

# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Autumn 2015 – Volume XCV No. 3 £4.25

15

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IMPERIAL  
COVERAGE

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GRAND AGGREGATE  
TEAM MATCHES  
DISCIPLINE ROUND-UP  
QUEEN'S PRIZE  
– 60 YEARS AGO

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# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2015 – Volume XCV No. 3



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# Number crunching

**Andrew Mercer reviews Imperial entry numbers and the interim results of the regional ranges survey, as he reports on the latest from the NRA**

**A**utumn is but a few days away and we are making progress with the programme of works that will take us through to spring 2016. Increasing demand for the Bisley ranges is welcome, but we are having to work harder to maintain the fabric of the Camp; some of the grass firing points are looking tired and we need to execute repairs while maximising range availability.

The excitement of the Imperial has given way to a sober analysis of the statistics and financial performance. Overall there were some 4,000 competitors over four weeks of competition; not surprisingly some sections did better than others but the largest single contingent, Target Rifle, yielded a small reduction in entries (1,051 compared to 1,122 last year). The major reason for the decrease in these entries was the loss of 44 overseas and 56 young (U25, U21 and cadet) competitors compared to 2014.

There was an increase from 124 to 138 first-time competitors. To be frank this was disappointing; we have secured a £45,000 savings in the cost of issued ammunition and had distributed this to competitors by reducing entry fees and significantly increasing youth subsidies,

and I had cheerfully assumed that more TR shooters would compete. Perhaps there is considerably less sensitivity to entry fees in the TR community than has long been asserted.

Away from Bisley, Nic Couldrey, our regional ranges manager, has been busy getting to grips with the reality of shooting on MoD and private ranges. All secretaries of our affiliated clubs were invited to share their experiences using an online survey; to date some 45 per cent or so have responded. It is worth asking your own secretary whether they have completed the survey; we cannot take your views into account if you do not share them with us. An early analysis of the survey suggests at least 150 fullbore ranges are in regular use in the UK, many of them privately owned and managed. Around half of the clubs regularly shoot on MoD ranges, and the majority shoot once a month, with between 10 to 20 shooters attending a half-day event. Over half the club shooters travel up to 50 miles to attend a shoot. One rather startling statistic suggests over half of all civilian fullbore shooting takes place at Bisley.

I was pleased to see the sale of the last Spencer site caravan in July, thereby



securing my £5 bet. The support for this new development has been pleasing and we are now working on plans to extend the provision of services to other sites around Camp.

Our GB touring teams excelled in Camp Perry USA; the GB U25 Team won the gold and silver prizes for the International Long Range Championship as well as gold, silver and bronze in the individuals; the Veteran Team won the Loughnan Memorial and Jane Messer's Palma Team delivered a record score to retain the Palma Trophy and World Long Range Rifle Team Championships.

Licensing matters continue to challenge our members. At any one time there are half a dozen or so cases we are actively engaged with. Dialogue with the police is our preferred option; occasionally we agree to disagree and defer to the courts to resolve our differences. The current Law Commission review of firearms legislation presents us with both opportunity and risk. We are working with other shooting organisations through the good offices of the British Shooting Sports Council to coordinate our responses and proposals. ■



The 2015 Imperial Meeting saw a small increase in first-time entrants



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# NEWS

## REPORTS

### FIREARMS CONSULTATION NEEDS RESPONSES

The NRA is encouraging members to give important feedback on a new consultation document regarding an update to firearms laws, which backs the creation of a Firearms Code.

Releasing the document, the Law Commission said the current law is “deeply problematic and in need of reform,” and outlined its recommendations to make it more comprehensible and accessible. The Commission identified a number of problems with the existing law, including poorly defined terms such as “weapon”, “lethal”, “antique” and “component part”.

The paper also suggests that the law could be tightened with regard to imitation firearms and makes the case for more widespread changes to the law.

“It is necessary to consider more fundamental reform that would not only simplify the law, but also provide an opportunity to remedy its deficiencies and ensure it is fit for purpose in the modern era,” it said. “We provisionally propose that codification of the law would be preferable to mere consolidation. This would provide the opportunity to improve the law’s accessibility and consistency.”

This code could potentially take in firearms licensing. “Codification would present the opportunity to rationalise the entire legislative landscape in England and Wales that governs the acquisition and possession of firearms,” the document said.

Professor David Ormerod QC, Law Commissioner for criminal law, said:

“The law must strike the right balance between protecting the public from firearms misuse and the needs of licensed firearms users.

“The present law on firearms is found in over 30 pieces of legislation. It contains numerous illogicalities and inconsistencies, and can be difficult to use. The Law Commission believes there is a strong case for bringing all firearms legislation under a single Act, to clarify the law, make it easier to use and future-proof it against technological change. We are asking for evidence to support this case from all those who legitimately own and use firearms, and those who investigate and prosecute their criminal use.”

It is clear that the proposed changes in this document could affect NRA members and shooting sports in general. Consequently, the NRA is asking that members download and read the

### HBSA MEETING A SUCCESS

The historic Winans range was once again the venue for the HBSA Miniature Rifle meeting on the weekend of the 15-16 August, coinciding with the first weekend of the NSRA National Smallbore meeting.

Some 45 shooters, HBSA members and non-members, had two splendid days shooting with a great variety of .22 rifles, sporting and target, military trainers and rook rifles.



document – either via [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk) or on the Law Commission official website, [www.lawcom.gov.uk](http://www.lawcom.gov.uk) – and respond accordingly, with constructive feedback and measured responses. Full details of how to send responses to the Law Commission are given in the consultation document.



Historic firearms have come under the Law Commission's gaze



# RECORD PERFORMANCE AT PALMA

The GB Palma team has defended its title as world long-range champions, once again winning the Palma Match, held 13-14 August at Camp Perry, USA, as part of the Long Range World Championship. The team set a new Palma Match record of 7106.825v, beating the previous record by 79 points.

A slew of records were broken, in fact, as Great Britain became the first team ever to win all six ranges of the Palma Match, and with this being the fourth Palma win in a row, GB is the team with the most consecutive Palma Match victories. The winning British contingent is the first victorious team with a female captain, Jane Messer.

As well as setting a new match record, the team broke the record for the 900-yard aggregate score with 2384.276v. On the individual level, Britain set a record for the highest score by an individual during the match: Toby Raincock, on 449.59v; the

top 5 individual scores and 14 of the top 20 individual scores were from GB.

GBRT also won the America match, staged alternately in Canada and America on a two-year cycle. GB under-25 teams took first and second places in the under-25 World Championship team match, GB veterans were second to USA in the Veterans team Championship, and GB under-21s were second to USA Young Eagles in the U21 match.

In the individual World Championship, won by Ben Ems of Australia, GB shooters took second, fourth and tenth places, all the medals in the U25 Championship, and third in the Women's and Veterans Championships. At the US Nationals GB shooters took five of the top ten places, and won the under-25 competition.

*For a list of Palma Match range results, see Results on page 58. A full report will appear in the Winter edition of the Journal.*



The winning GB Palma team, with supporters from the Veterans and U25 teams and GB individuals

## SHOOT RAISES MONEY FOR HELP FOR HEROES

On 27 June the Stalking Directory web forum and the British Sporting Rifle Club hosted a charity shoot in aid of Help for Heroes. The total raised was £1,562.36. Thanks are given to members of the gun trade for prizes donated and to the BSRC range officers who gave their time to oversee the event. The club also received a Certificate of Appreciation directly from the charity as recognition of its contribution.

## BSRC STEP OUT OF COMFORT ZONE WITH CLAY SHOOT

British Sporting Rifle Club members swapped their sporting rifles for sporting shotguns on Friday 14 August when they participated in the Chief Constable's Annual Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot at Bisley Shooting Ground. A very testing 100-bird shoot, it is primarily a competition for police and emergency service teams from around the country, but all comers are welcome and a couple of NRA rifle clubs were represented. The riflemen did manage to get among the prizes; Phil Elliott – a BSRC member, but on this occasion deciding to shoot for Addlestone RC – got the highest score using a side-by-side shotgun. No other BSRC members could manage a podium place, but were certainly not disgraced, finishing in the top third in the team competition. The event supported the Chief Constable's Charity and gave members a chance to mix with shooters from a different discipline.



# 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](mailto:nra@blazepublishing.co.uk)



## Back to basics

I am a new member of the NRA and I am concerned that sometimes the magazine assumes a level of knowledge that is not necessarily held by everyone. For example, while I wish Ted George well in his efforts to revive the 1500 pistol, I have no idea of what is involved. Do you run 1500 metres between shoots? Do you fire 1500 rounds? What sort of pistol do you need?

I would like to have seen:

- 1) A summary of the event
- 2) What happened to the event without UK involvement after 1998
- 3) What happened to the individuals that were competing – took up gallery, competed abroad, continued to compete but used crossbows?
- 4) Why now is the right time to revive it?

I accept that you need to draw a balance between providing new information and stating the obvious, but we have not all been involved in the sport for 20 years.

**Malcolm Taylor**

## RUAG responds

The NRA have issued a notice prohibiting the use of RWS Target Elite Ammunition Batch No. 261919 on the grounds of "an unacceptably high rate of blown and leaking primers."

We are disappointed by this action but accept that during the 2013 Imperial Meeting at Bisley the NRA informed us about this problem – but we dispute that it was an "unacceptably high rate."

During the five-year period of the contract with the NRA for supply of .308 Match ammunition all of our production was manufactured to and within CIP specifications.

Use of this ammunition in non-CIP compliant rifles is not recommended and may well lead to problems; however this is not the fault of the ammunition.

We maintain that Batch No. 261919 was made to approved CIP specifications and RUAG Ammotec have no doubts as to its safety and performance in CIP approved rifles. However as a reputable manufacturer and to maintain market confidence we have already withdrawn the small remaining stock from sale.

**Phil Unwin**

**Managing director of RUAG Ammotec UK**

## United we stand

Well done. The National Rifle Association Journal has been transformed from a staid publication that not many club members wanted to read, into a magazine read from cover to cover. There are many facets and disciplines to our sport of shooting; we shoot targets or clays using a diversity of different firearms. Some clubs even have an air rifle and CO2 pistol section.

It seems as though the NRA has started to listen not only to the membership, but to the affiliate clubs. The Firearms (Amendment) (No. 2) Act 1997 came into being after the horrific massacre at Dunblane, 13 March 1996, by Thomas Hamilton. In those days we all had periphery governing bodies, which looked after their own fiefdoms – no other shooting sport mattered. Although BASC and MLAGBNI did support the NRA, this was not a unified effort. 56,000 handgun shooters lost their sport; Bisley lost a profitable source of income.

Present day NRA has a more transparent management structure, which is investing in its infrastructure, creating a healthy bank balance. Whether we be members or affiliate members, we need a united governing body to speak and defend all facets of the shooting sports in the UK.

**PW Beavan**





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# Flying high

**Wing Commander David Calvert MBE wins HM the Queen's Prize at the 2015 Imperial Meeting, reports Katia Malcaus Cooper**

**T**he front office of the NRA's Bisley HQ has pictures of the Queen's Prize winners dating back to the first meeting in 1859. 145 pictures of distinguished ladies and gentlemen decorate the wall, showing the faces of those who won the most prestigious prize in Target Rifle shooting.

Each year many hundreds of competitors pass through the doors of the building, look at the wall and wonder if they will ever see their picture there among those talented individuals. When last year's winner Richard Jeens came to collect his cards he looked at the wall and wondered if he would be able to defend the title. Double Commonwealth Games

Gold medal winner David Luckman was also among the many who have the Queen's Prize firmly at the top of their list, next to winning the Palma match at Camp Perry.

To the Target Rifle community, the Queen's Final is the pinnacle of the sporting year, and the hundreds of spectators on Stickledown demonstrated the popularity of this event. For them it is the most important competition in the annual calendar of events; winning it equates to winning gold at the Olympic Games.

Reaching the final is a feat in itself. It started with 881 competitors vying for a place in Queens II by making the cut

in Queen's I (300, 500 and 600 yards on Century with a maximum score of 105.21v), with only the top 300 progressing to the second stage. 848 competitors started the Queen's I journey on a cold and cloudy day on Wednesday 15 July, with a changeable wind giving more than one shooter some real problems making the correct adjustments.

GBU25 Adjutant Chloe Evans was initially less than pleased with her 'Maggie alley' squadding for Queen's I, but managed to overcome it by successfully making it through to Queen's Final and placing herself in the top 40.

David Luckman led at the end of the day with 105.19, followed by 52 other shooters all with a score of 105 but with fewer V-Bulls. David Crispin was in fourth place with 105.17, Commonwealth gold winner Parag Patel was in ninth with 105.16, followed by GBU25 captain Paul Lanigan in 10th with the same score, and David Calvert in 15th place with 105.15. With generally favourable wind conditions on the day, there was ample discussion about where the 'cut' would be made. In the event, a score of 102.10v was sufficient to make it through to the second stage.

Queen's II was shot on Friday 17 July. Scores from Queens I are wiped clean, allowing all 300 to start afresh with an equal chance of making the last 100.

This stage is a 2 + 10 at 300, 500 and 600 yards (HPS 150.30v). In moderate winds and dry weather, John Tapster led the pack with 149.20, with David Calvert in sixth place on 149.18, the Welsh Commonwealth pair Chris Watson and Gareth Morris in ninth and 13th place respectively with 148.22 and 148.21, and four Royal Canadian Army Cadets in the top 100 – a tremendous achievement for these young shooters.

The on-range stats team performed a brilliant job to work out the final cut in



Calvert on the chair for the second time in his Target Rifle career



John Warburton came oh-so-close to a second Queen's Prize in four years



a matter of minutes, announcing that scores of 146.14v were in and all other scores were out.

Final Saturday began with the St George's Final, and started a remarkable day for David Calvert. Having won the coveted St George's in a tie-shoot, he then promptly won the Conan Doyle tie-shoot before forming part of the Ireland team in the Mackinnon, who went on to put in a strong performance and finish in second place with 1132.96.

Stickledown Range always presents a challenge as the wind can prove tricky to read in changeable weather conditions, and the conditions for the Queen's Final did not disappoint in this regard. At

900 yards all eyes were on John Tapster who was carrying 149.20, but much to everyone's surprise he dropped six points and was out of contention. Only 12 competitors managed 73 or better at 900 yards, including two seasoned professionals; Parag Patel's 75.7v moved him from 86th position overnight to a top ten slot, and John Warburton advanced from 79th position to challenge for the lead after 900 yards with a score of 74.11v. The other steep climber was Glyn Barnett, who scored 75.6v to move one point behind the leader at 900 yards, David Calvert on 223.24v.

