

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Summer 2016 – Volume XCVII No. 2 £4.25

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Summer 2016 – XCVII No. 2



Front cover: Phoenix Meeting 2016
Cover photo by James Marchington

Managing editor: Colin Fallon

Sub-editors: Jacob Barlow, Alex Shaw

Graphic design: Jessica Riley

Advertising sales: Callum Madden

Contributors: Brett Anthes, Ian Ashworth, Christopher Bunch, David Calvert, Alex Cargill-Thompson, Graeme Clarke, Nic Couldrey, Roseanne Furniss, James Harris, Frank Harriss, George Granycome, Brian Hulatt, Bob Jackson, Raf Jah, Adam Leech, Derek Lowe, Katia Malcaus Cooper, Nick Parrish, Iain Robertson, Peter Ryder, Ian Shirra-Gibb, Rick Wells, Paul Wolpe

Stock photography: Lee Bowditch, Paul Deach, Matt Limb, James Marchington

Chief executive: Zillah Byng-Thorne

Non-executive chairman: Peter Allen

Chief financial officer: Penny Ladkin-Brand

NRA chief executive: Andrew Mercer

Chairman: John Webster

Address: National Rifle Association, Bisley, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB

T: 01483 797777

F: 01483 797285

W: www.nra.org.uk

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Address: Lawrence House, Morrell Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 5SZ
T: 01926 339808

F: 01926 470400

E: colin.fallon@futurenet.com

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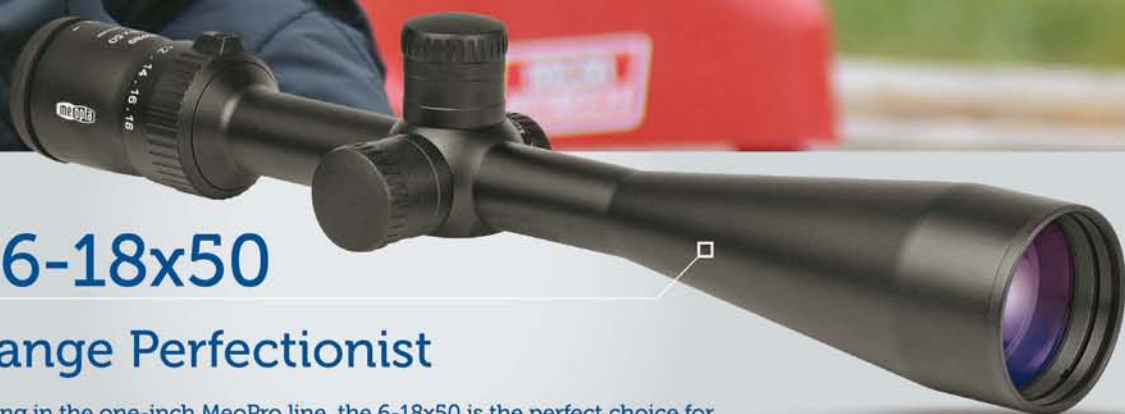
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Busier than ever

Chief executive Andrew Mercer hails a packed season of summer events, with the acquisition of the Pavilion and some wins with the Home Office providing highlights

The summer season of shooting is well upon us, and the Bisley ranges are becoming busier as we head towards the Imperial Meeting. Competitions are an integral part of target shooting and it is reassuring to note that, across all NRA organised events, the number of participants is increasing. That is not to say all disciplines are flourishing – it is noticeable that those with an enthusiastic core of shooters who actively promote and encourage new participants are leading the way.

We are becoming more active in the field of pistol shooting. The newly refurbished Cheylesmore range now accommodates our heritage pistol shoots, and it is pleasing to see long-standing Bisley shooters enjoying the centrally heated range facilities. A number were even spotted relaxing on a leather sofa during a recent shoot. We have bought some very expensive ‘traffic light’ electronic targets for training Olympic pistol squads; they will give our GB athletes the best opportunity to attain podium standards for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020.

Cheylesmore is also now available for evening bookings. Our early trial shoots were a great success and we will be installing floodlights to allow evening shooting throughout the year.

Range improvements are primarily focused upon increasing the availability and reliability of targets at Bisley. Essentially, what we deliver to our shooters is very simple; the complexities arise when you layer increasingly large numbers of shooters with highly varied requirements on to a fixed range complex. We are rapidly running out of quiet nooks and crannies of the Bisley estate to refurbish, and need to look further afield to facilitate the growth of fullbore shooting.

Control of the Bisley Pavilion has recently returned to the NRA after a somewhat tortuous suite of negotiations. Plans have been approved to develop the Pavilion into the central, welcoming heart of the Camp. The building will accommodate a greatly enlarged range reception; new café; expanding retail operation selling a wide range of shooting supplies; two training and meeting rooms; and new armouries. Work is progressing well and the training rooms hosted their first courses in early June; I expect the range reception and café to open in the autumn of this year. The 20 en-suite rooms are now open for bookings; and we are in discussions to finalise plans to host two of the popular Arms Fairs each year.

Proposed changes to legislation and regulation continue to occupy increasing amounts of our time and effort. It



We are rapidly running out of quiet nooks and crannies of the Bisley estate to refurbish, and need to look further afield to facilitate the growth of shooting

appears that shooting clubs and RFDs are the next target for what I suspect will not be entirely positive scrutiny. Looking for positive news can at times be difficult; however, the latest version of the Home Office Guidance has happily included our suggestion that Approved Clubs be able to grant temporary membership to members of other Home Office Approved Clubs and FAC holders. Full details can be found on our website.

Finally, it is worth mentioning a cracking initiative that has recently been launched by British Shooting called Target Sprint. This new discipline has seen an enthusiastic take-up among schools and youth groups, and involves – as the name suggests – a combination of athletics and marksmanship, i.e. running and shooting. The value of introducing youngsters to the joys of shooting must be obvious to us all. ■

NEWS

REPORTS

EURO PROGRESS

This edition of the *NRA Journal* goes to press just as the country goes to the polls on whether to remain in the EU. For the months, the spectre of European intervention in firearms laws has hovered over NRA members as the European Commission undertakes a rewrite of its Europe-wide firearms directive. In particular, the proposal to prohibit large magazine capacity firearms has the potential to seriously curtail some disciplines.

Shooters' worst fears about European intervention were allayed, however, after shooting organisations and a British MEP worked together on a new version of Europe's firearms law proposals.

Vicky Ford MEP, the rapporteur on changes to the EU Firearms Directive, formally recommended in a draft report put out in March that any proposals to ban semi-automatic .22 rifles for civilian use are shelved.

Additionally, under-18s' access to shooting tuition will be safeguarded as long as basic checks are met. And the door has been reopened to the possibility of a 10-year firearms licence.

Ms Ford said in the explanatory statement: "It is important to recognise that the vast majority of firearms held legally in the EU do not present any danger to the public. The Commission made a number of proposals that drastically change the scope and requirements of the Directive without presenting an impact assessment. Such an IA would have helped clarify the reasons for these proposals as well as the evidence base on which the proposals rest. Its absence has resulted in widespread concern from owners of legally acquired firearms from a number of different areas."

Ms Ford added that she "recommends maintaining the status quo wherever there is insufficient evidence to justify changing it."

The days of free FACs for shooting clubs could soon be at an end



CLUBS COULD BE HIT WITH FEES

An impact assessment for the Policing and Crime Bill 2016 reveals government plans to charge target shooting clubs for their firearms licences – leaving them with an estimated bill of £123,000 overall.

The Home Office plans to start charging business with Section 5 firearms licences – and says that "for consistency" it will extend this charge to the licences held by clubs and museums too.

The impact assessment said: "Providing this licensing service imposes a cost on the Home Office, the Scottish government and the police. This cost is currently fully subsidised by the taxpayer."

It continued: "The government considers that the costs of the Home Office firearms licensing regime should properly be attributed to the

organisations benefiting from the licence, and not the taxpayer.

"Charging will ensure the real economic cost of safeguarding high risk activities is considered by licence holders. Fees will enable us to fund the cost of providing an improved service once the proposed online application system is introduced."

The cost to museums is estimated at £35,000 a year and to clubs at £123,000 a year.

The Policing and Crime Bill, introduced in February, attempts to clarify firearms laws by defining terms such as "antique" and "component part". It also makes it a legal requirement for police forces to pay attention to Home Office guidance when processing licence applications. The Bill has now had its third reading in Parliament.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MOD STOPS MOVEMENT

The MoD has prohibited the practice of civilian gun clubs firing practices involving 'fire with movement' on MoD ranges. The NRA defines 'fire with movement' as: "Any movement away from a firing point with a rifle made ready." Movement between firing points with a rifle not made ready is permitted. This will affect disciplines such as Service Rifle and Practical Shotgun on MoD ranges – but the restriction does not apply to Bisley or other private ranges.

MICHAEL DAVIS

We are very sorry to inform you that Michael Davis has passed away. Michael was a stalwart of the match rifle fraternity, vice president of the English Eight club, and co-president of the Stickledown Club among other appointments. He took great interest in the results and achievements of match rifle teams, only recently arranging champagne for the GB Woomera team following their victory in Tasmania. His lively sense of humour will be missed, as will the familiar sight of him with Green Jim, his pet parrot, perched on his shoulder and with his fireman's helmet on, setting light to the rocket signalling commencement of proceedings on Stickledown day.

LICENSING DELAYS UNDER FIRE

Essex Police has undertaken to reduce its mammoth firearms licensing backlog after a freedom information request revealed it as the worst performing force in the country. Essex issued 5,219 temporary permits in 2015 alone. Kent issued a total of 3,476 over five years, and Thames Valley 4,579. Other poorly performing forces included Hampshire, Dyfed Powys, North Wales and Devon and Cornwall. Following a meeting with major organisations, Essex said it would adopt the best practices of other forces to help reduce the backlog – including a postal renewal service.

NOTICE FROM DAVID CALVERT

I have been honoured with the captaincy of our next Palma team, due to compete in New Zealand in early 2019. My vice-captain, team treasurer and fund-raising coordinator is Chris Hockley; Nick Tremlett takes on the critical role of head of coaching and training, and Dave Rose takes on the demanding task of adjutant. Selection of the initial training squad is

already underway and will be published later this year. Anyone wishing to apply to be a member of the team is asked to view the brief on the NRA website where an overview of the selection process, required commitment, and guidance on how to apply, is provided. Please note that applications are requested by the end of June 2016.



MORE FUNDING FOR SHOOTING?

Sport England is pumping more money than ever into getting the nation active – and shooting could be involved.

The funding body has outlined plans to invest £250 million into grassroots sport over the next four years.

Its new strategy, Towards an Active Nation, outlines plans for "focusing more money and resources on tackling inactivity," and investing in children to build positive attitudes towards sport and outdoor activities.

Shooting organisations have highlighted the fact that shooting is the perfect way to get people active, whatever their age or ability.

BASC chief exec Richard Ali said: "Sport England's vision is that everyone, regardless of their age, background or level of ability feels able to engage in sport and physical activity.

"Shooting ticks all these boxes and this is why participation in shooting is



growing, with at least 550,000 active participants in England."

The association highlighted a survey of its members which found that 88 per cent said shooting gives them moderate to high-intensity exercise and 71 per cent said their levels of physical activity would suffer without shooting.

Your Views

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



John Powell's skill and generosity (obituary)

Squadded together in the Albert (no sighters), I found I had lost my wind zero, so declared I would have to retire. John Powell dipped into his kit and produced a collimator, saying, "Try this". Never previously having used one, I did my best while John shot with a volunteer register-keeper. After his shoot, John joined me and said "Let's have a look, I'm quite good at this". I returned to the firing point and started with nine consecutive bulls or Vs, something highly preferable to '0 – Retired'.

Philip Rowell

The Welsh mile

I was delighted when I received *NRA Journal XCV* (1), to see on the cover the words "Shooting at 1600 yards in Wales". Someone was still using the imperial measurements! Then I read the article. The shooters were trying to master a mile range. They worked back to 1400 yards, then running out of daylight and not being able to go back to the mile firing point. Only then did it hit me! The imperial mile is, or was when I left school in the old days, 1760 yards.

They could not be using the old 'Welsh mile'. That was very much bigger than English one. Could it be that the EU has taxed the mile down to 1600 yards, or, could it be (oops) a typo?

Raymond F Heywood



Action at Bisley

I'm a member of the NRA and shoot at Bisley with the club that I formed 15 years ago, The Single Shot Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Club of Great Britain (www.ssbpcrc.co.uk).

We had a competition at Bisley last Saturday, shooting at 1100 and 1200 yards. I took a few photographs as I usually do at all our competitions. Our secretary thought one particular picture may have some interest in the Journal, so I thought I'd send it to you to share. The main shooter is Michael Haselgrove, shooting a Shiloh Sharps 1874 rifle in .45-90 calibre.

Phil Morgan



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Finnish finesse

Nick Parrish reviews the much-anticipated Sako TRG M10



Sako's last TRG rifle (in both 22 and 42 formats) has long been a popular performer for those wanting an off-the-peg rifle to fulfil all their long-range target needs. The rifle was never available in a switch-barrel format but to comply with the tendering requirements of modern police and military contracts, Sako had to up their game when committing to future investments and bids. The TRG M10, although not quite replacing the TRGs, is the top rifle available from the renowned Finnish gun maker. The success of previous TRGs means it has a hard act to follow, with previous guns delighting customers as well as fulfilling the requirements of the world's armies and police agencies. They compete against some very stiff competition, especially on these shores and the AXMC from our own Accuracy International seems to set the standard worldwide.

The M10 is available in multiple formats and although the gun I tested had a .338 bolt and barrel at full 689mm length, I was also supplied a .308 carbine with a 510mm barrel to compare and contrast. For civilian customers, the longer 656mm (.308) barrel is by far the most likely and appropriate specification, but the fundamentals of the rifle all still apply. The gun came with a full toolkit and cleaning system, all wrapped up in custom-made cordura drag bag within a Peli hard case. With a 30 MOA Picatinny rail on top of the action, the single piece 34mm SPUHR mount supplied certainly fitted the bill for likely optical choices – although the supplied Leupold in 7-42x56 scope was a little 'underpowered' for such a long-range tactical rifle. While having generous internal mechanical movement, the dials (rather than turrets) hardly suited a true long-range performer, requiring multiple

fast corrections regardless of the chosen .308 or .338 barrel.

I have used the SL7 on .338s before and it is without doubt my favourite mod for the calibre, so I had little doubt it would tame both noise and recoil well. The barrel shows six longitudinal flutes to the rear of the of the muzzle area, running all the way back to the action beneath an extended tube forend. Multiple Picatinny rails and openings allow both ventilation and extra accessories to be added. This actual rifle was only with me for a few days between extensive testing among likely UK agency buyers, the type of users who will push it to its limits and treat it with little affectionate care. Although use did show, this is the kind of test it is nice to see the rifle survive and it quickly highlights where the long-term civilian owner may find issues.

The Atlas bipod is a great addition and fits below the forend tip onto

The ASE SL7 mod and muzzle brake have a quick-release mating system



Forward for fire and back for safe



As well as a supplied spanner, the bolt itself has lugs to engage the barrel nut for removal



This rifle was only with me for a few days between extensive testing among likely UK agency buyers, the type of users who will push it to its limits

a Picatinny mounting point, with the whole forend easily removable to facilitate barrel change. Two Allen bolts in front of the action are slackened, one of which must be removed entirely and the other just drawn outward slightly to remove the clinched fit it has on the action. The whole unit is supposed to slide off the gun but mine did require holding in an engineer's vice to draw it off. It was very tight and had possibly been nipped slightly in prior use but the alternate, shorter, carbine forend was equally stiff and nobody carries an engineer's vice in the field do they?

