

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Summer 2022 | Volume D No.2

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Hand Loading **SURVEY SUMMARY**

**PHOENIX MEETING
REPORT** *P6*

**F-CLASS REPORTS
AND SCORES** *P24*

**IBIS OPEN
COMPETITION** *P45*

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

SUMMER 2022 | VOLUME D NO.2



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

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Summer IS UPON US

NRA Secretary General,
Andrew Mercer, discusses the
proposed lead ban and recent events.



Just when I thought a semblance of normality was returning to our corner of the world, up pops the HSE report proposing the banning of the sale and use of lead shot. The report also recommends a derogation permitting the continued use of lead ammunition on outdoor rifle ranges where a minimum of 90% of lead is recovered, under a new licensing scheme.

A careful read of the report will yield a number of inconsistencies, illogical arguments and unconvincing data. However viewed dispassionately from the perspective of our political masters the case for arguing “lead is good” is not straightforward.

Game shooting organisations have publicly promoted the “lead is bad” case in their efforts to retain a market for game meat through a voluntary move to non-lead ammunition. We understand the case for prohibiting lead in human food; however extending the prohibition to cover lead ammunition used in target shooting where lead is controlled and contained is unnecessary.

Some might make the reasonable argument that those wishing to shoot wild quarry for human consumption should be obliged to use steel or other non-lead ammunition. However, by claiming that live quarry shooters account for the majority of lead shot, game shooting associations have emboldened those wishing to prohibit the sale and use of lead shot on environmental grounds, even on shotgun ranges where lead is controlled and contained. I fully accept that some shotgun ranges cannot or do not recover lead shot, but feel mightily disappointed that the HSE report proposes those shotgun ranges who effectively manage lead shot will be prohibited from doing so.

We have been consulting with regional rifle range operators to assess the practicalities of recovering 90% of lead fired on outdoor ranges. The design of traditional

ranges means that bullets are captured and contained by the stop butt. This is fundamental to range safety, and the regular screening of the stop butt prevents balling of projectiles creating a ricochet hazard. Routine stop butt management ensures lead is efficiently captured, and can be recycled to yield a valuable by-product to offset part of the cost of maintenance. Documentation to prove 90% or more recovery of fired lead should be unnecessary.

We are in close consultation with our colleagues from the target shooting world, including the NSRA, CPSA, HBSA and BSSC. Whilst we have our own particular and peculiar perspectives and priorities, it is essential we work together to navigate our way through the consultation process. The NRA will publish guidance on our website for target shooters to respond to the consultation.

We were pleased to host a visit of staff from the Home Office Firearms Policy unit to Bisley in May. A morning session demonstrating a wide variety of firearms was followed by an afternoon on the ranges shooting black powder pistol, .22RF semi-automatic, .357 underlever, and shotgun. I am certain the Home Office team learnt a great deal from the day, and it was a good opportunity for them to see live firing of section 1 shotguns, long barrelled pistols and revolvers, straight pull rifles, moderated and un-moderated rifles, and pump action shotguns. We enjoyed terrific support on the day from our colleagues at the CPSA, MLAGB, NSRA and BSSC.

Lastly we are now in the thick of the Bisley competition season; a successful Phoenix will be followed by six weeks of competitions that encompass the Imperial meeting. We are looking forward to welcoming target shooters from near and afar to Bisley over the coming weeks. 🍀

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– THE IGRF AND ITSF – INTERNATIONAL RECEPTION

A report from the IGRD and ITSF International Reception, held over the Phoenix weekend.

TIt's not very often that you see a large number of shooters 'suited and booted', but the International reception over the Phoenix weekend proved to be an exception.

120 shooters and guests enjoyed an evening of fine dining and conversation in the NRA Pavilion – which had been superbly decked out for the occasion by Becky Sweet and the NRA team.

Attendee's included the visiting teams from Germany, South Africa and Ireland, plus partners and the international Range crews for the IGRF and ITSF events. We were also honoured to have as a special guest, David Lacey – the NRA Chairman – who opened the proceedings with a few words of encouragement, wisdom and reflection.

Right: The international team photo's on the NRA lawn; it's at this point you realise that some of the younger (and not so young) shooters were not too au fait with the art of tying a neck tie. Apparently, there are photos to prove the point, should any of them deny it! However, everyone certainly looked their best and it reflected the overall professional organisation and presentation for the whole evening.

Following the last two years of pandemic uncertainty it was such a



pleasure to welcome the international competitors back to what was the individual World Championship events, as well as the IGRF and ITSF international team competitions. Old acquaintances were made and new friendships forged – exactly the spirit of the international competitions in general that exist between us all.

So, as they say.... ‘a good time was had by all’, and it was a relatively early departure for some, knowing they faced stiff competition the next day. That said, it was heartening to see that we still had to kick some out of the bar at the end of the evening – I couldn’t possibly say who or what team, but I did suggest there was free Guinness to be had elsewhere on the camp.

Thanks to all that made the evening possible – the GBGR committee, GB ITSF and all the NRA staff involved. A lot of hard work and fund raising that certainly paid off.

As a footnote, I’m glad to say the following day’s international competitions went off with out a hitch and I’m pleased to report that under the Captaincy of Gary Bowden, the GB Gallery Rifle teams took gold in both the small-bore and centre-fire events – well done to all! 🏆



Above: Awards on display.



Left: Reception underway.



SPORTING RIFLE

– AT THE PHOENIX MEETING –

Sporting Rifle Discipline Representative, **Steve Wallis**, reports back from the event.



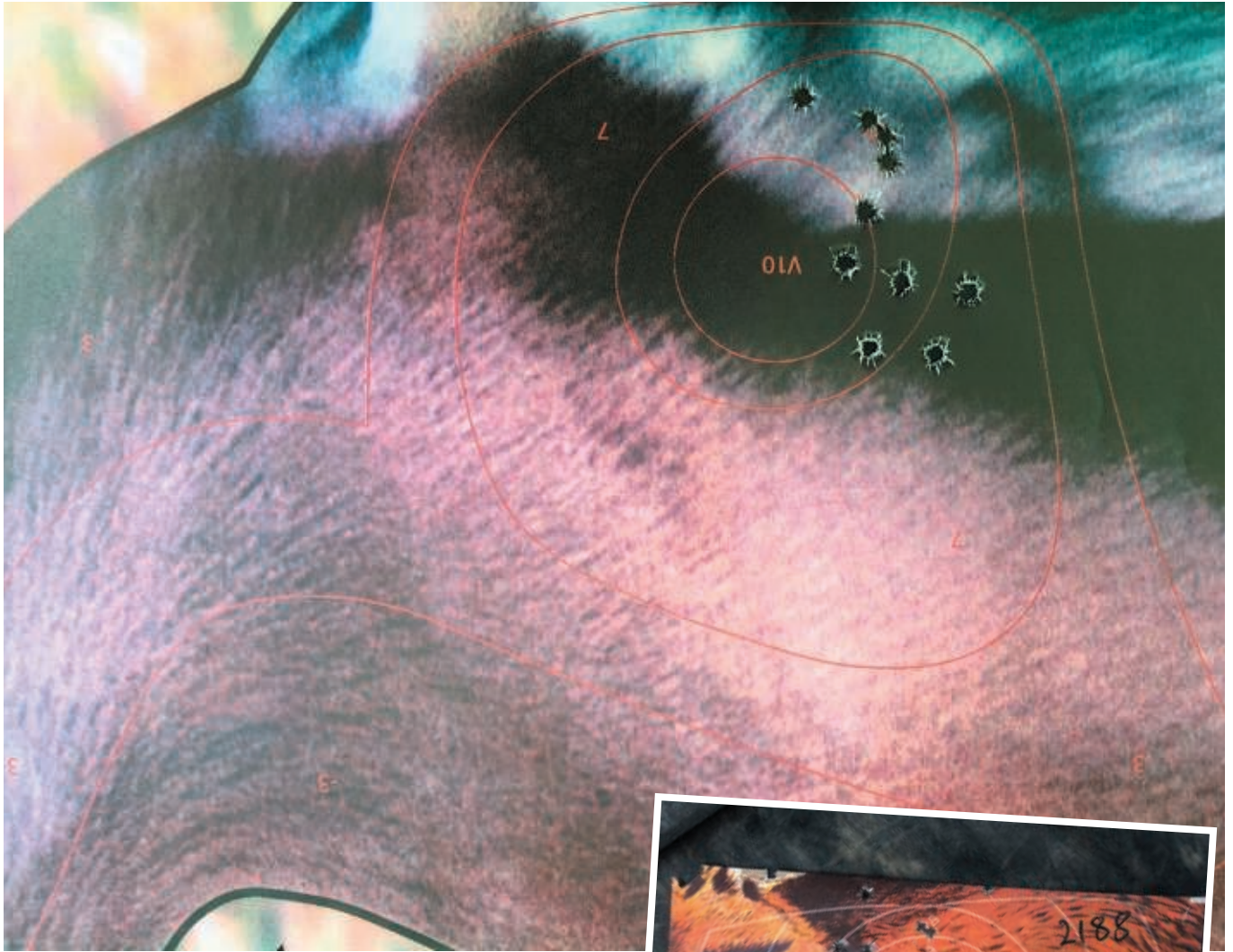
This year saw the welcome return of competition number 5685, the Sporting Rifle Statics, to the Phoenix Meeting after an absence due to Covid-19 last year and the year before. We were lucky to have a dry and clear day but the curse of 'magpie alley' was there to catch out the unwary – at one point the flags were showing a clear right to left wind but a quick look through the 'scope showed the mirage was running left to right.

For those unfamiliar with the event it is shot at 100, 200 and 300 yards and mixes up prone, sitting and standing shooting positions and has to be shot using a relatively lightweight rifle of a calibre that meets minimum bore diameter and muzzle energy. It is a fun competition that combines the skills used on the range with those used in the field and demonstrates just how effective a normal sporting rifle can be.

As in previous years we were pleased to welcome a small but competitive team of South African shooters, the Springbok target used at 300 yards is one they put forward when the competition was born some years back with the other two targets, a Roe Buck and a Fox, both being much familiar to us in the UK.

At 100 yards the scoring rings on the Roe Buck target are not visible – in fact they can only just be seen up close when scoring, and the shooter needs to place their shots as they would for real in the field. There are some reference points on the target but they're not always helpful as several are similar and it's all too easy to get it wrong! Nine shooters scored

“ As in previous years we were pleased to welcome a small but competitive team of South African shooters



“Nine shooters scored over 90 points on the Roe Buck with four scoring the maximum 100



Left: Sporting tactics. **Above:** Top springbok score. **Right Inset:** Fox target.

FINAL SCORES

Name	Score
Nigel Jackson	280
Jacob Booysen	270
Steve Lewis	265
Peter Watts	248
Cornelius Schalkwyk	247
Heinrich Strauss	236
Stofel Bester	206
Dries Van Lingen	199
Keith Cox	174
Campbell Muir	142
Graham Gough	138
Mike Seager	117

over 90 points on the Roe Buck with four scoring the maximum 100.

The Fox at 200 yards started to separate the field, the scoring area is elongated and runs diagonally making it really important to control movement when shooting from sticks as a miss is all too easy if you don't – at its widest the scoring area is 17cm across. Again there were some good scores with a cracking 94 from the eventual winner.

It's easy to find the aiming mark at 300 yards, the difficult bit is to read the wind! Up on the top of their poles the wind flags were showing anything from no wind to a light right to left wind, and of course to make sure you remember to dial in your elevation.

This is the combination of target and range that can make or break a good score in this competition, the top three scorers averaged in the high 80s but to show just how easy it is one of the South African missed setting a 'personal worst' score by only one point – I won't embarrass him by mentioning him by name but I'm sure his fellow team members won't be letting him forget it in a hurry.

It really was great to see sporting rifle shooters out and enjoying themselves again and I look forward to seeing more of you in a few weeks during the Imperial Meeting – check out the Sporting Rifle discipline report for more details, and to also seeing regulars and new faces next year at the Phoenix Meeting. 🎯

sako S20

S20 Hunter
SRP: £2,200

S20 Precision
SRP: £2,400

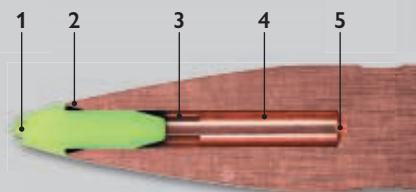
You've got it covered

The new Sako S20 is the first true, hybrid rifle. The modular design means you can adapt the rifle for different purposes; so whether you're stalking or precision shooting, the rifle can be configured to meet the exact requirements of these disciplines. In this way, we can truly claim, this is the only rifle you need.



Powerhead Blade - Sako's non-toxic, 100% pure ductile copper bullet has a built in **5-stage** design for terminal stopping power.

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– LRRFC VISIT TO THE – BIRMINGHAM GUN BARREL PROOF HOUSE

In February, members from the Long Range Rim Fire Club (LRRFC) took it upon themselves to organise an educational visit to the Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House. The purpose of the visit was in part to raise awareness of the Proof House and its role in the armaments industry and to expand our knowledge and understanding of the wider contributions made to the firearms industry by the gunsmiths and armourers.

Chris Hazelhurst reports.

The biggest difficulty for us was navigating the building and construction site for the HS2 which has left the Birmingham Proof House an island in a sea of mud with access to the Proof House changing many times - even on the morning where some of us had walked down only 30 minutes ►

“The Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House is one of only two Proof Houses for firearms in the UK, the other being in London.”

earlier, causing one of our members to be late, causing him to just about having to walk around half of Birmingham.

Walking down the road to the entrance of the Proof House, felt like walking back into history having come from the redevelopment of Birmingham City Centre.

Fortunately, even with the development of the HS2 Curzon Street hub, the Birmingham Proof House is deemed to stay even though initially HS2 had planned a public footpath right through the centre of the Proof House grounds. This was quickly amended when it was explained what the Proof House was and did!

During the visit we received an in-depth briefing on the history of the Proof House by Curator, Steve Green. He highlighted the contributions it made over 200 years of certification, assurance and research activity. Testing barrels and ammunition makes up the meat of their work and covers civilian, police and military firearms as well as handling the deactivation of firearms for legal sale.

Steve gave us a thorough presentation before walking us around the Museums, unfortunately due to concern regarding COVID and the difficulties this would present to the workforce, we were unable to visit areas where they actually test barrels and ammunition and let us talk

to the gunsmiths and other tradesmen.

During the visit he showed us rare and interesting examples of weapons and barrels that in test or use had failed, showing us the importance of proof as barrel failure can be fatal to the user or those surrounding the user.

The military owe a great deal to their civilian gun trade counterparts, both in the development of standardised proofing of firearms and also to the development of techniques. A lot of the primary methods of intricate inspections of the bores and gauging of barrels that are used military firearms were developed by the gunsmiths carrying out the same

meticulous examination on weapons across the decades allowing them to proof the barrel and certify its quality.

WHAT DOES THE PROOF HOUSE DO AND WHAT IS PROOF?

The Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House is one of only two Proof Houses for firearms in the UK, the other being in London. It was founded in 1813 by an Act of Parliament and funded by the Birmingham Gun Trade each donating £200 as the time a substantial rival to the revered London trade. In 1767 the “Sketchley Directory of Birmingham” listed over 70 businesses involved in the gun & pistol industry in the Birmingham area.

Originally supplied by canal as the train network and also motorways didn’t exist at the time and now is overshadowed by the HS2 Curzon Street Hub. The premises of the Proof House was to provide certification services for firearms of all types; to give

an assurance of quality across the trade that the firearms produced in Birmingham were of sound construction and able to withstand the explosive forces withing barrels.

Unfortunately, due to care with COVID prevention, as, if any of the staff tested positive this would cause the Proof House to close causing may delays and backlog, we weren’t able to go down to the range and laboratory. However, we were given plenty of time in the multiple Museum rooms which satisfied all those attending.

Proof testing in simple terms consists of a visual inspection of the action, the test barrel is then attached, the action checked for head space and then taken to a test room. This comprises of a room with a large rubber jawed vice in it, the action is clamped by the barrel, the proof round inserted and a lanyard attached to the trigger. The proof tester then heads outside of the room signals a test with a siren and then



Above: The boardroom in the Proof House.



Above Left: The proof table.

Above Right: The proof marks.

Below: LRRFC members.

fires the action remotely, the bullet being caught by a snail catcher. The proof round is built to around 125% maximum CIP pressure. The action is then inspected, a second round chambered which may be oiled to increase pressure and the test is run again, the barrel and action are un-clamped and the action visually inspected again and finally head spaced.

If it passes it is engraved or stamped with the Birmingham Proof House proof mark.

This gave the gunsmiths a literal stamp of quality to increase their credibility and open up new business with governments and provide civilian shooters with a mark of safety. To this day, all firearms produced within the UK, whether personal or military - foreign arms are usually tested in origin nations to international standards, must go through one of the two Proof Houses before they can be legally sold.

FUNCTIONS OF THE PROOF HOUSE

- Proof weapons & moderators
- Ammunition tests, home loads & CIP
- Independent assessor in respect of Magazine restrictions
- Ensure Home Office regulations for deactivation

- Expert advice on weapons damaged whilst in general use
- Historical research & lectures
- Kinetic airgun tests

WHY PROOF

CIP - Commission International Permanent 1969, due to the number of imported weapons that required proofing, the two British Proof Houses were unable to keep up proofing all imports, had 14 countries agreeing that proof would be to the British Standard and

allowed Britain to be able to import and sell firearms from overseas.

The USA was the one that didn't comply as they used SAAMI spec and believed they were better, unfortunately they weren't.

Even deactivated weapons should be sent there for professional deactivation and certification, with specialised

marks (Crossed swords for Birmingham) imprinted on the barrel and action.

This visit was really interesting and informative, highlighting a little know but vitally important area of the armaments industry that has a direct bearing of the sport.

Anyone visiting, by prior arrangement, can take a barrel and or action for proofing or a handload selection for validation.

It is quite easy and not too costly to visit the Museum and Proof House. Just contact Steve Green, Curator of the Proof House Museum by email at museum@gunproof.com ☎

TO FIND OUT MORE about the Long Range Rim Fire Club, just contact Chris, secretary@lrrfc.org.uk





TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A summary of the 2021 Trustee's Annual Report.

NRA members should be comforted that the Trustee's annual report to the Charity Commission indicates that the charity is in good shape and is looking forward positively to improving its operations in coming years.

NRA MEMBERS

The NRA and trading subsidiary NSC are recovering well from the Government's restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic which meant the range complex at Bisley was closed at the start of 2021; but with the lifting of restrictions last March, we were

able to re-open our ranges and happily saw many people return to target shooting.

The enthusiasm of people to return to shooting is a reflection of the underlying appeal of our sport and popularity of marksmanship promoted by the NRA as part of its charitable purposes. The NRA now has over 10,000 members, and is growing, which indicates there is increasing interest in marksmanship, both at Bisley and around the country. This is reflected by the levels of participation overall in competitions organised by the NRA which is also part of its charitable objectives.

Recent unpredicted tragic events in Ukraine only serve to illustrate that skill at arms and marksmanship is an important and ongoing national capability when it comes to defence of the realm that is a central pillar of the NRA's purpose.

FINANCES

The NRA's finances are robust with consolidated income for the charity and its NSC subsidiary in 2021 recovering to £7,466,580 (2020: £5,747,378). Expenditure increased by almost £500,000 to continue our plans to improve Bisley's facilities whilst still allowing a recovery from the COVID inspired deficit in 2020 to yield a consolidated surplus for 2021 of £845,594, including investment gains of £46,760.

The breakdown of income and expenditure in 2022, 2021 and 2019 are shown on the tables below.

Members will be pleased to note that we have paid down the overdraft borrowings incurred during lockdown. We will now establish reserves against future financial challenges, increase our staffing levels to reflect the demands on the charity and the NSC and increase maintenance and improvement works that were restricted during the pandemic.

During 2021, National Shooting Centre Limited ("NSC"), the NRA's wholly-owned subsidiary was very busy delivering both for charitable and non-charitable shooting activities. In particular, the Bisley Shooting Ground business acquired in 2020 has proven to be a great success, generating a trading profit of £197,769 after re-opening in late March and we expect it be even more successful as it continues its operations in 2022.

FACILITIES

There is more work to be done improving facilities at Bisley and completing long-running projects. Most capital expenditure was suspended in 2021. In 2022 we plan to upgrade ballistic walls on Melville, Zero and Winans ranges, develop a new range office in the

Pavilion, upgrade the Clock Tower area, and design an online range booking system.

The NRA have spent significant time and resources with those responsible for regulation. We all recognise the need for effective regulatory oversight of firearms ownership and the NRA contributes to an informed and rational approach to this important issue. We will continue to work with government and police to enable people to develop their marksmanship skills in ways that are responsible and accessible. We are also contributing to the debate on the use of lead-free ammunition.