The conditions at 1,000 yards proved to be what separated the top three from

the rest, with John Warburton putting in a solid performance with 73.7 followed by David Calvert with 71.7 and Glyn Barnett 70.6. But it was David's consistent performance across all distances that put him on top with a total of 294.29 – but not before making it exciting for spectators by finishing with a three for his last to count.

The RAF Target Rifle Club assists with the scoring in Queen's Final, so when one of their own won the prize, there was a roar of excitement and a willing – and seemingly never-ending – list of volunteers to chair Wing Commander David Calvert off the range. David is not new to this, having won the Queen's Prize in 2010, but nonetheless, the excitement was palpable. The winner was triumphantly chaired off, leaving the 2,000-strong crowd ready to disperse and enjoy the famed Bisley hospitality before the prizegiving.

As competitions go, HM The Queen's Prize may not have the biggest trophy, but it comes with the biggest honour: being chaired off the range by your peers, signing the official register and receiving the £250 cheque from the Queen's purse is only the beginning. After toasts and cheers in the Front Office the chair is swapped – due to some mishaps in previous years – and the newly crowned winner is then taken from club to club to enjoy some hospitality and a drink or two until the early hours of the morning, pausing only to fire the cannon that signals the traditional end of the meeting.



## AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID CALVERT, QUEEN'S PRIZE WINNER 2015

*Paul Deach managed to catch a few quick words with the Queen's winner in the moments after his Queen's win*

**You have had an incredible Imperial, haven't you?  
You have won a fair bit of silverware.**

It started very well on the first day before the Grand Aggregate (which is the aggregate of all the major competitions) then, apart from the odd little dips – there are inevitably some troughs and some peaks – it went very well and I am very pleased with the result.

**And of course, you won the St George's this morning as well.**

Yes I did – that was the result of a tie shoot, which surprised me because it was the first time in so many years that the prize was not won with the maximum possible score, and that is because the conditions were really quite tricky today.

**Not just today, but throughout the whole Imperial Meeting – one minute it's sunny, the next it's blowing a gale...**

That is true. It's actually been very interesting conditions and weather throughout the week – thankfully mostly dry – but it's been a lot of fun to compete in these conditions.

**I am not going to keep you too long because I know you have some serious celebrating to do. You are going to be going around on the chair to all the clubs too, so I expect you will have a bit of a headache tomorrow morning...**

Well, that is always the risk with winning the Queen's Prize, but it's a great tradition, going round all the clubs with all your colleagues, club mates and so many of the other competitors.

**I was at the scoreboard with Peter Turner, an RAF colleague, and he was absolutely delighted. I am sure the RAF are going to do you proud tonight.**

They usually organise a pretty good party so I think we will have a lot of fun tonight. ■



74 at 900 yards and 71 at 1,000 was enough for Calvert on this occasion



With wins in the St George's, Conan Doyle, and Queen's, it's safe to say Calvert had found some form



Calvert in the prize tent



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# Calvert ties it up

David Calvert clinched a narrow victory in the St George's as a prelude to his Queen's Prize win

**B**efore the Queen's final had even taken place, David Calvert was a champ on the final day of the Imperial: He emerged the victor from an unusual, trend-bucking, yet no less closely fought St George's shoot.

We have become used to seeing a number of shooters make the highest possible score of 150 every year in the St George's; indeed, last year we saw no fewer than eight shooters go 'clean' through the final, with Jim Bailey stretching the field on v-bulls. Not so in 2015, when a 149 was enough to claim top spot – something that hadn't happened since 2006. With equipment and training methods always improving, you would be forgiven for thinking that anything under 150 was a thing of the past.

But in tricky conditions and changeable winds, the St George's shoot showed it hasn't been conquered yet. Come the end of the second stage, Calvert was one of 35 competitors yet to drop a point, spanning from Chris Weeden on 150.26v to two

competitors on 150.14v. It seemed the most obvious of facts that the winner would be one of these 35, but as they all gradually let one fly on Saturday, it looked like the remarkable could happen – Alex Coetzee of South Africa dominated with an unsurpassed 75.12v. The only other 'possible' came from Glyn Barnett with 75.9v – and as both had started the day on 74.9v – the bar was set at 149.21v.

Scores and V-counts varied as much as the wind, but only Calvert could match the total, posting a final-round score of 74.10v. Only five shooters finished 'one off', highlighting just what a tough day it had been.

Calvert and Coetzee set the bar at 149.21 and it was they who continued into the five-shot tie shoot. Over five shots they matched their 30-shot performances in the competition proper, each finishing 'one off' again. But Calvert's four v-bulls to Coetzee's two were decisive. Calvert was applauded off the range; later he would be chaired off it. ■



Winning on v-bulls after a tie – it doesn't get much closer than that



Alex Coetzee was agonisingly close to causing a major upset



Calvert writes himself into the St George's history books

**Scores and V-counts varied as much as the wind, but only Calvert could match the total**



Chairman John Webster was on hand to congratulate the champ



# Barnett's formula for success

**Glyn Barnett proves the ultimate consistent shooter by scoring his third Grand Aggregate in a 23-year timespan**

One of the first things David Calvert did when he emerged victorious from the Queen's final stage was pay tribute to the Grand Aggregate winner. "It's often said that the winner of the Grand Aggregate – which I've never won – is the best shot on the Common at Bisley, and the winner of the Queen's Prize is the luckiest," he told a reporter for theshootingshow.tv.

If that's so, the best shot this year was Glyn Barnett, 2006 Commonwealth gold medallist and veritable Bisley medal collector (two Queen's and two Grand Aggregates to his name before 2015's meeting even began). What's more, he accomplished this with one of the highest

winning scores in Aggregate history – only Barnett himself, in 2011, and Jim Corbett in 2012 have bettered it.

Not that you'd have predicted it on 12 July, after the first four events (Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail, Alexandra and Duke of Cambridge). At this point, Barnett had dropped five and sat down in 16th position, with Simon Osmond topping the table with possibles in the latter three events supplemented by 73.10v in the Telegraph. (Simon Belither, on 75.10v, was the happy man who led the Aggregate after just one event).

What followed was an incredible display of consistent shooting, as Barnett went clean in the following seven events.

Already after the Times and Wimbledon (won by John Warburton and David Luckman respectively), Barnett, just one v-bull behind the winner in each, had risen to the top, one ahead of Richard Jeens.

And that's how it would stay. Luckman won the Corporation too, but Barnett kept the pace just two bullseyes behind. Barnett and Jeens were among a slew of 75s in St George's I – no change there.

Wednesday came, and the decisive blow was struck in Queen's I, when Jeens

## What followed was an incredible display of consistent shooting

dropped one to allow Barnett to go two points clear. Barnett was on fire and shot a perfect score in the Conan Doyle – he lost to David Calvert after a nail-biting tie shoot, but the wider result was that it was his Aggregate to lose with just the Prince of Wales to go. With a v-bull count 11 superior to Jeens, he could drop two and still emerge the victor.

Surely just a formality – and it was. Barnett shot 75.11v in a high-scoring Wales match that saw Warburton eventually win a three-way tie. It had been a tight Aggregate with few outright winners, and Barnett didn't win any of the events himself – but the final standings were decisively in his favour, showing that it really is consistency that counts. With wins in 1993 and 2011 already to his name, as well as three runner-up berths, Barnett has cemented his reputation as one of the greatest shooters in the modern era. ■



Glyn Barnett now has two Queen's Prizes and three Grand Aggregates to his name

# Team players

National, Mackinnon, Kolapore and more – photos from across the range of team matches at the Imperial

All smiles: Wales during the Mackinnon



Commons won the Vizianagram, 459.31v to 436.18v



It was Falklands v West Indies in the Junior Kolapore



Team Canada brought an impressive contingent



NATIONAL MATCH 2015 – photography by Graeme Clarke



Ireland gave the English a shock and a right royal fight



England gather for exhortation before their 600-yard shoot – and narrow victory



Ed Dickson got his first National cap – and a maximum 105 to go with it





Oxford ended up in second place in the Universities, behind Cambridge



Great Britain took the Kolapore with 1172.131v. Full results on page 58

#### MACKINNON MATCH 2015



England won the Mackinnon by an eventual 10-point margin





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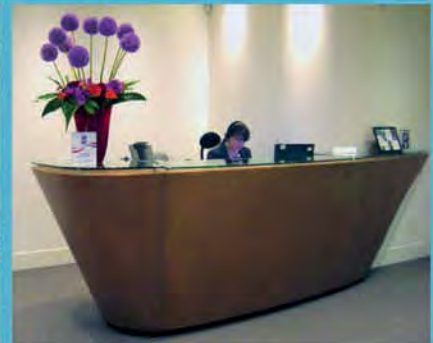
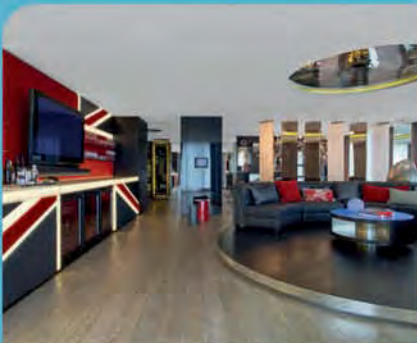
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# Around the disciplines

Reports and photographs from the various disciplines at the Imperial Meeting

## MATCH RIFLE

The Hopton Aggregate Trophy started in breezy conditions with the Whitehead Trophy at 1,000 and 1,100 yards. Student Hannah Fisher produced the only possible of the day, a brilliant 75.9, but Andy Gent of Surrey won overall with 147.16.

The Halford was shot in challenging winds at 1,100 and 1,200 yards. John Pugsley emerged at the top with 143.1.

Sunday morning dawned with little wind for the Cottesloe, so it proved a test of who was grouping well. Nine people scored 100ex-100, with student back gunner Fergus Flanagan producing the most impressive with 17 V-bulls.

Competitors fell back to 1,100 for the Wimbledon MR competition and again Flanagan managed to hold the bull for 100.13. His score was matched by early pacesetter Mike Baillie-Hamilton, but Flanagan emerged victorious by a single point in a tie shoot to cap a fine day for the tyro. The morning also saw the conclusion of the GGG aggregate, which was won by Nigel Ball with 397.33 (ex-425). The Armourers at 1,200 yards was shot in strong winds and Rob Lygoe excelled with 97.12.

The Edge started at 1,100 yards on Monday with John Pugsley posting the only 100. Falling back to 1,200 yards, he dropped five to set a target of 195 for the later detail. Back gunner Rosanne Furniss, two off after 1,100 yards, had a chance of topping the chart, but a one as her first to count ruled her out instantly and illustrated the harsh conditions. Pugsley remained unbeaten.

The afternoon saw the first team shoot the FW Jones. The Hopton Supper Club, captained by Richard Whitby, emerged victorious, with Scotland second.

The Albert, notorious for not including any sighting shots with 15 to count at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards, saw Angus McLeod, using a borrowed rifle and shooting in strong winds, win by six points.



Mike Baillie-Hamilton shoots for Scotland in the Elcho after his Hopton win



The England team at 1,200 yards

Going into the final range, Mike Baillie-Hamilton continued to lead the Hopton aggregate, four ahead of Rob Lygoe with George Barnard a further five behind. Baillie-Hamilton had an early scare with an outer two for his second to count, but Lygoe was unable to capitalise on this and finished a further point behind Mike, who won it for the third time with a score of 981.99. Tyro Fergus Flanagan finished fourth on 969.91 in his second Hopton appearance.

Elcho day is where the tradition of 150 years of Match Rifle meets with the modern professionalism of MR shooters. The course of fire is zero sighters and 15 to count at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards for a team of eight. At the start of shooting the wind was blowing strongly from the left, as it had all week, but the forecast suggested it would be gaining strength as the day went on.

At 1,000 yards, Nick Tremlett's England team looked well drilled with first man Andy Gent slotting an impressive 75.11 and David Dashwood matching him. A controlled 588ex-600 was an excellent effort in the conditions and the other three teams looked evenly matched, with Scotland lying second on 575, Wales 574 and Ireland 573. At 1,100 yards England continued to tighten their grip on the match, pulling a further nine points ahead. After lunch, the wind was gaining strength. At 1,200 yards the English finished quickest and the wind got even stronger afterwards. England won with an impressive 1708.147 ahead of Scotland (1688.144), Wales (1644.124) and Ireland (1643.122). Top scorer was England's Andy Gent with an exceptional 218.17ex-225. Top scorer at 1,200 yards, with 72, was Scotsman Fergus Flanagan.

The Varsity Match (The Humphry) saw Cambridge – who had four shooters in the Elcho the day before – win convincingly. But it should be noted that with over 20 students competing in the Hopton, MR appears to be in a healthy place. ■

Mike Spencer



## CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Some of the first events to kick off the Imperial Meeting are the Civilian Service Rifle matches and 2015 was another great year for the discipline, with five days of excellent shooting at the National Shooting Centre. The competition starts with the Imperial Practical Rifle Match on the Wednesday and culminates with the Methuen Team match the following Sunday. Not everyone attending is able to shoot all of the matches but there is plenty of variety for those that want to pick and choose as there are eight individual matches, two team events and three aggregates. Most of the events take place on Century range but this year the Army facilities at Pirbright were also used, only a short drive from Bisley.

The team events were well supported with the Falling Plates taking place on Saturday evening where two trophies were contested, one for Modern and one for Historic rifles. The atmosphere on Hutchings Range was electric as hundreds watched the teams battle through a head-to-head knockout to be the quickest to topple ten 12-inch square armoured steel plates after a sprint to the firing line from 200 yards.

The London Practical Shooting Club had a good year, taking both Challenge Cups and eight NRA Gold Medals in the Modern and Historic Classes; Uttoxeter and LERA were the respective runners up. Not content with winning two team trophies on the Sunday, the LPSC put up a strong team to challenge the 2014 winners, the Highpower Rifle Association, for the Mauser Trophy in the NRA Civilian Methuen Match. In a tightly fought contest LPSC took an early lead that the other teams could not challenge, despite some impressive shooting, and won the match 24 points ahead of the HRA.

