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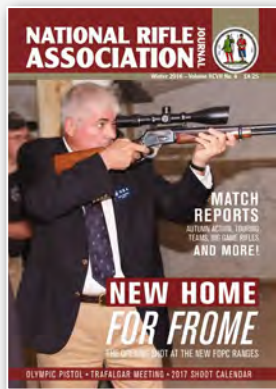
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SPBT	-Soft Point Boat Tail
SPRN	-Pointed Soft Point Boat Tail
FSP	-Flat Soft Point
HPBT	-Hollow Point Boat Tail

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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Social awareness

CEO Andrew Mercer looks ahead at developments to come in Bisley Camp, and the invaluable role of social media

Early December is the time for both a good look at the results of a busy year and to put the finishing touches to our plans for 2017. We have enjoyed a pretty decent year: new membership applications should exceed 850; we have delivered a good programme of range improvements at Bisley; and we are making decent progress expanding our efforts in the regions.

However, many challenges remain. We need to be ever more attentive to the threats of both deliberate and unintended moves to restrict our rights and entitlements to own firearms and shoot responsibly. I am firmly of the opinion that we need to promote what we do – I am genuinely proud of the safety records, our innovative training programmes and the discipline and rigour practised on firing points on hundreds of ranges across the UK. Sharing images and reports of meetings and events helps demystify and promote the many faces of target shooting. Social media has been a key vehicle in this work; our weekly Facebook reach has peaked at over 300,000 and we now have 18,400 'likes'. Social media is a hungry beast and, while free to use, demands significant resources to deliver interesting content.

As the ranges quieten down for the deep winter we are cracking on with a number of developments. Winans range will be upgraded to provide a full calibre 25m No Danger Area range; turfing contractors will be busy improving firing points at 300/600 yards (Century) and 1,000/1,100/1,200 yards (Stickledown); and we are working through detailed testing of a variety of electronic targets for Stickledown range.

The conversion of the Pavilion is progressing well; the new training rooms, armoury and gun room are pretty much finished and the first group of staff will be moving into the new offices in January. The range office, members' armoury, retail shop and café will follow in spring, and I am hoping that the landscaping works will be approved by the planners before the end of the year.

Membership and club affiliation renewals will be due on 1 January 2017. Please do not ignore the reminders from our membership team to renew your subscriptions and remember that insurance, and the right to shoot under the auspices of the NRA, relies upon a current membership/club affiliation.

Our staff deal with a steady stream of licensing queries each week. In these uncertain times it should be no surprise that the police are becoming ever more attentive and it is essential that applications to renew certificates are lodged in good time (preferably 12 weeks prior to expiry). I was astonished to learn that one major police force has two Firearms Licensing staff wholly employed in dealing with late applications and missing licence holders (where a change of address has not been notified). The actions of a careless few risks tarnishing the responsible majority. We need to help the police to help us to



counter the regular assertions that FAC and SGC holders should pay more for their certificates.

We have been working up plans to improve options for pistol shooting for NRA members. To this end, a group of nine NRA members visited Jersey in November, at the invitation of the Jersey Pistol Club (JPC). The group was provided an introduction to the range facilities, a detailed safety orientation followed by an opportunity to try live practices with revolvers and pistols. The States of Jersey have an enlightened attitude towards pistol shooting, which allows the JPC enviable opportunities to practise fullbore pistol shooting. Their members made the party from the NRA more than welcome and their generosity delivered a memorable weekend of competitive fullbore pistol shooting culminating in the internationally recognised 1500 PPC match. Special thanks to Derek Bernard and Mark Littleton, whose practical support and encouragement played a key role in delivering a successful weekend.

There is much to consider before such an event is repeated: range access, training and assessment of competency, access to pistols and provision of ammunition are all hurdles to overcome. I was heartened to learn that there is still much valuable experience in fullbore pistol shooting within the NRA; making sure this knowledge and skill is not lost needs careful planning, creative thinking and close collaboration with our colleagues in Jersey. ■

NEWS

REPORTS

NEW CCRS SECRETARY ANNOUNCED

The Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting (CCRS) has announced that Robert Bruce OBE will assume the position of general secretary from November 2016. This follows Simon Fraser's retirement from the position after 24 years' service.

A former cadet, Robert is delighted to join CCRS and is looking forward to working with trustees and members to grow the work of the charity.

Robert Bruce was commissioned in 1973 into the King's Own Royal Border Regiment. He transferred to The Royal Irish Regiment in 1998 upon assuming command of Depot The Royal Irish Regiment. The majority of his operational service was spent in Northern Ireland although he deployed on several short operational tours while serving in the Permanent Joint Headquarters at Northwood. He is a graduate of the Army Staff College (Camberley) and the Joint Services' Defence College (Greenwich). He was awarded an OBE in 2005.

He retired from the army in 2006 and served for seven years as CEO of St John Ambulance in Wiltshire before joining The Gurkha Welfare Trust on a two-year contract as project officer for the 2015 commemoration of 200 years of Gurkha service to the Crown.

See page 49 of this edition of the *Journal* for our tribute to outgoing general secretary Simon Fraser.



Robert Bruce OBE (right) at the opening of Gurkha Brigade offices in 2014

GROVE CLUB SUPPORTS SHOOTABILITY NORFOLK



Norfolk-based Grove Small Arms Club has raised £660 for ShootAbility Norfolk, an air rifle and pistol club that caters for shooters with disabilities.

The Grove was introduced to ShootAbility Norfolk (South Norfolk Air Rifle and Pistol Club) by some of its own members with disabilities. After a visit to the range in Attleborough the Grove Committee were so impressed by the lengths the club had gone to so that its members could shoot they were inspired to help. The South Norfolk Air Rifle and Pistol Club is based in an industrial unit and comprises seven 10m lanes for air rifle and pistol, which is run and supervised by volunteers.

After a number of fundraising events held at the Grove's Horsford Range, as well as donations from the Grove Committee, the club had raised £660 for ShootAbility Norfolk.

On 12 September, Grove Committee members visited ShootAbility Norfolk's range and chairman Mark Denney presented the cheque to club coach Carole Darnell. Grove members also had chance to test their airgun skills on ShootAbility Norfolk's range, and hope to continue to support the club (and improve their own airgun marksmanship!)

For more information about ShootAbility Norfolk visit: www.shootability-nfk.co.uk.

SHOOTING IS GOOD FOR YOU



Shooting can help improve physical fitness and personal wellbeing, according to a recent report published by the British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC).

The key findings, across all age groups, backgrounds and abilities, were that shooting helps reduce social isolation, improves personal wellbeing and encourages engagement with the natural environment.

The report, *Personal Value of Shooting*, was compiled from shooters' responses to a survey. Of those polled, 91 per cent said that without shooting they would spend less time outdoors and 77 per cent said their social life would be poorer.

BASC chairman Peter Glenser said: "Shooting can be about immersing yourself in the natural environment, or the intense concentration on a target at the range or clay ground.

"Shooting is all-encompassing and for many it's a way of life that delivers personal benefits far beyond the moment of firing a shot."

One survey respondent, aged 23, said: "My sense of self-worth has grown as my capabilities have."

According to another, aged 45: "If I were to stop shooting my sense of belonging would disappear along with an entire social group... My bank account might grow, but at an unacceptable cost."

MERCER TAKES POLICE TO TASK

NRA chief executive Andrew Mercer has warned police assistant commissioner Mark Rowley that legitimate firearm owners could be reported for going about their business, following Mr Rowley's plea quoted in the *Telegraph* for members of the public to report to police any gun owner "who treats the security of that weapon in a cavalier way."

Mr Rowley's comments appeared in a *Telegraph* story about gun thefts and misuse. Responding to the comments in a letter, Mercer said that the assistant commissioner's comments were 'unhelpful'. He wrote: "The press report suggests that 800 firearms went missing

as a result of criminal acts of negligence by certificate holders failing to ensure appropriate security. This is unhelpful."

The letter, available to view on the NRA website, warns that Mr Rowley's comments may "result in telephone calls from worried members of the public reporting gun owners going about their legal and responsible business."

The letter concludes: "There is no sector of the community that has a greater interest in security of firearms than certificate holders; engaging with them in a positive manner will assist in delivering our common objective to have firearms solely in possession of law-abiding, responsible certificate holders."

NEWS IN BRIEF

ISSF RECOMMENDS CHANGES TO OLYMPIC DISCIPLINES

The International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) has announced its recommendations to change the disciplines shot during Olympic Games.

The changes are intended to improve gender equality in participation. The ISSF has recommended scrapping three men's events and replacing them with mixed gender team events. Such a change is encouraged by current International Olympic Committee (IOC) guidance.

The proposed changes would replace 50m Rifle Prone Men with 10m Air Rifle Mixed Gender Team, 50m Pistol Men with 10m Air Pistol Mixed Gender Team, and Men's Double Trap with Trap Mixed Gender Team.

The report will be delivered to the IOC, which will make a decision in mid-2017.

FIREARMS LICENSING PROCESS 'FINE-TUNED'

Police will now contact GPs to request information on receiving a firearm licence application, rather than waiting until a certificate has been issued. The pro-forma that GPs were asked to complete has also been scrapped, effectively reducing the amount of red tape faced by shooters requesting medical advice.

Some shooting organisations have praised these developments as likely to speed up the application process.

Peter Glenser, a barrister specialising in firearms legislation, said: "This is common sense fine-tuning of the process. It should speed up applications while also helping GPs deal with their responsibilities more efficiently.

"It is important for public safety that the medical profession gets fully behind the process. It helps nobody if GPs and other medical bodies throw obstacles in the way of a legitimate process which had previously been agreed by all stakeholders."

More developments are expected to follow.

Have your say

Send your letters to: NRA Journal, National Rifle Association, Bisley, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB – or email journal@nra.org.uk, remembering to include your full name and address

Bisley Clubhouse rent increases prohibitive

Dear Editor,

In the autumn edition of the *NRA Journal*, the Chief Executive's editorial implied that clubs at Bisley expect favourable rental deals from the NRA for their clubhouses. This gives a misleading impression, and highlights a failure to understand and appreciate the vital contribution that clubs make to the vibrant shooting community at Bisley.

Shooting clubs provide the backbone of shooting skills development, range usage and competitive shooting, as well as providing encouragement, support and a welcoming social environment for shooters. The larger shooting clubs and associations at Bisley also provide clubhouse facilities, not only for their own members and guests, but also for hundreds of smaller clubs that use the clubhouses when at Bisley. Many clubhouses welcome all shooters at Bisley in need of lunch and refreshment.

The clubs exist and survive through the volunteer efforts of their committees and members. Quite a few are charities, and most make little or no profit, reinvesting whatever they have back into their shooting activities and maintenance of the historic clubhouses. The NRA relies on the larger clubs for advanced shooting skills training, particularly for Target Rifle which is the largest discipline for both NRA members and Bisley shooting generally, and the clubs are keen to collaborate with the NRA in this and other areas. The clubhouses provide meals and accommodation for users of Bisley's excellent ranges, encouraging more range usage and greater income for the NRA.



However, the NRA has targeted clubhouse lease renewals with increases in rent between 2.5x and 8x, including new leases for the Surrey RA, North London RC and Artists Rifles. High rent increases will cause financial problems for clubs, and I fear that Bisley's 'Club Row' will become a row of houses for the few rather than clubs for the many.

In contrast, the government's Valuation Office Agency has just published its assessment which is that the market rental values for all the major clubhouses at Bisley have not changed since 2005.

The Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain, the British Pistol Club, the Honourable Artillery Company and Bullet Lodge RC have all left their premises at Bisley – for a variety of

reasons including affordability. The English Twenty club will also be leaving its iconic building. Who will be next?

This cannot be good for shooting at Bisley, or be consistent with the NRA's own charitable objectives of 'The promotion and encouragement of marksmanship'. Many readers will find this obvious – if so, please make your feelings known to the NRA and its trustees.

Finally, all shooters are most welcome to join the clubs and use the clubhouse facilities and services, whatever their experience and chosen discipline – we all look forward to hearing from you!

Nick Brasier
Chairman, London & Middlesex Rifle Association

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Bisley leasehold properties

NRA chairman John Webster reports on clubhouse lease renewals

The NRA owns most of the freehold of Bisley Camp, and leases most of the ranges and danger areas from the MoD. The freehold site extends to around 100 acres and includes some 140 or so buildings, most of which are leased to organisations or individuals associated with target shooting.

There are three main categories of use to which these buildings are put – clubhouses, residential and retail/commercial. Leases are typically for 21 years, and on full repairing and insuring terms. The NRA's Trustees recognise that lease repair obligations allied to heritage buildings, and covenants restricting the use of all properties to the furtherance of shooting at Bisley, reduce rental expectations compared to similar properties in the surrounding area. Successive generations of NRA Trustees have decreed that all leasehold property be primarily used to further shooting at Bisley, and have restricted tenancies to NRA members and organisations connected with shooting. In this way, all Bisley tenanted properties contribute in varying degrees to the delivery of the association's charitable objectives.

Many of the clubhouses were built by shooting organisations in the early 1900s; a few remain leased to the original organisation. The NRA had previously operated a practice of renewing ground leases with another ground lease where the incumbent tenant had originally constructed the building. This has become something of an anachronism, contributing to what the Trustees now consider

not only unfairness in rental policy between neighbouring clubhouses on camp but also with the level of support offered to other affiliated clubs and our members throughout the country. For example, one of the largest clubhouses at Bisley, extending to over 5,700 square feet with a dozen letting bedrooms and a three-bedroomed caretaker's flat, paid an annual rent in 2016 of just over £2,500.

In accordance with the published Real Estate Policy, the Trustees have since 2013 followed a policy, upon a ground lease falling due for renewal, of offering rack rents (charging rent for the land and the buildings) as opposed to ground rents (for the ground alone).

This move properly reflects the status of these buildings in law. Lease terms are negotiated at arm's length on an 'open market basis' – the best terms that can be reasonably obtained. This policy has been extensively discussed by Trustees with careful and detailed legal advice considered, and by General Council who gave it their majority support at their September 2016 meeting. As a consequence some larger clubhouses are facing significant increases in rent in percentage terms, although relatively modest in absolute terms. However they can be confident that their new lease will be on terms that are comparable to those of other clubs renting a clubhouse on camp.

The NRA's Trustees have sought to ground their policy decision not only in adhering to the proper procedures under relevant law but also in the equitable treatment of tenants of comparable properties as well as with

reference to fairness to members of the Association who are not connected to the clubs in question.

Tenants will be required to show compliance with their obligations to repair and maintain the property. For leases in excess of seven years, open market rents and the terms of a new lease are subject to recommendation by our professional surveyors Strutt and Parker, and approval by NRA Trustees.

Fairness to all is at the heart of the Trustees' policy for lease renewals; we need to ensure that all Bisley club tenants are treated evenly, fairly and consistently when agreeing new lease terms. This even-handed approach will allow each of the clubs that welcome the growing numbers of shooters visiting Bisley to flourish.

Clubs remain entitled to run their affairs as they see fit within the covenants contained in their lease but must expect to pay a fair rent for the privilege of occupying a property at one of the world's leading shooting complexes. Despite dire forecasts from some quarters, as of today we have but one vacancy out of the 108 leasehold properties at Bisley; this is a reflection of good demand. Indeed the last clubhouse lease offered by tender received nine firm bids over the guide rent, including two from well-established Bisley-based clubs.

