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Autumn 2018 – Volume XCVII No. 3

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Moving forward

As another Imperial fades into memory, NRA chief executive Andrew Mercer surveys the opportunities and challenges ahead for the association and for shooting as a whole

The passage of the Offensive Weapons Bill through the Commons Committee stage has highlighted a number of potential challenges to come for the shooting community. Draft amendments, thankfully withdrawn, included poorly conceived restrictions on air rifles, home loading of ammunition, and antique firearms. We need to be continually alert to ensure these or other damaging amendments do not creep into the Bill again as it progresses through parliament. We have made some progress in securing reassurances that .50 calibre will not be prohibited but subject to greater home security restrictions.

I am becomingly increasingly concerned at the tone of briefings that appears to be driving these attempts to impose greater regulation on the law-abiding shooting community. Time and again the reaction to reports of increasing criminality is to propose greater restrictions on those who respect the law. NABIS' (National Ballistics Intelligence Service) statistics on gun crime are regularly quoted in the press and by politicians, often out of context, and while NABIS have excellent technical skills, they can hardly be viewed as without conflict in firearms matters as their funding (£1.7 million annually) comes from the public purse. Providing intelligence based on good science to the police is essential; however, NABIS appear to be straying into influencing firearms policy, where their motives risk being misunderstood.

Memories of the 2018 Imperial Meeting are slipping quickly away. The extraordinary temperatures experienced by competitors are but a distant memory. The quality of issued ammunition was the subject of lively debate; this is quite routine and is always the subject of vigorous discussion during the meeting. We do recognise that the level of complaint was higher than usual and have commissioned some research; this includes a survey of 200 or so TR competitors. To date only 50 have responded, suggesting that any problems may have been exaggerated. However, we have sent reminders to the 150 and I hope they will take a few minutes to respond.

At Bisley we are settling down to a busy autumn on the ranges. What is particularly noticeable is the rapid growth in popularity of the electronic targets on Stickledown and Century ranges. Not surprisingly, the option to book by the hour is proving popular, and to my considerable delight we are seeing a steady stream of shooters tempted to shoot long range for the first time. Our early experiences suggest buying electronic targets is easy; installing them into a busy



range complex rather more challenging; but maintaining the equipment to withstand the very high numbers of shots is the main requirement for success.

Shooter Certification Cards (SCC) have been a hot topic among some of our affiliated clubs recently, with our decision to print all SCCs at Bisley for 2019. It is fair to say that some of the practical issues dealing with the collation and transfer of personal information have proved more complicated than we originally anticipated, but clubs are returning the forms in good time and our membership staff are coping well. Future years will be much easier as we will be focused on new entrants and leavers.

Finally, I am looking forward to attending the South Yorkshire Shooting Show at the end of September. We have deliberately withdrawn from attending shows over the past three years but Nic Couldrey, NRA Regional Ranges Manager, has persuaded us to trial promoting and encouraging full bore target shooting to our affiliated clubs in Yorkshire and the north-east. ■

NEWS

REPORTS

MCINTOSH WINS WORLD 300M GOLD



Seonaid McIntosh was crowned the winner in women's 50m rifle prone at the ISSF World Championships in Changwon, Korea.

The 22-year-old Scot finished on top of the leaderboard after an incredibly close-fought competition on 5 September.

As women's prone is not an Olympic discipline, there is no final in this event – so it was a straight 60-shot fight for the top spot.

In the end, no fewer than four athletes were in contention going into the final 10-shot detail. As well as McIntosh, there was Slovakia's Daniela Peskova, Germany's Isabella Straub and another German, Jacqueline Orth.

It was Peskova who held the lead after 50 shots, and appeared to be in a commanding position – but she couldn't hold her nerve in the final detail.

Meanwhile, McIntosh and Straub had matched each other almost shot for shot – they achieved exactly the same score in each of the first three details – and Straub was now 0.2 ahead of McIntosh. In fourth place, Orth was just 0.2 behind.

Orth shot a strong 103.9 in the last 10 shots but it wasn't enough to propel her out of fourth place. Peskova dropped back to third with 101.5. Between Straub and McIntosh, the competition wasn't decided until the very last shot.

Nine shots in, Straub had the lead by 0.5. Her final shot was a 10.2 – good but not unbeatable. McIntosh stepped up and shot a perfect 10.9 to take gold by the slimmest of margins.

Great Britain took another medal in the team version of the same event, as Seonaid and her sister Jen McIntosh plus Zoe Bruce won bronze, behind Germany and Denmark.

SHOULER WINS THE ST GEORGE

Rick Shouler took first place by a 6v margin (148.21) to win the St George's Vase, chased by Brooking (2nd, 148.15) and Nice (3rd, 148.13),

In recent years, a 150 possible has typically been required to stand any chance of winning St George's, but the infamous final day weather interfered in this shoot, just as it did with Queen's Final.

Nobody managed to score a 75 on the final stage – Shouler and Brooking shot the joint best scores of the stage with 74.9v. Neither of these two had been carrying a 75 from the previous stage – in fact, only seven in the entire field were, and none could keep the pace on the final stage, some scoring as low as 65 or 66.

Ultimately, there were no 150s or even any 149s, and just four on 148. Shouler's 12 v-bulls to Brooking's six in the second stage meant he would emerge victorious in one of the most challenging and memorable St George's shoots in many years.



IMPERIAL AMMUNITION UNDER REVIEW

After this year's Imperial Meeting. The NRA will undertake a review of the performance of the supplied ammunition for TR events.

Chief executive Andrew Mercer said: "With a busy meeting behind us we have taken note of concerns about the performance of the issued

ammunition in TR competitions. Whilst every meeting yields queries, criticism, comment and occasional praise on this matter I have decided to instigate a careful review of the performance of the issued ammunition. I am mindful of the exceptionally hot conditions; these may well have been contributing factors but

we are seeking assistance to see if we can highlight any consistent factors.

"We have commissioned a series of further ammunition tests and will shortly be surveying selected groups of competitors. We will publish a summary of our findings later this year once the programme of testing and evaluation is complete."



LETTER: THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN

I have just returned from a week at Bisley for the Imperial CSR matches. It struck me that, while we often hear of complaints from the clubs of rents being too high and profitability not being able to sustain the high rents, there is another story to be told.

On one night, at 9.40pm, I attended a certain club bar for a nightcap with a few friends. I was greeted by the manager as I laid my hand on the door handle with, "We called last orders at 9.30pm – see you next time, Squire." So, in effect, turning away money.

At the same club, a couple of days later, six of us arrived to get some food and drink at around 7.30pm. In effect, that is about £200 of turnover for the club. As I tried to pick up the menu from the bar, it was snatched from me by staff. I

laughed, thinking it was a joke. I then realised he was serious. "We have stopped serving," says he. When I replied, "What time do you stop?" he came back with a curt "Now." I asked whether it would be possible to fit us in seeing as we were only seconds 'late', and got another curt negative reply.

So I popped 50 yards up the road to another club, who gave me a bright welcome, seemed genuinely pleased I had chosen them, and promptly served me a lovely meal (actually better food than the first club, if I am honest). I received a phone call from my club mates that they had 'persuaded' the manager to serve them, but I declined the invitation to return as I am not in the habit of begging businesses to accept my custom.

Later we reconvened for drinks at a third club. Again, a friendly welcome and cheap drinks for as long as we cared to put money on the bar. That first club has been my default choice for years but it will no longer be so. Clearly, their profit margin is comfortably high if they can turn away business on a regular basis – maybe their rent is too low?

Brian McManus





JOHN GLEN

21 FEBRUARY 1925 – 28 JUNE 2018

John Glen died aged 93 at his home in the Trossachs in June 2018. Businessman, sometime parliamentary candidate, angler, international rifle shot, raconteur and patriot, he was an immensely popular figure. He followed his father and grandfather to Glenalmond and, on leaving the college in 1943, joined the Royal Air Force and trained as a navigator in Canada. On demobilisation he joined Patons & Baldwins, the leading British manufacturer of knitting yarn. He married Jill and the company posted them to Johannesburg where John was a salesman. On his return to the United Kingdom, John joined Edward McBean & Co, the waterproofing manufacturers, and set up home in Balfron where John involved himself with the Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Skinners Company and politics. They later moved to Brig O' Turk.

Like his father and grandfather before him at Glenalmond, John was a member of the Shooting Eight. It was therefore natural for him to resume competitive target rifle shooting. On his first appearance in the Imperial Meeting at Bisley in 1953, he was selected to shoot for Scotland in the National match. His many triumphs on the rifle range over many years included shooting in the final of the Queen's Prize and being placed second in the St George's Vase in the Imperial Meeting at Bisley. He represented Great Britain and Scotland as a team member on many occasions which competed as far afield as Australia, Canada and the

West Indies. He captained the Scottish Rifle Association's target rifle team from 1976 to 1978, and was a member of the Council of the National Rifle Association of the United Kingdom and of the Scottish Rifle Association. His active participation in rifle shooting was curtailed after surgery on his hands. He and Jill continued to visit Bisley for the Imperial Meeting deriving pleasure in seeing two of his sons competing regularly in the Imperial Meeting.

Unsurprisingly, John Glen was a leading light in the affairs of the Old Glenalmond Rifle Club as its representative in Scotland from 1953 to 1961, its Secretary and Treasurer from 1962 to 1975 and as a Vice-President for the remaining 43 years of his life. The Glen caravan at Bisley was the venue for much hospitality hosted by Jill and the venue for the annual general meeting of the Old Glenalmond Rifle Club; it was also the source of practical help for competing OGs and Glenalmond pupils.

As a regular visitor to Bisley, John was a vocal critic of the unsatisfactory state of the ablutions. At annual meetings of competitors over several years he would ask, with tact and humour, the chairman of the National Rifle Association for improvements. In the end the NRA constructed a sparkling new edifice, which was immediately named, Glen's Glory. The following year, at the annual meeting, another competitor presented John with the "Order of the Bath" – a lavatory chain with a suspended bath-plug.

Above all, John Glen was fun to be with. He was a true friend of Glenalmond and its shooters.

HEDGEHOG HUT TO LET

The Hedgehog Hut on Elcho Road is available to let from 1 November 2018 for use as a private dwelling or club accommodation in connection with members' shooting at Bisley.

The lodge is being presented to a high standard, having undergone substantial refurbishment and redecoration. The property has been extensively refurbished with new floor coverings, new wall and ceiling insulation, new double glazed windows and front door, two new bedrooms, new gas fired central heating and hot water, new kitchen, and new shower / toilet. The property has been redecorated internally and externally.

The lodge is being offered by tender for lease to NRA members and affiliated organisations on a full repairing and insuring basis for a term of either (a) 7 years less one day; or (b) 21 years less one day. Rent will be reviewed by RPI at each three year anniversary.

The lodge is now available for viewing; to arrange an appointment please contact Andrew Mercer at the NRA, on 01483 797777 Ext 133. Email andrew.mercer@nra.org.uk

The deadline for offers, to be submitted in writing, is 12 noon on Friday 5 October 2018.

Full details and tender packs are available on request from Andrew Mercer by email, telephone or post to NRA, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB.





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Luckman's skill in the wind

The summer of 2018 broke records for hot days and rainless months, but the final stage of HM The Queen's Prize had a surprise in store, reports Alun Lewis

At the start of the 149th Imperial meeting cloudless and almost breezeless days tested the shooters. But then came the Queen's. And then came the infamous Bisley weather.

It started well enough on the final Wednesday, with 19 maximum scores of 105 and lots of Vs. In fact you had to look past the first 61 competitors to find anyone who had dropped more than one point. There was a good sprinkling of overseas visitors: Australia, Kenya, South Africa and of course Canada were all represented, as you would expect. Plus, of course, the contingent from the Channel Islands and the Netherlands. All seemed as it should be. But of the 815 hopefuls entering the last and most prestigious match of the Imperial, only 300 could progress.

So to Queen's 2 on Friday. The 300 had to battle worsening conditions, and so predictions and the form book went out of the window and were blown

across the Century range. Favourites faltered. And although, in the main, the top 100 achieved some high scores, it is an indication of how tricky it was when you realise that 144.18 was enough to get into the final. Which was pretty much as it had been last year when the wind played havoc with even the best aimed shots.

Of course the spread of scores would not matter if it were not for the excellent, though sometimes frustrating and controversial feature of the Queen's system, which sees the scores carried forward from Friday to Saturday. This can lead to some finals being virtually decided the day before. But not this year, as Bisley's weather gods had other tricks to play.

Whereas last year competitors, spectators, scorers and commentators alike got a good soaking and endured some gusty bursts of wind, this year the fine balmy weather of recent months

gave way to winds gusting from about 10 miles per hour up to something like 40 miles per hour, with a mean average of 24 mph. The lovely bright sunshine also played its part by disappearing in an instant and reappearing moments later. So even if a competitor was carrying a couple of points deficit into the final, the big prize was still up for grabs.

When message one was sent for the first stage of the final, at 900 yards, down on the left hand side of the range all seemed quiet and gentle in the shelter of the trees, while up at the top end of the Stickledown firing points mats and score-sheets were being blown about in the wind. But out at about 600 yards and then on to the targets the flags told their own story right across the range, dropping limp one moment and then out at full stretch the next. The shooter to best read the story and the one with a good bit of Bisley luck was going to triumph.

Looking down the list of finalists there were plenty of familiar names, and some new ones too. Whitby, Sykes, Luckman (though this was David not Andrew), Walker, Watson, Carson, Corbett, and a certain P Patel. Last year's winner with 148.21 was just two points behind the overnight leader, who had 150.13. But Parag Patel had left the firing point the day before with his favourite rifle's stock in two pieces, split right through the pistol grip. Not a promising start for a defence of his title.

David Luckman was probably wondering if this year it might be his turn to be chaired round the camp as his brother had been in 1995. Of course some of the finalists must have been thinking that they had no chance of glory, or even a mention, as they were already down in 41st place with a four-point deficit. Or worse being 91st, 5 points adrift and yet a three-time winner of the Queen's Prize. And spare a thought for those past winners, who even though they are still shooting well had not made the cut.

It is pleasing to see that there were plenty of new faces and lots of new blood. Juniors from here and abroad, as well as 10 females in the final. Six Canadians, three Australians, two South Africans (both juniors) a Dutchman, but sadly this year no one from the cheery and ever welcome Kenyan contingent. In all there were 17 from overseas. The youngest finalists were two 16-year-old

boys from the UK, but it must be noted that the youngest competitor at this year's Imperial was Keira Butler at 12 years old. And the oldest was 95-year-old Jo Wright, shooting from a bench, but still shooting straight and enjoying it. Which other sport can boast such a spread of age and backgrounds?

So to the final. Points were being dropped, forecasts were being rubbished and the leaderboard was being altered by the formidable, hard-working and cheerful RAF crew who of course were also celebrating their 100th anniversary.

One prediction that looked like being realised was that this year would be a low-scoring final. In the last ten years there have been two winning scores of 294, but the rest have been 297 and 298. Maybe this year the leaders would be dropping ten or more. And that of course would even the playing field. And it did.

Anthony Ringer seemed to ignore the troublesome breeze and shot a hard-to-believe 71. You can see how marginal it was when you appreciate that there were only 2 Vs in there. This elevated the three-time past winner from 91st onto the leader board. James Corbett was second at 900 with 70.6 and that moved him up a bit. Some other notable efforts came from Matthew Button with a 68.5, and the ever-calm Parag Patel with a 69.3. The back up rifle seemed to be working OK.

So far, so good for some. But not for the overnight leaders who had dropped

11 and 10 points apiece, and with worse to come. It was now evident that the leaders had already dropped 7 and 8 points. James Corbett was the leader on 218.29. David Luckman on 217.26 had just edged Patel into third, 2 Vs behind. Ringer had made his charge up from 91st place to fourth and was only one point off a podium. Previous winner Ed Compton had got up into fifth place from 74th overnight, and 5 points off the lead. Young Miss Catherine Choquette of Canada, a relative Imperial novice, had risen a good few places and was shooting steadily, as was Holly McCullough from Ulster RA. Sam Cherry and Freddy Cade – the two youngest – were admittedly 10 points off the leaders but acquitting themselves very well as O and T Class shots.

All the assembly now picked up gear and tramped back to 1000 yards for what promised to be an equally unpredictable 45 minutes shooting. The wind too decided it was time for a change, and though the strength did not alter, the gusts were if anything more temperamental, and the scores in the final act of the drama that was the 149th Queen's final proved as difficult to follow as the wind.

