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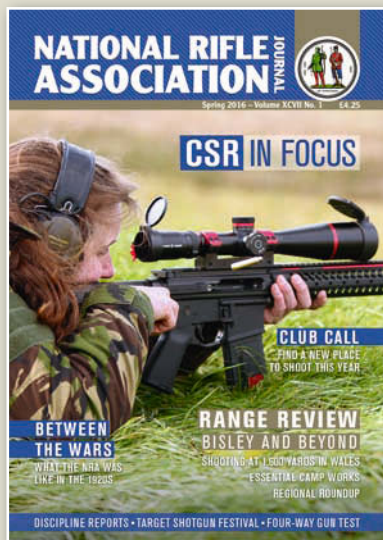


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Spring forward

Chief Executive Andrew Mercer welcomes the first *Journal* of 2016 with good news on building work and membership numbers

The first few months of 2016 have seen a great deal of effort expended on range improvements and communication.

Bisley Camp is slowly starting to show the fruits of two years' hard work and not insubstantial investment. In many ways improving the estate is like painting the Forth Bridge – the task is never completed and we rarely have the chance to look back and savour recent improvements.

Upgrading roads and car parking will be a major focus over the next couple of months; the rapidly growing demand for the ranges is showing up many areas of poor construction. Hobson's Way (leading to Short Siberia range) is a good example; contractors are cutting back the edging tree line to help dry out the road surface ahead of remodelling the road later this month.

The tender for Bullet Lodge has attracted a great deal of interest with 14 firm enquiries and viewings. We took the lodge back in hand from the previous tenant before Christmas, substantially upgraded the building, and have offered a new 21 year lease. It is pleasing to note that there remains good demand for quality refurbished accommodation on camp; we will offer two new leases for new lodges on similar terms later this year.

Cheylesmore Range, which has been substantially refurbished over the past nine months, is now available for hire. Our shooters will now benefit from centrally heated range-side club facilities, new toilets, and new turning targets. The range recently hosted an NRA Guest Day and the option to retreat to a warm and welcoming area for a coffee between shooting was appreciated.

NRA membership continues to grow at a steady rate which brings its own challenges. The month of February yielded 117 new membership applications, a new record since we started tracking the statistics a couple of years ago. On the other hand, I had expected a tidal wave of applications in response to the 'Free Membership for Under 21s' promotion but to date this has been but a trickle. I hope the recent improvements to cadet rifle and ammunition transport regulations will encourage both more cadet shooting and take up of free NRA membership.

Feeding the hungry beast that is social media is a continuing challenge; thankfully we have much news to spread and find Facebook an increasingly important vehicle for effective and timely communication. The statistics are fascinating; we have over 7,000 'likes' and in the busiest weeks we 'reach' over 60,000 individuals. The response to individual postings is confusing; recent posts included a Civilian Service Rifle Winter League date (2,400 reached), cadet transport update



**In many ways improving the estate
is like painting the Forth Bridge
– the task is never completed**

(10,400), Butt Zero upgrading works (1,200) and additional 1200-yard shooting dates (700).

The Range Office has just seen a flurry of new recruits; they will be charged with improving our handling of the thousands of bookings received each year. Again the statistics are illuminating; our new online range booking service has received 14,600 individual bookings in the first six months. Greater effort will also be made out on the ranges; I am keen to ensure that all our shooters are properly qualified as competent, or supervised, when shooting on our increasingly busy ranges.

Work to address the potentially damaging effects of both the EU Firearms Directive and the recently announced Policing and Crime Bill continues. There is, on careful analysis, the potential in both cases for unintended (and perhaps at times intended) damaging consequences for the decent and responsible shooting community. Working in conjunction with our colleagues in the British Shooting Sports Council gives us the best chance of positive influence on this issue. ■

C & G

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NEWS

REPORTS

EU LAWS UNDER SCRUTINY

Shooting representatives are descending on Brussels in an attempt to minimise the damaging effects of the revised EU Firearms Directive, currently making its way through the European legislative process.

The proposals in the reworded directive – intended to inhibit crime and terrorism across the continent – could in fact have serious affects on law-abiding target shooters, including introducing a ban on semi-auto .22 rifles and removing under-18s' access to firearms (and therefore proper firearms training). Shooting organisations' umbrella group FACE has briefed Vicky Ford MEP, the European Parliament's rapporteur from the UK, on this issue.

Subsequently speaking in the European Parliament, Ms Ford said she had never seen members "so united in supporting the legal owners of firearms."

She predicted some MEPs would vote for the proposals to be sent back to the Commission with a request they rethink them to better accommodate concerns held by shooters.

NRA members can lobby their MEP on the firearms proposals by visiting a new website set up by FACE, which allows them to easily make contact with their European representatives and respectfully express their concerns.

Visit the site at: http://bit.ly/FACE_UK



ELECTRONIC TARGET ROLL-OUT



Following a successful trial in December, the NRA can offer full availability of six electronic targets on Century Range (Butt 19) at 200 yards (Tuesday/Wednesday), 100 yards (Thursday/Friday) and 300 yards (Saturday/Sunday).

Four sessions a day will be available, with a session costing £35 on weekdays and £50 at weekends. Sessions take place at 8.30am-10am, 10.30am-12pm, 1pm-2.45pm (3pm in high season) and 2.45pm-4pm (3pm-4.30pm high season). In addition, the NRA has use of the 300m shed and its electronic targets on 30 April-1 May, 14-15 May, 28-29 May, 3-4 September and 1-2 October. Sessions follow the same schedule as above.

'RELOAD SWISS' EASTER MEETING

This year, Reload Swiss is principal sponsor of the Bisley Club's Easter Meeting (26-28 March 2016), run by the North London Rifle Club. As a result of this kind sponsorship, the Meeting offers Under 25 and Team competitions in addition to the regular competitions. Donations from the sponsors mean the value of some prizes will be greater than in previous years, while retaining the same cash alternative.

Following a warm-up shoot on the Saturday afternoon, the competitions start in earnest and conclude at long range on the Monday morning. Prizes will be presented at Monday lunchtime in the clubhouse of the North London Rifle Club.

On the Saturday morning, NLRC are offering a complimentary Introduction to Competitive Shooting session, primarily aimed at people who have not shot in prone position, open range competitions at Bisley or those who would like a refresher. The Meeting itself is run in the style of the Bisley Imperial Meeting, so it's useful preparation for anyone planning to shoot the Imperial for the first time.

The NLRC clubhouse on Club Row will be the venue for the introductory session, the formal meeting dinner on the Sunday evening, the prize-giving and informal lunches, dinners and breakfasts throughout the Meeting. The clubhouse will be available throughout as a base for any competitors, whether or not they are NLRC members.

NEW BILL CLARIFIES GUN LAWS

New firearms laws are to come to parliament as part of the Policing and Crime Bill, and those NRA members who own antique guns or spare components for their rifles could be affected.

A number of the amendments suggested by the Law Commission in December 2015 – including clearer definitions of “lethal”, “antique” and “component part” – are included in the Bill, which shooting organisations have mostly welcomed. However, some prominent shooters have expressed reservations about the bill’s contents.

Led by David Ormerod QC, the Law Commission’s far-reaching investigation into firearms laws concluded they were in desperate need of simplification and clarification – and called for the introduction of a Firearms Code that would bring all the relevant legislation together in a “coherent whole”.

The Policing and Crime Bill does not do this – instead it adds another piece of legislation to the mass of laws governing the acquisition and possession of firearms, albeit one that does address many of the concerns the Law Commission expressed.

The Bill defines component parts as a barrel, chamber, cylinder, frame, body, receiver, breech block, bolt or “other mechanism for containing the pressure of discharge at the rear of a chamber”, but “only where the item is capable of being used as a part of a barrelled weapon or a prohibited weapon.”

The Bill also covers the definition and legislation of antique firearms. Here “antique” is defined by either the type of cartridge used by the chamber or the type of ignition system, but the list of designated “antique” types will be decided by a statutory instrument by the Secretary of State – meaning the list can be updated and changed without consultation. However, if an antique firearm is outlawed in such a manner, owners will be given an FAC without the additional need to show “good reason” (though they will still have to pay the fee).

As expected, a new offence has been outlined in the Bill for the possession of the tools to convert an imitation firearm and the intention to do so. The maximum prison sentence is five years and a fine of an unspecified amount. However, the Bill does not specify what these “tools” might be.

The Bill had its first reading in the House of Commons on 10 February, and the date for a second reading is yet to be announced. The full Policing and Crime Bill can be read online at services.parliament.uk/bills/2015-16/policingandcrime.html.

MOD RANGE CHARGES RISE

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), who are the body responsible for running military ranges in the UK, has published revised charges for non-MoD users of its estate. The licence fee is now £130 a year, while the lane fee on a gallery range has increased to £36 a day including a standard target.

For the Small Arms Ranges Targetry System (SARTS), the charge per lane will increase to £37. SARTS can now only be operated by a Landmarc employee, and clubs will bear the cost. The new charges will come into effect on 1 April 2016 and remain effective until 31 March 2017.

The NRA’s regional ranges manager Nic Couldrey, said: “While any increase in the cost of shooting will be a concern to members, we understand the constraints placed on the MOD and the need to make more effective use of assets under its direct control. The new charges, particularly for the use of SARTS, provide an opportunity for closer collaboration and co-ordination among clubs to drive economies of scale through shared bookings to spread costs.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

CD KUCHEL

We are sad to report the death of Colin Kuchel of Australia on 19 January.

An important figure in Australian target rifle shooting, he had been, in his time, chairman of the NRA of Australia and captain of the Australian Palma team in 1992, having shot in the match in 1982 and been adjutant in 1988. He competed in the Australia Match three times and was captain in 1987 when the match was shot in Canada, 1992 in NZ and again in 1992 in Canada. He will be much missed by his many friends all over the world.

LE PAGE HONOURED

NRA member Richard Stephen Le Page received a BEM (British Empire Medal) for services to the sport of Target Shooting in Guernsey, as part of the New Year’s Honours list. He was one of two prominent shooters to be honoured, with Olympic shotgun coach Joe Neville receiving an MBE. In an interview with ITV, Mr Le Page said the honour “still feels unreal.”

TR SKILLS COURSE

Develop your target rifle skills at a basic skills development course on 2-3 April. This course is being run in conjunction with the Bisley clubs and the location for the course will be the London & Middlesex Rifle Association. Classroom and practical range work will be involved. The course fee is £90, which includes range fees, ammunition, markers, individual coaching and all required shooting equipment, for those who do not possess their own.

Download more details from the NRA website, www.nra.org.uk.

BISLEY MEETINGS

Dates of the BGM and AGM for 2016 are as follows: The 2016 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 July at 9pm in the Umbrella Tent. The 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 17 June at 6pm in the NRA Pavilion.

Prize line-up

The 2015 Shotgun and Handgun League prizes are put through their paces by league director James Harris

One of the joys of assisting with the various competitions the NRA runs is the look of delight on the winners' faces when they win a prize gun: specifically, the grin when it dawns upon them that they have another addition to the cabinet without the need to play the "it only cost £200..." card with their tolerant, if not entirely convinced, partner.

In 2015, the NRA Shotgun and Handgun Leagues benefited from the generous sponsorship of Edgar Brothers and GMK, who committed to supporting grassroots shooting by providing prizes for the end-of-year shooter ballot. As ever when buying a gun, make your own decision based on your requirements. My comments are but one person's views and you should, whenever possible, try before you buy.

The NRA Handgun and Shotgun Leagues were also sponsored by AW Armoury, which specialises in equipment for practical shooters.

GSG 1911 LONG BARRELLED PISTOL

The GSG 1911 long-barrelled pistol in .22 is the latest and best iteration of a model available in the UK for some years – though only recently distributed by Edgar Brothers. While the external ergonomics are based on the original design of John Browning, modern manufacturing processes and materials have been used to simplify the construction and adapt it for use with the low-powered .22 cartridge that would not reliably cycle the original swinging link and compression spring arrangement of the original .45 calibre pistol.

The test version, as supplied in its plastic transit box with moulded lining and two spare magazines, was finished in matt black with plastic grips and adjustable rear sight. When picking it up, I thought: "I remember this." It felt like any other 1911, solid in the hand and with everything in the right place. The ambidextrous safety fits nicely under the thumb but some may find it

small in comparison to the aftermarket parts fitted to the competition guns of yesteryear. The grip safety may not be to everyone's taste and since very few of us need to carry a pistol while riding a horse, it is of questionable purpose these days – but a proper grip or elastic band will cure this.

Unlike the original, there is also a magazine safety which may cause some consternation when carrying out an unload, as the magazine well is too narrow to insert a finger to press on the relevant catch and allow the hammer to drop when the trigger is pulled. A short conversation with the RO before inserting an empty magazine is probably a good idea. The trigger is adjustable and the one on the test gun was light enough but not particularly crisp – possibly because the most recent comparable pistol to have been used had been a dedicated competition gun with a hand fitted sear, trigger and hammer.

Accuracy is determined by quality of firearm and ammunition, and the range test was carried out with CCI mini-mag, which ensured reliable operation of the blowback mechanism but perhaps not the best choice if trying to achieve the smallest possible groups. The result was acceptably spread holes in targets from 10 to 20m, but none that would score a possible on a DP1 target with the mean spread approximately three inches at 20m (though this is almost certainly down to operator error as the prominent GR&P shooter Johnnie Cormie has recently started using one in competition, seemingly without issue). The 24" barrel is fitted with a cosmetic shroud that can be removed to bring the centre of balance back towards the position of hold – though I couldn't do this with the demonstration gun owing to time constraints, so am unsure if doing so affects accuracy. At £550, this pistol will appeal to newcomers as well as established shooters seeking something different.



Jon Jennings trying out his Handgun League prize



HATSAN ESCORT 12-GAUGE PUMP ACTION SHOTGUN

Staying with the Edgar Brothers line but moving to the shotgun world, the Hatsan Escort pump action makes a good club gun and all round choice for the new shooter. Although not supplied in a plastic transit case it comes with five screw-in chokes and is ready to go out of the box when supplied in FAC form. The test gun was SGC rated (restricted to three round capacity) but otherwise identical to its 9+1 counterpart. The version supplied was a 12-gauge 3" chambered 30" barrel version, though 20 gauge and other barrel lengths are available. The finish was in black with synthetic furniture, though Mossy Oak patterns are available, to give a durable, workmanlike finish to a gun that may spend one day on the range punching holes in paper then another in the field sourcing dinner. The controls are clearly defined and the action release catch is prominent, making it easy to operate with gloved hands. As with all pump actions when new, it was stiff out of the box, though this is eased with use. Personal experience with club guns indicates that the action becomes smooth with little use.

One unusual feature is that it is available in a left-handed model, which will appeal to the many shooters who currently have to use right-handed guns. Although made in Turkey, there is more than a little of the great Remington 870 to be found in this shotgun, although the use of modern materials has reduced not only the weight but also the maintenance regime – out goes the steel receiver, and in comes an aluminium one fitted with polymer furniture. The receiver is fabricated with a dovetail to enable the fitting of telescopic or red dot sights, which are increasingly commonplace in many solid slug competitions, to reduce aiming error. When used with slug, the reduced weight might have been an issue were it not for the ventilated rubber recoil pad; and the spacers and shims provided permit the owner to adjust reach and drop to suit.

The Escort is certainly value for money at under £500, though converting a SGC version to FAC status may require the replacement of the magazine tube (so buyers should bear this in mind before taking the plunge).



HATSAN MPA-8 12-GAUGE SEMI AUTO

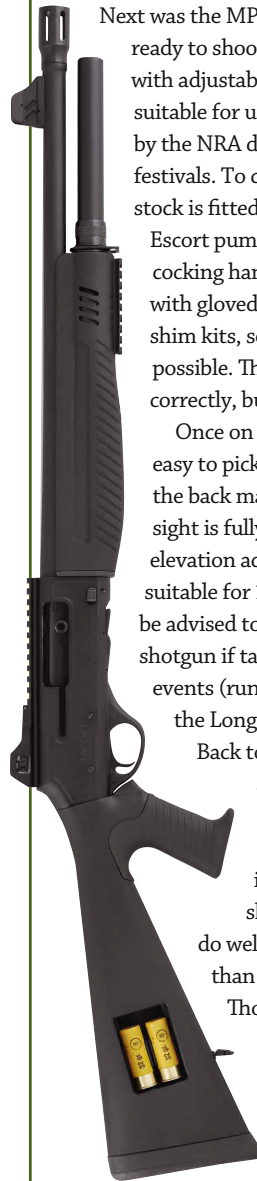
Next was the MPA-8 semi auto, supplied out of the box ready to shoot as an FAC-rated shotgun. Factory fitted with adjustable sights and a mounting rail, this gun is suitable for use in solid slug events such as those run by the NRA during Gallery Rifle weekends or shotgun festivals. To complement the slug sights, a pistol grip stock is fitted as standard to give a different feel to

Escort pump action. The safety catch, bolt release and cocking handle are oversized for easy manipulation with gloved hands, though the test gun came without shim kits, so adjustment of the stock for fit was not possible. This led to some awkwardness in sighting correctly, but that is purely down to personal factors.

Once on aim, the fibre optic foresight bead was easy to pick up and coupled with the peep sight at the back made for easy group shooting. The rear sight is fully adjustable and gave almost 18 inches of elevation adjustment at 20m; therefore probably most suitable for 100 yard shooting, though the owner may be advised to fit a telescopic sight suitable for use on a shotgun if taking part in 100 and 200 yards shotgun events (run alongside other esoteric events such as the Long Range Pistol shoots).

Back to the MPA though for some range work, and it handled rapid fire well and coped with the variety of cartridges used with no complaints – being a gas operated gun it is less fussy than inertia/recoil operated shotguns. A careful hand loader wanting to do well in TP1 with it may find it a better option than some of its more expensive counterparts.

Though set up for slug shooting, it also came with a set of multi-chokes for those that want the flexibility they give and want to shoot shot. For under £500, this gun is extremely good value for money and will give many years of service.