The barrel is retained by a nut that has radial holes within it to be used with the spanner provided. The tip of the bolt handle has an inlaid T25 Torx key to remove the forend in case you don't have the toolkit handy. Both this and the bolt heads on the gun showed a little rough handling, presumably from past use. The 'star' of the Torx was rough and you needed to use them with extreme care to avoid further slippage. When removed, the barrel has tactile splines that locate and headspace it within the action, slotting in/out smoothly. Re-tighten it all back together in reverse and you can have whichever calibre the barrel is chambered for, as long as you remember to allocate a suitable bolt with associated bolt face dimensions into the rifle. The 8/11 round magazines are also calibre (or rather case size) specific.

Full adjustment of all common variables is available from the trigger that has the usual match-type feel in two stages. The safety is to the front of the trigger guard and operable with the tip of the index finger. The mag release lever is in front of the guard and equally simple to reach from the firing position. It drops free to be quickly replaced with no fuss or fumble. The bolt has three lugs with a sturdy extractor claw and twin plunger ejectors. Combined with a 60-degree lift, it allows for increased available force and minimal physical movement into the supply and removal of ammunition from the rifle's chamber. The gun is Cerakoted throughout for an overall buff colour suited to the modernity and to some extent fashions of desert warfare but for 2016, an all-black option is available.

With adjustable length of pull, cheekpiece height and butt pad position, it is very straightforward to get the gun into a very comfortable fit. Even with a high cheekpiece, the folding nature of the stock means cleaning and bolt removal from the left-side release button is always easily achieved, without having to make any changes to your precise personalised settings. The butt folds forward and locks to the right side of the gun with a single press of the secure aluminium hinge and when closed, it overlaps the bolt handle, effectively locking the action shut for transportation. There is a monopod under the butt that has both quick release catches, to drop it rapidly

A switch-barrel rifle, the M10 also offers two forend options to suit barrel length



A full tool and cleaning kit is supplied



Forend removal was very tight – impossible by hand



A single locking button and stiff hinges ensure total solidity in the chassis

into position, and a screw thread to give precise elevation control. I'm no lover of these for regular range use as they are usually quite slow to operate compared to a bean bag and easily go out of position given the likely movement of millimetres on any grassy or gravel firing position. I also found it a bit of a faff to use, as it seemed to like to stick closed and needed a jiggle to open it up.

The gun was as expected when shot: big, solid and heavy but all that assisted by the brake, gave it quite an inert and remote feeling in use and in smaller .308 setups, it was even more gentle. You seem to feel like an accessory to the gun rather than an operator or a shooter. But, I can see why this gun will prove popular, as it really is a gentle giant with everything you need (except a scope and ammo) supplied in one case. I found that the gun offered a fully integrated system, with everything working in perfect symbiotic collaboration, and other than feeling a little dead in use, I cannot doubt the consistent accuracy shown. ■

Contact GMK for more information
01489 587500, www.gmk.co.uk

Technical Specification

Option 1 – .308 Winchester

Total length: 1037/1186mm

(depending on barrel)

Barrel length: 510/656mm

Weight: 6/6.1kg

Trigger: Two stage fully adjustable

Magazine: Detachable twin column
(11 rounds)

Finish: Phosphated Steel, Buff Cerakoted
aluminium chassis (black optional)

Twist rate: 1 in 11"

Technical Specification

Option 2 – .338 Lapua Magnum

Total length: 1216mm

Barrel length: 689mm

Weight: 6.5kg

Trigger: Two stage fully adjustable

Magazine: Detachable twin column
(8 rounds)

Finish: Phosphated Steel, Buff Cerakoted
aluminium chassis (black optional)

Twist rate: 1 in 10"



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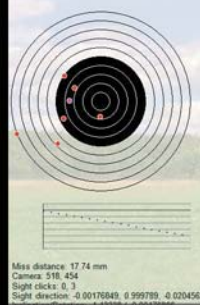
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Legendary Phoenix

Spanning disciplines, ranges and nations, the Phoenix is a truly inclusive meeting. We've captured the highlights from this four-day event



Supported shooting on the Time Limit range



The muzzle-loading shoots saw some get fully immersed in history



Falling Plate matches at short range



Sighting in before competition on the BSRC's range



Black Powder and Historic Arms made for some of the Meeting's greatest visual spectacles



One of the NRA's fastest growing disciplines, target shotgun was well represented



Gallery Rifle dominated proceedings with Gwyn Roberts crowned eventual GR champion



Sporting Rifle on Century Range



The final day saw the international matches take place and Great Britain triumph overall



Inclusivity is one of the strongest points of the Phoenix and of shooting as a whole



Following the short-range action on Cheylesmore range



The NRA stepped in to operate the trade fair at the Pavilion



Taking on the advancing targets



There was more than one type of shooting going on...

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Spring forward

The season kicked off in style with the Spring Action Weekend on 19-20 March. Here's a round-up of everything that took place at this varied and vibrant meeting



A healthy turnout buoyed the meeting's many historic rifle events



LBP and LBR shooters had the 1500 to keep them busy



Taking on one of the meeting's small-bore events



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Wizards of Oz

Derek Lowe of the GBMRT reports back on an all-round successful tour of Australia this February

February 2016 saw the GB Match Rifle Team make its infrequent journey on tour to Australia under the captaincy of Martin Townsend.

Competitive individual shooting began with the Tasmanian Match Rifle Championship, with a field comprising around 50 competitors.

We were pleased with our performance, with wins in all three ranges and the day overall – 3 in the top 5, 5 in the top 10 and 11 in the top 20. Man of the match (rifle) clearly went to Ashley Abrahams, winning the 1000, the 1200 by a seriously impressive three point margin and the day overall by one point – 241.23 ex 250.

The individual Australian National Match Rifle Championship was then shot over four days, with 2&15s at 1000, 1100 and 1200 on the first three and 2&20 at 1200 on the fourth.

Day 1 opened strongly for GB, with wins at all three distances, spread across Julian Peck (75.12 at 1000), Alex Cargill Thompson (75.09 at 1100) and Nick Tremlett (73.06), whose two-point margin at 1200 delivered him the day with 222.25 ex 225.

Day 2 showed the impact of temperature on elevations, where starting levels at 1200 needed to be somewhat higher in the morning cool vs finishing elevations from Day 1's heat.

At 1100, the number of misses with first sighters exhibited what must have been some elevation mismanagement. 1000 in the afternoon proved particularly tricky by comparison with previous days, with a bracket between 3 and 9 right.

Alex CT won at 1200 with 75.09, Nick Tremlett at 1100 with 74.09 and David Rich at 1000 with 74.08 - the first Australian range win. Day 2 overall winner was Alex CT on 222.21. On the leader board, GB's strength improved at the top end, to hold the entire top 5.

Day three witnessed Australia add two range wins, each with a Brit in close



A rare opportunity to shoot at 1500 yards, and from a carpeted firing point

pursuit: Paul Monaghan with 75.11 at 1000 and Graham Mincham with 74.10 at 1100. Day three was won by our Ashley on 223.18, following a win at 1200 with 74.03.

Alex led the board overnight on 663.62, 3 points clear of Nick Tremlett on 660.68. The next closest was Alan Blain of Australia on 653.46, so the action on the final day was to be between Alex and Nick. GB's overall position improved again, now with 12 of the top 20.

Day 4 had contenders Alex CT and Nick Tremlett both shoot early in the string and each made 98.08, leaving the order and margin unchanged from the previous night. Alex won the Australian National Match Rifle championship, with 761.70 ex 775, followed by Nick Tremlett in second on 758.76 and Ashley Abrahams in third with 749.55. Julian Peck won the range, with 99.09 on a 2&20, followed closely by GB reserve Hannah Fisher on 99.08 – a fine day for backgunners!

The 7 ranges won by GB went to Nick T, Alex & Julian (x2 each) and Ashley. GB won all of the day aggregates and range aggregates. Day aggregates went



The good luck cake obviously worked, with British wins in the Woomera Match and individual Championship

to Nick Tremlett, Alex CT and Ashley Abrahams. Short-range specialist Mike Judge sneaked the 1000 and the inevitable Nick Tremlett and Alex CT took 1100 & 1200 respectively.

Various team shooting followed for the next day and a half, with some regional events and the opportunity for some pre-match zeroing after announcement of the GB team. Scotland gave Team GB a great pre-Woomera boost by winning the McEachran Quaich vs the Australian States by 14 points and also for winning the Phil Cole match.

The Woomera Match 1000 yards was closely fought to start with, and particular congratulation is due to Julian Peck who scored the first 75.15 made in

MR in Australia! GB finished 2 points off, including a clean 300 ex 300 target. Australia dropped 13 at 1000, including 5 points from one round that was cross-shot.

1100 saw conflicting wind, resulting in stops called by both teams. Scoring remained high, and by half way through, Australia had dropped 7 at 1100 to GB's 4. After strengthening wind and a pullback from Australia, the teams were level at 1100 after six shooters but finished the range with GB just ahead, at 16 points dropped to 18. Lunch followed 1100, with scores carried forward of GB 18 points off and Australia 31.

After lunch, Australia's Willy Schaffner opened with a very impressive 74.10. With three shooters finished, GB were 10 points off at 1200 with Australia 12 points off after nearly four. GB second shooters put in a very strong pair of 74s, making GB 11 off after 4 shooters at 1200, vs Australia's 17 off.

Australia picked up a couple of magpies and GB several inners. Towards the end of the range, it clouded over and started to rain gently but without killing off the fishtail wind. GB finished first, with 26

off at 1200 and a total of 1756.177 ex 1800, i.e. 44 points off. Australia finished on 1725.160, i.e. 75 points dropped, of which 44 were at 1200. The GB team was delighted to win the Woomera, following our win at Bisley in 2012, making it our first win in Australia since 2004.

The next day was shooting at 1500 yards. The received view was that the rise from 1200 elevation would be 16-19 minutes. For those who could not get it up that far, alignment was found via one easel, two tree trunks and a cowpat. Every shooter had several eyes watching from behind in support.

The morning's shoots saw top end scores initially in the mid-60s (ex 75), then improving to see David Rich of Australia leading with 71, followed by Angus McLeod on 69 and Julian dropping his last into the maggie for a 67. Lunch allowed time for the wind to pick up markedly, from 4 - 8 in the morning to 15 - 20 in the afternoon (1500 yard wind correction being around double that required for 1000).

Par scores for the afternoon were in

the 50 - 55 area, but Gary Alexander opened the shoot well on 64. The wind grew gradually harder during the afternoon, with no one able to beat Gary, who took the 1500 yard championship with 130.02 ex 150. Bobbing around the 126 - 127 mark were Hannah, Angus and Si Whitby, with Si taking 2nd on 127.02.

At the prizegiving, GB took the top six out of the seven badges awarded. As an exhibition of 1500-yard marksmanship from all concerned, Campbell Town in 2016 seemed to be a marked improvement on Coonabarabran (of the Shire of Warrumbungle, New South Wales) in 2010.

It was a great sporting success, with the key wins for GB in the Woomera Match and the Championship; the bulk of the individual honours were won by a decent cross section of the GB team.

We wish to thank all those who have supported us, especially all our hosts in Australia. For preparing and running such pleasurable ranges, we thank Jim Hawkins in Strahan and John Collis & the Tasmanian Rifle Association in Campbell Town. Handling of our kit was a mammoth task, given its gross weight of 1.4 tons! We thank both PBS for the transport of our kit to and from Australia and Gil & Dawn Walker for receiving and storing it at their farm. At home we would like to thank our family, friends, the NRA, our sponsors and Reload Swiss RF60 for the supply of powder. ■



The British and Australian Teams celebrated an enjoyable two weeks' competing



Championship winner Alex Cargill Thompson makes the most of the plentiful wind flags

GB Match Rifle Team Woomera Match 2016

Captain / Main Coach: Martin Townsend

Adjutant: Simon Whitby

Left target

Coach: Nick Tremlett

Plotter: Rosanne Furniss

Firers: Alex Cargill Thompson, Richard Whitby, David Dashwood, Gary Alexander

Right target

Coach: Derek Lowe

Plotter: Hugh Butcher

Firers: Julian Peck, Ashley Abrahams, Michael Judge, Angus McLeod

Reserves

Tim Kidner, Nick Brasier

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C154	44 Magnum	£28.90
C118	6.5 x 52 Carcano	£50.30
C083	6.5 x 55 Swedish	£38.60
C027	270 Winchester	£35.60
C345	7.5 x 55 Swiss	£43.60
C030	7.62 x 39	£35.00
C020	308 Winchester	£37.00
C346	7.5 x 54 French	£43.60
C031	7.62 x 54R	£40.20

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B105	7mm 158gr Grom*	£27.90
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B009	30 FMJ BT 145gr	£18.15
B007	30 FMJ 139gr	£18.15
B099	30 FMJ 150gr	£18.15
B496	308 Match HPBT 168gr	£24.20
B345	30 FMJ BT 174gr	£18.20
B366	30 FMJ BT 175gr	£18.20
B074	7.62mm FMJ 123gr	£17.50
B143	303 FMJ BT 174gr	£18.20
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PSP - Pointed Soft Point

SPBT - Soft Point Boat Tail

PSPBT - Pointed Soft Point Boat Tail

Boat Tail

SPRN - Soft Point Round

Nose

FSP - Flat Soft Point

HPBT - Hollow Point Boat Tail

FPJ - Flat Point Jacket

FMJ - Full Metal Jacket

FMJRN - Full Metal Jacket Round Nose

FMJBT - Full Metal Jacket Boat Tail

RNFP - Round Nose Flat Point

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Match reports: Around the UK

The competition season is in full flow once more. We put together a comprehensive report from shoots around the country

BRITISH SPORTING RIFLE CLUB

The BSRC offers a series of challenging matches, using moving targets as well as standard ranges

The British Sporting Rifle Club held its first Inter-Club Match of the year at its own range on Saturday 14 May. The course of fire was the familiar BSRC Stalkers Test, Running Boar Fast and Slow runs, Stop-at-the-Wall Running Deer and the 10m Running Target.

New kids on the block, Cernunnos, took the team honours with 984, but they are all individual members of BSRC and familiar with the targets as are many of the competitors. One who isn't is Keith Cox of Aldershot RPC, a renowned gallery

rifle shooter who does not get very many chances to shoot on BSRC targets and scored an impressive 362.5 to take top individual honours – the first time that a non-BSRC individual member has been outright winner and an indication of what an all-rounder Keith is proving to be.

COMING UP

For those NRA members who might be interesting in trying some of these moving target events there are opportunities coming up.

BSRC will be hosting the Deer Unlimiteds on 14-15 July and 18-19 July. This is an own handicap system with a chance to win back the entry fee if you can shoot to your handicap. It is only a 10-shot competition with rifles, ammo and some tuition provided – a

great chance to give the discipline a try at a minimum cost. Those who are more accomplished might wish to enter the Deer Championships in the intervening weekend 16-17 July, which is an NRA open event, but with a rather more testing course of fire. Entries for the Unlimiteds simply turn up at the BSRC range and take their turn. Entries to the Deer Championships can be arranged during the first two days of the Unlimiteds.

There is a similar event for Running Boar and 10m Running target in August, with the Unlimiteds on 9-10, which again is entries on the range on the day. Everything is provided, so simply turn up and give it a try. The Boar Championships for the more experienced precede the Unlimiteds on 5-7 August. Entries for this can be obtained from captain@bsrc.co.uk.



Don't miss the BSRC's next events on 14-15 July and 18-19 July

ENGLISH VIII CLUB MEETING

Rosanne Furniss reports back on a record-breaking set of results from the Eight

The 2016 English Eight Club, National Rifle Club of Scotland and Welsh Rifle Association Spring Match Rifle meeting was held at Bisley on 7-8 May. With unseasonably warm temperatures, those who had just returned from the GB Match Rifle Team tour to Tasmania would have been forgiven for getting confused over whether they were still on tour. And the competition started with some excellent scores, notably by George Barnard and John Lindsay who each scored 75.12.

