

Sportsman's Association Newsletter

May 2017 by Mike Wells

No Gun Threat

We are constantly being told how easy it is to get hold of firearms, how easy it is to reactivate deactivated guns. We have seen this in France and other parts of Europe recently.

When it kicked off in the UK last month a hire car and two knives were used resulting in four deaths and a multitude of injured pedestrians. It seems that firearms were not easily available. This really does pose a question as to what we are fed by the police and the Home Office.

I am quite familiar with the Palace of Westminster, and House of Lords as the British Shooting Council regularly meet there and I have to use the Airport style security. Guards are deployed with Glock pistols and MP5 style sub machine guns, however it seems that the police who meet and greet are not even given a stab proof vest, let alone a side arm or the very least a taser.

Police Constable Keith Palmer did not stand a chance, he was totally unprotected against the knife wielding madman, he was unlucky being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

This should never happen again

Cycle Super highways afforded a madman to drive his hire car over Westminster Bridge at Seventy miles per hour maiming eighty people, no doubt inspired by the Juggernaut carnage on Bastille Day in Nice. We have made it too easy. Any opportunist can create mayhem, something we have talked about for years. In spite of first class intelligence, London is on Red alert in defending the Capital against our many enemies.

The police make excuses that they lack training. They always have when it comes to marksmanship. The Shooting organisations have offered help as we have some of the finest clubs and marksmen in the world, however civilian help has been rejected, the offer of free training at Clubs is too good to turn down. The Civil Nuclear police continue to train, having taken over the Short Siberia ranges at Bisley, they are shortly to open their own range. Perhaps this will spark off a decision to co-operate with the shooting world, after all most clubs were set up to defend the realm in times of peril, so please talk to us.

Talk to us

In the 1980's my club regularly held competitions against the police, who because of lack of training never did do very well. I shot pistol at the Police Imber Court range at Kingston upon Thames. The police were using Smith and Wesson revolver, I introduced them to 9mm CZ75 and the Browning Hi Power, their shooting improved and so did their scores. With the Section 7:3 heritage sites this is a golden opportunity missed. The shooting public could give something to their country, for the good of this country and in the spirit of Lord Roberts dream.

The Good Guys

British shooters continue to be persecuted, if only the penny would drop to the powers that be. We are not the enemy; criminals do not belong to clubs. We promote the noble art, but continue to be smeared by faceless anti gun lobbyists, all hell bent on making a name for themselves with their phoney statistics and expense packages.

Talk to us and improve the relationship with shooters, without costing a budget that we are told that they do not have. Simple's init? However I doubt it will ever happen unless our Ministers wake up

The right result

The Sportsman's Association are delighted with the decision made after his being imprisoned for murder.

Alexander Blackman's overjoyed wife broke down in court while his jubilant supporters cheered, threw their fists into the air and sprayed Champagne as it was revealed he would be released within two weeks.

There were scenes of unbridled joy inside and outside the High Court as five judges sentenced **Sgt Blackman** - better known as Marine A - to seven years for manslaughter following the quashing of his murder conviction.

As a result of the three-and-a-half years already served since his original conviction in November 2013, Sgt Blackman will be freed from HMP Erlestoke in Wiltshire next month.