We are planning to help the Bisley clubhouses to promote their facilities and services; next year we will be coordinating a 'Club Open Day' – see the NRA website and Facebook page, and the next edition of the *Journal*, for further details. ■

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Living heritage

The Trafalgar Meeting is the UK's foremost celebration of collecting and shooting historic firearms. Derek Stimpson reports from Bisley

This year's Trafalgar Meeting was marked by a sense of purpose and much lively activity. This was particularly true on the Saturday; Sunday was a little quieter. The bustle was especially notable in front of the Pavilion with the Arms Fair and HBSA display and pistol exhibition all in full swing.

The NRA records show that 198 competitors shot 993 match cards over the weekend. Although this is slightly down on last year, figures are roughly steady and it would therefore be nice to see the competitor numbers and cards shot getting back to a rising trend in the next few years.

Personally I shot six competitions, three with double rifles, and I was glad to see a couple of new entrants providing some more competition. Shooting throughout the day, together with other tasks to which I had to attend, kept me rather busy. Many other competitors took advantage of the 'bulk discount' for entries and must also have been kept very



The HBSA's exhibition of Section 7 heritage pistols



Visitors enjoyed a rare opportunity to see a surviving example of the world's first anti-tank rifle

A few specialised events had only a single entrant, but many were shot by 10 or more competitors

busy, shooting on both days and running from one competition to the next.

Careful planning of range time and good organisation by those running the meeting meant that the whole affair ran smoothly and efficiently, despite heavy rain on the Saturday evening which left a lot of standing water next morning with which ROs and competitors had to cope. Thanks go to the NRA, and of course to all the volunteers who contribute their time.

The list of competitions for Trafalgar is long and the results are interesting to study. As was the case last year, there are some more specialised competitions which had few shooters – and some drew only a single competitor – but a good number were shot by 10 or more people.

The variety of competitions was matched by the variety of arms being used: military, target and sporting; muzzle-loading long-arms and pistols, both flint and percussion; breech-loading rifles of many types, including rook rifles and large bore big game rifles. All were shot on both static and moving targets, prone and standing.

The level of expertise and knowledge present at this meeting is always remarkable and the standard of shooting generally very high, especially taking into account the variety mentioned above. We should be proud to be a part of one of the largest historic arms shooting meetings anywhere in the world.



Competitions are becoming more specialised, with a huge variety of firearms on display



There was lively activity across all the ranges that composed the Trafalgar

Shooting, the practical side of the meeting, was complemented by the Arms Fair as well as the HBSA's display and pistol exhibition. The lively activity in the Arms Fair seemed to indicate that everyone was having a good time; there were certainly plenty of arms on offer and much discussion in evidence.

This year the annual Section 7 heritage pistol exhibition, organised by the Historical Breechloading Smallarms Association (HBSA), was hosted by the NRA in the Pavilion training room next to the bustle of the Arms Fair. As usual there were some very complete and interesting displays of iconic side-arms including Webleys, Mauser 1896s, Colts and a number of rare arms. The HBSA display in the same room also attracted much attention. One particularly notable item

was the 13.2mm Tank Abwehr Gewehr M1918. This was the world's first large scale anti-tank rifle, and the only anti-tank rifle in use during WW1.

I'm not sure that there is any other meeting quite like the Trafalgar anywhere in the world – and of course there is only one Bisley! This historic venue is truly a fitting place in which to celebrate shooting and collecting our heritage in historic arms.

This year's meeting was a rousing success but we are keen to see even more shooting activity. We must ensure its future and preserve our heritage, so keep up the shooting practice and we look forward to seeing you all next year! ■

For a full list of the results from this year's Trafalgar Meeting, visit the NRA website: www.nra.org.uk.



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AWESOME AUTUMN ACTION

The last Action Weekend of the year took place at Bisley on 25-26 October this year





F-Class Action

Europe's most talented F-Class shooters descended on Bisley to prove their worth – Des Parr has the detail

The European F-Class Championship has cemented its status as the biggest annual F-Class match in the world. This year's event, held at Bisley in September, drew more than 200 entrants from across Europe and, indeed, as far afield as Australia, New Zealand and the USA.

Many competitors arrived early in the week to make use of the warm-up matches – a series of matches at 800 yards to 1,000 yards, most of which were barrel-warming 2+20 tests of endurance. That said, there were only two such stages each day; overall the atmosphere was laid back and most enjoyed the relaxed pace, while it lasted.

Benign conditions gave rise to some impressively accurate shooting, as reflected in the scores. Paul Hill established a new GBFCA record score of 100.17 at 900 yards – an incredible achievement with a rifle he barrelled himself! Scores like that prove standards are always improving; truly F-class deserves the title of the Formula 1 of shooting.



More than 200 entrants from across Europe took part in this year's Championship

The European Championships

A high pressure front had moved in across all of southern England and seemed set to stay. The important factor to note was the light breeze, a gentle 1.5MOA wind drifting straight across Stickle-down. It was a little more active than it had been earlier in the week and just enough to

keep everyone alert; the let-offs especially were tough to spot. It was very tricky but not diabolical. In short, it was time for the most observant wind readers to show what they could do.

Our overseas friends quickly proved their high levels of skill and talent; five of the top 10 positions in F/TR, and



The most observant wind readers enjoyed a distinct advantage

Marco is a very talented shooter, and his achievement is all the more impressive knowing that he has no access to long range facilities at home

four positions in the F/Open Individual Championships, went to overseas shooters – the same proportions as in 2015. It showed who had paid the most attention to those tricky wind changes.

The victor in F/O, and 2016's European F-Class Champion, was the popular Dutchman Marco Been with a simply superb score of 480.44. Marco is a very talented and accurate shooter, and his incredible achievement is all the more impressive knowing that Marco has no access to long range facilities at home. Marco used a beautiful rifle by custom gunsmith Pete Walker.

In second place was our resident gamekeeper Ian Boxall, who also had 480 points, but sadly just eight V-bulls fewer with 480.36. Ian is one of our most consistent high-performance shooters.

Winner of the third place bronze medal was the big Italian, Gianfranco Zanoni, with a solid score of 479.30. Gianfranco has come a very long way in a short time, making massive improvements in his shooting abilities.

It is interesting to note that two of the top three podium F/O places were won by our friends from the continent. Our congratulations to them for coming all the way to Bisley to prove they are the best in Europe.

In the F/TR Championship, the picture was reversed: two of the three podium places were won by British shooters. The title and the honour of F/TR European F-Class Champion was once again won by a superb Ukrainian shooter Oleksandra Nikolaiev. Oleksandra shot a superb score of 467.31 to prove he was the best of them all, an excellent performance by a seriously talented shooter.

Paul Crosbie took the silver medal with a great score of 466.28. Paul used a rifle by custom gunsmith Callum Ferguson of Precision Rifle Services. The bronze medal was won by GB squad member David Rollafson with an excellent 464.35; David is proving to be one of the rising stars in the GB F/TR squad.

The top places in the Individual European Championships showed a good

distribution of prize winners from across Europe, which shows that F-Class enjoys a healthy following of talented and dedicated shooters from all parts of Europe.

The Teams Matches

The European Championships includes a significant portion of team shooting. This ranges from the 'minor teams' matches on Thursday to the full-size national teams and four-man Rutland teams matches.

The superb turn-out of four-man teams on Thursday showed there is great interest in this teams match format. The range was very nearly filled with enthusiastic teams, creating an excellent atmosphere of friendly rivalry.

It was a particularly good outcome for Dolphin Guns, winning four of six team medal positions.

The weather for the 'major' team matches was almost totally benign – warm, sunny and dry – perfect conditions for trigger-pullers. It looked like the coaches would be redundant but, of course, as soon as message one was given a light wind and mirage picked up. Things are seldom as easy as they seem.

In F/TR all the major participants had entered a team, so it was very hotly contested between five full-size teams. The GB team achieved a remarkable tally of 1147.95, ahead of their nearest rival Ukraine by only seven points. Third place was taken by the German BDMP.

In F/Open there were only three teams in contention, Great Britain, BDMP Germany and Italy, so clearly everyone was going to win something. Team GB worked together to claim victory with a superb score of 1169.106, comfortably ahead of the Italian team by 20 points, and 48 ahead of the BDMP team. This event marked four consecutive wins for the GB team.

Team shooting adds an extra dimension of drama and excitement, complementing what is otherwise an individual sport, and adds to the overall enjoyment. I predict we'll see even more interest next year, especially in the 'minor teams' and Rutland teams matches.

The European Championships is certainly destined to grow even bigger and better in future – make sure you are free in late September 2017 for the highlight of the F-Class calendar. ■



Living the dream

Lindsay Peden shares the experiences of the Great Britain Rifle Team's 2016 tour to Canada and the USA

Even the best laid plans often go awry; so it was for the Great British Rifle Team when, the day before departure, one teammate was hospitalised. Fortunately we were able to mobilise a reserve, who joined us on the West Coast just a day late. Mishaps aside, we were off: the team departed for Canada on 28 July.

The tour included competition at the British Columbia Rifle Association (BCRA) Championships at Chilliwack, east of Vancouver; a two-day shoot at Rattlesnake Range in Washington State; and the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA) Championships in Ottawa.

We found ourselves zeroing at Chilliwack the day after arrival and competing the following day – hardly the best preparation for a four-day meeting after a lengthy flight. Nonetheless, the new caps on the team led by example: John Lindsay won the 300m competition, Ellie Joseph the 400m and James Mehta the 600m. Experience showed on the

longer courses of fire though; David Crispin won the first stage of the Lt Governor's.

On the second day, Jon Underwood won the 300m and 500m matches with excellent 50.9s, all the more impressive as the targets were ICFRA pattern with the small v-bull. James Mehta won at 400m and David Calvert proved he was on excellent form, winning the second stage of the Lt Governor's.

On the third day David Calvert clearly decided against the long walk off the range, and instead won the Lt Governor's to be chaired back to the clubhouse by his well-practised teammates (who had done similarly for him at Bisley 10 days earlier).

We then shot in teams of four in the Currie Match. The silverware went to the BCRA Red team, who shot an excellent 198 ex-200.

The International Match against British Columbia and Washington State was shot on the final day. Clouds gathered and light rain fell. The GB team started without a

stutter, dropping no points at 300m or 500m. At 600m the fickle wind picked up and points were soon lost, but a very good winning team score of 1,193 was posted to conclude an excellently-run meeting.

Rattlesnake Range

We set off for our next location, neither as temperate nor as green. The journey to Rattlesnake meant traversing Washington State and experiencing a sudden transition from the verdant west to the arid east.

At Rattlesnake Range we were hosted by the Tri-Cities Shooting Association (TCSA), which had organised an individual shoot at 900 and 1,000 yards on the Saturday and two shoots at 1,000 yards for teams of eight on the Sunday. Shooting starts and finishes very early there, because of the high temperatures, so we were on the range before 7am. We had a comfortable shoot on the Saturday followed by an excellent barbecue and prizegiving. Our team, the first GB team

to visit the range, presented the TCOSA with a couple of mementoes.

The wind developed a strong flicking fishtail from the rear on Sunday. One or two shooters lost shots off the side of the 6ft target when it flicked, despite coaches watching for them. We shot as two teams of eight; the GB Red team won comfortably ahead of the Washington State team, though all six coaches felt rather battered after witnessing more wide shots than is ideal.

After the match we drove to Leavenworth, a place described by our diarist as 'Disney meets Deutschland'. The whole town is constructed in a neo-Bavarian style. The following day we drove to Vancouver, encountering low cloud and rain over the hills which rather spoiled what should have been a very scenic drive.

On to Ottawa

It soon became apparent why there is so much wet weather kit left in the GB stores in Canada. The Ottawa Regiment on late Friday afternoon was marred by light rain, though Graham Nelson still shot 75.11 to tie, and won a couple of days later. The second range of the Gooderham was cancelled due to heavy rain, meaning Angus McLeod won it on his excellent 50.9 at the 500m range. Despite the rain, the customary DCRA party that evening was a roaring success.

The Tilton and McDougall were shot on Sunday. Angus McLeod and Mike Barlow tied with Gale Stewart (Canada) for the Tilton; Gale won the tie-shoot. David Calvert continued to prove his mettle by winning the MacDougall, the first shoot of the Grand Aggregate.

Calvert continued his fine shooting on Monday, leading the Grand. Captain Lindsay Peden won the Norman Beckett and tied with Jon Underwood for the Dick Hampton Trophy, subsequently winning the tie-shoot.

Tuesday saw the Letson and the Alexander of Tunis contested. The latter is often the graveyard shoot for many shooters, the equivalent of the Corporation at 1,000 yards at Bisley. The rains returned and the last firers in the Tunis were almost swimming. David Calvert tied with Jim Paton on 50.9, but lost the tie-shoot.



This was the first time a GB team had visited the Rattlesnake Range in Washington



The team show off their silverware after an extremely successful North American tour

Wednesday was mercifully dry, with the three ranges of the President's and the 800m range of the Gibson completed. GBRT stubbornly held onto the first five places in the Grand, with David Calvert in front by one point and several Vs.

Mike Barlow won the Gibson on Thursday, with Angus McLeod triumphing in the Letson. That afternoon the Outlander match was shot at 900m. GB entered two teams of eight with dedicated coaches and the scores underlined the balance of the teams: both had exactly the same score. Unfortunately we were beaten by five points by USA, who had a very steady shoot in changeable conditions.

Friday saw the final stage of the Grand Aggregate. The leaders were squadded together in the Gatineau competition, a 15 rounder at 900m. The two leaders, Calvert and Barlow, both made 72s and were overtaken by Angus McLeod (75.5) and Lindsay Peden (74.9) who finished first and second respectively. Of the top seven places, five were taken by GBRT.

Attention turned to the Canada Team Match in the afternoon. GBRT shot well,

finishing seven points ahead of both Canada and USA on 1,193 ex-1200.

The Governor General's Prize is the climax of the DCRA meeting, but before that came the Commonwealth Match. The team shot extremely well in fairly calm conditions, setting a new record score for the match and winning by six points ahead of Canada, although they were unlucky to have to record a crossfire.

With a convincing team shoot under our belts eyes turned to the Governor's; 14 of the team had qualified for the final. Gone were the calm conditions of the morning – a lively wind saw points lost easily. Angus McLeod took first place, beating Canadian Fazal Mohideen by several Vs on an excellent score of 299.36. Dreams of having someone light to chair off the range were dashed again...

So ended a very successful and long tour, built on the chemistry between team members and the personal skills that each brought to the table. Full details of the tour, including daily reports and photos, can be found on the team website: www.gbirt.org.uk. ■

Storm the Embassy

Target Shotgun competitions are fast-paced and exhilarating, says George Granycome, reporting from the Autumn Action Weekend 2016

Target Shotgun manifests itself in several guises and in very different competitions. The competitions I am discussing entail the use of shotgun with solid slug – which must be held on an FAC – at turning targets. Shooters stand in line and shoot at targets which turn to face the shooter for a fixed time.

There are usually three different competitions on the same range on the same day. Timed and Precision is based on the old Police Pistol. A total of 30 rounds are shot over three distances. The manner of the shooting is changed at each distance: sometimes with a very long exposure for careful aiming, sometimes a single two-second target appearance for each shot, and sometimes double shots in three-second exposures. After each practice guns are cleared and placed in a rack and shooters go forward to score and patch and wail.

