

# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Summer 2012 – Volume XCI No. 2

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# Welcome

## GROWTH AT BISLEY AND BEYOND

**T**he last quarter has been one of consolidation of the changes we have implemented thus far, as well as facing the same challenges that the NRA and Bisley have encountered for many years. After significant upheaval in terms of staff redundancies, we are settling down with new terms and conditions and new contracts. I do not belittle the change that this has meant for many staff. We are in the midst of recruiting a new Head of Membership and Training, and also a permanent Chief Executive. After considerable interest in this role, we are going through a thorough selection process to determine our preferred candidate. I hope to be able to share the results of this process soon.

Internal developments aside, we continue to struggle to meet the needs of members in some areas. There are two in particular that I would highlight. First, is the footprint of the NRA, to be an Association worthy of the terms "National" and "Rifle". For many shooters in the UK, the NRA is in essence the "Bisley Target Rifle Club". This critique is that the NRA focuses on a narrow slice of shooting disciplines, and with a heavy bias towards Bisley. This view contrasts with the desire for an Association serving the needs of a popular and populous sport with a national coverage. This view does not represent the truth today, but is recognised by the Trustees as a perspective we must address.

As we complete the internal changes required to make the NRA fit for purpose, we are working on initiatives to widen the appeal of the NRA to shooters outside our traditional heartland. This is vital if we are to create the scale needed to fully represent

shooting at a national level in government, statutory and regulatory arenas.

Second, we must recognise that our strategy to achieve this depends pivotally upon making the National Shooting Centre capable of generating the revenues to fund our ambitions both at Bisley and nationally. A particular challenge in that regard is the standard of facilities at Bisley, neglected and starved of investment for far too long.

Thus far, we have refurbished the fixed assets at Bisley only very selectively. There is an awful lot to do. In particular, the provision for caravan sites remains below what we would wish. We have substantially increased the number of cleaners on site and I hope this will generate noticeable improvement. We are gradually introducing keypad locks on ablution blocks to reduce vandalism, and are increasing security on Camp at night. We have refurbished some of the accommodation, and are putting significant investment into range refurbishment.

As we become more confident of our finances we will release further funds, but only as this becomes possible and we will not risk the finances of the Association along the way. My hope is that you will see significant improvements in the next few months, but realistically these will still leave much to do.

As we enter the 2012 shooting season, there is much to look forward to. We will add to our calendar with the Adaptive Championships, and we now offer the opportunity to shoot on Century at up to 200 yards during the NSRA's August event, as they have reduced the requirement during their annual championships.

In terms of training, we continue to promote subsidised RCO and Coaching courses to build the infrastructure within our



sport. In this spirit, we are increasing the number of courses we are running.

On the legislation and gun control front, we continue to be vigilant as government cost reductions add to the existing pressures on the regulation of firearms. Fundamentally, whilst we face challenges, our future remains bright. My thanks go to all those who assisted at the May Open Day, which despite poor weather early in the day turned out to be a success. All who took part were again struck by the diversity of visitors and their enthusiasm. We build tremendous goodwill on these days; generated in large part by the commitment and passion of volunteers. We have vast potential to promote our sport; the NRA must become worthy and capable of exploiting that.

Change of the scale we have undertaken thus far and plan in the future involves risk and dislocation. I would not dispute for a moment that there have been stumbles, but we continue to improve, and for that I have to thank the NRA staff for their perseverance during these changes. One aspect of change that has received mixed reviews is the new-look Journal. So far we have not achieved what we are aiming for, but again, we will improve and we remain committed to a more accessible, less Bisley-centric Journal which promotes the full range of our disciplines, aiming to fully live up to all three of the words in National Rifle Association.

**Derrick Mabbott**



# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



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Carol Beecher RHAD FSHAA  
Hearing Aid Audiologist

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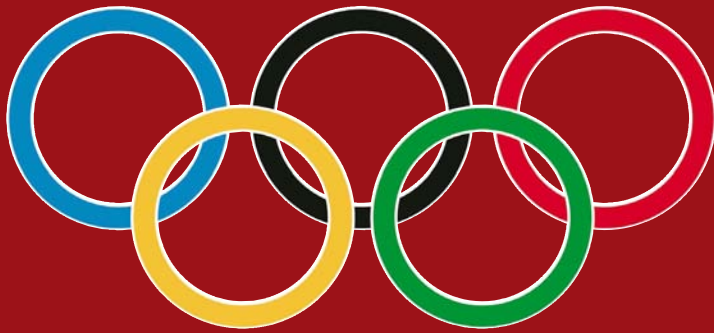
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# Olympic ticket scam

LOCOG and the Metropolitan police are clamping down on fraudulent advertisements for Olympic tickets, which are believed to have appeared in the European press including England and Scotland.

The Met named two companies that are suspected of placing fraudulent advertisements: Rmaster Tickets and

Jetset Sport (not related to the authorised reseller of a similar name, Jet Set Sports).

Neither company is in any way affiliated with any authorised ticket reseller, and neither has the authority to sell tickets. In the run-up to the Olympics, ticket buyers are advised to refer to the list of authorised resellers, which can be found at [www.tickets.london2012.com](http://www.tickets.london2012.com).

## JLK BULLETS ARE BACK

The range of JLK bullets, designed by American shooter Jimmy Knox, is coming back to the UK thanks to Fox Firearms.

The north-western shooting retailer is looking to bring the entire JLK range – comprising 16 bullets in calibres from .224 to .308 – to these shores.

JLK bullets became known for their accuracy, wind resistance, and long-range reliability, but in 2004 Jimmy Knox announced he was retiring from manufacturing. But now production has recommenced, and the bullets are being made the same way, using the same equipment, dies and materials. Once favoured among shooters, these projectiles look set to return to popularity.



## Anschutz moves to RUAG

RUAG Ammotec has announced that it is now sole UK distributor of three brands: Anschutz, Bergara and Docter optics.

Anschutz, well-known to rifle shooters, come to RUAG after the retirement of previous distributor Mike Jacques, director of Frank

Dyke & Co. Bergara rifles and accessories will also be distributed exclusively through RUAG, and the first model that will be available to UK customers will be the BX11, a switch-barrel bolt-action rifle, available in soft-touch black synthetic or American walnut stocks. The third addition to RUAG's distributorships is the range of Docter riflescopes and optics.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### IMPERIAL DRAW WINNERS

Congratulations to Peter Hobson, Matthew Charlton and M J Lidgitt, who are the winners of the Imperial early entry draw and receive 100, 50 and 25 per cent off their entry fees respectively. Charles Cooper won the £100 online entry prize. Online entry was approaching 700 at the time of going to print – you can still enter now, though late entry fees will apply.

#### ANDREW TUCKER JACKETS

Cathy Tucker of Andrew Tucker Jackets has asked us to print the following announcement:

"To all our very faithful customers we wish to announce that as of 1 April 2012 we are no longer producing any jackets nor other shooting equipment.

"With many thanks to all those who have supported us over the last 43 years. Good shooting and good luck."

#### ANTIQUE GUN THEFT

Two antique guns were stolen from a workshop in Chelmsford between 22 and 26 April. The first is an 1865 muzzle-loading rifle with 'Rigby' written down the barrel and 'Whitworths' on the breach plug. It has engraving of corn sheaves and a curled-up dog on the lock plate. The second gun is an 1826-1827 muzzle-loading Springfield shotgun. It is missing its lock and the barrel is held on by three spring heads.

Anyone who has any information should call Essex Police, reference '0265 of 26.04.12' and ask for PC 71297 Harrison.

#### MAURICE AYLING

We are sad to report the death of Maurice Ayling, who passed away on 21 May. His funeral took place on 30 May at Chichester Crematorium. All our thoughts go out to his family.

# 10 Olympic athletes unveiled

The shooters chosen to represent Team GB in the Olympic shooting disciplines were finally announced at a press event at the Tower of London on 28 May.

Jonathan Hammond, a double Commonwealth gold medallist in 2010, will compete in the men's prone rifle and three-position rifle, while James Huckle will contest those two events alongside the 10-metre air rifle.

British number one lady pistol shooter, Gorgs Geikie, has been nominated for the women's pistol and air pistol. She was given the honour of carrying the Olympic torch through her hometown of Okehampton, Devon, in May.

Jen McIntosh, also a double Commonwealth champion, is Team GB's nomination for the women's rifle and air rifle.

For more information on the Olympics, see our special report on page 35.

TEAM GB OFFICIAL SELECTION	
Olympic Skeet Women	Elena Allen
Olympic Trap Men	Ed Ling
25m Pistol Women	Georgina Geikie
Three Positions Rifle Men	James Huckle
Air Rifle Women	Jennifer McIntosh
Prone Rifle Men	Jonathan Hammond
Olympic Double Trap	Peter Wilson
Olympic Skeet Men	Richard Brickell
Olympic Double Trap	Richard Faulds
Olympic Skeet Men	Rory Warlow
Olympic Trap Women	TBC

# PARALYMPIC ATHLETES ANNOUNCED

The British Paralympic Association (BPA) has announced the names of the 11 athletes that make up the shooting squad for the London Paralympic Games 2012.

Notable among the selection is Di Coates, who has competed at every Paralympics since the 1984 Stoke Mandeville games. This makes her the most

experienced member of the Paralympics GB team, and likely the only member of Paralympics GB or Team GB who has an experience of a home Games.

Sydney gold medallist Di said: "I am very honoured to find out that I have been selected for my eighth Paralympic Games. To compete at a Paralympic

Games is the pinnacle of any athlete's career and I am so pleased to have achieved this once again.  
"If anyone had told me all those years ago that I would be preparing to compete in my eighth Paralympics, I'd have laughed, but here I am and I cannot wait to get out there again."



## The full list of Paralympic shooters is:

- James Bevis
- Adrian Bunclark
- Ryan Cockbill
- Richard Davies
- Adam Fountain
- Ben Jesson
- Nathan Milgate
- Matt Skelhon
- Karen Butler
- Georgina Callingham
- Di Coates
- Many Pankhurst

# NEW CENTRES OF RELOADING EXPERTISE

The latest initiative from shooting products distributor Edgar Brothers will see target reloaders catered for in a comprehensive way.  
The National Reloading Centre Programme, announced on 4 May, will see a hand-picked network of retailers join the scheme, which will result in increased

stocks of reloading products as well as staff training.  
A tailored, trade-only BASC reloading course will enhance retailers' understanding of home-loading and enable them to pass this on to customers.  
Edgar Brothers' managing director Derek Edgar said: "For some time now we have

seen a steady increase in our own sales of these products and a surge in enquiries from customers waiting information."  
Hornady's vice president Jason Hornady said: "We hope the reloading public welcomes this unprecedented availability and that it helps them enjoy shooting sports more than ever."



## INCREASING SECURITY

As you are aware, we have sought to improve security on Bisley Camp in line with guidance we have received from the police. We have implemented security from 7pm to 7am with periodic patrols around Camp.

Thus far, we have been leaving the gate unattended while the security guard goes on those patrols. We have now agreed with the MoD and with the police a new procedure, effective from 28 May, whereby the gate will be padlocked while the guard is on patrol. The MoD and emergency services will have access through separate arrangements, but for those seeking access when the guard is away, a mobile number (07500 669663) is printed on the barrier. Should you arrive while he is on patrol, please call that number and he will return to let you in.

Clearly this is far less convenient than just leaving the gate open while unattended. The alternatives are:

- Eliminating patrols, which limits the impact of our security
- Employing a second guard, which we cannot afford right now
- Implementing a card entry scheme, which while we may move to, is again an expensive option
- Staying as we are, leaving the gate open and unattended.

Our choice, guided by advice from

the police, is to adopt the approach of locking the gate. Clearly we want to see how this works, and I know that I will receive your feedback, but this is an attempt to further improve our security.

Bisley Camp is a massive facility and will never be wholly secure. It remains a responsibility for all of us to be watchful, and for those staying on Camp I thoroughly recommend Frank Cox's Bisleywatch scheme, details of which can be obtained from Frank at Bunhill Lodge on [fc@frankcox.plus.com](mailto:fc@frankcox.plus.com).



## HOBSON'S WAY – THE ROAD TO SHORT SIBERIA AND CAR PARKS

By the time this Journal reaches you, we should have completed repair works on Hobson's Way. After months of dialogue with Natural England, we have achieved a far better working relationship than we have had in the past. They have clarified for us the precise areas of SSSI and this has allowed us to move forward on a number of areas of acute need. We have been working to rake back the surface of the road, fill the holes and tamp them down. Given the nature of the surface and the drainage, this will not be a permanent solution, and the 10mph speed limit is important, as it reduces the extent to which the gravel will pop up and out.

The new understanding with Natural England has enabled us to extend the Short Siberia car-park, while we have just received planning permission to double the width of the 300 yard car park on Century.

## FIRING POINTS

With a new sub-committee under the aegis of the Shooting Committee, we are focusing on the repair of the firing points on Stickledown. We have re-turfed areas on the 900, 1,000 and 1,200-yard firing points. This new group will work with the Estates team to prioritise the refurbishment of the firing points over time.

*More notices on page 59.*

## NRA SEEKS TRUSTEES

The National Rifle Association (NRA) of the UK is a sports national governing body with charity status. The Association's Council (Board of Trustees) is seeking to co-opt additional trustees to support an ongoing, challenging, business improvement initiative.

Candidates for this role will need to demonstrate practical and relevant commercial development experience –

preferably in the retail and/or leisure industries. A strong financial background would be advantageous and a formal qualification such as an FCA would be a bonus. A track record in competitive shooting is not necessary, though previous experience of working in the charity sector would be beneficial.

It is essential that the new trustee is prepared to commit significant time and effort to the role; a minimum of 30 days of effort per year will be required (some of this will be during evenings and weekends) and there will be the opportunity to commit considerably more. Note that the role is unremunerated. Anyone interested in this role should send a CV to Derrick Mabbott, NRA acting Chief Executive, at [derrick.mabbott@nra.org.uk](mailto:derrick.mabbott@nra.org.uk).

## NRA GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2012

### ORDINARY MEMBERS

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

**GK Alexander, CM Brooks, EJ Gardener, J Kynoch**

### REGIONAL MEMBERS

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

**Mrs ID Bennett** - West Midlands

**PR Coley** - South Western

**GAE Larcombe** - Southern

**JF Miller** - Greater London & South East

**MP Watkins** - Wales

### SHOOTING DISCIPLINE MEMBERS

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

**P Hunter** - Civilian Service Rifle & Practical Rifle

**AM Bullen** - Sporting Rifle

*There will be an election for the Target Shotgun Representative.*

## AGM NOTIFICATION FOR 2012

Due to a delay in the preparation of the National Rifle Association accounts for 2011, the Council has decided that the Annual General Meeting should be adjourned until 5.30pm Wednesday 27 June 2012.

To allow this to occur, the previously notified Annual General Meeting due to take place at 5.30pm 15 June 2012 will be opened and immediately adjourned until 27 June 2011.

When the Association's accounts have been finalised they will be sent to all members by email. If you require a printed copy of the accounts please contact NRA Reception so that they can be sent to you as soon as they are produced.

The Council of the National Rifle Association apologises for any inconvenience that this may cause to the association's members.



## SCOTTISH LONG RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

**BY TIM KIDNER**

In cool but dry conditions the Scottish Long Range Championships at Blair Atholl on 2-4 June were by tricky wind conditions, particularly at 1000 yards with changes in wind strength and angle. Quick shooting was essential to avoid getting caught by some big changes, resulting in the absence of any maximum scores in the TR competitions. The Championships are shot over two days and involve shooting 2+15 to count three times at 900 yards and three times at 1,000. TR and F/TR shoot at the standard NRA long range targets and F-Open class shoot at the F-Class long range targets.

All the shooting was on the electronic targets which worked very well though some shooters, both TR and F-Class, managed to shoot on the wrong target. Cries of 'Where's my shot?' were met by the reply 'It's over here!' In the TR group Richard Scott coped best with the conditions and finished on 427.42, five

points ahead of Simon Glen with Tim Kidner in third place 1 point behind. The first shoot at 900X resulted in a tie on 74.7v between Richard Scott and John Potter. In the tie shoot they both scored 25, Richard with four centrals to John's three. However, Potter won the first shoot at 1,000 yards with a score of 72.4, the only TR score at 1,000 above 70 for the whole weekend.