Message one, and the tremendous hard-working and brilliant butts crew hauled the targets into view. The noticeable difference from a spectator's point of view was the increased number of unhappy shooters raising a hand to ask the hard pressed range officers for a message 4. Yes, experienced shots were missing the targets.

There were plenty of scores in the mid to low 50s, with low 60s being the norm. The RAF staffing the leader board were rushed off their feet, and occasionally blown off them too. The traditional leader board, with its rigid name plates and numbers, was also pushed to and beyond the limit. A goodly gust and a less than completely secured name or score was blown off towards the clock tower. The two man crew providing the live stream and commentary on Facebook had a near miss when a flagpole blew over, and at one point the second camera made a bid for freedom towards the clay shooting range.



Patel and Button faced off for second in the rarity that is a Queen's shoot-off



Tricky wind calls and even Message 4s were a common occurrence

The eventual winners were now dropping a further 10 and 12 points in the last 15 shots. But while messrs Luckman, Button and Patel got 64, 66 and 63 respectively, it must be noted that Mark Buchanan of Australia and Catherine Choquette of Canada scored an extraordinary 69.6 and 68.5 to get themselves into fourth and tenth places. It was all change, and as the final shots were fired and the leader board looked to be finalised there was just one more twist at the end of this fascinating and bewildering drama. The scores went up, the cheers went up. David Luckman had now equaled his brother's achievement. So another piece of history to add to the already fascinating winners list of the Queen's. The Fultons' three generations, the double and triple winners and so on.

Then a flurry of activity as the names of Patel and Button were posted in the other podium places. Matthew Button? He hadn't figured on the leader board during the shoot. 41st overnight and 4 points off the leaders after 900. But that 66 had lifted him to... wait for it... second equal! A tie-shoot.

Even more drama. The range was cleared and the two men prepared themselves for five counting shots, and then sudden death shot for shot if all equal after five. With the wind still playing hard to read and 30 or more shots already fired, the two settled down in the middle of the range and message one relayed for the last time.



Patel and Luckman – a Commonwealth gold-medal winning pair and now consecutive winners of the Queen's Prize

It seemed to fly past as we watched each shot scored and put up on the main scoreboard. There was nothing much between them as they traded bulls and maggies with each just getting one V. At the last shot we had a victor by one point. Matthew Button claimed second place with 20.1 while Parag Patel had to settle for third overall with 19.1.

The chair was readied, and the clearly emotional David Luckman was hoisted aloft by friends in the time-honoured

fashion. "Hail the conquering hero comes" could be heard clearly if you were down wind of the band, and that was that for this year's Queen's final. Of course there was the magnificent prize giving and the evening's celebrations all over the camp as every winner at this year's Imperial was toasted and hailed. Next year is a landmark 150th time this marvelous competition has been held, and let us hope it is as exciting and rewarding as this year's has been. ■

RAF STATS AT THE FINAL

By Mike Jenvey

As always, the stalwart band of volunteers from the RAFTRC (aided this year by a small group from CURA) carried out the scoring for the Queen's Final.

As 2018 is the centenary year for the Royal Air Force, we hope you didn't mind the large banner advertising the fact – back to normal scoreboard layout out next year. As it turned out, the banner was very helpful as it partially protected those running the scoreboard from the worst of the mini-dust storms that whistled around with great vigour. But the strong gusts did blow a few of the carefully arranged name plates off the decking, to be hidden into the undergrowth. Indeed, we lost a couple of crucial names for a few minutes.

The strong wind conditions made our scoring duties much harder than normal, with radio communications being blasted by howling wind noises. Messages and scores had to be repeated across the board, while on the score tables, papers and pens had to be well and truly secured. The wind also had the nice touch of depositing a solid layer of dust on the left sides of the faces of everyone at the tables. Cups of water, to lubricate those dusty throats, soon disappeared off into the distance. If it was difficult for the table scoring team, well, it was exceptionally tricky for the firers. I don't think I've ever seen so much bend in the flag poles on Stickledown, let alone on a Finals day. We were told by one finalist that

he used around 19 minutes left wind, which only left him with 2.5 minutes of wind before his sights reached their maximum limit. Even worse, the strong wind prevented the RAFTRC Pimms tent being put up, so watching the tussle for the Queen's Prize unfold in comfort was somewhat curtailed.

As the Final progressed, the scoring is actioned on points dropped rather than overall running score, and it was tricky for the team to keep up with the rapidly changing placements, as leading contenders got hit for a magpie, an outer or worse and instantly became history on the leader board. Of course, we also had the excitement of a tie shoot for second place – the first time that I remember such an event – but run very efficiently on the board.

Some spectators asked about electronic scoring. This is potentially feasible, and research has been on-going for a couple of years now. However, the current wi-fi signal does not cover all aspects of the Stickledown firing points at 900x and 1000x, and to realise the true benefit, a very large electronic scoring screen would need to be hired in (or purchased) in order to show the names and scores, and things like live video feeds, too. Any potential sponsors out there, please come forward! An e-scoring system would also be of great value for those watching the Final elsewhere in the UK, and indeed the world. Looking ahead to the 150th Final next year, it might not be prudent to introduce a new system for such a prestigious event. Ultimately, as and when things move that far forward, as with international indoor .22 / air rifle competitions, e-targets would link straight to the scoreboard. A shot fired would equal almost instantaneous position changes on the scoreboard, with zero human input required!

So, expect to see the RAF on parade for next year. As you may remember from last year's article, we started doing this in 1994, so that makes 25 years' service in 2019. We look forward to a silver trophy from the NRA.





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Corbett makes it three

Matt Charlton gives a day-by-day account of the Grand Aggregate, from the warm-ups all the way through to the nail-biting conclusion

The TR Imperial experience began for many on the afternoon and evening of Friday 20 July, which saw the start of the warm-up individual shoots, reduced by one range this year because of the addition of an extra long range shoot into the Grand. First up at short range was the Century, shot at 600 and then 500 yards. A total of 11 people managed to score possibles at both ranges and thus 100 overall. The best of them was by someone who had warily entered the Imperial because of recent back issues, but comfortably proved how well he works while lying on his front: David Armstrong (Old Guildfordians), the winner on 100.17.

Simultaneously, competitors fired their sole long range warm-up, the Admiral Hutton at 900 yards. On a warmish evening that led to a cooler night, the angle of wind varied frequently. All readable, but you wouldn't want to stay on aim for too

long. There were 35 scores of 50 on the prize list, with the best ones being 50.9s by Guy Palmer (Wandsworth) and Jon Underwood (Old Guildfordians), with Palmer winning the eventual tie-shoot.

The following morning there was a final warm-up at 300 yards: the Donegall. Even on the early details it was obvious that the day was returning to sweltering heat. The mirage flicked around a little, but wasn't as challenging as it might have been. Nevertheless there were no 50.10s. Of the nine who tie-shot after scoring 50.9, Brooking and De Voil progressed to a further sudden-death shoot, where Brooking won with a V to De Voil's 5.

On to the Grand

Traditionally this has started with the Daily Telegraph, but for the first time, at least half the competitors began their Grand at 900 yards in the Conan

Doyle. Conditions varied throughout the day, and there were some details where watching flags exclusively led people to score outers and magpies. In others it was a little simpler. There were more than fifty 50s on the prize list, with two scorers of 50.10: Jon Kent (Old Epsomians) and Peter Chance (Club 25). Kent won the subsequent tie shoot.

The Daily Telegraph was a sticky affair, with light albeit changeable wind and a rather high temperature. Some coped better than others – certainly better than I did! – and there were 42 scores of 75 on the board. The best of them was the only 75.15 by Kelvin Ramsey (Old Epsomians).

With the early scores in, Oli Russell led a group of 15 people who went clean after the first two shoots, with Jim Corbett (Australia), Jim Paton (Canada), Nigel Cole-Hawkins and Matthew Button filling out the top five.



Ready to shoot in the Corporation, which wreaked its usual havoc on scorecards

Sunday

Sunday started off cooler, with more cloud cover. The order of proceedings was the Alexandra at 600 yards, the Duke of Cambridge at 900, and the Daily Mail, 15 shots at 500 yards. Not everyone got to start with the Alexandra though – many opened the day's account with the Duke of Cambridge such that most of their Grand so far had been shot at that distance. Yesterday's leader of the Grand, who dropped one point at short range today, gave up six more in the DoC.

Well done to Jeremy Thompson (Central Bankers) who won the Alexandra with the only perfect score of 50.10, while the Duke of Cambridge was won by Alex Hunter (NLRC)'s excellent 50.9. As for the Daily Mail, we had to wait to learn the winner, as the results were not on the board that evening (though they were included in the various aggregates). Ultimately a tie shoot was required after two finished on 75.13v: Jim Jeffery then put in a formidable score of 25.4 to beat out

David Armstrong. The leading scores in the Grand Aggregate now were those of Jim Paton, only 1 off on 299.42, followed by David Armstrong on 298.39.

Monday

Monday dawned and it was clearly destined to be a beautiful day. Indeed, there was a Met Office amber health warning telling Britons to stay out of the sun between 11am and 3pm. So, naturally, the denizens of Bisley went out at those times to lie in a field for 45 minutes at a time in a leather jacket, hat and ear defenders. On Monday they would do so for the Times at 300 yards, the Wimbledon TR at 600 yards, and what has often been known as a Grand-Killer, the Corporation at 1000 yards. This year, of course, it is not the only 1000 yards shoot, with the Lovell having been added to Wednesday's schedule.

The Corp was living up to its reputation, with magpies galore and lots of scores in the low 40s and below. One Jersey shooter, realising he might

have missed a wind change, prayed while the target was down for it not to be a magpie. "Please don't be a magpie, please don't be a magpie." He got his wish – a hit, scoring 1!

In the Times, there were 62 scores of 50 on the list, with eight of them going through to the tie-shoot with 50.9. It was ultimately Alice Southall who prevailed, defeating William Broad in his title defence during a sudden death round.

In the Wimbledon, there were only 17 possibles scored, much fewer than in previous years, which helps reinforce the view that it was extremely difficult



The addition of the Lovell doubled the 1,000-yard shooting involved

– there were recent Commonwealth Games medallists scoring in the mid-40s. Steve Thomas, Jim Paton and schoolboy tyro Alfie Hellings shot off; and it was 18-year-old Hellings who topped the pile with 25.3v.

And in the all-important Corporation, only five people scored possibles – including Messrs Riley (ATSC), Golaszewski (Welsh RA), Woodger and Compton (both of Lancing College) – but the winner was Jim Paton of Canada on 50.8. His great shooting meant he now led the Grand by six whole points, on two off.

Tuesday

St George's provided tricky wind conditions, combined with brutal heat and variable wind from the left, with an environment sufficiently changeable to catch out the unwary. Kelvin Ramsey (OERC) excelled with a 75.14 to take joint first place with Jim Corbett, and a victory in the Gurkha Appeal. The outcome was a Grand Aggregate leaderboard with five points separating the first 10 places (Paton in first on 518.71, though with his lead cut from six points to one).

Wednesday

Those shooting the Lovell at the earlier-than-advertised hour of 8.15am will likely have jumped at the opportunity to have an easier go at this additional 1000yd shoot in the Grand. While many will bemoan the inclusion of more long range shoots as it causes them to lose points, one must be as objective with this as one would be with any proposed change to targetry. Excellence will out, and it would be hard to argue that it doesn't make things fairer.

As for the results, it saw only 12 scores of 50 and only 27 scores of 49, so the going was tough. Top of the pile was Paul Wheeler (Old Guildfordian RC), tying with Jamie Allum (North London RC) on 50.7. Allum would win the tie shoot.

And, while talk on camp was rife over what the cut would be after Queen's I, the Bronze Badge was put to a tie on 105.17 between Jim Paton, Canadian Cadet JC Voyer, and previous winner Lauren Crowson. Paton's 25.4v in the tie

The Corp was living up to its reputation, with magpies galore and lots of scores in the low 40s and below

was just enough to win it. And he was still just about in the lead for the Grand, too, level on points but with an 18 v-bull lead. It was tight at the top...

Thursday

Bisley never fails to deliver drama in the Grand Aggregate. To have GC leaders tied on gun score going into their last shoot and to see a changing warm wind at 600 yards almost guaranteed an exciting finish.

Early conditions for the Prince of Wales were relatively benign, but with scope for error as the heat came on. Paton laid down a score of 74.8, opening the door just a fraction to the closest competitors. Jim Corbett worked well to

find 75.7, putting him in GC position by two Vs. Sandy Walker had the difficult position of knowing he needed 75 points to win, and also facing a tough detail – one whose heat frankly had your correspondent coming out in the shakes. Sandy shot very well, but his fourteenth caught an inner on a wind change and he finished third. The top 50 shooters went down to 27 off, a rare low score.

Corbett clearly has an affinity for Bisley – he had already won the Queen's Prize in 2013 and the Grand in 2012 and 2016. Here again this year, he would lead the Queen's field after 900 yards, though a certain Mr Luckman had something to say about the final outcome. But the Grand was all Corbett's's. ■



Sandy Walker picked up third overall in the Grand



Jim Paton led most of the way but had to settle for second place



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Teams on target

National, Kolapore, Mackinnon and more – Matt Charlton reports from the TR team events at the 2018 Imperial

Our team event reports begin with the Astor Final on First Friday, which was closely fought once again, with a whole three-point margin of victory this time. Old Epsomians, who had come through a tough Surrey heat to make the final, started strongest at 300 yards but fell away at 600. The top two teams were consistent throughout the ranges, with Manydown's 620.88 well beaten by Comber RC's 623.71 – a rare victory for them in what amounts to the UK clubs championship, and one which they wholeheartedly celebrated.

At the same time, the Cadet National took place, won by the Channel Islands cadets with 814.89, and the Under 25 Home Countries Invitation Match was won by the England U25s with 619.76. The Scots didn't drop a point, though – and in the day's big grudge match, only five points separated four high-quality performances. Frimley Health's 415.54 triumphed in the

United Hospitals over Guy's, University College Hospital and Imperial Medics.

In Tuesday's Inter-Services, the Army were victorious against the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy, while in the Counties matches, Surrey prevailed in both the Long (beating Sussex into second and Notts third) and the Short (defeating Hertfordshire with Norfolk third) to take the Victor Ludorum.

On to Second Thursday, which brought the National Match, the Overseas, the Junior Overseas and the AG Bell. Conditions were not conducive to record scores, and all teams across the ranges were tested right from 300 yards back to 500 and 600. England were reigning National champions, but would they be able to hold off the rapacious hordes from Scotland, Ireland and Wales, who have all won since 2000?

The National Match showed potential for upset when word on the range was

that all the Celtic nations led England after 500 yards. England had a weak 500 compared to Ireland, and also to Scotland, who led by four after that range. But at 600 it was clear that words had been said, and a strong finish in very tricky wind secured England the match. Wales fell last by a point to Scotland and Ireland were unable to hold off England's 2023.201.

Top individuals in the National aim to receive the Hossack Salver. England had the top three scores in the match (Paul Wheeler 104.14, Lauren Crowson 105.13, and top gun Tom Drysdale 105.15).

The Overseas was won by Australia with 1212.125 from Guernsey on 1198.101, the Junior Overseas fell to the West Indies with 391.25 to BDMP Germany's 389.33, and the UK Cadets won the AG Bell from the Canadians, ahead of a smaller but very welcome South African contingent.

After a cooler night, Friday morning was warm enough to force out of bed quite a number of people who had no good reason to be up, resulting in Bisleyites running into each other at the laundromat or over breakfast in Woking. There were some who had every reason to be out and about on the range however – those involved in the Vizianagram, Musketeers, Chancellors, Under 25 and Kolapore matches.

In hot conditions, with fickle winds coming mostly over the left shoulder but with occasional flicks in the other direction, Southampton University won the Musketeers with 574.52, from Exeter on 572.51. In the big varsity match of the day, Cambridge won the Chancellors with a decent 1155.116 points, but an indecent margin from Oxford. The Lords and Commons did battle again in the Vizianagram, and the Commons won.