Multi-Target is based on the old Service Pistol (and I was actually serving when six-shot revolvers were naval service issue). Each shooter faces two targets, coloured brown and tan. In the old days they represented Russian soldiers rushing at you screaming intent to bayonet and disembowel but have since been bowdlerised into harmless brown blobs. Multi-Target is shot at four separate distances, from 25m down to 10m, in various timings and combinations. The last is the best: at 10m you must put three rounds into each target in eight seconds. Yeah! This is a good test of quick and precise shooting skill and quite a thrill.

Both T&P and Multi-Target are very enjoyable, easy to shoot but difficult to shoot well due to the added pressure and excitement of time constraints. All you need is a high capacity shotgun, either a pump or a semi-auto, with slug on your ticket. You can even shoot T&P with a double or single-barrel 'classic' shotgun



Target Shotgun disciplines will seriously test your shooting skills

(provided you have slug on your FAC). I recommend you turn up with a gun you have already zeroed, which functions reliably with the slug you are going to use and has sufficient magazine capacity with the slug cartridges.

The third discipline is the NRA Embassy Cup. It is also shot at turning targets, a pair of plain brown kite-shaped targets, at three distances. The difference is compulsory reloads against the clock: at 25 yards the shooter has 20 seconds to shoot two rounds on each target, reload four rounds then drop to the prone position and shoot a further two rounds at each target. This is then repeated at closer distances going down to the sitting and kneeling positions.

You must reload very quickly and cannot afford a fumble. If the load goes

At 10m you must put three rounds into each target in eight seconds – a good test of quick and precise shooting and quite a thrill

wrong and the targets turn away – four misses! If you decide to have a crack at the NRA Embassy Cup – and it is great fun – then practise your loading.

Target Shotgun can be rewarding and hugely enjoyable. There are some aficionados with iron shoulders who shoot each of the three competitions twice, once with a pump and once with a semi-auto. I hope to see you there for the next one. ■

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From the Ashes

Derek Stimpson reports from the 6th International Big Game Rifle Match, a unique event on these shores which draws competitors from big game rifle associations worldwide

There is a very active Big Game Rifle shooting fraternity in Australia. Their various monthly competitions are based on big game shooting practice. The British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) shoots an annual match known as The Ashes, which was based on the Australian competitions. The actual ashes are those of the first targets shot.

On 9-10 September 2016, the 6th International Match was held at BSRC range on the NRA complex at Bisley. BSRC members were joined by a group of eight Australians, along with two South Africans and one competitor from the USA. We were 29 competitors in all, most of whom shot all five competitions.

Rifles are categorised according to calibre and power, each with bullet weight and energy taken into account. Two categories are shot at Bisley: Group one, .330 or greater; and Group two, .400 upwards.

The five competitions were: Group One, Group Two, Double Rifle, Special Snap and Swedish Deer (shot with deer legal rifles at moving deer targets).

In view of the weather forecast as much of the 'outdoor' shooting as possible was

done on the first day – the Swedish Deer was shot from the Running Deer hut. BSRC kindly offered the shooters and partners a barbecue on Saturday, prepared by Daniel Francis, a member of the British Deer Society and something of a specialist. The flow of grilled venison meat disappeared rapidly.

Scoring and stats were in the hands of Alice Gran and Philip Mackworth Praed, a founder member of BSRC. A number of BSRC members assisted as Range Officers under Chief Range Officer Darren Cottee. Personally I don't normally shoot well when organising or running an event but Darren did remarkably, winning not only Group Two and Special Snap, but also the aggregate score.

This match was an unusual event for Bisley, but a great success and much enjoyed by all involved. Please see the results (right), a full account of which may be found on the BSRC website at: www.bsrc.co.uk.

Thanks go to Alice and Philip for their work on scoring and stats; to Tim Cooper for organising UK permits for those bringing rifles; to Tim and Paul Roberts for supply of loan rifles and ammunition;

and to all those involved and who assisted in running the event.

If you would like to learn more about the BGR scene in Australia, visit the SSAA website: www.ssaa.org.au. Equally, requests for information and further details in the UK can be directed to Tim Cooper or myself.

See you in South Africa in 2017, for the 7th International Match! ■

6TH INTERNATIONAL BIG GAME RIFLE MATCH	
RESULTS	
GROUP ONE	
1	Andrew Hepner
2	Bob Christopher
3	Graeme Wright
GROUP TWO	
1	Darren Cottee
2	Mark Hibbert
3	Bob Christopher
DOUBLE RIFLE	
1	John Pearson
2	Graeme Wright
3	Bob Christopher
SPECIAL SNAP	
1	Darren Cottee
2	Graeme Wright
3	Tim Cooper
SWEDISH DEER	
1	Adrian Dagger
2	Darren Cottee
3	Andrew Hepner
AGGREGATE	
1	Darren Cottee
2	Bob Chistopher
3	Graeme Wright



British Sporting Rifle Club members were joined by a number of international competitors for the Ashes match



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Shooting for success

We find out about the British Young Shooters' Association, which helps young guns transition from grassroots to independent shooting

One of the main issues facing our sport, across all disciplines, is keeping young shooters involved.

Many start their shooting careers in schools, universities, Scouts or Cadets, with help and support from coaches and clubs. Once someone leaves this environment, however, it is hard for a lone individual to continue with the sport.

This can be due to a number of factors - from cost of equipment such as rifles and jackets to logistics. How do you continue to shoot when you lose all support almost overnight after passing a youth group's age limit?

The British Young Shooters' Association (BYSA) was founded to tackle these issues and provide practical solutions. We offer help with applying for an FAC, arranging for the loan of a rifle or equipment, locating appropriate storage for firearms, putting young shooters in touch with suitable local clubs for their disciplines, and general practical help to keep young people in our sport.



Shooters were given instruction in the various shooting positions

The main aim of the BYSA is to increase participation in shooting by young people across all disciplines.

The BYSA held its first multidisciplinary training weekend on 29-30 October at Bisley Camp, covering fullbore target rifle, smallbore target rifle and Civilian Service Rifle. More than 60 people from all over the UK attended, from total beginners to experienced shots.

There was a specialised programme for participants in each discipline, depending on their skill level. Both fullbore and smallbore were split into beginner, intermediate and advanced streams. The CSR group were all trained at the same level as few had any prior experience.

Saturday saw the beginner and intermediate fullbore shooters given personalised equipment checks and position workshops, followed by in-depth lessons and guidance on plotting, plot cards, wind graphs and the makeup of a shooting team. The advanced shooters were on the range at 300 yards, with the emphasis on self-coaching. This was followed by all groups shooting at 300

yards to practise their new positions and get zeroes for the team match on Sunday.

For the smallbore group, beginners and intermediate shooters were taken through a position workshop on the Saturday, and introduced to the basics of the marksmanship principles. They were also given guidance on shooting routines and firing point setup. Meanwhile, the advanced group were given individualised guidance on position and shooting technique refinement followed by coached practice at 25m on the NRA's newly-refurbished Cheylesmore Range.

For the CSR shooters Saturday started with dry training in the London & Middlesex Rifle Association clubhouse. The trainees were introduced to the straight-pull .223 AR-15 rifle before being taken through the various firing positions, from the traditional prone through kneeling, sitting, squatting and standing, by the NRA's Peter Cottrell.

After the training presentation the shooters split into small groups, with Peter joined by Andy Burton and Chris Ballard to help explain the tips and tricks

Shooters had a great time and learned valuable skills to help them progress in their chosen discipline

of each shooting position. Participants were critiqued as they adopted each new position for the first time. Some found this process less tiring than others!

That afternoon, CSR moved to Short Siberia range at 100 yards for the introductory shoot, which was two three-round groups in each position at Figure 12 targets, followed by a simple series of test shoots to practise the new positions everyone had learned.

Saturday evening brought the BYSA halloween barbecue and party. The shooters donned their finest costumes and ate some delicious food before dancing the night away in Inns of Court and the rest of Bisley Camp.

Sunday saw the fullbore cohort compete in a friendly shoot in teams of four at 600 yards on Century Range with some fierce competition. For the smallbore shooters there was expert training at 50m on Worplesdon Range, down the road from Bisley, culminating in an individual match. For the Civilian Service Rifle all shooting was prone at a pleasantly still 300 yards, with the addition of volunteer coach Doug Cross.

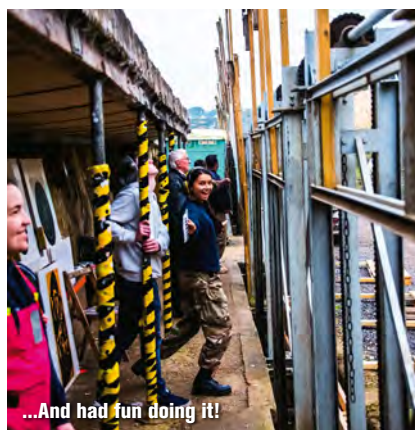
All in all, the shooters had a great time and learned valuable skills and information to allow them to progress in their chosen discipline. It was a great start towards the BYSA's aims of getting young shooters to continue and progress in the sport – but our work has only just begun.

We plan on expanding, both in size and in variety of disciplines we cover. Our next training weekend will be in early 2017 and we plan on having more people participating and an even better programme of training.

If you are interested in joining the association or helping further the promotion of all disciplines please visit our website for information on upcoming events and how to join the association: www.youngshooter.co.uk. ■



The shooters learned a lot...



...And had fun doing it!



CSR shooters practised their new skills with a 300 yard prone shoot

For the ages

Chloe Evans reports from the Surrey Rifle Association's Ages Match, pitting teams against one another based on their age

After the success of the 2014 Ages Match in 2014, the Surrey Rifle Association took the reins again this year. With teams representing all age groups (bar 65+) and two teams from the U25s it was sure to be a good contest. As the match was very late in the season we were going to suffer from failing light at long range in the afternoon, so the America Match format was swapped: we started at 900 and 1,000 yards in the morning, with 300 and 600 yards in the afternoon.

As teams arrived at 900 yards it was clear that it would be all about the shooters – there was absolutely no wind. All teams would need a strong start at the longer ranges to keep themselves in the running, but visibility was an issue. It was a struggle to locate which butt you were on, let alone centre the target. The 26-35s took an early lead at 900 yards, four points over the 46-55s, before moving back to 1,000.

At 1,000 yards visibility worsened, with drizzle making it pretty much impossible to see at all. The shooters persevered and there were plenty of high scores made regardless – all the more commendable as the match was shot on the much more punishing ICFRA targets. The 46-55s stole the lead from the 26-35s by five points going into lunch, with the 56-65s a further 16 points adrift.

It looked to be a two-way race to victory between the 46-55s and the 26-35s as we headed over to short range. The 36-45s fell short by just one point at 600 yards, allowing the 26-35s to win the range.

So, down to 300. Light was starting to become an issue now too; as the match drew to an end the targets became murkier and it was difficult to let off clean shots. However the 46-55s once



In ever-diminishing visibility, the 26-35s just fell short as the 46-55s triumphed

© Lulu Watson

I'm not sure any of us had ever seen such little wind; the highest wind call anyone saw was $\frac{3}{4}$ and more sights turning was done to correct their shooters' wind zeroes

again put in a sterling performance to take the range from the 36-45s by just six v-bulls.

After a hasty exit from the chilly range it was over to the warmth of the SRA clubhouse for results and prizegiving. With two range wins apiece it was going to be between the 46-55s and 26-35s – and in the end the 46-55s snatched it by four points with a total of 2,939.291, over the 26-35s total of 2,935.253. Coming in third were the 36-45s on 2,912.259.

Special mention must go to David Armstrong of the 46-55s who shot an

outstanding 300.37 ex-300.60, a clear two points ahead of any other shooter on the day. A brilliant performance in such poor visibility and on the tight ICFRA targets.

We must also thank all the coaches who spent their day twiddling their thumbs rather than twiddling sights. I'm not sure any of us had ever seen such little wind; the highest wind call anyone saw was $\frac{3}{4}$ and more sights turning was done to correct their shooters' wind zeroes! Thanks also go to the Surrey Rifle Association for hosting a fantastic Ages Match once again. ■

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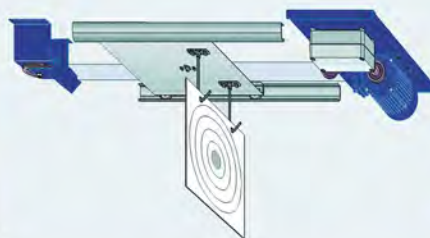
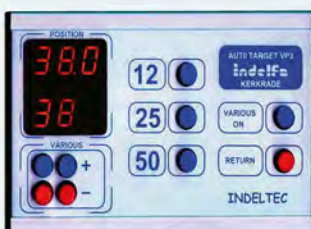
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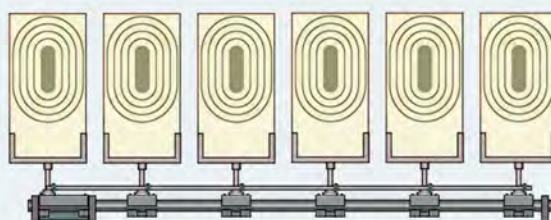
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Match reports

More highlights from this season's shooting matches and meetings



WE WILL REMEMBER Spires Rifle & Pistol Club organised a charitable competition to commemorate the bloody Battle of the Somme. Club secretary Geoff Ives reports

Towards the end of 2015 we decided that we should try to commemorate the Battle of the Somme. The intention was to do something to recognise the loss that affected every community in Britain.

As a shooting club it was natural that our contribution would be to hold a rifle competition, and restrict the entries to rifles used during the battle. As for a venue it was only right that we should hold the competition at the NRA ranges at Bisley. We decided that the 100 yard range would represent the closeness of the combat.

The obvious date for the event was Saturday 2 July, as the battle had started on 1 July 1916. Unfortunately there was no range space available then, so we settled on November to recognise the end of the battle on 18 November 1916 instead.

We invited the Classic & Historic Firearms Club, as well as Harwell and Wantage clubs. All income, after range fees, would be donated to the Royal British Legion poppy appeal. Suitable rifles and ammunition were available for those who did not have their own.

The day turned out to be bright and sunny but bitterly cold with a light wind. For shooting the conditions were good, but not so much for standing around for seven hours. We hired two lanes for the day. The first lane was for practice and everyone took advantage of it; the second lane was for the competition. The course of fire was 10 rounds.

The winner was Steve Crabbe of the Classic & Historic Firearms Club. Second place was taken by Chris Wood of the Spires Rifle & Pistol Club and in third was Brian Carney of the Classic & Historic Firearms Club.

Steve was presented with a trophy, and both second- and third-placed competitors received a silver spoon for their efforts. All entrants were presented with a certificate on parchment.



Entrants competed with rifles of a type used during the battle itself

All income, after range fees, would be donated to the Royal British Legion poppy appeal

As a result of the success of this competition it was decided that we will hold another one in November 2017, to commemorate the battle of Passchendaele, and another in 2018 to celebrate the cessation of hostilities. ■

THE DANIK MEMORIAL The 300m season drew to a close in October and Simon Aldhouse was in fine form to finish first

The final shoot of the year for the NRA's 300m shooters took place on 15 October. For the first time this year there was a waiting list to shoot. Those lucky enough to get space on the range were greeted with sunshine, cool weather and a gently fishtailing wind for the first match of the weekend, The Danik Memorial.

This is shot annually in memory of Dick Danik, who was a tireless supporter of 300m shooting in the UK. The shooting starts with 15 minutes' unlimited sighting shots followed by 60 match shots in one hour on electronic targets. Favoured calibres are 6BR, 6XC and .308win.

