

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



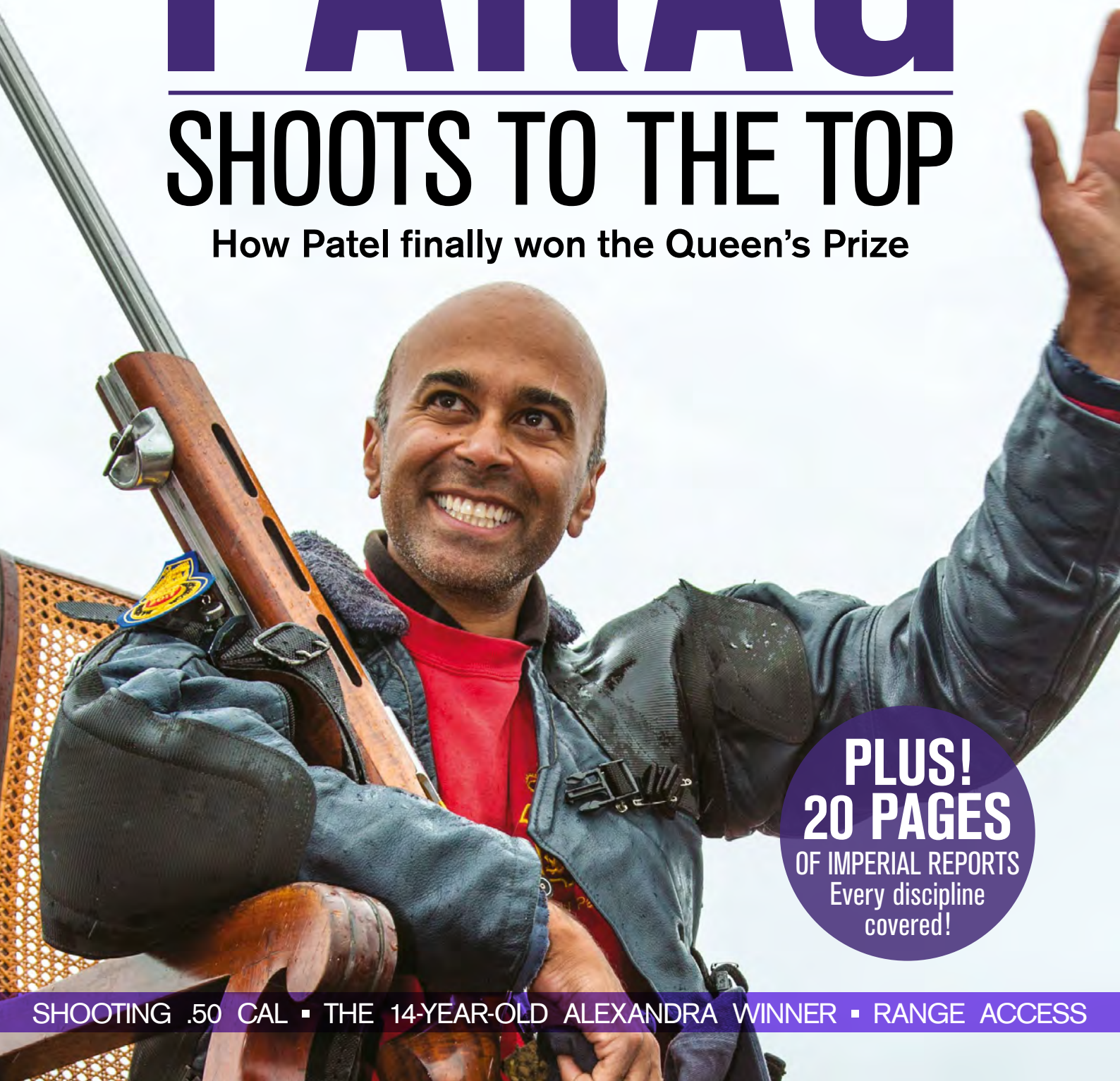
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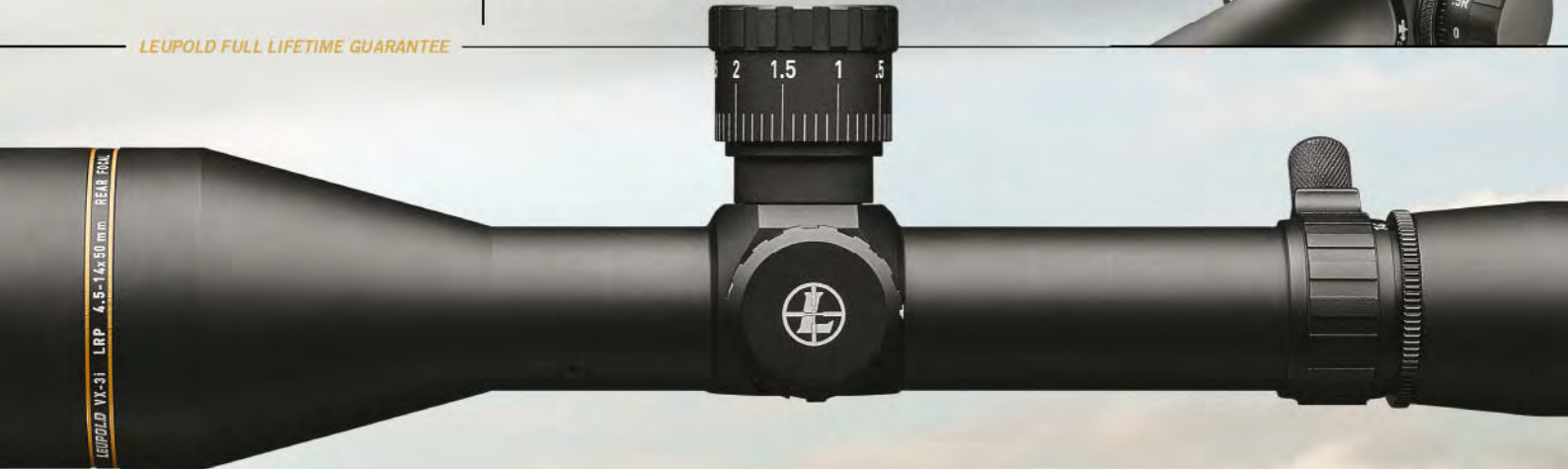


