

# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



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## *History of* **THE IMPERIAL MEETING**

**RAF MENTAL  
TRAINING** *P6*

**WETMORE WALL  
RIFLE RANGE** *P13*

**REGIONAL RANGES  
UPDATE** *P46*

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ON THE COVER Ukrainian flags.



# 2022

## A POSITIVE YEAR AHEAD

NRA Secretary General, **Andrew Mercer**, is looking forward to a successful year for target shooting.



**T**he NRA's founding fathers recognised the importance of encouraging marksmanship amongst volunteers in the defence of the Realm. Decades of peace in Europe encouraged the view that this objective is quaint and archaic – the war in Ukraine has shattered this illusion. We fear for the safety of Ukrainian target shooters who compete at Bisley and their friends and family, and fervently hope that their determined efforts succeed in the defence of their country.

After the plague (COVID) came storm Eunice and then war, but the work of the NRA continues. A very busy 2022 competition calendar has been confirmed, with the Civilian Rifle League completed, and the Target Shotgun Festival and Spring Action Weekend due in March. The NRA website has all the details and links to the online entry system.

Home loaded ammunition was the subject of a recent NRA survey organised as part of a review following safety incidents. Home loading is of critical importance to full bore target shooting and millions of rounds are fired safely each year. The 3,900 survey responses will guide our efforts to share best practice and reduce the number of safety incidents. A report of the survey findings will be published – my thanks go to the many members who responded.

Whilst on the subject of ammunition we have experienced significant price rises from our suppliers, accompanied by erratic supplies of components. Thankfully we have secured sufficient orders to see us through 2022, please see the armoury section on [nationalshootingcentre.co.uk](http://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk) for details.

We have been invited by the Home Office to take part in the review of police firearms licensing fees. It will be very interesting to see how much cost has been

stripped out of the processes by efficiencies developed by innovative police forces during the COVID pandemic.

The publication of the DEFRA report into the use of lead in ammunition is expected in April, to be followed by a 6 month consultation. I am cautiously optimistic that the case we made that the use of lead projectiles on rifle ranges is controlled and contained has been accepted. However I am concerned that prospects for the continued use of lead shot on clay ranges are less certain. We are working with colleagues at the NSRA, CPSA, HBSA and other target shooting organisations on this significant threat to our sport.

We are due to publish the NRA 2021 Annual Report and Accounts in May, but I can report that the Association's finances recovered well, paying off the overdraft and rebuilding the balance sheet. This has allowed us to press ahead with a significant backlog of projects, including the development of an online range booking system, moving the range office to new facilities in the Pavilion, and investments in regional ranges.

The NRA training team said a fond farewell to Charles Perry in December when he retired as Chief Instructor. Never a shy man, and big of voice and personality, Charles led the transformation of the NRA training team from a cottage industry to the widely respected professional organisation it is today. Myles Robertson has stepped into his shoes and is making cracking progress as demands for NRA training continues to grow apace. I was delighted to learn that we are now delivering firearms awareness training to ambulance service staff.

As the days lengthen ranges are getting busier; I hope you get back to shooting on your local range as frequently and enthusiastically in the time before COVID cast its shadow over our sport. 🍀





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# - RAF CADET - MENTAL TRAINING

Target Shooting benefits RAF Air Cadets through mental training skills. Written by **Wg Cdr Chris Hockley OBE RAF (Rtd.)**

**R**esearch in Norway has shown the clear benefits for children suffering with Hyperactivity, Inattentiveness and Impulsivity.<sup>1</sup> The research used a mixed method approach of controlled study of 100 children in two groups over six months together with interviews and observations of 20 children in each of the study group and control group. The results showed clear improvements in the group of interest who were known to have issues

with concentration, inattentiveness and management of emotions.

One of our Royal Air Force Small Arms Association (RAFSAA) Trustees, Colin Sach, suggested we put on a course for Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) who might benefit from a course to develop their abilities to deal with concentration, frustration and mental resilience, and based on the Norwegian data, target shooting may be the answer. Clearly, we

needed some real expertise in mental training but also that could be linked to target rifle expertise. This would also need some serious sponsorship and Colin with his industry and Livery Company links, managed to find sponsorship for a pilot course which we ran most successfully in September 2019. COVID-19 put paid to plans for another course in 2020 and also to finding sponsorship! However, with Colin's help we are now asking Livery Companies to each sponsor one Cadet and are planning the next course for the Autumn 2022.

And the aim of the course is:





**“To use shooting skills and brain training skills to improve an individual’s life skills and personal confidence.**

### SO, WHAT ELSE DID WE NEED TO GET THE INITIATIVE LAUNCHED?

Well obviously, apart from funding, we needed some seriously good target rifle teaching skills. In charge of the TR skills teaching, we were lucky to have Tom Rylands who has tremendous experience in teaching target rifle skills to juniors. In support was Chris Hockley who has run many coaching courses for RAFSAA and Welsh juniors and two experienced RAFAC TR coaches. But we also needed some expertise on the teaching of methods to deal with concentration, frustration and impulsivity to name but a few. In this we were extremely lucky to find Debbie Thompson from Jersey. Debbie is not only an accomplished target rifle shot, but is a

chartered psychologist with an MSc in sport and exercise psychology. In addition, we needed HQ Air Cadets authority and blessing for the course. Luckily a member of RAFSAA, Flt Lt Henryk Golaszewski, Adjutant of the Marksmanship and Competitions Team at HQ Air Cadets, together with his wife Helen who is also an RAFAC officer, supported and administered the course. Authority was duly provided as well as the first cohort of Cadets for the pilot course in 2019.

### SO, WHAT DO WE COVER ON THE COURSE?

The course needed a title and we have opted for “Brain Training for Success”.

This fits with the classroom work which takes up half of the time on the two-day course. Classroom work is very much based on interactive sessions and team work led by Debbie. Subjects include:

- Control of emotions, management of stress and frustration
- Defining and dealing with success and failure
- Motivation and personal goals

- Distraction management, concentration skills, coping strategies
  - Skills for increasing self-confidence.
- The rest of the course involved practical sessions on the range concentrating wherever possible on relating the experience to the learning points developed in the classroom sessions.

The first student cohort graded the course as excellent and provided useful feedback on the various classroom and practical sessions. It was indeed marvellous to see how the students improved in demeanour and general confidence over the weekend. Hopefully the investment in their life-skills will improve both their own chances of success but also their contribution to their communities. ☺

### FURTHER INFORMATION

<sup>1</sup> (PDF) The influence of participation in target-shooting sport for children with inattentive, hyperactive and impulsive symptoms? A controlled study of best practice ([researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net))





# LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL

- AUTUMN 2021 -

A brief dive into the history of the NRA's Imperial Meeting.

**“ Participating as a civilian at the Imperial Meeting in the pre-First World War era was not cheap and it was very much seen as a rich man's sport (the average annual income was £70).**

**Above:** NRA Wimbledon Imperial Meeting.

**Right Inset:** Bisley Umbrella Tent Meeting.

## DID YOU KNOW

The original £250 given by Queen Victoria as the Sovereign's Prize in, what we now know as, the NRA Imperial Meeting was worth the equivalent of £30,600 in today's money. Sadly, Victoria did not index-link the prize – perhaps a £30,600 prize might have attracted more attention in the news media than this year's winner did in July?

On the other hand, it is worth observing that participating in the two week 'Imperial Meeting' in 1914, would have cost the average participant £10 in entry fees, accommodation and food costs, with travel in addition.<sup>1</sup> Allowing for inflation, £10 in 1914 is worth over £1,200 in today's money. Participating as a civilian at the Imperial Meeting in the pre-First World War era was not cheap and

it was very much seen as a rich man's sport (the average annual income was £70). The good news is that, in real terms, the costs of taking part in the Imperial today appear no more (and quite probably less – the annual average salary is now £25,971<sup>2</sup>)

than they were in 1914. Still not cheap but it could be a lot worse.

It was also the case, prior to the First World War, that the high

cost, together with the competition from 'less stern' sports such as golf and football, were reasons for a decline in the popularity of rifle shooting.<sup>3</sup> Civilian target shooting was perceived as losing its status, with the possibility that its heyday had already passed and, unless something changed, it face a long term decline. Some thought that as a result of the First World War interest might be re-kindled post-war, with a renewed perception of rifle



shooting skills being a 'national good' and it being restored as a 'patriotic duty' to learn to shoot i.e. a rebirth of the original Volunteer movement ethos.

Looking at target shooting today it is perhaps easy to assume that our predecessors' fears have been realised, with the sport in perpetual decline since Edwardian times and particularly over the last 50 years. There are some facts, however, that might contradict this assumption and while there has undoubtedly been change (not the least ever tighter controls on legal firearms ownership, prohibitions and an interest in shooting sports becoming regarded as 'suspicious' in some quarters) things may not be quite as bad as we might think.

For example, total individual membership of the NRA in 1914 was around the 3,000 mark, including 'colonial and foreign members'.<sup>4</sup> Today it appears to stand at around 9,000 individuals with 850 affiliated clubs<sup>5</sup> – three times the number of individual members than in 1914. So, using one measure, target

shooting might appear to be in a much stronger position than it was 107 years ago, but why does it not feel that this is the case? It may actually be due to other changes, principally the end of the relationship with the military and its lack of participation in what might be called 'unified' (joint military and civilian) competitions that has created the impression that the NRA and Bisley annual meetings have been the last of the 'glory days' and are in danger of being seen as an anachronism, hanging on against a changing world – 'a step back in time'. Perhaps, however, the target shooting fraternity too often actually condemns itself to this fate when it should have many reasons to be positive and look to the future, rather than living in the past?

When what we know as the Imperial Meeting started in 1860 it was a product of the Volunteer Movement which itself arose from a

newspaper campaign (mainly in *The Times*), prompted by misplaced fears of a French invasion. Calling for the nation to develop a Corps of trained riflemen volunteers to defend the homeland in the event of an invasion (and to avoid the higher taxation necessary to increase the size of the standing Army or Reserve), the public imagination was sparked and, in an early example of governments being driven by newspaper headlines, the formation of a Volunteer Rifle Corps was sanctioned on 12 May 1859.

As its members were unpaid and themselves funded uniforms and weapons, it was a largely cost-free activity for the government and being manned predominately by the growing wealthy middle-class there were no fears of it becoming a source of revolutionary challenge. Even though it was a public patriotic movement, the Volunteer Rifle Corps was largely mocked by the

regular military, not the least because of the eccentric uniforms adopted by individual units – with garb chosen more for its fashion statement rather than military practicality. One group to benefit, however, were gun makers as the private purchase of service pattern firearms created a large civilian market and many now well-known firms established themselves on the back of the Volunteer Movement.

What the Volunteer Movement itself did create was a keen interest in target shooting as a sport and social activity, together with the formation of the National Rifle Association to promote it as a 'national good'. Growing interest in the sport led to the formation of civilian rifle clubs, some of which exist today. The main point, however, is that civilian and military rifle shooting were inextricably interlinked at the birth of the sport. By the time the NRA and the Imperial Meeting moved to

Bisley in 1890, this had become embedded with Volunteer, Regular, Reserve and Civilians shooting alongside each other. The NRA catered for all forms of target shooting but the dominant section, by far, was Service Rifle competition. The absorption of the Volunteers into the Reserve in 1908 seemingly did little to change this however it may have made the distinction between 'civilians' (i.e. those shooting service rifle solely for sport with no direct military skills) more distinct. The NRA charter contained – and still does – 'defence of the realm' as one of its purposes, so at this stage any distinction may have been academic, not readily apparent or acknowledged at the time.

It is worth highlighting, however, that the signs of a potential separation between military and civilian shooting appeared fairly early on: firstly with the emergence of what we now call Match Rifle shooting, essentially long-range ►



**Below:** Range Officers Mess 1910.



shooting which, at that time, the military had little interest in as a skill for the soldier; secondly the military desire, after the Boer War, to see the format of target shooting with service firearms better reflecting the skills needed in combat. As an example, in early 1914 (i.e. just before the start of the First World War) the War Office sought to change the conditions under which the King's Prize (as it then was) was competed for so as to better reflect military requirements. It reached an agreement with the NRA Council to prohibit the use of aperture sights and the sling as a support and to introduce rapid fire elements.<sup>6</sup> This proposal provoked uproar from the civilian shooting clubs and the Overseas Dominion associations (the latter threatening to stop sending teams to Bisley if the measures were adopted). It even resulted in questions in Parliament on 27 July, 1914, with the Prime

Minister (Asquith) having to defend the decision. He stated that the changes applied to a number of important Bisley competitions and 'it hoped that the proposals will do much to stimulate interest in rifle shooting generally throughout the country, and will greatly assist in increasing the musketry efficiency of the Territorial Force'.<sup>7</sup> He also stated that the agreement between the War Office and the Council of the National Rifle Association had been arrived at after protracted negotiations and suggested that time should be given to test the new conditions. After further questioning he agreed to reconsider the changes if there was sufficient opposition. The opposition appears to have been something of a grassroots revolt by Bisley shooters, with a resolution against the changes having been passed at the 'Umbrella Tent' meeting on 21 July, 1914. In the event, the First World War

intervened but, had it not done so, it is quite possible that the relationship between civilian and military target shooting could have ended 107 years ago – 55 years after the advent of the Volunteer Movement. Alternatively, the discipline of Service Rifle (as both a civilian and military activity) might have been embedded as the primary type of target shooting over a century ago, with the existing Match Rifle perhaps incorporating shorter range shooting, using purpose-built target firearms (i.e. what is now TR)?<sup>8</sup>

As things turned out, the final divorce did not come until much later with the definitive nail in the coffin being the adoption of the Self-Loading Rifle by the Army in the 1950s. Up until then, civilian and military target rifle shooters still used Service Rifles (albeit SR 'A' – as issued – and SR 'B' with aperture sights a distinction that, in part, addressed the 1914 War

Office concerns) but the SLR's unsuitability for civilian target shooting (mainly because it was not deemed to be accurate enough, the obvious difficulties of fitting target aperture sights and single-round shooting with a semi-automatic rifle being more complicated than a bolt action), marked the start of what would be the final separation between military and civilian target shooting.<sup>9</sup> 'Traditional' Bisley continued with Service Rifle into themed-1960's, using Lee-Enfields and P14s, but with the end of bulk production of .303 ammunition and the supply of 7.62mm from MOD replacing it, civilian shooting moved to purpose-built target rifles. Initially, these were converted from service rifles (i.e. a military action) but it wasn't long before entirely new and more accurate purpose-built precision rifles took over. By the 1980's the era of service rifles – in whatever form – was well and truly over and Target Rifle (TR) was established as the primary civilian target rifle shooting discipline.

Imperial meetings however retained a significant military participation for some times and in the 1970s, Bisley camp was still a tented camp during the Imperial and operated by a Military Force – but increasingly it was actually two separate events, with civilian shooting following on from the military meeting. As the British Army shrank post-Cold War, so its ability to support and participate in the 'military Service Rifle Bisley' declined and it also ceased to provide 'administrative' support for the civilian competitions (e.g. issuing ammunition on the range, running the McQueen and so on).

**“As things turned out, the final divorce did not come until much later with the definitive nail in the coffin being the adoption of the Self-Loading Rifle by the Army in the 1950s.**



**Left:** Ashburton Shield 1906.

**Right:** Bisley Firing Point.

**Right Inset:** Bisley Camp 1911.





Subsequently, operational commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan, further force reductions and finally COVID restrictions, have effectively killed off the 'military Imperial'. So whilst NRA 'military' matches may still be shot in the future, they seem likely to take place away from Bisley, concurrently with other military competitions, not as separate events as part of a truly 'joint' Imperial meeting. The withdrawal of the military from 'joint' competitive target shooting, firstly by no longer shooting alongside civilians and then away from Bisley entirely has, arguably, had a greater 'visual' impact on perceptions of decline in shooting sports rather than the reality of what has really happened in the civilian shooting world over the past 30 years.<sup>10</sup> (Such as

the reappearance of Civilian 'Service Rifle' shooting just over 20 years ago and now one of the fastest growing disciplines.)

The figures suggest that civilian shooting, in fact, remains comparatively healthy (as noted above the NRA has 3 times the membership numbers it enjoyed in 1914) and at this year's Imperial Meeting, according to NRA statistics, 21% of the competitors were under the age of 25. It is also worth bearing in mind that the number of FAC holders in the UK (not all of whom are target shooters, of course) now significantly exceeds the size of the entire British Army. There are around 160,000 FAC holders in the UK, whereas the total size of the Regular Army and Reserve is only 112,000 (when fully manned).

So while we may feel that target shooting has declined

since the 'good old days', in many respects, it is actually considerably stronger (despite the bans and restrictions). We should be optimistic and

we ought to have a strong, confident voice and be looking forward rather than back to what, in part, seems an imagined past. 🍷

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

<sup>1</sup> Taken from 'Rifles and Ammunition and Rifle Shooting' by H. Ommundsen, GM, GC and Ernest H Robinson, published 1915, page 309. <sup>2</sup> As a percentage of the average annual income, 2 weeks at Bisley in 1914 cost the equivalent of £3,700 today. <sup>3</sup> Between 1880 and 1914 the number of entrants for the 'Imperial' had fallen by 40%, according to Ommundsen and Robinson. <sup>4</sup> Ibid Page 300. <sup>5</sup> Source: NRA website. <sup>6</sup> Up to that point the concession to military shooting was the use of a Figure target at 200 yards in the first stage of the match, with all other distances shot on a bullseye target. <sup>7</sup> HANSARD HC Deb 27 July 1914 vol 65 cc922-3. <sup>8</sup> This is essentially what happened after the First World War in the United States where 'Service Rifle' and 'Match Rifle' (the equivalent of TR in the UK) are today the primary two classes of full-bore target rifle shooting. <sup>9</sup> In the United States, in marked contrast, the unity of military and civilian service rifle target shooting survived the introduction of semi-automatic rifles and continues to this day at the annual Cam Perry matches. The format of competition remains what it was after the First World War (itself based on the standard military marksmanship training during the war) – bulls-eye targets, three position shooting with rapid and slow fires stages shot at 200, 300 and 600 yards – and is still seen as the entry level for target rifle shooting. <sup>10</sup> Again, in contrast to the US where civilians and military personnel shoot alongside each other in National Matches at Camp Perry. The National Trophy Rifle Matches, open to all U.S. citizens, provide national championship competitions in service rifle events to preserve the military marksmanship traditions in the United States, according to the CMP. During the competition, 38 national trophies are awarded in various classifications, such as civilian, military, women and juniors.