1,100 yards saw more challenging conditions and Scotland's Mike Barlow took the lead in the aggregate with the only possible on the range. This left the Saturday competition open, with Angus McLeod and Rob Lygoe hot on Mike's heels. 1,200 yards as ever proved a game changer for many – only 10 shooters managed to break 70. Angus McLeod finished in front with 219.25 for the day, closely followed by David Dashwood (218.19) and Nick Tremlett (217.24).

Sunday saw even hotter weather, with glorious blue skies and fishtailing wind keeping us all busy. At 1,000 yards, Angus McLeod only dropped two V-bulls, pipping Mike Spencer's 75.12. John Lindsay and David Dashwood both managed a 75 to be the only two not to drop any points at 1,000 yards all weekend. Despite some fighting back from Nick Tremlett (219.20) and Rob Lygoe (220.22) with high day two scores, Angus was too good. Shooting another 219 with 30 Vs, he won the overall weekend aggregate by two clear points with a 438.55.

Full results and information at www.englishheight.org.uk



Angus McLeod collects his trophy, only dropping two V-Bulls at 1,000 yards

HERTFORDSHIRE RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Bob Jackson reports on the opening of Hertfordshire's match season

This traditional opener to the Hertfordshire County shooting season provides two competitions. An individual Captain's Day event is run in the morning under a 'Queens I' course of fire, using a handicapped format to encourage shooters of all ability to enter. The 'Captain's Day' prize is given to the competitor with the highest handicapped score and a prize for the best gun score is also up for grabs. This year the county captain won his own prizes – Colin Skellett, with his 105.11, cleaned up the handicap trophy and a bottle of malt for best gun score.

In the afternoon the Hertfordshire Club Teams Challenge Shield was shot using the short-range half of an Empire match – 2 and 10 at 300 and 600 yards. The entry attracted six teams and 33 shooters.

The organising club, Welwyn Phoenix, retained the shield by a clear 18 points, ensuring they have to plan the 2017 event – always the downside of winning this match.

It was good to see some newbies participating and gaining vital experience in team shooting. One of these new arrivals trumped us all with a fine 100.14 shoot, well done to Henry Poulton of North Herts Rifles, edging the ever steady trigger and new barrel of Andy Daw of Watford OCA off the top gun podium by a couple of V bulls; a new Hertfordshire marksman to bolster the county squad? Bring it on!

KING GEORGE V CHALLENGE CUP

Graeme Clarke reports on the northern heat on the Ponteland range

Hosted by Northumberland and Durham at Ponteland; the King George V saw Yorkshire, Lancashire and Northumberland and Durham contest the heat this year. Cheshire was not able to field a team and had to withdraw.

This was a day for coaches who had to contend with a very cold and gusty fishtailing wind from 6 o'clock. As no short-range targets were available, the match programme was 10 shots at 500 and 10 shots twice at 600 yards.

Dave Allen led Yorkshire's scoring with 147.14. The highest score from Lancashire was Paul Holmes with 148.14 but the top scorer on the day was Dave Archer from Northumberland and Durham with 148.19.

Captained by Stuart Comins, Yorkshire scored 1147.99. A close tie between Lancashire, captained by David Taylor, and Northumberland and Durham, captained by Graeme Clarke, was resolved by V bulls. Both teams scored 1159 but Northumberland and Durham led with 122 Vs to Lancashire's 113, a 9 v-bull difference. Interestingly, Lancashire won the heat in 2015 from Northumberland and Durham by exactly the same margin.

THE HARDY

Despite changes to the centre, the Hardy was still challenging and highly enjoyable, reports James Harris

Shield Shooting Centre hosted the second round of the NRA Shotgun League on 8-9 March. Steve Pike and his team have been running practical matches for over 30 years and the Hardy Shoot has changed from being a pistol match to a shotgun one due to legislative restrictions, but the shooting challenge and enjoyment factor have remained constant.

Sat within a quiet valley and shooting into an old quarry face, the ranges are laid out side by side, with the side walls permitting concurrent firing on all 10 ranges at up to 25 metres with all types of shotgun ammunition. Any visitor entering the range would have been met by the sight of stage one, a deceptively simple long course of 22 metal plates where the target layout effectively determined the shooting locations and was designed to test the ability to shoot rapidly and reload while moving. Stage two required careful planning; the obvious route of circulating clockwise through all the locations was not the fastest, and the distance to targets meant that those using lightweight loads had to try harder to knock them down.

Making good use of the range space is vital to all successful events, and range four had two stages laid out in sequence. First, an accuracy-testing speed shoot of nine targets, where a miss for a standard shooter would put them out of contention. Straight after that was stage five, requiring not only flexibility but also a good sense of balance, as the two shooting apertures were more than a little awkward.

Stage six required a mere eight shots, thereby encouraging the confident to speed up and the overconfident to miss when they did not allow for the penalty targets placed in front and the uneven layout making recoil control and recovery at a premium. Stage seven was another shorter course of 12 targets, four of which were hidden. Shooting in sequence and reloading was the way to

Awkwards shooting apertures tested shooters' flexibility and balance



obtain the best time, and the best times clearly identified those that do little else but practise reloading. To round it off, the last stage would be a 22-round solid slug stage with targets at a minimum

of 15 metres. If this seems short to a rifle shooter, bear in mind that most competitors would complete this in less than 30 seconds, including reloading 14 rounds into the gun.

THE SHIELD HARDY – ROUND TWO OF THE NRA SHOTGUN LEAGUE

OVERALL RESULTS FOR OPEN DIVISION

POSITION	NAME	%
1	Richard Ingram	100
2	Cansh Pope	82.71
3	Ben Love	77.28

OVERALL RESULTS FOR STANDARD MANUAL DIVISION

POSITION	NAME	%
1	Iain Guy	100
2	Mick Flatley	91.07
3	Jon Holloway	82.92

OVERALL RESULTS FOR STANDARD AUTO DIVISION

POSITION	NAME	%
1	Josh Kenny	100
2	Mark Sienesi	97.23
3	Jon Axe	81.14



Conditions might look ideal, but a fishtailing wind deceived more than one competitor

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 'COBWEB-BUSTING' SPRING OPEN

Ian Ashworth gives us a breakdown of all the results from the Spring Open

After a practice and training day on the Saturday, followed by a meal in the NLRA, it was time for the first stage of Gloucestershire's Open, the Cobweb-Buster, held at Bisley.

The competition, open to TR and F-Class (F-Open & F/TR), had an impressive 52 entrants (40 in TR, 8 in F/TR and 4 in F-Open). For the first time, seven international shooters from BDMP Germany were among the competitors.

Owing to restricted target availability, the day started off at long range, at 900 and 1000 yards, before moving to 300 and 600 yards after lunch. Luckily the weather held out for the whole competition, and the competitors were graced with a rainless and relatively sunny day. The gentle but fishtailing wind conditions made for a fairly challenging shoot, especially at long range.



It was certainly a well-attended shoot

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SPRING OPEN

CLASS	WINNER	SCORE
TR T-Class Grand Agg	John Hawke	186.15
TR O-Class Grand Agg	Robin Evans	192.20
TR U-25 Grand Agg	Laura Kennedy	190.14
TR Grand Agg	Charles Rivett-Carnac	197.29
TR Teams of Three	BDMP A-Team	571.48
F/TR Grand Agg	Jonathan Longhurst	267.13
F-Open Grand Agg	John Ambler	280.20



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Glasgow	30th June
Scone Palace Gamefair	1st July

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RELOAD SWISS EASTER MEETING

Adam Leech explains that, despite two shoots being lost due to adverse weather conditions, the Easter Meeting still proved to be very successful

Traditionally each year, the Easter Meeting is run by one of the four principal clubs based on Bisley Camp. In 2015 it was the London and Middlesex Rifle Association, meaning 2016 was the turn of the North London Rifle Club. This year, Reload Swiss was the principal sponsor of the meeting and as a result, was able to offer 'under 25' and 'team competitions', in addition to the regular matches, as well as prizes of cash or reloading components.

Saturday never failed to deliver 'traditional' bank holiday weather. Not long after the first shots went down range, the first drops of rain came downwind. Nevertheless, three Target Rifle competitors scored a 'possible' of 75, all with nine V-Bulls. Counting back shots, Sarah Cheslyn-Curtis came out top, with Alexander Eckhardt and Nick Kerins taking second and third. In the F-Class match, 75.6v gave clear wins for David Lloyd in F-Open and Igor Makarenko in F-TR categories, showing the conditions were no match for precision equipment and precision shooting.

An encouraging start on Sunday saw clear, sunny skies and, with seven scoring shots per distance, a healthy number of 35s recorded at 300 and 500 yards. Falling back to 600, punishment for attending the range rather than church on Easter Sunday was meted out to the first detail, where dark skies and rain turned into hail and a rumble of thunder. Scores suffered as a result, with shooters lashed with strong winds and failing sight pictures steering shots well outside the bull.

Bob Oxford led the morning with the only 105 and 14 Vs (ex 21) in TR. David Lloyd (150.19) and Ian Boxall (144.16) likewise made tidy use of the target in F-Open and F-TR. The afternoon continued in similar vein as shooters returned to 300, with variable conditions making for variable results. A handful of 50s still prevailed at both 300 and 500, but by the time competitors fell back to 600, complete mastery of the wind eluded all, whereas the outer scoring rings did not. Tom Laing-Baker led the TR results on 49.4, with David Lloyd recording 47.1 in F-Open and James McCosh on 48.3. Consistency rather than isolated moments of excellence won the aggregates; Layne Chisholm recording 147.12 in TR, Paul Eggerman 145.11 for F-Open and



The rain on Easter Sunday was relentless. Range officers had to call a halt to the shoot to allow for kit to dry off

Ian Boxall maintaining his morning form in F-TR, finishing on 142.12.

Monday arrived and with it, the addition challenge of shooting long range. More specifically, Monday also arrived from a westerly direction at speeds of up to 60mph, promising to blow bullets, targets and shooters around at will. Range Office staff visited the ranges to assess conditions, which were considered to be too hazardous to allow the usual 8.30am start to proceedings. A reassessment later in the morning allowed for a late start and modified course of fire.

Prevailing conditions gave a wide range of results through a combination of tough judgement calls and moments of pure bad luck. By the time all register cards were received, 70.4v was a more realistic top TR score – the only one breaking the 70 mark was Richard Bird. Even with custom calibres, hand-loaded ammunition and precision optical sights, the F-Class contingent fared no better on their reduced size target, with F-Open and F-TR led by Darren Stewart (90.6) and James McCosh (81.3).

Three days of tough conditions was finally recognised on Monday afternoon, as the stats teams worked away through lunch to deliver the final meeting results. Layne Chisholm secured the TR grand aggregate with 316.28; Ian Boxall topped the F/TR standings with 364.30; and David Lloyd dominated the F-Open class with 383.30.



Heavy rain made range officers consider the field and shoot too problematic at time



Ian Boxall collects his trophy, winning the F-TR with a score of 144.16

IBIS OPEN 2016

Brian Hulatt and Frank Harriss give us a roundup of the Ibis, where even those who weren't expecting to win prizes were handed awards

Once again, April heralded the staging of the Ibis Open meeting at Bisley. In rainy conditions, the short-range shoot started badly, with one allocated target out of action – fortunately the range office was able to allocate an extra one. Two Ibis members were at the top of the short-range with Peter Griggs just counting out Kevin Wilson. Both were on 148.15 but Peter had 49 at 600. Third was another Ibis Open regular, John Kennedy of Nottingham City.

After a warm up and a good lunch, we moved out to 1000 and 1100 yards. Weather conditions improved with the rain almost absent, but the wind was tricky to judge. NRA had to reassign the targets used, so there was some confusion with certain competitors having to be moved to different numbers. However, all was ready by the time the markers were (belatedly) in position. Scores were between zero (retirement) and 97, the latter being by Andrew Wilde of LMRA (another Ibis Open regular) who scored 49.4 at 1000 yards and 48.4 at 1100. The next highest at 1100 was a fine 46 from Dick Rosling (Old Nottinghamians), who, hardly surprisingly, came second in the long-range match, since he made a very steady 47 at 1000. The difficulty of the wind is illustrated by the fact that, of the 31 who shot at 1100, only nine scored 40 or over.

The aggregate was won by Andrew Wilde (243.20), with Peter Griggs second (235.18) and Dick Rosling third (234.21). Once again, schools had been invited to send entries and we were delighted to see several from Gresham's School. The winner of the under-19 prize was Tobias Shalom with 227.19.

At the prize giving there were a few surprised faces from those who had won 'spot prizes' for scores in lower places. The motto should be: 'it's always worth handing in your squadding card'!

ANDY NEWMAN MEMORIAL COMPETITION

George Granycome reports on the biggest Newman to date, with shooters flocking to Romsey's ranges

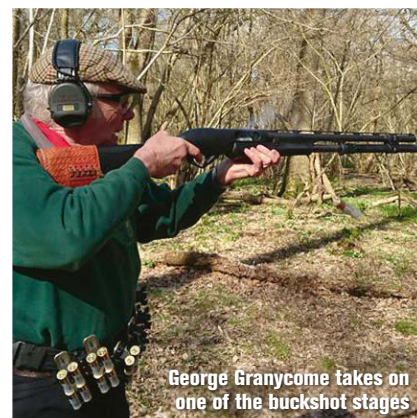
Romsey Shooting Club's venue for major competitions is at Misholt Cope in Hampshire, a pretty area of woodland just off the A303 near the junction with the M3. This year's competition attracted the biggest entry yet – 81 shooters – so the organisers sensibly re-arranged the match by withdrawing two of the smaller stages to fit the day's shooting into a reasonable timescale.

The courses of fire was everything we expect from Romsey, taking advantage of tree cover, the natural lie of the land and the large area available. My own squad had a good start on a 16-plate stage, which entailed a traverse along a shooting line, shooting the target plates as they became visible.

On completing our first stage we moved uphill and caught up with the preceding squad who were finishing off a long stage with 24 plates and poppers. Next to this was a walled and roofed shooting box made of wooden pallets. The shooter started crouching inside, had to load his empty gun in the confined space, and then struggle, grovel, squeeze and stretch to shoot a dozen or so steel plates through a couple of awkward low apertures. Testing the ability to shoot from awkward positions.

The squad moved over to the next area where skills at fast shooting and fast loading were tested by two stages featuring big poppers in plain view.

In an article in this Journal a couple of years ago, I was bitterly attacked on the letters page, and then roundly defended by adherents of free speech, over making critical remarks about a shotgun competition. Well, the next stage of this competition deserves a critical remark. It entailed shooting from prone through a low narrow slot between two railway sleepers. In the old days this would not



George Granycome takes on one of the buckshot stages

have been a great problem, especially as a piece of carpet had been laid on the ground as protection from the mud and grit. However things have changed and there is a fashion for cartridge belts that hold the rounds on protruding prongs so they can be grabbed in pairs (or even fours). These are very expensive, and will break if you have to roll on the ground. Competitors, therefore, were being forced to endanger their own kit.

Romsey expiated were forgiven their sins on the next stage. It was a target-rich field stage of many falling plates and poppers with lots of movement and lots of satisfying shooting. We moved downhill after this stage via a smallish stage shot from behind and around a fallen tree, to a long stage of many birdshot targets which entailed some thought and a bit of jiggling around in order to find the best path forward.

For my squad the final stage was the buckshot stage – hugely heavy circular steel plates and big pepper poppers all set at maximum distance from the delineated shooting path, with no opportunity to get closer. They all needed a good central hit from square on, from as close as you could get with a well-patterned buckshot, otherwise they would not fall. This stage teaches you that when you go to Misholt, and it says that 20 buckshot cartridges are needed, take 50.

Romsey always put on a very good show and this was a breathtakingly good competition, with fine sunny weather, in beautiful woodland, and with an excellent turnout of both experienced and novice shooters.