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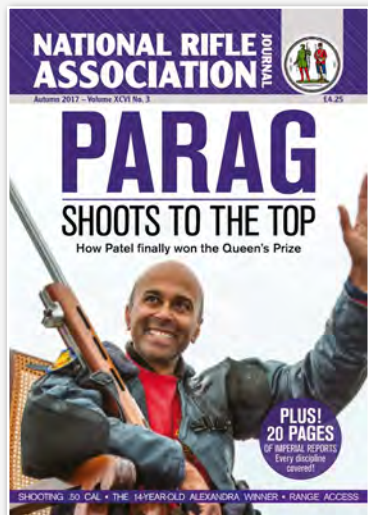


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LEUPOLD | AMERICAN TO THE CORE

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Autumn 2017 – Volume XCVI No. 3



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The *NRA Journal* is published on behalf of the National Rifle Association by Future plc. **Address:** Units 1 & 2, Sugarbrook Court, Aston Road, Bromsgrove, Worcs B60 3EX **T:** 01225 442244

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**FEDERAL
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AMMUNITION

Significant developments

Chief executive Andrew Mercer hails the completion of NRA projects far and wide, from electronic targets at Bisley to a new range near Brackley

Eleven brand spanking new electronic targets are now available on Stickledown range – hooray! Their installation proved surprisingly straightforward once we had worked out the provision of electricity; an eye-watering quote of £60,000 for just the cable run to the butts prompted some consternation, but solar panels and trickle-charged batteries saved the day. Early reports from shooters have been very positive, with the option to book targets by the hour much appreciated.