**“ So while we may feel that target shooting has declined since the ‘good old days’, in many respects, it is actually considerably stronger (despite the bans and restrictions). We should be optimistic and we ought to have a strong, confident voice and be looking forward rather than back. ”**

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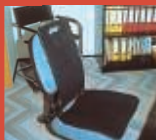
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# - WETMORE WALL - SHOOTING RANGE

**Chris Hazlehurst** introduces Wetmore Wall Shooting Range in Burton-on-Trent.

**S**itting on an island edged directly on the west and north side and slightly further away to the east, by the River Trent on the floodplains called The Washlands, is a brick monolith dating back originally to the mid 19th century. This is an old shooting range which originally stretched back to 1,100 yards. Not uncommon to getting marooned in winter as the River Trent floods this monolith has stood for over 160 years.

The range is accessed from a very tight opening into Meadow Road on the north side of the Trent Bridge and down a long and very narrow lane, to a fork and then becoming a track to one of two farms and the monolith appears in the distance.

The mid-nineteenth century was marked by a period of growing both political and military concerns over French foreign policy, and the development of an arms race between the two nations. Fears were heightened at the French Press that "demanded an invasion of Great Britain" after the assassination of Napoleon III by the Italian revolutionary Count Orsini.

A direct consequence, was the establishment of a Royal Commission in 1859 to look at defences of the United

Kingdom. Primarily this considered the need for modern defences to protect Royal Dockyards, ports and arsenals, local provisions were also encouraged. Rifle Volunteer Units were set up in anticipation of war with France.

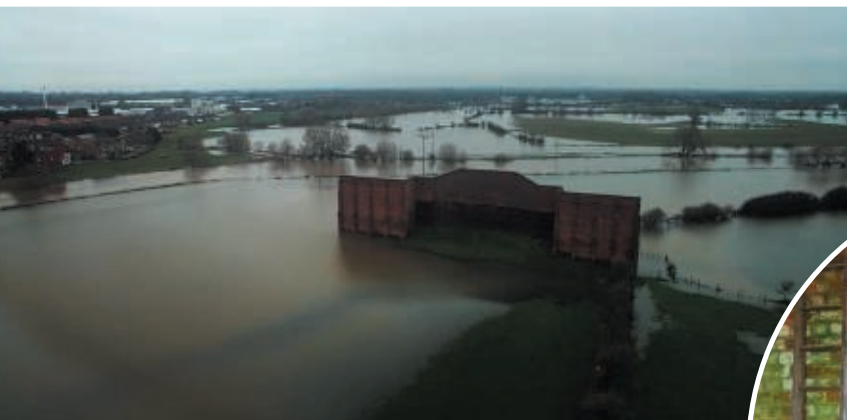
Originally established in 1852 as a rifle club, it probably formed the nucleus of the Rifle Volunteer Corps. Then established in Burton on Trent in 1859, with the Marquis of Anglesey providing land for the rifle range at the North end of Burton Meadows. When the volunteers were assigned to line regiments in 1883, Burton became the headquarters of a battalion of the Prince of Wales's (North Staffordshire Regiment), these were the 6th Battalion North Staffords (1/6th Battalion Territorial Force, 46th Div BEF) which went on to fight in some of the most horrific battles in France and Northern Egypt and later a Territorial Army Unit.

The first depiction of the range was in a first edition of a map in 1884 and measured 1,100 yards in length with a wall aligned north west to south west, compared to the current wall, the original was parabolic in shape. This wall was somewhat smaller than the present wall with earthwork butts and firing points at 'regular intervals' from 200 to 1,100 yards. The second edition of the map showed an identical description in 1901. By the third edition in 1923 the range had been significantly altered with the target wall being rebuilt on a larger scale. ►



**“Originally established in 1852 as a rifle club, it probably formed the nucleus of the Rifle Volunteer Corps.**





The firing points at 200, 500 and 600 yards had been increased in length whilst the 1,100 yard firing point had been removed, but the 1,000 yard point still remained.

The wall was rebuilt around 1914, given these changes, was probably to improve the range for the First World War training exercises.



The 67 metre long wall still remains although the seventh edition map of 1971 depicted that several of the firing points had been altered.

Originally a ten-target range, this had been reduced to four targets due to safety concerns with the higher powered ammunition.

These included a reduction in the size of the 200 yard point, the inclusion of a 300 yard point, the 500 yard point had been moved some 40m north west from its original position. In addition, sadly all firing points from 800 to 1,000 yards were removed.

By 2014 the target wall still remains as built in 1914, however the majority of the firing points have been lost, either levelled by ploughing or removed to facilitate the laying out of sports pitches.

The wall is made of brick with three-high rectangular cast iron facings bolted at the central stop wall, still depicting copious bullet damage to the iron sheeting and brickwork above. The target numbers are still just visible at the top of the cast iron wall. The wall has a recessed central stop wall with two splayed walls. All the copings and offsets are of blue brick.

To the left-hand re-entrant wall, which links the target wall to the left-hand screen wall, there are ground and first-floor doorways to the former target store at the rear. The right-hand re-entrant wall is blind. The flanking screen walls are supported by five lateral buttresses with offsets, all placed at regular intervals. Each end also has a single lateral buttress with offsets.

At the right-hand side, in the re-entrant angle between the target wall and screen wall, stands the former target store. Of two builds, it is a two-storeyed structure with slate roofs and cambered-headed window and door openings to its north-west and north-east faces. At the left-hand side, again in the re-entrant angle, is a single-storeyed building with a late-twentieth century extension. It is constructed from brick with a cambered-headed window to the original section and a flat-headed doorway with a concrete lintel to the addition. Both ranges are covered with a late-twentieth century reinforced concrete roof.



The former target store has a blue brick floor. The original section contains the handle and pulley wheel from the mechanised target system. Its ceiling beams still survive, although the floorboards have been removed, and its roof is comprised of a single queen post truss. In the later addition, the ceiling beams have been removed. Its roof is formed of a single king post truss with rafter ends resting on brick corbels. The single-storeyed range at the left-hand side has plain brick walls and no features of note.

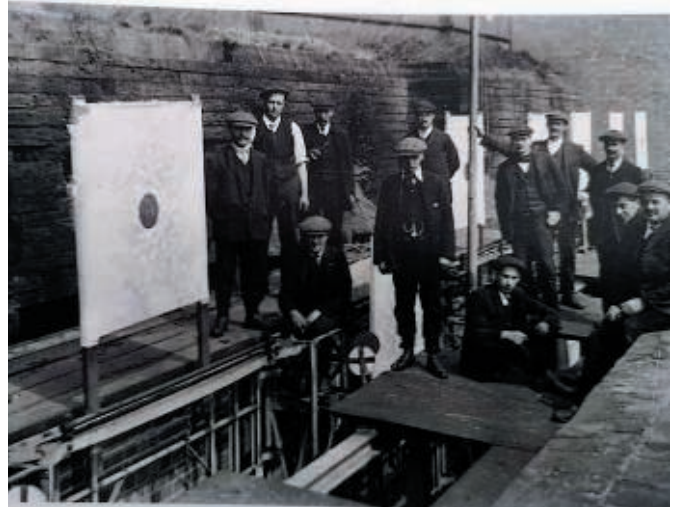
In March 2015 the Wetmore Wall was classified as a Listed Building, grade II. Principal reasons include:

- Architectural interest: it has an impressive, monumental appearance with its imposing form lightened by raking buttresses which give it a sense of metre and rhythm;
- Survival: the structural integrity of the target wall remains intact, along with its contemporary setting;
- Selectivity: as a representative and significant example of a First World War rifle range target wall;
- Historic interest: as an important landscape feature which acts as a poignant reminder of the character and provision of local military training.

Recently, work has been removing some 'self-set' trees which would have caused damage to the building, plus the mantle has been sown with wild flowers. 🌸

#### FURTHER INFORMATION

Local interest is maintained in the structure by the formation of a Facebook page  
[facebook.com/Burton-upon-trent-firing-range-346028223134053/](https://www.facebook.com/Burton-upon-trent-firing-range-346028223134053/)







# TO FOLD OR NOT TO FOLD

**Robin Carter** – the planned Sportco .223 project stalls, and instead offers a way to make shooting a full bore rifle easier.





**left:** Sights and cheek piece where I want them!! But, how do I open the bolt?

be limited range space, so get your entry in!

The entries will open on 31 March at **online.nra.org.uk/300m-champs22** and as to other 300 metre dates, the future at this time is looking quite bleak, but we will see.

My articles have become more features than 300 metre news, and certainly for this one, that theme will continue. I am very grateful to those that have contacted me with how much they enjoy the features, and it may even be my last article, but I may continue with the occasional feature article rather than just the 300 metre discipline.

But interesting feature subjects are difficult to find, and I am running low on ideas.

This was going to be a continuation of my Sportco .223 project Rifle, featured in the Summer 2021 Journal as a twin project with my Canadian friend Jason, who was building a similar project, just his was in a new Grunig stock, you will have seen his was finished, mine? hmmm! It had been stuck with many lockdown holdups and parts supply delays, this article was to be the final finished item in all its glory! Best laid plans of mice and men, huh! I had started the article, even done a few pages, but then the delays have struck again, arghhhhh! The copy deadline will come again before I get it back from the gunsmiths, and proof, so that article is now consigned to 'stock', and I'm now sat trying to dream up enough to amuse you for this one!

Not just amuse, but as I'm a kindly helpful fellow, to also help you shoot better! Now that's got your attention hasn't it! ►

**“** This was going to be a continuation of my Sportco .223 project Rifle, featured in the Summer 2021 Journal as a twin project with my Canadian friend Jason

**W**ell here we are again, in a similar looking situation to the last two years, as I write, just coming out of restrictions (again!), but with COVID still firmly in our sight, so as to UK 300 metre shooting, little happened last year, and at the time of writing there is also not much on the horizon.

There is some good news in that the 2022 NRA 300 metre Championships has a date set, and it will be during the 2022 NRA Imperial Target Rifle (TR) meeting on the mornings of 18 and 19 of July, with a training session on the evening of Sunday 18 July, so you TR shooters, who will be at the Imperial, there will

**“I see straight stocks like an oar, I see very long eye reliefs, and I see uncomfortable cut outs to let the bolt open, often resulting at best in discomfort, and red marks on the shooters face.”**

Many modern innovations in full bore rifle shooting have come from the ISSF 300 metre event, and the one I'm going to spin this feature around on is one of them, and it can be a great aid to precision and accuracy in all rifle events, particularly TR, Even F class, and Match rifle, its the folding cheek piece, but I have my particular take on it, and I have designed my own.

Why is it necessary? Aiming is critical, and poor aim is responsible for a very high percentage of poor shots, and the aim starts at head placement on the stock behind the sights! It's a precision

game we play, near enough is not good enough, perfection is what we want.

My wife and I coach, and over 40+ years we have heard, (and probably used!) every excuse for a bad shot that you can even think of, this or that was wrong, I missed the wind, jacket fit, whatever, I could actually write a whole article just on excuses, but the most genuine answer to a bad shot in the majority of cases? You did not point the gun at the middle – simple, poor aim!

Aiming with an iron sight, which is a modern diopter sight, is a series of concentric circles, the rear sight, the front

sight, the front sight element, and the aiming mark, all must be exactly in concentric line to achieve the perfect aim.

The key word is 'exactly', I repeat, its a precision game we play, if its not all precisely concentric, and pointed at the target, however good the hold, or the wind judgement, or the trigger take, or how good the barrel, or the ammo is, it will not hit the middle!

The aim starts with the rear sight, you must be looking precisely through the middle of the rear sight, not just close, exactly! That relies on perfect head placement, that's placement on the cheek piece,

and here the plot thickens!

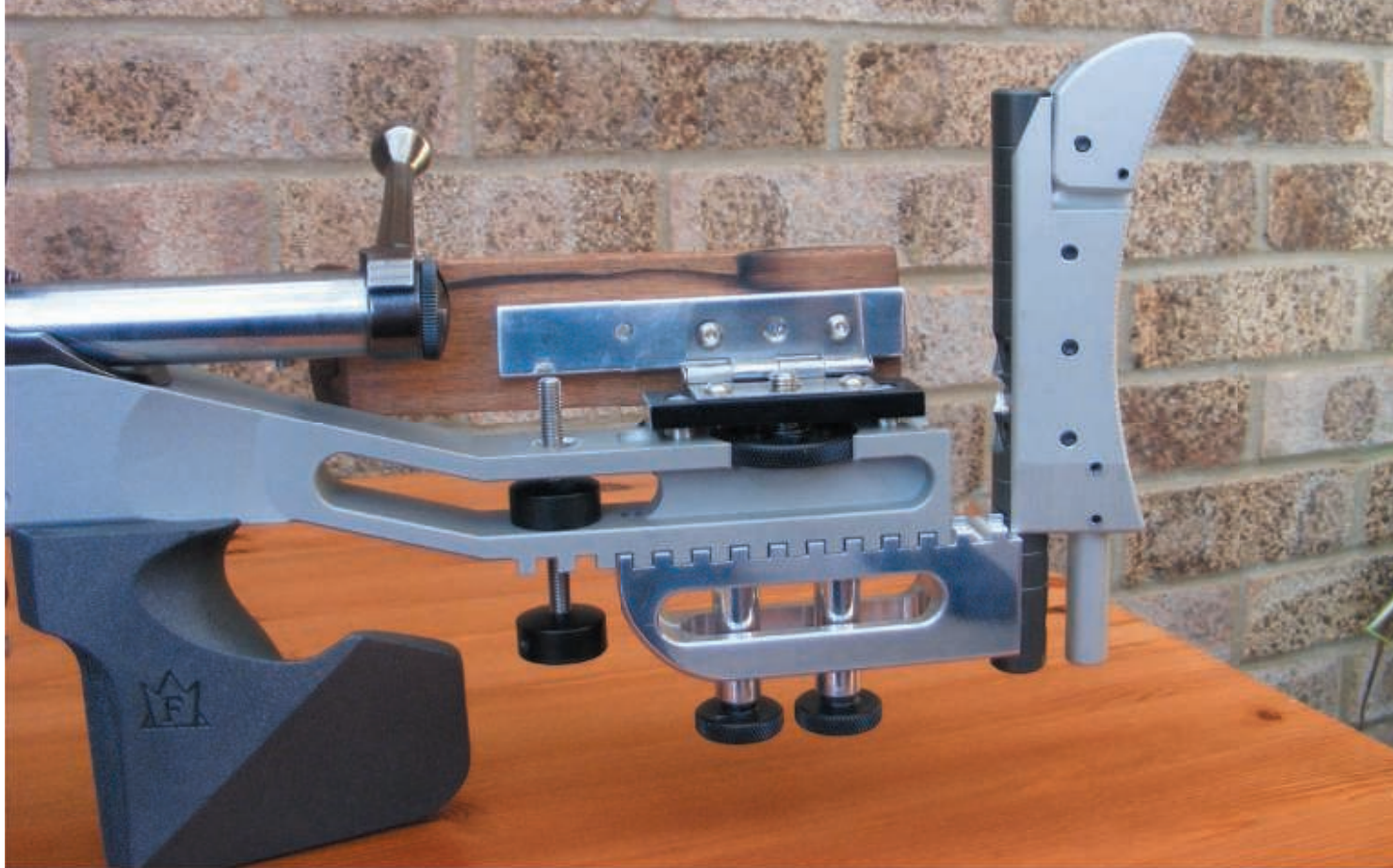
With small bores, the bolt length is such that generally the bolt when opened does not impinge on the cheek piece, so we can put the cheek piece where we want it, but on a full bore rifle it nearly always does impinge, especially if the cheek piece is in the perfect ideal place!

So what's your answer? I see straight stocks like an oar, I see very long eye reliefs, and I see uncomfortable cut outs to let the bolt open, often resulting at best in discomfort, and red marks on the shooters face. Worse, for accuracy I also commonly see shooters with little or no cheek pressure. Accurate and consistent cheek pressure is also your third hand to steady the gun, its important both for aim and hold.

The sensible option? Simple, have the cheek piece in the perfect position, to have the eye line perfect, and the cheek







pressure perfect, and to be able to open the bolt? Simple, hinge it!!! And this is what every 300 metre shooter will do, and I don't understand why TR has not followed suit, probably a throw back to old rules which did not allow it, but it's a simple opportunity to improve your aim and general performance.

Some proprietary 300 mt stocks do fold, most up wards from the front backwards into the shooters face, the design I use, and all mine are simple, and home made, fold sideways. This has the advantage in that if you wish to stay in position to reload, it can slide out and back, side ways, it's a simple method.

**Right:** With artistic licence, this picture is representative, through, and of, our sight picture, courtesy of, and with the permission of Heinz Reinkemieir, a great coach..