BERETTA 1301 12-GAUGE SEMI AUTO

It seems a long time since the 2015 Phoenix meeting when GMK loaned us the Beretta 1301 for testing. Having seen an increasing number of these on the competitive circuit, I was keen to try what appeared to be the latest wonder gun. Picking it up, it felt bulkier than my old Benelli M1, though this may have been down to the enhanced grip pads on the stock and forend coupled with a barrel rib that is higher than the M1 which assists in keeping the head up more when shooting. The version supplied came as a 9+1 with a 24" barrel (which is probably going to be the most popular variant sold.)

After admiring the build quality and comprehensive instruction manual, it was time to range test it under competition conditions in the NRA Embassy Cup. Simply put, this match is eight rounds to be fired, four standing, reload and four from either prone, kneeling or sitting in 20 seconds at three distances; so the gun needs to be both easy to aim and suitable for reloading under time pressure. Loading is easier than many semi auto shotguns and the safety catch is large but perhaps

better placed at the rear of the trigger guard. An oversized bolt release is fitted as standard and being a gas operated shotgun the mainspring is energetic – so don't put fingers into the ejection port!

As mentioned, the raised rib helps keep the head up and the fibre optic foresight bead makes fast acquisition of it easy. On the indistinct background of a buff card target this was a boon. These factors contributed to a very creditable score of 119ex-120, remarkable considering I had no prior practice with it and much better than I normally achieve. After extending the gun to fit using the supplied extension pads and shims, 120ex-120 would be the norm, as it was very easy to shoot and fit naturally. In its supplied configuration, this gun would suit all forms of shotgun shooting from clays and quarry shooting, to the NRA Shotgun League, given the telescopic sight fitted to the mounting points on the receiver. It is certainly a contender to win the Timed and Precision 1 and Multi-Target matches. At £1100 RRP, this is sure to appeal to those who want one gun to do well in all fields. ■



NRA Shotgun League director James Harris tests the Beretta 1301 at the Phoenix 2015

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Record-breaking festival

James Harris runs us through the competitions at the biggest ever Target Shotgun Festival



Ollie Bloomfield was one of the record number of competitors

This year's Spring Target Shotgun Festival saw a bumper turnout of competitors, not only for the GR&P shotgun events on the Saturday morning, but also for the first round of the NRA Shotgun League on the Sunday – though the expected winter weather encouraged more than a few to hide under the duvet for the weekend. Those hardy souls who took the chance were rewarded, not only by grey sky and drizzle, but also the very rare sight of the turning targets on the centre bay of Butt Zero being used to capacity with full firing lines all morning. The first detail of T&P1 shattered the dawn silence as the first competitors fired the first shots that would result in a total of 500 pounds of lead heading downrange. While I doubt we have over the years moved the earth's centre of gravity to Bisley, it is undoubtedly the centre of TS.

Unlike the November 2015 Target Shotgun Festival, where the conditions were appalling and the scores lower than normal, the

totals were back to their normal level with John Chambers and Rob Sanders putting in creditable scores to win the T&P1 Semi Auto and TP1 Manual events respectively.

This year the NRA Embassy Cup was included in the Target Shotgun Festival, as the improvements to Butt Zero have made the prone and kneeling components far more palatable than in previous years where mud and puddles were the order of the day. Although the scoring zone is perhaps the largest of any when compared to shooting distance, the time limit and requirement to reload and change position mid practice throws in some additional complications that resulted in only one possible achieved by John Chambers. It is pleasing to see a number of new faces among the crowd and in particular a few who had attended the TS introduction days the year before; it is plainly obvious that making the sport accessible and demystifying competitive shooting encourages participation.



Talent takes a tea break:
John Chambers left and
Rob Sanders right



Dexterity and focus
were essential for
reloading between targets



Favourable conditions
meant scores were back
up to the usual levels

2016 NRA Shotgun League: Round One

We were delighted to announce that Edgar Brothers is continuing its sponsorship of the NRA Shotgun League and GMK has increased its sponsorship to include guns from the Beretta and Benelli product lines. This will mean that there is more chance for participants in league matches to win a fabulous prize in the end of year draw. The NRA is continuing dialogue with our sponsors and will be announcing further details in due course.

As is usual practice, a volunteer crew constructed the stages for the NRA Shotgun League match on the Sunday. Works commenced on Friday afternoon meaning that the first competitors could run through on the Saturday. Due to an increased turnout this proved a boon, as the event seems to have outgrown Butt Zero and there was a certain amount

of pressure to complete the 10 stages during the available shooting hours.

While the range has undergone a significant amount of improvement recently, it is still effectively only three ranges side by side, only allowing three stages to be shot concurrently. For this reason the squadding was amended to a half day format and only 10 per squad rather than the usual 15. For the shooters this meant less time standing on the range and more shooting per hour, but it did increase the workload for the volunteers who run the event. Fortunately there are a growing number of people who wish to see this discipline succeed and are ready to turn out to help in some way.

As Bisley is one of the few ranges where solid slug may be used it is always included and this year three stages were put on to test the shooters' ability with it. Stage One utilised reduced size targets at 30m to simulate normal ones at 60m, a distance that few ever get to shoot at, thus rewarding those who were able to extrapolate their known ability and sight picture at lesser distance. Stage Two reverted to the full size targets at closer range and more than a few who were encouraged to speed up their cadence of fire as a result dropped points as their slugs went wide of centre. Stage Three was a test of high speed sight picture and target acquisition with a mere two targets at close range and a kneeling shooting position, it became evident that while many practice standing few expend time practicing kneeling.

These being the only slug stages the ROs made sure that all such ammunition was removed from belts and pockets before moving on the first birdshot stage. This was a simple six-round shoot with little to trap the unwary, but still retained the ability to entice the cocksure to go too fast with attendant misses and top up shots that cost all important time.

Moving on to the next range the shooter found the challenges biased towards technical ability and mental agility with the 24 targets requiring the competitor to plan their reloading to coincide with dead time between shooting locations. The key was to reload only as many as you needed to shoot the next target array and to move as fast as you could while not hindering the dexterity

required for the reload. Open class shooters with fixed magazine changes found this stage less of a challenge.

Stage Six brought flexibility to the fore and rewarded those who had practised shooting from their weak shoulder or were able to modify their usual stance to suit the tight barricade and target layouts.

Stage Seven was another short stage of eight targets, but even so tested every aspect of shooting including the technical ability to judge shot dispersion to avoid the penalties. Aiming off in order to miss a penalty seems to be a dying skill among some who are perhaps used to lesser standards of shooting challenge.

Stage Eight brought a change of range but stayed with the theme of technical ability, focusing again on good shooting stance, recoil control, target acquisition and knowing the shot pattern; stages like this were once so common that they became de facto standard exercises but we still like to slip them in now and again to reward those that have full suite of skills and not just the ability to reload quickly and pull the trigger.

All the short stages were shot in pairs to reduce the non-shooting time during the day and walking forward to Stage Nine presented eight targets arranged to be shot from four positions within a very small area – another prime example of the ingenious use of the facilities available.

Concluding the day was Stage 10, comprising of a mere 18 targets in a symmetrical formation that favoured neither left nor right-handed shooters, with the five shooting locations defined by the barricades and tyre piles. While this may have reduced the requirement to remember where to shoot from it did little to help guide those who could not remember how many to shoot from each position and more than one static reload was seen to be incurring additional time.

Usually the scoring of the match continues for quite some time after the last shot is fired, however thanks to the use of multiple touchscreen tablets and a master unit, the 600 scoresheets had been processed as soon as each stage had been shot so that the scores were known there and then.

Hopefully improvements in battery technology and the increased familiarity with the scoring application will mean that the paper scoresheets can be dispensed with in future, resulting in less staff time collating them and reduced wastage.

Efficiency improvements such as this and an improvement in facilities will go a long way towards coping with the growth in events such as these and the next round of the league to be held at Bisley on 30-31 July will benefit from the acquired knowledge. That match will be run over two days, though competitors will only need to shoot on one of them, as a result double the capacity will be available to ensure that all that wish to shoot are able to. ■

RESULTS			
#	NAME	TOTAL	X
TIMED AND PRECISION 1 SGSA-0736-HPS300 30X			
1st	John Chambers	299	17
2nd	Richard Ingram	295	6
3rd	Rob Sanders	295	8
TIMED AND PRECISION 1 SGM-0735-HPS 300 30X			
1st	Rob Sanders	206	14
2nd	John Chambers	290	22
3rd	Rich Perry	288	6
NRA EMBASSY CUP SGSA-3336-HPS 120			
1st	John Chambers	120	-
2nd	Richard Ingram	114	-
3rd	David White	94	-
NRA EMBASSY CUP SGM-3335-HPS 120			
1st	John Chambers	104	-
2nd	Rich Perry	94	-
3rd	Paul Rigby	67	-

NRA SHOTGUN LEAGUE ROUND ONE RESULTS			
#	NAME	%	POINTS
OPEN DIVISION			
1st	Richard Ingram	100	431.3845
2nd	Cansh Pope	85.97	369.5745
3rd	Ben Love	75.39	325.2083
STANDARD DIVISION			
1st	Joshua Kenny	100	445.2622
2nd	James Harris	84.69	377.0826
3rd	Magnus Gustaffson	77.22	343.8492
STANDARD MANUAL			
1st	Conor Kenneally	100	442.1846
2nd	Jon Holloway	83.45	368.9887
3rd	James Symes	70.47	311.5974

Entry conditions to NRA league matches

Entry to any of the leagues is open to any person not disbarred under S21 of the 1968 act and complying with all licensing requirements. There is no need to be a member of the NRA to take part and the NRA club insurance policy will cover non-club members participating in league matches for no additional premium. The NRA runs a number of leagues and for 2016 not only will there be the Shotgun and Handgun (LBR/LBP) Leagues, but also a Minirifle League for .22RF rifles. The majority of these matches will be at clubs around country with a number being held at Bisley. All are advertised on the NRA webpage where contact details can be found for the match organisers, www.nra.org.uk.

CSR round-up

Discipline rep John Morgan-Hosey presents a round-up from the NRA CSR Winter League and looks at what's on in 2016

Winter League

The NRA Civilian Service Rifle Winter League is a series of matches held on the first weekend of every month from October to April and we regularly see more than 100 competitors taking part. The match days usually consist of two separate events and at the end of the season trophies and medals are awarded for the first to third place in four classes. This season has been the best attended yet, and there have been some very good performances put in by competitors who are new to CSR.

The facilities at Bisley for CSR are improving all the time and the NRA, supported by a group of experienced volunteers, run a slick operation on the ranges and in the back office, which has helped CSR grow from strength to strength.

With only two league days left (5 March and 3 April) at the time of writing, the leaders in each class were as follows:

Historic Enfield Class - N Nunn
Iron Sights Class - D Gross
Practical Optic Class - C Hudson
Service Optic Class - P Cottrell

CSR Introductory Courses

These courses continue to be popular and are a great way of finding out all about the CSR basics. Suitable rifles can be hired from the NRA if course members do not have their own and expert coaching is available in the classroom and on the firing point for the mostly practical element of the course.

In total the NRA has run nine CSR introductory courses since setting them up in 2013, with 160 people attending. Feedback has been highly positive, with progression through to competing in

The CSR Winter League is drawing to a close, with the last day in April





Introductory days have enjoyed great success, with a high proportion of attendees going on to compete

league matches at about 44 per cent. Here are just some of the positive comments we have received:

"Just to say thanks to the team for a great day and time spent helping and tutoring – knackered and sore the next day! But I will be back for more! All the very best, Robin."

"Just thought I should say big thank you to the guys for running an excellent course on Saturday. It was a nice combination of useful information, practical tuition and great fun. Excellent value for money too. Well done! Regards, Gary."

NRA CSR Imperial

The national competitions for the Civilian Service Rifle discipline will be held at Bisley, as part of the Imperial Meeting between Wednesday 29 June and Sunday 3 July 2016. The four classes will compete in the respective individual championships over four days with the final individual matches taking place on Saturday 2 July.

Later on the Saturday evening the hugely popular Falling Plates competition will take place, to be shot in two classes, Historic and Modern. The Falling Plates sees a large number of four-shooter teams competing in a



knockout match to see who can knock down a bank of ten steel plates in the quickest time from 200 yards after a 100 yards sprint to the firing point.

The concluding Imperial CSR event is the Civilian Methuen Team Match, which will take place on Sunday 3 July. Sixteen teams will compete for two trophies in Modern and Historic classes; each six-competitor team will complete the 52-round Short Range Rural Contact Match course of fire with the scores for each team posted on team score boards behind the firing point. The Methuen Match is

always well supported, and when the sun shines it is a great end to the CSR Imperial week. ■

NRA CSR and PR discipline sub-committee

The CSR and PR Sub-Committee members are:

Martin Camp - Range management and McQueens

Colin Hudson - Practical Optic Rifle class

Frances Graham - Service Optic class

Mick Kelly - Historic and Iron Sights classes

They can all be contacted by emailing csr@nra.org.uk

CSR experience

Mitch Annan gives his account of a day spent shooting in the cold and wind at the February CSR Match

Once again I joined more than 100 competitors braving the cold and windy conditions at Bisley for the February round of the CSR winter league. With the weather app on my phone telling me I could look forward to a day of wind, rain and sleet with a temperature of around 2 degrees, I was in for an interesting day – but it is a winter league after all.

Today's two matches were the short-range rural contact and the urban contact, to be run concurrently throughout the day. In my short CSR career, to say that the urban contact match is not my favourite would be an understatement. Not because it's a particularly difficult match – it's more a matter of my talent of finding a way to mess it up, be it shooting the wrong target, standing when I should be kneeling and so on. If you think of a mistake, I've done it, so I was not exactly looking forward to that part of the day. But, as I was shooting the rural contact match first, I would worry about that later.

The day started off with the usual two sighting shots at 300 yards, both of which



Who cares if it's cold? Turnout was high as ever

came up with no marker showing. Luckily, I caught a glimpse of a splash in the sand to the right of my target on the second shot. I adjusted to the splash, hoped for the best, took my 10 shots and scored a respectable 5-5, so not the disaster it could have been.

The rest of day turned out to be challenging, with the wind gusting between 3 and 15 mph in varying directions, but the rain held off and the sun actually made an appearance during the afternoon. Despite the ever-changing wind some very good scores were posted in both matches. The stand out scores of the day were a 10-wash

from Andy Burton in the 300-100 run down, Gwyn Roberts' score of 239 in the rural contact match, and Adam Chapman's 190 in the urban contact.

The organisers' decision to run both matches concurrently was a masterstroke, resulting in both matches finishing by 3pm and the results published on the internet by 5pm. Well done and thanks to all those that put the time and effort in organising the matches. As for the dreaded urban contact match, I put in my best score to date, thoroughly enjoyed it, and didn't mess up once. See you all at the next one. ■



CSR WINTER LEAGUE: FEBRUARY WINNERS

RURAL CONTACT

	1ST	2ND	3RD
Historic	A Littler	D Cross	W Daysh
Practical	B Reacher	M Camp	C Hudson
Service	G Roberts	A Chapman	W Ellis

URBAN CONTACT

	1ST	2ND	3RD
Historic	W Daysh	A Littler	D Cross
Practical	C Hudson	B Reacher	M Camp
Service	A Chapman	W Ellis	P Cottrell

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- 5x-32x52
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- 5x-50x56
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Bisley between the wars

Christopher C Bunch explores how Bisley was rebuilt and restored during the years between the wars

In November 1918 the Armistice that effectively terminated the Great War permitted the re-establishment of the NRA's Annual Meeting in 1919 with all the ranges, except for Long Siberia, re-opening. Of great significance was the decision finally allowing women to take part in the King's Prize. Otherwise there was a large reduction in competitors compared with those attending before the War, partly due to a general revulsion against firearms but aggravated by a decision, albeit quickly revoked by the Railway Executive after questions in the House of Commons, not to permit reduced fares, which were already subject to massive inflation as a result of the War. Another factor of course was the high number of casualties among shooters in the War. The Camp Tramway, linking Brookwood with Bisley, along with the 1917 extension to the military camps at Pirbright, Blackdown and Deepcut, remained under War Office control until 1921, though the Camp Tramway service was restored for the duration of the Meeting – but the Range Tramway, which had carried competitors and visitors to the firing points of the Century and Siberia Ranges before the War, remained closed.