SUPPORT AND SUCCESS

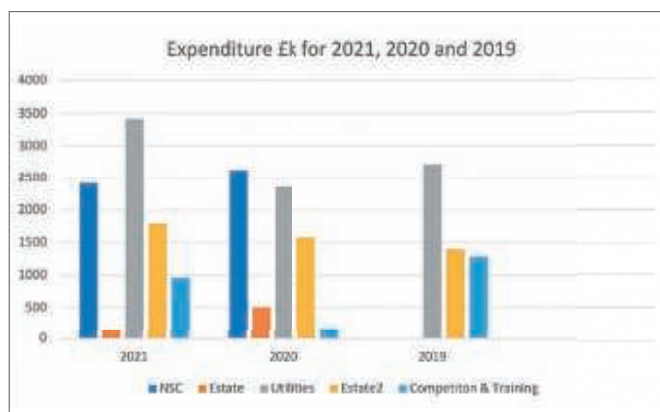
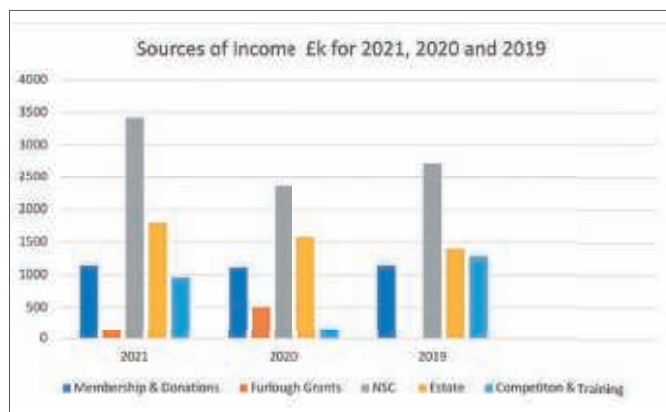
The success of the NRA would not be possible without committed and effective management.

Andrew Mercer, our Secretary-

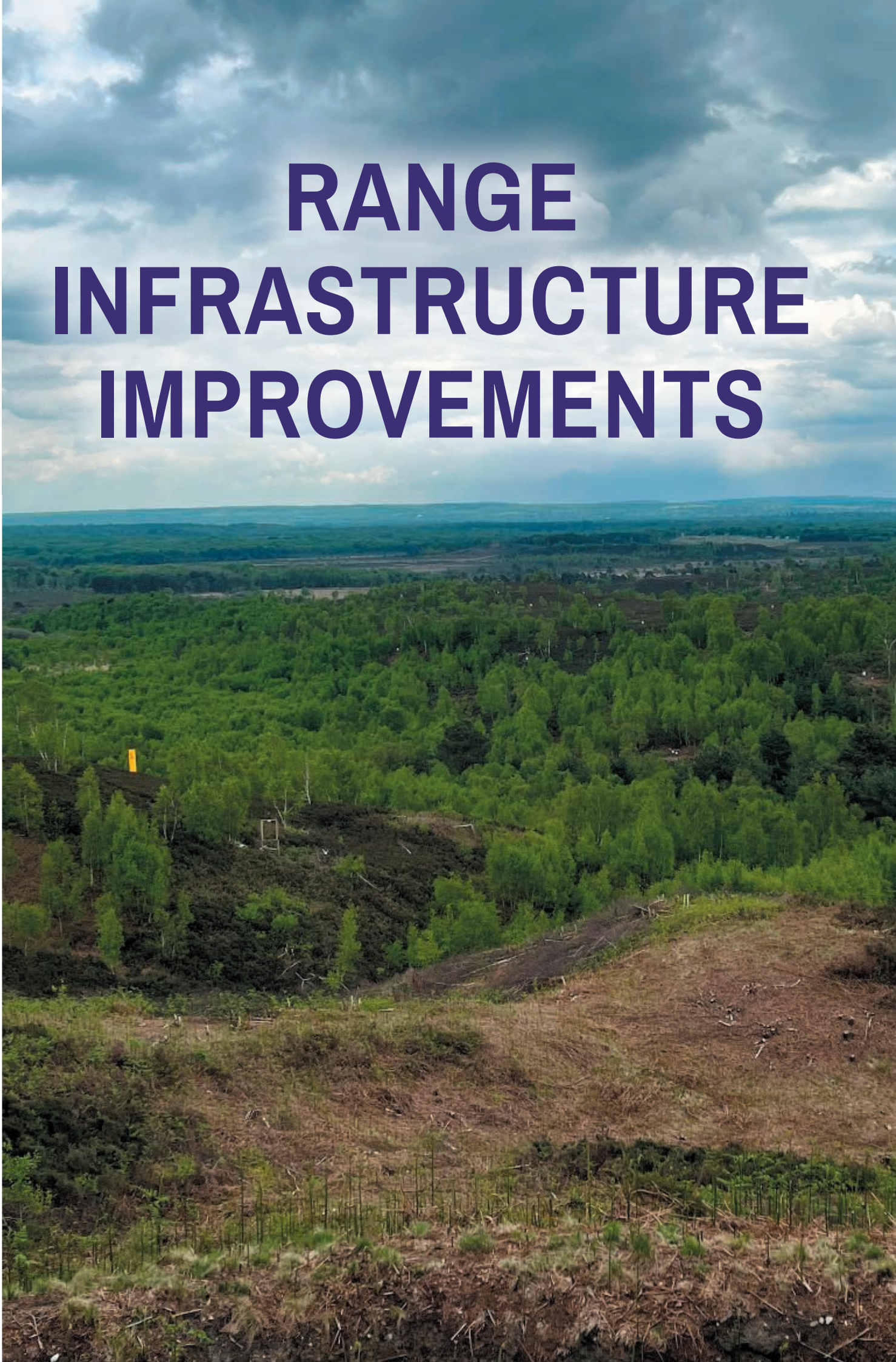
General, has assembled an executive team that is committed to the success of the NRA and the NSC. In turn, they lead a vibrant and enthusiastic workforce who deal with members and customers throughout the year. They continue to draw on the ability and commitment of our Trustees, who volunteer to spend many hours forming and articulating critical policy and the strategic direction of the organisation for the executive team to implement.

The support of members and affiliates has been critical throughout 2021, and we welcome feedback and dialogue to guide the continuous improvement we strive for. 🔄

“The support of members and affiliates has been critical throughout 2021, and we welcome feedback and dialogue to guide the continuous improvement we strive for.”



RANGE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS



We outline recent improvements to infrastructure at NSC, including Stickledown, Short Siberia, Melville and Chobham ranges.

The five electronic target systems in use at the NSC are all undergoing a programme of investment, in both hardware and software. Electronic targets are increasingly popular, with components worked hard by shooters of every skill level. It is important shooters know their zero and set sights correctly; shooter errors account for too many broken acoustic sensors and severed cables, creating unnecessary delays and costs.

Sometimes small things make a difference; interference of the Intarso system at 1000x on Stickledown has been much improved following a trial of parking vehicles 25m behind the FP in order to reduce interference with the wifi signal.

New investment will see upgraded software of the Intarso and Kongsberg systems, and replacement hardware to all systems. The extended lead-time for some components will see the programme running through to early autumn. In the

meantime, the Tech team make every effort to repair and quickly bring systems back into operation.

In the last update, we referred to improvements on several ranges across the site. We are pleased to announce that with the hard work put in by the range

team, a few of these have now been completed.

Short Siberia has recently had a new disabled access path put in towards the undercover 100 yds firing point.

Melville has had all internal walls refurbished, and all GR&P ranges have freshly painted areas and foot fault lines, as well as new target and distance numbers installed.

Century Butts have now been re-graded, providing a level and safer access route for markers and vehicles. Other road improvements are scheduled in the next few months, improving conditions throughout the camp.

Chobham Ridge has also undergone some new improvements, creating a ►

“ Other road improvements are scheduled in the next few months, improving conditions throughout the camp.”



“Progress will begin to slow down now whilst the ranges are at their peak period.”

second firing point in front of the troop shelter. This firing point consisted of clearing the woodland area just in front of the bank and bringing in a further ten steel targets out to 300m. Targets are identifiable in a yellow colour and fall within new yellow “L” and “R” arc markers. Please familiarise yourself on the website for the updated range regulations. Additionally the troop shelter has also

undergone some refurbishment, now providing kitchen type facilities including functional heating and lighting.

Progress will begin to slow down now whilst the ranges are at their peak period. The team will be under a lot of pressure to cope with the vast amount of bookings we receive up to and through the Imperial Meeting. Watch out for more future changes. ☺





RUGER PRECISION RIFLE IN 308 WINCHESTER *test & review*

Guntester **Chris Parkin** reviews the Ruger Precision Rifle in 308 Winchester

Ruger's Precision Rifle (RPR) has entered its second generation, and while many other manufacturers have chased its design ethos, few have chosen quite such a similar path in ergonomic detail. The AR-15 buffer tube copiers haven't allowed the bolt to ride within the tube, which is a key space saver, and have chosen off-the-shelf parts, mainly for .223 rifles with little recoil. This has led to some floppy polymer stocks with adjustment that remains loose, regardless of how tight it's wound up.

The RPR, on the other hand, started off solidly and has remained so, the main difference being the M-Lock fore-end that runs for 15" (380mm) out from the action, shrouding the barrel with complete solidity from any firing position with a well-floated barrel.

The 5R-rifled, hammer-forged .308 barrel is 20" long, and far more usable than the now-defunct fast-twist .243 RPR 'Version 1' that I tested a couple of years ago. The RPR concept is now offered in .22 RF on the smaller end for trigger time training, as well as in the large-scale .300 Win Mag and .338 Lapua for those wanting to extend the energy delivery and ballistics over some of the mid-line guns available in 6.5 Creedmoor, as well as its smaller 6mm brother.

The RPR's solid chassis with polymer comb doesn't suffer from the horrible brake-induced resonance some hollow polymer and laminate stocks can, or those with solid cheekpieces, so it is still comfortable to shoot with ears plugged and muffs on.

Smooth machining and finishing standards are shown across the whole of the fully integrated rifle build. The action 'upper' receiver and one-piece bolt is 4140 chrome-moly steel, precision CNC-machined from pre-hardened steel to minimize distortion. It's a push-feed, three-lug bolt with 60° throw, featuring dual cocking cams and a smooth-running bolt body.

All the machining minimises weight and aids air flow for cooling around the barrel. A 20 MOA rail used to run the length of the gun for your front-mounted optical needs, but now the rail is just the length of the action. It's still 20 MOA for increased long-range elevation and is secured with four 8-40 screws. An ambidextrous manual safety for left- or right-handed shooters sits above the grip and does not lock the bolt.

This test has forced me to re-evaluate the RPR. When it first

arrived three years ago, I found it a little agricultural compared to the semi-custom guns it was competing with – guns that had inspired Ruger to address the new world of chassis rifles, precision rifle sporting

competitions and accuracy. Since that time, many other rifles have entered this market and, in hindsight, have often failed to do what the Ruger did. They are hampered by their use of .223 AR-15 furniture

– and other than functional grips, their stocks can be weak, sometimes suffering from flex and rattles without the ergonomic benefits of the straight-line recoil path.

Most competitors shoot well, it's just that the Ruger's solid stock invites you to make

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things easier on yourself. 6.5 Creedmoor was new itself when the RPR arrived, and would still be my first calibre choice for this rifle.

LIKES

An integrated package with low, inline recoil path; The trigger came in even lighter than the specifications detailed; Solid stock with dependable locking, adjustment and folding capabilities; Perhaps the most fully integrated concept rifle of its generation.

VERDICT

The RPR was first to market in the modern concept of the chassis rifle, and too easily judged against custom rifles at that time. Three years of competition now sees the fine homogenous details, especially the stock, far superior mechanically to the admiring and chasing "wanabees".

PRICING

Ruger Precision Rifle in 308: £1,950. Leupold LRP VX3i 6.5-20x50 Riflescope: £1,100.

SPECIFICATIONS

Stock/finish	Folding Adjustable Length of Pull and Comb Height, type III Hard Coat Anodized
Barrel Length	508mm/20", Cold Hammer-Forged, 5R Rifling, threaded 5/8" 24tpi
Twist	1:10" RH
Weight	4.5kg/9.8 lb.
Mag Capacity	Two, 10 round P-Mags supplied
Overall Length	997-1085mm/39.25"-42.75" (folded length, 803mm/31.60")
Length of Pull	305- 394mm/12"-15.50"
Trigger	Ruger Marksman Adjustable™ trigger, Single stage with safety lever, 820gr break adjustable, adjustable to 2250gr/1.75-5lbs



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CAPTAIN GBGR 2023

Ash Dagger, NRA GR&P Discipline Rep, is seeking nominations for the GB Gallery Rifle Captain role.

Nominations are sought for the role of 'Captain of the Great Britain Gallery Rifle Team' for next season. Appointments run annually, from January to December, although traditionally the appointments can last for upwards of two years, subject to re-endorsement by the NRA Council, on the recommendation of the GR&P Working Group.

It is recognized that the selection and appointment of the captain for a Great Britain team is a highly important decision. To be appointed Captain is a great honour but it is also a great responsibility. The ability to create a winning team is not the only criterion needed for a successful captain. The manner in which the team conducts itself, both on and off the ranges, will affect the standing of the NRA, target shooting and indeed

the country. It is therefore vital that the person selected should have the appropriate personality and skills to carry out all aspects of the task in the appropriate manner.

“The announcement of the selected Captain for the upcoming year's tours (as a minimum, events at Phoenix 2023, Ireland and Germany), will be made in the Winter NRA Journal.

The selection process, while being transparent and fair, should result in the appointment of someone who meets these requirements. The criteria for selection are:

a) Nominees must be full members of the NRA for a minimum continuous period of three years and must remain so during the entire period of appointment.

A nominee's subscription (where appropriate) must be fully paid up at the date of nomination.

b) Nominations must be supported by signatures of three NRA Members who have Gallery Rifle and Pistol as one of their declared disciplines and whose

subscription (where appropriate) must be fully paid up at the date of nomination. However, nominations may not be supported by any current member of the GR&P Working Group (although any member may be nominated, including members of the working group)

c) Candidate CV's and nominations should be submitted in writing, bearing original or electronic signatures of the candidate and supporters and must reach the Secretary at the NRA Offices by 5pm on Thursday 4 August 2022. Nomination forms and CV's can be downloaded from the NRA website - nra.org.uk/gbgr-team-captain-2023-nominations-sought/ or requested by email georgina.thatcher@nra.org.uk

Nominations (Shooter CV and supporters) will be evaluated by the NRA Council during August and acceptable nominees are passed back to the GR&P Working Group for a final recommendation; the preferred nomination is then notified to the NRA Council for endorsement and formal appointment in October.

The announcement of the selected Captain for the upcoming year's tours (as a minimum, events at Phoenix 2023, Ireland and Germany), will be made in the Winter NRA Journal. 📍

- F-CLASS -

ROUND-UP OF EVENTS



Left: The weekend's wind Gods, In F/TR 1st Asad Wahid, 2nd Ewen Campbell and 3rd Stuart Anselm. In F-Open 1st Gareth James, 2nd Mark Bannon and 3rd Martin Scrivens.

the past couple of league events and even though we had several of our regulars away in South Africa, shooting their Nationals, it was brilliant to see so many faces back with us and supporting Round 1. We even welcomed the handful of new shooters making their league debut which was great. I can only hope they all went away happy and feeling confident that we're a friendly bunch of shooters and that they're welcome to dip their toe in another league event soon.

Proceedings got under way with an informal practise on Century range at 600 yards on Friday afternoon. We had six targets being privately marked and running on a rolling detail which allowed all 25 plus of our shooters the chance to tweak their zeroes, test some final loads and/or shoot what seemed like every rifle they owned in their personal arsenal and all while trying to get a preview as to what the wind could be like if it remained the same in competition the following day.



The G.B.F.C.A Short Range Challenge

9-10 April 2022 at 600 Yards. Richie's Blog of Events.

It feels like it's been an absolute age since the majority of us last shot competitively – and to be honest it has been. With HO clubs still facing restrictions around the UK and many ranges trying to catch up on back-dated bookings, it's all a bit chaotic at the minute to say the least! Thankfully, the tail end of the 2021 league season went without hitch even if it did fly by in a flash, back in November. That left Top Gun, a stand alone competition in the finale spot, closing the shooting year for most UK F-Classers in mid December. With that in mind, I'd imagine the majority have started 2022 right where they left off in 2021 and it certainly showed with high scores submitted this weekend.

I think you'll all agree that COVID has knocked the stuffing out of a lot of people and the time between restrictions gradually being eased on our ranges around the UK in late January this year to our first league round at Bisley, couldn't come soon enough.

It was clear to see that shooters were starting to go 'cold turkey' and becoming very hungry for any shooting opportunity to compete regardless of the second big blow we're all facing right now, with the consumables shortage around the world and the knock-on effect it's having here in

the UK. That being said, there was still a lot of excitement for the first F-Class round of the year and when entries went live, it didn't take long for healthy numbers to start rolling in and filling up the places available. I knew right then that we would be in for a great competition in both classes.

FIRST ROUND OF THE YEAR

As is always the case, the first round of the year is always a short range competition and shot at 600 yards. This has served an important role over the years and provided an ideal way of easing everyone back into the competitive format, blowing away the cobwebs and allowing any new or inexperienced shooters a chance to enter the G.B.F.C.A mould and shoot at a comfortable distance as opposed to being thrown right in at the deep end of a gusty 1,000 yard match and a potentially catastrophic train wreck... Been there, done that, and have a wardrobe full of the T-Shirts!

At the close of entries we had a healthy even split of 70 competitors with an almost perfect 50/50 split between F/TR and F-Open. This was quite unusual for the times as Open numbers have fallen over

It's never really the case though and how many times have you started a comp with blow off's, battered the individual blades of grass that you aimed at on the back stop, regardless of the distance between the target and backstop, only to be 3MOA+ left or right of sodding center with your first sighter to count. Its a dirty, wicked game this shooting malarkey and the wind Gods always like to play tricks with us.

Everyone seemed to come of the range happy and by the time the hooter went at 16:30hrs, we had the range cleared in record time, our radios returned to the NRA and were racing to the nearest watering hole to hydrate and chat bubbles about the days shooting.

ARRIVAL AT THE CAMP

By this time the majority of our competitors were arriving on camp, checking into their digs and it wasn't long before we had enough bodies to call a healthy gathering. In my case it was a meet at Harkin's plastic palace (aka 101 HQ) for 18:00hrs, along with several others who decended there on mass. That's where things got rather messy, and pretty quickly too! I don't know what it is about Bisley, but the beer always tastes better on the Friday – as does the delivered pizza from the local fast food joint – and the night time activities and shenanigans are always the best. I don't know if its the excitement of meeting up with shooting mates or the feeling of finally being able to switch off from work that week, but it always ends

“by the time I'd thawed out and had a shower in a can, my bivvy resembled an igloo

with sore heads in plentiful supply the following day.

I must also mention the biblical weather we endured on Friday night...WOW! Our loud laughter was interrupted by a sudden onslaught of driving rain bouncing off the roof of Paul's caravan around 23:30hrs and it didn't stop teeming down until 04:30hrs Saturday morning. Not the best of conditions to be pitched in a confined fishing bivvy on the Sit Pet lawn. I faced a difficulty dilemma that I'm sure everyone can empathise with, especially under the scenario of a pitch black tent and a heavy sleeping bag with more zips and buckles than one of Hudini's straight jackets. I'm travelling with a large water tub and a long piece of hose next time but will leave the rest to your own imagination.

Rain then turned to solid ice and by the time I'd thawed out and had a shower in a can, my bivvy resembled an igloo and it was 06:50hrs. I then headed across to Century Range to start setting up. This is where I met Kat Balakrishnan, followed by Big Steve Moloney, young Tom Reynolds and Ryan Goodman. These earlybirds couldn't sleep due to excitement of the day ahead and were the first of our competitors to arrive on range and lend a hand setting up.

Now, anyone who's met me at silly O'Clock in the morning will tell you that

I can sometimes be a bit temperamental and on occasion in the past, have been compared to a brown bear with a sore head. I can only apologise, It takes abit of time for the old brain to engage in gear and I'm not switched on until I've unload the mobile Tardis of everything but the kitchen sink.

Thankfully with everyones help, we soon had the G.B.F.C.A Gazebo up, our range flags in place, the scoring system set up on and everything squadding related, ready to hand to welcome our guests. Thanks guys, it was much appreciated including the use of Mr Rollafson's generator.

Saturday was a proper crisp morning with a very heavy frost, yet I was very surprised to see the range flags across the full range giving it beans, dry as a bone and showing a strong full value wind coming from the right. This is a far cry from the usual dead calm conditions we face first thing with the wind flags hugging the poles for dear life.

SHOOTING ON SATURDAY

By 07:45hrs the range was a hive of activity with an army of shooters gathering kit, donning extra warm clothing and moving about the range, very similar to an army of ants going about their daily business. The sun was also starting to peak through the clouds, warming up the air and evaporating the faint mist wafting through the air down range like smoke smoldering from a damp camp fire.