Simon Aldhouse, from the world champion team, led the first detail with a strong 592. Bob Oxford, a recent recruit from TR, was just behind with 589. No one on second detail could challenge Aldhouse but Matt Guille managed to match Oxford's 589 and beat him on X-count to decide second and third place.

Conditions were very different the following morning. Poor visibility delayed the start. Shooters on the first detail struggled as the heavy rain continued. During this period Aldhouse's target suffered the first failure of the year; a rapid trip to the butts by Ian Shirra-Gibb in pouring rain meant only a short delay for Aldhouse.

By the time Aldhouse was ready to shoot again the weather had settled. He took full advantage, dropping only two points in his first 50 shots and finishing with an excellent 595. No one could keep up with this world-class performance and only Guille broke 590.

The second detail shot in consistent light but with more variable wind. Graham Hawath shot well to take third place with 588, beating Austin Reeve on Xs. The weekend's aggregate for the club championship saw a fine win for Simon Aldhouse.

Thanks to our coach Ian, as well as Austin Reeve and Tim Hammond who ran the range while managing strong scores.

YOUNG GUNS FOR AGGREGATE Changeable conditions and close competition were order of the day at the 2016 LMRA Open Meeting, where David Young dominated the Grand Aggregate

The LMRA Open Meeting is shot annually on the final weekend of September. This year it featured a strong field of competitors, including a sizeable contingent from Jersey. Due to circumstances unforeseen by the NRA, the meeting opened on the Saturday morning with the Anderson, traditionally the final match. This year the issued ammunition was NRA Imperial-spec GGG.

Drawing upon the Queen's Final course of fire – two sighters and 15 to count at 900 and 1,000 yards – one's luck in the draw for details was crucial. Everyone had a fairly straightforward time of it at 900 yards, particularly Martin Liversage with his 75.12v, but the 1,000 yard details were squarely split into two.

Detail one enjoyed readable wind conditions with sunny intervals and broken cloud. Detail two was blown around like a shuttlecock in a hurricane, and was unable to complete the course of fire before lunch. It was agreed that everyone's first 10 rounds would be counted for their 1,000 yards score. While the highest scores were all 48s, the majority of the field was sloshing around the low- to mid-40s.

After lunch we moved on to the Presidents, using the Queen's Prize Stage 1 course of fire of two and seven at 300, 500 and 600 yards. Conditions had calmed since the morning and both James Watson and Martin Liversage posted 105s, Watson edging it with 18 v-bulls against Liversage's 16.

A convivial evening in the LMRA saw a few red eyes on Sunday morning (and a few surprisingly fresh faces!) for the Elizabethan's 0830 start, consisting of two sighters and ten to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards. Overnight rain had given way to sunshine and moderate, steady winds. Both Tom Laing-Baker and Adam

Jory took advantage of the conditions to post 150s, with Laing-Baker's extra v-bull at 600 yards squeezing him past Jory's 150.21v.

This year's Malcolm Grand Aggregate was won by David Young with 373.47v, a full 15 v-bulls ahead of Daniel Blake's 373.32v – but one behind Martin Liversage's 372.48v. Of particular note was Ian Farbon's close-fought victory in the Courage Cup, awarded to Tyros, where he beat Corin Burr into second.

Full results for all 14 trophies are available on the LMRA website, www.lmra.co.uk, and shootingresults.org. The LMRA thanks Adam Jory for his invaluable work on and off the range doing the stats, and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

RESULTS	
THE PRESIDENTS	
1	J Watson 105.18
2	M Liversage 105.16
3	T Laing Baker 104.16
THE ELIZABETHAN	
1	T Laing-Baker 150.22
2	A Jory 150.21
3	B LeCheminant 149.24
THE ANDERSON	
1	M Liversage 122.17
2	T Green 121.16
3	D Young 121.14
THE 900	
1	M Liversage 75.12
2	D Young 75.11
3	N Brasier 75.10
SATURDAY AGG.	
1	M Liversage 227.33
2	D Young 225.27
3	D Blake 225.21
LADIES TROPHY	
1	G Jarvis 367.40
MALCOLM GRAND AGG.	
1	D Young 373.47
2	D Blake 373.32
3	M Liversage 372.48

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The whole shooting match

The action and results from the Match Rifle scene this season

Unlike the TR season, Match Rifle only seems to get started in the autumn. There are plenty of practices before the Hopton but only two club championships. From August to October there are five MR competitions to compete in, although two are closed championships. Speaking of that, it is worth noting that the winners of the closed championships were Richard Whitby (Cambridge Cup) and Rob Lygoe (North London Rifle Club); the young Match Rifle shooters' trophy went to Rosanne Furniss.

This year the August bank holiday was sufficiently summery for a close-fought match at the Welsh Open. Andy Gent came out on top, three Vs ahead of Welshman Gareth James with 221.27. Nick Tremlett managed the same V count, but with three points fewer finished third overall.

The following Saturday saw competitors from England, Ireland and Scotland converge on Blair Atholl, the centre for fullbore shooting in Scotland. They knew what Glen Tilt would throw at them over the next two days: rain, mist, sunshine, glorious scenery, midges, potholes, rainbows, parking, capricious electro-targetry – all of which materialised to varying extents.

After nine details proceeding through 987, 1,114 and 1,233 yards, and approximately 1,550 scoring shots, Mike Barlow was top gun having dropped just two points, with Julian Peck one point behind.

On Sunday Mike Baillie-Hamilton, who had held back in a strategic sixth place overnight, stormed home at a full canter to win – dropping just one point in 40 shots at 1,114 and 1,233 yards. Julian



Rob Lygoe (left) presented with one of the trophies he won at the English VIII Meeting

Most of the field were left scratching their heads – was it angle, or were the flags lying as usual?

Peck clung on to his overnight second place, two points adrift, as did promising newcomer Ron Scaglione in third place. The Maitland Tyro Cup was won by Jim Brown. The pairs competition was won by Alex Cargill-Thompson and Mark Crichton-Maitland with Mike Judge and Neil Fyfe two Vs behind.

The weekend of 24-25 September saw the last of the major MR matches of the season in the English VIII Club and the Irish Rifle Club combined autumn meeting at Bisley. The course of fire was 15 and two sighters at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards on each day. Shooting as one detail at 1,000 and 1,100 yards meant back to back shooting with no breaks, keeping everyone on their toes. The slickness of the operation was improved by the superlative score cards, which not only told you what you were about to do but what was happening next. This was



Fife & Kinross FRC's Jim Brown took home the Maitland Tyro Cup

the last hooray for John Hissey on the stats after many years' service.

The 1,000 yard range seemed straightforward on both days, but 1,100 left most of the field muttering and scratching of heads – was it angle or were the flags lying as usual? On Saturday, 1,200 yards was easier than it looked but on Sunday sudden and swift wind changes played havoc, especially at the start of the first detail with a good crop of magpies and outers among the sighters and a few that avoided the target altogether.

The results were dominated by Rob Lygoe who shot a terrific 446.60, dropping just four points over the six shoots, closely pursued by Mike Baillie-Hamilton with a 445.63, including four 75s out of the six shoots. ■

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Targets acquired at Bisley

Team GB's Olympic pistol shooters will have an easier time qualifying for Tokyo 2020 – Katia Malcaus Cooper explains why

Shooting has been part of the Olympic Games consecutively since 1932, with a staggering 727 medals won in that time. Our wonderful sport is in 6th place in terms of number of medals won in the history of the Games.

Unsurprisingly our cousins from across the pond have won the most – an impressive 107 – and shooting is the 3rd most successful American Olympic sport after athletics and swimming.

Team GB has amassed a total of 46 medals in shooting – more than we've managed in tennis and gymnastics. There can be little doubt that Team GB has huge potential to take medals in shooting – but not all shooting disciplines are created equal.

At a recent British Shooting Board Meeting, Andrew Mercer, NRA Chief



The dedicated Olympic pistol shooting environment on Bisley's Cheylesmore range

Executive Officer, commented that in terms of shooting, shotgun is the big brother, with little brother rifle right behind – and baby brother pistol often neglected and forgotten!

The NRA is about to put an end to this. In a joint venture with the MoD's Troops To Target programme, the NRA has purchased five Olympic style electronic targets (with the MoD purchasing another five) and created a dedicated Olympic pistol shooting environment on Bisley's Cheylesmore range.

After the handgun ban in 1997 possession of handguns was severely limited; special Home Office permission was required for what is known as Section 5 firearms.

The GB pistol team has 25 such permits covering all types of pistol shooting. As if the necessity to hold such permits was not already a big constraint, the GB pistol team has not been able to train on British soil as no adequate facility was available to them. Our athletes had to train in Switzerland, which is incredibly costly and inconvenient for all concerned. Unsurprisingly team GB was not represented in the pistol disciplines at Rio 2016.

"It seems bonkers to me that our pistoleers should have to go overseas to train and not be able to avail themselves of adequate facilities on home soil," said Andrew Mercer. "Bisley is world-renowned as the home of British shooting and it seemed logical to me to create a state-of-the-art facility for our pistoleers here at NRA Bisley. We have the space, facilities and expertise; all that was needed was the right sort of equipment, so we worked closely with the Team GB coaches to create the perfect environment for our aspiring Olympians."

The range is within the Cheylesmore range complex, a modern covered gallery rifle and pistol range with a heated clubroom and training room.

The first shots went downrange in late September. Olympic hopeful Steph Courty said: "What the NRA has provided is even better than some of the equipment we shoot on at competitions overseas. Being able to train in match perfect conditions is a massive advantage. In the past we have had to use turning paper targets and



this has been a significant disadvantage – this investment will stand the team in good stead to get to Tokyo 2020."

Ian Jack, a soldier who is also on Team GB, feels that what the NRA and the MoD have provided is a solid foundation on which to build the Team's success. The range is available year round, a significant step forward for a team who had to travel across the Channel to be able to train.

Steve Pengelly, head GB Pistol Coach, is delighted with the investment the NRA has made in the future of pistol shooting: "This investment by the NRA in the refurbishment of Cheylesmore Range, and the joint provision of the 25m electronic targets by the NRA and the army, will have a huge impact on the ability of the pistol squad to train effectively in the UK.

"The squad will now be able to train later into the year, thanks to the new clubhouse, and will be able to start significantly earlier in the new year too. The new electronic targets will also provide the athletes and coaches with a lot of data that would previously have been very difficult to obtain."

Every major match around the world uses electronic targets with a light system rather than the traditional turning target systems (in simple terms, once the series has started, if the green light is on you can shoot; if the red light is on you must not). This now gives our athletes the opportunity to practise reacting to

changing red and green lights, which is entirely visual, rather than relying on the sound of the turning targets

In the Rapid Fire Pistol event shot by the men, one shot has to be fired at each of their five targets in eight seconds initially, then six seconds and finally four seconds. The target system, as well as displaying the position and value of each shot, will also show the timing of every shot. This information is critical to the improvement of our top level athletes where hundredths of a second can be vital.

In the women's 25m pistol event, the match is divided into two stages. The first part is the precision stage in which competitors fire five shots in a time limit of five minutes. The second part is the rapid stage, where they fire a sequence of five shots, with a three second 'green light' period for one shot followed by a 'red light' period of seven seconds (the pistol must be lowered to an angle of 45° before the next 'green light'). Again, the timing information is so important for fine-tuning the process that the athletes will need to develop to compete at the highest levels.

NRA Media filmed the team on Melville Range, competing with air pistols against the Army Pistol Team; Team GB had a resounding victory – visit youtu.be/0nfhyc95Eo to see more. We will be following the team in the run-up to Tokyo and look forward to sharing their success stories. ■



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From left to right: FDPC President Ash Dagger, NRA Chairman John Webster, NRA Chief Executive Officer Andrew Mercer, NRA Marketing and Communications Manager Katia Malcaus Cooper, FDPC Chairman Keith Howell, NRA Regional Ranges Manager Nic Couldrey, FDPC club member and NRA Trustee Barry Morgan

FDPC gets a new home

After several years' effort to find a new home, Frome and District Pistol Club this year opened its doors once more. Lee Davey tells us more...

Remember 1973? Tony Orlando and Dawn were topping the charts with Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree, petrol was just 38p per gallon, and for a number of shooters in Somerset and Wiltshire, it was the beginning of Frome and District Pistol Club.

With a focus on pistol shooting and fullbore rifle, the club developed through the 1980s and 1990s hosting three-gun matches, where more than 150 shooters would enjoy the challenge of pistol, rifle and shotgun stages, while the 1500 matches, and the Western Winner in particular, were embraced by members and visitors alike.

A local quarry provided the site of the home range for many years but the new millennium brought a change of address for FDPC, as the landlord decided to continue larger and deeper quarrying operations. The Club had to fall upon the mercy of other local clubs, including Bristol & District RPC and Midsomer



FDPC secured this space – the next challenge was turning it into a usable and pleasant shooting venue

Norton Target Shooting Club. Their generous hospitality enabled FDPC to remain an active part of the shooting scene while efforts were made to find a new home.

The club kept shooting within these constraints and, indeed, provided substantial representation at Bisley and internationally on the GR circuit once the pistol ban took effect.

However, members felt that a longer-term solution was required and in 2014 a 'call to action' was made. The aim of this was to create a project team to scope out, investigate and bring a valid proposal to the membership that would deliver a range facility that met the needs of its membership, both today and in the future. Fortunately the hard work of members during the club's 40-year

Members left their homes to spend time with a paintbrush, screwdriver or saw to turn a dark, empty space into the Shepton Mallet Target Sports Centre

lifespan had built a reasonable financial footing through competitions and other fundraising events, which would allow progress to be made.

Space race

The task of finding a suitable location involved discussions across the counties of Wiltshire and Somerset, challenging possible uses of warehouses, greenfield sites, brownfield sites and decommissioned military ranges. This taskforce had to work to a 'needs and wants' list of what FDPC sought from its new home range.

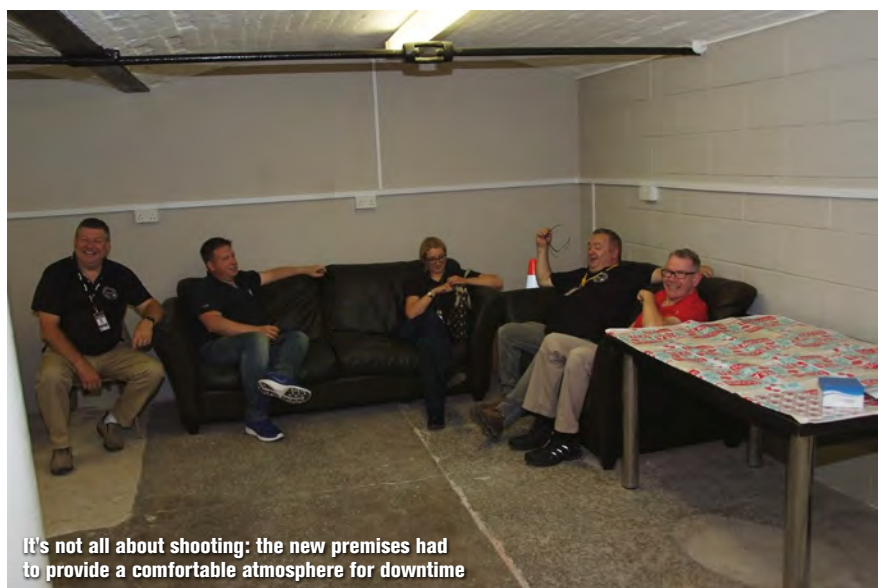
There were two real options: reactivating a redundant range on the School of Infantry Warminster, or converting a Victorian brewery that proudly boasted the first brewed lager in Britain.