The excitement, however, was in the Kolapore Match, which is a rarity. Charles Brooks had selected an extremely strong Great Britain team, but others had noted at the BCRC reception that the Canadians had brought a strong squad. And so it proved. After 300 yards, Canada led by four points, having dropped only six. GB had dropped a surprising ten points, which led to a less than enjoyable morning – for the most part – for their Captain. He expressed his disappointment to the team, required an improvement, and got it... to an extent. GB pulled back two points on Canada at 500, leaving them still two behind going into 600 yards. Then a three point favourable margin at the last distance led to a nail biting single point win for Great Britain, on 1179.130. Canada scored 1178.98 and Australia 1165.107. Kenya, Germany and each of the big Channel Islands also took part. GB's top score was 149.21 by David Luckman, by a V-bull from Parag Patel. Kelvin Ramsey and Paul Sykes acquitted themselves well as new caps, with the latter completing his Big Five.

Normandy won the Junior Kolapore with 559.46 from the West Indies on 554.42. This is a great match for countries or regions that bring over groups of shooters but cannot get a full team of eight together – I would encourage lots of them to consider coming over next year for the 150th Imperial.

Overnight, ahead of the Mackinnon, the heavens opened – it seemed the British



Counting the scores on the way to Great Britain's Kolapore comeback

summer had finally arrived! Thunder and heavy rain in the early hours made way for a sunny morning with passing cloud and a fresh, fast, wind from the left – enough to help dry one's camping gear in the morning, but also to cause one or two problems to the competitors on Stickledown.

To the match itself. England took a 17-point lead at 900 yards over their nearest rivals, Ireland, in increasingly complex conditions. As each team finished, it had to wait in limbo until they all had done so, at which point the captains got together and found out where in the match they stood and thus what targets they would be on at 1000 yards. Then followed a frenetic rush to be ready on the right firing points, with the leaders in the middle and the others fanning out on either side.

The delay is one downside of that system. The other is that, for some teams, it exacerbates any disadvantage from the first range by placing some teams in a similar position on the range to the one they had started (badly) in. Simpler, and fairer, would be to have the far left team move to the far right and vice versa for all the other positions on the range. Maybe next year?

Anyway, despite a late challenge from Wales, who top scored at 1000x, the English lead proved ultimately insurmountable. England finished ahead with 1085.74, followed by Wales (second, 1070.73) and Ireland (third, 1065.66). Even the best of these scores was more than 100 points below the record, giving an indication of the difficulty of the conditions, where the wind ranged from 4 to 16 left. Eek! ■



The wind picked up and scores did the opposite in the Mackinnon

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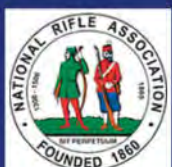
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How the Ashburton was won

Katia Malcaus Cooper watches Sedbergh win the top prize at the Schools Imperial, and finds out just how the school goes about producing its excellent young shots

Winning the Ashburton shield is to cadet shooting what winning the National is in TR terms. It is the ultimate prize awarded to a team who prove consistent in their shooting and ultimately beat the competition.

The Ashburton is the pinnacle of the School's Imperial Meeting; the competition is open to teams of eight from any UK or Channel Island school with a CCF (Combined Cadet Force) unit or unit of the SCC (Sea Cadet Corp), ACF (Army Cadet Force) or ATC (Air Training Corp) provided that the unit is open only to members of the school from which the cadets are drawn and that the school is affiliated to the NRA. Each unit can only enter one team.

48 schools took part in this year's prestigious competition, and Ashburton day is always a highlight in the Meeting's schedule.

Hundreds of young and enthusiastic shooters, carrying the shooting torch into the next generation line the firing point, behind the firing points, gazebos, or huts as they are known, bearing the School's emblems and logo stand next to each other with shoot masters holding binoculars and biting their nails to the bone. Their work is done, they have taught the young cadets and now they must stand back and watch their prodigies self-coach and get on with the competition.

The Scottish schools, always impressive in their marching and their impeccable kilted uniform, add to the colour of the event.

As I walk up and down behind the firing

points trying to gather some sense of who is doing well, I bump into a few known faces. Nigel Ball of Wellington doesn't look so happy. "We've blown it this year!" he tells me with his eyes stuck in his binoculars while a cadet hands him the score card. "Oh well, there's always next year," he continues, while encouraging his young cadet to go inside the hut and take a seat and relax. Wellington are defending their title, having won in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2017, but this year is not their year. Nigel still has his broad smile and he is proud of his cadets.

As I move on I see Greshams' shoot master Freddie; he is looking tense. Greshams last won the Ashburton in 2009, and Freddie is a real character. He has a dry sense of humour and can almost move his head 180 degrees, or at least he seems that way, as he is talking to me, looking at the targets and checking what the kids are doing in the hut while keeping an eye on the school dog. I leave Freddie with a big smile on his face – he clearly is happy with his team.

I move further down and I catch a glimpse of Tom Ryland of Ellesmere. Tom is always busy, running around the place like a father to a brood of kids. He smiles at me and waves on. 2015 was just like this, with Tom running around and all of a sudden someone told him, "Hey Tom, it's Ellesmere!" I remember that day well – with the blood drained from his face, Tom went to fetch his beret and gather the kids. He won't forget that year in a rush as it was also the year of Palma and he was indeed a busy man!

A few more paces and I catch two familiar faces. I grab my photographer and say, 'Please can you take a picture of those two cadets?' 'Sure,' he answers, 'who are they?'

They are Sarah Rorison and Daisy Armstrong of Sedbergh. I first met Sarah and Daisy in 2017 when Sarah was our youngest cadet at 13 and Daisy is the 14-year-old who won the Alexandra in a tie shoot. They have changed – they look like young ladies now, the kiddie features in their faces have gone, but when I call them I still get the big beaming smile which captivated me last year.

The girls are doing well; in fact the whole school seems to be doing well. As I turn round I hear Ian Christy chatting to Daisy's Mum and explaining how it works, and the fact that a possible is really a good thing. Ian has to be the most chilled school staff instructor I have seen; he seems to have a Zen calm about him. I have a chat with him and he tells me that Sarah is now one of his best coaches and Daisy is just fierce. She shoots well under pressure and regularly posts consistent scores. He then introduces me to Keira Butler who despite her tender age of 12 is holding her own well. Keira is too young to take part in the Ashburton as she is not yet 13, but is shooting the Imperial with another 11 cadets from Sedbergh.

Shortly after this I look at the board and Sedbergh are there at the top. Well done Ian and your Sedberghians – you and Sam Sharma (Master in charge of shooting) have done a great job. I leave Ian as he is preparing his cadets for the prizegiving on the range.

As I move further down the range I see David Nuthall. He and his Epsominas are always top of the list of high achieving schools; of course I first met David with Ian at Sedbergh, where David was Master in Charge. I know he has been instrumental in getting the school to where it is today.

Two days later I catch up with Ian. He is delighted for his cadets. Sarah is now a permanent fixture in his first team and won the under-16 prize and the overall best shot in the Schools Ashburton out of 448 cadets. Keira, who could not take part in the Ashburton because of her age, is holding her own in the Imperial and is not fazed by it, and Daisy is just Daisy. She is just going for it, she has made Queen's II and is really excited.



It's heartening to see young shooters flourish under the watchful eye of their coaches



Greshams and Epsom are two schools regularly seen towards the top of the Ashburton leaderboard

Prospective pupils are taken around the nine houses, which all have their own personality, and are encouraged to choose the best house for them. I resist the urge to ask about a sorting hat

As Ian leaves Bisley reluctantly, he leaves behind an excited Daisy and Freddie Cade. Freddie made the Queen's II cut and at 16 years old was one of the two youngest shooters taking part in Queen's Final. What a great achievement!

The last time Sedbergh won Ashburton was 1997, and before that 1996 under the expert guidance of SSI John Jones, and then 1921 and 1914. The school has been taking part in the Ashburton since 1905. When the winner was announced this year, Ian was on the phone with John and he told him: "John it's coming home!" and with that he held the phone up for twenty minutes so that John could be part of it all and hear the announcements being made.

Sedbergh is a co-educational Independent boarding school set in the Cumbrian hills. The school was founded in 1525 by the Provost of Eton and is currently home to some 500 pupils set in nine houses.

When I ask Ian about the school, he tells me how there used to be a steam train going straight to the school and how prospective pupils are taken around the nine houses,

which all have their personality, and are encouraged to choose the best house for them. I have to resist the urge to ask about a sorting hat...

Ian tells me that Sedbergh is like nothing he has ever experienced. There is a camaraderie which is the true glue of the school. Pupils come from all walks of life and they go through amazing experiences at the school. Upon arrival every new intake is taken by their Prefect for a walk up Winder. This is no gentle hill, it is a fell; when they come down they are a Sedberghian.

So how did Ian Christy end up in Sedbergh? We have a sit down in the Army Club on a day where power has deserted the NRA. Ian tells me of how he grew up in South East London, joined the Army straight out of school before becoming a fire fighter, was involved with the Frimley ACF, and at Frimley Park he met his wife. He moved to Sedbergh full-time some five years ago when he retired from the Fire Service and he and his wife are in charge of one of the nine houses.

"Heyley is in charge of the house," he tells me. "She is a great House mistress and I just help her as a house parent, I cannot take the credit for her and the girls' achievements."

He feels privileged to teach children. He finds it amazing how the girl joins his house and the woman leaves. It is a real privilege to be there and witness it.

"So what do you do at Sedbergh?" I ask him. He tells me that he is sure there is a mention about helping out with the shooting in his job spec.

Shooting is often seen by many as an activity; to Sedberghians it is a sport and it carries all that you would expect in a serious sport. When Ian took over, he restructured the Target Sports Programme (which is what they call shooting at Sedbergh); he then started a pathway programme at the school. He talks to children as young as year 4 (8 years old) and tells them that if shooting interests them, he will help them get there. His famous speech is normally delivered to a room full of year nines (14 years old). He encourages them to look around the room and commit the faces to memory, because one day one of them could be shooting for their country.

This year Ian managed to put together the first Cumbria shooting team, and this is a great achievement for the school.

He is certainly inspirational for the kids who want to do their best to make the teams. Ian's focus is developing young people and make them the best they can possibly be. When dealing with teams, the

dilemma is always, do you do right by the individual or do you do right by the team? Ian's view is that if you do right by the individual, the team follows as kids just give it their all.

Sedbergh has a comprehensive shooting programme where shooting is taught six days a week, three times a day. A student will typically shoot twice a week. They start on air rifle, then move to .22 prone and after Easter in year nine he introduces them to full-bore. Sedbergh has a strong shoot tradition that continues way beyond the school years, after leaving the school, pupils are encouraged to come back as Old Sedberghians (Oss) and help coach. 60% of the pupils continue with shooting after they leave school, but Ian wants to turn it in to 90%. On Ashburton day a good number of Oss were there to witness the Trophy being lifted again after 21 years.

Ashburton is a really prestigious trophy and Ian works all year to prepare for it; they make three trips to Bisley to prepare for this prestigious competition. The children (who don't have exams) have five days off after the year ends before embarking on a three days warm-up at Altcar, then they make the seven hour trip to Bisley. The night before Ashburton Sedbergh holds a dinner for parents and on the morning of Ashburton they hold a breakfast for parents on the terrace of the L&M.

After a busy year at Sedbergh, and Ian tells me that Sedberghians work hard, they go straight into Ashburton, and it is hard work. He does it because he loves it. There are all the issues one can expect with a brood of teenagers, but as they are under school rules, the kids behave well and know that the last thing they want is for Ian to have to call their parents to come and take them home.

He tells me that as the minibus was driving down Century, the team Captain told the team that he was putting his phone away and asked them all to do the same – everyone got their phones out and locked them all away safely. This was not sanctioned by Ian, but a gesture he truly appreciated.

As I leave Ian I ask him if he has a place in mind for his trophy and he tells me it will be in his Armoury, he loves a bit of silver, but the biggest reward for him is watching the kids develop and he feels privileged to be able to witness it. ■



Sarah Rorison and Daisy Armstrong are certainly two to watch for the future



Sedbergh's Ashburton 2018 winning team, with an average age of 16¼

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CSR hot shots

The heat was on for the CSR Imperial, shot over five days in early July. Blair Drummond reports on this major event, which attracted scores of shooters

As the first non-military event of the packed Imperial calendar, the CSR block is a keenly anticipated annual highlight for shooters who last shot a formal competition in April at the end of the CSR Winter League. Little wonder then that Imperial entries averaged just over 100 shooters for each CSR match, drawn from all corners of the UK, as well as from across the channel in France.

As per tradition, it kicked off on a hot US Independence Day with the Imperial Practical Rifle match. Ten separate practices presented challenges for the 83 shooters – including snap shooting, timed and rapid fire, four 100 yard run-downs between firing points, and positional and magazine changes – as they engaged Fig 11, Fig 12 and Fig 12c targets at distances from 600 to 100 yards. At the end of a sweaty day, Bob England took the Historic gold medal, Sean

Clarke got the gold in Iron, and Dave Walker seized the Practical Optic gold. The Service Optic gold went to Chris Vale.

Forecast? Hot

Day Two (Thursday 5 July) dawned sunny, and shooters moved away from Bisley camp to contest the first two individual CSR events – the ever-popular Urban Match and the 100/200/300 yard Matches – at the nearby Pirbright Army ranges. Nearly 110 competitors tackled the Urban, comprising four stages of double snaps, rapid fire and positional changes, as they advanced at the run from the 100 yard to the 75, 50 and 25 yard firing points, engaging Fig 11 and Fig 14 turning targets. Historic gold went to Hywel Davies, Bob Wightman secured Iron gold, Justin Frankland took the Practical Optic gold, and Adam Chapman was Service Optic golden boy.

As the heat built in the afternoon, 106 shooters moved onto another Pirbright range for the six stages of the 100/200/300 yard Matches. Snaps, rapid, and timed fire were the order of the day (plus prone and sit/squat/kneel positions), and many shooters envied Mark Dougan's canny use of a golf umbrella on the firing point (and as observation cover for Mark Bradley). There were medal winners at all three distances (see results table), and the eventual winner of the 300 yard Practical Optic class was settled by a shoot-off after a three-way tie.

Forecast? Even hotter

Day 3 (Friday 6 July) brought everyone back to Bisley's Century Range for the Long Range and Short Range competitions, again in swelteringly hot conditions. Nearly 110 shooters contested both events, with the morning's Long

Range shoot featuring triple Figure 11s at 500 and 400 yards, and Fig 12s at 300 yards, interspersed with run-downs on rock-hard ground and switching from prone to sit/kneel postures. Class and gold medal winners were Raf Jah in Historic, Doug Cross in Iron, Mark Eustance in Practical, and Chris Vale in Service.

As the mercury rose further in the afternoon sun, shooters tackled the Short Range Match with rapid, snap and double tap shooting at Fig 12 and Fig 12c targets at 300, 200 and 100 yards, complicated further by positional changes and run-downs. Lee Enfield marksman Raf Jah secured another Historic gold, Sean Clarke triumphed in Iron, Martin Camp took a break from CRO-ing to grab gold in Practical, and Service Optic honours went to Adam Chapman. Roy Wade's bronze in the latter class was notable as he shot with a borrowed rifle after his barrel gave up.

Final match – still hot

The weather on Saturday 7 July remained very hot (over 30C), and 101 fatigued shooters assembled for the final individual Imperial competition. The Rural Match, sponsored for the first time by Vortex (whose shooting optics are used by many in CSR), demanded a lot from shooters, with 100, 200, 300, 400 and 500 yard practices, shot prone, sitting, kneeling and standing, and using Fig 11s, Fig 12 and Fig 14 targets, plus a 500-400-300 run-down to advance dehydration levels. Bill Tong won the Historic gold, and Sean Clarke grabbed another Iron gold. In Practical Optic, Justin Frankland won the Vortex Nation trophy, plus a Vortex Razor scope and a gold medal, with Adam Chapman securing the Vortex Challenge Cup for winning the Service Optic class, as well a gold medal and a Vortex Razor scope.

With just a few hours rest, many CSR shooters turned out in the cooling late afternoon for the Falling Plates competition, held as usual at nearby Pirbright. A record number of teams contested the Historic and Modern classes via a series of rundowns and rapid fire at 200 yards, which whittled down teams on a knockout basis. The HRA A team won the Historic class, while the LPSC 1 team grabbed the Modern class win for the fourth consecutive year!

