

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Summer 2015 – Volume XCIV No. 2 £4.25

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- SOUTH AFRICA U19 TOUR
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Home improvements

Chief executive Andrew Mercer has all the latest updates and news from the ongoing improvement works at Bisley

With spring well and truly upon us it is a delight to see the ranges busy. A recent weekend as duty manager took me away from the phone and laptop, instead spending rewarding time in the range office and on firing points. So much of what our members and guests require is simple: correct targets, efficient radios, accurate and speedy markers. We are beginning to develop a team at Bisley capable of delivering all of these to a decent standard.

New innovations and improvements at Bisley prompt at times surprising responses. I thought the first session of road improvements this year would generate gratitude; the fierce criticism and enthusiastic forecasts of disaster came as a surprise. Time will tell whether the works deliver good value to the Association, or prove I am as incompetent as some vociferous members have proclaimed.

I am heartened that another recent change is proving successful – the new Spencer caravan site has but three plots remaining and we have achieved sales in excess of £1m to date. Decorators have been out in force with the NRA Offices now looking rather fine; Wimbledon House is next on the list as we start to catch up on basic maintenance. Two new toilet blocks have also arrived; the appearance of warm water, soap dispensers and clean floors has shocked some long-standing shooters.

I am keen to develop an overarching plan for the camp that helps us with the phasing and design of future projects that protect and enhance the unique atmosphere of Bisley. Trees, roads, car parking, and assessing the myriad buildings are key elements in this review. Landscape architect Dominic Cole and conservation architect Gary Butler are assisting us with this. They

have already, slightly worryingly, highlighted the importance of “long-term temporary structures” such as the barrack-style accommodation blocks.

The range improvements are beginning to bear fruit. Butt Zero and Cheylesmore are busy and the new designs are performing well. We had an alarming case of unexplained ‘popovers’ from Melville range; prompt remedial works solved the problem, which had startled shooters at 900 yards on Stickle-down range.

Our new membership database is yielding some fascinating statistics. Club affiliations recently caught my attention and it was interesting to find that our affiliated clubs have over 50,000 members, of which some 22,000 are non-NRA members who regularly shoot fullbore. Add 8,000 or so NRA members and we get 30,000 regular fullbore shooters. Quite which ranges accommodate this number of fullbore shooters is unclear; a review and analysis of regional ranges will be the top priority for our new regional ranges manager, Nic Couldrey, who starts in early July. Even more sobering is the realisation that more than 2,500 of our RCOs are not full members of the NRA. Exactly what this means and what, if anything, we should do about it is generating considerable debate.

Entries for our competitions are looking promising. I hope our efforts

to minimise costs and improve services will deliver further increases to the number of competitors this year.

Our decision to discount the cost of online entries for the Imperial has provoked an interesting response. I am struggling to rationalise the argument that charging an admin fee for paper entries rather than offering lower prices for online entries does anything other than yield the same net result.

Our new training team are starting to flourish in their new facilities at Wimbledon House and we are now expanding our range of activities. We recently delivered a three-day course for the Met Police’s Firearms Licensing Team that explained the finer details of the many forms of target shooting. The course demanded considerable investment in resources from both the NRA and Met Police, and we were both pleased with the result. Better trained and informed FEOs will without doubt deliver better services to licence holders, and allow them more time to identify the rare individuals who should never be allowed access to firearms. ■

Time will tell whether the works deliver good value to the Association or prove I am as incompetent as some vociferous members have proclaimed



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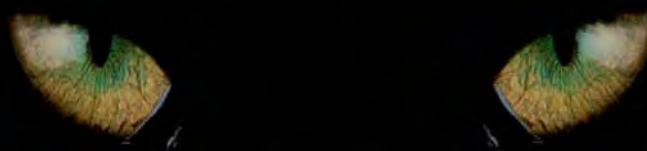
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NEWS

REPORTS

CLUB HANDBOOK UPDATED

There's a new, revised version of Joint Service Publication 403 (JSP403), also known as the Handbook of Defence Land Ranges Safety. Developed by the MOD in conjunction with NRA staff, the handbook deals with the regulations and procedures relating to the design and construction of rifle ranges.

New to this edition of the handbook, the requirement to obtain Home Office approval to shoot on MOD ranges is removed for clubs only using shotguns.

Also for the first time, the handbook acknowledges the use of handloaded ammunition on MOD ranges, setting out the conditions for its use.

It is also made clear in the guide that the default position as regards young people on the ranges is that there should not be age restrictions when they are shooting as club members.

There is a change to RCO qualification procedures, a detail change in the NRA Shooter's Competency Certificate, and a new procedure for firing high muzzle energy firearms.

The full guide can be downloaded from www.nra.org.uk. The significant part for clubs – Use of MoD Land Ranges by Civilian Clubs – starts at part 2 chapter 2 para 58.

WARNING FOR Krag-JORGENSEN OWNERS

The NRA has recently completed an investigation on behalf of the MOD after an accident involving a Krag-Jorgensen rifle at a UK military range. Three people were taken to hospital after the rupture of the cartridge case in the rifle, causing a "catastrophic failure", according to the official report.

The technical investigation has revealed evidence of substandard rebarrelling work on some Krag-Jorgensen rifles; particularly those rebarrelled shortly after World War II.

Therefore, the NRA requires all members owning Krag-Jorgensen rifles fitted with replacement barrels to have their rifle checked by a competent gunsmith, excepting replacements carried out under the current owner's instructions and bearing proof marks issued under CIP regulations or by one of the UK proof houses.

A copy of the technical report can be found at www.nra.org.uk.

FIREARMS FEE INCREASE

As of 6 April 2015, the cost of firearms licence grants and renewals have increased. The cost of a firearms or shotgun certificate has risen from the previous £50 to £88 or £79.50 respectively.

In the lead-up to the implementation of the fee increase, the NRA has been actively and extensively involved in negotiations with the Home Office in order to secure a fair deal for the shooting community.

"There were attempts to double, triple or quadruple the current fees," said Andrew Mercer, secretary general of the NRA. He went on to add that the final increase is "proportionate, reflects the true cost of licencing, and represents a fair settlement for shooters."

For more information, visit www.gov.uk or www.nra.org.uk

NEW FEES IN FULL

Firearm grant	£80.00
Firearm renewal	£62.00
Shotgun grant	£79.50
Shotgun renewal	£49.00
Coterminous grant	£90.00
Coterminous renewal	£65.00
Registered firearms dealer (grant or renewal)	£200.00
Replacement firearm certificate	£4.00
Replacement shotgun certificate	£4.00
Visitor permit (individual)	£20.00
Visitor permit (group)	£100.00
Game fairs	£13.00
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GB FCA ROUND TWO AT BLAIR ATHOLL

Round two of the Great Britain F-Class Association's national league was held at Blair Atholl range in the Cairngorms this April. Over 40 competitors took part and Blair Atholl lived up to its reputation for being a challenging range.

The final scores of the round were as follows: in the F/TR Steve Donaldson emerged with a score of 313.12, taking home the Silver Salver and 20 league points, Dean Wallace came second with 299.09 and Adam Bagnall with 297.07 in third. In the F/Open, Des Parr won with 340.20, Robert Thomson was second with 329.12 and John Howe was third with 329.10.

This places Robert Thomson at the top of the F/Open league after two rounds, ahead of Gary Costello and Mark Daish. Steve Donaldson tops the F/TR standings, with Dean Wallace and Matt Jarrah occupying the other two medal spots.

The GB FCA will be returning to Blair Atholl for round seven of the league. Don't miss a report from the short-range stage at Diggle on page 28.



NRA ACCOUNTS 2014

The Association has reported a surplus of £430,000 in its latest signed accounts.

The accounts reveal that "fair progress" has been made in improving facilities on Bisley Camp, and that participation in major competitions is starting to grow.

Chairman John Webster said: "2014 was a strong year for the NRA. Membership is up, shooting activity is up, and investment in our ranges and infrastructure is up. We met demanding financial targets while continuing our programme of capital investment to reduce the backlog of necessary infrastructure work and improve Bisley Camp.

"Nevertheless significant challenges remain. Access to ranges away from Bisley is problematic for many – we are appointing a Regional Ranges Manager to work through key issues with a newly established regional ranges working group composed of interested members.

"The expense of shooting remains a concern – pricing in real terms is being

held by capping any increases at the inflation rate.

"We are lowering the price of NRA-sponsored Target Rifle competitions in 2015 and reducing competition entry and training course fees for those under 25. We will also be trialling various electronic targetry throughout the next 12 months.

"Only time will tell whether these steps will be successful."

Read the full financial report from treasurer Derek Lowe on page 41.



NEWS IN BRIEF

MARKERS WANTED

The NRA has issued an invitation to join the bank of Imperial markers and supervisory staff on a casual work basis.

If you are interested in applying, the markers' starter park and application form can be downloaded from www.nra.org.uk.

IMPERIAL EARLY ENTRY

Congratulations to the winners of the Imperial Meeting early entry draw:

First Prize (100 per cent refund of entry fees), Miss Amie Clarke

Second Prize (50 per cent refund of entry fees), Mr Henry Watson

Third Prize (25 per cent refund of entry fees), Mr Rupert Knight

PARALYMPIC CALL

To celebrate National Paralympic Day on 26 July, British Shooting is looking for shooting clubs and grounds all over the country to host inclusive open days.

A centralised event is planned to showcase Paralympic sports in the Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park (shooting included), but British Shooting is keen to provide opportunities for people to try target shooting beyond the capital.

If you are interested in hosting an open day, contact Liz Davidson on liz.davidson@britishshooting.org.uk.

TWENTY'S PLENTY FOR ROBERTS

It was a day to remember for R Roberts at the English XX Meeting he took the Grand Aggregate ahead of a host of decorated TR shooters. His aggregate of 474.63 put him three ahead of the nearest competitor, Commonwealth gold medallist David Luckman. Completing the podium was 2006 Queen's Prize winner Jon Underwood. Congratulations to Mr Roberts, whose 900-yard score of 73.9 was particularly memorable.

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

All fired up

Well done with the *Journal* – it has become a readable magazine, and although it may not please everyone all the time, it does inform. You do have my permission to prune some of those items a bit please – Warren Whitaker's obituary at two pages is a bit much, and a photo of him would have been appropriate. He was a fine man, but details of every posting in his professional life is perhaps a bit over the top.

But my main point – I am a target rifle shooter so do not spend much time looking at shotgunners, but I really cannot in a million years believe the photo on your cover is a real one. If any flame was visible coming out of the breech of a shotgun, the gun would have been dangerous and the range officer would have stopped the event. I have photographed shooters over many years,

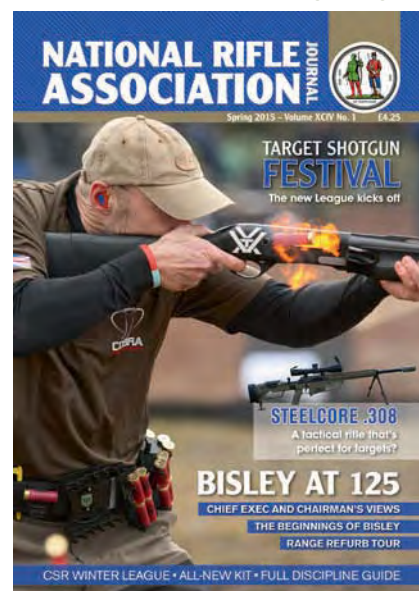
and it is a challenge – the majority of the sports are stationary – and the most you might see is a little smoke, and that is from a black-powder firearm! But not a modern shotgun.

I feel that if you portray the sports with images like this, you undermine the validity of your reporting and will damage the image of shooting generally.

Tim Webster

The "flames" are not unusual to capture with a high speed camera. They are a combination of oil burning off and powder residue venting from an open breech after cartridge ejection and do not pose a safety issue. Given the correct lighting conditions it is possible to capture solid slugs in flight. I would encourage Mr Webster to attend a few shotgun events to enjoy the spectacle.
James Harris

"Given the correct lighting conditions it is possible to capture solid slugs in flight"



Community spirit

The final paragraph of Andrew Mercer's welcome in the Spring edition of the *National Rifle Association Journal* worries me.

I believe it is the duty of all shooters to encourage the non-shooting community to understand their sport and to allow them not be afraid of people holding and using firearms safely and enjoying their sport.

The NRA is in a unique and privileged position – only they can have two open days a year where people can come and see the positive side of shooters and shooting.

For many years too many people wanted to come and numbers were restricted, so there is no shortage of people who are interested (many of the NRA members brought friends, who will now not be able to attend guest days).

A properly organised open day should be able to pay its way. I am relieved that the NRA is now on a firm financial footing – something it seemed unable to do for too many years – but Bisley is the National Shooting Centre and has a responsibility to promote the sport too. Business principles are not just about generating income – a good business will also be mindful of the hearts and minds of the people it needs to survive.

Liz Smoothy

The Council have agreed that Open Days are a unique feature that Bisley has and that these will be continued in the future. As mentioned in the Spring Journal, it is Guest Days that will be the short term focus for the reasons stated, but they will not be held to the exclusion of Open Days.

Barry Morgan, Trustee



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Sure and steady

Nick Parrish takes a look at the no-fuss Leupold VX-6 7-42x56 scope



Leupold & Stevens has been a keystone of the riflescope and sports optics industry since its foundation in 1907. But at the SHOT Show 2014, a new scope was introduced that showed a distinct slant towards the target shooting world of F-Class and F/TR. Having previously topped out its zoom scopes at 25x magnification, apart from the high fixed-mag bench rest models, Leupold now offers the 6x zoom magnification range VX-6 in a 7-42x specification with target-oriented reticles to match. There are various new manufacturing procedures involved, but as with all premium scope makers, the secrets remain safely locked behind the doors of the lens grinding rooms and coating laboratories.

Manufacturing standards at Leupold have always been high. The series one-piece maintube is another step forward; at 34mm it's got room for both good-sized lenses inside and plenty of travel, which Leupold has always been generous with. The matt black anodised finish is silky smooth and the 395mm long tube is well proportioned, more than likely to sit on a 30-32" barrelled gun. Weight is also good at 746 grams, allowing those barrels to extend free of penalty.

I had the scope set up in Tier-One TAC rings on a Sako TRG rifle in .308 for

the review period and they suited each other well. CDS is a system Leupold uses for custom engraving the dials on many of its scopes, though this model came with simple fingertip adjustable windage and elevation dials sited beneath caps. They offer true $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA clicks with 20 MOA per turn, each turn marked by the vernier scale below the knob with over six turns available in total – versatile, even without an inclined scope rail. Markings are fairly small and of course you have to remove the cap to see and alter things. 20 MOA in one turn with tactile clicks means you are unlikely to use more than two turns for most disciplines. With over 120 MOA available in total, this scope has serious long-range capabilities and you will need to keep careful note of your rotation number if you go beyond 1,000-1,200 yards.

On the initial 'box test', the adjustment axes were perfectly simultaneous and the results were flawless. I'd just like to have this on a turret of some kind, preferably with a zero-stop option, though I'm told Leupold is working on this. The windage turret is identical and would be better marked left and right of centre rather than just 'UP'. Seeing as Leupold offers a highly adaptable custom dial, this was surprising. Both dials have small hex-head screws; slacken them off and

rotate them silently to 'cosmetic' zero after mechanical zero is achieved – no confusing and unwanted clicks.

The TMR Plus reticle is in the second focal plane – more appropriate to target use – and is a real delight to use. It is perfectly weighted for aiming at a precision v-bull over long ranges without too much distraction. The 1 MOA windage and elevation hash marks allow easily judged correction with the matching dial specification, or repetitive aim-offs if needed.

I would perhaps have preferred this to be true MOA at 30-32 power to retain a little more field of view away from high mirage at max magnification, but it isn't difficult to calculate the spacings at a lower mag; dial to 20-21x and you can double them for initial sighters and zeroing estimates, before returning back to 42 power for full accuracy and precision.