Negotiations with the Army and MoD were lengthy and questions of access finally ruled out the Warminster option. This left us with the ex-brewery – expensive to convert and rent, but an ideal all-weather facility with ground floor access delivering both a 25m and 50m space, along with club and gun rooms, right in the centre of Shepton Mallet. Working closely with the extremely helpful owners of the property, and with the planning and heritage departments of Mendip District Council, the planning application was submitted in mid-2015.

Surprisingly, what followed was a relatively quick process, even though it included comprehensive sound surveys and extensive details on how we would build the range within the heritage rules for a Grade II listed building. The submission was finally approved on 24 March 2016.



Founder member Rob Watts, still very active after 40+ years



It's not all about shooting: the new premises had to provide a comfortable atmosphere for downtime

In parallel with all this statutory activity, we also needed to produce a business case to prove that the commitment to a 25-year lease would be both financially viable and sustainable. Although a market rent of £37,000 per year was agreed as the steady state, the landlord was very accommodating in giving us a ramp up to this figure over the first five years.

Obtaining Community Amateur Sports Club status in 2015 meant we were entitled to an 80 per cent reduction in the business rates payable; this together with Mendip accepting our application for further Discretionary Rate Relief – because as a target sports club we contribute to the local community –

meant that we received a further 75 per cent reduction in the remainder.

In total that amounted to a reduction from about £10,000 of rates to £500. Without this the business model would not have held water.

From room to range

The first challenge was to secure a location and confirm the financial viability. After this came the issue of developing an indoor facility and how to manage the business-end of a range. First, there was the problem of how to convert an unlit, unheated, windowless basement with rudimentary electrics and no ventilation into a range capable of being used by

gallery rifles, muzzle-loading pistols and fullbore rifles – while at the same time being a pleasant and safe environment in which to shoot.

The big-ticket items that had to be designed, procured, installed and tested were the ventilation, electrics, acoustic silencing and an effective backstop. The ventilation system was essential if we were to shoot safely, as all fumes and particulate contamination needs to be safely removed from the atmosphere. A professional ventilation company was hired to do the work, although club members did quite a bit of construction work to facilitate the installation.

The electrical system was largely the brainchild of our chairman, Keith Howell, who worked with local electrical companies to produce a design that would include lighting, ventilation, turning targets and other necessities, and meet the needs of the statutory regulations. All the physical work was done by our members, including a couple of qualified electricians and our policeman member, who turned his hand to this different skill with remarkable effect.

The acoustic insulation was a requirement of the planning permission. The four acoustic doors, which have proved extremely effective, were all bought in, although they still had to be

fitted by our overworked club members. Finally, there was the backstop. Having seen our detailed business case the NRA kindly agreed to fund the provision of the armoured steel and the Regupol rubber blocks that form the basis of the backstop. This innovative design was required to provide suitable stopping power against fullbore rifle ammunition (HME prohibited) within the limited space available. This was because the 25m range needed to fit into a 28m space and the 50m range into a 53m space.

The Regupol blocks will generally stop pistol and smallbore calibre rounds, and greatly slow fullbore projectiles. Hopefully, therefore, the steel will show very little signs of wear and only those blocks suffering high attrition will need to be replaced. This will form part of the FDPC-funded regular maintenance activity over the years to come. This backstop material will remain the property of the NRA and, should FDPC no longer require it, it will be returned. Obviously this won't happen, as the club will continue to flourish over the coming years!

New beginning

Work commenced in April. Members left their homes to spend time with a paintbrush, screwdriver or saw to turn a dark, dank and empty space into the

Shepton Mallet Target Sports Centre.

The entire project was managed by Dave Andrews from local building contractor WRE Andrews. As an FDPC club member he could offer very keen deals from local and national suppliers.

With the paint still wet in places, the opening day held on 30 July – just four months after getting the keys – brought all parties together to celebrate the first shot down each range. With speeches by Club President Ashley Dagger and further range endorsement from our guest of honour, NRA Chairman John Webster who, under no pressure whatsoever, marked our opening with a comfortable grouping 'in the black' with a Marlin 1894 on the 50m range. After the mandatory tea and stickies we moved to the 25m range, where we enjoyed club Chairman Keith Howell demonstrating the 'hit to the senses' of black powder shooting. With the ventilation system running at full tilt, and in the confines of the Victorian basement, the sound truly was proof of the need for ear defenders.

From August 2016, with the building process now pretty much behind us, FDPC already has a full diary of shooting booked. We hosted the NRA Handgun League Match in September, the Wiltshire County Shooting Association annual GR and LSR shoot in October, and an NRA Mini-rifle League match in November. On top of that the club regularly participates in GRCF Granet, GRCF Practical, Practical Shotgun, Shotgun Clay Challenge, Muzzle Loading Precision, ML Classic, T&P 1, McQueen's Sniper Rifle, Sporting Rifle, Battle Sight Rifle, MT3, BR50 and a 3-Gun Zombie Shoot. Keeping with tradition, we also host the Western Winner 1500 and the Summer Sunshine Match.

The new range doesn't mean all future shooting is within the confines of a historical Victorian brewery; for those in search of fresh air and longer distances the club runs an average of two days per month at military ranges. From 100m to 900m, practice days and competitions include Sporting Rifle, Battle Sight (a form of CSR) and 300m GRCF – yes they can reach that far! ■

For more information about FDPC, visit www.fdp.org.uk – or search for us ('thefdp') on Facebook.



Club chairman Keith Howell declares the 25m range open

Head to the Cloud

Regional ranges manager Nicholas Couldrey has the latest updates from around the regions



Thorpe Cloud Range in Derbyshire is popular with clubs struggling to book on to MoD ranges

Since my last update I have had the opportunity to travel to picturesque Derbyshire and visit the independently operated range at Thorpe Cloud. Thorpe provides a much-needed and well-used fullbore gallery range for many regional clubs struggling to get bookings on MoD ranges. The range has a rich history and provides some challenging shooting. In addition to club bookings, the range warden also runs an annual competition, the Range Warden's Shield. This year the match was contested by nearly 30 shooters from seven clubs competing across three disciplines – another great example of the vibrant world of regional fullbore rifle shooting.

Work continues at pace on the construction of a new range complex near Silverstone in Northamptonshire. The NRA is working closely with the range owner to provide technical advice and guidance, as well as RCO and other training, in

preparation for a 2017 opening. The range represents a significant undertaking by the owner and we continue to support this exciting project. More on this next year.

Affiliated clubs in the Eastern region are part of the roll-out of a new automated range booking system, known as BAMS, being implemented by the MoD. The pilot is underway and we're working closely with the DIO and Landmarc to ensure a seamless transition to the new process for civilian clubs. The expectation is that BAMS will be rolled out to the rest of the UK in 2017 – watch this space. Harald Dunton, NRA Regional Representative, has been actively involved with local clubs in the planning roll-out; my thanks to him for his support.

Discussions with our colleagues in the MoD continue. As many of you are aware, the MoD has made clear its ambition to free up surplus estate assets

for housebuilding. The NRA had started preliminary discussions with the MoD to identify potential sites that could be used for civilian shooting, including ranges. Not surprisingly this is a complex and sensitive topic and we should expect the process to take time. The closure of the three ranges at Middlewick near Colchester was widely reported in the national press, so the process has certainly begun.

The reopening of the ranges at Whittington has been delayed – I will update members on this as more information becomes available.

Further to my update in the autumn *Journal*, I am delighted that our colleagues at the Jersey Pistol Club hosted guests from the NRA in November. The event was a pilot designed to test the feasibility and practicality of a far closer relationship in 2017; see the next edition of the *Journal* for a full report. See you on the ranges. ■

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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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Club focus

We stray north of the border to visit Aberdeen FBGC and West Atholl RC

ABERDEEN FULL BORE GUN CLUB

A diverse club operating from five ranges, the AFBGC caters for almost all disciplines

Aberdeen Full Bore Gun Club is 40 years old this year. Founded in 1976 by a group of keen rifle and pistols shooters, the Aberdeen Full Bore Gun Club (AFBGC) originally shot rifle over the old wartime RAF range at Brimmond Hill, near Dyce, Aberdeenshire, until the range was closed as a result of communication equipment being erected for the oil industry. Fullbore pistol was then shot on the 30m range at Gordon Barracks at the Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, and .22 pistol shooters used the 25m indoor range at the Gordon Barracks.

Club membership rose to around 120 in the early 1980s. The club met regularly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and on Saturdays (Practical Pistol) and Sundays. With the closure of the 30m range at Gordon Barracks, the club moved its activities to the Black Dog Military Ranges, just north of Aberdeen, where the 25m 'C' range was used for pistol shooting three or four times a week. Monthly rifle shoots took place on the longer distance 'A' and 'B' ranges.

In 1992, after several failed attempts to get planning permission for its own facilities at a variety of locations, the club finally gained consent to construct its own ranges at its current location of Drums, north of Aberdeen.

The club membership declined to about 40 members after the 1997 Firearms Act but has recovered and now stands at just shy of 150 members, representing a wide variety of shooting interests.



The 100m range at Drums, suitable for smallbore, centrefire gallery rifle and pistol, and muzzleloading rifles and pistols

The club supports all forms of target shooting disciplines (with the exception of clay pigeon, though we do hold a social clay shoot once a year!).

The club has its home range at Drums, near Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, offering a 50m 10 point range with electronic turning targets and a 100m range – 10 point to 50m and six point at 100m – with a fully covered and benched firing point. Both ranges are suitable for smallbore and centrefire gallery rifle and pistol, as well as muzzleloading rifles and pistols and black powder cartridge rifles.

Under extended 'sea danger area' conditions, fullbore rifles may be used on the 100m range.

The club also operates from four other ranges: it leases and runs a quarry-range near to Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, suitable for smallbore through to fullbore rifle and Section 1 shotguns with slug; continues to use the nearby Blackdog MoD Range for fullbore rifle shooting from 200-600m; has recently added Barry Budden MoD

Membership declined after the 1997 Firearms Act but now stands at just shy of 150 members

Range near Dundee to its MoD licence, enabling the use of high energy rifles and shooting back to 1,200m; and also rents one day a month at the excellent Denwood Range in Aberdeen for dedicated smallbore rifle, long pistol, air rifle and air pistol shooting.

Drums Range, subject to a member having passed the club's Range Officer Course, is accessible seven days a week. The other ranges are scheduled at set times. Operating from two geographical locations, often simultaneously, represents a considerable task in detailing ROs, but the club is essentially awash with opportunities to shoot!

We expect, with the advent in airgun licensing in Scotland, to see more members also using the ranges for

airgun use. The club attracts many stalkers too, who join for a venue to zero and practise with sporting rifles but are often then attracted to one or another of the various target disciplines on offer.

Besides straightforward target practice, the club runs an internal Club Championship that covers smallbore and centrefire gallery rifle, muzzleloading pistol and rifle, black powder cartridge rifle, long barrel handguns and fullbore rifle.

These are supplemented by occasional discipline-specific matches throughout the year, as part of which we have recently incorporated Section 1 shotgun with slug.

The club is also a member of the North East Scotland Shooting Clubs Competition in which a collective of north east clubs host a gallery rifle match for club team and individual competition during the year. This equates to four or five interclub matches in a season.

The club also actively encourages members to participate regionally and nationally, with many members enjoying national (and international) success. Presently, seven club members are within the Scotland Gallery Rifle and Pistol Squad and two are members of the GB GR&P squad.

The club hosts three major open competitions each year, two under the auspices of the Aberdeen Wapinschaw Association. The Association arguably represents one of the longest-running shooting competitions in the UK, tracing a lineage to 1862. The Association presents one of the finest trophy tables in the UK, with many exquisite trophies dating from the 1860s onwards through the 20th and 21st centuries. The club is honoured to host the civilian arm of the Association's annual competition schedule, and does so through a three-day match in June for gallery rifle and pistol (NRA-sanctioned and ranked), smallbore service rifle, muzzleloading rifle and pistol and black powder cartridge rifle.

Besides the June meeting, the club holds a two-day fullbore rifle open



The Aberdeen Wapinschaw features one of the finest trophy tables of any shooting competition



Blue skies over the Blackdog MoD range during the Wapinschaw



The club hosts three major competitions annually, and encourages members to compete regionally and nationally

meeting in September, incorporating Civilian Service Rifle (Urban Contact and 200m Falling Plates matches) and general fullbore rifle matches in a range of classes (the latter at 100m or 300m).

The club is also the venue for the Scottish 1500 GR smallbore and centrefire section of the Scottish Gallery Rifle Championship, as run by Scottish Target Shooting (STS). The short range matches of the Championship are hosted at the Joint Services Club, near Galashiels in the Scottish Borders.

We are proud that Aberdeen Full Bore Gun Club fosters an inclusive

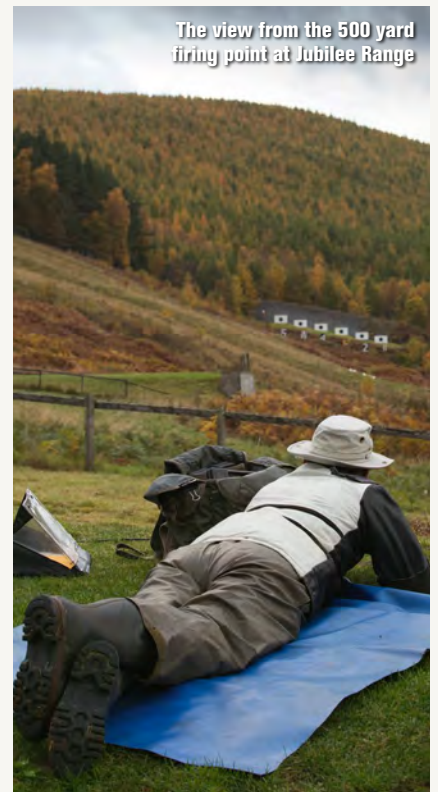
ethos in which all target shooting disciplines – and both competitive and non-competitive shooters – are equally welcome and accommodated. The club also considers that it has a duty to promote the sport and campaign for the sport's future. ■

Get in touch

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It's easy to see why visiting shooters are awed by this beautiful range



The view from the 500 yard firing point at Jubilee Range

WEST ATHOLL RIFLE CLUB
Home of the superbly scenic Jubilee Range, West Atholl Rifle Club welcomes new fullbore shooters of any skill level

West Atholl Rifle Club began in 1946 as a continuation of a Home Guard company based in the village of Blair Atholl, some 35 miles north of Perth and now in the Cairngorms National Park. The club now has members from all over Scotland and beyond, including a number of international members.

For 30 years the club used a 600 yard range just outside the village, but in the early 1970s it was obvious that this would become unusable with the opening of the Blair Atholl bypass. The Club has always had close links with Atholl Estates and the late 10th Duke encouraged the Club's chairman of the time, Alastair Munro, to choose the land now occupied by Jubilee Range on the 300m contour in Glen Tilt. The club leases the land from the trustees of Atholl Estates.

The range was opened in 1977, the year of the Queen's Silver Jubilee (hence the name), with six targets and firing points out to 1,000 yards. In 1987 the National Rifle Club of Scotland added firing points at 1,100 and 1,200 yards for Match Rifle shooting. The 1,200 yard point is actually 1,233 yards from the targets, making it the longest civilian range on the UK mainland.