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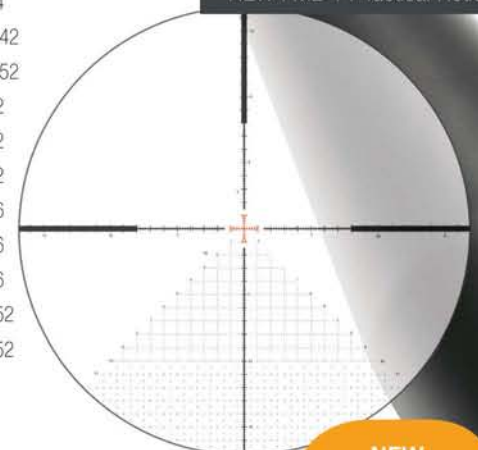


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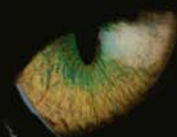
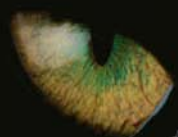
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Future range bookings

Rick Wells, head of range services, explains the NRA's new process for range bookings, designed to handle increasing demand from a growing membership

I wrote recently in the NRA Bulletin about the unprecedented growth of the NRA. There are currently circa 8,000 full NRA members and 20,000 affiliated members who are entitled to shoot at Bisley through their affiliated, Home Office approved clubs. The NRA has also received 460 new membership applications this year. This growth is welcome, but Bisley does have a finite range capacity upon which members can shoot. This has compelled a review of how range space is allocated.

The current allocation procedure is reactive and generally operates on a first-come-first-served basis. This has resulted in historical competitions not being plotted and general frustration, particularly when bookings are cancelled at short notice or NRA policy changes during the season. My aim is to address these frustrations through consultation. However, the final decision on allocation priorities will remain with the NRA and please always bear in mind that as we grow the pain caused by lack of range capacity will be felt somewhere and must be shared.

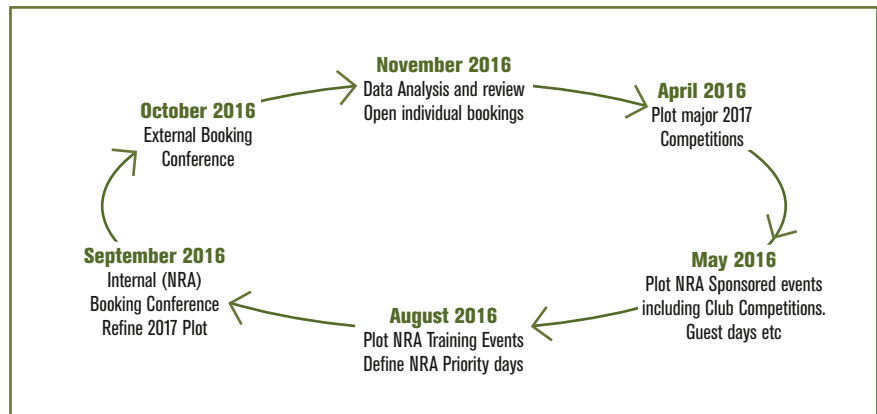
It will come as no surprise to see that I have reverted to my comfort zone, a military-style planning cycle, founded on data analysis and scheduling of traditional competition.

The New Process

The process runs throughout the year starting in April. Preliminary work for 2017 has already begun but is slightly behind due to the delay in receiving, and implementing, the refreshed Safety Arc Booking System (SABS).

April – a relatively simple start to the process with all major, annual, NRA competitions plotted for 2017.

May – initially the definition and identification of NRA sponsored events will take a while and undoubtedly some discussion. This will be easier in Year 2. Club secretaries have already been invited to identify their annual club events to the NRA.



This is a critical step in the process and if it is to be successful all clubs must contribute. Thus far we have only received nine replies. It is unlikely there will be sufficient capacity to plot annual events identified to the NRA after the Imperial Meeting.

August – NRA Training events will be added to the plot and NRA priority days confirmed. An early indication/estimate of priority days will be required to plot some events and distances.

September – take stock and review the plot adding as much detail as possible. This will be followed by an internal (NRA) booking conference. In essence this is a sanity check in order to ensure that we have covered all main competitions, coincident events can be resourced and priority days are correctly allocated. There will undoubtedly be a requirement for some coordination and change in any conflicting events.

October – there will be an external booking conference, to which club secretaries will be invited. Only annual club bookings will be discussed – there will be no discussion of individual bookings. There will be a requirement for club co-operation and compromise if we are to improve efficiency and maximise range capacity.

November – remaining range space will be reviewed against previous booking trends. Individual bookings for 2017 will be accepted. ■

Members should note that:

The availability of distances for individual bookings during competitions will normally be dictated by the competition. For example individuals wishing to shoot on Century during a CSR event will be restricted to comparable distances shot during the competition.

In future distances will be banded:

Long Range 800 – 1200 yards

Mid-Range 400 – 600 yards

Short Range 100 – 300 yards

An individual wishing to shoot at 1000 yards will submit a booking request for “Long Range at 1000 yards”. The online booking system will be adjusted to permit this. Where possible the preferred distance will be allocated, otherwise they will be allocated a long-range shooting distance to fit into the safety arcs alongside other shooters.

The availability of ranges will be advertised to members and clubs in more detail. The SABS is an Excel program and difficult to carry on the website due to its size. How this will be resolved is not yet clear, but it is a priority.

Your comments on the future range booking procedure are welcome, but please remember our range capacity is finite. Our aim is to improve efficiency and maximise capacity. If you have suggestions that could assist in resolving this conundrum please make them known. Unfortunately we cannot purchase more real estate in the Bisley area.

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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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Imperial essentials

The rule changes and dates you need to know about for this year's Imperial Meeting

Service Shooting

The 147th Imperial starts with the NRA service rifle individual matches, including the Queen Mary and Bisley Bullet, on Friday 17 June on Century Range. The United Service and International SR Team Matches will both take place on Tuesday 28 June also on Century.

The Tri-Service Operational Shooting Competitions will start a week earlier this year, with the services using parts of Century from Tuesday 14 June.

Over the weekend of the 18 and 19 June, the Services will be running matches on Butts 18 and 19; concurrently we will be staging the NRA Inter Counties Competition on Butts 11 until 15.

The Queen's Medal Final will be on Thursday 23 June, which also coincides with the NRA Adaptive Championship (being held on Melville). Both promise to be great spectator events.

As a result of the MoD bookings, civilian use of Century will be limited during the period 14 until 29 June.

Civilian Service Rifle

The CSR individual competitions take place from Wednesday 29 June to Saturday 2 July on Pirbright and Century ranges. The main team match, the NRA Methuen, takes place on Sunday 3 July on Century from 1.30pm.

The popular Falling Plates Match will take place on Saturday 2 July on

Henley Park Range from 5pm (Pirbright Ranges are closed). Henley Park has no restrictions for access and is just three miles from Bisley, providing an excellent opportunity for spectators to enjoy the atmosphere of this dynamic competition.

McQueen

McQueen D (Sporting Rifle) will be shot using an issued NRA rifle in .308.

Match Rifle

The Match Rifle competitions start on Friday 8 July with the main individual and team events taking place from the first Saturday (9 July) to the first Thursday (14 July).

The Elcho Match will be staged on Wednesday 13 July, with the final distance at 1200x starting at 2.30pm. The Match Rifle prize giving will be held at the English VIII on completion of the Elcho.

Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

Matches will be staged over the weekend of Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 July, on Short Siberia, Melville and at BSRC. The meeting will include the most popular 100 and 200 yard events; classic sporting rifle, plus target, revolver and pistol events on Melville.

F Class

The F Class Meeting will run from the first Friday (15 July) to second Tuesday

(19 July) along very similar lines to the successful programme in 2015.

The Long Range shoots have been amended to offer a choice to competitors to shoot three or four matches per day. As a result, three new matches have been introduced which will be separate from the Grand Aggregate: the Hobson (1000x Saturday 16 July); the David Kent Cup (900x on Sunday 17 July), and the Dolphin (1000x Monday 18 July).

The Farquharson and St George's Finals will be contested by the top eight competitors in each class. The (F (Open) and F/TR) will be on Tuesday 19 July, along with the F Class International Match. The St George's and International Match have been reduced to 15 shots.

Prize giving will take place on Tuesday 19 July in the Umbrella Tent at 2.30pm.

Gallery Rifle and Pistol

The Gallery Rifle and Pistol Meeting takes place between Wednesday 13 until Sunday 17 July, with all events hosted on Melville range.

The event programme contains 'squadded' and 'unsquadded' teams, as well as unlimited entry competitions, including the annual Oxford v Cambridge Match.

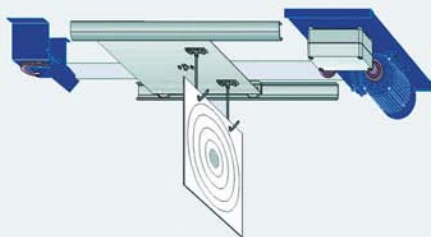
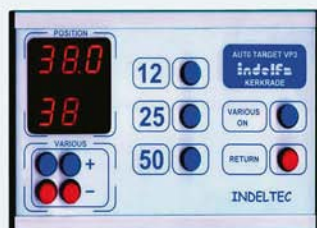
Target Rifle

The NRA and CCRS are trialling a Cadet TR Championship to run alongside the main TR events on Century up to second Thursday, 21 July. This is aimed at cadet units from all services and is hoped it will encourage more young shooters to progress their marksmanship and enter the Imperial in future years. The matches will be staged on Butt 19 throughout and will be under military control.

Target Rifle competitions start on the first Friday of July (15 July) with the 'pre-Grand Aggregate' events, culminating in The Queen's Prize Final on Saturday 23 July, starting at 2.30pm on Stickledown. ■



TR events kick off on 15 July this year



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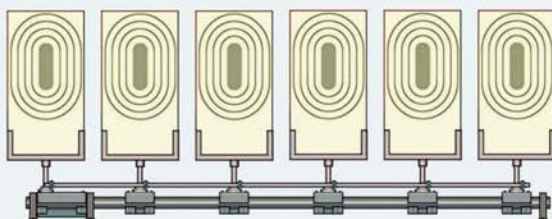
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Imperial Introduction

Never shot TR competitively before? Never fear. Iain Robertson presents your guide to everything 'target rifle' at the Imperial 2016

Welcome to the biggest and most prestigious of the disciplines at the Imperial (but I would say that, wouldn't I?) The problem the Imperial Meeting is that it just doesn't make sense on a first pass. If there is something here you don't understand, please just keep reading – the explanation should follow later.

To compete in TR you need a target rifle (a single-loading 7.62mm/.308 rifle with adjustable non-magnifying sights – see NRA Rule 150), and the kit to go with it. Minimum: sling, glove, ear defenders, spotting scope, scorebook and pencil (though I scored my first competition literally on the back of a fag packet). Highly desirable: shooting jacket, mat, hat, waterproofs, ammo box, small clipboard, rifle tools and a bag to carry it all in.

TR competitions are shot at some combination of 300, 500, 600, 900 and 1000 yards in the prone position at a static round-bull target. Each shot is fired in a 45 second time bracket and each shot is scored separately. Competitors shoot two or three to a target and keep score for each other. A single competition normally consists of two sighting shots and ten or fifteen scoring shots, though there are exceptions. Ammunition is provided – everybody shoots with the same ammunition. Each competition has its own prizes, and there are prizes for groups of competitions taken together – aggregates. The biggest of these is the Grand Aggregate, widely regarded as the most stringent test of target rifle shooting anywhere.

There is no qualifying standard to enter. The only limitations come from the safety rules, which broadly require you to hold a Shooters Certification Card (issued by your home club) covering TR and once on the range to hit the target (anywhere on the paper will do) from the first shot.



So you do need to have done enough shooting to understand how to set your sights correctly for each distance.

The individual TR events of the Meeting start on Friday 15 July 2016. This is known as 'First Friday' in Imperial-speak. The TR events are organised so that on First Friday and the next day ('Middle Saturday') you will shoot once at each of the five distances. Thus, before the really important stuff begins, you should have a zero for every distance. Then, over the next five days, you will shoot a series of events, usually three each day, that make up the Grand Aggregate, and include the first stages of the Queen's and the St George's.

There are broadly four groups of events, which overlap to a degree. The five events leading up to the Grand Aggregate have individual trophies, and together form the Tucker Aggregate (named after Andrew Tucker, who sponsored the competition, as well as winning HM the Queen's Prize twice). The six competitions on 16 and 17 July (Middle Saturday and Middle Sunday) form the Weekend Aggregate. The 11 competitions from Middle Saturday afternoon to Second Thursday morning form the Grand Aggregate, as well as having their own



trophies and making up several lesser aggregate competitions. There are a series of individual competitions on Second Thursday afternoon, all day Second Friday and Final Saturday morning for those that are not involved in the international team matches or subsequent stages of the Queen's Prize and the St George's Vase. You can see the full timetable in the NRA Handbook (online at www.nra.org.uk; click on the downloads tab) near the back of the book just ahead of the index. This shows everything that's happening – the TR events are held on Stickledown Range shown across the centre of the pages and Century Range shown at the bottom of the pages.

Competitors shoot in four Classes. This should not be confused with F Class, which is a separate discipline shot with a rifle with a scope sight and supported on a rest. The four Classes are X, A, O and T. The precise definitions are in the NRA Handbook, but loosely they are as follows:

- X** Someone who has placed in the top 50 of the Queen's, George's or Grand Aggregate in the last three years. This is one reason why these three events are particularly significant.
- A** Someone who has placed 51-100 in the Queen's or George's, or 51-200 in the Grand Aggregate, in the last three years.
- O** Everybody who isn't X, A or T.
- T** Somebody who has never placed in the prize list of any single competition at the Meeting, i.e. usually those attending for their first few visits.

The significant thing about the Classes is that for each event there is a prize list of 100, but the list isn't simply the top 100. The list contains competitors from each class in proportion to the number of entries from that Class. Also, there is a separate competition, the Chairman's Prize, for the top competitors in each of Class O and Class T, and in many competitions there is a prize for the top scorer in each Class.

Exceptions to the Class system are the Queen's, George's and Grand Aggregate.

These events are all shot regardless of Class, thus giving a clear indication of where you came against everyone else.

Her Majesty the Queen's Prize, instituted by Queen Victoria in 1860, is without doubt the most prestigious individual rifle competition anywhere in the world. The format is copied in the national championships of many countries, and by organisers of events ranging from club championships to the Commonwealth Games. The event is structured so as to cope with the huge number of competitors in the fairest way possible. The First Stage (Queen's I, in the jargon) is shot in multiple details at three distances (300, 500 and 600 yards) over the course of a day, with competitors firing two sighters and seven shots to count at each distance. This serves as an eliminator for the Second Stage (Queen's II), so scores are not carried forward. Queen's II is shot in an afternoon, with 300 qualifiers from the First Stage on the same detail at each distance. The scores for Queen's II are processed on the range, and the cut-off for a place in the final Third Stage is announced within a few minutes. It is usual for there to be a tie-shoot for the last places in the Final.

The final stage is the last event of the Meeting, shot at 900 and 1000 yards on Final Saturday afternoon between the 100 competitors making the highest score in the Second Stage. The scores in the Second and Third Stages are added

together to decide the winner, who is then carried shoulder-high from the range in procession led by a military band, and subsequently carried round all the Clubhouses on Bisley Camp in an evening of celebration. If you only enter one competition, this should be the one. It's also the best value for money, as the entry fee is based on the First Stage only – if you get through to the subsequent stages you have won, if nothing else, a free shoot.

Once you have decided which events you would like to enter – the main constraints being your time and money – you need to make an entry. Whether you enter online (easiest) or on paper, the staff will prepare an envelope with all the essential documents that you need in order to participate, and you pick this up on arrival at Bisley in exchange for the receipt they have sent you. For what to do with all the documents, see the briefing sheet in the envelope. And having arrived at Bisley you will need somewhere to stay. With approaching 2,000 competitors across all disciplines, accommodation during the Meeting is at a premium. You can camp on the site, or park a touring caravan. You may be able to hire one of the static caravans from the owner if he isn't at the Meeting. Most of the various clubhouses have accommodation available to their members. The NRA has dormitories and huts to rent, and brings in portable cabins. Check prices and availability



Keep an eye on everything that happens on your target – you need to notice if someone crossfires

on the NRA website, or talk to the accommodation office on 01483 797777 ex135. There are also hotels and B&Bs within easy driving distance of the Camp.