The Historic Class Mons trophy was won by the Lee Enfield Rifle Association on a total score of 886 with the Mars and Minerva Shooting Club second on 571. ■

*John Morgan-Hosey*



Competitors sprint to the firing point

## Individual CSR Championship Results 2015

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The London Practical Shooting Club had a successful Meeting



The Civilian Methuen Cup, held on 28 June



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## IMPERIAL MEETING: DISCIPLINE ROUND-UP

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25 June - Service Rifle



30 June - Service Rifle trophy presentation



01 July - Service Pistol



02 July - Cadets long range Target Rifle





04 July - Historic Arms Meeting



04 July - Sporting Rifle



04 July - The Whitehead



08 July - The Elcho



05 July - Inter Services Cadet Match





9 July – Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Ashburton



11 July – Telegraph



12 July – Daily Mail





13 July - The Times



14 July - St George's I



15 July - F Class



15 July - Queen's I



17 July - Queen's II, Chancellors





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# A historic day

**Simon Fenwick has a unique perspective on how this year's Queen's Prize differs from 60 years ago – and how it's still the same**

In July 1955 my father, Leslie Robert 'Bob' Fenwick, achieved probably his greatest shooting feat when he won the coveted Queen's Prize at Bisley. With 18 July 2015 being the 60th anniversary of that achievement, I thought it appropriate to pay a visit to Bisley for the final day of the Imperial Meeting and the Queen's Prize itself.

Following the Second World War, during which he served in the Home Guard due to being in a reserved occupation at County Commercial Cars, my father was in the Fleet & District Rifle Club and joined the City Rifle Club and, of course, the NRA. During the 1950s he represented Hampshire and England on several occasions. He won the City Rifle Club Gold Medal in 1953 with a score of 274 and was part of the winning team for Hampshire in the County Championships in 1953 and 1954, as well as representing England in the 1955 Kolapore Match, the Mackinnon in 1956 and the National Championships in 1954 and 1958.

The Sovereign's (Queen's) Prize, which is part of the huge Imperial Meeting, was first shot in 1859 and has taken place every year since then except for the years 1915-18 and 1940-45. It is regarded as being among the most prestigious and hardest won competitions in shooting and usually attracts more than 1,000 entries. The winner is awarded the NRA Gold Medal and Badge and the Sovereign's prize of £250 – this amount was originally awarded by Queen Victoria and still remains the gift of the Sovereign.

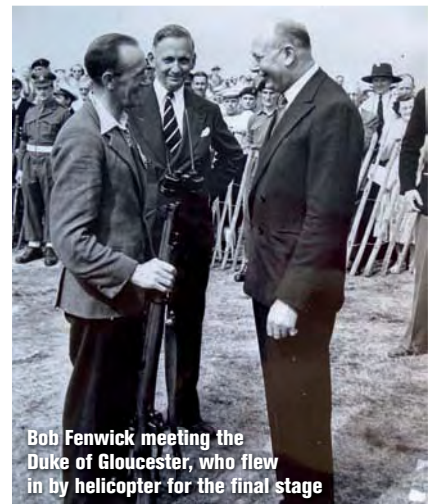
Given the fact that my father was pretty successful at shooting during the 1950s, it is perhaps surprising that he only managed to reach the final 100 in the Queen's Prize on three occasions – this shows how tough this competition is. 1955 was the year that he was successful in getting the top place with an impressive 144 from the second stage



Bob Fenwick is chaired round the various clubs at Bisley – a tradition that continues today

using one of the famous Lee Enfield SMLE No.1 rifles. He followed this up with 73 at 900yds and 69 at 1,000yds using a No.4, to give a winning score of 286. This is a score that was never beaten in this competition using .303 ammunition. Therefore, with the changes in equipment and ammunition, it is a record that will stand forever.

After being presented with the NRA Gold Badge which, holding with tradition, was pinned to the left arm of his blazer, Bob was lifted high in the famous chair by fellow members of City RC and was 'chaired off' the range to the accompaniment of a military band and with police escort. Early evening saw the presentation of all the trophies and prizes for the entire 1955 Imperial Meeting at which my father also received his gold medal. The memorable day still hadn't finished, as there was one final tradition to be upheld, with the tour by chair of around twenty of the rifle clubs at Bisley. Each club devises its own concoction from which the Queen's Prize winner has to take a drink. No one knows what goes into the cup as each club has its own secret recipe with some being distinctly lethal!



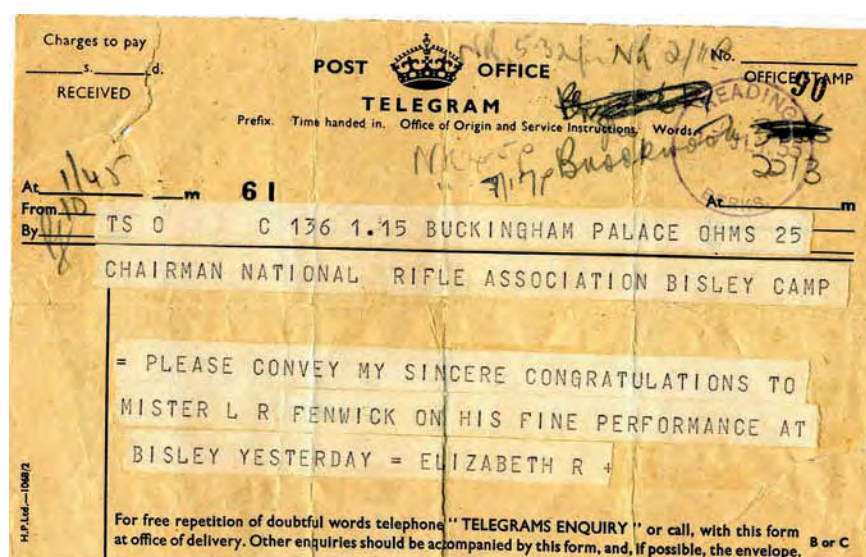
Bob Fenwick meeting the Duke of Gloucester, who flew in by helicopter for the final stage

A few weeks later, following an appeal through the local press, a silver salver was presented to my father by Mrs. Frances Graham-Taylor, chairwoman of Fleet Urban District Council in the offices of County Commercial Cars in tribute to his achievement. I was at the presentation, aged two years and two months, in the arms of my mother. The salver was inscribed: "Presented to Mr LR Fenwick by the people of Fleet to commemorate his having won the Queen's Prize at Bisley





Bob Fenwick is presented with a silver salver; his wife, Peggy Fenwick, holds two-year-old Simon on the left



on 16th July 1955". It still holds pride of place in my living room to this day.

Thankfully, the weather on Stickledown for the 2015 competition was fairly benign with clear skies and a gentle breeze from left to right. For someone who was brought up with Bisley in the late 50s and early 60s, some things are immediately noticeable. Gone are the masses of Army tents, which seemed to occupy almost every square inch of grass around the clubhouses. However, tradition is still a watchword when it comes to the Imperial Meeting and the whole site still has a distinctly 'colonial' feel with the design of the clubhouses. Every entrant under 70 years of age in the Imperial Meeting has to agree to special duties. They can be called upon to act as assistant range officers, scoreboard operators and many other duties.

For me, the biggest difference between 1955 and 2015 is the equipment used.

60 years ago, clothing would be non-specialist but generally thick trousers, collared shirt, blazer, and a raincoat for wet days. Rifles, in my father's case, were Lee Enfields with a SMLE being used for Stages One and Two, and a No.4 for the final. Today, things have changed drastically, with special shaped shooting jackets, specially designed headgear that removes distractions from the side and which include shields in front of the 'non-aiming' eye. Most important is the now compulsory ear protection, which simply didn't exist 60 years ago. Rifles and ammunition have changed out of all recognition. Now 7.62mm ammunition is used and the rifles themselves are precision-made pieces of high tech engineering and bear almost no relationship to the old guns.

A quick word about the scoring; in the old days it was a simple matter of 'the

highest score wins' with, in the case of a draw, a countback system being used. Today, with the competition being so close, a more detailed system is used. Yes, the highest score is still the winner but now the number of V-bulls is also taken into account. A V-bull is the smallest section at dead centre of the target and is a 10" diameter circle (about the size of a standard dinner plate). Telescopic sights are not permitted, so at 1,000 yards the V-bull would be no bigger than a pinhead.

As usual, the top 100 in the final represented clubs from the entire spectrum, throughout the home nations, and there were also competitors from Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Ireland and the Channel Islands. It was particularly gratifying to see the number of young competitors, most representing schools or colleges and seven making the final from the GB Under 35 squad.

The crowd could really feel the tension building as it came to the final 1,000-yard shoot. Places were constantly changing on the scoreboard during the first few shots. However, it was clear that once Wg Cdr Calvert had completed his 15 shots, it was going to take some exceptional scoring to beat him. In the end he came out the winner and was presented with his badge in front of the large crowd, and was 'chaired off' behind the Band of the 24th Invicta Rifles down to the NRA Office where the formalities were undertaken.

It was a delight to be back at Bisley, to experience the atmosphere once again and to commemorate the 60th anniversary of my father winning this most prestigious competition. ■



Simon Fenwick with his father's gold medal and badge at this year's Imperial



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# Match Reports

Reports and results from the latest competitions across the country, including the Irish Open and the NRA Shotgun League

## IRISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 2015 Ballykinler Ranges saw David Calvert add to his trophy collection. Trevor Steele reports

The 104th Irish Open Championship was held at Ballykinler Ranges on 13-14 June 2015. The ranges at Ballykinler are set on the County Down coast with the picturesque backdrop of the Mourne mountains. The competitions were held on No. 3 range, which is a 600-yard converted gallery range.

The format of the competition was the same as previous years, starting with the Ballykinler Tankard, a 15-shot warm-up shoot at 300 yards. This was followed by the Queen's I to complete the Saturday shoots. Sunday was the Queen's II followed by the championship final of 15 shots at 600 yards for those lucky enough to qualify. Entries were slightly down on previous years, with a total of 42 competitors. These were split across the various disciplines with 20 target rifle shooters, three F-Class Open, seven F-Class TR, eight Classic using iron sights and four Classic shooters using optical sights. As in previous years, we were glad to welcome competitors from the mainland UK as well as a number of competitors from the Republic of Ireland. The ammunition used this year was RUAG purchased from the NRA.

Ballykinler weather can be a bit cool, but the weather on this weekend was nearly perfect. Saturday had bright sunshine, was reasonably warm and had moderate wind. The Ballykinler Tankard, which is used as a warm-up match and not included in the Aggregate, got the shooting underway, with a win for Martin Millar in Target

Rifle with a fine 75.11v, the only possible from the TR shooters. F-Class Open was won by Mark Bannon with 73.6v, F-Class TR by Kevin Clancy with a fine 75.12v, Classic by Darren Gregg with 66.5v and Classic Optical by Stephen Burke with 70.9v.

The Queen's I followed and this saw David Calvert go to the top of the leaderboard with a great score of 104.14v, closely followed by Sandy Wilson on 103.11v and Dickie Martin in third with 103.10v. Mark Bannon won the F-Class Open with 102.7v, Kevin Clancy won F-Class TR with 98.5v, Classic was Darren Gregg with 94.6v and Classic Optical was Stephen Burke with 96.7v.

Sunday brought more fine weather although a bit cooler than Saturday. The Queen's II saw another win for David Calvert with 150.27v, including two 50.10v at 300 and 600 yards. Second place was taken by Gary Clarke with 150.18v and third by Martin Millar with 149.24v. F-Class open was won by Mark Bannon with 147.11, F-Class TR by Kevin Clancy with 142.11v, Classic by Darren Greg with a 130.9v and Classic Optical by David Cumming with 138.10v.

The final took place with the conditions starting to dull a bit and slightly increased wind. Thankfully the rain stayed away and David Calvert cemented his position at the top of the leaderboard with a good 75.12v. The final results saw David Calvert as the winner of the Irish Open Championship 2015, only dropping one point in total with a 329.53v. In second place was Martin Millar with 326.46v and in third place Gary Clarke with 326.36v. F-Class Open was won by Mark Bannon with a 321.24v, F-Class TR by Kevin Clancy with a 307.20v, Classic by Darren Gregg with a 291.17v and Classic Optical by Stephen Burke with a 296.19v.

The team competitions were a clean sweep for Comber Rifle Club with only one exception. This year saw a new competition of the club teams competing against an Army team to try and encourage more participation from army competitors. The Army team won this match by a clear two points. The trophy was the Terry Speck Salver, originally presented by Terry, a well-known Welsh shooter at the time. It was used in the late 1980s and 1990s for competition between a Northern Ireland team and visiting teams from Scotland and Wales. Increasing difficulties with travel and getting range bookings confirmed in good time meant that this match fell into abeyance. Range bookings are now becoming a little more certain so we hope that these teams may join us in the future again.



David Calvert finished three ahead of his nearest competitor



## SHIELD SUMMER SHOTGUN CHALLENGE George Granycome reports on round four of the NRA Shotgun League, 6-7 June 2015

Taking place in Dorset at Shield Shooting Centre, the Shield Summer Shotgun Challenge always attracts a lot of shooters. The individual stages and courses of fire invented by the proprietor Steve Pike may be rivalled occasionally, but for sheer year-on-year excellence and consistency there is no equal to this high-point of the shooting calendar. This year it formed the centrepiece for the NRA Shotgun League with almost 100 shooters attending and enjoying good weather.

This competition consists of several stages, each shot separately by individual shooters against the clock. No two stages in any competition are the same, and it is even explicitly forbidden to repeat courses of fire in case they become well known.

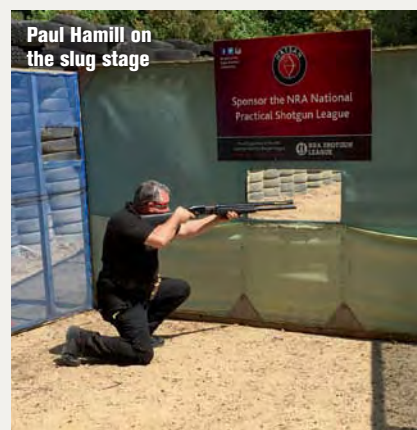
In one stage, the shooters were faced

with an array of targets in an open field, with three shooting areas. There were paper targets, which had to be hit with buckshot to score, and steel plates, which had to be knocked down, some of which were heavy and needed a good hit. There were also clay pigeons, held on posts by elastic bands. The obvious answer was to stack the magazine with both buckshot and birdshot and to prepare reloads of birdshot and buckshot arranged in the correct order. However, not only is this difficult to plan in just five minutes, there will inevitably be a miss requiring a top-up shot, and so the plan will always fly out of the window.