Jubilee Range is undoubtedly the most scenic in the UK, and by common consent one of the most difficult to shoot. This is because it is on the side of a hill with very irregular contours, which makes wind judgement very difficult and requires changes of elevation with changes in windage.

The Club has around 85 members of whom 40 shoot frequently. Until recently West Atholl was predominantly a TR club but now has a fast-growing body of F/TR shooters and several Open F-Class shooters. Each year the Club has four short-range shoots (2+15 at 400, 500 and 600 yards), three long range shoots (2+20 at 900 and 1,000 yards), a shoot from 400 yards on 300m (10x) targets (2+20x3) and the annual Murray Cup (2+15 at 500, 600

and 900 yards), plus informal short-range shoots at the start and end of the season. These are all on Sundays. There is occasional mid-week shooting alongside university or school bookings.

The latitude and altitude of the range dictates a season from late March to early October. The range is used almost every weekend in this season, as the Club lets out the range for all but one of the open competitions in Scotland including the three-day Scottish Open, as well as Match Rifle shooting, F-Class league matches, use by other clubs, schools, and the Atholl Highlanders, Europe's only legal private army.

In 2008 the Club installed Kongsberg electronic targets, freeing members and competitors from marking duties. These have proved extremely popular, although the maintenance and repair of a system which takes almost 75,000 shots a year has proved challenging.

The Club does not have a waiting list and welcomes applications from those interested in formal fullbore target shooting, regardless of experience. Potential applicants should contact the Secretary via the website: www.westatholl.org.uk.

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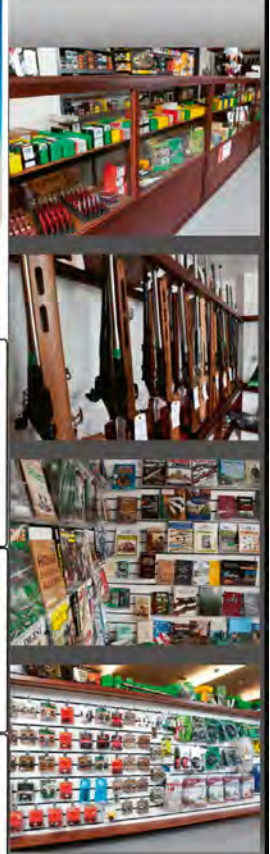
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Southern success

The British Gallery Rifle Tour Team put in a good show in the Invitational Match in South Africa this year

The 2016 Gallery Rifle Invitational Match in South Africa took place on 18-19 October at Excalibur Shooting Range.

Excalibur Shooting Range is situated in the small town of Welkom, Free State, South Africa. Welkom is located about 280km from Johannesburg and 140km from Bloemfontein.

The match schedule was incredibly busy, with as many as 10 different matches taking place in the space of just two days. Unsurprisingly the hosts dominated most of the events but shooters from both Great Britain and Australia shone in a number of events.

Both individual and team matches demanded the best from the shooters. The competitive atmosphere was palpable on the range.

England Team Captain Morne van Dalen excelled in Timed and Precision 1 Centrefire with an impressive 300, only beaten to first place by Philippe van Tonder of South Africa with 20 Xs against Morne's 19. Keith Cox was just behind with 299.21, with Cornelius Schalkwyk and Colin McMichael trailing on 298.19 and 298.16 respectively, finishing in seventh and eighth.

Filippe followed up his excellent performance with a second victory in Timed and Precision 1 Smallbore Individual. As for the British contingent, Colin McMichael came third, Angela Foster finished seventh and Morne ninth.

Timed and Precision 2 Smallbore saw an unsurprising win by Philippe followed by South African teammates Nico Roets on 585.13 and Hercules Louw in third with 580.16. The GB team put in a sterling performance with Douglas Green posting 566.12 and Colin McMichael 565.19, gaining them sixth and seventh place.

In Timed and Precision 2 Centrefire, Hercules Louw pipped teammate Gerrie



From left to right: Keith Cox, Angela Foster, Morne van Dalen, Douglas Green and Colin McMichael in South Africa this year

Unsurprisingly the hosts dominated most of the events but shooters from both Great Britain and Australia shone in a number of events

de Beer to first place with an impressive 594.32. Philippe van Tonden finished the event in third place, but the Brits were never far behind – Colin finished in fourth, Keith in sixth, Cornelius in seventh and Morne in eighth.

Multi-Target Smallbore was dominated by South Africa, who claimed all four top spots. Douglas, Colin and Angie followed in fifth, sixth and seventh places. A similar result was seen in Multi-Target Centrefire; Morne, Colin, Keith and Douglas held their heads high in sixth, seventh, eighth and ninth respectively.

The same positions were maintained by GB shooters in the 1500 Centrefire Individual, while another solid performance by the South Africans filled the first five places. Similarly, in

1500 Smallbore Individual, Colin and Keith claimed eighth and ninth, with Douglas, Morne and Angie slightly further down the field in 12th, 13th and 14th respectively.

In 1500 Teams GB shot a solid second in both smallbore and centrefire events.

The meeting drew to a close and it was time for all parties to enjoy some well-earned R&R and ceremonial farewells. The manager of the South Africa Hunters and Game Conservation Association thanked the International Gallery Rifle Federation and the NRA Chief Executive for his support in promoting the event at the Phoenix 2016.

To find out more about International GR&P shooting please contact the NRA GR&P discipline rep: gallery@nra.org.uk. ■



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Glimpse of history

Clubhouses are an iconic part of life at Bisley Camp.
Silke Lohmann tells us more about how and why they came to be

Whenever I have friends visiting Bisley (to see where I am hiding for so many weekends a year) they are always amazed by the clubhouses. "It's a bit like travelling back in time" is one quote I hear a lot, and Bisley Camp certainly can be described as a time capsule. Even a regular visitor to Bisley may wonder why the clubhouses are there, what their history is and who its members are.

It all started when the NRA moved its annual competition from Wimbledon (now of tennis fame) to Bisley Camp in 1890. Previously there was a big tent city at Wimbledon – probably comparable to festivals today – but Bisley was going to be the centre of shooting on a far more permanent basis. While the meeting had been held at Wimbledon there had been plenty of accommodation nearby, but there were no lodgings within walking distance of Bisley. For the first Bisley meeting the NRA erected two blocks of huts with 40 rooms for those competitors who preferred not to stay in tents. Others rented tents at a reasonable price, and the NRA was able to accommodate a total of 1,876 officers and men – a thousand more than at Wimbledon. But on the whole it remained a tented camp, with row upon row of gleaming white bell tents.

With the move to Bisley the evening entertainment was also left behind. Although military bands played twice a day in the Umbrella Tent, the idea of clubhouses reviving some of the evening gatherings soon gathered momentum. First step, in 1891, was to improve those buildings which made it to Bisley from Wimbledon. Solid roofing replaced canvas, including of the Old Council Offices, now best known for being occupied by Fultons (first used in 1876).

Some of the first clubhouses were also erected that year, most of them flatpack



The Pavilion, Umbrella Tent and NRA offices at Wimbledon, prior to moving to Bisley



Nicknamed Canadian Palace, the Canadians' clubhouse was built in 1897

buildings. One of the first was the English VIII clubhouse (1891), which is still the HQ for all English (and other) Match Rifle shooters. In the same year, some private huts like the Elton Cottage (now Cottesloe Lodge) and Elcho Lodge appeared. The latter had been imported from America by Walter Winans.

The same year a Members' and Ladies' Club House was erected, generally still

known as Exhibition Hut although it has since been occupied by the Muzzle Loaders Association. It is now in the process of being renovated, waiting for a new occupier. The Council Club, now home to the Bisley Shooting Ground who rescued it from its derelict state a few years ago, may have originally been at Wimbledon; it seems to first appear on a Bisley map in 1892.



Bisley Camp Station, circa 1900



The North London Rifle Club 'hut' in 1915

S 2106 THE NORTH LONDON CLUB HUT, BISLEY CAMP.

You can still see the old train station near Fultons, now part of a clubhouse, where the trains would arrive from Brookwood

In 1894 the Association built two clubhouses: the Inns of Court (which at a later stage even had a swimming pool) and English Twenty. A year later the council decided that, instead of building bungalows and club buildings and charging a rent based on the cost of the building, it would in future lease sites for buildings to be erected by the leasees.

In 1898 the National Rifle Club of Scotland made use of that opportunity and built their clubhouse with tower room, next to the English VIII. Sadly they had to vacate the premises in 1957 and it has since been host to the Pistol Club and the silver exhibition, and will soon be part of William Evans Ltd on camp.

The Surrey became home to its county shooters in 1895 and now has members from all counties. The Canadians, meanwhile, spent a lot of time and effort to build their magnificent clubhouse in 1897; it was quickly nicknamed Canadian Palace. The Army Rifle Association opened the doors of its commodious and solid clubhouse in 1898.

The new century saw the building of the North London Rifle Club in 1904 and the London & Middlesex was opened by the Earl of Bedford in 1908. The move of the Sit Perpetuum Hut, which was actually



Elton Cottage – now Cottesloe Lodge – overlooking Stickle-down range

an iron church, from Byfleet to Bisley, followed in 1912.

After the war, several regiments built clubhouses – the Artists' (21st SAS Regiment) in 1923/24, the Honourable Artillery Company in 1927 (though this was a replacement of an 1895 prefabricated building) and the London Scottish in 1935. The Bisley Gun Club was built in 1936 and the Commonwealth Club in 1938 – thanks to donations by princes and expats, as it had originally been the India Rifle Club and intended to be a fine building to rival the Canadian Pavilion with wide verandas, an armoury, large dining rooms and 27 bedrooms.

The NRA Pavilion had been erected and dismantled every year at Wimbledon between 1871 and 1889 as a refreshment pavilion. Once at Bisley it became a permanent structure, but by the end of 1923 it needed replaced. The current building was designed and built in six months. It was open for business again just in time for the 1924 meeting.

At this time, clubhouses were used all year round at weekends. They were a pure necessity, as competitors were still dependent on trains to get to Bisley. You can still see the old train station near Fultons, now part of a clubhouse, where

the trains would arrive from Brookwood – the train line had been built in just four months in time for the inaugural meeting.

Members could stay the night in their clubhouse or sleep in a tent but take breakfast, lunch and dinner at the club (the North London had two packed sittings in the evening until the 1960s). It was only in the 1970s, when caravans became more popular, that some shooters started to cook the odd meal in the caravan. Cars made eating out of camp an easy option, though shooters would still frequent the clubhouses in the evening, either for dinner or just drinks. That hasn't changed.

The clubs have always been instrumental in organising regular competitions and, although originally the home of mainly target and Match Rifle shooters, they are now open to all who are keen to shoot at Bisley and enjoy the company of fellow shooters.

If you are interested to find out more, don't be shy – visit the clubhouses. Make yourself known as a shooter interested in finding out more about the club and one of the members will be happy to tell you what their club is all about. Alternatively, most clubs have a website too.

There will also be some information on each club available in the newly-refurbished Pavilion. The NRA will also organise a 'Bisley Clubs Open Day' in early 2017, which should hopefully encourage NRA members, officials of affiliated clubs and other fullbore shooters to visit Bisley and have a look around the clubhouses. The clubs, with their varied origins and histories, are truly one of the glories of Bisley Camp. Help to keep the spirit of Bisley alive. ■

Recognising Major contributions

Nigel Suffield-Jones salutes the career of Major Simon Fraser, MBE, who has dedicated much of his life to the world of Cadet shooting

Simon Fraser retired as General Secretary at Derby Lodge on 7 November, after 24 years of outstanding service. Latterly this service was only to cadet shooting, but until the amalgamation of the TA Rifle Association (TARA) with the Army Rifle Association, that service benefited TA shooting as well.

He arrived at Derby Lodge in 1993, after it had seen three General Secretaries in four years, and immediately settled into the job with dedication and enthusiasm. These qualities were to be the hallmark of his time at Bisley, as he served both TARA and the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting (CCRS) equally well, either individually or in the form of the Joint Committee.

Simon came to his new life at Bisley after 24 years in the Coldstream Guards, which included four tours of duty in Northern Ireland. He is particularly proud of his service with Operation Agila in Zimbabwe, the very delicate operation to separate the Southern Rhodesian and Nationalist forces and thus bring an end to the war there. Simon was responsible for much of the logistical support of both the British and Commonwealth troops.

One of his last jobs was as the staff officer responsible for cadet matters in London District, bringing him into direct contact with Combined Cadet Force and Army Cadet Force cadets. This affinity with young people was always visible at Bisley, where he was a constant friend to cadets and those involved in the cadet movement. He was a servant of all ranks concerned with shooting, from the most junior cadet upwards, whether national or international. He welcomed the Royal Canadian Army Cadet National Rifle Team every year, and led a successful Athelings team as Commandant in 2002.

Simon's relaxed approach was reflected in the permanent chaos of his desk, from which everything emerged when required nonetheless. This included, in his role as General Secretary, the minutes of innumerable meetings as well as everyday correspondence and essential paperwork, all of which were of very high quality.

Thanks to Simon's engaging personality the Great Britain Under-19 Rifle Team to South Africa has flourished. His love of that country has been reflected in the constant enthusiasm with which he has promoted the tour to cadets who often, depending on their age, were in the throes of A-Level revision. The experience they had was immensely educational, at the South African Bisley Union (SABU) meeting at Bloemfontein and during the accompanying tour. The gratitude of South Africans to Simon for – quite literally – keeping junior shooting alive, by providing a visiting team each year against which a team had to be fielded, is reflected in his appointment as a Vice President of SABU. Despite the lion's share of the administration of the tour falling on Simon's shoulders, he always competed. He is no mean shot in his own right, having learned to shoot at Rugby School, where he was Captain of the VIII.

In 1997 he and his family moved to Somerset, requiring a weekly as opposed to daily commute. The theory was that he would leave at lunchtime on a Friday and return on Monday; the practice was, inevitably, different. Despite the pleas of CCRS Trustees Simon would regularly leave Bisley in the late afternoon – if indeed he left at all, as there were frequent shooting events he felt obliged to attend. In all weathers he preferred to sleep in his caravan, snug beside Derby Lodge, rather



than make his way to a cold and draughty clubhouse elsewhere at Bisley. However, this meant that he never really got away from his job, and was regularly to be found in his office late into the evening working quietly. This work regularly concerned the CCRS accounts which Simon, a proud Scotsman, kept with great care and canniness, always determined to spend as little money as necessary to achieve a given result. Given the opportunity, he would don his kilt for a formal occasion, and he is a knowledgeable source of information about whiskys.

It was a great joy when Simon was appointed MBE in 2008, an award described by one officer as the hardest earned he knew of. It reflected Simon's immense and varied contribution to CCRS and cadet shooting, whether negotiating with a general on their behalf or cleaning a rifle in the armoury. The longest serving Secretary at Derby Lodge by far, his substantial presence will be greatly missed by all his many friends at Bisley and in the cadet world as a whole, as he enjoys his very well deserved retirement. It is entirely consistent with his commitment to cadet shooting that he should consider his greatest reward from his time at Derby Lodge to be that 23 of the 26 members of the recent winning Palma Team are former cadets, many of whom were active during his tenure at CCRS. ■

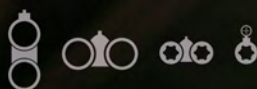
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The big leagues

The NRA Shotgun and Handgun Leagues are exciting – and growing – events in UK shooting. James Harris has the news from the NRA Leagues

Shotgun roundup

After the extravaganza of the Cottesloe Heath Challenge at the end of July a short interlude to the circuit was a welcome chance to recuperate and prepare for the autumn and winter season matches. Things recommenced in early September, with Romsey Shooting club hosting another round of the NRA Shotgun League (this time with competitors from the USA!).