A reticle like this requires fine focus and parallax control. The knob to the left of the saddle fulfils this role with simplicity and ease; it's not hard to get the clear, bright image to sharp correction. There is a little bit of movement within the tube, but I would expect this to fade – I attributed it to the 'box-fresh' scope mechanics. The 'fast focus' eyepiece, once set



A neoprene cover gives protection to the tube, turrets and lenses



A 34mm tube provides the robustness an F-Class shooter will need – plus room for optics

up, kept the reticle razor-sharp across all ranges within the depth of field.

Magnification control has a finely knurled ring to control the firm but smooth erector tube within. No notches can be felt as the lens packages slide up and down the helically controlled inner tubes – a reassuring quality feel from a brand that advertises its warranties as the ones you never need.

If there is one distinctive feature of Leupolds it is the eye relief. It is generous and the eyepiece reasonably accessible, but even on the older 3x erector tube systems there was significant eye relief variation, from short at high mag to long at low mag. The VX-6 seems to have dealt with this – once set up in the middle of your likely zoom ranges, it allows relaxed viewing.

The image was flat with no halo near the edges, though high magnification settings will always require careful and repetitive head alignment to access the 1.8mm exit pupil. All controls worked well and the side parallax smoothed out as time went by, just as the zoom setting ring will also lighten a touch with use. I liked the capped dials, and although they did require a separate printed data chart rather than being able to mark the dials directly, this is realistically a target scope and that information will likely remain at your side. It's not a tactical-use scope where you will be making vast minute-by-minute alterations as the course of fire changes.

Leupold's new Xtended Twilight system promises great low-light

capability from an index-matched lens system, with coatings optimised for such conditions, concentrating towards the blue/UV end of the light spectrum. I never tried the scope in twilight, but as a target scope it will happily operate well within ranges' safe daylight times. I made sure to try some targetry in the field on steel plates, shooting towards and away from the sun and in and out of shadow to assess any internal reflection or glare, which the VX-6 shrugged off without difficulty. Spying into some darker shadows during daylight shooting showed excellent contrast across the light scale.

It seems a long time since I have really used a vernier scale on the elevation turret but after shooting well beyond two turns of the dial I got used to it. It's not quite as fast, but I never made a mistake as each line on the marker is easily distinguishable and there is no doubt about whether a line is partially obscured or not. 20 MOA per turn means each line is well separated.

The scope performed just like all Leupolds. It's admirably reliable and although perhaps not the most extensive of specifications, it has the core factors a shooter needs with none of the fancy items that are of no real benefit on the range. When you see a lot of optics, you just get a feel for what performs without fuss, and the Leupold is just that. ■



The vernier-style rotation indicator was easily visible



The zoom control was firm but butter-smooth

Specification

Model: Leupold VX-6 7-42x56 with TMOA

Reticle

Objective lens diameter: 56mm

Maintube diameter: 34mm

Elevation adjustment range: 120 MOA

Eye relief: 42x 3.9" to 7x 4.2" (99-107mm)

Linear Field of view (m at 100m): 42x 0.9 to 7x 5.4

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Bisley at war

Christopher Bunch recounts the disruption, disputes and lasting impact of the two world wars on the NRA and Bisley

Quoted extracts from *Targets and Tramways* by Christopher C. Bunch. Images courtesy of the NRA Museum.

The two world wars had a profound effect on the NRA and Bisley Camp. In both cases the entire camp and ranges were handed over to the War Office as soon as war was declared, and maximum use was made of the facilities for training purposes. In the first world war a School of Musketry was established, running courses for instructors who would train the millions of men of the New Armies in rifle shooting, most of whom had never handled a rifle before. In the second world war similar facilities were used to train the newly formed Home Guard.

The Great War – World War I

On the outbreak of war in August 1914 the chairman of the NRA, Lord Cheylesmore, met Lord Kitchener and, on behalf of the council and members of the NRA, offered such assistance as they could afford. Lord Cheylesmore also placed the camp and ranges at the disposal of the War Office and offered to raise a corps of musketry instructors to assist in training the new divisions.

The latter offer was not accepted, but a review resulted in the establishment of a School of Musketry, primarily staffed by a

corps of instructors who had been expert shots at Bisley in pre-war days and were not otherwise eligible for war service. This was under the command of Major PW Richardson, who was later to become chairman of the NRA for the greater part of the second world war. During the war they imparted their skills to hundreds of army personnel who became instructors in their turn, ultimately training several million men. Major General Lord Cheylesmore was appointed as camp commandant, with Lieutenant Colonel CR Crosse, the NRA secretary, as his

The School of Musketry staff, taken September 1914



A. Stone. J.R. Barber. H.Y. Marriott. J. King. J.A. Biddle. L.S. Davies.
J.A. Gould. J.P. Saunders. P.W. Richardson. J. Bostock. B. Harmer.

staff officer and Colonel John Barlow as honorary paymaster.

Nearly all the peacetime competitions were cancelled but a few new ones, directed towards the war effort, were introduced. The camp also came to be occupied by the motor machine gun training centre, the heavy machine gun centre and an Officer Cadet Battalion as well as various army units. A major result of all this activity was the construction of many new huts in the main camp for training and accommodation. The report for 1915 indicated that 40 additional huts had been built by that time. Some of these appeared without proper authorisation, leading to conflict between Crosse and the military authorities.

For example, there were doubts about a hut apparently built for the convenience of women in the camp. On 29 November 1917 Crosse wrote to the CRE Blackdown:

I presume that the hut erected for the convenience of the women in the camp is a government building.

I shall be glad if you will kindly let me know, as when the Council of the National Rifle Association placed their ground at Bisley Camp at the disposal of the War Office for the accommodation of the troops, it was on the understanding that no huts other than those used for this purpose were to be erected on our land.

My council would like to have an understanding that the hut in question will be removed at any time should they consider it necessary to make such a request.

The report for 1916 described the changes that had taken place since August 1914:

The new huts, stalls and sheds for the troops and their horses and guns comprise no fewer than 60 buildings, some of which

German prisoners of war en route to Frith Hill internment camp. POWs from Frith Hill helped construct the Bisley-Deepcut military railway



Credit: Hampshire and Solent Museums

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have been removed and re-erected under the direction of Colonel Fraser (Commander Royal Engineers – Blackdown).

The Motor Machine Gun Corps took up its quarters on the old territorial lines in October, 1914. The Vickers gun on its motor carriage was a regular sight round Bisley and Woking, for the Corps had a thousand men and trained some fine batteries. The Corps moved to Grantham in August 1916 and was replaced by a Cadet Battalion to train officers for machine gun work.

Thus constituted, the camp has changed its hue. Where grass grew there is now mud or bare sand, and the earth has been scarred up and furrowed both by the troops and German prisoners of war in various schemes of work.

Some of those patches that retain a semblance of their verdant freshness are those nearest to the Century range, and it was on these and in the adjoining buildings of Club Row that instructors were trained by the NRA for the new troops. Whatever may be the future of this famous camp, it can be said that it has been used to the fullest extent to defeat the enemies of the State; and it has advanced from being a place of fame in marksmanship to become an historic site associated for all time with the name of Lord Kitchener and his armies, New and Territorial, who shot over its ranges in bulk and furnished men for rapid training so that a couple of millions of men might benefit by Bisley and its creations.

Another major addition took place in 1917 when an extension of the camp tramway line was constructed to serve the nearby Pirbright, Deepcut and Blackdown

military camps. It was thought that this would bring great advantages to the camp but unexpected difficulties arose in dealing with the military authorities, particularly the War Office. This resulted in some of the demands placed on the NRA being legally challenged, with the actual ownership and distribution of revenue coming under close scrutiny.

The war took a heavy toll on Bisley shooters, probably the best known being Lance Corporal ANVH Ommundsen, one of the best marksmen of the Edwardian era. He had won the King's Prize and St George's and was twice winner of the Grand Aggregate, and has now come to be regarded as one of the finest shots at Bisley. He had been commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Honourable Artillery Company and was killed by shellfire near Ypres in 1915.

One of the units that set up a training unit at Bisley in 1915 was the heavy section of the Machine Gun Corps (another section of which became the Tank Corps). In 1916 this unit, which was based out on the Siberia ranges, decided to use Stickledown for practice shoots using six-pounder shells, albeit without explosives. This was without doubt the largest calibre that had ever been used on the Bisley ranges and naturally caused Crosse considerable concern when these activities began to inflict damage to the mantlets and butts.

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Trafalgar	Saturday October 17th & Sunday October 18 th

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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I note that you have erected on the 1000 firing point at Stickledown, platforms for firing your 6-pounder guns. I have not objected so far, but after yesterday's experience of your shell firing, I must draw your attention to the damage you will probably cause to our mantlets. I have in our Office two shells taken out of the front of the mantlet where they had penetrated nearly 3-feet.

Would it not be better to move these guns to Siberia; it would be nearer your own camp and on the range allotted to you.

Other incidents also arose, not necessarily connected with the military occupation of the camp. On 22 November 1916, Crosse had to write to several local farmers warning them about stray horses on the NRA's land.

Much damage has been done recently by horses straying in Bisley camp. I am informed that one of the horses belongs to you and I hereby warn you that the next time it is caught straying I shall have it impounded at Guildford.

Crosse resolutely defended the NRA throughout this period

The Bisley tramway had been handed over to the military authorities at the same time as the camp in 1914, but it was not until 1916 that proposals were made for its extension to the three existing army camps at Pirbright, Deepcut and Blackdown respectively. The first plan showed a route avoiding Bisley via a junction to the south of the camp, but the chief engineer of the London and South Western Railway had advised it might be better to start it from an end-on connection to the tramway just beyond Bisley Camp station. This was agreed by the council. The railway company, assisted by a Pioneer battalion and German prisoners of war from the nearby Frith Hill internment camp, constructed the railway. King George V and Queen Mary officially opened the line during a special visit on 26 July 1917 when they passed through Bisley Camp on a special train from Brookwood. The railway was officially named the Bisley-Deepcut military railway.

However, much earlier than this, in the February of that year, the NRA

had learnt of its imminent takeover from the Brookwood stationmaster. A subsequent visit by the officer in charge of Military Camp Railways, based at Longmoor Camp, confirmed that they had been under the impression that the whole line belonged to the War Office, including through the camp section, which was of course privately owned by the NRA. Thus began a year of arbitrary problems for the NRA, among which was the regular delivery of goods, especially coal, that was now compromised through attempts by the War Office to charge 'demurrage' (siding rental) for keeping rolling stock over the allocated time. The NRA now had a greatly depleted staff for unloading due to loss of men to the colours, and had been deprived of the use of their goods platform to the heavy military traffic, of which the coal traffic, ironically, was an important part. They had found it expedient to unload trucks on the camp level crossing but this had become difficult in view of the intensity of shunting at this location. In addition, the War Office also tried to impose a form of indemnity that tried to make the NRA liable for damage to rolling stock. The sums of money that had been paid by the railway company to the NRA for use of the tramway also ceased after 1916.

Crosse resolutely defended the NRA throughout this period against such demands, and legal aid had to be sought. One of the unfortunate effects of this was to uncover the lack of formal agreements with the London and South Western Railway when the line was opened, when such future problems of course were completely unanticipated. Additionally, it proved difficult to find relevant documents. This extraordinary state of affairs dragged on until operation of the military railway was handed over, under an agreement with the War Office for the railway company to take over the operation as contractors in July 1918. This fortunately revived the *status quo* of the NRA's normal peacetime relationship with the London and South Western Railway. Operation of the line continued on a regular basis until December 1918 when the railway company closed it, as all the military staff allocated to run the line had been demobilised.

A section of the Machine Gun Corps... decided to use Stickledown for practice shoots using six-pounder shells

The Armistice of 11 November effectively terminated the military control of the camp and the first annual meeting after the war took place in July 1919.

A letter from Crosse to the NRA's solicitors of 8 March 1919 seems to have effectively applied closure on all the outstanding issues involving the railway.

It appears that the L&SW Railway so far as the Bisley Camp Railway is concerned are only contractors on behalf of the War Office and that, towards the end of December last, the working staff transferred to them from the military authorities was demobilised and the company being unable to staff the line closed it.

It is likely to remain closed, as under the present conditions it would appear an unremunerative undertaking which, I think, the company would not be prepared to work on their own account.

They might confine themselves to running a service between Brookwood and Bisley Camp Stations during the annual meeting in accordance with the obligations under former agreements.

The normal peacetime service for the annual meeting was restored in 1919 but the railway remained under military control until 1921. The military extension was then finally dismantled in 1929.

Throughout the war, the ranges had remained in many respects open to visiting rifle clubs and the old fare, which was originally agreed in 1890 at 1/6 return between London and Brookwood, had been maintained. However, in 1917 with costs rising fast, the London and South Western Railway decided to raise the fare to 3/5. After vehement protests from the members of rifle clubs, the railway company restored the original 1/6. The end of the war, however, inevitably brought large increases due to the high inflation.



The Second World War

The period of the second world war was notable for its greatly increased security. This was the era of the 'fifth columnist' and every effort was made to ensure that mouths stayed silent on military matters. The documentation that exists is therefore deficient in the basic details that were so readily available in the first world war. However, in the previous conflict the *NRA Journal* had ceased publication for the duration; in the second, in spite of paper shortages, it appeared throughout. Reports of doings in the camp were sparse indeed, but there was a large proportion of comment on the Home Guard, which had its roots at Bisley.

Great Britain entered the second world war in September 1939 and, as in the first world war, Bisley Camp was immediately handed over for military use. The 1939 annual meeting had already been handicapped by the lack of military personnel who performed many of the tasks surrounding the shooting competitions, since they were now required for more urgent business in connection with the anticipated conflict. All competitions were cancelled as in the first world war, though postal versions were implemented later.

In June 1940 Major General Sir Alan Hunter resigned as secretary as he had been appointed to a military directorate. CR Martin was appointed in his stead on an acting basis and continued to fulfil this role until the end of the war.

New hope for the association: The NRA held its first post-war meeting on 21 July 1945

An ammunition advert from 1940, soon after the formation of the Home Guard



The Chairman (Sir Philip W. Richardson) presenting the "A" Cup to Mr. F. J. Dorting, City Rifle Club. His score of 99 was the best aggregate of the day

The NRA therefore gained substantial benefits at the end of the second world war

In the same month, the NRA had opened its facilities to the newly formed Home Guard, whose creation had been announced by the secretary of state for war, Anthony Eden, on 14 May. It quickly attracted an enrolment of one million people. Initially, men had to buy their own tickets for the journey to Bisley, but this was quickly replaced by the issue of proper government travel warrants when the problem was raised in parliament. Bisley became the main centre of Home Guard training, using experienced rifle shooters as instructors in a similar fashion to the first world war. This was effectively backed up by existing rifle clubs, which became regional centres of training.

The camp also became home to a wing of the Small Arms School. In the journal for April 1940 it was reported that the War Office had called upon the NRA to provide a limited number of instructors in accurate rifle shooting, and this resulted in the formation of the NRA Wing Small Arms School, to be located at Bisley Camp. This, however, only lasted a single year. The camp and buildings also became occupied by varying numbers of many different military units.

In late 1944 it was decided to disband the Home Guard as the reason for its existence had by that point largely disappeared. Many in its ranks wanted to continue the comradeship they had built up and they found it by joining the NRA and rifle clubs, or maintaining their existing membership, of which there were already a large number. The NRA therefore gained substantial benefits at



A sergeant instructor explaining the workings of a rifle to two volunteers at Bisley

the end of the second world war, and the government actively encouraged this.