Sunday 8 July featured the Methuen competition, the traditional close to the CSR Imperial. Teams of six shooters (five teams in the Historic class, and 12 in the Practical Optic class) fired five practices to accrue both team and individual aggregates. The Methuen Bayonet for the Historic Individual winner went to Doug Cross of LERA A, with the Mons Trophy for the best Historic team awarded to LERA A. The Methuen Kukri for top Practical Individual was won by Adam Chapman, while the Mauser Trophy for the top Practical Team went to LPSC's A team.

The end

And then it was all over, bar the prize-giving at the very welcome BBQ organised by the ATSC. NRA CEO Andrew Mercer said some very kind words about outgoing CSR discipline rep Mark Bradley, and presented him with a special NRA medal. Engraved with the words 'Long Service and Questionable Conduct', it aptly summed up both the person and the high regard in which Mark is held among the CSR community.

IMPERIAL CSR FACTS

387	Record number of entrants
38	Record number of Falling Plates teams
78.7	Miles run by CSR shooters during run-downs
34,870	Rounds fired during Imperial CSR (exc Falling Plates and Methuen)
143	Highest possible score medals awarded
6	Most highest possible scores (achieved by two Practical Optic shooters)
66	NRA gold medals awarded
515	Overall Historic aggregate points: Bob England
943	Overall Iron aggregate points: Sean Clarke
1144	Overall Practical Optic aggregate points: Justin Frankland
1156	Overall Service Optic aggregate points: Adam Chapman

“This year's CSR Imperial was unusually hot, without the rain and thunderstorms experienced in the past





The Methuen Mauser Trophy went to the LPSC A team

According to NRA Head of Shooting & Training and CSR stalwart Peter Cottrell, this year's CSR Imperial was unusually hot, without any of the rain and thunderstorms experienced in the past. "This," he remarked, "placed an extra burden on everyone, especially the ROs as they had no shelter and little downtime". He highlighted that in CSR, everyone mucks in, whether being a safety supervisor, pulling and scoring targets, relaying and recording scores, or acting as CRO and ROs at either end of the range. This makes CSR unique among the Imperial disciplines, helps competitions run very smoothly, and creates a special camaraderie.

Also noted by Cottrell was the ever-rising standard of CSR shooting (143 Highest Possible Score medals were awarded), as well as rising shooter numbers: 356 in 2016, 366 last year, and 387 this year, including the Methuen and Falling Plates (the latter setting an all-time record with 24 teams in Historic and 14 in Modern).

The 2018-19 CSR Winter League starts on Sunday 7 October. If you would like to join in, the next CSR Skills Development Course is on Saturday 22 September. For further information and entry forms, visit the NRA website or contact Shooting Division on 01483 797777 ext 160. ■



Mark Bradley receives his unique medal from Andrew Mercer

WHAT THE SHOOTERS SAID...

"A truly fab event and not sure how it can be improved upon. The CSR team made it work – congratulations!"

"Fantastic week – enjoyed every minute of it"

"One of the best CSR weeks. The hard ground made the rundowns less tiring than usual"

"The championships ran as well as could be expected or hoped for. In other words they were as slick and smooth as can be. Organisation has reached a professional level that must be the envy of many other disciplines."

"I think we can all agree standing around in some fields in Surrey for five days during a national heatwave is testing!"

"What a great week's shooting and socialising!"

"I do miss the simplicity of 'Get up. Shoot/pull targets. Lunch. Shoot/pull targets. Dinner and banter. Crash out and sleep like the dead. Rinse, repeat."

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Staying cool

High temperatures, heavy rifles and taxing team shoots – it's Raf Jah's alternative Imperial diary

It's an early July day, it's very warm, and the sun is imitating a Mediterranean summer. Prone on dry grass and sweating profusely, I adjust my baseball cap and check that my safety catch is on. The call goes up: "Watch out, watch out!"

In the distance, a pair of Fig 11 targets flash over the mantlet and I am up and running. All those mornings in the gym are paying off and nothing hurts too much (yet). I see a flash of brown to my left – I'm catching up to NRA training manager David Camp, by far and away the fastest man on this detail, so I slow down. The next firing point draws closer, then I'm there. I dive

into the prone position, adjust my rifle sling, focus on the foresight of my No 4 rifle, breathing far more heavily than I would like, and wait.

Brown and black figure targets flash up for a few seconds. I loose off a shot. Rapidly cycling the bolt, I manage to get a second shot away before the targets vanish. They appear impossibly far away.... and here they come again in a mind-boggling sequence that I've tried – and failed – to memorise. "Is it one left, one right?" I gasp.

"Yes, one left, one right," states a quiet, calm voice behind me. It's William Tong, my shooting and safety partner. He stands behind me in his ancient

DPM jacket, staring down range. His calm tone is contagious and I become more focused. The targets pop up and I fire another double tap sequence: all I see is impact splashes either side of the figure 11s. Soon enough, we fire our 10th round, and the final fusillade signals the end of the practice.

"Unload, show clear," shouts Peter Cottrell, boss of the NRA's shooting division and a CSR champion. Grateful for the end of the torture, I show clear, then stand up, pick up my brass, and sling the .303 over my shoulder.

"I think you did rather well," says Will.

"I think I was appalling. All I saw was sand splashes," I mutter.

Will retorts, “No, no, chap. I think you’ll be ok.”

What is it about Will that makes him so cheery on the firing point? Even the most despondent shooter cannot fail to be enthused around him. We walk back to the firing point from which we ran, and the butt crew soon elevate marked targets for inspection. I peer through my Vortex monocular and see some red discs on my lane’s targets. Clearly, some are absent – but at least not all have missed.

“Well done, chap,” says Will cheerily, peering through his binos. Still breathing a bit hard, it’s then my turn to act as Will’s safety officer and follow him as he runs and shoots.

The practice over, the shooters pack up their kit and walk forward 100 yards to the next firing point, many trying to remember the important detail of the next practice. Around me, there’s lively discussion, light banter and amusing barracking about the just-shot practice and related scores, not least between members of the Kings Lynn and St Michael Shooting club (KLSM). The KLSM seem to bring hilarious self-inflicted mischief with them wherever they go.

When people think of the annual NRA Imperial competition, they may think of

a target rifle shooter, lying prone on a mat and bound into a tight shooting jacket, with a highly accurate single-shot rifle that can cost the price of a small car, painstakingly focusing on their next shot. That’s certainly not the case with the Civilian Service Rifle (CSR) discipline. Where a target rifle shoot might lose by dropping a single v-bull, a top CSR shooter can win with a ‘10 wash’ (all 10 scoring shots in the centre of the military-style figure

“There are no mats, no shooting jackets – this is shooting as it used to be

targets) – and that’s often with rapid snap shooting at targets of varying size. Those of us in the Historic class, largely shooting iron sight .303s at distances varying from 25 to 600 yards, are generally happy to get hits on the target (obviously the more the better). There are no mats, no shooting jackets – this is shooting as it used to be.

The days draw on in a haze of sweat, sunburn and aching muscles, until suddenly, the final practice for the CSR individual competition is done. William Tong wins Gold on the last day’s match, rewarding his ever-cool demeanour.

But it’s not over quite yet. One challenge remains: the Falling Plates competition that’s always held on a late Saturday afternoon. We get vehicle passes for the nearby Pirbright Army camp, and drive in convoy, waved through the gate by a supervising CSR ‘official’ and the ever-smiling duty Gurkha gate guard. On the range, the sun still feels intense and we head for tree shade cover.

There seems to be a large throng of shooters – unsurprising really given the team nature of the impending competition. Peter Cottrell confirms it: “We have 38 teams for this year’s Falling Plates. That’s a record.”

Excellent news, but it does mean we have to be very efficient. Teams of four assemble, prepare their rifles, and stand by. First, the ‘modern’ class shooters fight their way through the knockout stages, running 100 yards to the firing point, getting prone, and rapid-shooting at eight 12" square metal plates 200 yards away. Larger bore rifles, such as 7.62, seem to drop plates better than





If you think prone is the easiest position to shoot from, try it after you've just sprinted up the range

5.56 calibre rifles, and the French team, armed with Tikka hunting rifles, shoots brilliantly, drawing great vocal support from onlookers.

As soon as the 'modern' class is done, the historic class gets under way. The rundown is just 25 yards, perhaps recognising the advancing age of many historic shooters. But, pleasingly, there is an excellent turnout of younger shooters, reflecting the appeal of shooting older 'traditional' iron sight rifles. The Lee Enfield Rifle Association (LERA) fields the most teams, and I'm in one.

We watch how other teams shoot, and compare tactical notes. The key is not necessarily getting to the firing point first, more about getting off aimed, accurate shots from old rifles that could be 100 years old.

"What do we do?" asks teammate Chris.

"I was just going to ask you," I reply. "I've never done this before."

"Well, you decide Raf," adds another teamster.

"Let's stay calm," I suggest.

"That is a start," Chris replies.

"Walk down to the point, and then get all the plates down by each shooter firing on specific plates."

"Great idea," says Chris, who's nursing a damaged knee and clearly likes the walking idea.

We line up and await the air horn. Its signal spurs us to wander down to the firing point, keep cool, and down all the plates before the other team. Our plan works perfectly. The only negative of the excellent .303 cartridge is that the damage being done by the more powerful bullet is tearing up the plates. We lose one lane to damaged plates, then another.

Sadly, our team's cool deserts us 15 minutes later as we contest another knockout stage. I fire round after round, hit my two plates, but can't hit anything else. I see all my shots going high. I manage to lower the foresight and

hit one more plate, but the final work is done by Chris and the other team members. When all our plates are down, our team is out.

So I pack up my aged Land Rover, say my goodbyes to many CSR friends, and head wearily for home. While the popular Methuen competition closes out the CSR Imperial the next day, my Imperial is over. It's been epic and I've been in another world, but I have to return to relative normality.

I later hear that the High Power Rifle Association has stunned all parties by winning the Historic class Falling Plates. Their team certainly didn't lose their cool. ■



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Sporting Rifle in the Imperial

Steve Wallis, Sporting Rifle discipline representative, reports from the SR events at the Imperial – and explains why you need to take part next year

We all know that the Imperial Meeting is 'the' event for TR, MR and F Class shooters, as well as CSR, GR, schools and cadets. But did you know that it also caters for Sporting Rifle shooters as well? With so much going on you'd be forgiven if the answer to that was no. While only a minor part of the overall meeting, there are a variety of competitions that take place including moving target and precision snap, as well as those shot with historic and classic rifles.

The Imperial Historic Arms Meeting takes place the weekend before the main meeting begins and sees shooters competing with rifles varying from Lee Speed, sporterised No. 4s and Mausers in various calibres, single and double-barrelled Rook & Rabbit rifles bearing the names of well-known and prestigious makers such as Holland and Holland, Rigby and Lang, as well as a plethora of .22 rimfires in varying shapes and sizes.

Competitions range from 50m standing unsupported to 200 yards

prone and include both 50m Running Boar and 100m Running Deer – the latter also including a class for big game rifles for anyone brave enough to give it a try.

Running throughout all of the first week and most of the second week of the meeting as part of the ever popular McQueen competition at 300 yards on Century Range, is a Sporting Rifle class. This is currently shot with an

issued rifle and ammunition, meaning it truly is a level playing field where skill comes to the fore. For those not familiar with the course of fire, it is the same as the other McQueen classes with two non-convertible sighters followed by 10 random exposures, each of three seconds, during which a single shot must be fired. The difference is not only in the type of lightweight sporting rifle used,



The deer target in action

but also in the target face. Rather than a DP14 target, this class uses a Fox.

The combination of kit and target face make this class just a little bit harder than the others, with the exception perhaps of the Classic and CSR classes. While those winning an HPS cross and Sporting bar truly deserve them, the real competition is to be the one who attends Prize Giving to collect the John Kynoch Trophy and an NRA Gold Medal for the class win.

Without doubt, the most silverware on offer to Sporting Rifle shooters during the Imperial Meeting, not to mention NRA Gold Medals, comes from the British Running Deer Championships and Unlimited entry competitions held during the middle of the meeting. These consist of separate Trophies awarded for singles and doubles, a Championship Trophy as well as a Challenge Trophy.

In the singles, shooters fire two series of 20 shots, with one shot fired at each pass of the deer – a target based on an original sketch drawn by Sir Edwin Landseer – at 100m. In the doubles things get a little more challenging, again with two series of 20 shots, but this time the shooter must fire two shots on each pass of the target.

The Championship Trophy itself is awarded for the aggregate score taken from the first series from each of the singles and doubles. A fourth silver Challenge trophy, the Dewar, is awarded for the best 10-shot score from all events, both within the championships and the two weeks of unlimiteds.

While some see the unlimiteds as an opportunity to fine tune their skills for the Championships, they are a competition in their own right, with gold medals awarded for the highest aggregate



of two 10 shot series in both the first and second week of the meeting.

Running alongside the deer Unlimiteds are two further Unlimited entry events for sporting rifle shooters, albeit for which there are currently no prizes awarded at Prize Giving. Both are based around a course of fire that involves shooting standing unsupported at a boar target at 100m. Both are very popular, and for many years now, along with the deer Unlimiteds, have attracted a regular visit from a group from Denstone College in Staffordshire, who having participated in the Schools Veterans, take the opportunity to hold a little competition among themselves, shooting a variety of different disciplines.

These competitions take place every year during the Imperial Meeting, so why not start practising now ready for next year? ■



RESULTS

MCQUEEN D - SPORTING

1st	Brian McManus	50.6v
2nd	Chris Wells	48.4v
3rd	Jan Berry	44.4v

BRITISH RUNNING DEER CHAMPIONSHIP AGGREGATE

1st	John Maddison	169
2nd	Darren Cottee	165
3rd	Asad Wahid	163

RUNNING DEER SINGLES

1st	John Maddison	177
2nd	Alan Harvey	175
3rd	Asad Wahid	166

RUNNING DEER DOUBLES

1st	Darren Cottee	158
2nd	John Maddison	157
3rd	Alan Harvey	157

DEWAR CHALLENGE

1st	Asad Wahid	48
2nd	John Maddison	48
3rd	Alan Harvey	47

RUNNING DEER UNLIMITEDS

Wk 1	Alan Harvey	91
Wk 2	Asad Wahid	93

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All-time greats

Derek Stimpson hails the variety of firearms on display at this year's Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

The Imperial Historic Arms Meeting, to give it its full name, took place this year on 14 and 15 July. It was part of the first weekend of the Imperial meeting, the NRA's largest and perhaps best known meeting, founded and opened in 1860 with HM Queen Victoria's famous first shot on Wimbledon Common.

For those of you that haven't seen it, the Whitworth rifle she fired (with a lanyard) is displayed in the NRA collection – worth a visit if you haven't been.

The meeting is a wonderful opportunity to see historic arms in use, some of which might have been around in the fourth quarter of the 19th century. Lee Enfields, Mausers, Mosin-Nagants, a Lebel, BSA, Winchesters, Marlins, many Sporting rifles (my own Rigby .275 and Mannlicher-Schönauer), and plenty of interesting small bore rifles.

There was also a large and diverse display of historic arms by the HBSA in the NRA Pavilion front training room. Many examples of military, sporting, and target arms, as well as pistols were all on display. This is a reminder that shooting historic arms covers all disciplines and types of



A selection of the historic arms on display

firearm. A centrepiece exhibit was the Boys .55 anti tank rifle.

Many participants were regular shooters who were there again this year, plus a few new ones. It would be good to see more newcomers who are owners of historic arms bringing them along and using them. As those who do know, it can be very satisfying, sometimes frustrating, but always great fun. But you own a piece of heritage, and may be contributing to research, so if you have questions,

requests, or suggestions about doing so, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

This year there was a clash with sporting events on TV and perhaps the very hot weather discouraged re-entries. While numbers are steady, it would be nice to see more of the owners and collectors of historic arms participating in the historic arms meetings – IHAM and the Trafalgar – as well as other specifics, such as historic CSR. Your support is needed if they are to continue and grow.

See you at next year's IHAM and the Trafalgar in October – and, of course, there will be the usual arms fair at the Trafalgar. ■



The .55 Boys with the 13.2mm Mauser Tank Gewehr M1918

ENTRY STATISTICS

2018

90 competitors, 401 cards (inc. GR)

2017

89 competitors, 455 cards (inc. GR)

2016

103 competitors, 452 cards (inc. GR)

2015

90 competitors, 395 cards

2014

101 competitors, 415 cards (inc. GR)



The big one

The Cottesloe Heath Challenge is the biggest Target Shotgun event of the year and also now a part of the Imperial programme. James Harris reports...