Adjacent to the field with the buckshot stage there is a wood where there were four more stages. The best of these was the clay-flippers; where shooting four hinged pepper-poppers made them fall and hit one end of a seesaw, thus causing the other end to flip a clay pigeon into the air. Next, in a small woodland clearing, was a stage where your empty gun was placed on the ground, on a wooden board. You had to retrieve it, load, and shoot eight plates from under a low barrier.



Mark Hamill on the long stage, reloading as he moves



Paul Hamill on the slug stage



Worcester Norton Shooting Club took part in the Challenge



Another of the high points of these matches is the slug stage. Slug inflicts heavier recoil than bird or buckshot, and so precise control of the gun is more difficult. There were eleven of these and so 22 hits were required.

For one stage Steve used lorry tyres as props, lying them on their sides and hiding ten targets behind them, forcing the shooter to move from side-to-side across the range and finding the best path through the tyre obstacles. The shooter then pulled open a hatch revealing another four plates, simultaneously activating a four-armed bobber with four clays, which appeared, disappeared and reappeared in unexpected positions over hard cover and needed quick shooting to hit.

An enviably large number of shooters shot the match, making it the best-attended of the practical shooting year. There was a good turn-out from the ladies too, plus professional photographers to record the match for the sponsors, Hatsan and Beretta, both of whom are donating guns, which at the end of the season will be won by a draw where everyone who has shot an NRA Shotgun League match this year will be included.

For more details of shotgun events contact the NRA league director James Harris via [james.harris@nra.org.uk](mailto:james.harris@nra.org.uk).

#	NAME	%
<b>OPEN DIVISION</b>		
1st	Richard Ingram	1000.20
2nd	Mike Harvey	806.33
3rd	John Thorne	790.82
<b>STANDARD MANUAL DIVISION</b>		
1st	Iain Guy	924.97
2nd	Mick Flatley	877.41
3rd	John Holloway	873.85
<b>STANDARD AUTO DIVISION</b>		
1st	Mike Darby	934.33
2nd	Mark Sienesi	925.89
3rd	Jon Axe	891.60
<b>OVERALL</b>		
1st	Richard Ingram	934.47
2nd	Mike Darby	866.14
3rd	Mark Sienesi	857.62

## NRA SHOTGUN LEAGUE ROUND FIVE

### Round Five of the league took place at Phoenix Shooting Club, Sussex, 28 June. James Harris reports

Run by Ron Flint as a multi-discipline club, Phoenix Shooting Club has been steadily growing over the years with improvements to the facilities being carried out to meet demand; the result is a compact range layout with the usual amenities and parking.

Drawing on many years of experience, Ron aims to put on events that are enjoyable, challenge the shooter and are run efficiently. This year saw the inclusion of some new equipment to tease the shooter and the return of some old favorites to challenge aiming and shot pattern.

On Stage One of the fifth round of the NRA Shotgun League, the shooters encountered that 'old favourite': four targets from the strong side, four from the weak side, all to be shot while sitting down. Easy for the flexible who practice that kind of thing, but not so good for the inflexible and stiff of joints. Times

varied from the low four seconds to rather longer double figures.

Stages Two and Three saw smaller targets at much longer distances. It seemed easy enough, until the infamous words "weak shoulder only" and "Virginia count" were uttered in the briefing (Virginia count means if you shoot more rounds than there are targets you receive a penalty for each additional shot fired).

Some shooters forgot to shoot the targets from the correct shoulder, or continued to expend ammunition above the stated maximum, thereby incurring procedural penalties.

Stage Four released the shooters from the confines of shooting boxes and allowed them to progress through a long stage of approximately 30 targets.

Stage Five was another long stage, but this time with an abundance of penalty targets spread among the trees and bushes to further challenge the less precise of aim.

The cover over Stage Seven forced the shooter to either kneel, squat or lie down to shoot the 10 targets from beneath its corrugated iron topping. Noisy, but also a good test of ability to

aim with a compromised sight picture and load in awkward positions.

And finally, to Stage Eight for a novel use of old office equipment, recycled to challenge the shooters' recoil control and shooting stance. Once again this was Virginia count, so a balance had to be struck between speed and accuracy if you were not to end up with hefty penalties and a swing to the back of the field.

For details on Phoenix shooting club contact Ron Flint at [Ron@cactus-arms.co.uk](mailto:Ron@cactus-arms.co.uk).

#	NAME	%
<b>OPEN DIVISION</b>		
1st	Richard Ingram	100.00
2nd	Ronnie Lewis	82.53
3rd	Ben Love	79.06
<b>STANDARD DIVISION</b>		
1st	Jon Axe	100.00
2nd	James Harris	96.05
3rd	Magnus Gustaffson	94.10
<b>MANUAL DIVISION</b>		
1st	John Holloway	100.00
2nd	Graham Hill	91.95
3rd	Bill Moore	87.42



Weak-hand-only stages challenged the shooters and caused no end of misses



Only three stages saw maximum points achieved



Stage four forced a challenging shooting position



## NRA HANDGUN LEAGUE ROUND THREE

### Butt Zero hosted Round Three of the league on 8-9 August, reports George Granycome

This weekend was a rare treat for all handgunners. It seemed that league director James Harris had ordered some spectacular weather to match the superb course of fire.

The weekend started with the Bianchi All-Comers match. Three of the five Bianchi stages were shot with unlimited practice while the hardy match crew built the stages of the Handgun League's third round. (For more on Bianchi shooting, see page 45).

Sunday saw a fine start and a balmy 26 degrees warmed up everybody's spirits. The 10 stages of the match proved to offer the right mix of challenge and fun.

Stage one consisted of a bobber, three paper targets and penalty target. Times ranged from a speedy 3.86 from Tim Gardener to a more leisurely 29.08. Stage two was a long stage with barricades, 16 targets and 1 penalty, which could be shot from left to right or right to left. Stage three started with gun unloaded and resting on a table, competitor sat down holding on to the table, and on the

beep the competitor had to load the gun and shoot the four targets avoiding the penalty target. Experience on this stage was crucial as many a competitor sat at the desk with the gun unloaded and only one magazine. This proved catastrophic to those who had a malfunction and couldn't just swap magazines.

Stage four was shot prone; the competitor had to load the gun and shoot the four targets positioned at 50 yards while awkwardly leaning to the right of the barricade.

Other highlights included stage five, which was a long, fast stage forcing competitors to keep moving and go look for the 16 targets from around barricades, with more than one competitor being caught out thinking the stage was complete and ignoring the last two targets. Stage eight was weak hand only, causing a few misses. Stage nine was the same, but starting facing up range instead before turning, drawing and shooting, and of course remembering to make ready.

The course finished with stage 10, the Long Walk; a 20 foot catwalk with eight paper targets, one penalty, one round in each shot, strong hand only.

Congratulations go to the winners in each division – and congratulations

go to the match designer, league director James Harris, who designed a challenging match where only three stages saw a competitor achieve maximum points.

The next round of the NRA Handgun League will be held on 1 November where the two magnificent GSG handguns donated by league sponsor Edgar Brothers will be balloted.

For more information on the league, please contact the league director via james.harris@nra.org.uk. ■

#	NAME	%
<b>LBP OPEN</b>		
1st	Tim Gardener	100.00
2nd	Ian Chamberlain	83.88
3rd	Norman Humphries	76.17
<b>REVOLVER</b>		
1st	Steve Smoothy	100.00
2nd	Peter Matthews	93.59
3rd	Martin Hale	91.95
<b>LBP STANDARD</b>		
1st	Nicholas Towndrow	100.00
2nd	Richard Vowles	85.75
3rd	Richard Clifton	73.65



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F-Class European Champs	Monday September 7th - Sunday September 13th 2015
Trafalgar	Saturday October 17th & Sunday October 18 <sup>th</sup>

The HPS shop at The Old Bisley Gun Club, Bisley, will be open for the following dates in 2016:

Phoenix	F-Class European Champs
BCRC	Trafalgar
Imperial	AND possibly more dates

There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley for next season's shows, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring whatever goods you require. Just give us a call!

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# The .303 years

**Ted Molyneux continues our historical journey, taking us into Bisley's post-war era**

**T**he cessation of hostilities in Europe in 1945 saw the withdrawal of the military occupation of Bisley Camp and the possibility of a return to the pre-war halcyon days of the NRA.

The council decided that, after a six-year gap, there would be once again an Annual Bisley Meeting (the 77th), on 1-13 July 1946, for which the secretary, Major-General DP Dickinson, duly set the wheels in motion.

The rules for the competitions were basically unchanged, with two categories for service rifles, S.R.a. and S.R.b., being service rifles as issued, and service rifles with Vernier adjustable target rearsights.

There were three types of rifle generally available:

1. The No 1 Enfield (S.M.L.E.)  
(Short Magazine Lee Enfield)
2. The No 3 Enfield (P.14) (pattern 1914)
3. The No 4 Enfield. All chambered for the 0.303 ball Mk. VII British service cartridge, as issued.

The NRA Journal of November 1945 listed 461 new affiliated rifle clubs, the bulk of which were of Home Guard units. The Home Guard was issued with large numbers of the No. 3 (P.14) service rifle.

That year the King's Prize was won by Squadron Leader CC Willott of the RAF after a tie shoot with Major H St G Maxwell of the Black Watch. The Grand Aggregate was won by Captain AS Cundy-Cooper of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. 1,025 competitors took part in the meeting.

The world was trying to recover from the ravages of war and austerity dictated how people lived for many years. However, because so many people had experience with firearms, for the first time they were finding shooting to be a cheap and enjoyable pastime, using Government surplus equipment and ammunition. There was a renewed enthusiasm for shooting.

Elsewhere, times were hard. An Olympic Games was due in 1948, but what country could be host? Great

Britain undertook the task, with various sports at various locations, and the shooting events to be at Bisley.

The Olympic shooting programme was held from Monday 2 August to Friday 6 August, with free pistol and rapid-fire pistol competitions, free rifle (small-bore and fullbore), prone, kneeling and standing. These were not exactly NRA-type rifle shooting events, but it was a case of all hands to the pumps, and so certain Bisley experts produced a suitable three-positions rifle, based upon the .303 calibre P.14 rifle.

The previous August, the Combined Services Team, under the auspices of the NRA, represented Great Britain in the World Shooting Championships in Stockholm. The results indicated, in no uncertain terms, that our equipment, in .303 British service calibre, was outclassed in ballistics. As the saying goes, "Gordon Richards could never win the Derby on a carthorse." And so it was in the 1948 Olympic Games; unfortunately, we had the talent but not the equipment.

An Enfield No 4 Mk II rifle with .303 ammunition





From the NRA's point of view, its existence was based upon the Royal Charter and the purpose of its formation, so there was no alternative but to soldier on. There were the Dominions, Commonwealth and Colonies, all with the same conditions of shooting, so it was logical to strengthen the ties and bonds of friendship and goodwill.

Consequently, the annual Imperial Meeting would continue, as they have to this day, going from strength to strength. There were some changes to competition rules, but it was not until the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) unified its chosen calibre as the 7.62x51mm NATO cartridge that the British Forces replaced the .303 British service cartridge in conformation, thus making the change inevitable for the NRA. Obviously this change could not be immediate, so from 1968 to 1972 for S.R.b there was a dual period, over

which calibre conversions from .303 took place. However, for the Sovereign's Prize, the St George's and the Grand Aggregate, the calibre was .303 only until 1970. In 1971 it became optional for all competitions and in 1973 it was 7.62x51mm NATO only.

One important addition to HM the Queen's Prize was that from 1953 silver and bronze badges were awarded to those placed second and third in the final. These badges are identical to those presented to the winners of the first and second stages of the competition. Second stage winners have the honour initials SM added to their title. For many years this created an anomaly but this is now rectified by the initials SB, to silver badge recipients, from 1953.

In the next edition, we will continue to look at Bisley's post-war years, covering the days of the 7.62x51mm calibre rifles. ■

The 1948 Olympic shooting events at Bisley



### HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S PRIZE

1946	Willott, Sqn Ldr CC	RAF
1947	Bennett, WO R (SM)	RAF
1948	Pavey, Res PA	Australia
1949	Brookes, Capt E	Late RASC
1950	Greig, Capt RD (SM)	Late R. Scots Fus.
1951	Boa, Lt GS	Canada

### HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN'S PRIZE

1952	Kinnear Wilson, Maj AB	Late RAMC
1953	McCaw, Maj N W	LRB
1954	Twine, Maj GE (SM)	Late RA
1955	Fenwick, Mr LR	City RC
1956	Twine, Maj GE (SM)	Late RA
1957	Love, Mr JRC	Kyle RC
1958	Fulton, Maj RA (SC)	RA (TARO)
1959	Mallabar, Lt LW	City RC
1960	Westling, Sgt G	Canada
1961	Beckett, WO2 NL (SM)(SC)	Canada
1962	Hall, Flt Lt PWM	Alley Old Boys
1963	Pilcher, Mr KM (SM)	Old Epsomians
1964	Harris, Mr AD	OURC
1965	Allen, Capt JA	Late RM
1966	Hampton, Maj RW	Canada
1967	Powell, Mr J	Sussex County RA
1968	Parks, Capt AA	Canada
1969	Little, Maj FG (GC2)	Dean RC
1970	Arnold, Mr GF	Dorking & Dist RC
1971	Stevens, Mr RM	Ricochets RC
1972	Rosling, Mr RP	City RC

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# The life of a marker

Jodie Gray-Piazza and Josh Wade describe the Imperial Meeting from the point of view of the markers

**B**isley Imperial means a different thing to the markers than it does to the shooters. As an Imperial butt marker, your work begins the week before everything kicks off. Those who camp on site run around the week before, trying to get everything ready, setting up, catching up with those you've known from previous years and meeting those who have come to experience it for the first time.

For the past three years, the NRA has provided the markers with a treat on completion of the first day of the Meeting. We call it Markers' Monday and for most it is their only opportunity to have a go at shooting. It is a small competition with prizes for the top three; first place prize is a tankard and £20 along with the title of best shooter out of the markers for that year. This year the 2015 winner was Poppy Nevin, scoring 66.3, beating Ian Atherton, the winner of 2014, by one point. Jodie Gray-Piazza was the winner amongst full-time staff, also claiming a tankard. This opportunity gives all the markers an insight into shooting and a chance to understand how their marking affects a shoot.

For the two weeks you spend working at the Meeting, down the butts is the place where you will have the most fun. Most of the time you are near the same people every day, so by the end you will know everyone in your group well, along with the supervisors.