In 1940 the War Office had again decided to requisition the tramway and extend it along the route of the old Bisley-Deepcut military railway of the first world war, but this time only to Pirbright Camp. In a disturbing echo of the similar situation in the previous conflict, the military authorities neglected to inform the NRA, who soon found materials being stockpiled on the camp platform without their knowledge. Complaints to the local command in Aldershot finally attracted a rather half-hearted apology but any question of compensation was deferred until the end of the emergency. Due to wartime censorship, which was far stricter than it had been in the first world war, little was revealed about the operation of this extension. At the end of the war it was at once closed and rusted behind the locked level crossing gates at the western end of the camp platform until final removal in 1950.

The National Rifle Association was able to hold its first meeting after the end of the war on Saturday 21 July 1945. Although this was held over a single day, it heralded at last a brave new start to the NRA enterprise. ■



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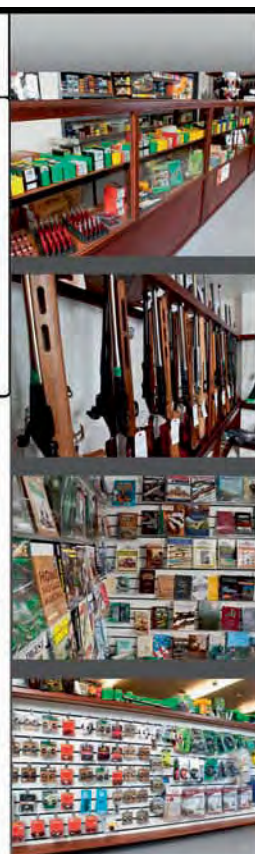
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Central to the NRA's activities as always, TR drew big entries on Century

Also on Short Siberia was the McQueen, shot at 200 yards



Don't miss our full report from the Handgun League on page 36



Marion Harding trying out handgun shooting for the first time

Shooting in the Sunshine State

Christian Barr journeyed across the Atlantic for an intensive week of shooting, American style

This April, 30 NRA members from across the country left for 10 days in Florida, USA, learning to shoot Three Gun competitions and get in some much-missed practice with handguns.

Monday morning saw everyone arrive on the range bright and early for kit issue. I was handed my ammunition for the week, my holster, magazine pouches and my pistol: a 9mm CZ 75. We were then divided into three squads to start practice.

My squad started in the morning with rifle training, kindly provided by Rhino Arms. This involved familiarising ourselves with the semi-auto .223 and learning to break down a course of fire. We had great instructors who were all local Three Gun competitors.

After lunch there was a bit of shotgun practice, followed by the moment we had all been waiting for: pistol practice. For most of us this was the first time we had shot any handgun over .22 without a long barrel and coat hanger. I was surprised at how quickly everyone got to grips with the pistol and it wasn't long before we were shooting reasonably quickly and accurately. Tuesday was for more practice, this time with a couple of Multi-gun and Three Gun courses thrown into the mix.

The first match day was broken down into morning and afternoon pistol matches. The match comprised three pistol stages, testing the skills that we had learned during the previous two days. The courses of fire included plate racks, Texas stars, steel poppers and paper targets with no-shoots. The results were very close with first place going to John Chambers, second to Mick Flatley and third to Brian Reacher.

In the evening we experienced a truly entertaining after-dark 'zombie shoot'! Shooting a .223 semi-auto in the pitch black and on the move, with only the attached torch for light, is a truly exhilarating experience.

Thursday was highly anticipated: the Three Gun competition. Three stages had been set up and we were divided into three squads. Three Gun is fast and furious; speed and accuracy count. There's a lot to remember and the training days were certainly starting to pay dividends. The competition was fierce with first place going to John Chambers, followed closely by Mick Flatley and Will Hince.

The following morning was slower, with a variation of a CSR match. This was the first time I had taken part in CSR and I must admit I enjoyed it. Trying to get well-aimed shots off in the narrow time frames was a challenge, especially with the

rundowns between exposures to get the heart rate up. John Chambers won, with David McChesney and Rhys Pontin taking second and third respectively.

The afternoon was 'use it or lose it time' for any remaining ammunition. Six ARs were lined up on the firing point. A selection of steel and paper targets were set up down-range and firing began. The combined power of six semi-auto .223 rifles, 12-gauge shotguns and 9mm pistols all being fired at the same time is something that you won't experience at home.

Saturday was uncharted territory for everyone as we had been invited to take part in an international practical match with a local club. There were seven stages overall with the seventh being a blind stage that, if not shot correctly, could disqualify you from the match. Our American hosts were welcoming, but the week was coming to an end and our time in Florida was drawing to a close.

I highly recommend this trip to anyone who wants to experience the thrill of Three Gun matches or an intensive week to improve your skills. ■

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The group with their American hosts after the practical match

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Match Reports

Reports and results from the latest competitions across the nation, including the CSR League, Hardy Shoot, English VIII and more

HISTORIC CSR THIS EASTER, MICK KELLY JOINED THE HISTORIC CSR MEETING ON CENTURY RANGE FOR A FUN AND FRIENDLY MATCH

Easter Saturday saw the second Historic Civilian Service Rifle meeting on Century range. The meeting was started for those who regularly shoot in the CSR winter league, but want to hone their skills with underused Lee Enfields. It's a fun day, with larger targets than normal being employed and course designed to not be too demanding. It is also a day for those curious about Historic CSR.

The match conditions are for three classes:

- Classic: The SMLE
- Veteran: No.4 & No.5
- Veteran Optic: No.4T

Practice 1 - Deliberate

Two sighters and five to count at 100 yards on a Fig 12 target, standing or kneeling. One exposure of 30 seconds.

Practice 2 - Snap

Five to count on a Fig 12 target at 100 yards in the standing position. Five exposures of five seconds.

Practice 3 - Snap

10 to count on a Fig 11 target at 200 yards in the prone position. 10 exposures of three seconds.

Practice 4 - Rapid

10 to count on a Fig 11 target at 200 yards in the sitting, kneeling or squatting position. One exposure of 60 seconds.

Practice 5 - Harassing Fire

Two sighters and 10 to count on a Fig 11 target at 300 yards in the prone position. One exposure of 70 seconds.

Practice 6 - Snap

10 to count on a Fig 11 at 300 yards in the prone position. 10 exposures of three seconds.

57 shooters made it to the firing point out of the 62 that had entered. The squadding was a very simple affair, with all shooters divided up into 4 squads, A, B, C and D. A and B went

to the firing point first. A shot first while B acted as a safety supervisor and then B shot.

C and D meanwhile were in the butts. Targets were handheld on sticks and the marking was very simple, using the larger scoring circle on both targets. Scoring was five for the bull and four elsewhere on the target. Martin Camp did us proud and the butts ran very smoothly indeed.

In the Classic (SMLE) class James West and Ian Dewey from LERA came in with 200 and 170 respectively. Close behind in third place with 162 points was S Doyle of the Old Sergeants' Mess club. With scores of 161, Bill Ellis and John Morgan-Hosey just missed out on the medals.

In the Veteran (No.4 and No.5) class J Avetoomayn (ATSC) scored 210 to take first place. Second was Steve East (Wilbury RC) with 205 and third place went to A Defreitas (KCS) 193. Just out of the frame was Chris Ballard (Dorset Riflemen) with a valiant 190.

The Enfield optic entries were low with only 4 entries received, but well done to Nigel Greenaway for winning the gold medal with a well-shot 207.

If you fancy entering the next match but don't have an Enfield then you can share a rifle with a friend as long as you make this clear when submitting entries. The NRA armoury also has No.4s for hire and can also supply .303 ammunition.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the day was the high number of TR shooters who had turned out to pit their wits against the CSR shooters to see who could come out on top with the nation's favourite battle rifle. Long may it continue!



Mick joins the 57 shooters who gathered at Century for the match

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CSR LEAGUE 2014/15 JOHN MORGAN-HOSEY REPORTS ON THE FINAL RESULTS OF THIS YEAR'S CSR LEAGUE

The NRA has been running a series of Civilian Service Rifle matches over the 'low' season for many years. What started out attracting 25 to 30 marksmen is now regularly seeing around 100 competitors travelling from all over the UK to take part in dynamic and challenging multi-positional deliberate, snap and rapid fire shootings.

The 2014/15 league looks to be the most successful so far. There were 1,345 individual match entries by 181 different competitors, who fired a combined total of approximately 67,000 rounds of ammunition.

On a typical CSR league day there will be two matches. On Century range this involves using two full butts. Competitors shoot from the prone, sitting, squatting, kneeling and standing positions at MOD pattern targets that are exposed for varying lengths of time, from only three seconds up to 60 seconds. Distances vary from between 600 and 100 yards.

The practices shot on Short Siberia utilise the turning targets and are engaged at distances of 100, 75, 50 and 25 yards in the standing, kneeling or squatting positions with exposures of between 15 and three seconds.

CSR attracts a wide range of ages, genders and abilities. The youngest competitor in 2014 was 12 years old, the oldest in their 70s. While there is a physical element and being fit helps, the timings for the rundowns are adjusted for the ground conditions on the day, particularly for bad weather. Next season the aim is to only have one running element per match day so as not to over do it. Advances are carefully controlled from the firing point by the CRO and every competitor is accompanied by their own safety supervisor.

CSR classes

It has become clear that it is the marksmanship of the competitor that determines who achieves the highest scores and not the rifle, ammunition, sights or equipment that they use. You cannot buy success in CSR; you have to practice and shoot consistently. Individually fired good shots don't necessarily win, it's the absence of bad ones that determines who gets the best score.

CSR is split into four classes that aim to group similar rifle and sighting system types together: Historic, Iron, Practical Optic and Service Optic (definitions of these classes can be found in the 2015 Bisley Bible). The most popular is Service Optic and despite not using high-powered optics or bipods for support, the highest scores are usually shot in this class and often with military NATO specification.

CSR league results

The CSR league table is an aggregate of the competitors' scores over the season that runs from October to April. Positions are determined from a competitor's best 10 scores. The individual match scores are converted to a percentage using a 'comstock' system such that the top competitor in the class will be awarded 100% and the score of everyone else in that class is converted to a percentage of the highest competitor's score.

#	NAME	%
HISTORIC		
1st	R Morris	979.80
2nd	J Drummond	972.62
3rd	P Bentley	914.62
IRON		
1st	D Moran	978.72
2nd	J Geering	957.86
3rd	D Cross	550.75
PRACTICAL OPTIC		
1st	N St Aubyn	981.66
2nd	C Hudson	968.55
3rd	J Morgan-Hosey	967.08
SERVICE OPTIC		
1st	P Cottrell	993.34
2nd	A Chapman	987.92
3rd	W Ellis	972.59



Century and Short Siberia saw the final round of the league this spring



CSR success depends on individual skill, not expensive equipment

Congratulations to the winners in each class and all the competitors who took part. The 2015/16 league starts on Sunday 4 October 2015 and for those that cannot wait, the NRA CSR Imperial matches start on Wednesday 24 June 2015 at the National Shooting Centre.

THE HARDY SHOOT THE SECOND ROUND OF THE NRA SHOTGUN LEAGUE PROVES TO BE ENJOYABLE AND CHALLENGING. GEORGE GRANYCOME REPORTS

Round two of the NRA Shotgun League took place on 7-8 March at Shield Shooting Centre in Dorset. The Hardy shoot is a regular feature in the shotgun calendar and Steve Pike, proprietor of Shield Shooting Centre, put on a very enjoyable yet challenging course of fire designed to test even the most experienced among us.

This practical shotgun match is supported by the NRA and forms part of the NRA Shotgun League. It also ties in with the current bid to the IPSC for its nomination as its affiliate to promote practical shooting in this county.

The weather this year was kind for early March. Steve set up nine stages for the match. Steve's stages are safe, fun, and interesting, but technically demanding. Even what looks to be a simple stage will have some twist to catch the unwary.

The first stage had 24 targets, four of which were clays, bobbing in and out of visibility, with a close no-shoot (shoot down a no-shoot and points are deducted from your score). After shooting down several plates and breaking the clays, the shooter opened a door activating a swinging arm with six plates held to it by a spring release mechanism. As plates are shot off, the entire arm swings and the key to shooting it well is to shoot it so that it swings the least amount.

Stage two comprised 24 plates spread in several shooting areas. The shooter could choose at which side of the range area he started, evening out any right-hander/left-hander inequalities.

The next stage was slug, 18 rounds against nine paper targets. Slug is always great fun to shoot, but competitors new to practical shooting often cannot shoot the slug stages, or they may not yet have the necessary authorisation.

One stage was shot from a difficult

shooting position on a wooden raft, and one seated on a rigidly fixed platform, feet on marks. There were two more awkward stages in the next bay, both very tricky and technical. One stage had three poppers, three clays, and three big plates but with three very tender no-shoots, the other had two huge no-shoot plates.

Perhaps the most difficult stage of the match came next. All 23 plates had to be shot from huge lorry tyres laid flat on the ground, with all movement on the tyres, a foot on the ground incurring a penalty. The best shooters skipped down this like young gazelles, but some of the old folk wobbled a bit.

The longest stage involved 24 plates with a choice of shooting positions and was a great blag.*

Almost 90 competitors shot the match, which is a credit to Steve's ingenuity and expertise. This bodes well for the future of the sport.

WINNERS

OPEN

1st	Richard Ingram	100
2nd	Ben Love	87.94
3rd	Mike Harvey	86.88

STANDARD MANUAL

1st	Iain Guy	100
2nd	Mick Flatley	91.46
3rd	Jon Holloway	90.66

STANDARD

1st	Mark Sienesi	100
2nd	Mike Darby	90.42
3rd	Jon Axe	81.64

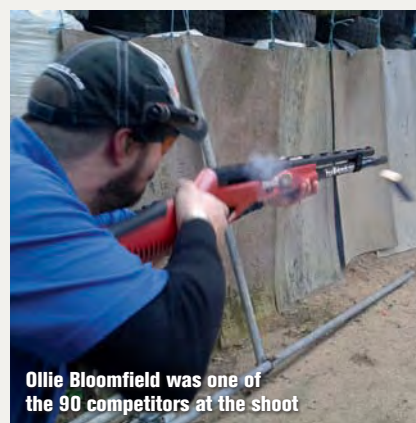
All participants are also entered into a prize draw and could win one of many superb prizes generously donated by Edgar Brothers, who should be applauded for supporting grass roots shooting.

For more details on Shield Shooting Centre please contact Steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk or for details on the NRA Shotgun League please contact james.harris@nra.org.uk

**Blag – slang for a lot of fun shooting quickly with little planning required*



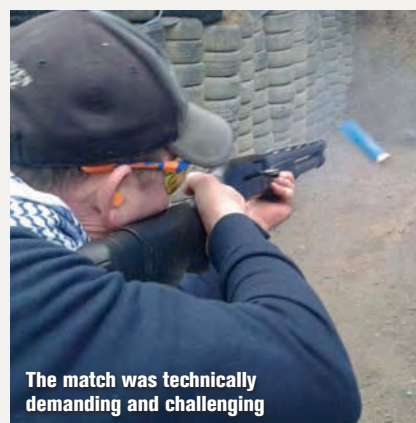
Dave Smith takes on the slug stage



Ollie Bloomfield was one of the 90 competitors at the shoot



Jon Holloway came third in Standard Manual after facing this testing series of stages



The match was technically demanding and challenging



There was certainly a wide range of tricky targets and varied situations for shooters like Adam Williams

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SHORT RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS DES PARR REPORTS ON THE F-CLASS NATIONAL LEAGUE SHORT RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT DIGGLE ON 21-22 MARCH

The Short Range Championships attracted 70 competitors, including a number of overseas shooters. This was a first for the National League: a charity match, with all entry fees donated to Leukaemia Research in recognition of the fundraising efforts of GB F-class competitor Hugh Forgie.