The vast quantity of redundant firearms left over by the War had forced the government to bring in legislation controlling their use. This resulted in the Firearms Act of 1920, which required anyone keeping or carrying a firearm or ammunition to obtain a Firearms Certificate. For the purposes of the Act, the NRA was considered to be a club, which enabled it to extend umbrella coverage to all members of the Association and affiliated rifle clubs (who then only had to be in possession of their cards or badges



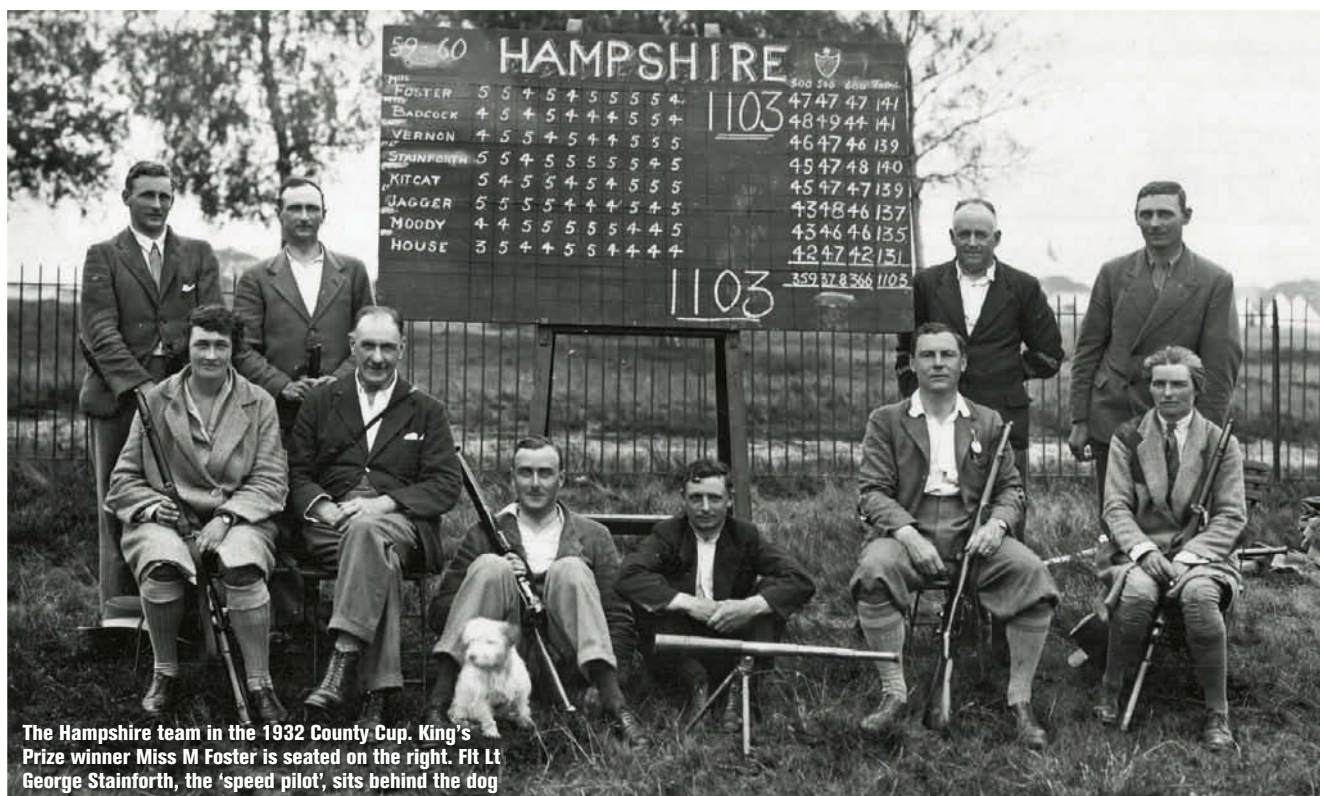
AC Hale, the 1928 King's Prize winner, being interviewed on top of the BBC's van

certifying that they were bona fide members when in possession of or carrying firearms for target practice). This did not extend, however, to keeping firearms at their place of residence, which now required personal certification. Also, towards the end of 1920, the Association officially recognised that the conditions under which they operated had greatly changed and a meeting of interested parties agreed that the council should be made up of 10 members of the NRA plus 10 from the armed services (known then as the Imperial Services), and one each from Canada, Australia and South Africa.

The Association suffered a great loss towards the end of February 1921 when Lieutenant Colonel Crosse, the Secretary for the previous 21 years, died suddenly. Major CE Etches, a prominent shooter before the War, was appointed in his place and was largely responsible for restoring much of the Association's fortunes after the low points experienced following the Great War and into the 1920s. He retired in 1938 to be followed by Major-General Sir Alan Hunter.

In 1925 the NRA's long-serving and very able and influential chairman, Lord Cheylesmore, tragically died from injuries sustained in a motor accident. He had been on the council of the Association since Wimbledon days, latterly as the Officer in Command at the Annual Meeting there, and had become chairman in 1903. As Major-General Lord Cheylesmore he had been responsible for setting up, and became Commandant of, the wartime School of Musketry at Bisley, which contributed so much towards the training of the new armies for that conflict.

In 1923 the more than 120 railway companies that existed in the United Kingdom were amalgamated into four new companies. The old London and South Western Railway Company, that had given so much assistance to the NRA from its earliest days at Bisley, now became a constituent of the newly formed Southern Railway Company, but it was indeed fortunate for the Association that its new general manager was their old friend, Sir



Herbert Walker, who had occupied the same position in the LSWR. He was extremely keen on rifle shooting, always encouraging his staff to take up the sport. The old LSWR prize was now replaced by the Southern Railway prize from 1924, but was shot for under very different conditions, and Walker also awarded his own prizes to be shot for by railway staff.

During the same year it was decided to replace the old 'Pavilion'. This had been the first prefabricated building owned and constructed by the NRA on Wimbledon Common and dated from 1871. Although very ornate at the front, behind this grand façade in its original form until the move to Bisley, it was basically a set of canvas roofed sheds and had ultimately become 'unhygienic and rat infested'. It was replaced by the present red brick building on the same site opposite the council offices. In 1935 the Clock Tower, another prefabricated structure from Wimbledon days, was replaced.

In 1926 a suggestion by Sir Lionel Fletcher, the NRA chairman, for the re-opening of the Long Siberia Range during the Meeting, and for the repair and extension of the old Range Tramway was considered. Rough estimates of the

possible cost of such an undertaking were discussed but in view of the accommodation that would be available for 'unlimited' shooting on other ranges it was considered that the time had not yet arrived to take action in the matter. Long Siberia had only ever served as a 'Pool' Range and for rifle club and secondary competitions, and led a nebulous existence throughout its life. By the early thirties a revival in the NRA's fortunes had permitted it to re-open. The Association's journal was reinstated after the War but throughout the 1920s it was losing money. As a reflection of the parlous state of the Association's finances during this period it had come under close scrutiny but fortunately it survived.

The General Strike of 1926 had some effect on the Association, or at least on the visit of the Canadian Rifle Team to the Annual Meeting that year. Under normal circumstances the secretary would have requested that the normal boat train from their disembarkation point at Plymouth would make a special stop at Brookwood Station, which the railway company would readily have agreed to. However circumstances were such that this service was not available and all that the commercial department of the railway

company could offer was a greatly delayed journey taking nine hours, including an extended wait at Exeter. The normal time was less than half this. The return was even more difficult with some of the team having to elect to travel via Liverpool to make the voyage home!

It was also during the 20s that an individual Canadian won the valuable secondary prize of a railway truckload of coal donated by the colliery that supplied the Bisley Camp, which he quite understandably declined to take home with him. Fortunately, under the arrangements and after a great deal of correspondence by the Secretary, he was able to sell the coal locally so ended up with a rather more flexible, and substantial, cash sum instead.

The British Broadcasting Company, the direct predecessor of the present day Corporation, was formed in October 1922. By the following July wireless broadcasting was being demonstrated at the Annual Meeting of the Association, which thereby came in on the 'ground floor' of this new technological development. This was reported enthusiastically in the journal.

We have to congratulate Messrs Malcolm and Joyce on a series of most excellent wireless demonstrations given during the course of

the fortnight. During the first week their work was most troubled by 'statics' due to the high electrical state of the atmosphere – so much so that on one evening they were forced to forego an advertised concert. During the second week, however, conditions were good, and their demonstrations gave a great amount of pleasure to a large number of competitors and their friends. By the kindness of the British Broadcasting Company, your Editor was enabled, on the Wednesday evening of the first week, to broadcast a chat on Bisley from the London station, and it is hoped that this short talk enabled many thousands of "listeners-in" to take a real and understanding interest in the reports that were appearing in the daily press. Bisley results were a part of the news items broadcasted from the whole of the stations during a greater part of the meeting, and there is little doubt that this most popular form of propaganda has helped materially to speed up the rapidly growing interest of the general public in marksmen and their doings. We trust we shall be able to make similar arrangements during the great Imperial meeting next year to keep all our distant friends informed of our doings

In 1928 the BBC (now a Corporation) inaugurated a regular commentary on the final stage of the King's Prize. Their outside broadcast van was hooked up to a temporary telephone line near the 1000-yard firing point of Stickledown Range where the winner, AC Hale, was interviewed by Capt. EH Robinson, a Life Member of the Association, with both perched in precarious positions on the top of the van. This annual commentary on the final of Sovereign's Prize became incorporated into the Empire Service, which started in 1932. A regular entry in the Association's Annual Report appeared thereafter for many years.

The British Broadcasting Corporation very kindly arranged to broadcast a running commentary of the final stage of the King's Prize, on a wavelength which was audible throughout the Empire.

In 1928 the War Office decided to remove the WWI Military extension of the Camp Tramway out to Pirbright, Deepcut and Blackdown Camps originally laid as a wartime measure in 1917. This was carried out before the 1929 Meeting at the insistence of the NRA – it had caused a major obstruction since the war's end.

It had not seen any regular usage since December 1918.

The year 1930 came to have some significance in the history of the NRA. Particularly noteworthy was the success of Marjorie Foster, the first woman to win the Sovereign's Prize. Before the War, shooting had become popular with women and in 1919 they returned in some force and were now permitted to shoot in the King's Prize. Miss Foster's success re-kindled much of the old enthusiasm. Already highly regarded as a crack shot, she went on to win more prizes and captain teams into the 1950s. Her success in the King's Prize attracted the personal congratulations of King George V in a telegram to Lord Jellicoe, the NRA Chairman.

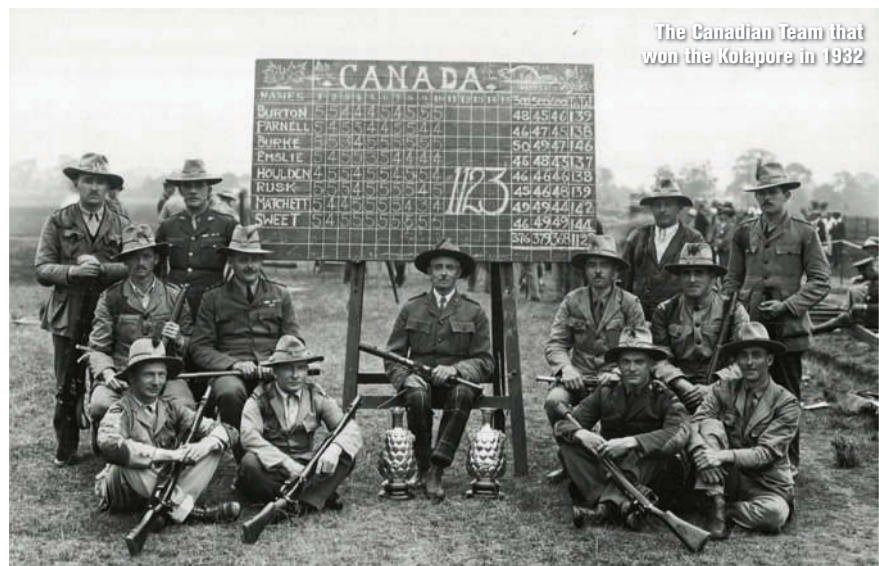
In the Report for the year the death of Conan Doyle was given some prominence, with an obituary recording his efforts in forming Rifle Clubs before the War. Admiral of the Fleet Lord Jellicoe resigned as Chairman at the end of the Meeting and Lord Cottesloe, who as TF Fremantle had spanned the end of the Wimbledon era and the move to Bisley where he acted as Deputy Secretary, was appointed in his place. Another former Chairman, Lord Waldegrave, who first attended Wimbledon in 1868, also died. In 1931 the distinguished shot, Arthur Fulton, achieved a new record by winning the King's Prize for the third time. His first win dated back to 1912 and his second was in 1926.

After the War the NRA had managed to retain the annual payment of £100 from

the Railway Company from the latter's operation of the Bisley Camp Tramway but this had ceased, due to heavy losses, with the absorption of the LSWR into the Southern Railway on 1 January 1923. The year 1930 also nearly marked another major turning point for the Tramway for, by this time, motor vehicles were making severe inroads into the passenger rail traffic to the Camp from Brookwood and the Southern Railway was becoming concerned about the viability of the line. Proposals were put forward for its closure and the local

The poster advertising the final stage of the 1933 King's Prize

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SATURDAY, JULY 22nd, 1933
 The 100 Best Shots in the Empire in
H. M. THE KING'S PRIZE
 Final Range (1000 yards) at 3.0 p.m.
Massed Bands of 4 Regiments
 Presentation of Prizes by
THE VISCOUNT HAILSHAM
(SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR)
 AT 5.15 P.M.
 Teas and Refreshments at the NRA Pavilion.
ADMISSION TO THE GROUND 1/3
(INCLUDING TAX)
THE SOUTHERN RAILWAY
 WILL ISSUE
CHEAP TICKETS BY ALL TRAINS



Aldershot and District Bus Company was approached about taking over the passenger traffic. However, an examination of the accounts showed that goods receipts were still on the positive side. The personal intervention of Sir Herbert Walker, the General Manager of the Southern Railway, ensured that the service continued. It eventually survived until 1952 under the control of the nationalised British Railways.

In 1929 the shed for the rolling stock of the Range Tramway that had transported shooters out to the Siberia Ranges via the Century Range up until 1914 was wrecked in a storm. It was decided to sell the rolling stock and also the track within the Camp boundaries. The scrap merchant George Cohen & Son won the bid, and the rolling stock and rails within the Camp were removed in early 1930. This took place without any publicity, thus adding a blanket of mystery regarding its date of disposal. The Council minutes recorded that the scrap value should be put towards a replacement road roughly following the old track out to the Siberia Ranges. During this period the planting took place of the notable Spanish chestnut trees within the Camp, which today are in full maturity.

Between the wars a number of prominent people were shooting at Bisley. One of these was Flight Lieutenant George Stainforth of the RAF who was not only a talented shot but had been a member of both the successful 1929 and 1931 Schneider Trophy teams, which resulted in that competition finally being won outright by Great Britain. Immediately following this success he became the first man to fly at more than 400 mph when he obtained the flying speed record for Great Britain in another of the Supermarine S6B seaplanes, the aircraft designed by RJ Mitchell that was used in the contest. This aircraft of course was in the direct line of the subsequent development of the Spitfire in both its airframe and its Rolls Royce engine. Contemporary newspapers described Stainforth as 'the speed pilot'. In 1932 he was in the King's Hundred and also a member of the England team that won the National Challenge Trophy in the same year.

Throughout the 1930s a few major developments were recorded, with new target sheds being constructed to serve Stickle-down and the Long Siberia Ranges together with improvements to the telephones at the latter. During the closed season from 1938 to 1939, construction of a new Sniping and Sporting Range took place, which included an automatic Running Bear Range. Use of these new facilities was quickly curtailed by the declaration of war on 3 September 1939.

During the same decade NRA teams shot in the Dominions. In 1931 a Great Britain Team received enough private sponsorship to travel to Canada and in the autumn of 1937 a select NRA Team were able to carry out a five-month round-the-world tour in which they visited South Africa, Australia and New Zealand.

Major CE Etches, the secretary since the death of Crosse in 1921, retired in 1938. A tribute to him by the Council recorded in the 1938 Report noted that 'His tenure has extended over a long and difficult period of reconstruction after the Great War, and his unsparing efforts have contributed very largely to the restoration and increase of the Association's prosperity'. Throughout this period the Southern Railway, aided and abetted by its General Manager Sir Herbert Walker (who retired in 1937), continued the fare concessions and sponsored shooting competitions at



The London Division B Team of the Territorials, winners of the 1938 China Challenge Cup

Bisley for the armed forces and for members of its staff. By the end of the decade Bisley had regained something of its pre-war character – indeed in 1933 a poster proclaimed that the final of the King's Prize would be shot for by the 100 best shots from all parts of the Empire and that the massed bands of no fewer than four Regiments would entertain the crowds, with the Southern Railway offering cheap fares to all comers by all trains for that day. Throughout the 1930s large contingents of military personnel were brought in by train for range duties during the Annual Meeting, quite often over substantial distances, reflecting the distinct revival in fortunes by the Association. In those days the Range Officers were Officers and Senior NCOs selected from all three of the Military Services.

At the July 1939 Meeting the War Office had only been able to supply a fatigue party, rather than the full working party normally used to assist in range and other duties, owing to the threat of war. At the outbreak of the war the Camp was handed over once again for military use, becoming essentially a major training facility for the Home Guard, formed in 1940.

The most common firearm in use at Bisley during the inter-war period was the .303" Short Magazine Lee Enfield, or SMLE, rifle originally introduced into the British Army well before the outbreak of WW1. Also known as the No 1, it, and its equivalent, the American P14 (the No 3), with the No 4 of the Second World War (the direct descendant of the No 1 Rifle) were not effectively challenged until 1968 with the move to NATO ammunition and the development of much more specialised rifles. ■

The foregoing article is an extract from "Targets and Tramways" by Christopher C Bunch

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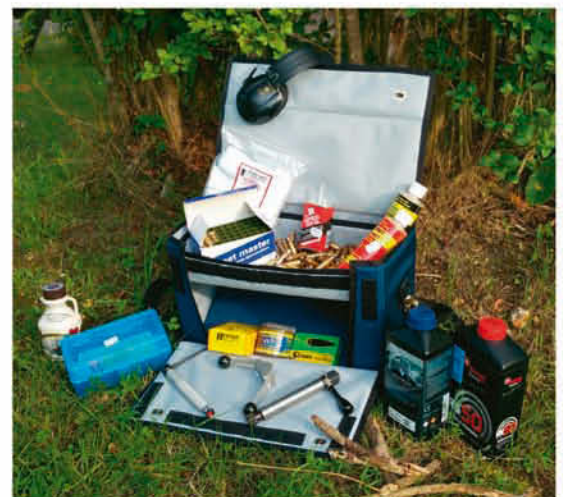
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HPS will once again be on Bisley Camp for the following dates: Phoenix Meeting (May 27th-29th), Intercounties (June 18th-19th), Imperial (July 1st-23rd), F-Class European Championships (September 2nd-10th) and Trafalgar (October 15th-16th). As usual, we arrive on camp two days beforehand for set up so feel free to come by for an early browse and shop!

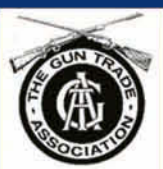
There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.