**Above:** A Dolphin/Swing 7.62, the high forward cheek piece folded, with the bolt opened.

**Left:** So, the picture on the top title page? How do I open the bolt? You know now, simple, it folds!

Yes, that rifle is my Barnard P in .223 used for 300 metres with a Bix'n Andy trigger, but its also eligible for TR with the standard trigger, and Trakker sights. But before you say Ahhh, it's only used on 300 metre rifles? Oh no its not! My TR Barnard P 7.62 with Trakker sights, also had a folding cheek piece as did my TR Dolphin/ Swing 7.62 some years before it (pictured), and I have also modified some TR Grunigs with this system for friends. It's actually quite simple to do on

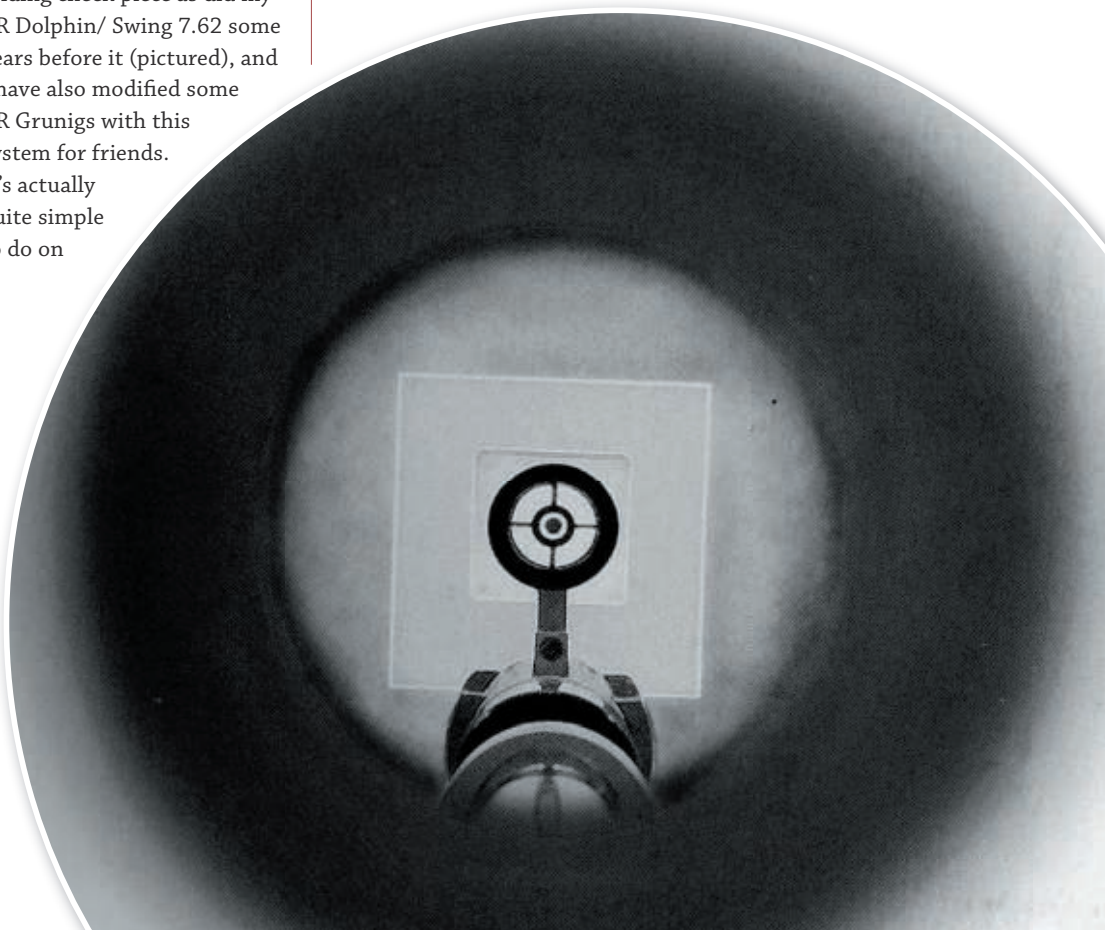
any stock, with any action.

So there you are, mine are all home made, I used simple stainless hinges, or precision brass ones on my recent still unfinished Sportco .223, but you will have to wait to see that one!

If you want to do it, it's simple, if you don't have an

adjustable cheek piece, well, get sawing, put in adjusters and hinge the top, improve your rifle, and your results, and go for it!

If you want info or help on shooting the great fun discipline of 300 mt you are welcome to email me at robin.carter80@ntlworld.com ☺





# INTERNATIONAL GALLERY RIFLE FEDERATION

by **Charles Murton**, IGRF Chairman.

The origins of the IGRF lie in the handgun ban which came into force in England, Scotland and Wales in 1997. Many former handgun shooters, determined to keep their sport alive, invested their compensation money in pistol-calibre rifles – mainly .22 rimfire semi-autos and lever-action centrefires. The collective term “gallery rifles” was coined for such firearms and the NRA recognised a new Gallery Rifle discipline as part of its Sport National Governing Body responsibilities.

Shooters from Ireland and Germany observed the development of this new discipline, tried it out while visiting the UK – and enjoyed it. These firearms were legal in their countries so they could shoot them at home as well. Interest blossomed and competitions, including informal international matches, were arranged.

By 2006, the international competitions were well established. To put them on a formal footing Germany, Ireland and the UK came together to form the European Gallery Rifle Federation (EGRF). With appropriate selection and election processes in place, the NRA authorised the

creation of a GB Gallery Rifle Team and the annual election of a Gallery Rifle Captain.

Other countries began to show interest in Gallery Rifle. By 2010, South Africa had joined the Federation, which was re-named the International Gallery Rifle Federation to reflect its new worldwide remit. By 2013, Australia had also joined and membership expanded further in 2018 when Zimbabwe also came on board.

The IGRF is a not-for-profit organisation with the following objectives:

- Promote the development of Gallery Rifle shooting worldwide.
- Encourage contact and collaboration between shooting sport National Governing Bodies responsible for Gallery Rifle.
- Develop international Gallery Rifle competition worldwide, provide a framework for Gallery Rifle International Open Matches and support a common set of worldwide Gallery Rifle rules.

It's worth noting that the NRA Gallery Rifle discipline has evolved into Gallery Rifle and Pistol in order to also cover long-barrelled pistols and revolvers. The IGRF, however,

remains focused only on Gallery Rifles.

The IGRF member nations normally (i.e. when there isn't a pandemic!) organise at least three International Open Matches each year; one of these is typically held at Bisley during the May Phoenix meeting. Every two years, one of these Matches is given the status of World Championships; both team and individual World Champion awards are made.

The most recent World Championships were hosted by South Africa in 2019 (see photos). The next hosts will be the UK; the 2022 IGRF World Championships will take place as part of this year's Phoenix meeting, and the International Target Shotgun Federation will be hosting their World Championships at Phoenix as well, we expect this to be a very special occasion. Further details can be found at [online.nra.org.uk/phoenix2022](https://online.nra.org.uk/phoenix2022)

If you would like to know more about the IGRF, take a look at our Facebook page [facebook.com/theigrf](https://facebook.com/theigrf)

We look forward to seeing you at the Phoenix! ☺







# NRA E-League

*Civilian Service Rifle: Spring 2022*

**Classes:** Historic Enfield, Any Iron, Practical Optic, Service Optic

## **Competition 1:** Snap

Distance & Position: 100x Standing to kneeling/ squatting

Targetry: 1x Fig 12c

Ammunition: 10 rounds

Procedure:

1. Firers start in the standing alert position
2. Targets will make 5 exposures of 6 seconds, with 5-10 seconds between exposures.  
On each exposure of the target, firers are to adopt the standing, kneeling or squatting position and fire 2 shots, returning to the standing alert position in between exposures

## **Competition 2:** Opportunity

Distance & Position: 200x Sitting

Targetry: 1x Fig 12

Ammunition: 10 rounds

Procedure:

1. Firers will start in the sitting position, rifles loaded and made ready
2. The targets will make 5 exposures of 6 seconds, 2 shots only to be fired at each exposure

## **Competition 3:** Rapid

Distance & Position: 300x Prone

Targetry: 1x Fig 12

Ammunition: 12 rounds

Procedure:

1. Firers have 2 non-convertible, individually marked sighters in 2 minutes
2. Firers will start in the prone position, rifles loaded and made ready
3. On appearance of the target, firers will fire 10 shots in 60 seconds

**Ties:** Overall Round standings will be counted back in Competition order: 2, 1, 3

To Enter and for more details please visit:  
[online.nra.org.uk/e-league-csr-spring22](https://online.nra.org.uk/e-league-csr-spring22)



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# HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE IMPERIAL MEETING

## THURSDAY 23 JUNE – SATURDAY 23 JULY

This year's 153rd Imperial Meeting will also acknowledge our Patron's Platinum Jubilee, a magnificent achievement!

**F**ollowing a two-year absence, we are delighted to welcome back cadets and a full Schools Meeting, as well as the addition of the 300m Championships.

### **NRA/ARA MILITARY ADAPTIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Thursday 23 June:** The first event in the Imperial Programme invites injured serving and retired military personnel for a day of individual competitions on Melville Range. Entry is free, all firearms (Ruger 10/22s) and ammunition is provided, as well as a buffet lunch sponsored by partners Team Ethos in conjunction with Qioptiq and Heckler & Koch.

### **CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE**

**Wednesday 29 June – Sunday 3 July:** The CSR Imperial Meeting will follow the recent and improved programme: Wednesday: Imperial Match (500-100x), Thursday: 100/200/300x Matches and Long Range Match (500-300x), Friday: Short Range Match (300-100x) and Urban Match (100-25x), Saturday: Rural Match (100-500x) and Team Falling Plates, Sunday: Methuen Cup. We anticipate hosting the

annual Prizegiving BBQ on Saturday 2 July, please see the online event page for more information.

### **F CLASS**

**Wednesday 6 – Tuesday 12 July:** Owing to increasing numbers of Cadets, Target Rifle and F Class shooters, the F Class Imperial has moved earlier in the programme to allow each discipline to grow in numbers. The revised programme will feature a ten stage Grand Aggregate, at distances of 300-1000x running from Thursday 7 – Saturday 9 July. The Kent Cup will be included in the Grand Aggregate for the first time. The Admiral Hutton (900x), Century (300 and 600x), Dolphin (1000x) and Hobson (now at 1100x) will act as pre-Grand events on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 July. The Donaldson Memorial, St George's and Farquharson Finals will be contested over the weekend of 9- 10 July, along with the Team competition for scratch and International teams. Following this the Hopton Aggregate will be contested from Saturday 9 – Tuesday 12 July, featuring five stages at distances of 1,000-1,200x.

### **MATCH RIFLE**

**Friday 8 – Thursday 14 July:**

The Match Rifle programme remains unchanged from previous years. The Any Rifle Extra competitions at 1000-1200x will take place on Friday 8th July, with the Hopton Aggregate following from Saturday 9 – Tuesday 12. For the second year, shooters wishing to enter with an 'Any Rifle' (Match Rifle with any barrel weight, minimum 0.5kg pull of trigger and any suitable ammunition – see para 157 of the NRA Handbook) can enter any of the Hopton Aggregate competitions, and be eligible for the separate list of prizes. Note you cannot be eligible for both Any Rifle and the main Match Rifle prizes. The FW Jones team competition will take place in the afternoon of Monday 11 July, open to any Club or University team of four shooters. The Elcho competition between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales will be contested for the 149th time on Wednesday 13 July on Stickledown range. The Meeting will conclude with the Any Rifle 1200x and Humphry competitions on Thursday 14 July.

### **MCQUEEN**

**Saturday 9 – Sunday 17 July:**

The ever-popular and diverse McQueen snap shooting competition will take place on the left hand side of Century range at 300x. The event offers competitions for Service, Historic, Target, Sporting and Any rifles, including two issued rifle competitions and a pairs aggregate. New for 2022, care of our sponsors McQueen Targets, there is a new aggregate on offer: The McQueen Targets Aggregate. This will crown the champion shooter who's scores in McQueen A (NRA issued sniper rifle) and McQueen F (Any Rifle) make the highest aggregate score. These nine days of competition remain unsquadded, and competitors can turn up to the firing point at their leisure after purchasing scorecards online or via the NRA reception during the Meeting. On Monday 11 – Wednesday 13 there are dedicated evening sessions for Cadets. Schools can book in advance alongside other competitions.

### **HISTORIC ARMS**

**Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 July:**

Our celebration of historic firearms, the Imperial ►

Historic Arms Meeting is open to most pre-1972 firearms, and will offer competitions at distances of 10-200 yards. Melville will be the hub for all short range rifle and pistol competitions including precision, turning and advancing target events. BSRC ranges will host the Running Deer and Running Boar events, in conjunction with the Sporting Rifle Imperial. Short Siberia is the home of fullbore historic shooting, featuring prone and standing events, both rapid and slowfire at 100 and 200x.

### SPORTING RIFLE

#### Saturday 9 – Tuesday

**19 July:** The NRA's five sporting rifle competitions will be competed on Saturday 9 – Sunday 10 July on BSRC Ranges. Open to any Sporting Rifle as per para 158 of the NRA handbook, these competitions feature the popular Running Deer and Running Boar as well as the Fox Test – standing with double sticks, Stalkers Test – multi positional with double sticks, and the Swedish Deer – standing unsupported. The British Running Deer Championships will be contested on 16-17 July, in addition to the Running Deer unlimited on 14, 15, 18 and 19 July, and Dewar Challenge Trophy from 14-19.

### SCHOOLS & CADETS

#### Monday 11 – Thursday 14

**July:** The Schools Meeting returns to Bisley for the first time since 2019. Cadets will enjoy four full days of competitions, with Cadet Target Rifle matches taking place on Century range at distances of 300, 500 and 600x throughout. The first stage of the Rex Goddard (named after the late Lt Col Rex Goddard)

will take place on the morning of Wednesday 13 July. The highly coveted Ashburton Shield will be contested on Thursday 14 July, concluding at around 15:30. Following this the Schools Veterans match will take place at 500x from 17:15. In addition to the Cadet Target Rifle competitions, Cadets will also have the opportunity to take part in the Cadet 1k, Clays, GRSB and McQueen competitions – all with issued NRA firearms and ammunition. Afternoon and evening sessions on Monday 11 and Tuesday 12 July will be available to book via the NRA. Bookings for the main Cadet Target Rifle competitions will be coordinated by CCRS.

### GALLERY RIFLE & PISTOL

#### Thursday 14 – Sunday 17

**July:** The Meeting has been shortened to four days, but also features other shake ups to make it more dynamic and accessible to the GR&P

community. The Meeting caters for GRCE, GRSB, LBP, LBR, MLP and MLR firearms. Throughout the Meeting shooters can take part in Unlimited matches – available to be reshot as many times as you like. Matches include Advancing Target, America Match, Police (T&P1), Service (Multi-Target) and more. The key change for 2022 is that you no longer need to shoot each event twice to be on the scoreboard – simply your best shoot will govern your standings on the prize board. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be automatically presented to the top scoring shooters (subject to prize list D), there are no longer medal qualifying scores. Team competitions are formed of concurrent scores from Unlimited scorecards, you just need to pre-nominate the card before you shoot it. All teams are formed of four shooters, so get together with other Club mates and give it a

go! Grand Aggregate Medals are awarded based on the scores from Unlimited matches, however cards must again be pre-nominated before shooting. Squadded individual competitions will take place on Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 July. These events are shot shoulder to shoulder with other competitors, with trophies and medals awarded to the victors.

### 300M CHAMPIONSHIP

#### Monday 18 – Tuesday 19

**July:** Wishing to reach a wider shooting audience, the 300m Championships (typically held in May), will now be contested within the Imperial Meeting programme. Practice sessions will be available to book between 17:00-19:00 on Sunday 17, followed by two competitions sessions in the mornings of Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 July. Competitors will be able to book their own specific time slots in advance. There are





two contested competitions:  
**Free Rifle Match:** for firearms weighing no more than 8kg, 60 shots in 60 minutes.  
**Standard/ NRA TR Match:** for firearms either weighing no more than 5.5kg or those in accordance with para 150 of the NRA Handbook, 60 shots in 60 minutes. In addition there are two Aggregates, the British 300m Championship (aggregate of both matches), and the new Austin Reeve Memorial (highest score in either competition).

### TARGET RIFLE

#### Thursday 14 – Saturday 23

**July:** Taking on board the feedback from the revised programme of 2021, the 2022 programme aims to offer conciseness for those whose time is limited, whilst retaining the grandeur of a championship celebrating its 153rd anniversary. Thursday 14 July: Opening Shot, scratch team event for 4 shooters

at 900 and 1000x. Friday 15 July: Largely unchanged. Astor County Championship Finals, Cadet International, U25 HC Invitational and United Hospitals. Followed by the Admiral Hutton at 900x and Century at 500 then 600x. Saturday 16 July: An unchanged start to the Grand Aggregate from 2021, the Conan Doyle, Donegall and Daily Telegraph. Sunday 17 July: A change to long range proceedings, the Corporation at 1,000x will switch places with the Duke of Cambridge, offering a different challenge to Saturday's 900x Conan Doyle. Century range will host the Alexandra and Daily Mail. Monday 18 July: Duke of Cambridge at 900x, with the Times and Wimbledon taking their normal positions on the third day of the Grand Aggregate. Tuesday 19 July: The final day of the Grand Aggregate. The Lovell at 1,000x will conclude the long range

matches on Stickledown, with St George's Stage 1, followed by the Prince of Wales on century Range. Wednesday 20 July: A lighter schedule than the 2021 programme. The day will start with the Inter County, Services and Cadet Short Range competition, followed by the second Stage of the St George's to finish off the morning session. Following lunch the National, Overseas and Junior Overseas and University National will be contested, with the Final of the St George's at 18:15. Thursday 21 July: HM The Queen's Prize first Stage will take up the most part of the day on Century, followed by the Inter County, Services and Cadet Long Range from 16:30. Friday 22 July: The Kolapore, Junior Kolapore, UKAF v HC, Chancellors, Musketeers, U25 Teams and the Vizianagram will fill the morning slot on Century, whilst the Chairman's Prize, Barlow and Stickledown (with concurrent entries now

accepted) will take place over the hill on Stickledown. In the afternoon Queen's second Stage will start at 13:30, with the Queen's Consolation running concurrently over on Stickledown. The day will be finish with the Donaldson Memorial final at 17:30 on Stickledown. Saturday 23 July: HM The Queen's Final. The morning will start in normal fashion with the Mackinnon and Universities Long Range events. Meanwhile the Howard Wilkinson, PW Richardson and Parting Shot team event will take place on Century. HM The Queen's Prize Final Stage will start at 14:30 on Stickledown, concluding at approximately 16:10, followed by the traditional procession down to the NRA Offices, and Prizegiving on Exhibition Lawn at 18.00. 🍷

**Below:** 2021 Queens Prize winner Rick Shouler.



# CELEBRATING THE 25TH PHOENIX MEETING

## 26 – 29 MAY 2022

In May the NRA will be hosting the 25th Phoenix Meeting, which looks to welcome over 500 competitors competing in over 175 unique competitions.