Pulling targets up and down all day, every day for two weeks can be tough, but there are many things that make it worthwhile; getting to work right next to your friends, being able to chat as much as you want with them as long as you're doing your job. This can make the time pass very quickly. However, you have those who get too comfortable and suddenly a bellowing roar from the supervisor sounds: "Message four!" And everyone turns to see who missed a shot, watching a stunned marker scrambling to pull their target down, muttering to themselves, "They haven't

shot, I didn't see anything" – shortly followed by an embarrassed face when they find a new shot hole.

Once the Schools matches are over and TR starts on the Friday, most of the markers have managed to perfect the Message Zero and Message One lift. Now the serious stage has begun; knowing exactly how many shots are in each detail. You find as the competition progresses you will start looking at every detail as an achievement. When a marker knows they only have 36 shots a detail and the supervisor has counted out the stickers, everyone in the butt is in competition. With a spare marker in each butt, everyone knows the rule – first one with Message 10 and compliments gets the next detail off. The fact that the quicker you mark, the longer your break between details is more than enough motivation to get everyone marking those targets as rapidly and efficiently as possible, with the compliments giving an extra morale boost, knowing the shooters appreciate your efforts.

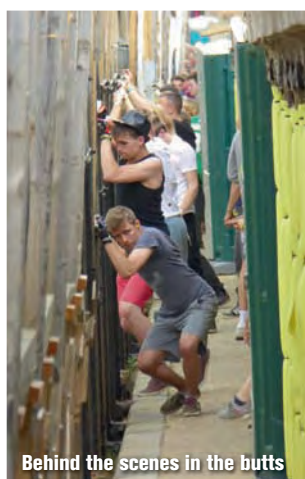
Another side of being in the butts that most people don't get to see is raising money for charity, by selling drinks and snacks, cake sales and a raffle. This year the Bisley Butt Markers managed to raise a total of £230 for Help for Heroes.

On the last Friday we always have a themed day – this year the theme was gnomes – which brightens everyone's mood and gives us all that last push to see the meeting through.

Then comes the final day. Stickledown is calling and no one dares to be late on the last day. 50 of us head to the meeting point to find Shane eagerly counting his markers. One of the best feelings you get from being a Stickledown marker is when you leave the butts after the Queen's final. All the markers leave in one big convoy to find the shooters waiting at the other end, giving you a round of applause. It's your one minute of fame before your time at the Imperial draws to a close – until next year. ■



Markers have to be quick and efficient



Behind the scenes in the butts



On Markers' Monday the markers get to try shooting for themselves



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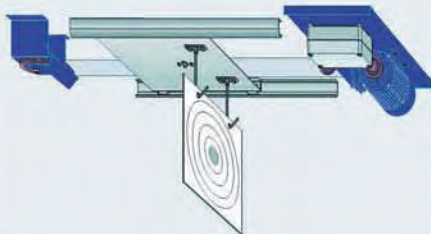
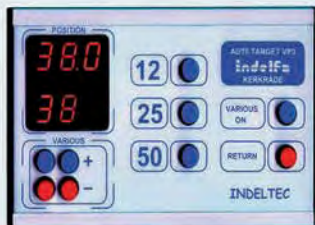
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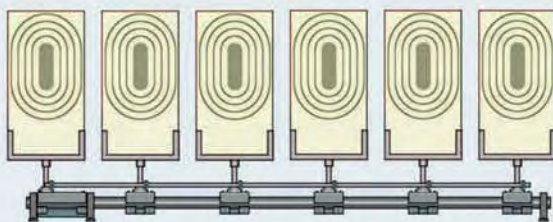
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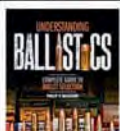
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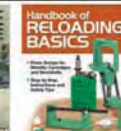
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# Meet your reps

**With four newly appointed discipline reps, Katia Malcaus Cooper catches up with two of the reps and asks them what they plan to do with the discipline in the next three years**

## **James Harris, Target Shotgun**

*James has been re-elected as Target Shotgun Rep following a very successful three years, where he grew the discipline from a very small niche one with few followers to something more appealing and has expanded it well beyond the Bisley boundaries.*

Having spent the previous term establishing the Target Shotgun discipline, I can now concentrate on making it flourish by expanding the sport and encouraging more people to participate.

We will run more of the successful introductory days at Bisley and, starting in 2016, at clubs across the country. The first introduction days will run on 12-13 December and I would encourage you to book early as these have sold out each and every time.

We will introduce some practice and training days at Bisley, specifically designed for those of you who already take an active interest in the sport, so that you can further hone your skills.

I have extensive plans for dedicated TS facilities at Bisley, some of which were completed last year with the refurbishment of Butt Zero. I am looking at increasing the range space available and will communicate the progress through the TS newsletter. I will continue to work with the professional NRA staff to enlighten police firearms enquiry teams as to the nature of Target Shotgun, reducing some of the confusion and resultant resistance to issuing FACs for shotguns and solid slug.

My plan is to encourage clubs to become involved by expanding the NRA Shotgun League, which has already grown to the largest such league in the UK, and initiate a series of classifier competitions for the solid slug events around the country, similar to those run by the Gallery Rifle and Pistol community for pistol calibre rifles and such.



**James Harris, TS representative**

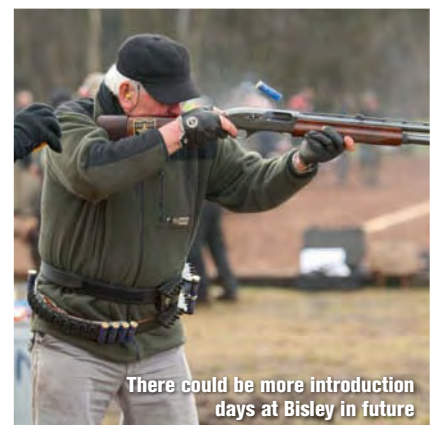
This year we negotiated sponsorship for the NRA Shotgun League and we will seek to continue this into 2016 so that there are tangible rewards for all, rather than just the few top competitors who pick up the medals. The sponsored league prizes will be balloted, so all participants of the league stand a chance of winning one of the prizes.

I am acutely aware that the cost of participating may be a factor for some. Reducing the insurance burden, due to the fact that the NRA individual and clubs policy covers Target Shotgun, will assist in this regard. This was a measure that I ensured was in place in 2012 and has been carried through ever since. Ammunition costs are also an area that needs to be addressed and a bulk purchase agreement between the NRA and the main clubs using solid slug will be investigated.

I am very excited that a new term in post has started and look forward to bringing more shooters into the sport, involving more clubs in the league, and working closely with the NRA staff to continue to increase the media coverage that our fantastic sport is enjoying.



**The Target Shotgun Festival kicked off this year's Target Shotgun league**



**There could be more introduction days at Bisley in future**



**John Morgan-Hosey,  
Civilian Service Rifle and Practical Rifle**

*Newly appointed CSR and Practical Rifle rep, John is new to General Council and takes us through how he plans to grow the discipline he inherited from Paul Hunter*

I have been shooting in various disciplines for over 40 years. Although primarily a fullbore rifle shooter, these days I also shoot pistols and shotguns competitively.

My foray into Civilian Service Rifle and Practical Rifle started after the pistol ban, when I bought a Remington 700 from Armalon and started competing with the London Practical Shooting Club. That led eventually back into Military Service Rifle where I was lucky enough to represent both the Royal Navy and Great Britain, at home and abroad.

I am passionate about shooting and I want to see that CSR and PR continue to grow at Bisley and across the UK. As popular disciplines that are shot all year round, I want to improve access to the sport, help develop the training, introduce further challenging courses of fire and encourage more events away from the National Shooting Centre.

Engaging with participants is key to ensuring their views are thoughtfully considered and, by providing open and honest feedback, it will help to make sure CSR and PR remain vibrant, fun and safe disciplines. Committed to seeing initiatives like the young marksman courses and introductory days grow, I want more young people shooting with us as they are our future. An organiser and motivator, I will work relentlessly for the things that I enjoy and I am not afraid to provide challenge in areas that I believe could be improved, or where things are simply not what CSR and PR shooters want.

*Steve East (Target Rifle) and Alistair Bullen (Sporting Rifle) will follow in the next edition of the Journal. ■*



John Morgan-Hosey,  
CSR and PR representative

**I want to improve access to the sport, help develop the training, introduce further challenging courses of fire and encourage more events away from the National Shooting Centre**



CSR and PR are popular  
year-round disciplines



CSR and PR are set to grow  
at Bisley and away from it



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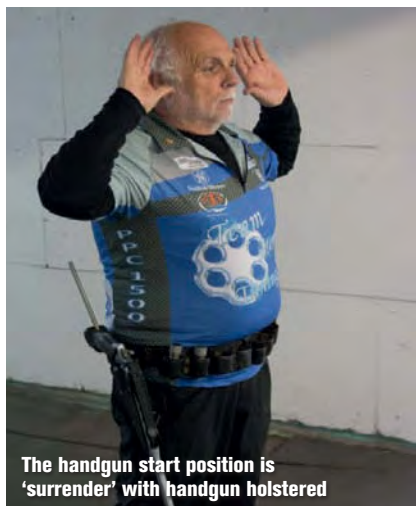
# Bianchi action

**Ted George and Martyn Dickinson explain the mechanics of a Bianchi match. Is it time to revitalise this traditional shooting discipline?**

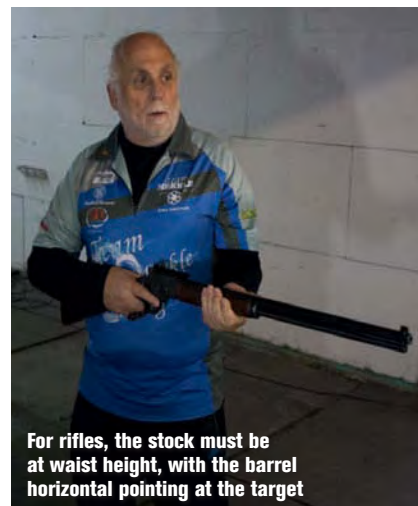
**T**he Bianchi Cup is the NRA of America's Action Precision championship. The four courses of fire used for this championship are the Practical match, the Barricade match, the Moving Target match and the Falling Plates match. These events contain the three fundamental elements making up the pistol competition: speed, accuracy and precision.

The name Bianchi is generally attributed to these elements, and was the style of shooting on display in the 1979 National Handgun Championship in America, sponsored by John Bianchi and Ray Chapman; the first Bianchi Cup. Since then it has become a worldwide phenomenon, with good levels of prizes and sponsorship due to competitors entering from all over the world. It is also the only competition to retain its original name.

Action-oriented shooting was brought to the UK in the early 1990s by the British 1500 Association, as they felt



The handgun start position is 'surrender' with handgun holstered



For rifles, the stock must be at waist height, with the barrel horizontal pointing at the target

it was an interesting and challenging competition. It soon became popular with British pistol shooters and was quickly adopted across Europe, where Bianchi became the catchall name for this style of shooting. Bianchi and its sister competition, the 1500, were the only competitions at that time with classifications and a good prize table.

After the pistol ban in 1997, the events were revised and timings changed to allow for Gallery Rifles in centrefire and .22 rifle to continue. However, with LBRs and LBPs more readily available, we can shoot the events almost as originally intended, giving four different ways to shoot the events – something for everyone.

So why isn't the competition more popular? Why don't more people have a go? At best we see it flat-lining, with some pessimistic figures showing it to be largely in decline. After 1997 we concentrated on the four cup matches – Plates, Moving, Practical and Barricade – at the expense of the others, which are outlined below.

In hindsight, concentration on the four cup matches was a mistake. It limited the potential ranges people could practise all the events on. In many cases, access to a 50m range is a problem; let

alone complex setups such as barricades, plates and lateral moving targets. I propose it is now time to revitalise the Bianchi style of shooting and give shooters some new and interesting courses of fire.

## What is Action Precision shooting?

Action Precision shooting is a series of different courses of fire that can each be shot as a stand-alone competition or put together to make up a match. From a Bianchi perspective it is not limited to the four traditional events we have been using over the last dozen or more years.

## General tips for shooting the events

The following points are suggestions and are by no means the only way to shoot these events. Don't be afraid to try a different approach, but always remember it must be safe.

- Shooting with a red dot sight on the gun is a great help for all the events. With some events where the gun is held clamped to the barricade by the shooter, a red dot sight allows the hand to hold the barrel without obstructing the sight or target, some also find a red dot sight makes shooting the matches easier.



Quick reloading: two fingers through the frame and cylinder held between fingers and thumb. The extractor is pushed hard with the thumb



Align the loader and recharge cylinder for a smooth reload





- All events need the gun to be brought onto aim quickly and consistently. Spend time practising this; it will give more time on the trigger to shoot the stage.
- Think through the stage, plan and rehearse in your mind what you are going to do, so when the timer starts you know exactly what to do. This reduces the chance of fumbles.
- Body alignment on the target is essential for speed. Align the body for the last target then swing the upper body back for the first being taken. This gives a more comfortable flow to the next target, rather than winding the body up to get to the target.
- Some stages are designed to confuse. Always think before starting each stage, and if unsure ask the Range Officer.
- Holsters must be used with handguns. The trigger must be covered when the gun is in the holster for safety reasons.

Below is a summary of the courses of fire that can be used, as defined by the NRA of America.

#### **Los Alamitos; modified**

**Stages:** 5

**Rounds:** 48

**Distances:** 30 shots at 10m, 6 at 15m, 12 at 25m using Barricade

**Targets:** 3 x NRA D1

The series include weak hand and freestyle, as well as a barricade in the final stage. There is absolutely no margin for error on time in this event and target acquisition is critical.

#### **International Rapid Fire; modified**

**Stages:** 1

**Rounds:** 48

**Distance:** 25m

**Targets:** 5 x NRA DP1

#### **Advanced Military match; modified**

**Stages:** 6

**Rounds:** 50

**Distances:** 30 shots at 10m, 15 at 25m, 5 at 50m

**Targets:** PL8 and NRA D1

A penalty of 10 points will be charged for each premature start, procedural error, round fired over the designated number, and for each round fired over the designated time.

#### **Practical Event**

**Stages:** 4

**Rounds:** 48

**Distances:** 12 shots each at 10, 15, 25 and 50m

**Targets:** 2 x NRA DP1

The 10m stages are fired standing, and the 15, 25 and 50m stages prone. With an underlever you need to rack the action quickly, but be smooth on the trigger; pull the butt back into the shoulder so it doesn't move when the action is racked. Practise acquiring the positions you are going to use.