At 08:00hrs our private markers were all in place and we then took the opportunity to deliver a short but sweet safety brief on the firing point and introduce our RCO's for the day - Tony Lawson and Phil Northam. As with all competitions, time comes at a premium and getting off to a good start can make or break any competition. RCO's act like drummers in a band – they keep everything running to time and are always very much appreciated, certainly be me anyway!

F/TR were first into the breach and by 08:30hrs sharp, our first wave of ►

Left: Quite the gathering on Century and the perfect start to a new season.



competitors were allowed onto the hallowed turf of the firing point to set up their soft kit and various other equipment. Saturday would consist of four Matches (two AM and two PM) all 2+15's and shot at 600 yards. Each match would start with a full F/TR detail, followed by a mixed 50/50 detail and culminating with a full F-Open detail. The first Match of the day would also start with a one minute blow off period prior to the start of each details shoot in that match.

By the time the morning was in full swing and we'd got mid way through Match 1, the wind had changed direction completely and it was very apparent that the shooting was tough and both F/TR and F-Open were being seriously bullied in equal measures. Quick pick ups and big drop offs caught out most of the field throughout the day with fishtailing winds moving through zero in both directions, causing havoc across the board. I've been told by a very reliable source that the wind brackets encountered in Match 1 varied between 1¼ MOA Left to ½ MOA Right with sudden pickups creating the biggest hurdle to overcome. In Match 2 the wind had started to increase in value, running anywhere between 2+ MOA Left to 1¼ MOA Right.

By mid-afternoon, the ground had warmed up and it was rather pleasant. Still cold in the shade but down range, we encountered heavy mirage thrown into the mix for good measure. These were competitive conditions you can only dream

F/TR					
	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3	Match 4	SAT AGG
1st	D. Rollafson 75.08	A. Wahid 72.02	A. Wahid 70.04	D. Lacey 71.04	A. Wahid 280.13
2nd	A. Bagnall 74.07	D. Lomas 71.06	K. Balakrishnan 69.04	D. Rollafson (CB) 70.04	E. Campbell 274.20
3rd	M. Downing 73.07	M. Webb 70.03	S. Anselm (CB) 68.06	D. Lloyd 70.04	S. Anselm 272.21

F-OPEN					
	Match 1	Match 2	Match 3	Match 4	SAT AGG
1st	T. Marsh 75.06	M. Bannon 74.08	M. Bannon (CB) 72.04	L. Groves 75.09	D. Lloyd 286.24
2nd	D. Stewart 74.08	G. James (CB) 72.08	D. Lloyd 72.04	M. Scrivens 74.05	M. Bannon 286.22
3rd	P. Hill 74.07	U. Kwade 72.08	G. James 71.08	S. Taylor 72.06	G. James 285.27

about and perfect for splitting the field and making it interesting for all involved.

Saturday afternoon's Match 3 had the wind increasing once more but this time from a more dominant direction. The NRA had flicked that switch up a notch

and as the fans worked their way up the gears, it increased the winds value to 3 MOA Left with sudden and costing drop offs in the region of 1 MOA left shedding well earned points, left right and center. By late afternoon and in Match 4, the wind had returned to a more familiar condition encountered earlier that day with fishtailing winds moving 2½ MOA Left through zero to a 7/8 MOA Right and back

That being said, the cream of the crop always rises to the top and some excellent scores were submitted throughout Saturdays Matches 1-4 by those shooters that clearly got a early grip of the wind and steered their freedom seeds (an expression robbed from Erik Cortina) in the right direction with many competitors just missing out by the skin of their teeth on awards with 1 V-Bull here or there costing them a podium finish.

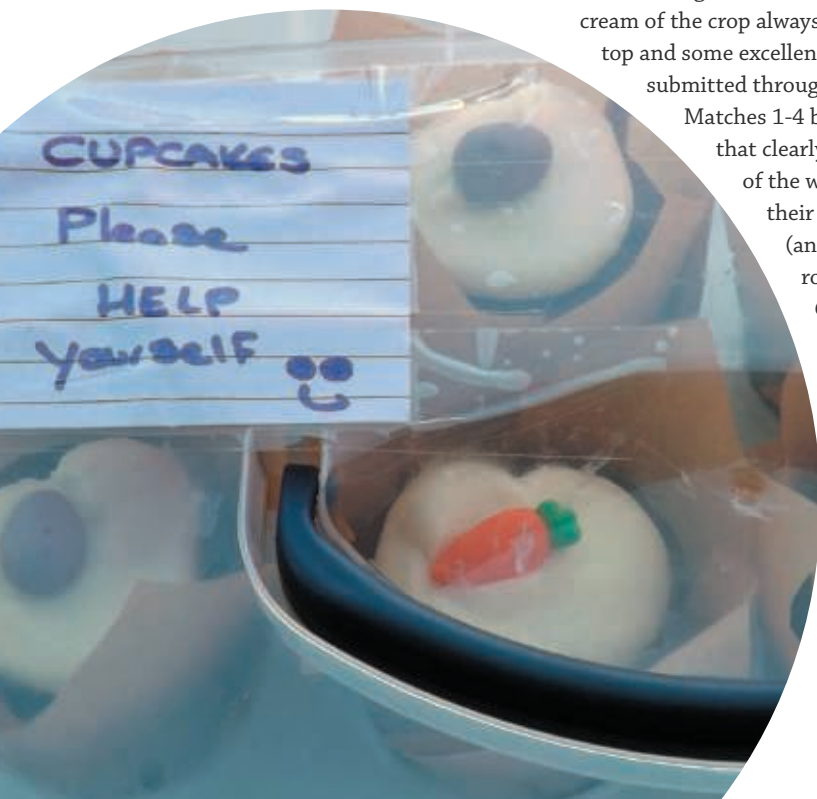
Those scores concluded Day 1 of the Short Range Challenge and I want to congratulate all those of you mentioned in the table that made the podium and picked up some well-deserved awards. Awesome shooting guys and you certainly led the

I must also mention our resident NRA official, David Lacey in F/TR and the Gold medal he won in Match 4 with a stunning 71.04.

way from the start. I must also mention our resident NRA official, David Lacey in F/TR and the Gold medal he won in Match 4 with a stunning 71.04. David had me in stitches as he reminisced with a grin wider than a Cheshire cat, that it was a similar style match many moons ago and a Gold medal win at that match, that was responsible for getting him hooked on F-Class and bitten by the

competitive bug. He then went onto say that he's being living in purgatory ever since, dealing with the trials, tribulations, pains and emotions that anyone can associate with F-Class as he tried to replicate those initial Golden results. I'm now very pleased to see David breaking through the other side and I want to congratulate him on reaching his goal. Well done and welcome to the Layer Cake!

Talking of cakes, it wasn't all bad for those coming to terms with a train wreck at one of our matches. Niki Groves, our new-to-the-scene and very talented baker was generous enough to make a huge selection of homemade delicious cakes and chocolate chip cookies, free to all that attended. These offered many of our competitors a consolation prize and a much needed





sugar rush to raise their spirits and morale. Thanks Niki, you've a cottage industry in the making right there!

SUNDAY

With four matches on the Saturday, it was quite a long day but we got through it and finished well ahead of the hooter, which halted Saturday's fun and games across the Bisley complex.

It was then a quick pack down of the range and a re-shuffle of the squadding for Sunday's Matches based on Saturday's Aggregate scores. I then went back to my tent, lit the gas stove, nearly made a Roman Candle of myself by setting my sleeping bag alight before finally prepping a British staple, in the form of a much needed cup of tea. Later on I met up with my fellow 101 team mates at the Surrey Rifle Club at 18:30hrs for a drink or ten as this was the venue for several important meetings

“F-Open were first into the breach, followed by a 50/50 mixed detail and a full F/TR detail to finish.

going ahead that evening. We then grabbed the opportunity to book in for some food as GBFCA Associate Members and enjoyed a feast fit for a king. Starting with chorizo sausage and peppers, followed by braised lamb and seasonal veg for mains, all washed down with many lagers of choice before being topped off with sticky toffee pudding and a large dollop of ice cream.

It was only right that we would then retire back to the Artists Rifle Club for several traditional flyers, and to talk more waffle regarding our wind reading capabilities. I was in a rare and fortunate position that I hadn't dropped one single point all day and this was a well worthy excuse for one last celebratory flyer with

Pete Sheffield and Paul Harkins. Why wouldn't you!

Sunday morning started at a similar silly O'Clock to Saturday except on this occasion, I think the range staff at the NRA had also been out partying the night before and slept in. At 07:20hrs there was a nice queue of traffic forming at

the locked gate to Century Range while we waited anticipatedly for the gates to the range to be unlocked so we could set up shop.

We didn't have to wait much longer and a member of staff opened the flood gates, allowing everyone to then hastily spill out onto the range car park at the rear of Century. We then had another safety brief and introduction for our newest RCO Nik Batson who would work alongside our familiar Tony Lawson for the day. Sunday morning would consist of two matches, both (AM only) of 2+15's with another blow off session to start. On this occasion, F-Open were first into the breach, followed by a 50/50 mixed detail and a full F/TR detail to finish.

Sunday was a completely different animal to Saturday. It was warm from the start, the sun was out and there wasn't a breath of wind pushing through the range.

Unfortunately, we lost several of our competitors that morning from various ailments and all we could do was send them packing in the nicest of ways and wish them a speed recovery, get well soon guys. Thankfully, by the time blow off got underway, the wind had picked up. I can only presume that the same Range staff that turned up to let us onto the range was also the one responsible for turning on ►

F/TR			
	Match 5	Match 6	SUN AGG
1st	A. Bagnall 75.09	S. Anselm 74.07	S. Anselm 145.13
2nd	A. Wahid 74.05	E. Campbell 74.04	E. Campbell 145.11
3rd	M. Pearson 73.08	M. Jarram 73.03	A. Wahid 145.11

F-OPEN			
	Match 5	Match 6	SUN AGG
1st	M. Scrivens (CB) 75.09	L. Vinall 74.06	I. Boxall 146.16
2nd	T. Reynolds 75.09	P. Hunt 73.08	T. Reynolds 146.15
3rd	P. Hill (CB) 75.08	S. Taylor 73.05	P. Hunt 146.13

the fans down range, but better late than never I suppose.

The wind throughout Match 5 remained consistently from Left with a value stuck in the 2½ MOA Left to 0 bracket.

By the time of Match 6, the fun and games had started again and the wind was fishtailing between 1% MOA Left through to ½ MOA Right and back. This was a perfect end to a competition and one that challenged everyone involved.

I think you'll all agree that those scores

in both classes were very close and it just goes to show how ballistically similar our F/TR's .308's compare to F-Open's 6mm, .284's and .300WSM's in performance at short range competitions out to 600 yards. An awesome effort from all of you.

That concluded our first league round of 2022 so congratulations to all our stage winners and podium finishers. I can only hope that you all enjoyed yourselves and went home happy in the knowledge that your kit is at least up to the

next big challenge.

The G.B.F.C.A Rd 2 – The Diggle F-Class Challenge - a full weekend at 1000 yards in early May.

Thanks to all our markers who performed well all weekend, all our RCO's who clocked up several miles, marching up and down the firing points and keeping check of everyone's safety and finally, thanks to all those who helped out where they could including all our competitors. Great effort guys.

The G.B.F.C.A Round 2 – The Diggle F-Class Challenge

7-8 May 2022 – 1000 yards. Richie's Blog of Events

Last weekend saw a gathering of hardcore competitors from all around the UK descend on the small village of Diggle, to compete in Round 2 of the GBFCA League. This was the first of two planned visits this year to the notoriously difficult PSSA Ranges, situated in the heart of Saddleworth and the vast moorlands of the Pennine hills.

With a format of four Matches of 2+20's, shot entirely at 1000 yards and at the mercy of the Diggle elements, it was always going to be a great shooting competition and one that demands your A-Game at all times.

Especially as this range seems to have its own micro climate and creates more varied weather fronts than that of Mordor in Middle Earth.

The haters and fairweather shooters amongst you will be very annoyed to hear that we got away with it and remained bone dry all weekend, some even came home with a sun tan! The range itself looked in pristine condition under the bright sun and the firing points had some well executed maintenance carried out on them and they were flat as bowling greens which helped everyone spread out evenly and kept those

rifles tracking a dream.

We'd also done our best in the butts department to provide our markers with some home comforts in order keep morale high and help make their duties a little more pleasurable. There's been a lot of back and forth recently about this so it's only fair that I share the thought process as to why we changed from using our Silver Mountain electronics and reverted back to medieval, yet sociable, manual marking at this years Rd 2, So here I go!

The GBFCA committee are all competitive shooters so we already know the pros and cons of either method. We also appreciate that these are difficult times and COVID has dropped a huge hulk-sized spanner into the works and really played havoc with everyone's shooting, their training and their priorities.

Above: Our worthy group of stage winners and podium finishers after a long weekend of competition at P.S.S.A Diggle Back row left to right (Pat Allen FO, Craig Titmus FO, Ian Bellis FO, Brogan O'Shea Smith FO, Paul Harkins FO, Pete Sheffield FTR, Mike Harris FTR and Richard Egan FTR). Front row left to right (Tony March 2nd FO, Tom Reynolds 1st FO, Gordon Waugh 3rd FO then Arnaud Martin 2nd FTR, Adam Bagnall 1st FTR and Carrie Ryan 3rd FTR).



Thankfully, as everywhere returns to this 'new normal', the demand for shooting is back on the rise. I also remember the days when our entries first began to be sold online. Spaces for the Diggle short and long range competitions sold out within 40 minutes and if you weren't computer savvy, you were out of luck, with some never to be seen on the circuit again. We want those valued shooters back!

I also remember the endless discussions from annoyed and aggravated shooters who'd missed out. They blamed it on a whole myriad of reasons and called the league out for being short sighted and not providing enough space to accommodate an entry level that represented its membership. They did have a point that needed addressing.

How can the league promote itself to the masses if our own members are struggling to get in competitions at various venues or league rounds dotted around the UK? I don't want to go off topic too much but the time to support shooting sports has never been more important. We're getting pressure in all directions from the anti-shooting brigade here in the UK and to make matters worse, we now have a lead ban proposal that's trying to suffocate us once and for all!

I saw it with the hunting ban in 2005 and it took no prisoners, despite the huge fight we put up and that was with all the relevant associations combined and I personally lost my livelihood over night. Shooting is next on the hit list! If we can't grow our F-Class support, attract new blood into the mould and build on our solid foundations. How can we expect to survive going forward?

Past F-Class competitions at Diggle saw entries into the high 70's with manual competitor marking. As we evolved and moved over to electronics, the SM systems limited us to seven shooting lanes and one spare, entries were reduced to as little as 56.

As the guys in the North are always talking about the worry of Bisley having the monopoly, with the impression that all competitions will move down South to Bisley one day, we thought, who's going to turn down a competition with entry costs as low as £25 or £55 for non-PSSA members? Especially when you're getting a full weekend of long range shooting on



Above: F/TR Mid way through Sunday Match 3 - Shots 1-6. **Above:** F/TR Match 3 having a melt down and dealing with shots 7-20.

one of the hardest ranges in the country... What's not to like about it?

So, by opening Round 2 up to manual marking, we were instantly able to offer nine shooting lanes with our original proposal of two matches per day for each class, with three details per match. Therefore a maximum entry of 108 competitors. Yes, there would be a lot of logistical issues and it's very ambitious, but there's nothing wrong with thinking big if the planning is right. I also thought that with the 'golden ticket' of a price tag and the increasing demand for shooting from new members that we're hearing about, we'd get a record entry at this years event.

We decided in the end to dummy run a smaller event to prevent any PSSA committee members having a heart attack by planning to use nine lanes still, but stick to two details per match and therefore a maximum entry of 72

Competitors. This was deemed by our own committee as a happy medium and a substantial increase on previous numbers.

Unfortunately, we finished with a very disappointing overall entry of 53 competitors (three pulled out at last minute) which was even less than that seen previously with electronics. So what went wrong and what are the reasons for such a low entry, especially after guaranteeing we could accommodate the biggest entries ever seen and that no one would ever miss out again?

Was it manual marking, the shortage of consumables, an already busy GB calendar? There was an apparent lack of PSSA shooters in attendance but I suppose they get it every week with their membership? I'll be discussing it at length before the next Round 3 at Diggle but if you have an opinion, let me know as you are the membership and we aim to please. All that being said, I want to ►



thank all our usual die hards as they were all in attendance and the level of competition in both classes was extremely high throughout the full weekend.

Proceedings got underway with an informal shoot on the Friday between 12:30- 16:30hrs. With a random splattering of bright yellow tennis balls buried in the sand on the back stop, our competitors tried to destroy them at 600 yards. This enabled them to have some fun, dirty their barrels and just make sure there come ups in elevation matched their usual 600 yards. Those of us on the circuit know that there is generally a difference in elevations between Diggle and Bisley of 1-2MOA so this practice certainly highlights a potential difference and helps you hit the floor running. The committee would like to thank PSSA Diggle's Dave Riley for helping RO this shoot.

The weather at the time was cold with very little wind so everyone found the exercise useful and went away happy. As rain was forecast for 16:00hrs and it was going to be another camping trip for myself, I decided to get up there a little earlier than planned and had my Bivvy HQ, along with the rest of the competition kit set up ready behind the 1000 yard firing point just as the last person left the range. It was only then that I could sit back and appreciate what an awesome range Diggle really is and how stunning the landscape can be when the sun moves across the hills and everything goes quiet. You can then see all the details in front of you for as far as the eye can see and what a brilliant and spectacular range it is for us guys living in the North West.

“F/TR went straight into the lion's den and conditions from the off were extremely difficult

It didn't last long though and a sudden gust of cold air moved through the range followed by a biblical downpour at around 17:30hrs. The wind then remained strong and was more than enough to have blown any inferior camping set up off the hill. Thankfully I'd battened down the hatches, had guide ropes backing up guide ropes and wasn't going anywhere. It was mentioned by someone the following day as to why I'd set up my tent on a steep slope. Reason being, water runs down hill “Young Tom”!

I made that classic mistake in my younger years while bedding down on the flat banks of the River Alt when night fishing for Carp and the experience has lived with me ever since... High spots and inclines are good. Flat ground, lying water, flooding and wet gear, bad.

I was about to brew up on Friday and settle down on my bed chair when the peace and tranquility was ruined by an irate video phone call from my partener. After finishing work late and braving the local Tesco for the weekly shop, she then had to fight her way home through heavy rush hour traffic in the rain, only to then snap the front door key in the lock trying to get

in! A sure sign she wasn't a happy bunny at that moment in time. I won't repeat the 20 minutes of profanities but I thought it best to head back home pronto before something heavy was put through the lounge window.

Safe to say, I helped a damsel in distress and managed to earn enough brownie points to carry me through to the end of the year, well, next week anyway! By the time I'd headed back to Diggle it was 23:00hrs, still raining, pitch black and a fox has urinated on my bivvy – or at least very close as the tent stunk.

I love the great outdoors and always appreciate my surroundings when I'm out in the wilds. You often hear some funny noises though, in the dead of night and that night was no different. I could hear the faint distant sound of dance music from the Diggle Arms at kicking out time too, as well as various farm animals from below me on the hill. At about midnight, I heard something else that was truly weird and it even made me sit up in my chair as it wasn't coming from the farm below as it moved across the range area in front of me at walking speed.

With a bottle of Carlsberg in one hand and my Swiss Army Combo knife with sharp nail scissors in the other, I waited anxiously to be taken out by the beast of Saddleworth Moor or a Werewolf at any second. Thankfully, the fox scent around my bivvy deterred the unwanted wanderer from coming in my direction and I managed to get my head down for a good nights sleep, Albeit with a makeshift barricade on my side of the zip up door.

By 05:30hrs the rain had stopped, the wind had gone and there was a warmth

in the air. I got everything opened up and moved a few final bits about the range so we were good to go. By 07:30hrs, all the targets were rigged with new faces and clean frames and the cooking kit ready for the first team of markers to make their morning coffees and teas.

As I got back in my vehicle and started to back out the range area, a call came in from Stephen Moloney. From a distance, I thought he was on road watch and preventing any cars from driving up the hill to the firing point but as it happens, Ste's van had become a permanent feature on the landscape as he'd driven off the first platway on route to the firing point himself and was ground down to his nether regions. With a little help from the ranges 4x4, Nick Gilbert got him up and running and pulled him out before the masses arrived. I promised I wouldn't mention it so I won't expand on it any further. By 08:15hrs, everyone was in attendance and we held a short briefing in the car park before everyone went their separate ways for a 09:00hrs start.

F-Open were first into the breach with F/TR marking first in the butts. As detail 1 got underway with blow offs, there wasn't a breeze to be felt and it was flat calm. You could see the smiles on their faces and as it was still rather dull and was mirage free but for the RO's, it was a different matter. Message 1 was sent to the butts, shots then went down range and every target shouted for a Message 4.