Scoring in the F/TR class was higher with Paul Crosbie getting possibles in all 3 of the 900X shoots (225.33), finishing the Grand Aggregate on 433.55 closely followed by Peter Burbridge on 433.49. F-Open class shooters using the tight F-Class long-range targets found the conditions very testing with only a few scores above 70 at 900 and none at 1,000. Des Parr came out top with a score of 401.21, five points ahead of Hugh Inglis.

*For more match reports, see the extended reports section starting on page 23.*



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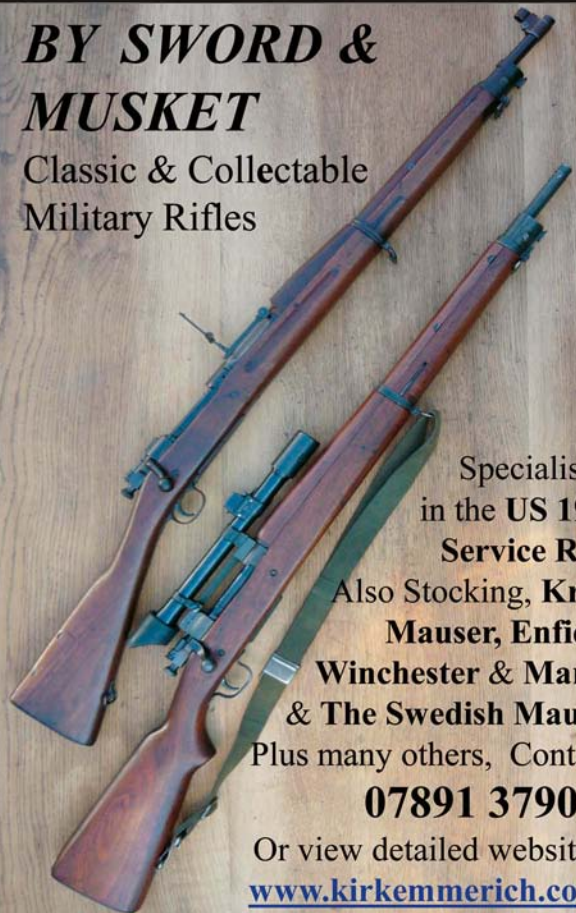
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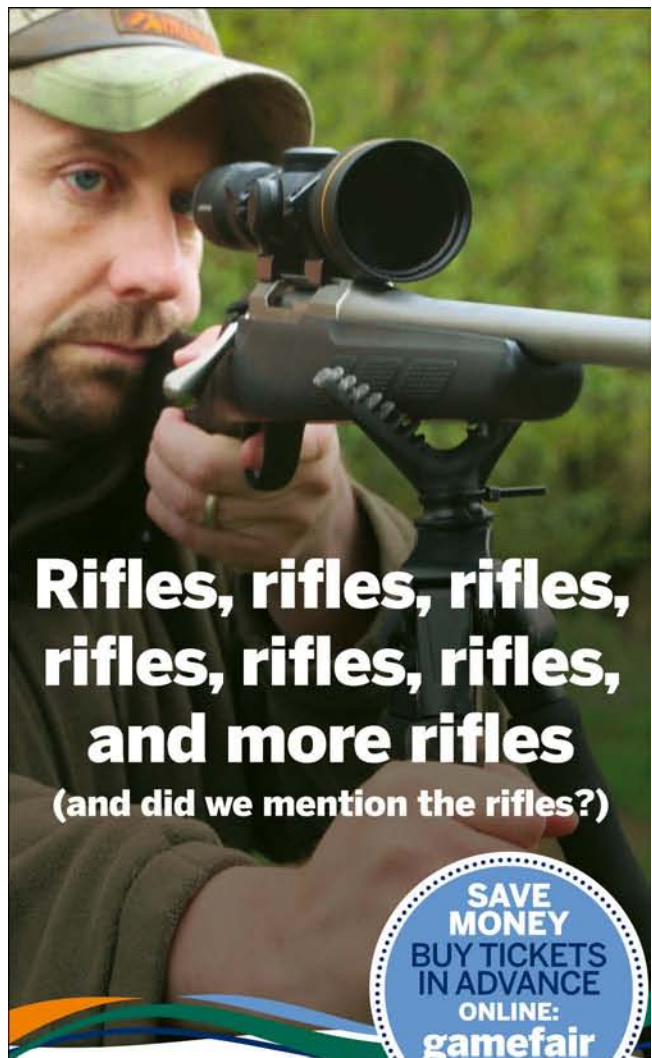
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# Rifles, rifles, rifles, rifles, rifles, rifles, and more rifles

(and did we mention the rifles?)

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# The *spirit* of the original

What are historic and classic arms all about, and how can you get into shooting them? Rae Wills has the low-down for beginners

**S**o you are interested in shooting and have seen many old rifles in the documentaries on television, and you would like to know more about them. Perhaps you have seen them at one of the NRA Open days, but have been put off as many of us may admit to having more than one grey hair and can appear rather formidable. But do not despair. Once you take the plunge you will find they are some of the most welcoming people in the world of sport and are only too anxious to help the newcomer and tell them all about the guns they own – sometimes at great length.

So what are Historic and Classic arms? The Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain – otherwise known as the MLAGB – looks after that generation, though of course only muzzle-loading pistols are available to all. Historic & Classic Arms are any firearm made between the introduction of the metallic cartridge and 1946 – there are now some accepted after that date, too. Importantly, most are very usable in modern competitions and some still win against the best and most modern.

So where to begin in a discipline that involves practically every form of target shooting, from Target Rifle to Cowboy Action, through snap shooting at fleeting targets and Rapid Fire, to every type of Gallery Rifle target, and not forgetting the black powder cartridge and early shotguns? What is involved, and how do you get started?

Let's go from the beginning, when Historic & Classic Arms were first conceived and became a recognised discipline within the

NRA. It was 30 years ago when Jim Hallam and some friends in the South London Rifle Club realised that many older guns were not being used. Some were even being scrapped. So they established competitions and other events with the idea of encouraging the use of historic arms. Those small meetings have now grown into the two main events of the year: the Imperial Historic Arms weekend in the July Imperial Meeting, and the Trafalgar in October. And there are many other smaller competitions and club events throughout the year.

Now for the practicalities. If you are a newcomer, entry is the same as for any other form of rifle shooting. You join a Home Office-approved rifle club and undergo a course of instruction qualifying you to be certified as safe to use a firearm. Then you can apply to the police for your first firearms certificate (FAC). The NRA also runs its own club at Bisley, and holds regular courses of instruction there.

But a word of caution: many historic rifles that use ammunition on the Home Office Obsolete Calibres list may be bought without any licence at all, as a curiosity or ornament, as the law says. But if you are going to shoot them, you must obtain an FAC for them.

So what firearms are there? And I suppose another question that comes into most of our minds is: What it is going to cost? Certainly if you become a serious collector, rifles can become very expensive. But do not despair. Although shooting as a hobby is never that cheap, for a beginner an ex-military rifle such as a



Mauser 98k, a Lee Enfield No 4 or a Russian Moisin Nagant can be had for around £300 or less. You can get better ones for £400-600. But if you want a rifle such as a British World War Two sniper – say, the Enfield No 4T with a matching No 32 telescopic sight – do not start looking unless you have at least £3,500 in your pocket!

But do not forget the humble .22. In general they have not become of great interest to collectors, and as a result you can get some very interesting historic items for £100 or less, and ammunition say £7-8 for 100 rounds – less if old stock or in bulk.

Now how about centrefire ammunition for these older guns? Until a few years ago it was a problem to source this, but now there are a number of manufacturers producing the most common historic calibres. But like all ammunition today, it is not cheap. For example, the ammo made by Prvi Partisan will cost you around £60 to £75 for 100. Sometimes military surplus is also available – with all the wars going on at the present time it can be relatively scarce, but the Russian calibres can usually be obtained at a price of about £30 for 100. Also, the fired brass cases, unlike the Russian steel ones, are very suitable for reloading, which all helps to keep the costs down. For shooting up to about 200 yards, cartridges loaded with cast lead bullets and reduced charges can make it even cheaper.



And for others, such as the black powder .577 Snider or the .45 Martini Henry, you can buy empty cases for loading yourself, while for some of the older and rarer calibres such as the Dreyse needle fire it is possible to make the required paper cases from scratch.

With thousands of different rifles, it became almost impossible to have a detailed rule book covering all the different types and sizes. And there have to be some rules, so there is one general principle that covers all our activities: all is conducted 'in the spirit of the original'. In other words, as far as possible everything is done with firearms and equipment appropriate to their age. So if your rifle is missing some part, it is ok to have a replica made as long as it is as close as possible to the original.

This extends to modern reproductions of historic rifles like the ones made by Pedersoli, Pietta and many others. Also many modern lever-action rifles are sufficiently close to the original design to qualify – but take off that all-bells-and-whistles red dot sight. 'Spirit of the original' it is not!

For competition purposes, rifles are split into age classes by design date: Vintage up to 1891, Classic up to 1918, Veteran up to 1946, and special Classes for some Post Veteran after 1946.

Now we have an idea of what rifle we would like and what type of shooting we would like to do, where do we get started? Well, we have already found out that the NRA and most Home Office-approved clubs have suitable beginners' courses, but you will probably wish to join a club whose aim is more specialised.

The principal club is the Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association (HBSA). This club holds regular shoots at Bisley and elsewhere; it also has lectures on firearm matters and other items of interest on a Monday evening once a month at the Imperial War Museum in London. Lectures also take place at branches in South Wales and at the Imperial War Museum North, Leeds. For the dedicated Lee Enfield fan, meanwhile, there is the Lee Enfield Rifle Association (LERA). There are there are others too, such as the Single Shot Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Club of Great Britain or the British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) for historic sporting rifles.





**Powder room: Muzzle-loading pistols are available to all**

On top of this, you may not know there are special provisions in the Firearms Act to allow shooters to keep certain historic centrefire and rimfire pistols, under a system that is generally known by the clauses in the Act that authorise them. Section 7(1) allows certain pistols before 1918 to be kept at home by a collector – but without ammunition, so they cannot be fired at all. Under section 7(3) other pistols can be kept and fired, but they must be kept in specially designated armouries and ranges together with their ammunition – they can never be taken home or moved from the site without express permission from the police. There is such a centre at Bisley, and there are other sites around the country.

The rules governing these exemptions are too extensive to deal with in this article, but details can be found on the Home Office website. This provision is only allowed to the serious collector and researcher, and the relevant FAC is not given lightly. The firearm must be of particular historic interest or value, or form part of a themed collection such as “Webley pistols of World War I”. However, if you are genuinely interested in this area, those Firearms Dealers authorised to sell such firearms otherwise prohibited under Section 5 of the Firearms Act can advise you further, as can the HBSA.

And if you have not been to an NRA Open day, the next one is on the 8 September. You must book online in advance – see [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk) for this and all other NRA events. There you will be able shoot a great choice of Historic and Classic rifles, and there will be a small display with many staff to help and advise you. ■



## ORGANISATIONS

**Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association:**

[www.hbsa-uk.isonlinehere.com](http://www.hbsa-uk.isonlinehere.com)

**Lee Enfield Rifle Association:**

[www.leeenfieldrifleassociation.org.uk](http://www.leeenfieldrifleassociation.org.uk)

**Single Shot Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Club of Great Britain:**

[www.ssbpcrc.co.uk/html](http://www.ssbpcrc.co.uk/html)

**British Sporting Rifle Club:**

[www.bsrc.co.uk](http://www.bsrc.co.uk)

**Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain:**

[www.mlagb.com](http://www.mlagb.com)



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## HEAR, HEAR

I read with interest Prof Andrew King's article in the last Journal on the use of ear protection.

I applaud the inclusion of the article as I am one of those who has suffered high-pitch hearing loss from my time shooting. However, the final sentence ("...so it is vitally important that appropriate ear protectors are used when firing a rifle") missed a vital point: the absolute need to wear ear protection behind the point as well.

When I started shooting at 14 years old, I never wore any form of ear protection once off the point, despite gun fire being only yards away. The need for this protection was never made clear to me, and only until I stopped being able to hear in certain situations did I realise I had a problem and that Tim Elliot, with his 9mm cases in his ears, was streets ahead of us all.

As pointed out by Prof King, I now find conversations in crowded noisy rooms incredibly difficult and have to lip read to help, cannot hear phones ringing or car alarms (a blessing really).

Please ensure that this message gets to the younger readers so that they can avoid the mistake I, and I'm sure others, have made.

**Glyn Barnett**

## CLUB TOGETHER

How refreshing it is to get a NRA magazine that is interesting to read – well done. Being a member of a club in the backwoods, I find it enlightening to see other ranges and disciplines being mentioned without forgetting target shooters. We do need a unifying force that can speak with authority for all the shooting fraternity, but this must be achieved by consensus.

Regards

**Paul Beavan**

## CHANGE WE CAN'T BELIEVE IN

Whether it is needed or not, no one likes change. Change has to be carefully managed by any institution, both from an internal point of view with internal rearrangements and from the external perception of what was and the loss of what felt comfortable.

The membership of the NRA spans many decades and generations, it has traditions steeped in history spanning two centuries. Some of these will be at the heart of the need for change, and some will keep the place afloat and membership loyal while they ride that change.

The NRA Journal is one of those changes that I feel is not a positive one. The look is messy, font too small or flowery, overlapping pictures with conflicting colours, and adverts so frequent it's like American TV. Editing is inaccurate (I bet it's not done by anyone that shoots) and content disappointing. It's trying too hard to be something it's not meant to be and should never be.

While I am one for accepting change if required and playing the game, the previous Journal was easy on the eyes, comfortably predictable, relevant and informative. It is one thing that should not have changed.

**Glyn Barnett**





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A man wearing a green cap with a red logo, yellow-rimmed sunglasses, and a green shirt is aiming a black Benelli M2 target shotgun. He is wearing a watch with a green face and black strap on his left wrist. The background is a dense green foliage.

# **BENELLI M2** **TARGET SHOTGUN**

**Target  
shotgun is  
a growing  
discipline and  
one where  
modified or  
converted  
guns are  
highly popular.  
Tim Finley  
reviews one  
finely tuned  
specimen**

I had not heard of target shotgun shooting until I saw it at being shot at Bisley in 2009. Straight away I knew I had to shoot the event. I already shot Timed and Precision 1 and Multi Target with a .22 calibre long-barrelled firearm and my .22 semi-auto rifle – it was then I found out they can also be shot with a shotgun using solid slug.

Given the courses of fire, you have to use a shotgun capable of holding more than three shots. This instantly takes it into the realms of a Section 1 firearm. It has to hold a minimum of six cartridges for TP1 and MT – but if you are buying a Section 1 shotgun it makes sense not to restrict it to just six but to go for a number that'll be useful in practical shotgun as well, as almost all of the competitors I know who shoot target shotgun also shoot practical shotgun too. Here you may run into a problem when trying to buy a suitable shotgun for both disciplines.

Don't get me wrong – there are shotguns that are perfectly suitable for target shotgun straight off the shelf, which have 7+1 capacities – meaning they can take seven cartridges in the internal magazine and one in the chamber. But when it comes to practical

shotgun and the standard class for IPSC/UKPSA events, you can now have eight in the mag and one in the chamber. If you want a shotgun with this capacity, you need to fit an extension tube to the magazine.

The choice of what type and make of shotgun for target shotgun events does not end there. You can have a pump-action to compete in the manual class for target shotgun or a semi-auto for – you guessed it – the semi-auto class. When it comes to the semi-auto class you have a choice of operating systems. Either gas operation, where gases from the fired cartridge are used to cycle the action to feed another cartridge into the chamber, or an inertial system, which relies upon the recoil generated by the cartridge upon firing to cycle the action. The latter system is preferred by the military as it does not need to be kept spotlessly clean and can operate in harsher environments. I also prefer it as it requires less cleaning and is very reliable when you use the right cartridges.

With an inertial-operated gun, you have to use cartridges powerful enough to cycle the action every time. I use 32g in my inertial-operated M1. The shooter also needs to 'hold on' to the gun to ensure consistent,





reliable recoil. I use a second-hand Benelli M1 for target and practical shotgun. I came 11th in the first ever National Target Shotgun Championships held in 2010 – not bad for was the first time I had ever shot in a target shotgun competition.

Dave Wyld of Valkyrie Rifles won the 2011 event. Dave builds both target and practical shotguns, and his Benelli M2 conversion is one of the best in the business. The M2 is the Benelli semi-auto shotgun currently made, which makes the best base model for such a competition gun. They make a Practical model, which is available with a 24in barrel. This complies with UK laws and is also comes as a 5+1 gun as standard. As I said before, this is fine if you only ever want to do target shotgun, but if you want the option of doing practical too (who wouldn't?) then that too needs an extension tube.

