF is therefore willing to seek out and recommend possible locations for detailed investigation so that actual development of the facility itself might begin sufficiently soon to guarantee completion ahead of the 2012 London Olympic Games

The STSF is prepared and most willing to work with the organisers of the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games and with Scottish Government Ministers to ensure that all competitors in the target sports events have a memorable Games experience and is fully committed to finding ways in which this might be done whilst simultaneously serving the specific needs of Scotland's own target sports competitors by helping to meet their single most urgent priority – a permanent national multi-discipline facility to which they can have access both before and after 2014.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Mabon', written in a cursive style.

Allan Mabon
Hon Sec STSF

