

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Autumn 2022 | Volume D No.3

£4.25

2022 *Imperial Meeting*



**RUNNING DEER
REPORT** *P20*

**IGRF WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS** *P32*

**INTER-COUNTIES
WEEKEND** *P46*

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AUTUMN 2022 | VOLUME D NO.3



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The National Rifle Association Journal is published on behalf of the National Rifle Association by **Fellows Media Ltd.**

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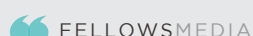
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Imperial Meeting winner, Alice Good.

Bad luck COMES IN *threes*

NRA Secretary General, **Andrew Mercer**, opens the Autumn 2022 discussing the fire at Bisley and how it affected the season.



Having navigated our way through plague (Covid) and storm (Eunice) the latest challenge to assail Bisley was a major fire in the range danger area. All we need is for the skies to darken, heralding the arrival of the swarm of locusts.

The fire started on the evening of Monday 4 July and quickly spread, burning through over 1,600 acres of tinder dry SSSI. Heavy rain on Wednesday 17 August extinguished most if not all of the burning areas.

NRA staff, volunteers, MoD staff and the Fire and Rescue Service put in herculean efforts to keep the fire damage and disruption to a minimum. Water bowser teams manned by our staff have been working in difficult conditions morning, noon and night throughout the fire, and I am incredibly proud of their stoicism, professionalism and determination to keep the ranges open.

“We have learnt a great deal and I am determined we will be better prepared for the next fires. Water bowzers, fire breaks, good site plans, clear lines of communications

The cancellations of the Match Rifle, F Class, Historic Arms and Inter Services Cadet Rifle Imperial meetings were extremely disappointing for competitors, many who had travelled long distances to attend. Thankfully the ranges re-opened on Monday 11 July and it was a special delight to see hundreds of cadets shooting in the Schools meeting.

I was struck by the genuine support and understanding of competitors, range officers and all involved in the busy programme of subsequent competitions; not a grumble did I receive when cease fires were needed to allow safe access to the range floor for fire crews and NRA staff. Queen's Final day marked a fitting and exciting end to the Imperial, although proceedings were enlivened by the unexpected arrival of a fire tender with blue lights on Stickledown range.

We have learnt a great deal and I am determined we will be better prepared for the next fires. Water bowzers, fire breaks, good site plans, clear lines of communications and agreed areas of responsibility will all feature in our review. Most of the range danger area sits within a SSSI and has not been cleared of unexploded ordnance, but we need to manage the area more effectively to minimise the impact on the ranges, local residents and rich fauna and flora from future fires.

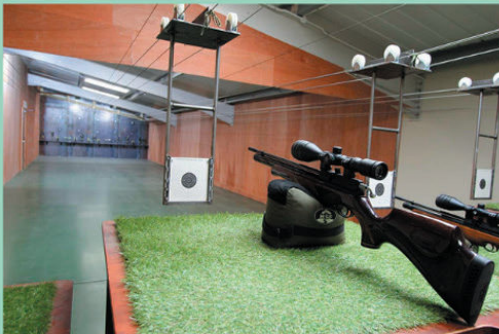
Away from the fire there is much to do, including surveying regional range operators to assess their capacity to recover lead to inform our response to the HSE consultation; liaising with the Home Office on reviews of Firearms Licensing Fees and Home Office Approved Clubs; and working on two exciting projects to re-open ranges in Scotland and Dorset.

Demand for our ranges continues to grow as does NRA membership, but we would be foolish to ignore the growing economic headwinds. Costs of everything are increasing at an alarming rate and we need to keep our pencils sharp when setting prices for 2023. Whilst I firmly believe value is more important than price, we need to ensure that target shooting remains affordable for as many as possible. 🌱



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153RD IMPERIAL MEETING REPORT

Report written by **Dan Richardson.**

I remember a time, not all that long ago, when you'd be thankful for one or two sunny days during the Meeting, or at least enough of a let up in the weather to allow you to dry your kit thoroughly. Those days, increasingly, seem like the distant past; the last five iterations of the Meeting (taking in the drought of 2018, the extreme heat of the 2019 America Match, the "have you ever known it hit 30 degrees in September?" autumn edition in 2020, and the 2021 Meeting) have been held in conditions more usually associated with

ranges in the southern hemisphere. Not, you understand, that I'm complaining...

This year was no exception. With almost a week to go until the Opening Shot, the protected area behind Stickledown erupted into the sorts of flames you really don't associate with a typical British summer. There was nothing that the NRA could do other than hope that any damage to range infrastructure would be minimal, but until the flames died down to an extent that they were able to assess the damage, the extent of the remedial works needed to host the Meeting would be anybody's guess. That opportunity presented itself two days before the Match Rifle and ISCRM meetings were due to commence, with a quick survey

revealing that the vast majority of the target numbers on Stickledown had been incinerated and would need to be re-built from scratch. With fires continuing to burn in the vicinity of the ranges, the NRA were left with little choice but to cancel the MR and ISCRM meetings, and to source, build and install fifty new target numbers on the Stickledown butt.

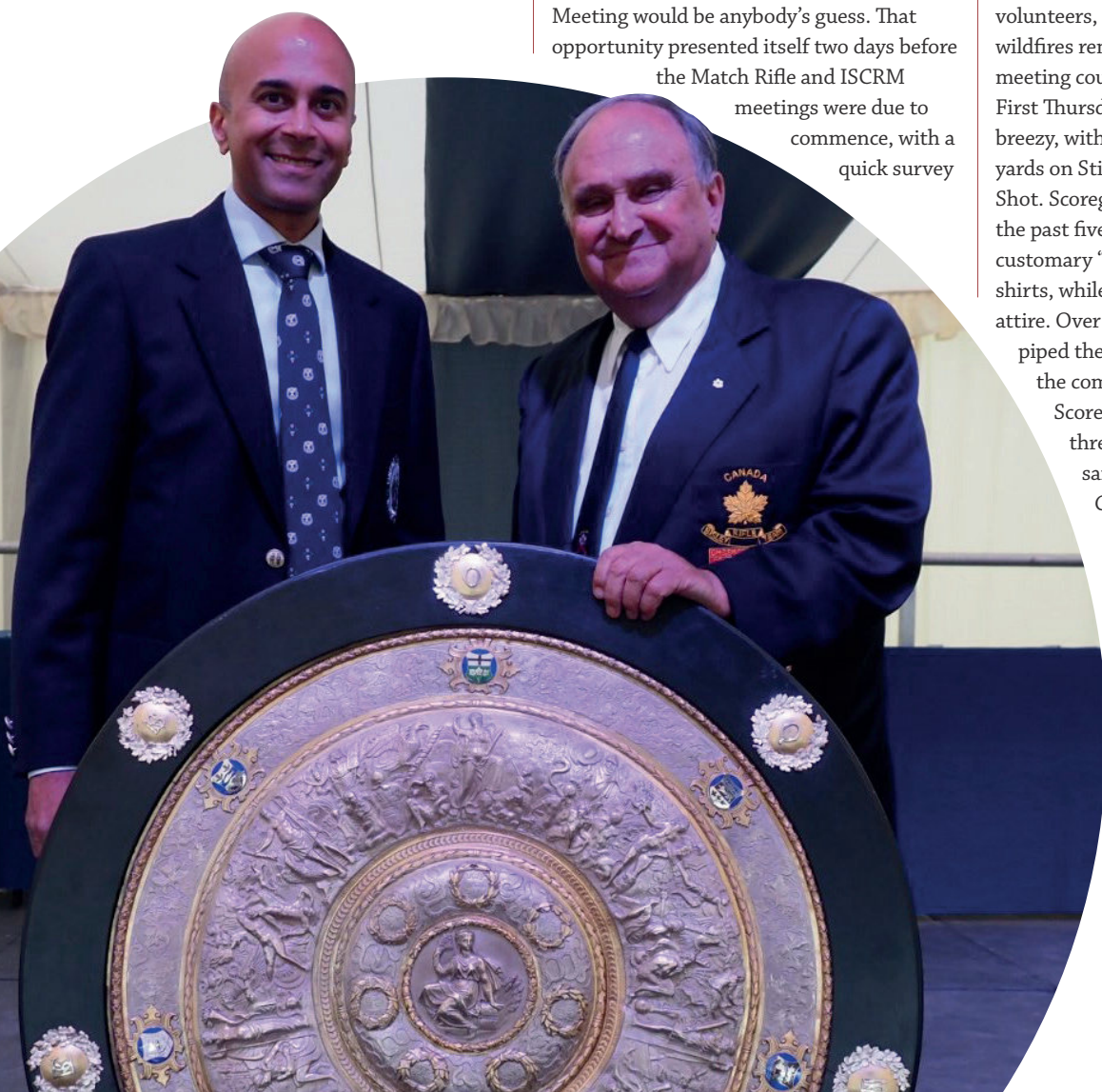
THURSDAY

A Herculean effort, led by Peter Cottrell and involving tens of NRA staff and volunteers, meant that – assuming the wildfires remained under control – the TR meeting could proceed as planned. As such, First Thursday dawned bright and slightly breezy, with the hordes assembling at 900 yards on Stickledown for the Opening Shot. Scoregasm, winners for each of the past five years, came donned in their customary "radioactive banana" coloured shirts, while others opted for less garish attire. Over on Century, Dollar Academy piped their way onto the range to signal the commencement of the Ashburton.

Scoregasm took two of the top three places in the Opening Shot, sandwiching Hogleas Hall Rifle Club (Messrs Patel, Raincock, De Vere, Ramsey, and Brown) between Scoregasm (Richards, Watson, Ensor, Sanders, and Burch) in first and Multiple Scoregasm in third. In the Ashburton, Bradfield College recorded a convincing (13 point) victory over Sedbergh School in second and Dollar Academy in third.

Left: Parag Patel wins the Grand Agg for a record fifth time.

Above right: Great Britain wins The Kolapore.





FRIDAY

Onto First Friday, and the commencement of the individual, pre-Grand events, consisting these days of the Century at 500 and 600 yards, and the Admiral Hutton at 900 yards (the powers that be having taken the view that 300- and 1000-yard warm-ups are for wimps). Wind conditions, especially on Stickledown, were as tricky as they've been for some time, with a bracket of anywhere between two right and ten left, and everything in between. Neels Jonck and Elliott Sewell recorded fine scores of 50.8v, with Sewell triumphing in the subsequent tie. The Century saw just four scores of 100, the best of which – 100.13v – went to Sqn Ldr ME Fray of the RAF Air Command. Putting the days' two events together resulted in the narrowest of wins for Bill Richards in the Friday Aggregate, his score of 149.16v counting out David Luckman thanks to a superior score at 900 yards (50 for Bill, to 49 for David).

SATURDAY

And so to Middle Saturday and the start of the four-day Grand Aggregate. The weather forecast promised record-breaking temperatures for the latter two days of proceedings on Second Monday and Tuesday, with the UK Met Office issuing its first ever "red" weather warning (signalling a threat to life) for extreme heat. This presented yet another challenge to an NRA team who had already faced the enormous challenge of preparing Stickledown for use following the wildfires of the preceding week, but they were to prove more than up to it.

Three shoots – the Donegall at 300 yards, the Daily Telegraph at 500 yards and the Conan Doyle at 900 yards – to be navigated in increasingly hot and sticky conditions

with flicky winds that only infrequently aligned with mirage. South Africa's Alex Coetzee made a storming start to his Grand Aggregate, missing the vee bull with just eight of his 35 shots all day, his score of 175.27v good enough for the Saturday Aggregate by a clear point from David Luckman. Just for good measure, Alex also

Dodds tying for top honours, Nigel's score of 173.27v edging out Theo's thanks to a lovely (and, after a tie with Patrick Costello, winning) score of 50.8v in the Corporation. Roseanne Furniss and Chris Mitchell tied in the Alexandra (50.9v), with Roseanne taking the tie. In the Daily Mail, Hannah Cook edged out Theo Dodds after both

“Three shoots – the Donegall at 300 yards, the Daily Telegraph at 500 yards and the Conan Doyle at 900 yards – to be navigated in increasingly hot and sticky conditions

emerged victorious in the Daily Telegraph with a score of 75.13v (again edging out Luckman by a single vee) and the Conan Doyle (50.9v). It was only in the Donegall that Alex failed to trouble the top of the prize lists, with four scores of 50.9v – Chris Mitchell, Jim Paton, Simon Hayton, and Saxon Brewer-Marchant – tying for first place. Chris emerged victorious in the tie.

SUNDAY

Middle Sunday would prove to be the last day of a "traditional" course of fire in the 2022 Grand Aggregate, with the NRA announcing its decision – taken reluctantly and after having consulted some of the finest medical opinion on Bisley Camp – to curtail Monday's shoots (except for the Times) to two sighters and seven to count, meaning much less time on the firing point for competitors. Before we got to the cauldron of Monday and Tuesday, however, the small matter of the Daily Mail at 500 yards, the Alexandra at 600 yards and the Corporation at 1000 yards lay in wait. At day's end, the top of the prize list was a largely naval affair, with Nigel Ball and Theo

scored 75.13v. After six Grand Aggregate shoots, for a highest possible score of 350 points, Alex Coetzee led the way on two-off, followed two points back by David Luckman, Jim Corbett, and Roseanne Furniss. All to play for.

MONDAY

Monday dawned bright, still, and really, really hot. With temperatures forecast to peak at close to 40 degrees on Tuesday, the hot weather drills that seasoned shooters might have honed in South Africa, the West Indies or Australia were of utmost importance. Monday's curtailed programme took in the ten-shot Times at 300 yards, with seven to count in each of the Wimbledon and 600 yards and the Duke of Cambridge at 900 yards. Canada's Nicole Rossignol was one of only three to clean the day, her score of 120.17v edging out Parag Patel in second and Daniel Blake in third. In the Times, seven scores of 50.9v made for an interesting tie, eventually won by Charles Dickenson from Andrew Lothian in second. Martin Millar's was – perhaps surprisingly – the only perfect score of 35.7v ►

in the Wimbledon, whilst David Calvert took the Duke of Cambridge after a three-way tie shoot with David Talbot and R Kloosterman. A glance at the high left-hand side of the board on Monday evening revealed that Alex Coetzee had stretched his lead to three points over David Luckman, Jim Corbett and, now, Parag Patel, who had joined the chasing pack. Three shoots – the St George's First Stage, the Prince of Wales, and the Lovell – remained, all reduced to seven to count due to what was forecast to be the hottest British day on record.

TUESDAY

Dear reader, the forecasters were not wrong. Second Tuesday was blisteringly hot, with a peak temperature of 40.3 degrees Celsius recorded at London Heathrow, just 25 minutes' drive from Bisley. Toby Raincock and Kenya's CK Kiptarus were the only firers to record perfect scores in the First Stage of the St George's, Toby winning the resulting tie shoot to take the Bronze Cross. Four scores of 35.5v tied for first in the Lovell, with Glynn Barnett winning an entertaining tie shoot held in rapidly failing light. Elsewhere in the Lovell, Patel kept all his shots in the bullseye whilst Coetzee lost two, to reduce his lead to just a single point (albeit effectively double that, owing to the

South African's superior vee-count). Patel, shooting on the first detail in the Prince of Wales, navigated very tricky conditions superbly to slot in a hard-fought 35.3v (he would later admit that this was one of his shoots of the week), meaning that – having not dropped so much as a solitary point over the course of Monday and Tuesday – he had done everything he could to give himself a chance at winning a record-breaking fifth Gold Cross. Coetzee shot in the middle of the afternoon, with wind conditions still tricky and the heat extreme. A 34 would have been enough to take the win, but he fell agonisingly short and had to settle for the Silver Cross, followed by David Luckman in third, Glynn Barnett in fourth, and Jim Corbett in fifth. The Prince of Wales itself was won by Sqn Ldr ME Fray after a five-way tie shoot.

Parag would later reflect – in an interview with the BBBBBC (the Barry Buddon, Brisbane, Bisley Broadcasting Corporation –

see the Facebook page for the full interview) – that a lot of what enabled him to produce such a commanding performance over the final two days of the Grand Aggregate was down to his improved fitness, something on which he has worked very hard since

contracting CoVid-19 in the early stages of the pandemic. Food for thought for those of us whose exercise "regimes" could use some attention, perhaps? Parag Patel becomes the first ever shooter to win five Grand Aggregate Gold Crosses.

WEDNESDAY

Of course, the new format of the Meeting means that, with the dust on the Grand Aggregate barely settled, there remained four days of

individual and team competitions. Second Wednesday is an incredibly busy day for some, with involvement in the second and final stages of the St George's, the Counties Short and the National providing for seven ranges of entertainment. To nobody's great surprise, Surrey emerged strong victors in

the Counties Short, while England proved too strong for all-comers in the National, beating Wales into second place by a decisive 30-point margin. Jeremy Tuck took the David Hossack Salver with an excellent 105.20v, with his solitary bullseye coming at 500 yards. Alongside, Jersey, captained by the shy and retiring Nick Atkins, won the Overseas to add another set of NRA Gold Medals to their impressive recent run in the match.

In the second stage of the St George's, David Luckman added 75.12v to his first stage score of 35.5v to take the Silver Cross and pole position in the Final. Shooting from the very top of the hill, Luckman took full advantage of his second stage score to record the only 150 (and one of only a handful of 75s at 900 yards) and win the Gold Cross, pursued by Chloe Evans and Roseanne Furniss with the best two 149s.

“In the second stage of the St George's, David Luckman added 75.12v to his first stage score of 35.5v to take the Silver Cross and pole position in the Final

Below: Alice Good – The Queen's Prize Winner accepting her gold medal from Alain Marion of DCRA.





Above left: Alex Coetzee – second Place in the Grand Agg. **Above right:** David Luckman – third Place in the Grand Agg.

What a meeting the ladies were having – a portent of something to come, perhaps?

THURSDAY

So, to Thursday, and the Queen's. It remains, of course, the most coveted prize in the sport, and with overseas friends returning this year – including GMs Marion, Paton, and Corbett – competition was as tough as ever. To quote Tony de Launay, the Queen's "is the shoot in which all are on equal terms, handicapped only by age and competence, rabbits and tigers all playing together on the same piece of hallowed turf", the only competition where some "habitually dust off their kit specially for the event, driven by nostalgia and enjoyment of a sport for all ages". The evergreen Cliff Mallett lined up (or laid down) for his 70th consecutive Queen's Prize, a run stretching all the way back to 1952. 2022 marked 100 years of consecutive appearances at Bisley for the Mallett family – and who would bet against them making it 150? What a sport ours is.

Thursday was, of course, hot and steamy, with not a lot of breeze but enough to keep

you (and the inner) interested. Assembled wisdom suggested a cut of 102 with perhaps nine or ten vees; many were therefore delighted when a score of 101.10v was posted on the boards moments after 1600 hours. The list revealed that conditions had perhaps been less benign than first thought, with 31 scores of 105, four of the best of which (with 18 vees) went to Roseanne Furniss, Parag Patel, Chris Mitchell, and A Eckhardt of Germany. (Furniss, Patel and Mitchell would go shot-for-shot in the tie, with Roseanne taking the Bronze Medal in sudden death, to add to her Silver Medal from last year.)

FRIDAY

To Friday, and the eerie stillness that seems to be calm Century range on Kolapore morning. Since the introduction of ICFRA faces, the host nation has come close on several occasions to relinquishing their grip on the Kolapore Cup, a grip that extends all the way back to 1995, when Jersey beat them into second place. Captain David Richards' two new caps – Chloe Evans and Roseanne Furniss – were richly deserved, while 2021 newcomers Theo Dodds and Chris Mitchell retained their spots for the 2022 match. The remaining places were occupied by the experienced quartet of Barnett, Patel, Luckman, and Watson C.J.

GB did not start especially well, dropping seven points at the first distance to lead Australia and Canada by a single point. Things improved markedly at 500 yards, with just two points dropped and the lead over Australia extended to five and Canada to eight. With one of GB's shots finding its way onto a neighbouring target at 600 yards,

however, the door was ajar (if only slightly) for one of Australia or Canada to squeak through, but both fell just short. GB's final score of 1179.148v (Barnett, 150.17v) was three points and a hatful of vees clear of Australia in second and five clear of Canada. Guernsey, Jersey, Kenya, and Germany took the remaining spots, in that order.

To Friday afternoon, and the Second Stage of the Queen's. It was, mercifully, somewhat cooler than in recent days, with the mercury barely troubling the upper reaches of the 30s. A playful breeze, that often flicked through zero, required shooters to pay close attention to the mirage, but conditions suggested that a very high score might be required to take the Silver Medal. And so it proved, with David Calvert – a three-time Queen – finally adding the Silver Medal to his collection of Golds, with a commanding score of 150.28v. There were nine other scores of 150, the best two of which belonged to Chris Mitchell (25v) and Theo Dodds (24v). What a week those two were having. The RO's board initially suggested that scores of 146 might be good enough for the Final, but hopes for some were dashed when a final cut of 147.10v was chalked up.