In addition to its own celebrations, the Meeting will also welcome International competitors for the International Gallery Rifle Federation (IGRF) and International Target Shotgun Federation (ITSF) World Championships.

### THE PROGRAMME:

- **Tuesday 24 & Wednesday 25:** These days are reserved for the Range Team, who will contest their events in readiness for the Meeting. All members of the Range Team will have access to Melville on 24-25, as well as Butt Zero and Short Siberia (PM only) on the 25
- **Thursday 26 – Sunday 29:** The Meeting has been extended from its normal three competition days to four, offering more time for shooters to take part in their chosen events
- **ITSF Team Competitions:** Those representing their Country in Target Shotgun (SGSA and SGM) will contest The Embassy Cup, Multi-Target, Timed & Precision 1 and a 50 yard Precision match on Saturday 28th May on Short Siberia
- **IGRF Team Competitions:** Those representing their Country in Gallery Rifle (GRSB and GRCF) will contest the 1500 Match on Sunday 29 May on Melville

### INDIVIDUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

As well as the team competitions, any entrant to the Phoenix Meeting can choose to take part in the Individual World Championships in GRSB, GRCE, GRCE Classic, SGSA and SGM.

For GRSB, GRCE and GRCE Classic World Champion titles will be presented to the competitor achieving the highest aggregate in 50m Precision, Multi-Target, T&P1 and 1500. Additional awards will also be presented to the highest placing female and Under 25 competitor in each firearm class.

For SGSA and SGM World Champion titles will be presented to the competitor achieving the highest aggregate in Multi-Target, T&P1 and Embassy Cup. Scores will only be applicable from the first time a competitor shoots the event, i.e. if they are taking part in the International they may shoot these events more than once,

and only the first entry will count. Additional awards will also be presented to the highest placing female and Under 25 competitor in each shotgun class.

### THE EVENTS

- **Air Pistol:** 25m Precision, T&P 1
- **Civilian Service Rifle:** 100/200/300 Yards, 400/500/600 Yards, 800/900/1000 Yards
- **F Class:** 400/500/600 Yards, 800/900/1000 Yards
- **Gallery Rifle Smallbore:** 25m Precision, 25m Precision Benchrest, 25m Timed, 50m Precision, 50m Precision Benchrest, 100/200 Yards, 1020, 1500, Advancing Target, Advancing Target Benchrest, America Match, Bianchi, Grand, Granet, Imperial Silhouettes, Mini McQueen, Multi-Target, Multi-Target 3, Phoenix A, T&P 1, T&P 2, Speed Steel Challenge
- **Gallery Rifle Centrefire/Centrefire Open/Centrefire Classic:** 25m Precision, 25m Precision Benchrest, 50m Precision, 50m Precision Benchrest, 100/200/300 Yards, 1020, 1500, Advancing Target, Advancing Target Benchrest, America Match, Bianchi, Granet, Imperial Silhouettes, Multi-Target, Multi-Target 3, Phoenix A, T&P 1, T&P 2, Speed Steel Challenge, Surrenden
- **Long Barrelled Pistol/Long Barrelled Revolver:** 25m Precision, 50m Precision, 100/200 Yards, 1020, 1500, Advancing Target, America Match, Bianchi, Mini McQueen, Multi-Target, Multi-Target 3, NRA Rapid Fire Pistol, Phoenix A, T&P 1, T&P 2, T&P 3, Speed Steel Challenge, WA48
- **Long Barrelled Pistol Iron/Long Barrelled Revolver Iron:** 1500, Advancing Target, America Match, Multi-Target, T&P 1
- **Long Range Pistol:** 100/200/300 Yards, 200/300 Yards, 400/500/600 Yards, 800/900/1000 Yards
- **McQueen:** 200 Yards McQueen
- **Muzzle Loading/Black Powder:** 25m Classic, 25m Precision, 50m Precision, 100 Yards, 100/200 Yards, 400/500/600 Yards, 80/900/1000 Yards, Advancing Target, Multi-Target, T&P 1
- **Sporting Rifle:** 100/200/300 Yards, Sporting Statics



- **Target Shotgun:** 100 Yards, Multi-Target, NRA Embassy Cup, T&P 1

Details of all the Courses of Fire can be found within the Gallery Rifle & Pistol Handbook, available online ([nra.org.uk/all-downloads/nra-handbooks](http://nra.org.uk/all-downloads/nra-handbooks)) and in paperback form from NRA Reception

Entries will open on Tuesday 29 March via our online entry website: [online.nra.org.uk/phoenix2022](http://online.nra.org.uk/phoenix2022)

The deadline for entries is midday on Tuesday 17 May, after this time entries will be accepted, but are subject to availability and will not benefit from advanced squadding.

## TRADE FAIR

The Phoenix Trade Fair will return for the first time since 2019 on Sit Pet Lawn, featuring a range of different suppliers for all to enjoy.

Doors will open on Friday 27 – Sunday 29 from 8am-6pm daily. Entry is free so come along and support the suppliers!

## RANGE TEAM

Our dedicated volunteers ensure that the Phoenix Meeting can continue to support the large numbers of competitors wishing to take part. The team is made of enthusiastic ex-shooters, newly qualified RSO and RCOs, as well as members of International squads.

Each range will be run by a qualified Range Officer, but there are plenty of opportunities for anyone to get involved – even for as little as half a day. The Range Team typically take on the following roles:

- **Chief Range Officer:** In charge of overall range safety and issuing of range commands. Typically holds an RCO or RSO qualification
- **Range Crew:** Assists in a range of tasks including scoring and re-facing of targets, checking clear firearms, coordinating the next line of shooters etc.
- **Stats:** Input all scorecards and produce prizelists throughout the Meeting
- **Event Makers:** New for 2022, Event Makers assist the NRA Competitions team across all ranges with jobs including providing ranges with tea and coffee, distributing Range Team meals, setting up for prizegivings, assisting with queries on the range - great for someone wanting to gain experience in event running.

## PERKS

As a thank you for your time, all members of the Range Team are entitled to the following perks:

- **Dedicated Range Days:** Access to Melville Range on 24 and 25th May, as well as Butt Zero and short Siberia (PM only) on the 25 May
- **Sponsored Freebie from Brownells:** Thanks to Brownells' continued sponsorship, we are able to offer all members of the Range Team a souvenir to take away

from the Meeting. Previous Meetings have provided Range Team members with polo shirts, thermos flasks or caps. At time of writing the 2022 items has not yet been finalised, but this will be communicated out on the Range Team sign-up page

- **Mileage claim:** Up to 250 miles (max £115), or a maximum of £60 if only volunteering for half a day
- **Phoenix Crew Points:** For each full day you volunteer are entitled to one night accommodation, breakfast and lunch, which translates to 4 Crew Points (2 for accommodation and 1 for each meal). If you would prefer

not to have meals or accommodation, we will issue credits after the Meeting to use towards NRA Competitions, Courses, Guest Days or Shooting Club events to the value of £5 per Crew Point

- **Breakfast and Lunches:** Served from Tuesday – Sunday

- **Accommodation:** In one of our Crawford Cabins, caravan or tent pitch

There are lots of opportunities to get involved over this extended Phoenix Meeting Weekend. If you wish to be part of the team please visit [nra.org.uk/volunteersignup](http://nra.org.uk/volunteersignup) for more information.



## BLACK POWDER 100 AND 200 YARDS

The Black Powder Muzzle Loading events 5142 (100 Yards) and 5342 (100/200 Yards) have seen a few changes in the last couple of years, in terms of their conditions and practical on range administration.

We appreciate these are unique competitions for a dedicated number of competitors, who are keen to preserve the history these historic firearms offer. Following feedback these events will revert to the traditional course of fire, with 10 shots fired in 2 x 30 second exposures at 100 Yards and 10 shots fired in 25 minutes at 200 yards.

These events will only be run on Short Siberia on Sunday 29th May. Competitors will be squadded for half a day which will include time to compete and mark targets – there will be no NRA markers for these events. ☺

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SOUVENIR POLO SHIRTS

To mark the IGRF and ITSF World Championships, a commemorative Polo Shirt has been designed and were offered for pre-ordering by 8th April so that all Competitors and Range Crew could order ahead of the Phoenix Meeting, and wear during the Championships. They are made of high quality performance fabric and will feature personalised names on front and back if requested. A limited quantity of non-personalised shirts will be available during the meeting, and cost £29 each.



# GALLERY RIFLE AND PISTOL

An update in the Gallery Rifle and Pistol world in 2022 so far.

**T**his year marks a significant celebration in the history of Gallery Rifle, following the infamous “1997 handgun ban”, a few brave souls decided that they would not throw in the towel, but instead transformed the whole sport of the previous handgun disciplines into what we know today as Gallery Rifle. The NPA (National Pistol Association) was wound up, and GR&P was eventually recognised

within the NRA. Notwithstanding all the club and Bisley led GR&P events that have taken place since then, the headline act still remains as a true festival of GR&P shooting – the Phoenix!

This year's Phoenix is the Silver Anniversary – this will be the 25th year of running the event, having lost previous opportunities, due to COVID. The Phoenix will also see GB hosting the

IGRF International World Cup match (this year on the Sunday morning), and the individual World Championships, for GR&P. Whilst the IGRF match is limited to the Selected international teams, the individual World championships are just that – open to any and all entrants to the Phoenix. More details will appear on the NRA's website in due course.

**[online.nra.org.uk/phoenix2022](https://online.nra.org.uk/phoenix2022)**

Gary Bowden is the existing GBGR Captain and has recently announced his squad for 2022. It sees a number of new members, who have earned their place demonstrating capability, consistency and commitment. There are also a number of

**“ Gary Bowden is the existing GBGR Captain and has recently announced his squad for 2022. ”**





**Above:** GB Gallery Rifle Squad 2019.

**Top right and right:** Taking aim on target.



supporting members – overseas trips don't happen on their own, and given the events are mainly self-funded for GB shooters, logistics and fund-raising also form an important aspect of the squads success.

For those slightly newer to GR&P, who have yet to compete at other clubs, including Bisley, the NRA are introducing the E-League – a modernised postal league that sets out straight forward courses of fire based on current comps. This is aimed at all club shooters, with the simple needs of a 25M range and basic equipment. Look out for more details on the NRA website.

So... within the GR&P discipline, there are always challenges from club, open, postal and National comps.

**galleryrifle.com** has much more detail about events nationwide. We'll also be running some GR development days at Bisley, including a Bianchi skills day, to help you improve your techniques and scores. Again, more details on the NRA website. If you have any queries about GR&P, contact me – your national discipline rep – on **gallery@nra.org.uk** ▶

## 2022 GREAT BRITAIN GALLERY RIFLE SQUAD

**Captain:** Gary Bowden

**Vice-Captain:** Phil Wood

**Adjutant:** Jacky Lamb

### The Shooting Squad

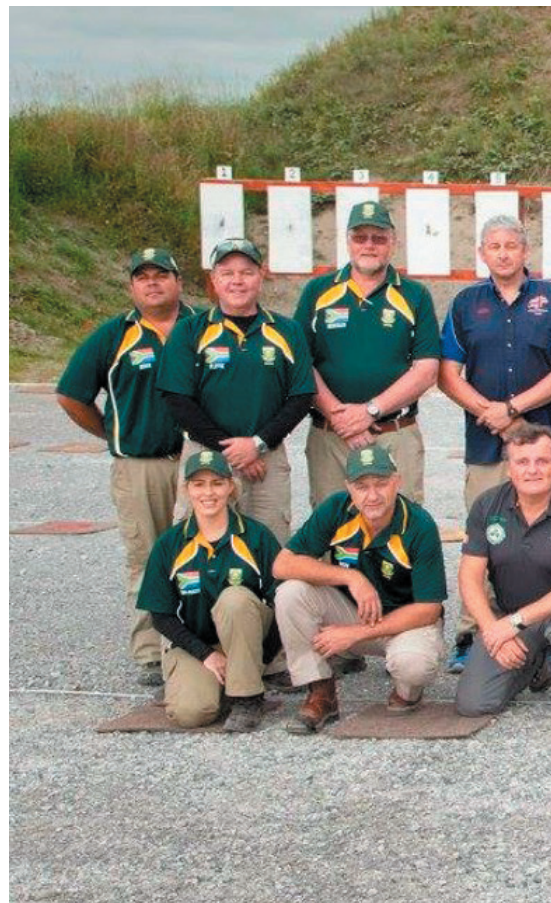
- Mel Beard
- Gerry Betteridge
- Gary Bowden
- Jonny Cormie
- Keith Cox
- David Guest
- Peter Keegan (new)
- Keith Kilvington
- Steve Lamb
- Dave Morrow (new)
- Jake Mossom
- Joseph Pugh (new)

- Jim Starley
- Robert Tonner
- Mornè van Dalen
- Phil Wood
- Laura Warwick (new)
- Peter Watts
- Chris West
- Rob Wheeler
- Andy Summers

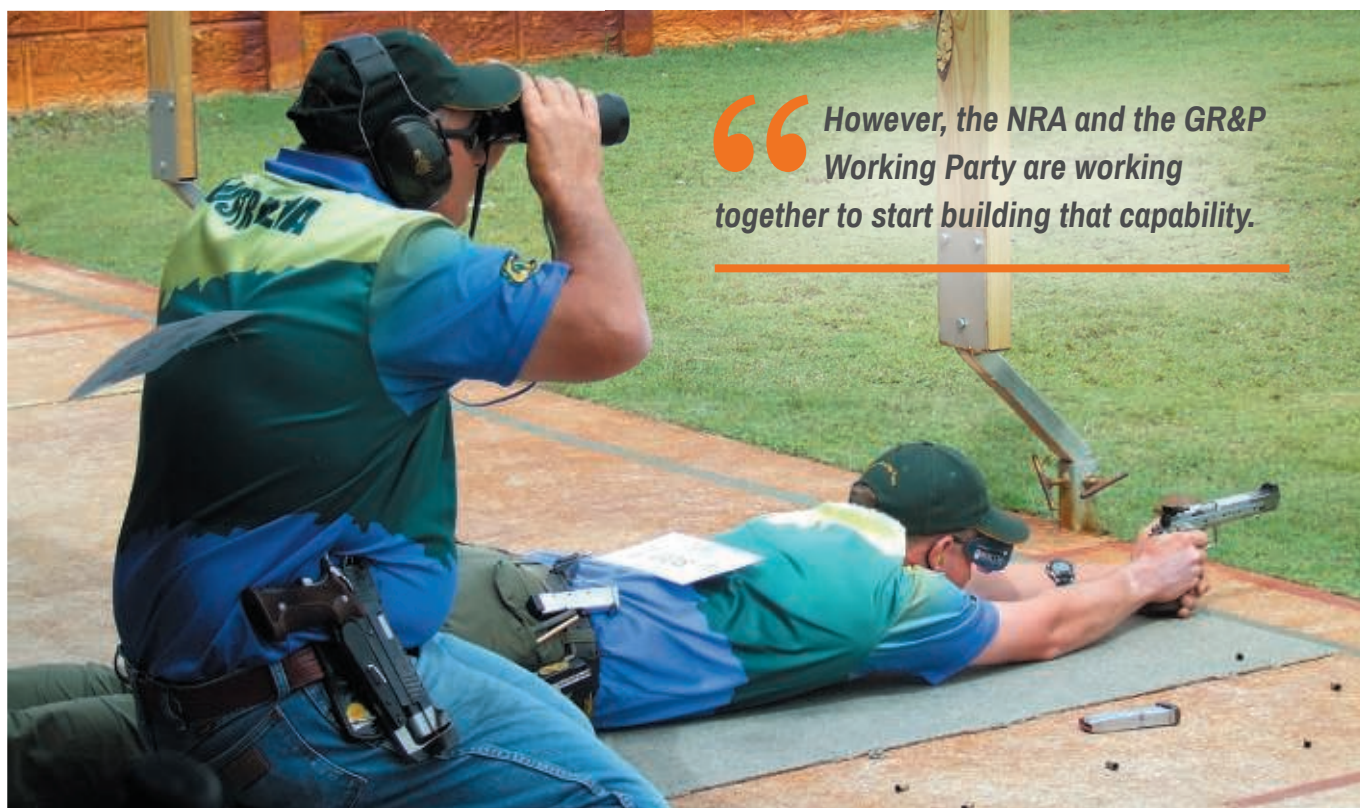
### The Support Squad

- Ash Dagger
- Charles Murton
- Jacky Lamb
- Jim Smith
- Anita Bowden
- Sophie West (new)
- Neil Francis
- Dave Holt





**Above:** The International Teams line up.  
**Left & Below:** the range of positional shooting for competitors.







## GALLERY RIFLE & PISTOL INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING

Gallery Rifle and Pistol is going from strength to strength in the UK and is gaining momentum internationally. The NRA are affiliated to the International Gallery Rifle Federation (IGRF) and the World Association 1500 (WA1500). There are international competitions associated with each:

- **IGRF** – There are usually three International competitions per year (UK, Ireland and Germany) and every two years there is a World Championships. The GB GR Team was formally approved in 2010 and has been competing Internationally ever since. More information on the IGRF can be found in the article by Charles Murton on Page 20.
- **WA1500** – There is usually one main international competition per year, alternating between the European Championships and the World Championships. These events have been attended by shooters from the UK for many years and there was NRA supported GB representation in 2017 (WC Germany), 2018 (EC Sweden) and 2019 (WC Australia). The GB GR Team Squad for 2022 is being announced in this edition of the Journal and is a well established team, with a fully constituted management committee; see the article by Ash Dagger on Page 29. There is currently no such organisation for WA1500 International competitions in the UK. However, the NRA and the GR&P Working Party are working together to start building that capability.

