

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Winter 2013 – Volume XCII No. 4

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Historic Arms

Bisley *boom*

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bearing fruit

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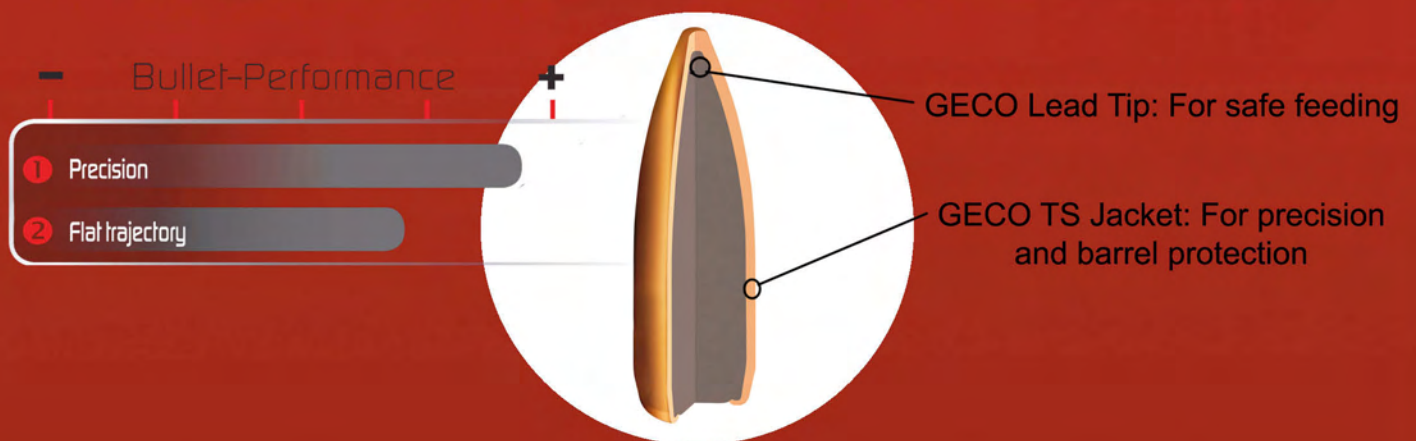
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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



Autumn 2013 – Volume XCII – Number 4



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Welcome



Investing in the Future

**Chief executive Andrew Mercer
reflects on a busy first year in his role,
which has seen vast improvements at
Bisley – but there is still work to do**

The next few days will signal the end of my first year with the NRA, which has tied in nicely with the finalising of a three-year plan for the Association and Bisley Camp.

Perhaps surprisingly to some, there is good news. The overdraft and bank loan totalling £400,000 that was inherited last year has been paid in full, and we now have a war chest of several hundred thousand pounds. Even more exciting is the rapid growth of paid membership, which has been increasing at the rate of around 100 new members each month. I would love to claim these successes are the result of a cunning plan, beautifully executed by a crack team of staff, but to be frank it is probably the result of our 'back to basics' campaign where we try to answer the phone when it rings, treat shooters as paying customers, and send out accurate invoices in a timely fashion (and even ask for them to be paid promptly). All simple and straightforward business practices.

This year we set out to deliver a surplus of £150,000 after many years of losses, but our current forecast result is for a surplus of just over £300,000. This has promoted significant debate, and we have decided that the cash surpluses should be invested for the benefit of current and future generations of shooters rather than provide the cheapest possible shooting for the current membership. We have committed to not increasing prices to services for members by more than RPI for 2014, 2015,

and 2016. This means that the Association will be limited to no real price increases for the next three years and will be relying upon growing participation in shooting and improving our operational efficiency to generate funds for investment. In crude cash terms we have set aside £200,000 as our 'rainy day' fund and are planning to spend £1 million on camp maintenance over the next three years.

Our efforts for 2014, 2015 and 2016 have one overriding objective – to increase range use at Bisley and increase fullbore shooting throughout the UK. Each investment decision for Bisley will need to prove it will increase shooting activity on the camp. Despite many claims to the contrary, what we need to deliver for our shooters is quite simple: an efficient and reliable target booking system, decent roads and accessible car parks, pleasant conditions on the firing point, and effective systems of marking. To support this there is a layer of ancillary services – ablutions, catering, and accommodation – but again these are not complicated matters.

Our immediate challenge is the refurbishment and development projects for 2014, which will include test electronic targets on Century, Stickledown, Melville and Short Siberia; increased covered firing points on Short Siberia; a new ETR range; the establishment of a new visitor centre and café; the delivery of new serviced caravan/lodge pitches; and progressive improvement of our stock of bedroomed accommodation. Signage





and road repairs are also priorities but we need to choreograph some ground works to make sure newly laid tarmacadam is not duffed up by heavy dumper trucks moving spoil.

We will need to invest in our staff to deliver these projects and improve the services we provide, and we are working through a modest restructuring that will create new positions in membership, competitions, accommodation and the commercial team. Nick Karavias, our estate manager, has recently left our employ with my best wishes, and I look forward to seeing him with his black powder pistol on Melville in 2014.

This month sees the start of work to Century range floor that has been badly rutted over several years. Clearing out ditches, improving the vehicular bridges, filling in ruts and generally improving drainage will in the first instance create some untidiness but will improve ground conditions for 2014. We are also beefing up our power capacity by bringing in a new electricity supply to the back of Century range.

The autumn series of competitions at Bisley have been interesting. Well established events have tended to struggle for competitors while new disciplines (such as F Class and Civilian Service Rifle) have been well supported. I have a suspicion that while we are currently successful in attracting new shooters and easing them through the probationary courses and into the welcoming arms of the NRA Shooting Club, we are pretty hopeless at encouraging them to participate further in major competitions. Our membership and competition staff and volunteers have been charged with addressing this, and will be organising a raft of Discipline Days to blow away the shroud of mystery that appears to discourage our newer members.

Peter Cottrell, our interim head of shooting and competitions, delivered a successful Civilian Service Rifle introduction day for 24 CSR virgins that was very well received. These events rely heavily on the goodwill and enthusiasm of volunteers, but the early signs of increasing participation in competitions are encouraging.

Reinvigorating Bisley also requires considerable support from the many clubs based on Camp. They, like the NRA, face the challenge of recognising and adapting to

the changing nature of shooting at Bisley. Target Rifle, the traditional mainstay of most of the clubs, is facing fierce competition from other disciplines; the proportion of members claiming TR as their primary discipline fell from 54 per cent in 2008 to 48.5 per cent in 2012 (and interestingly, 36.5 per cent of our 2013 probationers). Our fortunes are inextricably linked with those of the Bisley clubs, and relationships are complicated by the NRA's position as beastly landlord. My enthusiasm to charge our tenants market rents has been tempered with real concerns about affordability, and we have started to try to encourage the large membership of the NRA Shooting Club to consider the services offered by the clubhouses at Bisley.

Behind the scenes there continues to be a great deal of effort in liaison with the police, Home Office, MoD and other statutory bodies. We need to apply more resources to this critical work, and the current restructuring of staff will allow Iain Robertson to concentrate more of his time to these areas. This work can be very demanding of time. We recently represented a member who had run into difficulty with the police and had his FAC revoked. The case consumed a great deal of time and effort but resulted in a new FAC and the return of his collection of rifles and shotguns.

Christmas will allow our staff the opportunity to rest and prepare for a new and challenging year when we will finally be able to improve the appearance, service and facilities that NRA and Bisley camp offer. Protecting and enhancing the unique atmosphere and style of the camp during a programme of modernisation will be interesting, and we look forward to sharing the fruits of our investments and effort with you in 2014. ■



News

NRA SURVEY



The NRA would like to thank all those members who took part in the recent online communications survey.

Below shows a snapshot of results with the complete set published on the NRA website in due course so members are fully aware of the outcomes.

What would you like the NRA to communicate to you about? The top three responses are below:

Shooting Legislation	89.48%
Ranges & Facilities	84.41%
Members Offers	76.59%

Do you read the quarterly NRA Journal?

Always	78.77%
Sometimes	17.74%
Never	3.48%

GBRT 2014 TEAM

Congratulations to all the following, who have been selected to represent Great Britain on the 2014 tour to Canada and the United States of America:

Captain: Matthew Charlton – GB, Scotland & London

Vice Captain: Jane Messer GC SC – GB, England & Sussex

Adjutant: Martin Whicher –

GB, England & Berkshire

David Armstrong SB2 –

GB, England & London

Nigel Ball QM GC SM SC –

GB, England & Norfolk

*Will Broad – England & Surrey

*Phil Chapman-Sheath – England & Lincolnshire

*Tom Drysdale – England & Durham

Alastair Haley – GB, Wales & Gloucestershire

*Kenny Macdonald – Scotland

*Angus McLeod – Scotland & East of Scotland

Emma Nuttall – GB, England & Lancashire

Ian Shaw CSM – GB, Scotland & Surrey

Martin Townsend – GB, Ireland & Hertfordshire

Jon Underwood GM GC2 SM2 – GB, England & Surrey

Dominic de Vere – GB, England & London

*Paul Wheeler – England & Surrey

*Bruce Winney – Hertfordshire

Alexander Woodward SM – GB, Wales & London

Stuart Young – GB, England & Lancashire

Reserves

Sandy Gill – Scotland & London

Simon Glen – Scotland & East of Scotland

John Halahan – Derbyshire

Lindsey McKeirrell – Scotland

Gruffudd Morgan – Wales & South Wales

John Pugsley GM SM CGC CSM – GB, England & Devon

Reg Roberts – GB, England & Sussex

(alphabetical order)

* = new cap

ERIN COTTAGE BISLEY CAMP

Erin Cottage at Marjorie Foster's Road, Bisley Camp is available to let for use as a private dwelling in connection with member's shooting at Bisley.

Accommodation is on the ground floor and consists of a lounge with fireplace, modern kitchen, bathroom with shower, separate toilet, hall, and two double bedrooms. Heating and hot water is provided by a recently installed gas fired boiler and the property benefits from double glazing. Erin has private car parking and gardens.

The lease will be on a full repairing basis and will be for a term of 21 years less one day with rent reviewed every three years.

For further particulars and tender pack please contact Georgina Thatcher on Georgina.thatcher@nra.org.uk or phone 01483 797777 (Ext 142). Deadline for offers, to be submitted in writing, is 12 noon Friday 13th December 2013.



WORKING TOGETHER

As a result of work by BSSC, BASC and the GTA, the Home Office have set up a Firearms Fees Working Party to discuss and decide the following items:

Which aspects of Police work should be paid through the fee for a Firearm Certificate and Shotgun Certificate, which aspects of Police work should be paid by HMG. There is an acceptance by the Home office that full cost recovery is not appropriate as is the case at the moment, so the question is where the dividing line should be drawn.

The Working Party will meet quarterly, and there will be no interim fees increase while the Working Party is working.

New application forms for firearms and shotgun certificates are expected to be introduced from 1st December

2013 and should make the task of completing simpler, by merging the two forms into one.

There is expected to be a trial on the e-Commerce approach to using the internet to apply for firearm and shotgun certificates in the counties of Hampshire, Surrey, Wiltshire, Staffordshire and North Yorkshire next year, to test the feasibility of online applications which will of necessity involve simplifications to the application process.

A review by HM Inspector of Constabulary, into the divergent processes adopted by the UK police forces regarding applications for and renewals of firearm and shotgun certificates, is expected to take place next year involving a limited number of police forces.

BISLEY ON THE BOX

Throughout the autumn, Bisley Camp was a focal point for TV filming and video game sound recording. Bisley Camp has become an important backdrop for a number of major TV production companies who have been filming key sections of prime-time TV drama series due for release over the next few months which include:

The Tunnel: A climactic scene involving the blowing up of a house was filmed on Stickledown range at the end of July.

Endeavour: Resulting from The Tunnel event, the production team of the Endeavour second series approached the NRA to use various sections of the camp. They had three days of filming and six days set-up. The areas included the workshop garages, Menagerie hut, D line huts and the OW hut off Inns of Court where some pivotal scenes were filmed. Many of the areas underwent extensive alterations and dressing, which we are sure will make recognition in the final film difficult, although the upgrade

to the garages was so good we decided to keep it. We will be advising members of the dates and times when these episodes and scenes will be broadcast in due course.

These visits have enabled the NRA to build some strong relationships with leading TV production companies, which in turn has led to a great deal of renewed interest in Bisley Camp as a prime location for period drama filming for the 1940s, 50s and 60s. During the recent site visits many of the production designers, directors and producers have made preliminary enquiries relating to upcoming projects. As they come in we will be considering these opportunities to grow what could potentially be an ever-increasing income stream for the organisation.

In addition the **Splash Damage** video games company, makers of games such as 'Batman', 'Extraction', 'Enemy Territory' and 'Wolfenstein' series came to the site to record authentic shooting and impact audio for their games.

NEWS IN BRIEF

OPTILABS SALE

Virtually all of the glasses in the renowned Optilabs sports range can



be purchased at £20 off the usual list price until the end of 2013 – so there's never been a better time to treat yourself to a pair of stunning Zeiss shooting glasses.

For more information visit www.optilabs.com or call 0208 686 5708.

WORK FOR THE NRA

The NRA have the following vacancies available:

- Head of Shooting & Competitions
- Commercial & Operations Manager
- Buildings Maintenance Foreman
- Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Please apply by sending your CV and covering letter to **Georgina. thatcher@nra.org.uk**

OTF 100 CLUB DRAW

The following people have won a prize in this year's OTF 100 Club Draw:

1. £1,800 – Stephen Merton Jones
2. £1,200 – Tony Jones
3. £600 – Charles Brooks
4. £600 – Guy van Koetsveld
5. £450 – Rupert Dix
6. £450 – Andy Daw
7. £300 – Mike Baille-Hamilton
8. £300 – Ross McQuillan
9. £150 – Nick Hinchliffe
10. £150 – Stuart O'Brien

All proceeds go to the Overseas Teams Fund and should you wish to take part in this draw, the annual cost of entry is £120, or £10 per month by standing order. All are welcome.

To enter please contact Toby Raincock at tobster2010@gmail.com who will be happy to send you the necessary forms.

The OTF Committee wish to take this opportunity in expressing their thanks to Toby for all his hard work in organising the draw.

YOUR Views

If you have an opinion or suggestion you would like to share, write to "Journal Letters" at NRA HQ or email nra@blazepublishing.co.uk



Dear Sir,

The cost of target rifle shooting has been a matter of discussion lately. In fact the cost of competing in the Grand Aggregate in the Imperial Meeting today compares closely with the cost more than sixty years ago. Thanks to Ted Molyneux, the curator of the NRA Museum, I have an entry form for the 1949 Imperial Meeting.