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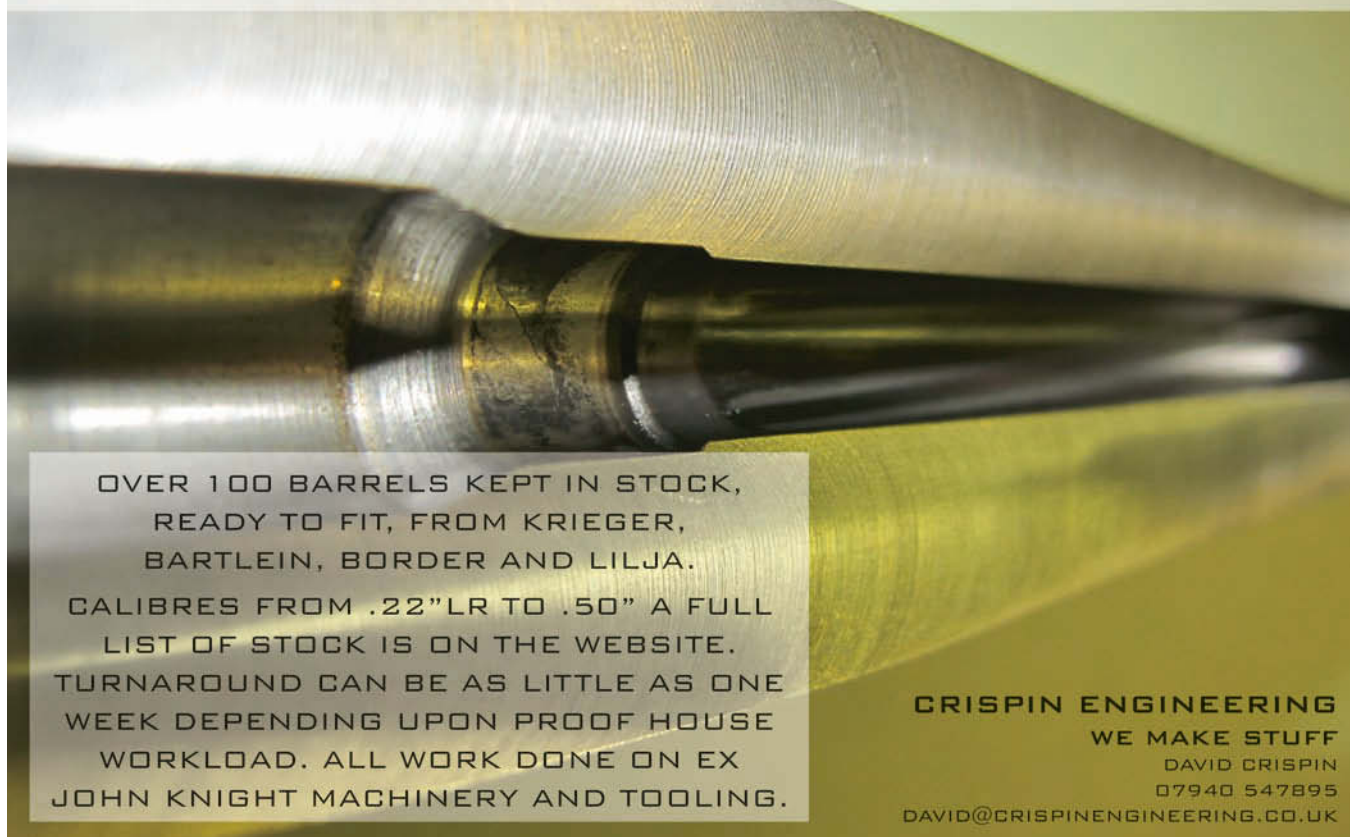
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History repeats itself

Raf Jah reports from the Historic Service Rifle Competition

It's a cold, damp, November day; while most people are at home, a group of riflemen congregate at the car park on Bisley's historic Century Range. Shooters of all ages trudge up through the mud to examine a board and course of fire. The year is 2015. Target shooting is at its most advanced; yet none of these shooters carry rifles younger than 70 years.

Every incarnation of the Lee-Enfield .303 is present. SMLEs, No.4s, jungle carbines and even a handful of No.4 'T' sniper rifles are carried onto the firing point. It is not an entirely English show, though – I note a couple of Springfields,

a Mosin Nagant and, of course, a German Mauser.

The NRA's Historic Service Rifle (HSR) Competition still draws people from around the country, even in this day and age. Though it's run by the team behind the extremely popular Civilian Service Rifle (CSR) competitions, there is acceptance that many people are new to the affair. Briefings on the firing point and instructions to the details in the butts are very clear; no one wants a fellow shooter to be cheated of a point through misunderstanding.

This competition is different to many others. There is a jovial, perhaps

gentlemanly, air to the day. I bump into a seasoned CSR veteran with an SMLE. I express my surprise that he is present. He reminds me that he has a dozen .303s and that he shares my addiction to the creation of Mr James Paris Lee.

Details A and B line up on the firing line, and I find myself next to a gentleman with a Springfield .30-06 rifle. "This is the only comp I shoot," he smiles. "I mainly collect, but I shoot this one."

Looking around, I see some familiar faces from the Civilian Service Rifle scene, but there are also university students and younger NRA members present. An AR15 may cost £2,000-



Events such as this draw people of all abilities – united by an interest in history

3,000 but an Enfield in reasonable condition can be picked up for around £350-500.

With the details separated between the butts and the firing point, the shoot starts at the 300 yard firing point. We are told to lay down 'harassing fire' in the prone position on DP2 targets. The DP2 is a black and white civilianised version of the Figure 11. It is easier to see over open sights.

On hearing the command "watch and shoot," we drop down on to the soft green mound and squint down the barrels of our rifles. The black and white swirl appears before us. I focus on the foresight, place it over the target and squeeze the trigger. We have 60 seconds to accurately fire 10 rounds at the target. A tell-tale splash of sand next to the DP2 indicates a miss. The wind has picked up; I aim off slightly and hope that I have judged correctly.

There are some smiles and groans as the spotting disks are shown by the markers, and the RO walks the line giving us our scores. I have avoided disgrace – which is about the limit of my achievements. My neighbours' scores, however, are excellent.

When it is the turn of my safety officer to shoot, I am surprised by the constant deafening volley of rapid fire. The Lee-Enfield had the fastest bolt-action of its time, and still fares well in 2015.

There are no rundowns in this historic competition, so we all walk sedately forward for the next practice at the 200-yard firing point. Here, while kneeling, I suffer a catastrophic jamming of the rounds – my own fault. Sellier and Bellot is thick-rimmed stuff and likes to be loaded on top of each rim, rather than the traditional one up, one down. All I can do is frantically remove the magazine and rip the rounds out with my numb fingers, trying to load, aim and fire single shots by feeding each round individually into the breech.

As the targets come down, I have four unfired rounds in my hand. The P13 Springfield has worked extremely well.

At 100 yards, we shoot standing and kneeling at Figure 14 'hun's head'. Some people dislike this, but I find it quite easy. The SMLE points naturally at the target while standing and the heavy round punches through the paper and card. All too soon, the details swap and we trudge up into the butts to try to give our opposing numbers as exciting a competition as we have just had.

What is so special about the HSR is that it adds flavour to the already diverse calendar that is offered by the NRA. It draws shooters from every other discipline and yet it has its own individual members who simply shoot HSR once or twice a year.

There is no doubt that accurately shooting a 4kg rifle, with a powerful round, that was designed in 1895, takes skill. The results show us that some people still have that skill. ■

The Historic Service rifle competition runs twice a year, in November and April. All you need is a shooter's certification card, and a historic rifle, and you can enter. See the NRA website for details. NRA members who have the appropriate certification can draw a .303 from the armoury. Contact the range office for details.



Mastery of these historic rifles requires concentration



Competitors are asked to lay down 'harassing fire'



SMLEs, No.4s, jungle carbines and even a handful of No.4 'T' sniper rifles were among the models in use on the day



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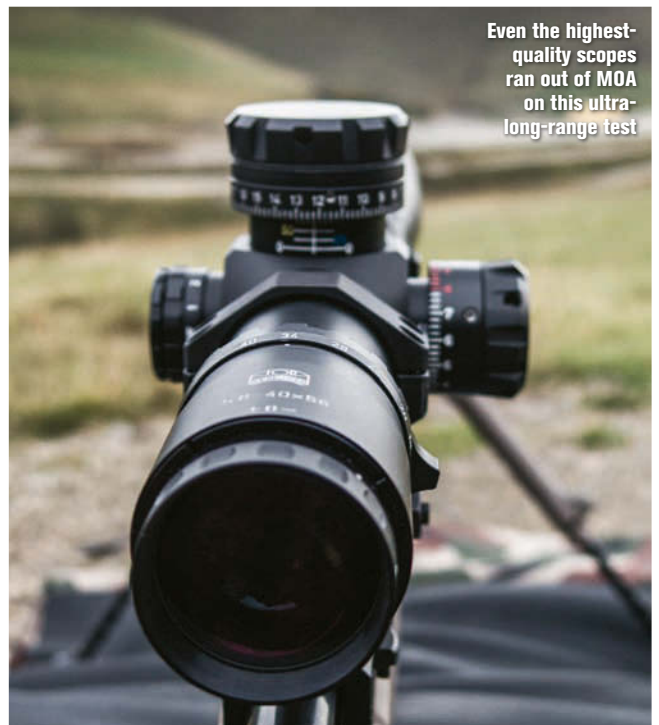
Different shooters have different obsessions. For one small group of shooters, that obsession happens to be 'shooting the mile'. My particular group is rather eclectic, with 'members' drawn from different shooting clubs south of Manchester, west of the Fens and as far south as Dorset. The group meets at a range in west Wales every two to three months, acquiring the nickname 'the Committee' after someone remarked that one particular black and white photo of the team resembled a group of Soviet Communists discussing a recent crop failure.

The range in Wales is secure; even frequent users such as the Committee had to be vetted in a pub car park to make sure no one had 'infiltrated' us. After it was ascertained that we were who we said we were, we were corralled into a convoy of vehicles to drive off-road, into the Welsh hills to the range. Our instructor and RCO for the day was a former sniper and phenomenal spotter who we all knew and liked – let's refer to him as Bob.

Bob's task was not easy. We had specifically come to shoot the mile; and as usual we all had different rifles. A .338 Lapua, two Remington 700s, a beautiful Accuracy International, and our most senior member had an unwieldy and often unreliable single-shot RPA. Two of us were confirmed .303 shooters. For reasons unknown to us, we had been persuaded to forego the world's best long-range round for a slightly more modern Remington and Tikka .30-06.

Before we did anything else, Bob wanted us 'on target' at 800 yards. Understandably, he had created a day of falling back, starting at 800 yards, firing into a pan of earth. Then we would go back to 1100 yards, 1400 yards, and eventually to the mile. It was all sensible, safe stuff. If anyone could not get on at a given range, he would have to drop out.

Our guide's task was not easy. We had specifically come to shoot the mile; and as usual we all had different rifles



Even the highest-quality scopes ran out of MOA on this ultra-long-range test

At 800 yards, the attitude was jocular. One person would lie on the damp rubber mats or at a bench while Bob spotted for him. Being an unruly bunch, the rest of us blazed away at other, closer targets while Bob did his work. We, of course, went nowhere near the main steel disk in the pan that he was using as his test target. Bob shook his head in dismay on more than one occasion. He knew us and took our 'recreation of the Alamo' in good cheer.

Some motor-bikers turned up and asked to drive in circles in front of the firing point. The land is dual use and so we broke for lunch and retired to the Shackleton hut that serves as the social zone/classroom

for the range. Once the bikers had moved on, we drove higher up the mountain side, and prepared our kit on the wet grass. At the 1100-yard firing point there were no benches or rubber mats. One man shot, the rest spotted, helped someone else, or just prepared his own kit.

Our .338-toting colleague had the dope dialled on his DTA in one round. His second pinged off the steel plate. The Accuracy International did the same. The Remingtons took a few rounds longer with their shorter barrels. I was lucky in that I had a batch of 210-grain Berger bullets specially made for my T3. On the third round, I hit steel. The only person who had trouble was our man with the

RPA. He had not worked his dope out properly and Bob nearly suffered a heart attack when his round went eight metres high and into the sand that was at the top of the pan.

"You are eight metres high, windage perfect, bring it down," Bob relayed. But our man simply could not work out the number of clicks required, and continued to shoot high. After a while, he had to gracefully retire.

At 1400 yards, the Remingtons decided not to shoot. The .338 got on target fairly swiftly and stayed on target. This left the AI .308 and my Tikka T3 to try to catch up. My Vortex 6-24x scope was excellent, but the 30MOA drop on my rail was simply not enough. I could not aim at the target, but had to aim at a tussock of grass so far above it that the target was not even visible through the scope.

Bob would yell out instructions until I was on target, but no matter what I did, I could not hit the steel plate. I bowed out – I needed a scope rail with more drop. The AI had a similar experience, but he was a better man than I was, and eventually struck steel.

The light was fading now. We had run out of time. "Fellas, we don't have the time or light to drive up to the one-mile firing point," Bob told us. We all agreed; we had had a great time, and had made annotations on our dope cards and logbooks. We would return to build on what we had achieved and hopefully shoot the Mile.

I turned to my fellow Lee-Enfield owner. "Maybe we should bring the .303s next time. We'd have no problem then." He looked at me, and smiled as though I was an idiot. The last I heard, he had ordered a .338.

The obsession continues. ■

The range in question is actually the Orion Firearms Training facility in west Wales. Accommodation is available in Llanidlois or Llangurig. 'The Committee' always stays at the Black Lion Pub, which is the meeting point for all Orion Activities. Website: www.orionfirearmstraining.co.uk. Contact Mandy or Becky at info@orionfirearmstraining.co.uk. Tel: 01686 412113 or 07449 327006.





What a sight

Is the Swarovski STR80 the undisputed champ of the spotting scope market? Nick Parrish decides...

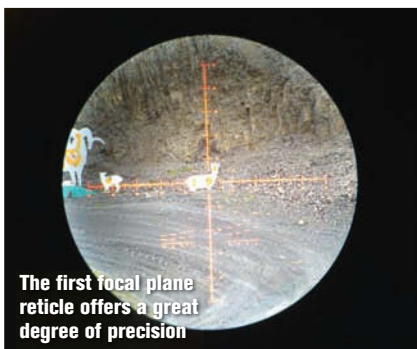
Standard targetry at the range tends to be fairly easy to call correction on as the scoring rings and pointer tally together with MOA, dial off or aim offs. But when you're shooting at extended range with non-standard targetry, spotting scopes that display a reticle within them are becoming increasingly popular. Although some are sticking with the reticle in what is effectively the second focal plane, remaining constant in size at any magnification, the first focal plane – just like in many of the applicable riflescopes – is experiencing a resurgence. Many products have Miliradian reticles – but the newest, and perhaps king of the market, is the Swarovski STR spotter, from a company whose optics need little introduction and are now leading the field in reticle application too.

Alongside the usual edge-to-edge clarity, flat field of view and image resolution capable of picking up the

merest hint of bullet holes, the focusing collar on the body of the scope allows precise adjustment of focal length to assess mirage at varying distance, as well as directly watching what happens on the target. With 20-60x magnification on offer from the eyepiece on test (which is an extra component), you have the choice of a broad field of view and the ability to catch bullet trace at long range, or winding up to full power for precise detail. A 25-50x wide angle eyepiece is also available.

As it's a straight body scope, you will want a tall and secure tripod – though at 2kg, the scope resists wind flutter well. A high quality fluid head will simplify precise alignment. The eye relief at 17mm allows you to keep your head from physically touching the adjustable eyepiece collar if you prefer, or you can adjust it through its range to accommodate spectacles or preferred position settings. Swarovski's TLS APO Digi scoping adaptor is also fully compatible should you wish to record or share the visual display in use with iPhone compatibility, or with your SLR camera rigged up.

So far we have mentioned nothing of the reticle as it is currently invisible, but when illuminated using the dial above the eyepiece, it bursts into life in orange-red. Intensity is easily adjustable to suit background lighting conditions or the target itself and you can then read off target size, bullet impact placement or a missed fall of shot at any magnification in Minutes of Angle to allow the shooter to compensate. An Mrad option is available for those preferring metric units, but when you begin to shoot as a pair in this manner, specifically on steel figure 11s or the like, it becomes very smooth to convey information between the paired team. Field of view diminishes as expected with increasing magnification, but at 20x, over 100 MOA



The first focal plane reticle offers a great degree of precision



A solid tripod with fluid head will help you get the most from the STR80



Don't forget that battery – though the scope advertises 1,300 hours of reticle use on one power cycle



The 'flip back' lens cover offers extra protection



You'll find yourself tweaking focus regularly

are available to measure with in both windage and elevation.

Focusing the reticle requires a coin to be used to rotate a flush-mounted dial, and this is one area where I think Swarovski needs to make a change. Different shooters or spotters will have different dioptre requirements when using an item like this, which is acceptable to adjust for. But what was a slight irritant is that as magnification was altered at the eyepiece, I always needed tweaks to re-focus the reticle too. Given that the hash marks indicating MOA values are quite fine and you don't want to have an overly bright reticle (when spotting for a minute bullet splash in the backstop), you will want focus to be as sharp as possible.

I avoided constantly adjusting things by sticking to the lowest 20x magnification and concentrated on using the wide field of view and ultra-sharp image to indicate the bullet splash. This worked well for me as it allows easier viewing of bullet trace too (it often arcs high above the direct line of sight). Controlling focus was also accurate and allowed me to bring the focal point slightly into the mid-range region where at its highest, the swirl of the air is easier to see in clear space.

A large foot is positioned to mount the scope with the expected ¼" thread common to all such optics, and the body can be unlocked to rotate if desired – though I see no great reason on a straight tube. Swarovski are using Fluoride HD glass and the colours displayed, and

resolution on offer is first rate. It is relaxing to view through with no eye strain over long periods. Lens caps are supplied and the front one flips back over the body or integrated telescopic sunshade on an elastic cord to protect from rain, and can be left sitting slightly proud to diminish distraction from a high sun on the big 80mm lens. Even on the highest of its 15 brightness levels, the reticle remained fairly sharp with little blurring or washout as it didn't leak like ink from a pen. Waterproofing to 4m in depth is guaranteed, and regardless of the physical size, the non-slip coating was assuring to handle, protecting the mechanics from dust and debris as well as keeping all the lens edges clear of any physical abuse. The tube is, as expected, filled with inert gas.