STAGE RESULTS

Stage 1 F/TR

1st, Matt Jarram, 88.4
2nd, Dean Wallace, 88.2
3rd, Steve Thornton, 87.5

Stage 2 F/TR

1st, Ian Chenery, 93.7
2nd, Rick Carless, 93.3
3rd, Billy McIntyre, 89.7

Stage 1 F/O

1st, Gary Costello, 96.6
2nd, Ian Boxall, 94.3

3rd, Robert Thompson, 94.3

Stage 2 F/O

1st, Gary Costello, 97.5
2nd, Steve Pultney, 96
3rd, Tony Marsh, 94.7

Stage 3 F/O

1st, Ian Boxall, 99.4
2nd, Paul Hill, 98.10
3rd, Richard Huby, 98.6

Stage 4 F/O

1st, Robert Thompson, 75.6
2nd, David Kent, 74.7
3rd, Tony Marsh, 73.5

Stage 3 F/TR

1st, Paul Burns, 97.5
2nd, Christoph Tscherswitschke, 94.4
3rd, Steve Donaldson, 94.2

Stage 4 F/TR

1st, Ross Opperman, 72.6
2nd, Ritchie Jones, 71.4
3rd, Elena Davis, 71.4

RESULTS

F/TR

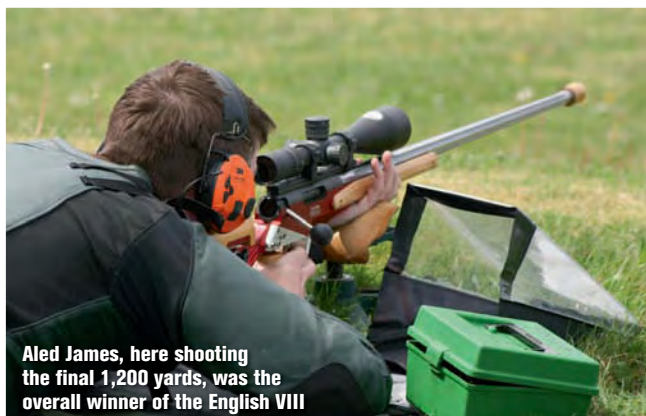
1st, Ian Chenery, 342.12
2nd, Steve Donaldson, 339.11
3rd, Matt Jarram, 334.16

F/Open

1st, Robert Thompson, 358.19
2nd, Gary Costello, 355.24
3rd, Tony Marsh, 354.21

The AGM

The main changes were as follows: Stuart Anselm was duly elected chairman and Les Holgate as vice-chairman. Gary Costello was elected as an ordinary member and myself, Des Parr, as secretary. Mik remains membership secretary and treasurer. Approval was given to using the Short Range Championships as our annual GBFCA fundraising event. Approval was also given to rebranding and re-launching the end-of-season League Match in November as the British F-class Championships. There were no items of contention at the AGM.



Alded James, here shooting the final 1,200 yards, was the overall winner of the English VIII



70 Match Rifle shooters competed at the meeting this year

ENGLISH VIII DIFFICULT CONDITIONS MADE THIS MATCH RIFLE COMPETITION ALL THE MORE CHALLENGING

The English VIII meeting on the 9-10 May saw 70 Match Rifle shooters compete against each other in tricky conditions. The quickly angling wind made many competitors wonder if this was the best weekend to start the season.

The Spring Meeting is the combined meeting for the English VIII, National Rifle Club of Scotland and Welsh Rifle Association and as such has a wide range of trophies to compete for. The competition was shot at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards – 15 shots to count at each distance on both days.

Welshman Alded James was certainly the overall winner this spring with 425.30ex-450, closely followed by fellow team member Ted Hobbs with 424.36. Top Scot was Angus McLeod with 423.42 in third place and top English shot was Rob Lygoe with 420.30 (fifth overall). The Saturday and 1,200 yards aggregates were also won by Alded James (212.16 and 142.10) and the Sunday aggregate by Rob Lygoe (217.18). The Ladies' trophy went to Hannah Fisher (404.35, 20th overall) and Cambridge University student Fergus Flanagan won the Under 25's trophy with 409.28.

NRA SHOTGUN LEAGUE ROUND THREE GEORGE GRANYCOME REPORTS ON THE ACTION AT ROMSEY SHOOTING CLUB

Romsey Shooting Club is a vibrant club with a focus on dynamic, action, and practical shotgun. The club holds competitive shoots every month at their home range and sometimes at friendly affiliated clubs. The home range is at Misholt Copse, set in coppiced woodland with a carpet of bluebells and primroses. Sited on an area of chalk downland, the copse has several swallow-holes where the underlying chalk has been dissolved leaving depressions, which make superb areas for arrays of shotgun targets.

It is a wonderful place for practical shotgun; competitions can be set up on any area of ground with sufficient safety margin for shot fallout, and approved ranges are not required for birdshot and buckshot as they are for slug.

The match is named the Andy Newman Memorial Competition in memory and tribute to Andy who died in January 2013 and who is sorely missed by us all. The overall winner, this year Mark Sienesi, does not get to keep the very elegant trophy, because after being inscribed with the winner's name it is placed on permanent display in the Old Sergeant's Mess at Bisley, one of many clubs on camp that is worth a visit for a pint or two after shooting.

There were nine stages, eight for

birdshot, and one for buckshot. The buckshot stage was a true test of accuracy and knockdown power of your selected buckshot. I believe that the buckshot target plates were actually cut from the armour plating of an old dreadnought battleship and they really did require you to aim well in order to obtain the best possible pattern on target.

In order to challenge various aspects of the competitor's competence, Mike Scarlett and his merry band of helpers had prepared a number of interesting stages. To test recoil control and good stance there was a stage shot from a wobbly platform mounted on springs. More than one person felt foul of this as they overestimated their abilities and shot way too fast, knocking down penalties left right and centre. To test the ability to load without looking, another stage had to be shot while moving across sleepers without stepping off and still keeping an eye out for targets dotted round behind old tree stumps. One of the more unusual stages had to be shot lying down, not something that is practised by many very often, if at all, and lead to more than a few rueful smiles from those that found themselves wondering why they hadn't practised it before.

Romsey always puts on a very good show and this was a breathtakingly good competition, with fine sunny weather in beautiful woodland. Almost 70 shooters attended, including some novices trying for the first time; a good turnout, which bodes well for the future of the sport. ■

RESULTS		
OPEN		
1st	Iain Guy	100
2nd	Jon Holloway	90.79
3rd	Bill Moore	90.25
STANDARD MANUAL		
1st	Mark Sienesi	100
2nd	Stuart Saunders	90.40
3rd	James Harris	89.46
STANDARD		
1st	Rupert Stanley	100
2nd	Richard Ingram	91.79
3rd	Cansh Pope	90.28





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Imperial advancement

Peter Cottrell looks forward to the myriad disciplines on offer at the 146th Imperial Meeting, held on 18 June – 18 July

The Imperial Meeting covers almost five weeks of competitive marksmanship, with teams and individuals from across the UK and around the world vying for the highest accolades in their discipline. The Imperial offers an exciting, challenging sporting environment for shooters from 14 years and up. Here's a rundown of the event:

MATCH RIFLE

The Match Rifle matches start on Pre-Friday (3 July) with any rifle extras at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards. The programme includes a prizegiving ceremony in the English VIII clubhouse immediately on completion of the Elcho on First Wednesday (8 July). The Elcho, for teams from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, is a tremendous spectator event. With no sighting shots permitted, the final distance at 1,200 yards is always key.

New under-25 prizes have been created this year in memory of Jeremy Peter-Hoblyn, who sadly died last August. These will be awarded in the Albert, Armourers, Edge and Weekend Aggregate, with two further prizes for the Peter-Hoblyn Aggregate awarded for those Under 25s making the highest combined Hopton (MR) and Grand Aggregate (TR) scores.

SERVICE SHOOTING

The NRA Service Rifle Individual matches, including the Queen Mary, will take place on Thursday 18 June. The United Service and International Team Matches will both take place on Tuesday 30 June on Century Range. Entry forms are available to download and all Service shooting HQs have copies for distribution to units.

The Tri-Service Operational Shooting Competitions will start a week earlier this year to allow for doubling the number of competitors. The MOD makes heavy use of Century during its training and competitions; training starts on Tuesday 16 June, so club bookings will be severely restricted or declined from this date. The Queen's Medal Final for the best shot in the Navy, RAF and Army, will be on Thursday 25 June, with the Army Reserve Final on the morning of Sunday 28 June. Thursday 25 June coincides with the joint NRA/ARA Adaptive Championship, which will be held on Melville Range. The Adaptive is an event for serving soldiers and veterans with varying levels of disability. If you want to assist this year as an RO, or come to support our troops, please let Shooting Division know.

CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

The CSR matches start on Wednesday 24 June with the Imperial Match. This match is a standalone event and does not form part of the CSR Individual Championship, which runs from Thursday 25 June to Saturday 27 June. There are no changes to the established matches, which are set out in the Bisley Bible. Entries can be made online via the NRA website.

The popular Falling Plates Competition will take place at Pirbright No.2 Range on Saturday 27 June from 6pm. Last year 34 teams took part in this knock-out event, which involves sprinting 100 yards to the 200 FP then knocking down ten 12" white plates. The combination of marksmanship and fitness makes for a challenging competition. As access to Pirbright is limited, we are planning to film the best bits this year and will share the results via the NRA website and Facebook page.

The Blue Riband team event within CSR is the NRA Methuen Cup Match, which will be held on Century Range butts 17-19 on Sunday 28 June from 1.30pm. Teams of six, including a strong French contingent, will compete in two classes: Modern and Historic.



IMPERIAL HISTORIC ARMS MEETING

Matches for historic arms will be staged over the weekend of Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 July, on Short Siberia and at BSRC. The meeting will include the most popular 100- and 200-yard events, and Classic Sporting Rifle. The final details are being confirmed and the entry form will be available shortly.

SCHOOLS MEETING

The Schools matches start on First Monday (6 July) with the Marlborough Cup, Cadet GP Rifle Match and the Marling all being staged on Pirbright ranges. At approximately 5.30pm the popular Falling Plates Match will take place on No.2 Range, Pirbright.

The Target Rifle elements will follow the same programme as previous years on Century range. The highlight of the week for Schools is Ashburton Day (Thursday 9 July). The Ashburton Fours has been amended and is only open to schools that do not have sufficient cadet numbers present to enter an Ashburton VIII team. The Schools vets will follow the Ashburton on Century from 5.30pm.

The McQueen will continue to run from Monday 6 July in its traditional location in front of the 300m shed on butt 10. The NRA's Accuracy International AT rifles proved popular last year and will be in action again. A special prize was introduced in 2014 for the top cadet in McQueen A (issued rifle), kindly donated by Martin Camp, the RO of the McQueen.

GALLERY RIFLE & PISTOL

GR&P competitions will run on Melville between First Wednesday and Middle Sunday (8-12 July). Individual and team medal competitions are available throughout the meeting, with squadded trophy matches on the Saturday and Sunday. The meeting offers a complete range of sighting options to suit all tastes and interests – it's best to consult the Bisley Bible for details.

Medal matches are available for unlimited re-entry throughout the meeting, including Scott, America, T&P1, Multi-Target, Advancing Target, Granet and Silhouette.

All stats and scoring will be carried out at Melville Range.

F-CLASS

The F-Class programme has been condensed into five days of shooting, from First Friday (10 July) to Second Tuesday (14 July). The idea is to allocate an entire butt for the matches and squad all F-Class competitors together across two details, making for a more inclusive and indeed fair competition with similar light and wind conditions.

The F-Class Grand Aggregate will be the sum of all shoots taking place on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

The Queen's Prize has been re-named the Farquharson to recognise the original founder of F-Class, and together with the St George's, new badges have been designed for the eight finalists in each class – F/Open and F/TR. Both matches will be held on Tuesday 14 July, along with the F-Class International Match.

Prize Giving will take place at 2.30pm on Tuesday 14 July in the Umbrella Tent.

TARGET RIFLE

With new ammunition this year and entry costs down by around 7.5 per cent for teams and individuals, plus a hefty 40 per cent discount for under-25s, there are plenty of incentives to take part in at least some of the TR competitions. The Middle Weekend (11 and 12 July) offers a good selection of events for those keen to get a taste of Bisley. Matches at 300, 500, 600, 900 and 1,000 yards are all available, with the Weekend Aggregate including five prizes for tyros.

The main team events are the National on Thursday 16 July, the Kolapore on the morning of Friday 17 July on Century, and the Mackinnon on Final Saturday, 18 July, at 900 and 1,000 yards on Stickedown.

On Saturday 18 July, the top 100 TR shooters will compete at 900 and 1,000 yards for the honour of being crowned the winner of the Queen's Prize. The winner is carried from the range by fellow competitors, accompanied by a marching band.

Entry forms and match conditions can be found on the NRA website or in the Bisley Bible. If you have any questions please contact Shooting Division. ■



Entry costs are down for the Imperial TR events this year



The 2014 Kolapore match



Handgun League at the Phoenix

Practical Pistol returns to the Phoenix with round two of the NRA Handgun League. James Harris reports

The Phoenix meeting has for many years been the highlight of the Gallery Rifle and Pistol shooters' calendar with a multiplicity of events and a trade show to browse when not shooting. It attracts people from all over the UK and beyond, with teams from Germany and South Africa notable in both their presence and achievements in the competitions.

This year the meeting had another attraction: round two of the NRA Handgun League sponsored by Edgar Brothers, which heralded the return of practical pistol to the Whitsun weekend shooting extravaganza. For many years long barrelled pistol and revolver (LBP/

LBR) owners had to travel far and wide if they wished to shoot a practical match. Generally these were small affairs, in a single club range consisting of the same targets shot in a number of different sequences (with some notable exceptions such as the outstanding events put on by Frome and Shield). So the organisers of the Phoenix were determined to put on the best show possible, with event planning starting in the depths of winter.

The 10 stages were designed to fit snugly around the three bays of butt zero and careful use of activator mechanisms and vision screens meant 70 targets and 20 or so penalty targets were used to ensure a challenging and fun match

built to high standards. A clear range had to be maintained for the Bianchi match until 6pm on the Saturday, which meant some late evening setting up by a host of enthusiastic volunteers ably supported by permanent NRA staff.

Sunday was a glorious day to be outside shooting for the 40 or so competitors. The Bianchi complex on butt zero lends itself well to this type of match but the longest target distance is restricted to approximately 25m, though this is not such an issue given the limitations of many of the pistols in use and the fact that the competitor is normally allowed to close the distance onto the targets. This match was biased

towards short-range targets to be shot at speed with the majority of them at 8m or less.

Space does not permit the full description of all the stages however mention must be made of stage 10 with its ingenious disappearing targets and awkward shooting positions. Starting anywhere within the stage, competitors were forced to adopt a semi-kneeling/crouching position to shoot to the left and right of a barricade. In some cases they also had to swap hands and shoot with their weak hand to obtain a clear sight picture of the targets, before opening a hatch that activated the mechanism to exchange one set of targets for another. This last shooting position challenged many and remaining dignified while shooting upwards through a low aperture was definitely second place to hitting the targets. From the ungainly and awkward to the simple and graceful, shooting on stage two, which comprised 10 targets requiring 20 shots and a run of about 12 metres, times were generally around the 10-second mark and there were smiles from every competitor.

Another first for the Phoenix was the use of real time data entry for the scoring. Each squad was issued a touchscreen tablet to record the times and scores as called out by the Range Officer. This enabled the results to be produced minutes after the last shot had been fired and emailed to the meeting director well in advance of the prize giving; another advantage of the recently upgraded Bisley Camp Wi-Fi system.



Shooters had to be quick on their feet for the 12m run at stage two



This was the largest such event in mainland UK for almost 20 years

Although too late for inclusion, the prize list will be published online. Additionally, every competitor of the NRA Handgun League will be entered into a draw for one of two GSG 1911 LBPs, generously donated by Edgar Brothers as part of their commitment to grass roots shooting and the long-term future of the sport. These pistols were very much in evidence on the day and are popular among the competitors.