In 1949 the cost of entry to the Grand Aggregate plus sweeps was £6 -14/- which, according to the Bank of England inflation calculator, equates to £200.49 today. Ammunition was free so we can add the cost of 167 rounds, including sighters, at 98 pence a round to give a total theoretical cost of £364.15. In 2013 entry to the Grand

Aggregate plus sweeps cost £368.60 – a difference of only £4.45.

Today there are four competitions of fifteen rounds to count whereas in 1949 there were two. In 1949 butt markers and other temporary staff were largely Army personnel when a National Service private soldier was paid 25/- (£1.25) a week or a fiver a day in today's money. Taking these factors into consideration together with the superb running of modern meetings and the enjoyment competitors derive from it we should not carp on too much about its cost these days. The capital cost to competitors, rifles, telescopes, add-ons and fancy kit is altogether a different matter and is entirely up to the individual.

Yours faithfully,

John Gilmour



Dear Editor,

Just a quick message to say how pleased I am to see the Journal covering events from all over the country (and indeed Ireland) and not just focusing on Bisley. I think in the past there has been a tendency to ignore events from elsewhere yet, judging from your Autumn issue, shooting sports and events are thriving elsewhere. Long may it continue.

Moir, via email

To the editor,

When the NRA journal first took on its new format, I found the transfer from traditional journal to magazine style quite jarring. But since then I must admit that I have really enjoyed the stylish and illustrative nature of the magazine. Keep up the good work!

Jasper Fothergill



Dear Editor,

I read with interest your 'Pride of Australia' article, which reported on the 2013 Imperial Meeting and James Corbett's stunning success. Having been there myself, I was so pleased to read such positive reporting and an article that managed to capture the spirit of the day. It really was an exciting match and, despite the initial confusion over the winner, it only added to the tension. Everyone in attendance really seemed to be pleased that he had managed to win and only made the event more enjoyable. Reading your article, he seems a thoroughly nice chap who deserves his successes.

From a personal point of view, it would have been even nicer to see one of the British contingent win, of course. However, I was pleased to see David Luckman take home the St George's Vase for the second year running and I hope he gets the credit he deserves for a fantastic career.

Overall I had a fantastic day at Bisley, one where even the British weather managed to add to the occasion, and for once not in a negative way!

Bob, via email

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Operation VALKYRIE

Tim Finley finally manages to get his hands on an AR .223 Wylde, built by a company that sure knows its stuff when it comes to CSR-ready straight pull rifles

Civilian Service Rifle matches are based on Army Rifle Association matches with timings adapted to suit bolt-action or straight pull rifles. Matches consist of deliberate, rapid fire and snap shooting practices, including movement between distances and different shooting positions such as standing, kneeling, sitting/squatting and prone. They are very popular and are shot in several major events at Bisley.

There are four classes of CSR rifle:

- **Historic:** Any SMLE/No.4/No.5 rifle service pattern as issued with no attachments.
- **Any Iron:** Any rifle with iron sights, no restriction on slings (but bipods may not be used).
- **Service Optic:** Any rifle with optic sights no higher than 4.5x magnification, no restriction on slings. Bipods and forward vertical grips cannot be used but the rifle

magazine may touch or rest on the forearm or on the ground.

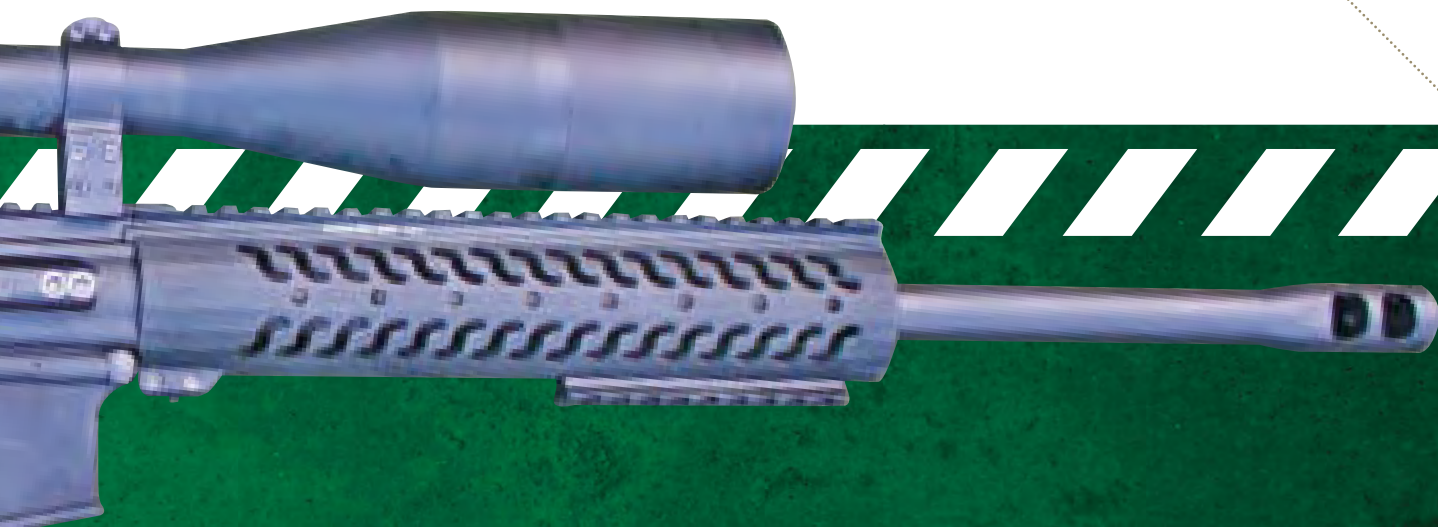
- **Practical Optic:** Any rifle with optic sights of any magnification, with no restriction on slings or bipods, although if a bipod is used it must remain fitted to the rifle at all times during the match.

CSR and Practical Rifle are very similar although CSR matches tend to be shot at shorter distances (100 to 500 yards) and usually have a lower round count of around 10 per practice, instead of 20-30. Straight pull rifles tend to dominate CSR and ones built on an AR platform definitely dominate those. A straight pull is a semi-automatic or automatic firearm of .223 calibre and above, which has had the ability to function as a semi or fully automatic firearm permanently disabled. They can still take high capacity magazines but the bolt must be manually pulled back to remove a spent cartridge. The bolt can return under spring tension to the closed position and chamber an unfired round from the magazine on the way back to battery.

The AR platform is extremely popular for the vast majority of manufacturers making



Tim found that keeping the muzzle down was essential when rapid firing



such guns. It is straightforward to change uppers and lowers, or bolt on after-market accessories to suit the shooter's personal taste or the type and range of competition they are shooting. The name AR used for such "black rifles" came from the company ArmaLite which first made the AR-15, which was in turn bought by Colt and turned into the M-16. ARs can be used in three of the four classes of CSR – iron sight, service optic and practical optic. It is up to the shooter what type of sight they want to use, which determines which class they will compete in.

There are a few gunsmiths in the UK who make AR straight pulls and one of those is Valkyrie Rifles. Dave Wyld, the man behind Valkyrie, was a gunsmith before he got into CSR as he counts himself as a shooter first and a gunsmith later. After shooting CSR, he decided to add ARs onto his build list. He knows just what is needed in a CSR AR as he has competed at a high level in the sport, so he also knows what is not really needed to compete.

What is definitely needed first and foremost is reliability – the main problem with ARs made into straight pulls are extraction issues, which can totally scupper a good score if you have such problems in the middle of a competition. For ARs to extract properly they need to be chambered correctly for the appropriate ammunition, and set at the correct headspace, which is not the same as for a bolt action rifle. When it comes to chambering, Valkyrie offers ARs in .223 Wylde, 6mmAR, 6.8 SPC, .300 whisper or .300 AAC Blackout. The test rifle was chambered in .223 Wylde, which has the same chamber dimensions as a .223 but has a longer lead to enable it to safely shoot 5.56mm Milspec ammunition as well as .223. 5.56mm surplus ammo has higher pressure than a standard .223 round and should not be used in a standard .223 chambered gun. The .223 Wylde will take heavy bullets such as the 77-grain Sierra matchking. Valkyrie uses Border archer barrels specifically made for ARs. These are high quality blanks, which are finished to a length of the shooter's choice. They can be threaded to take muzzle brakes, flash hiders or moderators. The barrels are capable of half minute of angle (MOA) accuracy with well-made hand-loaded ammunition.

Valkyrie uses DPMS upper receivers, which are thick-walled and capable of handling heavy match barrels. They are machined by Valkyrie to accept a slide charging conversion, which is an extended handle bolted to the bolt mechanism to allow the shooter to pull back the bolt easily and quickly. The AR platform



In .223s, the bolt must be manually pulled back to remove a spent cartridge



The AR's trigger has the sears stoned on a jig and is fitted with lighter springs



The fully adjustable butt pad is a Magpul CTR carbine



Available at £1,750 with the Magpul pistol grip and a Samson forend, it's easy to see why the Valkyrie doesn't sit on the shelves for long!

enables the shooter to add on hundreds of different forends, pistol grips and rear stock sights. Dave's guns are made to compete and they will take any make of AR high capacity magazine. A basic AR from Valkyrie is around the £1500 mark depending upon the specification required by the customer.

I had been pestering Dave to test one of his ARs for a while – the trouble was that he kept selling the ones I was going to test. The test rifle I finally got my hands on was built on a Double Star lower, a DPMS thick-walled upper, fitted with a 16-inch Border Archer barrel chambered in .223 Wylde. The barrel was threaded to accept a Valkyrie muzzle brake. The barrel had a 1:8.5 twist, made to shoot the 77-grain bullets preferred by most CSR competitors. Onto this was screwed a Valkyrie muzzle brake, which had two chambers running horizontally with two holes on the top of each chamber. The engraved Valkyrie name on the blank underside was a nice touch. It was fitted with a Magpul CTR carbine butt stock, a Magpul MOE pistol grip and a Samson manufacturing corporation forend. To enable accuracy testing we fitted a bipod adaptor and a large Nightforce NXS 5.5-22x50 scope. Such a large, long heavy scope would not normally be used on an AR platform but this was to see how it shot at 100 yards. I did like the Magpul furniture and the Samson forend gave the gun a Picatinny rail from front to back, meaning

any combination of sight could be fitted.

As for the finish, one thing Valkyrie is renowned for is its custom painting of firearms. Dave uses both Cerakote and Duracoat paints made specifically for firearms use. Which one he uses depends on which part of the gun it is. Cerakote is ceramic-based, two-pack firearms paint that is harder and thinner than Duracoat. Cerakote is used on barrelled actions and places that are prone to high wear. For this application he uses Cerakote "H" series paint which is two-pack and has to be baked in a specialist oven at 300 degrees for an hour. He uses two part Duracoat for stocks, which are lightly baked. He can do this as he has a large paint oven on his premises along with an oxide blasting booth (not bead blasting which is no good for paintwork). The test gun was finished in Cerakote armour black and as well as black or desert tans, Dave has an extensive range of colours – his camouflage patterns are the best in the business. The AR's trigger was the standard trigger of the Double Star lower but had the sears stoned on a jig and was fitted with lighter springs. It gave the 4½ pound trigger pull weight which is the mandatory minimum weight for CSR competitions. The sear work on the jig certainly removed the normal drag of standard AR triggers.

Off the bench at 100 yards it shot 20mm groups all day with a non-tweaked hand load of 77-grain

sierra matchkings. With a bit of fine-tuning by the owner that would come down in my opinion. The Valkyrie muzzle brake certainly worked and Dave assured me it was even better when shooting standing or kneeling. It helps to keep the muzzle down and quicken the sight acquisition between rapid fire shots. The extraction worked faultlessly and when you get the hang of a straight pull it can be cycled extremely quickly.

The test rifle would run at £1,750 with the Samson and Magpul equipment (not including the bipod/adaptor or scope/ mounts). I was very impressed with the gun and I can certainly see why they do not stay long in the Valkyrie gun room. ■

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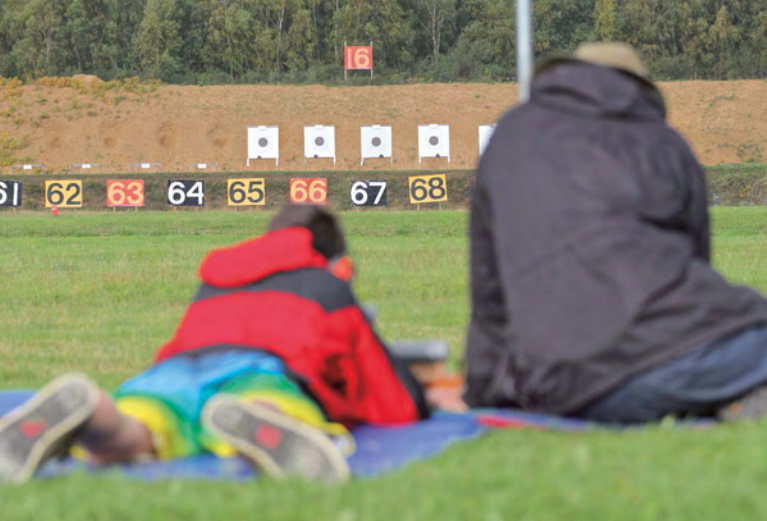
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Troubled Trafalgar

Although the Trafalgar is badged as an historic event, the ethos of the meeting is 'Spirit of the Original'. Competition firearms need not have been built in their relevant era, hence modern day contemporary arms can be used. For the general GR shooter this is the underlever rifle. Remove any modern sighting systems such as scopes and red dots and a competitive rifle in a perfectly useable format is the result.

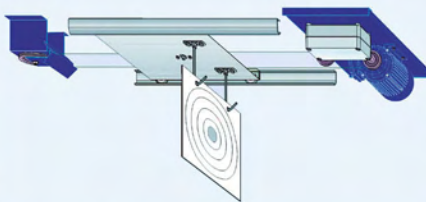
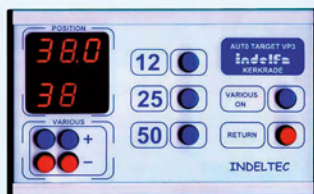
Too many events and formats exist in the Trafalgar to even attempt to scratch the surface here – for every Classic Service Rifle there is a Bobber Sporting Rifle; for every Open Big Game Rifle Running Deer there is a Thumb-cocked Pocket Revolver. The Galleryrifle website posts the results and since 2010 we have been keeping a historic record of all scores in a searchable format for reference. We have collated just a snippet of the results on this page and extended results can be seen on pages 56-57, or by visiting the NRA website.