The Romsey team always makes the most of the space available and long range targets (for a shotgun) were very much in evidence: buckshot targets varied between 20m and 45m, and birdshot from the bare minimum all the way out to 50m if you chose to try for them. A few learned the hard way that being able to see it does not mean you can knock it over. On other stages the intelligent use of sleepers forced shooters into awkward positions and quickly punished those that didn't take a proper sight picture, irrespective of gun mount. The ability to shoot from both shoulders is achievable by all but practised by few; those attending the next match at Romsey in April 2017 had better practise!

Rolling forward to the start of winter saw the Target Shotgun Festival held 12-13 November at Bisley. In driving rain John Chambers notched up another superb score of 300.21 in Timed and Precision 1 semi-auto, with Rob Sanders winning the manual class with a score of 298.16. As if to prove a point John then went on to win the Multi-Target, with a score of 104.8, as well as the NRA Embassy Cup match, dropping only two points to record a 118 ex-120. Not bad considering the targets had to be covered with plastic bags due to the rain!

After being thoroughly soaked on Saturday, Sunday's blue sky was welcome relief to the crew and competitors for the



Rob Sanders shooting his way to first place on an overcast and soggy Butt Zero



Robin Shelley takes on Romsey SC's course

10th round of the NRA Shotgun League. This match is always well-attended and provides excellent value for money with nine stages spread across the width of Butt Zero. This popularity may lead to a cap on numbers at the next match (26 February 2017) so please enter early to avoid disappointment.

Bisley is blessed with one of the few ranges in the UK where solid slug can be used. As the NGB for Target Shotgun in all its forms it would be remiss not to include its use in the match. This match placed an emphasis on accuracy,

featuring both distant targets and penalties in close proximity; failure to know their point of aim led to a few competitors scoring zero on more than one stage – a clear case for more range space to practise on!

With slug costing upwards of 50p a shot, birdshot is of course the main ammunition type used. This allows the use of metal targets that tumble and fly through the air in a very satisfying way when hit with a good solid pattern, thus the penalty targets can be set quite light to trap those who fail to aim.



Russell Hicks shooting at Worcester Norton SC WNSC

Stage One was indicative of things to come: the penalties got closer as the target distance increased until, at 9m, there was just a 1ft gap to shoot through (plenty of space for those that knew their pattern). Other difficulties of note were the heavy plates at distance which posed the perennial challenge of calculating time spent getting closer versus time spent aiming; as few can run at 1,250fps the logical choice would be to stand still but one or two chose the energetic solution to the problem.

Handgun roundup

This year marked the turning point for the NRA Handgun League, as the number of matches hosted at venues in the regions matched those run by the NRA at Bisley. The most prolific of the supporting clubs is Frome and District, who made very good use of their new facility to run the first of their three matches this year over the weekend of 24-25 September. Targets were presented as close as 2m and all the way out to 40m, which is something of a challenge for most competitors who are normally restricted to 25m ranges to practise on. In addition to the clever use of target frames to encourage multiple shooting positions, a few mechanisms such as knock-over plates, bobbars (the target sways like a pendulum when activated) and drop turners (which exposes the target for perhaps 1.5 seconds) were also in evidence, ensuring that every stage had a twist to it.

Running alongside this was the 5th round of the NRA Mini-Rifle League, giving shooters the opportunity to shoot two great matches over the same weekend. The stage was designed to be shot with pistols so times were significantly faster due to the greater accuracy of rifles. Results were a little slow in coming; it is thanks to Jon Axe that they were available on the day.

Hot on the heels of this inaugural match was the next Handgun League match at Worcester Norton on 8 October. The turnout was less than ideal but the shooting challenges made for a great event. Making full use of all three ranges ensured that stages were efficiently run; both rapid and more deliberate firing were tested.

Late October saw the Handgun League return to Bisley on the second day of the Autumn Action Weekend. Although the turnout was again less than hoped for, the competitors enjoyed the match – no doubt due to the favorable weather and improved facilities at Butt Zero. The turning target systems were put to good use for the standard exercises and Tim Gardiner showed great form to win the revolver division by a clear margin. Top spot in the LBP Open class was convincingly taken by Ian Chamberlain, with Jon Axe putting in another solid performance to win LBP standard.

The Mini-Rifle League returned to Frome on 5 November, and the indoor ranges were a haven given the appalling weather! Having learned how the venue works from the previous match Neil Brooklyn put on another challenging match, catering specifically for minirifle and with an emphasis on distance to target and challenging shots with very tight penalty targets. The unexpected but welcome appearance of some old faces and a fair few new ones saw the field swell to a respectable 40+ which bodes well for the future of the sport. The addition of a film crew from Fieldsports TV emphasised the growing interest of this type of shooting brought about by the NRA's support. A short film can be seen on the Fieldsports TV Youtube channel at youtu.be/7EzLjC55orU. ■

Results from the Shotgun, Handgun and Mini-Rifle Leagues can be found on page 59.



George Granycome tackles the course at Frome as Stuart Green ROs



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OBITUARIES

MAJOR RJ (BOB) AITKEN 1935–2016



Bob Aitken is arguably best known at Bisley as the large, genial Scotsman who would descend upon shooters wherever they were gathered together... and, rain or shine, he always had a wad of raffle tickets on him! Bob would engage in good natured banter and shooting gossip with them yet somehow always got his fiver from each of the shooters to help support Scottish Target Rifle teams

abroad. And for some unrecorded reason he was known to many as 'Big Bad Bob'.

Bob's death represents the loss within weeks of two giants in Scottish target shooting circles. Alistair Munro was the left handed (one handed) shot who established the West Atholl rifle club on its beautiful range at Blair Atholl and promoted the use of electronic targets. And now Bob Aitken is gone.

Coming to Edinburgh after a military career, he worked in insurance for the Royal Bank and set about using his considerable administrative and leadership skills to the benefit of Scottish shooting. After leaving the Royal Bank, Bob was General Secretary of the Scottish Sports Association for over 10 years and it was entirely appropriate when he won the Scottish Sports Council award for Scottish Volunteer of the Year 1999 across all sports, beating Scottish rugby union coach Jim Telfer.

At club level, he was the East of Scotland Rifle Club. He was Captain and Secretary for more than 40 years. He negotiated tirelessly with police and military to retain target shooting for club members at Dreghorn and latterly Castlelaw Ranges to the south of Edinburgh. He produced rifles and ammunition for every evening shoot and his energy level was enormous. Every year he ran an open championship in September – most recently on the electronic targets of Blair Atholl range. In later years he combined some of the shoots and was still able to get through the programme of championship events in a single day. Shooters got used to firing 17 shots in competitions, when the norm was still 10 or 15 counting shots.

Bob was particularly supportive of young shooters and his advice and humour assisted many in the sport over the years – his immense pride at those who went on to represent county or country at the highest levels of competition was reward enough.

Passionate about all sports, Bob had been active in five favoured sports over time – athletics, football, hockey and basketball, and only latterly target shooting.

Bob was a fine shot in his own right. He captained Scotland for six years, represented Scotland in the National match on 26 occasions and in the MacKinnon 21 times. He was a member of numerous Scottish teams touring abroad and he had a particular affinity with Canada and British Columbia. He was made a Vice President of the NRA and he captained a GB team which toured to New Zealand in 2003, where he enjoyed some of his best competitive shooting – winning the Veterans' gold medal and coming fourth overall. An experienced team coach, he loved to tell the story of how he started coaching in 1979 with his United Banks team in a long range match at Bisley. The others were all smallbore shooters; they had one rifle between them – Bob's trusty P14. He scored a healthy 68-ex75, but then coached the others to scores of 75, 75, 74, 73 and 72. His success was noted by the captain of the following year's GB team to Canada and the next thing he knew he was on that GB team as a coach!

But it was on the Scottish national target shooting scene that he most excelled. In 1965 he was a founding member of the Scottish Shooting Council, which combined all disciplines of target shooting for the first time. He was appointed the Target Shooting Facilities manager for the 1986 Commonwealth games in Edinburgh and worked tirelessly to find a suitable venue for the smallbore events.

Eventually during the Games he was travelling 200 miles a day between Barry Buddon for fullbore rifle, Kippen for shotgun and Musselburgh Racecourse for the smallbore events. One of the teams turned up with a very large container which required a forklift truck to move it. Inside were neatly-packed pistols and a very large quantity of beer. The team withdrew because of apartheid issues but only the pistols got home.

Bob was a strong supporter of Commonwealth Games shooting and embraced the opportunity that it gave for the smaller countries to compete against larger nations' athletes on a level range. He twice went to the Commonwealth Games as part of the Scottish team management – including the 1994 games in Victoria, where the Scottish shooting team won a record seven medals. Later judging roles in the Manchester, Kuala Lumpur and Melbourne Games kept him on the move.

He was Chair of the Scottish Shooting Council/Scottish Target shooting in 1987-1995 and worked hard with all the disciplines – strongly promoting the ideal of a combined range for all target shooting disciplines. It is a matter of regret for his many Scottish shooting friends that this wish is only now, in 2016, possibly about to become reality at a combined range near Falkirk.

Bob is survived by the ever supportive Margaret, a well-known figure to many at Bisley, and the five children of whom he was always immensely proud – Alan, Alison, Carol, Colin and David, all of whom enjoyed life with Bob on the ranges over the years.

MAJOR ALASTAIR 'AJ' MUNRO MBE TD 1916-2016



At his funeral in the Blair Atholl Kirk on 13 September 2016, a card from the Queen stood on Major Alastair Munro's coffin. She had not been informed that Alastair had died nine days before his 100th birthday.

His was a remarkable life. He was born in New Zealand where his mother endured a three-day journey on horseback to hospital in Masterton, and another three days back to the humble family farm.

The family returned to their farm in Morayshire when Alastair was only three. He joined the Royal Artillery in the mid-1930s and progressed from Bombadier in 1938 to Major in 1944. These promotions were a tribute to Alastair's competence and leadership skills – skills that he continued to show after the war as one of the factors for the vast Atholl Estates based at Blair Castle.

In the last year of the war in Burma he was shot in the right arm and spent months in various hospitals in both England and Scotland. It was at this time that he met his wife Mollie, who was one of his nurses.

Unfortunately his arm had to be amputated and thereafter he used a claw or hook and had to shoot with a special rest, but he remained proficient with both rifle and shotgun.

When Alastair came to Blair Atholl he joined the fullbore and smallbore rifle clubs. He was secretary of the smallbore club for 21 years, and subsequently Chair and Vice President of the club.

He organised three very successful Scottish national smallbore meetings in the spacious castle grounds at Blair. He only stopped shooting smallbore in his 96th year.

He was elected to the fullbore committee in 1953, became Chairman from 1958 to 1991 and remained on the committee for 63 years.

He did more for fullbore target shooting in Scotland than any other Scot has. At a time when military and other ranges were closing he was instrumental in setting up the magnificent Jubilee range in Glen Tilt in 1977, designing and supervising it. The Duke's instruction to Alastair was to find land that would never be built on, and would never have a road run through it. The six-target range was originally confined to 1,000 yards but now extends back to 1,233 yards. Many visiting Australians and Canadians, stunned by its spectacular setting, have asked to roll it up and take it home.

As chairman of West Atholl, he encouraged the Scottish police to hold their championships on the Jubilee range and the event has continued since 1982. He encouraged Canadians from British Columbia and Australia to visit and lasting friendships were formed. He was keen to fire a cannon to mark the arrival of the team from British Columbia in 1979. He took some bad advice on the amount of powder required to fire one of the cannons at Blair. The ensuing explosion produced noise and smoke and 14 broken windows in the castle. Alastair was meant to be in charge of castle property!

Alastair was a regular visitor to Bisley and won many cups and medals. He captained Scotland for three years in the National and MacKinnon, but what we should remember him for is the encouragement, training and guidance he gave so readily to so many Scottish shooters. He took the first Scottish team abroad to the Channel Islands and then to Canada in 1979. He pushed for the installation of electronic targets at Blair, and for the last eight years they have been a tremendous success with visiting shooters.

Alastair was predeceased by his wife Mollie. He decided that, as he was in his 90s, he needed to get a house in the village so that he could walk to the village shop, when and if his driving license was not renewed. He did not need to pay any stamp duty on the purchase of his house as he was a first time buyer – and his driving licence was always renewed! In the last few years he has been cared for devotedly by his son John, first in the village cottage and later in the cottage hospital at Pitlochry, where he was known as 'the Major'.

"A gentleman and a hero to the end."



PHILIP ROWELL

13 October 1922 - 4 August 2016

Philip was born and grew up in Northampton where his father was a schoolmaster. He studied architecture at Liverpool University between 1941-1942 and again after the war between 1946-1948.

During the war Philip did his flying training at RNAS Yeovilton before becoming an officer of 894 Naval Air Squadron from April 1945 to March 1946. He flew an LIII Seafire from HMS Indefatigable in the Japanese Pacific War, when the kamikaze were targeting the ship. Philip's wry sense of humour recalled many memories of his time with Indefatigable. He would recount how, within a few days of joining, his Commander addressed him with: "Rowell, your shorts are indecently short. Go and change them!" and the time when he lost an aircraft over the side of a ship and had to complete a lost property A25 form. With a laugh, he would often sing the chorus: 'Cracking show, I'm alive, but I still have to render my A25.' He was later editor of the newsletter for HMS Indefatigable Association for many years.

Between 1948 and 1950 Philip was with the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve Force after which, while working in Scotland on road surveying and building in 1952, he met his future wife Jean at the Inchnacardoch Hotel where Jean was working. They married in 1954 in Inverness Cathedral.

He then worked for Associated Electrical Industries between 1954 and 1963 living in Bournemouth, Hampshire, near Aldermaston. Philip continued working as an architect until 1966 when he joined the Forestry Commission as a civil engineer. When the Forestry Commission moved its HQ to Edinburgh Philip was concerned that it was far too far from Bisley, so he took another Forestry Commission job in Newtown, Wales from 1974 until he retired in the early 1980s.

Philip's shooting career was long and distinguished. He and his brother, Pat, were both members of the Liverpool University Rifle Club in 1946-1947, and he competed until 2008.

A keen participant in the Imperial Meeting at Bisley (his index number was almost invariably lower than 100), he won three Grand Aggregate Bronze Crosses, being in the top 25 in 1962 (22nd), 1981 (15th) (when the above photograph was taken) and 1983 (18th). He also appeared in 10 Queen's Finals between 1961 and 1991. In 1966 he came second in the Queen's Prize, earning the right to have '(SB)' after his name, or, in his own words: "I am entitled to the dubious handle 'SB', by virtue of finishing with an OUTER and the Silver Badge in 1966. Obviously in my case, at least, it means 'Silly Bugger'."

Philip was an enthusiastic shot involved with many teams. He was instrumental in founding a club, over lunch at Bisley, from which county shots for Hampshire could be selected. He named it 'Manydown' after the Manydown Estate, which he found in his cottage's title deeds. It is estimated that half of the current Manydown membership have shot for Hampshire at some point, including Philip.

As a member of the Forestry Commission, Philip was a member of the Civil Service rifle team. He regularly visited the Altcar range, and of course shot with the Royal Naval Target Rifle Club. He was



Secretary and Membership Secretary for the English XX and used to organise its Spring Meetings.