To participate in the competitions you have entered, you need the most important item in your envelope of paperwork – your squadding cards. These show you where and when you have to go for your slot on the ranges, and are your scorecards. Things to do:

- Get there with at least 20 minutes to spare.
- Keep an eye on the queue at the ammunition point – pick a quieter moment to save time. The squadding card is your authority to draw ammunition.
- Double check you are in the right place at the right time.
- Set up your equipment behind the firing point, making sure everything is properly attached to your rifle and that the sights are correctly set for the distance at which you are about to shoot.
- Move on to the firing point when the range officer tells you to.
- Introduce yourself to the other competitors on your firing point. Do tell them if it's your first Meeting – almost everybody is willing to help you with anything you are unsure of.
- Wait for the order from the Chief Range Officer before you load and carry on.
- Keep an eye on everything that happens on your target – you need to notice if someone crossfires, fires out of turn, or challenges the marking, so you don't compound the problem.
- Keep score for one of your companions on the firing point, as laid down in Rules 341-350 in the NRA Handbook. Ensure they do the same for you.
- At the end of the shoot, wait until everyone on your target has finished, then check your rifle is clear and



The ultimate goal is to end up on the Queen's winner's chair, like David Calvert

present it for checking as laid down in Rule 122. Without disturbing competitors around you who may still be firing, exchange scorecards and vacate the firing point.

- Hand back any unfired sighters and your empty cases. Sign your scorecard and hand it in. If you made the highest possible score – well done, now present your rifle to the RO to have the trigger checked.

The scorecards are collected after each detail and scores go into a computer record. Between one and two hours after the competition finishes, stats will publish a provisional prize list on noticeboards beside the main NRA building. If you think you may have shot well enough to make it on to the prize list, you need to check the provisional list – mistakes do get made, and you have until lunchtime the next day to point out any error. If you have shot well but haven't won the competition outright, you may find yourself in a tie-shoot. The date and time for the tie-shoot will be published as soon as the prize list is final. Tie-shoots

are one of the very few elements that are a spectator sport – there will be a few competitors firing five shots to count, so it is usually possible to keep track of exactly how the event is progressing. If those five shots don't settle the match, it goes to single shots – no pressure...

Final Saturday is very much a party atmosphere for those not competing. After lunch, most people will go to Stickledown Range to watch the final of the Queen's Prize. Scores are collated in near real-time, and the progress of the leading competitors is displayed on a large scoreboard. The winner will be identified within a few moments of the competition ending (often before the last shot is fired). The winner is presented with the Gold Badge on the range and then carried off led by the band.

The Imperial Meeting closes officially with the presentation of prizes at 6pm on Final Saturday, at which the major trophies for the first place in each competition are presented. If you have won a medal or prize for a lesser place it will be posted to you a few weeks after the competition. ■

The Bisley Bullet

Christopher Bunch traces the evolution of 'The Bisley Bullet', a popular competition at Bisley, and its historical links



One of the competitions present on the Bisley list is 'The Bisley Bullet', part of the Service Rifle Imperial. It is, as stated in the 'Bisley Bible', "named after the train that ran between Brookwood and the Camp between 1890-1952". The competition was first sponsored by Major T Anstey in 1963 after the then nationalised British Railways ceased their sponsorship of the 'Southern Railway' competition. This, in turn, had superseded the London and South Western competition that was inaugurated in 1896 and celebrated the culmination of the increasingly close relationship built up over the previous 36 years between the NRA and the railway company. However, even this competition had earlier roots, for as early as 1865, the LSWR themselves had already sponsored one. This only lasted for two seasons at the original Wimbledon Common venue of the meeting in the early days of the NRA, disappearing from the record at the end of the 1866 Meeting.

Senior officials of the railway company became enthusiastic life members under the scheme, and the company ended up establishing its own rifle club

Right from the start of the Wimbledon meetings in 1860, the LSWR held the monopoly of rail transport through their nearest stations to the venue, Wimbledon and Putney respectively. In 1860 they had agreed to reduce fares to the normal military rate for the volunteers attending the first Meeting, but seemingly taking advantage of their undoubted monopoly in carrying volunteers and others to and from the Camp on the Common during the Annual Meeting, withdrew this for the following two years. However, after protests and a remonstrance from the metropolitan commanding officers, they agreed to reinstate the cheap rates and, in 1864, agreed to sponsor a prize of £50 towards a new competition for the

1865 Meeting. This was recorded in the report for the year - *'The Directors of the London and South Western Railway have given a Prize of 50l. to be competed for at Wimbledon, the conditions to be fixed by the Council'*. The competition was to bear the title 'The London and South-Western Railway Company's Prize'.

The NRA added £25 – this was to be awarded to the winners of a volley-firing competition between teams of 'efficient' volunteers. Volunteers became efficient when they had competed eight days' training in each quarter or a total of 24 days' drill or exercise each year. The rifles to be used were quoted as the same as those in the first stage of the Queen's Prize and this, therefore, defined them as Enfield muzzleloaders of .577 inch

Right and below: Registration tickets for the 'prone' part of the 'Railway' and 'L. & S.W. Railway' competitions

bore, the standard military rifle that was issued to the Volunteer Corps. The distance was 400 yards with 'both ranks kneeling'. The formation and kneeling position was typical of the rigid military practice enforced at the time, but necessary with muzzle loading rifles.

The LSWR proved to be a slow payer of the prize money, and the contribution for the 1865 Meeting was still being requested by the NRA just two months before the 1866 competition took place. This was pointed out in a letter from captain Edward St John Mildmay, the Secretary of the NRA:

May 14 1866

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th, informing me that the Directors of the London and South Western Company would again this year, kindly offer their valuable prize for Competition at Wimbledon. I am directed to request that you will be so good as to convey the thanks of the Committee to the Directors of the London and South Western Railway Company for their liberal contribution to the prize list, and that you will at the same time state that the conditions for the competition of their prize will be the same as last year when the prize was one of the most eagerly contested.

In reply to your question relative to the cheque for last year's prize, we cannot find that it has been received.

Although both delayed payments appear to have been finally made, the LSWR now withdrew their sponsorship. This would appear to have been precipitated by a general falling out of the railway company with the volunteer movement dragging along the NRA with it. It was ultimately brought to a head in 1868 by the so-called Windsor Scandal, in which the railway company was accused of having badly mismanaged the arrangements for carrying the Corps of the Metropolitan Volunteers to and from a camp at Windsor to parade at a Royal Review by Queen Victoria. Although the relationship was rapidly

RAILWAY.—1895.		DAY.	HOUE.	BUTT.	TARGET.
M.-H. TYRO COMPETITION.					
M.-H., 500. PRONE.					
114	Name	Hugh Wood			719
Rank	Plc	Corps			1st Strling
Sightg.	500				TOTAL.
		Serjt.	Regt.		
Register Keeper for No.		Target.			

L. & S. W. RAILWAY.—1897.		DAY.	HOUE.	BUTT.	TARGET.
S.R. TYRO COMPETITION.					
S.R., 500. PRONE.					
26	Name	R. E. J. Jukes			73
Rank	2nd Lieut	Corps			Cheltenham College Cadet Corps
Sightg.	500				TOTAL.
		Serjt.	Regt.		
Register Keeper for No.		Target.			

repaired, the LSWR did not revive their sponsorship for another 30 years.

In 1895, the council of the NRA received a telegram from Sir Charles Scotter, the general manager of the LSWR, offering a contribution of 100 guineas to the prize list. This was gratefully accepted by the Council and also entitled the Railway Company to nominate five life members of the Association, which they were very willing to take up. The competition was to be shot with Martini Henry rifles in two stages – the first, kneeling at 200 yards, and the second, prone at 500 yards.

At first the competition was called 'The Railway', the reason given by Col W Mackinnon, the NRA secretary, being that 'those taking part preferred short names for competitions'. No doubt the sponsor was not too amused by having its title omitted and the full name of

'L. & S.W. Railway' was applied to the competition by 1896! By this time the Martini Henry was being rapidly phased out of service, replaced by the bolt action Lee Metford (in its turn soon to be superseded by the similar Lee Enfield) .303 Service Rifle.

Scotter had already been made a life member due to his assistance in establishing the Association at Bisley and the generous donation of £1,000 to the latter's funds. Other senior officials of the railway company also became enthusiastic life members under the scheme, and the company ended up establishing its own rifle club, fully backed by all the later general managers. The continuation of the prize sponsorship year by year ensured that the railway company was entitled to nominate additional life members, and this gradually filtered down the chain

to the more junior staff of the railway company. The First World War put a halt to this competition, as it did with nearly all the others, but it was revived in 1919 at the NRA's prompting and continued until the end of the LSWR's independent existence.

The amalgamation of most of the original railway companies into four new ones took place at the beginning of 1923 and the LSWR became the South Western Division of the new Southern Railway but the LSWR Competition continued for the 1923 season. It was replaced by the new Southern Railway Competition in 1924 that was open to past and present members of HM Services, forming part of the Services Aggregate Competitions. This differed from the old LSWR competition in that the distance was 200 yards. By now the direct replacement of the 'Long Lee', the SMLE Service rifle, had taken over. Very shortly after this, the general manager of the Southern Railway, Sir Herbert Walker, who had held the same post in the LSWR, sponsored his own competition to be shot for by members of the railway's staff. Walker was a great supporter of shooting and had greatly encouraged the pre-war LSWR Rifle Club as well as the new Southern Railway club.

The nationalisation of Britain's railways on 1 January 1948, which transformed the Southern Railway into a region, had no effect on the 'Southern Railway' competition. It did, however, change in sponsor, and it carried on under their new name until the end of the season in 1962, when British Railways withdrew their support.

However, in 1963 Major Anstey, a well-known shooter at Bisley, decided in the circumstances to sponsor a replacement competition to be called 'The Bisley Bullet' and presented a Challenge Trophy as the first prize, with the Bullet Lodge RC also donating a large proportion of the cash prize. This competition commemorated the Camp Tramway that had run between Brookwood Station, on the South Western mainline from Waterloo Station in London, and Bisley Camp Station between 1890, when the Camp opened, and 1952. The origin of this appropriate



Shooting for the 1936 'Southern Railway Prize'



The 'Bisley Bullet' with Southern Railway Staff circa 1947 at Bisley Camp Station

nickname for the train that ran on this short 'Tramway' is unknown, but in the period before the First World War it provided an efficient service to the large number of shooters who had no other means of reaching the Bisley Ranges in those days. It also served as a key element in the transport links for the 1908 (and 1948) Olympic shooting events that were held at Bisley. After

the First World War, use of the 'Tram' suffered an increasingly rapid decline, owing to expansion in car ownership. Miraculously it somehow survived until after the Second World War, being eventually closed by British Railways at the end of the 1952 Annual Meeting.

The foregoing article is based on extracts from a forthcoming book – Targets and Tramways – by Christopher C. Bunch ■

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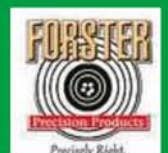
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Settling an age-old debate

Is the Lee Enfield .303 rifle really less accurate than the Mauser? We join Brett Anthes at the Hill End Rifle Club in Australia to put the debate to bed

Once again the members of the Hill End rifle club travelled to Hill End for the first shoot of the 2016 calendar year – as it was summer in the Australian bush, the weather was rather warm. Some might have called it boiling. But this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the shooters who arrived on the Saturday for the Lee Enfield Rifle Association .303 service shoot.

There has long been a misconception that the Lee Enfield .303 is less accurate than the Mauser, so we decided that it would be an interesting and fun experience to shoot our 7 mm, 1895 Boer Mauser models alongside the other shooters using their as-issued service 303s. Surely this would be a good test of the Lee versus the Mauser, echoing debates as far back as the Boer War? Many of those involved in the shoot were competent service rifle shots, giving a fair evaluation of the results achieved.

The Hill End Rifle Range is not your average 1000-yard rifle range; there

are rocks, dirt, dust and bull ants. On the side of our club hut there is the line, “the last of the bush ranges” – the range itself is hewn out of the mountain scrub and timber that envelops the area. It is extremely uneven and rough by range standards today, thus for those unfamiliar, think the opposite of the manicured Bisley, making the range unique to all those who visit. Unlike the LERA shoots elsewhere, our shortest range is 200 yards. This is due to the elevation difference; our 100-yard point is much lower than the targets, thus all shooting is done safely from 200 yards which runs opposite back up a slope from a creek, adding a challenge to the LERA shoot, which to my knowledge, is not encountered on any other ranges.

Loads used in the 7mm Mausers were factory PRIV partisan 173gn FMJ. I, Kates and G Murgatroyd used our Transvaal (ZAR) m95, manufactured by Ludwig Loewe, carrying A and B prefix serial numbers. I used an Orange Free

State (OVS) m95 by DWM (for those interested L. Loewe became part of the massive DWM organisation in 1896 thus the name change). Considering their age, all rifles are in excellent serviceable condition.

Competition would certainly be tough with good .303 shooters. M Smith put the runs on the board with a good 95, followed by respectable scores from Stuart with 60 and J Fennell with 54.

It was time for the Mausers now. The three of us knew there was no margin for error with the reloading of the charger clips, something that the 10-shot magazine of the Lee Enfield has as a distinct advantage in for the

For those unfamiliar with the range, think the opposite of the manicured Bisley



Rifle battle: It's the Lee Enfield .303 against the 1895 Boer Mauser



Considering their age, all rifles are in excellent serviceable condition

LERA shoot. Kates and Murgatroyd went first. Being left-handers, no doubt the straight bolt handle of the Mauser felt quite alien to these experienced .303 shooters. Graham and Ian had trouble in the reloading stage, costing them valuable points, however Kates managed some sterling work to unjam his rifle and get another three away in 45 seconds. On seeing this, I took stock for when my turn came, wanting to be more focused on the reloading.

My two sighters went well, with both at five inches to the right of aim at 200 yards. With just a bit of hold-off required, it was down to business. The rifle felt good, being a pleasure to shoot with the recoil, and having noticeably less than my Lithgow SMLE. For those new to the 7mm Mauser, it is an efficient cartridge that can handle a wide range of bullet weights from 120 to 173 grains with ease. It possesses excellent sectional density for its calibre, while firing a bullet at a more than adequate velocity. Next in, I went into the kneeling position for 10 on/off on exposures. Following through, I could see dust from behind the target, so I was reasonably confident all was still well and the old OVS was singing its tune. With that finished it was now the mad minute, or according to UK rules for LERA, the mad 45 seconds. I charged the rifle with five and moved the safety on. The range officer blew the whistle, and dropping to the ground prone and moving the safety off, I endeavoured to rattle as many through the old girl as soon as the sights became aligned. For me accustomed to years of shooting the SMLE, this was a whole new kettle of fish and I really worked hard with the Mauser. It is nowhere near as fast as the Lee, the straight bolt handle feeling cumbersome to fast snap-type shooting, but I did manage a clean, trouble free reload. I only just got my 10 shots away with a rather hot barrel before the sound of the range officer's whistle.

We all gathered round as the scores were tallied and enjoyed the conversation that followed about the interesting experiment. The general thoughts were that in an environment like the South African Veldt, where the ranges were long, the Mauser had the edge with its strong front locking accurate action. It definitely



With rocks, dirt, dust and bull ants everywhere, the club sticks true to its moniker of "the last of the bush ranges"



loads used in the 7mm Mausers were factory PRVI Partizan 173gr FMJ

would have had the edge over the MLE at the time, with no provision for charger loading. But it is fair to say there can be no debate among the members of the Hill End Rifle Club that the SMLE and its variants are the greatest battle bolt rifles ever made. They are the fastest action to

operate, are adequately strong enough, fire an effective round, can be counted upon to work in environments where other designs fall short, carry 10 rounds and have been tested from the mud of Flanders, sands of North Africa, jungles of New Guinea and the snow of Korea. ■

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Global postal shoot

From the UK to New South Wales, an ad-hoc arrangement between a group of friends is turning into a truly global club. Raf Jah has the story...