If the attendance at this event is anything to go by then the intent of the NRA Handgun League to promote shooting and encourage participation appears to be working. The next match in the League will be at Bisley on the 9 August and for those making a weekend of it there will be a Bianchi match on 8 August; two great events over a summer weekend, what more can you ask for? ■

If you are interested in taking part in the NRA Handgun League, or hosting a match at your club, please contact the League director, James Harris, james.harris@nra.org.uk

RESULTS		
LBP STANDARD		
1st	Nick Towndrow	100%
2nd	Graham Searle	91.154%
3rd	Jon Axe	88.631%
LBP OPEN		
1st	Andy Haines	100%
2nd	John Chambers	82.660%
3rd	Neil Brooklyn	77.322%
LBP LIMITED		
1st	Richard Clifton	100%
2nd	John Crouch	86.519%
3rd	Steve Lee	58.551%
REVOLVER OPEN		
1st	John Chambers	100%
2nd	Martin Hale	78.15%
3rd	Steve Denton	71.22%

Shooters, are you ready?

NRA marketing and communications manager Katia Malcaus Cooper looks at how you can get competition ready with 'Intro to' discipline days

When I first joined the National Rifle Association just over a year ago I was a total novice, having never shot before. I walked into a completely different world, where shooting is divided into disciplines and each discipline championed by its own representative. The disciplines are varied and the personalities behind them colourful, always enthusiastic and encouraging.

I remember meeting the reps and feeling overwhelmed by the information thrown at me. TR, MR, TS, GR&P, CSR; how do you get to know them all? How do you decide which discipline is for you?

So I was candid and told the reps that I was new to shooting but keen to learn and help them promote and grow their discipline, and so my journey began.

As soon as the Imperial Meeting was over I started my probationary training. I remember sitting in the classroom and looking around. Many of my fellow probationers had already decided what they wanted to do, but I was still pondering my options. Short-range or long-range shooting – which was going to get me hooked?

Being in the privileged position I was in, I decided to have a go at as many as I could, and by December I had passed my probationary course, did my three registered shoots and became a full member of the NRA.

I felt proud of myself and I remember showing off my cards to a close friend who could not understand what the big deal was. Of course, he had been doing it for decades, but for me as a newbie, it meant

I could now go and book a range and enter a competition.

Well, that was daunting. I had spoken to hundreds of people who told me that the best way to get good fast is to enter competitions. But aren't competitions meant to be for people who know what they are doing – and are really good at it?

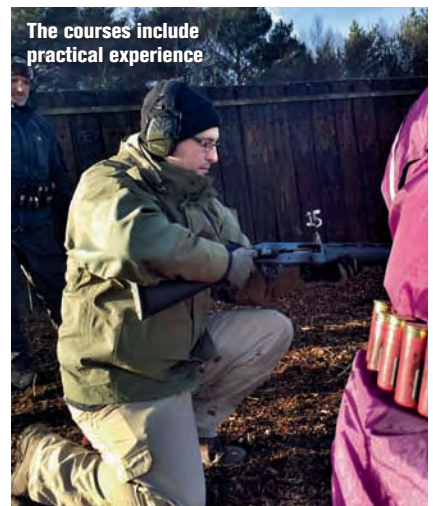
I put the question to Peter Cottrell, head of the Shooting and Training Division. He said, "The best way to pick up the pace is to enter competitions. Although the ROs can't coach you during the event, they are always happy to help a new shooter, and other competitors will be on hand to give you pointers and guide you in the right direction."

Peter then pointed out that the 'Intro to' discipline days are also a very effective way to get to know a particular shooting type and gain some competition training. We agree that the name does not roll off the tongue; perhaps they should be called 'Skills Days' as this would be a better representation of what the courses are about.

"You take a competent shooter and introduce them to the skillsets needed to compete in a particular discipline," said Peter.

In January 2015 the probationary course was changed to the current format; it now includes more hands-on experience with firearms maintenance, zeroing, range experience, plus other skills – but 2015 also saw the launch of a comprehensive set of 'Intro to' discipline days.

We arranged six 'Intro to' discipline days in the first three months of the year, with more planned for the autumn.



The courses include practical experience



You'll get one-on-one coaching on the use of your chosen firearm

"You take a competent shooter and introduce them to the skillsets needed to compete"



An 'Intro to: Civilian Service Rifle' discipline day, helping these shooters get to grips with CSR

Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Civilian Service Rifle and Target Shotgun were the three disciplines on offer and the courses proved extremely successful, with one discipline selling out all three days very quickly. So what is the idea of a discipline day? I spoke to the people behind the courses to find out.

Neil Francis: Gallery Rifle

The 'Intro to: Gallery Rifle' course will provide the fundamental skills for taking part in GR events and competitions, and will include individual coaching of positional shooting techniques. The course is open to all Gallery Rifle shooters including those who do not currently hold an FAC or possess the appropriate firearm, but feel they have reached an appropriate level of competence in basic firearm handling to progress to a more competitive level.

The course will involve both classroom and practical range work, with expert coaching from national and international level shooters. Be aware we can offer no 'magic fix' that will cure bad

habits, only ways of overcoming them and slowly improving.

Peter Cottrell: Civilian Service Rifle

The one-day 'Intro to: Civilian Service Rifle' course provides a balance of theory and practical skills, giving attendees the confidence to take part in this dynamic and popular form of target shooting. The classroom sessions cover the background to CSR, the types of firearms in use and discussion and demonstrations of the types of shooting involved. The range work includes one-on-one coaching by some of the best shooters in the discipline, with lots of advice about shooting from positions other than prone. Short validation shoots, scored back for the benefit of shooters, follow grouping practices. Typically the course is classroom based from 8.30-10.00am, then on the range at 100, 200 and 300 yards. A lunch break is included in the cost, which gives an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and discuss elements of CSR.

James Harris: Target Shotgun

The 'Intro to: Target Shotgun' course is designed to introduce existing shooters to Target Shotgun in a structured way and allow them to benefit from on-range and classroom tuition. Particular emphasis is made on the safety aspect of the discipline, which has more variables than conventional single projectile disciplines.

Discipline days not only promote the sport but also encourage participation in competitions. While many people shoot for personal enjoyment, the competitive environment encourages the honing of skills and gives shooters a chance to interact with like-minded individuals. It is the enjoyment of the sport and the willingness of many of its participants to coach and assist new comers that has kick-started its growth.

Currently shotgun target shooting (aside from clay pigeon shooting) is not widely available. The NRA is keen to ensure that all shooting sports have the support they need to flourish. It is planning to hold an increased number of competitions to act as a focal point and generate interest in this form of target shooting.

We currently run 'Intro to' discipline days in Civilian Service Rifle, Target Shotgun and Gallery Rifle and Pistol, but key members of the Target Rifle disciplines are in discussion with the NRA, with the aim of starting TR skills courses.

The courses run between September and March and cost £70. Details can be found on the NRA website. ■

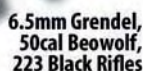


Preparing for a lesson in Target Shotgun



Guidance from experts can be invaluable to those new to a discipline

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Treasury report

Derek Lowe, NRA treasurer, reports on the association's financial situation



As I reach two years in office, I am pleased to report a healthy financial standing for the NRA, allowing a number of investments in facilities and services for our members' and corporate clients' wide variety of shooting.

The NRA's financial performance in 2014 can be seen in our audited accounts, which are available on the NRA website following their publication in March. Highlights include:

- Increase in revenue to £5.27m from £5.07m in 2013
- Increase in surplus to £430k, versus £341k in 2013
- Closing cash balance of £394k, versus £398k at year-end 2013

In our policies around pricing and investment, the trustees have a complex balance to strike between various competing objectives, including the

retention of cash to make the NRA more financially resilient, and the reinvestment of cash in facilities that will serve NRA members and clients in the nearer future.

Pricing

To preserve affordability, any increase in pricing for most services is being capped at inflation over a three-year period, thus avoiding real-terms price rises for that time. Taking the opportunity to change ammunition supplier for the target rifle events in the Imperial Meeting has provided a saving of up to 7.5 per cent (approximately 9.5 per cent in real terms) in online entry fees for 2015, compared to 2014. A combination of surpluses and greater accuracy in management information have allowed us to apply a 40 per cent discount to fees for all Under 25 entrants in the Imperial Meeting and other events and training.

Investment

Closing 2014 with a similar bank balance demonstrates the extent of our reinvestment, which is explained further by the cash flow statement: £746k generated from operations (£478k in 2013), ploughed back in almost equally to capital expenditure and investment (£749k in 2014 versus £257k in 2013).

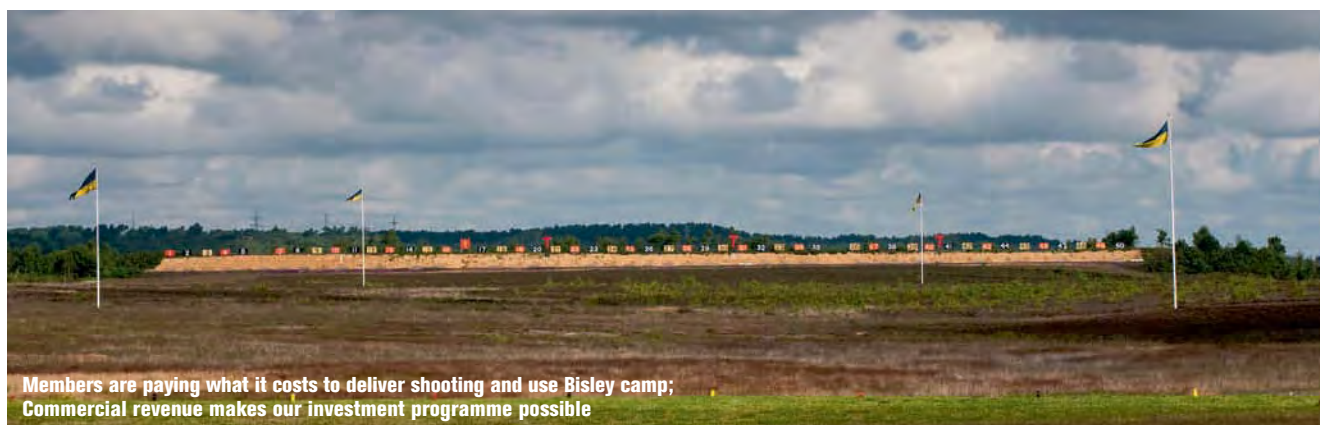
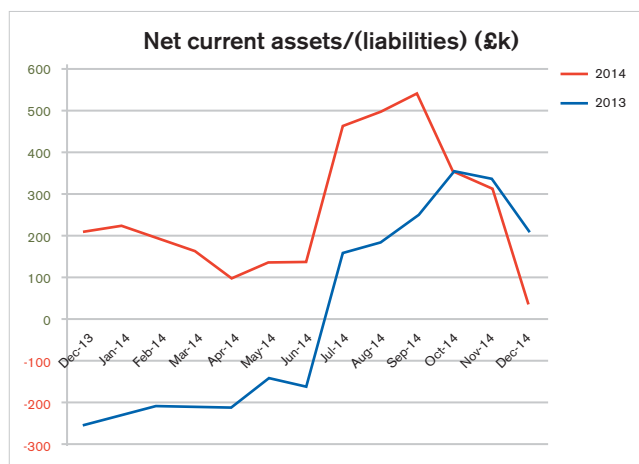
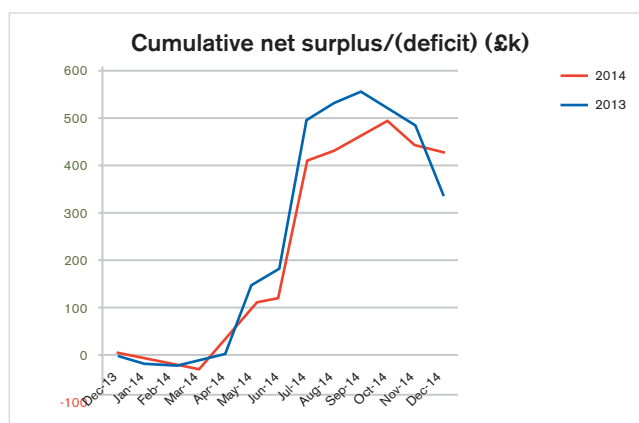
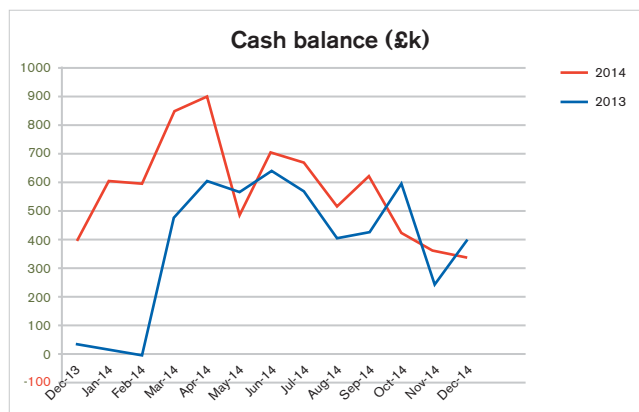
This money invested in our facilities corresponded broadly with the NRA's revenue from commercial clients. This demonstrates that the shooting activity of members and the use of Bisley Camp have together been priced to an approximate break-even point. Two conclusions follow from this: firstly, we members are paying what it costs to deliver our shooting and other uses of Bisley Camp; and secondly, commercial revenue is what makes our investment programme possible.

Strong finances have allowed the association to invest in facilities and services for its members

In this context, a surplus of £430k is modestly positive for an organisation with revenues around £5m, exposed to seasonal influences and budgeted for well ahead of each year.

I've highlighted in the past the importance placed by the trustees on effective communication around finances: within management for operational effectiveness; among the trustees for oversight, direction and support; and out to the NRA General Council and individual members for transparency and to foster enfranchisement. Reports can be found on www.nra.org.uk by searching under 'treasurer' & 'accounts' and also in the Summer Journal from 2014.

The trustees' thanks go, once again, to the Support Services team for timely and effective accounts presented monthly to the trustees and very promptly following each year-end for audit. Alongside this article you can see examples of the user-friendly format of management account headlines (forming the first of a six-page monthly pack). These concentrate on the three principal measurements chosen by the trustees to monitor financial performance: accumulated surplus during the year, cash balance and net current assets.



Members are paying what it costs to deliver shooting and use Bisley camp; Commercial revenue makes our investment programme possible

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High-tech targetry

James Harris visits Salisbury Plain Training Area to investigate the new SARTS training courses being offered by the NRA

Operational decisions made at a local level mean that any club wishing to use MOD ranges equipped with a Small Arms Range Targetry System (SARTS) may need to demonstrate that they have undergone training on the use of the equipment. Clubs should also be able to provide a competent operator for the console. It is important that the RCO who is responsible for the conduct of the shooting does not also operate the console, as this distracts them from their main duty, though the RCO should be familiar with the apparatus and preferably have had training in its use.

After long negotiation with the MOD it has been agreed that the NRA may carry out the required training using instructors who have undergone a course run by the supplier Lockheed Martin.

SARTS is gradually replacing the old Electric Target Range (ETR) equipment on many training complexes across the country. To resolve any shortfalls in competency that could prevent access to these facilities, a short training session

covering the startup and operating procedures is required.

The SARTS system is far more complex than the old fall-when-hit ETR. It has a different shot-sensing system based on pressure waves rather than a hit sensor on the target. There are six piezoelectric pressure gauges mounted on the sensor bar in two triangular arrays, one on either side of the target. The equipment can accommodate a wide variety of different targets made from metal, wood or plastic. However, the familiar old aluminum fig 11s and 12s will be the most commonly seen.

Located within the range control building, the control console is no longer a big green box with flick switches and tick-over counters on it, but a desktop computer and the usual peripherals. It receives data from the targets by either hardwire connections or radio link. Most ranges will be either the ET(CG)R or ordinary ETR type with the hardwire link.