The 27th edition of the Trafalgar Meeting took place on a changeable weekend of 19-20 October at Bisley. The meeting is a truly international event with shooters from Holland, Belgium, France and Germany attending on a regular basis – long may it continue. Some highlights included Frank Heymel from Germany winning 11 prizes and Joel Meyers claiming 10. The Trafalgar Letter winner was Bob Marsh and Jane Shields was awarded the Meeting Director Prize.

One other issue to be highlighted is not so positive. For the first time in the event's history a significant milestone was passed. The 209 events on offer only yielded interest from 202 competing shooters. The relative curves have been heading to this point for a few years, with 205 competitors last year for example, but it is not a pleasant statistic to have to report upon. Why are people not attending this meeting? The sheer array of events on offer should encourage more shooters to attend if nothing else. If it's not supported it will be difficult to sustain its future. ■

TRAFALGAR TOP PERFORMERS

Advancing – Any Gallery / Sporting Rifle 25m	Terry Fry 150.28
Advancing RF Gallery Rifle Manual 25m	Alan Warner 149.19
Any Classic Rifle 500y	Joel Meyers 45.3
Any Transitional Rifle 200y	Euan Munro 50.3
Any Vintage Rifle 200y	Leon Kranen 49.3
Classic Service Rifle 200y prone	Frank Heymel 49.3
Classic Service Sniper Rifle Optical 200y	Larry Brown 48.3
Hesketh Pritchard Military 600y	Steven Voak 50.8
Open .22 Rimfire Rifle 200y prone	Justin Shenton 49.3
Open Rifle Service Sniper 200y prone	Ian Hollingsworth 50.6
Repeating CF Gallery Rifle Bobber 25m	Mick Tedesco 199.10
Veteran Service Rifle 200y prone	Neil Beeby 50.4



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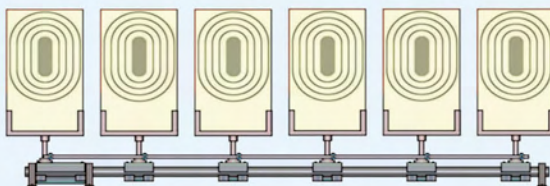
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Autumn of Action

Neil Francis rounds up the closing weeks of the Gallery Rifle season across the country, which culminated in October's Autumn Action Weekend

As the annual Gallery Rifle (GR) season comes to an end there is always a final flurry of activity for some of us which includes the back-to-back weekends of the Trafalgar and Autumn Action Weekend (AAW). These meetings essentially close down the season for many, but not all.

Although the Trafalgar is badged as an historic event, the ethos of the meeting is 'Spirit of the Original', hence modern day contemporary arms can be used. For the general GR shooter this is the underlever rifle. Remove any modern sighting systems such as scopes and red dots and a competitive rifle in a perfectly useable format is the result.

Too many events and formats exist in the Trafalgar to even attempt to scratch the surface here. It is a truly international meeting with shooters from Holland, Belgium, France and Germany attending on a regular basis. Some highlights: Frank Heymel from Germany took 11 prizes, Joel Meyers claimed 10, the Trafalgar Letter winner was Bob Marsh and Jane Shields was awarded the Meeting Director Prize.

The AAW is the final chance to submit that last decent scorecard in your favourite event. This is maybe more pertinent for some this year as we have introduced the Gallery Rifle ranking tables for the three popular events of T&P1, Multi-Target and 1500 for all gun types. Stats for the tables are crunched after every classified meeting and posted to the Galleryrifle website. Hard copies are usually available at the meetings for people to browse. The AAW completed the set and the handle will be cranked for the final time to produce the top shooters in these disciplines for 2013. The final tables are available on the Galleryrifle website. Check them out, see where you came (or would have come) and give us your feedback. We plan to run the rankings again next season.

The AAW meeting closed early this year at lunchtime on Sunday. Shaving half a day off the meeting was not unanimously seen as a positive move, however the afternoon was not wasted as we took the opportunity to have

a close of season wash-up meeting. Positive in many respects, the close season may offer opportunities for some changes in 2014.

A few of the more adventurous GR competitors take a trip over to the Leitmar ranges in Marsberg to compete in the German Open which is organised by the BDMP. This meeting also hosts the third and final International Gallery Rifle Federation (IGRF) head-to-head match which pits teams from Germany, Great Britain and Ireland against each other for the final time in 1500 centrefire and smallbore matches.

This tour was also the final farewell for the current captain Taff Wilcox. He has led the GB Gallery Rifle Team team on previous tours of Germany in 2012, South Africa in 2012 and Ireland in 2012 and 2013. On behalf of the GB squad and GR community we convey our thanks to Taff and wish the yet-to-be-chosen new captain all the best for the 2014 season.

In actual fact the GR season from late summer to the AAW offers no fewer than five meetings at Bisley and three



fully classified matches at excellent range facilities throughout the whole of Great Britain. Meetings at Bisley included the second SLG Bisley Open in mid-September and the Gallery Rifle National Championships which, contrary to a worrying perception, is an open meeting welcoming all shooters. The National Championships weekend also includes the Home Countries National match in which teams from England, Scotland and Wales complete in a Shorts aggregate match. Congratulations to Wales who wrestled the 2013 trophy from the current holders, England. We hope to welcome Northern Ireland to the proceedings next year and make it a true four nations event.

Away from Bisley, Haverfordwest Shooting Ground played host to the Welsh Open meeting in mid-August

and is currently one of the few meetings outside Bisley to offer some classified 25m and 50m precision shooting. These events are simplicity exemplified, testing skill at arms, yet with a simple enough course of fire so as not to intimidate the novice shooter. We need more of this in the regions.

Further north, and across two national borders, the Joint Services Pistol Club make excellent use of the Colmsliehill Range complex near Galashiels to offer the second of their annual classified meetings which focus on the Shorts events, T&P1, Multi-Target and Phoenix A. A scan through the results revealed 11 new shooters to the competitive circuit from that meeting. We definitely need more of this!

Mattersey Rifle and Pistol Club in North Nottinghamshire also hold two open shoots a year – in the spring

and autumn. While their spring shoot has a 1500 theme, the autumn shoot concentrates on the Bianchi match. The Shorts are never neglected though and they offer T&P1 and Multi-Target at this meeting. Two British records were set at Mattersey. Mike Chinery from Basildon cleaned the T&P1 Long Barrelled Pistol (LBP) match and pushed the X count up to 22 (ex 30) with an impressive 300.22. Clive Ferguson from the LCB Marksmen took us a step closer to the day when somebody cleans the Multi-Target with a pistol, recording a score of 119.12 in the LBP match. Well done to both.

News, results, photos, ranking tables, historic scores, record scores, and a calendar of events for next year can be found at <http://galleryrifle.com> ■
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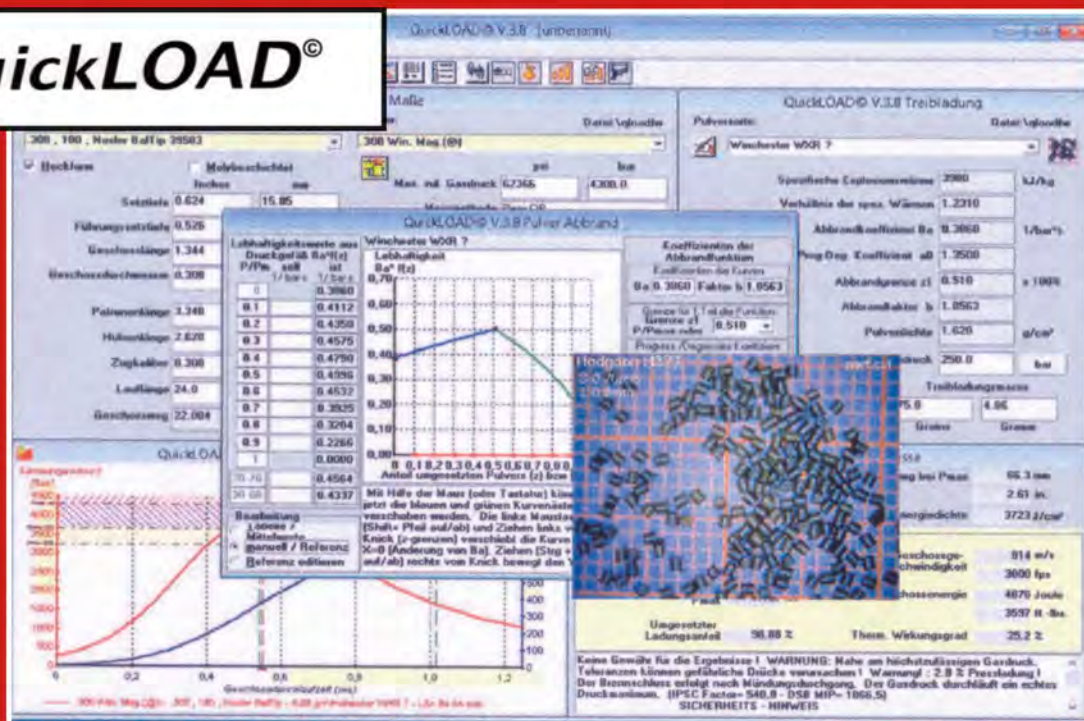
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Matthew Charlton reports on a successful tour of the Caribbean, as Great Britain won the Australia Match and became the inaugural holders of the Hossack Quaich

Great Britain's first full tour to the West Indies for 11 years started eventfully. First, Debs Fenn managed to get engaged as we departed, then the team was greeted over the PA of its Virgin Atlantic flight to Montego Bay by captain Andrew Lothian, who managed to sneak in the names of all the shooters he was carrying to Jamaica.

JAMAICA

Twelve of the team travelled for the first two legs of the four-week tour, Jamaica and Guyana. In Jamaica, travel to the hotel and ranges was novel, with the mini-coach escorted by police with lights blazing, sirens blaring and traffic lights ignored. We shot every day at Twickenham Park, in the sweatiest conditions most of us had ever encountered.

Jon Underwood led by two points after day one and managed 44 at 900 on a detail tricky enough to propel most into the 30s, to win the Grand by 10 before appearing on TV and in the Jamaica

Observer. On the final day, Great Britain started nervously against Jamaica, but opened a lead of 26 at 300x before dealing with a fickle rear fishtail to win by 44.

GUYANA

The journey to Guyana was an all-day affair, requiring three flights. An indication of our media profile became apparent as "Great Britain Rifle Team takes aim..." scrolled across the electronic sign outside the Kaletur News building as we arrived.

Timehri Range was 75 minutes from the hotel up the Demerara River and most team members' first experience of shooting in South America. David Calvert raced into a lead which he increased on day two as humidity turned to rain. Individual shooting was followed by the agreeable Caribbean custom of compulsory beers and rum before the Guyanese Finance Minister dropped by.

A tailwind dominated the Guyana team match. With conditions hard to read, GB El Dorado used the tiniest hint of visible mirage plus angle of rain and the flags to steer the

KEY MATCH RESULTS

JAMAICA	
	GB 1138.7, Jamaica 1096.59
GUYANA	
	GB 'El Dorado' 742.75, Guyana 727.57
TRINIDAD	
	GB 'Red' 1160.96, Trinidad & Tobago 1078.41
BARBADOS (Long range teams)	
1st	GB 'Red' 761.59 (I. Shaw 99.10)
BARBADOS (Short range teams)	
1st	GB 1183.120 (I. Shaw 150.21)
AUSTRALIA MATCH	
1st	GB 1952.167 (C. Watson 199.18)
2nd	Australia 1909.120 (R. Whalen 196.12)
3rd	West Indies 1791.99 (N. Gomez 188.11)
4th	Canada 1741.91 (S. Isaacs 187.11)
GRAND AGGREGATE	
1st	D. Luckman 470.65
2nd	N. Ball 469.45
3rd	B. Emms (Aus) 468.52
4th	D. Calvert 468.51
5th	J. Underwood 466.53
6th	D. Crispin 466.42
7th	J. Messer 465.48
8th	M. Pozzebon (Aus) 465.40
9th	G. Morris 464.58
10th	T. Rylands 464.43

shooters to an 11 point win, dropping only one at long range. The Georgetown Club was the venue for prize giving, where real gold representations of a map of Guyana were given to individual winners.

On the team's sole R&R day so far, a fine plan to go by plane to Kaieteur Falls and Orinduik Falls was scuppered by weather, so sightseeing was limited to Georgetown. We departed Guyana with our exploits on the back pages of three national newspapers.

TRINIDAD

The remaining nine team members joined us in Trinidad, where captain Nigel Penn took the reins from Charles Brooks. Shooting was on a sweltering valley range where steel-cased ammunition caused difficulties. Chris Watson belied jet lag by leading day one, before David Luckman reinforced the point winning the Grand by four, with British shots occupying the top 15 places.

Broadly even teams were selected for the match against Trinidad. At 300, scores were not high with sweat, wind zeroes, ammo extraction and nerves presenting challenges. GB Red led by three after 300, four after a trickier 500 and 11 at the end. Prize giving was accompanied by a delicious curry.

Our single free day in Trinidad was spent variously shopping in Port of Spain, visiting the Angostura distillery or driving to the beach at Maracas Bay and eating 'Bake 'n' Shark'. The trip to Barbados was to challenge our body clocks again, as Party "A" met at 1.45am for the 5.50am flight.

BARBADOS

Barbados' coastal range was less sticky. We were joined by old friends from Australia, Canada and the Channel Islands along with the West Indians. Unusual features included the walk to 900 up the road from the BRA hut while shooters fired right past us at the targets, and the sight of large aeroplanes taking off from the international airport behind the clubhouse. St. Ann's Fort was the fine venue for the international meet and greet.

A platoon of soldiers on a big truck "looked after" our rifles overnight. There were so many competitors that we alternated between afternoon and morning shooting from day to day – the latter in theory just the ticket, if we hadn't been waiting for Tom to do more



The victorious Australia Match winning team

armouring for our hosts! David Luckman led by day two and held that advantage until the end, Nigel Ball finishing second.

GB used the Long Range Team Match as a trial for the Australia Match – a boost to confidence, as both GB Red and GB Blue beat Australia. The Millex Cup for the West Indies Long Range Championship was won by Guyana on 697.30. All the West Indians were then hosted by Great Britain at our hotel, returning some of their considerable hospitality.