SATURDAY

So to the final day of the Meeting, a bittersweet affair that, for some, stretches until the following morning. Tom Rylands' Mackinnon team featured – for the first time – the sight of a prone Matty Ensor, whose long-range groups had made him, quite rightly, too good to ignore as a gun platform.

Just three points separated England from the Canadians after 900 yards, but England ►

“It was, mercifully, somewhat cooler than in recent days, with the mercury barely troubling the upper reaches of the 30s

“And so, as the marching band played on and Alice Good was chaired into the NRA office to add her signature to all of those who came before her, the dust (of which there was plenty) began to settle on the 153rd Imperial Meeting

upped their game at the longer distance to emerge the winners by 14 points. That man Ensor? An excellent 98, only beaten to top score in the England team by a certain DC Luckman. Time to retire the coaching chair? Canada took second spot, pursued by Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Guernsey, Kenya, and Jersey.

A strong breeze from the left greeted the Queen's Finalists at 14.30. Testament to the difficult conditions, there were no scores of 75 at 900 yards, with the best being Matt Purdy's 74.11v. Alice Good of CURA and Hannah Cook (originally a Pugsley – there's form in that family) topped the leader board on two off going to the final distance, which saw the wind increase in strength but seem

to steady somewhat, at least in the middle parts of the range. As the 1,000-yard shoot progressed, names came and went on the newly installed electronic scoreboard (which, despite some early Gremlins, seemed to work just about as hoped). But the name of Miss AP Good remained atop, where it would stay until the conclusion of the day's affairs. Alice Good thus joined Jo Lowrie (then Hossack) and Marjorie Foster to become only the third woman to win the most prestigious prize in our sport. A beaming Good was flanked on the podium by Parag Patel (2nd) and Al Haley (3rd). Roseanne Furniss (4th) and Hannah Cook (5th) made it three women in the top five, Nick Kerins (7th), Dan Richardson (9th)

and Adam Jory (10th) provided excellent representation for the Channel Islanders in the top ten, while Neels Jonck (6th) and James Corbett (8th) added further international quality. Parag's silver badge meant that he added the British Open TR Championship to his haul for the week.

And so, as the marching band played on and Alice Good was chaired into the NRA office to add her signature to all of those who came before her, the dust (of which there was plenty) began to settle on the 153rd Imperial Meeting, one that – a fortnight prior – had looked like it might never get off the ground at all. A huge thanks, as ever, to the organisers, the stats team, and the markers, who – especially this year – laboured in unbearable heat so that we could boast of our vee bulls and grumble at our inners. A special thanks, too, to all of those who volunteered their time to rebuild the chargrilled remains of the target numbers above the Stickedown stop butt – the best of British spirit, and all that. To next year, where we'll gather to do it all again. TTFN. ☺

Below: Stickedown Fire Damage.





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6-24x50 IR Deploy Mil FFP Illuminated	£799

Deploy Mil FFP Reticle Deploy Mil FFP Illuminated Reticle

SWAROVSKI OPTIK STR 80

LEAVING NO DETAIL TO CHANCE

Thanks to a new technology, SWAROVSKI OPTIK is the first manufacturer to successfully project a reticle directly in a spotting scope. The reticle (MOA or MRAD) can be activated or deactivated as required.

STR 80 Body Only - Reticle MOA **£2915** (RRP £3070)

STR 80 Body Only - Reticle MRAD **£2915** (RRP £3070)

Reticle MOA Reticle MRAD

VORTEX CROSSFIRE HD

The best value in optics is now even better with the introduction of the Crossfire[®] HD.

Not only do you get all new, optimized glass elements and coatings, we're also including the GlassPak[™] binocular harness to make the Crossfire[®] HD as much a pleasure to carry as it is to use. More fidelity, and more extras, than ever before make Crossfire[®] HD a must have.

	RRP	NOW
8x42 HD c/w GlassPak Binocular Harness	£189	£169
10x42 HD c/w GlassPak Binocular Harness	£199	£179
10x50 HD c/w GlassPak Binocular Harness	£209	£189
12x50 HD c/w GlassPak Binocular Harness	£219	£199

GlassPak Binocular Harness Watch the videos on our website

CHANGING THE GAME FOR A 2ND GENERATION

VIPER[®] PST GEN II

Incredible performance - rock-solid tactical features - fulfill your needs and exceed your expectations! No Quibble Lifetime Guarantee

UNLIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY	
PST GEN II 1-6x24 SFP - VRM-2	£649
2-10x32 FFP - EBR-4	£649
3-15x44 SFP - EBR-4	£949
3-15x44 FFP - EBR-7C	£1049
5-25x50 SFP - EBR-4	£1049
5-25x50 FFP - EBR-7C	£1149

Reticle EBR-2C (MOA or MRAD) Reticle EBR-4 (MOA or MRAD) Reticle VNR-2 (MOA or MRAD) Reticle EBR-7C (MOA or MRAD)

NEW

TAKE THE FIRST STEP INTO LONG-RANGE SHOOTING

VENOM[®]

Take the first step into long-range shooting with an optic that helps you go the distance with a ton of shooter-friendly features. Featuring a 5x magnification built into a 34mm tube for a massive amount of target travel, the Venom[®] also includes Vortex's RevStop[™] Zero System for a fast, easy, reliable return to zero.

UNLIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY	
5-25x56 FFP 34mm EBC-7C (MRAD)	£579
5-25x56 FFP 34mm EBC-7C (MOA)	£579

EBC-7C (MRAD) EBC-7C (MOA)

ROCK SOLID, DEADLY-RELIABLE, RAZOR SHARP

RAZOR[®] HD GEN II

Every component, feature and performance characteristic of these top-tier riflescopes is so well thought out and executed, it's almost scary. Designed and engineered for dialing precision long-range shots in extreme environments.

UNLIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY	
3-18x50 EBR-7C - MRAD	£1787
3-18x50 EBR-7C - MOA	£1787
4.5-27x56 Horus Tremor2 - MRAD	£3049
4.5-27x56 Horus H59 - MRAD	£3049
4.5-27x56 EBR-7C - MRAD	£2699
4.5-27x56 EBR-7C - MOA	£2699

HORUS TREMOR2 HORUS H59 EBR-7C (MOA) EBR-7C (MRAD)

SWAROVSKI OPTIK X5i

RIGHT TO THE LIMIT

As a riflescope designed to meet the highest requirements, the X5i offers maximum optical performance across the whole magnification range. Its large field of view facilitates rapid target acquisition over long distances. The high image quality and high contrast reticle allow you to make out every detail.

RRP	NOW
X5i 3.15-18x50 P	£2720 £2585
X5i 5.25x56 P - 1/4 MOA	£2910 £2765
X5i 5.25x56 P - 1/8 MOA	£2910 £2765

ARKEN OPTICS RIFLESCOPES

ACCESSORIES

SH4 GEN 2 4-16x50 FFP SF (34mm) SHR glass etched reticles. Waterproof. Fogproof. MOA or MIL VPR Reticle £699.99	SH4 GEN 2 6-24x50 FFP SF (34mm) SHR glass etched reticles. Waterproof. Fogproof. MOA or MIL VPR Reticle £699.99	EPS 5-25x56 FFP SF (34mm) Japanese ED glass etched reticles. Waterproof. Fogproof. MOA or MIL VPR Reticle £899.99	Halo Scope Rings £89.99	Rigid Precision Scope Mount £89.99
			Flip Up Lens Caps - 50 or 56mm £34.99	Bubble Level - 34mm £34.99
			Arken Throw Lever - 34mm £34.99	Rear Shooting Bag £34.99

VORTEX DIAMONDBACK[®] HD

65mm & 85mm SPOTTING SCOPES

Launched in August 2020, the new Diamondback HD spotting scopes have been completely redesigned to take on the "family look" of the Viper HD and Razor HD scopes and optically upgraded to feature HD glass and bigger objective lenses for improved clarity and brightness of the image.

- Rugged aluminum chassis with all-over full-body protective rubber armouring
- Argon gas purged to prevent internal fogging
- Fully waterproof
- Armortek hardened coatings on lenses
- Built-in sunshade
- Rotating tripod mount
- Protective eyepiece and objective lens covers
- Neoprene Stay-on-Scope case

65mm Straight 65mm Angled 85mm Straight 85mm Angled

RRP NOW
16-48x65 Angled... £449 £399
16-48x65 Straight... £449 £399
20-60x85 Angled... £559 £499
20-60x85 Straight... £559 £499

NO QUIBBLE LIFETIME GUARANTEE

VORTEX DIAMONDBACK[®] HD

The Diamondback[®] HD smashes the scale of price vs performance, delivering a rock-solid optic that optically punches high above its class.

- HD Optical System
- Fully Multi-Coated
- Dielectric Coating
- Armortek[®]
- Rubber Armored
- Shockproof, Waterproof and Fogproof
- Adjustable Eyecups

	RRP	NOW
8x28 HD	£149	£135
10x28 HD	£169	£155
8x32 HD	£219	£199
10x32 HD	£229	£209
8x42 HD with GlassPak Case	£239	£219
10x42 HD with GlassPak Case	£249	£229
10x50 HD with GlassPak Case	£269	£249
12x50 HD with GlassPak Case	£289	£259
15x50 HD with GlassPak Case	£389	£349

SOLO MONOCULARS

COMPACT & EASY TO CARRY...

You can always have a quality optic close at hand with the Solo Monocular.

The Solo Monocular is compact, easy-to-carry and delivers quality viewing for outdoor enthusiasts who wish to bring nature a bit closer. And with the integral utility clip (36mm model only), it attaches to flat edged surfaces for quick external access. A great addition to any gear list.

Model	RRP	NOW
8x25	£67	£59
10x25	£77	£69
8x36 c/w Integral Utility Clip	£115	£105
10x36 c/w Integral Utility Clip	£125	£112

▲ 8x25 & 10x25 ▲ 8x36 & 10x36 c/w Integral Utility Clip

VORTEX RANGEFINDERS

NEW FOR 2022

CROSSFIRE HD 1400
With a 1,400-yard max range (750 on deer), you get plenty of power to range.
RRP £219 **£199**

DIAMONDBACK HD 2000
Gives hunters 2,000 yards max range, and 1,400 yards on game.
RRP £329 **£299**

VIPER HD 3000
Gives you the tools to act quickly and confidently, with a 3,000-yard max range.
RRP £429 **£389**

RAZOR HD 4000
Razor HD 4000 delivers cutting-edge optical and ranging performance.
RRP £619 **£559**

LEUPOLD BX-T HD TACTICAL BINOCULARS

NEW

The BX-T HD Tactical binocular is purpose-built to give you the tactical advantage needed to succeed in any situation. Its ultra low-light performance combined with its extreme climate tested body and MIL-L reticle make it ideal for field applications.

10x42 - **ONLY £649**

MIL-L Reticle

- High-definition clarity
- Lightweight and comfortable
- Easy to clean
- Waterproof and fogproof
- Tactical reticle - built-in MIL-L reticle

EDGE SAFETY EYEWEAR

Edge design and deliver dependable, protective & accessible performance eyewear.

Model	RRP	NOW
Notch Matte Black / G15 Vapor Shield Lens	£34.95	£29.99
Sharp Edge Thin Temple - 2 Lens Kit	£52.95	£47.99
Blade Runner 4 Styles available	£44.95	£39.99
Hamel Polarised 4 Styles available	£72.95	£66.99
Fastlink 3 Styles available	£19.95	£17.99
Sharp Edge Thin Temple - 3 Styles	£34.95	£29.99
Sharp Edge Thin Temple - 3 Lens Kit	£64.95	£59.99
Blade Runner Matte Black / Polarised Smoke Vapor Shield	£72.95	£66.99
Hamel Safety Glasses 2 Styles available	£55.95	

MAGPUL BIPODS

For M-LOK
The Magpul Bipod for M-LOK Slots Lightweight Mil-Spec hard anodized 6061 T-6 aluminum and injection-molded polymer bipod brings innovation in ergonomics, functionality, strength and value together.
FDE or Black - **£159.99**

1913 PICATINNY RAIL
The Magpul Bipod for 1913 Picatinny Rails Designed for streamlined storage until deployment. Folded, the sleek housing and legs fit neatly under the barrel and are just under 2.3" deep and 3.3" wide.
FDE or Black - **£159.99**

GRS BIPOD NEW

THE PERFECT TOP-MOUNTED BIPOD!

Heavy-duty, rugged, yet simple to operate Bipod that can withstand whatever you throw at it. Simply made for when your shooting requires the utmost in stability and adjustability. The perfect match for prone shooting.

- Spring operated adjustments & height adjustable
- Pivoting feet made for different shooting surfaces. One smooth & one clawed side
- For Top & bottom mounted applications using GRS's forend- or adapter mounted spigots
- Requires a GRS Spigot when mounting on a GRS Bifrost
- Requires a GRS Spigot & adapter for mounting to a GRS Wang, & GRS Ragnarok

RRP £432.99 **£399**

GRS Spigot Kit RRP £124.99 **£114.99**
GRS Spigot Adapter RRP £109.99 **£99.99**
GRS Spigot Only RRP £28.99 **£26.99**

ISOtunes IN EAR HEARING PROTECTION

Sport Calibre Hearing Protection - IT-17
Dust, sweat, and water proof. Can run up to 13hrs without needing to be recharged.
£169.99

IT-12 FREE EN352 Industrial Hearing Protection
Cut the cords. Go Free! True wireless Bluetooth earplugs with all day battery life!
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PRO 2.0 Hearing Protection
Durability. Reimagined. Best seller redesigned - delivering best in class battery life, connectivity & durability!
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PRO 2.0 AWARE Hearing Protection
Noise isolating in-ear headset with Bluetooth connectivity and level dependent functionality!
£139.99

Sport ADVANCE Hearing Protectors
In-ear protection that allows wearer to accept phone calls or stream music from a Bluetooth paired device!
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CALDWELL TARGETS & ACCESSORIES

Airgun Resetting Target **£28.99**

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Target Turner **£157.99**

Ultimate Target Stand **£33.99**
Replacement Backer **£55.99**

Wind Wizard II Wind Meter **£55.99**

Silhouette Center Mass Target **£19.99**

Silhouette Dual Zone Target **£19.99**

Sight In Target - 6in - 10pk Black/Orange **£6.99**

Sight In Target - 6in - 10pk Hi Contrast Blue **£7.99**

Sight In Target - 6in - 10pk Diamond - Blue **£6.99**

Orange Peel Sight-In Target **16in - 12pk £32.99**

VORTEX RANGING MONOCULARS

SOLO BX36 R/T
Tactical Monocular with MRAD Reticle
RRP £143 **£129**

RECE PRO HD BX36
Ranging Reticle Monocular
£339.99

RECON ISX50 R/T
Tactical Scope with R/T ranging reticle
£649.99

Bushnell LASER RANGEFINDERS

PRIME
Prime 1300
• Max range: 1189m
• True distance with ARC
• Brighter, clearer, more accurate
£169.99

Prime 1700
• Max range: 1609m
• True distance with ARC
• Brighter, clearer, more accurate
£199.99

ENGAGE
Engage 1300
• Max range: 1189m
• 2x Brighter Optics
• Fully multi-coated optics
• EXO Barrier Technology
£199.99

Engage 1700
• Max range: 1554m
• 2x Brighter Optics
• Fully multi-coated optics
• EXO Barrier Technology
£229.99

NITRO 1800
Powered by Applied Ballistics, the Nitro 1800 provides a ballistic solution to 800yds and pairs with your smartphone for easy set up and data input.
Nitro 1800... **£399.99**

Leica GEOVID Rangefinding Binoculars

Model	RRP	NOW
Geovid R 10x42 R (Y)	£1700	£1399
Geovid HD-R 8x42 HD-R 2700	£2380	£1949
Geovid HD-R 10x42 HD-R 2700	£2380	£1949
Geovid HD-R 8x56 HD-R 2700	£2690	£2199
Geovid 3200.COM 8x42	£2820	£2339
Geovid 3200.COM 10x42	£2820	£2439
Geovid 3200.COM 8x56	£3040	£2699
Geovid Pro 8x32	£2575	£2299
Geovid Pro 10x32	£2575	£2299

SIGHT 2RX SHOOTING GLASSES

5 LENS SET - SP3
Light Brown / Electric Purple / Vermillion / Amber / Light Yellow
£194.99

5 LENS SET - SP4
Auburn / Deep Purple / Light Pink / Light Orange / Light Yellow
£194.99

5 LENS SET - SP5
Dark Crimson / XTRM Orange / XTRM Yellow / Neon Pink / Light Purple
£194.99

SP-FIELD 5 LENS SET
HD Brown • Light Brown • Light Yellow • Light Purple • Clear
£194.99

STARTER SET
clay shooting glasses set.
SP1 Electric Purple / XTRM Yellow
SP2 Rose Diamond / Deep Purple lenses
£116.99

TIER-ONE TACTICAL BIPOD

Various options available - 180mm or 250mm length legs
Pan/Tilt - Picatinny, Tilt - Picatinny or Sling Stud
from **£269.99**

TIER-ONE EVOLUTION BIPOD

Various options available - 180mm or 250mm length legs
Tilt - Picatinny, M-LOK or Keypad
from **£269.99**

SPARTAN V2 VALHALLA BIPODS

PRECISION EQUIPMENT LIGHT BUT INCREDIBLY STRONG

Made from CNC machined 7075 aluminum and top-quality carbon fibre, the Valhalla bipod has been designed and developed with input from hunters and the military! Incredibly stable platform for long range tactical rifles in just about any environment!

- 373g / 13oz Valhalla Bipod
- 38g / 1.3oz M-Lok Adapter
- 94g / 3.3oz Picatinny Adapter
- Hard Anodized 7075 Aluminium
- Multi-layered Carbon Fibre
- Ground Clearance Min 12cm/4.7" Max - 21.8cm/8.6"

V2 Valhalla Bipod - M-LOK... **£399.99**
V2 Valhalla Bipod - Picatinny... **£399.99**

SWATCOM TACTICAL ACTIVE8 MILITARY GRADE HEARING PROTECTORS

Waterproof headsets used for Military, Police Operations and Professional Shooters. The new ASIC digital electronics offers 360 degree stereo sound reproduction to enhance situational awareness and audio clarity whilst giving optimum personnel hearing protection.

- Waterproof
- Twin speakers in each ear cup for far safe audio
- ASIC digital electronic sound reproduction
- 600 hours of battery life with battery save function.

Tactical Active8 - Military Grade WP Hearing Protectors w/AX
Black - RRP £300 **£269.99**

Bluetooth Neck-Loop **£69.99**

LONGSHOT TARGET CAMERA

SEE YOUR SHOT WITHOUT LEAVING YOUR SPOT

Longshot is bringing the shooting industry into the 21st century. Their app-viewable target camera connects directly to your smartphone or tablet with their all-axis wireless camera! The Longshot App provides instant feedback allowing shooters to mark and number shots, and adds essential features to maximize time at the range.

Hawk Spotting Scope Camera
• Fits eyepiece that is between 30mm and 58mm
• Resolution: 1920x1080
• Band: 2.4GHz
• Live HD video & App-based software
£295

Hawk Marksman
• Straight Shooter 300yd Guarantee
• CrispEdge 2688x1512 Ultra HD Imagery
• All-Axis Camera Adjustment
• Live HD video & App-based software
£510

LR3 - Single Camera & Base Unit
• Straight Shooter 2-Mile Guarantee
• CrispEdge 2688x1512 HD Imagery
£1020

LR3 - 2 Cameras & Base Unit... **£1525**
LR3 - 3 Cameras & Base Unit... **£2035**
LR3 - 4 Cameras & Base Unit... **£2545**

ST. GEORGE'S MATCH

David Luckman reflects on his St. George's win.

In comparison to the other major competitions at Bisley, the St George's is a sprint, rather than a marathon, with only 30 shots counting towards the final and it is rare that the winner will have scored less than 150. The pressure is therefore on from the first shot and your V- Bull count also becomes much more significant. This is reflected across the field as those looking to win will consider not converting bull 5s to maximise their chances. A decade ago, in easier conditions, I had cut 5s in both the second stage and the final on my way to scoring 150.30 (which turned out to have been an unnecessary risk on the way to winning).

THE FIRST STAGE

This year's event felt even more of a sprint with the first stage cut down from 15 shots to count to just seven due to the heat. This created quite a feeling of apprehension as it felt like a single mistake could take me out of the competition. The heat and a tricky wind did however take its toll on the field and the cut was the usual two points dropped.

SECOND WEDNESDAY

The meeting's new schedule has had quite an impact on Second Wednesday. By removing Queen's 1 from the Grand Aggregate, we now need to squeeze an extra half

day's shooting into the week's already busy schedule. Second Wednesday has taken the brunt of this with back-to-back competitions leading to the potential of a whopping 80 shots needing to be fired across the Counties Short, St George's 2, the National and the St George's Final.

I am aware it is not possible for me to perform at the top level for myself and for England with this schedule. It would likely have a detrimental effect on the rest of my week. I therefore needed to prioritise and was reluctantly unable to support my county team that day.