Whilst it is early days, the NRA have agreed that the GR&P

WP can select teams from those are going to the WA1500 European Championships 2022, to represent GB in the International Competitions. There are currently a number of shooters from SLG Bisley planning to attend. However, the GR&P WP would like to open this opportunity to other capable pistol/revolver or iron sights LBP/LBR shooters.

The WA1500 European Championships are being held in the Czech Republic from the 15th to the 21st August. The first day is practice and zeroing, with the next five days and the Sunday morning being individual and team competitions in a variety of disciplines. The afternoon of the last day is the International competition. This comprises two teams of two, one shooting Pistol 1500 Match 5 and one shooting Revolver 1500 Match 5. Please note that attendance at this competition is self funded.

Whilst it is an advantage if somebody already shoots pistol and/or revolver overseas, this is not a pre-requisite. If you are shooting to a high standard with iron sights LBP and/or iron sights LBR then you may also ask to be considered. Support would be given to help with the transition between UK rules and WA1500 rules and, where possible, to provide access to the appropriate firearms.

If you are interested in attending the 2022 WA1500 European Open Championships or similar competitions going forward, then please contact Alan Podevin by email: [GR-handgun-rep@gbgr.org](mailto:GR-handgun-rep@gbgr.org). More info on the WA1500 at [wa1500.org](http://wa1500.org) ☺



# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

# BISLEY HANDBOOK

**Iain Robertson** of NRA's Safety Legal and Technical Services reviews the changes to the 2022 Bisley Handbook.

**T**he NRA Handbook volumes 1-3 (the “Bisley bible”) for 2022 will be available shortly after 16 March, and is effective from 28 March. Changes from the 2021 edition are summarised in the Foreword and sidebarred in the document itself. Volumes 4-7 (the discipline Handbooks for Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Target Shotgun, Civilian Service Rifle and Classic & Historic) will be published separately at times appropriate to each discipline competition programme. The latest version of all the NRA Handbooks can be found on the NRA website under Publications/NRA Handbooks.

## REVISIONS

The 2022 revision reflects continuing work to improve clarity, remove anomalies and

approach the goal of a rule set valid across all disciplines. There are also structural changes in the Imperial Meeting Programme, following from the 300 metre Championship becoming a part of the Meeting, the F-class events being divorced in time from TR and the Cadet GP events being moved to a new Combined Cadet Forces Skill at Arms Meeting in October. A summary of significant changes is below.

## IN VOLUME 1 – THE HANDBOOK

The Conditions of NRA Membership have been amended to permit the termination of membership of a probationary member on grounds of unsatisfactory performance or unsuitability. An obligation to co-operate

with an NRA technical investigation has been added to the Obligations of Membership.

## IN VOLUME 2 – THE NRA RULES OF SHOOTING

Paras 112-114 are amended to apply to all participants on a range, not just to firers.

Para 120d is amended to prohibit a firer acting as their own RO from giving himself permission to continue after a shot whose impact has not been detected.

New Para 134b authorises Meeting Directors to allow physically limited competitors to use alternative positions from a specified set without reference to the Shooting Committee. New para 213i specifies the positions and circumstances to which para 134b applies. Para 213c (Disabled Seated) is replaced by para 213i(iii) (Seated Discipline Defined).

New wording in para 213c creates a “benched” position corresponding to that already

published in GR&P rules.

Para 284 is amended to clarify responsibility for register keeping when a competitor also acting as register keeper wishes to quit the firing point.

Para 554 has been amended to remove the specified fee for challenging the marking. (Message 5 or 7) following the change in 2021 to para 318 leaving challenge fees to the discretion of match organisers.

Appendix VI (Dangerous Ammunition) has been amended at paras 1-3 to correspond with restructured and relaxed restrictions in Bisley Ranges Regulations.

## IN VOLUME 3 – THE IMPERIAL MEETING

Para 764 is amended to reflect the recent arrangement that practice targets are provided by the range office as range space permits, rather than alongside competition details. Para 765 has been amended. An overseas





national team captain must now identify the squad from which the team will be drawn before any individual entries are made, rather than by a specific date.

New para 778 requires a competitor who is only shooting in a team event, and thus does not have an Index Number, to complete a Simple Registration before participating.

Para 883 has been deleted. Medals for GR&P qualifying scores will be issued without charge.

Para 886 has been amended to clarify that HPS crosses are discipline specific.

Appendix XVI para 5 has been amended to require overseas national team captains to submit any request regarding classification of the members of the squad from which the team will be drawn before individual entries are made.

Details of 300 metre events have been inserted.

In CSR, details of sponsorship of the Urban match by AIM Field Sports have been inserted.

## IN F CLASS

Procedures for blow-offs have been amended following the move of F Class from alongside

**“ Additional text is incorporated in Volumes 4, 5 and 6 to ensure that material there does not inadvertently usurp overarching rules of generic application.**

TR to its own time block.

All the F Class events held alongside TR have been rescheduled to the period 6-10 July.

F Class team competitions will all be held on First Sunday 10 July.

The events making up the Celebration Aggregate and the Grand Aggregate have changed slightly to reflect the rescheduled programme.

## IN GR&P

Most of the detail of the events has been removed to the GR&P Handbook.

A modified Grandmaster award scheme, with gold, silver and bronze medals, has been introduced.

The “Medals” events have been redesignated “Unlimited”. T&P 1 has been redesignated “Police Medals”

Multi-Target has been redesignated “Service Medals”

Air Pistol events have been removed.

Various events have been opened to MLP/MLR. There are consequent changes to aggregates.

The Cotterill Trophy Match will be shot with LBP only, and not AP.

## IN MR

Arrangements for the Ranken and the MR Pairs have changed.

## IN PRECISION SHOOTING

There is a new Aggregate of McQueen A (Precision) and McQueen F (Any Rifle), generously sponsored by McQueen Targets.

The Cadet GP rifle will not be used in Schools & Cadets events during the Meeting. The GP rifle events will be held during a new CCFSAM in October. The aggregates involving both CTR and GP rifle events will not be awarded in 2022. Scores made at CCFSAM 2022 will count for those aggregates in 2023.


Service Weapon events will not be held in 2022; the competitions remain in the Handbook and the sections are annotated accordingly.

In TR, the programme broadly follows the pattern of 2021.

There are date changes for the Barlow, the Chairman's Prize, the Corporation, the Donaldson Memorial Final, the Duke of Cambridge, the County Championship and Inter-Service long range matches and the National Match and matches alongside. The composition of the Sunday, Monday and Weekend Aggregates change in consequence.

The Barlow and the Stickledown competitions may be shot concurrently with the Chairman's Prize.

A special prize will be awarded for the highest score at 600 yds in George's II.

Additional text is incorporated in Volumes 4, 5 and 6 to ensure that material there does not inadvertently usurp overarching rules of generic application. Volume 4 incorporates a number of changes to ensure its applicability across NRA GR&P events, in particular the Imperial Meeting. 



# NRA REGIONAL TRAINING COURSES



**David Camp**, NRA's National Training Manager provides an update on available training courses in the regions.

**T**he NRA currently offers three courses for clubs throughout the British Isles. At present, there are two methods of sponsoring NRA regional courses. The first and most common is when a club runs a course purely for its own club members at its own venue.

The second is when a club hosts a course for its own members and invites outside club members to attend. The benefit of this method is it allows clubs who may not have a home range or appropriate club facilities to train their members. Clubs can also share the cost of the course along with training more people. Whichever method you choose to use, please contact the NRA Training department first. The three regional courses are:

## **RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO) COURSE**

The aim of the RSO Course is to teach students how to assist in the safe running of a club, or private, shooting range. The course focuses on two key areas of learning; how to apply the NRA Safe Shooting System (SSS) as an RSO at a club, and teaching and testing students in their ability to be a safe Range Officer (RO).

Students will study and learn the four parts of the

NRA SSS: safe shooter, safe equipment, safe practice and safe place. We will teach them how these four areas are invested in and implemented at club level. Once back at the club, the RSO should become an ambassador for ensuring any club maintains a strong SSS.

The RO duties of running a safe firing point and controlling shooters on a range are a vital part of the SSS. Students will be thoroughly trained and tested in this role. Once qualified students will have a six-year operating license as an RO.

## **RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER (RCO) COURSE**

The aim of RCO Course is to teach RSOs the process of running a Ministry of Defence (MoD) range. (You do not need to be an RCO to run ranges at the National Shooting Centre here at Bisley).

Only RSOs who are members of a shooting club that uses MOD ranges should attend this course.

The RCO course teaches and tests students on all the information and skills they will require to book and use MoD ranges. The MoD have standardised ranges with set operating procedures that must be followed.



The qualification will grant the RSO the authority to RO (RCO) on MoD ranges. Qualified students will have a six-year operating license in this role.

### **CLUB INSTRUCTOR (CI) COURSE**

The aim of the course is to train students to deliver probationary training within their clubs. The CI Course is designed around the NRA's proven probationary training syllabus.

CI students will learn all legal, knowledge and skills required to deliver probationary training at club level. A key part of the course will be teaching students the steps involved in instructing a novice in the safe handling and use of firearms. CI students will also learn how to conduct assessments and training of existing club members for the issue of an NRA Shooter Certification Card (SCC).

### **PROCESS OF ARRANGING A REGIONAL COURSE CONTACTING NRA TRAINING**

All regional training course requests must be organised through the NRA training department. We understand that NRA Regional Instructors and clubs often discuss potential regional course dates, which we encourage. However, to formally start the process for arranging a regional course please contact the NRA training department on 01483 797777 (ext. 149) or email [training@nra.org.uk](mailto:training@nra.org.uk)

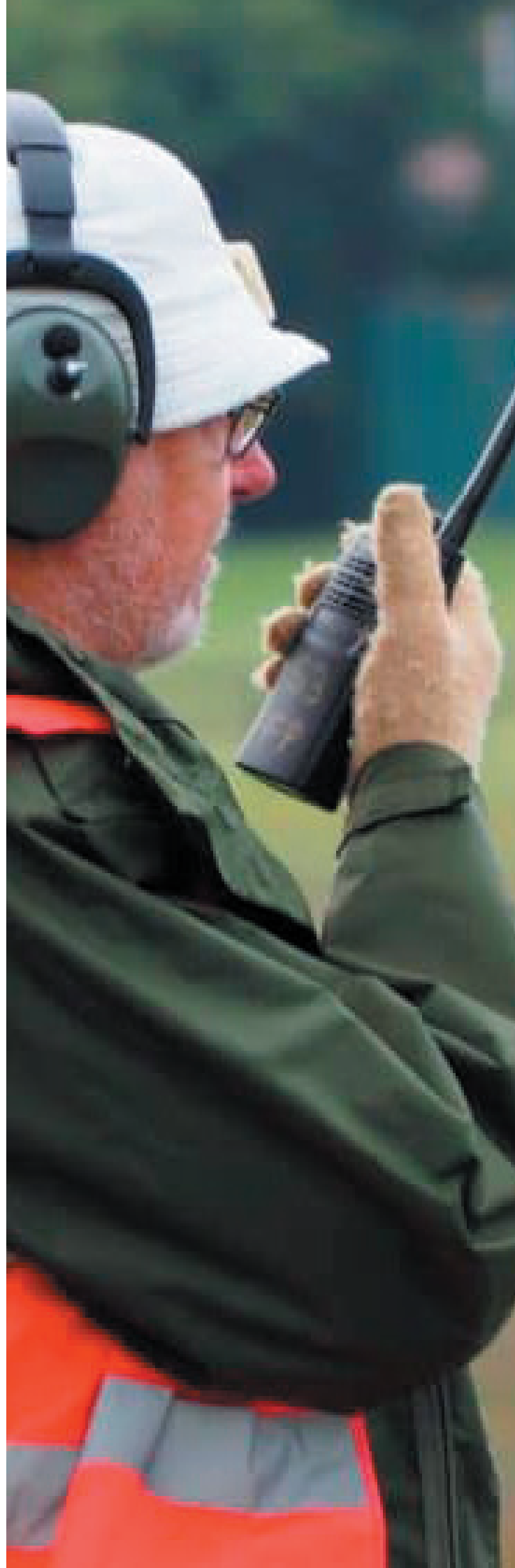
Once a regional Instructor has confirmed they are able to run the course, the NRA training team will put the organiser from the club and the Instructor in contact with each other. From here, it is down to the club and Instructor to agree on a date and other details, including the confirmed number of candidates, whilst always keeping the NRA informed. ☺

### **REQUIRED CLUB FACILITIES**

The host club should be able to facilitate the course in its entirety. The basic requirements for a course are:

- A space to be used as a classroom/training room which can facilitate the number attending the course
- A suitable range (RSO Course)
- A power supply
- A projector or television screen from which to run the course material
- Tea & coffee making facilities
- Toilet facilities
- First Aid (either a suitable First Aid box and or trained First Aider)

If some of these requirements cannot be met, it is usually possible to work around them in some way, but the NRA and the allocated Instructor will require a period of notice in order to find a suitable solution.





# - F CLASS - JOURNAL SPRING 2022

F Class Rep **Jon Longhurst** looking forward to an exciting year of competitive shooting.





## IMPERIAL MEETING

This year marks the 153rd meeting and F Class has been growing. I hope that this will be a record year and I encourage everyone to take part. It is a great time of year to be enjoying Bisley.

Due to our growing popularity, F Class has broken away from target rifle so we are afforded more space. The F Class meeting begins on 6 July, ending on the 10 July with prize giving in the afternoon.

In addition, you can extend your shooting an extra two days by entering The Hopton Aggregate. These are F Class targets shot at 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards, alongside the Match Rifle meeting. It is a great way and a rare opportunity to push yourself and your rifle to 1,200 yards.

The full F Class Imperial meeting, including the teams and the Hopton can be entered with no fear of matches clashing.

Finally, it is very likely that the USA and Canada will both send an F Class team to compete in the International Teams matches. The details and make up of these teams is yet to be confirmed.

## THE ROLE OF YOUR F CLASS REP

There was no handover or instruction manual which is something I will look to change, in case I get hit by a bus. One of the enjoyable parts of the job is bringing on new F Class shooters to our sport. When people call the NRA and express an interest in F Class, they get sent my way and I grab them before match rifle get a look in. F Class has a fantastic community of people willing to help others and usually all it takes is to introduce new shooters to the various groups and they're set.

## ELECTRONIC TARGETS

When I became F Class Rep it was clear that resolving issues with the electronic target systems was a high priority for many F Class shooters. I have come to learn that the feeling is shared amongst many disciplines – sporting, target rifle and recreational shooters to name a few. No matter what you shoot, people pay to shoot at a target with the aim to be as accurate as they can and trust the system to report their fall of shot within a certain tolerance. It is such a shame that they have come not

**“Our focus is to demonstrate the capabilities of the systems, understand how faults may occur and record the accuracy capability of each system at various stages of their maintenance cycle.”**

to be relied upon by many as they offer so much potential. Easy to book (as no marker needs to be found) and available in one hour slots for a quick and cost effective practice. I see it as a huge loss of potential business for the ranges.

So, new to committee life in 2019 I set a goal to get things moving in the right direction. It took a couple of attempts to demonstrate that I was the persistent type and if by magic a few meetings in, Mr John Bloomfield announced that he would chair a working group to investigate the electronic target systems. I was delighted that progress was being made and I reported this in the following Journal.

Unfortunately, Mr Bloomfield was unable to find the time to progress this piece of work and in December 2021 he resigned.

I was asked if I would stand to chair the working group which I did. A vote was held and I was elected.

Within the first few weeks we formed a five-person team and we met to plan the task ahead. We are making good progress in setting out our processes and are now requesting dates from the NSC to begin trials, which I expect to take place in the Spring.

I do believe these systems have a place in our repertoire. I personally appreciate being able to rent a target first thing in the morning for an hour or two before work.

Our focus is to demonstrate the capabilities of the systems, understand how faults may occur and record the accuracy capability of each system at various stages of their maintenance cycle.

The aim is to compile a matrix of system capability's vs user requirements to both assist shooters, clubs and match directors choose a suitable target for their particular need, and to assist the

operators of the systems, in the case of Bisley the NSC, in their decision-making process on procurement of new systems and maintenance of existing systems to meet the requirements of the user.