Although it was only first run three years ago, the Cottesloe Heath Challenge has established itself as one of Great Britain's premier shotgun events, alongside the long-running institution that is the Shield Summer Challenge. No other match comes close for variety or size of stages – a stage being a single target layout and shooting challenge timed separately, which counts towards the overall match score. If you think of it in terms of rally car racing, then all the stages were cross country!

Due to the shift in the date of the Queen's Final, the match weekend has been moved to late June or early July and the event incorporated in to the General Meeting Programme (thankfully not all the events are on one entry form...) This means the match date will now be set by the date of the meeting and it will be held on 28-30 June in 2019, so don't plan to be anywhere but Bisley that weekend.

For those not familiar with the layout of the heath, it is in part carefully tended with footpaths and shooting stands for the current sporting clays operation, in other parts scrub heathland overgrown with scots pines towering like the overgrown weeds

that they are, and where the back-of-house operations are sited, a jumble of seemingly derelict vehicles and abandoned equipment coated in a fine layer of dust to give the air of a Ridley Scott disaster film.

With such a backdrop, the stage designers have scope to add in twists that increase the uniqueness of the event. Where else, for example, would you get grey targets on a black background or close (under 5m) targets in deep shade, followed by distant (70m) in full sunlight?

A meander through the stage designs will give the reader a flavour of the challenge to be had. Starting as ever with stage 1, the large solid slug stage, the shooter would have been greeted by some close-range paper targets, which would encourage fast shooting but were rapidly lost to sight once forward movement started, thus leading to forgotten targets later on in the stage and misses due to failing to acquire the correct sight picture for the second shot. Midway through this stage was the first of the metal targets, a 12" steel plate at 45m that activated a moving target. Neither of these targets was particularly easy, especially when the trees obscured them at various stages. After completing this section of the

stage, the competitors would burst out from the shade into the bright sunlight for the final target array, some reactive steel targets at 65 to 80m to be shot downhill across a depression. Suffice to say that the change in lighting conditions coupled with the 100m uphill run to get the last firing point from the start line caused more than a few poor shots to be had. Anything under 60 seconds was a good time for this stage, with around 100 seconds the average.

From the respite of the trees, the next stage was held in a veritable dustbowl with no cover whatsoever and possibly the largest shooting box ever – some 10m wide and 40m long. This stage, like all the remaining ones, was to be shot with birdshot only, and the reader should bear in mind that none of the targets were within 10m of the shooting box. Most were 15 to 20m away, so unless the competitor moved from side to side of the box, they would almost double the minimum range to the target. This may not seem much of a problem except that the maximum effective range for the cartridges most people were using was around 20. Once again those that failed to know their pattern size and effective range were

punished with misses, reloads and long times. A quick time would have been 30 seconds. The average was 70.

Sadly stage 3 had to be withdrawn from the match owing to unreliability of the mechanisms that released the clays. For those that got to shoot it, the sight of eight bright orange clays rocketing upwards against the azure sky was itself almost as good as hitting at least four of them.

Stage 4 was a simple affair: only eight targets at distance along corridors in the gorse and scrub. These were deceptive and more than one was left standing due to overconfidence and failure to check it had fallen when shot at. A good time was six seconds.

Moving on from the natural background to stage 5, which again made use of the terrain to add to the challenge: 16 light grey steel plates positioned on the undulating blackened impact zone for broken clays. With a few bright red penalty targets and some barricades thrown in for good measure to force awkward shooting positions, this stage was more technical than some people appreciated, and as a result a good time was under 30 seconds.

Stage 6 undoubtedly provided the chiropractors and physios with a bumper bundle of work after the match, as the low apertures and weak-shoulder shooting caught out the unwary and unpractised. There was no graceful way to shoot this – only the lithe and youthful would manage to do so quickly, with only one person going clear in under 10 seconds.



The flying clays of stage 3 were a spectacular sight

Thankfully stage 7 brought relief from the need to bend and twist, with a series of standard exercises shot in strings. Failure in one string, however, had painful knock-on consequences for the overall score, and it was clear who had taken the time to become proficient in making ready from alternative start positions and shooting from the weak shoulder.

Lastly, stage 8 was once again under the cover of trees, this time the welcome sight of silver birch whose dappled white trunks rose like ethereal figures from the mass of bracken. This stage was all large plates, some close at 8m and a few at up to 30m if you were foolish enough to try them at

that range. Following a track though the woods ensured that the competitor 'only' had to remember where to stop and shoot from and where to reload. As a consequence, this was a fast-paced stage considering its length. A good time would be under 40 seconds, the average being around 60.

What will CHC 2019 bring? More of the same with some new target systems and undoubtedly a higher attendance than this year, so please enter as early as possible. ■

The match organisers would like to thank the volunteer match crew, the back of house team at the NRA and the match sponsors, Facility Solutions Ltd, AW Armoury and Firing Solutions Ltd for all their assistance.



Low aperture shooting in stage 6 was a test of flexibility

RESULTS

OPEN

1	Sam Crane
2	Ben Ducker
3	James Williamson

STANDARD AUTO

1	Chris Edwards
2	Russell Hicks
3	James Harris

STANDARD MANUAL

1	Mark Harris
2	Craig Arden
3	Constantine Christophi

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F Class flashback

David Kent gives his perspective on the F Class events at the Imperial Meeting 2018

All went well during the Imperial F Class events this year. It was very hot on the Friday and Saturday and this meant wispy 180 degree changeable (*extremely* changeable) winds. The scores were of course way down at long range in most cases. It got hotter until the Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, when thankfully a windy front blew over very quickly. Now the wind was even more changeable and still contained 180 degree changes.

Because TR had brought in a new 1000-yard shoot into their Grand Aggregate, there were a few almost inevitable issues with the F Class calendar. On the Second Saturday, the first detail on Century Range was squadded at 8.30am while the TR start was at 8.15am. To the surprise of those waiting to shoot, the F Class targets were also started at 8.15am (after blow-offs). Later, a detail on Century Range included a TR shooter who was a late entrant at the far right end of the range, in the middle of F Class and with an F Class target.

On Stickledown there were different issues. These were mainly caused by the 'three to a target' rule, combined with slow marking. As a result, the details were not in sync with TR – they were often up to 15 minutes late. In future, shooting two to a target on Stickledown range would be preferable. The gap happened last year because of the rain which slowed everyone down.

These proved only minor irritations, and everyone I spoke to really enjoyed the meeting. Thank you, NRA. And by the way, I learned the other day that where a singleton is involved, new ICFRA rules will state that the firer may only shoot once a minute. How sensible.

In the International match, Germany won. The NRA provided two targets, which was special, and ensured that all was finished on time. Thank you. A new (German-born) Australian coach won the day by coaching well and fast. Well done Germany – very straight shooting in horrible windy conditions!



I think we all won, but overall winners in F Open were mainly Alexander Kreutz, Rudiger Eckbauer, and Darren Steward, with Paul Hill, Simon West and Gordon Waugh all shooting well.

In FTR we had the usual battle between David Lloyd, Tony Marsh and Paul Harkins, and Paul Eggerman and Dave Pickering, but also for me with relative newcomers, namely Asad Wahid and B O'Shea-Smith.

Roll on next year! ■



Battling the wind in Queen's

HM The Queen's Prize winner David Luckman talks us through his experience of all three stages of this year's competition



The Queen's Prize is often seen as the premier annual target rifle competition in the UK. I have been close to winning on several occasions in the past, but to date it had been the only major worldwide prize that had eluded me. As this year's Meeting approached I was of course as keen as ever to perform at my best, and had the usual hope in the back of my mind that this might be the year for the Queen's.

The morning of the first stage showed all the signs of being yet another scorcher, with the wind pushing from either side from the very start. For me the first stage is very much part of the Grand Aggregate, so my approach on Wednesday morning is the same as the rest of the week. This Queen's

first stage was not my strongest start. At 300 yards I incorrectly set my sights, leading to an outer for my first sighter. Then I let loose a flyer, leaving me with a 34 to count. Dropping points at 300 yards always brings the Queen's 1 cut into the back of your mind for the following shoots. Another 34 (this time to wind) at 500 yards made the prospect of the cut a lot more real, but I took comfort from the fact it was a tricky day. 600 yards went more to plan, so I finished safely with a respectable 103 on a tricky day.

In contrast, the second stage of the Queen's feels very different to the first. This shoot is not part of anything else, and is all about the prospect of the final on Saturday afternoon. The field splits into two

camps: those who are looking to secure the opportunity to shoot in final on Saturday afternoon, and those whose final starts at 300 yards on the Friday. I believe a person's performance in the second stage should not be underestimated. This was illustrated perfectly last year when Parag Patel essentially won the Queen's Prize through his dominating performance at short range on the Friday afternoon.

Second Friday was a long day for me. With an early start for the Kolapore in the morning and very little time to leave the range for lunch, it is essential that I bring all of my energy to 300 yards and have left nothing in tank by the time 600 is finished. The forecast had been for the wind to get



up in the afternoon, but there was no sign of it at the start of 300 yards, with the hot changeable conditions continuing. I was very pleased to start well at 300 yards (given my difficulties at this range earlier in the week) – especially with the sudden arrival of the strong wind for the last two shots, which caused many inners and magpies down the range. I changed my approach at 500 and shot quickly and aggressively to cope with the fast-changing wind. I was frustrated to have one shot go high. With the potential of a thunderstorm looming at 600 yards I once again shot quickly, and finished the afternoon with a solid 149 just as the rain drops started. It had been a good afternoon, and I was pleasantly surprised to be heading into the final in third place, with Simon Whitby achieving the only score of 150 to win the silver medal. I was acutely aware, however, that gales were forecast for Saturday, and the Queen's 2 scores might be less relevant than usual.

Saturday morning dawned as promised with a screaming wind from the left. It felt positively cold compared to the heatwave of the week so far. Final Saturday is another

long day, and the St George's final and the MacKinnon that morning gave a strong indication of the carnage to come.

900 yards started rather well, with my first five shots hitting the bull using wind adjustments of between 8 and 12 minutes. Finishing inner, magpie for a 68 due to stronger gusts at the end of the shoot left me feeling disappointed that I did not make more hay while at the bottom of the hill, but I was still in a good place, one point behind James Corbett.

I was more exposed to the wind on range 3 at 1000 yards, and had a bracket of 12 to 20 minutes. I can't remember when I last shot in such a strong wind. I could not see the difference in the flags when the strength was over 15 minutes, but I used the extent that the flag poles were bending to judge the gusts. The shoot started perfectly with the first five shots hitting the bull. Next a magpie downwind shot on 16 minutes – I concluded it was a gust so did not adjust my sights. Next an upwind magpie. I only saw the bull twice more and dropped 11 points in my last ten shots. I was gutted. I briefly turned around to express my

disappointment to Dad who was keeping my score board, and then sat and chatted about the carnage with my target partner. It took a few minutes before I decided to look up at the scoreboard to see who had won and saw my name at the top with the accompanying star to show that I was not going to be caught. This was clearly a mistake – I had just been destroyed by the wind! I had shot in 21 Queen's Finals and this was my lowest score by five clear points – several people must have beaten me. It took several minutes and a lot of reassurance from others before I could get my head around the fact that it was really me. It had been 19 years since I had first come second, and being close on so many occasions did not make it any easier to accept.

What had happened had finally sunk in by the time Matt Button and Parag had decided second and third between them. The traditional ceremony of being chaired from the range behind the band properly cemented the achievement in my mind, and is an experience that I will always cherish. I am absolutely delighted to have finally won Her Majesty's Prize. ■

Hot Hopton

The mercury was rising for this year's Imperial Match Rifle events, and Fenella Chesterfield was there to witness it all...



Tim Kidner and Mike Buchanan getting ready for an 1100 yard shoot. Photo: Nick Tremlett

The Hopton this year was a much hotter one than competitors are used to, with many very glad that there is a healthy tradition at Bisley of ending the day with a cool glass (or few glasses) of Pimm's. The meeting began with a 'stop stop stop' at 1000 yards of the Any Rifle Friday for President Trump's apparent fly by. While speedy shooters managed to get off a blow-off shot or two, most began their shooting two hours later at 1100 yards.

As the week progressed, conditions were also made increasingly challenging by the deceptive and rapidly changing wind, which continued to baffle many of the most experienced shooters.

Particular mention must therefore go to Mike Judge for his impressive finish, going clean in the Albert at 1200 yards. It was Angus McLeod, however, who was awarded the Albert trophy later in the garden of the English Eight after an impressive 220.29 (we had to ask for it back because it was still half full of strawberries that that point). However, special mention should go to Mike Buchanan (formerly Baillie-Hamilton) for his overall Hopton win with a score of 988.99. Tim Kidner (captain of the 2019 Woomera tour) took second place with a score of 986.101. And Nick Tremlett took third place with a score of 985.99. All of the match rifle community are looking forward to

welcoming the Aussies next year at what will also be the 150th Imperial meeting.

The 2018 meeting also saw a storming success for the female match rifle shots. At the end of the first day Zoe Woodroffe was finishing fifth overall in the Hopton. She then went on to break her Tyro by coming sixth in the Wimbledon, taking away the Ogden challenge cup for top Tyro in the Hopton at the end of the week. Special mention must also go to Fiona Day, who shot exceptionally well over the course of the meeting, earning her a place as one of the England reserves in the Elcho match. Katherine Lightbown (OURC match rifle captain) made history as the first ever table shooter in the 156 years of the



Nick Tremlett led his England team to yet another success

Elcho match. Sophie Wentges, a relative newcomer to Match Rifle, was selected to shoot for Ireland with Kim Lindsay as the Ireland reserve. The latter also helped the 'International Ladies Team' shoot to a sparkling third-place position in the FW Jones team match on Monday afternoon. Expertly coached by Rosanne Furniss and Sophie Wentges, the women are resolved to again contend with the FW Jones reigning champions, the Hopton Supper Club, next year (so watch this space).

2018 also marked a resoundingly successful year for young (under-25) match rifle shooters. While Katherine Lightbown was selected to shoot for the Welsh Elcho team, Michael Boucher and Kim Lindsay helped make up the Irish team. For the first year in four, Fergus Flanagan didn't actually shoot the Elcho match for Scotland. Instead he was positioned in a coach chair and proved instrumental in giving England a good run for their money. Mention should also go to William Johnson (CURA), who managed to break his Tyro in his second ever Hopton by coming fifth in the Wimbledon. Moreover, Michael Horrell (OURC) swept up the Henry Mellish trophy for top under-25 in the Albert under very challenging wind conditions.

Elcho day saw the nations' best being repeatedly tested, with a particularly trying shoot at 1100 yards. Teams here saw their scores fall across the board making the contest an even closer one as they fell back to 1200 yards in the afternoon. Here the crowds gathered to watch as England again maintained its victorious hold of the Elcho.

Despite the heat, and therefore somewhat trying shooting conditions, the 2018 Hopton was thoroughly enjoyed by all – thanks in part, I'm sure, to the generosity of HPS for their mid-week drinks reception in The English Eight Club. Their continued support of match rifle shooting is much appreciated. The end of the week saw Julian Peck and Rob Lygoe OBE 'cheers' a glass of Pimm's over their pairs trophy win as the Anglo Supines (despite Julian driving over his rifle earlier in the week). Indeed, standing in the garden of the English VIII,



The packed firing points were the scene for a number of memorable performances. Photo: Nick Tremlett

watching the prize-giving, epitomised for me why we all love and continue to shoot match rifle. Despite the inevitable ups and downs that the Hopton brings (from technical problems to that ever-perplexing Stickledown vertical wind), it is the community of shooters who are all willing to support and help each other that makes us keep coming back year-on-year. So, to next year, the 150th year – we all eagerly await. ■

“ Standing in the garden of the English VIII, watching the prize-giving, epitomised for me why we love and continue to shoot match rifle

Photo: Nick Tremlett



Final first timers

Six shooters from across the age range tell Silke Lohmann the story of how they made their first ever Queen's final this summer

It is undisputedly every target rifle shooter's dream to make it into the Queen's final, but psychology often stops even the best shots to from making it through. We spoke to six of this year's first timers, some who have shot for years and have finally made it, while others got there relatively quickly. It is particularly noteworthy that this year's winner of the Queen's II stage – the winner of the Silver Medal – is among them.