The other competition you can shoot at Bisley is the Embassy Cup. This requires the competitor to reload during each course of fire and move into a different shooting stance during each of the three stages. It is an exciting event to both watch and shoot. This reload has to be fast, and is akin

to practical shotgun where the ability to quickly reload the gun is key.

Dave ensures the guns he builds are at their optimum by fitting a larger action release button in place of the fairly small Benelli original. He also fits a larger bolt handle. Depending upon the customer's wishes, the new bolt handle can either be a GG&G roller or a Nordic Components type. The gun on review here features a Nordic, though I prefer the GG&G roller type myself. He makes the larger action release buttons himself on his lathe out of solid round bar and then Duracoats them black to match the black action of the shotgun. The size of the button can vary depending upon the customer's preference. He can also make stainless steel buttons to match the stainless action of Benelli M3s.

There are various lengths/capacities of magazine extension tube that Dave can fit. The standard magazine tube is removed from the gun and machined down in the lathe, putting a polished and angled incline on the magazine tube mouth where it meets the new extension. The one fitted on this 24in-barrelled M2 holds nine cartridges and does not

**Above top: To the fore – The larger front bead sight, fitted by Valkyrie**

**Above left: Size matters – The new, larger bolt handle**

**Above right: The work done on the entry to the magazine is clear to see**



**Above: Tight grouping - This is what it's all about**



extend past the end of the barrel. This firstly protects the magazine from the blast damage always seen on modified class guns, and also keeps the weight back towards the shooter when the magazine is fully stoked up. It looks the part too.

Dave recommends that a new, sturdier magazine/barrel clamp is fitted, and I agree with him. While the magazine tube is off the action, the gun is internally ported to allow easier feeding into the mag, and all sharp edges are radiused and polished. Internal parts are also modified to make feeding easier – this last bit is to Dave's own specification.

All these little touches are key in making the gun competition-ready from the outset. A new gun fresh from the factory does not have the smoothed-out internals that a target/practical shotgun needs. That is what Dave prides himself on: he knows what is required in a gun to make it a winner and so cuts no corners in producing a custom tool the customer knows is perfect for the job in hand.

Dave also takes off the sharp edges on the action of either side of the loading gate, which I know from bitter experience is a job that really needs doing. The magazine follower on the review gun is a Nordic Components red-coloured alloy one. Dave normally fits a Teflon-coated grey magazine follower to ensure it does not snag up in the magazine tube. The bright red one makes it easier to see the follower and know there are no more cartridges left in the magazine. I have fallen foul of this potential problem early in my target shotgun career and was disqualified, so I am seriously considering fitting a red one on my own Benelli M1.

The M2 here features the ComforTech stock, which purports to cut down on felt recoil by as

much as 47 per cent as well as cutting barrel uplift by 37 per cent. The lesser barrel uplift would give a great advantage on Multi Target and Timed and Precision 1 events at Bisley, as well as the time-pressured Embassy Cup. The ComforTech butt pad is filled with a special gel, and the butt increases the surface area in contact with the shooter's shoulder, decreasing the felt recoil. The rear stock has 11 boomerang-shaped polymer inserts, which are part of the recoil-softening system, and even the cheekpiece has a gel insert to protect the face from the effects of recoil.

As for the sights on this M2, Dave has fitted a fibre-optic bead to the end of the barrel. It is 70mm long with the rear 40mm on a covered tube. This is not as daft as it sounds as the shooter has to get their eye in the correct position to read the whole of the red dot. Very clever, and perfect for placing that slug in the centre scoring ring

To cater for those target shotgun competitors that fit optical sights, Dave can fit a Picatinny rail by drilling and tapping the top of the action. The scope rail is then Defcon'd on to ensure it does not come off under the punishing recoil of a shotgun firing the heavy slug rounds used in Target shotgun competitions.

#### TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS: BENELLI M2

Manufacturer	Benelli Armi SpA
Country of Origin	Italy
Customiser	Valkyrie Rifles 07889 388378 www.valkyrierifles.net
Model	M2 ComforTech Target/Practical
Calibre	12-bore
Action	Semi-auto inertia
Capacity	9 + 1
Length	1,150mm (45¼in)
Pull length	360mm (14¼in)
Weight	3.35kg (7lb 6oz)
Barrel length	610mm (24in)
Stock	Ambidextrous synthetic with recoil pad
Sights	Open fibre optic (additional to standard sights)
Trigger weight	2.75kg (6lb)
Price	Around £1,700

The specification of this gun means it can be used for both target and practical shotgun. Just look at the work done on the internal magazine feed area and you can see nothing overlooked. It's not just a case of bolting on a few bits – a lot of work goes unseen. One place you can see it is in the entry to the magazine tube – the polished smooth edges make loading this M2 a dream. I hated to part with this M2; with the ComforTech stock and polished internals, it makes my old M1 seem second-rate. ■



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C424	7.92 x 33 Kurz	£47.90
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B009	30 FMJ BT 145gr	£17.26
B007	30 FMJ 139gr	£17.26
B099	30 FMJ 150gr	£17.26
B496	308 Match HPBT 168gr	£20.94
B345	30 FMJ BT 174gr	£17.26
B366	30 FMJ BT 175gr	£17.26
B074	7.62mm FMJ 123gr	£16.60
B143	303 FMJ BT 174gr	£17.26
B437	303 FMJ BT 170gr <b>NEW</b>	£17.26
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## With over 500 competitors and 50 new records set, the numbers say it all as to the success of the Phoenix Meeting 2012. Alan Whittle reports from the ranges

**T**he popularity of the Phoenix Meeting never seems to wane. This year, despite the continuing financial adversity, more than 520 competitors shot over 3,100 match cards, equalling last year's entry levels. Each of the different meetings at Bisley has its own distinct character, so this year I tried to find out what it is about the Phoenix Meeting that sustains its attraction.

The sheer size and diversity must have something to do with it. The NRA website states that the availability of shooting at the Phoenix is from 15 to 1,000 yards – in fact, since the introduction of airgun events, this could be revised to 7 to 1,000. More than any other meeting, the Phoenix provides a rallying point for shooters from all disciplines over a single weekend – so I went to have a look at some of the events I have never tried.

Cheylesmore Range hosts the 25-metre Precision, Granet and Imperial Silhouettes gallery rifle matches. The last two events have their roots in the Imperial Meeting and were adopted by the Phoenix a couple of years ago – they say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Also on Cheylesmore are the muzzle-loading pistol events. There is something strangely spectacular about a full line of shooters firing simultaneously and almost in unison in the rapid fire stages of a Timed and Precision or Multi-target match. My only reservation is that it seems inequitable that the modern nitro-conversion muzzle loaders compete in the same class as the origin and spirit of the original black powder firearms, but should entry levels improve I am sure this can be addressed.

On the Century range there was an eclectic mix of firearms ancient and modern, sharing the 100-, 200- and 300-yard firing

points. The small .22 rimfire long-barrelled pistols and larger centrefire revolvers shooting from home-built 'flying machines', the stalking rifles from crossed sticks, and the various military rifle classes combined with the gallery rifles shot from standing, sitting and prone positions as the distance increased. Perhaps the most impressive spectacle was the 100- and 200-yard shotgun event using  $\frac{3}{4}$ in calibre slugs weighing an ounce each in their 12-bore high-capacity Section 1 shotguns – wisely, in my opinion, missing out the 300-yard option.

Shotguns also featured on Short Siberia, which hosted the apparent anomaly of the Target Shotgun events. There are two basic matches using the Timed and Precision One and Multi-target courses of fire, with the ranges of each practice increased slightly – I was told this was to make it all slightly 'more challenging'. In addition, the BDMP Embassy Cup Match, imported from Germany, combines multi-position shooting with rapid fire and load stages as a further source of confusion. Competitors' achievements at 30 metres demonstrated the need for prior zeroing, with no sighters permitted, but also turned up surprisingly good group sizes and the potential for excellent scores.

Target shotgun also features classic classes for double-barrelled guns, but I would check carefully before sending those whacking great slugs down the tube of your precious antique. You may prefer to use a 'spirit of the original' firearm of humbler heritage. It seems the powerful factory slug cartridges are being increasingly supplemented by home loads that provide more manageable recoil, and some cost savings too.



Melville, Running Deer, Time Limit and Butt Zero on Stickledown hosted the traditional gallery rifle events, which include the long-barrelled pistol and revolver classes. I shot several matches here, and even the damp Sunday morning weather did not deter hardy shooters, with many details full to capacity and the most popular events sold out.

The McQueen snap shooting event, which has proved increasingly popular, has added an 'issue rifle' class. Competitors I spoke to told me this gives 'turn up and have a go' shooters a chance to take part without the outlay of expensive equipment – a great idea, I think. I did not get a chance to visit the longer-range events, but few trophies went unclaimed at the prizegiving so it seems entry levels here were sustained or improved upon.

Let's take a look at some of the top performances. There were 50 new records set at the 2012 Phoenix; 13 of these were for new events and thus represent first-time scores setting the standard to be bettered next time. Three of the records were also new British records: Clive Ferguson dropped only three points with his long-barrelled pistol in the 1500 Match, scoring an excellent 1497 (104x), Chris West made a second perfect score of 1920 (following a similar feat at the 2011 Phoenix) in the GRCF Bianchi Cup and increased his x-count to 165; and Morné van Dalen



I would check carefully before sending those whacking great slugs down the tube of your precious antique. You may prefer to use a 'spirit of the original' firearm of humbler heritage

scored a maximum 180 (25x) in the long barrelled revolver Advancing Target Match.

Morné van Dalen also made maximum in the Advancing Target GRCF Open class. Other maximums included Matthew Peppitt's 300 (21x) in the GRCF Classic Timed and Precision One – and modesty prevents me from dwelling for too long on my personal 180 (24x) in the Classic GRCF Advancing Target.

I have already mentioned the potential accuracy of the target shotgun. John Chambers gave practical examples with a 297 (14x) in the Timed and Precision One shotgun event and followed it with a 120 in the BDMP Embassy Cup semi-auto class. The full results and records will be on the NRA website by the time of printing, but a big





well done to all who made records, won medals or just posted their personal best scores.

Listing some of the achievements may have answered the question I posed at the outset: Why is the Phoenix so popular? Some of the events are only featured at the Phoenix and therefore provide the only chance to compete at the highest level. And as the scores testify, the meeting attracts some of the country's best shooters so the sense of achievement is all the greater when you win.

### The Phoenix International Match

The Bank Holiday Monday following the Phoenix has hosted an International 1500 Match for many years, with classes for standard Gallery Rifle Centrefire (GRCF) and for Gallery Rifle Small-Bore (GRSB). The competition has expanded to include teams from four nations – Germany, Ireland, South Africa and Great Britain – and the results have historically been close. 2012 was no different, and the match scores (out of a maximum possible 6,000) are shown in the table below.

Congratulations to Great Britain, but they may find it more difficult at the next Gallery Rifle International in Ireland in July, not to mention the Internationals scheduled for South Africa in September and Germany in November.

Individual performances of note include David Hackett for Great Britain, who was top scorer in the GRCF with 1496 (109x) ahead of John Robinson for Ireland with 1493 (122x). Meanwhile, International Match debutant Keith Edwards showed great poise for Great Britain in the GRSB Match, dropping only 12 points for an excellent 1488 (96x).

There is just enough space left to thank everyone who volunteered to help out at the Phoenix. Without their efforts this celebration of shooting would not be possible. ■



#### INTERNATIONAL MATCH RESULTS

	GRCF	GRSB
Great Britain	5968 (427x)	5907 (353x)
Republic of Ireland	5929 (359x)	5863 (342x)
Germany	5907 (340x)	5823 (244x)
South Africa	5907 (337x)	5812 (270x)



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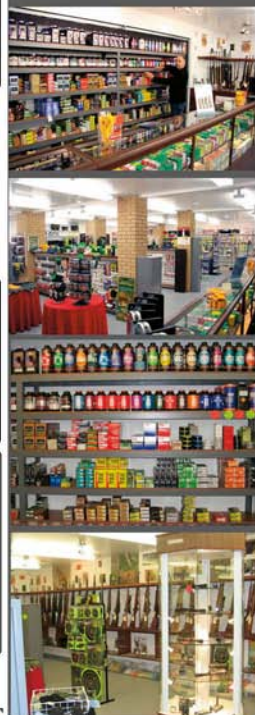
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# THE ROARING TWENTY



Stormy weather: The competitors shoot at 500 yards as the clouds gather

## The English Twenty Club's Spring Meeting on 2-4 June might have seen bad weather – but as **BJ Burns** found, that didn't affect the turnout or the performances

The good weather of the previous week deteriorated into something of a test of resourcefulness for the 90 competitors in the English Twenty Club's Open Spring Championship at Bisley. Tom Rylands and his team masterminded the event, which featured online entry, squadding and the full results service courtesy of Paul Wheeler's excellent computer programme. Indeed, the results were posted on the English Twenty website within an hour of the last shots in each match going down the range. If you ask him, Paul will be happy to tell you more about his comprehensive programme through the English Twenty Club.

HPS had produced a new batch of ammunition in steel cases for testing at the meeting. It proved to be extremely accurate, as witnessed by the high scoring in some difficult conditions. What is more, the benefit to the shooter in these economically difficult times was a price some 25 pence per round below other currently available, commercially produced quality ammunition. It just shows that it can be done.

Tricky winds from over right shoulders dominated the Association match (Queen's I) on Saturday, but ENT consultant surgeon Parag





Jon Underwood (left) contends with tricky winds coming over the left shoulder



On the ball: Nigel Ball on the firing point at 500 yards

Patel led the field home with 104.15 ahead of John Stevens, Henry Day and Gary Childs on equal points but 14, 13 and 10 central bull's eyes respectively.

On Sunday, intermittent misting rain plagued the day for the Second Stage. Despite this there were five maximum 150s and seven 149s. The best maximum went to Paul Kent with 27 centrals, while Tom Rylands and Jon Underwood were right behind him on 23 and 22 centrals.

Conditions worsened as the afternoon wore on into the Cortis at 600 yards. A heavy rainstorm in the middle of the second detail caused no small amount of problems. Nevertheless David Rose, Simon Belither, Kelvin Ramsey and Paul Sykes all made maximum 75s, counting out on centrals in that order.

The hard luck story of the event was Parag Patel, who foresook his place in the first detail to deal with a medical emergency on Stickledown Hill only to catch the rainstorm as he returned to a spare place in the second detail. But he slotted 74 despite the additional handicap. Kent took the Sunday Aggregate from Patel and Ramsey, once again on centrals.

On Monday, the drizzle cleared just before the first detail of the Long at 900 yards – but it was biting cold with a fresh north-easterly breeze that chopped and changed. The best two of five maximum 75s, the two Pauls (Kent and Sykes), tied with 75.13 for the Long and had to count back to Sykes' fifth shot, where a 5 gave way to Kent's central. Jeremy Thompson was the only 74 in the Final at 1,000 yards, ahead of Simon Belither and Sykes again, both on 73.8.