The system nearly crashed as Les and I looked at each other simultaneously from opposite ends of the firing point before burying our heads in our hands. I think everyone was feeling a little rusty with the old manual marking and it took a while to make a habit of scanning the full target for impacts but it soon became a well oiled system.

The first detail put in some amazing scores that reflected the conditions (easy for me to say as I wasn't shooting) and nerves of steel almost carried one shooter to a fantastic clean but unfortunately it was an early four that scuppered his chances. By Detail 2's first match, it was a completely different story and quite a shock for any observer to see so much change in a 40 minute time period.

The air had warmed up, there was visible mirage and the wind flags stood to attention across the full range with wind gusting through from the left.

F/TR						
	Match 1	Match 1 SAT	Match 2 SAT	Match 1 SUN	Match 2 SUN	GA
1	Adam Bagnall	87.02	91.03	95.10	86.00	359.15
2	Arnaud Martin	88.03	87.03	94.06	88.04	357.16
3	Carrie Ryan	88.03	86.04	95.07	82.01	351.15
4	Garryk Campbell	84.01	87.01	87.00	83.02	341.04
5	Asad Wahid	82.02	85.02	89.05	84.03	340.12
6	Peter Sheffield	86.01	76.00	86.03	91.03	339.07
7	Dan Lomas	85.02	80.01	91.04	82.02	338.09
8	Mark Downing	85.01	86.03	90.02	77.01	338.07
9	Paul Russell	83.02	85.03	91.03	78.05	337.13
10	Julie Bagnall	79.03	86.03	92.05	80.02	337.13
11	Jim Marsden	76.01	91.03	89.03	80.01	336.08
12	Ewen Campbell	83.01	84.05	93.07	74.00	334.13
13	David Rollafson	81.03	85.01	93.03	73.05	332.12
14	Mark Webb	80.02	82.02	84.03	85.01	331.08
15	Mary Marsden	81.03	84.01	89.05	76.03	330.12
16	Neil Groves	72.02	84.03	88.04	86.00	330.09
17	Jon Longhurst	82.01	83.01	85.02	80.01	330.05
18	Richard Egan	69.02	78.04	89.03	93.08	329.17
19	Mike Harris	79.02	87.04	89.03	73.02	328.11
20	Nick Gilbert	76.02	80.02	85.01	83.02	324.07
21	Adam Williams	83.03	80.02	89.03	71.03	323.11
22	Kat Balakrishnan	75.04	87.02	87.02	74.02	323.10
23	John Matthew	76.00	76.02	85.03	84.03	321.08
24	Niki Groves	83.01	76.02	83.01	77.02	319.06
25	Chris Taylor	73.02	76.02	82.01	80.02	311.07
26	Matt Cox	61.03	81.00	80.01	79.02	301.06
27	Carl Needham	62.00	75.00	80.02	82.03	299.05
28	David Beech	58.01	81.04	72.00	77.01	288.06
29	David C. W. Lloyd	82.01	80.01	85.04	12.01	259.07
30	Dean Thornley	74.01	79.00	0	0	153.01
31	Dean Wallace	0	0	0	0	0
32	Steve Rigby	0	0	0	0	0

These conditions remained the same for both details during Match 2 and at the close of play for Day 1 in F-Open, the guys on the first detail of the day had on average, a five-point lead on the rest of the field.

We decided several weeks back that as we knew we had a lot to get through and all matches would be 2+20's, timings would be key to everything so we wouldn't have an official lunch break, just a straight changeover and leave guys to sort themselves out between shooting or marking details. This worked very well and we caught up some additional time so when F/TR were ready to shoot in the afternoon, we'd saved an hour on the finishing schedule.

I must also mention that it was like Deja Vu with the open guys and every target came back with a Message 4. You're all as bad as one another so just quit with the negative waves and go out and enjoy yourselves. You know how it works.

Wind conditions couldn't of been any better for a competition with big gusts being missed across the board. Even though we had five wind flags dotted across the range complex, it was difficult to spot angle changes and many baffled shooters came off the point wondering what had just happened. They said the flags looked exactly the same and yet their shots landed a good 2-3MOA away from where they aimed with several zeroes coming to play. ►

F-OPEN						
	Match 1	Match 1 SAT	Match 2 SAT	Match 1 SUN	Match 2 SUN	GA
1	Tom Reynolds	96.07	90.04	91.09	89.03	366.23
2	Gordon Waugh	97.07	94.07	86.03	88.02	365.19
3	Tony Marsh	97.06	88.02	88.04	88.05	361.17
4	Lance Vinall	95.07	90.06	89.02	86.02	360.17
5	Paul Harkins	99.09	91.03	87.02	82.04	359.18
6	Brogan O-S Smith	97.07	89.01	88.02	83.04	357.14
7	Des Parr	92.03	93.01	86.01	86.05	357.10
8	Pat Allen	96.04	90.03	89.04	81.02	357.10
9	Gary Costello	97.05	90.02	85.02	84.02	356.11
10	Robert Douglas	96.08	90.03	86.06	82.02	354.19
11	Richard Huby	87.03	90.05	86.04	86.02	349.14
12	David Raybould	95.08	87.02	89.04	75.01	346.15
13	Craig Titmus	82.03	85.01	84.03	94.03	345.10
14	Ian Bellis	96.07	82.04	90.08	75.03	343.22
15	Jordan Rubio	84.04	89.06	82.02	86.04	341.16
16	Les Holgate	89.06	86.04	76.03	89.06	340.19
17	Stephen Moloney	89.06	87.02	76.02	83.02	335.12
18	Tom Bindley	84.01	90.04	80.04	74.03	328.12
19	Peter Hunt	84.01	84.03	80.02	78.01	326.07
20	Stuart Taylor	0	77.02	78.03	72.01	227.06
21	Mark Bannon	0	0	0	0	0

“F/TR went to the firing point with F-Open doing the first stint in the butts albeit missing one shooter.

By 15:45hrs on Saturday, we'd all finished shooting and congregated at the clubhouse for our GBFCA Annual General Meeting that's always arranged for the first day of this league match. As Paul Sandie and Les Holgate were standing down from the committee, we held a ballot for three nominees that put their names forward for a vote. Tom Bindley, Lance Vinall and Mike Harris. For the previous five days we'd been collecting votes by email and also held an anonymous ballot for all our competitors in attendance. I'd now like to welcome on board Lance Vinall and Mike Harris. I'm sure they will both be assets to the league and we look forward to working with them going forward. Once the initiation is out the way, you're both laughing.

We thanked Paul and especially Les for all their hard work over the years and made it clear that they will be missed

by all of us who run around behind the scenes. I still can't believe Les is getting into naturism but each to their own, and what ever floats your boat. We request you wear clothing if ever you fancy returning for a league match though!

We were then versed on the ins and outs of our constitution before getting to any other business where a few points were raised to the membership. Firstly, we covered the NRA's cancellation policy and a request to get entries for the full year out sooner rather than later so accommodation and entries could be secured at the earliest convenience to our competitors at the start of the year. Second, we took a brief look at the lead ban facing target shooter and waiting on NRA guidance. Lastly, other than the Friday marked practices at Bisley events, could the league also provide electronic lanes at cheaper rates so guys

could literally shoot five rounds and go. We then went back to talking about the election of officers and various other stuff that I'm sure Des will cover in the minutes of the meeting in full and circulate amongst the membership soon.

By 18:00hrs, all our competitors had scurried off range to head home or back to their digs to clean their rifles, tweak loads and make ready for Sunday's day two of competition.

After doing a quick clean up on the range and refacing all the targets in the butts ready for the next day, I went in search of a local chippy tea. Diggle must be the only place on the planet that doesn't have a chip shop open for business on a Saturday evening and even after googling them and then travelling to three different locations, I soon gave up and settled for a skip load of sandwiches, crisps and goodies I found at the local Co-Op.

By 19:00hrs, I was tucked up snug as a bug in a rug and had forgotten about the potential Werewolf from the night before and was dead to the world shortly there after. I even missed three calls from the Mrs who had phoned to say she'd actually got through the front door without hitch and no longer required her shares with Timpsons. Sunday arrived in a flash and it was gusting and bitterly cold from the start. Set up on Sunday went smoothly though, as all the equipment was already where it needed to be and all we needed to do was get everyone on range and in position for 08:35hrs.

F/TR went to the firing point with F-Open doing the first stint in the butts albeit missing one shooter. With the range locked down by 08:50hrs and shortly after letting Simon Fox onto the range, we got off to another perfect start at 09:00hrs. On this occasion, everyone in the butts got the drill and we managed to move through Matches 3 and 4 without hitch and with very few Message 4's. I will however mention the complete condition change that I witnessed with my own eyes, and just as it happened. It was mad to see the majority of shooters get caught out and completely trashed with misses as the wind went from ¾ up to 3MOA Left to a complete change of direction and about 5+ MOA from the Right. By 11:30hrs, F/TR had finished their competition and some fantastic

scores had been submitted and in some extremely difficult conditions. Well done guys and congratulations to Adam Bagnall for taking first place overall, Arnaud Martin second and Carrie Ryan third. I also want to congratulate my fellow 101'ers for all their Stage Medals Richard Egan, Pete Sheffield and Paul Harkins... up the 101 and who was it that said 155.5's were terrible and couldn't handle the wind (Mr Egan). Congratulations on your Stage Win and Gold.

Note to the F-Open guy who arrived on the range at lunch to shoot in the pm and missed his am session in the butts. Please don't do it again! It's a competitor's pet hate and it nearly started a mutiny on the firing point which made it uncomfortable for everyone. We can always find a job for all abilities and as I said, many hands make light work and your service was missed by those who depended on it (The GBFCA Committee).

We then swapped over with F-Open and they laughed at the TV monitor and all the F/TR scores as they knew they had a been given a serious bashing. They were soon to get one themselves and the laughing soon stopped when they started their Match 3. Wind continued to come from Right to Left and as the sun was

“By 11:30hrs, F/TR had finished their competition and some fantastic scores had been submitted and in some extremely difficult conditions. Well done guys

high in the sky, they were dealing with very heavy mirage and quick changing conditions. To the surprise of the F-Open guys, their scores mirrored those of F/TR which proved those guys dealt with it extremely well.

When Match 4 got underway, you could tell there was a change in the air and although the wind remained as strong as ever, there was a cold front coming in which meant only one thing, rain, rain and more rain was on it's way, however it was pointless looking at any weather apps as they all told conflicting reports but on inspection of the rear of the range, you could see it brewing with your own eyes.

After that, it didn't take much for the

shooters to speed up and get through their details in record time and with everything still to play for, right up to the last shot down range.

Now I won't publicly embarrass "Young Tom Reynolds" for driving his car up to the firing point when no cars were allowed, the wheel spinning was bad enough for him so I'll save that for another day. However I will congratulate him on his first ever League win. League competitions are very hard to win and certainly a happy shooting memory that never fades. I remember mine as if it was yesterday and it's a confidence boost that you've done something right and all the hard work and sacrifice has paid off. Brilliant shooting and well deserved!

Congratulations to Tom for taking first, Tony Marsh second and Gordon Waugh third in F-Open.

That concluded Round 2. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to everyone that helped out with various tasks throughout the weekend – marking, gate duties, stats, RCO'ing, photography and the packing down at the very end. Please let me know if you have any feedback regarding Diggle as it's helpful to know your opinions, whether they be good or bad.

Bloemfontein Bound – F Class Style

Peter Dommert reflects on GB's final reconnaissance before the FCWC

After a patient wait of over two years, five of our F-TR shooters headed across in March to Bloemfontein, South Africa, to compete in the country's first Open Championships since 2019.

Located to the west of the city, at 4,500 feet altitude, the General de Wet military range is no stranger to travellers from the UK, and for two of them, Jon Longhurst and Peter Dommert, it would be a welcome return after their previous visit in 2019. ►



“With handloaded ammunition that had been in storage for the two years, some adjustment was required throughout

Jon and Peter had already benefited from the combined wisdom of our TR and match rifle representatives, including Chris Hockley, David Calvert, Iain and Karen Robertson.

For their compatriots this time (Simon Gambling, Mike Harris and Jon's daughter Aleessa), it would be a new country, a new range, and a valuable reconnaissance ahead of the F-Class World Championships to be held in March 2023.

After an 11-hour flight and a four-hour drive from Johannesburg, with the occasional giraffe and ostrich for company, the excellent hotel and restaurants of Bloemfontein signalled the start of a most enjoyable trip.

Before the championships began in earnest, the travellers were invited by the organisers to a warm-up day on the range, checking their zeroes and shooting alongside the 'Protea' South African teams

at 900 metres. The altitude and metric calculations were a novelty, but the recent heavy rains and heat soon highlighted the different optical conditions that they would face over the next nine days of competition.

With handloaded ammunition that had been in storage for the two years, some adjustment was required throughout the week, but they soon found their way, with some excellent individual performances, including a very impressive stage win at 300m from the youngest of the group, 13-year-old Aleessa Longhurst (pictured with her dad, Jon), and Mike Harris 14th place overall in the Presidents Aggregate.

Despite unexpectedly wet weather during parts of the trip, the group headed home with a wealth of range information for the World Championships next year, and maybe the start of a suntan and a smile!

IBIS Open 2022

Paul Russell reports.

As usual the IBIS Open 2022 event proved to be a well-attended meeting with all shooters arriving on the firing point well in advance, toggled up for a cool and breezy start. There was slight drizzle at the start but that didn't last long and fortunately the rest of the day remained dry, but the winds during the day proving to become a little more challenging at the longer distances. All the morning matches were shot on Century range at 300, 500 and 600 yards.

Match 1 of the day was held at 300 yards with a mixed detail of F-Open, F/TR and TR disciplines, with subsequent details after that made up of TR shooters. The prevailing wind for the opening detail was right to left between 5-12mph with stronger gusts. The wind direction stayed pretty much the same throughout the day. Fortunately with the drizzle stopped the sun came out and temperatures finally started to climb to a more comfortable 11°C.

Match 2 was a fallback to 500 yards where the lineup was pretty much the same

with the F-Class shooting first detail again, with a mix of TR shooters in the same detail and subsequent details after. Again experiencing sunny intervals with winds approximately between 5-12mph, again gusting much stronger.

At Match 3 all shooters had fallen back to the final firing point of the morning at 600 yards. Conditions were still very much the same with a very slight wind change of between 6-11mph, but the gusts were still strong and unpredictable. The firing order was again F-Class and mixed TR for detail one, with further details of the morning being TR. With all details of the morning shot it was time for a well earned lunch break with the daunting prospect of 1000

“Match 2 was a fallback to 500 yards where the lineup was pretty much the same with the F-Class shooters first detail again

and 1100 yards looming for the afternoon matches.

The weather conditions remained constant and the afternoon matches would be shot in sunshine, which pleased everyone and the fact that everyone remained dry. The winds had calmed very

2022 RESULTS TR CLASS

Short Range	Keirin McCamley (Surrey)	148.19
Long Range	Peter Griggs (Ibis)	94.10
Aggregate	Peter Griggs (Ibis)	235.24

2022 RESULTS F- TR CLASS

Short Range	Peter Dommelt (Tonbridge RPC)	214.14
Long Range	Simon West (NRA)	132.01
Aggregate	Simon West (NRA)	342.19

2022 RESULTS - F OPEN CLASS

Short Range	Ian Boxall (Dorset Riflemen)	222.23
Long Range	John Howe (NRA)	131.06
Aggregate	John Howe (NRA)	347.21

slightly and at both 1000 and 1100 yards winds were still right to left and between 7-10mph. Unfortunately the strong gusting taunted everyone, which did reflect in the afternoon scoring. Details were reversed in the afternoon with TR details first, followed by F-Class and TR mix in the following details.

The event itself was enjoyed by all and it was very nice to see a very good turnout of young shooters. It was just unfortunate that there weren't more F-Class participants, which was clearly seen by just four F-Open competitors and eight F/TR competitors. 🌀



2022 European F-Class Championships

6–11 September 2022
(National Shooting Centre, Bisley UK)



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TWO PROJECTS FINISHED!

Robin Carter completes his two lockdown projects, details the process and what will happen next.

Things are slowly returning to normal now, post COVID, although many people are still nervous, I'm amongst them, so the last months have seen me squirreled away in my workshop, and what better chance to finish two outstanding projects from 2020 and the lockdowns!

First my Sportco Special .223 project. Is it now finished? Could that be a picture of the finished rifle? You saw the start of the project in my Autumn 2021 article, it was then a twin project with my Canadian friend, also building an up cycled Sportco .223, his in a Grunig stock, and his is now finished and shooting.

But, oh dear, mine? Many months later? Well, if you are reading this now, and looking at the pictures of it, it's now finished! If it's not, I have no idea how you are reading it, as this article will be in the bin!

I'll recap, the project, started long before COVID, it's genesis was the purchase of an old Sportco model 44 in 7.62 ten years ago, it was planned as my wife's return to TR, she had used one back in the 70/80's, and had been a Queens finalist with one and also shot the then new to the UK 300m event with it. Returning to full bore as a retirement pastime, she thought she would like to return with a Sportco, nostalgia huh! She quickly got hooked on a return to 300 metre and preferred using a modern Keppeler in 6 mmBR, it showed up the heavy recoils of the 7.62 which quickly made her Sportco redundant.

Now I'm also nostalgic, I'd also had a Sportco back in the deep snow, so I was determined to keep the Sportco and I have a penchant for creating silk purses from a sow's ear and research showed they could be

dramatically improved. The stock was like an oar, so that was plan A. The action, the Aussies are still using them for both TR and F class, and now Sportco is owned by TSE in Queensland, who will still make a new one if you ask them, although they rarely do, as there are so many used ones in Australia, but TSE are a great source of new spares. Back in the 70/80's, the Sportco had a long term issue in that the locking lugs were in the barrel, so barrel changing was either limited to standard barrels or they needed an adaptor. Now TSE make an adaptor that allowed the fitting of any barrel, so that was solved.

Above: The finished projects.

Below: The modified action screws in the Sportco action.





“The adjustments gave me many hours drilling, turning and milling, my workshop now restocked with machines to fill my lockdown time.

The Aussie forums also solved another long time issue, the action is very stiff, but, the rear action screw position is right on the tail of the action (in the reduced tapered portion), a long gap from the front action screw in the recoil lug, as the action gets hot it produces a tendency to create tension, noticed in the bolt getting tighter. The Aussies simply drill another action screw fixing in front of the trigger in the middle stiff part of the action, voila! Problem solved, a super stiff action. Some people use all three screws, I think just using two works best, the recoil lug one, and the middle screw!

The rifle was likely to be used by economically sized people (us!) so my plan was also to machine off the redundant rear fixing, which also allowed me to have the action bedded more rearward. The mods were duly done and fitted with a Border barrel on a TSE adapter, fitted in a Walther UIT prone stock from the 60's with a Dolphin alloy bedding, it became my favourite TR rifle, even after I bought a new Barnard Dolphin 7.62 TR.

It was then made redundant again in 2018, when I had an eye issue that made heavy recoil problematic and risky so I stopped shooting 7.62. Determined not to retire, and in my quest for lower recoil, I built a

Barnard Dolphin .223, and was quickly hooked on the calibre, and my attention was then drawn again to the Sportco, sat unused, and quietly weeping in my security cabinet.

Fear not little rifle, TSE and Veronica to the rescue again, Sportco originally also made a .223 version of the 44, and TSE can still produce the required parts, a new bolt head and extractor, and then by chambering and rebarreling in .223 it can be converted, and live and work again!

That's when COVID struck, but it just reinforced my need for a project. The plan was to order the bolt head parts from TSE, chamber and rebarrel in .223 Wylde, with a new Bartlein, and fit it in a modern small-bore stock.

First problem, Australia was now in full lockdown so TSE was unable to do any thing, no answer to that, just patiently wait. The second problem, my preferred stock, was a Walther KK500 Alutec, as I was now using a Walther KK500 for small-bore, but it was too narrow to take the Sportco action, rats! So with time on my hands, the plan was to convert the old Walther UIT stock into as close as I could get to the KK500 dimensions, and with as many adjustments!

The stock was soon very different, I just used the old UIT stock Walnut as a blank, and machined it to what I wanted, the width machined to super slim, the fore end now as narrow as the KK500, and the grip I had many hours of fun reshaping from gorilla size fit, to my small hand size, then re stippled it, a skill I learnt many years ago at Walther. ►



Above: Many hours of milling, and turning, and of course polishing, I like the bling!

Inset: Hart free trigger on the Special Sportco .223 Action.

The adjustments gave me many hours drilling, turning and milling, my workshop now restocked with machines to fill my lockdown time.

The end result, the stock is now unrecognisable from the original, it's slim, modern, with a modern flat cheek piece, adjustable in every direction, the height mechanisms hidden in the rear stock and adjustable from underneath, the cheek piece folding to clear the bolt for loading. The length is adjustable and utilises a Walther butt plate. I like my rifles to be functional but I love a bit of bling, so the length clamps are Walther flag wing nuts, very expensive, but some things you just have to do, don't you!