SIMON WHITBY, SM (36)

Hopton Supper Club. Shot a 150.13 in Queen's II, finished 46th the final with 272.19.

Not sure when I shot my first meeting. It was probably about 1998 (summers were spent at Bisley as a child from the early-80s, and I used to mark on Century and Sticks, so dates are all a bit hazy). I've had various breaks from the sport, but have shot every MR meeting since 2006. I only started the TR meeting again in 2017, after a few years off.

Queen's II was my first ever TR 150. I did think to myself, with four shots to go at 600x; "I could probably drop the rest and still qualify" – the next one hung on to the bottom of the bull. This is not the type of thinking that top sports psychologists would advise. I was so excited, I forgot to put my name on my card

when I handed it in. It's been a lifelong dream to shoot in Queen's Final and it took a while to sink in.

The final was a little less successful, but I managed to stay in the top 50. I was still just about clinging to the leader board after 900x, but a miss at 1000x in some brutal winds put paid to my chances.

The overall atmosphere of the day was great – looking around and seeing so many shooting friends (some of whom retired from the sport some years ago) standing behind my board in support, and the number of messages I received before I shot. The most special part though was having my old man



keeping my score board for me, and having him there to share the day with. He'd raced back to Bisley the evening before. It was also quite nice shooting with Chris Fitzpatrick at 1000x. I didn't tell him this when we shot (I didn't want him to worry), but when he won the Queen's Prize in 1991, I, as a nine-year-old child, proudly asked him for his autograph. I think I still have it somewhere.

FREDDIE CADE (16)

Sedbergh School. Finished QII with a 145.14 and the final in 98th place with 257.2



I shot my first meeting with Sedbergh when I was 14 – this was my third meeting. I have also shot the meeting in Jersey with the UKCRT last year.

Sedbergh won the Ashburton shield this year for the first time in 21 years. On top of this the OS scores combined with our scores made us the winners of the Lucas too – a very impressive trophy. I was selected to shoot for Yorkshire and the UK cadets long range, captaining the UK cadets short range match this year too. Individually I also got through to this year's George's final.

Having not shot too well at 500 yards, I was convinced that I had to go clean at 600 to be in with a shot of proceeding to the final. I was only trying really to get to the second stage of Queen's and I didn't really expect to proceed to the final. When I saw the score go up on the board of 145 with any amount of Vs I was shocked that I had made it through. Lots of people congratulated me, and I have to admit it took a while to sink in how much of an achievement it was. I was the first Sedberghian that had made it through the Queen's Final.

After 1000 I came back with a score most people would be pleased with after a 2&10 shoot of 49.2. But for me, the whole final was an incredible experience. And an unforgettable one, from the strong winds, the brass band ('Thine Be The Glory' will send shivers down my spine when played in Sunday chapel service at school from now on), the amazing atmosphere with the spectators behind the targets, right though till the time after, following the chair around and having a sing in the Surrey. The whole thing was incredible.

COL. CHARLIE SYKES (50)

ATSC. Got through with 146.15 and ended up in 92nd place with 260.21.

My first Bisley was in 1983, and I have shot about 20 meetings since then, but it's my first in five years, and the first after the 2014 NRA tour to the Channel Islands (when I missed the Imperial). I thought: "At effing last!" when I realised that I probably got through to the final. But another club member had the same (low) score as me and I did say to him that we better hang around in case we have to do a tie shoot, and I said: "Don't worry, you can plot for me".

On the day, my hit scoring one at 900 yards made me think that maybe this year wasn't the year I'll win. Matt Ensor was squadded with me at 1000 and we finished first. It wasn't a great shoot, but I probably lost fewer points shooting quickly. I felt my 900 shoot was actually not bad, and had a vague idea what was going on, but I had

absolutely no idea at 1000. People said it was wide open to everyone to win it, but if you look at it now, the tigers were really on it. Congratulations to David Luckman!



CLARE MAWSON (22)

OGRE. Finished stage 2 with a 147.15 and got a 68.4 and a 53.1 in the final to finish 71st with a 268.20.

This year was my seventh – my first was while at school in 2011. Previous successes include touring with the GB U19 and Athelings teams in 2013, captaining Southampton University from 2014 and shooting for Norfolk in various inter-county competitions. Watching the prediction board at the end of the second stage was nerve-wracking, especially with the thunder and lightning in the background! But when I realised I'd got through to the final I was unbelievably excited, and really pleased that all my training with my university club this year had paid off.

My most memorable moment was coming off the 900x point with a 68.4 and seeing my name 12th on the board. I was jumping up and down and couldn't keep the grin off my face! Unfortunately I moved back to target 2 at 1000x and the wind got the better of me. It was the first time I fully appreciated the difficulties of shooting at the edge of the range with little warning about wind

changes – especially at such high speeds – and it showed in my score of 53.1. I certainly don't envy the marker as I kept him working hard to find my shots, but I enjoyed every minute of it.





DR GALE STEWART (60)

Province of Quebec Rifle Association, Canada. 146.15 in QII and in the final 74th with a score of 267.22.

I shot the Imperial Meeting for the first time last year, so this was my second participation. My background is mostly in smallbore. I tied the UIT (what became the ISSF) world record (600/600 points) twice in 1986 and 1987, and won the Pairs gold at the Edinburgh 1986 Commonwealth Games. In Fullbore, my best result was third in the 2015 Grand in Canada.

I was very pleased when I realised I got through as my performance improved as the week went by, and I got a better feel for both ranges. At the same time, a bit apprehensive as I had been Corp'd earlier. I have experienced crazy winds like those during the Queen's final only once in Canada. I had such a nice elevation across the target from an outer to the left to an outer to the right that I was afraid the top half of the target would collapse. My first sighter was a magpie at 9 o'clock, and my second was an outer at 3 o'clock, so I figured I should go for the average and was rewarded with a well-centred V for my first on score. The rest is classified...



HENRY GILBERT (28)

Oratory Cardinals Rifle Club. Finished with a 146.15 in QII and ended up 93rd (after a cross shot on the next door target at 900 yards) with a 260.18.

My first full meeting was in 2006, and since then I have shot some of every meeting. But have missed a couple due to graduating university and attending a wedding (of another shooter!)

Having dropped my last at 500 yards in Queen's II and being 4 off as I approached my tenth to count at 600 yards, I was keen not to repeat my folly from 500. We were one of the last to finish on the butt, and by the time I arrived at the CRO's table the blackboard already informed those watching that all scores of 146 were in. I was very pleased not only with the score, badge, and opportunity to participate in the most prestigious Target Rifle individual match in the world, but also with the brief break in weather.

Aside from the previously mentioned cross-shot, the most memorable moment would have to be when shortly before message 1 at 900 yards, my target partner turned around to pass



her baseball hat to her scorer and a gust of wind blew it across to land on the neighbouring firing point. She then chuckled and said: "Well, this is going to go well". Everyone laughed, relaxed, and were reminded that on Stickledown at the longer distances, everyone is at the whim of the wind, which definitely proved to be true in the final in 2018!

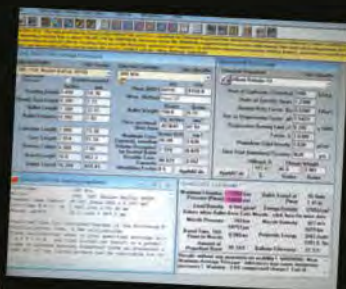
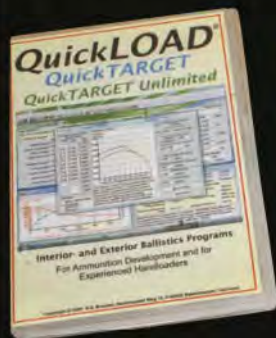


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Match reports

We report on summer shoots from up and down the country, from Bisley to Blair Atholl

INTER-COUNTIES MATCHES

16 & 17 June, Bisley

The Inter-Counties matches weekend is seen by the counties as one of the major Target Rifle events of the year, and is regularly contested by some 20 counties. The 36th Inter-Counties matches took place on 16-17 June, comprising a short range match, the Lt. Col. H. Jones, (one sighter and 10 to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards) on the Saturday afternoon, and the NRA Long Range match (two sighters and 15 to count at 900 and 1000 yards) on the Sunday morning. Team squads are a maximum of 10, from whom eight shooters and two wind coaches have to be selected for both matches.

For those who can get there in time and don't want a lie in, there is an individual competition on the Saturday morning for the R Jarvis trophy, shot in two details under Queen's I conditions (two sighters and seven to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards). This provides a chance for shooters to establish their zeros before the big matches, using the batch of ammunition that will be used for the Imperial Meeting. The day was grey and cool, but dry, with a moderate to fresh left wind that was strong enough to blow out the cobwebs and catch the unwary. Nevertheless, eight shooters managed to keep all their shots in the bull for a full score of 105. Nick Mace was the best of these, winning the trophy with 17 of his 21 shots in the central V Bull, one ahead of Ed Dickson, who counted out Bruce Winney, both on 16 Vs. It is perhaps telling that four of the eight scores of 105 came from established Great Britain wind coaches. The Under 23 prize went to Jemima Hince, one of this year's Athelings (UK Cadets team to Canada) with a score of 102.12. The Under 25 prize (you can't win both) went to Jamie Allum on 102.9.

In the afternoon, the fresh left wind continued to tease shooters and coaches with 1-1½ minutes allowance needed at 300 yards. Scores in the Lt. Col. H. Jones short range match were consequently not as high as some years, with only Surrey (5 off), Hertfordshire (7) and London (8) dropping an average of a point a man or less. At 500 yards the scores started to spread further in the 2-4 minute winds. Only Norfolk (5 off), Devon (6) and Gloucestershire (8) averaged 49 or better. Going into the final range, 600 yds, Surrey led on 14 off, followed by

Norfolk on 16 off and Hertfordshire on 19 off. Hertfordshire pulled out all the stops to drop just 6 points at this longest distance, followed closely by London, Lancashire and Berkshire on 8 off, but none could match Surrey, drawn on targets 1 & 2 in the lee of the trees, who dropped only 3 points to win with a total of 1183.149. Hertfordshire's finish pulled them up to take the silver medals with 1175.117, followed by Norfolk in the Bronze medal position on 1172.139. The trickiness of the wind was shown by the lower than usual scores, and the

It is perhaps telling that four of the eight scores of 105 came from established Great Britain wind coaches



Chris Mitchell collects the prize with the highest score

fact that there was only one full score of 150, compared with 12 last year, from Berkshire's Chris Mitchell on 150.20 (ex 150.30). Best of the 149s was Chloe Evans from Norfolk on 149.25.

Sunday morning was again dry but grey and cool, and the fresh left wind had not abated, needing a typical wind bracket of 7-10 minutes at 900 yards in the NRA Long Range match. There were only six full scores of 75 from the 160 shooters, though most managed to keep their scores in the 70s. Essex coped best with the conditions to lead at the half way stage with 581.58. Suffolk (579.60), Surrey (577.64) and Hertfordshire (577.55) were close behind.

As always, 1000 yards is where the ability to read the wind really tells. With a bracket of around 8-12 minutes, although there were steady patches, there were also some significant changes in the wind which were hard to detect and call accurately. At one point the Berkshire coaches looked quizzically at each other when one called 8 and the other called 10 at the same time, and were even more bemused when both came up as bulls! No teams managed to keep all their shooters' scores in the 70s.

Despite muttering about larger than usual elevation groups, Surrey came out top of the range with 558.43, closely followed by Norfolk on 557.42 and Berkshire on 555.42. This gave Surrey the win with a total of 1135.107. The battle for the other medals was very close, with Berkshire edging ahead to take silver on 1130.94, followed closely by Hertfordshire third on 1129.98 and Norfolk fourth on 1129.92. The top individual scores were 148.15 from Cheshire's Tom Rylands and 148.14 from Lancashire's David Young.

In the Aggregate of the two matches it was therefore Surrey who took the top place medals with 2318.256, comfortably ahead of next placed Hertfordshire and Norfolk in second and third places on 2304.215 and 2301.231 respectively. This is the tenth year in a row that Surrey have won the overall aggregate. Is there any county out there who can challenge to knock them off their perch? The margin this year was considerably smaller than last year, so maybe there is hope for the others! The top individual overall was Berkshire's Chris Mitchell with 295.36 ex-300.60 (compared with three shooters on 300 last year).



Nick Mace got off to a good start, winning the R Jarvis trophy...



...while Jemima Hince was the top under-23



Surrey continued their dominance in the Inter Counties

BCRC OPEN

By David Rose

Held the weekend before, the Match Rifle part of the Imperial meeting is a little-known weekend Open meeting called the British Commonwealth Rifle Club Open meeting. And with a huge campaign on social media and spreading the message we had a record entry of over 180 for the weekend – many eager to try out the GGG issued ammunition prior to the Target Rifle Imperial meeting.

The weekend brought sunny and hot conditions with light but changeable winds on the Saturday morning. The West Indies at 300x was taken by Nigel Ball, beating Chloe Evans and Mirek Kirkillo-Staciewicz in the tie shoot. Moving back to the 500x point, the Club President Charles Brooks proved he still had it in him, taking The India competition outright with 50.9. After lunch the winds developed further from the left with many finding it tricky to pick up the angle changes. David Morris triumphed in The Africa with a fine 50.8, and John

Bellringer posted the only 75 on the range to collect The Canada.

At the end of Day One David Calvert led the field taking the Dominion Aggregate by just 1 v-bull from Chloe Evans, and Bruce Logan only one point further back.

Another stunning day on the Sunday brought once again some interesting wind changes, and particularly challenging in the late morning and afternoon. With 27 targets in use on Stickle-down it was great to see such a competitive field of top class shots out enjoying themselves. The day began with The Falkland Islands, Brendan Creane and Charlie Dart contested the tie shoot with Brendan taking the honours by 1v in the tie. The Australia followed with 15 shots at 900x, and the testing conditions meant only two going clean with Ryan Lindsay taking the honours with 75.10 beating Bob Oxford into second on 75.8.

After lunch conditions were such that only 12 scores of 70 or more were recorded at 1000x in The New Zealand,

Jon Underwood topped the pile with a 73.6, edging out David Luckman and Sandy Walker. The Ceylon (Long Range Agg) was taken by Jon Underwood, and his stunning performance at long range helped him climb up the list to take the Open Championship, The Commonwealth Aggregate, by 2 points from Sandy Walker, with David Calvert in third place.

All in all a superbly attended weekend, enjoyed by all! Thanks must go to Peter Turner and the range officers for their smooth running of the range, and Izzy Logan and her team for the cream teas. Additionally it would not be possible to run such a large meeting without the support from the BCRC Committee, Peter Cottrell, the NRA armoury, range office staff and the markers. Message 10 and Compliments to you all.

Dates for 2019 are the weekend of 6-7 July. Entries will open around March. Let's make it 250 entries next year. Any enquiries to brcrmemsec@gmail.com Results in full available at www.shootingresults.org

RESULTS						
NATION	1ST		2ND		3RD	
The West Indies	N Ball	50.8 (23.3)	C Evans	50.8 (23.2)	M Kirkillo-Staciewicz	50.8 (23.2)
The India	C Brooks	50.9	C Watson	50.8	D Lowe	50.8
The Africa	D Morris	50.8	L Peden	50.7	B Logan	50.7
The Canada	J Bellringer	75.11	J Underwood	74.12	D de Vere	74.11
The Dominion Aggregate (short range)	D Calvert	224.31	C Evans	224.30	B Logan	223.24
The Falkland Islands	B Creane	50.9 (24.2)	C Dart	50.9 (24.1)	C Dickenson	50.8
The Australia	R Lindsay	75.10	R Oxford	75.8	J Underwood	74.10
The New Zealand	J Underwood	73.6	D Luckman	72.10	S Walker	72.10
The Ceylon Aggregate (long range)	J Underwood	196.23	T Drysdale	194.26	D Luckman	194.22
The Rampoor Aggregate (WI, Canada, Australia)	R Oxford	199.20	D Calvert	197.26	J Underwood	197.25
Sighters Aggregate	N Ball	69.8	D Luckman	68.8	J Underwood	68.5
The Commonwealth Aggregate (Open Championship)	J Underwood	416.48	S Walker	414.45	D Calvert	413.50

INTER-CLUB GALLERY RIFLE MATCH

by Barry and Lee Davey



Three clubs: Frome and District Pistol Club; Monmouth and District Rifle Club; and Aldershot Rifle and Pistol Club. The idea of an inter-club match was discussed by Christian Bartlett of Monmouth and Ashley Dagger of Frome back in 2016, in the margins of the annual Wiltshire Championships. With the Monmouth range being outdoors and Frome's Anglo Range being indoors, it made perfect sense for Monmouth to host summer matches, with Frome taking care of the winter fixture. With the inter-club idea gaining momentum, Aldershot Rifle and Pistol Club also joined the ranks.

