

ferreting, hawking and archery. We run a course twice a year and get around 40 people taking part. Run by volunteers, the whole point is to get people into their local clubs. My sports assignments came to an end, and at the time I was approached by the LSRA to become their part time Development Officer. We can take a county-wide view, with a central point for development.

AG: This sounds a very positive move.

DC: Yes, we handle the promotion of shooting in the local and county press, and I act as a central liaison point for other organisations, such as youth groups, schools, colleges, cadet groups, universities, and members of the general public. We have a coaching committee, and we also give advice on grant funding. We run a whole series of special events such as Disability days, and Have-a-Go days at country shows, and more. Just seeing the excitement on a youngster's face, at their first shooting experience makes it all worthwhile. I give radio interviews and ensure coverage of some kind for each event. We've increased the number of affiliated clubs, up from 17 to 21 and obtained the support of an army of volunteers across the county, without whom our job would be impossible.

LOCAL SUPPORT

Working relationships have been forged with supportive organisations such as Rotary Clubs, and the Blind Society, whilst we regularly liaise with the Firearms Department. Throughput, year on year, has increased, too, from 600 individuals in 2014, to now well over 3000 at the close of 2018. Demonstrations at the South Yorkshire Shooting Show and Northern Shooting Show

RIGHT: The portable range could be coming to a club near you



"Fifty per cent of the people have come from shows or events we have attended"

have all helped the cause, and affiliated clubs are also up, from 17 to 21. Generous sponsorship from Edgar Brothers, through Forrest Lodge Guns, have given us a quantity of Hatsan airguns, and these enable us to support the development of shooting at the shows, schools and clubs across the county. Considering the hammering they take, they've been very reliable!

AG: We understand you now have a blueprint for starting new clubs, with Long Sutton Target Club the most recent success?

DC: Yes. Fifty per cent of the people have come from shows or events we have attended, whilst the rest have responded to flyers or shop adverts. Again, sponsorship from Edgar Brothers has provided club guns, so anyone can just come along and

try the sport without having to worry about initial expense. Most members have gone on to purchase their own kit, though. We have modelled this club and any new ones on a format implemented by the Scunthorpe Air Weapons Society (SCAWS); and the system works well. Once a club has formed their own committee, it then frees me up to move into other areas to form more clubs. It's a model that could be rolled out across the country, and with this in mind, I've written a 'Tool Kit for Clubs', which is now available from the British Shooting website at www.britishshooting.org.uk.

PORTABLE RANGE

AG: The Portable Shooting Range is part of the secret, so tell us about that.

DC: The aim is to get shooting out

BELOW: Getting youngsters into the sport has to be the aim