Postal shooting was all the rage some years ago, competing under the same conditions around the country or even the globe. Nowadays, the idea seems to have gone by the wayside. Target rifle shooting has entered a new era with new technologies, clothing and phenomenally accurate ammunition.

Four years ago, I was invited to join the Hill End Rifle Club (HERC) in Australia. The HERC is the last and most active bastion of Lee Enfield .303 shooting in New South Wales with members' ages ranging from 17 to 82. After a successful shoot, we sat around the campfire in the bush wondering how we could keep shooting together. We worked out a system whereby the UK would use Bisley to replicate the bush ranges of Australia. The difficulty of the shoot was that the HERC shoots at 300 and 700 yards.

Our first attempt at the postal shoot had two people turn up at Bisley on a frosty January morning. We had neither the time nor the money to fly around the world to fire 24 rounds at large circles deep in the Australian bush. But what we could do was turn to Century Range the moment it opened, buy 40 rounds of PPU ammunition and lie down in the sub-zero temperatures

trying to replicate the conditions of New South Wales. It was quite surreal shooting in thermals and cold weather clothing while the Australians had their slouch hats on in the 40°C heat. There had to be a degree of co-operation and of course trust. We wrote down our scores accurately (usually on the inside cardboard of an ammo packet). We then photographed our scores and emailed the pictures to the HERC. The Australians took our scores and then physically wrote them on their blackboard at Hill End.

The greatest difficulty we had was involving others in the shoot. The ranges were too long for most people to have access to. So we started hunting for another competition that could be shot around the world. We stumbled upon the Lee Enfield Rifle Association, who had a global postal shoot. This was only shot at 200 yards and used civilianised targets. The HERC shot this, we shot it as individuals and the LERA shot it. The beauty of the Internet allowed us to share this with other clubs around the world and the LERA of South Africa shot it as well.

What is most surprising about this shoot is that almost every club in this country has .303 enthusiasts, who regularly pull the blunderbuss out of the cupboard and shoot. The competition is not physically exerting, and yet it seems impossible to persuade clubs around the country to participate. It is easier to find shooters in South Africa than here. And yet every range that I go to has someone (or loads of people) banging away with Lee Enfield .303s. If our friends in Canada can find a 200-yard range then the postal competition will truly span the globe.

Perhaps there is life in the global postal shoot after all. ■



The UK shoot makes for a tricky task, with little in the way of readable signs for wind direction

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The global postal shoot can be shot by anyone who has access to a 200-yard range and DP1 or figure 11 targets. You can even make your own. Please email your results and photos to Graham Murgatroyd – triggermurgatroyd@gmail.com. The winner may receive a small prize.



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Rep reports

From historic arms to MR, your discipline reps tell you everything you need to know

Paul Wolpe, Muzzle Loading

By this time of year, several of the really special events in the Muzzle Loading Calendar have been completed, but it is worth remembering that there are plenty more to come.

The Island of Jersey has excellent range facilities, though the use of the 1,000-yard firing point at Les Landes is restricted to a few days of the year. The Jersey open competition took place at the end of April. As well as the usual range of competitions, there were Timed Revolver and The Hythe. The Hythe is named for the School of Musketry, and the type of course-of-fire used to test the 19th-century rifleman. The Target used has an 8" bull and a 20" inner, the overall size being 6'x2'. The scoring is 3, 2 and then 1 for a hit on the rest of the target. All the shooting is offhand and five shots are taken at 100, 150, 200, 250 and 300 yards. The shooters fall back to the next distance and are required to carry all their ammunition and requirements with them.

This year's Entente Cordiale match took place at La Canourgue, in the Department of Lozere, on 8 May. The alternate years when the French host the event, it coincides with the Arquebusiers de France National Championships so there are trade stands and, for the visitors, the opportunity to compete in other events. The British team retained the cup this year by a narrow margin. The team captain, John Whitaker, is keen to hear from MLAGB members who shoot original Enfields and who would like to be considered for the team. The way to do this is to submit consecutive witnessed scores, or better still, take part in some of the national competitions.

The North Kent Open Match was held on the range at Faversham – this



year it took place on 18 June. From the car park there is a short walk through a wooded area to the ranges. There are firing points at 25, 50 and 100 metres and a good variety of competitions for rifle, musket and pistol. It is always a great day out.

The New Open Meeting for Repeating Pistols was a great success in 2015, and it is being repeated this year on the middle weekend of the Imperial, 16-17 July. It is run in conjunction with the Surrey Branch of the MLAGB. Jim Hallam, as match director, is keen to offer a range of competitions that are outside of the usual MLAIC format of 10/13 shots in 30 minutes.

In August the MLAIC World Championships take place at Salospuzta in Hungary. The MLAGB will, as usual, send a strong team to the event. Muzzle-loading shooting is extremely popular in Europe and some of the national teams are fully sponsored. The MLAGB team is entirely self-financing and has a smaller base than many countries, but despite this, has a record of doing well.

If anyone has information about upcoming ML events or photographs suitable for publication, please get in contact with the ML Rep.

Email: muzzle@nra.org.uk

Ian Shirra-Gibb, 300m

Our season opened in mid-March, with a training weekend at Bisley, followed by a visit to France for the first half of our biannual match against Clermont/Creil. The NRA team of 12 managed to place well on the Saturday with Martin Scrivens taking individual second place on 593. Sunday's scores were higher with Simon Aldhouse leading the pack with 596. However, the two-day aggregate went to our French friends, winning the Danik bowl with 3543 to NRA 3528.

The BFRC Spring Open was shot at Bisley on 16-17 April, and in odd wind conditions, scores were well down on expectations. Simon Aldhouse won with a score of 590. On the May bank holiday weekend, six shooters competed in a four-nation shoot at Clermont with a GBR and a club team entered.

The NRA Championships were contested on 14-15 May, with competitions in both TR and free rifle prone. A Wilde was the victor in TR with 583.21, four ahead of R Kitson and A Gent, while in free rifle, Simon Aldhouse on 587.23 triumphed by a single point over G Jeal.

The week before saw a GBR team visit Denmark for the First European Cup in Aarhus. So far this year's events have attracted 11 nations.

Email: 300m@nra.org.uk



Alex Cargill-Thompson, Match Rifle

Forthcoming events:

- 8-14 July
The Hopton
- Bank Holiday Monday 29 August
Welsh RA MR Meeting at Bisley
- 3-4 September
National Rifle Club of Scotland
Autumn Meeting at Blair Atholl
(www.nrcofs.org)
- 24-25 September
English Eight Club Autumn Meeting
at Bisley (www.englishheight.org.uk)

Email: match@nra.org.uk



Peter Ryder, Historic Arms

Forthcoming events:

- 9-10 July – The Imperial Historic Arms Meeting This will include the most popular 100 and 200-yard events on Short Siberia together with Historic Sporting Rifle at BSRC – Running Deer at 110 yards and Running Boar at 55 yards. We also hope to be able to include gallery and muzzle loading events once it has been possible to plan how best to use the new Melville and Cheylesmore layouts.
- 13-14 August – HBSA Historic Miniature Rifle Competition This is an open event on Winans range – refer to the HBSA website for details.
- 1 October – Historic Service Rifle Match. Watch the NRA website for details.
- 15-16 October – Trafalgar Meeting. Watch the NRA website for details.

Email: classic@nra.org.uk

FORTHCOMING DATES

SHOTGUN LEAGUE

- **10 July**
Rossendale, Lancashire – Round 6
Contact: targetshotgun@nra.org.uk
- **17 July**
Shield, Dorset – Round 7
Contact: steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk
www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk
- **30-31 July**
Bisley – Round 8
Contact: targetshotgun@nra.org.uk
or carol.kellow@nra.org.uk
- **18 September**
Romsey, Hants – Round 9
Contact: steve@rscopen.com
www.romseyshootingclub.co.uk

HANDGUN LEAGUE

- **28 August**
Bisley – Round 4
Contact: Shooting div and
james.harris@nra.org.uk
- **24-25 September**
Frome, Somerset – Round 5
Contact: neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com
www.fdp.org.uk
- **8 October**
WNsc, Worcs – Round 6
Contact: wncsc-hgsec@wncsc.co.uk
www.wncsc.co.uk
- **23 October**
Bisley – Round 7
Contact: Shooting div and
james.harris@nra.org.uk

MINIRIFLE LEAGUE

- **9 July**
WNsc, Worcs – Round 3
Contact: wncsc-hgsec@wncsc.co.uk
www.wncsc.co.uk
- **7 August**
Bisley – Round 4
Contact: Shooting div and
james.harris@nra.org.uk
- **24-25 September**
Frome, Somerset – Round 5
Contact: neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com
www.fdp.org.uk

James Harris, Target Shotgun

To date this has been a busy year for Target Shotgun shooters, with what appears to be a competition or course every other weekend as well as the regional training courses the NRA Shotgun League has been putting on. By the time this Journal is delivered, the fourth round of the 2016 NRA Shotgun league will have been shot at Shield SC in Dorset. The professional staff at Bisley are gearing up for the Imperial, and following on from that, the NRA PSG Nationals on 30-31 July.

Winans range approved for shotgun

This previously underused range is now available for use with birdshot only to NRA members and affiliated clubs on a limited basis. If you want to use this range, ensure you are familiar with the range orders before you book to avoid unwitting breach. If you have any questions please contact me for advice. This is a good start on the road to providing some facilities for the TS shooter but it is by no means the last stage in delivering a top quality range that can accommodate the full suite of TS activities.



New Shotgun League sponsor

We are delighted to announce that we have received sponsorship from Facilities Solutions for the NRA Nationals in July, which will provide not only cash prizes, but also support for the range officers and volunteers without whom these events are impossible to run.

This is in addition to the generous sponsorship already in place from Edgar Brothers (Hatsan), GMK (Beretta/Benelli) and AW Armoury, which means that just by entering any of the matches you stand a chance to win one of four shotguns or a range of top quality shooting accessories.

Edgar Brothers have also extended their sponsorship to include the NRA Minirifle League. As with the Shotgun and Handgun leagues, all you need to do to be in with a chance of winning a superb Savage Arms .22 rifle, or some great accessories, is take part in a league match.

Email: targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

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5.56/223 GGG £45.00/100.....	
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Treasurer's report

Derek Lowe, NRA treasurer, reports on a healthy set of financial figures for 2015

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

The NRA's financial performance in 2015 can be seen in our audited accounts, which are available on the website following their publication in March. Highlights include:

- Incoming resources (i.e. revenues) of £5.48m, up from £5.27m in 2014
- A surplus totalling £252,000, by comparison with an equivalent of £400,000 in 2014
- A closing cash balance of £466,000, compared to £394,000 at year-end 2014

In our policies around pricing and investment, the trustees have a complex balance to strike between various competing objectives. These included the retention of cash to make the NRA more financially resilient and the reinvestment of cash in facilities and initiatives that will positively serve shooting (for members, other beneficiaries and clients), in the nearer future.

On pricing, we are continuing to preserve affordability by limiting price rises for most services at the inflation rate, thereby avoiding real-terms increases. 2015 saw the first year of ammunition supply from manufacturer GGG, with its notably lower costs than previous issued TR ammo.

On cash retention vs. reinvestment: out of £456,000 generated by our operations in 2015, we invested £384,000 back into capital expenditures on our facilities. This puts us on track to meet a target for capital investment of £1m over three years.

Both the price protection and investment rate were among the objectives outlined in our strategy document, published on the NRA website in January 2015. Our chief executive and staff have delivered them, while also sustaining the cash balance required of them by the

trustees – well done and thank you from the treasurer!

Another goal requiring financial firepower has been to add support to shooters away from the Bisley hub. This became possible in 2015 with the appointment of a regional ranges manager, Nic Couldrey.

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

Whether handling competing demands geographically, between different disciplines' use of ranges or a variety of other interests and relationships, the trustees are in place to discern the best route for fullbore shooting overall. This is not limited to the financial sphere, but it is frequently financial issues that

bring inequities into the light and also the opportunity to address them. Members' medium to long-term experience also shows how straitened finances have been an overwhelming impediment.

I've highlighted in the past the importance placed by the trustees on effective communication around finances: within management for operational effectiveness, among the trustees for oversight, direction and support, and finally the NRA General Council and individual members for transparency and to foster enfranchisement. Earlier reports can be found on www.nra.org.uk by searching under 'treasurer' and 'accounts', as well as in the summer journals since 2014.

Monthly management accounts presented to the trustees introduce detailed information with a ready update on the three principal measurements chosen by the trustees to monitor financial performance: accumulated surplus during the year, cash balance and net current assets. The statutory accounts are prepared very promptly after each year for audit, followed by timely publication. The trustees' thanks go, once again, to the support services team for their quick and effective work. ■



Melville range has undergone significant improvements

Regional Ranges Update

Nic Couldrey reports on the reopening of a pistol range in the north-west of England

I met the Chairman and Trustees at the end of April to share results of the range analysis and talk about shooting in the regions. The analysis provides a detailed picture of where our 8,000 members live, the location of over 800 affiliated clubs and 20,000 affiliated members. Critically, it contains the details of the 150+ MoD and privately operated ranges in regular use. Much of the data used in the analysis came from the 400 clubs that responded to the Regional Ranges Survey.

The analysis shows that, while there is a significant concentration of members and clubs in the south-east that shoot at Bisley, there is a vibrant regional shooting community that relies on access to 48 MoD ranges, especially for distances beyond 200 yards. A small number of regional clubs have access to former MoD ranges that are now in private hands. These include the ranges at Diggle, Thorpe Cloud, Deer Hill, and Broadhembury. There are about 80 other ranges in regular use, typically operated by regional clubs and associations. As part of a broader upgrade to the NRA membership database, we intend to reuse the data to provide an on-line range and club search tool for members.

Interestingly, clubs and ranges are more evenly distributed across the UK than expected, but significant gaps exist, particularly in south-west Wales, the Midlands, northern Scotland and the Borders. Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire have no fullbore ranges.

The analysis provides an empirical basis for the regional range strategy including finding better ways to book and share MoD ranges, encouraging closer collaboration between regional clubs and private range operators, and strategic investment in regional infrastructure.

I'd like to hear from members and range operators, particularly if you know of a disused range or an appropriate piece of land or buildings that could be developed in future. I am working with the rep for Wales on a surplus RFCA range in the Rhondda, recently met a private range operator in Northamptonshire and made an approach to the owner of disused MoD range in Worcestershire.

News from the north-west

I am delighted to announce the reopening of the Heritage Pistol Site in Mossley, Cheshire, after a protracted and disruptive two-year closure. The site is operated by Tameside Shooting Sports Association, an NRA affiliated club and one of only 10 locations in England and Wales with Home Office approval for the storage and study of pistols under Section 7.3 of the Firearms Act.

The NRA has been working closely with the directors of TSSA to support the creation of the new club, including range inspections, provision of technical advice and face-to-face meetings with Greater Manchester Police in support of the application for Home Office Approval. In

a statement to the NRA the directors said: "For years we thought NRA affiliation was just about having the insurance and Bisley, so when the crunch came and we needed help we were delighted with the speed we got expert help and advice. This, combined with visits to advise us on range updates and meetings with the police, enabled us to reopen after some horrendous problems. It certainly surprised a few members that the NRA was prepared to come to us and act as a national body. The directors and members of TSSA would like to express their gratitude to the NRA for its continuing support."