With 24 February scheduled for the first match, Frome's Anglo Range remained warm and dry. However, it's a shame none of the competitors could enjoy it, as heavy snowfall meant that parts of Somerset were cut-off, and the match subsequently abandoned. One false start led to another, but the three-tiered inter-club match finally took place at Anglo. Conditions couldn't be better with uninterrupted blue skies covering Shepton Mallet on the 22 July. Unfortunately, the competitors only discovered this after the match as the competition was held indoors.

Each club fielded two teams: one of five GR Centre Fire shooters and one of five GR small bore shooters.



Overall, thirty competitors shot a Multi Target match, a Phoenix A, a Timed & Precision 1 and a 1500 match 5 – total of almost 5000 rounds. From the scores, normalised to account for the differing number of rounds, the top four scores in each team were counted and the overall results are shown to the right.

The day was immense fun with lots of very friendly rivalry between three clubs from the South, and underlined what is so good about the sport of shooting.

RESULTS ex-1600

GRCF MATCH		
1	ARPC	1569
2	FDPC	1469
3	MDRC	1456
GRSB MATCH		
1	FDPC	1533
2	ARPC	1444
3	MDRC	1377

SCOTTISH OPEN AND SCOTTISH LONG RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Tim Kidner



Keith Baxby was the TR Grand Aggregate winner. Photo: Mark Todd

The Scottish Open and Scottish Long Range Championships are held at the Blair Atholl range, which is in the hills behind Blair Castle. The range is on land owned by the Blair Castle estate, for which the West Atholl RC pays an annual rent. The range has firing points from 400x to 1200x and is used most weekends during the summer. There are six electronic targets supplied by Kongsberg, which provides capacity for up to 60+ shooters to shoot three ranges/day. Shooting is in pairs, and a 15 round shoot can be completed within 30 minutes.

The Scottish Open is a three day event held in early June. It's open to TR and F/TR entries shooting twice at 400x, once at 500x, twice at 600x, and once at 900x and 1000x, and each shoot is 2 sighters+15 to count. A Scotland v England team match is included in the programme for teams of 12 shooters, shooting 15 to count at 500x and 600x. The Blair Atholl range is renowned for being difficult in windy conditions. This is mainly because it's on the side of the Tilt valley, so the

wind has a vertical component which changes the elevation needed as the strength of the wind varies. This year the weather was relatively benign, with some light rain on the Saturday morning. But when it does rain we put up gazebos to protect the target monitors as well as the shooters. There was an entry of 61 shooters for the Scottish Open this year.

Scoring was relatively high with Steve Thomas winning the Grand Aggregate with a score of 518.69 (out of a possible 525.105v), with Tim Kidner in second place on 515.63v, and Steve East third on 514.59v. The Scottish Championship is run in three stages. The first stage, shot at 400, 500 and 600x, was won by Angus McLeod dropping just 1 point to finish with a score of 224.31v. The second stage shot at 900x was won by Kenny MacDonald with a 75.13v, and the final (900x and 1000x) was won by Steve Thomas with a score of 146.18v, with Tim Clarke in second place on 146.6v. The Caledonian Shield (Scots-only, based on the Championship first and

second stages) was won by Tim Kidner with a score of 298.38v, with Kenny MacDonald in second place on 297.45v. The Association Medals shot at 400x and 600x was won by Michael Cooper, with a full score of 150.17v.

The Lawrence Trophy match between Scotland and England was very close. England was ahead by 5 points after 500x, but Scotland caught up 4 points at 600x to leave England as winners by a margin of just a single point on 1765.238v to Scotland's 1764.216v (ex 1800.360v). The winner of the David Hossack Memorial Trophy for the top individual score in the match was won by Angus McLeod with a full score of 150.24v, coached by Matt Charlton. The trophy is appropriately engraved with the name of the wind coach as well as the shooter, recognising the crucial role played by the wind coaches in matches.

The Scottish Long Range Championships were held over the weekend of 30 June/1 July, and this event gives shooters an opportunity to get some concentrated long range

shooting prior to the Bisley Imperial meeting. This year there was an entry of 23 shooters. Shooting long range at Blair Atholl can be challenging, and it is easy to get caught by the wind and blown into the magpie or outer. Over the weekend everyone shoots three times at 900x and three times at 1000x, with all shoots 15 rounds to count. The event is open to TR, F-Open, F/TR and Match Rifle shooters. At the end of day one Tim Kidner was leading the TR section with a score of 216.20v out of a possible 225.45v, with Keith Baxby in second place a point behind. John Rankin was leading the Match Rifle Class on 216.22v, and Paul Crosbie topped the F/TR scoreboard with a score of 223.38v. Paul Sandie was leading the F-Open Class (shooting on F-Class targets) with 213.14v.

Conditions on day two were more difficult, particularly at 1000x and the scores were more spread out. Kenny MacDonald was top for TR on 214.16v, which was 7 points ahead of Keith Baxby on 207.14v. In the F/TR section, Paul Crosbie was top score with 216.27v, and in F-Open Richard Sharman was top on day two with a score of 213.11v.

The TR Grand Agg was won by Keith Baxby with a score of 422.37v, just ahead of Kenny MacDonald on 422.34v, and Walter Buchanan third on 417.31v. The Schools Grand Agg was won by Harry Nichols from Sedbergh School with a score of 389.22v. The F/TR section was won by Paul Crosbie on 439.65v, 7 points ahead of Peter Burbridge, and the F-Open section was won by Richard Sharman on 425.24v, a single point ahead of Paul Sandie.

IMPERIAL ADAPTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

By Catherine Brazier

More than 40 competitors descended on the national shooting centre in Bisley for this year's Adaptive Military Championships. Open to serving personnel and veterans, the disciplines include Advancing Target, Snaps, Rapid and Mini McQueen. The Championships are fast-moving, whether the target's coming towards you, is only there for a limited time, or simply takes you by surprise.

Hosted jointly by the National and Army Rifle Associations, this year saw a good turnout, and while camaraderie and team cohesion are certainly encouraged, things can still get very competitive across all three areas.

Ryan Goodman, a former private in the Mercian Regiment, lost both his legs to a roadside bomb in Afghanistan on Herrick XV. His favourite discipline is the sniper-style shoot, the Mini McQueen. Despite not topping the list in that particular event, he was the number one veteran overall. "I messed about with air rifles for a few years after I was injured because I didn't have access to firearms. I've come down here today for a bit of fun."

Meanwhile, the serving personnel trophy was won by Royal Marine Dave Sly. Bought up on clay shooting, Dave narrowly beat his Hasler Company colleagues to the title.

A lot of the ex-service personnel taking part in this competition do so through the military charity, Blesma. They describe it as a great chance to recapture and sharpen the skills learned during their days on the ranges. It's certainly a sport that brings together all sorts, with an undoubtedly military theme.



Keith Baxby was the TR Grand Aggregate winner. Photo: Jim Brown



Paul Sandie and Richard Sharman won the FTR and F-Open aggregates. Photo: JKIM Brown





Ready for the Worlds

Robin Carter went to Bisley to check on the preparations of the World 300m Championships team

Every four years there is a world championship held for all International Sport Shooting Federation (ISSF) events. The only event in that category for us Bisley NRA shooters is the 300 metre rifle prone match where Great Britain sent competitors to shoot in both the men and women's individual, and the men's team matches.

The 52nd event was held in Changwon in South Korea in September this year, and Great Britain sent four shooters to represent us in these Rifle events. All are members of the GB300m club that shoots and trains at the 300 metre electronic target complex on Bisley's Century range 10, the UK's only 300 metre range.

The men's team was Simon Aldhouse, Tony Lincoln and Richard Fowke, while the

sole lady was Jen McIntosh, an experienced international small-bore shooter competing in her first 300-metre international. The men's team is currently on a high having just returned from shooting in the last round of the European Cup at Aarhus in Denmark, where they won the silver medal in the team event, so they had great expectations for the world championships.

Jen is based in Scotland and is also shooting in the small bore and air rifle events in Korea, so is busy training near her home, while Tony is based in Norway and is training there. But we had the opportunity to watch both Richard and Simon at the last Bisley training session at the beginning of August, where both were fine-tuning their equipment and ammunition for Korea – so we got to ask them about their history and their equipment.

Simon was busy testing batches of ammunition at the training session. He shoots a Swiss made Bleiker rifle in 6mmXC calibre fitted with a Krieger barrel. He's just had a new barrel fitted, so he has ensured it is fully run in and tested, ready for Korea. Using Norma factory ammunition, he was testing three batches at Bisley, all which shot superbly. He even tried shooting with a mix of all the batches – they still shot tightly and on the same grouping, so he can be confident whichever batch he uses.

Simon started 300 metre in 1998, and has a great history of international shooting, winning six individual and nine team medals in the European Cup events from 1999 to date. The most recent was in Denmark this year, and he has shot in the European championships



The GB men's team in Aarhus. L-R: Richard Fowke, Tony Lincoln, Simon Aldhouse

a total of seven times so far. He's also a nine time Great Britain 300 metre champion, and this preparation was for his fifth world championships.

Richard has been shooting 300 metre since 2008. He has shot for Great Britain in many internationals, including the Pershing three times, the Dewar 15 times, and the Wakefield eight times. His most recent successes have been in the GB 300 metre team, where he was a member of the European Cup medal winning team in Denmark.

Richard's rifle is a very special one. Of his own design, it utilises a Remington 700 action in a unique style stock with a Bartlein barrel – his fifth barrel since starting 300 metre. The

trigger is electronic, again of his own design, and has a trigger weight of four grams. I know – I tried it. The rifle is unique and it's innovation like this, British innovation, that adds to the magic of 300 metre. Richard loads his own ammunition in 6mmBR, and let's hope that some are gold!

These are the top people in the field in UK 300 metre, shooting exquisite masterpieces of ballistic magic. But the club welcomes all shooters, beginners and experts alike, as well as those from other disciplines, such as TR or CSR or F class. 300 metre is challenging to all, and is just as much fun with a TR rifle. If you would like to try it, contact the GB300m representative on 300m@nra.org.uk.

The GB300m club is open to all shooters. Visit the website at www.gb300m.com or Facebook by searching for gb300m. ■

STOP PRESS: World Championship results

The ISSF World Championships in Changwon, Korea, concluded on 14 September, just as the *NRA Journal* went to print.

In men's 300-metre prone qualifying, Richard Fowkes was the leading British competitor, shooting 575 (20x) to progress through to the main competition. Tony Lincoln scored 570 (21x) and Simon Aldhouse 569 (8x).

Richard Fowke went on to score 577 (16x) in the prone competition, finishing in 32nd place, while the trio's combined qualifying scores of 1714 (49x) placed them ninth overall in the team standings. Slovenia's Rajmond Debevec won gold in the individual competition, while France were team gold medallists.

In women's 300-metre prone, Jen McIntosh shot 568 (9x) to finish 28th. Korea's Sohee Bae won individual gold, while Germany won team gold.

Jen's sister Seonaid won gold in the women's 50m rifle prone – turn to page 6 for more on her win.

“These are the top people in the field of UK 300 metre, shooting exquisite masterpieces of ballistic magic. But the club welcomes all shooters, beginners and experts alike



Sporting Rifle Statics

Did you know that every year the Phoenix Meeting hosts a Sporting Rifle competition? Steve Wallis reports from this year's event, with photos by Monique Potgieter

As well as catering for the Gallery Rifle and Pistol shooters, the NRA Phoenix Meeting has, for a number of years now, included a dedicated Sporting Rifle competition, or the 5685 Sporting Rifle Statics to give it the full title. The event was conceived by a small group of members who wanted to shoot something more in line with the type of quarry they encountered and the rifles they used in the field. At the same time the South African Hunters and Game Conservation Association (SAHGCA) were heading to Bisley to shoot in the Phoenix and, with input from them, a set of rules and course of fire was agreed.

A few years down the line and this event, which has now got a dedicated and ever growing following, saw the return of the SAHGCA guys, and girls, to Bisley with

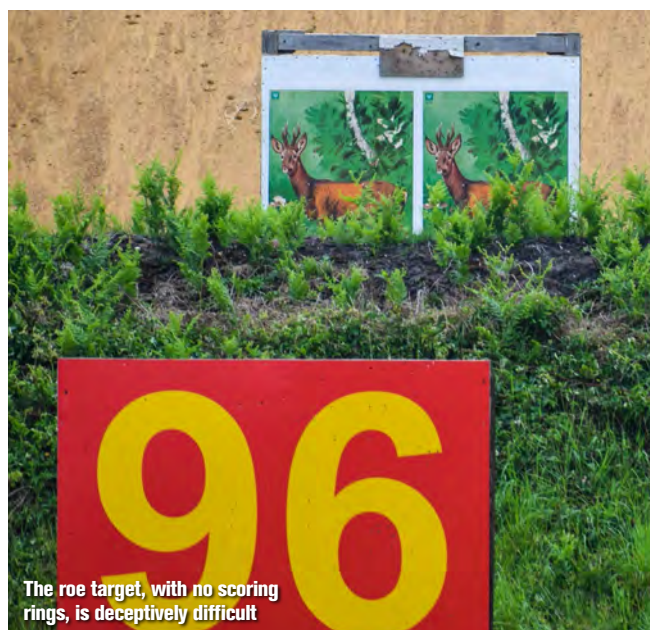
one thing in mind – to show the home shooters a clean pair of heels and take the International Sporting Rifle Trophy back to South Africa with them. Did they manage that? Read on...

Interest this year was the best it has been and saw a total of 33 individual entries along with seven teams entered from Clubs and Associations in the UK and South Africa. Weather conditions were what might be described as 'variable' – those who shot in the first squads on Friday enjoyed a sultry but windless afternoon, with many expecting to see high scores returned as a consequence. Shooters in the squads on Saturday and Sunday swapped sultry for windy, with an early shower thrown in for good measure, and bright sunshine.

The course of fire covers three distances – 100, 200 and 300 yards, with different targets at each distance, and three different

shooting positions. At 100 yards competitors shoot at a DJV Roe Buck target from prone and sitting positions, with many expecting this to result in a maximum 100 ex 100 being scored. However, there are no scoring rings visible on this particular version of the target, even with 32x power scopes, and it is all too easy to be drawn to the wrong aiming area or to let the nerves get the better of you as you see shot after shot hit the right spot before you drop one out of the bull.

At 200 yards things start to get a bit harder and shooters have to draw not only on their ability to shoot from a stable platform in the sitting and then standing positions, but also need to factor in wind as well. Some were seen to be making estimates of wind speed and direction before making changes to their windage setting, others were simply relying on a bit of hold off. Either way, the DJV Fox target



is not a very forgiving one. The scoring rings are stretched out diagonally and are only about four minutes of angle, around eight inches (20cm) across horizontally and a bit less vertically. An error in estimating wind or a bit of a wobble on the sticks can turn 10s into misses and credit has to go to those who managed to keep all their shots in the scoring area, especially on Saturday and Sunday when the wind was a bit gusty.

The final part of the competition really does need some good calls on wind as well as knowing your elevation settings – and making sure you remember to apply them before shooting, turning the adjustment the right way too... At 300 yards the competitors shot on the SAHGCA Springbok target, which uses an anatomical scoring ring centred on a clearly visible aiming mark. That said, the scoring rings span a mere 2½ minutes of angle horizontally and vertically.



With scores pretty much comparable between shooters at 100 and 200 yards it was at 300 yards, and on a target very familiar to them all, that the South African shooters came into their own. Despite the wind there were some very good scores turned in with the overall winner dropping only one shot out of the bull.

After three enjoyable but busy days of shooting, congratulations go to those who won medals and to SAHGCA for winning the team Trophy. This really is a great event, and everyone shooting and organising it is looking forward to the 2019 Phoenix Meeting and to seeing not only the regulars, but we hope some new faces taking part too.