GB only entered one team in the Short Range Team Match, as a final trial, and Ian Shaw and David Crispin sealed their selection with fine 150s as Great Britain won by 50 points in front of Deputy High Commissioner Phil Culligan. Jamaica won the West Indies Short Range Championship with 1119.

A strong Australia Match team was to feature five new caps: Nigel Penn, Matthew Charlton, David Crispin, Ross McQuillan and Ian Shaw. On the practice day, we established zeroes at 300 yards with primary and back-up rifles, then rested while Australia and the West Indies toiled in the heat all day.

On the big day, we were up at 6am for an 8am start. At 300 yards, in an 11 o'clock wind, our ten firers dropped three points to lead by 11. At 600 there was more variation and lots of buffet. GB dropped 11 more, Australia 13. Still before lunch, 900 saw the wind switch between five left and zero. With some great shooting and coaching, GB dropped nine points to Australia's 20 – a

strong range, giving us a 24 point margin going into 1000.

GB "got on with it" at 1000 in initially familiar conditions, scoring 49s, 47s and 48s. But a big front was coming in. Martin insisted: get all our shots away now. The first indication of the coming wind change was a sudden left-handed magpie for Tom; but the Aussies simultaneously had outer and magpie. Suddenly the wind switched to bring the squall off the sea. The coaches wound the sights... from four and a half left to five and a half right, for a pair of bulls. Fortunes varied but the final few firers shot quickly, in Chris Watson's case for a match best 199.18, and got the team off the point seconds before the rain hit and everyone else was soaked. As a halt was called to proceedings, we had already won.

A final day's R&R (wildlife sanctuary, west coast catamaran and relaxation) preceded our return home. At prize giving, the David Hossack Memorial Quaich was presented to the Great Britain Rifle Team for the aggregate of the short and long range team matches. GB were proud inaugural winners of the Quaich, full of Highland Park. There had not previously been a truly international team trophy in the West Indies; we hope the Quaich will inspire the Caribbean countries every year and tempt future international teams to travel there to compete in a two-day, five-range test of skill. We highly recommend it to all other nations. Our sincere thanks go to all our wonderful hosts. ■

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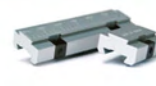
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Stay on TARGET

A wet and windy Remembrance weekend didn't prevent a good turnout at the Shotgun Festival, as James Harris reports

As one of the year's last opportunities to warm up the shotgun in competition, the Shotgun Festival, which incorporates the NRA PSG National Championships, consists of a variety of events to suit all corners. Thanks to the rising popularity of action/practical shooting due to the interest generated by the F4i series, this year's event included an action/practical match run over two days as well as the more conventional events derived from the GR&P disciplines of TP1 and MT.

The meeting kicked off at 8.30am on a very wet Saturday morning with the GR+P Shotgun events held on the Bianchi turning targets on Butt Zero. This facility is well suited to TP1 and MT and the new handheld controller with a radio link is a distinct improvement on the old hard-wired system with attendants tripping over trailing cables and dodgy connections. While the competitors punched holes, the volunteers rigged the range for the practical match on the adjacent bays. Given the weather, most of the competitors left before the results for the slug events could be tabulated, with the winners listed in the table below.

With some very creditable end of season scores given the appalling weather, it bodes well for next year's prize lists, though as yet the 299 for TP1 is yet to be beaten. The addition of some ingenious target mechanisms allowed the slug stage to be built

quickly and the remaining two birdshot stages were laid out to enable the ROs to start shooting early in the afternoon. With approximately 50 entries to the practical match, mostly squadded on the Sunday, the crew would have to shoot in advance. From the left of the range the six stages were laid out looking resplendent with red penalties and blue and yellow barricades.

Stage one was short with just six targets, however the unloaded start punished the overconfident and the inaccurate. Moving briskly onto stage two, the challenge this time was to reload while changing shooting positions – the targets were nice and large, but heavy. The third stage consisted of the aforementioned target holders. When activated the spring-loaded mechanism released the targets from behind cover or alternatively moved penalties into the way of the targets. The choice was to shoot slowly and suffer a slow time or shoot quickly and risk incurring penalties. Stage four was laid out across the left side of the mover bay. 18 metal plates and multiple positions gave many pause for thought as some of them could be shot from more than one location, thus forcing the shooter to plan their reloads to suit. The fifth stage was almost a mirror to the previous one, with some tweaks to fool the unwary who thought that they had done it before. The last and largest stage of 20 plates was set out across the right hand bay. Aply run by Michael Matthews, it was arguably the most challenging of all with the variety of long- and short-range targets, target types, varied stances and shooting positions. With over 4000 rounds of 12 gauge being fired all day the noise was constant and made the peace of the stand down for the Armistice service all the more poignant. The minutes of quiet remembrance were broken by nothing more than the clanking of the flag halyards in the chill wind.

Shooting resumed and continued until early afternoon when the strip down and tidy up took place – which was a lot quicker to take down that put up!

For more information on Target Shotgun please contact targetshotgun@nra.org.uk ■

TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL – 9-10 NOVEMBER

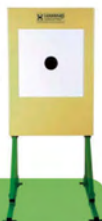
TP1	SGSA	Clive Taylor	298 (15x)
TP1	SGM	Rob Sanders	292 (12x)
MT	SGSA	John Chambers	110
MT	SGM	Mark Leriche	79 (first ever competition)

DIVISIONAL WINNERS

Std Auto	James Harris	Geoff Smith	John Chambers
Std Manual	Neil Smith	Jon Holloway	James Symes
Open	Peter Matthews	Gerald Nicholas	Francis Graham



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MATCH REPORTS

A round-up of shoots from Civilian Service Rifle to GB in Canada



The CSR Winter League exploded back into life after a three-month hiatus



Not a backstop in sight (images courtesy of Ben)

CSR Winter League

By Mark Bradley

After a three-month break following a very successful Imperial Civilian SR meeting, the Winter League started back with a bang on 5 October. The league consists of 14 matches held over seven days, which take place on the first weekend of each month between October and April. From the 14 matches, your best 10 finishes go towards your final league position.

The October date comprised of two of our most popular events, the Urban Contact Match in the morning and the Short Range Rural Contact match in the afternoon. Although the popularity of these matches has clearly been rising recently, we were somewhat taken aback when we realised entries had reached 116, a record for our events. With such a hectic schedule ahead it was imperative to get everyone mustered and briefed early, more so as this match attracted in the region of 25 newcomers. They all had to be given a walk through by Martin Camp and, as they were squadded to shoot later in the morning, were then taken over to Century by Peter Cottrell to be shown how the procedures and scoring were carried out. Shooting began with 16 squads of seven shooters crammed on to Short Siberia.

Practice 1: Firers are standing 2m behind the 100m firing point. When the targets appear firers advance to the point, make ready and fire two shots in 15 seconds from standing, leaning against the post. This is followed by four exposures of eight seconds where they fire a further two shots per exposure.

Practice 2: Advance to 75m and fire five shots from kneeling around a wall in 15 seconds, then a further five shots in 15 seconds taken after a 10-second interval.

Practice 3: Advance to 50m and you have five exposures of six seconds with the first shot from standing and the second from kneeling.

Practice 4: Advance to 25yds, there are three exposures of seven seconds where shooters fire their final 10 rounds.

It was an extremely fun match which was especially enjoyable for all the newcomers. The afternoon saw us making use of the last of the longer shooting hours as we started on the 300yd point for practice one of the Short Range Rural Contact Match. Running 27 lanes turned out to be simple with a band of enthusiastic helpers and a new portable PA system.

Practice 1: After two sighting shots, firers have 60 seconds to adopt the prone position and fire 10 rounds at a Fig 12 target.

Practice 2: This is a fire and movement practice with two shots fired prone at 300m and then, under RO supervision, the firers have 30 seconds to advance to 200m and fire four shots sitting followed

by a further 30-second advance to 100m for four shots standing.

Practice 3: This stage has five double exposures of three seconds, shots to be fired from standing then kneeling on a Fig 12c.

Practice 4: Back to 200m and a 40-second exposure of two Fig 11s, shot sitting with five shots on each.

Practice 5: The final phase back at 300 and firers have 10 exposures of 3 seconds on a Fig 12 with one shot per exposure prone

Possibly due to the colder weather, November saw a slightly diminished list of 84 entries for the two matches. The harder shooters who did come along enjoyed a morning shooting The Standing, The Bisley Bullet, The Kinnaird, The 400 Sitting and Harassing Fire at distances from 100 through to 500 yards. The afternoon was a shortened match to make the most of the diminishing light. This American EIC match is shot in four phases from 400-100y, all phases include a magazine change and timings of 60 seconds at 400 & 300, 50 seconds at 200 and 40 secs at 100yds. Each phase starts 25m behind the point with a short dash forward before you make ready and engage.

Upcoming dates are 5th January, 1st February, 2nd March and 5th April. For November results please turn to page 56.



Wiltshire County Shooting Association – Annual Gallery Rifle Competition

By Barry Morgan

For the 10th year in succession, the Army ranges at Warminster played host to the WCSA Annual GR Competition, and for the 10th year in a row the weather held fair – but only just.

The competition is an unclassified event, primarily because the firing points are laid out in yards but, apart from that shortcoming, this excellent range is unusual in that there is no backstop (apart from Salisbury Plain) which gives the whole event a rather different feel.

The competition comprised Timed and Precision 1, Timed and Precision 2, Multi Target and Multi Target 3, giving a total round count of 160. With eight lanes and 17 competitors we were able to complete the completion within the four hours booked on the range. As an association shoot, we did not have the luxury of club subsidy and it was therefore important to keep the range time to a minimum in order to be able to break even with an overall entry fee of £26 – this meant some pretty slick squadding and not a lot of hanging about.

There were two classes for the competition - Wiltshire and Open – which usually comprised competitors from the neighbouring counties of Dorset and Somerset. This time, however, we attracted some star names from the Home Counties as well as one from South Wales.

The Wiltshire Competition was won, yet again, by Ashley Dagger (1223 ex 1250), with Fraser Kerr in second place (1203). The Open Competition was won by Keith Cox (1233) with Colin McMichael in second place (1228) – it was very nice to see visitors from so far away claiming the top scores of the day.



Great Britain Rifle Team in Canada

By Chris Fitzpatrick, Team Captain

The Great Britain Rifle Team won the Canada Match, the Commonwealth Match and GB's Henryk Golaszewski won the Governor General's Prize. From the outset the aim of this team was to win the Canada and Commonwealth matches. The icing on the cake would be winning the Governor General's. Well, Henryk Golaszewski, on his very first GB Team, did just that and did it in style. Quite a number of shooters went into the final without dropping a point, but there were only three people clean after 800m; Henryk and Steph Ward of GB and Alwyn McLean of Ireland. After a tricky 900m Henryk, with a 75.0, was alone in still not having dropped a point and won the Governor General's by three clear points. It was the first time that anybody could remember that a 75.0 had been scored in Canada. However, points mean prizes.

The Canada Match is generally considered to be the premier international team match in Canada and after the

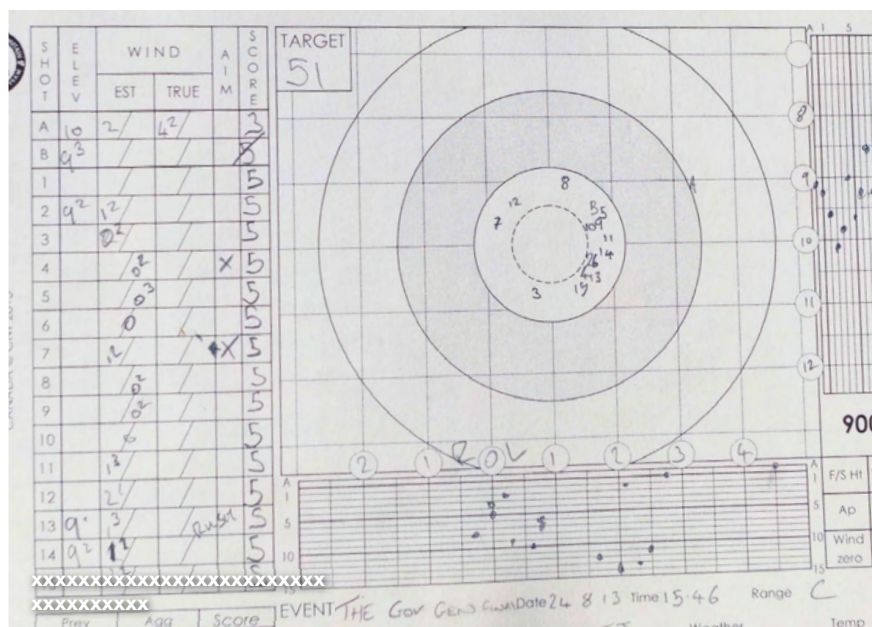


The victorious GB team celebrates victory in Canada

GB record score of 2012 we always knew we were going to be under pressure. And so it turned out, as this year's match was very close. We dropped one point at 300yds but were still behind on V Bulls. After 500yds both teams had dropped four points and we were still behind on V Bulls, notwithstanding Steph's 50.10. However, at 600yds we went clean to win by five points, an awesome result for a team of which half were new caps. After

all the excitement of the Canada Match keeping the momentum going for the Commonwealth Match, the following day was going to be difficult. This time we had all five of our new caps shooting and Chris Hockley coaching his first international match. Both teams dropped one point at 800m but we were behind again on V Bulls. With five minutes remaining at 900m we were still behind by V Bulls but, while we had five shots to go, the Canadians had 15, and that is where it all turned. Thanks to the control and management of Nick Tremlett and his coaching team we only lost one further point, where the Canadians lost a handful. GB sealed a fine victory, winning by six points.

These splendid results were a fitting end to a very enjoyable short tour. We had decided to minimise the tour length to two weeks so as not to exclude people because of time away from job or families. I was acutely aware, coming so soon after the Imperial Meeting, that those in 'normal' jobs find those two periods of time away in the summer months difficult to achieve. A shorter tour also helped to keep the costs down, which I also believe in the past has excluded a number of good shots. Sadly it did mean that we couldn't shoot a Provincial Meeting.



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Imperial Appeal

Antony Ringer explains why the Imperial Meeting is an event for everyone and what newcomers can expect

The Imperial Meeting is not about winning but participating, performing to the best of your ability, exchanging many stories, making many friends and having a great time. For 10 days in the second and third weeks in July, about 1,000 target rifle shooters from all over the world come to Bisley to participate in what has been known since Edwardian times as the Imperial. To shoot at Bisley is the goal for so many shooters from the UK and abroad. Everyone who enjoys Target Rifle shooting should have a go. Competitors do not have to shoot the whole 10 days – there are various competitions you can pick and choose to do. I hope to explain how the various competitions are shot and which trophies and honours can be won.