This is great news for members in the north-west. TSSA has a splendid clubhouse in a historic former drill hall. Members have access to two indoor small-bore/gallery rifle ranges, during the week and at weekends. For details and membership enquiries contact Kevan Simister: 07738 517946, kevansimister@icloud.com

And finally, the pilot regional event was held at the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association Camp at Altcar, Merseyside, on 14-15 May. Altcar is a fabulous training camp, unique in that it comprises the only major ranges owned by an RFCA. The land was given by Lord Sefton and first used for the Grand Lancashire Rifle contest in 1860. The weekend comprised a marksmanship training session on day one attended by 12 participants. On day two, 25 competitors shot a five-stage match in a variety of positions from 100 to 300 metres. The weather was kind and we were well supported by the team at Altcar. My thanks to everyone that travelled to Altcar to participate and deliver the event, and also to the RFCA. Feedback so far suggests that the event was a great success and we will use this as a basis for planning similar events in future. ■



Paul Slater and Barrie Skeldon, directors of TSSA, pictured in front of the Old Drill Hall Mossley, with Home Office Approval for the Heritage Pistol Site

Worcester Norton Shooting Club

Situated in the heart of the Worcestershire countryside, WNSC caters for a wide range of shooting disciplines

Worcester Norton Shooting Club (WNSC) is a subsidiary of Worcester Norton Sports Club, which has two main sections: shooting and cricket. The club was founded in 1983. We also rent a small part of the total 12-acre site to a Croquet club who have two wonderful lawns.

Originally the home of the Worcestershire Regiment, there has been a range here since 1784. All that remains of the original barracks is the 'keep', which fronts the site and was redeveloped around 15 years ago into apartments, and the Sergeants Mess which is the main clubhouse and cricket pavilion.

The parade ground and numerous barracks have long gone and even the old Sergeants Mess is due for redevelopment following a grant from Wychavon District Council for £750,000, which we are trying to 'match fund', to provide a new sports hall with cricket pavilion, three badminton courts, bar, changing facilities and an indoor range!

The shooting area occupies 4.5 acres, offering two 25-yard ranges and one 50-yard range, plus a 50-yard square 'shotgun pit' and two airgun ranges. One is 35 yards and the second is 50 x 50 yards, offering limited field firing facilities.

The first Saturday of each month we hold a two-gun competition – mini rifle and shotgun – which usually comprises six to eight stages. There used to be an open competition, but became so popular that we now restrict it to members and invited guests.

We have always tried to ensure that the officers of the club are there to serve the members. As such,

the atmosphere has become one of friendship, joviality and care. We offer good and improving facilities for disabled shooting and are currently talking to British Blind Sport about installing acoustic shooting. This sums up the personality of the club – so many interested, caring people giving their time to aid others.

For example, on Saturday 14 May we held round 2 of the NRA Mini Rifle League. 8 stages / 180 rounds. Everyone arrived early so we started half an hour early at 9.30am and with the usual WNSC slick operation all 30 competitors had finished shooting, we had done the stats, completed the presentation of certificates and trophies and gone to the pub by 1.30pm. The general consensus was that everyone enjoyed the competition and we were congratulated on the presentation, layout and forward planning of our club. ■

Essential info

WNSC offers a fairly wide range of disciplines offering competitions for:

Gallery Rifle
Long Barrel Revolver
Mini Rifle
Long Barrel Pistol
Practical Shotgun
Target Shotgun
Precision rifle
Sporting Rifle
Black Powder Pistol & Rifle
Cannon – yes miniatures cannons!
Air Rifle and Pistol for Target
& Field firing
Archery to 50 yards

The club is open 364 days per year (closed Christmas day) from 9am until 9pm or dusk, whichever is earlier. Although only 25 and 50-yards, our ranges are covered for muzzle energies of up to 7,500 joules/.338 Lapua Magnum.



Mini rifle is just one of WNSC's long list of disciplines on offer

Until last year we had a 30-month waiting list for membership. This is now down to around 8 months. Anyone interested in joining should contact Jon Williamson at [wnsc-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk](mailto:wnscl-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk)

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OBITUARIES

BOB BLACKALL 1933-2016

Bob Blackall passed away peacefully at home in his sleep on 28 March 2016, at the age of 82, after a three-and-a-half year battle with dementia with Lewy Bodies and Parkinson's.

Bob was a devoted family man, husband to Barbara, father to Lesley and Sandy, grandfather to Danny, Georgina and James. They miss him terribly, but his love, humour and generosity touched so many other people throughout his life. A builder by profession, he worked in the family business and eventually took it over after the death of his father in 1967. Bob did national service in the Royal Berkshire Regiment between 1957 and 1959. He was promoted to NCO, and as a soldier he first developed a passion for target shooting.

He honed this skill at Windsor Rifle Club, where he was a member from the 1970s. Already an accomplished shot, he progressed to becoming a superb target rifleman, representing Berkshire, England and Great Britain many times. He fully deserved the National Small-Bore Rifle Association's Special Service Diploma awarded for services to target rifle shooting in 2009. The Windsor Club room is named after him in recognition of his hard work and devotion.

Bob was a skilled breeder of small British birds, mainly soft bills, winning many prizes. He was successful in breeding some birds considered almost impossible in captivity, possibly because he could often be seen running around local fields with a net collecting insects to feed his birds. His gentility with birds belied his combativeness with a cricket ball. He was a fearsome fast bowler in his younger days, helping his local team mates become formidable opponents, among whom he was known as much for his humour, especially when least expected.

There are many stories of Bob's deadpan humour – no one who knew him was not caught out by his 'leg pulls'. He was also renowned for his attention to detail, especially in his work. He was adamant that paint should be strained through a pair of women's tights before use! Being fastidious was evident in his garden and allotment that was cultivated to perfection. In his latter years he wasn't able to tend his beloved allotment but still found his garden a source of deep pleasure, even when restricted to looking out on to it as he became confined to a chair at home.

He was blessed in having Barbara as his soul mate, who cared for him to the end, along with the support of his two daughters and their families. His is a deep loss to them and all who knew him.



WILLIAM JOHN BLACKMAN 1923-2016

John Blackman was a Sussex man through and through, living his whole life at Battle on the south coast. Born on 24 January 1923 at his parents' home, St. Mary's Farmhouse, John, the middle son of three, left school at 14. Like his brothers, he joined their father's coal merchant business, based at the coal yard in Station Road, Battle.

John learned from an early age how to look after the heavy horses used for drawing the coal wagons to deliver the sacks of coal. Those animals gave way to the venerable Bedford TK lorry, but nothing replaced the need to shovel 100 sacks of coal to form three tiers on the lorry.

In February 1942, John enlisted in the Army. Service in the RAOC took him on the Mauritania troop ship to the deserts of North Africa where heat, humidity and plenty of sand (along with dysentery) accompanied the task of recovering damaged and broken tanks from the front line. He said the armour plating on the tanks would get hot enough to fry an egg.

After the war, John returned to the family business, and on 22 November 1947 he married Rosemary. They had met at the station ticket office just before he had enlisted when she had sold him a ticket. Their children, Amanda, Rebecca and Mark, between them, produced eight grandchildren, who in turn added five great grandchildren – much to John's delight.

John's passion for rifle shooting was inherited from his father, who had been a sniper during the Great War. John topped the lists for Battle and Hurstpierpoint rifle clubs, quickly gaining Sussex County colours. He shot for England in the national match in 1962. His GB colours followed in 1967 in Canada. He reached the final of the Queen's Prize on a number of occasions before his reluctant retirement from active participation at the age of 72.

Away from the ranges, John loved sea fishing from his small boat. He told the tale of the cod he had caught, so big that it had to be stored in the bath until he sold it on to the fishmongers. On land he kept an immaculate vegetable garden, supplying the family with fruit and veg, especially tomatoes and cucumbers. Rosemary passed in December 2015. When his health declined John's family cared for him at his home until March this year. He then moved to a care home in Bexhill, where he died on 17 April.

John enjoyed many a cup of tea with Rosemary by their greenhouse in the winter sunshine. A quiet and modest family man, John will be remembered as a calm and caring father, full of laughter, and a loyal supporter of his club and county rifle teams.



DAVID PAINTING 1937-2016



David Painting was born in London on 15 May 1937, the third son of five. On the outbreak of war the family was evacuated to north Essex, initially occupying a thatched cottage in Little Sampford before moving to a house in Great Sampford where his maternal grandfather owned a bungalow. At the age of five he started school at Great Sampford Infants School progressing to the Juniors in the next room. (The school had only two classrooms!)

He passed the School Scholarship for Newport (Essex) Grammar School at the age of 11.

Home life was basic. No electricity, water from an outside tap, and of course the outside toilet.

For a small boy life could be quite exciting as Sampford was surrounded by fighter and bomber airfields, mostly home to the US Air Force. The sky was frequently full of aircraft, not all friendly. He also experienced a near miss from a V1 (Doodlebug) destroyed overhead at night when he was staying in a hostel in Bishops Stortford while his mother was being treated in hospital.

In 1952 the family moved to a new house in Merstham near Redhill in Surrey, and David transferred to Reigate Grammar School, where he learned to shoot with the CCF. He was also a member of the Borough of Reigate and District Rifle Club (BRDRC).

His National Service was served in Cyprus with the RAF, where he considered a sten gun more useful than a rifle although he never had to fire it while on patrol. On returning to civilian life he took up shooting again with the BRDRC.

In 1961 he married Carol Middleton, another member of the BRDRC. They shot in many club teams from 1961 to 1965 with three Surrey Astor wins. At the NRA Bisley meeting they won the Families trophy three times and came second twice before divorce in 1978.

David was the first non-establishment shooter to break into the Surrey team. He appeared for the County on many occasions in representative matches. He rapidly became known as a skilled coach as well as a shooter. He was Captain of Surrey for one year but decided he was better suited to coaching. At club, County and International level he was one of those who laid the foundations for modern coaching techniques.

In 1963 he shot for England in his first National Match, one of five appearances as a shooter and seven as a coach. In that year he was also reserve for the Kolapore; in later years he made six appearances as a coach. In 1964 he shot in his first Mackinnon, one of three appearances as a shooter and seven as a coach. He also shot three times in the Lawrence Match.

In 1966 the Pumas RC was formed by four Paintings: David, his brother Derek, Derek's wife Anne and Carol. That was the year he went on his first GB tour to Canada. In 1967 he and Carol shot in the National, which was the first time a husband and wife had appeared in an England team together. In 1968 both were on the GB team to Canada. David also toured to the West Indies in 1980 with Andrew Tucker's NRA Goodwill team, to Canada in 1982 and to Australia in 1988, both with the GB team. He was proud of being someone who had represented his country in the Big Five with two appearances as a Palma coach and three as an Empire/Australia coach to complete the set.

As an individual, David's achievements included 12 Queen's Finals between 1957 and 1986, eight top 50 Grand Aggregate bronze crosses between 1961 and 1980, and three top 25 St George's badges between 1962 and 1970; he also won the St George's Silver cross in 1974. David won the Surrey County Championship four times and the Surrey Open Championship three times.

David was captain and chairman of the BCRC from 1985 to 1988.

David's early career was as a personnel officer with John Brown Construction. In 1971 he enrolled as a mature student at Kingston Polytechnic (now University). David graduated with a BA in Economics in 1974. He was awarded a fellowship at LSE specialising in Transport Economics. In 1975, David joined the Economics department at Kingston Polytechnic. He pioneered the development of a tutorial-based undergraduate curriculum to which he retained a lifelong commitment. In the 1980s he was offered the opportunity to design and manage the implementation of a University Student Record System (SRS), which became the driver for the integration of all student data; uniquely it allowed access for both administrators and academics. He managed this system and its gradual transfer to the wider UK Universities Student Information and Tracking System (SITS) in 2002. He delighted in reconciling the importance of the individuality of students with their place in the wider university landscape, an approach that enabled him to bridge traditional mentalities and enjoy the esteem of academics, managers and bureaucrats.

In 1991 David married Bridget Towers, a fellow academic whom he had met at Kingston. Their daughter Alice was born the following year. He was intensely proud of Alice and her academic and artistic achievements, although he never managed to infect her with the shooting bug, except on Queen's Final day.

David's health slowly declined after his retirement. He took a keen interest in shooting events after giving up shooting and coaching. Alice drove him to Bisley on several Queen's Final days. He continued to delight in taking his daily Kew Gardens walk, latterly in his top-of-the-range wheelchair.

His death on 13 April was caused by a sudden massive heart attack.

Results

Hertfordshire Club Teams Challenge

1. Welwyn Phoenix RC, 485.47
2. Watford OCA, 467.37
3. Old Berkhanstedians, 460.36
4. Old Haberdashers, 460.31
5. North Herts Rifles, 458.38
6. East Barnet, 436.30

Top Gun

1. Nick Verduyn, Welwyn Phoenix RC, 99.13
2. Andy Daw, Watford OCA, 100.12
3. P Wilcockson, Old Berkanstedians, 95.8
4. Dick Winney, Old Haberdashers, 96.11
5. Henry Poulton, North Herts Rifles, 100.14
6. R Bird, East Barnet, 97.9

Reload Swiss Easter Meeting

**Competition 1 – 15 shots
to count at 600 yards**
No competition

Competition 2 – Queen's I Target Rifle

1. Bob Oxford, 105.14
 2. Phil Chapman-Sheath, 103.13
 3. Barry Le Cheminant, 103.12
- Top 'O' – Stephan Maris
Top 'T' – Chris Dawes

F-TR

1. Ian Boxall, 144.16
2. Roman Hauber, 144.09
3. A Marsh, 143.17

F-Open

1. David Lloyd, 150.19
2. Rainer Adler, 145.09
3. Stefan Schmitz, 144.11

Competition 3 – Queen's II Target Rifle

1. Layne Chisholm, 147.12
2. Andrew Wilde, 145.19

3. Sphean Maris, 144.17
- Top 'X' – Chris Weeden
Top 'T' – Richard Bird

F-TR

1. Ian Boxall, 142.12
2. James McCosh, 141.10
3. A Marsh, 138.11

F-Open

1. Paul Eggeman, 145.11
2. David Lloyd, 144.07
3. Stefan Schmitz, 140.08

Competition 4 – 15 shots to count at 900 yards Target Rifle

1. Richard Bird, 75.4
 2. Stephen Maris, 69.6
 3. Tom Laing-Baker, 68.7
- Top 'X' – Bob Oxford

F-TR

1. James McCosh, 81.3
2. A Marsh, 80.1
3. Ian Boxall, 78.2

F-Open

1. Darren Stewart, 90.6
2. Tony Price, 90.5
3. David Lloyd, 89.4

Competition 5 – 15 shots to count at 1,000 yards

No competition

Competition 6 – Short Range Aggregate Target Rifle

1. Layne Chisholm, 249.23
 2. Stephen Maris, 246.27
 3. Andrew Wilde, 245.30
- Top 'X' – Bob Oxford
Top 'T' – Richard Bird

F-TR

1. Ian Boxall, 286.28
2. A Marsh, 281.28
3. Roman Hauber, 279.17

F-Open

1. David Lloyd, 294.26
2. Stefan Schmitz, 284.19
3. Rainer Adler, 284.17

Competition 7 – Long Range Aggregate

No competition

Competition 8 – Grand Aggregate

Target Rifle

1. Layne Chisholm, 316.28
 2. Stephan Maris, 315.33
 3. Bob Oxford 313.34
- Top 'T' – Richard Bird

F-TR

1. Ian Boxall, 364.30
2. A Marsh, 361.29
3. J McCosh, 358.22

F-Open

1. David Lloyd, 383.30
 2. Stefan Schmitz, 372.24
 3. Phil Shambrook, 349.14
- Competition 9 – Teams of four

Target Rifle – 'The Flock'