This is a very expensive optic and will cost the far side of £3,000 to own, but it is currently unique at this level and any avid connoisseur of optics will always feel short-changed when using equipment of a lesser capability. Is it worth it? Well apart from the slightly annoying re-focusing requirements of the reticle, which with a coin is a faff when changing magnification, it very much is – but your pocket will always be the deciding factor. This scope will last a lifetime and glassware like this hardly gets superseded in the long term, never mind the short. For target use in good light conditions, I can hardly see it want for more in terms of image quality – just keep a battery spare. ■



Picture quality is excellent, as you'd expect at this price



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Range services update

Head of range services, Richard Wells, gives an update on some of the works under way around the NRA's sites

Bisley development and maintenance works

Bisley Camp is, in large part, a Victorian and Edwardian time warp. Nearly all the original buildings survive and an ongoing restoration programme is putting most of them in good order and to good use. Relatively little has been built since 1914 not to spoil the charm of the Camp and as such anything built hereafter must be in keeping with the older buildings, now that the bulk of the Camp is formally designated a conservation area. The special appeal of the Camp distinguishes Bisley from shooting centres elsewhere in the world. Integral to this idyllic setting are the ranges, which compared to new ranges being built in populated areas, have few restrictions and offer a huge variety of shooting opportunities.

The ambience of the Camp and diversity of shooting available at Bisley has encouraged a year on year increase in NRA membership and a significant increase in demand for range space. The availability of range space and its efficient use is critical to shooter satisfaction and wholly dependent upon regular maintenance, prioritisation and scheduling all carefully interwoven with an inherent culture of safety.

The ranges at Bisley undergo constant routine maintenance in order to retain the facility to shoot, however the past 12 months has seen increased focus on refurbishment and improvement of facilities far above and beyond that which is conducted routinely.

Camp navigation

When members enter Bisley Camp they are guided by new signage, all in NRA



blue, that enables navigation to the ranges and key buildings. At the centre of the Camp, outside of the Fultons building, there is a large map of the site that indicates your current location and the relative location of key areas and buildings.

Hobson's Way is subject to much comment. Due to exceptionally wet weather and increased usage, it has deteriorated considerably during the winter months. In order to maintain the road in a passable state, 80 tonnes of gravel were laid with the acknowledgement that this was a temporary fix ahead of a more permanent solution that will take place once the weather has improved in March/April 2016. Prior to that, some tree felling is required to remove the drip line that runs along both edges of the road. In the meantime, all members are requested to adhere to the speed limits and restrain from parking on the verges of Hobson's Way.

Century Range

The Markers' Walkway that provides access to the Century Butts has undergone significant improvement. The roof has



Before and after: the Markers' Walkway on Century has been significantly improved

been replaced providing full width protection from falling shot from the Clay Shooting Centre. The undergrowth that was invading the walkway has been removed, permitting access on foot or by golf buggy, but more importantly the Butts can now be accessed by ambulance should it ever be required.

Just before Christmas, six electronic targets were trialed in Butt 19. They proved very popular, with almost 70,000 rounds fired in 18 days. Towards the end of the trial, the targets did suffer some poor reliability. The target infrastructure has now been improved by fixing the wiring at the firing point and erecting a security fence to protect the targets, allowing them to remain in place permanently. The targets were brought back into service on 2 Feb 2016 and are available for hire now. Unfortunately I must warn against the practise of shooting at the edge of the target, or zeroing on the securing screws – this causes damage to the electronic system. Fortunately the system allows us to identify perpetrators and in future they will be billed for damage caused. Please

ensure that your firearm is zeroed before firing on these targets.

Sessions are as follows: 8.30-10am, 10.30-12pm, 1.30-2.30pm, 3-4pm.

300m Shed

Due to the popularity of the electronic targets, we are now able to offer opportunities to use the 300m shed on Century Range. These 300m electronic targets will be available for booking by NRA members and affiliated clubs for six weekends a year. The dates are listed below and bookings can be made through the Range Office as normal. Technical support will be provided by 300m Club members, but the RCO will be from the NRA. Any calibre up to 8mm is permitted but the following restriction will apply:

- No expanding ammunition.
- No muzzle loaders.
- No tracer.

If you wish to shoot in the comfort of the 300m shed please book one of the following dates with the Range Office:

- 5-6 March
- 30 April -1 May
- 14-15 May
- 28-29 May
- 3-4 September
- 1-2 October

Short Siberia

Due to the increased demand for shorter ranges, the 100yd firing point has been extended to provide 27 targets at 100yds. Lanes 1-10 will provide covered firing points. The 200yd firing point will be available on the fourth weekend of each month. The Short Siberia parking area has been extended to accommodate the expected increase in traffic.

Less obvious activities have taken place in the Short Siberia Butts, improving the safety of markers and members, with adjustments of the target frames and replacement of the trog guard rail.

Stickledown

Target 51 on Stickledown, also known as the Bisley Buffalo has received some attention on social media. I am pleased to say that it is not the “flop” that some seem to think it is. We are receiving bookings on the target, despite the lack of a shot detection system. However, there is good news on that front – we have a shot detection system and hope to install it in the very near future. I am sure that demand on the target will then increase significantly. Target 51 may be hired at the standard lane hire price.

Cheylesmore

Cheylesmore has been transformed. It now provides adjacent indoor heated classroom and club room for cleaning of firearms, reloading and socialising. The range itself has been refurbished with plans to develop it further. In the near future, Bay A will provide Olympic (ISSF) standard electronic targets, Bay B is a double bay with 20 targets and will be developed to permit night shooting, and within Bay C it is proposed to provide two advancing targets.

Cheylesmore will provide a flexible shooting space that is available for daytime club bookings at the moment and evening/night shoots in the near future.

Melville

Melville has been the main focus of our upgrading efforts of late and work is now nearing completion. Bay A has been totally refurbished. The range floor has been removed and replaced with pea

shingle, sleepers are sunk into the shingle to reduce ricochet and new target rails have been fitted. In the new format there will be seven advancing targets and all will run to 25 and 50 yds. A granulated rubber “shoot in” box has been installed in the sand stop butt. This is the first time that granulated rubber has been used at Bisley; if it is successful, it will be used elsewhere to take advantage of reduced long term maintenance costs. Elsewhere, in Bays B,C,D and E, the 25yd target line has been removed to further reduce the ricochet hazard and increase the efficiency of our range use. Mini mantlets have been removed and replaced by ballistic tiles mounted on a sleeper wall. This has the effect of providing a vertical mini-mantlet, and target mechanism protection, reducing further still the risk of ricochet.

In time, Melville will be subject to further development and will provide covered firing points at 25yds and remote control of the target turners. This is unlikely to be complete before the major events of the summer (fast approaching). If there is a requirement, gazebos will be installed (and removed, as necessary) to provide members with shelter from inclement weather.

Zero Range

The Zero Range is heavily used and has suffered some severe attrition. It will be subject to some major structural repairs in early 2016, and it is likely to be closed for up to 10 days. During this period, alternative zeroing facilities will be provided.

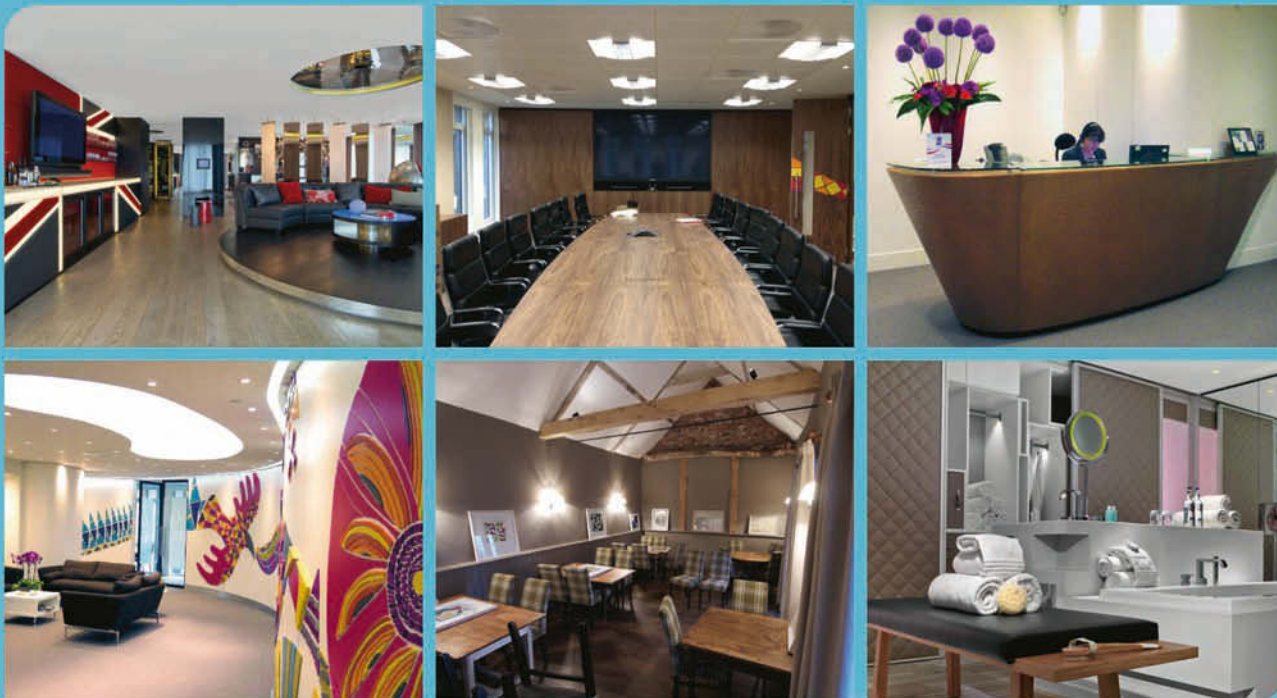
This should not deter you from zeroing your firearm prior to shooting, particularly at the electronic targets. ■



Work on Melville Range nears completion



Cheylesmore has been refurbished with heated indoor spaces



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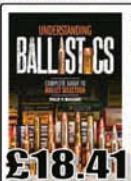
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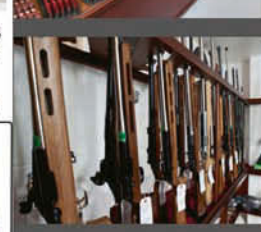
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Rep reports

Your newly appointed or re-elected reps give us a brief snapshot of what will be going on for them in the months to come

Ian Shirra-Gibb, 300m

Email: 300m@nra.org.uk

The 300m season starts in March, and this year there is a range share with the NRA. NRA dates and charges are available on their website. Booking must be made to the range office on NRA weekends. GB 300M RC dates are on the club web page.

Our first friendly away match for NRA teams will be in early April at Clermont, France, with a return match at Bisley to be arranged. A few weeks later there is a small four nation international match, again in Clermont.

The international scene will be smaller this year due to the Olympics, but three EC cup matches will be held in Denmark, Finland and Croatia with the final in Zagreb. The NRA British 300m Championship will be held on the weekend 14-15 May. Entry forms can be obtained from the NRA.

James Harris, Target Shotgun

Email: targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

This year's season for Target Shotgun got off to a great start with the Target Shotgun Festival in mid-February. A bumper entry indicates that all is well in this growing discipline, a tribute to the hardworking volunteers who have assisted running the matches over the past few years.

By the time this Journal is delivered, the second round of the NRA Shotgun

League will have been shot and Bisley will be gearing itself up for the Spring Action weekend. This year, shotgun events will be on Butt Zero so make sure that you dust off the trusty 12-gauge and enter one or two to keep your hand in for the Phoenix meeting in May, when we will be back on Short Siberia. The next TS intro course is on the 26 March – entry forms are on the website.

Please make a note in your diary of the 30-31 July, when we will be running the NRA National Championship at Bisley. This will also be Round Eight of the Shotgun League. Forthcoming league dates are:

- 17 April – Romsey, The Andy Newman Memorial open Round Three (www.romseyshootingclub.co.uk; steve@rscopen.co.uk)
- 27-28 May – Bisley, Phoenix Meeting
- 10-12 June – Shield, Summer Challenge, Round Four (www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk; steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk)
- 26 June – Phoenix, Round Five (www.phoenixshootingclub.co.uk; ron@phoenixshootingclub.co.uk)

NRA Handgun League forthcoming dates are:

- 20 March – Bisley, Round 1 (shooting div and james.harris@nra.org.uk)
- 10 April – Shield, Round 2 (www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk; steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk)

- 29 May – Bisley, Round 3 (shooting div and james.harris@nra.org.uk)

We are also pleased to announce that in 2016 we will be running a Mini Rifle League to stimulate interest in this type of shooting as well. The first round of the league will be at Shield Shooting Centre on the 10 April and will run in parallel with the second round of the NRA Handgun League.

John Morgan Hosey, CSR

Email: csr@nra.org.uk

CSR introductory courses

These courses continue to be popular and are a great way of finding out about CSR and homing skills. Suitable rifles can be hired from the NRA if course members do not have their own, and expert coaching is available on the firing point for the mostly practical element of the course. With one course having taken place on 6 February, the next is scheduled for 25 September.

PSSA Diggle CSR League

The Diggle CSR League matches continue, with the 2016 season under way.

Forthcoming dates are:

- Sat 9 April
- Sat 14 May
- Sat 11 June
- Sat 23 July
- Sat 20 August
- Sat 17 and Sun 18 September – Diggle



Practical Rifle National Championships

- Sat 15 October
- Sat 19 November
- Sat 10 December

For more information on Diggle CSR matches email digglesr@gmail.com.

NRA CSR discipline sub-committee

A new discipline sub-committee has been formed to promote, shape and lead CSR and PR continues to grow in popularity. The sub-committee will be the primary contact for any questions about the discipline; be they suggestions, rule queries, courses of fire, range management or general queries. The CSR & PR Sub-Committee Members are:

- Martin Camp – Range Management
- Colin Hudson – Practical Optic Rifle Class
- Frances (Frankie) Graham – Service Optic Class
- Mick Kelly – Historic and Iron Sights Classes

They can all be contacted through: csr@nra.org.uk

Mik Maksimovic, F-Class

Email: fclass@nra.org.uk

The F-Class League events started in February with a training weekend at Bisley. We usually have 30 or more new shooters attending this annual event. This is a three-day event with a small amount of classroom work on reloading skills and wind/elevation plotting and scorecards. The rest of the course concentrates on zeroing the rifle correctly for long-range work, including shooting at 100, 600, 900 and 1,000 yards. Many course members go on to participate in National F-Class League matches.

The F-Class League has eight matches planned for 2016 with two

at Blair Atholl, three at Diggle and three at Bisley, which includes the F-Class Europeans, (5- 11 Sep) with approximately 300 F-Classers expected from all over Europe and the world, a truly world class event which grows every year. This is shot at 800, 900 and 1000 yards over six days. F-Class will be shot on its own weekend and format during the Imperial – this has proved extremely popular and is set to grow into a major event in itself. Please come along and have a go, everyone is extremely helpful and welcoming.

See www.gbfcass.co.uk and NRA website for dates and entry forms.

Neil Francis, GR&P

Email: gallery@nra.org.uk

Promotion of the discipline and the events being run throughout the season can be as easy as printing the flyer and pinning it up on your club noticeboard. Or, for the more enthusiastic – come along and take part and encourage your club colleagues to come as well. The calendar of events for the Gallery Rifle and Pistol season is published on the usual set of websites, including www.galleryrifle.com.

For many, the season starts with the Opening Bisley GRAW - The Spring Action Weekend. Easter is early this year, so for 2016 the SAW will take place over the weekend of the 19-20 March. After that, the season is full and varied with competitions being held throughout the country.

Many people find the intricacies of the GR discipline and its varied courses of fire slightly overwhelming. No doubt this applies to other shooting disciplines as well, which is why the NRA offer Discipline introduction days which are available to all to attend. The NRA

website offers full details for the interested.

On the Sunday of all Bisley GRAWS this season, a practical pistol match will be hosted on Butt Zero. Entry forms for these matches will be included on the appropriate entry forms. These matches are for LBP/LBR only and form constituent parts of the season-wide NRA Handgun League. The league was a great success in 2015 and more opportunities are being offered this season to take part.

Paul Wolpe, Muzzle Loading

Email: muzzle@nra.org.uk

The MLAGB Overseas Team Fund Match is being held at Wedglock on the 19-20 March 2016. There are competitions for pistol, rifle and musket and the entry forms are attached. It is an open competition so non-MLAGB members are welcome.

All firearms used must be held on the correct firearms or shotgun certificates. The details start at 10am with the last at 4pm and all shooting finished by 4.30pm. It is best (and cheaper!) to book in advance. There is self-squadding and you just take up a vacant firing point. Of course if you do this while a detail is in progress, you must avoid disturbing those shooting.

The atmosphere is friendly. The competition allows re-entries. In addition to the usual equipment you will need a staple gun and if firing at 100m then bring a pair of Wellingtons (due to recent weather and recent building work).

The mid and long range calendar starts with the Long Range Rifles Branch Asquith competition on 8 April 2016. This is for Enfield rifles and is an aggregate match of 600



Mik Maksimovic



Neil Francis



Paul Wolpe

yards and 800 yards. Although this is extreme range for the military muzzle loaders the highest score at 800yds has been 55 (Ken Watson 2011) so it can be done! There will be several more open competitions during the year at Wedgnoek and an open 100yd competition at Bisley on 30 October 2016. There are a lot of very good ML shooters who do not enter competitions, but who should. Whatever your standard you would have a great day.

Alex Cargill-Thompson, Match Rifle

Email: match@nra.org.uk

Rule 156

As a result of several breaches of Rule 156 'Positions', with respect to the design and use of rests, the shooting committee has decided to clarify this rule for 2016. The rule now defines the permissible area of contact between the firer and the rest, with the relevant text amended as follows:

"An adjustable rest to support the forward hand / wrist in the prone position, or the foot / ankle in the supine position, is permitted. The dimensions of the area of contact must not exceed 145mm x 102mm (the area of this book [i.e. the NRA Handbook or "Bisley Bible"] laid flat)."



Alex Cargill Thompson



Muzzle-loading competitions kick off in mid-March

Events

The first main open events of the season are the London and Middlesex RA Match Rifle Meeting (Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May), followed by the English Eight Club Spring Meeting (Saturday 7th & Sunday 8th May); entry forms will be available on www.lmra.co.uk and www.englishheight.org.uk, respectively, in due course.