On most days it is possible to shoot twice at short range – 300, 500 and 600 yards – and once at long range – 900 or 1,000 yards. There will also be a period of the day when you can relax, reflect and

contemplate your next shoot. The majority of shoots at the beginning of the meeting consist of two sighting shots with ten shots to score. Shoots later in the meeting will be with either seven or fifteen shots to score. You will usually share your target with two others, taking it in turns to fire.

The competition all shooters want to win when they first start is The Queen's Prize. The winner is carried from the range in a chair carried by his friends and fellow competitors. Leading the way off the range is a brass band playing "Thine Be The Glory" with the way from the range paved with other shooters and spectators. This magnificent procession at Bisley is an emotive and inspiring event, which can match any presentation at a sporting event in any arena. The Queen's has the most entries of all the competitions and is a stage shoot where all competitors shoot seven counting shots at 300, 500 and 600 yards. The top 300 competitors shoot again



at the short ranges in the second stage, before the top 100 progress to shoot at 900 and 1,000 yards in the final.

Shooters who have shot the meeting a few times will assess their performance by where they are placed in the Grand Aggregate. This is the total of most of the shoots over the 10 days of competition and the winner is regarded as the "shooters' champion". Each shoot over the ten days is itself a competition with a winner, including The Donegall, a ten shot match shot at the closest range of 300 yards. The trophy is a huge yet very ornate piece of silverware – someone has to win it each year! One thing anyone must do is admire the silver trophies on display at Bisley, said to be the largest collection of silver trophies in the world.

Do not worry if you do not think you will get your hands on the trophy, you do stand a chance of winning something. Competitors are placed in their respective class with a specific number of entries on the prize list for each class. A bar with the name of the competition inscribed upon it, which in turn is attached to blue and white ribbon, shows a great performance.

Bisley is an amazing place. Get to enjoy it by experiencing the highs and lows of competing on the ranges. Enjoy the post-mortems of each shoot and the camaraderie that develops so easily when participating in sport. Experience camping in an English summer.

Think about having a go at The Imperial, it is a great experience on so many levels. ■



The climax of the Imperial Meeting, the Queen's Final, takes place on 19 July 2014

HERE TO HELP

NRA Firearms Liaison Officer Iain Robertson offers some helpful advice about suitability to carry firearms and dealing with police cautions

The first privilege of NRA membership is: "The support of the NRA in all matters connected with target shooting".

One might reasonably ask what form that support might take, and one might reasonably expect rather more than emails saying, "We support you – honest". NRA staff, having been involved in problems on behalf

of quite a few members, have gained some expertise and a lot of experience.

We help with briefing people in authority on the risks and legal issues around firearms. For instance, university authorities applying ridiculous conditions to clubs from a standpoint of ignorance. We assisted in resolving one case while a second, involving two police forces and complex constitutional issues at the university, is ongoing.

We regularly help with Firearms Certificate (FAC) applications. A first application can be daunting, and most members only deal with the forms once every five years. NRA staff work with applications on a daily basis. We can advise if there are difficulties with

your FAC application, including help with explanations of unusual circumstances. On at least three occasions this year, one telephone call to the FEO or officer in charge has allayed police concerns about the definition of or uses for certain firearms. Incidentally, all three of these involved S1 shotguns or long-barrelled pistols. The NRA is anxious to have such firearms, which are overwhelmingly used for target shooting, included in the Home Office Approval scheme both to achieve better regulation and to assist the expansion of the sport, and regularly makes that point to licensing authorities and the Home Office.

We help with advice if the police question your suitability to hold firearms. We are assisting in four cases where police have refused to renew a FAC or have sought to impose excessively restrictive conditions. These are all protracted matters – frequently the police wish to see a period of no arisings of the activity that concerns them – and we have not yet seen any of the four to a conclusion.

One of the commonest causes of questions about suitability to hold firearms is depression and the drugs to treat it. Some police forces have an inflexible position that such diagnosis or treatment is automatic grounds for seizure of firearms. All police forces have concerns. I am told that one of the major issues is that suddenly stopping a course of anti-depressants without medical approval can lead to quite startling side-effects in the short term. In one case a member sensibly contacted us before commencing treatment for



The expertise and experience of NRA staff can prove invaluable when dealing with licensing issues





depression, and we brokered an arrangement where the firearms were transferred to a club, the member voluntarily surrendered their FAC (thus avoiding any possibility of collecting a revocation), carried on shooting at the club under the privileges of Home Office Approval, and anticipates little difficulty in having the FAC reissued once the treatment is completed. A sensible discussion gives the police confidence that despite difficulties they are dealing with a responsible person who can be considered safe to hold firearms.

We help with advice and act as the point of contact for the NRA Members' legal expenses insurance. It is unfortunate that just about any complaint to the police against a firearms owner creates a risk of seizure of firearms. Complaints can happen to anyone. Recent experiences suggest they commonly stem from indirect consequences of one or more of: family difficulties; involvement with social services or mental health staff; social disagreements that lead to neighbours or co-workers acting through ignorance or malice. On at least two occasions, constables attending a completely unrelated matter have diverted their enquiries to issues with firearms. In only one of the last eight or so cases that we know of has a firearm actually been involved in the event that triggered the police action.

Any advice I offer must be qualified by the observation that it may be worth what you paid for it and that it is no substitute for the advice of a legal professional. However:

- Take care how you use language when talking about your shooting. Many people are ignorant of firearms and the law relating to them and have attitudes coloured both by Hollywood and media sensation. It is the way they interpret what you said that matters, not the way you thought you expressed what you meant. It is all too easy, when discussing capability, to give an impression of intention to use that capability.
- Keep a copy of the current version of your FAC, somewhere well away from the FAC itself.



Often a simple call to an FEO or officer in charge can resolve any issues about firearms usage



Make a copy of your Firearms Certificate and keep it safe, somewhere away from the original

– If you are heading into a major family upset such as separation, do consider moving your firearms out of your home. Similarly if dealing with irrational and challenging neighbours at a legal level. Particularly if you do this surreptitiously, many false complaints will then rebound when the police investigate – as they are almost certain to do.

– Fit a door viewer. If you are alone at home with firearms out of cabinets, do not let anyone, especially the police, in until you have secured the guns and all the ammunition. Two very difficult current cases turn on this precise point. Remember that under the Firearms Acts your family are probably “unauthorised persons” who you must prevent from accessing your guns.

– If the police seize your firearms, don’t panic. Even though they will turn up in force, remember that you are still in some control as long as the cabinets are locked. Politeness keeps things calm and slows events down which makes it easier to keep track. Establish what exactly the issue is – are they seizing your firearms under their general powers to protect life and keep the peace, or are they doing it alongside revoking your FAC? In at least one case firearms were seized because someone had threatened to steal them. Get a witness if at all possible. Do things methodically. Make notes. Take photographs. Insist on receipts. Call your solicitor if you have one, then call the NRA at the first practicable moment.

– The NRA legal expenses insurance may be available if your FAC/SGC is revoked or if the police refuse to renew it. Although only two cases reached court in the time I have worked at the NRA, lawyers and specialists paid through the policy have also succeeded out of court. For instance, one case turned on possible side-effects of powerful prescription drugs. Although

the side-effects could indeed be bizarre and result in behaviour where one would certainly not want the patient in possession of a firearm, our consultant pharmacologist argued that as the patient had been taking the drugs for years with no such effect and was now on a reduced dose, the chances of side-effects were essentially nil.

If you find yourself dealing with the police as a suspect:

– Don’t panic. Say the minimum. Get legal advice. In particular, DO NOT accept a caution if you are arrested – a caution is an admission of guilt to a criminal offence, it cannot be appealed, and in many cases it is more-or-less automatic grounds for revocation of your FAC. The police are required to warn you of the potential consequences of a caution, but sometimes forget. This may be genuine – they regularly deal with low-lives who have multiple encounters with the law, and miss that while one more caution to such a person is irrelevant, going from no police record to one caution can

be catastrophic for an honest citizen. One current case is all but impossible of recovery because the member accepted a caution in order to get out of custody to deal with the original crisis.

We help with other legal matters arising from firearms, most recently as an expert witness in a charge of failure to observe the security conditions of a FAC – a member home alone with guns out of cabinets when the police turned up for other reasons. Had we lost, it would have had serious implications for all FAC holders. However, there is an important lesson. The statutory condition 4a on a FAC requires firearms to be secured “as far as reasonably practicable”. The interpretation is that security is applied to the practical limit. It does not mean “as is convenient”. So, when you get home, lock the guns up at once unless there is a need not to.

Given current social, political and media attitudes and the sometimes deserved criticism of the police following recent firearms atrocities, it is no surprise that they tend towards a strict interpretation of the law, thus an increase in the occasions when they err. Some are good at acknowledging error, most need guidance to return to reasonableness. A big part of my job at the NRA is assisting members in applying that guidance. If you have a problem of the type I have been describing, please call as soon as you can. 01483 797777 ext 154, auto-forwards to my mobile phone out of hours. ■



Dealing with the police as a suspect can be unnerving – but don’t panic and don’t accept a caution if arrested

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COUNTING THE COST

Andrew Mercer explains the finances behind Bisley's big two and what needs to change to make them prosper in 2014

Over the course of the year our Shooting Competitions team organises a wide range of events mainly for Target Rifle and Gallery Rifle disciplines. As part of our planning for the next three years we have recently completed a careful and detailed analysis of NRA competitions at Bisley, which has yielded some interesting statistics.

These events are showing signs of declining support from members, which is at odds with the growing membership of the NRA and increasingly busy ranges at Bisley. Logic suggests that more people shooting will encourage greater participation in our competitions but this is not the case. The immediate and consistent response is that the NRA has made Bisley competitions too expensive but the following analysis of the two largest competitions shows that, while of critical importance to the work of the NRA, they are hardly major profit earners for the Association.

The Imperial income and expenditure covers the full four weeks of competition (military, cadets and schools). We have not attempted to apportion full-time staff costs nor general overheads as this is both tiresome and likely to generate distracting arguments. We have taken the simple (and in my view logical) stance of charging competitions standard range hire rates payable by members and clubs.

This raises an interesting point of principle – should competitions be expected to cover their costs and / or make a surplus? The promotion of marksmanship and by extension the organisation of competitive shooting is a key charitable activity for the Association, but for the sake of good husbandry and fairness to the full breadth

BISLEY COMPETITIONS ACCOUNTS 2013

2013 Competitions	Phoenix Meeting (£)	Imperial Meeting (£)
Gross Income	£43,113	£710,464
Ammunition Costs	£516	£179,011
Range Costs & Targets	£26,170	£193,503
Markers	£1,732	£102,120
RO / RCO Costs	£9,310	£38,013
Medals	£2,002	£26,251
Printing etc.	£4,268	£17,320
Young / New Subsidies	£0	£40,783
Staff Overtime	£1,443	£18,123
Other Costs	£312	£68,899
Total Costs	£45,753	£684,023
Net Margin	(£2,640)	£26,441

of our membership it is sensible that competitions should at least break even. We have set out plans for future competitions to deliver a maximum surplus of 5% of income – significantly higher surpluses should lead to reduced costs to competitors; deficits will lead to careful scrutiny of costs and entry fees.

We have now accumulated similar analyses for all our 2013 competitions and, as expected, they show a great variety in results – typically the smaller the competition the larger, proportionately, the deficit.

Concentrating on the financial performance however risks missing the key point. Competitions are not a nice option – they are a central activity for the NRA and very much define who we are and what we do. Furthermore the financial performance of the Association is a result of a myriad of inter-dependent activities. Competitions encourage membership, range hire, accommodation, site rent, ammunition and indeed most income streams of the NRA.

The financial analysis confirms my view that competitions are never going to yield great surpluses for the Association; however there is a risk that competitors view them as too expensive and offering poor value. A hard look at what the Phoenix and Imperial actually deliver suggests that the shooting experience is, generally, of a good standard. Furthermore the happy and companionable atmosphere amidst gentlemanly but keen competition is very evident. However the tired (and in too many cases shabby) camp infrastructure provides an unattractive backdrop; our poor quality accommodation and shabby ablutions are notable examples.

We need to recognise that fuel, accommodation, food and beverage costs are all increasing and adding to the total cost of attending our events. For our long-established competitions to prosper they need to consistently attract new shooters and we recognise that entering for the very first time can be both confusing and intimidating. How to complete entry forms, how to plan your programme of shooting, where to go and what precisely to do when you get there are all understandable concerns. Past surveys have suggested that many think their quality of marksmanship is simply not good enough to warrant entering



competitions; however there are a plethora of competitions suitable for the new shooter which probably need better promotion.

Training and "introduction to" days in 2014 will attempt to address some of these issues; their success or failure will be easily assessed by following attendees to see if they develop sufficient confidence to enter our competitions.

We have commissioned an online survey to canvass what we can and should do to make the 2014 Imperial Meeting more attractive and encourage participation; you should now have been contacted by email to ask for your help. Please contact Richard Blackmore at richard.blackmore@nra.org.uk if your email has slipped through the cracks.

All of our competitions rely upon the goodwill and enthusiasm of volunteers both on the ranges and in the office; they are committed, with the staff, to deliver attractive, enjoyable, high quality and good value competitions. The results of our combined efforts will be easily assessed over the next few years as the number of competitors increases or decreases. ■





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Building the ARC

A brief history of Altcar Rifle Club, which has existed for over 150 years, by Bill Flentje

Although all early club records were destroyed during the blitz of Liverpool in 1940, it was possible with patience and perseverance to unearth much of the early history from editions of the *Liverpool Mercury*.

From 1859, in response to the threat of a French invasion, local volunteer rifle corps were formed. Practice grounds were needed nationwide, and among those created in 1860, was Altcar Rifle Range at Hightown, near Liverpool.

In December 1863 the Liverpool Volunteer Club was formed. Its name changed over the next few years before becoming Altcar RC in 1908. At this time, membership was not restricted to volunteers, but open to civilians too. However, after a membership application by two Germans in 1908 the Committee hastily amended the rules to restrict membership to members of HM Forces and British subjects only, a rule that remained in force until the end of WWII.

