



QUEENSLAND CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION INC

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6th August 2016

President, Board and Committee Members
Brisbane Gun Club
P.O. Box 330
Carina 4152

Dear Barry, Board and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Management Committee of the QCTA I respond to your letter of 30th July 2016. The wide circulation of your correspondence and inaccuracies contained within have made it necessary to respond to what should have been a State matter, however we welcome the opportunity to address some issues that have been misrepresented over a period of time.

The letter to which you refer, dated 14th July and signed by myself, was sent in response to a letter directed personally to me from the CEO of Shooting Australia in which the writer invited me to address 'any item that you may wish to discuss'. My response was not, and at no time claimed to be, an official statement on behalf of your club, but rather my opinion on a matter that has been widely discussed by shooters over the past 12 months or more.

The QCTA is responsible for delivering quality competition in all of the clay target shooting disciplines to shooters within Queensland, and it is our priority to ensure as many participants as possible have access to our sport at club facilities. Despite Brisbane Gun Club being the only multi-layout ISSF venue in our state, it is a fact that your club has not hosted a Zone championship in any discipline since July 2011 or a State championship since July 2014.

As our capital city club with the largest membership and State and Federal funded ISSF facilities, I stand by my opinion that Queensland shooters are not granted access to these facilities. While the QCTA has continued to offer your club the opportunity to host a variety of championships you have repeatedly declined to do so. We accept that the option to decline championships and carnivals is the decision of your club committee, however over the past two years or more we have not seen any evidence that 'BGC stands ready and willing to enthusiastically host' any events. From feedback from your own membership such decisions do not benefit your members, provide additional sources of income for your club, nor assist to promote our sport in the ISSF disciplines.

We note that you have omitted to address the issue of 2016 carnivals or championships, and you do not disclose the reasons why you did not apply to host any Australia Cups during this year, as you have done in previous years. This committee decision was confirmed by your secretary on 18th January 2016 and is in contrast to your comment that you support Shooting Australia endorsed events.

On 4th September 2015 a letter was sent to Brisbane Gun Club asking for an expression of interest to conduct the State ISSF Carnival for 2016. No response was received.

On 29th September 2015 your club was offered the following events: the State ISSF Carnival 2016, the State Skeet Carnival 2016, the South East Zone ISSF Carnival 2016 and a State/National junior ISSF coaching clinic to be conducted on one Saturday morning during 2016. All events were declined by your committee. For a second year no Zone or State championships or activities at all were conducted on your grounds.

We have recently also been advised that Brisbane Gun Club has declined to be involved with the Universal Trench series for 2017, another discipline now unavailable to Queensland shooters.

As you have elected to raise the issue of the 2015 State ISSF Carnival, we agree that it is time for the larger shooting fraternity to understand the circumstances of this matter. From your description of these events it appears you are unable to accurately recall that you, both your vice presidents, the entire QCTA Management committee and a number of State Councillors were personally involved in the negotiations at the time. Obviously the QCTA has fully documented and filed all correspondence relating to this carnival.

We refute your version of events and to this end you will find attached a summary of detailed and lengthy communications relating to this matter which contradicts your claim totally that the QCTA withdrew this carnival and did not negotiate terms. As you are still raising this issue 12 months on, the QCTA will make the actual correspondence documents available to anyone who would like to investigate the facts further in the hope of putting an end to any false claims. Again, the QCTA respects your clubs decision to decline championships but continually placing the blame on our association is unacceptable.

The QCTA has always endeavoured to provide as much support as possible to our host venues and it is important to acknowledge that our association and the previous administration of Brisbane Gun Club worked amicably and efficiently together to conduct successful carnivals at your venue for a number of years without any problems.

If you intend to apply for 2017 events, as indicated in your letter, submission details for Commonwealth, state and zone championships were distributed in July so we suggest you attend to this without delay. Should your full committee wish to meet with the QCTA Management committee to discuss these matters further please advise accordingly.

We would suggest that those now charged with the administration of your club move on from these issues and work to provide the best facilities and competitions possible for your members. It is disappointing that a club with the potential of Brisbane Gun Club can only see the negative aspects of working with our association, rather than concentrating on the benefits that could be gained from working together.