After many months Australia had come out of lockdown, but TSE by this time had a massive backlog, and a long wait was on the cards for the bolt head parts.

Workshop depravation and impatience was taking its toll on me, so I again attacked the stock, this time skeletonising the fore end, I'm still not sure I like the look, but its very different, and it will allow air around the barrel, and certainly on long 60 shot match courses in 300 mt they do get very hot.

So finally the stock is fully finished, and Yee haa! The bolt head and extractor has arrived from TSE in Australia, thank you so much Veronica at TSE for putting up with me chasing you!

I then gleefully did the fun drive to Fishtoft to

Mik at Dolphin Gun Company, for its Bartlein barrel, one in eight twist, 25 inch, in my personal profile to take the Keppeler front site block, and chambered for .223 Wylde.

But, arghhhh! Bartlein delivery dates have taken a massive hike, a look on Bartlein's website even talk about ten to 12 month deliveries! Fortunately Mik's consignments have been on order for some considerable time so should be later in the year! Bad enough being a customer, but it must be a nightmare running a business with these current supply problems!

The Bartleins arrived later in the year and mine was soon into profiling and fitting, but then the next unavoidable wait, proofing! I go through Xmas, the suspense building waiting for the call from Dolphin, and I hope it comes for my Birthday, soon, in early February!



Nah, proof delays, and another Journal article passes the deadline! But its then back and Mik is soon toiling against adversity to complete it and I can collect it, and then it's my turn to toil! I was determined to use a Hart free trigger, one I got 45 years ago from the late great Malcolm Cooper, it had been used on my wife's original Sportco for 300 mt then and I wanted it on this rifle, I said I was nostalgic!

But Harts were specific to a rifle, and it took a very nervous adjustment of the trigger bolt sear position with a diamond grind stone, and voila! A 45 year old 2 ounce trigger is now perfect, crisp, creep free, and adjusts nicely to 30 grams, that's close to thought operated! Just the trigger guard to re make and its finished!

So is it a silk purse from a sow's ear? It was intended to be a lock down project, that has just overrun a bit, now pushing two years now with post-COVID delays.

The action is 50 years old, OK it's modified but nothing that was not done in the day, the stock is "from" the wood of a 50 year old stock, the trigger is a 45 year old match free trigger, the barrel, sights, and butt plate is all new, and much of the thinking is using modern techniques and ideas, and its not been cheap to do, but its been very satisfying!! I think it's a silk purse!

Its been tested now, and its an absolute tack driver, shooting my 80 gn hand loads, its a great 300 mt rifle, but .223 is also TR legal, just remove the butt hook, switch the Hart free trigger, to the 1500 gm Sportco trigger and its TR legal.

And we have enough bits to build another one, and even in 7.62 if you wanted to?

You will have noticed the Sportco is not alone in the top picture, it's an earlier project, it's the Malcolm Cooper original 300 mt rifle that I restored in pre 2020 and it was the subject of an article in the NRA Journal then. Malcolm was probably the greatest target shooter the UK has ever seen, he won with Air rifle, Small

bore rifle, and 300 mt full bore rifle, shooting prone, standing and kneeling, winning World Championships, setting World records, UK records in all of them, he won two consecutive Olympic Golds, and many other medals in many events, he was a legend.

There were two details to finish on the rifle after that restoration, first there was a repair on the stock that I was not happy with, with miss matching grain on the walnut, now after two years I have found a better match not perfect, (sad old man!), but much better, and that has been replaced. I have also been searching for one of the original Walther Universal sights, and failed, but I have now built one from parts, and the rifle is now reunited with a correct period sight. This has all come together at a good time, the rifle was always intended to be donated to a museum when the time came, well now the time has come, and it will go to the NRA Museum at Bisley. So all of you can see it close up, and we plan to get it there and on display in time for the NRA National meeting in June/July.

So this was a clearing up projects article, all the subjects are 300m special, a great event, indoor firing point, electronic targets, same evil Bisley wind, using either softer calibres in 6 mm or .223, or 7,62 if you enjoy the recoil, if you would like information on 300m please email me on robin.carter80@ntlworld.com ☺



Left: Hart free trigger on the Special Sportco .223 Action.

Above inset: Malcolm Coopers First 300 mt Rifle.





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Model	Price
1-6x24 AB 3DC	£299
1-6x24 AB 3DC	£299
5-25x56 EBR 3C MRA	£345
5-25x56 EBR 3C MRA	£345

AB 3DC EBR 3C MRA

MISSION
NOT SO IMPOSSIBLE

VIPER HST

The new Viper HST Hunting Shooting Tactical delivers shooting versatility for hunters, as well as tactical enthusiasts. The Viper HST boasts a hand-set second focal plane reticle perfect for accurate holds at extended ranges, incredibly precise, repeatable and dual side target-style windage and elevation turrets.

Model	Price
4-11x40	£599
8-20x50	£699

Reticle VHS-1 (MRA) Reticle VHS-2 (MRA)

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3-15x42 HSR-5 (MRA)	£1229
3-15x42 HSR-5 (MRA)	£1229
3-15x42 HSR-5 (MRA)	£1229
4.5-22x56 FFP HSR-2 (MRA)	£1549
4.5-22x56 FFP HSR-2 (MRA)	£1549

HSR-5 (MRA) HSR-2 (MRA) HSR-2 (MRA)

Leica PRS

Leica's first focal plane long-range specialist with 6x zoom.

When it comes to accuracy at a distance, long-range shooters can rely on the uncompromising technology of the new Leica PRS 5-30x56 riflescope. Its generous magnification range of 5x to 30x offers a wide array of uses - at various distances and under the most difficult conditions.

Model	Price
PRS 5-30x56 Reticle L 4x	£2550
PRS 5-30x56 Reticle L 4x	£2299
PRS 5-30x56 Reticle L 4x	£2299
PRS 5-30x56 Reticle L 4x	£2299

Reticle L 4x Reticle L 4x Reticle L 4x Reticle L 4x

Bushnell MATCH PRO

Simply put - The Match Pro Rifle Scope is the best entry-level competitor rifle scope on the market today. Purpose-built for competition shooting - The Match Pro Rifle Scope has all the features you need to compete with confidence and bring home the win.

Model	Price
6-24x50 Display M1 FFP	£719
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Display M1 FFP Reticle Display M1 FFP Illuminated Reticle

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VIPER HD (NEW FREE Stay on Case)
The Viper HD is a true fix-on-the-low end adapts to a wide range of scenarios, letting shooters engage targets from long-range shots in an open country real deer, and everything in between - there's the lightweight, second focal plane Razor HD LHT. Featuring high definition optical system, delivers a crystal clear sight picture with such sharp resolution, turn every second of legal shooting light into opportunity.

Model	Price
15-45x50 - Angled or Straight	£299
21-45x50 - Angled or Straight	£399

VORTEX RANGING MONOCULARS

Model	Price
SOLID 6x36 R/T Tactical Monocular with MRA Reticle	£129
RECON PRO HD 6x36 Ranging Reticle Monocular	£399.99
RECON 15x50 R/T Tactical Scope with R/T ranging reticle	£649.99

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1-6x24 SFP - VHS-2	£549
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3-15x44 SFP - EBR-7C	£1049
3-25x50 SFP - EBR-7C	£1149
3-25x50 SFP - EBR-7C	£1149

Reticle EBR-2 (MRA or MRA) Reticle EBR-4 (MRA or MRA) Reticle VHS-2 (MRA or MRA) Reticle EBR-7C (MRA or MRA)

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Take the first step into long-range shooting with an optic that helps you go the distance with a true of choice - the Venom. Featuring a 5x magnification built into a 34mm tube for a massive amount of target area. The Venom also includes Vortex's Hologram Zero System for a fast, easy, reliable means to zero.

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5-25x56 FFP 34mm EBR-3C (MRA)	£579

EBR-3C (MRA) EBR-3C (MRA)

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RAZOR HD GEN II

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3-18x50 EBR-7C - MRA	£1787
4.5-25x56 HSR-5 (MRA)	£2049
4.5-25x56 HSR-5 (MRA)	£2049
4.5-25x56 EBR-7C - MRA	£2699
4.5-25x56 EBR-7C - MRA	£2699

HSR-5 (MRA) HSR-5 (MRA) EBR-7C (MRA) EBR-7C (MRA)

SWAROVSKI OPTIK X5i

RIGHT TO THE LIMIT

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

Model	Price
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X5i 3.5-18x50 P-14 MRA	£2335
X5i 5-25x56 P-14 MRA	£2850
X5i 5-25x56 P-14 MRA	£2320
X5i 5-25x56 P-14 MRA	£2850
X5i 5-25x56 P-14 MRA	£2320

ARKEN OPTICS RIFLESCOPES

Model	Price
SH4 GEN 2 4-16x50 FFP SF (34mm)	£759.99
SH4 GEN 2 6-24x50 FFP SF (34mm)	£779.99
EPS 5-25x56 FFP SF (34mm)	£999.99

ACCESSORIES

Model	Price
Multi-Scope Rings	£99.99
Rigid Precision Scope Mount	£99.99
10 to 15mm Caps - 50 x 50mm	£37.99
Bubble Level - 34mm	£37.99
Adjustable Throw Lever - 34mm	£37.99
Race Shooting Bag	£37.99

SWAROVSKI OPTIK STR 80

LEAVING NO DETAIL TO CHANCE

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

Model	Price
STR 80 Body Only - Reticle MOA	£2830
STR 80 Body Only - Reticle MOA	£2830
STR 80 Body Only - Reticle MRA	£2830
STR 80 Body Only - Reticle MRA	£2830

VORTEX RANGEFINDERS

Model	Price
CROSSHAIR HD 1400	£199
DIAMONDBACK HD 2000	£299
VIPER HD 3000	£389
RAZOR HD 4000	£559

Summary of 2022 NRA HAND LOADING AMMUNITION SURVEY

Results from the recent hand loaded ammunition survey.

Our thanks to everyone that contributed to the recent hand loaded ammunition survey. The survey closed with a 48% response rate made up of 3,972 individual responses. The survey was commissioned following a series of breech explosions involving hand-loaded ammunition. The survey objective is to understand the extent to which members hand load, how they learned the techniques and the underlying drivers for the activity. The results provide useful context to the NRA's review of hand loading policies, procedures and training resources.

Not surprisingly 74% of respondents hand load ammunition for their own use, with a small number doing so for friends and family.

The majority of respondents, 56%, have been hand loading for more than ten years and learned the techniques from friends or colleagues. 21% of respondents have received formal training or have attended a hand-loading course. 37% said their Club provides hand-loading training but only 16% said their Club had facilities for hand loading. The majority of respondents refer to published reference books for load data, with a significant number also using ballistic programmes/software.

The majority of respondents (87%) reload to improve accuracy, but cost, reliability

and ammunition availability are also key drivers.

In terms of scale, 38% of respondents said they expect to hand load up to 1,000 rounds a year. The most popular calibres are .308, .38/.357, .223 and .303. 20% of hand-loaded ammunition is expected to qualify as HME. It is encouraging to note that 94% of respondents said they comply with specifications published by C.I.P. or SAAMI for the cartridge.

The vast majority of respondents (87%) said that they use hand-loaded ammunition on the NSC ranges at Bisley. 61% said they use hand-loaded ammunition on MoD/military ranges in the UK.

The final survey question asked respondents if they had experienced an incident with hand-loaded ammunition – 9% answered yes.

NRA RULES, POLICIES AND CLUB AGREEMENT TERMS

The NRA Safe Shooting System makes the individual shooter responsible to his Club Chairman for ensuring that his ammunition performs within range muzzle velocity and energy limits and that the combination of rifle and ammunition are safe. Downloading ammunition is not accepted as a means to bring rounds that would otherwise exceed ME/MV

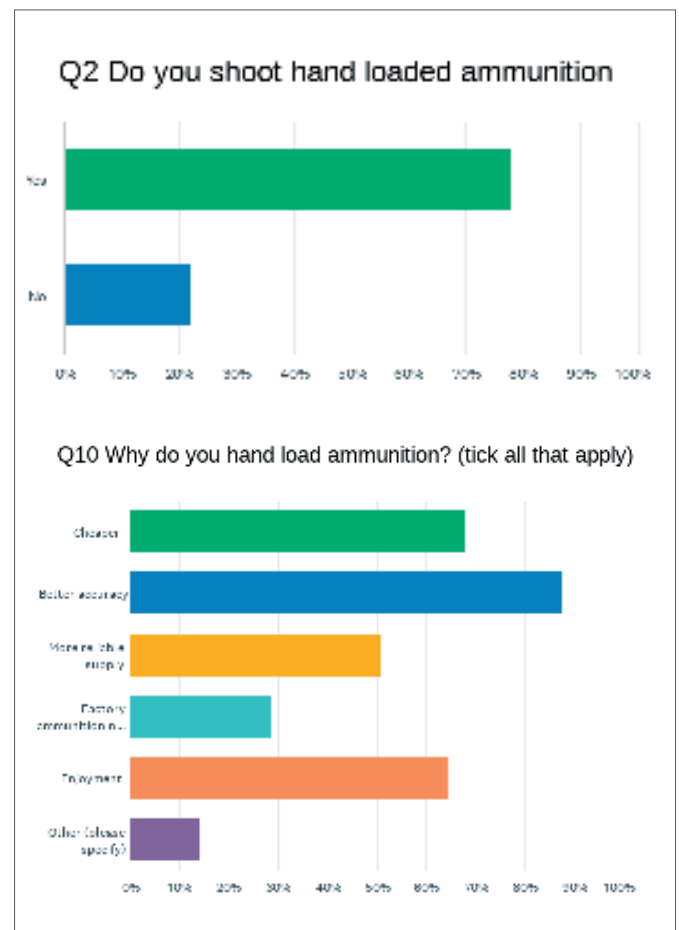
values within range limits. As a condition of affiliation to the NRA, the Club Chairman agrees to obtain confirmation that ammunition used under Club supervision falls within range limits.

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION - NEXT STEPS

The survey has highlighted an opportunity to develop additional resources to provide advice and guidance

to members that wish to hand load ammunition. A new NRA Code of Practise for Hand Loading Ammunition is under development. The CoP will complement the existing NRA Introduction to Hand Loading booklet used to deliver the NRA Hand Loading Course. The final version of the Code of Practise will be published in the coming weeks.

The Shooter's Certification Card provides an auditable record as to the shooter's ability to use firearms and ammunition. In 2023, the Certification Card will include a new element to allow for the inclusion of hand loading capability. This will allow the responsible officer of the club, normally the Chairman to confirm the shooters ability to hand load. Details of how this will affect the SCC renewal process will be available later this year. 🔄



RANGE OFFICE

Latest information from the Range Office, including target marking, defacing and ammunition.

AMMUNITION

Shooters all around the country are now becoming aware of the distinct lack of choice in ammunition and components, but why?

Unfortunately, a growing number of factors are playing a part. COVID-19 slowed production, leaving manufacturers to play catch up. Around the same time, political changes in the United States lead to increased demand from its gun owning community. Now add into the mix, NATO countries increasing their ammunition stocks and US manufacturer's promises to provide Ukraine with large amounts of ammunition, means suppliers in the UK are being told not to expect to see certain US products until the latter part of 2023. So, in a snapshot, world demand is outstripping supply.

Then we come to the cost. The cost of fuel and energy prices, which are currently rising rapidly, have a knock on effect with raw material production, manufacturing

and shipping. Combine this with high demand, low availability, pushes the prices even higher. This cost then gets passed down the line to the consumer.

With all this in mind, our Senior Armourer is spending a considerable amount of time trying to source ammunition and components at a rate that gives you the best bang for your buck. However, the market is beyond our control and unfortunately, prices will rise.

What is available – the GGG 7.62 155gr Imperial ammo was delivered in May.

However, this will

only be available for the designated competitions and will only go on sale after the Imperial competitions are over. Other products available include:

Ammunition – GGG 7.62 147gr NATO, GGG 5.56 62gr NATO, GGG .308 168gr Match, GGG .308 175gr, RUAG .308 154gr HPBT, Hornady AMAX Black .308 155gr HPBT, S&B 6.5 Creedmoor 140gr, Magtech 5.56 62gr NATO, CCI .22 Minimag, CCI .22 standard. Components

– (powders) Whitavouri N140, Whitavouri N160, Whitavouri N165.

We currently have most primers, cases and bullets. However, Starline have stated that they will not be supplying the UK with cases for approximately two years.

The components range will increase as availability improves.

We are gradually improving our shooting accessories lines within the Armoury shop, new lines of hearing protection from ear plugs up to electronic hearing protection by Earmor. Shoot-N-C targets are always a great purchase for lanes without markers, but please only affix them to blanks frames and always at the same centre height as standard targets pasted on the other frames. Cleaning products from Bore tech are stocked in the shop, ever looking for the right stock, we are scouring the wholesalers for the quality products shooters deserve at a great price. As time moves on, the shop will increase in size, this will be followed by the increasing stock lines and brands'.

There is a faint light at the end of the tunnel but until then we are going to have to bite the bullet.

For enquiries on specific calibres or any other products you would like to see in stock, please email the NRA Armoury - armoury@nra.org.uk.

“We are gradually improving our shooting accessories lines within the Armoury shop, new lines of hearing protection from ear plugs up to electronic hearing protection by Earmor.”





TARGET MARKING – ARE YOU TRAINED?

Range safety regulations require that a Club or Member employing (whether for payment or otherwise) any person to mark targets in the butts on Stickledown, Century or Short Siberia Ranges is responsible for ensuring that that person is trained to carry out the task.

When signing on to the range as the RCO, this certifies amongst other things, that the person signing will ensure compliance by persons under their control with Range Safety regulations.

Markers employed by the NRA are required to attend a training session before employment. This training session consists of a safety presentation and supervised manual practice.

The safety presentation is available to download from the Markers Range Information section on the NSC website.

Please contact markers@nra.org.uk for more information on training dates. ☎

TARGET DEFACING

Over recent months, more and more members are putting their own targetry over the top of NRA standard targets. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS! Firstly, this is in contravention of Bisley Range Regulations as per Sec 35 “Only NSC approved targetry may be used on the ranges. Self-provided target faces may be used with permission from the Range Office but are not to be affixed above the designated Target Centre Height.”

Secondly, these targets have been prepared for other range users and competitions taking place, and have now become unserviceable.

When making your booking, please ask for a blank screen and we will ensure there are some available in the butts.



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TIME TO GET OUT THOSE SPORTING RIFLES

by **Steve Wallis** – Sporting Rifle Discipline Representative

The Imperial Meeting really does have something for everyone be they TR shooters, MR or F class shooters, GR or CSR enthusiasts, schools or cadets and not forgetting of course those of us who shoot Sporting Rifles. Sporting Rifle events start on first Saturday and Sunday, with competitions running alongside those of the IHAM Meeting on the British Sporting Rifle Club ranges adjacent to Melville.

There are competitions for rimfire and centrefire sporting rifles, with both static and moving targets. Static competitions include the Stalkers Test which, as its name suggests, tests the ability of the shooter to take shots from each of five different positions that might be encountered in the field when deer stalking. Alongside this is the Sitting Fox, a competition that is shot from the standing position but with the challenge of timed exposure – 5 shots standing while supported during a one minute 'window', reload and repeat.

“Entries are unlimited, hence the name, and competitors get the chance to win one or more of three different prizes

The British Sporting Rifle Club was founded sixty years ago in 1962 to provide a permanent home for Running Deer

shooting in the UK so it is only right that there are two competitions that reflect this heritage. The Running Deer course of fire is two sighting shots, to get the eye in, followed by 10 shots to count. On a similar, but perhaps slightly more challenging theme, the Swedish Deer competition requires the shooter to take their first shot at a standing target before reloading for a second shot as the target

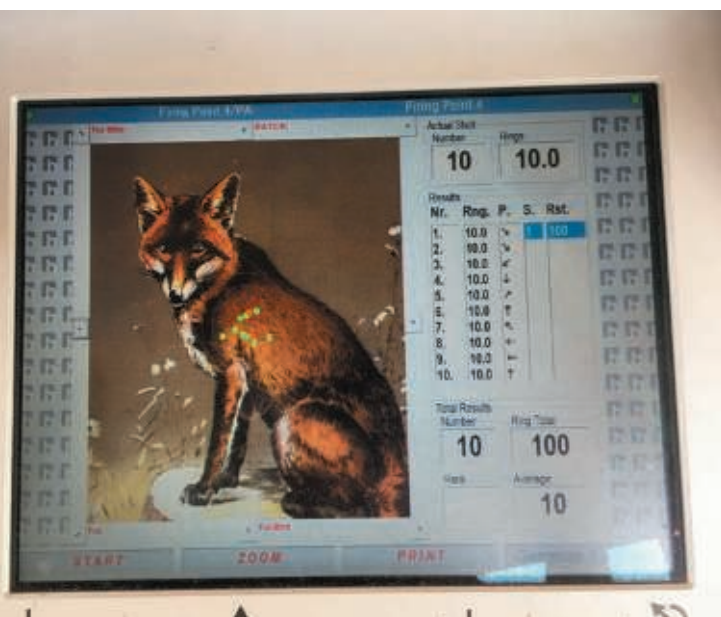
moves off across the range, with the process repeated over a total of 12 shots to count.