## F CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – SOUTH AFRICA 2023

I am delighted to hear that the FCWC in South Africa is planned and looking more and more likely to go ahead. As such, a number of F Class shooters are travelling at the end of March this year to compete in the SA Nationals, including myself and Aleessa. Having shot there in 2019 I highly recommend it provided you like a good barbeque, loads of meat and not a lot of veg. The reception from the local shooters is overwhelming and as I said, you will not go hungry. Competition wise it is tough. They can shoot. When we first got down on the line at 300 metres in 2019 and they presented the targets, my colleague and I realised that they only gave us a four and a five ring, and the V. When we asked where the three and two rings where they replied, 'why would you shoot there?' ☺

## CALLING ALL CLUB SHOOTERS

The NRA has over 800 members who registered F Class as their primary discipline. Yet only 275 are on the GBFCA facebook page which is an indication as to the number of potential talented shooters who we are not seeing in major matches.

Finding competitions or a club, entering the Imperial for the first time, how does Bisley work? Want to get into F Class?

If you need help with F Class stuff – email me at [class@nra.org.uk](mailto:class@nra.org.uk)



# WMS FIREARMS TRAINING

Update on the location of WMS Firearms training.

**F**rom April 2022 WMS Firearms Training Ltd will be offering its services at the National Shooting Centre ranges at Bisley, Surrey, in addition to its shooting areas in Mid-Wales. This follows an agreement between WMS and the NSC which enables WMS to train its clients under its usual commercial operating procedures at the NSC's Chobham Ridge range.

Set up in 2006, WMS has built a reputation as the leading commercial firearms training

**Above:** The glorious views from Chobham Ridge range.

provider in the UK and has a client base from around the world. It can accommodate private individual clients and groups from all rifle shooting disciplines and at all levels of experience and also provides professional training to expedition companies, zoos and wildlife parks, conservation organisations, airports, and government departments.

WMS is run by Andrew Venables, CEO and Lead Instructor, who has over 40 years' experience of practical shooting





and training, and his wife Helena, the company's Commercial Director, responsible for client liaison, business development and marketing. The company also has a first-class team of associate instructors from a variety of appropriate backgrounds.

Andrew explains the idea behind the new venture: "Our arrangement at Bisley, within an hour of Central London, Heathrow and Gatwick, will appeal to clients from around the UK and overseas who want to benefit from our unique and proven training approach. In a world where time is the ultimate commodity, we can now give clients the choice of how to invest that time, whether by coming to our facilities in Wales which offer shooting out to 1,700m plus or training with us in a more central location.

**“Our arrangement at Bisley, within an hour of Central London, Heathrow and Gatwick, will appeal to clients from around the UK**

Booking for both locations is easy; simply contact the WMS HQ office and we do the rest.”

Andrew Mercer, NSC Chief Executive, added “we are pleased to welcome Andrew, Helena and the WMS team to Bisley and look forward to their clients enjoying the unique Bisley ranges experience and WMS’s high quality training and customer service.” ☺

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information please call 01974 831869 or email [info@wmsfirearmstraining.com](mailto:info@wmsfirearmstraining.com) or see [wmsfirearmstraining.com](http://wmsfirearmstraining.com)





Above: Melville refurb.

# THE RANGE INFRASTRUCTURE TEAM

Range Infrastructure Manager, **Jason Bonham**, sets out the teams primary goals and how they aim to give you the best possible experience.

**O**ur primary goal and values are to provide world-class facilities that exceed the expectations of our members and guests visiting. Giving you the best possible experience, whether shooting individually, socially with friends or competing in one of our numerous international events, including the Imperial competitions and upcoming Gallery Rifle World Championships.

The Range Infrastructure team is integral to all parts of the Bisley estate, covering a broad spectrum of objectives, but in essence enables and facilitates the practical day to day running of this highly diverse facility.

Covering from the all so important targets, both paper and electronic, target frames, re-designed benches and gun racks, to upkeep of the grounds and maintenance.

**“Over the past winter months, we have taken advantage of this off-peak period to invest further in our range infrastructure.**

This in itself is an enormous and diverse task that includes tree surgery, replanting, the task of grass cutting and strimming throughout the Bisley estate – from the main entrance into the grounds, right up to the firing points on all of our ranges and beyond.

Over the past winter months, we have taken advantage of this off-peak period to invest further in our range infrastructure.

We have three main departments including Targets, Electronics and Grounds, which I am pleased to say now have a full complement of staff, with excellent experience in their respective fields. This has enabled us to be more flexible and proactive to issues as they occur. This quieter period has also provided an opportunity for many range improvements, including redesigning the wooden target frames on both Century and Stickledown, removing the need for any type of metal screw fixings, to newly designed shooting benches and gun racks.

Planned forthcoming improvements at Bisley this year are numerous but include disabled access to Short Siberia 100 yds FP, major refurbishments to Melville, Winans/Zero range and Cheylesmore.

Also the re-profiling and de-leading of the entire length of Stickledown stop butt, re-grading and replacing with over 350 tonnes of correct grade sand.

Significant investment and upgrading of our INTARSO electronic targetry for both Century and Stickledown include new generation android tablets and the latest software upgrades significantly improving members' electronic targetry experience.

Hobson's Way and Short Siberia car park will be scheduled for re-grading in April providing a smoother journey to these popular ranges (but please observe the speed limit!).

Concrete ballistic walls have been installed and can be found now in Winans and Cheylesmore ranges, making not just a visual improvement but moreover primarily increasing the safety of these ranges.

More recently, like so many of us in the South East of England, we have had to deal with the huge effects of the UK's recent cluster of winter storms. Damage was thankfully not as bad as we all feared, although the famous Stats Boards took a hammering and will need some careful work to reinstate ahead of the main competitions.

Our hard working team, led by our Grounds department, have coped admirably with the aftermath of all the damaged structures, fallen trees, branches and significant debris throughout the site, quickly returning Bisley close to normal. 🌳





**Above left:** Stats Board Damage from Storm Eunice. **Above right:** Short Siberia Butts. **Left:** Short Siberia targets in February 2022. **Below:** Zero Range.







## – NCSC – REFURBISHMENT PROJECT

**Richie Vallance**, General Manager, updates us on the refurbishment work that's been taking place at the National Clay Shooting Centre in Bisley.

In the last update I referred to the increased activity on the National Clay Shooting Centre (NCSC). For the last 4 months we have been engaged in an extensive refurbishment program to either renovate or replace much of the tired equipment and infrastructure over the entire facility. As part of this program, NCSC has selected Promatic (the leading UK Clay throwing trap manufacturer), to replace the old mattarelli throwing devices and buy additional computers to make the whole ground operate with the new chip card system. Consequently an agreement has been reached to engender a collaboration between Promatic and NCSC with a common aim to take

competitive clay shooting in Europe to another level. NCSC has seen a continued and sustained drive to improve its facilities over the last 18 months and this has been recognised by Promatic who were equally keen to enter into a partnership, making NCSC their centre of excellence. We can now boast a full complement of the latest machines on the market. These include 60 Olympic trap, 4 Down the Line and 8 Olympic skeet machines. The new equipment is expected to bring both increased reliability plus a more consistent target presentation. This will not only meet the needs of the country's elite shooting community, but also the increasing demand

**“ Along with the canopy cleaning we were also keen to paint the walls which were extremely dirty.**

from our members and general public.

One of the areas we were very keen to address was the cleaning of the canopies. 20 years of grime had made them not just unsightly, but the guttering was also clogged with moss and other debris. A big thank you to all the NRA estates team who worked through all weathers to achieve what was a long, wet and laborious task. They have done a great job, making the canopies almost luminescent in their appearance. Along with the canopy cleaning we were also keen to paint the walls which were extremely

dirty. Once again the NRA estates team were on hand to spray all the walls from what was a dirty breeze block finish, to a fine blank canvas fit for future advertising.

The trap replacement work was not without its challenges because much of the original installation had not been designed with replacement in mind. The Promatic team made relatively short work of replacing all the 20 year old mattarelli traps with their new machines, but the problems came when we wanted to replace the underground wiring. Unfortunately many of the pipes containing the wires had collapsed over the years, which meant we had to

dig it all out and start again.

This was not an easy task as we had to break up and replace a significant amount of concrete to gain access and lay new cable conduit throughout the lawns.

Many of the doors to the trap houses have rotted away over the years and the doors to the underground tunnels which house the traps had also perished beyond repair. We have replaced these with new metal roller shutters that provide the necessary

security for all of the new equipment.

We decided to powder coat the doors and paint the roofs to the trap houses. I think you will agree this is now a vast improvement.

It made sense to

assist the funding of these improvements by using the large spaces on the walls for advertising purposes. Some of our suppliers were keen to get involved so signs were strategically placed throughout the facility. These additions have also transformed the layout consoles by disguising some of the more weary elements of their construction. Along with the new traps and infrastructure repairs, we were able to renovate the inside of the consoles with the



**Above and inset:** The NRA Estates Team start the long process of pressure washing the canopies and painting the tired walls.



addition of new uninterrupted power supply systems and anti-condensation heaters. We also upgraded the computers for the Down the Line ranges to the new chip card variants and installed brand new top of the range acoustic systems throughout. I am confident this work has ensured the longevity of NCSC for the next two decades and beyond.

I mentioned in an earlier article the construction of our new Sportrap layout just outside Cottesloe Heath. This is now being referred to as the “Clock Tower Range” and its purpose is to offer Bisley Shooting Ground an alternative location to provide instruction when Century range has priority and Cottesloe Heath is closed. This proved successful last year, but we are exploring more options to make this area equally accessible when Stickledown is in use and available to NCSC customers. Work has begun to transform the clock tower carpark and surrounding ranges to make access easier and renovate some of the more rundown elements. You will notice a new path that effectively links NCSC and BSG through the clock tower complex. This will give NCSC access to a new training facility plus the Sportrap range that will soon be fitted with our new chip card system. 🔄

**1,2,3:** A significant amount of effort was been made to replace all of the wiring.

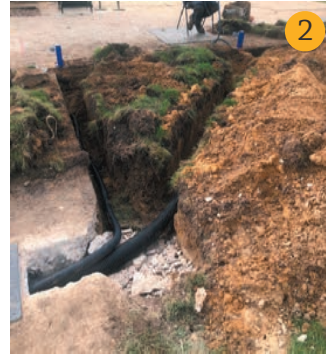
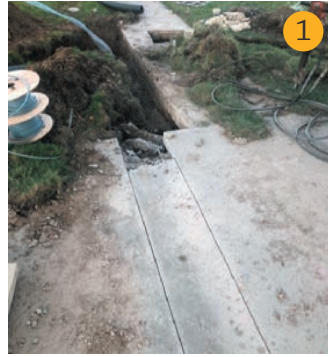
**4,5:** The underground bunker stripped out and the new installed traps.

**6,7:** The obligatory ‘before and after’ pictures.

**8:** The new NCSC in all its glory.

**9, 10, 11, 12:** Clock Tower Range development.

**13,14:** Follow the yellow brick road to our improved Sport trap layout.



# RANGE OFFICE

All the up-to-date information regarding Long Range, Fallback, and practice events up to the end of the year.

Some events may be fully booked, so please make sure to double check before trying to book or attend.



## NRA Imperial Meeting Marker Information 2022

**Be part of the biggest Festival of Target Shooting at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley between 8<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

As an Imperial Target Marker you will score the targets of some of the best fullbore shooters in the world – including Commonwealth Gold medallists!!

### The FACTs

- You need to be at least 16 years old by Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- You will be allocated to a specific team of 13 markers who will work together during the event. Typically there are 10 different teams at the event
- You have access to a FREE campsite at Bisley – just remember bring your own tent!
- New Markers will take part in a 3 hour training session prior to starting, we will email you once a date has been set
- Days are split into morning and afternoon sessions, and you will get time off during the event. You can request specific days off on your sign up form
- Becoming a Marker gives you the opportunity to pick up casual weekend work throughout the rest of the year!
- **Imperial Rates of Pay:**
  - Under 23s: £10.29 / hour
  - 23 and Over: £10.65 / hour
  - Supervisors: £11.22 / hour

Find all the information and sign-up forms via [nra.org.uk/markers](https://nra.org.uk/markers)  
[imperialmarkers@nra.org.uk](mailto:imperialmarkers@nra.org.uk)

#### LONG RANGE (11/1200X) DATES 2022

Date	Competition	AM	PM
Sat 23 April	IBIS		10/1100X
Sun 1 May	LMRA		10/11/1200x (Inc. Elec)
Sat 7 May	ENG VIII	10/1100 (Inc. Elec)	11/1200x
Sun 8 May	ENG VIII	10/1100	11/1200x
Sat 18 Jun	LMRA	10/1100x (Inc. Elec)	1200x
Fri 24 Jun	GB F Class	1000x (Inc. Elec)	11/1200x (Inc. Elec)
Sat 25 Jun	GB F Class	1000x	11/1200x
Sat 25 Jun	NLRC	1000x	11/1200x

#### LONG RANGE (11/1200X) DATES 2022

Date	Competition	AM	PM
Sun 26 Jun	GB F Class	1000x	
Sun 26 Jun	NLRC	1000x	11/1200x
Sat 6 Aug	LMRA		1100x
Sun 7 Aug	MLAGB	1100x (Inc. Elec)	1200x (Inc. Elec)
Mon 29 Aug	WELSH XX	10/11/1200x	
Sat 24 Sep	ENG VIII	11/1200x	10/11/1200x
Sun 25 Sep	ENG VIII	10/11/1200x	
Sat 29 Oct	NLRC	1000x	11/1200x



## FALLBACK DATES 2022

Date	AM	PM
Sat 19 March		10/1100X
Sat 26 March	300 > 600	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 27 March	300 > 600	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Sat 9 April		500 > 600
Sun 10 April	300 > 500 900 > 1000	300 > 600
Sat 16 April		300 > 500 > 600 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 17 April	300 > 500 > 600	900 > 1000x
Sat 23 April	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec) 900 > 1000	300 > 500 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec) 1000 > 1100 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 24 April	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec) 900 > 1000	300 > 500 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Sat 30 April	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec)	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 1 May	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)	1000 > 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)
Fri 6 May	800 > 900	900 > 1000 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)
Sat 7 May	300 > 500 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec) 1000 > 1100	300 > 600 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 8 May	300 > 500 > 600 1000 > 1100 (Inc. Elec)	300 > 500 > 600 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)
Sat 14 May	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)	300 > 600 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec) 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 15 May	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec)	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec) 900 > 1000
Fri 20 May	800 > 900	1000 > 1100
Sat 21 May	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec) 900 > 1000 1000 > 1100 (Inc. Elec)	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec) 900 > 1000
Sun 22 May	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)	
Sat 28 May	300 > 500 > 600	300 > 500 > 600
Sat 4 June		900 > 1000
Sun 5 June	900 > 1000	
Sat 11 June	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec)	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec) 900 > 1000
Sun 12 June	300 > 500 > 600	
Sat 18 Jun	900 > 1000 1000 > 1100	300 > 600

## 1100 PRACTICE DATES

Date	Competition	AM	PM
Fri 20 May			10/1100x
Fri 19 Aug			10/1100x

## FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION

Please visit [nra.org.uk](http://nra.org.uk) or contact [info@nra.org.uk](mailto:info@nra.org.uk)

Date	AM	PM
Sun 19 June	300 > 600 900 > 1000	300 > 500 > 600 900 > 1000
Fri 24 June		1100 > 1200
Sat 25 June	900 > 1000	300 > 600 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 26 June	900 > 1000	300 > 600 1100 > 1200
Fri 1 July	1000 > 1100 (Inc. Elec)	
Sat 2 July	1000 > 1100 (Inc. Elec)	
Sat 6 August	900 > 1000	
Fri 19 Aug	800 > 900	1000 > 1100
Sat 27 Aug		300 > 500 > 600
Sun 28 Aug	300 > 500 > 600	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Mon 29 Aug	1000 > 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)	
Sat 3 Sept	300 > 500 > 600	300 > 500 > 600 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 4 Sept	300 > 600 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Thu 8 Sept	800 > 900 (Inc. Elec)	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Fri 9 Sept	800 > 900 (Inc. Elec)	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Sat 10 Sept	300 > 600 800 > 900 (Inc. Elec)	300 > 600 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 11 Sept	300 > 600 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)	900 > 1000
Sat 17 Sept	300 > 500 > 600	300 > 500 > 600 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 18 Sept	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)	
Fri 23 Sept	1000 > 1100 (Inc. Elec)	
Sat 24 Sept	300 > 500 > 600 1100 > 1200 (Inc. Elec)	300 > 500 > 600 900 > 1000 1000 > 1100 > 1200
Sun 25 Sept	300 > 600 900 > 1000 1000 > 1100 > 1200	300 > 600 900 > 1000
Sat 8 October	300 > 600 800 > 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)	800 > 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec) 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Sun 9 October	300 > 600 800 > 900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)	900 > 1000 (Inc. Elec)
Sat 29 Oct		1100 > 1200 (inc electronics)

## 1200 PRACTICE DATES

Date	Competition	AM	PM
Sat 19 Mar			11/1200x
Sun 20 Mar			1200x
Sat 16 Apr			11/1200x
Fri 6 May			11/1200x
Say 14 May			11/1200x
Sat 21 May		10/1100x	1200x
Sat 11 Jun		1200x	
Fri 23 Sep		10/1100x	1200x

# *Update from the* REGIONAL RANGES MANAGER

**Nic Couldrey** provides an update on access to MoD ranges in England and Wales.

Following the Government's removal of remaining Covid restrictions in England and Wales, MoD has confirmed that licenced clubs are no longer subject to Covid restrictions on ranges in England and Wales. This is welcome news and means that range bookings are no longer restricted to a maximum of 30 people, one to one training and supervision of probationary members may resume. Club RCO's are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the new MoD range licence, current range orders and conduct a recce before any new bookings. In some regions, RCO's are required to attend a range briefing by MoD safety staff. All members are encouraged to continue to follow the advice and guidance provided by the NHS to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid whilst on the MoD estate.