“I made some faces after drawing range 4 for the Final which has the reputation of being the hardest part of the range

THE SECOND STAGE

The Second Stage of the George's had always eluded me! It was the only major medal from the Imperial Meeting that was missing from my collection. The first time I was runner up was back when I was 17. Since then, I had scored 150.28, not once, but twice (!), only to miss out to Jim Corbett's



two incredible 150.30s. I have tie shot for the Second Stage twice, but without success! (This has included going to eight rounds of sudden death with Parag!). After a great shoot last year, I once again found myself one V- Bull short of Parag. This year we joked before the Second Stage that he already had a one V advantage...

With the new schedule holding the Second Stage at lunchtime, and noting a strong left-hand wind, cutting Bull 5s was not on my mind; I was going to convert any bull I could get!

The wind was gusting and angling in a very agile way and there were plenty of inners to be seen across the range. I started strongly with 8 Vs but as my concentration started to be stretched the odd 5 snuck in. I was really pleased to have shot 75.12 to leave me just 5 Vs down in the second stage. But would it be enough to win? I had that nagging doubt that I would be once again one V short.

As the scores trickled in, it became apparent that it was harder than I had thought and there were only five maximum scores on the leader board. It was a great feeling when stats marked the star next to my name meaning that I had finally won the silver cross 29 years after my first near miss.

I made some faces after drawing range 4 for the Final which has the reputation of being the hardest part of the range, but I had a few hours to get over this while I had the honour of representing England in the National.

THE FINAL

All the worries about range 4 had vanished as I made my way to Stickledown. I had drawn target 49 and my thoughts were this is a great place to see the angle of the wind coming across the whole range towards us. This proved to be correct

with all of the three minutes of wind variation being driven by fast changing angles.

Converting bull 5s was very much part of the plan for my Final. With only 6 others making 75 in the second stage to carry forward, it felt like any 75 could have a chance of winning. However, I did not get the chance to convert. Having put my first sighter high, I over-thought things and made a full correction assuming it was evening light and the second sighter fell in the inner low. I was then acutely aware that I was going to need to fire three consecutive shots at the end having followed CJ who converted both sighters. The shoot was going really well, but towards end I was starting to get more excited than I could remember, and the rifle was not as steady as it should have been. I had made the conscious decision to keep my established rhythm and put the rifle down between shots to make sure (a) I did not rush and (b) I made good decisions on the wind. However, once CJ's last shot went, that sensible idea when out of the window, the rifle stayed in the shoulder, the plot book was abandoned and I went as quickly as I could!

75.11 was a strong shoot in the conditions. Coupled with my great second stage I felt pretty confident that that it would be enough to win. After hearing Rosanne and Chloe being announced as the other podium places with scores of 149, I had the proud feeling that I was the only maximum on the range and that I had managed to capture the magnificent St George's trophy for a fourth time. 🍀



– IMPERIAL MEETING – WINNERS REPORT

Alice Good reflects on winning the Imperial Meeting.

What a meeting. My fifth to date and without doubt my most enjoyable yet. I have often been asked to describe Bisley to the first years who have recently joined the Cambridge University Rifle Association (CURA), and honestly, I find it very difficult. Bisley is its own little world, and the feeling I get when I drive down Queens Road and get a glimpse of Century range on my way to the Imperial every year cannot be beaten.

The week started early with the Astor and I had an unsteady

shoot at 300x with one popping out low. Thankfully, I recovered well at 500x and 600x with every bullet luckily hitting its mark. I was pleased with this, as apart for the 36 rounds I had used to run in the barrel that week, I had never shot the rifle before and had to both zero it and improvise a position in the time it took the previous shooter on my target to complete his shoot.

The Grand also started well: after the first day I ended up on the board for the first time, in 26th place. The next day saw more challenging conditions,

and I dropped off the board into a more familiar position but spent the rest of the week determined to claw my way back up. I reached the board one last time after day 3 before dropping off again to finish the Grand in 59th place, which I was still very happy with.

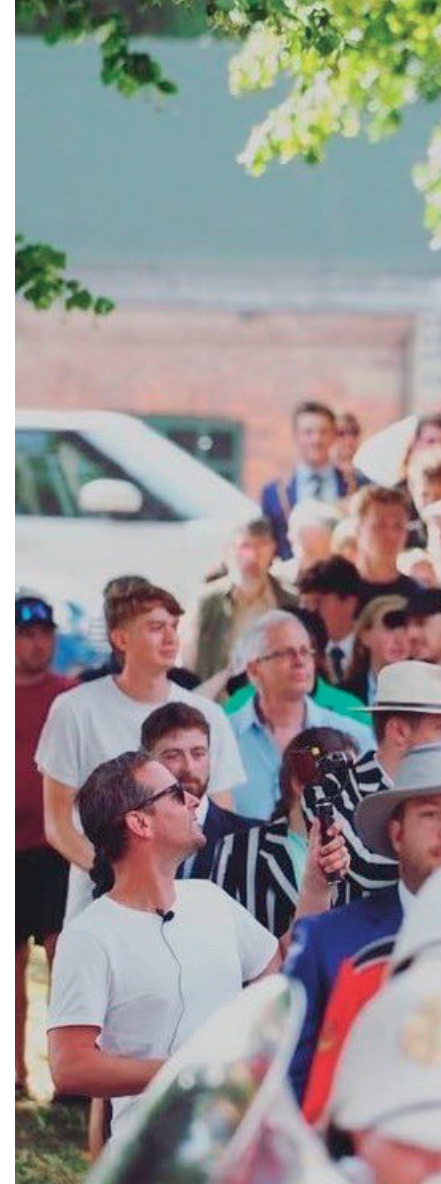
Then came the team shoots. After a recent move to Sussex, I hoped that I would be given the opportunity to shoot for them alongside my boyfriend Jacob. I was picked for both the short- and long-range and was coached to my first 50.10 by Reg Roberts at 1,000x. To be honest, I had no idea where the shots had been going, and called 'terrible shot' for my last, praying it was an inner instead of a magpie! Sandwiched between the long and short counties matches was Georges II. This saw me blown left and right (as far as the magpie on one occasion) but was a great learning experience.

QUEENS I

I was very excited for Queens to come around. I had been disappointed in my performance last year and was determined to make up for it. The England Lions training had highlighted that the eyes

are the first to go, so given the weather, this meant I had made sure I was properly hydrated for the shoots. I was perhaps too diligent about this, as despite shooting quickly at 300x, one popped out low due to having an uncomfortably full bladder! After this I shot well and found the wind readable (with half a minute and one minute wind brackets at 500x and 600x respectively), finishing on 104.15 and making it through to the second stage.

Before I could relax and prepare for the second stage however, I had the task of captaining CURA to a win against Oxford in the 150th Chancellors', the Target Rifle Varsity match. I was incredibly proud of the CURA performance, with a near record score and a winning margin of 62.35. This final varsity result meant a clean





sweep for CURA this year, which alongside developing new shooters, was my main goal as captain. I could finally relax in the 45 minutes I had to prepare for Queens II that afternoon.

QUEENS II

My range draw fortunately saw me shoot on the far left at 300x and the far right at 600x. Whilst setting up at 300x, I was watching for patterns in the wind and didn't particularly like what I could see: fishtailing wind with rapid changes. I pondered what I might do with this information and concluded that sticking it mostly on zero and accepting the risk of a lower V count vs a 4 would be better should the wind change direction while I was in aim. Luckily this gamble paid off and a 50.8 got me excited for what was to come.

“By 600 yards my anticipation was growing, but I was nervous about being on the far right hand side having heard many stories of ‘magpie alley’

By 500 yards, the wind had stopped fishtailing, and was now coming steadily from the right. It was changing a reasonable amount, meaning I used the full width of the bull during the shoot. But they all stayed in.

By 600 yards my anticipation was growing, but I was nervous about being on the far right hand side having heard many stories of ‘magpie alley’ over the years. I took what I saw on the wind flags and mirage with a pinch of salt and instead found that ¾ left for the entire shoot worked well,

despite the wind fishtailing and settling mostly from the other direction. I had my first 150, level with Parag Patel and only a handful of Vs behind the Silver Badge winner, David Calvert.

THE MORNING

Queens final day started with the Universities Long Range Competition. I decided to not only arrive with a clean barrel, but also an eagle eye fixed to my foresight having never used one at 900 yards before, much

to the dismay of my coach, Ed Compton. His disappointment grew even greater when I informed him that there was no second sighter. Despite this, Ed coached me to a 97, and Katherine Fleck to a 98, scores which would not have looked out of place on the Mackinnon scoreboard.

After finishing the morning shoots, it was time for my brain to engage in some last minute panicking, which included locating any CURA scope that I could find (the one I had been using all week had gone walkies after the morning), as well as a little voice in my head which told me that I was going to fail the trigger test and led me to placing my rifle on a bag of ice to help it cool down (I passed comfortably.) ▶

Above: Being carried from the range. **Left:** The winning smile.

THE FINAL

I went into the final with almost no expectations of myself, other than improving on my first attempt at a Queens final, where I finished only a few places from the bottom. I trudged my way over to target 47 while my plotters, Jacob Parsons and Will Ross set up the scoreboard behind my point. At this point Nick Tremlett wandered over. He was plotting for Lucinda Taylor, who was my target partner. Having already spoken to Nick after the Mackinnon that morning in the hope of absorbing some of his magical wind reading ability, I once again asked for any words of wisdom he may have. After informing me that the wind call I was going to start on was about half the strength I was going to need, my expectations dropped even further. Between my first sighter and third shot, the strength of the wind increased from 5 minutes to almost 12.

Two of my shots were blown out right. This was going to be tricky... I watched the flags, as well as the mirage and other targets. There were magpies going both left and right, but I could see that the wind was dropping. By shot 9, I had my sights set to seven minutes of wind, and I left them there - there were multiple gusts and holes in the wind but I found the core wind was not really changing and I looked to time my shots for the wind I could read. There was a fair pause before I got to fire my last shot, so a fresh wind call was needed. I added one minute and hoped for the best. Central V bull. Having been looking around at the other targets while I

was shooting, I was incredibly happy with my 73.9.

I smiled as I came off the firing point, and my plotters smiled back. Nick Tremlett

“As I got up, I turned around to see the crowd that had gathered behind my point

ominously walked towards me. “That score is likely to put you fairly high on the board. I suggest you don’t look at the board, nor talk to anyone else between now

and starting 1,000 yards. If you are on the board, which you may well be, have someone else take a picture. Focus on what you need to do at 1,000 yards and just enjoy it”. As I walked back, I kept my head down and avoided making eye contact with anyone. I assumed I was about halfway up the board with 2 off, and set myself the aim of staying in a similar position by the end of 1,000 yards.

My first sighter went out right, but I corrected off it for a V bull first to count. I found the wind far

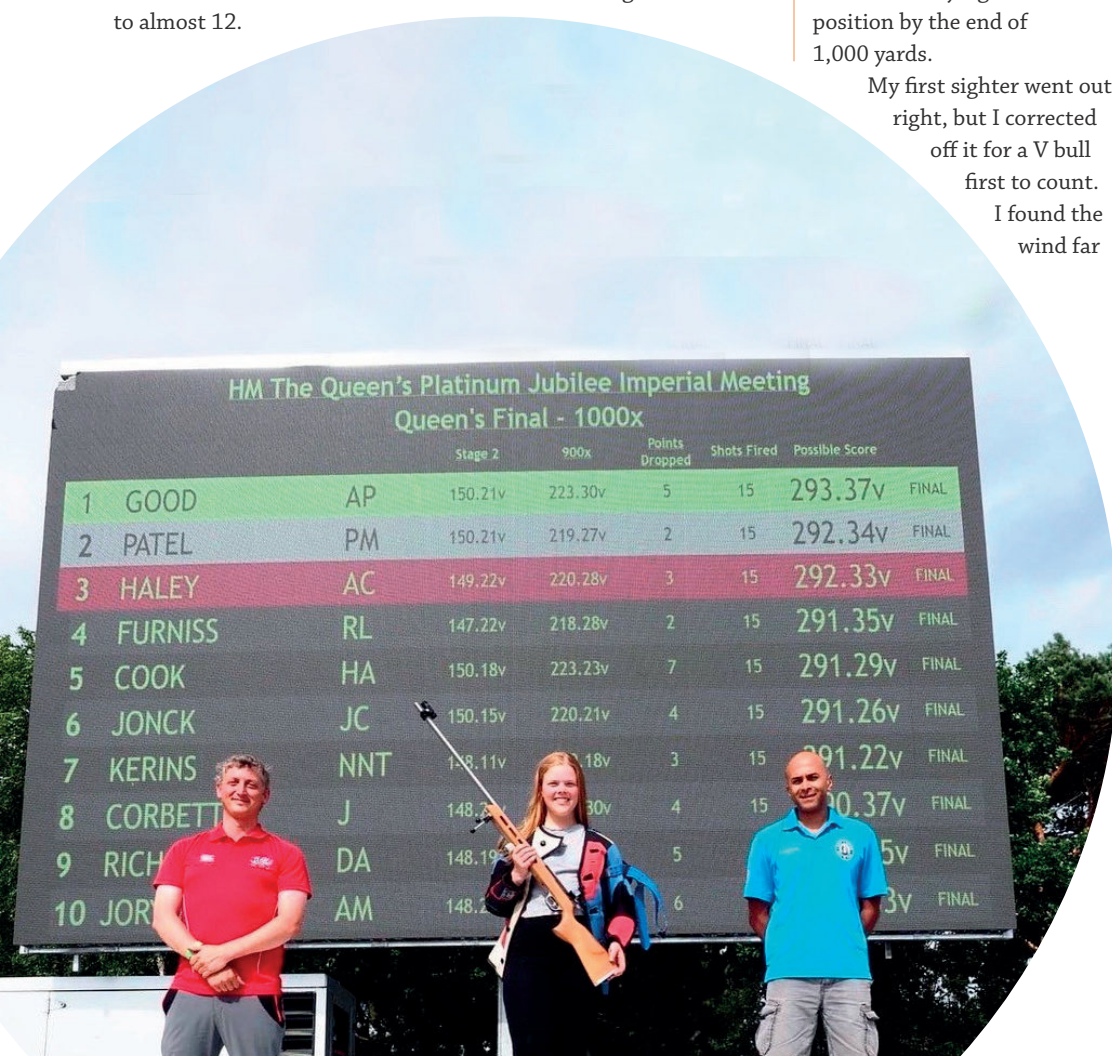
trickier at 1,000, I couldn’t see much of a particular pattern emerging, and instead was having to jump by about a minute or two in either direction for most shots. It was going well, and by the twelfth shot only two had failed to connect with the middle, popping either side of the bull. When my last three shots all then went in the inner, I thought I’d fluffed my board finish. I was particularly frustrated with the last, which went a quarter of a minute out left, after I had added one quarter to my wind call when my partner went out right! I had finished and my partner’s last shot went down, at which point Jacob ran up to me and whispers “subject to stats... you’ve won”. I ushered him away with the wave of a hand, wondering why he would play such a horrible joke on me, especially when I hadn’t even got off the point. It couldn’t possibly be true.

As I got up, I turned around to see the crowd that had gathered behind my point, who all started clapping. I must have done it.

Being on target 12, the walk to the top of the hill was long, but the clapping lasted the whole way, and the hugs and drinks handed to me were numerous. What a surreal experience (as was the rest of the night!). I was immeasurably happy, but it still hasn’t sunk in. The tears didn’t flow until I reached the showers a couple of hours later.

THANK YOU

My rifle was the result of weeks of hard work from a number of people. Thank you to Gareth James for finding the action. Thank you to Tom Rylands, for barrelling it, for providing me with sights, and for being there for multiple alterations, no matter how last minute. Only



one week before the Imperial began, my rifle still did not have a stock or v-block to complete it, nor had the barrel been run in. A kind donation from Alistair Coakes fixed the former, with a rifle stock he had picked up at the RAF sale for £5, years before. Jacob Parsons then handmade a v-block from scratch - this was the first he had ever made (I'm sure it will not be the last!). Thank you to Nick Tremlett, Ed Compton, and so many others for all the wind reading and shooting tips you've provided me with. To Kurt Thune for making such excellent off the shelf jackets. And thank you to the English XX Lions training, which massively helped accelerate my development as a shooter and is a programme I encourage any other shooter to apply for. Thanks must also go to Ashley Abrahams for organising my chair party and for making sure everything ran (almost) on time. And to CURA for introducing me to this amazing sporting community. It's been a privilege to be the captain in such a successful year.

To all my amazing friends from CURA and beyond (and the odd good one from Oxford!), thank you for carrying me all night, and I'm sorry your shoulders were so sore the next day...

I am eternally grateful for the support I get from everyone around me, especially to my family and my parents, who raced down to Bisley to watch the first part of the chairing, having been celebrating my sister's graduation that morning. I am also so proud of shooting as a sport for not splitting competitions by any age or gender. I am currently only the third woman to win this prize, but with three women in the top five this year, I am certain that won't be the case for long. 🍀



Left: Alice's 1,000 yard scoring plot sheet. **Below:** The winner on her way to the podium.



Above: Ready to be chaired off the range by the CURA team. **Below:** Alice on the firing point.



RUNNING DEER

Steve Wallis reports on the BSRC Running Deer Events during the Imperial Meeting.

“FIRE!” – no, not the command to shoot but the message I received about 3 o’clock in the afternoon on 5 July... “if you have anything you want to secure from the Clubhouse now is the time to do it”. Despite the efforts of the Fire Service, fires in the Stickledown range danger area were creeping closer to the area behind the Running Deer ranges and it was looking as if there was a very real risk it would reach it. So it was that

a small number of British Sporting Rifle Club members filled the backs of 4x4s and estate cars with the key components from the electronic target systems and computers and pushed the moving target trolleys out of their motor rooms to minimise the risk of damage if the worst happened.

That was Tuesday evening and whilst the threat to the Running Deer ranges eased over the following days the fires

RUNNING DEER UNLIMITEDS

Week One	
John Kynoch	82
Richard Jeffery	79
Asad Wahid	76
Week Two	
Steve Wallis	84
John Kynoch	75
Carl Glaister	70

RUNNING DEER SINGLES

John Maddison	162
Richard Jeffery	154
Darren Cotte	151

RUNNING DEER DOUBLES

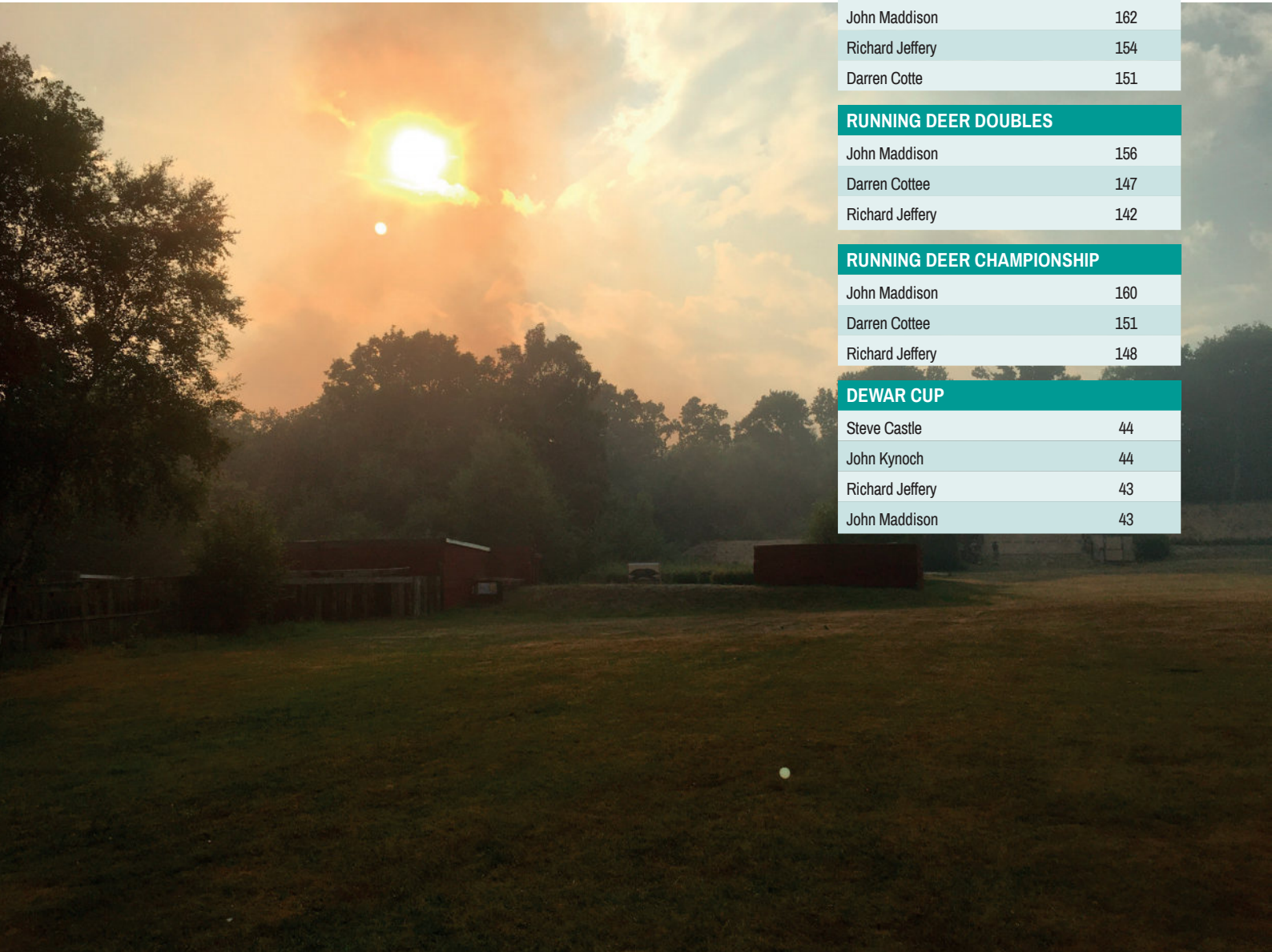
John Maddison	156
Darren Cottee	147
Richard Jeffery	142

RUNNING DEER CHAMPIONSHIP

John Maddison	160
Darren Cottee	151
Richard Jeffery	148

DEWAR CUP

Steve Castle	44
John Kynoch	44
Richard Jeffery	43
John Maddison	43



were still a very significant threat and after consultations with the MoD and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service it was decided that the Sporting Rifle competitions, along with the Imperial Historic Arms competitions, planned for 9-10 July would be cancelled to allow fire fighting to continue as and where necessary within the range danger area. Disappointing but absolutely necessary given the circumstances – there'll always be next year! Perhaps most importantly as far as the rest of the Sporting Rifle competitions were concerned it allowed time for targetry and computers to be returned to the ranges, reinstalled and tested ready for the Running Deer events the following week.

