

Sportsman's Association News letter

April 2017

By Mike Wells Secretary General

We were all sad to learn of Gillie Howe's untimely death in December 2016.

Gillie was a founder member and supporter of the Sportsman's Association, as well as promoting long range pistol

FORMER Royal Marine Commando and member of the Special Boat Service (SBS), Gillie Howe, has died aged 87. Born on December 22, 1928, in Stradbroke near Ipswich, Gilbert Rex Howe, known as Gillie to friends and loved ones, had a love of the outdoors from an early age and grew up wishing to be a Royal Marine.

He won five Devizes to Westminster Canoe Marathons and is credited as playing a major part in the development of the Klepper canoe as a replacement for the existing Service canoe.

Enlisting in the Marines in March 1946, Gillie found himself in the West Indies and Belize on board HMS Sheffield.

He joined 40 Commando in Malta and moved with them, via Hong Kong to the most troubled part of the post-war Empire, Malaya.

Aged 21, now an acting Corporal, he found himself taking over his sub-section when the officer in charge was severely wounded in an exchange of fire with some bandits. He was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for leading his comrades safely through the heavy ambush.

Around 13 years later, while serving with 42 Commando in the Far East, Gillie's courage under fire was demonstrated once more.

As commander of a jungle tracking team he made contact with a party of terrorists who out-numbered his patrol by four to one.

Howe, now a platoon Sergeant, held his ground in the face of no less than three attempts to dislodge him. He was awarded the Military Medal for his cool and resolute handling of a very difficult situation.

Even after retiring, he continued to contribute his expertise and enthusiasm to Corps events and made appearances at Royal Marine gatherings until shortly before his death.

Outside of service life, he retired to live in Tuckton and after his wife, Rita, died following 47 years of marriage in 2005, he gave all his time to running his own gun shop, Modern and Antique Firearms.

He died on December 11 and he is survived by his daughter, Sylvia and his grandchildren, Grant and Maxine.

Gillie's exhibition pitch could always be found at the far end of the Bisley Pavilion at Trafalgar and Pheonix meetings

New Fees Proposed for Firearms Licensing

News

17 January 2017

The Home Office have launched an eight week public consultation regarding the proposed implementation of new fees for prohibited weapons, museum collections and

approved shooting clubs.

The scope of the consultation sets out to seek the public's view on how best to implement powers to charge fees for firearms falling into the above categories and to enable the collection of such fees from the licence payer. It is anticipated that if the new proposals are passed the fees will come into force in 2017.

Click below to read more information

If approved, it is likely the licensing charges relating to these categories would be substantial and immediate. In terms of members, the most relevant of these proposed increases will affect Home Office approved clubs, with a proposed increase from £84.00 to £1,050 for the initial grant of approval and £900 on renewal thereafter.

Section 5 firearms licensing grants and renewals for Registered Firearms Dealers would increase from nothing to £1860 for three years were these proposals to become legislation. This would mean an RFD selling a handful of Section 5 firearms would pay the same as a distributor turning over millions

Note that this consultation does not affect the fees for firearm and shotgun certificates issued by police forces.

In the Sportsman's Association view these proposed increases are unjustifiable and close to extortionate.

We would therefore strongly urge members to object in the strongest possible terms to these proposals. Please note that all objections must be received by or before the 9th March 2017.

The Sportsman's Association will be making the necessary representation on behalf of members through the British Shooting Sports Council.

We would also recommend that having completed the consultation document, each member forwards this to their local MP to reinforce the strength of feeling and to further support the case.

Who holds the key

Do not share your gun safe keys with anyone else, unless they have authority to share, several members wives have been asked if they have access to their husbands gun safe keys. This is unlawful. However it seems some people are falling foul of this who are ignorant of the law, resulting in arrests. Ignorance is not a defence. Combination locks are a very good alternative.