There is no change to restrictions in Scotland and Northern Ireland and we await further announcements from both Devolved Administrations.

We expect MoD to publish a new schedule of charges in April for the financial year 2022-2023. There was no change to charges last year and we should anticipate an inflation based increase this year.

The project to build a new fixed range in the North of England suitable for firearms that generate 7000J + is ongoing. We expect ground works including the construction of arc markers to complete in early 2022. Currently the only alternative range is Lydd Serial 45 in Kent, which will close for repairs later this year. We appreciate the continued support of our colleagues in MoD that have sponsored this important project.

Finally a reminder about safety. There were three accidents involving hand loaded ammunition on MoD ranges in

2021. All three accidents were the result of a breech explosion resulting in injury and damage to property. In one accident, the injured shooter was hospitalised for treatment. The cause of all three accidents was probably a mistake in the hand loading process resulting in an incorrect propellant charge. Members are reminded that NRA Safety Rule 116 states; "a firer is responsible for ensuring that his/her firearm and ammunition are safe to use individually and in combination".

Club Chairman are reminded that by signing the NRA Club Agreement they will comply with the requirement placed on the Club to obtain confirmation that hand loaded ammunition used under the Club's supervision falls within the limits for the range. Our thanks to Pickwick Club in Wales who shared their hand loaded ammunition declaration form and process as an example of how they comply with this requirement on the club range.

In October 2021, there was a near miss on Hythe Serial 1 in Kent when the Club RCO failed to get clearance to fire before allowing shooting to commence. Fortunately, range control issued an immediate cease-fire and no one was injured. This incident highlights the importance of familiarity with all range safety instructions and local operating procedures, which may differ from other sites. This is particularly relevant now as Clubs resume bookings after a period of absence.

As we go to press all members for whom we have an email address have been invited to complete a survey to help the NRA to better understand the significance of hand loaded ammunition. This will inform the development of training, policy and procedures designed to safeguard the practice of hand loading ammunition.

See you on the ranges. 🎯







# Obituaries

Remembering William Vaughan, Brian John Bostwick, David Gibson and John Killian.



## WILLIAM VAUGHAN

Known as Willie, Wullie, Bill and various other adjectives from time to time, but always with affection, he was not someone who would stand out in a crowd, but if the crowd were shooters they would know who he was.

Bill Vaughan was one of the first people I met in 2005 when I moved to the Scottish Borders – so concerned was he that I would not find the Selkirk range and a few days later the Hawick range, he insisted on meeting me by local landmarks and escorting me in. To me this summed him up – not brash, not loud, but decent and caring, he would do the right thing and be there to lend a hand. Whenever I was shooting and my son, Daniel, when he was younger and needed supervision, Bill was always there and as Daniel grew, they would be leading each other astray. If you had a problem he was always there to share his knowledge.

As a member of both Selkirk and Hawick Rifle Clubs he was one of our top shots, but also more widely across Scotland at the highest levels, he was always there or thereabouts.

When we took on the role of Event Organisers for the NSRA Scottish Meeting, he was there, whether it was heavy lifting or fixing our electrics, you did not have to ask, you just knew the answer. For the rest of the week we headed for our tent and drank tea and ate cake.

He was a prolific consumer of cake and over said cake and tea our banter was rife, sometimes helping each other, but generally inane.

Since his death, I have been inundated by the shooting community across Scotland, small bore, local, county,

national, fullbore and more. I did smile when Robin Thompson told me that if it went bang Bill knew how to shoot it, and quite well too.

If there is a competition or event, Bill has either won it or been in the running and as Tom Hodgson told me “Bill was actually getting better with age!”.

On the smallbore front, he first shot for Scotland in the home countries at St Andrews 1983. Numerous subsequent appearances Qualified for the Scotland team at Bisley since 1985. Numerous qualifying for the Haig final from 1986 onwards. His best performances were quite recent 2nd in 2016 then a tie shoot in 2019. He also qualified for the Earl Roberts final

for the British Championship in 2011, 2012 and 2014.

LSSA Indoor Champion, LSSA Veterans Champion, LSSA World Cup, SSCA Best Average, SSCA Individual Champion, the accolades just

keep coming. The Carlisle club proudly displayed his six winning cards for years (600 x 600) on their notice board.

To Quote Bill Hamilton (LSSA) “In the International match at Bisley in 2017, as the Scotland team captain, I was scoping the cards as they were being shot and watched him score a 200 at 100yds. It was

testing conditions and many good shooters in that match were struggling. One of the best performances I have ever witnessed.”

“When CNTSA was scratching around for a new scorer for its Gallery Rifle competitions a few years ago I asked him almost as a last resort because nobody else was putting their hand up for it. He immediately agreed. Not only that but he also refused to enter the competition (he had been shooting in them for several years) as he didn’t want anyone to think he was scoring his own cards. I tried to talk him out of it and to get someone else to score his cards but he stood firm. Integrity or what.” Bill had a double life, he was also a member of the Joint Services Pistol Club at Colmsliehill, since the early 80’s, to quote Colin Oswald (Chair of JSPC).

“Always competing and winning at Practical Pistol and later at Gallery Rifle. Always ready to help or give advice and suggest ways of improving the club or the Colmsliehill Range. Bill was our Chief Range Officer and the many competitors who came to take part in our Open Shoots will remember fondly how he cheerfully ran the whole weekend of competitions, having already dealt with the entries and squadding.

Bill touched and helped enrich our lives and it was an honour to know you, good bye old friend, you will be missed by all of us.

**“not brash,  
not loud,  
but decent and  
caring, he would  
do the right thing  
and be there to  
lend a hand**



## BRIAN JOHN BOSTWICK 1948 – 2021

Brian's father was a soldier so the family were quite itinerant which lead to an adventurous upbringing for Brian and his siblings. He always talked about his introduction to shooting, as a six year old, under the auspices of the British Army. With his dad he took his first ever shot from a Lee Enfield No 4 at Bisley (while posted at Pirbright). He never looked back and was always determined to carry on shooting in whatever form presented itself.

After leaving school Brian did his apprenticeship at the Co-op dairy in Barnsley before moving to Samuel Fox (British Steel) at Stocksbridge, near Sheffield, as a fitter then shift foreman at Tinsley Park. He was made redundant in 1986 then moved to S.G.S. Inspectorate working

for the H.S.E. (cranes, lifts or hoisting equipment) until he retired in 2013.

Married in 1967, he became a dedicated husband, dad and granddad. No matter how much he loved his trips to Bisley he was always in a rush to get home again. Other great time-consuming interests in his life were his workshop and Landrovers of all shapes and sizes – restoring them from piles of junk into good-as-new machines. In fact he was happy to have a go at repairing just about anything as an anti-dote to a stressful day at work.

He obtained his first shotgun certificate in 1963 and, eventually, would shoot anything from small bore target rifle, handguns, shotguns and historic arms including anything black powder. He loved the mucky stuff! Whatever he was shooting, though, competition was



always on his mind and Bisley in particular.

Local accommodation, tents, frame tents, tourers and, finally, a permanent caravan on site. He tried them all.

He was a life long member of the NRA, was also in MLAGB, HBSA and previously the NPA.

He attended just about every May 'NPA/Phoenix' and October 'Trafalgar' competition, from 1990 onwards, and also many

Historic Arms weekends at the Imperial in July. There were also additional weekends, some with the Bisley Shooting Club and others whenever they could be fitted in. His home shooting was mainly in the Yorkshire area from about 1963 onwards, belonging to many local clubs over the years.

His extensive knowledge and experience was always used, as much as he could, to help shooter or club over many years. He has put himself forward to help, in one way or another, with every club that he became a member of. Whether it be committee work, building ranges or promoting and running competitions he did his best and was always ready for a chat.

Latterly he could always be seen wearing his highly decorated Tilly hat and greeting people with the multi purpose "ayup me owd". Probably had trouble remembering names as he knew so many people!

The last shoot at Bisley was the Phoenix in May 2021 and, while the shooting part was a struggle, he enjoyed every minute of it. He remained a shooter to the very end and talked about Bisley again just before he passed away. He will be sadly missed by all that knew and respected him.

## DAVID GIBSON Nov 1941 – Dec 2021

David was an avid member of the NRA for many decades – shooting was his passion. He visited Bisley every two weeks during Summer months, shooting on various ranges, mainly the Short Siberia Range and also 600yd and 1000yd ranges with his M14 semi automatic rifle as well as his Martini Henry black powder rifle and many other guns that he had collected over the years (the picture is on a 200yd range with his M14, taken 25th June 1988).

He cast his own ammunition which was a real hobby for him. Sadly he developed cancer, Parkinsons and dementia and was in a care home for a year before his death on 29th December. He will be sadly missed by family and friends.





Above: 'Killywags' and Fitz.

## JOHN KILLIAN 1940 – 2022

John Killian passed away, aged 81, on 16 January 2022 in hospital after a short illness. He was a well-known character on Bisley Camp until 2019 when he left Clocktower Lodge which he and his family had occupied. Many will recall spending time on their veranda enjoying their generous hospitality, invariably interspersed with much laughter. John's friends came from all over the world, particularly during the annual Imperial Meeting when overseas teams and individuals came from far and wide. John himself had visited many of these countries as a member of GB and other visiting teams throughout his shooting career. He had a particularly close bond with the Australians, chief amongst them being Fitz (aka John Fitzgerald, a recent Chairman of the Australian NRA). His bond with Australia was such that the flagpole at Clocktower Lodge invariably flew the Australian flag. The inclusion of Pink Gin in his email address recalls the days when he and some friends, namely Walter Magnay, Robin Fulton and Larry Orpen-Smellie, enjoyed a pink gin after their shooting.

John's shooting career was full of many great

achievements. His proudest was probably as a founder member of the Bisley V Club, having shot in some 30 of the big five matches (Palma, Australia, Kolapore, Mackinnon and National) for GB and England. A crowning glory was captaining the winning

**“ This was one of several lifelong friendships that John made during his shooting career.**

GB team in the Kolapore in 1997. Individual achievements included 12 appearances in HM The Queen's final, including winning the Silver Medal (the 2nd stage) in 1974, and 7 Grand Agg crosses, including the Silver Cross in 1976. He also won a full set (Gold, Silver and Bronze) of St. George's crosses, the Gold when he won the St George's in 1972. An excellent team shot, he was the first person from any of the 4 home nations to record two scores of 105 in the National match. He achieved this, when recording even one such score was very rare. When he achieved his second, there had been only a dozen individual HPS in the history of the match upto that point, despite there being 80 shooters per match each year.

John went on nine GB overseas tours of which four were to Australia. During his first in 1974, he won the NSW Queen's. The leader before the final 900 yards shoot was squadded early and shot a 47. John immediately knew he needed a 49 to win. He had an hour to wait before his shoot and showed his command of the situation by nonchalantly taking a nap behind the firing point. To quote the 1974 Summer NRA Journal "... after 40 winks behind the firing point, the 'Roly Poly Butcher' put in ten bulls to win...". He also took part in several NRA and other team tours overseas, some as leader.

Touring with John always produced great memories. On his first GB tour, he earned the nickname 'son of Walt' after Walter Magnay, the

team's Captain, through his propensity to dress in a very similar fashion. This was one of several lifelong friendships that John made during his shooting career. In 1987 in Alberta, Canada, he called forth the youngsters on the team for a demonstration of shooting at 1,000 yds, as many were struggling with the difficult conditions in the early part of the tour. Memorably, he then failed to hit the target at all with his first several shots, much to the amusement of the rest of the team. But John's self-deprecation about his 'master class' did much to cement the esprit de corps within the touring party, that went on to a memorable victory in the last Empire Match (before it was renamed

the Australia match) against a very strong Australian team. Fittingly, his last tour for GB was to Australia in 1988, that country's Bicentennial year.

John was District Superintendent for Warwickshire for many years, and as county captain he built a strong team that won various inter-counties trophies in the 80's. He was a stalwart member of the Midlands Counties Rifle Club, that regularly shot at Kingsbury, and a driving force behind the Birmingham Bisley.

Up until a few years ago John could be found wandering up and down the Stickledown firing point as Assistant CRO, particularly during the Imperial Meeting. He also officiated at many other big events including Match Rifle and F Class competitions, also occasionally overseas. Most notable perhaps was the Manchester Commonwealth Games of 2002 – he wore his Official Commonwealth Games blazer with great pride.

Born in Warwickshire, he progressed through being an altar boy at his local church, to head boy at his Grammar School. After training as a butcher at the local technical college, he ran his own family butcher shop for 35 years. His butchery led to him frequently donating meat prizes for Club and other competitions.

John will be remembered for the many great memories that he gave the shooting community around the world and on being such a great influence with many a shooting career and a very dear and generous friend to many.

John leaves behind his wife of 52 years, Di, his son Gibson and grandchildren Luke and Beth, to whom we offer our deepest condolences.

Our thanks go to all who contributed to this obituary. ☺



# 2022 JOE WEST RIFLE STOCKS CHALLENGE

F Class Rep **Jon Longhurst** reports back from the first competition shoot of the 2022 season.

**T**his was the first competition shoot for a lot of the F Class members for 2022 and it was fair to say a lot of those present were keen to get going.

FTR were first on the line Saturday morning at 600 yards and conditions were a little twitchy. Regardless, Mick Sillis put in a solid 74.11 on the first stage and second stage it was James McCosh and Matt Jarram both on 72.6.

F Open faced the same conditions and it was Dave Lloyd and Tom Reynolds both on 73.7 who came top. The second stage Ian Bellis was victorious with a 75.7. Moving on to the third stage Saturday afternoon at 1000 yds it proved to be very interesting with a left to right quartering tail wind with a lot of drop off and pickups. The master of this in F Open was Gary Costello with a 95.8 and the hi gun in FTR was Pete Dommert with 83.2. Final competition results for Saturday are posted to the right.

Moving on to stages 4 and 5 Sunday morning we saw the same conditions as Saturday but with the flags being a bit wet there was a lot more going on than people thought. It was John Longhurst who came top in stage 4 with a 70.4 and stage 5 Arnaud Martin with a 69.5 both in FTR.

F Open stage 4 went to Alan Baldry on 72.8 and stage 5 went to Martin Townsend on 70.4. Final competition results are posted to the right:

There are not many competitions in the UK that receive sponsorship for shooting sports. We are very grateful for the very generous prize of a Joe West rifle stock which was won by Paul Harkins after the first name pulled from the official bucket was Alan Baldry. Having previously

won the raffle, Alan kindly relinquished his winning ticket and the raffle was redrawn.

Finally, a big thank you to RO Steve Rubley for doing such a great job running the range for us again and also to our marking team. 🎯

## SATURDAY AGGREGATE SCORES

Name	Score
FTR	
1 Matt Jarrem	225.17
2 David Lloyd	223.10
3 Pete Dommert	221.11
F Open	
1 Tom Reynolds	238.21
2 Dave Lloyd	237.17
3 Gary Costello	236.18

## FINAL COMPETITION SCORES

Name	Score
FTR	
1 Arnaud Martin	353.19
2 Matt Jarrem	350.18
3 Pete Dommert	349.16
F Open	
1 Tom Reynolds	371.28
2 Dave Lloyd	369.20
3 Craig Titmus	367.22





## MCQUEEN TARGETS

## LIVE FIREARMS TRAINING TARGETRY

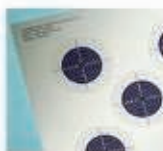


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# NOTICES

National Rifle Association notifications and news.

## PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2022

### ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES AND PROPOSERS

Only persons who are Registered Members of the Association and who have fully paid up their subscriptions for 31st March are eligible to be Candidates for election to the General Council and to be Proposers for such Candidates.

### REGIONAL AND SHOOTING DISCIPLINE CANDIDATURE AND VOTING

Those voting for Regional Candidates must live in the appropriate Sports Council Region even though their nominated Candidates for election may live elsewhere.

Those voting for Shooting Discipline Candidates must have previously declared that Shooting Discipline to the NRA as their primary Shooting Discipline.

### ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING WILL BE DETERMINED AS AT 30 APRIL 2022

#### Curriculum Vitae

In order to assist the Registered Members with their choice of representatives in the election, a CV for each Candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 300 words should accompany the nomination. A passport sized

photograph of the Candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro-forma.

The Chief Executive will refer back to authors where CVs are too long.

### THE PROGRAMME OF KEY DATE FOR ELECTIONS

#### 31 March 2022

All Candidates and Proposers must be fully paid-up Registered Members of the Association by this date.

#### 30 April 2022

- Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Chief Executive by 17:00 on this date.
- Registered Members must be qualified for voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline Candidate by this date.
- All Members desiring to vote must be fully paid-up Registered Members by this date.

#### 31 May 2022

All entitled Members will be balloted by this date, either by electronic or postal means with the procedures for voting.

#### 18 July 2022

Postal votes must be received no later than 6.00pm on Monday 18th July

2022 by placing the voting slips in the correct envelope supplied.

Electronic votes must be made by 6.00pm on Monday 18th July 2022.

### SCRUTINEERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 23 April 2022.

### RESULTS

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

### ROUTINE VACANCIES

There will be the following vacancies in 2022, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

#### Five Ordinary Members

D Lowe  
M Maksimovic \*  
RM Roberts  
Mrs KD Robertson  
IR Thomson

#### Three Regional Members

G Trembath – Northern  
Dr JD Warburton (GM GC SB3) – Yorkshire and Humberside  
J Lawrie – Eastern

#### Three Shooting Discipline Members

CES Dickenson – Target Rifle  
J Longhurst – F Class  
Dr AP Wolpe – Muzzle Loading

*\* Not standing for re-election*

## CAPTAIN - NOMINATIONS INVITED

Nominations are invited for the Captain of the following team:

#### GB Kolapore Team 2023

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Wednesday 18th May 2022. Nominations forms and CV pro-forma available on the NRA website, or from Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk.