The newly refurbished Winans range is proving popular and is now regularly booked for evening club shoots. The firing point is rather basic and we will return to refurbish it over the winter.

We have started consultations on our 2018-2020 Strategic Review. The main emphasis will be greater efforts to support target shooting away from Bisley, and includes fixed targets for regional funding, increasing resources for regional range safety assessment, and improving competency assessment and training. Re-configuring Bisley ranges to maximise capacity and improve the shooter experience is another key project; our range office is currently rejecting far too many bookings at prime weekends owing to lack of space.

The new NRA website is going through the last few checks before we launch in early October. We have resisted the temptation to be too clever too quickly, and have concentrated on essential functionality (booking ranges, entering competitions, booking accommodation and so on) and improving navigation. The current website was created in 2004 and has served us pretty well; however, it performs poorly on mobile phones, which account for three quarters of all use. I know that any change, no matter how well-intentioned or carefully planned, can elicit robust comments from NRA members, but I would encourage a measured assessment as we navigate the transition.

The number of NRA Probationary members continues to grow and recently topped 200. This is mighty good news and a reflection of the attraction of the sport of target shooting. Thankfully this increase coincided with the recent move of the training team to the new facilities in the Pavilion.

Away from Bisley, two range projects deserve special mention. Firstly, the new range complex at Silverstone



Shooting Centre near Brackley is opening this September, the culmination of heroic efforts by proprietor John Thorne over several years. The complex offers targets at 10m, 25m, 50m and 100m and is a genuine new build; their Facebook page has a host of images of the development and we wish John and his team every success for their exciting venture.

Secondly, the NRA has supported the construction of a tunnel range at Baildon Rifle and Pistol Club near Shipley in West Yorkshire. The design is a great example of cost effective innovation and consists of end-to-end shipping containers abutting a building providing the firing points. Nic Couldrey, NRA Regional Ranges Manager, has been monitoring the progress of this project with keen enthusiasm.

As we march deeper into autumn, thoughts of a successful 2017 Imperial meeting start to dim. Akin to choosing a favourite child, it is dangerous to highlight one special moment; however, presenting the large trophy to 14 year old Daisy Armstrong from Sedbergh School for winning the Alexandra after a tough tie shoot was truly a memorable moment. ■

NEWS

REPORTS

STICKLEDOWN ELECTRONIC TARGETS GO LIVE



Following successful trials in the spring of 2017, the NRA has bought 11 electronic targets that have been installed on Stickledown range and are available now.

The electronic targets are on targets 21-26 and 46-50. Target 50 is fitted with a shot detection system and in the unlikely case of a miss will identify the fall of shot (please note the shot detection system will not detect subsonic projectiles).

The electronic targets offer the distinct advantage of giving immediate feedback on fall of shot without the added cost of a marker.

Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee markers or the quality of the marking; the Intarso electronic system is the solution. It will offer a quick and reliable reading of fall of shot on the target through a closed (box type) shot detection system.

FACS ON THE UP

Official statistics released in July show a year-on-year increase in firearms certificates, counteracting a decrease in shotgun certificates.

There were 154,958 firearms certificates as of 31 March – a 1 per cent increase on the previous year and the highest number of FACs overall since 1988.

According to the figures, rural areas such as Devon and Cornwall, Sussex and North Yorkshire were the most popular constabularies for firearms certificates.

In terms of the number of actual rifles in circulation, there were 559,302 firearms covered by all the certificates – an increase of 4 per cent on last year – indicating that the average certificate holder now has more rifles than before.

There were 9,825 new applications for firearms certificates in the 12-month period up to 31 March 2017, of which only 2 per cent (205) were refused. Of the 32,023 FAC renewal applications, just 0.2 per cent were refused.