This is the part of the system that requires some training. However, once the

main 'dos and don'ts' are made clear, it is simple to operate for any person familiar with common office computer operating systems. Just remember to never select 'emergency stop' unless it is an emergency.

Each target array transmits back the offset distance of the passing shots from the sensors, which enables the SARTS software to trilaterate the location of the shot relative to the preset target centre. This does mean, however, that the targets have to be installed correctly and the offsets programmed into the main console each time they are exchanged with those of a different pattern.



Inside the range control building, a desktop computer is used to control the SARTS



The group receive certificates proving they have undergone SARTS training



Every student gets the chance to use the SARTS console

To reduce the operator workload and fully exploit the capabilities of the system, there are a number of preset programs that can be selected to suit the operational training needs of the MOD users. Regrettably most of these are not suitable for club use and there is no facility to create custom programs on the day. So most club shooting will be carried out using the 'manual' control, which allows the operator to select combinations of targets and set them to bob or fall when hit, but timing needs to be by wristwatch. On the upside, the fall of every shot on target is plotted and the system will also detect shots in proximity, up to approximately 1.5m, that will permit zeroing at multiple distances from one lane and also reduce the requests for spotters.

The first training course for clubs was held at Bulford B range on Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) on 14 March for members of Frome and District Pistol Club (FDPC).

Bulford B range has targets at 100, 200 and 300m from the control building and the capability to fall back from the firing point to 600m. This of course means that there is no exit from the building when firing is in progress. The course assembled promptly before sitting through a demonstration and Q&A session on the system, which was slightly hampered by the equipment not being fully functional. It is imperative to inspect the equipment on arrival and ensure that all of it,



The system can also be controlled via handheld portable consoles

including those items that may not be used, are free of defects and that any faults are reported immediately. Failure to do this may result in clubs being unfairly blamed for damage and lead to access problems in the future.

To fully understand the operation of the system, a number of live firing practice details were carried out. All students performed the role of console operator in turn, though it is clear that those on the firing point were having more fun, even though they were getting rained on!

As previously mentioned, the system is really very simple to operate if you are familiar with modern computer operating systems, though there are a few foibles to the shot detection system that result in duplication of hits on targets at variable

distance. This may complicate competitive use if some thought is not given to the course of fire, though once familiar with the system the operators should be able to accommodate for this.

Another problem is the ability to expend ammunition very fast. With cartridge boxes emptying and the clouds darkening, the course wound up early in the afternoon – but not before carefully shutting the system down without using the emergency stop button. If selected, this trips the circuit breakers on all the targets, which then have to be reset manually, thus closing the entire range complex and invoking the ire of the wardens.

Any club requiring SARTS training should contact Peter Cottrell via Shooting Division. ■

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The Return of 1500

Ted George offers some background to the thriving international pistol competition circuit in the early 1990s and proposes a much-needed revitalisation



The GR&P sub-committee will decide a list of potential competitors

History

Around 1993 Dave Ballantyne and I set up a 1500 pistol team and a selection/training process with the approval of the NPA, NRA and British Pistol Club (BPC). At the time Great Britain was the leader in this discipline outside of America where, other than in a few organised matches, 1500 was accepted as a training shoot and competition for police and security personnel. Other European countries were keen on the discipline, with the Bund der Militär-und Polizeischützen (BDMP) shooting it and Belgium and Czechoslovakia following soon after.

The international competitions ran from 1993 until the loss of pistols and the dissolution of the NPA in 1997-1998. The 1500 was marked down with Bianchi for inclusion in the 2000 Sydney Olympics; a team from GB was selected and funding approved. Sadly, because of the ban, it did not happen. Since then, some of the shooters in the original team

who still participate in international competitions have 'donned the shirt' and represented the country as a make-up team of best scores at the event.

During the period between 1993-1997 the teams that were entered won four team gold medals in the four-man event and two golds, one silver and one bronze in the pairs event.

Present day

During the last 15 years a World 1500 Association has been formed and the number of countries shooting the associated matches has grown, now including Russia, South Africa, Germany, Belgium, Australia, the USA and Norway.

Every two years a World Championship is held in one of the member countries: Sweden this year in August, then Germany in two



The NRA is enthusiastically supporting the revival of this discipline

years' time. Long-barrelled revolvers can be used for training, with some modifications, and for some events .22 pistols can also be used. Some pistols are stored in Europe for use in the matches if required.

Now looks like a good time to revive the 1500 team and give it a more official standing. Speaking as the appointed coach for the team back in 1993, we can achieve scores to challenge the other competing countries and with some training even beat them.

Since the ban on pistols I have worked with various groups shooting 1500 in other European countries, putting together training plans, assessing the individual's faults and suggesting ways of training them out of the technique. These countries are now putting in good and consistent match grade scores. The training notes I put together have been used by Germany, Sweden and Southern Ireland to good effect. I firmly believe we could put a core team together that would be capable of challenging for the medals at a future World Championship.

Training and team selection

Training would be inclusive to everyone shooting competitively in the UK. There are numerous competitions around the country including Mattersey, Derby, Basildon and Bristol as well as the Bisley GRAWs including the GR&P National Championships in August. Additionally, and new for 2015, there is a Scottish 1500 championship match to be held in Aberdeen on 2 August.

I am proposing that competitors with a Match 5 score above 578 would be able to gain an invitation to join the squad where the coaching team would work with these individuals. Teams at these international WA events are two-person for the revolver matches and semi-auto. We have in the region of 25 people entering competitions in Sweden over the long weekend of 13-16 August. For many this is simply for the pure enjoyment of taking part in international competition. Registered scores from most competing are not high enough to make it into any sort of GB first team, but we have half

a dozen or so that would be suitable candidates for the four spaces available.

The GR&P sub-committee will decide a short list of potential members for the first team; criteria for performance in the individual matches at national circuit competitions will be key in making the final selection.

The NRA is enthusiastic about the venture and will offer Goodwill Team status should the team apply. Range space for training is available at a number of ranges, donated to help the formation of a national pistol team. The team would also eventually seek sponsorship to help with the cost. ■

For information about international 1500 competition shooting see the WA website at www.wa1500.org. For more information on the World Championships see www.ppc1500wc2015.se.

We can achieve scores to challenge the other competing countries

The pistol ban may have dashed GB's hopes in 1998, but we could still be an international competitor in 1500 pistol



The future of GR&P

Ted George investigates a new course aimed to help clubs train their own GR&P instructors

A lot of gallery rifle and pistol clubs are insular in their thinking and do nothing to encourage members to enter competition. They are in their comfort zone, have 'old Harry' to look after new members, the books balance at the end of the year – why do more? There is talent around the country but it is not developed – it has no direction and goes to waste.

We hear comments such as, "I'm not good enough," "I don't know anything about the competitions," "I don't know what to do if I enter," "The club I shoot at only 'plink' at precision targets," "No one at the club seems interested," "We have no one at the club to show us how to enter competitions or improve," and "I'd have to go to Bisley for 'x' number of weekends and I can't afford the time and cost."

The Gallery Rifle & Pistol Discipline has considered these, and agree. For clubs in the north and east it is time-consuming and costly to send people to Bisley to do an instructors' course. There are no technique courses – it's like being lost in a maze. None of this is good for the sport.

We have put together a group of instructor-run courses around the country for clubs and groups. The courses will be run as cheaply as possible just to cover expenses – all we need is a venue capable of setting up a screen and projector, seating for those taking part, and a range to put theory into practice. This should make it economical for clubs to get some quality basic instructors. In time we plan on running technique courses for pistol and gallery rifle – it is now 17 years since we lost pistols and with national teams running once more, we need to teach shooters these skills of shooting these again.

The basic course will cover the following;

Day 1

Gallery rifle – safety and firearms handling; basic techniques with a .22 sporting rifle; stance with rifle standing; grip/hand position; trigger; sights and aiming; breathing; firing the shot; follow-through; faults in technique; different disciplines; use of underlever

Day 2

Revolver & Pistol Techniques – stance; grip; sights; aiming; trigger release; breathing; follow through.

Black powder; Techniques for different disciplines

Day 3

How people learn. Instruction techniques – Involve the person/people; break the section down into small segments with practical sessions; teach, don't indoctrinate, think of a course you have been on that you enjoyed; tell them how you want the task carried out and not how not to do it, give positive feedback to build confidence

What affects how a person performs – A bad journey to the session, problems at work or at home, alcohol, eating before the



The course offers a solution for clubs wanting to train their own GR&P instructors



A fourth day can be used for putting theory into practice



It is hoped that the course will encourage more people to shoot GR&P competitively

session (blood is then used to digest food and robs the brain of oxygen). The person needs to concentrate on the shot being fired, not what has gone or what is to come. The course will also promote physical relaxation; mental relaxation; visualisation; mental rehearsal; keeping positive shooting records; and a positive attitude.

The course can be tailored to suit individual needs. If you have any questions ask, we want to get more people involved in the sport. ■

Contact us via www.galleryrifle.com or [ted.george52@gmail.com](mailto:t.ed.george52@gmail.com).

Success in South Africa

The GB Under 19 rifle team travelled to South Africa for the Open Bisley Championships. Simon Fraser reports

On 29 March the GB U19 rifle team arrived in Johannesburg, ready for the 2015 South African Open Bisley Championships. After a few days for sightseeing and climatisation, the team headed to Bloemfontein for eight days of intense competition.

On the first match day the team shot at 300, 500 and 600m in the morning in the Free State Bisley matches. The South African heat, compared to the team's normal shooting conditions, caused some apprehension. After lunch the team shot at 800m and 900m and the intensity of the conditions hit hard. Despite the circumstances they came away with seven medals from the Free State Individual Bisley.

The next day the team were tired from the intense shooting, but perked up for the pairs match at 300, 600 and 800m. Katie Milner and Adam Partridge won the Under 19 pairs category. The pressure was mounting so the Commandant advised the team on the importance of keeping a positive mental attitude. Next the U19s shot the Scottish Sword competition at 300, 600 and 900m and the advice seemed to have worked. A better attitude resulted

in a steady improvement in scores.

The following Monday was the first day of the Grand, beginning with the Free State Cup at 300m and 600m followed by the Municipal Cup at 800m. The wind wasn't being too tricky that day but some of the team still hadn't got to grips with the different flags and mirage.

The next day the team shot at 300m and 600m for the Dalrymple Cup and the wind stayed calm. Then they moved back to 900m for the Dave Smith Cup and the wind woke up. Adam Partridge, however, shot his way to a merit with 46.1.

Wednesday started with the Jack Mitchley Cup at 300m then moved back to 600 and 800 for the Presidents Cup. After lunch it was time for the RSA Junior International Match. Everyone looked fully focused and on the ball during set-up. The team gave it their best shot but the wind conditions were extremely tricky and the South African Juniors beat them by nine V-bulls, 804.36 to 804.27. The SA Juniors were presented with their deserved gold medals, having won their first match against GB U19 for many years.

Thursday was the last day of the Grand with 2 and 7s at 300, 500 and 600m in the morning in calmer wind. Here, Saxon

Brewer-Merchant's 48.2 was a highlight. The team then shot the Kings Norton Cup at 600m and the wind went back to its usual tricky state in time for the Col R Bodley Memorial match at 900m.

The following day was the State Presidents second stage in the morning at 300, 500 and 600m. The wind ensured the team weren't too relaxed. In the afternoon, they had a well-earned rest.

On Saturday the team rose early to set up without rushing for the Junior International Protea match. When the SA Juniors finished shooting, scores were totalled and the GB U19s had won by 24 points and 20 V-bulls, 844.64 to 820.44.

In the afternoon, Katie Milner, Adam Partridge, Saxon Brewer-Marchant and Daniel Clark shot in the State Presidents Final, 2 and 15s at 800m and 900m. At the prizegiving the whole team was presented with medals and the Junior Protea trophy. This concluded the team's time in South Africa.

The U19s were successful in their shooting and more importantly, enjoyed the experience of shooting in a completely different environment among new friends. It was a remarkable tour thoroughly enjoyed by all. ■

The South African heat was a stark contrast to the usual shooting conditions for the GB team

GB U19s and SA Juniors get together after the Junior Protea match



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Club member Richard tests his new .50 cal at Sennybridge F Range



Engaging hard targets at around 2,000 yards in the snow at Warcop



Spotting at 600 yards on the Kingsbury A Range

Disciplines: Various

Location: Kingsbury, Llansilin, Sennybridge, Warcop, Lydd Camp and Warminster

Contact: www.offasrifleclub.com or contact the Hon Secretary, John Masefield on john@fcsa.co.uk, 01902 731249

OFFA'S DYKE RIFLE CLUB

Offa's Dyke Rifle Club (ODRC) was established in 1992 by a group of shooters requiring more than what was being offered by traditional rifle clubs at that time. Mr SJ Clark, along with Mr MP Allen and Mr J Masefield, headed the founding members. Others were brought in as required, to comply with NRA affiliation and obtain Home Office approval.

Starting with about 30 members from a catchment area spanning the Midlands and Wales, the club endeavoured to cover a wide range of rifle disciplines, using various MOD ranges to achieve its purpose. The club name was derived from its first regular range at Llansilin, west of Oswestry, where the old border of Wales and England passes through, part of the famous Offa's Dyke.

ODRC continues to grow, specialising in high muzzle energy usage on the appropriate ranges for extra long range (1,000 yards plus). The use of field firing areas allows the club to use up to .50 BMG and tracer ammunition in all legal calibres, along with the use of reactive targets – which is invaluable for distance and windage estimation.

Ranges used are located in Cumbria, Wiltshire, Kent, Midlands and South Wales, and are shared with the ODRC's sister club, Fifty Calibre Shooting Association UK (FCSA), which is dedicated to the use of .50 BMG and other large calibres, providing the correct training for their use as best possible, within the restrictions imposed by the Firearms Act. The club is continually campaigning for this to be changed, so that training and certification in firearm use is obtained before the police constabulary concerned grants acquisition.

This combined use also helps make range usage more economically viable. Both clubs now share the same accredited training manual, designed for both the probationary member as well as full members wishing to cover different aspects of rifle shooting, as provided by the clubs.

Regular safety and range awareness courses are provided to advise members of what is required by both club and shooter to obtain the use of the available ranges. Basic ammunition handloading and first aid courses are provided, with the club supporting experienced members wishing to gain their Range Conducting Officer qualification.

The club officials believe ODRC offers excellent value by covering such a wide variety of rifle disciplines and the use of ranges that the MOD can offer. Several of its members compete at local, national and international level, with FCSA members now regularly competing in the 1,000-yard World Championship in the USA.

SHIELD SHOOTING CENTRE

Shield Shooting Centre has been running for the best part of 30 years and has grown to be the premier club to join for Action/Practical shooting.

The club was first formed in 1985 as the Bride Valley shooting club under the watchful eye of John Hockaday who helped with all the planning, building and NRA range approval for the club. The members, ably assisted by Weymouth Fullbore Club, set about building the ranges on the site of some derelict workers' cottages. These works were significant in scale and the ranges are a testament to the hard work of the volunteers, notably Steve Pike himself and long-time supporter Chris Palmer.

In 1990 the ranges were expanded to accommodate more competitors and the club became known as Shield. However, the perennial problem of noise meant that in 1992 Steve and the team had to

carry out further works at short notice to satisfy the local authority and to ensure the continued existence of the club.

Surrounded by rolling farmland, there are 10 ranges to 25m, all of which are certified for pistol calibres and solid slug, allowing it to host the largest Action/Practical matches held in the UK as well as being an excellent training facility for this type of shooting.

The recently built clubhouse is well equipped with catering facilities, and on match days hot meals are available. There is an on-site shop and, thanks to good relations with the trade, virtually anything the shooter may need can be obtained if not actually held in stock.

Thanks to a twinning agreement with other local clubs, fullbore rifles can be used on local MOD ranges and these days are run monthly (subject to MOD requirements).