From its earliest days, the club was involved in shooting at the highest level. In May 1865 the club organised a Grand Enfield All-Corners' Rifle Meeting at Altcar Ranges, with an attendance of 120 competitors. In 1873 the club's All Corners' Prize Meeting attracted about 180 entries. In

1866 the club was well represented among some 1100 British Rifle Volunteers, who took part in the Belgian Tir National. In 1871 the Canadian team disembarked in Liverpool and took the opportunity to shoot with what was then called the Altcar Volunteer Rifle Club, before travelling on to Wimbledon. This was the first of many such visits by Canadian teams, although in recent years they have been hosted by Manchester RC. In the late 1970s Alan Sainter forged a link with German shooters. For many years he coached them at Bisley in the Junior International Matches. He also took small teams to Germany and

the club occasionally entertained small German teams at Altcar. In 1987 Alan was made an Honorary Member of the BDMP (Bund der Militär und Polizei Schützen).

The original aims of the club were 'to promote shooting with the rifle with which the rifle volunteers are armed' and 'to shoot in the Hythe position', i.e. standing at 200 yards and kneeling at 5/600 yards. Published reports in the first years of the Altcar Enfield RC also show that the club closely followed in its practices the Rules and Regulations of the NRA, which has been the case ever since.



Above: The Lady Members of Altcar Rifle Club (c. 1946)
Main: Altcar RC Opening Day, 1 April 1922



Between 1864 and 1881 members competed for a Gold Challenge Medal. It had to be won on three separate occasions before it was won outright. Only three such medals were ever awarded. Average attendance in the early years is reported as being 30-60, increasing to 70 by 1873. In 1897, Championship gold and silver medals were introduced. Such medals were awarded annually, until the mid-1970s when the club could no longer afford the real thing. Embroidered badges were introduced in their stead.

The club's first trophy, the Burgess Cup, was first competed for in 1906. The Earl of Sefton, the club's Patron, presented a second trophy in 1912. Both trophies, having each been won on three occasions by Joe Gordon, became his property in the 1920s.

In the early 1920s Capt Robert Gladstone, the club's President, devised a scheme

whereby promising shots in Lancashire Territorial Battalions could be coached by expert riflemen in clubs. As part of this scheme, the cadets coached by Altcar RC competed annually for the Gladstone Territorial Cup well into the 1960s. The trophy is still used for annual competition, although with revised conditions. Capt Gladstone's generosity extended to the purchase of a clubhouse which he gave as a gift to the club in 1922.

In 1932 he also presented the Altcar RC Perpetual Challenge Trophy, to be presented annually to the club champion. This was in use as such until 2001, when conditions for the Club Championship changed and a new trophy was presented by outgoing President, Col Robert Craik.

Joining in about 1880, Private CW Wattleworth was arguably the most successful member of the Club. He twice won the Prince of Wales Prize and also won the 1889 Queen's Prize Silver Badge. In 1887 he was recorded as having finished the Wimbledon Meeting with prize money of £80 (£4000 today) plus an express rifle and a telescope, worth another £50.

In 1883 in the International Military Match at Wimbledon he was top scorer in the winning British team, which beat an American team consisting of twelve members of the National Guard. He successfully shot both as an individual and in teams, travelling extensively to Wimbledon and in the north of England and Scotland. He served as English XX District Superintendent for Liverpool for 21 years, retiring in 1905.

Commander Sir Lionel Fletcher won the Club

Championship in 1902 and 1903. His 1912 score of 104 ex 105 remained an Altcar Rifle Range record score until 1971, when it was beaten by Miss Jessica Nobbs. In 1937 he was persuaded by the Foreign Office to undertake a special mission to Berlin, where his task was to prepare the ground for a British Shooting Team to compete in matches in connection with the 'International Hunting Exhibition'. Following the competitions, the teams attended a prizegiving, presided over by General Göring, who two years later would be in command of the Luftwaffe.

The club numbers among its members three winners of the Sovereign's Prize, although all were shooting under the colours of others clubs at the time – Capt DE Woods (1933), Mr George F Arnold (1970) and Dr John D Warburton (2012).

The centenary in 1963 was marked with a dinner in Liverpool at which the Lord Mayor of Liverpool extended civic congratulations to the club. The 150th anniversary in 2013 was marked by a Club team tour to the Channel Islands in August and an open competition at Altcar in September. The latter unfortunately coincided with the first autumn storm, and after a target broke at 600 yards the shoot had to be abandoned. ■



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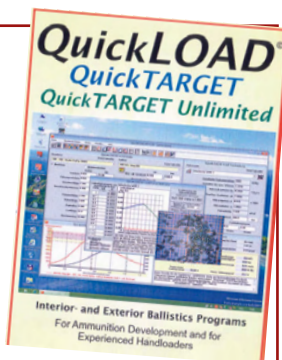


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Inspired on Teesside

How Sport England's Inspired Facilities scheme will help fund a shooting range in the North East

The award of a Sport England grant under the Inspired Facilities scheme will enable our Middlesbrough based shooting club to complete the conversion of a former school into a target sports centre. Tees Valley Target Sports Club has been able to fund the work for a 35-metre range from its own resources (work is in progress) with a 25-metre range programmed for future years. However, a successful grant application has meant this second and final part of the project can be brought forward.

No alterations had been made to the grant area so the first precondition for an application had been met. Applications are made online with mandatory and optional hard copy information to follow. Supplying information such as club status (a CASC), tenure (99-year lease), financial information, contact details and project description was straightforward. Most important by far, however, were the answers given to – “Need For Your Project”; “Impact On Your Sport”; “Community Involvement” and “Sustainability”. Our online application gave a full narrative for each and the hard copy optional submission provided the supporting evidence. The importance of robust supporting evidence cannot be overstated.

Supplying the mandatory hard copy items was straightforward – the club

constitution, evidence of tenure, bank statements, accounts (2012 audited A4 financial statement) and child protection policy (we used the NRA's, annotated to show it had been adopted by the club). Two other items required were more testing however, namely an income and expenditure forecast for three years and the Sports Development Plan. Past performance was used for the former with hopefully realistic projections and the latter was prepared with the County Sports Officer where consultation is essential. The Sports Development Plan contained among other things detailed proposals for the involvement of the community and the disabled.

General community involvement in shooting activities was considered problematic so we decided to expand the club offer. The 35-metre range is to be for exclusive club use with firearms while the 25-metre range grant funded area is for unlicensed target sports activities, principally air rifle. Managed community involvement plus schools and other organisations (and club use of course) is thus a practical proposition. The layout of the building makes dual use possible, although not necessarily concurrently from an operational viewpoint.

Optional hard-copy information submitted included letters of support from

individuals (particularly Baroness Grey-Thompson and Liz Woodall of the Disabled Shooting Project); community organisations; details of meetings and presentations; copy minutes; QS building costs; a schedule of costs already incurred by the club; an explanation as to how the grant element is a discrete area; photographs and plans; and most significantly a petition signed by 225 local people.

During all of our many local exchanges, meetings, presentations and discussions we received 100% support and enthusiasm from a diverse cross-section of consultees. Not once did we encounter a critical comment or a negative attitude.

When complete we will have a permanent home for our club and a unique facility which will also benefit the local community, many of whom attended the school in their younger days, and other individuals and organisations. Finally, there is also massive potential for enhancing the profile of target sports both locally and regionally. ■



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Obituaries

RICHARD LUDLOW

18 SEPTEMBER 1945 –
5 OCTOBER 2013

Richard became an Army Cadet where he gained a love of rifle shooting, entering and winning many events at Bisley where he was a member of the Home Counties Rifle and Pistol Club. He loved sport at school playing soccer, cricket, archery and golf, and he also enjoyed fishing. He was an avid West Ham fan and later in life watched Harlequins at the Twickenham Stoop, while he also somehow found time to qualify as a football referee.



As an Army Cadet with the Fusiliers he again rose up the ranks, eventually promoted to become Sergeant Major Instructor. Many young army cadets gained advancement under his tutelage, two of whom rose to the rank of Major, together with three lieutenant Colonels, all of whose achievements he was extremely proud.

After retiring from work and the Army Cadets, Richard was hoping to spend some time following his many interests and to enjoy more holidays with his wife Trish and the grandchildren. Unfortunately it was not to be and Trish, having survived one bout of cancer, succumbed to another and died at St Raphael's Hospice in July. Richard was diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus and died at St Helier Hospital only ten weeks after his beloved Trish.

Needless to say Richard will be missed by all who had had the good fortune to be acquainted with him, this particular non-commissioned officer and a true gentleman. His loss will be felt by family, friends, neighbours, cadets and former work colleagues alike.

He brought purpose, solidity and stability to many an individual. He was courageous and dignified to the end, maintaining good humour throughout.

CLIFFORD KENNEDY HORN HUNTER

1939-2013

Cliff was born in Edinburgh in 1939. His profession as a geologist/geophysicist/exploration manager took him and Elizabeth,

whom he married in 1967, to many overseas postings. They met in Denmark and subsequently lived in South Africa, Australia, Texas and Oman. When in the UK they set up home in Bromley and Virginia Water.

Cliff was a member of the NRA in America and Great Britain and he enjoyed shooting at the Marylebone Rifle and Pistol Club in London in the 1980s. More recently he spent many happy hours on the Bisley Ranges, developing loads and experimenting with ballistics. He was an active member in The St. Hubert's Club and loved to go stalking in the countryside.

Cliff will be remembered by his family as a loving husband, and fantastic father to his three girls. Friends will remember him as a true gentleman, whose favourite pursuits were hunting, shooting and fishing.

BRIAN NICOLAS EGERTON DIED 24 AUGUST 2013

'Nick' died on 24 August 2013, aged 69. He was an Accredited Deer Stalker and NRA member. In recent years he was also a Volunteer Ranger in the South Downs National Park and he controlled deer on Whitehouse Farm, Chichester for many years. The landowner, Gavin Brown, writes of him: "He stalked deer on the farm since before we came here 27 years ago, and it was always a pleasure to meet and deal with him. I remember him as a gentleman."

Marion Egerton

KEN FREEMANTLE

This is a tribute to one of nature's gentlemen. I have known Ken for an eternity, so it seems. He was always there – reliable, dependable and nothing was too much trouble. Ken always appeared to be laid back, beyond horizontal at times, yet beneath this exterior there was a man of steel.

Ken and I became friends, due to him working in the jewellery trade in Hatton Garden like myself. I was always in the business, so with work and shooting we became close friends. Ken later joined the Paras, using his beloved GPMG and afterwards the Fire Brigade. He then worked as a jobbing jeweller in Bournemouth – never for the money, just to keep busy.



Ken joined Christchurch Gun Club in 1995. He liked military rifles and long range shooting. During the last year, Ken assembled a machine, based on a scaffold pole – a scope you could see Mars with. Of course Ken was famous for a light trigger. Ken had awful triggers – look at it and it went off by itself.

Ken became an RCO sometime around 1998, his idea was that everyone should do their bit. During 2008, Ken became a life member, showing dedication to his club. Ken was generous with his time. He helped anyone that needed advice and had the patience to see it through. As I said to Ken, "Knowledge is useless unless you pass it on", and Ken did it in spades.

Ken's gun were like his children and after his wife Mary passed away, her dogs became his grandchildren. After Mary passed on, Ken took the dogs everywhere with him – wherever he was shooting. He kept them trimmed and pampered, just in case Mary was watching.

Ken, I believe, pined for Mary. In the last few years Ken looked after Mary like a saint, always at her side; whatever Mary wanted, Ken would oblige. After Mary died, Ken was lost and spent more time at the range, for company with his friends. You might have heard of a broken heart and I think Ken died of one. I am sure he would have said "Cherish those close to you".

Ken was a good boy at running the range, whether Bisley, East Holme or the Hill. Ken was dependable. If people could take a leaf out of Ken's book – give of yourself, because life is so short. Ken is missed by one and all and will be remembered as a good shot, RCO, coach and mentor and an all-round good person.

Geoff Hermesen, Chairman of CGC

ANDREW PENFOLD DIED 12 SEPTEMBER 2013



For Captain Andrew Penfold, involvement in shooting sports was not merely an enjoyable hobby or interest outside of work; it was his life's passion. He began shooting in 1977, as a member of Hurstpierpoint College CCF and held the position of Captain of Shooting between 1979 and 1980. After

leaving college, Andrew became a policeman with Sussex constabulary, starting as a bobby on the beat. Around the same time, he also joined Sussex Army Cadet Force and in 1985 took command of No.6 Crawley Platoon. Andrew became interested in coaching very early on and, while still a Senior Cadet, he completed the NRA's Adult Instructors Course and went on to qualify as a regional coach in 1985. His rise through the world of shooting and coaching continued steadily; proof that Andrew

was not only a talented, determined and focussed shot, but that he was dedicated to passing on skills and knowledge to those young people coming up through the ranks behind him.

In his competition shooting, Andrew continued not only to coach, but also to practice what he preached, shooting in many major competitions representing various police teams, Sussex and Middlesex County Rifle Teams and representing England in an International match. As well as the many individual medals and honours he won, he also won a gold medal in the British Police Fullbore Rifle Championships at Bisley and, in 1999, was a finalist in the prestigious St. George's Vase match. That year he was also appointed Chairman of the Selectors for the UK Cadet Rifle Team to the Channel Islands and was the team's first Commandant in 2000.

After leaving the police, Andrew took on the post of Shooting Officer at Sevenoaks School in 1992 and, as a result of his considerable talents as a coach, the school achieved notable success. Upon joining Tonbridge School, he set about re-invigorating the shooting club and putting in place effective systems for coaching and improving the results in competition. Andrew knew talent when he saw it and he nurtured those who wanted to shoot for Tonbridge, and again there are some truly massive success stories under his guidance and skilled tuition. Andrew had a wonderfully solid belief in teaching his students not only how to shoot, but developing transferable team skills which would last a lifetime and would open doors to them.

In 2003, Andrew met the person he was to marry, Sharon. Andrew had been a bachelor all his life and in marrying Sharon he took on her two children as well; Rachel and Alistair. He was determined from the outset to provide for them the best education he could, and to love, support and encourage them, in his own unique step-fatherly way.

Bisley was Andrew's spiritual home. This year was his 37th Schools Ashburton meeting; a huge annual competition involving hundreds of Cadets from all over the UK who come together to shoot Fullbore Target rifles on Century Range. This competition poses enormous challenges for any team organiser and, despite his falling health and the extreme heat, Andrew was determined to give it the same level of attention as ever.

I know that there will be many who found he could be brusque and demanding, but the man I knew, and came to call my friend, was a man of exceptional good humour, outstanding leadership and a passionate teacher. He was a man who believed in solid and timeless values when it came to good manners, self-reliance, and the ability to continue when all looked hopeless. His own personal courage and determination when faced with his diagnosis are an example to the many hundreds of friends and associates he knew. He simply refused to take no for an answer and tried as hard as he could to remain positive and forward looking. He made the best of every moment he had and in so doing created a legacy of friendship and camaraderie which will continue long after he has left us.