Experimental statistics revealed the average age of a certificate holder. More than half of shotgun or firearms certificate holders are over 50; but some 3,602 under-18s possess certificates.

Arms Fair at the Trafalgar – 21-22 October 2017, 8am to 6.30 pm

For the second year running, the NRA is hosting this great trade event, this time in a single-span, purpose-build marquee on Sit Pet Lawn with outside exhibitors on Monument Green.

The event is free to enter. This is a great addition to the competition weekend and represents an opportunity to view some great products and stock up your kit bag.

NRA MEMBERSHIP GROWING

Membership of the National Rifle Association continues to grow, reaching 8,375 at the end of May.

Confirming the news in his speech to the NRA AGM on 30 June, chairman John Webster said the association is receiving over 16 new membership applications a week, while the number of affiliated clubs has risen to 746.

He said: "This level of membership applications, while essential for the growth of our sport, has obviously put pressure

on the system, particularly on our training team, as the number of probationary members keeps growing. At one point we had 174 probationary members.

Consequently we have invested in new training facilities in the Pavilion... to cope with this increasing demand. This includes a new armoury, and modern IT and audio facilities. We have also recruited David Camp to manage the training at Bisley and to develop ways for the Association to deliver training away from Bisley.

"Range use by individuals and clubs is up 11 per cent year on year. This increasing demand has put considerable pressure on the booking system... members will be frustrated at times with the inability of the current software to cope with the volume of booking requests received each month – there are often over 1000.

"We are working on new software to correct this, but in the interim the Range Office will focus on delivering range space for early and repeat bookings."

LETTER: BERM BERM?

More and more we hear, from incomers from the newer corners of the target shooting sports, the word "berm" being used incorrectly and irritatingly to describe earthen sidewalls or banks of shooting ranges or shooting bays.

A berm is the flat bit between a ditch or canal and the pile of earth dug out of it to stop the earth tumbling back into the same ditch or canal. It also has a historical meaning in that a berm is a level space between a castle wall and an adjacent ditch or moat. It is intended to reduce soil pressure on the sides of the excavated part to prevent its collapse, and also helps stop debris dislodged from the walls falling into and filling the ditch or moat. In World War I, the name was applied to a similar feature at the lip of a trench, which served mainly as an elbow-rest for riflemen.

Funnily enough the origins of the misuse of the word "berm" lie with modern military engineering. During the Iran-Iraq war of 1980-1988 hundreds of miles of sand and earth banks were thrown up by bulldozers so tanks could sit on the wide and flat berms behind the banks with only the turret showing over the top. When enemy fire became too hot, the tanks could reverse into the ditch behind and

be safe – or, vice-versa, tanks could be kept hidden in the ditch then driven on to the berm to shoot over the bank.

This period happened to coincide with the rise of practical shooting, where it is often necessary to build banks of earth between shooting bays. Non-military people who had seen the Iran-Iraq banks and berms on the TV misapplied the word "berm" to the banks of their shooting bays. Now practical shooting sports are entering the mainstream, it would go a long way in helping their image if aficionados now abandoned the incorrect usage of "berm" and called shooting bay sidewalls and side banks just that. (The word "berm" does not appear in JSP 403, the UK range-construction bible.)

Pedants, and there are many, would argue with me, saying that words mean what modern usage wants them to mean, but to accede to such a line of argument could result in the misuse of the word "berm" spreading like a weed. Just think for a moment about the Berm of England, the Hong-Kong and Shanghai Berming Corporation, or the Bonnie Bonnie Berms of Loch Lomond. I will always strive to prevent the spreading misuse of words, you can berm on it.

George Granycome

Notices

GB TR & NRA Team Captains – Nominations invited

Nominations are invited for Captains of the following teams:

- GB Kolapore Team 2018
- Under 25 GB Team Captain 2018
- NRA Team to Channel Islands 2019
- GB Rifle Team to Canada 2020

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Friday 6 October 2017. Nominations to be sent to Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk.