Richard Bird
Robin Evans
Adam Leech
Chris Weeden

F-TR

No entries received

F-Open

No entries received

Competition 10 – Under 24 Target Rifle

Saxon Brewer-Marchant

F-TR

James McCosh

F-Open

No entries received

Overseas Competition

Stefan Schmitz, F-Open

Ibis Open Grand Aggregate

Target Rifle

1. Andrew Wilde, 243.20
2. Peter Griggs, 235.18
3. Richard Rosling, 234.21
4. Simon David Shouler, 234.16
5. Stephen Maris, 232.19
6. Charlie Asquith, 230.22

Spring Action Weekend, 19-20 March

25m Precision GRSB

1. Norman Veitch 275.0v
2. Shaun Twomey 272.1v
3. Keith Cox 267.7v

25m Precision GRCF

1. Keith Cox 296.20v
2. Les Pearson 293.12v
3. Neil Jones 293.12v

25m Precision GRCE Classic

1. Alan Podevin 293.8v
2. Pet Pearson 290.12v

25m Precision LBP

1. Adam Chapman 289.10v
2. Marek Pawlik 283.4v

50m Precision GRSB

1. Shaun Twomey 292.9v
2. Norman Veitch 291.11v
3. Robert Tonner 285.20v

50m Precision GRCE

1. Neil Jones 278.8v
2. Les Pearson 272.5v

50m Precision GRCE Classic

1. Les Pearson 267.7v
2. Neil Jones 265.2v

Timed & Precision 1 GRSB

- X 1. Keith Cox 300.21v
A 1. Rachel Goldsworthy 297.10v
B 1. Keith Kilvington 294.12v

Timed & Precision 1 GRCE

- X 1. David Hackett 300.30v
A 1. Stephen Denton 300.20v
B 1. Phil Wood 299.18v

Timed & Precision

1 GRCE Open

1. Adam Chapman 300.24v
2. Martin Hale 300.21v

Timed & Precision

1 GRCE Classic

1. Alan Podevin 300.21v
2. David Fitzpatrick 296.11v

Timed & Precision

1 LBP Open

- X 1. Glenn Gordon 299.11v
A 1. Dave Eastwood 297.11v
B 1. Fred Cooke 293.4v

Timed & Precision

1 LBR Open

- X 1. Marek Pawlik 297.14v
A 1. Glenn Gordon 298.15v
B 1. Gary Bowden 294.6v

Timed & Precision

1 LBP Iron Sights

1. Phil Cowling 297.11v
2. Peter Ryder 295.15v

Timed & Precision

1 LBR Iron Sights

1. Phil Cowling 293.7v
2. Michael Chinery 288.7v

Timed & Precision 1 SGM

1. John Chambers 299.16v
2. Rob Sanders 293.11v
3. David Stanley 291.11v

Timed & Precision 1 SGSA

1. John Chambers 299.22v
2. Brian Reacher 298.8v
3. Rob Sanders 296.14v

Timed & Precision 2 GRSB

- X 1. Gary Bowden 584.26v
A 1. Timothy Mephram 582.19v

Timed & Precision 2 GRCF

- X 1. Norman Veitch 595.36v
A 1. Gary Bowden 597.39v
B 1. Phil Wood 583.20v

Timed & Precision 3 LBP

1. Michael Chinery 247
2. Glenn Gordon 241

Multi-Target GRSB

- X 1. Greg Rastall 115.13v
A 1. David Ashcroft 109.6v
B 1. Keith Kilvington 105.3v

Multi-Target GRCF

- X 1. Joseph Pugh 119.7v
A 1. Keith Kilvington 118.13v

Multi-Target LBP Open

- X 1. Glenn Gordon 115.10v
A 1. Gary Bowden 111.6v
B 1. Jon Avetoomyan 111.9v

Multi-Target LBR Open

- X 1. Phil Cowling 111.11v
A 1. Marek Pawlik 108.8v
B 1. Gary Bowden 96.1v

Multi-Target

LBP Iron Sights

1. Alan Podevin 104.4v
2. David Farrow 103.8v

Multi-Target

LBR Iron Sights

1. Phil Cowling 109.9v
2. Michael Chinery 91.0v

Multi-Target SGM

1. John Chambers 116.11v
2. Rob Sanders 110.10v

Multi-Target SGSA

1. John Chambers 116.15v
2. David Pollock 113.13v
3. Adam Chapman 113.11v

Phoenix A GRSB

- X 1. Norman Veitch 197.26v
A 1. Bob Worthington 174.6v
B 1. Fred Cooke 172.9v

Phoenix A GRCF

- X 1. Steve Lamb 194.27v
A 1. Alan Sutton 189.16v
B 1. Keith Kilvington 187.20v

1500 GRSB

- X 1. Norman Veitch 1488.103v
A 1. Robert Tonner 1477.89v
B 1. Morné van Dalen 1466.79v
C 1. Graham Gough 1421.51v

1500 GRCF

- X 1. Keith Cox 1496.113v
A 1. Norman Veitch 1493.118v
B 1. Jacky Lamb 1484.85v
C 1. William Pow 1467.80v

Advancing Target GRSB

- X 1. Norman Veitch 292.40v
A 1. Keith Kilvington 291.25v
B 1. Adam King 266.18v

Advancing Target GRCF

- X 1. David Guest 179.27v
A 1. Blair Drummond 176.23v
B 1. Phil Kench 171.15v

Advancing Target

GRCF Open

1. Morné van Dalen 178.23v
2. Adam Chapman 177.23v

Advancing Target

GRCF Classic

1. Jim Smith 175.16v
2. David Holt 166.8v

Advancing Target

LBP Open

- X 1. Morné van Dalen 173.23v
A 1. Glenn Gordon 174.21v
B 1. David Morrow 170.15v

Advancing Target

LBR Open

- X 1. Phil Cowling 177.21v
A 1. Glenn Gordon 167.10v
B 1. Julian Fox 165.7v

1924 Advancing

Target LBP Iron Sights

1. Phil Cowling 170.11v

2. Peter Ryder 167.16v

1925 Advancing

Target LBR Iron Sights

1. Graham Mason 160.9v
2. Stan Wescombe 157.6v

Speed Steel

Challenge GRSB

1. Tim Gardener 24.28
2. John Chambers 24.31
3. Julian Fox 26.20

Speed Steel Challenge LBP

1. Tim Gardener 29.34
2. John Chambers 33.88

NRA Embassy Cup SGSA

1. John Chambers 120
2. Brian Reacher 117

Practical LBP Open

1. Tim Gardener 521
2. Ian Chamberlain 442
3. Russell Hicks 436

Practical LBP Standard

1. Jon Axe 480
2. Shaun Twomey 364

Practical LBR Open

1. Tim Gardener 510
2. Martin Hale 413

Man v Man LB

1. Tim Gardener
2. Bob Parkhouse

200m Any Full-Bore Rifle

1. Jim Smith 173
2. Peter Cottrell 172
3. Colin Hudson 168

McQueen GRSB

1. Malcolm Stewart 50.8v
2. Paul Flanagan 50.7v
3. Graham Gough 50.6v

Selected results. Full results online at www.nra.org.uk

Phoenix Meeting, 27-29 May

Individual Aggregates

John Rolfe Trophy

John Robinson, 1196.75v

Sue Mansbridge Rose Bowl

Gwyn Roberts, 2980.224v

Bianchi Aggregate

Gwyn Roberts, 3779.306v



Phoenix GR Champion

Gwyn Roberts, 6759.530v

Alan Whittle Gallery

Rifle Classic Trophy

Mick Tedesco 592.48v

Alan Whittle

Newcomers Trophy

Ray Holohan, 44

Pete Kington Trophy

Trevor Alford, 342.27v

Shotgun Aggregate

- Semi-Auto

John Chambers, 410.28v

Shotgun Aggregate

- Pump-Action

Paul Stockill, 413.28v

International Match

Phoenix International Cup (GRSB)

1. Great Britain, 5904.394v
2. Ireland, 5849.336v
3. Germany, 5770.257v

Phoenix International Trophy (GRCF)

1. Great Britain, 5945.396v
2. Ireland, 5910.340v
3. Germany, 5849.324v

Selected results. Full results online at www.nra.org.uk

CSR Winter League Final Results

Historic Enfield

1. Robert Illius, 245

Iron Sights

1. George Ellis, 322

Practical Optic

1. John Morgan-Hosey, 369
2. Brian McManus, 359
3. Paul Allsop, 347

Service Optic

1. Adam Chapman, 375 (tie 48)
2. Gwyn Roberts, 375 (tie 43)
3. Layne Chisholm, 363

Marksman's Calendar

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

JULY

08-14, NRA Imperial Meeting

– Match Rifle Events

National Shooting Centre (NSC), Bisley
Shooting Division, sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

09-10, NRA Imperial Meeting

– Historic Arms Meeting

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

09, NRA Minirifle League – 3rd Round

Worcester Norton SC

Jon Williamson, wncs-hgsec@wncs.co.uk

10, NRA Shotgun League – 6th Round

Rossendale, Lancashire targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

11-14, NRA Imperial Meeting

– Schools Meeting

National Shooting Centre (NSC), Bisley

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)

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

National Shooting Centre (NSC), Bisley

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

16-17, Surrey Branch of

MLAGB Repeating Pistols Meeting

Jim Hallam, jimhallam@btinternet.com

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 Queen's Prize

National Shooting Centre (NSC), Bisley

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

30-31, Cottesloe Heath Challenge

NRA Shotgun League – 8th Round

Sharon Baker, 01483 797777,

sharon.baker@nra.org.uk,

targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

AUGUST

06-07, NRA TR Basic Skills

Development Course – 2 days

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777 x 149

or 158, training@nra.org.uk

06, Bisley Clubs

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

06-07, Invernesshire Open Championships

Cawdor (Scotland)

Donald Drawbell,

secretary@cawdorifleandgunclub.co.uk

07, NRA Minirifle League – 4th Round

Bisley, james.harris@nra.org.uk

20-21, Tullibardine (Tayside)

Open Championships

Blair Atholl Scotland

Jim Bell, jwhbell@btinternet.com

20-21, County of Lancaster Rifle

Association Open Meeting

Martin Liversage, secretary@clra.org.uk

25, NRA Shooting Club Day

01483 797777 x162, nrasc@nra.org.uk

27, Match v Royal Navy

TRC + Mentored Shoot

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

27-28, Gallery Rifle National

Championships

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

NRA Shooting Division,

sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

27-29, Welsh Rifle Association

Open Championship

LouLou Brister, 07899 771051,

BristerHandbag@aol.com

28, NRA Handgun League – 4th Round

NRA Shooting Division, 01483 797777 x 149

or 158, james.harris@nra.org.uk

28, LMRA Probationary Course Day 1

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

SEPTEMBER

03-04, National Rifle Club of

Scotland Open Championships (CSR)

Blair Atholl, Scotland

Tim Kidner, 01224 321468, tlk762@aol.com

03, NRA Precision Shooting Competition

in aid of Royal British Legion

Carol Kellow, 01483 797777,

carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

04, LMRA V RAF + 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, Scotland
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 + Mentored Shoot

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

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

24-25, NRA Minirifle League – 5th Round

Frome & District Pistol Club, Somerset
neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com
www.fdpcc.org.uk

24, NRA Shooting Club Day

01483 797777 x162, nrasc@nra.org.uk

25, Gloucestershire

Autumn Open TR meeting

Ian Ashworth,
ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com

25, LMRA Open Meeting

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

OCTOBER

01, LMRA V SRA (Away)

Blair Atholl Scotland
LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

01, Historic Service Rifle Match

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

02, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

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

02, Match V SRA (Away)

Blair Atholl (Scotland
LMRA, 01483 473006, secretary@lmra.co.uk

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

08, NRA Handgun League – 6th Round

Worcester Norton SC
Jon Williamson, wnscc-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk

15-16, The Trafalgar Meeting 2016

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

22-23, Gallery Rifle

– Autumn Action Weekend

National Shooting Centre (NSC), Bisley
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

30, NRA Shooting Club Day

01483 797777 x162, nrasc@nra.org.uk

NOVEMBER

05-06, NRA Minirifle League – 6th Round

Frome & District Pistol Club, Somerset
neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com
www.fdpcc.org.uk

05, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

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

06, Mentored Shoot AM

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

12-13, Target Shotgun Festival – Shotgun League 10th Round

National Shooting Centre, Bisley
James Harris, james.harris@nra.org.uk

12-13, RCO Course

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

19-20, NRA Shotgun League – 11th Round

Shield Shooting Centre, Dorchester, Dorset
Steve Pike, 01308 482626,
steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

19, NRA Shooting Club Day

01483 797777 x162, nrasc@nra.org.uk

DECEMBER

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

Frome & District PC
Neil Brooklyn, neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com

04, NRA Shooting Club Day

01483 797777 x162, nrasc@nra.org.uk

04, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

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

04, Wappenschaw

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

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Website: www.dolphinguncompany.co.uk

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Message 10

Katia Malcaus Cooper interviews GB Gallery Rifle team captain Jon Avetoomyan

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I started shooting with air rifles in the back garden and then on some farmland from about 12 years onwards. Firearms came along when I joined the RAF, and so did my first shooting club where I shot pistol. I continued shooting and became a firearms officer within the Police Service and after the local pistol club closed in 1997. I started the Police Shooting Club within my own force.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

I think the most memorable time was the call from Captain of the GB Gallery rifle squad came and I got a place on the team for the first time.

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

I've been fortunate with my shooting, I have had the finances to be able to do most things although some things do take longer than others. Finding the time is the greatest hurdle, especially with a young family and working fulltime and on shift work.

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

My family have always been very supportive with my shooting and are now used to me being away from home almost every other weekend during spring and summer, as well as at least once per week (sometime twice) to my local club. Friends are what make you want to keep shooting; from the rivalry on the range to the social life off the range, it's all good.

What sort of music do you listen to?

A very wide choice: folk, jazz, classical and 80s pop!

What club are you a member of?

I am a member of the Gwent Police Fullbore Shooting Club which I set up

and still run together with a couple of buddies. I am also a member of the Army Target Shooting Club Pistol Section that covers Gallery rifle shooting (I am now Vice Chair), Monmouth and District Rifle Club and also The Pickwick Club. Not to mention the NRA and WRA.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

No one person really, but I would say those people who have shown a dogged determination not to quit when faced with insurmountable problems. When it would have been easier to quit the field they kept going.

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

My favourite country is the UK, all parts of it. I never tire of going somewhere new and being a military history buff, there is always somewhere to go and something to see.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

To start with as with most shooters, I spent years just shooting at the local club. Bisley was where the big boys went to play and I thought I was never going to be good enough for that. My first competition at Bisley changed that (September 2000 at the Police Open), I found out I wasn't too bad after all. But what was best of all, it didn't matter how good you were, you were there shooting and enjoying it all, and that was good enough.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Free time is spent reading - and I volunteer for a local world heritage site trying to maintain what we have for future generations. I also help to run three shooting clubs as well as my current role as GB Gallery Rifle Captain,



which is something you need to do a little bit of every day.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

Nothing in particular, except I like to be early at the venue, and run through the course of fire mentally. The time spent in preparation is never wasted.

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

Shooting is a great sport and you have so many disciplines that you should never get bored. It is something that you can do from 10 years to 80 years of age and is a sport that you always learn something from. Your principal opponent is yourself, and that has its own satisfaction when you shoot well and achieve those Possibles. If you are thinking of shooting, start now, don't put it off. You don't have to take up competitive shooting, you might be happy with your local club, but if you do you may just end up representing Great Britain.

So what next?

As mentioned above, there are so many disciplines that you owe it to yourself to try some, so I am trying a little CSR during the winter months at the moment, and then maybe some F class, and then some black powder, maybe some air, perhaps target shotgun. But first things first, I'm concentrating on Gallery Rifle at least for a year or two! ■



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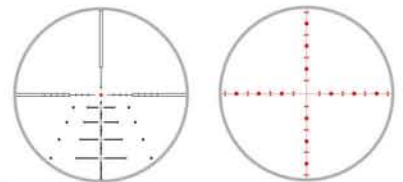
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