As well as the centrefire competitions there will be a Running Boar competition taking place with shooters having 4 sighting shots before taking 20 shots to count.

Entries for all of the above can be made online via the NRA website.

First Thursday sees the start of the Running Deer Unlimiteds competition which runs over first Thursday and Friday and then Second Monday and Tuesday. This is an ideal opportunity for those who have not done so before, as well as all those who are regular repeat visitors, to come down to the British Sporting Rifle Club ranges and 'have-a-go' at Running Deer shooting.

Entries are unlimited, hence the name, and competitors get the chance to win one or more of three different prizes – the first of these is a cash pay-out for an HPS scored using a handicap system. The second is an NRA Gold medal – there are two up for grabs, one for scores in the first week and another for scores in the second week – the medals are awarded





to the highest aggregate score from two 10 shot series. The final, and most prestigious, is The Dewar Trophy which is awarded to the highest 10 shot score recorded during the Running Deer Unlimiteds and British Running Deer Championships.

Alongside the Running Deer Unlimiteds are two further 'have-a-go' events for Sporting Rifle shooters,

both based around a course of fire that involves shooting standing unsupported at a boar target at 100m.

Rifles and ammunition will be available if you don't have your own and for those wanting a little bit of help, instruction will be available from current and former British Running Deer Championship winners.

In between the first and second week of Running Deer Unlimiteds the British Sporting Rifle Club hosts and runs The British Running Deer Championships. Prizes are on offer here in the form of silver trophies presented to winners in each of the Running Deer Singles, Running Deer Doubles and, for an aggregate score from both, the British Running Deer Championships.

If you would like to enter the British Running Deer Championships competition please send an email in the first instance to captain@bsrc.co.uk. This is a fully squadded competition with entries opening on 27 June, numbers are limited due to the time taken to shoot each series and the need to plan stoppages in line with shooting times on other ranges at Bisley. 📧

MORE INFORMATION on the activities of the British Sporting Rifle Club can be found on their website www.bsrc.co.uk

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THE THREE COUNTIES OPEN 2022

Frank Harriss (Sec, HWRA) reports back from the event held on 24 April.

This shoot, aka the 'Cobweb Buster' is the joint Open meeting of Gloucestershire RA and Hereford and Worcester RA. This year it was held on 24 April at Bisley. The conditions are usually 'Empire match' but this year, to fit in with the range plan, 62 TR competitors shot a 'Queen's II and III', and six FTR competitors shot 2+15 at 3/5/6 followed by 2+15 at 900 and 1,000.

In spite of a lovely sunny, though chilly, morning, only three competitors managed possibles at 300 yards – Rob Lygoe and Nigel Watson, both of Dursley and David Nuthall of Epsom College. Nuthall's 50.8 was particularly good since, as was realised later, ICFRA v-bulls were being used! (This was remedied for the remaining ranges). Mike Pearson and Chris Hircombe (both 27th London (Putney)) led the FTR group with 73.8 and 72.5 respectively.

Back at 500, it had warmed up and there were six scores of 50, the leading two being Mike Jordan (Pumas) with 50.7 and Jeremy Thompson (Central Bankers) with 50.6. Nick Ireland topped the FTR with 67.5 – for the benefit of uninitiated

readers, the F-class scoring areas are tiny compared with TR faces!

At 600 the wind started varying and many on respectable scores crashed out. There were four scores of 49. Andy Daw (TNHR) scored 49.7 as did Rob Lygoe who thereby won the Baldwin Cup for the TR short-range aggregate with 148.15. Rob Edwards (TNHR) was second with 147.13, then Nigel Watson with 147.11. Mike Pearson won the FTR short-range aggregate with 214.18.

After lunch, out to 900. Here James Postle (Old Epsomians), who had been tucked in behind the TR leaders at short range, made his break with an excellent 74.6, winning the Royal Artillery Cup. Many congratulations to Hermione Grindon of Wellington College with a fine 73.9. Our own, our very own Ian Ashworth, the competition organiser, was also in contention with 73.6. Chris Hircombe had the highest FTR score of 68.2.

Back to 1,000, where the conditions and the earliness of the season took their toll. Ros Wiltshire (Old Epsomians) put in 71.8 to win the TR 1,000 yds Deerpark Trophy and also (with her 72.9 at 900) the TR long-range aggregate. Second in the TR aggregate was Hermione Grindon with just 4 vs less. Second at TR 1,000 yds was Mike Bumford (Welsh RA) with 71.6. Chris Hircombe took the FTR Long-range aggregate with 133.5.

Amazing work by Stats meant that the prizegiving took place at the back of the range before the hooter went. The TR aggregate winner of the Dean Cup was James Postle, scoring 287.25, followed by Rob Lygoe with 286.29 and Ros



Above: James Postle won the Dean Cup. **Below left:** Chris Hircombe with the Coventry Memorial Cup. **Below right:** Freddie Lawry with the Worcester OTC Cup.

Wiltshire with 285.32. The FTR aggregate winner of the Coventry Memorial Cup was Chris Hircombe (343.20). The Officers Cup for the highest O/T competitor went to Russell Hodgson-Jones (Old Wellingburians) with 284.19 from Paul Johnson (Kidderminster) with 283.29. Paul also won the three reserved trophies for HWRA members. The top under-25 scorer was Freddie Lawry from Wellington College, scoring 279.18. He also won the Worcester OTC cup for the highest school pupil. It was very good to see pupils from Wellington, Epsom and Oakham entering the competition and doing so well.

The competition is legendary for its aggregates, the winners of which are awarded money prizes. Mike Bumford won the 'Outside' (300/ 1,000) with 120.12, James Postle the 'Inside' (500/600/900) with 171.14 and the 'Odds' (300/500/900) with 172.16 and Rob Lygoe the 'Evans' (work it out), scoring 119.15. The FTR aggregates were divided between Chris Hircombe and Mike Pearson. The Baker Cup for TR teams of three was won by 'TNHR red' – Andy Daw, Ed Feast and Rob Edwards.

Ian Ashworth thanked Michael Boucher who had run the Stats and also all the competitors who had helped Frank Harriss run the range. Enormous credit is due to Ian for organising this large Open Meeting so successfully and with his usual aplomb.

We look forwards to seeing previous and new competitors in the Cobweb Buster's Sister Open ('The Moth-Baller') planned for Sunday 25th Sep-22. Entry forms for this will be out shortly. ☺



The IBIS OPEN COMPETITION

IBIS Organiser **Frank Harris** reports back from the event held on 23 April

This year we were able to return to the usual time of April and the usual ranges – 300, 500 and 600 in the morning and 1000 and 1100 in the afternoon. There were competitions for TR with 35 competitors, FTR with eight competitors and F-Open with four competitors. TR fired 2+10 at each range and F-class fired 2+15.

The morning started overcast and chilly with the wind coming from 9 O’Clock, as it did all day. For many, it was their first shoot and this showed in the 300 scores. Only Keirin McCamley of Surrey scored 50 with TR, though two FTR shooters, Simon West (NRA) and Simon Gambling (Dorset Riflemen) and two F-Open shooters, Justin Gough and Ian Boxall (both Dorset Riflemen) managed fine 75s on their demanding targets.

At 500, the variable wind had more effect, with only two TR scores of 49 by Keirin McCamley and Richard Hirst (Huddersfield), two FTR 71s by Peter Dommsett and Mark Downing (Dorset Riflemen) and two F-Open 72s from Peter Hunt (IBIS) and Boxall.

McCamley and Hirst almost tamed the difficult wind at 600 with 49s again and Downing and Dommsett

scored 70s. However, Boxall managed a wonderful 75.

So, Keirin McCamley won the TR short-range with 148.19, with Richard Hirst second with 145.10. Peter Dommsett was first for FTR on 214.14, followed by Mark Downing with 212.11. Ian Boxall led the F-Open with 222.23.

“ These trophies were presented at the prize giving in the Ibis garden by Peter Griggs.

Clearly, in these windy conditions, 1000 and 1100 were going to be challenging. Range officers Frank Harriss, Bill Rowland and Dave Crisford were surprised and gratified by the relatively few ‘Message 4’s’, considering the conditions. There were two TR 48s at 1000, Peter Griggs

and Bob Shaw, both from IBIS. Leading FTR scorers were Simon West and Paul Russell (Bridlington) with 68. Ian Boxall scored 70.06 for F-Open but unfortunately, had then to leave due to a prior commitment.

1100 does represent a challenge, perhaps partly because it is so rarely shot with a TR. However, there were five TR scores of 45 or over and 23 of 40 or over, showing that many had begun to cope with the wind by then. Griggs and Shaw continued their good TR shooting with 46.05 and 45.01 respectively. There were two FTR 64s from West and Downing and two F-Open 67s from Hunt and Gough.

The TR Aggregate Cup was



Top: Peter Griggs presents the FTR cup to Simon West.

Above: Peter Griggs (left) receives the TR cup from Frank Harris.

won by the IBIS Shooting Captain Peter Griggs for the second year in a row with 235.24, with Keirin McCamley second with 234.23. This is the second year when there have also been FTR and F-Open trophies. The FTR cup was won by Simon West with 342.19 and the F-Open cup by John Howe with 347.21.

These trophies were presented at the prize giving in the Ibis garden by Peter Griggs. Many of those who attended were delighted to discover that there were also spot prizes (bottles and chocolates) – it is always worth handing in your register card! It was good to see entries from nine under-19

school pupils from Oakham School and Greshams School. The £30 HPS voucher for the top under-19 was won by Harry Purslow of Greshams, who led by a country mile after a fine 142.07 at short-range, was not quite so successful at long range but still won with 223.10, placed 16th overall. Mention must also be made of Georgia Clark of Greshams who made 85 at long-range.

HPS had kindly presented two more £30 vouchers and they were among the prizes available for the TR and FTR aggregates and received gratefully by the recipients. We extend our thanks to HPS for sponsoring us in this way. 🍷

Update from the REGIONAL RANGES MANAGER

Nic Couldrey discusses a renewed emphasis on the development or access to shooting away from the NSC ranges at Bisley.

This year has seen a renewed emphasis on the development of access to shooting away from the NSC ranges at Bisley. Our experience has been that opportunities to acquire ranges are rare and typically complex, particularly on former MoD sites.

The NRA is keen to explore alternative solutions, including the development of closer ties with existing commercial range operators and landowners seeking to develop shooting facilities.

With that context, I am pleased to report that the NRA Secretary General, Andrew Mercer and I, visited three ranges recently:

RIFLEMAN FIREARMS

Rifleman Firearms, located in Hambridge near Langport in Somerset, operate an outdoor air rifle range and a modern indoor 100m range with five lanes and electronic targets. The NRA has previously used the splendid facilities to deliver RCO training. We met the range operator to discuss closer collaboration to deliver regional training courses, access to the range and potential to co deliver shooting events on the nearby MoD gallery range at Langport. The indoor range has recently been approved by the Home Office as a Section 7 (3) site for heritage pistols. Interested members should contact Rifleman for details at riflemanfirearms.com/contact-us

DECHMONT RANGE AND TRAINING AREA

The NRA Representative in Scotland facilitated a meeting with the Chief Executive of the Lowland RFCA at the Dechmont Range and Training area located eight miles outside Glasgow. Scottish clubs are already frequent users of the 25M Barrack Range on the site. Our meeting focused on the four old gallery ranges, which were closed in 1986. The RFCA is actively seeking opportunities to develop the site, which also provides

facilities for civilian clay target shooting and archery. We agreed that the NRA would conduct a topographic ground survey to assess the feasibility of building a civilian target shooting range using part of the legacy stop butt and firing points. We hope to complete the survey work and develop outline design proposals this

year. The development of a civilian range at Dechmont could be a good fit with the RFCA's objectives and provide a convenient resource for shooters in the central belt of Scotland.

POTENTIAL MOD SITE

Finally, we travelled to the South West of England to meet a landowner that has recently taken back an outdoor range leased to MoD. The landowner is keen

to work with the NRA to get advice and guidance on how to repair, re-open and operate the range, which has been unused for several years. This interesting opportunity plays to the respective strengths of both parties – allowing the landowner to develop an existing asset using local resources with the NRA providing valuable domain expertise.

We hope that the range will become available later this year when more details will be made available to clubs and members.

ACCESS TO THE MOD ESTATE

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 this year, dates are still not available. Lydd Serial 45 in Kent has closed for repairs; the expected re-opening date will be confirmed in due course.

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

“ We travelled to the South West of England to meet a landowner that has recently taken back an outdoor range leased to MoD

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12 Bore Beretta Model 687 O/U Shotgun, Multichoke, 30" Barrels	£1,495
.12 Bore Beretta Model 687 EELL Diamond Pigeon 30" Barrels Fixed Chokes	£4,250
.357 Mag Henry Big Boy, New, Brass Frame, U/Lever Rifle	£1,230
.44 Mag Henry Big Boy, New, Brass Frame, U/Lever Rifle	£1,245
300 Win Mag Sako A7 Roughtech Range Rifle, Heavy Fluted Barrel, Leupold 4.5-14X L.R	£2,195
243 Win Howa 1500 Heavy Barrel, Wildcat Moderator, 3-9X50 Leupold Scope	£795
243 Win Tikka M595 Sporting Rifle inc 2.5-10x Dr Optic Scope	£1,250
.45 Colt Uberti Yellow Boy U/Lever Rifle	£850
.22lr Anschütz Match Rifle M2007/2013 in Winzeler Stock inc Centra Rear Sight	£2,450
.303 Brit Long Branch Sniper Rifle With Lyman Alaskan Scope In Spirit of Original	£4,500
.308 Win Musgrave Match Rifle 1-10T Barrel, 20X Optimate Scope Walnut Stock	£1,200
6mm Bleiker 300 Metre Match rifle	£4,500
.284 Win DCE F Class Rifle 1-9T Stainless 32" Barrel, Jewel Trigger, Walnut T-Hole Stock	£2,800
.44/40 Win Uberti 1873 Model 24" barrel in as new condition	£895
.44/40 Armi Sport Winchester 1892 20" Octagonal barrel Blue	£495
.22lr Anschütz Rifles various models	£250 to £2,650



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Obituaries

Remembering Capt. Robert (Bob) Pitcairn June 26 1938 – March 4 2022.



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Capt. Robert (Bob) Pitcairn on Friday, March 4, 2022 in Chilliwack, B.C. at the age of 83 years. A broken collarbone that happened last summer healed slowly and then rapidly progressed into a battle with bone cancer, which was only diagnosed shortly before he 'flew west' as pilots say.

Robert (Bob) Pitcairn was born in Summerside, PEI in 1938 to parents Scotty and Muriel Pitcairn, along with eldest sister Myrna and younger brother Donald. He spent five years in Air Cadets,

receiving his Private Pilot license and Cadet Wings. He joined the RCAF in London, ON in 1956 before moving to the Prairies to fly a wide variety of military jets and meeting his future wife Kay in Portage la Prairie, MB. Declining a Permanent Commission in the RCAF, Bob and Kay along with their young children moved to Richmond in 1966. There Bob joined Canadian Pacific Airlines and started flying the DC-3 and DC-8, ending his flying career at the controls of a Boeing 747-400 in 1998. With 24,160 hours of flying time, Bob's most challenging trip was in Nov.

1974 when he was hijacked in a CP Air 737 that landed safely in Saskatoon, SK.

Bob Pitcairn was a legend in full-bore target rifle shooting that he took up in 1960 and competed in successfully for

six decades. He qualified for a record 45 Canadian Bisley Teams to the NRA of the UK National Matches and 13 ICFRA World Palma Long Range Teams. Along the way he won more than 180 first place championship awards in provincial, national and international competition. Bob has been inducted to the Prince Edward Island, Dominion of Canada Rifle Association and Canadian Forces Sports Halls of Fame. The pinnacle of his sporting life was representing Canada at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia, where he set the record for the oldest competitor ever at the age of 79 years and 9 months.

Bob is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Kay, daughter Lee-Anne, son Don, grand-daughters Sarah and Denise, plus his sister Myrna Babineau in PEI. A Celebration of Life ceremony was held on 30 April 2022 in the Evergreens at Ensley Strata clubhouse, Chilliwack. Donations were requested to the BC Cancer Foundation or the Cascades Hospice in Chilliwack in honour of Bob. ☺

Dave Holt

It is with regret that we announce the recent passing of Dave Holt. Dave was a regular shooter and RO in Gallery Rifle, CSR and a number of other disciplines. A great loss to us all – his friendship and humour will be sorely missed. A fuller obituary will appear in the next edition of the journal.





NOTICES

National Rifle Association
notifications and news.

THE DOWNS AND UPS OF TEAM SHOOTING

by David Woodcock of Windsor Rifle Club

The shooter was pleased to be picked for the team
As his scoring of late was less than supreme
But with wind coaching helping to keep him on aim
He thought he must make a good score in the game.

His first shoot of seven rounds – three hundred yards
And his nervousness meant that he found it quite hard
Thus he dropped a few points for a score somewhat thin
But it wasn't so poor as to risk the team's win.

His next score was one bullseye short of a "poss"
And that made him think he was not a dead loss
Now on to the last range, he's de-termin-ing
To shoot those last seven within the bull ring.

He fires his first round to count, as a bull
But no, the wrong target – oh, what a fool!
His wind coach advises, "Ignore that bad wiggle
And concentrate putting the rest in the middle".

With that in his mind and with new resolve found
He drops just one point in those final six rounds
The shooter was chagrined to lose for the team
Those vital five points which surely must mean
Their chances of winning the match on this day
Would certainly dwindle and fall right away.

However, their rivals had not scored so well
And our captain was able to joyfully tell
The downhearted shooter that our team had won
So all's well that ends well when all's said and done.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Having recently attended the AGMs of the NRA and the NSC, I am writing to congratulate the Boards and staff of both organisations on the financial performance achieved by Bisley Shooting Ground in 2021. It generated a profit of £198,000 on nine months activity even as operations were affected by the pandemic.

The prior owner of that business told the 2019 Bisley General Meeting that the annual profit generated by the business under his ownership "is less than the rent we pay the NRA" - acknowledged to be £67,000. This figure included the activities at Long Siberia, which he still runs, and which therefore did not contribute to the £198,000 noted above.

It seems that his assertion at the same meeting that the NRA's plans were not thought through "if you are suggesting that you can make £250,000 from a business that we've been running for 18 years" was well wide of the mark and did not factor in the accomplished team that is now running the business.