GB MR Team to Australia 2016

The team, captained by Martin Townsend, departed for Tasmania on 20 February. A warm-up event took place in Strahan on 24 February, with the team then moving on to compete in the Tasmanian and Australian MR Championships at Campbell Town. These culminated on 8 March with the Woomera Match between the GB and Australian teams, which was won by the GB Team. This was followed by a rare opportunity to shoot at 1,500 yards, before the team returned home on 11 March. You can find out more about the tour at www.gbmr2016.org.uk.

Match Rifle sub-committee

The MR sub-committee, which exists

to represent the interests of the MR community to the shooting committee, comprises the following members:

- Alex Cargill Thompson – MR Discipline Representative
- Nick Tremlett – England Elcho Captain
- Mike Baillie-Hamilton – Scotland Elcho Captain
- Gary Alexander – Ireland Elcho Captain
- Lou Lou Brister – Wales Elcho Captain
- Allan Campbell-Smith

Other disciplines and contact details

Peter Ryder, Historic and Classic Firearms

Email: classic@nra.org.uk

Simon Cox, CCRS Schools Committee

Email: info@ccrs.org.uk

Simon Fraser, CCRS

Email: simon@taraccrs.co.uk

Alistair Bullen, Sporting Rifle

Email: sporting@nra.org.uk

Steve East, Target Rifle

Email: target@nra.org.uk



Match Rifle shooters have a packed calendar of events to look forward to

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Training grows for 2016

Looking to move into a new discipline? Or hoping to boost your skills?
The NRA has a range of new and continuing courses for 2016



The NRA has discounts on training for shooters under the age of 25

The NRA proudly delivers training to a variety of groups, from new shooters to Range Conducting Officers (RCOs) and even the Met Police and Home Office. We aim for our training to provide a solid grounding in target shooting for its members and shooters, and for its RCOs to be given the knowledge, aptitude and awareness to effect safe and informed shooting at all times.

Probationary members' training

After a robust review of the probationary members' training system, a new package was offered from January 2015. The revised programme consists of five one-day compulsory modules covering a wide spectrum of fullbore and gallery rifle shooting and includes range safety and procedures, zeroing and sighting, basic firearms maintenance and target marking.

This training has been enthusiastically received by new shooters and attendance was consistently strong throughout

2015, with additional days scheduled for 2016. It has proved to be a successful and effective model, and it has been encouraging to see young people taking up the discounted price of £285 for the package (40 per cent discount for under-25s).

The training offers a solid grounding in all the main shooting disciplines, allowing individuals to develop their shooting skills further through their club or the introduction days run by the NRA.

Introduction to Discipline days

The series of discipline skills days were launched in late 2013 to provide discipline specific skills coaching. These have grown in strength and popularity, with total attendance figures up 66 per cent year-on-year for the three disciplines currently leading them: CSR GR&P and Target Shotgun.

Feedback from these courses is consistently positive: "A big thank you for putting on a fantastic course yesterday. The instructors



Jon Holloway RDs for James Harris at a multi-gun event



Club instructor courses are growing in popularity

certainly know their stuff and I thought the mix of classroom and range work was just right – exactly the right atmosphere to learn. My knowledge has increased 100 per cent.”

“Just thought I should say a big thank you to the guys for running an excellent course on Saturday. It was a nice combination of useful information, practical tuition and great fun. Excellent value for money too. Well done!”

Upcoming courses are listed on the NRA home page, including a CSR skills course in Altcar in May.

Together with the Bisley clubs, the NRA is introducing a new two-day basic TR Skills Development course to provide the fundamental skills for taking part in TR events and competitions. It includes individual coaching, wind reading and the essentials of team shooting with national level coaches. The first course on the calendar is 2-3 April 2016 and will be held at the London & Middlesex Rifle Association (LMRA). If you're a budding TR shooter, this is an excellent opportunity to improve your TR skills and gain the confidence to enter the Imperial Meeting.

RCO course

RCO courses are delivered at Bisley and regionally throughout the UK. In 2015, we were pleased to see a 102 per cent increase year on year in the number of

regional RCOs being trained. If your club needs new RCOs, get in touch with the training department in the first instance. It's also worth noting that the NRA RCO course now includes an optional section on High Muzzle Energy (HME) at no additional charge. Current RCOs who require an HME addition to their RCO qualification can join the course for a fee of £21 for an NRA member or £24 for a non-NRA member.

Muzzle Loading RCO course

This course is run by the MLAGB on behalf of the NRA and on successful completion candidates will receive a certificate from the MLAGB and an endorsement on their NRA RCO card.

RCO Renewal

In 2016, we will be implementing a new procedure for RCO qualification renewals. This is designed to provide the assurance that NRA RCOs have maintained best knowledge and practice. RCOs will be sent an up-to-date manual and will need to pass a written test to qualify for their renewal. Instructions for the new procedure will be announced shortly.

NRA Club Instructor (General Skills) course

These courses, run at Bisley, are

designed to train experienced club shooters to deliver probationary training and assess competence in the safe handling of firearms. This course covers training for gallery rifle, scoped rifle and iron-signed rifle disciplines; however, it does not include target rifle and muzzle loading firearms.

Regional NRA Club Instructor (General Skills) courses are available on request.

Other training

Black Powder/Muzzle Loading course

– this course will provide training in the safe and competent use of black powder/muzzle loading firearms (i.e. percussion pistols, black powder revolvers, musket and muzzle loading rifles).

Hand Loading course – the NRA Hand Loading course is intended to help the complete beginner decide whether hand loading is the way forward and at its conclusion, participants should be confident to produce safe precision handloaded ammunition for their firearm.

Bespoke Firearms Awareness courses

– the NRA undertakes bespoke Firearms Awareness courses for adventure and exploration group leaders, and has run courses for the Home Office, RSPCA and other government agencies. ■

Full details and booking forms for the above are available online at: www.nra.org.uk.

Getting out there

Regional ranges manager Nicholas Couldrey brings you the latest news from ranges around the country

I am delighted to announce that the NRA will host a two-day event at RFCA Altcar in Merseyside on 14-15 May.

Day One will be a marksmanship skills course, aimed at improving the shooting skills of owners of various civilian service type rifles. This includes Historic Enfields such as SMLE, No. 4 or No. 5, AR-15 style platforms with iron sight or optical sights, and bolt-action rifles such as the Remington 700, Accuracy International AW with bi-pods and scopes. The course is open to full NRA members and full members of NRA-affiliated clubs, including those who do not currently hold an FAC or possess the appropriate firearm, but have successfully completed the required probationary course.

On Day Two we will run a competition comprising five different practices over 300, 200 and 100 yards in the prone, standing, kneeling and squatting positions. The format will follow the Short Range Rural Contact Match that has been run successfully at Bisley as part of the Civilian Service Rifle Winter League. We hope that NRA members in the North West and members of the twenty plus affiliated clubs that shoot at Altcar will support the weekend events. Details will be published in due course.

NRA members in Scotland will know that the DIO gallery range at Castlelow south of Edinburgh has been closed for more than a year for repairs to the stop butt. The DIO has confirmed that the range has reopened and available for civilian club use. Landmarc has also confirmed that clubs that had paid for a licence for Castlelow but were unable to use it for a year will be allocated a credit towards the new licence fee.

Plans for the new National Shooting Centre for Scotland in Falkirk are progressing and include a proposal for a 300M NDA fullbore range. We're working closely with the NRA Rep for Scotland Tim



Kidner on the range design. This will be of huge interest to our members in Scotland who rely on a limited number of DIO ranges and private ranges to shoot full bore.

The DIO finally published the new charges for civilian use of DIO ranges in January. The charges had not been reviewed since 2012 and as anticipated there are increases; the details are published on the NRA website. The significant changes are for use of SARTS ranges; clubs will have to pay for a Landmarc operative to run the SARTS system with no exceptions. The Landmarc range warden role has finally disappeared and Landmarc staff are now designated range operatives and expected to multi-task. In the event that a civilian club is the only user of a military range, all the operative costs will be borne by the club. This reflects HM Treasury policy to pass on any costs not attributable to core MoD business.

I recently joined a meeting for clubs in the South East hosted by the DIO SD Training Commander and Landmarc to discuss the impact of the new charges. While any increase in the cost of shooting is a concern, we all recognise that the increase was inevitable and in no way diminishes the strong relationship that exists between civilian shooting clubs and the DIO. Range sharing and consolidation of range bookings was discussed and accepted as a way to mitigate costs in

future. I am working with one of the regional rifle associations on a pilot to determine if this can be made to work in practice. Watch this space.

Some important regional club news: Tameside Shooting Sports Association Ltd in Greater Manchester has re-opened. This follows Home Office approval and the full support of Greater Manchester Police. This is fantastic news for the directors and members and I look forward to joining them later this month. The NRA has been working very closely with TSSA, including a recent range inspection to ensure the smooth reopening of the club.

NRA Northern rep Guy Trembath and the City of Newcastle Rifle Club have been working closely with our colleagues at DIO Otterburn and Landmarc to secure the continued use of six foot target frames at the range at Ponteland. Six foot frames are critical for target rifle shooting and cadet training hence this is significant not just for Ponteland users, but for clubs across the UK.

Finally, an update on the range survey – thanks to all who have responded. We now have a lot of data and have started analysis. I will provide a detailed update in the next Journal. See you out there on the ranges. ■

*To get in touch with Nic, please email`
nic.couldrey@nra.org.uk or
call 01483 797 777, extension 123.*

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Club focus

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

ENGLISH TWENTY (XX)

The English Twenty (XX) Club exists primarily to organise the English Team in international matches. The club was formed in 1883 to help the captain of the English Twenty with the selection of the team for the National Match and to provide a method at district level whereby the better shots could be identified. An early account read: "The Club is formed for the purpose of recording the shooting (scores) of Volunteers of known reputation, whose public performances lead to the belief that their scores will be of service to the captain of the English Twenty."

Only the better shots were allowed to join and they had to be Volunteers. This was rule one in 1886. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh has been the patron of the club since 1953. The core activity of the club is target rifle shooting. The club also fosters the disciplines of 300m, F-Class and gallery rifle, and supports target shooting with pistols via the English Pistol Association, who give serious international competitions when called upon. The club currently has around 870 members, all of whom are eligible to shoot for England and are subjects of The Sovereign.

The club organises several competitions. Within a district, members shoot annually for a jewel, ideally on a local range, although nowadays the jewel shoots are often concurrent with another event, probably at Bisley. With the run-down of the armed forces over the last 50 years, hundreds of ranges have been lost – another reason for the substantial drop in

numbers of target rifle shooters, which is more pronounced outside Bisley.

In 1910, HM King George V presented a Challenge Cup for the English County Rifle Championship. This is still contested today and decided by tournament. Districts are grouped into six regions and the winner of each heat competes in the final, which is held on the first Thursday of the Imperial Meeting.

The English Twenty Club has organised the Spring Meeting at Bisley since 1935. This is open to non-members and takes place on May Bank Holiday weekend.

Since 1894, the English Twenty Club has rented their clubhouse on Club Row from the NRA. The clubhouse is open for refreshments and meals during major events in the calendar. The club noticeboard is where those selected for English Twenty teams and England teams are notified.

When invited, the club sends touring teams to other countries to compete against their national teams. The last tour was to South Africa in 2013 and a team will be travelling to Guyana late in 2017.

The club strongly supports target rifle shooting in England with a view to continue winning the National and Mackinnon matches at the Imperial Meeting. The club also competes in the under-25s Home Countries Invitation Match and provides strong support for young shooters.

The club organises and delivers training for the Commonwealth Games squad. The 2014 Commonwealth Games saw successes for PM Patel (gold pairs, bronze individual) and DC Luckman (gold pairs, gold individual).



Essential info

Discipline: Primarily fullbore target rifle (TR) shooting; also 300m, F-Class and gallery rifle (GR)

Location: Club Row, Bisley camp

Contact: englishtwenty.org.uk

ALT CAR RC

Formed in 1863 and originally known as the Liverpool Volunteer Club, the club went through several name changes before it eventually became Altcar Rifle Club in 1908. It is thought to be the longest standing rifle club in the United Kingdom.

At its core, the club is primarily a Target Rifle club. Alongside this we cater for F-Class and F-TR. The club currently has around 50 members, of whom around 12 will normally be found at a weekly shoot. Altcar is managed by RFCA (Reserve Forces and Cadets Association) and offers one of the best range complexes in the country.

Altcar ranges hosted the first ever match between England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales on 2 July 1873. Each country was represented by ten firers who fired seven shots standing at 200 yards, and seven shots at 500 and 600 yards, any position. No sighters were allowed. The English Team turned out to be the winners by 37 points from Scotland, with Ireland and Wales taking third and fourth places respectively.

“The longest standing rifle club in the UK”

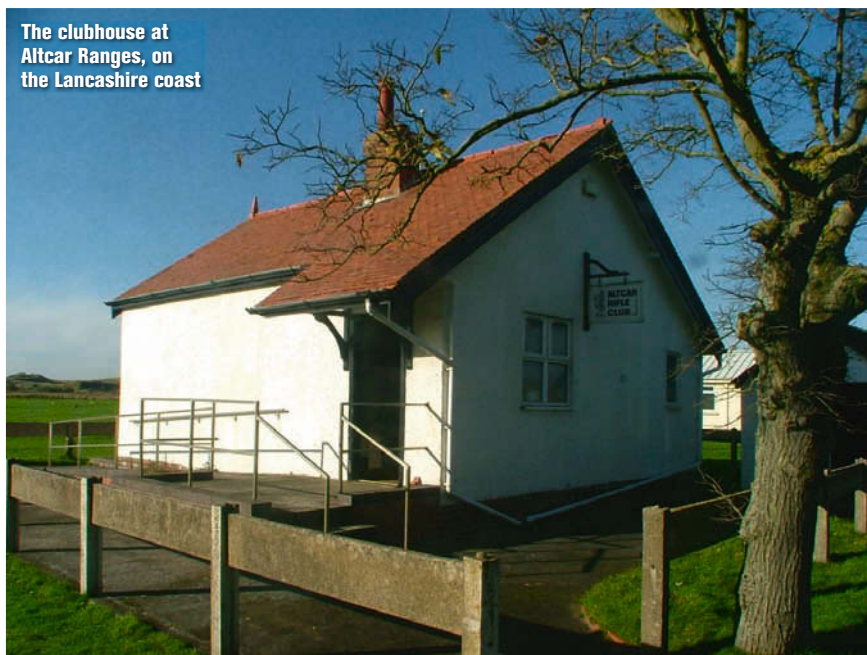
Altcar Rifle Club holds shoots throughout the year, with no hibernation during the winter months. From May onwards, in the lead up to the Imperial Meeting, the club organises long range shoots on Thursday evenings.

A strong representation from the club competes in the Imperial Meeting each year, with members frequently enjoying selection for the major matches and also having a degree of success in the individual competitions.

Essential info

Discipline: Target rifle, F-TR and F-Class.
Location: Altcar Training Camp, Merseyside
Opening: Club shoots every Sunday, year-round; Thursday evenings, May-July.
Contact: altcarcontact@gmail.com

The clubhouse at Altcar Ranges, on the Lancashire coast



Club members beneath a display celebrating more than 100 years of history

One of the club's earliest photos, from 1864



JESSICA SAINTER, ALT CAR STALWART

This article is written as Jessica celebrates her retirement, after 40 years, as secretary of one of Lancashire's premier rifle clubs (some would say the premier rifle club!), Altcar Rifle Club.

Jessica has held a lifelong interest in target rifle shooting. She has been, and still is, a regular visitor to Bisley, which she first visited in 1947. She has a successful shooting career behind her and is well known at Bisley and at Altcar ranges where she continues to shoot. At Altcar, she has made a unique contribution to the management of target rifle shooting.

Jessica Nobbs was born in Yorkshire in 1941 and, after the war, moved with the family to Kingston and then Wembley in 1947. This was the year of her first visit to Bisley as her father Charlie Nobbs was a successful rifle shooter and it was the family's practice to attend the final of the Sovereign's Prize each year (Charlie clocked up nine final's badges and shot for Great Britain in the then Empire Match in 1948). In the 1940s, the visit to Bisley was never complete for the younger members of the family without time spent collecting blackberries at the back of Century Range or visiting the house on Queens Road complete with its gypsy caravan in the garden and its array of coloured glass, shells and broken pots set in concrete.

Jessica started her own shooting career in 1960. Her father was her coach both at Bisley (the Ibis Club) where she shot mainly full-bore and at the Chief Office of Prudential where, on the roof of the office at Holborn Bars in London, she was introduced to small-bore shooting. Her first Imperial Meeting was in 1964 and in 1967 she gained her first Queens badge.

In 1969, Jessica entered The Roberts, the national small-bore championship (the one and only time she has taken part). She finished 2nd. Also in 1969, *The Times* ran an article about her performance in the English XX Spring Meeting: "Miss J.A. Nobbs retaining her good form of last week, won the first competition of the weekend with a 74 out of 75".

In 1970 at Bisley, through a mutual interest in shooting, she met Alan Sainter (Lancashire). They married and set up home together in the county that same year. Alan adopted the role relinquished by her father and became her shooting mentor. Further successes followed: she won the Altcar Championship in 1971 and in the same era collected three more Queen's badges. During this period Jessica also captained Middlesex and then Lancashire. If you are wondering why Jessica, who was Yorkshire born, never shot for her county of birth, Alan can provide the answer: "I made sure that Jessica was selected for Lancashire before Laurie Comins found out that she was born in Harrogate!"

As well as shooting, Jessica enjoys gardening and spending time with her family. But it is fair to say that shooting has occupied a pre-eminent part in her life. It has taken up a lot of her time, and when shooting matters needed attention, her family has always shown understanding (something for which she is very grateful).

Jessica's contribution to fullbore target rifle shooting in the North West has been exemplary. In 1973, she took up her first



"Jessica has been pivotal to the success of TR shooting in the North West"

official position at Altcar Rifle Club as Statistics Officer and was elected Secretary shortly afterwards. She resigned in 2015 after 40 years.