Fortunately the situation had improved sufficiently by 14th July to allow the Running Deer Unlimited Entry competition to kick off, albeit with some unplanned stoppages to allow the small but dedicated team of NRA range staff to get out and damp down when fires sprung back up. At one point we had a fire running about 30m from the edge of the Time Limit range along behind BFTO towards Cheylesmore, luckily 'the swamp' just inside the tree line kept it at bay!

For those not familiar with the competition, it is two sighters followed by ten shots to count on the Running Deer, at the end of the competition the shooter with the highest aggregate of two series wins an NRA Gold Medal. Entries are unlimited and shooters also get the chance to select a handicap in an attempt to win back their entry fee.

Competition in the first week of the 'unlimiteds' was, as usual, quite keen with shooters entered into the Running Deer Championships using it as an opportunity for some last minute practice. However, with the country in the grip of a heat wave, which saw temperatures in the shade outside the Running Deer firing point reach 38C, scores were down on previous years making the winning score for



Above: Winners L-R: Steve Wallis, John Maddison, Steve Castle & John Kynoch.

82 for the first week from nonagenarian John Kynoch even more impressive.

The weekend of 16th and 17th July saw the Running Deer Championships themselves take place and it was very pleasing to see entry numbers back on a par with pre-Covid levels. With around 65% of competitors opting to shoot on the Saturday it was a busy day and thanks must go to Peter Cottrell and his team for ensuring we could get through all the squaddled shooters after having to take an enforced break at lunchtime to once again allow NRA staff to damp

down fires behind our range. At close of play on the first day it was looking as if two familiar names, Richard Jeffery and Darren Cottee, were in the frame for the silverware. However, their glory was to be short lived as both were beaten by John Maddison. Shooting on the Sunday, John

not only posted winning scores in the Running Deer Singles and Running Deer Doubles but also clinched the Running Deer Championship with his aggregate scores.

After organising and running the competitions for the previous five days, Steve Wallis was able to shoot on the last day of the second week of the 'unlimiteds' and posted a score of 84 to take the remaining NRA Gold Medal. A well deserved consolation prize for him as he'd been hoping to once again get his name on the list of winners of the Dewar Cup for the best ten shot series across the whole meeting but to which the honour this year went to Steve Castle with a score of 44.

Thanks as ever go to all those who helped run the event – Nick Thomas, Carl Glaister, Darren Cottee, Steve Castle, David Yendell and Jay Jayakumar, as well as to the very hard working team of NRA range staff who were out damping down two or three times a day to keep the fires at bay and to ensure we could all shoot.

Full scores can be found on the NRA website with a summary of the results shown on the left. 🔄

“After organising and running the competitions for the previous five days, Steve Wallis was able to shoot on the last day of the second week of the ‘unlimiteds’ and posted a score of 84 to take the remaining NRA Gold Medal

FOR MORE INFORMATION on Sporting Rifle shooting please visit the British Sporting Rifle Club website bsrc.co.uk

Stickledown and, along with nine other F Class shooters, enjoyed fun matches – aptly named ‘The Ashes’ – at 900, 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards. We especially enjoyed the opportunity to shoot at 1100 and 1200 yards as we typically shoot to 900 metres, or around 1000 yards, in Canada. We quickly discovered the Great Britain F Class shooters are great wind readers and excellent shooters. And while everyone was competitive and wanted to win, they also made sure we enjoyed our abbreviated Bisley shooting experience.

Tuesday was once again, hot. We turned our attention to a team shoot. Each team had three members, since there were three Canadian F Class shooters left. Some of the team names were funny – Odds and Sods, the Leftovers, the Pandas, and of course, the Canadians. The grammar geek in this writer loved the play on words of the Panda’s motto! Clearly, we lost the imaginative team name contest. We also did not win the team matches. But we had a fantastic day of shooting. With team rules requiring each team member to shoot, coach and score keep, and none of us having more than very limited experience coaching, we had to step outside our comfort zone. We survived our

“All in all, what could have been a disappointing trip turned into a great experience with new friendships made. Hats off to Jon and the other F Class shooters for making our trip enjoyable

first experience coaching each other with our senses of humour and friendships intact so we will put that in the success column!

On Wednesday, Ewen Campbell and Mike Harris spent the afternoon shooting at 1,000 with us. I’m sure I don’t need to tell anyone who has shot with these two that there was a lot of laughter and good-natured teasing. It was a great way to cap off our shooting experience at Bisley.

All in all, what could have been a disappointing trip turned into a great experience with new friendships made. Hats off to Jon and the other F Class shooters for making our trip enjoyable. We hope we can extend the same hospitality to Great Britain F Class shooters on a trip to Canada at some point. Although we will do our best to avoid trying to burn the range down on their arrival! As much fun as ‘The Ashes’ was, we would rather not star in ‘The Ashes 2.0 – The Canadian Version.’ 🍀





2022 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

BCRC Open Meeting – Report by **David Rose.**

So having sold out in 12 hours last year, clearly the fear of missing out was tangible and the entrants to the BCRC Open were poised by their keyboards ready to go when entries opened for the 2022 meeting, selling out the entire entry in six hours! With a little juggling and tweaking of the course of fire we managed to accommodate over 200 competitors over the two days.

Standing on Century for the opening shots of The West Indies it was noticeable that the winds were already picking up and it would prove to be challenging conditions all day

with fast changing angles and strengths it would make good practice for the coming weeks in the Imperial meeting. David Luckman led the way in the West Indies with a 50.9. Moving back to the 500x line for The India the conditions remained tricky and the scores dropped down, Parag Patel won, beating Seth Dowley in the tie. Would this be shaping up for the extremely close battle in 2021 between Luckman and Patel?

Following the Lunch break,

competitors resumed at 500x for The Africa, possibly the heaviest trophy on Bisley, being a solid Bronze statue of a Cape Buffalo. The average continued to tumble with numerous 47's and 48's and only 15 competitors making 50. The three way tie shoot was won by Mick Silver edging out Jim Corbett and Dan Richardson. The Canada match at 600x concluded the short range bringing Saturday to a close with many shooters thankful that it had been reduced to

a 2&10 so they could escape to the bar dropping as few points as possible... Lindsey McKerrell won the tie shoot for the Canada beating Jim Paton having gone to sudden death, and Elliot Sewell.

At the end of the day David Calvert led the field having dropped two points, Steven Thomas and Mark Buchanan one point further back and seven others chasing hard just one more point back. All to play for at long range if these conditions persisted. The top u25 shooter was Michael Larcombe, and the top Cadet Leo Skingley.

Sunday morning brought sunny skies and broken cloud that seemed to be moving

“David Calvert led the field having dropped two points, Steven Thomas and Mark Buchanan one point further back



rather swiftly across the range. This again would prove to be a very entertaining day with changeable winds, one shooter describing a five minute wind change between shots and landing them in exactly the same place, sadly they were in the magpie!

The Falkland Islands shot at 900x was won by Parag Patel with a 50.9 much to the relief of the Chief Range officer who was facing a 6 way tie shoot for those on 50.7. The competitors remained on the range for the second shoot at 900x, The Australia. Glorious weather but still with some very challenging wind conditions meant that only four competitors managed to score 50. Jeremy Thomson was top of the pile with a 50.8, and the average score was down to 45.

Last range of the Grand followed lunch and many fearing the loss of more points needed to be coaxed out of hiding in the clubhouses. The New Zealand match shot at 1000x proved to be just as far out of reach for most as the country itself was during Covid... Scores averaging in

the mid 60's, but the last detail was the one to be on as the winds calmed for long enough for James Postle to put in a magnificent 74.6 just beating David Luckman who had a superb 73.8.

So to the final results. The Ceylon (Long Range agg) was won by Nicole Rossignol from Canada beating David Calvert on countback and David Luckman just two v's behind in third. The top u25 at Long range was Jason Peppera-Hibbert and top Cadet was Hermione Grindon.

The Rampoor Aggregate (300,600,900) was won



This year also saw the introduction of a new Aggregate – The Cask 88 Whisky Agg, a selection agg

to Patrick Costello and Cask 88 for their support. Also thank you to Steph Thorogood, Ed Compton and Colin Hughes for their donated prizes.

Judging by the comments received over the weekend everyone enjoyed themselves and it was great to welcome back our overseas friends from Australia, Canada, Kenya, the Channel Islands USA and Belgium. We do hope to see even more of you next year. Shall I book the whole of Stickledown now and we can go for 300 entries?

A huge thank you to Jon Underwood helping with Stats, the Range Officers (Peter, Lisa, John, Tony and Phil) the Range Office team and of course the Markers! 🙌

“everyone enjoyed themselves and it was great to welcome back our overseas friends

by Lindsay McKerrell dropping just one point ahead of Steven Thomas.

David Calvert hung onto his overnight lead and put in a solid 70.5 at 1000 to finish three points clear of the field with 367.43, in second place Parag Patel 364.45 and third Lindsay McKerrell 364.43. The top u25 was Jason Pepera-Hibbert 363.30 and top Cadet Hermione Grindon 341.25

taking points from each shoot in the Grand with a score out of 75. A very entertaining competition with jeopardy till the end. The Grand winner seemingly more disappointed having dropped a three last to count at 1,000x that he had ruined his chances to win the Whisky rather than celebrating winning the Grand Agg. The winner on count back was Bob Oxford with a 74.9. Thank you



	1st	2nd	3rd
The West Indies	D Luckman 50.9	L McKerrell 50.8	S Walker 50.8
The India	P Patel 50.9 (24.2)	S Dowley 50.9 (23.1)	K Crabtree 50.8
The Africa	M Silver 50.9 (25.3)	J Corbett (Aus) 50.9 (25.2)	D Richardson (Jer) 50.9 (22.0)
The Canada	L McKerrell 50.9 (24.2 - V)	J Paton (Can) 50.9 (24.2 - 5)	E Sewell 50.9 (24.1)
The Dominion Aggregate (short range)	D Calvert 198.23	S Thomas 197.27	M Buchanan (Aus) 197.18
The Falkland Islands	P Patel 50.9	B Creane 50.7	D Calvert 50.7
The Australia	J Thompson 50.8	M Ensor 50.7	E Sewell 50.6
The New Zealand	J Postle 74.6	D Luckman 73.8	J Pepera-Hibbert 73.7
The Ceylon Aggregate (long range)	N Rossignol (Can) 169.20 (71.9)	D Calvert 169.20 (70.5)	D Luckman 169.18
The Rampoor Aggregate (WI, Canada, Australia)	L McKerrell 149.22	S Thomas 148.21	E Sewell 147.20
The Commonwealth Aggregate (Open Championship)	D Calvert 367.43	P Patel 364.45	L McKerrell 364.43



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TWO PIECES OF *History*

Robin Carter takes us through 2022's newest pieces of shooting history.

Two pieces of 300 metre History have been made in July of this year. The first, you will have seen my restoration of the first Malcolm Cooper 300 metre rifle in previous journals, but now it is in the NRA Museum for you all to see close up.

For those who do not know of Malcolm, he was probably the greatest shooting talent Great Britain has ever seen, he won seven world titles and he also came second and third four times in World Championships, with titles in small-bore rifle, and also 300m full-bore in which he was also the world record holder for some time. He also won 12 Commonwealth Games medals, and won many UK championships and held UK records in air rifle, small bore, and 300m full-bore.

He is also remembered as the first shooter in history to win shooting Gold in two consecutive Olympics, in 1984 and 1988. Malcolm started and set up Accuracy International in Portsmouth,

and this was the first ever Accuracy International full bore rifle. Sadly Malcolm Cooper passed on from cancer in 2001.

The NRA museum under curator Anthony De Launey, have accepted this Rifle as a donation from my wife and I, and they have set up a display for it in the Museum where it will now reside for ever as a tribute to Malcolm Cooper, and an incentive for 300m to thrive as a discipline in the UK, and be fully supported by the NRA. Bisley has the only 300m range in the UK.

The rifle is a piece of shooting history, and a tribute to Malcolm and we are delighted you can now all see it, and we hope it will motivate many of you to join the enthusiastic gb300m metre club, which is dedicated to 300m in the UK, and take up the demanding, deeply satisfying,

and great fun discipline of ISSF 300m, and that we can expect the NRA to fully support the discipline, one of the oldest in target shooting. It was the first shooting event to appear in the modern Olympics.

The second piece of history for 300m in July was the first appearance of the NRA 300m championships in the Imperial meeting. It is normally scheduled on a separate week end, but the 300m

enthusiasts wanted to bring it to the wider audience so we pushed for dates in the Imperial. The NRA accommodated

our wish, it did gain some International entries from Germany and Japan, and so next year we hope it can be developed even more, with more range time.

This year was a very demanding event shot in very difficult conditions, heat and the Bisley wind, so it's a great credit to all competitors. The results are on the NRA website, and there will be a full report on the event in the Winter Journal.

The usual 300m shoots still have the fickle Bisley wind, and if you are interested and wish to come along, I'm sure you will not see those temperatures again (hopefully). If you wish to know more about 300 metre please contact me using the details below. I will do my best to answer and put you in touch with the club contacts if you wish to join us, we will gladly welcome shooters of any standard. The gb300m club contact is also listed below. 📧

“Malcolm, he was probably the greatest shooting talent Great Britain has ever seen

Below: The Malcolm Cooper rifle now on display in the NRA Museum.



TO FIND OUT MORE about 300 metre please contact robin.carter80@ntlworld.com or info@gb300m.com



LRRFC SUMMER MEETING

A good turnout of 30 members came to the 5th Summer Meeting. Some were glutton for punishment and elected to shoot two disciplines. **Chris Hazlehurst** reports.

The day before, Friday 17th June had been the hottest day of the year and temperatures of 35*+ had been recorded on Short Siberia in the afternoon as it has its own micro climate.

Saturday broke to a pleasant morning, a bit like the 3 bears story, not too hot, not too cold and not too windy!

We set up in the carpark of Siberia range at 07:15 and waited for the onslaught of sleepy-eyed members that had driven down that morning. We then moved equipment the short distance to the 100-yard firing point and umbrellas were set up, in readiness, not for the rain but for the sun.

At the start of shooting the temperature was a nice 18°C and a fluctuating breeze running from ½ MOA left to 2 MOA right.

After an initial hiccup over target positioning which involved shooting on an angle – a ‘feature’ of the 100-yard firing point on Siberia due to various range ‘features’ and the covered area on the range in comparison to the butts.

The firing point on Siberia is a point covered in bark and it was holding the latent heat from the day before,

so soon leached through the shooting mats.

We trialled having small (NSRA Style) wind flags on the front edge of the firing point as there would be no visible flag from the 100 yard firing point. I think there must have been ‘new batteries’ in them as they were dancing around and around quite merrily.

Fighting through the breeze and the rising heat, several scores in the mid 90’s were recorded. By late morning the clear sky gave way to a degree of cloud cover and then a few spots of rain which made shooters concerned of getting a soaking as was mentioned in the forecast and started dashing for waterproofs – hmm did I pack any?? By the time people had walked back to their cars any rain had stopped – if you could really call it rain! Fortunately, there were a few spots every now and again, until around the end of the shoot at about 11:30.

There were 14 scores of 90+ recorded at 100 yards, even though one member had been expecting to be a 99.15, however, was disappointment when the rules regarding converting was explained to bring it to a 98.15, still a very



“It was good to see new members come through and take some silverware

good score for a first entrant to our competition. This just pipped the secretary with his 97.07. He was recommended to read the briefing sheet next time!

We were able to keep the firing point running smoothly, thanks to the RCOs. This enabled us to finish around 11:50. Then the rush to pack away and followed by the whacky races off to the 300 yard firing point carpark.

During the lunch break, the rear of the carpark was set up and also the flags on the leading edge of the firing point. These were certainly not calibrated to the NRA flags which ran a steady right to left wind whilst ‘our’ flags fluttered merrily from 10 o’clock to 2 o’clock!

At 300 yards we had an extra target to try and speed the shooting so we could finish to allow members with a

long distance to travel to get away earlier.

The rain continued in a very half-hearted fashion for the first detail at 300 yards. This is where the secretary, shooting in Target rifle class, whilst also trying to ‘run the shoot’ from the prone position, lost concentration and confused his sights and wound himself off target. If he’d continued, he could have got a clay (from butt 19!) it seemed that bad. He managed to recover but not before 3 scores of 0 were logged, best not to go too near him... Fortunately, he was shooting in F Class straight after and managed to redeem himself and put in a 89.08 giving him an aggregate of 186.15.

Only 2 scores of 90+ were recorded at 300 yards as the wind was keeping shooters on their toes and was running around 1 – 8 MOA and the

temperature was dropping from its high of 25* to a ‘chilly’ 18* with the later details concerned that something was about to happen and would we escape a potential deluge?

A total of seven shooters managed to make an aggregate of 180+, with the secretary leading the way with 186.15 and most of the other 180+ score coming from the later details. This was a leading score for most of the afternoon until another debutant on the last detail put in a 91.04 pipping the secretary by 2 V bulls.

Banter and friendly ridiculing about the different disciplines and shooting styles amongst the established members, but help, friendship

and guidance for the newer members and first timers in competition environments was straight to the fore.

Whilst for the established brigade, it was said it was good to win and come away with trophies, it was good to see new members come through and take some silverware.

Yet again we say well done to all the shooters and congratulations to the winners. Thanks also to Keith for running the stats whilst also shooting the match and Gary Ledger and his butt marking team who served us well yet again. ☺



THE RANGE WARDEN'S SHIELD 2022

Simon Favell, MloD Range Warden from Thorpe Cloud Rifle Range reports on the event.

The Range Warden's Shield was shot on Sunday 26 June. Nine shooters competed in very blustery conditions, which is normal for Thorpe, with its own microclimate. We had a very cold start, with strong winds blowing straight down the range from behind the firing points, then with no warning, cross winds would hit and catch the detail unawares.

The Range Warden's Shield is open to all Thorpe user clubs and it allows for F Class, Open Rifle (supported on Bi Pods any sights) and normal TR. The weather unfortunately put several people off

attending, but we did have five clubs represented.

Even with the very changeable winds we did have some very reasonable scores, so congratulations go to all who attended. All three disciplines shot for, with a newcomer to Full-Bore rifle shooting doing extremely well in the Open Rifle category.

The Range Warden's Shield was won by the Rolls-Royce team, who win a free day's shoot for 2023 as the top Club team prize with a combined score of 612.39 Ex 675.

My thanks go to all who attended and had a great day's shooting. 🍀

ROLLS-ROYCE

Competitor	300 Yards	400 Yards	500 Yards	Total
Shaun Baker OR	70.6	70.3	71.6	211.15
Matt Blake OR	69.8	64.1	71.1	204.10
Robert Gifford OR	66.5	69.5	62.4	197.14
Total Team score				612.39

STAVELEY

Competitor	300 Yards	400 Yards	500 Yards	Total
Paul Wright TR	72.8	70.7	70.5	212.20
Gary Laughton OR	67.7	68.4	65.5	200.16
Dave Clayton TR	68.5	63.3	66.1	197.9
Total Team score				609.45

DRA 1

Competitor	300 Yards	400 Yards	500 Yards	Total
Mark Daish F Class	74.10	70.5	72.6	216.21
Colin Christensen TR	64.2	68.8	68.5	200.15
Pat Sparks F Class	44.1	50.2	55.1	149.4
Total Team score				565.40



Top: The Morning detail at 400 yards. **Middle left:** Mark Daish F Class winner with 216.21 Ex 225. **Middle right:** Paul Wright TR winner with 212.20 Ex 225. **Bottom:** Matt Blake, Simon Favell, Shaun Baker (OR winner) and Robert Gifford.