It was his fine, consistent shooting in these two matches that gave Paul Sykes the Grand Aggregate title (and the Monday Aggregate) by one point from Kent with a consistent Kelvin Ramsey third. Kent took the Inner Aggregate and Parag Patel the Short Range Aggregate. ■

{ A heavy rainstorm in the middle of the second detail caused no small amount of problems }

## RESULTS: ENGLISH TWENTY CLUB OPEN SPRING MEETING

Event	1st	2nd	3rd
Association (Queen's I)	P Patel 104.15	J Stevens 104.14	H Day 104.13
Second Stage (Queen's II)	P Kent 150.27	T Rylands 150.23	J Underwood 150.22
Cortis (600yds)	D Rose 75.13	S Belither 75.11	K Ramsey 75.10
Sunday Agg	P Kent 224.40	P Patel 224.32	K Ramsey 224.25
Short Range Agg	P Patel 328.47	P Kent 327.50	K Ramsey 327.38
Long (900yds)	P Kent 75.13; 2.	P Sykes 75.13	N Cole-Hawkins 75.12
Final (1,000yds)	J Thompson 74.5	S Belither 73.8	P Sykes 73.8
Monday Agg	P Sykes 148.21	J Thompson 148.15	S Belither 147.20
Inner Agg	P Kent 402.63	P Patel 402.57	K Ramsey 402.47
Grand Agg	P Sykes 474.56	P Kent 473.70	K Ramsey 472.53



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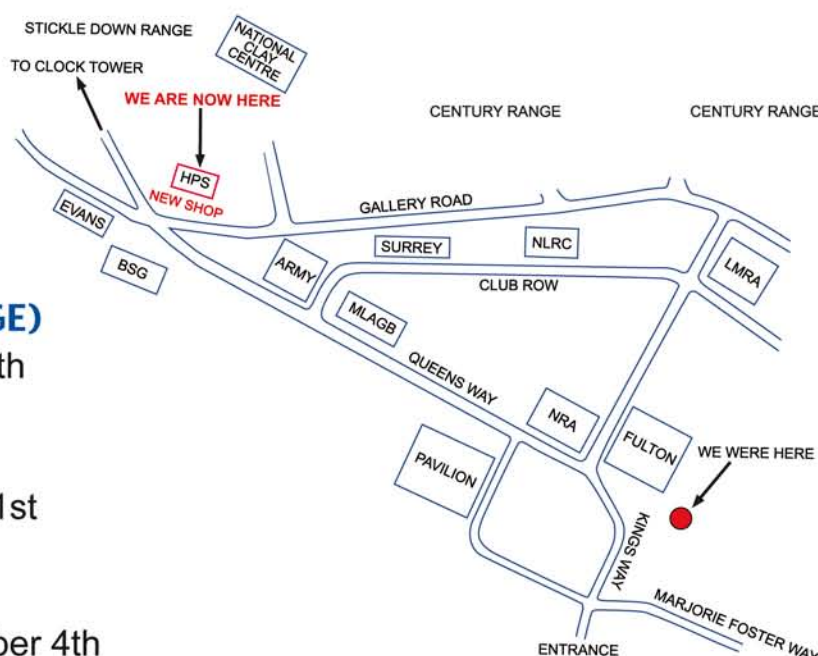
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# MATCH REPORTS

## WESTERN COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Bisley, 28 April**

**By Ian Davison**

This was the start of the most dismal weekend of wind and rain so far. Organiser Ian Davison described the weather as "trying" – it was a masterly understatement.

With a Queen's II at 300, 500 and 600 yards in the morning followed by QIII at 900 and 1,000 in the afternoon, the field

was classified in two TR classes: A (NRA X & A) and B (NRA O & T), plus F Class competitors. All this offered a spread of prizes across abilities, with plenty of discomfort to be shared by everyone.

David Crispin was first into his stride with a fine maximum 150 with 26 of his 30 shots inside the central to take the Open short-range match. Andy Gent matched the 150 but with 23 centrals, followed by Gary Alexander on 149.19. Mike Frost took the Somerset prize and Ian Davison the Dorset honours. At long range Gent, a former Bisley Grand Aggregate winner, was the Open best, followed by Alexander

with Andy Wilde coming third as well as first among the Somerset contingent. Davison again won for Dorset.

Despite the challenge from his fellow guest shooter, it was Gent who emerged from a damp pack as overall winner of the Open Championship. Alexander pipped Wilde for second place. Among the other overall winners were Mick Jordan in class 'B', Kate Fitton in F-Class and Ivan Jobling in the Under 25 category. Davison took the Dorset title but Somerset, not having an overall championship, awarded spoils to their aggregate short- and long-range victors.

## WEST OF SCOTLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Blair Atholl, 28-29 April**

**By Tim Kidner**



While the South suffered rain, conditions at Blair Atholl were altogether better, but no less testing, for Target Rifle, F/TR and Open Classes. Tricky wind conditions on Saturday ensured no one in TR made 105 in QI or 150 in QII. QI top score was 104.10 by Walter Buchanan followed by Tim Kidner with 103.12 and John Potter on 102.15. QII top score was 148.17 by Phil Lucey followed by Ken MacDonald on 147.20 and Keith Pugh on 147.15. The story on Sunday was the stronger

winds, so that the top score at 900 yards was 96.12 by Mike Barlow followed by Kenny MacDonald on 96.8 and Julia Adamson on 95.7.

Technical gremlins struck at 1,000 yards, with two of the electronic targets being used for TR giving faulty results. Eventually they stopped working altogether, so none of the 1,000-yard scores were included in the TR Grand Aggregate. The winner was Kenny MacDonald on 344.37 followed by Mike Barlow on 342.33 and our eternal visitor from Newcastle, Keith Pugh, on 341.33. The top schools shooter was C J MacDonald with a score of 333.17, closely followed by L Stewart on 332.20.

In F/TR, Paul Crosbie and Peter Burbridge made it a two-horse race, sharing the top two spots all the way from Q1 to QIV. It was Paul who won the F/TR Grand with 451.70 followed by Peter on 448.57. Mike Barton followed the Paul and Peter show on 431.48.

Paul Sandie was well ahead of the F-Open field on Saturday with scores of 103.10 for QI and 145.10 for QII – shooting on F-Class targets. Peter Hunt was second with 102.7 for QI and 139.7 for QII. On Sunday Hugh Inglis

beat Sandie at 900 yards with 91.4 compared to Paul on 89.1 but at 1,000 yards Paul scored 94.4 to Hugh on 92.5. So the F-Open Grand went to Sandie on 431.25 followed by Hunt on 414.21 and Inglis on 412.23v.



**CJ Macdonald, winner of the Schools' Grand Aggregate**



## PURPLES MATCH

### Bisley, 29 April

#### By a Purples correspondent

They say that part of the charm of the Purples Match is the way in which it is shot: in two sessions either side of lunch. That might not be the flavour of the month after this year's match when the driving rain and squalling winds of the morning turned the usual form book – and the register cards – into a soggy mess. There was much huffing and puffing as captains reminded their shooters of 'the greater glory' in getting wet and miserable for your team or county.

Much-fancied Surrey and London were among those that shot the reduced course of fire (300 and 600 yards – 500 was cut) in the morning. They and the others in that squadding collected a wind-blown soaking for their pains. Surrey's pre-lunch leading score of 767 in the circumstances was eminently respectable, but nowhere near enough. From the relative comfort of a more docile afternoon session Wandsworth, the Army and the GB Under-25 squad took maximum advantage of the luck – or

should it be eccentricity – of the draw. Wandsworth's 781 ensured them first place ahead of ATSC on 774 and the under 25s on 770, all beating the top two teams of the morning.

Mark Millar of the under 25s was the day's top individual gun on 100.16, with Henry

Day coaching him and in the process relegating himself into second place on the best 100.13. However, all was not lost for Henry as he had the consolation of winning the coach's salver. Last year's Queen's Prize winner Ed Compton also made 100.13 and was counted out to third.



## ARMY TARGET SHOOTING CLUB OPEN MEETING

### Bisley, 5-6 May

#### By Toby Lehman

The Army Target Rifle Open Meeting generously sponsored by Normal Clarke took place over the weekend of 5-6 May. Throughout the competition the ammunition was provided by HPS using Sierra bullets. There was intermittent rain on Saturday and a drier but colder day on the Sunday with winds tending to come from the north-east, which kept everybody guessing.

There were some outstanding performances in the Saturday shoots, with ATSC member Tony Mitchell from Cornwall scoring an outstanding 200.27

in the Saturday Aggregate as well as winning the 600-yard shoot with 75.13. A point behind was captain Alex Gill, who also won the 300-yard shoot with 75.13 and the 500-yard shoot with 50.9. In third place was David Calvert on 199.29 who also won the first shoot of the day at 300 yards with 50.9.

On Sunday a different order of shooters came forward in the Sunday Aggregate which was won by Sgt Steve Hier with 248.34 as well as winning Match 6 at 900 and 1,000 yards with 123.17. Match 5 at 800 and 900 yards saw James Lothian the new shooting master at Gresham's, take first place with 125.17.

Hier won the Grand Aggregate with 447.57 with only three points lost over the two days. In second place was the ever consistent David Calvert, with Tony Mitchell in third place having been

counted out by Calvert by six v-bulls.

In the team competitions, Team REME won the Clarke Shield and the Regular Army won the Palma Trophy.

Yet again it was good to be supported by Cadets from Durham and Northumberland ACFs as well as some keen shots from Gresham's who provided the best cadet in the Grand Aggregate – Chloe Evans. Thanks go to all who helped with the organisation and running the ranges to make this a very smooth and entirely volunteer run event.

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## ENGLISH EIGHT, NRC SCOTLAND & WELSH RA SPRING MATCH RIFLE MEETING Bisley, 12-13 May By Simon Taylor

The English, Scottish and Welsh Spring Meeting took place over a sunny but windy weekend on 12-13 May. Turnout was 77 including four target riflemen and three F-Class. Scores were lower compared with previous meetings, with competitors finding conditions at 1,200 yards on Sunday particularly challenging. The wind was varied, fishtailing on Saturday and blowing fair from the west on Sunday.

Andy Gent was the Saturday winner with 217.20. The day was memorable on account of the Surrey Air Ambulance helicopter landing a few hundred yards behind the stop butt to attend to the victim of a nearby road accident during the final detail at 1,200 yards. Shooting came to

an abrupt halt as Michael Hissey saw the machine coming into his sight picture while taking aim. A second helicopter arrived a short time later. Shooting had to be abandoned for the day, but by Sunday morning they were gone and we continued as normal.

Sunday saw only 22 competitors scoring over 200. Nick Tremlett won with 213.20, which was sufficient to pip Andy Gent by 1 point for the meeting with a total score of 426.43. Jim McAllister won the Scottish Cup with 350.34 (an equivalent score of 422.37) and Gareth James won the Welsh Cup with 421.34. The Scots decided to award their trophies disregarding scores at 1,200 yards on Saturday since a third of competitors had been unable to complete their shoot. Other competitors scored any incomplete cards with corresponding shots from their 1,200-yard Sunday shoot. The Ranken 1,200 yard aggregate trophy went to Colin Hayes, the only competitor to break 70 on Sunday. Kate Fitton won the Powell trophy for ladies and Nick Hall of CURA won the OCRA U25 trophy.

A warm round of applause for John and Michael Hissey for excellent statistics, Tim Elliott our Chief Range Officer and Jim Stevens and his colleagues for their marking.



## NORTHUMBERLAND CRA OPEN MEETING Ponteland, 19-20 May By Keith Pugh

The weekend of 19-20 May brought the last day of winter to Ponteland Range for the Regional Heat of the King George V Inter-County Match, followed by the first day of spring for the County Open Meeting. Lancashire coped best with the cold and quick-changing north-easterly, posting a lower-than-usual winning total of 1157.112. All of their VIII scored between 146 (by Ron Booth and Bruce Young) and 143; good teamwork.

21-year-old Peter Slater's debut for Northumberland & Durham was marked by an impressive 149.13, but he only helped his team into second place with 1152.104. Likewise, even younger Lauren Crowson –

fresh back from shooting in South Africa as reserve to the GB Team – was the day's top performer, with 149.15 for Yorkshire. However, they totalled only 1140.103, just two ahead of Cheshire, for whom Tom Rylands was outstanding with 147.21.

It was nearly a complete Red Rose weekend, with Stuart Young (101 RC) winning the Widdrington Cup (400 yards) with 50.8, and Dick Horrocks (Manchester RC)

taking the Ain Cup in glorious sunshine at 600 yards, with 74.9 ex 75. However, last year's England U25 Captain Tom Drysdale saved some face for his City of Newcastle Club with 148.15, to win the Lord Lieutenants (QII).

The County Championship (a 'closed' comp) went to Michael Black with 170.17 ex 175, followed by Tom Drysdale and Keith Pugh, both a point behind.





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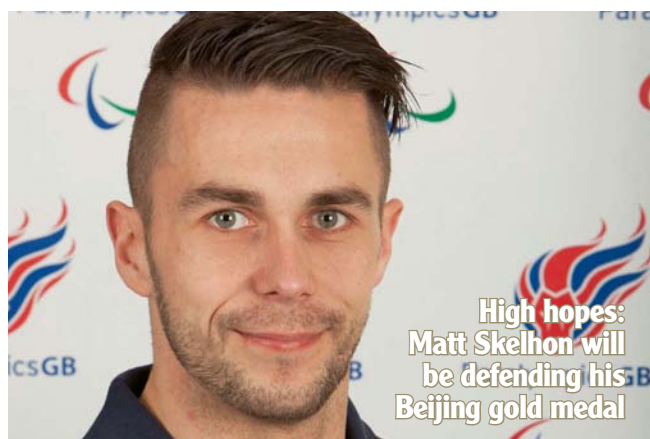
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# The world comes together

It might not be at Bisley, but the Olympics provides an unparalleled view of how shooting fits into the wider world. Nick Robbins reports on our hopes for London 2012



High hopes:  
Matt Skelhon will  
be defending his  
Beijing gold medal

## OLYMPIC SCHEDULE

Sat 28 July	Women's 10m Air Rifle (final); Men's 10m Air Pistol (final)
Sun 29 July	Women's 10m Air Pistol (final); Women's Skeet (final)
Mon 30 July	Men's 10m Air Rifle (final); Men's Skeet
Tue 31 July	Men's Skeet (final)
Wed 1 August	Women's 25m Pistol (final)
Thu 2 August	Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol; Men's Double Trap (final)
Fri 3 August	Men's 50m Rifle Prone (final); Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol (final)
Sat 4 August	Women's 50m Rifle 3P (final); Women's Trap (final)
Sun 5 August	Men's 50m Pistol (final); Men's Trap
Mon 6 August	Men's 50m Rifle 3P (final); Men's Trap (final)

## PARALYMPIC SCHEDULE

Thu 30 August	Women's R2-10m Air Rifle Standing-SH1 (final); Men's P1-10m Air Pistol-SH1 (final)
Fri 31 August	Men's R1-10m Air Rifle Standing-SH1 (final); Women's P2-10m Air Pistol-SH1 (final)
Sat 1 September	Mixed R5-10m Air Rifle Prone-SH2 (final); Mixed R3-10m Air Rifle Prone-SH1 (final)
Sun 2 September	Mixed R4-10m Air Rifle Standing-SH2 (final)
Mon 3 September	Mixed P3-25m Pistol-SH1 (final)
Tue 4 September	Mixed R6-50m Rifle Prone-SH1 (final)
Wed 5 September	Men's R7-50m Rifle 3P-SH1 (final)
Thu 6 September	Women's R8-50m Rifle 3P-SH1 (final); Mixed P4-50m

Note: SH1 events are shot by competitors who can support the weight of the gun themselves, while SH2 is shot by those who require a shooting stand for support.

Though HM The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Imperial Meeting 2012 will be at the forefront of many NRA members' minds, just a week later, the London Olympics will officially begin.

Indeed, shooting is a bigger part of this global event than you might first think. Not only is a shooting event the first of the Games, but the first medals will be awarded to shooters, with the final of the Women's 10-metre air rifle starting at 11am on that first day.

NRA members are no doubt aware that the shooting events will be taking place at the Royal Artillery Barracks rather than Bisley. The temporary structure at Woolwich is due to be swiftly deconstructed after the Games as part of the BOA's 'soft legacy'. The unique looking structure – manufactured from 18,000sq/m of PVC – will house a 25-metre and a combined 10- and 50-metre range for rifle and pistol shooting, while the shotgun events will be outside and surrounded by grandstands.

The Olympic and Paralympic events represent a unique opportunity where, for a few days at least, the sport of target shooting will be in the public, and the media eye – with Ofcom predicting the Olympics will reach a global audience of five billion. Following any Great British success, we can expect to see a surge in interest in target shooting, with our athletes shouldering not only the hopes of a baying nation, but also the gun industry and shooting grounds across the land.

So what of our medal chances at London 2012? It must be said our best hopes probably lie with the shotgunners of the group in the Olympics, with Peter Wilson fresh off a world record score in Tucson and currently sitting at the top of the Double Trap world rankings, while Richard Faulds will be looking to replicate his gold medal at Sydney 12 years ago.

Georgina 'Gorgs' Geikie will be competing in both 10-metre air pistol and 25-metre pistol, while James Huckle will similarly be tackling two Olympic disciplines in the three-position and the 10-metre air rifle. Huckle, Jen McIntosh and the prone rifle shooter Jonathan Hammond have plenty of Commonwealth experience – and medals – behind them, though the BOA has already announced that Geikie, Huckle and McIntosh, competing in their first Olympics, are there for development as opposed to being genuine medal hopes. Hammond, though, competed at Beijing and will be looking to make a mark in these home Games.