Throughout that period she has worked tirelessly for the Club: arranging the annual programme, monitoring safe shooting and range safety, maintaining effective links with the police, TA range staff and NRA staff at Bisley, managing probationary shooters and keeping the rest of the Club Committee on their toes! And, not satisfied with that, Jessica was also Secretary of CLRA for much of the 1980s.

Jessica is personable, diligent, composed and family-orientated, she never appears wrong-footed. Dave Young, another CLRA Council member, says "She has been pivotal to the continuing success of target rifle shooting in the North West. She works tirelessly for our sport".

And Bill Flentje, a Committee member at Altcar, sums up the theme of this article when he says of Jessica: "She works patiently, quietly and with good grace. But it is her willingness to serve selflessly so that others can concentrate on their shooting that marks her out from the rest."

Mike Wood

GROVE SMALL ARMS

No gun club deliberately sets out to become one of the UK's largest, but that's what happened with Grove Small Arms Club. Based in Norfolk, but extending to the whole East Anglian region and beyond, Grove has more than 350 members, from as far afield as Kent and the West Midlands. The club covers the majority of shooting disciplines – everything from black powder pistols up to HME rifles at three quarters of a mile.

The Grove was founded as a commercial enterprise by Norfolk farmer Tony Hardesty, who had constructed an indoor range on his land. Located in the village of Fornsett St Peter, the farm's name was 'The Grove' and so that naturally became the club's name as well. Members who remember those years often refer to it affectionately as "the old Grove."

For most of its early life, Grove was largely a pistol club, but with some small-bore rifle shooters and trips to Thetford Gallery Range and Bisley to shoot target rifles. Indeed, it was a team from Grove that won the last ever Norfolk Pistol Championships, in 1998. The individual title was won by a Grove member; a fitting bookend to Grove's time as a pistol club.

After the handgun ban, Tony decided to step down from organising the club, but kindly allowed Grove to continue using the range at his farm. The members elected a committee and, like many other gun clubs at that time, adapted to the new legal landscape by introducing gallery rifle shoots and catering for more muzzle-loading guns.

Eventually, Tony needed his building back, so Grove had to find new digs. The club kept its tradition of small-bore rifles, pistol calibre rifles and muzzle-loaders alive by reaching agreements, firstly with the Norwich & District Parabellum Club to use its range at Surlingham, and then with the



Grove members in the butts on Thetford Range

Norfolk & Suffolk Muzzle Loaders Club for access to its range at Rickingham. It also expanded its selection of shooting disciplines, hiring MoD ranges for target rifle shooting and battle area shoots. Thus evolved the UK's largest gun club.

As the years have gone by, Grove has added new shooting disciplines. There are shoots for black powder pistols and long-barrelled revolvers/pistols at 25 yards at the Smallburgh Rifle Club range at Horsford. There are electronic target shoots on STANTA (the MoD's eight square miles of battle area in Norfolk). And there are practical shotgun meetings at Wetherden, gallery shoots at Thetford, clay shooting at High Lodge in Suffolk and long-range rifle shoots all the way out to three quarters of a mile at Barton Road Range in Cambridgeshire.

Membership continues to snowball and new enquiries come in weekly, but there is a natural limit to how many people a club can handle without appointing paid staff and without premises to call home. Thus, at the moment, Grove's complement hovers at about 350 people.

What's next for Grove?

The club is currently considering whether to stay at the same size and carry on renting range time from other clubs, or to do some of the same but also procure a range of its own to provide an alternative to the more over-subscribed shoots.

Both options have their pros and cons, but if Grove opts to get its own premises the hardest task is undoubtedly finding a good location. Despite Norfolk and Suffolk being heavily agricultural, suitable venues for a permanent range are extremely hard to come by.

So the work goes on and the various Grove shoots keep happening, thanks to the various committee members tasked with arranging them. There seems no let-up in the number of new people wanting to get into shooting; a most encouraging sign for the future of our sport. For Grove, it's just a matter of finding somewhere to put them all.

To find out more, visit: www.grovesmallarms.com



Grove Small Arms Club at the Horsford pistol shoot



Club member Paul on the range

Essential info

Discipline: everything from black powder pistols up to HME rifles at ¾ mile

Location: various around Norfolk/East Anglia

Opening: timetables available at www.grovesmallarms.com

Contact: secretary@grovesmallarms.com

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OBITUARIES

JOHN GWYNNE POWELL

1 November 1934 – 22 November 2015

John Powell was a former winner of HM The Queen's Prize at Bisley and a much-respected figure on the indoor and outdoor rifle ranges. His 1967 victory made him, before his death, one of only two surviving shooters to have achieved the feat using the old .303 calibre service rifle. In total, Powell's shooting career spanned some 53 years.

Born on 15 November 1934, it was under the guidance and encouragement of his father Gwynne, a Welsh international small-bore shot that he first participated in shooting events.

Powell broadened his shooting skills at Ardingly College as a member of its Ashburton VIII at Bisley in 1948 and 1949. Estate agency indentures followed, but then came National Service. Although categorised as a pay clerk he managed to spend a considerable amount of time on Kent's Hythe ranges, practice earning him membership of the army team in service rifle, machine gun and pistol matches. Subsequent duties with the Royal Artillery led to target and game shooting friendships that lasted for the rest of his life.

Back in civilian life, his early estate agency and property management gave way to running sporting gunshops, initially in Godstone and subsequently in Reigate. Between 1952 and 1976 he concentrated on small-bore shooting, representing England and Great Britain on 20 occasions, winning gold at the 1958 World Championships in Moscow. He was a member of the GB Pershing Trophy team at Camp Perry in 1961.

In the 1960s, fullbore target rifle shooting on the open ranges only allowed the use of the .303 service rifle and military issue ammunition. Powell's skills in regulating his rifles kept him highly competitive, with 12 appearances in the Queen's Final, 10 top 50 Grand Aggregate places, and 10 top 50 positions in the St George's over the years.

In 1958, he won the first stage of the St George's Vase at 300 yards. 47 years later, aged 71, he made a maximum 150 over the 2005 St George's final two stages (600 and 900 yards). Unfortunately for him it was a year of stupendous scoring and he was counted out to 16th.

Between 1962 and 1969 he represented England in the National Match three times, Great Britain in the Kolapore twice, and the Empire (Australia) Match once. Latterly, he embraced Match Rifle shooting, representing England in the Elcho Match 12 times between 1976 and 2005. He was one of only two shooters ever to have won the fullbore Queen's Prize and a small-bore World Championship gold medal.

But on one issue he remained stubbornly principled: There would be no overseas tours. If his wife Ursula, so much a part of



his life and work, could not accompany him, he was 'unavailable' for selection to any captain – however much they wanted his presence on their team. At a time when, invariably, the teams were men only and unaccompanied, this was too great a hurdle to be overcome.

Like his contemporary from the hall of shooting greats, Andrew Tucker, Powell owed much to his National Service experiences, his small-bore shooting background and his gun-maker's skills. He learned that experience fosters innovation. With the move to 7.62mm/.308" calibre in 1969, a somewhat backward fullbore rifle discipline was forced to change. He imported Swiss Grunigs, one of which Tucker used when he hit the fullbore world so forcefully – well before Swing and other makes.

Powell won his Queen's Prize using a single-point sling that attaches to the rifle at one place only rather than the traditional two-point variety, the first time that this had been done. He offered leather shooting jackets developed from small-bore, recognising the posture holding qualities of leather over the flimsy cloth variety.

He carried innovation into his business activities. He quickly realised that there was a place in the market for bespoke shotguns, importing high quality barrels and actions 'in the white' which he had finished in England, to offer top quality at less than London prices. He developed game shooting packages with guided shooting parties for overseas clients from Europe and the USA. Ursula always piloted one of his Range Rovers, accompanied by his effervescently disobedient red setters.

He was never without a twinkle in his eye, always prepared to share his occasional misfortunes on the firing point with his shooting partners. His dry and mischievous sense of humour made him one of those people in life of whom it can be said, "He was fun to be with." He was, and remained all his life, a Sussex man. John Powell is survived by his wife Ursula, and his daughter Henrietta.

FLT LT ADRIAN "BILL" COWSLEY 1915-2015



My father passed away suddenly in April 2015 just as he was awaiting the warm weather to resume shooting. A familiar face to many who frequented Short Siberia midweek on the warm summer days, many reckon he might have been one of the oldest active shooters in the NRA. He certainly got envious looks from many as he puffed happily on his pipe and then showed me how to shoot overlapping groups.

Born in Burma, he had a comfortable upbringing and a Jesuit education at North Point, Darjeeling. His school activities – apart from academic – were hockey, cricket and chasing the girls, as well as cars, motorbikes and, of course, shooting. Political turmoil in Burma in the late 1930s meant he had to restart his medical degree at Liverpool University, before the onset of war further curtailed his studies and he signed up to the RAF. Deemed 'too old' (25!) for front line combat he was involved in flying damaged planes from various airfields around the UK to a repair facility at Tern Hill, Cheshire and having survived a couple of accidents, moved on to training.

His log books reveal a huge variety of planes flown and as the end of the war was nearing, he was in the Far East flying the supply routes in North East India and Burma. Like his shooting, he kept up with some flying and didn't let age get in his way!

Demobbed in 1946 and with the family business in Burma lost, he found himself broke and with a wife and two children to support (I came along later). Resuming his studies was out of the question so he moved into teaching in the Wirral, Merseyside.

He had started shooting around aged five with an old Daisy BB gun, but by nine was already accompanying his father on game shoots and dealing with unwelcome predators in the Far East.

My own recollections start aged five – we had access to a farm in Wales where many pleasurable weekends were passed sorting out local vermin. My father joined Altcar Rifle Club near Liverpool where most of his fullbore target shooting took place. I watched his gun collection grow, but he was a realist and knew when the .450/.400 double rifle had to go (replaced by a Mauser .375). He was a bit miffed at his 2000 FAC renewal when the police suggested an 85 year old may no longer have reason to hold a big game gun, but it went to a good home via Fultons.

More recently he found fullbore target a bit tough to handle, so switched to bench with a lovely Sako .223. His 90 years of firearms experience is unlikely to be surpassed and his enormous patience when bunny shooting was amazing to behold: two sighters an hour before dusk, and if he had not bagged several by nightfall it was a poor evening.

When he passed away, his 100th birthday and FAC renewal plans were underway, which was due shortly after he would have been 100 (we were looking forward to that process!) He will be missed but his firearms collection will live on – his grandchildren are now buying their gun cabinets!

TERRY MULDOON 1947-2016



On the 15 January, Terry Muldoon died peacefully at home after a short but hard-fought battle against cancer. As a lifelong shooting enthusiast, Terry was a familiar and friendly face in the shooting community. He loved life and lived it to the full.

Among Terry's many shooting friends, he will be particularly missed by those who shot with pistols, from those halcyon days of Pistol Anno Domini. Terry was a fine shot and regular competitor but still found time to act as range officer for others competing in similar matches. He always presented a happy and enthusiastic face to welcome the competitors. The Pistol Anno Domini Meeting consisted of four solid days of glorious pistol shooting. Those who were lucky enough to remember those days now regard them, as Terry once said, as *la belle époque* for this particular branch of our sport.

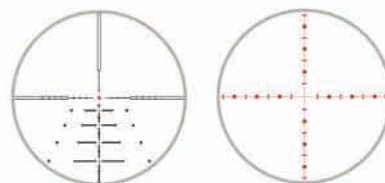
After the ban on pistol ownership, Terry, who was a member of the HBSA, joined that small group of heritage pistol owners who, because of the new draconian laws, were forced to keep those few eligible pistols at the Heritage Centre at Bisley. He embraced this new reality with gusto and courage; we all had to move on, there was no looking back and Terry reflected on this reality with an enthusiastic sense of purpose.

Terry was a remarkable polymath and an energetic communicator. He was passionate and persuasive, a great ambassador for our sport and hobby. His infectious enthusiasm introduced many new people to shooting and heritage firearms. He founded shooting clubs, gave lectures on military history that were enjoyed by shooters and non-shooters alike, and wrote copious quantities of letters and articles.

Those who knew Terry will never forget the popular and larger-than-life character who gave his time and expertise so generously. We will remember Terry as being a true friend, and wonderful company – the life and soul of any gathering. Meetings will never be the same without Terry, his quick wit and his repertoire of jokes for any occasion.

Our thoughts are with Terry's wife Jeannie, his family and his friends.

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GENERAL NOTICES

Procedure for the General Council Elections 2016

Eligibility of candidates and proposers

Only persons who are registered members of the Association and who have fully paid up their subscriptions for 31 March are eligible to be candidates for election to the General Council and to be proposers for such candidates.

Regional and shooting discipline candidature and voting

Those voting for regional candidates must live in the appropriate Sports Council region even though their nominated candidates for election may live elsewhere.

Those voting for shooting discipline candidates must have previously declared that shooting discipline to the NRA as their primary shooting discipline.

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30 April 2016.

Curriculum Vitae

In order to assist the registered members with their choice of representatives in the election, a CV for each candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 150 words should accompany the nomination. A passport sized photograph of the candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro-forma.

The Chief Executive will refer back to authors where CVs are too long or appear to be factually incorrect.

Programme of key dates for elections

31 March 2016

All candidates and proposers must be fully paid-up registered members of the Association by this date.

30 April 2016

a. Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Chief Executive by 5pm on this date.

b. Registered members must be qualified for voting for their respective regional or shooting discipline candidate by this date.

c. All members desiring to vote must be fully paid-up registered members by this date.

23 May 2016

Voting slips will be posted out to all entitled members by this date together with the procedures for voting.

14 July 2016

Voting slips in the correct envelope supplied must be received by the NRA office by mail or by hand, no later than 5pm on this date.

Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 23 April 2016.

Results

All results will be confirmed at the General Council Meeting in September.

Routine vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2016, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

Five Ordinary Members

- Lt Col ARK Clayton*
- M Maksimovic
- WCP Richards (SB)*
- RM Roberts
- Mrs KD Robertson

Three Regional Members

- G Trembath – Northern
- Dr JD Warburton
(GM, GC, SB2) – Yorkshire
- HF Dunton - Eastern

Three Shooting Discipline Members

- D Kent – F-Class
- S East – Target Rifle
- Dr P Wolpe – Muzzle Loading

** Not standing for re-election*

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2016

The following have been selected for the NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2016:

Captain

Rick Shouler - Nottinghamshire, England, Great Britain

Vice-Captain

- Gary Alexander - Ulster, Ireland, Great Britain

Adjutant

- David Rose - Leicester, Northants & Rutland, England, Great Britain

Coach

- Andrew Lothian - Surrey, England, Great Britain

Shooters

- Jason Curd - Kent
- Charlotte Davies - South Wales County, Wales
- Theo Dodds - Kent, Wales
- Paul Hatfield - Nottinghamshire

- Nick Healy - Ulster, Ireland
- Tom Laing-Baker - London
- Rebecca Laird - Ulster, Ireland
- Cameron Lamont
- West of Scotland, Scotland
- James Lawrie - Lincolnshire, Scotland
- Lucinder Taylor - Surrey

Reserves (in no particular order)

- Jonathan Ford - Gloucestershire, Scotland, Great Britain
- Christopher Milton
- Ollie Rolfe - Oxfordshire
- Rosalind Wiltshire - Yorkshire, Scotland



Invitation for Applicants – GB TR Team to Canada 2017

I am honoured to have been selected as Captain of the Great Britain TR Team to Canada in 2017, and pleased to be joined by Charles Brooks as Vice Captain and Rick Shouler as Adjutant.

We are looking to take a balanced team of all ages, from all the Home Countries, with a solid core of experienced shooters together with a number of new caps, and invite applications from aspiring team members.

The primary objective of the tour is to compete in the DCRA meeting in Ottawa, which includes two major international matches which we aim to win. Prior to this, we hope to shoot in the British Columbia Meeting at Chilliwack, near Vancouver. At this stage, the tour dates are being worked

on, however we envisage leaving UK early August and returning late August. Partners will be welcome to accompany team members on the western Canada part of the tour. We hope to have time off on this part of the tour.

Team selection will be made by the end of August 2016. It is envisaged that we will have up to three training weekends, with one in October 2016, after team selection.

Please send your application to me by e-mail at chrisweeden01@btinternet.com as soon as possible, but certainly no later than the 30 June 2016. With your application, please include a short summary of your shooting achievements. Those of you who do not know me should please introduce yourselves to me during the Imperial Meeting, where I can usually be found in the North London Rifle Club.

Chris Weeden

Invitation for Applicants – NRA Rifle Team to the Channel Islands 2017

I am honoured to have been selected to Captain the NRA Team to the Channel Islands in 2017. Tom Rylands (Cheshire, England, GB, SC) and Simon Shouler (Nottinghamshire, England, GB) have accepted my invitation to be the team's Vice-Captain and Adjutant respectively. Ian Shaw (Surrey, Scotland, GB, CSM) has also agreed to be our Main Coach for the tour. The tour dates are likely to be 23-30 May 2017.

This is a wonderful opportunity to join a senior touring team and is often a first team experience for potential future GB candidates. I wish to take a team with a blend of experience including those that are up and coming, but I am particularly interested in applicants with the drive and ability to improve under guidance. I invite expressions of interest to be emailed to nraci2017@hotmail.com with a brief outline of your shooting experience to date. You will then be asked to fill in a short questionnaire to complete your application; the closing date is 26 June 2016.

We are also running an early-season training weekend with expert coaching and advice on hand on 8-10 April for potential applicants. This is not mandatory for those who are thinking of applying to the team and scores from this will not be taken into account for selection. It is however, a chance to benefit from the considerable experience on hand to set yourself up for a successful season. There are 24 places available so please email for more information. Additional advice will be given throughout the season to those who seek it, so please do ask.

I look forward to receiving your applications to join the team.

Emma J Nuttall

GB TR Team Captains - Nominations invited

Nominations are invited for Captains of the following teams:

GB Veterans TR Team Captain to World Championships in New Zealand 2019
GB Under 25 TR Team Captain to World Championships in New Zealand 2019

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Friday 22 April 2016.

Nominations to be sent to Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk

Meeting dates

Annual General Meeting

The 2016 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 17 June at 6pm in the NRA Pavilion.

Bisley General Meeting

The 2016 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20 July at 9pm in the Umbrella Tent.