## 2022 MEETINGS

### Annual General Meeting

The NRA's 2022 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 10th June 2022 at 6pm, followed directly by the NSC's Annual General Meeting, in the NRA Pavilion.

### Bisley General Meeting

The 2022 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 9pm in the NRA Pavilion.

# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION COMPETITION CALENDAR

Upcoming dates for the year. Including location and who to contact.

## APRIL

- 22-24 **ATSC Open Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: rachel-westlake@hotmail.co.uk
- 23 **Ibis Open**, Bisley  
Contact: rf.foh@btinternet.com
- 24 **3 Counties Cobweb Buster**, Bisley  
Contact: ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com
- 24 **Purples Match**, Bisley  
Contact: Shooting@lmra.co.uk
- 30/4-1/5 **Army Open**, Bisley  
Contact: rachel-westlake@hotmail.co.uk

## MAY

- 1 **Mattersey Open**, Mattersey  
Contact: mattersey.comps@gmail.com
- 7-8 **English VIII Spring Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: contact@englisheight.org.uk
- 7-8 **F Class League**, Diggle  
Contact: gbfcass.com/calendar/
- 8-9 **Basildon Open**, Basildon  
Contact: koikeeper44@talktalk.net
- 14 **FDPC Rimfire Festival**, Shepton Mallet  
Contact: FDPC.co.uk
- 14-15 **RAFTRC vs Home Nations**, Bisley  
Contact: matchsec@rafterc.org
- 15 **BCRA SR & LR Open Prize Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: jonlesley.taylor@btopenworld.com
- 21 **Bisley Clubs 2**, Bisley [www.surreyra.co.uk/contact-us](http://www.surreyra.co.uk/contact-us)
- 21-22 **English XX Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: secretary@englishtwenty.org.uk
- 22 **Scottish Inter Regions**, Blair Atholl  
Contact: office@scottishtargetshooting.co.uk
- 26-29 **Phoenix Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
- 28 **KGV - Northern Heat**, Brockholes Range  
Contact: yorkshire-ra.org.uk/open-meetings
- 28 **KGV - Southern Heat**, Bisley  
Contact: secretary@englishtwenty.org.uk
- 28 **RAFTRC Total Challenge**, Bisley  
Contact: matchsec@rafterc.org
- 28-29 **110th Irish Open**, Ballykinler  
Contact: ura-ni.com/contact-us/
- 28/30 **Jersey RA Spring Meeting, NRA Match**, Jersey  
Contact: Colin.c.mallett@gmail.com.

## JUNE

- 4-5 **Birmingham Bisley**, Kingsbury  
Contact: f.foh@btinternet.com
- 5 **Kent Ope**, Bisley  
Contact: peter.griggs@blueyonder.co.uk
- 10-12 **Aberdeen Wapinschaw (GR&P & MLP)**, Cairngall Range  
Contact: info@afbgc.co.uk
- 11-12 **F Class League**, Diggle  
Contact: gbfcass.com/calendar/
- 11-12 **Intercounties**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
- 17-19 **Scottish Open**, Blair Atholl  
Contact: office@scottishtargetshooting.co.uk
- 17-28 **DefOSC**, Bisley/ Pirbright
- 18-19 **Handgun League**, Headley Park  
Contact: secretary@headleyparkrpc.co.uk
- 23 **Military Adaptive Championships**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 24-26 **Derby Open**, Derby RPC  
Contact: drpcenquiries@gmail.com
- 25 **Hampshire Open**, Bisley  
Contact: [www.hampshirera.org.uk/content/hampshire-open-1](http://www.hampshirera.org.uk/content/hampshire-open-1)
- 25 **Yorkshire Spring Open**, Brockholes Range  
Contact: jpmstevens@hotmail.com
- 25-26 **F Class League**, Bisley  
Contact: gbfcass.com/calendar/
- 25-26 **Scottish Long Range Weekend**, Blair Atholl  
Contact: office@scottishtargetshooting.co.uk
- 29-Mar **CSR Imperial**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk

## JULY

- 1-3 **Irish Open**, Bracken Shooting Club  
Contact: competitions@nasrpc.ie
- 2-3 **BCRC**, Bisley  
Contact: bcrmemsec@gmail.com
- 6-10 **F Class Imperial Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 8-10 **ISCRM**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions.officer@ccrs.org.uk
- 8-10 **Scottish Open**, Galashiels  
Contact: [www.jointservicespistolclub.com/](http://www.jointservicespistolclub.com/)
- 8-13 **Match Rifle Imperial Meeting**, Bisley



- Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 9-10 **Imperial Historic Arms Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
- 9-19 **Sporting Rifle Imperial Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: https://bsrc.co.uk/contact/
- 10-17 **McQueen Imperial Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
- 11-14 **Schools Imperial Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 13-17 **Gallery Rifle & Pistol Imperial Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 15-23 **Target Rifle Imperial Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 18-19 **NRA 300m Championships**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 29-31 **Welsh Gallery Rifle Open**, Haverfordwest  
Contact: adjutantwgrc@gmail.com

**AUGUST**

- 6 **Catastrophy Match**, Bisley  
Contact: lmra.co.uk/
- 6-7 **F Class League**, Blair Atholl  
Contact: gbfcass.com/calendar/
- 19-21 **Cottesloe Heath Challenge**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 24-28 **Jersey RA Summer Prize Meeting**, Jersey  
Contact: Colin.c.mallett@gmail.com.

**SEPTEMBER**

- 3 **Roses Match**, Brockholes Range  
Contact: jpmstevens@hotmail.com
- 03-Apr **Gallery Rifle National Open Championships**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 03-Apr **NLRC Open**, Bisley  
Contact: secretary@nlrc.org
- 05-Nov **F Class European Championship**, Bisley  
Contact: gbfcass.com/calendar/
- 13-15 **PSUK Open and Championships**, Bisley  
Contact: www.psuks shooting.org/
- 16-17 **Aberdeen Wapinschaw (Fullbore & MLR)**, Cairngall Range  
Contact: info@afbhc.co.uk
- 16-18 **JSPC Autumn Open Championships**, Galashiels  
Contact: www.jointservicespistolclub.com/
- 17 **Yorkshire Autumn Open**, Brockholes Range  
Contact: jpmstevens@hotmail.com
- 17-Nov **City Open**, Bisley  
Contact: cityrifclub.com/contact/
- 17-18 **Handgun League**, Shepton Mallet  
Contact: FDPC.co.uk
- 17-18 **Surrey Open**, Bisley  
Contact: contact@surreyrifleandpistol.club
- 24-25 **LMRA Open**, Bisley  
Contact: lmra.co.uk/
- 24-25 **SLG Bisley Open**, Bisley  
Contact: secretary@slgbisley.co.uk
- 25 **Moth-Baller**, Bisley  
Contact: ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com

**OCTOBER**

- 1 **Historic Service Rifle Match**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
- 1-2 **Budleigh Farm Rimfire Festival**, Budleigh Farm  
Contact: teignbridgefullbore.co.uk
- 1-2 **Target Shotgun Festival**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 2 **CSR League**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
- 8-9 **European Long Range Championship**, Bisley  
Contact: competitions@nra.org.uk
- 8-9 **F Class League**, Blair Atholl  
Contact: gbfcass.com/calendar/
- 15-16 **Trafalgar Meeting**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
- 22-23 **Autumn Action Weekend**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk

**NOVEMBER**

- 5 **CSR League**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
- 5-6 **F Class League**, Bisley  
Contact: gbfcass.com/calendar/
- 5-6 **CRC Winter Action**, Chelmsford RC  
Contact: action@chelmsford1944rifclub.org.uk

**DECEMBER**

- 4 **CSR League**, Bisley  
Contact: mark.haigh@nra.org.uk



# RESULTS

Results and scores from NRA Competitions.

## CSR WINTER LEAGUE STANDINGS

As of 23 February

Historic Enfield

1	Winning, K	918.26
2	Bulmer, S	841.28
3	Davies, H	778.39
4	Hayes, T	777.62
5	Standage, M	660.88

Any Iron

1	Cattell, A	961.99
2	Daysh, W	938.21

3	England, R	811.43
4	Stone, M	649.39
5	Li, R	324.67

Practical Optic

1	St Aubyn, N	962.34
2	Allsop, P	951.94
3	Ellis, B	945.52
4	Spink, P	918.55
5	Camp, M	904.35

Service Optic

1	Wade, R	981.03
2	Cottrell, P	972.59

3	Greenaway, N	960.36
4	Chapman, A	954.08
5	Vale, C	922.62

U25 Practical Optic

1	Barnes, W	270.52
2	Haywood, M	167.55
3	Haywood, F	124.93

U25 Practical Optic

1	Hunter, M	666.95
2	Gadd-Chapman, E	360.02

## HISTORIC SERVICE RIFLE

5 February

Classic

1	Dunn, O	198
2	Ellett, S	157
3	Ellis, W	148
4	Collins, R	147
5	Bulmer, S	144

Veteran

1	Hunter, P	229
2	Chapman, A	226
3	Cottrell, P	203
4	Holloway, R	186
5	Winning, K	185

Veteran Optic

1	Wade, R	191
2	Daysh, W	187
3	Bentley, P	177
4	Holt, D	146





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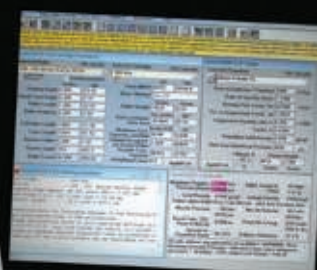
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✉ [sinfo@centaurtargetsports.co.uk](mailto:sinfo@centaurtargetsports.co.uk)

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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.

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## MESSAGE



**Full name:**  
Paul Hunter  
**Age:** 50

**How did you get into shooting?**

I first started shooting age 15 in CCF, I also got my FAC then shooting my beloved 9mm Browning Highpower (now unfortunately deactivated) with the All-comers Service Pistol Team.

**What is the most memorable moment in your career?**

Winning the RAF Queens Medal, captaining the GB Service Rifle Team twice and winning the GR Grand Aggregate.

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

Time – finding a work/shooting and a family/shooting balance.

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

Support and encouragement.

**What Clubs are you a member of?**

Silverstone Shooting Range, High-Power Rifle Assoc and Lee Enfield Rifle Assoc.

**Who is your biggest inspiration?**

Bob Burbage and the All-comers pistol team, who helped develop my shooting potential.

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

South Africa, I captained an RAF SR Team to Cape Town.

**How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?**

To push for our discipline within our sport and to stand united. I joined the NRA at a time when if it wasn't TR it wasn't generally accepted. In CivSR, we have gone from 30 shooters at a competition to over 150.

**What do you do in your free time?**

Eventing with my Irish Sports Horse.

**Do you have any pre-competition routines?**

Checking the course of fire, rifle and ammunition, all simple stuff.

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

Just do it, pick the discipline you want and go for it.

**So, what Next?**

The next competition of course!



**Full name:**  
Jennie Hunter  
**Age:** over 50 but  
looking fabulous!

**How did you get into shooting?**

I got into shooting when I married Paul. Before that I had done a little clay shooting at summer camps.

**What is the most memorable moment in your career?**

Winning the 1,000 yard and sniper shoot with my dearly departed friend Mark Bradley's gun. Before the competition he had inadvertently knocked over my rifle knocking the scope. The hubby was in the Falklands so Mark let me use his gun for the shoot and I won, so to say he was annoyed but proud was an understatement. I am also proud of captaining the HRA Team A Methuen team to victory in 2004 when I was five months pregnant. Though there was a lot of micky taking saying we had an 'extra' man on our team...

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

The biggest hurdle is being mother and wife competing. I am very lucky that when I started out I had not only the RAF

shooting team giving me coaching tips but all the HRA gang, since as you know a family member can never coach another member. When I became a mum spending all day in the cold, wind and rain is not good with a young child and someone has to do the weekend birthday parties etc so the shooting went on an extended holiday. In the summers and when Matt was older, everyone helped babysit on the back of Century range. Additionally, the huge puddles on Century, before the drainage was sorted, proved to be endless hours of fun for Matt with toy boats. Only now that he is old enough to start competing with Paul and I, have I relaxed a little and feel like I can get back into shooting again.

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

My family is a major source of headaches and logistics on shooting days, but that said, the fierce competitive streak we all have with each other helps push us to do better for the bragging rights. Shooting friends have always been supportive in coaching, babysitting and all around a great social giggle. I have been lucky to know many of these chaps for over 20 years, and many are friends on and off the range. I can fondly remember Matt Greenall and I sitting with Matt in his baby carrier in the electronic console running the targets, which just shows if there is a will there is a way to get in your range fix.

**What sort of music do you listen to?**

Pretty diverse especially being forced to listen to some of the latest teenage choices. I at least know the difference now between grime and rap, even though it all sounds like rappy crappy stuff to me!

**What Club are you a member of?**

HRA, Silverstone Shooting range.

**Who's your biggest inspiration?**

Honestly there have been no other women in shooting to inspire to, not that it is required. Shooting depending on the discipline is really quite the equalising sport. In my many years of involvement I have experienced nothing but unbiased support. It is lovely to see more women shooters on the range now than when I started 20 years ago, and I support and cheer them on with the all the gents.



**Which is your favourite country?**

I have been very fortunate enough to visit many countries either through my childhood growing up, work or holidays. South Africa, the Nordics and Vienna tend to be in the top-five.

**How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?**

One of my first memories of Bisley is the rundown competition when the few civilian teams could compete next to the military teams. Watching almost 200 people and then the range staff all doing the 400 to 100 run down many years ago was inspiring and made me reflect what it really must have been like during the wars of running and rushing the enemy. It is also nice to see over the more recent years monetary investment in the facilities such as the electronic scoring, better drainage, and clean and heated Ladies toilets near short Siberia!

**What do you do in your free time?**

Gardening, DIY, sorting out various critters we have adopted and sailing.

**Do you have any pre-competition routines?**

On the range no. I am mostly spending that morning doing the mum/wife comp preparation. Lunches made and put into the car, spare clothes, scooby snacks and drinks etc. I never know what the shoot is until ten mins before when the hubby briefs me... Less pressure that way.

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

Have a go. Even though it is a competition everyone helps everyone. It makes it more fun and you learn from others. If you are going to be a mum and compete make sure you sort out the logistics and your partner helps with the child entertainment, so you can try and relax and have a good time. Carrying around a toddler left my rifle feeling very light.

**So, what Next?**

Start getting back into the shooting although if the grey wet weather could be sorted I would be most grateful, and more competitions on Sundays instead of Saturdays. Saturday is tricky for mum's to juggle chores, school commitments etc.

**Full name:****Matt Hunter****Age:** 17**How did you get into shooting?**

I first started shooting age 12 in a local indoor club which taught me most of the basic shooting safety and skills I needed to know. Years before I would come to Bisley as a child and help pick up old cases and brass from shoots my family had done.

**What is the most memorable moment in your career?**

My most memorable moment would be my transition from watching CSR events to taking part in them in my first ever match.

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

Learning the course of fire when I started my first CSR match and finding ways to become focused in the matches.

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

My family are my competition, but also my teachers, competition days are fun!

**What sort of music do you listen to?**

Mixed, I change taste all the time.

**What Club are you a member of?**

Silverstone shooting range and High-Power Rifle Association.

**Who is your biggest inspiration?**

My dad has helped me compete and helped taught me about shooting from the start. My late godfather Mark Bradley also left me the rifle and scope I use when he passed away. Mark was so passionate about our sport, I really miss him.

**How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?**

Keep pushing even after a bad match result and telling me to keep going forward.

**What do you do in your free time?**

Cross country with friends or just relaxing taking time off.

**Do you have any pre-competition routines?**

Checking equipment mostly.

**What advice would you give to somebody who wanted to take up shooting?** Find a discipline you like or enjoy, and stick with it.

**So, what Next?**

Focus more in my competitions. ☺







# NRA E-League

*Gallery Rifle: Spring 2022*

**Classes:** GRSB, GRCF, GRCF Classic

## **Competition 1:** *Based on 25m Precision*

**Distance & Position:** 25m Standing

**Targetry:** GRCF: PL7, GRSB: PL14

**Ammunition:** 20 rounds (plus sighters)

**Sighters:** Unlimited shots in 5 minutes

**Procedure:**

Practice 1: 10 shots in 6 minutes

Practice 2: 10 shots in 3 minutes

## **Competition 2:** *Based on Multi-Target*

**Distance & Position:** 20m Standing

**Targetry:** GRCF: DP2, GRSB: DP2 ½

**Ammunition:** 20 rounds

**Procedure:**

Practice 1: 5 shots on the left hand target in 15 seconds

Practice 2: 5 shots on the right hand target in 15 seconds

Practice 3: 5 shots on each target in 25 seconds

## **Competition 3:** *Based on Timed & Precision 1*

**Distance & Position:** 15m Standing

**Targetry:** GRCF: DP2, GRSB: DP2 ½

**Ammunition:** 20 rounds

**Procedure:**

Practice 1: 10 shots, in two strings of 5. The target will appear for 3 seconds, one shot per appearance, intervals of 5 seconds. Time allowed between the two strings for re-loading

Practice 2: 10 shots, in two strings of 5. The target will appear for 2 seconds, one shot per appearance, intervals of 5 seconds. Time allowed between the two strings for re-loading

**Ties:** Competition standings by the greatest number of Xs, then by the greatest number of Xs in practice order from last to first. Overall Round standings will be counted back in Competition order: 1, 2, 3

To Enter and for more details please visit:  
[online.nra.org.uk/e-league-grp-spring22](https://online.nra.org.uk/e-league-grp-spring22)







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