#### **Barricade Event**

**Stages:** 4

**Rounds:** 48

**Distances:** 12 shots each at 10, 15, 25 and 35m

**Targets:** 2 x NRA D1

All shots are fired from behind a barricade. Competitors may use the barricade for support; the gun may touch the barricade. Competitors must fire all stages in the standing position. The 35m series is sometimes shot at 25m, but then scaled down D1 targets must be used. Make sure you have a good technique for securing the barrel against the side of the barricade. Use the strong shoulder for both right and left side of the barricade if you can; using the weak shoulder takes a lot of practice and time to get right.

#### **Ambidextrous Match**

**Stages:** 3

**Rounds:** 48

**Distances:** 18 shots at 10m, 18 at 15m and 12 at 20m

**Targets:** 8" round metal plates or paper targets, white in colour

This match includes strong and weak hand unsupported, making this a challenging match for LBR and LBP.







A strong grip technique is essential in these timed events

### Unsupported Standard Event

**Stages:** 4

**Rounds:** 48

**Distances:** 12 shots each at 10, 15, 20 and 25m

**Targets:** 3 x D-1

Series includes strong and weak hand unsupported.

### Speedload Challenge Event

**Stages:** 4

**Rounds:** 48

**Distances:** 12 shots each at 10, 15, 25 and 50m

**Targets:** 3 x NRA D1

Time limits increase incrementally with distance. This event will require at least one speed loading device. Practise the technique of reloading – it needs to be second nature – and take care where the loading device is held.

### Moving Target Event

**Stages:** 4

**Rounds:** 48

**Distances:** 12 shots each at 10, 15, 20 and 25m

**Targets:** NRA D1

This is probably one of the most difficult events to shoot. The target will move from behind a barricade, travel 60 feet in 6 seconds, and then disappear behind another barricade. There will be a clearly marked, 3-foot square firing area at each distance, which the shooter must be in when engaging the target. The firing area will be at the centre of the 60-foot run of the target. There will be no audible signals. The appearance of the target from behind the barricade will be the signal to commence fire. There will be a 10-point penalty for any premature start, for each procedural error, for any round that strikes either barricade, and for any round fired over the designated amount.

### Falling Plate Event

**Stages:** 4

**Rounds:** 48

**Distances:** 12 shots each at 10, 15, 20 and 25m

**Targets:** 8" round metal plates or paper targets, white in colour  
Only targets hit within the time allowed will count towards the

score and time limits increase incrementally with distance. This event can be shot using a choice of two techniques: scanning and deliberate shots. Scanning is from the first plate, keeping the gun moving along the plates squeezing the trigger and dropping the hammer as the sights reach the leading edge of the plate, keeping the gun moving at a constant speed. Deliberate shots are when a shooter swings the gun, stops on each plate, aims then shoots, this is generally the technique used by people shooting the underlever rifles as the racking action needed in between each shot produces this effect.

### Combat Event

**Stages:** 4

**Rounds:** 60

**Distances:** 12 shots at 10m, 24 at 25m, 24 at 50m

**Targets:** NRA B1

The target should be reduced if the 50m stage is shot instead at 25m. Series include standing, kneeling, sitting and prone positions. This is basically a 1500 match five, but with shorter times. Get used to this and the 1500 match five will seem sedentary. The difference between this and the Barricade Event is that the gun cannot be clamped to the barricade.

*For a comprehensive outline of each event setup, please visit [www.compete.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/ActionPistolGuide.pdf](http://www.compete.nra.org/documents/pdf/compete/ActionPistolGuide.pdf).*

*If you want to get involved in the revival of the Bianchi, contact Neil Francis on [nfrancis@ba14.co.uk](mailto:nfrancis@ba14.co.uk). ■*



An underlever rifle loading device can be used for some events



It allows the shooter to quickly and smoothly load the underlever



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# The best barrels

David Crispin looks at choosing a new rifle barrel and how to pick the right specifications

If you shoot your centrefire rifle regularly there will come a time when the barrel is no longer capable of producing the precision it did when it was new. I say 'precision' rather than 'accuracy' because precision is how tightly the shots are grouped together and accuracy is how close they are to the centre of the target. Precision is the group size and the level of acceptability depends on the discipline you shoot.

In Target and Match Rifle, using the .308" Winchester cartridge, I think the best you can get is around 0.5 minutes of angle. This equates to around 0.5" at 100 yards and just over 5" at 1,000 yards. An acceptable level would be one minute of angle as the bullseye is around two minutes of angle on the TR target. In F-Class shooting the bull is one minute of angle across so they like things a little tighter. For benchrest shooters this would be unacceptable as they measure group size in thousandths of an inch. The current 100-yard world record for a five-shot group is just 7.7 thousandths of an inch centre to centre.

So, how do you know when your barrel has had it? That, unfortunately, is a difficult question to answer. Some barrels go suddenly and you see the group size open up noticeably with a batch of ammo that you know was shooting well before. Sometimes they wear gradually and it's hard to tell. I went through two seasons of Target Rifle shooting getting average scores before I realised that my barrel was eight years old and had had around 10,000 rounds through it. I had a new barrel fitted and the difference was immediately noticeable. I was back to shooting lots of bulls like I had done three years before.

People at the top level replace barrels every two or three years before they deteriorate. As a rough guide, a premium quality .308" Winchester barrel could start



An eroded barrel will affect precision



The steel is blackened and the rifling has been eroded



A fluted barrel

to open up groups after 3,000 rounds. 5,000 rounds is a good innings.

Of course, there are exceptions. I know somebody that has a barrel with over 10,000 rounds through it that still shoots to an acceptable level. Magnum cartridges and some wildcats like the 6.5/284 are known 'barrel burners' and can make the barrel lose precision after 1,000 rounds.

Why does a barrel stop shooting acceptable groups? The most common reason is that they burn out rather than wear out. The first few inches of the barrel immediately in front of the case mouth get subjected to intense heat and pressure. Looking at this area with a bore scope, you see what looks like a dry river bed. The steel is blackened and

there are small cracks in the surface. Sometimes the rifling has gone and does not appear again until a few inches down the barrel. This causes the bullet to enter the rifling at a slight angle and as it will be spinning off its longitudinal axis will cause larger groups. There is the possibility of erratic muzzle velocity caused by gas escaping around the bullet in the eroded area. Sometimes the shooter just loses confidence in the barrel. I've heard it said: "More barrels are shot out between the ears than on the rifle."

If you have made the decision that you need a new barrel, what do you go for? The choice of material is fairly straightforward: Chrome molybdenum or stainless steel. Barrels that are



blackened or blued are probably chrome molybdenum. You may want to keep that finish and not have a shiny stainless one. Krieger are one of the top barrel makers and this is what they say about the choice between the two: "For the most part neither one is better than the other. The only difference we find is that sometimes the chrome moly might take a little longer to break in and might have a little more affinity for copper, or seems to show it easier. In terms of barrel life and accuracy, we can find no difference comparing clean barrels."

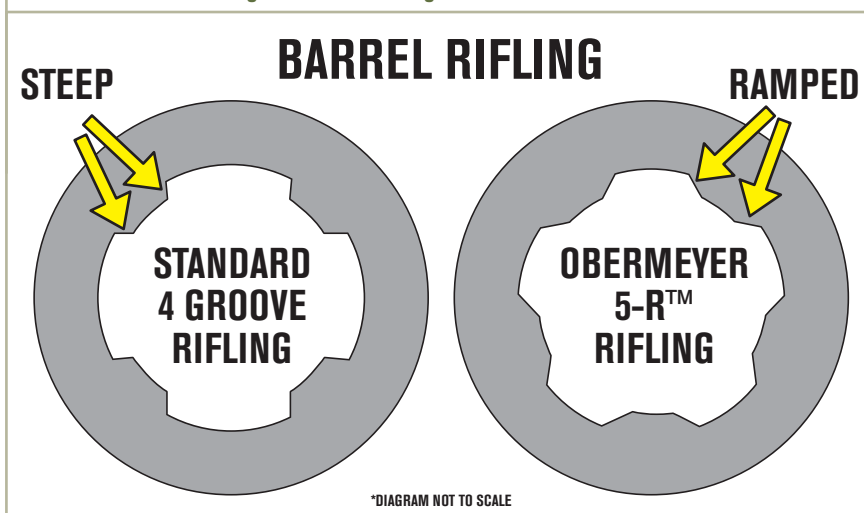
There are three main ways to make a barrel. There is (in my order of preference): cut rifling, button rifling and hammering. Hammered barrels (Armalon) are available, but I've not fitted one to a target rifle. There are some good button rifled barrels (Lothar Walther) and they tend to be cheaper than a cut rifled barrel. If you want the best then go for a cut rifled barrel. There are many good manufacturers out there; Krieger and Bartlein are currently popular. There are a few British barrel makers like Sassen (Border) and GB Barrels.

Next, the choices concern length, twist rate, bore and groove dimensions, the number of grooves and the style, and finally the exterior profile and whether it is plain or fluted.

Barrel length is a factor in muzzle velocity. Thirty years ago 28" was the standard Target Rifle barrel length, now it's 30" with some 32" ones around. In Match Rifle a 34" fluted is the norm. If the propellant has finished burning, extra barrel length will just create friction and may reduce the velocity. A longer barrel does not give increased precision. In some disciplines a short, fat, stiff barrel gives the best results with a faster-burning powder. If you are shooting with open (iron) sights, having the fore sight a bit further away can help improve the sight picture for ageing eyes. In target rifle it is desirable to have the correct distance between the sights to give a true minute of angle when adjusting them.

Spin gives the bullet stability in flight. The spin rate is determined by the rate of twist in the barrel. You want to select a twist rate that gives a gyroscopic stability factor greater than 1.4. You can

#### The difference between 4 groove and 5-R rifling



calculate this using an online tool like the excellent ballistics calculator from Bryan Litz at [www.appliedballisticsllc.com](http://www.appliedballisticsllc.com). For the Sierra 155-grain 2156 bullet that is used in the RWS and GGG issued ammunition, a twist of 1:13 is ideal. You can have too much of a good thing. If you spin the bullet too quickly there is a possibility it can blow apart in flight due to excessive centrifugal forces. If the bullet does not have uniform mass (air bubbles in the lead core) it will be out of balance and the more you spin it the worse the problem will be, so you want just enough twist to stabilise it.

You might think that the groove dimension should match the diameter of the bullet. In 99 per cent of cases that is true. For several years some target rifles have had tight bore and groove dimensions. Specifically, I'm talking about the 7.62x51, .308" Winchester cartridge. Normally, a barrel for this cartridge would have a bore of 0.300" and a groove depth of 0.004" to give a groove diameter of 0.308". If you measure the diameter of a .30 calibre bullet it will be 0.308" or a fraction greater. So why have a tighter than normal barrel? It goes back to the days of 144-grain RG ammunition. I'm told that some bullets were nearer 0.307" diameter. To get them to shoot to acceptable levels of precision the bore and groove were made slightly smaller to match the bullet. Today, we shoot high quality, full-size bullets and I don't think there is a need to do this anymore.

A better reason to reduce the dimensions might be to raise the pressure, and therefore, the velocity. Forcing a full-size 0.308" diameter bullet through a 0.307" barrel produces these effects. It is desirable to keep the bullet comfortably supersonic at 1,000 yards with the issued ammunition – you don't want to risk dropping into a 'transonic' velocity.

Most barrels have four grooves. You can get three and five grooves as well. To quote Krieger again: "Does a barrel with more grooves shoot better or last longer than a barrel with fewer grooves? No. With the single point cut rifled barrels that we make we have found no difference in performance based on the number lands/grooves as long as the surface area ratio remains the same." You can get a style of rifling called 5-R that has its fans, but I don't think there is any real benefit. Some folks just want to have something different.

Lastly, external profile. Most barrels have a taper from just in front of the chamber to the muzzle. Benchrest and F-Class rifles might have a straight parallel profile from the action to the muzzle. The choice is largely due to weight restrictions. A target rifle cannot weigh more than 6.5kg in total, so a Palma Light profile is popular. In match rifle the barrel itself cannot weigh more than 2.5kg, so fluting is used to get a 34" barrel down to the weight limit.

As for me, I shoot a Swing mark 5 with a Krieger 32" 300/308 1:12 twist, four groove with a Palma Light profile. ■  
Contact [david@crispinengineering.co.uk](mailto:david@crispinengineering.co.uk) to discuss your new barrel requirements.





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# Club call

Three clubs are looking for new members; see what they have to offer

## CAWDOR RIFLE AND GUN CLUB

Nestling in the majestic setting of Cawdor Estate near the historic Cawdor Castle lies Cawdor Rifle and Gun Club. Founded in 1905 by the Earl of Cawdor in response to the failings of British marksmanship in the Boer War, the Club has for 110 years provided an opportunity for the riflemen and women of the Highlands to practise their marksmanship. Today the range consists of a three-lane 600-yard gallery range and a 75-yard range pistol and gallery rifle range, and the present day Earl of Cawdor is the club president.

The club normally shoots on two Sundays a month throughout the year, with evening sessions once a week between May and September. Being hardy highlanders, the members pride themselves on shooting in all weathers; rain and snow are no barrier to a good day's shooting. Set in forestry, the range is largely sheltered from the wind, which is great for shooting but bad for the midges in the hot damp evenings of the summer months.

The shoot programme endeavours to cater for as many shooting disciplines as possible and includes full bore target rifle, F-Class rifle, service rifle, gallery rifle, small-bore rifle, and black-powder and muzzle-loading range days across the calendar. All ranges are supervised by qualified RCOs and the club runs a training programme for new members in accordance with the NRA safe system of shooting. There are club rifles and equipment available for use by members.

There is a healthy programme of competitions run by the club for members. These are free to enter in order to encourage as many members as possible to participate and there is an impressive collection of club silverware. However, the emphasis is on getting as many people as possible to take part in and enjoy the sport of shooting in all its forms, and the club prides itself on welcoming all comers to the sport.

If anyone is interested in joining then visit the website [www.cawdorifleandgunclub.co.uk](http://www.cawdorifleandgunclub.co.uk) or get in touch with the membership secretary at [membership@cauldorrifleandgunclub.co.uk](mailto:membership@cauldorrifleandgunclub.co.uk)



Cawdor Estate provides a beautiful setting



The club runs free-to-enter competitions



A variety of disciplines are practised – here's TR



Taking aim from the 300-yard firing point



## BRITISH SPORTING RIFLE CLUB

The British Sporting Rifle Club was formed in 1962 with the main aim of saving the Running Deer range, which was in danger of being taken over for small-bore shooting, as it was rarely used except during the Imperial Meeting. The remains of the original targets can be seen outside the NRA offices in the shape of the two metal deer.