Run by Steve Pike and family, the club caters for a broad range of members from absolute beginners to top-level

competitors who regularly make use of the facilities. Shield has a long history of providing training to new shooters in every aspect of shooting, with the main focus on short-range events such as GR&P, Action/Practical, Steel Challenge and stalking/pest control. Reloading tuition is also available, and in addition to the in-house coaches, visiting instructors from the NRA help with courses.

Competitions are held every month from March to November in Action/Practical Shotgun, Mini-rifle, Practical Pistol, Multi-gun, Steel Challenge and the annual Solid Slug Competition. The Shield summer challenge is the largest Action/Practical Shotgun match in the UK and has been for almost 20 years. Held in the first weeks of June, it runs over 2 days and makes full use of all the facilities and the surrounding farmland, which ensures it is a challenging and top quality shooting event.

The ranges are open to members every day from 10am until 5pm and for those making a long weekend of it there are various B&Bs in the locality, many of which are quite used to hosting shooters visiting the club. Shield is a club for shooters of all abilities and has a welcoming and fun atmosphere.

Disciplines: Action/Practical, Gallery Rifle and Pistol, and Target Shotgun

Location: Dorset

Contact: Steve Pike on 01308 482626 or steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk



A truckload of fun: the Summer Shield Challenge, 2014



The club prides itself on hosting fun and challenging competitions



The new range being tested out at Looke Farm circa 1985

THE HIGHPOWER RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The HRA was formed in 2000 by a group of like-minded shooters who were looking for another outlet for their shooting. They had all been shooting together in the National Practical Rifle League, which had grown in popularity after the 1997 handgun ban.

As most of the group had been competing with the earliest versions of UK-spec AR15 rifles, many looked towards our cousins in the USA for accuracy tips and enhancements, and this led invariably to a discipline called Across the Course shooting (XTC) or Highpower Rifle.

Wanting to know more, several of the group contacted shooters in America to find out more about it, and the discipline started to take a foothold among a group of shooters. Around the same time, many of these shooters who were still actively shooting in the Practical Rifle League, and also a couple from the earlier Civilian Service Rifle meetings, were given the opportunity to form teams to compete alongside the army in the Methuen Cup competition.

From these early acorns the idea was born to form their own club and the

Highpower Rifle Association was created, affiliated to the NRA and given Home Office approval. In the early days the popularity of Highpower Rifle grew and the association saw a considerable influx of new members, many of whom still make up the core of the membership.

They describe themselves as a tight-knit and friendly bunch that welcomes members actively interested in pursuing accuracy and service rifle-type competitions. Although the group does not have a clubhouse, it is based exclusively at Bisley and shoots there around twice a month with Highpower and Civilian Service Rifle competitions and practice.

From this regular competitive environment the HRA is a club with members who regularly travel abroad to take part in bigger competitions with regular success. On the home front they are the current Civilian Methuen Cup champions, and have also won outright on nine of the past fifteen annual matches.

HRA's third 'primary' discipline is Precision Sharpshooting, and it runs a couple of large competitions during the year, including the Royal British Legion charity match that attracts around 100 entrants. These, like CSR and Highpower,

are challenging yet enjoyable events that cater to those that want a bit more from their fullbore shooting.

If you are looking for something with a mixture of Precision and Action style shooting, HRA is a rifle club that may be of interest. ■

Disciplines: Highpower, Civilian Service Rifle and Precision Sharpshooting

Location: Bisley

Contact: www.highpowerrifle.co.uk



The team at the Methuen Cup



HRA members take on the competition at the Nationals, 2007

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C417	8 x 50 Lebel	£67.00
C384	8 x 56 Mannlicher	£52.50
C413	7.63 (30 Mauser)	£26.00

KEY

SP - Soft Point

PSP - Pointed Soft Point

SPBT - Soft Point Boat Tail

PSPBT - Pointed Soft Point

Boat Tail

SPRN - Soft Point Round

Nose

FSP - Flat Soft Point

HPBT - Hollow Point

Boat Tail

FPJ - Flat Point Jacket

FMJ - Full Metal Jacket

FMJRN - Full Metal

Jacket Round Nose

FMJBT - Full Metal

Jacket Boat Tail

RNFP - Round Nose

Flat Point

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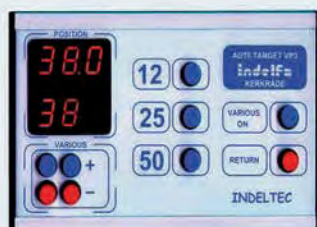
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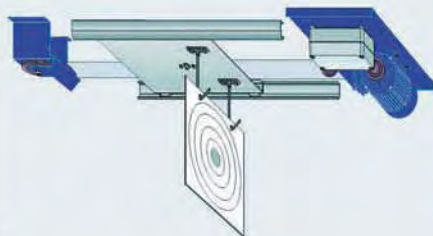
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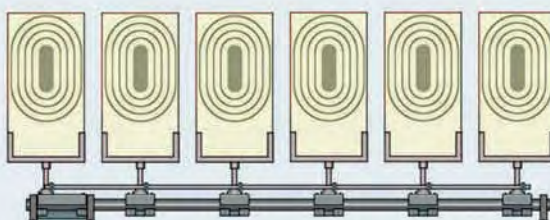
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OBITUARIES

DIN COLLINGS (1926-2014) & VIV COLLINGS (1930-2014)

New Zealand shooting lost two of its leading exponents with the deaths of Din (Denis) and Viv (Vivienne) Collings.

A life member of the NRANZ and the senior life member of the Karori Rifle Club as well as patron of the Wellington Service Rifle Association and Petone Rifle Club, Din was a renowned gunsmith and served the sport in many capacities including as convenor of the NRANZ technical committee and as an adviser to the New Zealand Department of Conservation on firearms and hunting policy. He was also an expert witness for New Zealand Police.

Din was a highly successful shooter, winning the Ballinger Belt in 1977 and captaining three New Zealand Teams including the NZ Palma team at Sydney in 1988 (bronze medal). He died on the opening day of the 2014-15 New Zealand shooting season and was buried in a coffin made by his son, Barry, with handles made from the barrels of a .303 and a 8mm Mauser. Friends and family fired a 50-gun salute at Makara Cemetery to acknowledge the passing of a NZ shooting legend.

Viv was a leader in woman's shooting in New Zealand. Viv and Wendy Pritchard were the first female members of the Karori Rifle Club (1968) and Viv was the only female life member. She was the first woman president of a major NZ shooting club (1978-1981 and again 1992-1994).

In the 1970s Viv and Margaret McCarthy formed the first NZ Ladies Team in 1972, competing at Adelaide with Viv as wind coach. She also shot and coached the NZ Rifle Team and NZ Veterans Team.

Viv and Din had met on a working party in the Tararua ranges and their marriage founded an illustrious dynasty in New Zealand shooting.

Sadly Viv died of complications arising from a heart attack only five weeks after Din's death. Viv was farewelled by friends and extended family at the same church, Old St. Paul's in Wellington, and she was ceremonially honoured with a rifle volley fired by members of the New Zealand and Australian Ladies Rifle Teams as her coffin left the church.

DAVID HUW CURTIS-LEWIS 4 April 1941 – 19 February 2015

It is with true regret I report the death of David Huw Curtis-Lewis from cancer.

Huw was born in Cardiff, Wales, and went to Howardian Grammar School. At 14, he and a group of friends joined what is now the Llantrisant and Cardiff Central Rifle Club, where they shot fullbore at the old Severn Tunnel range and small-bore on the indoor range at Mackintosh Place.

Leaving school at 16 to join the Midland Bank allowed him to start going to Open Meetings such as the Welsh Bisley at Porthcawl and the Midlands Indoor Bisley at Bingley Hall. At 20 Huw started his lifelong commitment to give something back to the sport by becoming treasurer of the Glamorgan Small-bore Rifle Association.

As his career path developed, he moved branch in several cities (Cardiff, Hull, Beverley), where his interest in target shooting developed and he joined more clubs. He eventually moved

to London and had a temporary job change into the O&M/Computer side of the bank, where he met and married Annette.

Huw's main interest was small-bore target shooting and to a lesser degree, vintage firearms 1860-1870, air and fullbore. He shot small-bore and fullbore for the Midland, eventually HSBC Rifle Club, of which he occupied the offices of treasurer, small-bore captain and, for the last year of his life, secretary.

Huw shot for the Addiscombe Rifle Club in which he was also captain, treasurer and secretary. He shot for Surrey County and often travelled north to shoot the Scottish Open. Additionally, he was secretary and treasurer of the United Banks Rifle Club. His proudest achievement was being selected to shoot for Wales.

Norman Edwards
Secretary, HSBC Rifle Club

ALLAN ARTHUR DOGAN 17 June 1933 – 22 March 2015

Our beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle left this world having just celebrated his 52nd wedding anniversary with wife Daphne.

After leaving school at the age of 14 and completing national service at the age of 21, Allan relocated to east Africa where he progressed to the role of managing director for a prestigious printing company.

In his forties, Allan moved back to England with his family where he settled until retirement. He will be remembered as a tremendously talented and intelligent man. His sharp wit and unmissable presence will be sorely missed by his family and all who knew him. He is survived by wife Daphne, son Greg, daughters Tania and Rachel, grandchildren Christopher, Briony, Guy and Diego, sister Colleen and niece Michelle.

Results

32ND CLAYTON CHALLENGE

Team, 300ex, 500ex, total

1. Epsom, 246.12, 245.11, 491.23
2. Wellington A, 239.08, 251.09, 490.17
3. Marlborough, 235.07, 242.12, 477.19
4. Oratory A, 218.07, 250.09, 468.16
5. Oratory B, 214.08, 242.08, 456.16
6. RGS Guildford, 209.04, 243.05, 452.09
7. St.John's, 205.07, 231.10, 436.17
8. Wellington B, 208.10, 227.10, 435.20
9. Bradfield, 184.03, 222.04, 406.07
10. 914 Sqn ATC, 143.02, 179.06, 322.08 shooting alongside
Lancing, 227.09, 244.10, 471.19
Cheltenham, 221.06, 246.18, 467.24

The Mick Nash Trophy
(individual best score)

Name, team, 300ex, 500ex, total

1. G Ramsden, Wellington A, 31.0, 35.1, 66.1
2. SJB Sander, Epsom, 33.3, 32.3, 65.6
3. T Orpen-Smellie, Wellington A, 34.3, 31.0, 65.3
4. T Shaw, Oratory A, 31.0, 34.2, 65.2
5. R Hu, Wellington A, 32.2, 32.3, 64.5
6. T Cayford, Malborough, 33.1, 31.2, 64.3
7. T Elvin, Malborough, 33.3, 30.2, 63.5
8. NJ Belousov, Epsom, 30.1, 33.3, 63.4
9. O Clark, Oratory B, 32.3, 31.1, 63.4
10. C Dawes, Epsom, 30.1, 33.2, 63.3 (V)
11. G Stanford-Beale, Oratory B, 30.1, 33.2, 63.3 (5)
12. M Larcombe, Epsom, 33.2, 30.1, 63.3
13. C van Beveren, St.John's, 33.2, 30.0, 63.2
14. D Cavanagh, RGS Guildford, 29.0, 34.0, 63.0



GLOUCESTERSHIRE OPEN STAGE ONE

Target Rifle

1. A Haley, 163.18
2. J Deane, 162.15
3. M Liversage, 160.15
4. K Pugh, 158.08
5. M Saunders, 157.10
6. S Ward, 156.15
7. H Saunders, 155.13
8. S Frilling, 155.13
9. C Asquith, 155.11
10. J Ford, 154.14
11. S Cox, 153.12
12. I Ashworth, 153.10
13. R Hedley, 152.11
14. P Dawes, 152.08
15. N Hart, 151.04
16. J Hawke, 150.09
17. R Burden, 149.08
18. J Ritchie, 149.08
19. M Glenister, 147.06
20. R Needham, 146.07

F/TR

1. C Warwick, 148.05
2. C Wall, 146.07
3. M Downing, 132.10

CLRA OPEN MEETING

Name, Q1, Q2, grand aggregate (please note: due to poor conditions, many competitors could not shoot Q3 and it was not included in the aggregate)

1. Andy Gent, 105.014, 150.022, 255.036
2. David Dyson, 104.012, 149.026, 253.038
3. Paul Holmes, 105.014, 148.021, 253.035
4. David Taylor, 104.016, 149.018, 253.034
5. Dave Crispin, 105.015, 148.016, 253.031
6. Kate Fritton, 105.015, 147.020, 252.035
7. Andrew Jones, 103.013, 148.020, 251.033
8. Graham Nelson, 104.009, 147.019,

251.033

9. Martin Liversage, 105.014, 145.015, 250.029
10. David Young, 102.016, 146.018, 248.034
11. Richard Scott, 102.011, 146.013, 258.024
12. Iain MacDonald, 102.007, 145.019, 247.026
13. Trevor Bryan, 102.011, 145.014, 247.025
14. Simon Osmond, 100.008, 146.012, 246.020
15. Richard Webb, 99.013, 145.016, 244.029
16. Anton Aspin, 102.017, 140.016, 240.027
17. Colin Goad, 94.010, 146.017, 240.027
18. Paul Holdstock, 96.003, 143.008, 239.011
19. Bill Flentje, 96.010, 0.000, 96.010

BRITISH 300M CHAMPIONSHIPS

Name, strings = total, (X count)

1. M Scrivens, 98, 97, 99, 98, 99, 99 = 590 (21)
2. H Creevy, 98, 97, 98, 98, 100, 98 = 589 (22)
3. S Aldhouse, 98, 95, 97, 99, 96, 99 = 584 (19)
4. G Hawarth, 98, 97, 98, 97, 97, 97 = 584 (17)
5. T Hammond, 92, 98, 98, 96, 98, 99 = 581 (15)
6. A Pearse, 98, 98, 96, 96, 96, 96 = 580 (13)
7. R Fowke, 97, 98, 94, 96, 98, 96 = 579 (19)
8. R Oxford, 96, 95, 98, 96, 98, 96 = 579 (16)
9. M Guille, 97, 98, 95, 94, 96, 98 = 578 (17)
10. A Reeve, 99, 98, 94, 95, 95, 95 = 576 (15)
11. P Carter, 93, 93, 98, 98, 95, 96 = 573 (10)
12. G McHugh, 96, 97, 93, 91, 95, 96 = 568 (12)

13. R Carter, 92, 92, 93, 97, 96, 94 = 564 (15)
14. R White, 91, 95, 93, 97, 94, 94 = 564 (9)
15. M Pearse, 95, 96, 98, 95, 93, 81 = 558 (11)
16. M Arnstein, 93, 92, 93, 90, 95, 95 = 558 (6)
17. S Maris, 93, 94, 86, 71, 0, 0 = 334 (4) DNF

SMALLBORE LONG RANGE MATCH

MRSB 200 yds

1. Richard Kenchington, 70.4v
2. Michael Haselgrove, 69.9v

MRSB 300 yds

1. Nick Tremlett, 69.5v
2. John Mead, 67.2v

MRSB 400 yds

1. Nick Tremlett, 70.4v
2. Sam Doble, 68.5v

MRSB Overall Winner:

1. Nick Tremlett, 208.15v
2. Michael Haselgrove, 201.14v

TRSB 200 yds

1. Paul Wright, 69.3v
2. Ben Stubbins, 66.3v

TRSB 300 yds

1. Mark Silver, 65.6v
2. Peter Francis, 65.5v

TRSB 400 yds

1. Mark Silver, 65.4v
2. Peter Francis, 63.3v

TRSB Overall Winner:

1. Mark Silver, 191.12v
2. Paul Wright, 191.6v

GR&P SPRING ACTION WEEKEND

Name, total (X count)

Timed & Precision 1 GRSB X Class

1. Jon Avetoomyan, 299 (20)
2. David Hackett, 299 (17)
3. Keith Cox, 298 (16)
4. Gary Bowden, 297 (15)
5. Paul Stockill, 296 (11)