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THE IGRF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Report from the event held on 26-29 May 2022 at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley.



Above left: L-R Back: Keith Kilvington, Rob Wheeler, Keith Cox, Chris West, Jake Mossom. Front: Gary Bowden, Jonnie Cormie, Mel Beard, Andy Summers.

Above right: Everybody on the range at the end of the Shoot.

The 25th Phoenix meeting, held over the long weekend of the 26th – 29th May at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley, also hosted the fifth iteration of the IGRF World Championships. This biennial event welcomes shooters from all IGRF nations to compete for the title of IGRF World Champions or Champion. Originated in 2013 for Gallery Rifle Small Bore (GRSB) and Gallery Rifle Centrefire (GRCF) team events, the championships were widened in 2017 to include individual championship opportunities for GRSB and GRCF gun types in aggregates spread across four discrete competitions. There were both team events and individual events included at the 2022 World Championships.

LEGACY

The IGRF is the International Gallery Rifle Federation. It was founded by Great Britain, Ireland and Germany as the European Gallery Rifle Federation in 2006, and became International in 2010 with the addition of South Africa. Australia (2013) and Zimbabwe (2018) joined later.

The inaugural World Championship event was held in 2013 at Bisley, with the GRSB honours going to Great Britain and the GRCF winners being Ireland. In 2015 Great Britain Gallery Rifle Teams travelled to Leitmar



in Germany where both trophies were brought back by the touring British teams. In 2017 Ireland hosted the event at the Midlands National Shooting Centre. On home territory the Irish swept the board winning both GRSB and GRCF team trophies, beating Great Britain, Germany, South Africa and Australia. They also took both of the inaugural individual World Championships with Ray Holohan being the GRSB World Champion and Jeff Kehoe the GRCF World Champion.

“The inaugural World Championship event was held in 2013 at Bisley, with the GRSB honours going to Great Britain and the GRCF winners being Ireland

The last IGRF World Championships were held in South Africa in 2019 at the Excalibur Shooting ranges near Welkom with GB, Ireland, Germany and Australia competing with the hosts. Home turf again proved to be the dominating factor as South Africa won both the GRSB and GRCF World Championship team events. Great Britain, however, claimed the very respectable runner-up slots for both calibres. Individual World Championships were taken by Australian shooter David McCarthy for GRCF Standard and Classic and Nico Roets (SA) for GRSB and GRCF

Open. Anna Marie van Tonder (also SA) took GRSB and GRCF Standard top lady shooter and Anita Roets was the top GRCF Open division lady shooter.

IGRF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2022

The global COVID pandemic interrupted the planned return of the Championships to Bisley in 2021. The IGRF Council decided to defer for a year in the hope that International travel would be resumed. Although not all countries were able to attend, we were able to



“The GB GR Teams for GRSB and GRCF were selected from the 2022 Squad by Team Captain Gary Bowden

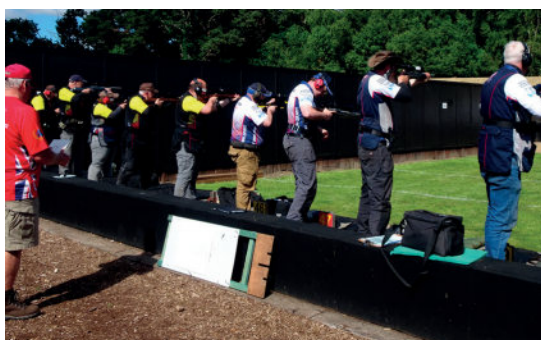
welcome Germany, Ireland and South Africa to compete in 2022.

The GB GR Teams for GRSB and GRCF were selected from the 2022 Squad by Team Captain Gary Bowden as follows: GRSB: Chris West, Jonny Cormie, Keith Cox, Jake Mossom, Keith Kilvington. Reserve Mel Beard. GRCF: Chris West, Jonny Cormie, Keith Cox, Gary Bowden, Rob Wheeler, Reserve Andy Summers.

Despite the rivalry, there is a strong community spirit across all the international teams and the crew, as they come together to enjoy the very best of our shared sport.

The team matches are shot shoulder to shoulder with specifically allocated range time. These were shot in Melville on the Sunday morning with the Great Britain, Ireland, Germany and South Africa teams, their supporters and a specially selected Range Crew, led by Ashley Dagger. The NRA provided the results on a large on-range screen for the first time and spectators were able to watch and be inspired. The atmosphere was excellent.

The Individual Championships were shot concurrently with Phoenix events, whereby competitor's individual scores were also utilised for the aggregate World Championship trophies. For 2022, individual World Championship competitions were held for GSRB, GRCF Standard and GRCF ▶



Top left: GB squad members supporting their teams.

Middle left: Waiting to be scored – check out the target!

Third left: Germany and Great Britain on Melville E.

Bottom left: Ireland and South Africa on Melville D.



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Classic gun types. The benefit of this approach is that everybody who entered the full set of aggregate events in the Phoenix was also competing for the Individual World Championships.

The individual World Champion aggregates were agreed by the IGRF Council in 2017 and were carefully chosen to include a balance of gallery rifle marksmanship skills. They include the most popular GR events: Timed and Precision 1 (T&P1) and Multi-Target (M-T). The 1500 and the 50m Precision events were included to increase the challenge and thus justify the title of IGRF World Champion.

“The GRCF Classic World Champion is Rob Wheeler from GB and Wales

RESULTS

Great Britain teams and individual shooters did exceptionally well. Yet again home range advantage seemed to play out as the dominant force in the Championships. So much so that all five headline trophies, Team and Individual, were presented to GB shooters this year – with the Individual trophies being spread uncannily fairly across the three mainland nations!

INDIVIDUAL WORLD CHAMPIONS

The GRSB World Champion is Jake Mossom from GB and England who topped the listings immediately ahead of three of his GB teammates. Dropping only 28 points from a possible 2220 across the four aggregate events, this was an impressive win in, arguably, the most challenging calibre. Top Under 25 shooter was Robert L. Tonner from Scotland and top lady shooter Anna-Marie van Tonder from South Africa.

The GRCF Standard World Champion is GB and Scotland shooter Jonny Cormie. GRCF Standard is the centre fire gun type of the International Team shoots so competition is intense. Top lady shooter was again Anna-Marie van Tonder from South Africa but unfortunately no junior shooter entered this gun type. The GRCF Classic World Champion is Rob Wheeler from GB and Wales. He shot an outstanding 1500 score – a new British record with 1493 (just 7 points lost from 1500) and 107X, which was 15 points and ▶



Above: Mark Haigh on Stats and keeping us on the edge of our seats. **Below left:** Robert L. Tonner – top u25 Shooter. **Below middle:** Jonny Cormie in action. **Below right:** Jake Mossom on his way to GRSB World Champion.



Above: The Range crew with CRO – Ash Dagger.



Above left: World Champions R.Wheeler J.Cormie K.Cox G.Bowden(Capt) C.West. **Above middle:** World Champion – Jake Mossom. **Above right:** World Champions K.Cox K.Kilvington C.West J Cormie J.Mossom. **Below:** World Champion – Jonny Cormie.



after the first three practices, but Great Britain eased ahead to a comfortable victory for the home nation. Germany finished as runners up with South Africa and Ireland in third and fourth respectively.



PRESENTATION AND RECEPTION

The last NRA Journal (Summer 2022) reported on the joint IGRF and ITSF (International Target Shotgun Federation) reception held at the Pavilion which was attended by all visiting teams and guests. Apart from conveying thanks again to the NRA for assisting in organising this well received event, there is nothing further to add.

Prizegiving for the Phoenix meeting was held as usual late on the Sunday afternoon. Due to the revised weekend schedule, it meant all prizes could be awarded at this single presentation, the popularity of which was demonstrated by the number of people who attended – so many that extra chairs had to be brought in at the last minute!

The full set of results for the above matches and all 25th Phoenix meeting scores can be found in the usual places at nra.org.uk and galleryrifle.com 📺

Below: World Champion – Rob Wheeler.

20x's more than his closest rival in that event. This was outstanding shooting overall with iron sights. There were no U25 or lady shooters in this event; something to work on for the future.

TEAM WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the headline Team matches Great Britain Captain Gary Bowden chose exceptionally strong teams. All three Individual World Champions were members of the teams and all seemed to be well and truly on form.

GB were successful in reclaiming both GRSB and GRCF trophies, the first time they have both been held by GB since 2015. The smallbore match was close with South Africa only 19 points behind out of a possible 6000 maximum score. Germany and Ireland finished 3rd and 4th respectively. The centrefire match was close





Capreolus Club

Advertorial Feature

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Deer stalking is one of the fastest growing field sports in the UK, not only is it an exhilarating pastime, but in a world in which we are all being encouraged to be more climate focused, it is proving increasingly popular with those that wish to harvest their own free range, sustainable, wild food.

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We asked 'County Deer Stalking & Capreolus Club' founder Peter Jones how to get started?

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For the benefit of readers, County Deer Stalking & Capreolus Club, are for a limited time, offering free access to the 'Proficient Deer Stalker Certificate Level 1' to all NRA members who join the Capreolus Club*

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*This offer is for a limited period. Please quote your NRA membership number when applying.

DERBYSHIRE CHALLENGE 2022

SATURDAY 10 APRIL – TARGET RIFLE

Competitor	300 Yards	400 Yards	500 Yards	Total	Position
Paul Wright	72.10	74.10	74.4	220.24	1
Colin Christensen	70.4	67.4	67.3	204.11	2
Pat Sparks	52.1	65.3	64	181.3	3
Paul Ronkskey	40.1	38	35	113.1	

SATURDAY 21 MAY – F CLASS RIFLE

Competitor	300 Yards	400 Yards	500 Yards	Total	Position
Gordon Smeeton	70.7	71.9	73.10	214.26	1
Paul Smeeton	68.4	72.8	73.8	213.20	2
Kay Airey	64.2	59.3	61	184.5	3

SATURDAY 21 MAY – NOTTS VS DERBY CHALLENGE, THE MERRITT SHIELD

Derbyshire	Staveley	646.73 Ex 675			
Competitor	300 yards	400 yards	500 yards	Total	
Paul Wright	73.6	73.10	73.11	219.27	
Gordon Smeeton	70.7	71.9	73.10	214.26	
Paul Smeeton	68.4	72.8	73.8	213.20	
Derbyshire	Rolls Royce	645.54 EX 675			
Competitor	300 yards	400 yards	500 yards	Total	
Matt Blake	72.8	73.8	72.5	217.21	
Shaun Baker	73.8	69.2	73.8	215.18	
Rob Gifford	71.4	70.5	72.6	213.15	

Simon Favell MloD, Range Warden of Thorpe Cloud Rifle Range, reports over the two days of Sunday 10 April and Saturday 21 May.

What a couple of fantastic days! The competition this year was split over two days, as the original Sunday shoot clashed with an F Class shoot and the Saturday clashed with The English XX shoot at Bisley. You can't win them all. My thanks go to all the shooters who did attend, this was an unbelievable opportunity to shoot on our historic rifle range. The land over which we shoot at Thorpe Cloud Rifle Range originally belonged to the Fitzherbert family and was opened in 1902 as an 800 yard, two target range, though sadly, since passing back to a civilian rifle range in the 1960's, we are restricted to a maximum of 500 yards on three targets. Under the original qualifications for shooting at Thorpe, if you shot here and qualified, then this qualification was recognised and honoured at Bisley.





Following discussions with Mr Nic Couldrey of the NRA last year, the NRA once again agreed to sponsor a shoot at Thorpe and as First Prizes for F Class and Target Rifle, they offered a reduced entry into the Imperial Grand Aggregate 2022. The competition would be two sighting shots, with 15 to count at 300, 400 and 500 yards for both F Class and TR.

The NRA Derbyshire Challenge, and all the DRA Comps, allows individual shooters who may be new to competition shooting, the opportunity to shoot under

Above: Paul Wright accepting his winners medal from Simon Favell. **Below:** F Class Rifle Competition, held on Saturday 21 May 2022.



“The Notts Vs Derby Challenge was won by Derbyshire’s Staveley Team, followed closely by Derbyshire’s Rolls-Royce team

the pressure of a formal shoot and gain the experience needed to them progress to shoot at County level as well as at Bisley. It was great to see several new faces this year at both days, and we hope that many more will start to attend now restrictions have been lifted.

As there is yet to be an official 400 yard F Class target, to make things a little more interesting, the shooters faced the additional challenge of a 200-yard face at 400 yards! This additional handicap did not deter the F Class squad with some unbelievable scores being presented at 300, 400 and 500 yards.

The weather was kind to us on both days, with the sky being dull to overcast for most of the day, with only a light breeze to make shooting slightly more challenging than normal.

SUNDAY 10 APRIL 2022 – TARGET RIFLE

The winner was Mr Paul Wright, scoring 220.24 ex 225, Very well done and our congratulations go to Paul, who will be entering the Grand Aggregate 2022 at Bisley.

Unfortunately, a couple of shooters had issues with their rifles on the day and

while they had started really strongly, were unable to submit a score card.

SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022 – F CLASS RIFLE

The F Class Shoot, held on Sunday 21 May, was run along side the Notts vs Derby Challenge. Mr Gordon Smeeton won the F Class shoot with 214.26 ex 225, with some quite interesting wind changes during his detail.

SATURDAY 21 MAY 2022 – NOTTS VS DERBY CHALLENGE, THE MERRITT SHIELD

The Notts Vs Derby Challenge was won by Derbyshire’s Staveley Team, followed closely by Derbyshire’s Rolls-Royce team. This competition was advertised and open to shooters from both Counties for TR, Open Rifle and F Class, with scoring being two convertible sighting shots and 15 to count at 300, 400 and 500 yards.

The Merritt Shield was strongly contested and there was only one point between the winning Derbyshire teams.

Well done to all who took part and we hope to see you all for the competitions later this year and for the rematches in 2023. 🍀



DERBYSHIRE RA V LRRFC CHALLENGE

Chris Hazlehurst reports on The 7th Annual Long Range Rifle Club v Derbyshire Rifle Association Challenge which took place at Thorpe Cloud range near Ashbourne, Derbyshire on 16 July.

After the difficult decision of making a selection from available members the LRRFC went to Thorpe Cloud with a strong intent to overturn last year's result where the DRA beat the LRRFC by 3 points.

The LRRFC team was split with 3 shooting in Target Rifle and 3 in F Class with 1 shooting reserve whilst Derbyshire fronted 6 Target rifle shooters only and it was discussed that we would take our best 5 scores, but had to include all our Target Rifle scores.

“After loading the cars it was like Whacky Races to the top of the hill to the Old Dog

The day started with the briefing by Ben Stubbins (DRA) in the carpark of the Peveril of the Peak Hotel. The weather started at 15* with it forecast to 'warm' up throughout the day.

The challenge match was 3 + 2 sighters and 15 to count at 200, 300 & 500 yards and both teams were split and half of each team were

shooting whilst the others were in the butts.

There had been a drought for several weeks and the long range forecast had threatened extreme heat for the weekend, but watching the forecast closer to the date, it turned out to be 'very warm' and essential that everyone took plenty of fluids. The Target Rifle shooters wilted a touch

as they had to add extra layers of clothing and their thick, heavy shooting jackets.

Thorpe Range is on the rear of the hill that forms the backdrop to the Dovedale Valley and the infamous 'Stepping Stones' in the Peak National Park of Derbyshire, a few miles from Ashbourne. A steep sided valley which bends to the right after the butts which houses 3 well maintained targets that are a 'pleasure' to mark. We share the range with sheep and or cows, so a careful eye needs to be kept by the RCO not



selfies and move on, we were then able to continue. That's one of the troubles of having a range in a picturesque part of the country!

After loading the cars, it was like Whacky Races to the top of the hill to the Old Dog.

Several minutes were spent on the approach to the bar as they have a constant 'free' top up of soft drinks, and a few

were downed to try and get some hydration back in the system.

In the courtyard, a hush descended as some serious calculations were conducted and checked by both sides.

The outcome of the calculations and checking the 'Best 5' to count with ALL the LRRFC TR shooters to count, it came that Derbyshire had won once again. Well done, Derbyshire.

Thank you to all the LRRFC shooters that turned out. Well done to Mike who lay out in the blazing sun all day trying to coach the winning shots. Congratulations to Kath Balakrishnan with the top score of the day. 🍀



only for walkers but also the local livestock.

The wind was very tricky at 200 yards and this just increased throughout the day along with the temperature, 18°C by 10:00. We used a wind coach to make our calls, but the wind whips down the valley as well as tumbles down the sides. The mirage decided to do something different, constantly, and this was frustrating for the coach. If he hadn't before, it certainly gave him a few grey hairs. Made worse by one of the target rifle shooters rear sight deciding to express that it's life had expired causing him to lose valuable points. Unfortunately being a TR shooter, it was a counting score – whatever it was!

At 500 yards, there is a degree of comradery in the constant radio communication trying and helping everyone to get on target as many haven't had the opportunity to shoot 500 yards before.

At lunch we swapped over and the morning detail moved into the butts. Initially in the shade, by early afternoon had become a complete sun trap, and trapped we were!

Unfortunately, the good weather had brought out the walkers. Again, unfortunately

they were unable to read signs that they'd just walked past and not even recognise the aspects of the red flags! After much frustration and having to wait for them to take their

DERBYSHIRE						
	Class	To Count	200yards	300yards	500yards	Aggregate
Ben Stubbins	TR	Y	67.4	55.2	47.0	169.6
Tim Stubbins	TR	Y	60.4	56.2	41.0	157.6
Carl Cheetham	TR	Y	68.3	59.2	43.0	170.5
Robert Nightingale	TR	Y	62.3	52.2	42.0	156.5
Robert Grice	TR	Y	56.1	62.4	59.1	176.6
Richard Jacques	TR	N	63.5	46.1	43.0	152.6
LRRFC						
	Class	To Count	200yards	300yards	500yards	Aggregate
Chris Hazlehurst	TR	Y	60.3	56.0	49.0	165.3
Simon Edwards	TR	Y	58.3	50.0	44.0	152.3
Doug Hale	TR	Y	33.0	31.0	39.0	103.0
Mike Harris	F Class	Y	65.5	67.4	56.0	188.9
Kath Balakrishnan	F Class	Y	71.9	56.2	67.2	194.13
Paul Russell	F Class	N	62.5	59.1	53.2	174.8
Mark Wilkes	F Class	N	66.8	58.1	55.0	179.9

TARGET SHOTGUN

AT THE PHOENIX

Rob Sanders discusses the discipline including a short history of Shotgun Events.

The Phoenix Meeting at Bisley is the flagship event of the year for Gallery Rifle shooters in the UK. This event was born out of the stubbornness of pistol shooters who refused to be pensioned off, following the cruel handgun ban of 1997, and who chose to continue with whatever arms were still permitted.

The Phoenix replaced the wonderful Anno Domini meetings of yesteryear, and the events within it were mostly a continuation of the old pistol competitions, now shot with fullbore manually operated Gallery type rifles, smallbore semi automatic rifles, and the new breed of long barrelled pistol and revolvers (LBPs and LBRs).

I have shot almost every type of firearm in my shooting life, but was an avid pistol fan, and when the ban arrived in 1997 I handed in about a dozen and went away to sulk angrily!

Since LBPs and LBRs didn't exactly gain my affection, I was not a part of the earliest Phoenix events, but the

Phoenix did indeed rise from the ashes of the handgun ban. New competitions were added and today the Phoenix has something to offer all shooters.

Needless to say "once a shooter, always a shooter" and it wasn't so long before

I was back at the trigger, mostly with shotguns (clays and occasional practical events) and rifles that I had always owned.

It was about 18 years ago that, together with a few likeminded shotgunners (mainly from the pool of existing shooters who used FAC shotguns for events run by other clubs around the country), I began to shoot the old pistol competitions, using solid slugs in shotguns. The guns used were either pump, or semi automatic, but over time more events were added, catering for classic old double barrelled guns, and even single shot Martini-actioned Greeners.

Before too long, our events were included in the Gallery Rifle and Pistol calendar, and from around 2005 matches were run by the NRA at Bisley. The scene was set.



Left: The Teams line up to shoot. **Above inset:** Rob Sanders – GB Captain.



Above: John Chambers – first place individual Manual Shotgun.

Andy Duffy (supported by other shooters) should receive credit for representing Target Shotgun on the NRA Shooting Committee in the early days, and thus furthering our discipline's popularity.