Since then BSRC has developed the near-derelict site in a series of phases, to produce what our foreign visitors say is the best Moving Target rifle shooting complex in the world. This has been achieved by virtue of much expertise, as well as manual work by members, and the investment over the years of some £300,000 without any grant funding. This investment has been facilitated by having a dedicated and enthusiastic membership and the benefit of a long lease from the NRA, which makes it rather unique among Bisley Clubs.

The club now operates one 100m Running Deer range, two 50m Running Boar ranges, a 100-yard static range and a 10m indoor Running Target Range, all electronically scored. When the club was formed, some of the Moving Target events were still in the International and Olympic calendar, and the club had medallists among the members. But like many other shooting events, they have gradually disappeared from the Olympic scene, although some do still feature in International events. It is an objective of the club to ensure that these disciplines do not disappear in the UK so that future generations may continue to enjoy them.

There is probably little danger of them disappearing altogether because, apart from anything else, they are fun to shoot and are popular with the members and other NRA affiliated clubs, who take an affiliation with us so that they can use them. Like the SARTS system reported in the last issue of the Journal, the targets are technically complex and the club runs training courses for other clubs before they can use them.

Given that the club's targets are hunting related, such as deer and boar, the BSRC seems to have become the place towards which sporting rifle shooters, big game hunters, deer stalkers and pest controllers gravitate, and many of the competitions reflect situations which might arise in the field, such as the stalkers test and the Swedish Deer test, as well as being tests of marksmanship.



The BSRC clubhouse at Bisley



Deer stalkers take advantage of the Running Deer range

As well as running its own monthly matches, bi-monthly range days and various club discipline matches, BSRC makes the ranges available periodically to the NRA and runs some of the major events for them, like the recent Running Deer Championship which is an opportunity for NRA members to give it a try. Otherwise, access is only available through membership of BSRC or one of the clubs that is affiliated. It is only by operating in this way that the club can generate funds to run and maintain sophisticated and expensive target systems.

More information about the club can be found by visiting [www.bsrc.co.uk](http://www.bsrc.co.uk) where a membership application can be downloaded.



BSRC has developed the site, which has been praised as one of the world's finest



## EXONIA & TIVERTON RIFLE CLUB

The Exonia & Tiverton Rifle Club was formed by the fusion of the Exonia RC and the Tiverton & District RC in 1956. The Exonia Rifle Club was founded in the late 1880s and for many years had been the strongest club in Devon, but was closed down in 1923, meaning that its members had to travel further afield. Those who continued to shoot joined the then flourishing Tiverton British Legion Club.

Meanwhile, the Tiverton Club had started soon after World War I, shooting at Chevithorne Range. Under the direction of Mr AW Page, the club was extremely active and, taking into consideration the sparseness of the population, the club became very strong in county shooting and provided many shots well known at Bisley. After World War II the club became known as Tiverton and District RC, with its membership equally divided between members from Exeter and Tiverton. Eventually the Exeter members reformed the Exonia Rifle Club in the 1950s, and a meeting was held to amalgamate the two clubs under its present name. It was arranged that shoots would be at Chevithorne on Saturdays and occasionally at Broadhembury on Sundays.

Life for the club became much easier, but in 1960 and 1961 very little shooting was undertaken owing to a

breakdown in administration. Early in 1962 a special meeting was called and a fresh committee was appointed and new officers elected.

Since 1962 the club has flourished and now, as well as shooting Target Rifle and F Target Rifle, it has a section shooting Sporting Rifle and black powder rifle and pistol. Target Rifle and FTR are shot together on the same days with attendance of between 20 and 25 from a membership of about 40. Sporting rifle, black powder rifle and pistol are shot on separate days usually with about 30 in attendance from a membership of 50.

All shooting takes place at Broadhembury at weekends and now, with the shortage of ranges in the West Country, the club is finding some shooters also come from Cornwall and Somerset to enjoy the facilities at our range. The club also helps the local Deer Society and the British Association of

Shooting and Conservation (BASC) when they want to run courses on approved ranges.

Four club members went to the USA to shoot Target Rifle in August of this year in the World Long Range Championships.

Exonia & Tiverton is a small, friendly club with many members both past and present who have represented county and country over the years.

While there have been major improvements to the range in recent years, this is an on-going process, which in the future may include the installation of electronic targets as the membership increases.

For more information, contact the club's secretary, John Pullen, on 01392 274603 or [ejhpullen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:ejhpullen@tiscali.co.uk). You can also contact the assistant secretary, Mike Frost, on 01884 266223 or 07885 725600, or via email at [frost.m@btconnect.com](mailto:frost.m@btconnect.com). ■



Just some of Exonia & Tiverton's members



The club supports TR and F Class, as well as SR and black powder rifle and pistol



Shooting at Broadhembury range



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# GENERAL NOTICES

## Great Britain Rifle Team to South Africa 2017

Nick Tremlett has been named as captain of the Great Britain Rifle team heading to Bloemfontein, South Africa in 2017. The team will be selected later this year, and he invites applications from both shooters and coaches.

The South African championships are likely to be held 24 March – 1 April 2017, with tour dates Saturday 18 March to Sunday 2 April 2017. These dates are provisional, and will hopefully be confirmed by SABU in due course. To reduce holiday commitment the tour will last about two weeks, culminating in the State Presidents. However, the main focus of the tour will be the Australia Match, being held in South Africa for the first time since 1999 – a match in which Nick Tremlett was part of the winning team.

Jeremy Langley will be joining the team as vice-captain, and Derek Lowe as adjutant. Both have a wealth of experience, including several previous tours to South Africa.

Shooting at Bloemfontein is very challenging in a number of ways, the physical demands of the altitude and climate being just one, and the South Africans are formidable opponents. In order to prepare for this, training will encompass some new techniques and applicants will need to be open-minded to novel training methods.

The intention is to start training with a weekend next April, which will be in the format of a seminar on various aspects of high performance and team shooting. The training weekends in April and June next year will be co-ordinated, as far as possible, with the GB Canada team schedule, to enable anyone considering applying to both teams to do so with minimal extra time commitment prior to the Canada tour. The final session in 2016 will focus on indoor training over a weekend in November. There are then likely to be two or three training weekends in early 2017, format as yet to be decided.

The closing date for applications has been extended to allow for publication of the NRA Journal and is now 19 September. However, if any prospective applicants are unsure of their availability by that date, they may still be considered for selection as long as the captain receives an indication from them. Application forms will then be sent out for completion and return by 30 September. The team will be selected and announced by mid-October. A lack of experience is no bar to selection, as the captain will look at a variety of attributes to build a balanced and successful team.

*Please contact Nick Tremlett by email at [nicktremlett@gmail.com](mailto:nicktremlett@gmail.com) or [nicktrem@aol.com](mailto:nicktrem@aol.com)*

## GB and NRA Team captains nominations

Nominations are invited for captaincy of the following teams:

**Great Britain Under 25 2016**

**Kolapore Match 2016**

**NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2017**

**Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada 2017**

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 no later than 5pm on Friday 2 October 2015. Nominations to be sent to [Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk](mailto:Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk).

## GB GR Captain

Nominations are now being sought for the Great Britain Gallery Rifle Captain for the 2016 season. The team will compete in IGRF international competitions at Bisley, Ireland and Germany throughout the year. Nominations should be sent to the NRA Secretary General and be received by 1 December 2015.

Nominees must be full members of the NRA for a minimum continuous period of three years (12 months in the case of under-25 members), and must remain so during the entire period of appointment. Nominations must be supported by signatures of three NRA Members.

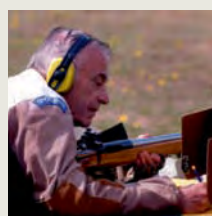
## OBITUARY: JOHN WINTER 1933-2015

It is the end of an era, with the driving force of a shooting club passing away after over 50 years. John Winter started shooting with the Boy Scouts in Abingdon aged 12 and continued shooting until he was 80.

He started work at AEA Harwell aged 17, qualified as a chemist, and worked on radioactive materials for his whole career, even being called back as a consultant after retirement.

National Service in the Royal Artillery gave him a fascination with big guns, which he continued in the Territorial Army. But his real love was fullbore and small-bore rifle shooting. Starting as a member of Harwell's Rifle and Pistol Club, he progressed to the first team, then the county teams for both fullbore and small-bore rifle. He was club and county fullbore captain for many years.

After the reduction in nuclear power research the club shrank



from over 50 members to around 20, and became independent of Harwell. John took over as chairman and it was his personality that kept the club going. Renamed Harwell Target Shooting Club, he saw it grow back to nearly 50 members.

He was a keen supporter of new and young members and took great pleasure seeing them flourish. He embraced most shooting disciplines, including black powder and even occasionally air rifle – pistol shooting was the one discipline he tried once but never again!

At his funeral there was large turnout of club and Oxfordshire Rifle Association members, together with his wife Marion, two sons and their families and friends, to celebrate his life.

*By Graham Nowell, chairman of Harwell Target Shooting Club.*




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# Results

## IMPERIAL MEETING 2015

*For a complete list of Imperial Meeting results, go to [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)*

### Queen's Prize top 10

*Name; club; second stage; 900x; 1000x; total*

1. DP Calvert; RAFTRC; 149.18v; 74.4v, 71.7v; 294.29v
2. JD Warburton; Huddersfield RC; 146.17v; 74.11v; 73.7v; 293.35v
3. GCD Barnett; OGRE; 148.18v; 75.6v; 70.6v; 293.30v
4. P Patel; Old Epsomian RC; 146.16v; 75.7v; 71.5v; 292.28v
5. AW Gill; ATSC; 148.21v; 73.8v; 69.6v; 290.35v
6. AR McLeod; ATSC; 149.18v; 71.7v; 70.8v; 290.33v
7. R McQuillan; Ulster RA; 147.16v; 70.8v; 72.8v; 290.32v
8. NJ Ball; Wellington College; 146.12v; 73.8v; 71.2v; 290.25v
9. DC Luckman; Sedgemoor TSC; 147.22v; 73.9v; 69.3v; 289.34v
10. MJ Ensor; Old Guildfordians RC; 146.15v; 73.7v; 70.6v; 289.28v

### British Open Target Rifle Championship

*Name; club; grand; QII; QIII; total*

1. GCD Barnett; OGRE; 700.102v; 148.18v; 145.12v; 993.132v
2. JD Warburton; Huddersfield RC; 697.92v; 146.17v; 147.18v; 990.127v
3. DP Calvert; RAFTRC; 696.90v; 149.18v; 145.11v; 990.119v
4. P Patel; Old Epsomian RC; 692.99v; 146.16v; 146.12v; 984.127v
5. NJ Ball; Wellington College; 694.81v; 146.15v; 144.10v; 984.106v
6. DC Luckman; Sedgemoor TSC; 694.98v; 147.22v; 142.12v; 983.132v
7. GE Morris; Uppingham Veterans RC; 696.95v; 148.20v; 139.15v; 983.130v
8. AW Gill; ATSC; 693.94v; 148.21v; 142.14v; 983.129v
9. R McQuillan; Ulster RA; 692.74v; 147.16v; 143.16v; 982.106v
10. WCP Richards; Gunroom Lizards;

693.92v; 148.17v; 140.15v; 981.124v

### St George's Prize

*Name; club; second stage; final; total*

1. DP Calvert; RAFTRC; 75.11v; 74.10v; 149.21v (tie 24.4v)
2. FWA Coetzee; South Africa; 74.9v; 75.12v; 149.21v (tie 24.2v)
3. J Mehta; Old Framlinghamians RC; 75.10v; 74.9v; 149.19v
4. GCD Barnett; OGRE; 74.9v; 75.9v; 149.18v
5. PR Wheeler; Old Guildfordians RC; 75.8v; 74.10v; 149.18v

### The Kolapore

*Country; captain; team total; top gun score*

1. Great Britain; PB Bromley; 1172.131v; DC Luckman 148.17v
2. Jersey RA; CC Mallett Jnr; 1163.115v; BJ Le Cheminant 150.17v
3. Australian Rifle Team; GW Berman; 1157.107v; HHG Pollock 149.23v
4. Guernsey; PM Jory; 1155.93v; A Buston 149.16v
5. Canada; J Thompson; 1149.87v; SJ Bissonette 147.14v

### The Mackinnon

*Country; captain; team total; top gun score*

1. England; JDS Langley; 1142.100v; GCD Barnett 99.13v
2. Ireland; GK Alexander; 1132.96v; SJ Carson 98.10v
3. Wales; PS Gray; 1114.90v; AC Haley 96.6v
4. Scotland; IW Robertson; 1111.88v; ITG Shaw 98.11v
5. Jersey; C Mallett; 1105.90v; C Mallett 97.12v
6. Australia; GW Berman; 1081.69v; DR Thompson 95.8v
7. Guernsey; PM Jory; 1068.58v; AM Jory and PJG Barber 93.5v
8. Canada; J Thompson; 1065.66v; CH Hearn 94.7v

### The National

*Country; captain; team total; top gun score*

1. England; AJCB de Launay; 2061.247v; JA Lindsay, DC Luckman, T Drysdale and SA Thomas, all 105.14v
2. Ireland; C Fitzpatrick; 2056.246v; RH Kitson 105.18v
3. Wales; PS Gray; 2049.249v; RCT Jeens





105.20v

4. Scotland; IW Robertson; 2036.236v;  
AW Gill 105.17v

### Vizianagram

*Team; name, score; team total*

1. The Commons

Garnier, 97.10v; Jones, 90.7v; Lewis,  
85.1v; Howard, 97.8v; Djanogly,  
90.5v; 459.31v

2. The Lords

Abercorn, 88.3v; Lucas, 88.3v;  
McNaught, 84.5v; Davey, 86.3v;  
Basterfield, 90.4v; 436.18v

### Universities Long Range

*Team; name, score; team total*

1. CURA A – captain DA Firth

FCD Flanagan, 95.9v; CMG Bowring,  
93.8v; JPW Waite, 92.6v; MF Boucher,  
89.4v; 369.27v

2. OURC

A Brooker, 92.4v; H Lee, 91.8v; T Mills,  
91.3v; M Horrell, 86.4v; 360.19v

3. Newcastle – captain AM Matthews

THD Dodds, 91.5v; HL Laing, 87.4v; AG  
Grainger, 87.4v; AM Matthews, 84.4v;  
349.17v

### F-Open Grand Aggregate

*Name; club; Alexandra, Corporation, Daily  
Mail, Daily Telegraph, Donegal, DoCam,  
Lovell, Times, Wimbledon; total*