**Hope of a nation: Gorgie Geikie carries the Olympic torch in her hometown of Okehampton, Devon**

The final spot on the squad has not been allocated yet, though it is a choice between Women's Trap shooters Charlotte Kerwood and Abbey Burton and will be announced in June.

The ParalympicsGB squad has set a target of 2-3 medals, and will be expecting plenty from air rifle shooters James Bevis, Nathan Milgate and Beijing gold medallist, Matt Skelhon (who will also compete in the R6 50-metre rifle prone).

#### **PARALYMPICSGB'S SHOOTING SQUAD:**

James Bevis; Adrian Bunclark; Ryan Cockbill; Richard Davies; Adam Fontain; Ben Jesson; Nathan Milgate; Matt Skelhon; Karen Butler; Georgian Callingham; Deanna Coates; Mandy Pankhurst

#### **TEAM GB'S SHOOTING SQUAD:**

Rifle: Jonathan Hammond; James Huckle; Jennifer McIntosh  
Pistol: Georgina Geikie; Shotgun: Elena Allen, Richard Brickell, Rory Warlow, Peter Wilson, Richard Faulds, Ed Ling

Following Skelhon's success in 2008, the Paralympic programme for shooting was able to expand significantly, increasing the number of athletes, coaches and introducing 'Athlete Performance Awards' (APA), which made it easier for those on the Performance Programme to become full-time athletes and devote the required time to their shooting. In 2012, ParalympicsGB will be taking 12 athletes to compete – a three-fold increase on the number taken to Beijing, and the maximum allowed (something only South Korea can match).

Nathan Milgate, who moved closer to Bisley to make it his main base for practice and will compete in both the air rifle standing and air rifle prone, is entering the Paralympics with a solid year behind him, including gold at a recent World Cup event in Poland. There's plenty at stake for him in this, his second Paralympics: "James [Bevis], Matt [Skelhon] and I have a £50 bet going for the first one of us to get a perfect 640 score." It might seem trivial, but for the shooters involved, it's a technique they are using to focus on smaller goals and avoid being overawed by the sheer scale of the event they will be stepping into. ■



**Striking design: The exterior of the Olympic venue in Woolwich**



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# KIT ROUND-UP

What's new on the market to interest target shooters – why not update your shooting set-up for the summer competition season?

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The Side Armour range of bags from Uncle Mike's is made from a durable 1680D fabric, and all feature piping along the seams to add strength. The products range from a briefcase to a tactical equipment bag, and all bags have Velcro strips for attaching nametags, and removable padded shoulder straps for carrying. The bags have also been solution dyed, which is designed to keep them colourfast.

**Price:** £34.95-£89.95

York Guns 01904 487180 [www.yorkguns.com](http://www.yorkguns.com)



## MILLETT MAGNA LEVER

This year sees a variety of new scope ring accessories from Millett, including the Magna Lever, an accessory that attaches to the magnification ring of a scope to make it easier to adjust. CNC machined from solid aircraft aluminium, the Magna Lever is guaranteed not to crush your scope tube and to provide a precise fit. Finished in matt black, the Magna Lever is available to fit scope models from Bushnell, Millett, Meopta, Leupold, Nightforce, Vortex and Burris.

**Price:** £50

Edgar Brothers 01625 613177

[www.edgarbrothers.com](http://www.edgarbrothers.com)



## GARLANDS REALTREE ACCESSORIES

Fans of camo will be pleased to know that Garlands has teamed up with Realtree to launch its new all-purpose camouflage finished range onto the market. There's a wide selection of kit to be had – rifle shooters will be particularly enamoured of the neoprene barrel cover (£9.95), neoprene bullet pouch (£13.95), neoprene scope cover (£9.95), non-slip rifle sling (£9.95) and rifle stock cover (£9.95). But it's not just about having some camo to show off – they are also robust and flexible, protecting your expensive kit from knocks and scratches in transit.

**Price:** Various

Garlands 01827 383300 [www.garlands.uk.com](http://www.garlands.uk.com)



## SPORTSMATCH MOUNTS

Sportsmatch has launched a new adjustable Weaver/Picatinny mount, which it says is as a result of high customer demand. Suitable for elevation up to 50MOA, the ATP72 mount is steady enough to handle long-range shots, and boasts an anti-vibration coating that is used in the aircraft industry, ensuring the greatest stability when shooting. It's currently available for scopes with 30mm tubes.

**Price:** £89

Sportsmatch 01525 381638 [www.sportsmatch-uk.com](http://www.sportsmatch-uk.com)



## LEICA MAGNUS

Leica's Magnus riflescopes, first announced last year, are now finally ready for sale to the UK market. All Magnus scopes feature a bright aim-point dot, designed to be sharp and clear by the use of an anti-reflection system that prevents glare. Smart electronics ensure a long battery life, a day/night mode allows for very fine adjustments, and back lighting ensures the red dot is invisible to the target. Eye-relief distance of nine centimetres means the scopes offer additional safety when shooting larger calibres.

**Price:** £1,710-£2,410

Leica 0207 629 1351

[www.leica-storemayfair.co.uk](http://www.leica-storemayfair.co.uk)



## NIKON PROSTAFF TARGET EFR

A scope designed to get the best out of rimfires, the Prostaff Target EFR is Nikon's latest addition to the Prostaff range, available in the classic 3-9x40 specification. The adjustable objective lens allows focusing from 10 metres to infinity, while the newly designed reticle is ideal for precision shooting. As the name suggests, it's specifically designed for target shooters, and the instant zero-reset turrets and spring-loaded adjustment knobs bear this out.

**Price:** £184.99

Highland Outdoors 01858 410683 [www.highlandoutdoors.co.uk](http://www.highlandoutdoors.co.uk)



## FIREBIRD TARGETS

Edgar Brothers has taken on distribution of the unmissable exploding targets, so expect to see a lot more of them in the future. They may originally be an air rifle target, but they are now available in the 'Sniperfire' model for rifle shooters – so have a look at these if you want to cause a bang on the range. As well as being a bit of fun, it's a useful training aid, giving you instant indication of a hit when shooting over long distances.

**Price:** £18.95 for 20

Edgar Brothers 01625 613177

[www.edgarbrothers.com](http://www.edgarbrothers.com)



## RANDOLPH SHOOTING GLASSES

Under new distributor York Guns, Randolph Engineering shooting glasses will now be coming to the UK market. All Randolph lenses are 100 per cent UV-absorbent, and boast distortion-free optical-grade polycarbonate in the lenses for excellent definition and clarity. There will be two styles available: the Ranger XLW with wraparound-style frame and cable, and the Ranger Edge in a more classic style. There are standard three-lens sets and premium sets available for each design, and a number of tints including polarised options.

**Price:** XLW from £225, Edge from £270

York Guns 01904 487180

[www.yorkguns.com](http://www.yorkguns.com)



## NAPIER RAPID DEGREASER

Napier's line of gun care products has expanded to include a new rapid degreaser. A blend of solvents, the formula is designed to be suitable for use on any type of firearm to remove carbon deposits, old grease and oils. It can be used for cleaning pistons and ports on semi-automatic shotguns, chokes and threads, and Napier claim it is also less aggressive to wooden stocks and composite parts. Napier recommends re-oiling after cleaning with the rapid degreaser.

**RRP:** £8.99

Napier 01235 812993

[www.napieruk.com](http://www.napieruk.com)



## MTM K-ZONE

Designed as an aid to accurately sighting and zeroing a rifle, as well as testing ammunition, the K-Zone from MTM Case-Gard is a lightweight shooting rest that has

moulded rubber pads to support

most types of rifle. The rest is adjustable by up to seven and a half inches using a bench rest style hand wheel elevation system, and there is also a handgun rest pad that can be used in four positions. Four rubber feet aim to eliminate slipping, and it has to option to add weights should the shooter prefer a heavier feel.

**Price:** POA

John Rothery 02392 245350 [www.bisley-uk.com](http://www.bisley-uk.com)





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# A call to *action*

**As the NRA grows and changes, chief executive Derrick Mabbott urges members to get involved in making the Association stronger**

**Like any membership organisation, the NRA is only as good as the contribution from those members. In a number of areas, I would invite you to get involved in the workings of the NRA.**

## THE JOURNAL

As we seek to widen the topics covered in the Journal, both in terms of national coverage and the disciplines that we highlight, we need input from the membership. Equally, if we are to maintain our role as 'journal of record', we need more reports from events and competitions. Ideally not just events from Bisley but from farther afield that would otherwise not get coverage, though they equally deserve it.

*If you are interested, please email me on [derrick.mabbott@nra.org.uk](mailto:derrick.mabbott@nra.org.uk) or the NRA Journal publishers on [nra@blazepublishing.co.uk](mailto:nra@blazepublishing.co.uk).*

## RCOS AND COACHES

As you will see from the article on page 51 of this issue, being an RCO is an important role in shooting. Not just on MoD ranges, either – it is best practice in any context. Equally, increasing the number of coaches can only benefit the sport in the long-term. If you are interested in giving back to your sport in either of these ways, we can help. Up to April 2013, we have a subsidy from Sport England that enables us to offer RCO, RCO Assessor and Club Coach courses at £45 a head. This is a massive discount on the usual prices of around £160. Also, if you have a club that could host a regional course, we would offer the same rates in your area and hire the facilities.

*If you are interested, please contact Maureen Peach by email at [Maureen.peach@nra.org.uk](mailto:Maureen.peach@nra.org.uk) or by phone on 01483 797777 ext 149.*

## INTRODUCING YOUNGSTERS TO SHOOTING

The May Open Day at Bisley demonstrated once again the appeal that our sport has to a wide range of people, and in particular children. While full-bore shooting is perhaps a difficult entry point given the regulations and expense, we must try to widen the access to target shooting in the UK. In that spirit, we are looking to create a Saturday club for youngsters at Bisley, using air rifles and pistols.

The NRA will provide the facilities and the rifles and pistols. What we need is someone to take it on as a long-term proposition. We are happy for this to be run as a business, as long as it proves successful and builds to the right image of our sport. Clearly we are looking for people with experience of working with youngsters, and they will be responsible for their own CRB checks and the running of the business. But we are willing to provide facilities and equipment at no more than nominal cost to generate the interest in our sport from younger age groups. ■

*If you are interested in discussing this further, please contact Amanda Vaughan at [amanda.vaughan@nra.org.uk](mailto:amanda.vaughan@nra.org.uk), or by phone on 01483 797777 ext 135*



**On air: The NRA will look to airguns to widen access to target shooting for youngsters**





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same shape at the meplat. The down side is that by trimming the meplat, we have also made it larger. This causes a lower BC and increases drop and wind drift. With our bullet pointing die, we can make the meplat smaller rather than bigger. Consider that a little pointing will do a lot of good. Typically with the bullet pointing die, we can close the meplat up to about half of its original diameter. Here's the kicker-by closing it to half of the diameter, the surface area is only one fourth of its original amount. This is the reason the pointing die is so effective.

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# The royal range

**Celebrating the Queen's jubilee, Laurie Holland looks at a range that owes its name to the similar celebration that took place 35 years ago**

If you're into lifestyle checklists along the lines of '100 Things to Do Before You Die', you really must add shooting over West Atholl RC's (WARC) Jubilee range in the Scottish Highlands to entering the Imperial Meeting at Bisley. This is one of the great shooting experiences in the British Isles – unless you hate dramatic upland scenery and difficult wind conditions.

The range is around a mile and a half north of Blair Atholl village, which is situated on the confluence of the Rivers Garry and Tilt, 27 miles upstream of Perth. Being on the main A9 north-south highway, it used to be a pleasant way-stop in a journey to Scotland's far north, until the road upgraded was around 35 years ago, bypassing every

village and town between Perth and Inverness. The improved road that now runs along the opposite side of Glen Garry from the village also obliterated WARC's original range, whose location produced the 'West' in the club name.

## DUKES AND JUBILEES

The Duchess of Atholl built that range for musketry practice by The Scottish Horse, a mounted infantry regiment, over 100 years ago. Competitive shooting soon took place alongside training; WARC was formed and took over shortly after World War II, extending it to 600 yards. Come the 1970s, the impending loss of range facilities could have seen WARC's demise, but its members were determined to continue. Fortunately, they obtained the full support of George Murray, the 10th Duke of Atholl, who provided land and the material and financial assistance needed to relocate to Glen Tilt. The current facility opened in 1977, a year after the Duke's death and the transfer of the 130,000-acre Atholl Estate to a charitable trust, and was named the Jubilee Range commemorating Queen Elizabeth II's first such celebration.

Originally constructed as a 1,000-yard range, it soon acquired 1,100 and 1,200 yard firing points for Match Rifle events. Because of the glen's topography, the three extreme distances are actually 987, 1,114 and 1,233 yards, the last making it the longest range in the UK for formal prone rifle shooting. Shorter distance firing points are situated at 300 metres, 400, 500, 600, and 900 yards.



The massive target frames relay bullet strike info back to the firing point



A key element of the range's growth has been the electronic scoring



The fact that the range is in a glen would suggest it lies along the bottom. Not so, it uses the west side hundreds of feet above the river which is only visible as a winding green ribbon. The range falls steeply going forward then rises to the butts, and slopes sharply downwards from left to right. Nowhere is the slope even, and with hollows, hillocks and varying types and heights of flora, any wind movement will rise, fall and swirl as it passes over the landscape.



The prevailing wind is from behind, usually slightly from the right, and prone to fishtail. In my experience there, some days can produce two or even three separate and alternating conditions, and the most difficult shots are often those taken as the condition switches. Some changes have a big effect on elevation too as the air currents follow the steep slope of the glen-side.

Direct sunlight usually produces a heavy downrange mirage, but even fine summer days will see this come and go as large, puffy cumulus clouds slide slowly over the glen. In less clement times, rain squalls and heavy showers not only make life unpleasant but produce radical wind changes. All this has given the range a certain reputation for trickiness.

With its altitude and position on the lower slopes of the Cairngorm mountain range, there is no chance of continuous year-long shooting – WARC's 2012 programme lists the first shoot on the second weekend of April, and the last GB F Class league round on the first weekend of October. Despite this limitation,

the club hosts several 'outside' events in its valuable range time. Of the 44 days shooting listed in the WARC programme, 31 are non-WARC competitions.

On top of this, Glendalmond and Elmwood Colleges have midweek bookings, and WARC members help out by running the range and coaching students. Long-range matches require the closure of tracks and footpaths with advance notice for estate tenants and everyone who passes through the glen, done by the Atholl Estate rangers. WARC is particularly appreciative of the support of Head Ranger Polly Freeman and her team as well as the wider support and assistance provided by the Atholl Estate trustees.

WARC Chairman Ken Baxby was also keen for me to emphasise the Jubilee Range's wider role, and with Scotland increasingly seeing itself as a 'nation', you can say that it is now a second 'National Shooting Centre', albeit one focused on Target / Match Rifle and the F-Class disciplines. The size of matches and entries now accommodated is a direct result of a major recent investment in one set of range facilities with NRA support, the Kongsberg electronic targetry – instant results, no time spent changing firing point and butts details.

## WILDLIFE

Part of the 'Blair Experience' is the drive up from the village. It starts on a single-track tarmac road with passing places, and after hanging a sharp left at Old Bridge of Tilt to cross the river on an original early 18th century military bridge barely wide enough for modern vehicles, you move onto private estate roads that climb ever more steeply while deteriorating into rocky, rutted tracks. You wind through massive pines on a mountain top, convinced you're lost if this is the first visit, only to crest a rise and find the range lying ahead.

For further information on the West Atholl Rifle Club and its Jubilee Range, local accommodation and more, visit [www.westatholl.org.uk](http://www.westatholl.org.uk). I would like to thank WARC's original Chairman and current President Alastair Munro, and club Chairman Keith Baxby for their invaluable help in my research. ■







# Disabled shooting

Olaf Jones has a guide to the fullbore shooting opportunities coming up for target shooters with disabilities

## AOSC ADAPTIVE SHOOT

For sharp-eyed marksmen serving in Britain's Armed Forces there is no greater proving ground than the ranges at Bisley. The annual event for the best Service shooters, the Army Operational Shooting Competition (AOSC), takes place on 25 June – 5 July with the Queen's final taking place on 4 July.

This year history will be made at Bisley with a Service Rifle competition for those servicemen and women who have received injuries in the course of their active duties, to be shot concurrently with that of the regular forces on the Queen's final on 4 July. This inaugural competition will be open to current serving members and Service Veterans

and will take place on the Short Siberia range. The courses of fire will not involve any fire-with-movement, as the rifles will be rested on shooting benches, but will incorporate other procedural rules to introduce increasing elements of difficulty for those whose lives are already made difficult by their respective injuries and disabilities.