**Yours Sincerely,
John Webster**

RESULTS

SMALLBORE LONG RANGE MATCH

3 April

F Class

1	Hazelhurst, C	138.13
2	Edwards, S	133.9
3	Bakhshi, H	131.4

Match Rifle

1	Townsend, M	134.10
2	Tremlett, N	134.9
3	Hodgins, M	131.6

Target Rifle

1	Francis, P	128.9
2	Stubbins, B	128.8

Service Rifle

1	Wilson, J	119.4
2	Cattermole, T	112.3

E-LEAGUE

Spring Pilot 2022

Gallery Rifle Smallbore

1	Parfitt, V	553.17
2	Robson, K	552.15
3	McGuinness, P	552.10

Gallery Rifle Centrefire

1	White, M	580.21
2	Suchley, D	575.16

Gallery Rifle Centrefire

1	Greenall, M	578.23
2	Cantello, R	577.22

25TH PHOENIX MEETING

26-29 May

Individual Events

0101 25m Precision GRSB

1	2949 Frank Cullen	291 7X
2	167 Keith Cox	284 10X
3	2330 Robert J Tonner	279 7X

0102 25m Precision GRCF

1	167 Keith Cox	298 18X
2	2939 Flippie van Tonder	298 14X
3	3428 Steve Lane	297 13X

0103 25m Precision

GRCF Open

1	2987 Adam Chapman	298 13X
2	570 Les Pearson	297 15X

0104 25m Precision

GRCF Classic

1	3138 Andrew Graver	296 15X
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2 570 Les Pearson 294 11X

3 3267 Keith Kilvington 293 15X

0121 25m Precision LBP

1	034 Neil Francis	290 6X
2	2987 Adam Chapman	286 7X
3	3428 Steve Lane	284 8X

0122 25m Precision LBR

1	2987 Adam Chapman	285 7X
2	3769 Lee Townsend	282 7X
3	2055 Jonny Cormie	275 7X

0123 25m Precision AP

1	3138 Andrew Graver	281 5X
2	1844 Andrew McGee	278 4X

0141 25m Precision MLP

1	075 Anthony Bowden	132 0X
2	1281 Stuart Rankine	130 1X
3	3678 Andy Burt	129 1X

0142 25m Precision MLR

1	3570 Michael Cutler	130 4X
2	629 Dave Robinson	125 1X
3	3925 David Ellison	123 1X

0201 25m Precision Benchrest

GRSB

1	1358 Michael Deakin	300 30X
2	296 Dave Hackett	300 26X
3	2537 Paul Nicol	300 22X

0202 25m Precision Benchrest

GRCF

1 3675 Clive Ward 300 30X

0301 50m Precision GRSB

1	4545 Stoffel Bester	293 11X
2	2753 Jake Mossom	290 4X
3	3428 Steve Lane	289 11X

0302 50m Precision GRCF

1	2055 Jonny Cormie	284 11X
2	3767 Charlie Horner	280 5X
3	4544 Dries van Lingen	278 4X

0303 50m Precision

GRCF Open

1	2987 Adam Chapman	275 5X
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0304 50m Precision

GRCF Classic

1	1057 Andy Summers	274 3X
2	570 Les Pearson	272 3X
3	3203 Rob Wheeler	267 4X

0321 50m Precision LBP

1	3428 Steve Lane	267 4X
2	3044 Dave Morrow	259 2X
3	034 Neil Francis	257 2X

0322 50m Precision LBR

1 683 Jim Smith 215 2X

0341 50m Precision MLP

1 3925 David Ellison 87 0X

0342 50m Precision MLR

1 3570 Michael Cutler 106 0X

0401 50m Precision Benchrest

GRSB

1=	1358 Michael Deakin	300 30X
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1=	4104 Oscar Deakin	300 30X
----	-------------------	---------

1=	3623 Ian Perkins	300 30X
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0501 America Match GRSB

1	1358 Michael Deakin	286 8X
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2 3829 David Farmer 282 5X

3	2987 Adam Chapman	280 4X
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0502 America Match GRCF

1	167 Keith Cox	292 13X
2	2939 Flippie van Tonder	285 7X
3	2337 Greg Rastall	284 13X

0503 America Match

GRCF Open

1	1022 Steve Lamb	274 9X
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0504 America Match

GRCF Classic

1	3267 Keith Kilvington	276 4X
2	2148 Pet Pearson	273 3X

0521 America Match LBP

1	034 Neil Francis	273 4X
2	4385 Joe Mabbitt	273 4X

0701 Timed & Precision

1 GRSB

X1	1990 Chris West	299 21X
X2	3106 Jimmy Byrne	299 19X
X3	3395 Joe Pugh	299 19X
A1	2968 Will Danaher	300 16X
A2	1542 Jon Avetoomyan	300 12X
A3	2337 Greg Rastall	299 14X

B1	2176 Jeff Kehoe	299 14X
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B2	2114 Sophie West	298 13X
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B3	3256 Malcolm Stewart	298 12X
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C1	2539 Christopher Vale	
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297 13X

C2 1436 Bruno BlüBe 295 13X

C3 166 Ian Cox 295 10X

D1 4553 John Dowds 293 6X

D2 4385 Joe Mabbitt 290 5X

D3 2095 Andreas Steinke

289 5X

0702 Timed & Precision

1 GRCF

X1= 3395 Joe Pugh 300 25X

X1=167 Keith Cox 300 25X

A1 3829 David Farmer 300 27X

A2 3428 Steve Lane 300 25X

A3= 2337 Greg Rastall 300 23X

A3= 632 John Robinson 300 23X

B1 3807 Daniel Blagojevic
300 25X

B2 296 Dave Hackett 300 24X

B3 3649 Denis Cummins
300 23X

C1 2539 Christopher Vale
300 19X

C2 2968 Will Danaher 300 14X

C3 3789 Kevin Mayo 300 12X

D1 4452 Michael Chapman
299 14X

D2 3106 Jimmy Byrne 298 19X

D3 2094 Martin Steinke 298 15X

0703 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF

Open

1 1243 Shane Dinkin 299 19X

2 282 David Green 299 10X

3 243 Paul Flanagan 296 12X

0704 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF

Classic

1 1057 Andy Summers 300
25X

2 052 Gerry Betteridge 300
25X

3 2176 Jeff Kehoe 300 24X

0721 Timed & Precision 1 LBP

Open

X1 3428 Steve Lane 300 18X

X2 3044 Dave Morrow 300 9X

A1 2886 Gary Bowden 299 13X

A2 1773 Morné van Dalen
297 11X

A3 167 Keith Cox 297 10X

B1 2647 Christopher
Jackson 295 8X

B2 717 Vince Inman 292 9X

B3 2752 Bryan Hall 292 9X

0722 Timed & Precision 1 LBR

Open

X1 358 William Horne 300 16X

A2 717 Vince Inman 296 13X

A2 711 Paul Stockill 295 13X

A3 4211 Ian Archer 295 11X

B1 2141 Dean Richardson 290 7X	0904 Timed & Precision 2 GRCF Classic	1 3267 Keith Kilvington 118 16X	A3 3806 Jessica Eggers 193 20X
B2 3086 Derek Hinchcliffe 289 11X	1 3267 Keith Kilvington 586 24X	2 632 John Robinson 118 9X	B1 1990 Chris West 198 30X
B3 030 Alan Barker 289 4X	0921 Timed & Precision 2 LBP	3 2176 Jeff Kehoe 117 14X	B2 296 Dave Hackett 194 26X
0723 Timed & Precision	X1 3428 Steve Lane 584 20X	1121 Multi-Target LBP Open	B3 3271 David Cully 187 14X
1 AP	A1 034 Neil Francis 583 20X	X1 3428 Steve Lane 118 14X	1303 Phoenix A GRCF Open
1 625 Neil Roberts 291 6X	A2 2340 Glenn Gordon 578 23X	X2 3044 Dave Morrow 117 12X	1 2647 Christopher Jackson 179 17X
2 1844 Andrew McGee 291 6X	B1 1750 Andrew Hirst 532 11X	1 4211 Ian Archer 114 9X	1304 Phoenix A GRCF Classic
0724 Timed & Precision 1 LBP	0922 Timed & Precision 2 LBR	A2 510 Phil Milsom 114 7X	1 3267 Keith Kilvington 192 9X
Iron Sights	A1 1022 Steve Lamb 559 10X	A3 2330 Robert J Tonner 112 14X	2 210 Paul Drake 175 9X
1 3428 Steve Lane 293 10X	1021 Timed & Precision 3 LBP	B1 3554 Jim Cooper 109 5X	1321 Phoenix A LBP
2 358 William Horne 292 8X	1 2613 David Guest 244	B2 4385 Joe Mabbitt 106 4X	X1 3428 Steve Lane 194 23X
3 2055 Jonny Cormie 292 8X	2 034 Neil Francis 243	B3 3414 Maria Bartlett 104 4X	X2 034 Neil Francis 189 13X
0725 Timed & Precision 1 LBR	3 3044 Dave Morrow 243	1122 Multi-Target LBR Open	A1 2613 David Guest 185 11X
Iron Sights	1022 Timed & Precision 3 LBR	X1 1765 Leslie Kong 109 4X	A2 1773 Morné van Dalen 182 11X
1 358 William Horne 296 12X	1 043 Mel Beard 223	A2 050 Dave Berry 108 5X	B1 3358 Steve Christian 179 14X
2 393 Chris Pannell 296 8X	2 050 Dave Berry 222	A3 1773 Morné van Dalen 107 7X	B2 510 Phil Milsom 173 11X
3 1281 Stuart Rankine 296 7X	1101 Multi-Target GRSB	B1 3767 Charlie Horner 102 3X	1322 Phoenix A LBR
0735 Timed & Precision 1 SGM	X1 1990 Chris West 118 16X	B2 2537 Paul Nicol 99 5X	A1 2055 Jonny Cormie 179 11X
1 133 John Chambers 300 17X	X2 3267 Keith Kilvington 115 15X	B3 055 John Bibby 99 4X	B1 711 Paul Stockill 174 9X
2 711 Paul Stockill 298 15X	A1 3395 Joe Pugh 116 14X	1124 Multi-Target LBP Iron Sights	B2 4211 Ian Archer 162 13X
3 090 Norman Brown 298 14X	A2 2987 Adam Chapman 116 11X	1 358 William Horne 107 5X	1401 Multi-Target 3 GRSB
0736 Timed & Precision 1 SGSA	A3 2330 Robert J Tonner 116 7X	2 3428 Steve Lane 106 8X	1 3106 Jimmy Byrne 219 14X
1 3418 Mark Nolan 298 18X	B1 1281 Stuart Rankine 114 9X	3 1800 Alan Podevin 102 7X	2 3807 Daniel Blagojevic 218 22X
2 2649 Pat Grimes 298 14X	B2 034 Neil Francis 113 10X	1125 Multi-Target LBR Iron Sights	3 2939 Flippie van Tonder 218 15X
3 4547 Mark Walsh 297 11X	B 2539 Christopher Vale 113 10X	1 358 William Horne 110 5X	1402 Multi-Target 3 GRCF
0742 Timed & Precision 1 MLR	C 2095 Andreas Steinke 109 10X	2 3410 Peter Keegan 109 7X	1 3807 Daniel Blagojevic 226 20X
1 774 James Walton 286 7X	C 849 Brian Yard 108 10X	3 164 Phil Cowling 107 7X	2 3106 Jimmy Byrne 223 23X
2 3044 Dave Morrow 286 6X	C 3281 John Farrell 105 5X	1135 Multi-Target SGM	1403 Multi-Target 3 GRCF Open
3 433 John Kime 285 7X	D 2094 Martin Steinke 107 5X	1 1405 Rob Sanders 111 9X	1 282 David Green 210 9X
0901 Timed & Precision 2 GRSB	D 2752 Bryan Hall 102 4X	2 3657 Tony Quane 111 6X	1421 Multi-Target 3 LBP
X1 3807 Daniel Blagojevic 595 34X	D 4553 John Dowds 99 2X	3 133 John Chambers 110 11X	1 3428 Steve Lane 220 17X
X2 4540 Anna-Marie van Tonder 592 33X	1102 Multi-Target GRCF	1136 Multi-Target SGSA	1422 Multi-Target 3 LBR
A1 3106 Jimmy Byrne 586 19X	X1 2055 Jonny Cormie 119 17X	1 3418 Mark Nolan 114 10X	1 164 Phil Cowling 187 11X
A2 2337 Greg Rastall 586 19X	X2 3106 Jimmy Byrne 119 13X	2 3650 Dean Parker 113 11X	1501 1500 GRSB
A3 4541 Martin Holder 585 29X	A1 1990 Chris West 120 18X	3 2987 Adam Chapman 113 9X	X1 2753 Jake Mossom 1489 100X
B1 3203 Rob Wheeler 581 22X	A2 3395 Joe Pugh 119 13X	1142 Multi-Target MLR	X2 3807 Daniel Blagojevic 1485 103X
B2 2094 Martin Steinke 578 20X	A3 034 Neil Francis 119 11X	1 292 Paul Griffiths 103 4X	X3 1990 Chris West 1485 100X
B3 3281 John Farrell 572 8X	B1 1057 Andy Summers 118 13X	2 3044 Dave Morrow 95 5X	A1 1180 Andrew Jarman 1474 83X
0902 Timed & Precision 2 GRCF	B2 3418 Mark Nolan 117 14X	1301 Phoenix A GRSB	A2 4541 Martin Holder 1471 92X
X1 3203 Rob Wheeler 598 32X	B3 3767 Charlie Horner 116 14X	X1 1990 Chris West 193 26X	A3 3418 Mark Nolan 1470 90X
X2 2055 Jonny Cormie 596 36X	C1 2110 Ian Price 117 15X	X2 2055 Jonny Cormie 193 20X	B1 3252 Robert L Tonner 1475 83X
A1 4541 Martin Holder 593 37X	C2 3649 Denis Cummins 117 13X	A1 296 Dave Hackett 186 15X	B2 3044 Dave Morrow 1470 82X
A2 3807 Daniel Blagojevic 593 31X	C3 4268 Joe Woolley 114 12X	A2 3767 Charlie Horner 186 14X	B3 4545 Stoffel Bester 1468 93X
B1 296 Dave Hackett 596 25X	D1 3446 Peter Spink 109 4X	A3 2968 Will Danaher 182 17X	C1 4213 Amiel Gardiner 1450 65X
B2 2095 Andreas Steinke 585 21X	D2 4357 Robert McBride 108 8X	B1 1943 Declan Byrne 177 12X	C2 4067 Abyl Kaium 1449 60X
B3 1436 Bruno BlüBe 583 27X	D3 1629 Rolf Filbig 108 5X	B2 2539 Christopher Vale 176 13X	C3 4544 Dries van Lingen 1447 60X
0903 Timed & Precision 2 GRCF Open	1103 Multi-Target GRCF Open	B3 3271 David Cully 176 9X	D1 3428 Steve Lane 1462 84X
1 2647 Christopher Jackson 586 28X	1 3271 David Cully 113 5X	1302 Phoenix A GRCF	
	2 282 David Green 112 13X	X1 2055 Jonny Cormie 198 29X	
	3 1243 Shane Dinkin 112 11X	X2 2886 Gary Bowden 196 23X	
	1104 Multi-Target GRCF Classic	A1 3106 Jimmy Byrne 195 24X	
		A2 3807 Daniel Blagojevic 193 26X	

D2 166 Ian Cox 1414 50X	B3 3797 Daniel Taylor 1001 49X	1901 Advancing Target GRSE	1922 Advancing Target LBR Open
D3 3414 Maria Bartlett 1345 33X	1602 1020 GRCF	X1 3267 Keith Kilvington 296 38X	X1 683 Jim Smith 172 14X
1502 1500 GRCF	X1 632 John Robinson 1020 87X	X2 2055 Jonny Cormie 293 22X	A1 1281 Stuart Rankine 175 15X
X1 632 John Robinson 1498	X2 2886 Gary Bowden 1020 83X	A1 1990 Chris West 295 41X	A2 2124 Steve Denton 171 14X
117X	A1 3807 Daniel Blagojevic	A2 3769 Lee Townsend 288 31X	A3 2055 Jonny Cormie 166 11X
X2 3807 Daniel Blagojevic	1019 82X	A3 3807 Daniel Blagojevic	B1 2537 Paul Nicol 168 16X
1494 114X	A2 296 Dave Hackett 1019 67X	285 33X	B2 625 Neil Roberts 166 14X
A1 3410 Peter Keegan 1488 105X	3 1022 Steve Lamb 1018 86X	B1 4104 Oscar Deakin 283 21X	B3 3769 Lee Townsend 166 13X
A2 1990 Chris West 1488 98X	B1 1436 Bruno BlüBe 1014 65X	B2 1943 Declan Byrne 282 27X	1924 Advancing Target LBP Iron
B1 3418 Mark Nolan 1487 85X	B2 2094 Martin Steinke 1013 64X	B3 2955 Karl OBrien 281 31X	Sights
B2 3767 Charlie Horner	B3 2110 Ian Price 1012 61X	1 2822 Edward Bush 276 18X	1 3428 Steve Lane 177 19X
1486 89X	1603 1020 GRCF Open	C2 3649 Denis Cummins	2 1800 Alan Podevin 165 13X
B3 4541 Martin Holder 1485 92X	1 2647 Christopher	273 19X	3 164 Phil Cowling 164 12X
C1 2094 Martin Steinke 1478 81X	Jackson 1015 57X	C3 2627 Heinrich Strauss	1925 Advancing Target LBR Iron
C2 2968 Will Danaher 1475 73X	1604 1020 GRCF Classic	271 17X	Sights
C3 2627 Heinrich Strauss	1 3267 Keith Kilvington	D1 2094 Martin Steinke 272 14X	1 164 Phil Cowling 174 16X
1474 81X	1019 74X	D2 4357 Robert McBride 268	2 358 William Horne 172 14X
D1 814 Andy Wiggins 1467 64X	1621 1020 LBP	21X	3 3138 Andrew Graver 164 13X
D2 3408 Christian Bartlett	1 3428 Steve Lane 1016 67X	D3 4266 Daniel Watkins 264 20X	1942 Advancing Target MLR
1462 63X	2 034 Neil Francis 1015 60X	1902 Advancing Target GRCF	1 3570 Michael Cutler 64 3X
D3 4268 Joe Woolley 1456 62X	3 2340 Glenn Gordon 1015 58X	X1 2613 David Guest 179 24X	2 3044 Dave Morrow 64 3X
1503 1500 GRCF Open	1622 1020 LBR	X2 3769 Lee Townsend 179 19X	3 987 Charles Bestwick 60 1X
1 2647 Christopher	1 050 Dave Berry 994 41X	A1 3044 Dave Morrow 180 28X	2001 Advancing Target
Jackson 1471 69X	2 711 Paul Stockill 981 45X	A2 4005 Eamonn Gallagher	Benchrest GRSE
1504 1500 GRCF Classic	1701 Bianchi GRSE	178 26X	1 2840 Scott Lyon 298 41X
1 3203 Rob Wheeler 1493	X1 1990 Chris West 1882 125X	B1 1990 Chris West 178 22X	2 2841 Frances Graham 273 19X
107X	A1 2753 Jake Mossom 1858	B2 725 Mick Tedesco 177 21X	2004 Advancing Target
2 3267 Keith Kilvington	148X	B3 3271 David Cully 177 20X	Benchrest GRCF
1478 87X	A1 3044 Dave Morrow 1806	C1 2648 Alistair Rafferty 174 18X	1 2648 Alistair Rafferty 170 20X
3 632 John Robinson 1474 84X	123X	C2 1500 Julian Fox 174 16X	2101 Speed Steel Challenge
1521 1500 LBP	B1 622 Arwel Roberts 1797	C3 2337 Greg Rastall 173 21X	GRSE
A1 2340 Glenn Gordon 1480 66X	115X	D1 2899 Antony Philpott 171 17X	1 1500 Julian Fox 22.67
A2 3044 Dave Morrow 1476 91X	B2 3271 David Cully 1767 118X	D2 3810 Val Gavin 166 14X	2 3807 Daniel Blagojevic 23.65
A3 034 Neil Francis 1474 81X	B3 2110 Ian Price 1699 97X	D3 4515 Richard Thomson	3 3621 Steve Jordan 24.59
B1 228 David Emery 1450 48X	1702 Bianchi GRCF	166 10X	2102 Speed Steel Challenge
B2 166 Ian Cox 1443 62X	X1 1990 Chris West 1911 167X	1903 Advancing Target GRCF	GRCF
1522 1500 LBR Open	A1 228 David Emery 1880 137X	Open	1 043 Mel Beard 36.37
A1 410 Neil Jones 1426 50X	1704 Bianchi GRCF Classic	1 3271 David Cully 177 29X	2 3271 David Cully 37.61
B1 228 David Emery 1378 39X	1 2988 Anthony Godden	2 2949 Frank Cullen 177 25X	3 3807 Daniel Blagojevic
1524 1500 LBP Iron Sights	1710 77X	3 2648 Alistair Rafferty 168 18X	37.71
1 3428 Steve Lane 1419 38X	1721 Bianchi LBP	1904 Advancing Target GRCF	2103 Speed Steel Challenge
2 1022 Steve Lamb 1415 43X	A1 228 David Emery 1885 122X	Classic	GRCF Open
1525 1500 LBR Iron Sights	A2 180 Ash Dagger 1865 111X	1 3267 Keith Kilvington 178 31X	1 625 Neil Roberts 38.15
1 393 Chris Pannell 1443 44X	B1 4145 Percy New 1700 92X	2 3203 Rob Wheeler 176 18X	2104 Speed Steel Challenge
2 1800 Alan Podevin 1439 49X	B2 035 Chris Barnett 1656 74X	3 725 Mick Tedesco 175 19X	GRCF Classic
1601 1020 GRSE	1722 Bianchi LBR	1921 Advancing Target LBP	1 3267 Keith Kilvington 38.84
X1 3807 Daniel Blagojevic	A1 3821 Jim Dodd 1781 109X	Open	2121 Speed Steel Challenge
1020 81X	B1 657 Graham Searle 1625 81X	X1 1773 Morné van Dalen	LBP
X2 1990 Chris West 1018 81X	B2 2988 Anthony Godden	180 23X	1 4275 Sonny Bayly 27.62
X3 3203 Rob Wheeler 1018 80X	1588 71X	X2 2613 David Guest 178 21X	2 3621 Steve Jordan 28.54
A1 3106 Jimmy Byrne 1015 73X	1821 WA48 LBP	A 1034 Neil Francis 176 20X	3 3428 Steve Lane 29.39
A2 2939 Flippie van Tonder	1 3428 Steve Lane 480 36X	A2 2886 Gary Bowden 175 22X	2122 Speed Steel Challenge
1011 64X	2 783 Peter Watts 479 31X	A3 3767 Charlie Horner 174 21X	LBR
A3 296 Dave Hackett 1011 56X	3 034 Neil Francis 478 34X	B1 2647 Christopher	1 043 Mel Beard 29.67
B1 4540 Anna-Marie van	1822 WA48 LBR	Jackson 176 23X	2 3821 Jim Dodd 35.83
Tonder 1002 59X	1 358 William Horne 476 26X	B2 324 Peter Hathaway-	3 4275 Sonny Bayly 38.42
B2 2163 Colin McMichael	2 683 Jim Smith 469 22X	Jones 173 25X	2301 25m Timed GRSE
1001 55X	3 1768 Peter Matthews 468 23X	B331493 Alan Smith 172 16X	