A Class

1. Norman Veitch, 300 (22)
2. Alan Podevin, 299 (12)
3. Paul Cooney, 298 (11)
4. William Pow, 297 (10)
5. Ian Cox, 296 (14)

B Class

1. Dafydd Perks, 293 (13)
2. Rachel Goldsworthy, 293 (10)
3. John Mead, 293 (8)
4. Philip Young, 293 (8)
5. Graham Mason, 289 (4)

Timed & Precision 1 GRCF X Class

1. Colin McMichael, 300 (27)
2. Keith Cox, 300 (26)
3. Martin Hale, 300 (26)
4. Jon Avetoomyan, 300 (25)
5. Gary Bowden, 300 (24)

A Class

1. Dave Morrow, 300 (21)
2. Keith Kilvington, 299 (15)
3. Neil Roberts, 298 (19)
4. Anthony Cooper, 298 (14)
5. John Mead, 298 (12)

B Class

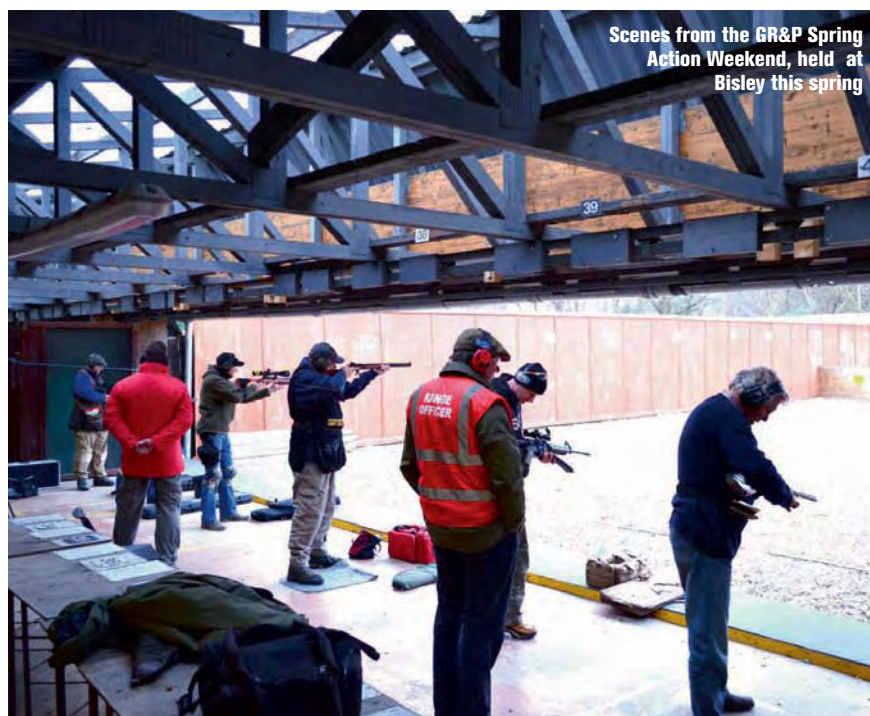
1. Dafydd Perks, 300 (20)
2. Craig Stewart, 297 (15)
3. Malcolm Stewart, 297 (15)
4. Christopher Green, 296 (13)
5. Chas Rone, 294 (17)

Timed & Precision 1 GRCF Open

1. Adam Chapman, 300 (24)
2. Jeff Taylor, 300 (22)
3. Alan Sutton, 300 (19)
4. Dafydd Perks, 300 (17)
5. Norman Veitch, 299 (27)

Timed & Precision 1 GRCF Classic

1. Phil Cowling, 300 (20)
2. David Holt, 300 (17)
3. Colin McMichael, 300 (16)
4. David Fitzpatrick, 299 (17)
5. Alan Podevin, 298 (17)



GENERAL NOTICES

Annual General Meeting

The 2015 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 12 June at 6pm in the NRA Pavilion

Bisley General Meeting

The 2015 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 July at 9pm in the Umbrella Tent

NRA General Council Elections 2015

Ordinary members

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

GK Alexander, CM Brooks, MJJ Charlton, J Kynoch

Regional members

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

ID Bennett - West Midlands
PR Coley - South Western
GAE Larcombe - Southern
JF Miller - Greater London & South East
MP Watkins - Wales

Shooting Discipline members

The following have been elected or re-elected unopposed:

AM Bullen - Sporting Rifle
JN Morgan-Hosey - Civilian Service Rifle & Practical Rifle

There will be an election for the Target Shotgun representative

Great Britain Palma Team 2015

Captain

Jane Messer GC SB SC
GB, England & Sussex

Vice Captain

Nigel Ball GC SM SC
GB, England & Norfolk

Adjutant

Toby Raincock
GB, England & Surrey

Armourer

Anton Aspin
GB, England & Cheshire

Main Coach

Martin Townsend GB, Ireland & Hertfordshire

Coaches

Matthew Ensor
GB, England & Surrey

Jeremy Langley GB, England & Devon

Bill Richards SB

GB, England & Surrey

Reg Roberts

GB, England & Sussex

Team Members

David Armstrong SB₂

GB, England & Surrey

David Calvert MBE GM SB₃ SC

GB, Ireland & Ulster

David Crispin

GB, England & Surrey

Henry Day

GB, England & Suffolk

Tom Drysdale

GB, England & Durham

Stephen East

GB, England & Berkshire

Ed Jeens SB

GB, Wales & London

David Luckman GC₃ SM SC₄ GB, England & Somerset

Angus McLeod

GB, Scotland & East of Scotland

Matthew Millar*

England & Surrey

Parag Patel GC₂ SM SC

GB, England & Surrey

David Rose GB, England &

Northants, Leics & Rutland

Tom Rylands SC

GB, England & Cheshire

Jon Tapster

GB, England & Surrey

Jon Underwood GM GC₂ SM₂

GB, England & Surrey

Chris Watson GB, Wales &

Northants, Leics & Rutland

James Watson GB, England &

Northants, Leics & Rutland

Reserves

Matthew Button

GB, England & Lincolnshire

Edward Dickson Hampshire

Derek Lowe

GB, England & Surrey

Kelvin Ramsey

GB, England & Surrey

Rick Shouler GB, England

& Nottinghamshire

Chris Weeden

GB, England & Kent

Team Physio

Erica McKeen

GB, Ireland & Ulster

*new caps

Great Britain Veterans Rifle Team 2015

Captain

Colin Cheshire OBE GB, GB Veterans, England & Hampshire

Adjutant

Dick Winney GB, GB Veterans, England & Hertfordshire

Members

Robin Baker GB, GB

Veterans, England & Kent

Michael Black

GB, GB Veterans, England

& Northumberland

David Calvert MBE GM CGM₂ CGC SB₃ SC

GB, Ireland & Ulster

George Cann GB, GB

Veterans, England & Devon

Timothy Clarke SB

GB, England & Essex

Christopher Fitzpatrick

GM SM GB, Ireland &

Oxfordshire

Peter Griggs

GB, England & Kent

Christopher Hockley OBE

GB, Wales & South Wales

Tony Mitchell GB Veterans,

Ireland & Cornwall

Lindsay Peden GM GB, Scotland

& West of Scotland

Keith Pugh SM CSM

GB, GB Veterans, England

& Northumberland

John Pugsley GM CGC SM CSM

GB, England & Devon

Mick Silver

GB, England & Oxfordshire

Steven Thomas SM SB CSM

GB, England & Hertfordshire

Jeremy Thompson GM SM₂ CSC

GB, England & Hertfordshire

Peter Thompson GB, GB Veterans, England & Kent

Martin Townsend

GB, Ireland & Hertfordshire

Reserves

Brian Cambray (to travel)

GB, GB Veterans, England &

Devon

Charles Dickenson

GB, England & Berkshire

Michael Fugeman (to travel)

GB, GB Veterans, England &

Berkshire

Great Britain Under 25 Rifle Team 2015

Captain

Paul Lanigan

GBU25, Ireland & Kent

Vice-Captain

Charles Rivett-Carnac

GBU25 & England

Adjutant

Chloë Evans

GB, GBU25, Wales & Norfolk

Team Members

Jack Alexander

GBU25, Ireland & Ulster

Lee Bennett

GBU25 & Lancashire

Liam Cheek Ireland

Amie Clarke Nottinghamshire

Lauren Crowson

GBU25 & Yorkshire

Seth Dowley

Northants, Leics & Rutland

Gareth Davies

GB, GBU25, England & Norfolk

Henry Howard Norfolk

Euan Maclean

Scotland & East of Scotland

Lindsey McKerrell GB, Scotland

& West of Scotland

Chris Milton GBU25

Tom Smith

Reserves

Ivan Jobling Nottinghamshire

Charles Rivett-Carnac

GBU25 & England

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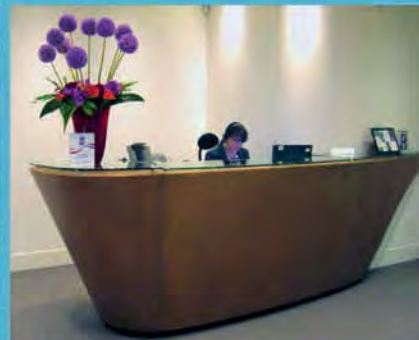
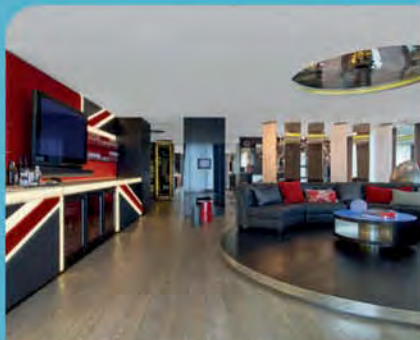
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Marksman's Calendar

PLAN AHEAD FOR THOSE IMPORTANT COMPETITION DATES SPANNING
THE REMAINDER OF 2015. ALL EVENTS AT BISLEY UNLESS STATED

JUNE

13-14 NRA Inter-Counties Meeting

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

17-02 July Service Weapons Events and Aggregates

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

18-18 July The 146th Imperial

NRA Shooting Division, 01483 797777, shooting@nra.org.uk

20 Hampshire Rifle Association Open Meeting

20-21 Scottish Open Long Range Championships

(Blair Atholl, Scotland)

Tim Kidner, 01224 321468, tlk762@aol.com

21 LMRA v BCRC v NLRC

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

21 Kent County Open Championship Prize Meeting

Peter Griggs, peter.griggs@blueyonder.co.uk

24-28 NRA Imperial Meeting - Civilian Service Rifle Meeting

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

25 NRA Military Adaptive Shooting Championship 2015

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

28 NRA Shotgun League Round 5 (Phoenix Shooting Club)

James Harris, james.harris@nra.org.uk

JULY

03-09 NRA Imperial Meeting - Match Rifle Events

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

04-05 NRA Imperial Meeting - Historic Arms Meeting

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

06-09 NRA Imperial Meeting - Schools Meeting

Peter Turner, schools@nra.org.uk



08-12 NRA Imperial Meeting - Gallery Rifle and Pistol Events

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

09-18 NRA Imperial Meeting - Target Rifle Events

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

09 LMRA v Guernsey Rifle Association (PM)

(Guernsey, Channel Islands)

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

10-15 NRA Imperial Meeting - F Class Rifle Events

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

18 NRA Imperial Meeting - HM Queens Prize Final

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

AUGUST

01-02 Invernessshire Open Championships (Cawdor, Scotland)

Donald Drawbell, secretary@cawdorifleandgunclub.co.uk

09 NRA Handgun League Round 3

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

15-16 HBSA Miniature Rifle Meeting

HBSA, shooting@hbsa-uk.org

15-16, Tullibardine (Tayside) Open Championships (Blair Atholl, Scotland)

Jim Bell, jwhbell@btinternet.com

16 Catastrophy

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

29 LMRA v Royal Navy TRC

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

29-30 Gallery Rifle and Pistol National Championships

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

30 LMRA v JRA (Away) (Jersey, Channel Islands)

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

SEPTEMBER

05 Highpower Rifle Association Precision & Snap Shooting Match in aid of the Royal British Legion

HRA Entries, HRA.Entries@btinternet.com

06 Bisley Clubs (LMRA v RAF)

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

07-13 F-Class European Championship

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

12 Affiliated Clubs Championships (pairs)

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

12 East of Scotland Open Championships (Blair Atholl, Scotland)

Major (Retd) RJ Aitken, 0131 445 1948,
baitkenshooting@btinternet.com

12-13 Open Meeting for Repeating Pistols

MLAGB, bisbiz2011@hotmail.co.uk

12-13 City Rifle Club Open Prize Meeting 2015

Carys Dee, meetings@cityrc.org

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

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

04 Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

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

10-11 Ages Match

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

17-18 The Trafalgar Meeting 2015

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

24-25 Gallery Rifle - Autumn Action Weekend

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

24-25 Club Instructor (General Skills) Course

Chloe Evans, 01483 797777 x 149, chloe.evans@nra.org.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

21-22 Target Shotgun Festival

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

DECEMBER

06 Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

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Message 10

Sixteen-year-old Brittany Pugh talks to NRA marketing and communications manager Katia Malcaus Cooper

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I come from a shooting background but I got my first real taste of competition shooting when I was 13 and on holiday in Bulgaria. It was only meant to be a friendly air rifle competition each day but there were guys from Romania, Bulgaria, Russia and Albania all taking it so seriously – and you wouldn't believe how unhappy they were when a young girl beat them. It was great fun. I then started air rifle shooting in Scouting and joined Aldershot Rifle and Pistol Club at 14 for my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. My dad and I then continued shooting, as we both loved how friendly and welcoming the club was, and I got my FAC not long after.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

My first 'real' competition at the NRA Spring Action Weekend last year tied with the first time I had a go at practical shotgun.

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

Mechanical failures. Our .357 Marlin underlever continuously jammed for months but with lots of guidance, support and fiddling it's now working perfectly. Our semi-automatic shotgun has also presented a mechanical challenge and still doesn't cycle reliably.



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

My dad goes shooting with me and pays all the bills! We also have 'friendly' (not really) competitions each week during practice at the Club. My granddad and uncles are all keen shooters too.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

My biggest inspiration has been learning from other members at the Club, such as Colin McMichael and Keith Cox. They are active members of the Great Britain Gallery Rifle Shooting team and are always willing to share their extensive knowledge. On the practical shotgun side, Ollie Bloomfield's energy and enthusiasm are so motivating and he is a fantastic teacher.

Which is your favourite country in the world?

My favourite country is the USA and I am really lucky to be going to California this summer. I had a brilliant shooting experience in Miami last year and got to shoot a Smith and Wesson 9mm pistol, a Glock 18 automatic pistol and a Colt Commando on full auto. Wow.

How have Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Bisley is one of my favourite places. It is like stepping into a different world that is calm, peaceful and has a warm community of shooters who make everyone feel welcome. The courses are also fantastic – I loved the Target Shotgun course with James Harris.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?


I am still very much a 'novice shooter' so before each competition I need to read through the competition handbook to help me remember the course of fire.

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

Give it a try! I think it is such a shame that more young people don't know about this wonderful sport and get a chance to take part. Go along to your local club and talk to someone about shooting. I guarantee you will be warmly welcomed by the club members, as I have never met a fellow shooter I don't get along with.

So what next?

I hope to work my way up the Gallery Rifle rankings through the competitions at Bisley. I also hope to explore new fields of shooting such as fullbore and pistol shooting, and to do more practical and target shotgun. In the world of shooting the possibilities are endless. ■



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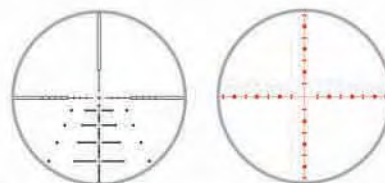
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