Entries for this historic event are via the NRA's website ([www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)). Eligibility for this event will be as either a current serving member of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, or as Service Veterans, all of whom must have experienced 'life-altering' injuries during active service.

## BISLEY OPEN DAY

Visitors to this year's Open Day on 8 September will be given the opportunity during the online pre-registration process to tick an option declaring a disability. This will enable the NRA to better cater for specific requirements for those with declared disabilities, so disabled visitors may enjoy an enhanced fullbore shooting experience.

This year, the NRA hopes to have not only better disabled facilities, such as range access and toilet blocks, but also better disabled coaching expertise available for all the various shooting disciplines.

During this September's Open Day the NRA will try to provide a fullbore shooting experience for those who are blind or visually impaired. It hopes that Gallery Rifle will be available for use with an audible tone sighting system. Those who are familiar with the Swarovski sighting system, which has been tested extensively, should note that it is

unsuitable for outdoors application.

An alternate preferred sighting system is currently under trial, which will hopefully be available for the Open Day.



## DISABLED SHOOTING PROJECT

For more information on shooting, for all disciplines but particularly for those with disabilities, please visit [www.disabledshooting.org.uk](http://www.disabledshooting.org.uk)

The aims of the DSP are as follows:

- 1) To offer existing target shooters the best possible chance of continuing to take part in the sport despite any infirmity or disability.
- 2) To offer people with any disability the chance to take

part in competitive target shooting on equal terms with non-disabled competitors.

- 3) To provide advice and support to clubs wishing to develop shooting for disabled.
- 4) To raise the public profile of target shooting as a disabled-friendly sport.







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# Whatever the weather

**The latest NRA Open Day proved they are a fantastic way of attracting new shooters – even if the weather doesn't go to plan**

**A**s yet more rain clouds gathered over Bisley, everybody at the NRA had their fingers crossed that Saturday 5 May would be the first dry day for weeks. Undeterred by the recent weather, almost 1,000 visitors arrived dressed in their warm and waterproof clothing befitting a day out in May.

As on previous Open Days, the NRA volunteer coaches worked tirelessly to ensure all visitors had an enjoyable experience of shooting the many disciplines on offer on the day. Please see below an example of just some of the excellent feedback received:

"I just wanted to say a big 'thanks'.

It was such a well organised and run event that the two boys I brought with me have been bitten by the bug and are keen to learn more and join the air pistol/air rifle section that they shot at. Can you please point me in the right direction or forward this to the relevant person or club that can advise us of the next steps.

So thanks again and well done. I'm sure the smooth running of the event was down to a lot of hard work in background by you and your team."

It goes without saying that the day would not have been such a success without the amazing support from all the NRA volunteers and the hard work of the staff at Bisley both on the day and before the event.

The next Open Day is on Saturday 8 September 2012. ■





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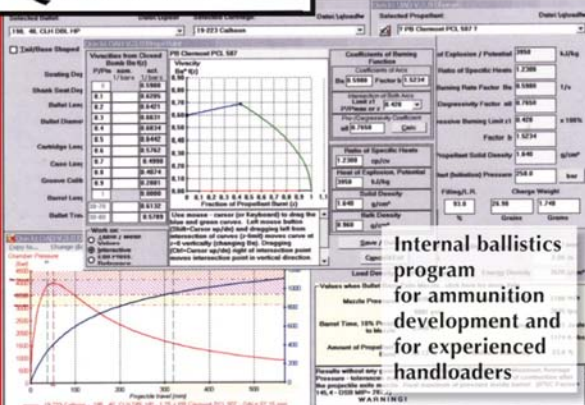
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# A *matter* of course

**Now is the time to get involved by becoming an RCO. Charles Perry explains the RCO's responsibilities and how to get qualified**

**R**aise your hand if you've been shooting for a few years. Good, quite a few of you. Right, how many of you can honestly tell me you have never made a mistake that could have developed into something dangerous if you, or somebody else, hadn't noticed and nipped it in the bud. What, none of us? Just as I expected.

If you've been shooting for long enough to have made a few mistakes (and possibly scared yourself into the bargain), you might have enough experience to become a Range Conducting Officer. Why would you want to do that? Well, as you've probably already noticed, there's much more to shooting than just, well, shooting. The shooting sports have an almost unbelievably good safety record, largely because of a combination of good self-discipline (the shooter) and a properly conducted range (the RCO). If you've reached the stage of your shooting career where your experience as a shooter could be put to good use in keeping everything safe and running smoothly, why not consider becoming an RCO?

The role of the RCO is vital. Apart from anything else, civilian shooting is not permitted on MoD ranges unless a qualified RCO is in charge. In 2008 the MoD was seriously discussing banning civilians from using MoD Ranges, and this was only averted by the NRA proving that it was training civilian RCOs to run ranges safely, and teaching civilian 'target shooters' to shoot safely. The MoD relented and agreed to the NRA/MoD agreement, the NRA Safe Shooting Scheme, but required that all civilian shooters would be certified as competent and safe by their club chairmen (or the NRA) with what is now a four-year certificate of competence.

In the interests of increasing range safety, this course is open to all members of clubs affiliated to the NRA, as well as non-NRA

members. All clubs that hire MoD ranges are required to show they have qualified RCOs before they are allowed to use the range. Though not actually required on non-MoD ranges, the NRA regards the provision of NRA-qualified RCOs as 'best practice', and it would probably be required by an insurance company in the event of any claim.

Let me tell you a little bit about what the RCO does, and how you can become one. First of all, the RCO is responsible for everything that goes on in his or her part of the range – not just the shooters, but the onlookers, and absolutely everything else. If the RCO tells somebody to do something (or not do something), they have to do it (or not do it).

This of course, represents great power, and with great power comes great responsibility, which brings me back to the question that I asked earlier about whether or not you have been shooting for long enough to have made a few mistakes of your own. Running a range safely, but with diplomacy is quite an art. The point I am getting at is that to be an RCO, you have to have the right temperament. Authoritative, without being authoritarian. Diplomatic, while still being able to run the range in such a way that shows you are obviously in charge. Any potential dictators can find something else to do. A good RCO will run a range in a way that seems effortless, while a bad RCO can ruin the day for everybody.

Along with actually running the range, the RCO is also responsible for (among other things) planning the day's shoot, briefing the shooters, and knowing the range regulations and making sure they are obeyed. If operating on an MoD range, the RCO must sign on before the shoot, and is responsible for everything that happens until he or she signs off at the end.





I've already used the word 'responsible' several times. It may seem repetitive, but nonetheless it sums up the RCO's job quite neatly. It is a responsible job. When you consider how many things could go wrong during a shoot, from the minor but annoying to the downright lethal, and that the RCO must be capable of dealing with everything calmly and efficiently, you begin to get an idea of the personal qualities an RCO must possess. The ability to deal with a situation with the minimum of fuss and bluster is essential.

Rarely, a situation may develop where the RCO may have to raise his or her voice to prevent something dangerous from happening. There's a fine line between calming something down and making it worse, simply by the way in which it is handled. The RCO's prime responsibility is to run a safe range, but never forget that nobody likes being shouted at. Anybody who has made a mistake, especially if it involves possible danger, will be aware of the fact that being yelled at for their efforts can be an intensely humiliating experience. The RCO must be able to respond to anything in an absolutely appropriate manner.

By all means shout at the top of your voice if necessary, but calm everything down afterwards as soon as possible. Shooters can be sensitive souls, and if they feel they are going to be screamed at for no good reason, they will simply leave and find another hobby. The RCO can achieve a lot more by the use of tact and good humour than by bull-in-a-china-shop-aggression.

A good RCO should remember the thing about doing unto others the way that you would like to be done unto yourself (if you happen to be a masochist who likes being screamed at and humiliated, disregard what I just said). Of course, a good RCO will have planned, prepared and run a shoot in such a way that incidents should be almost non-existent.

Since you've made it this far, I assume you want to know how you become an RCO. Well, I'll tell you: The NRA runs courses. These



An RCO's role involves careful people management as well as safety concerns

are approved by the MoD, and you don't even have to be an individual member of the NRA (you do have to be a member of an affiliated club) to get the qualification. Your club chairman must recommend you.

The basic qualification will allow you to run shoots on MoD gallery ranges and barrack ranges. 'Bolt-on' modules can later be added to allow the running of black powder and sporting rifle shoots. Another module can be added, which will allow the RCO to supervise the high muzzle energy (HME) zeroing procedure. If you have military qualifications, you can probably convert them. Please also bear in mind that until April next year the NRA is charging a measly £45 for RCO courses and is looking for clubs to host courses away from Bisley – you cannot say fairer than that.

I'm running out of space, so the best idea is to contact Maureen Peach at the NRA ([Maureen.peach@nra.org.uk](mailto:Maureen.peach@nra.org.uk)) and we'll tell you exactly what you have to do to become an RCO. ■



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# Obituaries

## ALWYN HASTIE-MURRAY

19/06/42 – 20/10/2011

I am sorry to report the death of Mr Alwyn Hastie-Murray, who died on Thursday 20 October 2011.

Alwyn was a valuable club member and he will be greatly missed. He was cheerful and could always make lively contributions to any of the discussions at the Barbican club.

Alwyn was immensely interested in all aspects of shooting, including muzzle-loading rifle, pistol and shotgun, historical shooting and reloading ammunition.

He regularly attended shoots with the Barbican Gun Club at the Otterburn Ranges in Northumberland and muzzle-loading activities with the Durham and Cumbria branches of the MLAGB. He attended clay shoots and game and country fairs, participating in shooting stand activities for the Branch.

Alwyn was a 'Bisley-qualified' range conducting officer and was always vigilant to safety aspects at all shoots. Over the years Alwyn accumulated a vast knowledge of firearms and shooting. He encouraged and educated anyone who showed any interest in firearms and was always pleased to pass on his knowledge.

Although he would always give safe advice, one of his specialities was reloading his own ammunition and also some of his less volatile rounds from a sweet jar containing a general mix of interesting-looking powders. The theory behind this loading technique was to shake the jar every time a new powder was added. He retained all of his fingers and gave many a prediction on how the powder would perform. One theory was that the powders added to the mix were probably fast-burning, so should be loaded accordingly.

Before his retirement Alwyn was a vehicle inspectorate officer for

the Ministry of Transport, and after his retirement he was an exam invigilator for a number of local colleges.

Alwyn was active in the Royal British Legion, being vice-chairman and parade marshal for the Whitley Bay & North Shields District branch, assisting with the local Poppy Appeal and helping raise thousands of pounds each year. Alwyn had served with the Territorial Army and Royal Navy Auxiliary Service and was active as a petty officer volunteer with the Maritime Volunteer Service, participating in events such as the International Festival of the Sea and Tall Ships Races.

Alwyn, being a helpful sort and would muck-in with any work that needed to be done at a shoot. I think of him fondly as a Captain Mainwaring figure – he always enjoyed the comparison and often played up to the likeness. Alwyn was a good club member with a sense of humour.

Our club will not be the same without Alwyn. He could brighten up the gloomiest of days and added a little extra to any event that he attended. He will be greatly missed, and may we extend our condolences to his family.

The funeral took place on 31 October 2011 at Cullercoats Methodist Church, Tyne and Wear.

Steven Gregory

Barbican Armoury, Brancepeth Castle, Durham



## ANDREW SWANN

22/12/1962 – 11/04/2012

This year the classic arms NRA and HBSA competitions at Bisley will be missing one of their most ardent supporters.

Andy's shooting interest started as a young army cadet and continued with pistol shooting until the ban. He then turned to rifle shooting, getting involved with Sherwood Rifle and Pistol Club and being a founder member of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Target Rifle and Pistol Club.

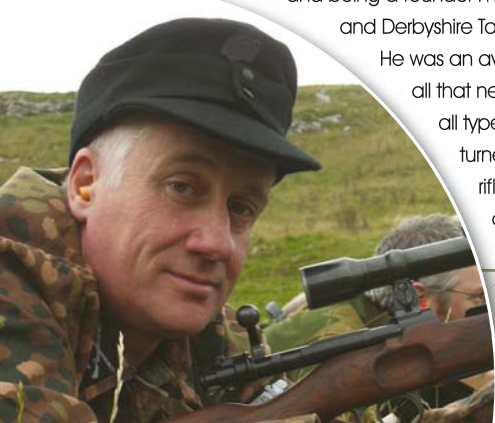
He was an avid classic shooter, knowing all that needed to be known about all types of classic rifle. This interest turned into a passion for classic rifles, and he missed no chance to compete or

collect them. His favourite quote was 'You can never have too many guns.' Never wanting the sport to end, Andy brought many new shooters into the population by encouraging the sport. A stalwart of the club, he was always there to run the club and help anyone out.

Away from shooting, Andy was a qualified car mechanic. He had a strange hobby of collecting British Leyland cars, having a collection of Morris Minors at one time. He restored many vehicles, including a Triumph TR6 and TR8. His latest project, a Sherpa camper van, was restored to its former glory. In the 1980s he worked as a locomotive driver at the Rufford Colliery, then on to several motor garages. Shooting always on his mind, he was known to buy ex-army Land Rovers and 4x4 vehicles just so the range flags at Thorpe Cloud Rifle Range could be put up without any effort.

A Mansfield man from the heart of England, Andy passed away suddenly after a short illness and will be sorely missed by his many friends. His wife Helen and daughters Kirsty and Melissa survive him.

The sport has lost one of its most loyal supporters.



# Results

## 28 April

### WESTERN COUNTIES OPEN MEETING, BISLEY

**SHORT RANGE:** Open: 1. D Crispin 150.26; 2. A Gent 150.23; 3. G Alexander 149.19. 'B': C Jobling 145.16. Somerset: M Frost 148.22. Dorset: I Davison 148.17. Queen's I: Crispin 105.19. **LONG RANGE:** Open: 1. Gent 146.14; 2. Alexander 145.20; 3. A Wilde 144.15. 'B': C Jobling 145.16. Somerset: A Wilde 144.15. Dorset: Davison 139.14. **GRAND AGGREGATE & OPEN CH'SHIP:** 1. Gent 296.37; 2. Alexander 294.39; 3. Wilde 291.34. 'B' Class: M Jordan 279.19. F Class: K Fitton 295.43. Dorset Closed Ch'ship: Davison.

## 28-29 April

### WEST OF SCOTLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS (BLAIR ATHOLL)

**TR – QUEEN'S I:** 1. W Buchanan 104.10; 2. T Kidner 103.12; 3. J Potter 102.15. **QUEEN'S II** 1. P Lucey 148.17; 2. K MacDonald 147.20; 3. K Pugh 147.15. **900YDS** 1. M Barlow 96.12; 2. MacDonald 96.8; 3. J Adamson 95.7. **GRAND AGG.** 1. MacDonald 344.37; 2. Barlow 342.33; 3. Pugh 341.33. **F CLASS – TR – QI:** 1. P Crosbie 105.17; 2. P Burbridge 104.16. **QII:** 1. Crosbie 150.27; 2. Burbridge 149.19. **QIII:** 1. Crosbie 196.26; 2. Burbridge 195.22. **GRAND AGG:** 1. Crosbie 451.70; 2. Burbridge 448.57; 3. M Barton 431.48. **F CLASS – OPEN – QI:** 1. P Sandie 103.10; 2. P Hunt 102.7. **QII:** 1. Sandie 145.10. 2. H Inglis 139.10. **QIII:** 1. Inglis 183.9; 2. Sandie 183.5. **GRAND AGG:** 1. Sandie 431.25; 2. Hunt 414.21; 3. Inglis 412.23.

## 29 April

### PURPLES MATCH (BISLEY)

**PURPLES MATCH** (300 & 600yds): 1. Wandsworth 781.79; 2. Army TSC 774.80; 3. GB U25 Group 770.76. High Guns: 1. M Millar (GB U25) 100.16; 2. H Day (GB U25); 3. E Compton (Sussex) 100.13. Coach's Salver: H Day (GB U25).

## 5 May

### LONDON & MIDDLESEX RA SCHOOLS' & VETERANS

**VETERANS:** 1. O Epsomians 394.45; 2. Berkhamsteadians 386.36; 3. Whitgift 364.31. **SCHOOLS' VIIS:** 1. Epsom 520.40; 2. Wellington 'A' 503.29; 3. Oratory School 498.23. **RESERVE:** O Ballsdon (61.1); 2. J Thompson 60.4; 3. W Livesy 58.1. **CADET PAIRS:** 1. Wellington 'B' 130.11; 2. Oratory 'A' 127.7; 3. Wellington 'A' 126.8. **CADET FOURS:** 1. Wellington 'A' 247.15; 2. Marlborough 242.6; 3. Oratory 239.10.