1 2939 Flippie van Tonder 277 5X	Open	3 1977 Cornelius Schalkwyk 141 19V	1 2234 Dave McGill 50 8V, 50 8V
2 3267 Keith Kilvington 268 7X	4704 Imperial Silhouettes GRCF Classic	5791 100/200/300yd Svc Rifle post 1955 iron	2 3836 Nigel Jackson 50 8V, 50 6V
3 4545 Stoffel Bester 265 3X	1 3267 Keith Kilvington 298 17X	1 3813 Mark Stone 104 4V	3= 797 Michael Welsh 50 8V, 50 4V
2621 NRA Rapid Fire LBP	4902 Surrenden GRCF	5792 100/200/300yd Svc Rifle post 1955 svc	3= 4104 Oscar Deakin 50 8V, 50 4V
1 3428 Steve Lane 282 9X	1 3767 Charlie Horner 254 7X	1 3126 Mathew Lee 127 9V	6507 McQueen Issued GRSB
2 2613 David Guest 276 4X	2 2108 Jamie Stevenson 248 5X	2 2997 Carl Jackson 126 4V	1 3836 Nigel Jackson 50 7V, 50 6V
2622 NRA Rapid Fire LBR	3 1780 Lance Peltz 242 6X	5793 100/200/300yd Svc Rifle post 1955 prac	2= 1213 Matthew Greenall 50 5V
1 3138 Andrew Graver 247 5X	4903 Surrenden GRCF Open	1 2340 Glenn Gordon 130 4V	2= 3432 Paul Allsop 50 5V
2901 The Grand GRSB	1 2647 Christopher Jackson 249 11X	2 3432 Paul Allsop 127 9V	2= 4266 Daniel Watkins 50 5V
1 1990 Chris West 895 14X	4904 Surrenden GRCF Classic	3 3431 Vincent Jary 124 4V	6580 McQueen
2 3106 Jimmy Byrne 861 7X	1 3267 Keith Kilvington 254 13X	5983 400/500/600yd Svc Rifle Open pre 1955	1= 1365 Dave Appleton 50 5V
3 3267 Keith Kilvington 854 15X	5134 100yd Shotgun	1 798 Matthew West 125 5V	1= 1922 Keith Poyser 50 5V
3335 NRA Embassy Cup SGM	1 2987 Adam Chapman 34 0V	5986 400/500/600yd F Class Open	1= 2234 Dave McGill 50 5V
1= 3639 Glenn Isaacs 118	2 3418 Mark Nolan 32 1V	1 3109 Rigobert Jongbloed 217 22V	1= 4271 Matthew Kelleher 50 5V
1= 2095 Andreas Steinke 118	3 3639 Glenn Isaacs 31 0V	2 3272 Pouwke Jongbloed 217 19V	1= 4416 Mark Zaremba 50 5V
3 3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis 117	5142 100yd Black Powder Revolver	3 4571 Roy Smit 216 13V	6590 McQueen Issued Rifle
3336 NRA Embassy Cup SGSA	1 358 William Horne 21 0V	5987 400/500/600yd Black Powder Cartridge	1 4266 Daniel Watkins 50 3V
1 2176 Jeff Kehoe 120	2 1478 Mark Luther 16 1V	1 2187 Michael Haselgrove 121 4V	2= 1702 Ewen Campbell 50 2V
2 4178 Janine Travers 119	5301 100/200yd GRSB	3 4571 Roy Smit 216 13V	2= 2234 Dave McGill 50 2V
3= 2987 Adam Chapman 119	1 2245 Colin Hudson 83 4V	5988 400/500/600yd FTR	2= 2696 David Nash 50 2V
3= 1405 Rob Sanders 119	5321 100/200yd LBP	1 3831 Peter Dommatt 218 15V	Individual Aggregates
4143 Classic Revolver	1 292 Paul Griffiths 96 8V	2 4611 Matt Jarram 217 20V	Alan Whittle Gallery Rifle Classic Trophy
1 938 David Erskine 91 1X	5342 100/200yd Black Powder Revolver	3 4375 David Rollafson 217 19V	3267 Keith Kilvington 595 70X
2 3570 Michael Cutler 90 1X	1 4211 Ian Archer 15 0V	5992 400/500/600yd Svc Rifle post 1955 svc	John Rolfe Trophy
4144 Classic Percussion Pistol	5565 200/300yd Production Free Pistol A	1 1205 Steve East 142 8V	3807 Daniel Blagojevic 1188 65X
1 1697 George Tondryk 94 0X	1 292 Paul Griffiths 94 7V	5993 400/500/600yd Svc Rifle post 1955 pract	Sue Mansbridge Rose Bowl
2 1281 Stuart Rankine 93 1X	5566 200/300yd Production Free Pistol B	1 1205 Steve East 148 19V	3807 Daniel Blagojevic 2979 217X
3 230 John Emmerson 90 0X	1 292 Paul Griffiths 86 2V	2 3432 Paul Allsop 147 16V	Bianchi Aggregate
4145 Classic Flintlock (smoothbore)	5685 100/200/300yd Sporting Rifle Statics	3 4569 Paul Cragg 146 19V	1990 Chris West 3793 292X
1 774 James Walton 85 0X	1 3836 Nigel Jackson 280	6182 800/900/1000yd Svc Rifle B pre 1955	Phoenix GR Champion
4146 Classic Flintlock (rifled)	2 4543 Jaco Booysen 270	1 3571 Malcolm Johnston 68 1V	1990 Chris West 6766 490X
1 3925 David Ellison 82 0X	3 1359 Stephen Lewis 265	6186 800/900/1000yd F Class Open	Alan Whittle Newcomers Trophy
4301 Granet GRSB	5762 100/200/300yd Allcomers Hunter Class	1 3109 Rigobert Jongbloed 210 5V	4553 John Dowds 14
1 1358 Michael Deakin 300 23X	1 509 Philip Milnes 97 5V	2 4571 Roy Smit 209 15V	Shotgun Aggregate – Pump-Action
2 3621 Steve Jordan 300 22X	5781 100/200/300yd Svc Rifle A pre 1955	3 1553 Les Groves 208 10V	133 John Chambers 410 28X
3 2840 Scott Lyon 300 17X	1 226 Bill Ellis 106 2V	6188 800/900/1000yd FTR	Shotgun Aggregate – Semi-Auto
4302 Granet GRCF	2 4282 Seth Ellett 96 3V	1 4391 Simon West 218 11V	3418 Mark Nolan 412 28X
1 3769 Lee Townsend 299 20X	3 680 Michael Skinner 95 3V	2 4611 Matt Jarram 212 15V	Club Teams
2 3829 David Farmer 297 18X	5782 100/200/300yd Svc Rifle B pre 1955	3 4375 David Rollafson 208 11V	Timed & Precision 1 + Multi- Target GRSB
3 1358 Michael Deakin 297 16X	1 2108 Jamie Stevenson 77 0V	6193 800/900/1000yd Svc Rifle post 1955	1 Frome Red 1638 106X
4303 Granet GRCF Open	5783 100/200/300yd Svc Rifle Open pre 1955	1 1205 Steve East 147 16V	1990 Chris West
1 2987 Adam Chapman 298 23X	1 1208 David Evans 104 0V	2 226 Bill Ellis 141 13V	2886 Gary Bowden
4304 Granet GRCF Classic	5785 100/200/300yd Sporting Rifle	6501 McQueen GRSB	024 Neil Francis
1 3267 Keith Kilvington 298 19X	1 4545 Stoffel Bester 144 14V		180 Ash Dagger
2 1213 Matthew Greenall 293 12X	2 3836 Nigel Jackson 142 12V		2114 Sophie West
4701 Imperial Silhouettes GRSB			2 Team Sigma 1634 90X
1 2055 Jonny Cormie 300 26X			3428 Steve Lane
2 2840 Scott Lyon 300 24X			3621 Steve Jordan
3 4104 Oscar Deakin 300 23X			3769 Lee Townsend
4702 Imperial Silhouettes GRCF			3767 Charlie Horner
1 1358 Michael Deakin 298 12X			4385 Joe Mabbitt
2 3767 Charlie Horner 297 15X			
3 3106 Jimmy Byrne 297 14X			
4703 Imperial Silhouettes GRCF			

Timed & Precision 1 + Multi-Target GRCF

- 1 Aldershot Blue 1663 145X
167 Keith Cox
783 Peter Watts
3267 Keith Kilvington
590 Nigel Porter
1800 Alan Podevin

- 2 Harbour House 1663 120X
3649 Denis Cummins
3106 Jimmy Byrne
3418 Mark Nolan
2968 Will Danaher
1943 Declan Byrne

Timed & Precision 1 + Multi-Target LBP

- 1 JSPC 1620 86X
2330 Robert J Tonner
3252 Robert L Tonner
1281 Stuart Rankine
3221 Stuart Russel
1765 Leslie Kong

Sporting Rifle Statics

- 1 SA Hunters 911
4543 Jaco Booysen
2627 Heinrich Strauss
4545 Stoffel Bester
4544 Dries van Lingen

International Teams

Timed & Precision 1 + Multi-Target GRSB

- 1 England Red 1654 124X
1990 Chris West
2886 Gary Bowden
3267 Keith Kilvington
3428 Steve Lane
3769 Lee Townsend
- 2 Scotland Smallbore White 1636 91X
2330 Robert J Tonner
2055 Jonny Cormie
3829 David Farmer
2840 Scott Lyon
2832 William Pow
- 3 England White 1635 103X
2753 Jake Mossom
3621 Steve Jordan
3767 Charlie Horner
2613 David Guest
3044 Dave Morrow

Timed & Precision 1 + Multi-Target GRCF

- 1 Scotland Centrefire White 1663 150X
2055 Jonny Cormie
3829 David Farmer
2337 Greg Rastall

- 987 Charles Bestwick
2832 William Pow
- 2 Ireland 1663 120X
3649 Dennis Cummins
3106 Jimmy Byrne
3418 Mark Nolan
2968 Will Danaher
1943 Declan Byrne

Timed & Precision 1 + Multi-Target LBP

- 1 England Red 1646 96X
3428 Steve Lane
3044 Dave Morrow
2886 Gary Bowden
3621 Steve Jordan
3769 Lee Townsend

Timed & Precision 1 + Multi-Target LBR

- 1 Scotland Revolver White 1589 72X
1281 Stuart Rankine
1765 Leslie Kong
2340 Glenn Gordon
2055 Jonny Cormie
987 Charles Bestwick

Target Shotgun Manual

- 1 Great Britain 1552 67X
133 John Chambers
1405 Rob Sanders
090 Norman Brown
3639 Glenn Isaacs

Target Shotgun Semi-Auto

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

Limax Cup – Aggregate TS

Manual + Semi-Auto

Great Britain 3121 128X

ITSF World Championships –

Individuals

Target Shotgun Manual

- 1 133 John Chambers 523 28X
 - 2 1405 Rob Sanders 518 16X
 - 3 2095 Andreas Steinke 515 22X
- U25 3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis 506 14X

Target Shotgun Semi-Auto

- 1 3418 Mark Nolan 529 28X
 - 2 2176 Jeff Kehoe 526 27X
- U25 & 3rd 3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis 526 22X
- Lady 4178 Janine Travers 496 10X

ITSF World Championships –

Teams

Target Shotgun Manual

- 1 Great Britain 2328 160X
133 John Chambers
1405 Rob Sanders
090 Norman Brown
3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis
3639 Glenn Isaacs

2 Ireland 2308 142X

- 3650 Dean Parker
4547 Mark Walsh
4433 Nial Fortune
4548 Dominic Kelly
3418 Mark Nolan

3 Germany 2164 120X

- 2095 Andreas Steinke
3807 Daniel Balgojevic
2094 Martin Steinke
1629 Rolf Filbig

Target Shotgun Semi-Auto

- 1 Great Britain 2359 160X
2987 Adam Chapman
1691 Tim Jemmett
1768 Peter Matthews
1475 James Harris
3957 Lucius Hilger-Ellis

2 Ireland 2337 149X

- 4433 Niall Fortune
3418 Mark Nolan
4434 Thomas Matthews
3657 Tony Quane
3648 Ian McGill

3 Germany 2167 130X

- 2094 Martin Steinke
3807 Daniel Balgojevic
2095 Andreas Steinke
3806 Jessica Eggers

Aggregate

- 1 Great Britain 4687 320X
- 2 Ireland 4645 291X
- 3 Germany 4331 250X

IGRF World Championships –

Individuals

Gallery Rifle Smallbore

- 1 2753 Jake Mossom 2192 130X
 - 2 3267 Keith Kilvington 2178 133X
 - 3 2886 Gary Bowden 2171 121X
- U25 3252 Robert L Tonner 2160 114X
- Lady 4540 Anna-Marie van Tonder 2140 98X

Gallery Rifle Centrefire

- 1 2055 Jonny Cormie 2195 159X
 - 2 3807 Daniel Blagojevic 2188 162X
 - 3 632 John Robinson 2188 154X
- Lady 4540 Anna-Marie van

Tonder 2140 98X

Gallery Rifle Centrefire Classic

- 1 3203 Rob Wheeler 2171 141X
- 2 3267 Keith Kilvington 2158 129X

3 632 John Robinson 2153 117X

IGRF World Championships –

Teams

Gallery Rifle Smallbore

- 1 Great Britain 5909 359X
1990 Chris West
2753 Jake Mossom
167 Keith Cox

2055 Jonny Cormie

3267 Keith Kilvington

2 South Africa 5890 332X

2939 Flippie van Tonder

4543 Jaco Booysen

4541 Martin Holder

4540 Anna-Marie van Tonder

4542 Diana Zoccola

3 Germany 5846 302X

3807 Daniel Balgojevic

3806 Jessica Eggers

2094 Martin Steinke

2095 Andreas Steinke

1436 Bruno Blübe

4 Ireland 5838 304X

3418 Mark Nolan

4005 Eamonn Gallagher

1943 Declan Byrne

3647 Les Walker

2955 Karl O'Brien

Gallery Rifle Centrefire

1 Great Britain 5963 402X

2055 Jonny Cormie

3203 Robert Wheeler

1990 Chris West

167 Keith Cox

2886 Gary Bowden

2 Germany 5926 359X

3807 Daniel Balgojevic

3806 Jessica Eggers

2094 Martin Steinke

1436 Bruno Blübe

2095 Andreas Steinke

3 South Africa 5916 344X

4541 Martin Holder

3267 Heinrich Strauss

4540 Anna-Marie van Tonder

4542 Diana Zoccola

2939 Flippie van Tonder

4 Ireland 5809 351X

4005 Eamonn Gallagher

3418 Mark Nolan

1943 Declan Byrne

2211 Peter Wylie

2955 Karl O'Brien

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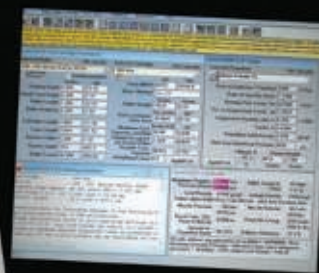
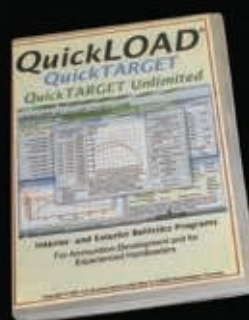
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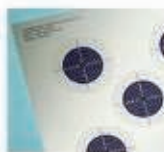
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WMS Firearms Training Ltd provides rifle shooting instruction to clients at its HQ in mid Wales, at the NSC ranges at Bisley, and at clients' own locations in the UK and overseas. Run by Andrew Venables WMS provides training for experienced rifle shooters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

🌐 wmsfirearmstraining.com



MESSAGE



Full name: Bryden Dunbar Ritchie
Age: 69

How did you get into shooting?

My introduction to rifle shooting was from a friend of my father, Col Bill Dalziel, Royal Signals who took me to a military skill at arms meeting aged about ten at the old Dreghorn range in Edinburgh. Although I was not allowed to shoot I was hooked on the whole package, so started shooting at the age of 13 with the CCF at school.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

My shooting interests cover both small and full bore target shooting in addition to service skill at arms. I specialised as an Ammunition Technical Officer in the RAOC, which gave me a deep technical and historic appreciation of shooting and ammunition. When I retired from the military and moved back to Edinburgh, my interest in historic shooting was enhanced, and has been one of my main interests. I have shot small-bore in the bowels of the Palace of Westminster, AKs and SVDs in Helmand and Muskets in Achnacarry Castle with Cameron of Locheil!



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

Being a shooting enthusiast in UK is a never-ending series of hurdles! I think the secret to not being defeated is to simply take one step at a time, and deal with issues sensibly as you approach them.

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

Luckily I married a girl, who although not a shooter, was happy to let me indulge my interests. My two boys were introduced to target shooting as soon as they were old enough and Anne has involved herself more with my shooting. She has always been good with numbers and managed to get her head around Bisley marking and now runs stats for the Historical events.

What sort of music do you listen to?

As a child of the late 60s, my preference is for early progressive rock from the Zombies through Cream to Jethro Tull and ELP. I also like John Coltrane and Dire Straits!

What Club are you a member of?

Since the early 90s my club has been Vintage Arms Scotland and I have been the secretary of the club since 1995.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

I spent the summer of 1972 working at Bisley whilst recovering from a car crash. I was lucky to meet Marjory Foster at that time who was still shooting match rifle and living on camp. The other great influence of this period was the secretary of the ARA, LtCol Warren Whittaker. I learned a great deal about the running of ranges and shooting in general. The individual who had the greatest effect on my shooting was WO2 (QMSI) Mills SASC who ran the shooting club at Sandhurst and coached me both in small and full-bore twice a week for the two and a half years I was there.

Which is your favourite country in the world?

I am very fond of Germany, having served there and shot there in several disciplines. I admire the shooting culture

there and their admiration and support of technology.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

From my first visits to Bisley in the 70s it has always been a source of inspiration and pride. The camp has an atmosphere that I challenge you to find anywhere on the planet. History, technology, expertise and tradition all come together here!

What do you do in your free time?

I have a fairly well-equipped metal workshop, generally gun and ammunition oriented but from which has appeared the occasional clock. I have built a Ferguson rifle from a parts kit and have restocked a Dreyse and most recently a Mauser T Gewehr. According to my wife, the main product of my workshop is swarf..! I also keep bees, so really I have no free time!

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

I'm a bit 'pre zen' in my experience here. That said, I have always known that shooting is an activity conducted largely 'between the ears'. I find that a calculated disinterest is probably what you should try to achieve! I'm not sure if it is concentration on the firing point that is required, but you need to find some way of slowing down the wheels of distraction spinning in your head!

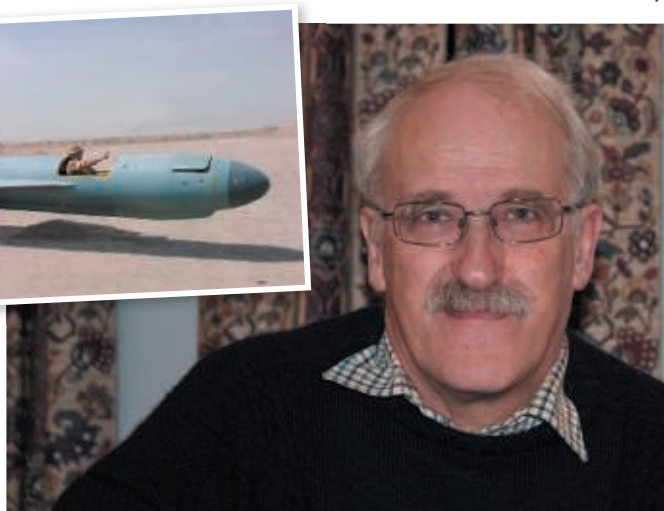
What advice would you give to somebody taking up shooting?

Shooting is an investment in a lifetime of fascination, triumph and disappointment. You would be a fool to disregard it.

So what Next?

As the NRA Council Member for Scotland, I am looking forward to raising the profile of the NRA in the world outside Bisley. We are chronically short of accessible ranges in Scotland, particularly in the central belt between Glasgow and Edinburgh, and have been working hard to try and address this. The prospects are looking better than they have been for some time!

In my workshop, bits of a Baker Rifle have been sitting since Christmas.. if people ease off bringing me things on a "can you just have a look at this..?" basis, then I might just get it working by the end of the summer! ☺



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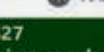
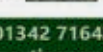
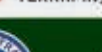
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