GB Match Rifle Captain – Woomera Match – Bisley 2019 – Nominations invited

Nominations are invited for the GB Match Rifle Captain for the Woomera Match to be held at Bisley in 2019

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Friday 17 November 2017. Nominations to be sent to Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk.

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The 148th Imperial

Katia Malcaus Cooper takes a look at the biggest successes of the Imperial Meeting 2017

With the ranges slowly drying after the torrential downpour of Queen's Final, Bisley life has resumed its daily pace.

Facebook pages up and down the country are full of images from the 3,000 competitors who took part in the 148th Imperial; what seems the common link is how much everyone enjoys the meeting, with friendships made and renewed on and off the firing points.

Last year had seen the introduction of the Cadet Imperial, shot alongside the short-range Grand Aggregate matches. Its aim to give the cadets the confidence to enter the main meeting and to encourage young shooters to continue the sport after they leave school.

And confidence is something some of the young shooters did not lack. Some 253 competitors under 25 took part in the meeting along with 136 cadets. Daisy Armstrong went on to win the Alexandra in a tie shoot at a mere 14 years of age; what is even more remarkable is that Daisy only started shooting fullbore in April. We were all in awe of this remarkable young lady.

But the success stories did not end there. Miles Horton-Baker of RGS Guildford was the youngest contestant to make it to the Queen's final with an impressive 144.15v at 16 years of age. We will be watching him with interest.

Another competitor worthy of mention was 20-year-old Zoe Northam of GBU25. Her father Phil was exultant, as was evident from his many Facebook posts. Zoe put in a solid performance throughout the meeting while paying for her fees by working at the Surrey Rifle Association in the evening.

It is good to see overseas competitors make the trip to Bisley at this time of year. The ranges played host to 187 competitors from 14 nations around the globe.

This year's youngest competitor was 13-year-old Sarah Rorison from Sedbergh School, and our eldest was Jo Wright at a venerable 94 years old in his 60th consecutive Imperial meeting.

The CSR Imperial saw a record breaking 18 teams enter the Methuen Cup, won by

LERA A. CSR is rather special as it is the start of the civilian Imperial, following the frantic pace of the Inter-services.

In Match Rifle, England retained the Elcho Shield for a fifth year, and in Target Rifle, the National came back to England.

The Imperial is a five-week period where all sorts of things happen and stories are heard around the camp at night. One of the nicest stories was that of Jacqui Rankin and her fiancé Ross McQuillan. Jacqui and Ross were on the exact same score with the exact same Vs, so they decided to pick the Prince of Wales as a decider. Whoever won the PoW would take the other's surname, and should they still be tied, CRO Peter Turner had arranged a special tie shoot. Jacqui lost that competition and will have to abandon the Rankin name to become a McQuillan, but later on went to come third in Queen's final and might now want to reconsider that (for historical classification reasons, of course).

This year's meeting saw a display of all four seasons, from the scorching temperatures of the early meeting to the autumnal downpour of Queen's Final. This made for an interesting meeting and certainly an exciting Queen's final, with Parag Patel surfacing victorious from a wet Stickledown.

It has been a meeting of firsts for many with some incredible results, with 470,000 rounds fired overall.

The coming pages will be a round-up of this year's meeting. There is of course more coverage on Facebook and results online. If you didn't take part in the meeting, perhaps this will whet your appetite to enter next year. ■



Jo Wright and Sarah Rorison – the Imperial's oldest and youngest competitors at 94 and 13



A WORD WITH PARAG PATEL

How does it feel to be a Queen's Prize Winner?

The Queen's Final is the showcase event of our sport and the most prestigious. Having previously won the Grand Aggregate and British Open along with Commonwealth Games medals, all of which are arguably much harder to win, I can say that the Queen's has been the most exhilarating. It is such a short course of fire so achieving my goal of winning it has been harder. Thankfully I could honestly say that I won it on my performance in the second stage when the wind was much more challenging. This gave a significant advantage going into the final with calm winds but wet conditions.