But that is not the end of the story. The Sporting Rifle Statics competition, event 5685, is not just reserved for the Phoenix Meeting, as it has been adopted as the course of fire for the Sporting Rifle World

Championships being held in South Africa in October 2019 – running alongside the IGRF World Championships at Welkom, south of Johannesburg. This is both an individual and team event, and following the approval of NRA Council an official GB Sporting Rifle Team will be competing not only in the Championships, but also in a number of other competitions against teams from the host nation, as well as Germany, Australia, Ireland and Zimbabwe with, it is hoped, the possibility too of seeing shooters from New Zealand and other countries taking part.

More details of this event and of how you could be one of the team going to it in 2019 will be circulated by email to all NRA members who list Sporting Rifle as one of their three disciplines. If you do not already have this recorded in your membership details, now is time to get them updated so you don't miss out. ■



RESULTS		
INDIVIDUAL		
1	Barend Verster (SAHGCA)	291/300
2	Myles Robertson (BSRC)	274/300
3	Ockert Meyer (SAHGCA)	267/300
TEAM		
1	SAHGCA 'Elephant'	1030/1200
2	SAHGCA 'Rhino'	984/1200
3	Aldershot R&PC	897/1200

Results

IMPERIAL MEETING 2018

For a complete list of Imperial Meeting results, go to www.nra.org.uk

Queen's Prize top 10

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

1. DC Luckman; Sedgemoor TSC; 149.20v; 68.6v; 64.3v; 281.29v
2. MCJ Button; Old Oakhamians RC; 146.16v; 68.5v; 66.4v; 280.25v; Tie: 20.1v
3. P Patel; Old Epsomian RC; 148.21v; 69.3v; 63.1v; 280.25v; Tie: 19.1v
4. MI Buchanan; Roseville; 146.14v; 65.4v; 69.6v; 280.24v
5. J Corbett; City RC; 148.23v; 70.6v; 61.3v; 279.32v
6. S Osmond; Manchester RC; 147.14v; 65.5v; 67.5v; 279.24v
7. DA Richardson; Jersey RC; 148.15v; 66.3v; 65.4v; 279.22v
8. TA Ringer; Uppingham Veterans RC; 145.12v; 71.2v; 63.2v; 279.16v
9. A Bell; Australia; 146.8v; 67.5v; 66.3v; 279.16v
10. C Choquette; DCRA; 146.17v; 64.5v; 68.5v; 278.27v

Target Rifle Grand Aggregate Top 10

Name; Telegraph; Mail; Alexandra; DoC; Times; Wimbledon; Doyle; St George's I; Queen's I; PoW; Lovell; Corporation; Total

1. J Corbett; 75.12v; 74.11v; 50.9v; 48.3v; 50.7v; 45.5v;

50.9v; 75.14v; 103.13v; 75.7v; 49.7v; 48.5v; 742.102v

2. JAM Paton; 75.13v; 75.9v; 50.4v; 49.8v; 49.5v; 50.7v; 50.8v; 70.9v; 105.17v; 74.8v; 45.4v; 50.8v; 742.100v
3. ANR Walker; 73.10v; 75.11v; 49.5v; 50.8v; 50.6v; 48.3v; 50.4v; 74.9v; 104.13v; 74.8v; 48.4v; 47.4v; 742.85v
4. PD Sykes; 74.7v; 75.8v; 50.7v; 47.6v; 50.7v; 50.6v; 50.6v; 75.13v; 104.13v; 74.4v; 47.4v; 44.2v; 740.91v
5. CD Haley; 74.12v; 75.10v; 50.3v; 48.2v; 50.9v; 49.2v; 49.5v; 75.11v; 104.13v; 73.8v; 45.3.14v; 47.3v; 739.81v
6. ORW Russell; 75.13v; 74.12v; 50.8v; 44.4v; 50.4v; 50.4v; 50.9v; 73.9v; 103.10v; 74.5v; 49.4v; 46.5v; 738.87v
7. NBS Logan; 75.9v; 75.10v; 49.8v; 47.3v; 50.7v; 49.8v; 50.6v; 72.7v; 105.14v; 74.9.6v; 45.1v; 47.3v; 738.85v
8. MRM Millar; 73.8v; 74.13v; 50.7v; 49.6v; 50.5v; 46.1v; 50.3v; 74.9v; 102.15v; 74.6v; 48.5v; 48.5v; 738.83v
- 9 MCJ Button; 75.14v; 74.6v; 49.5v; 45.1v; 50.6v; 48.4v; 50.5v; 74.12v; 105.15v; 74.9v; 46.2v; 48.1v; 738.80v
10. EJ Nuttall; 74.12v; 74.12v; 49.5v; 43.1v; 50.5v; 47.2v; 50.7v; 74.10v; 105.15v; 75.10v; 48.6v; 48.5v; 737.90v

St George's Prize

Name; club; second stage; final; total

1. RSF Shouler; Surrey RC; 74.12v; 74.9v 148.21v

2. J Brooking; GB U25; 74.6v; 74.9v; 148.15v
3. JP Nice; ATSC; 75.6v; 73.7v; 148.13v
4. PD Sykes; Bedfordians RC; 74.6v; 74.6v; 148.12v
5. JP Tapster; Old Johnian RC; 73.10v; 73.6v; 146.16v

The National

Team; 300x; 500x; 600x; total

1. England; 676.69v; 666.64v; 676.64v; 2018.197v
2. Ireland; 665.58v; 680.76v; 655.50v; 2000.184v
3. Scotland; 674.63v; 675.59v; 647.50v; 1996.172v
4. Wales; 678.71v; 664.57v; 653.53v; 1995.181v

The Kolapore

Team; 300x; 500x; 600x; total

1. Great Britain; 390.43v; 396.52v; 393.39v; 1179.134v
2. Canada; 394.37v; 394.31v; 390.25v; 1178.98v
3. Australia; 391.37v; 387.38v; 387.32v; 1165.107v
4. Guernsey; 391.31v; 385.34v; 374.23v; 1150.88v
5. Kenya; 382.24v; 379.21v; 381.25v; 1142.70v
6. Jersey; 382.24v; 381.30v; 374.24v; 1137.79v
7. BDMP Germany; 378.22v; 374.18v; 370.17v; 1122.57v

The Mackinnon

Team; 900x; 1000x; total

1. England; 556.40v; 529.34v; 1085.74v
2. Wales; 534.39v; 536.34v; 1070.73v
3. Guernsey; 545.43v; 515.26v; 1060.69v

5. Australia; 533.32v; 507.27v; 1040.59v
6. Scotland; 531.30v; 507.25v; 1038.55v
7. Canada; 538.31v; 495.23v; 1033.54v
8. Kenya; 516.21v; 507.26v; 1023.47v
9. Jersey; 523.29v; 495.21v; 1018.50v

F Class Grand Aggregate

Name; Donegall; Doyle; Telegraph; Mail; Alexandra, Cambridge; Times; Wimbledon; Corporation; Total

1. R Eckbauer; 72.5v; 72.8v; 71.4v; 74.6v; 74.9v; 70.4v; 75.8v; 71.2v; 66.6v; 645.52v
2. DA Stewart; 75.10v; 69.3v; 74.6v; 73.7v; 71.6v; 68.2v; 74.6v; 69.4v; 71.4v; 644.48v
3. A Kreutz; 74.8v; 74.7v; 65.0v; 74.7v; 74.7v; 70.5v; 74.8v; 69.9v; 69.2v; 643.53v
4. P Shambrook; 75.10v; 67.2v; 73.8v; 72.5v; 73.6v; 70.3v; 73.11v; 73.3v; 67.3v; 643.51v
5. SJ Baker; 75.9v; 67.4v; 71.4v; 71.5v; 73.8v; 69.5v; 73.8v; 71.6v; 70.2v; 640.51v

British Open

TR Championship

Name; Club; Grand; QII; Q III; Total

1. J Corbett; City RC; 742.102v; 148.23v; 131.9v; 373.47v; 1021.134v
2. ANR Walker; Old Framlinghamians RC; 742.85v; 149.19v; 127.4v; 1018.108v
3. MCJ Button; Old Oakhamians RC; 738.80v; 146.16v; 134.9v; 1018.105v

4. DC Luckman; Sedgemoor TSC; 736.92v; 149.20v; 132.9v; 1017.121v
5. PD Sykes; Bedfordians RC; 740.91v; 149.21v; 125.6v; 1014.118v

All Comers' Aggregate

Name; Times; Telegraph; Mail; Alexandra; Wimbledon; PoW; Total

1. PD Sykes; 50.7v; 74.7v; 75.8v; 50.7v; 50.6v; 74.12v; 373.47v
2. JAM Paton; 49.5v; 75.13v; 75.9v; 50.4v; 50.7v; 74.8v; 373.46v
3. DR Armstrong; 49.6v; 74.8v; 75.13v; 49.7v; 50.6v; 75.11v; 372.51v
4. NBS Logan; 50.7v; 75.9v; 75.10v; 49.8v; 49.8v; 74.9v; 372.51v
5. PR Wheeler; 50.5v; 74.7v; 75.11v; 50.8v; 48.7v; 74.10v; 371.48v

The Hopton

Name; Whitehead; Halford; Cottesloe; Wimbledon;

Armourers; Edge; Albert; Total

1. JMBH Buchanan; 147.18v; 143.12v; 100.10v; 93.10v; 93.7v; 195.20v; 217.22v; 988.99v
2. Mr TLW Kidner; 147.21v 149.20v; 94.6v; 92.9v; 95.9v; 194.21v; 215.15v; 986.101v
3. CN Tremlett; 146.13v; 144.14v; 100.14v; 94.6v; 91.3v; 195.25v; 215.24v; 985.99v
4. RJ Lygoe; 144.11v; 147.15v; 97.10v; 96.9v; 93.8v; 195.23v; 213.20v; 985.96v
5. MJ Judge; 146.18v; 145.15v; 97.14v; 94.8v; 94.7v; 190.15v; 217.24v; 983.101v
6. D Lowe; 144.18v; 146.17v; 98.15v; 95.8v; 94.7v; 191.9v; 215.27v; 982.103v
7. DP Calvert; 146.16v; 146.14v; 99.13v; 91.7v; 94.8v; 190.22v; 216.20v;

982.100v
8. RJ Scaglione; 148.19v; 146.15v; 97.12v; 93.7v; 91.8v; 191.23v; 215.19v; 981.103v
9. AR McLeod; 146.14v; 147.22v; 91.7v; 92.7v; 91.9v; 191.21v; 220.29v; 978.109v
10. F Flanagan; 140.9v; 146.18v; 99.14v ;91.5v; 93.9v; 192.16v; 215.18v; 976.89v

The Elcho

Team; 1000x; 1100x; 1200x; total

1. England; 594.83v; 578.57v; 574.59v; 1746.199v
2. Scotland; 587.68v; 577.57v; 575.60v; 1739.185v
3. Ireland; 592.81v; 574.56v; 570.56v; 1736.193v
4. Wales; 582.64v; 559.51v; 551.40v; 1692.155v

The Ashburton

Team; 300x; 500x; 600x; total

1. Sedbergh; 254.22v; 250.13v; 257.12v; 761.47v
2. Victoria College Jersey; 251.18v; 259.16v 246.18v; 756.52v
3. Gresham's School CCF; 256.20v; 249.11v; 248.13v; 753.44v

Ashburton Fours

Team; 300x; 500x; 600x; total

1. Bradfield College 131.12v; 121.6v; 115.3v; 367.21v
2. Oakham School; 125.6v; 121.6v; 121.3v; 367.15v
3. Marlborough College; 124.3v; 125.8v; 117.8v; 366.19v

Civilian Short Range Aggregate

Class; winner; SRM; UM; 300; 200; 100; total

- Iron; S Clarke; 219; 141; 132; 87; 34; 613
Practical; J Frankland; 231; 190; 150; 94; 38; 703

Service; A Chapman; 241; 194; 142; 89; 42; 708

Civilian Long Range Aggregate

Class; winner; LRRC; RC; total

- Iron; S Clarke; 104; 226; 330
Practical; M Eustance; 188; 255; 443
Service; A Chapman; 176; 272; 448

Civilian Methuen – Historic Individual

Name; score

1. D Cross; 151
2. G Corfield; 149
3. M Kent; 140

Civilian Methuen – Historic Team

Team; score

1. LERA A; 776
2. LERA B; 589
3. TNHR; 554

Civilian Methuen – Practical Individual

Name; score

1. A Chapman; 237
2. N Greenaway; 235
3. M Kent; 232

Civilian Methuen – Practical Team

Team; score

1. LPSC A; 1303
2. HRA A; 1265
3. PSSA; 1241

Service Rifle Championship

Name; regiment; total

1. Zahli; SOAF; 385
2. Rawahi; SOAF; 383
3. Nasser; SOAF; 378
4. Mandhri; SOAF; 377
5. Subhi; SOAF; 372

Gallery Rifle Grand Aggregate (GRCP)

Name; club; total

1. K Kilvington; Aldershot RPC; 1354
2. M Peppitt; SE Essex; 1340
3. A Podevin; SE Essex; 1330

4. RN Fowler; MRPC; 1314
5. AEH Warner; BAR; 1310

Gallery Rifle Grand Aggregate (GRSB)

Name; club; total

1. K Kilvington; Aldershot RPC; 1369
2. JTA Mossom; MRPC; 1357
3. NP Grape; MRPC; 1330
4. A Kwa; Derby RC; 1319
5. CP Delahoy; MRPC; 1319

LBR Grand Aggregate

Name; club; total

1. MP Matthews; NRA; 845.21
2. RJW Illius; Ham & Petersham; 841.27

LBP Grand Aggregate

Name; club; total

1. S Lane; Sigma; 917.45
2. IA Cox; Yorkshire; 897.38
3. A Kwa; Derby RC; 886.41
4. C Green; Sigma; 877.30
5. T Smart; Sigma; 862.19

British Running Deer Championship

Name; singles; doubles; total

1. John Maddison; 93; 76; 169
2. Darren Cottee; 82; 83; 165
3. Asad Wahid; 83; 80; 163
4. Alan Harvey; 81; 78; 159
5. David Yendell; 80; 74; 154

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MESSAGE



Grand Aggregate winner Jim Corbett talks to NRA Marketing & Communications Manager, Katia Malcaus Cooper

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

In 1980, aged 21, my next door neighbour Cliff Abbott introduced me to small bore shooting. A few weeks later, he said: "Would you like to try the full bore shooting?" More bang for your bucks was how he qualified it.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

There's quite a few. The day I met my wife Joanne on the Williamstown rifle range is the most significant. My earlier days on the Upper Yarra rifle range learning to shoot were very enjoyable. My first trip to Bisley in 1985 was a real eye opener.

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

Employment. I had to resign two jobs to attend Bisley 1985 and the Commonwealth Games in 1986. So I became self-employed at an early age.

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

Shooting is a social sport, and Bisley a great environment to invite family and friends to share the experience. It was the same theme that inspired the formation of the annual Aussie team in late 2012.

What sort of music do you listen to?

On the aeroplane, Diana Ross.

What Club are you a member of?

At Bisley, City RC. In Australia, Benalla RC (500m up the road!)

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

Hard to say. In my earlier years, Cliff Abbott was my tutor. Then Peter Maher introduced me to State teams and took me to



interstate meetings. After a NSW skills course in the mid 1980s, Graeme Berman became my mentor, and from the early 1990s, Keith Hills gunsmithed my rifles and advised me on many aspects of shooting. From mid-2000, Geoff Grosskreutz was my manager in two Commonwealth Games, and in the UK Ron Hilyard has looked after my rifles (and a few other Aussies too). More recently, David Brewster has taken up gunsmithing, and besides fitting my barrels, is also a business confidant.

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

France. They make the best creme brûlées.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Their management of junior shooting for future generations – it's a blueprint other NRA's should follow.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I enjoy restoring machinery to a working state.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

Stretching. Then working out my likely wind bracket.

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

Buy the best gear you can afford, then learn the three major skills of holding, trigger release and wind reading from the top shooters.

So what next?

We have the National teams event in middle September at the new Pinjar range in Western Australia. It has three stopbutts (no mantlets) of 24 targets each, shorts, mid and long ranges, with one concrete firing point about 250m long. All electronic targets. I always liked the old guns. ■



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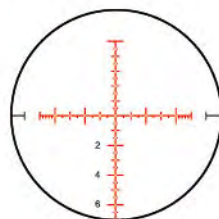
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