Yours sincerely



Brian Muirson
President
QCTA

ATTACHMENT: Record of correspondence - State ISSF Carnival 2015

Communications requesting return of ISSF carnival guidelines prior to event

- 2/1/15 2 copies of ISSF carnival guidelines sent to BGC with instructions.
- 27/2/15 Shooting Australia endorsed event application due. First reminder call to BGC secretary to return guidelines. She confirmed they had already been passed on to Events Co-Ordinator who had the responsibility to complete and return them.
- 28/2/15 Email to Events Co-Ordinator requesting return of guidelines & offer of assistance.
- 3/3/15 Email from David Menck containing technical statement confirming BGC facilities.
- 30/3/15 Call reminding Events Co-Ordinator that guidelines still not received. Promise they would be returned as soon as possible.
- 22/4/15 Email from Events Co-Ordinator requesting Trap & Skeet carnival guidelines.
- 22/4/15 Call to Events Co-Ordinator requesting urgent return of ISSF carnival guidelines, to which she responded she already had those and wanted the other carnivals. Request to return ISSF contract as a matter of urgency.
- 14/5/15 Email reminding Events Co-Ordinator that guidelines were promised on 22/4/15 and not received. One week to CTSN advertising deadline so confirmation crucial.
- 16/6/15 Email to Events Co-Ordinator that ISSF guidelines were to be returned by close of business today. Order for sashes and badges due to be submitted.
- 16/6/15 SMS to BGC secretary notifying of concerns and lack of response. Apology received but maintained only Events Co-Ordinator could handle the matter.
- 17/6/15 Email to BGC committee (cc Events Co-Ordinator) advising that as instructed by QCTA Management the ISSF carnival would proceed under the 2014 carnival terms.
- 18/6/15 Confirmation that BGC secretary had received email of 17/6 and had been passed on to BGC president.
- 28/6/15 Discussion with BGC Junior Vice President (Mackay) re difficulty finalising ISSF carnival preparations due to lack of response from club.

Negotiations of terms of agreement to host ISSF carnival

Copies of all emails regarding these negotiations are available.

- 29/6/15 Email from BGC JVP (cc Barry Knight, Alex Smith) advising that due to recent cost analysis of club BGC would be raising fees to host the ISSF carnival, due to commence in 11 days' time. A detailed table of fees was provided with some costs unspecified as 'TBA' and new categories added, eg. Counter staff. Total increase of club fees as compared to 2014 carnival: \$4605 excluding targets and range fees also to be paid by state.
- 1/7/15 8.37am Email to BGC JVP(cc QCTA Management) requesting revised costings to reflect accurate requirements of carnival, duties of state, zone and club, operating times, details of all procedures, etc.
- 2/7/15 4.00pm Email from BGC JVP (cc Barry Knight, Alex Smith, QCTA Management) with revised costs and answers to queries. New table of fees provided: increase of \$1700 plus \$375 trappers fees excluding targets and range fees to be paid by state.

- 2/7/15 4.31pm Email to BGC thanking JVP for his time and prompt communications and advising that the revised costs will be referred to QCTA Management.
- 2/7/15 8.27pm Email to BGC (cc Barry Knight, Alex Smith, QCTA Management) advising that as guidelines were not returned (still not received to date), carnival due to commence in 8 days and substantial fee increases now imposed, the QCTA believe it is fair and reasonable that the carnival should proceed under the 2014 terms of agreement. BGC committee was notified of this intention on 17/6/15 and did not respond. A response was requested by COB the following day 3/7/15.
- 2/7/15 11.43pm Email from BGC JVP (cc Barry Knight, Alex Smith, QCTA Management, guidelines attached) failing to see how non-return of the agreement would affect costs and electing to uphold the proposed fee increase to conduct the carnival, advising '*To that end, we submit that we must reject the QCTA ultimatum to run the event under the 2014 conditions.*'
- No further correspondence was received from BGC.
- 3/7/15 8.23pm Email to BGC (cc Barry Knight, Alex Smith, QCTA Management) thanking the JVP for his professionalism and assistance during negotiations and confirming that as no further correspondence had been received the carnival would not proceed at BGC grounds the following week based on the BGC committee's decision.

In this email the QCTA took pains to reiterate the relevant points in detail:

- The guidelines are the agreement between the state and venue which allows carnivals to proceed with full understanding of costs and responsibilities of both parties. Many expenses had already been paid in good faith that BGC would honour its commitment, eg. Advertising, sashes, medals, engraving, etc. It would have been noted that the provision to apply for any variations to the existing guidelines is listed on page 3 of the document, had they been read.
- The ISSF carnival usually runs at a loss but QCTA is committed to making this event available to Queensland shooters, and for state team selection. Last minute increased fees have a large impact on the total loss of this event.
- BGC confirmed in September 2014 that it would conduct the 2015 carnival, and in writing and as part of the BGC annual calendar on 10th October 2014. Raising host club fees 11 days prior to the carnival was not acceptable and should have been addressed at least six months prior to be considered.
- The same carnival under the same conditions has been successfully conducted at BGC for the past 5 years. Each year both the QCTA and SE Zone ensure there is as little imposition on the club as possible, requesting only trapper's services which are paid for by the state. All other duties, from office workers, board writers, shoot marshals, handicappers, etc. are supplied by the state and zone, even though in accordance with the guidelines some of these duties should be undertaken by the club.
- The BGC club grounds have never been exclusive to the QCTA for this carnival in past years, and practise in other disciplines, beginner groups, coaching and corporate events have always continued in conjunction. A reason given for the increased ground fee was that other activities could not continue during this state carnival, which was inaccurate and the fee increase unjustified.