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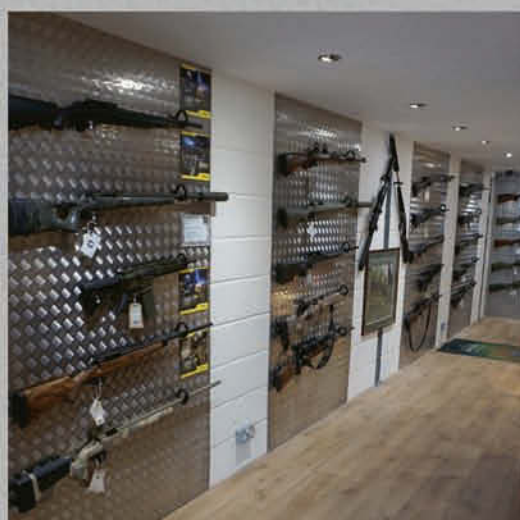


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Results

NRA 100 – 2015 overall

Competitor, club, prone, standing, k/s, total

1. L Chisholm, HPRA, 97 78, 92, 267
2. SJ East, RAFSAA, 98, 64, 76, 238
3. C Green, BUTSC, 91, 57, 88, 236
4. G Corfied, BUTSC, 96, 49, 84, 229
5. KB Hill, WFBRC, 95, 59, 73, 227
6. KWD Ramsey, HHRC, 94, 49, 81, 224
7. M Watkins, Glascoed RC, 97, 38, 78, 213
8. AJ Leech, Pumas RC, 95, 51, 62, 208
9. M Northam, TNHR, 91, 34, 82, 207
10. M Clewer, LMRA, 93, 55, 54, 202
11. E Dixon, Glouc RA, 94, 39, 69, 202
12. RJ Billington, Pumas RC, 91, 40, 70, 201
13. S Wilson, 32/61, 83, 33, 81, 197
14. CA Painting, Pumas RC, 98, 22, 67, 187
15. R Knowles, Glascoed RC, 93, 48, 43, 184
16. DF Robinson, Pumas RC, 91, 36, 53, 180
17. D de Vere, HHRC, 74, 31, 73, 178
18. J Curd, Surrey RA, 97, 15, 64, 176
19. S Waters, Glascoed RC, 79, 36, 59, 174
20. RE Ellis, WFBRC, 95, 42, 35, 172
21. J Wilson, 32/61, 96, 16, 58, 170
22. P Waldron, Glascoed RC, 87, 38, 44, 169
23. A Jones, TNHR, 79, 31, 58, 168
24. S Rose, HHRC, 70, 40, 54, 164
25. J Habershon, TNHR, 84, 31, 47, 162
26. A Jackson, HCRPC, 73, 29, 53, 155
27. W Turmeau, HCRPC 60, 31, 58, 149
28. D Brigden, 32/61, 86, 6, 52, 144
29. J Stibbs, HCRPC, 80, 36, 27, 143
30. J Milton, HHRC, 52, 41, 46, 139
31. P Northam, TNHR, 85, 8, 44, 137

32. P Cooper, TNHR, 74, 28, 34, 136
33. N Atkins, Cinque Ports MLA, 42, 31, 55, 128
34. J Pryde, HCRPC, 55, 16, 41, 112
35. S McDowell, Artists RC, 47, 14, 46, 107
36. A Daw, NLRC, 48, 16, 42, 106
37. H Dalglish, HCRPC, 54, 7, 28, 89
38. R Dean, HCRPC, 48, 8, 31, 87
39. G Clark, HCRPC, 50, 3, 25, 78
40. D Johnson, HCRPC, 46, 6, 18, 70
41. J Hallahan, Artists RC, 25, 5, 35, 65
42. M Long, HCRPC, 31, 15, 17, 63
43. J Atkins, F&DRPC, 20, 10, 23, 53
44. M Mercer, 32/61, 16, 22, 9, 47

32/61 = 32nd/61st Surrey

Home Guard Rifle and Pistol Club

BUTSC = Brunel University

Target Shooting Club

F&DRPC = Folkestone and

District Rifle & Pistol Club

HCRPC = Home Counties RPC

HHRC = Hogleas Hall Rifle Club

HPRA = High Power Rifle Association

RAFSAA = RAF Shooting Association

TNHR = The North Herts Rifles

WFBRC = Wandsworth Fullbore Rifle Club

CSR League – 2016 to date

Competitor, League Points

Historic

1. N Nunn, 503.90
2. B McIlwaine, 456.01
3. H Davies, 411.44

Iron

1. D Cross, 754.76

2. W Daysh, 666.56

3. J Geering, 565.75

Practical Optic

1. C Hudson, 923.42

2. F Cooke, 891.68

3. S Brown, 848.42

Service Optic

1. P Cottrell, 973.50

2. A Chapman, 915.18

3. J Chambers, 891.74

NRA Shotgun League – 2015 Overall

Competitor, League average, Match average

Open Division

1. R Ingram, 73.97, 98.63

2. P Matthews, 67.87, 67.87

3. B Love, 63.51, 84.68

Standard Manual Division

1. Jon Holloway, 89.06

2. B Moore, 73.97, 84.54

3. S Cox, 70.12, 80.13

Standard Auto Division

1. M Sienesi, 87.20, 99.66

2. J Harris, 86.53, 86.53

3. J Jennings, 79.43, 79.43

NRA Handgun League – 2015 overall

Competitor, League average, Match average

Long Barrel Pistol – Open

1. T Gardener, 77.01, 96.27

2. N Brooklyn, 64.73, 80.92

3. B Ducker, 51.51, 64.39

Long Barrel Pistol – Standard

1. N Towndrow, 100, 100

2. J Harris, 72.67, 72.67

3. J Axe, 49.45, 82.41

Long Barrel Pistol – Limited

- 1= R Clifton and G Hill, 20, 100

3. J Crouch 17.30, 86.52

Long Barrel Revolver

– Open Division

1. P Matthews, 94.17, 94.17

2. S Denton, 60.53, 75.66

3. M Hale, 49.78, 82.97

Long Barrel Revolver

– Standard

1. S Smoothy, 20, 100



Marksman's Calendar

PLAN YOUR SHOOTING FOR THE BEGINNING OF 2016. ALL EVENTS AT BISLEY UNLESS STATED

MARCH

26-28, "Reload Swiss"

Easter Meeting 2016

Easter Meeting NLRC, easter@nlrc.org

APRIL

02, NRA/MLAGB RCO Endorsement Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

02-03, NRA TR Basic Skills

Development Course - two days

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

02, Historic Service Rifle Match

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

03, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter League)

Carol Kellow, 01483 797777,

carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

03, Invitation to the Gloucestershire

Spring Open TR Meeting (1st Stage)

Ian Ashworth,

ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com

09-10, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

09-10, LMRA v UK Police

FBRT & Mentored Shoot

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

10, LMRA v UK Police

FBRT & Mentored Shoot

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

10, NRA Handgun League - 2nd Round,

NRA Mini Rifle League - 1st Round

(Shield Shooting Centre, Dorchester, Dorset)

Steve Pike, 01308 482626,

steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

10, NRA Shooting Club Day

16, IBIS Open 2016

Bill Rowland, 0207 696 5249,

billvbullbisrc@yahoo.co.uk

16-17, LMRA LR Practice

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

17, LMRA League First Round - Sunday AM

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

17, NRA Shotgun League - 3rd Round

Romsey Shooting Club,

contactus@romseyshootingclub.co.uk

23-24, West of Scotland

Open Championships

Blair Atholl, John Potter, 01416 443017,

jmdpottter@gmail.com

23, LMRA v Surrey Venture

Scouts and Mentored Shoot

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

23, The Smallbore Long Range Match,

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

24, Purples Match - Run by LMRA

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

30, Veterans AM - LMRA

Schools Meeting PM

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

30, LMRA v Oxford University RC

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

30-01 The Army Open

MAY

01, LMRA v Cambridge

University Rifle Association

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

01, LMRA 59th Pre-Service

Cadet Meeting PM

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

02, LMRA Individual

Match Rifle Competition

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

07-08, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

07-08, English, Scottish & Welsh

Match Rifle Spring Meeting

Bill Taylor, bill@englisheight.co.uk

07, County Astor Heats AM

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

14, LR Practice Match PM LMRA,

01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

14, LMRA Open Morning LMRA,

01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

14, NRA Mini Rifle League - 2nd Round

Worcester Norton Sports Club. Jon Williamson,

wnsc-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk, 07899 924747

14-15, British 300m Championships

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

15, LMRA League Round 2

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

18, NRA Shooting Club Day

21, London & Middlesex

Rifle Club v Welsh XX - Day 1

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

22, London & Middlesex

Rifle Club v Welsh XX - Day 2

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

24, LMRA v NRA CI 2016 team

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

27-29, Phoenix Meeting

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

29, London & Middlesex Rifle Club Basic

TR Skills Course - Day 2 LMRA

01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

29, NRA Handgun League - 3rd Round

Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

JUNE

04-05, Club Instructor

(General Skills) Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

04, LMRA Match Rifle Competition

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

04, Total Challenge and Mentored Shoot

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

05, LMRA League Final Round AM

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

11-12, NRA Shotgun League - 4th Round

(Shield Shooting Centre, Dorchester, Dorset)

Steve Pike, 01308 482626,

steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

10-12, Scottish Open Championships

Blair Atholl, Tim Kidner, 01224 321468,

tlk762@aol.com

11, LMRA v NLRC and Mentored Shoot

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

14-30, Service Weapons

Events and Aggregates

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

18-19, NRA Inter-Counties

Meeting and R Jarvis Match 2016

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

23-23 July, The 147th Imperial

NRA Shooting Division, 01483 797777,

shooting@nra.org.uk

23, NRA Millitary Adaptive

Shooting Championship 2016

Carol Kellow, 01483 797777,

carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

25-26, Scottish Open Long

Range Championships

Blair Atholl, Tim Kidner, 01224 321468,

tlk762@aol.com

26, NRA Shotgun League - 5th Round

Phoenix Shooting Club, Ron Flint,

ron@phoenixshootingclub.co.uk

29-03, Jul NRA Imperial Meeting

- Civilian Service Rifle Meeting

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

JULY

08-14, NRA Imperial

Meeting - Match Rifle Events

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

09, NRA Mini Rifle League - 3rd Round

Worcester Norton Sports Club, Jon Williamson,

wnsc-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk, 07899 924747

09-10, NRA Imperial Meeting

- Historic Arms Meeting

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

10, NRA Shotgun League - 6th Round

Rossendale Fusiliers Rifle Club

11-14, NRA Imperial

Meeting - Schools Meeting

Peter Turner, schools@nra.org.uk

13-17, NRA Imperial Meeting**- Gallery Rifle and Pistol Events**

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

14, LMRA v Jersey RA (Home) PM

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

15-23, NRA Imperial Meeting**- Target Rifle Events**

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

15-19, NRA Imperial Meeting**- F-Class Rifle Events**

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

17, NRA Shotgun League - 7th Round

(Shield Shooting Centre, Dorchester, Dorset)

Steve Pike, 01308 482626,

steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

22, The Vizianagram

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

23, NRA Imperial Meeting**- HM the Queen's Prize**

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

30-31, NRA Shotgun League - 8th Round

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

AUGUST**06-07, Invernesshire Open Championships**

Cawdor, Donald Drawbell,

secretary@cawdorifleandgunclub.co.uk

06-07, NRA TR Basic Skills**Development Course - two days**

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

06, Bisley Clubs

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

20-21, Tullibardine (Tayside)**Open Championships**

Blair Atholl Jim Bell, jwhbell@btinternet.com

27-28, Gallery Rifle**National Championships**

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

27-28, Welsh Rifle Association Open

LouLou Brister, 07899 771051,

BristerHandbag@aol.com

27, Match v Royal Navy**TRC plus mentored shoot**

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

28, LMRA Probationary Course - Day 1

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

28, NRA Handgun League - 4th Round

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

SEPTEMBER**03-04, National Rifle Club of Scotland Open Championships**

Blair Atholl, Tim Kidner,

01224 321468, tlk762@aol.com

04, LMRA v RAF plus mentored shoot

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

05-11, F-Class European Championship

Mik Maksimovic, 01780 481567,

mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

10, East of Scotland Open Championships

Blair Atholl, Major (Retd) RJ Aitken,

0131 445 1948, baitkenshooting@btinternet.com

10-11, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

17, Match v ATSC plus mentored shoot

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

17-18, NRA Shotgun League - 9th Round

Romsey Shooting Club,

contactus@romseyshootingclub.co.uk

23, LMRA v CLRA

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

24, LMRA Open Meeting

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

24-25, English & Irish**Match Rifle Autumn Meeting**

Bill Taylor, bill@englisheight.co.uk

24-25, NRA Handgun & Minirifle League - 5th Round

Frome & District PC, Neil Brooklyn,

neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com

25, LMRA Open Meeting

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

25, Gloucestershire**Autumn Open TR meeting**

Ian Ashworth,

ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com

OCTOBER**01, Historic Service Rifle Match**

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

01, LMRA v SRA (Away)

Blair Atholl, LMRA, 01483 473006,

secretary@lmra.co.uk

02, Match v SRA (Away)

Blair Atholl, LMRA, 01483 473006,

secretary@lmra.co.uk

02, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter League)

Carol Kellow, 01483 797777

carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

08, NRA Handgun League - 6th Round

Worcester Norton Sports Club, Jon Williamson,

wnsc-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk, 07899 924747

08-09, European TR Long Range**Championship**

Mik Maksimovic, 01780 481567,

mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

08-09, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

15-16, The Trafalgar Meeting 2016

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

22-23, Gallery Rifle**- Autumn Action Weekend**

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

22, Mentored Shoot AM

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

23, NRA Handgun League - 7th Round

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

29-30, Club Instructor**(General Skills) Course**

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

NOVEMBER**05, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)**

Carol Kellow, 01483 797777,

carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

05-06, NRA Minirifle League - 6th Round

Frome & District PC, Neil Brooklyn,

neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com

06, LMRA Mentored Shoot AM

01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

12-13, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777

x 149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

12-13, Target Shotgun Festival

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

19-20, NRA Shotgun League - 11th Round

Shield Shooting Centre, Dorchester, 01308

482626, steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

DECEMBER**03-04, NRA Handgun & Minirifle****League - 8th & 7th Rounds**

Neil Brooklyn, neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com

04, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter League)

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

04, Wappenschaw

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



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Email: mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

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Message 10

Jane Messer talks to NRA Marketing & Communications Manager Katia Malcaus Cooper

Jane Messer is the first woman not only to captain a Palma team – but to win it too. We asked her about her shooting influences and what's next on her competition calendar

How did you get into shooting?

My father, Lawrie, started shooting at 14 in the cadets and carried on for the following 60 years, so I was familiar with Bisley and its style and history. I changed schools for sixth form. My new school had a .22 range. I tried that, then tried fullbore – and was hooked. Having heard shooting talk for many years, I picked up the basics quickly and was lucky to get noticed and selected for teams early.

What has been the most memorable moment in your career?

Very difficult to pick out one. Right now I would say winning the Palma last summer! Other memorable moments: my first real competition, the Harvey Cup, a windy Sussex long-range shoot in April (I came first and my father second); winning the Grand Aggregate; my first Palma match in Raton, US in 1992, which we won; my first Australia match in Perth, Australia in 1994, in which my coach, Martin Townsend, coached me to a record score, including a 50 at 1,000 at a critical turning point in the match, which we then won; getting a bronze medal with Glyn Barnett in the 2002 Commonwealth Games...

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

Balancing the money and time required against other commitments is always a challenge, especially in the years following university and when on international tours, but it's well worth it for the sense of camaraderie and achievement.

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

Naturally my father has been a significant influence – and my mother has also

supported us. For my first three years shooting fullbore, I shared father's rifles. During the Imperial Meeting, the NRA helpfully squadded us on separate details. However, as a left-hander, he always seemed to be on range 18 on Century, with me squadded on the next detail on range 13, necessitating much rushing up and down behind the firing point. Then I shot with the legendary Robin Fulton. The following week I received a letter from him in which he congratulated me on my shooting prowess, told me I needed to get my own rifle to progress and recommended that I go to his shop where they would be able to help me. I dutifully went into Fultons' and ordered my first rifle – a Musgrave.

What sort of music do you listen to?

Classical – and /or whatever is on the car radio when I am driving to and from Bisley.

What club are you a member of?

The North London is my principle club and base at Bisley. I am also a member of the Surrey. I socialise with friends there – but as a proud Sussex shooter, Surrey is 'the arch enemy' so I wouldn't dream of shooting for Surrey! As a past Secretary, Captain and current vice-President, I am also a great supporter of the British Commonwealth Rifle Club and its role in supporting visitors to Bisley from overseas.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

My father. Also, Arthur Clarke (my first GB team captain and main coach for the 1992 Palma) and Colin Cheshire, the 1992 team captain. They revolutionised how we in GB thought about training and teamwork for team matches.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Bisley has played a significant part in my life. I have spent a lot of time there,



from childhood on. It has a great sense of tradition – but also of camaraderie and sportsmanship. There aren't many truly amateur sports left at the top level – and certainly not ones where both sexes and so wide an age group can compete on equal terms.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I don't seem to have very much. I like to take my young Labrador for walks – she might describe that the other way around!

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

Go for it! It's a great sport that you can do throughout your lifetime. You'll make lifelong friends – and if you have the opportunity to tour abroad, whether for GB or a club friendly, take it and you'll have friends worldwide too. And don't be shy of asking for advice from the top shots and wind coaches – they'll be very happy to give it to you. Although pick your time – after their shoot or in the bar will be better than five minutes before message 1!

So what next?

I am on Nick Tremlett's GB team to South Africa next Easter. It is a very strong team. Naturally I would like to be selected for the Australia match, so shall need to train hard if I am to achieve that. After that, I aim to apply for the next Palma team. It's an addictive experience – a two day, long range match. And Trentham range in New Zealand where it will be held is beautiful, but the wind conditions mean it is one of the most challenging ranges in the world. For someone who loves team shooting and long range shooting, nothing could be better. ■



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