## 5-6 May

### ARMY TARGET SHOOTING CLUB OPEN MEETING, BISLEY

**MATCH 1** (300yds): 1. D Calvert (RAFTRC) 50.9; 2. S East (RAFTRC) 50.9; 3. G Davies (OGRE) 50.8. Cadet: J Calcutt (Durham ACF) 50.7. **MATCH 2** (600yds): 1. A Mitchell (ATSC) 75.13; 2. Calvert 75.12; 3. D Richardson (Jersey RA) 75.11. Cadet: C Evans (Greshams) 74.8. **MATCH 3** (300yds): 1. A Gill (ATSC) 75.13; 2. P DeVoll (NLRC) 75.11; 3. S Hier (ATSC/REME) 75.11. Cadet: H Green (Greshams) 73.10. **MATCH 4** (500yds): 1. Gill 50.9; 2. M Cooper (Comber) 50.8; 3. R Stebbings (Durham ACF) 50.7. Cadets: Calcutt 49.4. **SHORT RANGE AGG:** 1. Mitchell (ATSC) 200.27; 2. Gill 199.31; 3. Calvert 199.29. 'A': DeVoll 198.26. 'O': Cooper 199.26. Tyro: L Bennett (ATSC/REME) 195.17. Cadet: Evans 194.18.

**CLARKE SHIELD** (teams): 1. REME 786.89; 2. Regular Army (Green) 780.94. **MATCH 5** (800 & 900yds): 1. J Lothian (Greshams) 125.17; 2. Hier 125.17; 3. J Watson (Uppingham VRC) 124.18. Cadet: Evans 124.16. **MATCH 6** (900 & 1000yds): 1. Hier 123.17; 2. M Wood (ATSC) 123.17; 3. J Wallace (ATSC) 123.17. **LONG RANGE AGG:** 1. Hier 248.34; 2. Wallace 246.31; 3. N Moxon (RAFTRC) 245.37. 'A': Wallace. 'O': W Squires (ATSC) 245.27. Tyro: Bennett 243.24. Cadet: Evans 240.28. **PALMA**

**TROPHY** (teams): 1. Regular Army 976.107; 2. REME 971.106. **GRAND AGG. CHALLENGE TROPHY:** 1. Hier 447.61; 2. Calvert 444.57; 3. Mitchell 444.51. 'A': Stebbings 442.61. 'O': Squires 441.49. Tyro: Bennett 438.41. Cadet: Evans 434.46.

## 6 May

### LONDON & MIDDLESEX RA PRE SERVICE CADETS

**SPOON** (300yds): 1. J Haines (Wilts ACF) 34.3; 2. I Meares (Wilts ACF) 33.3; 3. S Raj (241 Sqn ATC) 33.3. **GILBERT TROPHY** (300 & 500yds): 1. E Webb (Gloucs ACF) 68.5; 2. F Boistelle (1903 Penge ACF) 66.6; 3. C Jowett (Gloucs ACF) 66.1. **MIDDLESEX TROPHY** (300 & 500yds): 1. Gloucester ACF 'A' 256.12; 2. 129 Squadron 241.90; 3. 241 Squadron 'A' 240.9.

## 12 & 13 May

### ENGLISH VIII, SCOTTISH VIII & WELSH RA MATCH RIFLE SPRING MEETING, BISLEY

**ENGLISH VIII LORD COTTESLOE CUP:** 1. N Tremlett 426.43; 2. A Gent 425.36; 3. J Peck 420.30. **SCOTTISH EIGHT CUP:** 1. J McAllister 350.29; 2. T Kidner 348.27; 3. M Haszklawicz 345.26. **WELSH RIFLE ASSN CUP:** 1. G James 421.31; 2. T Hobbs 409.33; 3. L Brister 401.28. **OPEN WEEKEND AGGREGATE:** 1. Tremlett 426.43; 2. Gent 425.36; 3. McAllister 422.37.

**H G COURTH MEMORIAL TROPHY** (Sat.): 1. Gent 217.20; 2. Peck 215.15; 3. McAllister J 214.21. **MARTIN SMITH CHALLENGE CUP** (Sun): 1. Tremlett 213.20; 2. Hobbs 212.21; 3. Kidner 212.18. **L D RANKEN MEMORIAL TROPHY** (1200yds): 1. C Hayes CJF 71.05; 2. Kidner 69.04; 3. J Pugsley 69.02. **POWELL TROPHY** (Ladies): 1. K Fitton 419.40; 2. J Campbell-Smith 405.27; 3. Brister 401.28. **O.C.R.A. TROPHY** (Under 25): 1. N Hall 383.25; 2. K Sharpington 381.19; 3. M Fisher 339.13.

**TR CLASS:** 1. L Chisholm 386.24; 2. R Jeens 201.12; 3. T Webster 178.07.



**13 May****ENGLISH COUNTIES KING GEORGE V CUP HEATS, BISLEY**

**HOME COUNTIES:** 1. Surrey 1188.154 (J Underwood 150.24); 2. Sussex 1168.136 (A Pilgrim 150.18); 3. Kent: 1167.139 (P Dwyer 149.21); 4. Middlesex 1130.91 (D. Lorgues 146.15). **SOUTHERN AREA:** 1. London 1170.122 (D Blake 149.17); 2. Berkshire 1162.112 (M Fugeman 150.14); 3. Hampshire 1149.112 (L Mace 148.16).

**BERKSHIRE ASTOR HEAT, BISLEY**

1. Berkshire RC 599.46 (better score at 600 yards); 2. Windsor Rifle Club 599.46; 3. Oratory Cardinal RC 590.39.

**19-20 May****NORTHUMBERLAND CRA OPEN MEETING, PONTELAND**

**WIDDRINGTON CUP** (400 yds): 1. S Young (101 RC) 50.8; 2. A Powell (Darlington) 50.6. **LORD LIEUTENANT'S CUP** (400, 500 & 600yds): 1. T Drysdale (City of Newcastle) 148.15; 2. R Horrocks (Manchester) 147.17; 3. N Watson (Sheffield) 147.13.

**ALN CUP** (600 yds) after tie: 1. Horrocks 74.9; 2. Watson 74.9; 3. J Trembath (City of Newcastle) 74.8. County Ch'ship (closed):

1. M Black 170.17; 2. Drysdale 169.16; 3. K Pugh 169.12 (all City of Newcastle).

**KING GEORGE V CUP NORTHERN HEAT**

(400, 500 & 600yds): 1. Lancs 1157.112 (R Booth 146.18); 2. Northumberland & Durham 1152.104 (P Slater 149.13); 3. Yorks 1140.103 (L Crowson 149.15).

**NRA 300M CH'SHIPS, BISLEY**

Ch'ship: 1. G Howarth 594.30; 2. S Aldhouse 589.35; 3. H Pugsley 587.27. TR Std: 1. A Gent 593.27; 2. C Painting 574.16; 3. D Crispin 571.14.

**SURREY RA V OURC, HAC (300 & 600YDS), BISLEY**

1. Surrey 593.68; 2. HAC 544.31; 3. Oxford

Univ RC 515.28. **SIR EDMUND ELLES LONG RANGE MATCH, BISLEY:** 1. Old Epsomians (B. Hyam 99.12) 2. Old Guildfordians (J. Underwood 100.14) 3. Club XXV (P Chance 99.13).

**SURREY LEAGUE 2ND STAGE (LONG RANGE), BISLEY**

1. Old Epsomians (W. Steward 99.14) 2. Club XXV (R. Gardiner 100.11) 3. Old Guildfordians (D. Armstrong 100.12)

**SURREY SCHOOLS & VETERANS, BISLEY**

**EPSOM CUP** (300 & 600yds): 1. RGS Guildford 496.29; 2. Wellington College 479.16; 3. Epsom College 478.23.

**OFFICERS CUP:** Cdt Tritton-Price (Oratory) 65.4. **OFFICERS BOWL** (Reserve Pair: RGS Guildford 127.8. **SOWMAN CUP** (Cadet Pair): Oratory A 124.7. **VETERANS:** 1. O Guildfordians 497.62; 2. O Epsomians 492.61; 3. O Johnians 489.53.

**VETERANS' TANKARD:** M Millar (O Epsomians) 100.14.

**ARMY TARGET SC(Tr) V CURA** (300, 600 & 900yds), Bisley. 1. ATSC(Tr) 1167.114; 2. Cambridge Univ RA 1109.78.

**ATSC(Tr) V CURA V SURREY RA** (900 & 1000yds), Bisley. 1. Surrey RA 581.47; 2. ATSC(Tr) 574.42; 3. CURA 540.38.

**LMRA LEAGUES RND 2, BISLEY.** Div 1: 1. Ruislip 490.50; 2. Manydown 481.48; 3. O Haberdashers A 480.44.

**RAF V ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & WALES**

(300, 500 & 600yds). **BISLEY.** 1. England 2051.252; 2. Scotland 2035.222; 3. Wales 2022.202; RAF 2018.190.

**26-27 May****KING GEORGE V CUP EASTERN HEAT**

(300, 500 & 600yds), Bisley. 1. Essex 1152.115 (J Lindsey 147.18); Norfolk 1138.91 (N Ball 147.13); Suffolk 1127.95

(D Fenn 146.17); Hertfordshire 1122.86 (N Verduyn 145.12).

**SUSSEX COUNTY CH'SHIP, BISLEY**

**CORTIS** (300 & 500yds): 1. G Cotton 99.14; 2. L Wicker 97.11; 3. R Roberts 96.9.

**ASSOCIATION** (500 & 600yds): 1. J Payne 96.11; 2. Cotton 96.9; 3. M Brister 95.7.

**CARDEN CUP** (Ch'ship 1st stage): 1. J Payne 190.18; 2. Brister 190.18; 3. Roberts 190.14. **HARVEY CUP:** 1. Cotton 195.23; 2. S Williamson 191.21; 3. Payne 190.18.

**BERKSHIRE COUNTY CH'SHIPS, BISLEY**

**SHORT RANGE** (300, 500 & 600yds): 1. C Dickenson 99.10; 2. J Lindsay 97.8; 3. M Fugeman 97.7. U25: O Rolfe 93.7.

**LONG RANGE** (900 & 1000yds): 1. Dickenson 98.12; 2. N Tremlett 91.6; 3. R Vary 89.7. U25: J Allum 83.3.

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP:** 1. Dickenson 197.22; 2. Vary 185.19; 3. R Gardiner 183.14.

**2 June****TOUR MATCH**

**NRA V GUERNSEY RC,** Fort Le Marchant, Guernsey

1. NRA 1185.151 (T Smith 150.24); 2. Guernsey RC 1176.134 (S Hunt 149.15)

**2-3 June****SCOTTISH LONG RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**TR: GRAND AGG:** 1. R Scott 427.42; 2. S Glen 422.42; 3. T Kidner 421.34.

**SATURDAY AGG:** 1. J Potter 217.16; 2. K MacDonald 216.26; 3. T Kidner 214.19.

**SUNDAY AGG:** 1. Scott 214.23; 2. 213.26; 3. Kidner 207.15. **F/TR: GRAND AGG:** 1. P Crosbie 433.55; 2. Peter Burbridge 433.49.

**SATURDAY AGG:** -1. Crosbie 223.31; 2. Burbridge 217.27. **SUNDAY AGG:** 1.

Burbridge 216.22; 2. Crosbie 210.24.

**F-OPEN: GRAND AGG:** 1. D Parr 401.21;

2. H Inglis 396.20. **SATURDAY AGG:** 1. Parr 202.11; 2. Gow 197.9. **Sunday Agg.** - 1. Inglis 201.12; 2. Parr 199.10.



# THE ARTISTS RIFLES CLUBHOUSE

## MARS & MINERVA SHOOTING CLUB BISLEY



**The Artists Rifles Clubhouse is a private members social and shooting club that is both rich in history and has a fascinating and active membership.**

### CLUBHOUSE

Situated in a prime location at Bisley, our atmospheric bar overlooks Century Range. We offer excellent facilities including a licensed bar, quality food and bed & breakfast accommodation. The clubhouse is also available to hire for parties, dinners and other functions.

### SOCIAL CLUB

With a busy calendar of events including formal dinners, relaxed buffets and parties, we also host regular talks from interesting and adventurous individuals, such as Kate Adie, Doug Beattie MC and Pete Winner. The clubhouse is a great place to meet and relax in a vibrant but comfortable atmosphere.

### SHOOTING CLUB

With many active and competitive shooting members, we hold club shoots several times a month and run regular competitions from TR & FClass to Service Rifle and other disciplines. New to civilian shooting? We hold regular NRA approved courses to get you started.

*"Excellent company, beautiful setting and fabulous food"*

### MEMBERSHIP

We welcome membership enquiries from present and former British and Allied Armed Forces and Police personnel, Civil Servants and relatives of those who served in the Artists Rifles.

We also consider friends of members and exceptional individuals who will enhance the club and value its heritage and ethos.

Please contact us or come and see us at the clubhouse for more information or to request a membership form.



REGULAR CLUB SHOOTS



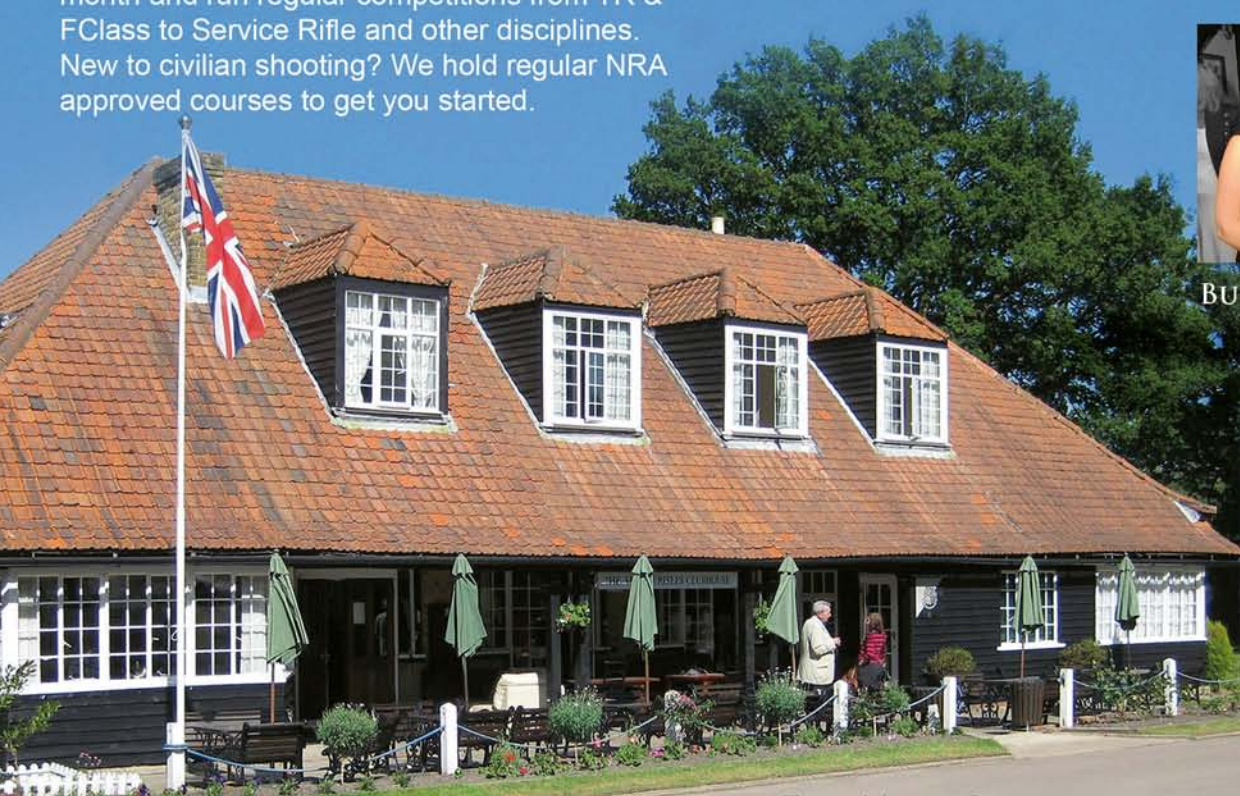
PRESTIGIOUS CLUBHOUSE



TRAINING & COACHING



BUSY SOCIAL CALENDAR



IMPERIAL  
2012

WE WELCOME ALL  
NRA MEMBERS  
&  
AFFILIATED MEMBERS  
AND THEIR GUESTS

FOR  
MEALS AND  
BAR SERVICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[www.artistsrifles.com](http://www.artistsrifles.com) 01483 797 505 [Katie@artistsrifles.com](mailto:Katie@artistsrifles.com)

THE ARTISTS RIFLES CLUBHOUSE, BISLEY CAMP, BROOKWOOD, SURREY, GU24 0NY



# General Notices

## Discipline

**11 JUNE 2011** – Mr I Keens has been expelled from Bisley for a period of five years for breach of rules 347 and 348 of the NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting.