Lawrence Thornbury

An Introduction to Handloading

PART 1 WHY HAND LOAD?

While issued ammunition is used in some national and many international 'fullbore' fixtures, others see ever more competitors firing handloaded cartridges. This has got to the point where they now provide the larger part, in some disciplines the entirety, of ammunition employed. Whatever one's views on the activity, 'handloads' are a major feature of the UK rifle shooting scene for both match and field-sporting activities. I'll look at why you might consider handloading in this issue, tools and basic techniques to be covered in the next.

Cost

Ask most shooters about its benefits and you'll likely be told 'cost'. Older, mostly American, literature on the subject focussed on this aspect with tables showing how many cents would be saved per deer cartridge. Over emphasis on economy created dubious associations as in the selection of the cheapest rather than most appropriate components, especially the reuse of old cartridge cases with unknown, often dubious histories. Today's advice

advocates the purchase of the most appropriate components in virgin form to obtain best outcomes, often saving money in the long term.

Nevertheless, many types of ammunition do see large savings, for instance revolver cartridges used in leverguns for gallery rifle. While factory ammunition will cost £30-60 per hundred, handloads employing commercial lead bullets and small powder charges typically run around £10, even less if the user undertakes his own bullet casting with scrap lead based alloys. Many sporting rifle cartridges, especially less popular models, are pricey purchases these days – Winchester .300 H&H Magnum 180gn 'Silvertip' retailing at over £180 / 100 as an example. Handloading cuts that in half even with top quality Norma cases costing over a pound a throw. Expect to pay £200 or more for 100 Norma or Lapua 6mm BR Norma match rounds while top specification 1,000 yard capable handloads work out at £70 including a per-firing cost factored in for cases. Given the Journal readership's main interests, what about .308? My long-range F/TR cartridges cost me £90 / 100, and these are hot loads using the most

expensive 155gn bullet available and starting with expensive virgin Lapua 'Palma' (small primer) brass. For the TR shooter able to reuse excellent NRA / RWS cases from ammunition fired in his or her own rifle and looking to duplicate that ammunition's ballistic performance, maybe improve on it a bit, my choice of components (155gn Sierra MatchKing, match primer and Commonside Firearms TR140 propellant) would total around 50 pence per round halving ammunition costs, comparable to today's 7.62mm military surplus prices but with superior performance. (One also has to factor in the cost of handloading tools such as a press and dies, not to mention one's time of course.)

Gaps

So, home manufactured ammunition costs less than equivalent factory products, no great surprise. But that assumes there are factory products. It's no coincidence that Historic Arms shooters and collectors embraced handloading earlier than most other prone rifle competitors. You want to buy and shoot one of those lovely little .310 Cadet calibre BSA Martinis? Cases and bullets are available, but no ammunition. It's how I got into handloading over thirty years ago, a US .30-06 Springfield M1903 service rifle picked up just as the sole supplier of surplus ball cartridges in the calibre sold out. He did have 100 new Federal unprimed cases at a bargain price and I was off. It may also be that while factory ammunition is available, it's confined to expanding-bullet sporting versions, this applying to all of the 7mm and .300" cartridges used in F-Class; 6.5-284 Norma; 7X57mm Mauser; .260 Remington and many others also used for target shooting. Formerly cheap and plentiful, military surplus supplies have largely dried up, 0.303" ball for target shooting



Revolver lead-bullet handloads cost between three and five times less than factory cartridges (left)

now only available as newly manufactured Serbian Prvi-Partizan or JHC TargetMaster. Some cartridges don't have every component available but can still be home-brewed. I once bought an M1935 Peruvian service rifle in its original 7.65X53mm calibre (most were rebarrelled to .30-06 after WW2). Bullets were '0.303' (0.310-0.312" dia.) and readily available, but cases weren't. Ordering an appropriate RCBS 'form and trim' die solved that problem, .30-06 or 8mm Mauser cases easily reformed and shortened into the required shape to bring an old soldier back into use.

Tailored

So far, I've talked about 'handloads' as being equivalent to factory ammunition. However, one of the great benefits of the activity is that they can be tailored to the firearm and intended purpose. Oftentimes a handloader will seek to duplicate the performance of a factory cartridge that works well for him or her, but handloading increases the number of options available, often substantially. Take .308 Winchester, there are a handful of match loads from the multinationals, not to forget HPS-TR in Gloucester with its excellent JHC TargetMaster products. If you handload, the choice of make, weight, and design of bullet rises dramatically



.260 Remington is an increasingly popular cartridge in many disciplines

with products ranging from 110 to 230gn weight in various forms from some ten manufacturers. The most prolific, and most innovative, is Berger Bullets which now lists no less than 23 target models in the calibre. Putting five flat-base short-range 100-150gn models to one side, that leaves 18 designs in nine weights from 155 to 230gn for the long-range competitor in three 'design families' – VLD (very low drag, secant nose), BT (tangent ogive nose), and 'Hybrid' (a very high ballistic coefficient design that marries BT and VLD nose features). There are three 155gn models, all ballistically more efficient than the 30 year old Sierra MatchKing seen

in the NRA / RWS cartridge. My long-range F/TR handload using the 155.5gn Berger BT 'Fullbore' suffers 20% less drift than the RWS ammunition in any given wind condition, important for F-Class with its small target rings. Equally valuable, it's predicted to be travelling at 1,345 fps at 1,000 yards or 1.19 MACH which just keeps it out of the turbulent transonic speed zone. The RWS cartridge's Sierra drops to 1,123 fps at this distance – barely supersonic, not even that in winter temperatures. My optimised ammunition groups into a third of an inch or better at 100 yards and MV variations are small, often under 10 fps in a string. **Laurie Holland** ■



.229 Remington with (L-R) 69gn, 80gn, 90gn LR BT, 90gn VLD bullets; the 90s turning the little cartridge into a competitive 1,000 yard performer – .308 Win cartridge alongside for comparison



A selection of 155gn match bullets available to UK handloaders



A .765X53mm Mauser case (right) reformed from new .30-06 cases (left)

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Council Meeting

A round-up of the key points raised in the British Shooting Sports Council's most recent quarterly report

The British Shooting Sports Council have released their latest quarterly report with firearms licensing, fees and Scottish airgun legislation featuring heavily. The following is a summary of the key points raised. For more information, or to see the full report, please visit our website at: www.nra.org.uk.

– On 20 August a meeting was held between the Home Office, police, British Medical Association, the Information Commissioner's Office and shooting representatives to discuss the continuing involvement of GPs in the firearms licensing process. Issues included the need to establish a robust procedure to ensure GPs responded to police requests to provide information for those applying for certificates (and for certificate holders if declining health warranted it). It was accepted that for the vast majority of applicants the risk was very small. The BMA and police preferred a pre-grant response from GPs, while the shooting organisations supported a post-grant enquiry which did not delay the licensing process. There are issues relating to data protection and human rights and differing views on how to ensure GP compliance. A further meeting will take place in December.

– Andy Marsh, Chair of the ACPO Firearms and Explosives Licensing Working Group, addressed the National Gamekeepers' Organisation conference in September, accepting that the licensing system lacked consistency in application and was not always timely, but there has been progress with regard to certificate conditions, mentoring and guidance.

– The creation of an EU Consultation

Document on a 'common approach to reducing the harm caused by criminal use of firearms' has received around 80,000 replies, mostly pro-shooting. A further consultation, which will consider public opinion, will be undertaken in due course.

– A working party on firearms fees will be created, following a meeting between the BSSC, the Gun Trade Association and Home Office Minister, Damien Green. The police have been seeking an interim 'cost of living plus' increase in return for greater efficiency but assurances have been made that, if efficiencies were not achieved, the Home Office would not seek a further fees increase in 2015. It was subsequently announced that the interim fee Order would not be laid in October.

– Of the 1,136 responses received to the Scottish Government's consultation on airgun licensing, 87% were opposed to licensing of air weapons. The Bill appears not yet to have been drafted but in July Kenny MacAskill, the Justice Secretary, confirmed the intention to legislate. In September, Superintendent David O'Connor, president of the Association of Scottish Police Superintendents, publicly questioned the proportionality of the proposed legislation, saying: "It is important that any air weapon licensing legislation is subject to robust scrutiny at the Scottish Parliament on grounds of proportionality, affordability and feasibility in terms of practical implementation."

– The re-drafting of the Home Office Firearms Law Guidance to the Police went live at www.gov.uk in October. Despite the input of shooting organisations and the shooting community in general, there

remain areas of serious concern, including approved club criteria and the process relating to changes in Club Secretary; import and export; conditions relating to target shooting with Section 1 shotguns and surrender of prohibited weapons.

This new Guide on Firearms Licensing Law 2013 will be treated as a living document and the Home Office intend to update it from time to time. They have already issued a list of a dozen or more areas where they wish to make changes as time ran out last September when the Minister insisted on completion by the end of that month. There is expected to be a meeting early in 2014 on problems affecting Home Office approved clubs. So input from clubs would be most helpful. Clubs should note in particular paragraph 18.32, which was not changed despite the Home Office being told it was totally unacceptable. In the meantime clubs are advised that the date of changeover from one club secretary to another should be the date the Home Office has approved the new one and issue the appropriate paperwork otherwise they will not be able to use their club rifles in the interregnum until the new approval has come through.

Further meetings on other aspects of the new Guide will occur throughout 2014 so input from members is welcomed. However this process is unlikely to result in changes to the law which require legislation in Parliament. So please concentrate on areas where the current bureaucracy is time consuming, costly and has minimal effect on public safety. The Police are under huge political pressure to reduce their costs. ■

Results

GB RIFLE TEAM IN CANADA		
PLACE	COUNTRY	TOTAL
CANADA MATCH (300, 500 & 600 METRES)		
1	Great Britain	1196.139
2	Canada	1191.150
COMMONWEALTH MATCH (800 & 900 METRES)		
1	Great Britain	1187.136
2	Canada	1181.137

CSR WINTER LEAGUE 2013-14 (NOVEMBER)		
PLACE	GROUP	TOTAL
HISTORIC		
1	D Cross	400
2	A DeFreitas	214.28
3	R Illius	175.73
IRON		
1	B Wightman	400
2	G Ellis	258.53
3	V Inman	254.64
PRACTICAL OPTIC		
1	A Newberry	389.44
2	P Russell	382.33
3	S Sheldon	370.42
SERVICE OPTIC		
1	P Cottrell	390.39
2	D Wylde	376.82
3	J Morgan-Hosey	373.98



19-20 October

TRAFALGAR MEETING (SELECTED WINNERS)

PLEASE VISIT WWW.NRA.ORG.UK FOR RESULTS IN FULL

Advancing – Any Gallery / Sporting Rifle 25m Terry Fry, 150.28; **Advancing – Any Revolver 25m** Douglas Voak, 31.1; **Advancing CF Gallery Rifle Manual 25m** Terry Fry, 149.21; **Advancing DA Revolver 25m** William Horne, 49.0; **Advancing CF Gallery Rifle Long Range 50m** Alan Warner, 124.1; **Advancing Repeating RF Gallery Rifle Long Range 50m** Derek Yates, 130.6; **Advancing RF Gallery Rifle Manual 25m** Alan Warner, 149.19; **Advancing RF Gallery Rifle Semi Auto 25m** Alan Warner, 150.23; **Advancing Standard Revolver 25m** N Morewood, 59.1
American – Buffalo Match 600y Mark Silver, 36.0; **American – Offhand Match**

200y William Horne, 34.0; **Any CF Gallery Rifle 100m** Fred Boulton, 159.2; **Any CF Gallery Rifle 50m** Bob Marsh, 133.15; **Any Classic Rifle 500y** Joel Meyers, 45.3; **Any Classic Rifle 600y** Joel Meyers, 46.2; **Any L/Action Repeating Rifle Slowfire 25m** Julie Robinshaw, 139.19; **Any L/Action Repeating Rifle Precision 50m** Christopher Baker, 135.17; **Any L/Action Repeating Rifle Precision 100m** Kjell Middleton, 157.0; **Any M/L Rifle Any Sights 600y** Michael Hall, 35.0; **Any M/L Rifle Any Sights 900y** Gary Evans, 44.3; **Any Revolver MLAGB 25m** John Emmerson, 94.0; **Any Revolver Slowfire 25m** Colin Oswald, 54.4; **Any RF Gallery Rifle 100m** Kjell Middleton, 169.1; **Any RF Gallery Rifle 50m Precision** Kjell Middleton, 136.17; **Any RF Gallery Rifle 25m** Julie Robinshaw, 139.19

Any Target Pistol Precision 50m Kevin Henderson, 40.0; **Bobber Gallery/Sporting Rifle 25m** Derek Yates, 197.6; **Classic Military Miniature Rifle 50m** Frank Heymel, 186.2; **Classic Miniature Target Rifle 200y** John Eling, 45.4; **Classic Rook & Rabbit 100y** Roger Hodgkins, 152.0; **Classic Rook & Rabbit Rifle 50m Standing** Trevor Jackson, 132.14; **Classic Rook & Rabbit Boar Precision 55y** Carl Glaister, 121.0; **Classic Running Deer Precision 110y** Nigel Greenaway, 38.0; **Classic Service Rifle Precision 200y Prone** Frank Heymel, 49.3; **Classic Service Rifle Precision 500y Prone** Frank Heymel, 43.1; **Classic Sporting Rifle Met Sights 200y Prone** Nick Doe, 42.0; **Classic Sporting Rifle Optical 200y Prone** William Lander, 38.1; **Classic Target Rifle 900y** Any Mike

Greenfield, 68.7; **Duelling Gallery/Sporting Rifle 25m Standing** Gerry Betteridge, 198.6

Enfield Minute Flintlock Repro 200y Prone Andrew Russell, 21.0; **Free Flintlock Pistol MLAGB 25m** Allan Edwards, 92.0; **Flintlock Duelling Pistol 25m** Terry Pearce, 86.0

Hesketh Pritchard Military 600y Prone Steven Voak, 50.8; **Hesketh Pritchard Military 900y Any** Steven Voak, 73.8; **Hesketh Pritchard Military 1000y Prone** Steven Voak, 67.3; **Hesketh Pritchard Civilian 600y Prone** Mark Hodgins, 49.2; **Hesketh Pritchard Civilian 900y Any** Mark Hodgins, 73.11; **Hesketh Pritchard Civilian 1000y Prone** Mark Hodgins, 71.5