1. IW Boxall; Dorset Riflemen; 72.6v,  
145.13v, 73.8v, 74.5v, 75.10v, 144.7v,  
131.5v, 75.10v, 73.3v; 862.67v

2. P Eggemann; BDMP Germany; 71.7v,  
141.8v, 74.7v, 71.3v, 74.7v, 144.14v,  
128.5v, 75.14v, 74.8v, 852.73v

3. DN Kent, Old Epsomian RC, 74.6v,  
141.11v, 73.8v, 70.3v, 73.5v, 142.9v,  
132.4v, 74.8v, 71.5v; 850.59v

4. DA Stewart; Marquis; 71.1v, 139.7v,  
75.6v, 73.9v, 74.10v, 141.6v, 120.1v,  
73.9v, 69.5v; 835.54v

5. SJ Baker; NRA; 69.1v, 129.6v, 72.6v,  
69.6v, 75.6v, 141.12v, 124.3v, 75.12v,  
71.5v; 825.57v

### F-TR Grand Aggregate

*Name; club; Alexandra, Corporation,  
Daily Mail, Daily Telegraph, Donegal,  
DoCam, Lovell, Times, Wimbledon; total*

1. AW Marsh; Sedgemoor TSC; 73.5v,  
133.7v, 74.7v, 69.2v, 75.7v, 138.12v,  
119.5v, 75.8v, 70.5v, 826.58v

2. D Lloyd; West Wales ML; 65.5v, 130.4v,  
70.5v, 71.9v, 72.9v, 131.7v, 123.2v, 75.9v,  
69.2v; 806.52v

3. E Davis; Dorset Riflemen; 71.5v,  
124.6v, 73.7v, 68.2v, 73.5v, 131.3v,  
114.3v, 67.1v, 69.6v; 790.38v

4. F Bezeau; Canada; 70.1v, 128.5v,  
65.4v, 67.3v, 68.6v, 131.6v, 113.3v,  
75.8v, 69.3v; 786.39v

5. PJ Harkins; 101 RC; 66.0v, 126.4v,  
69.3v, 68.4v, 71.6v, 129.2v, 109.0v,  
71.5v, 67.1v; 776.25v

### The Elcho

*Country; captain; team total; top gun score*

1. England; CN Tremlett; 1708.147v; AM  
Gent 218.17v

2. Scotland; JMB Baillie-Hamilton;  
1668.144v; FF Flanagan 215.23v

3. Wales; LJ Brister; 1644.124v; AL James  
215.19v

### Hopton Aggregate

*Name; total*

1. JMB Baillie-Hamilton; 981.99v

2. RJ Lygoe; 976.101v

3. GV Barnard; 971.84v

4. FCD Flanagan; 969.91v

5. DP Calvert; 965.72v

6. DHW Dashwood; 964.85v

7. AC Abrahams; 964.76v

8. AM Gent; 962.94v

9. GJ James; 961.105v

10. JPL Sweet; 960.79v

### Imperial Practical Rifle – Practical

*Name; club; stage 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,  
8, 9, 10; total*

1. CM Hudson; LPSC; 44, 48, 33,  
46, 40, 49, 47, 47, 36, 40; 430

2. J Morgan-Hosey; NRA; 44, 49,  
41, 43, 47, 47, 48, 46, 27, 31; 423

3. AN Newberry; LDRPC, 40, 44, 37, 39,  
45, 50, 50, 31, 39, 44, 419

### Imperial Practical Rifle – Service

*Name; stage 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10; total*

1. Ellis; 48, 44, 31, 41, 35, 50, 44, 46, 40,  
47; 426

2. Chapman; 1066; 34, 43, 27, 43, 45, 48,  
50, 46, 41, 47; 424

3. Vale; 44, 40, 41, 24, 46, 48, 50, 46, 41,  
23; 403

### Civilian Methuen Cup

*Team; team total; top gun score*

1. LPSC A; 1351; P Cottrell 238

2. HRA; 1327; W Ellis 237

3. LPSC B; 1259; J Straker 221

### Civilian Long Range Aggregate

*Historic: JB Drummond, 264*

*Iron: GRN Ellis, 334*

*Practical: MC Camp, 440*

*Service: P Cottrell, 439*

### GGG Aggregate

*Name; club; Whitehead, Halford,  
Cottesloe, Wimbledon; total*

1. NJ Ball; Wellington College;

140.12v, 66.2v, 96.9v, 95.10v; 397.33v

2. SA Thomas; Central Bankers RC;

139.8v, 62.1v, 98.12v, 97.9v; 396.30v

3. JMA Thompson; Central Bankers RC;

141.12v, 63.4v, 94.11v, 92.4v; 390.31v

4. TW Harrison; Caterham & District RC;

139.13v, 61.2v, 96.8v, 93.6v; 389.29v

5. TP Clarke; Central Bankers RC; 137.7v,

56.1v, 96.10v, 93.5v; 382.23v

### PALMA 2015

#### Day One

*Country; 800, 900, 1000; day one total*

1. Great Britain; 1199.178v,  
1193.133v, 1159.92v; 3551.403v

2. USA; 1199.176v, 1181.108v,  
1140.74v; 3520.358v

3. South Africa; 1194.151v,

1173.100v, 1145.85v; 3512.336v

4. Australia; 1199.169v, 1188.126v,

1122.72v; 3509.367v

5. New Zealand; 1188.167v,

1169.101v, 1128.89v; 3485.356v

6. Canada; 1192.154v, 1168.109v,

1061.55v; 3421.318v

7. West Indies; 1156.100v, 1126.71v,

1017.41v; 3299.212v

8. Germany; 1174.102v, 1113.78v,

1007.38v; 3295.217v

#### Day Two

*Country; 800, 900, 1000; day two total*

1. Great Britain; 1200.178v, 1191.143v,  
1164.101v; 3555.424v

2. USA; 1193.155v, 1191.134v,

1130.76v; 3515.361v

3. South Africa; 1197.164v, 1185.128v,

1116.77v; 3498.369v

4. Australia; 1200.175v, 1188.124v,

1086.73v; 3473.407v

5. New Zealand; 1198.157v, 1174.130v,

1097.67v; 3469.353v









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# Marksman's Calendar

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## SEPTEMBER

### 15-17, Police Sport UK Rifle

### & Pistol Championships 2015

Martin Armstrong-Prior, 01461 500857,  
entries@psukshooting.org

### 19, Cornwall Open Target Rifle and Inter Counties Challenge (Bodmin)

Anthony Mitchell, 01803 316522

### 19, Match V ATSC

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

### 19-20, National Rifle Club of Scotland Open Championships

### (Blair Atholl, Scotland)

Tim Kidner, 01224 321468, tlk762@aol.com

### 20, Gloucestershire Autumn

### Open TR meeting

Ian Ashworth,

ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com

### 20, NRA MLAGB RCO

### endorsement course

01483 797777, training@nra.org.uk

### 26, Introduction to Civilian Service Rifle

Carol Kellow/Mark Haigh, 01483 797777

### 26-27, Open Meeting

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

### 26-27, English & Irish Autumn Meeting

Bill Taylor, bill@englisheight.co.uk

## OCTOBER

### 03, Historic Service Rifle Match

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 03-04, LMRA V SRA (Home)

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

### 03-04, F-Class Long Range Shoot

### (Blair Atholl, Scotland)

Des Parr, 01483 797777

### 03-04 NRA RCO course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777 x  
149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

### 03-04, Langar Rifle Club

### - Freelancers Fiasco 2015

Simon Shouler, simonshouler@hotmail.com

### 04, Civilian Service Rifle

### (Winter league)

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 10-11, Ages Match

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 11, NRA Shooting Club Day

Sarah Boxall, 01483 797777,  
memadmin@nra.org.uk

### 11, Long Range Rimfire

### Club Autumn Meeting

Richard Kenchington, 07974138227,  
richard@kenchington.plus.com

### 17-18, The Trafalgar Meeting 2015

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 18, Steel Challenge

### (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

### 24-25, Gallery Rifle

### - Autumn Action Weekend

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 24-25, Club Instructor

### (General Skills) course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777 x  
149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

### 31, Introduction to

### Civilian Service Rifle course

Carol Kellow/Mark Haigh, 01483 797777

### 31-01 Practical Pistol Match

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 31-01, F-Class Long Range

### Autumn Challenge

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

## NOVEMBER

### 01, NRA Handgun League Round 5

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 07, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 07-08, NRA RCO course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777 x  
149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

### 15, Autumn Practical Shotgun

### (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

### 21-22, Target Shotgun Festival

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 22, NRA Shooting Club Day

Sarah Boxall, 01483 797777,  
memadmin@nra.org.uk

## DECEMBER

### 05-06, NRA RCO course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777 x  
149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

### 06, Civilian Service Rifle

### (Winter league)

Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

### 06, Wappenschaw

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

### 06, NRA Shooting Club Day

Sarah Boxall, 01483 797777,  
memadmin@nra.org.uk

### 12, Introduction to

### Target Shotgun course

Carol Kellow, 01483 797777,  
carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

### 12-13, Club Instructor

### (General Skills) course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777 x  
149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

### 13, Introduction to

### Target Shotgun course

Carol Kellow, 01483 797777,  
carol.kellow@nra.org.uk





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**Email:** info@hps-tr.com

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**Tel:** 01275 838532

**Email:** info@stewardsportsglasses.co.uk

**Website:** www.stewardsportsglasses.co.uk

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**Tel:** 0207 622 1200

**Email:** gary@londongunservices.co.uk

**Website:** www.londongunservices.co.uk

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**Email:** info@rangemasterprecisionarms.com

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Riflemags.co.uk is owned and run by Nottingham target shooting duo Dom and Beverley, started in 2010 in response to the numerous requests for magazines and accessories on their travels around the world. Riflemags has since grown to offer the UK's biggest range of rimfire



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**Tel:** 0845 544 2075

**Email:** sales@riflemags.co.uk

**Website:** www.riflemags.co.uk

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With parent company RUAG having manufacturing plants in Switzerland, Germany, Sweden and Hungary, RUAG Ammotec UK imports and distributes RWS, GECO and Norma ammo. Other brands include Nightforce scopes, Titan and Diana rifles, Perazzi and Bettinsoli shotguns.

**Tel:** 01579 362319

**Email:** enquiries@ruag.co.uk

**Website:** www.ruag.co.uk

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**Tel:** 01423 780810

**Email:** enquiries@vikingarms.com

**Website:** www.vikingarms.com

#### WILLIAM EVANS

William Evans at Bisley Camp is the first reference point for shooting sportsmen and women. We provide everything from firearms to ammunition, hearing protection to shooting socks. Our gun room racks contain traditional game shotguns and rifles, clay-shooting guns and tactical sporting firearms for our target shooting customers.

**Tel:** 01483 486500

**Email:** richard@williamevans.com

**Website:** www.williamevans.com

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# Message 10

**John O. Wright, 92, talks to NRA marketing and communications manager Katia Malcaus Cooper**

## **How did you get into shooting and at what age?**

My first experience of target shooting was being taken to Bisley in 1940 at the age of 17 as part of basic military training following my recruitment into the London Defence Volunteer Force (the Home Guard), before my voluntary enlistment into the Royal Air Force in July 1941. After serving in England, West Africa, India, Malaya and Java, I was demobilised in December 1946. I returned to my pre-war occupation in the City of London. Significantly for me, it had excellent sporting facilities for its employees, including a covered 25-yard rifle range on the office roof, a 25/50/100 yard range at the sports ground at Chiswick beside the River Thames and a clubhouse at Bisley Camp.

## **What is the most memorable moment in your career?**

Achieving third place in the Queen's final. I now have five Queen's Final badges, the best result being third, one point behind the Queen's Prize winner, and many other full-bore trophies.

## **What was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome as a shooter?**

Controlling the tension created by the pressure and challenge of competition.



At this year's Imperial John Wright was presented with the NRA Gold Medal for winning the F-Class Wimbledon

## **What role do your family/friends play in your shooting?**

They all have always been supportive. Sadly my wife died six years ago, but I am blessed with three children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, most of whom are scattered around the world but I am fortunate to be able to see them fairly frequently. My daughter Pam lives with and looks after me and is very supportive.

## **What sort of music do you listen to?**

Light classical, although I cannot hear well enough to appreciate music generally.

## **What clubs are you a member of?**

Ibis, NRA, L&MRA, English XX, English VIII, F-Class Association.

## **Who has been your biggest inspiration?**

Lawrence Hoddle, County of London Captain, who, long ago, encouraged me to continue shooting quickly with a good follow-through.

## **Which is your favourite country in the world? Is it somewhere you have visited on tour?**

New Zealand. In 1968 I joined the GB team to tour Australia and New Zealand, which was a great experience. Subsequently I have been there several times to see some of my family.

## **What is your favourite aspect of being part of the NRA?**

It's the character and ambience of Bisley, from 1958 to date.

## **What do you like to do in your free time?**

I have a comprehensive workshop at home in which I have enjoyed making and mending things during some of my spare time. My family call me 'Mr

Repair Man'. I also have a large garden that needs attention. I enjoy coarse and sea fishing occasionally, when I find time and the weather is suitable. I travel extensively to see my family and have visited 46 countries. I like watching sport on TV, especially golf and cricket, plus documentaries.

## **Do you have any pre-competition routines?**

Firstly, I try to relax and be pleasant to people. Frustration and annoyance are no help to control tension under pressure during a shoot. And I watch the wind for its bracket of changes during the five-minute preparation period, especially in direction.

## **What advice would you give to somebody who wanted to take up target shooting?**

Give it a good trial. It is not difficult for anybody to reach an acceptable standard in the sport with the right training, and participation can give pleasure from the age of 14 to infirmity. In summing up my shooting activities I can state that they have given me many years of pleasure and contentment, not only for the challenges but also for the camaraderie that exists from the many shooters and organisers with whom I have had the privilege to meet from many countries. What other sport can be enjoyed in friendly rivalry from the age of 14 onwards, both sexes competing on equal terms? Shooting competitively under pressure has instilled in me the attributes of discipline, integrity and team spirit, which I am sure have been beneficial in my business career and other activities.

## **So what next?**

Hopefully I'll enjoy 'Message 10' a little longer and not 'finished with target'! ■





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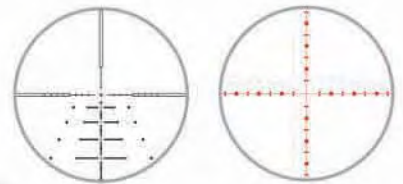
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