In 2012 James Harris was elected Discipline Representative for Target Shotgun with the NRA, a post that he still holds. James has worked hard on carrying our sport forward, and today he organises regular NRA training sessions in Target Shotgun, teaching newcomers the mysteries of slug and birdshot. With these courses safety is paramount, and certification is required in order to enter competitions. But they are growing in popularity which bodes well for the future. Needless to say, James is an excellent shot, especially in Practical events, and he also organises the Cottesloe Heath Challenge Practical Match, run annually at Bisley (Covid permitting).

Our shotgun events today are shot at distances from 25 to 200 yards, although requiring an ounce of flat fronted slug to

perform through an unrifled barrel out to 200 yards is a "big ask". On a gusty day it is all in the lap of the Wind Gods, and therefore this is not the most popular event and may be discontinued in the future. 50 yards and 100 yards are better liked (and musket friendlier!)

Early results in T&P1 and Multi Target events fell quite a bit short of the scores being registered by Gallery Rifle shooters using lighter arms on Melville and other ranges, but this was to be expected. 12 bore shotguns are quite heavy, have more punishing recoil, and don't recover point of aim as quickly for fast follow up shots. These days however, 'possibles' are achieved in T&P1, and The Embassy Cup, with M/T not far behind.

In 2019 I was proud to be nominated GB Team Captain for Target Shotgun events. At that time, we had just instigated an International Match, The Limax Cup, to be shot annually at the Phoenix Meeting. This was a team event comprising T&P1, M.T, Embassy Cup (an event requiring reloading skills, accuracy, and changes of positions at different distances, all in a tight timeframe), and 100 yards standing, to test the best shots.

Team GB won this event in its first year, pushed closely by Ireland, but in 2020 Covid arrived, and this rendered my captaincy largely redundant. With the Phoenix cancelled

in 2020, and fewer foreign shooters being able to attend the depleted 2021 Phoenix Meeting, the Limax Cup was once again put on ice.

So to this year's Phoenix, and we were celebrating the Phoenix 25th Anniversary,

with Gallery Rifle & Pistol shooters competing for their World Championships, and the NRA kindly agreeing to host our own ITSF Shotgun World Championships here at Bisley.

With The Limax Cup also back on the agenda, I needed ►

RESULTS

Target Shotgun Manual	1st Great Britain	1552 67X
	133 John Chambers	
	1405 Rob Sanders	
	090 Norman Brown	
	3639 Glenn Isaacs	

Target Shotgun Semi-Auto	1st Great Britain	1569 61X
	3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis	
	2987 Adam Chapman	
	1691 Tim Jemmett	
	1475 James Harris	

Limax Cup – Aggregate TS Manual + Semi-Auto	Great Britain	3121 128X
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ITSF World Championships – Individuals

Target Shotgun Manual	1st 133 John Chambers	523 28X
	2nd 1405 Rob Sanders	518 16X
	3rd 2095 Andreas Steinke	515 22X
	U25 3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis	506 14X
Target Shotgun Semi-Auto	1st 3418 Mark Nolan	529 28X
	2nd 2176 Jeff Kehoe	526 27X
	U25 & 3rd 3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis	526 22X
	Lady 4178 Janine Travers 496	10X ITSF

World Championships – Teams

Target Shotgun Manual	1st Great Britain	2328 160X
	133 John Chambers	
	1405 Rob Sanders	
	090 Norman Brown	
	3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis	
	3639 Glenn Isaacs	
	2nd Ireland	2308 142X
	3650 Dean Parker	
	4547 Mark Walsh	
	4433 Nial Fortune	
	4548 Dominic Kelly	
	3418 Mark Nolan	
	3rd Germany	2164 120X
	2095 Andreas Steinke	
	3807 Daniel Balgojevic	
	2094 Martin Steinke	
	1629 Rolf Filbig	

“James has worked hard on carrying our sport forward, and today he organises regular NRA training sessions

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Total Length	1,140 - 1,185 mm
Sight Line Length	650 - 880 mm
Stock Length	800 - 845 mm
Trigger Weight Approx.	60 - 150 g

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Unlimited stalks/walked up/pigeon/wild fowling/
driven pheasant days for members

2 x ranges in membership – 1 South 1 North –
great value for money.



Left: GB Winning Team – Limax Cup.
Below inset: Mark Nolan – first place Semi Auto.



a team for both shotgun events and this raised a few problems. I knew who the best shots had been pre-pandemic, but knew very little of their status in 2022, if they were still competitive, or even still shooting, and we needed ten team members for each International event. Five of the team would be shooting semi autos, with the other five shooting manual (pump).

Although limited, 2021 did have a number of events going on around the country, so I could see a pattern, with some of the old names and a few new faces, all performing well. There were more semi auto shooters than pump, complicating matters a little, and for some who shoot both types, myself included, not all would get to choose their gun category.

James Harris and I got our heads together for a final selection, but inevitably some good shots were not selected, for the earlier mentioned reasons, and I apologise to those shooters. Truthfully, the final selection was in abeyance until the very last minute, since on a daily basis people were testing positive for Covid. Both John Chambers and myself were down to shoot pump, although that wouldn't have been our real preference. There were simply not enough manual shooters.

Come the Phoenix, with the individual and Limax Cup entries on Thursday and Friday, followed by the World Championship matches on the

Saturday, it was so good to see shooters spread shoulder to shoulder across Short Siberia Range. For once the Weather Gods were kind in donating warm, sunny conditions. There was a good spirit of camaraderie between teams and a great atmosphere – all shooters were highly competitive.

Suffice to say that Team GB won both events, with Team Ireland in second place, and Team Germany in third.

Between Gold and Silver Team positions there were not so many points, and with a small number of lost shots, easily done on speedily turning targets, the result could have been different.

Credit should go to John Chambers who won Gold in the individual placings, shooting pump, and similarly Gold to Mark Nolan from Ireland, shooting semi auto.

John Chambers is a long-time friend, and he has won in every category of shooting he has entered. For me, he is possibly the country's best all-rounder. Needless to say, Mark Nolan is a top shot. Well done to you both. There were some very good scores posted by individuals in both the Irish and German teams, but it was combined scores that decided the placings.

The GB team was made up of some established shooters, and a few newcomers. Lucius Hilger-Ellis shot strongly, justifying his inclusion in the team, and he won an award for the best Under 25 year old (not bad for a 19 year old!) This is a good sign for the future of our sport, and we have a few good young shots coming along.

Sadly, I cannot mention all team members but suffice to say "Well done guys, I'm proud of you all". The Dinner and Prizegiving were happy events, with the usual 'what ifs' doing the rounds,

and with the NRA's Secretary General, Andrew Mercer, as always well up to the joviality.

Credit also to James Harris for liaising with the visitors from abroad, and thanks to all of those visitors for making the journey, helping to make the event the success it was. Our Irish and German friends are a great bunch of people as well as good shots, and we enjoy the camaraderie when they visit.

Naturally a big thank you to the NRA for making these competitions happen.

As I write, the Imperial Meeting has given us a lady winner of The Queen's Prize.

“I'll continue to shoot anything that is available, as long as I'm mobile, but a twelve-bore with solid slug does tend to 'float my boat'”

Congratulations to Alice Good, a very talented young shooter. Gallery Rifle also has some excellent lady shooters, as has Target Shotgun, proving our sport is a fully inclusive one.

I feel that Target Shotgun has sometimes slipped a little "under the radar" in shooting circles. I do hope this article redresses the balance a little and will help it to grow in popularity. It has certainly given me much pleasure over the years.

In essence, for me, I'll continue to shoot anything that is available, as long as I'm mobile, but a twelve-bore with solid slug does tend to 'float my boat'.

When age decides that 12 bores are too punishing for me, I'll have to resort to my trusty .44 Marlin underlever, and hope to be accepted by my friends on Melville, although I'll probably be left in the dust by their top shots. Specialising in a particular discipline is always at the expense of another.

In spite of my earlier comments, I confess to now owning an LBR and LBP, although neither can really replace the pistols of old. I guess that we have to be grateful for what is left of our sport. Good Shooting! 🍀

INTER-COUNTIES WEEKEND MATCHES 2022



Charles Dickenson reports back from the event on 11-12 June 2022.

The weather gods laid on a fine weekend for the Inter-Counties matches, where temperatures were pleasant, rising from mid teens to low twenties through the day and with plenty of sunshine between patches of cloud: perfect conditions for stirring up variable winds to challenge the coaches.

Saturday kicked off with an individual competition in the morning: the R Jarvis is Queens I conditions (two sighters and seven to count at 300, 500 and 600 yds), for a maximum possible score of 105.21. For those who don't

manage to get to a range very often, this is a good chance to get some pre-match practice and establish zeros.

From the outset, the wind was quite strong ('Fresh' in shooting terminology) and almost straight across the range from the left, but with variations in strength that needed anything from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes correction to keep shots in the middle at 300 yds. 26 of the 180 competitors from 22 counties (14%) kept all 7 shots in the bull for a 35.

At 500 yds the wind allowance needed to

“ Both managed to put all 5 of their shots in the bull in the subsequent tie shoot as well, but John's 4 Vs to Rosanne's one gave him the R Jarvis trophy and gold medal

be between 3 and 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ and, with a proportionately bigger bull, 43 shooters (24%) scored a possible, though only 8 of them had also 'gone clean' at 300 yds.

At 600 yds the wind was around 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 minutes and the variability resulted in just 22 possibles. Of these, only two had managed to go

clean across all 3 distances for 105: Yorkshire's John Warburton and Rosanne Furniss of Northumberland & Durham, both with 15 V Bulls. Both managed to put all 5 of their shots in the bull in the subsequent tie shoot as well, but John's 4 Vs to Rosanne's one gave him the R Jarvis trophy and gold medal. With 14 Vs, Kent's Peter Bromley took the Bronze medal as the best of seven scores of 104.

Fifteen Under 23s contested for the U23 Silver Salver, with 102.12 from Surrey's Luca O'Flynn being good enough to

Above: 1st Place Surrey Team – Short & Long Aggregate. **Left:** The trophies up for grabs.



win him the salver. Of those over 23 but still under 25, Jason Peppera-Hibbert came out on top with 103.6 to win the U25 Silver Salver.

After a leisurely lunch, the Queens II conditions (2 +10 at 300, 500 and 600 yds) short range match for the Lt Col H Jones VC Memorial Trophy started at 1345. The winds had not abated and coaches had to contend with 1 to 2½ minutes at 300 yds. Of the 176 shooters, just 17 (under 10%) scored possibles and scores in general reflected the tricky conditions. Berkshire's Tom Shaw recorded the only 50.10. West of Scotland mastered the conditions best, dropping just 6 points from their 8 shooters to take the early lead on 394.45, two points ahead of Surrey on 392.48. There was then an 8 point gap to 3 teams on 384, headed by Berkshire with 44 Vs.

Falling back to 500 yds saw winds of 2¾ to 4 minutes. Surrey's consistency saw them top the range with 393.48, followed by Northumberland & Durham on 390.38 and Suffolk on 389.35. Surrey had now assumed their customary lead with a total of 785.93, opening up a significant gap on West of Scotland on 776.88 with Berkshire still third, some way behind on 769.80.

At 600 yds, the wind bracket opened up to between 3 and 5½ minutes, with quite rapid changes between the extremes. Once again Surrey led the range scores with 392.47, giving them a total of 1177.143. At this distance it was Norfolk that came closest

Above: Counties Aggregate Challenge Cup. **Right:** Team Matches underway on Stickle-down.

to Surrey, on 387.40, with Yorkshire close behind on 385.34. In the final reckoning, it was West of Scotland who came in second, on 1157.127, a full 20 points behind Surrey. Norfolk's strong finish at 600 pulled them up into third place on 1153.119, with a further 6 teams close behind and within 3 points of them.

Testament to the tricky winds, there was only one score of 150 and just 4 scores of 149. The 150 was achieved by Rosanne Furniss, making her the only person to go through the whole day without dropping a single point in 56 scoring shots (including her tie shoot). The 149s came from Surrey's Parag Patel (23 Vs), Devon's Hannah Pugsley (Cook) (19 Vs), Hertfordshire's Andy (Turbo) Barnes (17 Vs) and Berkshire's Archie Whicher (16 Vs).

Sunday dawned bright and sunny. The wind had abated slightly and swung round to be more between 10 and 11 o'clock. With changes in angle as well as strength, the coaches needed allowances that ranged from under 2 to over 5 minutes at 900 yds.

The quick changes meant that there were only six scores ►





Above left: 2nd Place Berkshire Team – Short & Long Aggregate. **Above right:** 3rd Place West of Scotland Team – Short & Long Aggregate.

of 75 from the 168 shooters, topped by Nottinghamshire's Rick Shouler with 13 Vs, closely followed by Surrey's Luca O'Flynn and Norfolk's Matt Purdy both with 12. Nevertheless, Surrey managed to drop only 10 points from their 8 shooters to lead after 900 yds with 590.78, closely followed by Berkshire on 588.63 with West of Scotland 5 points further back on 583.57.

More cloud cover at 1000yds created greater variation in the wind and made the mirage

harder to see, increasing the challenges faced by the coaches who had to contend with winds between 4 and 7½ minutes. Scores dropped appreciably with just two possibles recorded, 75.10 from Surrey's captain, Parag Patel and 75.7 from Gloucestershire's captain, James Postle.

Once again Surrey topped the range with 578.59, a full 12 points ahead of Hampshire on 566.41, with Sussex 3 points further back on 563.41. There was a sense

of inevitability that Surrey would come out as winners of the Long Range Team Match, having been highest at both distances. Their total of 1168.137 was 21 points clear of Hampshire, whose 1147.99

of Scotland on 2288.222. Individually, Parag Patel had the highest aggregate with one point lost at both short and long for 298.45. Closest to him was another Surrey shooter, Jon Underwood on 295.38.

“On the individual front, there were two scores of 149, Surrey's Parag Patel with 22 Vs and Lancashire's David Young with 17 Vs, and just one score of 148 from Norfolk's Chloe Evans



made them the only team to score more highly at long range than at short, having had a nightmare shoot on the previous day. Berkshire clung on to claim third place with 1143.98, nine points clear of fourth placed London. On the individual front, there were two scores of 149, Surrey's Parag Patel with 22 Vs and Lancashire's David Young with 17 Vs, and just one score of 148 from Norfolk's Chloe Evans.

In the overall aggregate of short and long, having won both, Surrey proved unassailable on 2345.280 to record their thirteenth successive win, 52 points clear of Berkshire who claimed second place for the second year in a row with 2293.213, five points ahead of West

While the scores were being sorted out, the Champion of Champions final was contested with one champion from each county firing 2+15 at 1000 yds. The tricky winds continued and kept scores down, with the medals being contested by the only three scores of 73. Devon's Jeremy Langley's 8 Vs edged past Hampshire's Richard Birtwistle (7) and Hertfordshire's Andy Barnes (6) to take the Comins Challenge Trophy.

On completion, the prizes were awarded on range by NRA Secretary General, Andrew Mercer. Many thanks must be given to the NRA staff, particularly Peter Cottrell and Becky Sweet, for organising another excellent weekend of competition. 🏹



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BIRMINGHAM BISLEY



Frank Harriss relives the two-day meeting held on the Kingsbury Ranges from 4-5 June 2022.

This two-day meeting on Kingsbury ranges was for years a big feature of the Midlands Rifle Association calendar. It fell into abeyance and was then resurrected by the NRA in 2017. Since then (except 2020) it has been run by Hereford and Worcester Rifle Association under WFA Bromsgrove RC's licence.

This year the competition was held on 4-5 June and the lower than hoped for attendance may be attributed to Jubilee events. However, 13 FTR and 17 TR competitors took to the range on 4 June. The weather was overcast with only a few drops of rain but a tricky wind from 1pm.

The competition course of fire was unusual in that the Range Orders dictated we string-shot with the non-shooter register-keeping behind the firing point. It is worth mentioning that string shooting with only one firer on the firing point at a time worked well despite our misgivings. We had to do it, so we got on with it. String shooting isn't to everyone's taste but over the two-day event not one person complained about it.

The competition began with 'The Warwickshire' at 300 and 600 yards (2+10 for TR and 2+15 for FTR). The WH Smith cup was won by Henry Sanders (Northants) with 97.8, followed by Paul Johnson (Dark Horse) counting out his Dark Horse teammate Reg Curtis on 94.9. (For those who do not keep up, Dark Horse is the new name for the former Lloyds Rifle Club). The Burley

Cup for FTR was won by Asad Wahid with 144.13, with Dean Wallace (Barry Shooting Centre) coming second with 143.11 followed by Mike Harris (Dorset Riflemen) with 142.7. Russell Hodgson-Jones (Old Wellingburians) won the medal for the highest TR O/T competitor (not in the first three) with Paul Russell (Bridlington) being the top FTR class M (no previous medals and not a member of the FTR national team). The next competition was 'The

There was good competition for the TR pairs match for the amazing Goodman Trophy, presented in recognition of a former MRA Secretary. Out of six teams, Dark Horse (Johnson and Curtis – 333.34) won with Old Wellingburians (Henry Sanders and Russell Hodgson-Jones – 331.22) second. The FTR team winning the Guardians Challenge Cup were the Dorset Riflemen, (Mark Downing, Dean Wallace and Mike Harris – 637.37).

So, could the triumvirates of Sanders, Johnson and Curtis and Wahid, Wallace and Harris continue their domination of the lists into the second day?

“The Worcester Regiment TR Cup was won by Robert Eayrs (Dursley), who had not been able to attend the Saturday, with 74.9

Kingsbury', 2+15 at 500 yards for both TR and FTR. Reg Curtis won the Nightingale Cup for TR with 73.8, followed by Paul Johnson with 72.6 and Henry Sanders with 72.5, these scores showing how tricky the wind had become. Asad Wahid counted out Mike Harris on 73.4 for the CCM Burley Memorial Cup, with Dean Wallace third on 72.5. The class O/T and M class (FTR) medal winners were Mark Clewer (LMRA) and Peter Clark (Oundle) respectively. Henry Sanders won the Birmingham Post Cup for the Saturday aggregate, followed by Reg Curtis and Paul Johnson. Asad Wahid won the Plant Cup for the FTR aggregate followed by Dean Wallace and Mike Harris.

Most arrived at Kingsbury on Sunday having driven through torrential rain, which was indeed forecast for most of the day. The decision to shoot just twice at 600, avoiding tramping across the range in the rain, was accepted by all and actively welcomed by many. Some wished it could always be thus! The two shoots were 2+15 for TR and 2+20 for FTR, making each discipline just 5 shots short of the expected course.

The first shoot was the 'Worcester Regiment'. The Worcester Regiment TR Cup was won by Robert Eayrs (Dursley), who had not been able to attend the Saturday, with 74.9. He was followed by Mark Clewer with 73.7, counting out Henry Sanders

with 73.7, so only one of the triumvirate there! FTR was more predictable with Asad Wahid winning with 97.8. He received the wonderful (and fragile) Derby War Memorial Crown Derby piece, considered in the past to be too fragile to award, though currently we reckon that it is better having it circulation rather than sitting in a cupboard. Second was Mike Harris with 97.7 and Dean Wallace with 96.4. These scores are remarkable, considering a 600 yard F-class target has a five inch bull and 3 inch V-bull!

Tom Harrison (Old Malvernians) won the O/T medal with 71.6 and Peter Clark the M (FTR) class medal with 90.6.

The firers then rolled over and shot again for 'The Staffordshire'. The Staffordshire Cup was won for TR by Henry Sanders (returned to form) with 74.9, counting out Reg Curtis on the same score. Robert Eayrs came third with 74.6.

The Dyer Cup (FTR) was won by Dean Wallace with 98.12 but two new names followed – Mark Downing (Dorset Riflemen) on 98.10 and Paul Russell on 98.7. Kevan Dowse (Chinnor) won the O/T medal with 73.7 and David Roper (Ibis) the FTR M class medal with 91.5.

So, have you spotted the Sunday aggregate winners? Robert Eayrs won the Clubs Aggregate Cup for TR with 148.15, followed by Henry Sanders on 147.16 and Reg Curtis with 146.15.

Dean Wallace won the FTR Allen Cup, scoring 194.16, with Mike Harris breathing down his neck with 194.14 and then Mark Downing with 192.17. Highest O/T was Russell Hodgson-Jones with 142.9 and highest class M was Paul Russell (182.8).

The Sunday team matches were won by Old Wellingburians (Henry Sanders and Russell Hodgson-Jones – Painter Shield – 289.25) and Dorset Riflemen, (Mark Downing, Dean Wallace and Mike Harris – The Solihull Tray – 580.47).

Now to the Grand Aggregate. TR competitors shot most appropriately for the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Cup presented to the MRA by Mitchell and Butlers in 1953. Henry Sanders carried this off with 316.29, from Reg Curtis on 313.32 and Keirin McCamley with 306.24.

FTR shot for the Watson Bowl and it was tight at the top. Dean Wallace won with 409.32; then came Mike Harris just 7 V-bulls behind and Asad Wahid with 408.30.