**18 JUNE 2011** – Mr P Martin has been banned until the end of 2012 and required to successfully complete a hand loading course for breach of range safety regulations, paragraph 2a of the NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting.

**11 JULY 2011** – Miss G Ogden was suspended until a hearing on 15 July 2011 when a reprimand was given for breach of Rule 544 (a) (ii) of the NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting.

**23 JULY 2011** – Mr M Evans has been struck off the register of NRA members and permanently expelled from the camp and ranges for breach of rules 347 and 348 of the NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting.

**29 JULY 2011** – Mr A Pattison has been struck off the register of NRA members and permanently expelled from the camp and ranges for breach of rules 347 and 348 of the NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting.

**23 AUGUST 2011** – Mr M Day has been struck off the register of NRA members and permanently expelled from the camp and ranges for breach of rules 347 and 348 of the NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting.

**23 AUGUST 2011** – Mr K Dycer has been struck off the register of NRA members and permanently expelled from the camp and ranges for breach of rules 347 and 348 of the NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting.

**13 SEPTEMBER 2011** – Mr R Platt has been struck off the register of NRA members and permanently expelled from the camp and ranges for breach of rules A3.1.4 of the NRA Gallery Rifle & Pistol Handbook, rules 253, 255, 260 & 261 of the NRA Handbook and rule 6a, 6c & 6f of the Bisley range safety regulations.

## Black powder RCO courses

We are receiving a large number of requests for black powder RCO courses to be run by the NRA. We are unable to run BP courses as we are not the national governing body for black powder – that is the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain, MLAGB.

We are in contact with them and have offered to both host and subsidise such

courses with our Sport England money and await their response. As and when this course becomes available, we will post this on our website.

## Imperial Meeting: outstanding debts

A big and justifiable criticism of the NRA in recent years has been its willingness to allow large debts to accumulate without addressing the issue.

Last year at the Imperial we withheld squadding cards from those with debts owing beyond 30 days. This resulted in a substantial reduction in our outstanding debts, and we fully intend to take the same stance this year.

We feel it is unfair on those who pay their bills in good time that others should be able to enjoy the facilities at Bisley while claiming free credit from the NRA and ultimately from their fellow shooters.

## Free Imperial entries

This year we are focusing free county entries on young shooters who would otherwise not be able to come to shoot the Imperial. We are still making these available and club chairmen should contact the Chief Executive.



# Marksman's Calendar

All the events for the rest of 2012, and some provisional dates for 2013. All events at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley, unless otherwise stated.

## JUNE

### 16-17 LMRA CLIVE AMSTEIN MEMORIAL TROPHY

LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

### 16 NRA PERCUSSION REVOLVER CHAMPIONSHIPS

David Gregory, davidtricia.theledge@talktalk.net

### 16-17 NRA INTER-COUNTIES MEETING

Sally Agnew, 01483 797777 x 160, sally.agnew@nra.org.uk

### 16 SUPERSHOT CHALLENGE (JERSEY (CHANNEL ISLANDS))

Derek Bernard, 01534 769460, DB@TSLjersey.com

### 19 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

### 22-24 SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (BLAIR ATHOLL (SCOTLAND))

Allan Mabon, maboonscotland@ntlworld.com

### 23 TOTAL CHALLENGE RAFTRC V LMRA V SURREY CLUBS V UNDER 25S

RAFTRC Match Secretary, 07974 128462, karen@bang.eclipse.co.uk

### 23 ATSC V HOME COUNTRIES

ATSC TR Captain, atsccaptain@gmail.com

### 24 SURREY RA CIVILIAN CUP

Surrey Rifle Association, 01483 473159, secretary@surreyra.org

### 24 SURREY RA ASTOR TANKARD

Surrey Rifle Association, 01483 473159, secretary@surreyra.org

### 24 NLRC V BCRC V LMRA

NLRC, captain@nlrc.org

## JULY

### 04 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

### 05 BISLEY V CLUB SCHOOLS AND CADET MATCH

Major SB Fraser, 01483 473095, simon@

taraccrs.co.uk

### 06-12 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – MATCH RIFLE EVENTS

Sally Agnew, 01483 797777 x 160, sally.agnew@nra.org.uk

### 07-08 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – HISTORIC ARMS EVENTS

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

### 09-12 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – SCHOOLS MEETING

Peter Turner, schools@nra.org.uk

### 10 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH RC V OVERSEAS TEAMS MATCH

British Commonwealth RC, edjeens@gmail.com

### 11-15 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – PISTOL AND GALLERY RIFLE EVENTS

Chris Webb, regman@nra.org.uk

### 12 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – SCHOOLS VETERANS MATCH

NRA Imperial Meeting, squadding@nra.org.uk

### 12 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – ASHBURTON SHIELD

Peter Turner, schools@nra.org.uk

### 12-21 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – TARGET RIFLE EVENTS

Sally Agnew, 01483 797777 x 160, sally.agnew@nra.org.uk

### 12 LMRA V JERSEY RA

LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

### 12 KGV FINAL

KGv, pgkelly74@hotmail.com

### 13-21 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – F CLASS RIFLE EVENTS

Sally Agnew, 01483 797777 x 160, sally.agnew@nra.org.uk

### 21 NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – HM QUEENS PRIZE

Sally Agnew, 01483 797777 x 160, sally.agnew@nra.org.uk

### 22 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

### 27-01 JUL NRA IMPERIAL MEETING – CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE MEETING

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

### 27-21 JUL NRA IMPERIAL MEETING

NRA Imperial Meeting, squadding@nra.org.uk

### 29 F CLASS GB SQUAD TEAM TRAINING

Mik Maksimovic, 01780 481567, mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

### 30-01 JUL F CLASS LEAGUE ROUND 4

Mik Maksimovic, 01780 481567, mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

### 30-01 JUL BRITISH COMMONWEALTH RC MEETING

British Commonwealth RC, edjeens@gmail.com

### 30-01 JUL TEES VALLEY TARGET SPORTS CLUB THIEPHALL TROPHY

Tees Valley Target Sports, david.hart1@sky.com

## AUGUST

### 04-05 INVERNESS-SHIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS (CAWDOR (SCOTLAND))

Mark Joyce, mark.joyce2@tesco.net

### 09 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

### 11-12 F CLASS LEAGUE ROUND 5 (DIGGLE (ENGLAND))

Mik Maksimovic, 01780 481567, mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

### 17-25 DCRA CANADIAN FULLBORE RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIPS (OTTAWA, CANADA)

DCRA, office@dcra.ca

### 18-19 TULLIBARDINE (TAYSIDE) OPEN MEETING (BLAIR ATHOLL (SCOTLAND))

Jim Bell, jwhbell@btinternet.com

### 18 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

### 25-26 GALLERY RIFLE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

### 25 LMRA V RNTRC



LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

**26 LMRA V BBC RC V KENT RC**

LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

**SEPTEMBER**

**01 COMBINED SERVICES V CIVIL SERVICE**

ATSC TR Captain, atsccaptain@gmail.com

**02 ATSC V HAC**

ATSC TR Captain, atsccaptain@gmail.com

**02 RAFTRC V LMRA**

RAFTRC Match Secretary, 07974 128462,  
karen@bang.eclipse.co.uk

**02 METHODS OF INSTRUCTION AND  
ASSESSMENT WORKSHOP**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,  
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**08-09 NRC OF SCOTLAND OPEN  
CHAMPIONSHIPS (BLAIR ATHOLL  
(SCOTLAND))**

Tim Kidner, 01224 321468, tlk762@aol.com

**14 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY**

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.  
org.uk

**15 EAST OF SCOTLAND MEETING (BLAIR  
ATHOLL (SCOTLAND))**

Major (Ret'd) RJ Aitken, 0131 445 1948,  
baitekenshooting@btinternet.com

**15-16 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER  
COURSE**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,  
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**15 LMRA AFFILIATED CLUBS  
CHAMPIONSHIPS (PAIRS)**

LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

**15-16 SURREY RIFLE ASSOCIATION OPEN  
MEETING**

Surrey Rifle Association, 01483 473159,  
secretary@surreyra.org

**16 ATSC V CITY**

ATSC TR Captain, atsccaptain@gmail.com

**21 COUNTY OF LANCASTER V LMRA**

County of Lancaster RA, secretary@clra.  
org.uk

**22-23 LMRA OPEN TR MEETING**

LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

**23 GLOUCESTERSHIRE OPEN AUTUMN  
MEETING**

Simon Cox, 01242 512711, shandmacox@  
talktalk.net

**23 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY**

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.  
org.uk

**23 SURREY LEAGUE ROUND 3**

Surrey Rifle Association, 01483 473159,

secretary@surreyra.org

**23 SURREY RA WESTCOTT CUP**

Surrey Rifle Association, 01483 473159,  
secretary@surreyra.org

**27-30 COMMONWEALTH SHOOTING  
FEDERATION (EUROPEAN DIVISION)  
CHAMPIONSHIPS (JERSEY (CHANNEL  
ISLANDS))**

Derek Bernard, 01534 769460, DB@  
TSLjersey.com

**29-30 LMRA V SCOTTISH RA (BLAIR ATHOLL  
(SCOTLAND))**

LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

**29-30 THE ENGLISH EIGHT CLUB AND IRISH  
EIGHT CLUB AUTUMN MEETING**

English VIII, bill@englisheight.co.uk

**29 COUNTY DURHAM OPEN  
CHAMPIONSHIPS (BATTLE HILL, CO  
DURHAM)**

Graeme Clarke, 01642 890740, graeme.  
clarke1@ntlworld.com

**29-30 TEES VALLEY TARGET SPORTS CLUB  
METCALFE CUP**

Tees Valley Target Sports, david.hart1@sky.  
com

**OCTOBER**

**06 CIVIL SERVICE SPORTS COUNCIL  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

Nigel Thomas, 01992 630981, nigel.  
thomas430@ntlworld.com

**06 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE COMPETITION**

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

**06-07 WIND COACHING COURSE**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,  
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**06 BISLEY CLUBS MATCH**

NLRC, captain@nlrc.org

**06-07 F CLASS LEAGUE ROUND 6**

(Blair Atholl (Scotland)) Des Parr, desparr@  
yahoo.com

**07 CITY OF NEWCASTLE RC OPEN**

(Ponteland, Newcastle (England)) Keith  
Pugh, 01670 772234, keithpugh@hotmail.  
com

**07 ATSC V LMRA V U25S**

ATSC TR Captain, atsccaptain@gmail.com

**13-14 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER  
COURSE**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,  
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**13-14 EUROPEAN LONG RANGE TEAM  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Sally Agnew, 01483 797777 x 160, sally.  
agnew@nra.org.uk

**13 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY**

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.  
org.uk

**20-21 CLUB INSTRUCTOR COURSE –  
GENERAL SKILLS**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,  
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**20-21 TRAFALGAR MEETING**

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

**23 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY**

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.  
org.uk

**27-28 AGES MATCH**

Sally Agnew, 01483 797777 x 160, sally.  
agnew@nra.org.uk

**27-28 CLUB COACH COURSE**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,





maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**27-28 GALLERY RIFLE – AUTUMN ACTION WEEKEND**

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

**NOVEMBER**

**01 F-CLASS GB SQUAD TEAM TRAINING**

Mik Maksimovic, 01780 481567, mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

**02-04 F CLASS EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Mik Maksimovic, 01780 481567, mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

**04 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE COMPETITION**

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

**10 TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL**

Brian Thomas, 01483 797777 x 148, brian.thomas@nra.org.uk

**10-11 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER COURSE**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**14 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY**

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

**25 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY**

Caroline O Connor,

caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

**DECEMBER**

**01 NRA SHOOTING CLUB DAY**

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

**01 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE COMPETITION**

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

**08-09 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER COURSE**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**08 NRA SHOOTING CLUB XMAS SHOOT**

Caroline O Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

**16 RCO (HME) COURSE**

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

**2013**

**6 JANUARY NRA CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE, WINTER LEAGUE**

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

**12 JANUARY GALLERY RIFLE XMAS SHOOT AND SOCIAL**

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

**2 FEBRUARY NRA CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE, WINTER LEAGUE**

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

**16 FEBRUARY NRA TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL**

Brian Thomas, 01483 797777 x 148, brian.thomas@nra.org.uk

**3 MARCH NRA CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE, WINTER LEAGUE**

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

**30-31 MARCH NRA SPRING ACTION WEEKEND**

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

**6 APRIL NRA CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE, WINTER LEAGUE**

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

**18-19 MAY NRA 300-METRE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

**24-26 MAY NRA PHOENIX MEETING**

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*All 2013 dates are provisional – please contact the discipline rep to confirm.*







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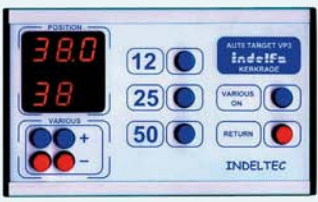
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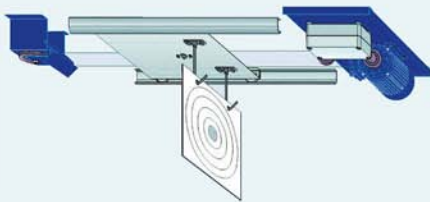
  
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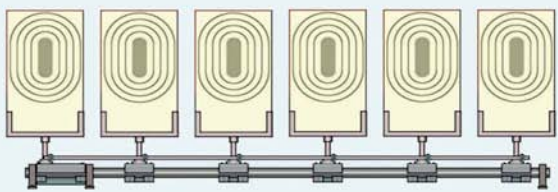


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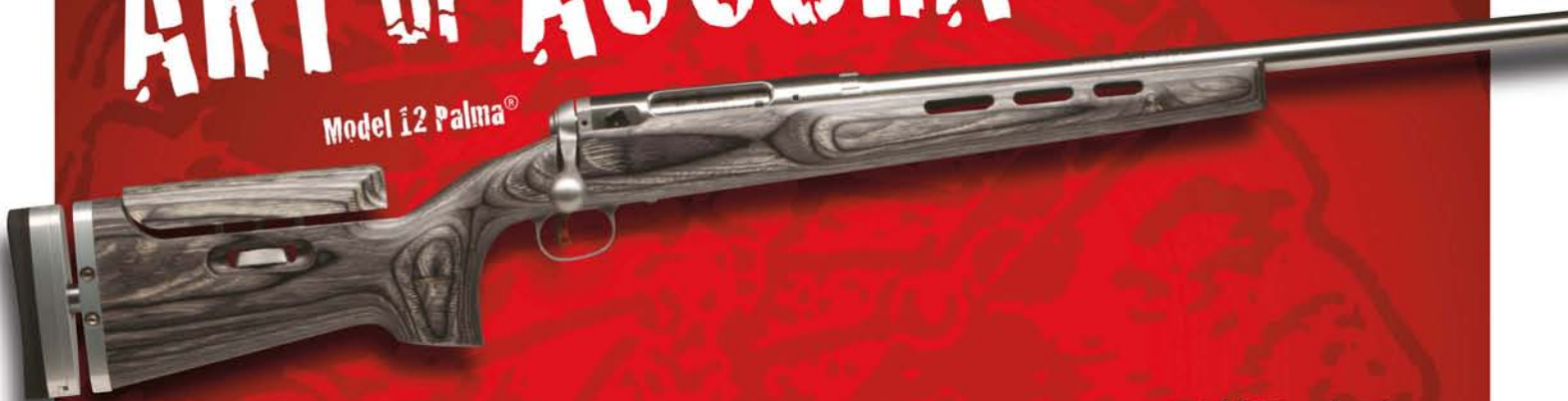




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