M/L Free Rifle 200y Gary Evans, 46.1; **M/L Service Rifle 100y MLAGB 10/13** John Hollis, 89.3; **M/L Service Rifle 200y** John Hollis, 39.0; **M/L Service Rifle 500y** David Craven, 21.0; **M/L Target Rifle 100y MLAGB** Hans Verstappen, 84.0; **M/L Target Rifle 500y** Armin Buse, 42.2

McQueen Aggregate (405, 407 & 409) Joel Meyers, 140.8

Perrier SR Agg (406, 408 & 410) Frank Heymel 130.6

Repeating CF Gallery Rifle Duelling 25m Mick Tedesco, 197.8;

Repeating RF Gallery Rifle Manual Action 25m Bobber Mick Tedesco, 199.7

Rimfire Schutzen Rifle 200y Standing A Milbourne 75.1; **Rimfire Schutzen Rifle 50m Standing** Ian Grant, 140.20; **Rimfire Target Rifle 100m** RIM Thomas, 194.8

Shoulder Stocked Pistol Precision Standing 50m Roy Brocklehurst, 39.0

Single Shot Gallery Rifle 25m Duelling 25m Ian Grant, 198.3;

Single Shot Percussion Pistol Duelling 25m Doug Glaister, 91.1

Smoothbore Flint Pistol MLAGB 25m Peter Jones, 85.0

Sniper Military Open McQueen 200y Steven Voak, 46.0

Sporting Rifle 100m Trevor Jackson 148.1

Standard Standing Revolver Pockets 10y William Horne, 95.8;

Standard Revolver Bobber 25m George Tondryk 79.0; **Standard**

Revolver Slowfire 25m Colin Oswald, 55.2; **Standard Revolver**

Precision 50m Douglas Voak, 50.2; **Standard Revolver MLAGB**

25m Allan Edwards, 90.0

Surrenden Repeating CF Gallery Rifle 25m David Leeds, 75.11;

Surrenden Standard Revolver 25m Mark Wagstaff, 22.3

Target Pistol MLAGB 25m Douglas Voak, 93.3

The Century Match 100m Justin Shenton, 196.7

The Halford Aggregate (208, 230 & 232) Mark Silver, 149.6

The Martini Target Match 100m Prone Alex Hamilton, 199.11;

The Martini Target Match 50m Lee O'Brien, 197.9

Transitional Mid Range Agg (710 & 712) Uwe Hausler, 143.15;

Transitional Short Range Agg (710 & 718) Griff Elliott, 86.2

Veteran Service Rifle Prone 200y Neil Beeby, 50.4; **Veteran**

Service Rifle Standing 200y Edward Corry, 38.1; **Veteran**

Service Rifle Prone 500y Frank Heymel, 46.5; **Veteran Service**

Rifle Prone 600y Edward Corry, 47.5; **Veteran Service Rifle**

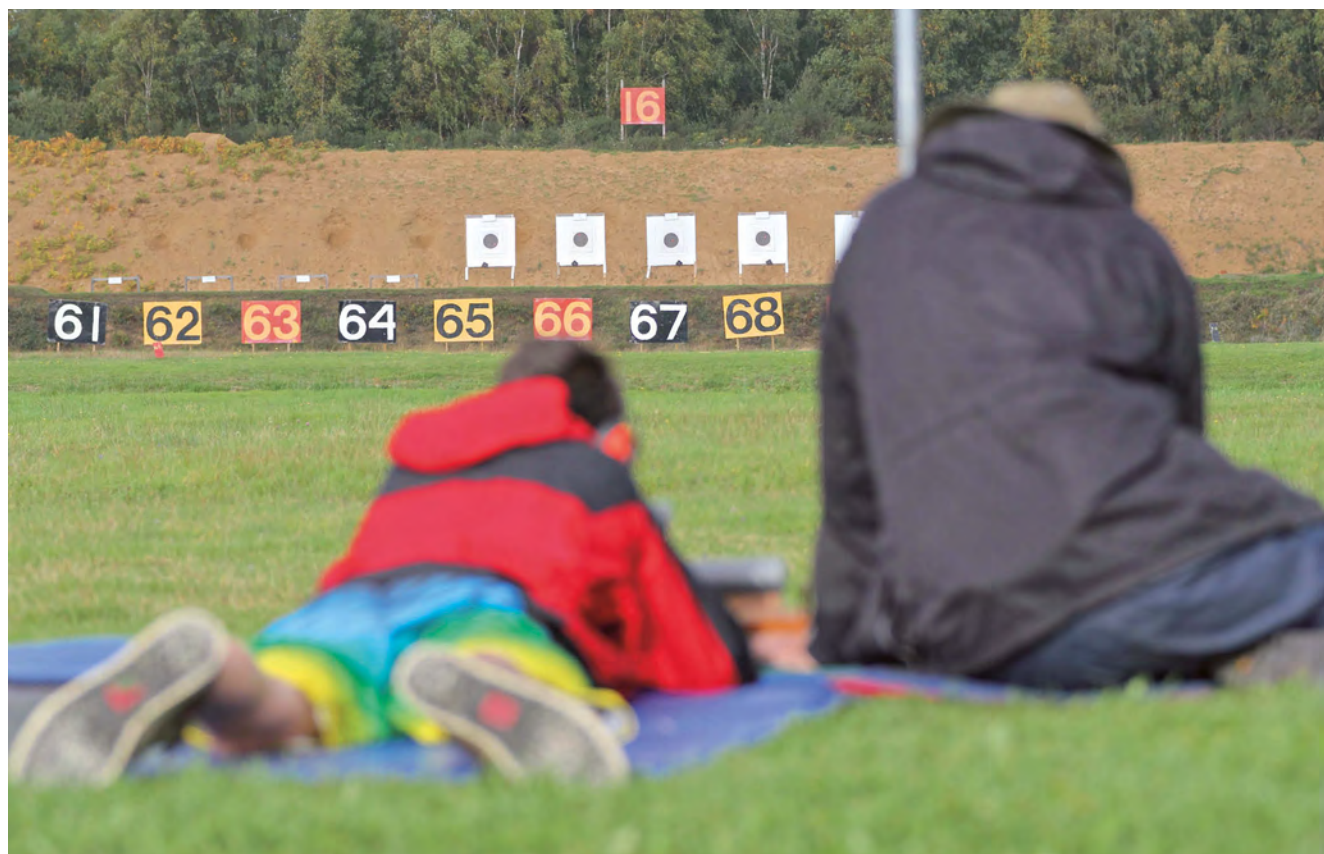
Prone 900y Paul Williams; **Veteran Service Rifle Rapid Prone**

200y Uwe Hausler, 62.0; **Veteran Service Rifle Double Snaps**

Prone 200y Neil Beeby, 53.1.

AGES MATCH 29-30 OCTOBER

PLACE	GROUP	TOTAL	TOP SCORER
(300, 500, 600, 900 & 1000 YARDS)			
1	Over 65s	2658.200	A Mitchell 277.23
2	25-34 Group	2647.222	C Dee 273.19
3	55-64 Group	2600.208	M Schwarz 267.18
4	35-54 Group	2596.189	T Rylands 271.29
5	Under 25s	2584.173	A Clarke 276.21



General Notices

Great Britain Rifle Team to South Africa 2012

Departed Heathrow to Johannesburg 10 March 2012. Returned Johannesburg to Heathrow 2 April 2012

The team of 20 plus travelling reserve* shot against Natal at Nottingham Road and then travelled to Bloemfontein to compete in the Free State Championships and the SABU Championships.

GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2012 ACCOUNTS

	Expenditure (£)	Income (£)
Flights	12853.41	
Accommodation	25931.28	
Transport (minibus hire, coach, petrol & tolls)	9035.31	
Entry fees	5859.78	
Ammunition (including shipping)	10461.08	
Training (markers and clubhouse hire)	1190.50	
Clothing and kit	5553.08	
Team meals and receptions	3634.23	
Gifts and prizes	1104.28	
Stationery and postage	737.46	
Administration	147.45	
Fundraising (corporate, Friends & Family etc)		17062.70
Brochure		8482.95
Bisley Live**	568.91	
OTF Grant		8000.00
Personal contributions ***		43531.12
TOTAL	77076.77	77076.77

* Travelling reserve did not receive any funding from OTF. ** A stock of umbrellas purchased for Bisley Live continues to be sold. This money will be returned to the team in due course. This should eventually return the Bisley Live figure to a very small positive balance. *** A V Club grant of £750 was received for one individual which has been credited to his personal contributions.

GB Norway Sporting Rifle Team Captain Nomination

Applications are requested for the post of Team Captain for the above tour, which will take place in June 2014.

The tour will consist of a mix of moving target and field target events and potential candidates should outline their shooting experience, specifically in terms of running deer, running boar, running moose and field target (fullbore) shooting, as well as include a brief shooting CV.

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 12 noon on 2nd December 2013.

To download a nomination form please visit: <http://www.nra.org.uk/common/files/news/13/NominationForm-NorwayTeamCaptain2014.pdf>

nra.org.uk/common/files/news/13/NominationForm-NorwayTeamCaptain2014.pdf

Team Captaincy

Nominations are invited for a Captain of Gallery Rifle Great Britain team for the 2014 season. The team will be competing in at least three IGRF tournaments in 2014 and will be touring Ireland, Germany and possibly South Africa.

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on 10 December 2013 to be sent to: Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk.

Online Range Bookings

To all associations, affiliated clubs, schools and individual members, could we please ask that any future bookings to be made via the online booking system as this is the quickest way to ensure that your request is actioned. If you have not registered to use this system then this can be done via the NRA website under the heading booking, how to book a target.

Your help in making this system work and for the range office to become more efficient would be most appreciated.



GREAT BRITAIN TARGET RIFLE TEAM TO CANADA 2013 SUMMARY ACCOUNTS

	Expenditure (£)	Income (£)
Airfares	£15,953.00	
Auction Promises		£11,841.00
Excess Luggage & Rifle Costs	£700.00	
Hospitality Days		£14,047.00
Accommodation	£9,063.00	
Brochure		£5,837.00
Ammunition in Canada	£9,074.00	
Other		£393.00
Entry Fees	£13,469.00	
DCRA Winnings		£647.00
Ammunition UK	£1,588.00	
OTF		£7,500.00
Training Costs UK	£1,663.00	
Personal Contributions		£26,000.00
Uniform	£2,306.00	
Hospitality Canada	£1,766.00	
Transport Coach/Hirecar	£4,783.00	
Team Dinners and social	£2,230.00	
Team Miscellaneous and publicity	£3,670.00	
TOTAL	£66,265.00	£66,265.00



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Details, including an electronic copy of the application form, can be found on our website www.epsomcollege.org.uk or from: Vikki Stroud, email hr-administrator@epsomcollege.org.uk, tele 01372 821312

Closing Date: 5 January 2014

Epsom College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and as part of the selection process a Disclosure and Barring check will be required

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Marksman's Calendar

The 2014 Calendar is currently at draft status and members should check with organisers if in any doubt. A revised and updated Marksman's Calendar will be issued by the Membership Department in January at www.nra.org.uk

JANUARY 2014

5 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

FEBRUARY 2014

1 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

15-16 MULTI-GUN MATCH

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

MARCH 2014

2 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

8-9 ACTION SHOTGUN, SHIELD SC, DORSET

Steve Pike, 01308 482626

22-23 SPRING ACTION WEEKEND

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

23 ACTION SHOTGUN, PHOENIX SC, SUSSEX

Ron Flint, ron@phoenixshootingclub.co.uk

APRIL 2014

5 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

MAY 2014

3 OPEN DAY

Georgina Thatcher, georgina.thatcher@nra.org.uk

17-18 NRA 300M CHAMPIONSHIPS

300m@nra.org.uk

20 ACTION SHOTGUN, ROMSEY GC, HANTS

Graham Love, rsecy@live.co.uk

23-25 PHOENIX

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

26 PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

JUNE 2014

7-8 ACTION SHOTGUN BRITISH OPEN, SHIELD SC

Steve Pike, 01308 482626

14-15 INTER-COUNTIES

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

25-29 IMPERIAL CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

25-4 JULY IMPERIAL SERVICE RIFLE

JULY 2014

2 NRA MILITARY ADAPTIVE SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

4-10 IMPERIAL MATCH RIFLE EVENTS

5-6 IMPERIAL HISTORIC ARMS MEETING

7-10 IMPERIAL SCHOOLS MEETING

9-13 IMPERIAL PISTOL & GALLERY RIFLE EVENTS

10-19 IMPERIAL TARGET RIFLE / F CLASS

EVENTS

19 HM QUEEN'S FINAL

AUGUST 2014

23-24 GALLERY RIFLE NATIONAL

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

OCTOBER 2014

5 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

18-19 TRAFALGAR MEETING

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

25-26 AUTUMN ACTION WEEKEND, AGES MATCH

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2014

1 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

DECEMBER 2014

7 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Mark Bradley, mark@bradleyarms.com

WINTER SHOOTING HOURS

The Winter Season runs until Sunday 24 March 2014, during which time shooting on all ranges ceases at 4pm at all times, both weekdays and at the weekend.

For clarification please contact Mark Jackson on 01483 797777 ext 152.

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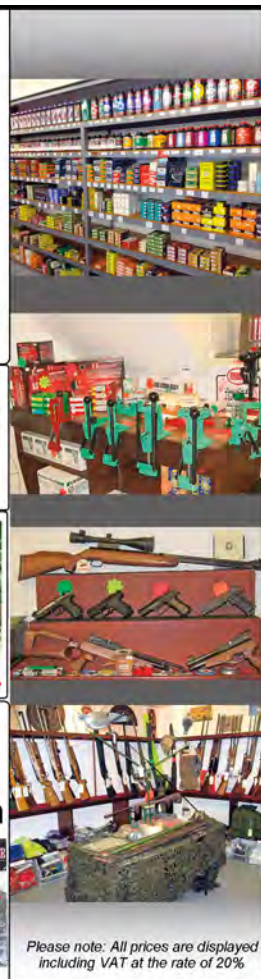
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Model 12 Palma®



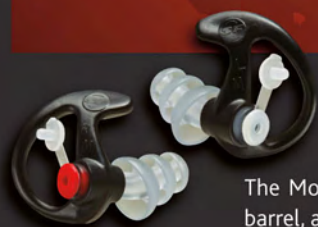
Model 12 Benchrest



Model 12 F/TR Class



Model 12 F Class



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*Rifle Twists: .223 Rem 1 in 7", 6mm Norma BR and 6.5 x 284 Norma 1 in 8", .308 Win 1 in 12", .308 Palma® 1 in 13"



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