The top O/T, winning the fascinating Australia trophy (a mounted silver SMLE

rifle), was Russell Hodgson-Jones with 304.15. Paul Russell won the Life Members Cup for FTR class M with 385.20. Alastair White of Uppingham School is to be congratulated on winning the handsome Stowe Bowl for the top school pupil and we are pleased to be able to encourage youth shooting in this way.

The HWRA awards were all won by Reg Curtis – the Chairman's prize for the Saturday Aggregate, the Depot Cup for the Sunday aggregate and the Rosebowl for the Grand – well done Reg! Kidderminster (Paul Johnson and Pat

Weston) won the O-sector cup for the best HWRA team.

Mark Clewer (English XX District Superintendent) presented a jewel to Reg and also to the highest HWRA T-class, Dorothy Harrison (NLRC).

The meeting kindly presented Frank with a bottle of wine (consumed on Saturday evening in relief it was all over!). Frank thanked Paul Johnson and Mark Downing, the butts officers and all the other myriad people who had helped him run the Meeting). See you next year (in increased numbers, we hope!). ☺



Above top: Dorset Riflemen FTR team Winners. **Above left:** Alastair White receives the Stowe bowl. **Above right:** Henry Sanders TR winner. **Below:** Paul Johnson and Reg Curtis with the Goodman Trophy.



Update from the REGIONAL RANGES MANAGER

Nic Couldrey discusses developments at ranges away from Bisley.

IMPORTANCE OF VENTILATION – INDOOR RANGES

NRA members in the West Midlands may be familiar with a 14-lane indoor commercial range in Walsall. The range facilities are available to FAC holders and individuals looking for a shooting experience with semi-automatic .22RF rifles. The BBC Midlands correspondent ran a story in July about a UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) investigation into the range. According to the BBC, nine members of the range staff have received hospital treatment for lead poisoning linked to their work at the range. None of those treated are believed to have life

threatening illnesses however the range was closed whilst the UKHSA investigated the ventilation system at the range. The range operator was not available for comment and has no relationship with the NRA.

The Walsall incident is an example of the risk posed by an inadequate/inoperative indoor range ventilation system. Club officials should follow advice provided in the NRA Range Managers Guide

- Range operators should assess indoor ranges to evaluate the risk associated with firearm emissions including lead and unburnt propellant
- Specialist contractors may be consulted to provide air monitoring advice
- Ideal airflow is a laminar

airflow pulled down range with an extraction system rated 10% higher than the inlet providing a negative pressure downrange

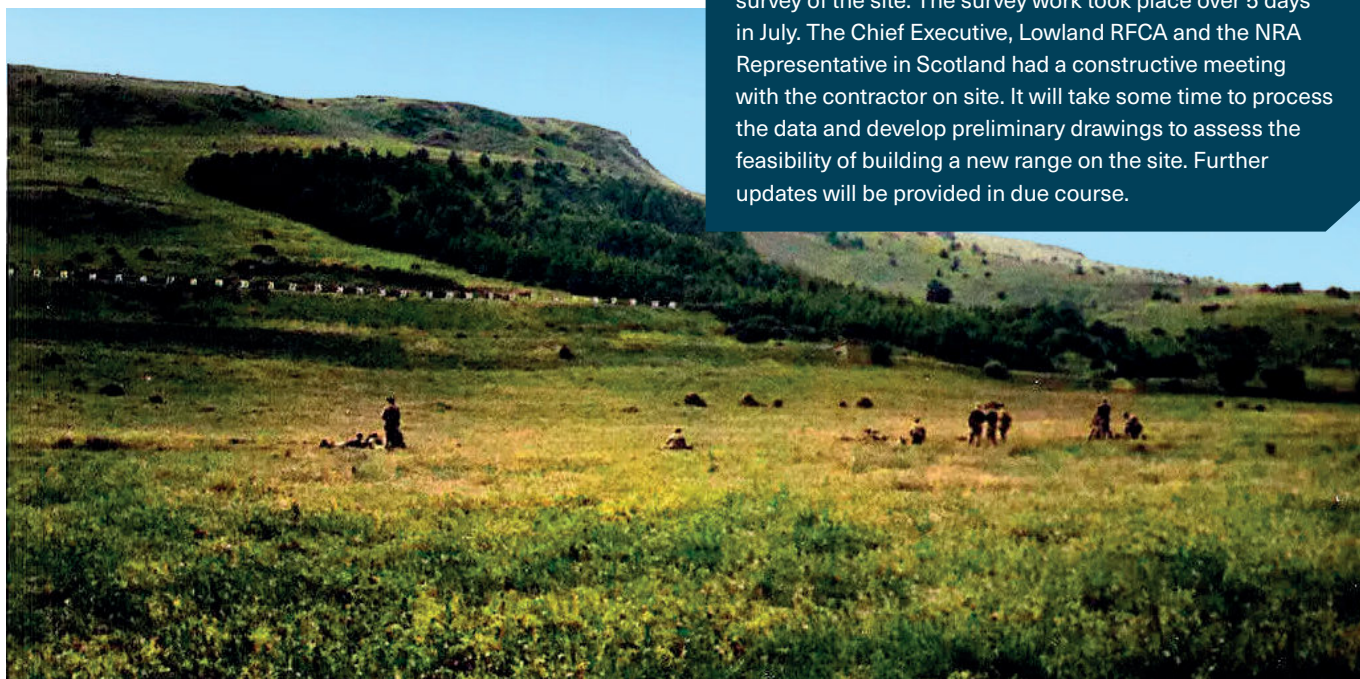
- Air changes should be between 6-10 changes per hour
- Regular maintenance especially de leading and deep cleaning should be performed by specialist contractors using suitable equipment and PPE basis the range log/range use (round count, type of ammunition)
- Range operators should

ensure that waste material contaminated with lead is disposed of in accordance with Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) and Environment Agency requirements. Specialist contractors can provide advice.

The Range Managers Guide is available to download from the NRA website. Club officials responsible for the operation of an indoor range should familiarise themselves with Part 6 and Part 7 of the guide that covers firearm emissions and ventilation.

DECHMONT SURVEY

Following the recent meeting with the RFCA at the Dechmont Training Area, the NRA commissioned a specialist contractor to perform a detailed topographic survey of the site. The survey work took place over 5 days in July. The Chief Executive, Lowland RFCA and the NRA Representative in Scotland had a constructive meeting with the contractor on site. It will take some time to process the data and develop preliminary drawings to assess the feasibility of building a new range on the site. Further updates will be provided in due course.





DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW MOD RANGE FOR HME RIFLES

The project to develop a new range in the North of England is ongoing. Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) and Landmarc have confirmed that groundwork including the provision of arc markers will start in November to create a new fixed range suitable for firearms that generate ME greater than 7000 J. This is welcome news as Lydd Serial 45 in Kent has closed for maintenance until 2023.

EAST HOLME RIFLE RANGE IN DORSET

NRA members in Dorset may be familiar with East Holme near Wareham, which closed some years ago. The rifle range is part of the Holme Estate; in March 2022 the MoD lease expired. The range is now under the control of the Estate.

The NRA is providing advice, support and guidance to the Holme Estate including a detailed walk through of processes employed at the National Shooting Centre and access to Range Safety Officer training. Our shared objective is to bring the range back into use for civilian target shooting once the required maintenance and repair works have been completed.

Clubs that have an interest in the range should refer to the East Holme Rifle Range website for more information at ehrr.co.uk

DEVELOPING TIES TO DELIVER TRAINING IN THE SOUTH WEST

Following the recent meeting with the range operator, two members of staff from Rifleman Firearms in Somerset travelled to Bisley to learn more about NRA training prior to one of them attending the full NRA Probationary Training Programme. Once this has been completed, the National Training Manager will work with Rifleman Firearms to develop a probationary training programme that can be delivered locally that is consistent with the modular training package currently available only at the National Shooting Centre. This proof of concept exercise will provide valuable insights into the delivery of regional training through partners with the appetite and facilities.



FINALLY...

The new schedule of charges for access to the Defence Estate has not been released yet; clubs will continue to be charged at the existing rates.

2022 CHANNEL ISLANDS TEAM

A highly successful NRA tour reported by team captain **Doug Stewart**.

I knew right from the start that we had a squad full of talent and with the hunger and desire to do well, but this team surpassed expectations winning all of its matches both at Bisley and in the Channel Islands, returning home undefeated, something that hadn't been achieved for over a decade.

With over 60 applicants for the tour, the initial selection process to whittle those down to a squad of ten challenged the team's Executive to many hours of debate and discussion. We selected a young squad with ages ranging from just 19 up to 32 and an average age of 24. All had strong individual credentials and experience of team shooting at County, National and International levels. Yes there were risks in putting such a young team up against much more seasoned shooters who included Queens Prize and Commonwealth Games winners amongst their numbers, but we were confident that the squad could deliver and deliver they did! Throughout both the training and competitions the squad showed maturity beyond its years.

THE TEAM

Captain: Doug Stewart

Vice Captain: Andrew Thompson

Adjutant: Nick Brasier

Armourer/wind coach: Tom Rylands

The Team: Jonathan Brooking, Mike Bumford, Patrick Costello, Oscar Farrell,

Guy Hart, Tom Johnston, Toby Little, Luca O'Flynn, Alex Sadler, Tom Shaw, Reserve Jon Thorp.

“ We had done what no NRA team had achieved for over a decade

THE MAIN EVENT

Training started in November 2021 with practices at Bisley. As the team got to know one another a strong sense of camaraderie developed very quickly with everyone working well together and helping each other out when things didn't go according to plan. From the outset there was a good team spirit, a desire to do well and a fierce amount of internal competitiveness. The teams last training session was in April 2022 at the end of which we faced our first competitive fixture against the English Lions squad. Teams of 12 competed over a Queens I course of fire with the NRA team running out winners by 12 points 1218 to 1206 ex 1260. Tom Rylands led the way with 105.10 and there were good 104's from Alex Sadler, Luca O'Flynn, Mike Bumford and Patrick Costello.

The teams next match was against the LMRA on the eve prior to the departure for

the Channel Islands. The NRA team hadn't won this fixture for several years so had everything to play for. Difficult winds at 300 and then at 1,000 yards, where 12-16 minutes of wind buffeting the rifles made for challenging conditions. But the NRA won through with a score of 966.109 to the LMRA's 918.75. Jono Brooking was the NRA's top scorer with 98.12. Patrick Costello led the 5 team members who went clean at 300 yards with a 50.9 and Alex Sadler top scored at 1,000 yards with 48.7. A formal dinner at the LMRA followed with the team being wished every success by the match top scorer and LMRA captain Tim Bedwell.

Tom Rylands worked through the night to repair 2 rifles that had broken down during the match, but the next day we were on our way to Jersey by car and ferry from Poole, meeting the Scottish and Welsh teams along the way. With rifles and kit deposited at the JRA armoury the team settled in to the New Inn hotel in central St Helier for final briefings.

Saturday saw an early start to the JRA spring meeting. A relatively benign wind for the morning's Duncan Wilson Trophy firing 2+10 at 200 and 500 yards. This saw the first silverware for the NRA team with Tom Rylands winning scoring 100.16, Guy Hart finishing second with 100.14 and Nick Brasier 5th with 100.10.

The afternoon's competition for the JE Le Gresley trophy saw very different





conditions with a strong fishtailing and rapidly changing headwind. One seasoned Jersey shooter described it as the most savage wind he'd seen at Crabbe in 20 years and it reflected in lower scoring.

Nonetheless with a fabulous 148.20 the NRA's Patrick Costello tied for first place. Tom Johnston's 148.11 secured him fourth place with Tom Rylands and Guy Hart finishing seventh and eighth respectively. The daily aggregate for the Harrison trophy saw 3 NRA shooters in the top 10, Tom second, Guy fifth and Patrick seventh.

Sunday brought a 7am start for the long range shooting at Les Landes. 7-8 minutes of fairly constant right wind saw high scoring again in the JEP trophy shot over 900 and 1,000 yards.

Tom Rylands 104.15 was enough for a second place finish, 104.10 from Toby Little claimed 5th and Oscar Farrell's 103.12, including an excellent 50.9 at 900 yards got tenth.

The blustery and variable headwind reappeared on the afternoons trip back to Crabbe for the Percy Whittaker trophy, 2 and 10 at 200 and 500 yards. Guy's 100.11 secured 3rd place with Alex Sadler on 99.10 in 6th and Mike Bumford 99.9 in seventh.

Finishes in the Sunday aggregate were Guy fifth, Toby sixth and Tom Rylands eighth. At the end of day 2 and with one competition to go the NRA's Guy Hart led the meeting's Grand Aggregate having only

“The blustery and variable headwind reappeared on the afternoons trip back to Crabbe

dropped five points, with Tom Rylands sitting two points back in third.

Monday, another 8am start with a light breeze for the Gallichan 150 Anniversary trophy and all to play for. The NRA team filled the top 4 places. Tom Rylands won with 100.13 and Luca's 100.9 was 2nd. Mike Bumford 3rd and Tom Johnston 4th. With Tom Shaw and Nick Brasier finishing 9th and 10th the team had 6 in the top 10.

Tom's shoot saw him overhaul Guy Hart to win the meeting's Grand aggregate with a score of 548.73 ex 555. Guy Hart finished 2nd only a point behind. 7 of the NRA team finished in the top 20 of the Grand. Tom also won the meeting's short range aggregate.

Patrick Costello then had to tie shoot for the JE Le Gresley trophy against Wales' very in form Henryk Golaszewski. Pat's 25.3 tie was pipped by Henryk's perfect 25.5.

The Spring meeting over Monday afternoon saw the all important team matches against Jersey, Wales and Scotland. Our successes in the individual events had not gone unnoticed and the opposition all fielded strong teams.

The Executive team had been watching the wind conditions closely over the previous two days and decided that the road to success in the team match would almost certainly revolve around wind coaching skills and this strongly influenced our selection of the team of eight.

With Tom Rylands as head coach and Nick Brasier and Alex Sadler as target coaches and the captain monitoring the opposition targets, we had four pairs of eyes on the wind at all times.

Matches like this are never won at 300 yards but they are often lost there and we knew we had to get off to a good start. ►

	300	500	1000	TOTAL
T. RYLANDS	441.6	441.4	441.9	1424.9
T. BECKING	441.5	441.8	50.5	1443.8
T. JOHNSTON	442.4	441.5	50.5	1444.4
L. O'FLYNN	50.5	50.5	441.5	1442.5
G. HART	50.4	441.5	50.5	1442.4
Y. COSTELLO	441.5	441.4	50.4	1443.3
T. LITTLE	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
M. BUMFORD	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
D. HODGSON	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
P. STEWART	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
E. BREWSTER	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
N. BRACE	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
N. KEENE (J)	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
R. WATERS	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
J. BRANNA	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
J. HALL	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
A. HART	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
A. HART	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
G. FARRELL	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
S. FROST	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4
K. WATERS	441.5	441.5	50.4	1443.4

Left: Spectacular views from the range. **Above:** The Official NRA Team Photo. **Right:** The winning scoreboard in Guernsey.



We dropped 13 points there but it was still enough to give us a three-point lead over Jersey. The team had a stern talking to in the debrief and responded well to only drop 10 points at 500 yards...but it was not enough as Jersey shot brilliantly to score 395 and overhaul our lead meaning we trailed by 2 points going back to 600. Disaster nearly struck at one stage as the foresight fell off Pat's rifle mid shoot leading to urgent armouring on the point. Fortunately the incident only cost us a single dropped point

Another even sterner talking to after 500 yards and the team were left with no illusions as to what was needed. At 600 the lead swung backwards and forwards between Jersey and NRA, the teams were level as the last two firers from each team got down on the point. Under intense pressure and knowing what was needed and expected, our two anchor men did not let the side down as Tom Shaw's 50.7 and Luca O'Flynn's 49.7 saw us claw back the Jersey lead and win the match by three clear points 1173.126 to 1170.117.

The NRA team score of 396 ex 400 at the final range was very special. Alex Sadler coached his four firers at the final range for the loss of only one point.

Scotland finished third, narrowly counting out Wales on V Bulls. In a high scoring reserve pairs match Andrew Tompson and Oscar Farrell narrowly lost out to Jersey 295.30 to 294.30.

And so we completed the first victory by an NRA team over Jersey in Jersey since 2010. A jubilant team decanted to the magnificent St Brelades Bay Hotel for the evenings formal dinner later that evening, delighted with their victory and even more

delighted that under the Captains incentive scheme devised during training, the Captain would pay the drinks bill for the evening in the event of a victory. Apart from lifting the Parker Ross trophy for the team match, the team's haul included another five trophies, mainly for Tom Rylands.

We said thank you to our hosts who had welcomed us and looked after us so well during our stay in Jersey, particularly to Colin Mallett and JRA captain Nick Atkins for their help in organisation.

After quite a late night, the Tuesday saw the team gently unwind after a late awakening, and a light lunch and some sightseeing before we headed for the evening ferry to Guernsey.

Our first day in Guernsey was a free one to take in some of the sights, with sea swimming and rock climbing. A sporting afternoon saw a competitive game of mini golf, won by the Captain, fun at the driving range then a gin tasting session at Luke Whealdon's Bella Luce Hotel.

Day 2 we were back to the business in hand with an early afternoon start at Guernsey Rifle Club's very scenic coastal range at Fort Le Marchant for the Parker Tankard.

Tom Rylands was immediately back in winning ways again with 99.17 at 300/600 yards but closely followed in 4th/5th by Patrick Costello and Tom Johnston with 99.12 and 99.10.

Back to our 4 star upgraded Hotel Jerbourg for a BBQ and the ceremonial lighting of beacons to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee.

A gentle 1-2 minute right wind greeted us at 0830am the next day for the Falla competition, a Queens I course of fire. Guy Hart's 105.16 placed him third, a couple of V's behind the winner Wales' Alex Haley. Toby Little also shot 105.10 and Luca 104.15 carrying a 1 point penalty for shooting out of turn.

The afternoons Renouf trophy saw Guy Hart win with 150.21, the only person to go clean, and a third place for Luca O'Flynn with 149.20.

And so with two shoots to go in the Guernsey Grand Aggregate Guy Hart was leading again, not having dropped a point.



THE FINAL SHOOT

The final shoot in the Grand, the Albany was held on the Saturday morning 2 and 15 at 500 and 600 yards. The whole team was determined to shoot well as the Executive committee had been unable to settle final decisions for the 8 to face Guernsey later that afternoon, despite several hours debate the night before. Jono Brooking top scored for the NRA with 150.17 but it wasn't enough to beat a very in form Theo Dodds of Wales who won with 150.24, in the process overhauling Guy's lead in the Grand Aggregate to win by a single point with 404.63 ex 405. The top 10 in the Grand featured six of the NRA team. Guy second, Luca third, Jono fifth, Mike sixth, Tom Rylands eighth, and Nick tenth.

Selecting the eight for the match was an incredibly difficult process. The Executive team had already decided not to shoot themselves but selecting the best 8 from 10 proved nigh on impossible as all 10 had strong claims for a place in the team. We also wanted a reserve pair who could go one better than in Jersey. The GRC had announced their team the night previously and it was a strong one. We announced ours an hour before the match making our final selection based on 300 yard performances knowing once again we needed to get off to a good start.

For the match we changed the windcoaching strategy slightly. Tom

Rylands and Nick were target coaches with the Captain and Vice Captain watching the opposition's targets and wind flags from various strategic viewpoints around the range.

This time we decided to use Tom Shaw and Guy Hart as our pilots and they got us off to a good start with the team only dropping 10 points at 300 yards to give us an immediate 6 point lead over the GRC.

At 500 yards we were better dropping only 7 points and extending our lead to 16. The Captain's final briefing just before the 600 yard detail warned the team not to be complacent. GRC had already declared 600 yards to be their strongest range. So I set the team a target of dropping no more than 3 points, hoping, but not expecting them to achieve it. 6 possibles later the team had scored 398.53 ex 400, dropping only 2 points to seal a 23 point victory over the GRC by 1181.141 to 1158.118.

THE FINAL HURDLE

The icing on the cake was a win for the reserve pair dropping only seven points between them for a score of 293.36 against Guernsey's 284.25. Inspired by the eight's performance both Alex Sadler and Oscar Farrell finished with 50's at 600 yards making a total of eight possibles from ten frirers at that range. Oscar had the highest V count of the squad with 21 V's.

That evening's formal dinner at the Le Havelet Hotel saw the captain's supply of large cigars exhausted by the team and his credit card take yet another hammering for the team's celebratory champagne as we lifted the team trophy. Celebrations continued late into the night.

Our hosts in Guernsey had looked after us very well and I thank Peter Jory for storing our rifles, Al Stewart for organising



“I was honoured to have captained an amazing team who exceeded all expectations.”

our transport and the GRC captain Nick Kerins, Mike Creber and the rest of the team for their organisation and for giving us a memorable time on the island.

After a next days go-karting, which finally saw Theo Dodds beaten at something, by Pat, the team returned to Bisley tired but emotional after a fantastic tour. We made friendships both within the team and with our hosts that will last a lifetime.