In 1997 Philip was proud to be captain of the Lawrence Match, and also of the England National Team which set a new record score. He himself was selected for England in the National match three times (in 1981, 1982 (as reserve) and 1983). He also shot in the MacKinnon match in 1968 and was reserve in 1967 and 1980. He represented Great Britain on tours to Kenya in 1977, and New Zealand and Canada in 1984 as Adjutant.

In his late 70s he took up match rifle, achieving fifth place in the English VIII Autumn meeting in 1998.

Philip was a stalwart supporter of the London & Middlesex Rifle Association, describing it earlier this year as "a vital part of his life since 1947." Here he was Chairman of the Shooting Committee and then club President.

He was generous with his time, knowledge and support for other shooters on Bisley Camp and many remember him fondly as their 'shooting uncle'. He was also involved in running the LMRA training courses. Even after the 2015 Imperial Meeting, when he could no longer come to Bisley, on sending congratulations he wrote: 'I still feel a warm glow when a friend has a good one. Well done – now do it again and again!'

Philip made many friends at Bisley. In 2012 he wrote that: 'although now firmly retired from active shooting, I want to keep in touch with as many of my shooting friends as possible. A few years ago, I would be utterly miserable if I was at Bisley and, for any reason, unable to shoot. Now I don't miss the shooting at all, but I do miss my friends, nearly all of whom are associated with this lifelong addiction.'

Philip had many other interests. He loved music, especially 16th century church music. He sang in the choir at St Mary's Church in Aldermaston and liked attending Guildford Cathedral when he stayed at Bisley. He was also fond of animals, particularly cats, and would recall tales of Fluff and Edward (Edipuss).

He often spoke proudly of his family. He leaves his wife, Jean; a daughter, Joanna, who has three daughters; and a son, James, who lives in Hong Kong.

Philip is recalled as a kind, softly spoken gentleman with an excellent sense of humour and a wry approach to life. He will be much missed and here I note his last words of apologies to the LMRA: 'Please convey to Council and so many friends, my greetings and good wishes.'



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Results

Phoenix – June

Open Division

1. R Lewis, 100.00
2. P Matthews, 73.29
3. K Dawes, 72.18

Standard Division

1. M Gustaffson, 100.00
2. J Harris, 95.50
3. R Hicks, 86.40

Target shotgun festival

T&P1 SGSA

1. J Chambers, 300.21
2. R Sanders, 296.14
3. T Fry, 294.14

T&P1 SGM

1. R Sanders, 298.16
2. J Chambers, 297.16
3. T Fry, 294.15

T&P1 Classic

1. T Fry, 295.7

Multi-Target SGSA

1. J Chambers, 104.8
2. T Jemmett, 101.6
3. R Sanders, 101.4

NRA Embassy Cup SGSA

1. J Chambers, 118
2. T Jemmett, 108
3. B Woolgar, 80

NRA Shotgun League Round 9

Open Division

1. R Ingram, 100.00
2. C Pope, 72.11
3. L Bailey, 70.98

Standard Division

1. M Sienesi, 100.00
2. J Axe, 92.67
3. J Harris, 91.62

Standard Manual Division

1. I Guy, 100.00
2. M Hamil, 67.38
3. B Moore, 67.12

NRA Shotgun League Round 10

Open Division

1. R Ingram, 100.00
2. J Williamson, 67.27
3. P Matthews, 58.12

Standard Division

1. J Harris, 100.00
2. P Hastings, 86.42
3. M Gustafsson, 85.73

Standard Manual Division

1. C Kenneally, 100.00
2. J Holloway, 85.57
3. A Hatfield, 83.16

NRA Handgun League Round 5

LBP Open

1. A Haines, 100.00
2. T Gardiner, 88.30
3. C Edwards, 82.30

LBP Standard

1. N Towndrow, 100.00
2. J Axe, 88.44
3. C Smoothy, 85.47

NRA Handgun League Round 6

LBP Open

1. I Chamberlain, 100.00
2. C Edwards, 93.65
3. M Derbyshire, 88.89

LBP Standard

1. N Towndrow, 100.00
2. J Axe, 97.09
3. C Smoothy, 73.92

LBR Open

1. G Biddle, 100.00
2. P Blaney, 87.60
3. S Smoothy, 72.27

NRA Handgun League Round 7

LBP Open

1. I Chamberlain, 100.00
2. R Hicks, 88.77
3. T Gardiner, 79.40

LBP Standard

1. J Axe, 100.00
2. J Harris, 91.78
3. R Clifton, 78.43

LBR Open

1. T Gardiner, 100.00
2. G Biddle, 94.40
3. P Matthews, 91.91

NRA Mini-Rifle League Round 5

Mini-Rifle Open

1. J Axe, 100.00
2. J Hicks, 99.34
3. M Sienesi, 96.91

NRA Mini-Rifle League Round 6

Mini-Rifle Open

1. M Darby, 100.00
2. J Hicks, 99.19
3. J Axe, 98.80

CSR Winter League Match – 5 November

Historic

1. H Davies, 100.00
2. A Florance, 71.43
3. J Foreman, 63.39

Iron

1. D Cross, 100.00
2. A Littler, 96.55
3. W Daysh, 73.56

Practical

1. C Hudson, 100.00
2. M Lee, 99.12
3. J Morgan-Hosey, 98.68

Service

1. J Chambers, 100.00
2. P Cottrell, 98.27
3. N Greenaway, 97.40

CSR Winter League – Standings to date

Competitor, league points

Historic

1. J Foreman, 437.31
2. H Davies, 193.48
3. A Florance, 171.43

Iron

1. D Cross, 385.71
2. A Littler, 194.87
3. W Daysh, 173.56

Practical

1. N St Aubyn, 486.86
2. J Morgan-Hosey, 477.13
3. O Larrue, 468.46

Service

1. A Chapman, 487.62
2. P Cottrell, 474.71
3. N Greenaway, 472.61

Autumn Action Weekend

Competitor, Score, Tie score

McQueen GRSB

1. C McGill, 50.10, 50.7
2. G Gough, 50.7, 50.4
3. K Knight, 50.6, 50.5

McQueen

1. S Doyle, 50.8, 50.4
2. P Lomas, 50.7, 50.4
3. C McGill, 50.5, 50.8

McQueen Issued Rifle

1. C McGill, 50.4
2. S Doyle, 50.2
3. D Nash, 50.0

NOTICES

ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, 2016

NAME	GENERAL COUNCIL	SHOOTING	MEMBERSHIP	TYPE
NO. OF MEETINGS	3	3	3	
GK Alexander *	1	X	0	O
HRM Bailie *	3	X	X	R
GV Barnard	3	2	X	R
Mrs ID Bennett	1	X	X	R
JPS Bloomfield *	3	3	X	O
CM Brooks	1	X	X	O
A Bullen	3	2	X	D
DP Calvert	1	3	X	O
AMW Cargill-Thompson	1	2	X	D
MJJ Charlton	1	X	X	O
ARK Clayton	0	0	X	O
PR Coley	3	X	X	R
DC Crispin	3	X	X	O
CES Dickenson	1	1	X	D
HF Dunton	3	X	X	R
S East	1	0	X	D
N Francis	1	1	X	D
GMLN Gilpin	1	X	X	O
JS Harris *	2	3	X	D
J Morgan Hosey	1	2	X	D
D Kent	0	0	X	D
TLW Kidner	0	X	X	R
JM Kynoch	2	X	X	O
GAE Larcombe	3	3	1	R
M Maksimovic *	1	X	1	O
TS McDowell	3	X	X	O
JF Miller	3	X	1	R
WCP Richards	1	X	X	O
AP Wolpe	3	2	X	D
RM Roberts	3	X	X	O
Mrs KD Robertson	0	X	X	O
PN Ryder	3	2	X	D
I Shirra-Gibb	3	1	X	D
G Trembath	0	X	X	R
PDC Turner	0	X	X	O
JD Warburton	3	X	X	R
MP Watkins	2	X	X	R
D Young	2	X	X	R

TABLE KEY

* = Members of the Council (Board of Trustees)

X = not a member of that committee

O = Ordinary member

R = Regional member

D = Discipline member

Electronic price change

The NRA electronic targets at Butt 19 are now priced at £10/hr weekdays and £15/hr at the weekend and bank holidays. The targets are available at the following ranges: Tue-Wed 200 yards; Thu-Fri 100 yards; Sat-Sun 300 yards. To book the electronic targets use the electronic booking system at www.nra.org.uk and choose Butt 19.

New Classic and Historic targets

The NRA has acquired a set of Round Bull and Tin Hat targets for use by Classic and Historic shooters. They were used this year at the Trafalgar Meeting and will be used in future events including the Phoenix and Imperial Historic Arms Meeting.

The targets are based on the 1971 dimensions and include a 200 yard, 300 yard and 500/600 yard target face. The only discrepancy is the outer, which had to be reduced for the 200 and 300 yard targets due to the 36" bolt-on panels in use on Century and Short Siberia ranges. They will be the standard target used for NRA Historic events, and can be ordered by shooters who do not want to use NRA Round Bull targets at medium range.

TARGET DIMENSIONS IN INCHES

	200	300	500/600
Aiming mark	12	18	36
V-bull	3.5	5	10
Bull	5	7.5	15
Inner	12	18	36
Magpie	24	30	48
Outer	35	35	72
Hit	46x46	46x46	70x60

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Marksman's Calendar

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JANUARY

07, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter League)

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

FEBRUARY

04-05, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

05, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter League)

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

25-26, Target Shotgun Festival

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

25-26, Club Instructor

(General Skills) Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

MARCH

04, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter League)

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

04-05, RCO Course

NRA Training Division
01483 797777 x149 or 158

training@nra.org.uk

25-26, Gallery Rifle (Spring Action Weekend)

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

APRIL

01, Historic Service Rifle Match

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

01-02, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

02, Civilian Service Rifle (Winter League)

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

08, NRA/MLAGB RCO

Endorsement Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

08-09, NRA TR Basic

Skills Development Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

22, IBIS Open Meeting

Bill Rowland, 0207 696 5249,
billvbulibisrc@yahoo.co.uk

22-23, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

23, The Small-bore Long Range Match

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

29-30, ATSC Target Rifle Open Meeting

ATSC Open Meeting,
atsc.open.meeting@gmail.com

MAY**13-14, RCO Course**

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

**20-21, Club Instructor
(General Skills) Course**

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

20-21, British 300m Championships

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

26-28, Phoenix Meeting

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

JUNE**16-22 July, The 148th Imperial Meeting**

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

17-18, Inter Counties Meeting 2017

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

**22, NRA Military Adaptive
Shooting Championship 2017**

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

**28-02 July, NRA Imperial Meeting,
CSR Meeting**

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

JULY**07-13, NRA Imperial Meeting,
Match Rifle Events**

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

**10-13, NRA Imperial Meeting,
Schools Meeting**

Peter Turner, schools@nra.org.uk

**12-16, NRA Imperial Meeting,
GR&P Events**

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

**14-18, NRA Imperial Meeting,
F-Class Rifle Events**

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

**14-22, NRA Imperial Meeting,
Target Rifle Events**

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

21, The Vizianagram

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

**22, NRA 148th Imperial Meeting,
HM Queen's Prize**

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

**28-30, Cottesloe Heath Challenge,
NRA Shotgun League**

Sharon Baker, 01483 797777,
sharon.baker@nra.org.uk

AUGUST**05-06, TR Basic Skills Development Course**

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777 x149
or 158, training@nra.org.uk

26-27, Gallery Rifle National Championships

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

SEPTEMBER**02, NRA Precision Shooting
Competition (in aid of RBL)**

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

03, NRA Handgun & Minirifle League

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

09-10, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

30, Historic Service Rifle Match

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

OCTOBER**01, Civilian Service Rifle
(Winter League 2017/18)**

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

**07-08, Club Instructor
(General Skills) Course**

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

14-15, The Ages Match

Sally Wilson, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

21-22, The Trafalgar Meeting 2017

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

21-22, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

**28-29, Gallery Rifle,
Autumn Action Weekend**

Shooting Division, 01483 797777,
sally.wilson@nra.org.uk

NOVEMBER**04, Civilian Service Rifle
(Winter League 2017/18)**

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

11-12, Target Shotgun Festival

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

11-12, RCO Course

NRA Training Division, 01483 797777
x149 or 158, training@nra.org.uk

**18, NRA/MLAGB RCO
Endorsement Course**

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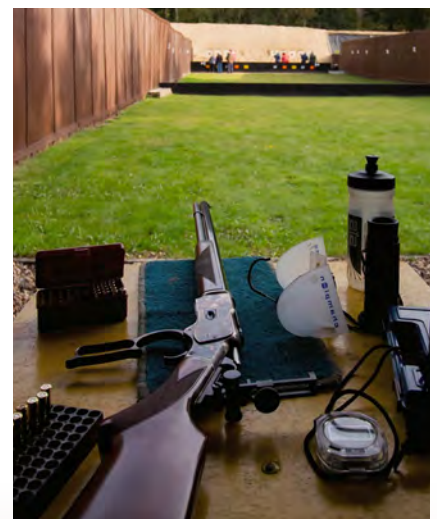
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Katia Malcaus Cooper talks to NRA Disability Representative Olaf Jones

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I started as an air cadet at the age of 13, firstly with rimfire target rifles and latterly with fullbore .303 Enfields of various marks. I always preferred the fullbore rifles and in particular the longer ranges we shot at.

What has been the most memorable moment in your career?

Being part of the winning GB F-Class rifle team at the 2009 World Championships, held at Bisley, and also captaining the GB 'B' Team at the same event.

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

Not having a left elbow anymore. But where there is a will...

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

They are extremely supportive, and my wife shoots too.

What sort of music do you listen to?

I have the radio in my car tuned to Classic FM, but I also enjoy listening to music that has plenty of energy, like rock music.

What club are you a member of?

The Grove Small Arms Club, based in Norfolk. I believe it boasts one of the largest memberships in the country!

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

I don't have any heroes – I never really believed in 'idolatriy' and I have always relied on my own decision-making processes. I think a firm self belief is important. I also don't believe in self promotion or flattery, although I always give credit where it is due.

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

New Zealand, no question. I have been there but not on a Team Tour, although I did go to Trentham range just to see what the fuss was about!

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

I was initially influenced as a cadet shooting long range targets on Stickle-down range at Bisley as a teenager. I was amazed that shooting took place at up to 1,200 yards (which is nearly three-quarters of a mile!) although I only shot at 1,000 yards. That gave me some bragging rights at school. I am also currently the NRA's Disability Representative.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I compete as a disabled athlete in throwing events (shot put and discus). I also enjoy riding my motorcycles and travelling abroad when I have the time to do so.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

Not really. As an F-Class shooter all I need to do is remember to bring everything in the house that isn't fixed to the floors or the walls! Efficers have so much kit to take to the range that we always take everything, for those JIC moments – you know what I mean.

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

Don't give it a second thought – find yourself a local club so that you can receive all the relevant coaching regarding safety and safe handling of firearms, marksmanship principles, cleaning and maintenance and so on. Above all remember to enjoy the experience of shooting, whatever disciplines you prefer, while maintaining personal discipline and situational awareness.

So what next?

I would like to see many more people take up our beloved sport and help to dispel many preconceived notions which surround shooting and unfortunately negatively stigmatise our sport. I would also like to encourage more people with disabilities to take up shooting. ■



Peter Cottrell (left) with Olaf Jones at the NRA Adaptive Competition during the 147th Imperial



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