I was honoured to have captained an amazing team who exceeded all expectations. They worked hard for themselves and for each other, they had no weaknesses and they showed nerves of steel and composure when it was called for. In winning every team fixture and beating both Jersey and Guernsey on their home soil, we had done what no NRA team had achieved for over a decade. In 2010 Colin Johnston captained the last team to do the double as we had done. It was ever so appropriate therefore that his son Tom was a member of this NRA winning team. And also that Jono Brooking followed in the footsteps of his father Tim who was also part of the 2010 team.

I am indebted to my Executives who helped me hugely throughout on this memorable tour and also to all the sponsors and supporters who made it possible. I wish every success to James Mehta who captains next year's 2023 NRA team. 🍀





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TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM CANADA 2023

The following have been selected to represent the Great Britain Rifle Team in Canada, in August 2023, to compete at the Valcartier Base in Quebec and Connaught ranges. My warmest congratulations to all.

Captain: Andrew Lothian, GB and England

Vice Captain: Gary Alexander, GB and Ireland

Adjutant: David Rose, GB and England

Team Members: Jack Alexander, GB and Ireland. Nigel Ball, GB and England. Michael Bumford*, Wales. Michael Cooper*, Ireland. Patrick Costello*, Scotland. Christina Cuming*, England. Simon Hayton*, England. Christopher Heales*, England. Lindsey McKerrill, GB and Scotland. Jane Messer, GB and England. James Postle*, England. Reg Roberts, GB and England. Tom Rylands, GB and England. Tom Shaw*, England. James Shepherd, GB and Scotland. Jon Underwood, GB and England. Archie Whicher, GB and England.

Reserves: Henry Awin. Liam Cheek. Kit Crabtree. Dan Clark. Guy Hart. Paul Holmes. Susie Luckman. Luca O'Flynn. Richard Stebbings.

Andrew Lothian – Captain

** Denotes New Cap*

NRA CHANNEL ISLANDS TEAM 2023

The following have been selected to represent the NRA in the Channel Islands in the matches in 2023. My congratulations to them, and commiserations to those who were unsuccessful in their applications.

Captain: James Mehta, Essex, Scotland, GB

Vice Captain: Kim Pope, Suffolk and Ireland

Adjutant: Ian Ashworth, Gloucestershire, England, GB

Head Coach: Simon Dickson, West of Scotland, Scotland

Team Members:

Harry Asquith-Beard, UK Armed Forces, British Army, Berkshire. Richard Dyball, West of Scotland, Scotland. Rob Edwards, Gloucestershire. John Evans, Somerset, Wales. Ed Feast, Hertfordshire. Sophie Hodge, Berkshire, England. Euan Munro, West of Scotland, Scotland. Sasha Radkovskii, Oxfordshire. Chris Vonchek, Hampshire. Henry Waldern, England.

Reserves: Nia Barnes, Hertfordshire, Wales. Ed Welford, Hampshire, England

James Mehta – Captain

GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2023

I am delighted to announce the names of those selected for the GB Rifle Team to South Africa, touring in March 2023. Around 100 people applied for the Palma squad in 2020, with about 50 individuals going through two years of training and selection (Phase 1).

I am very grateful for the interest and support shown by those I was not able to select for this tour and wish them well in seeking selection to Great Britain Rifle Teams in the future.

Captain: Jeremy Langley, England, GB

Vice-Captain: Nick Tremlett, England, GB

Adjutant: Derek Lowe, England, GB

Team Members: Jack Alexander, Ireland, GB. David Armstrong, England, GB. Nigel Ball, England, GB. Glyn Barnett, England, GB. Matt Button, England, GB. Hannah Cook, England, GB. Theo Dodds, Wales, GB. Seth Dowley,

England, GB. Tom Drysdale, England, GB. Matthew Ensor, England, GB. Chloe Evans, Wales, GB. Rosanne Furniss, England, GB. Alastair Haley, Wales, GB. Nick Healy, Ireland. Jonathan Kent, England, GB. David Luckman, England, GB. Chris Mitchell, England, GB. Graham Nelson, England, GB. Parag Patel, England, GB. Jason Pepera-Hibbert, England, GB. Toby Raincock, England, GB. Bill Richards, England, GB. David Rose, England, GB. Tom Rylands, England, GB. Rick Shouler, England, GB. Paul Sykes, England, GB. James Watson, England, GB. Jon Underwood, England, GB.

Non-Travelling Reserves: Toby Cubitt, England, GB. Henryk Golaszewski, Wales, GB. Jemima Hince, England, GB. Jane Messer, England, GB. Matt Purdy, England, GB. Chris Watson, Wales, GB.

Dr Jeremy Langley, Captain – GBRT SA2023



Obituaries

David Arthur Holt.

On 19 May 2022 David died suddenly – the news stunned the shooting community and the vast number of friends he made in his other passions for climbing, canoeing, walking, skiing, his neighbours and from working at Nottingham University. David had led a very active 70 years of life.

David came from a small, very close family and was the loving son of Arthur and Doreen. Born in Durham, on Sunday 14 October, he was raised in a tough and unstable period of British history, the country still bearing the devastating scars of the Second World War.

Despite the era, there was always food on the table then given the opportunity the family ventured to Nottinghamshire. David was very close to his parents and was very proud of his father, a coalface miner, who was one of the first to move down to the Calverton colliery, with the offer of a house in Gedling pit village. Not being a man for a change, it was a house he lived in for 68 years. He also competed in speedskating at the Winter Olympics during the 1940s.

David got his love of the outdoors from his parents and he often described times

when his mum and dad were on the motorbike, and he, the dog, a tent and all the camping equipment were in the sidecar!

His mum was also the source of his great love of

reading, and it is no surprise that he could read and write before he went to school! As you may be aware, David was a mine of useful and useless information, which he loved to share, and he did, again, again and again!

When he was 12, he was attracted to the idea of target rifle shooting and told the tale of his mother taking him on two bus journeys to a club in central Nottingham. Legend has it that on arrival she just left him there, whereupon Frank Upton, a lifelong friend taught him, and for 58 years David remained in a sport he loved.

Soon after starting to shoot full-bore rifle, David was awarded the Silver medal by Notts Rifle Association, gaining a free entry to the Imperial Meeting and shot in every event he could. And remembers being reprimanded for being late by Marjorie Foster.

Young David became an apprentice at The Royal Ordnance factory, where he became a skilled engineer, and whilst there he went along to a meeting of Notts Climbing Club and with them he travelled to Scotland, Wales the French Alps, Colorado and the Rockies.

After leaving the Ordnance Factory, David worked as a toolmaker for the coal board, and in the 2000s, he became a technician in the physics department at Nottingham University. He described it as the best job he ever had, and he made special one-off pieces for the research professors, and when he got half a chance,

bits and bobs for his guns!

It must have been in the early 80's when I became aware of David, a charismatic fellow club member. He was an enthusiastic pistol shooter and weened me away from small-bore rifles into the word of handguns. As a club or as individuals we would travel anywhere a competition was being held, especially to Bisley for the Annual Pistol Competition that lasted many days. After the handgun ban, I got to know David better and we would travel to events together with some of the road trips lasting four or five hours, during which he would keep me entertained with his tales of daring do, walking in Nepal, riding across Australia on a motorbike, or getting lost in Alaska. He had a never-ending catalogue of stories to tell. And if I said "I've heard this one Dave" he

would immediately switch

to another without hesitation. He was a good storyteller.

Attending most of the Events held at the National Shooting

Centre, Bisley and regional venues David

was a popular character and was recognised and respected everywhere especially when acting as the Chief Range Officer. He served on the committee of DRPC1999 for almost 30 years sharing his valuable knowledge and skills that has helped to make the club so successful.

When our friend Taff became GB captain, he asked David and me to be Adjutant and Vice-Captain and the highlight was arranging a trip to South Africa. David was



proud to be part of this and shot for his country several times travelling to Germany and Ireland.

The last few years saw David's interest move to Civilian Service Rifle and he enthusiastically got involved, buying all the best equipment and kit. In the results, he never got above mid-table respectability but that did not bother him. He was enjoying something new and new friends. He was reluctant to accept the position of Captain for the Army Target Shooting Club CSR team, but

he wholeheartedly took on the role and the team produced better results than they had for a long time, much to his delight.

Wherever he went and whatever discipline he shot he was well respected, and this was confirmed by the numbers at his service.

He was very patient and understanding, and always prepared to give someone a second chance. In all the commiserations I have received the theme was how helpful he was. Whether it was a new starter needing advice,

someone with a broken gun that needing fixing or just helping to run a range at an event – David was there.

He loved the company of ladies and enjoyed walking with his group of lady friends and socialising with them. He would have thought it wonderful that his “hareem” as he called them, escorted his coffin into his funeral service.

David was constant friend to his godson David who remembers him as being decent and reliable, a man who could be relied upon in times

of need and for giving good advice and guidance.

I will remember on a Sunday morning when a crowd of us would sit around after shooting, drinking tea, talking rubbish, and eating biscuits, David would tell me to put away my Tesco value gingernuts and he would produce Hobnobs or some fancy cookies and say – Life is too short for cheap biscuits.

Life is too short. Life was too short for David – he had a lot more stories to tell and posh biscuits to eat.

Jim Smith

Michael Allan Nash

Being born in 1935 in Lee, South-East London, Michael was to experience a childhood that was considerably more testing than many, with evacuation to Exmoor, followed by a return to London in time for the V1 and V2 raids. In peace time, he completed his secondary education at the Mercers' School, on High Holborn, where he learnt shooting in the range at the top of the Prudential Building. Then came National Service with the Royal Artillery in Germany, after which he took up his place to read Classics at Pembroke College, Cambridge. His first teaching post was at King's School, Ely.

Duncan MacCallum appointed him to the Classics Department at Epsom College in 1964, and he was subsequently promoted to

Head of Department. He also held the post of Librarian. In 1970, he became commanding officer of the Epsom College CCF, and in 1973 he took over the reins as Master i/c Shooting from Rex Goddard.

The well-oiled machine that is Epsom College Shooting was already well established but also poised for further development. Michael's enthusiasm for the “grass roots” of the sport at junior and House level led to a discernible increase in overall numbers. His introduction of initials for those who achieve a “possible” lent kudos to all who gained recognition in that way, but it was his approach to match psychology which his successor, James Postle, has characterised as the masterpiece in his repertoire.

Success in the indoor range led to similar levels of achievement in the outdoor arena at Bisley. Michael was quick to import expertise, especially from a succession of committed Old Epsomians, beginning with Peter Dodd.

Though the College was already used to a good haul of silverware, this period saw the team go up a further gear. Individual, pair and team trophies, including the Snap and the Marling, had already come our way but, with one sole exception, in 1973, the Ashburton Shield had remained elusive. It was therefore the record of five consecutive victories in this competition (from 1990-1994 inclusive) that became the crowning glory and a record that has remained unbeaten ever since.

Many of those cadets who competed

successfully in the Ashburton also won selection to the Athelings, who toured to Canada. CCRS appointed Michael as Commandant for the tour of 1982, with Hylton Adcroft (Wellington College) as his Adjutant. At the same time, with Frank Harris of Malvern College, Michael was unstinting in his work for the BSSRA, organising national competitions through the postal leagues.

In due course, those former Athelings and others, as Old Epsomians, would bring distinction on themselves and the College in the international sphere at Bisley. Two of Michael's protégés, Phillip Bennison and Parag Patel, have subsequently become winners of HM The Queen's Prize, Gold and Silver have been won at Commonwealth Games level; and there is strength in depth with countless OEs having gone on to represent their country in a whole range of different teams. A truly remarkable legacy.

Retirement, to Westham, near Pevensey, saw Michael become a stalwart of his local church, a school governor, and an active parish councillor, and he also gained the coveted Licentiate of the Royal Photographic Society.

In offering our deepest sympathy to Kay, Juliette and James, let us also celebrate the full life of a true friend and a gifted colleague.

Roger Gill





Hazel Reid Mackintosh MBE BSc TD

Hazel was born and grew up in the fishing town of Kilkeel. She attended Kilkeel High School where she discovered a love for chemistry, something which had a large influence throughout her student and working life. Hazel was determined to go to university and secured a place at The Queen's University of Belfast where she gained a degree in Chemistry. While at university she decided to join the Officer Training Corps and it was there she discovered her talent and love for shooting. There was very little coaching available and Hazel, having learned the basic skills, simply had to get on with it. Around this time, she met some of the Ulster Rifle Association members and decided to join the club. This led to her first Service Rifle meeting at Bisley in the late 1960s, and ultimately to her first Target Rifle Imperial meeting in 1971, using a converted P14 military rifle, purchased and converted for the princely sum of £25. Success followed and she won The Amazons, Alton and Imp and a clean sweep of all three in one year. She shot for the Ireland team in the National Match on 28 occasions and in the Mackinnon on 13 occasions. In 1982 she was picked, along with David Calvert, to represent Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games. It was the first time that a female had been picked by any of the home nations for fullbore rifle, and it resulted in a Bronze medal in the Pairs' event. In 2000 Hazel was delighted to be appointed Captain of the Ireland Millennium Match team. She was particularly proud of the fact that she selected several cadets for

the team who outperformed some of the more experienced shooters, with Ireland finishing in third place. Hazel was a past chairman of the Ulster Rifle Association, a club to which she gave many years faithful service and she was also very proud to have been elected a Vice President of the NRA.

Hazel was appointed to teach Chemistry at Belfast Royal Academy on a temporary basis for a three-month period in 1963. 34 years later she was still there teaching Chemistry. Dr Louis Campbell, who was the Head of the Chemistry Department at the time of her retirement in 1997 commented that her command of the subject was first rate and her ability to impart this knowledge to willing and not-so-willing pupils was of the highest quality.

In addition to helping out with girls' hockey and basketball in the early days of her Academy teaching career, Hazel's main interest lay within the School's Air Training Corps. This stemmed from her being approached at her break one day by the commanding officer of the Air Training Corps who said to her 'You shoot don't you? Well, you can teach them ATC cadets to shoot.' Hazel became a Civilian Instructor with 2390 Squadron ATC and was able to bring the ATC into fullbore shooting with the assistance of the late Harry McGiffin who was the Shooting Master with the Royal Belfast Academical Institution. With

borrowed rifles from 1740 Squadron Hazel entered the ATC into the Inter-Services Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley and in their second year, one of the cadets won the Bossom (Grand Aggregate), an achievement discovered just as the team was leaving, because no one had thought to watch the prize lists – or indeed even knew where they were! Hazel then discovered that the ATC could also submit names for membership of the British Cadet Rifle Team, a national team which tours Canada and is known as the Athelings. In 1979 she had her first success

when Ken Mackay was selected. Since then 2390 ATC, have achieved many successes on the Athelings team, including

Lynne Taylor (now Johnson) who at 19 was the first girl into the ATC in Northern Ireland and the first open unit girl to be an Atheling. Twice Hazel was selected to accompany the Athelings team to Canada, as team adjutant, in 1981 and as commandant in 1995. Hazel finished up not only teaching the ATC shooting, but eventually running 2390 Squadron as well until it eventually closed a few years ago.

Retiring from the TA in 1985 Hazel moved straight into the Army Cadet Force where she set about transforming the shooting in 2nd (NI) Battalion ACF. She was so successful that 2nd (NI) Battalion have won all of the team competitions and the majority of the individual

competitions at the Inter-Services Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley on more than one occasion.

In 2002 she was deservedly awarded the MBE for services to the ACF and shooting. Eventually Hazel had to retire from serving in the ACF, but continued as an unpaid Civilian Assistant and right up to June this year she was still appearing on the range to help train cadets. Her contribution to cadet shooting has been immense and she will be greatly missed.

Following her retirement from teaching in 1997, Hazel continued to serve the School as a Chemistry Technician – a role she continued in until 2006. Over the years, Hazel has brought countless young people into the sport of shooting and without her tireless work it is doubtful if the shooting world in Northern Ireland would have survived in its current form. Anyone who had the privilege to meet her will never forget her energy, enthusiasm and selfless attitude in everything she did in her various roles as teacher, sports coach, rifle coach, careers counsellor, Chemistry Technician TA and ACF Officer. She understood the importance of her role in both broadening and sharpening the minds of the young people in her care. She provided them with opportunities and equipped them with life skills and knowledge to help them make the best of their future lives.

Rest in peace Hazel. ☪

“ In 1982 she was picked, along with David Calvert, to represent Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games.

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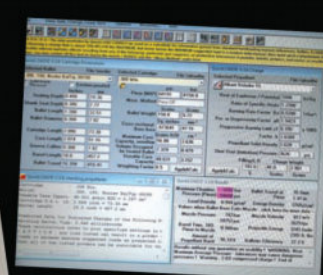
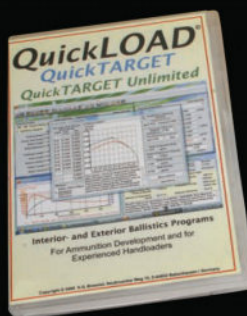
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Deer Central is a business owned and run by professional deer managers. We provide industry recognised training and courses as well as corporate and bespoke events. We are also retailers, equipping our clients with tried and tested kit.

📍 deercentral.co.uk

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Dolphin produce custom rifles for all Long Range Disciplines. We manufacture our own range of products and accessories. Dolphin is the largest stockists of rifle components in Europe and lead times are extremely short for custom rifle builds. We have World, European and National Champion F-Class shooters using our rifles.

☎ 01205 368 639 or 0774 7771962

✉ mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

📍 dolphinguncompany.co.uk

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☎ **01625 613177**

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RifleMags.co.uk is home to the UK's biggest range of rifle magazines, with over 600 magazine types in stock. Nottingham target shooters Dom &

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☎ **0115 727 0443**

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✉ **shootingservices87@gmail.com**

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☎ **01342 716427**

✉ **sales@sportingservices.co.uk**

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☎ **07539 429 906**

✉ **RFD@sterlingguns.uk**

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☎ **07720 025 053**

✉ **frankyfletchSSI@gmail.com**

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☎ **01483 486500**

✉ **richard@willamevans.com**

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WMS FIREARMS TRAINING LTD

WMS Firearms Training Ltd provides rifle shooting instruction to clients at its HQ in mid Wales, at the NSC ranges at Bisley, and at clients' own locations in the UK and overseas. Run by Andrew Venables WMS provides training for experienced rifle shooters wanting to hone skills, intermediate shots looking to improve technique, and newcomers to the sport. WMS also provides professional training to expedition companies, zoos/wildlife parks, conservation organisations, NGOs and UK government.

🌐 **wmsfirearmstraining.com**



MESSAGE



Full name:
Ryan Goodman
Age: 32

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I come from a military background and grew up on army bases – my dad, being a soldier, was a big influence on me. I was allowed an air rifle from age 12 and it grew from there.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

I've been lucky that there are a few memorable moments of my career so it's hard to decide... winning the Bent Barrel Trophy with my F Class team Gun Fu Pandas at the European Championships Rutland Match 2021 is up there.

Coming second at the recent GB F Class League shoot at Blair Atholl is my greatest individual achievement so far – I won two gold medals and was second overall for the whole weekend.

I have won the NRA Military Adaptive competition a few times – that is always special but more for the day itself, socialising and competing with other injured soldiers, than the results.

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

The mental game in your own head... not

getting angry and distracted by a bad shot, an unlucky gust of wind, or just a bad wind call. I initially found this tough when I started shooting competitively, but I feel I've definitely got better at dealing with it, taking it one shot at a time and have progressed as a shooter because of it.

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

My family are supportive. I've got a few of my friends into shooting with me and met many more through shooting itself.

What sort of music do you listen to?

Classic rock.

What Club are you a member of?

NRA UK, Mars & Minerva Shooting Club, FCSA UK, Staffordshire Phoenix, Gardners Guns.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

My Dad and Grandad.

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

Scotland, the Highlands specifically. I've competed at Blair Atholl range a fair few times but not on an official 'tour'.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

My first NRA Military Adaptive competition was in 2013 when I was still in a wheelchair after being injured in Afghanistan in 2011. I didn't do very well but had an amazing day and was impressed by the ranges and clubhouses. I think that's where it began in the back of my mind that I wanted to get into shooting and competitions with my own gear. I later came back to Bisley with a charity called Battle Back from Headley Court for some clay shooting. On that same

day in the afternoon we were able to have a go at shooting 900 yards with a .308 on Stickledown and I was hooked!

What do you like to do in your free time?

When I'm not spending time with my fiancée and friends, reloading and shooting.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

I just try to get a good night's sleep before a competition shoot, kit check in the morning then I'm good to go.

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

My mindset is mostly competition based so I would say, don't think you can't get involved in competitive shooting because you don't have enough experience or don't know anyone in competition – just go for it. The people in GB F Class are extremely friendly and welcoming. I have learnt my most valuable lessons in shooting during competition details and socialising with other competition shooters.

So, what Next?

I'm getting married in 2023 so that is my main focus at the moment, starting the rest of my life with my fiancée Sue, but I'll be on the ranges competing as much as I can for a long time to come. 🍷

“ I just try to get a good night's sleep before a competition shoot, kit check in the morning then I'm good to go ”



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