What was it like when you realised you were the one?

I knew that most winners only drop a few points, and having only dropped two going back to 1000 yards, I knew I was in contention. I made sure not to look at the leaderboard and just keep my head down and focus on the next 15 shots. Around my 13th shot to count and not having dropped a point, I knew I would be close. I then heard my son shouting, "Dad's back in the lead." This clearly brought on the nerves and I fired a rushed shot.

I internally kicked myself, trying to focus on the performance and not the win. Thankfully I trusted my hold and just squeezed the trigger on my final two shots, which were both very central.



Patel's prize

Parag Patel finally secured the one big win that was missing from his trophy cabinet: the Queen's Prize. Alun Lewis reports

Surprises, surprises and more surprises were the story of this year's Queen's final, the culmination of the 148th Imperial Meeting. In the end, history was made by Parag Patel, who at last won the Gold Medal that has eluded him in his illustrious shooting career. We also had a topsy-turvy first two stages that saw favourites stumble and novices progress, and a charming story of love on the ranges with a surprising and splendid conclusion.

But first, the weather. The one predictable thing about British summer weather is its unpredictability. On Wednesday, during Queen's I, we had a wind on Century that blew mostly from over the shoulder. And the light conditions were dull but good for shooting. The scores mostly bore this out at the top end of the cut, though the lowest to qualify hit 102.10v. There were a few well-known names in the lower half of the 300,

such as Dr Glyn Barnett, Patel's 2006 Commonwealth Games gold-medal-winning partner.

Following the last two years'

performances by David Calvert, many were anticipating that at last someone would win the most prestigious prize in fullbore target shooting three times in a row. He scored 104.18v to cruise through into the second stage. Jim Corbett, 2013's winner, was through in 193rd, while two names to watch, Ross McQuillan and Jacqui Rankin, were placed 279 and 203 respectively.

The Queen's II field was truly global in nature. Eleven of the Canadian Squad made it through along with six from Kenya and four from Australia. Jersey's strong squad numbered eight, while South Africa, Germany and the Netherlands were also represented.

So to the dreaded re-run in the afternoon for the final cut to make the Queen's Hundred, a badge of honour in its own right. Now of course it was two and 10, with the scores becoming vital as they count towards the final total. It is one thing to get into the last hundred, but you also need a good starting score for the third round if you want to win. This makes the final a gruelling 60-shot, two-day epic.

Now the British weather really played its part. Wind still from behind and over the shoulder – but which shoulder? This was the problem facing (or should that be creeping

up from behind on) most of the shooters. Rather than the usual, "You'll need about 148 to make the cut," we had the top 100 spread from 149.18v down to 144.13v, with some notable scalps to the infamous Bisley wind. David Calvert had a torrid time of it and missed the cut – there would be no third consecutive win for him.

It was Patel who fared best, separated by four Vs from Alexandra Soelzer-Hermes of Germany. A point lower were David Crispin, Glyn Barnett, Nick Healy, Chris Fitzpatrick and a certain A Ringer. That's seven gold and silver Medals between them. Not far behind were the likes of David Luckman and Jane Messer. There too were Miss Rankin and Mr McQuillan.

So that was a Silver Medal to add to the impressive Patel trophy cabinet. But the big one was still to play for. Saturday afternoon came, and with it the weather. It bucketed down. The wind was becoming playful and the spectators were beginning to expect the unexpected. One pundit who was commentating on the final for the live feed on the NRA Facebook page predicted: "Things could get very exciting if this keeps up." The curse of the commentator was duly noted by the weather gods – the rain slowed to a light



Pressure point: Patel on the firing point with two shots to go

drizzle so the targets became visible, and the wind flags drooped in shame. They wouldn't be playing much part in the final round at 1000 yards. It was down to who could hold their nerve and consistency.

A couple of competitors crept up the rankings at 900 by posting 75s, most notably Matt Millar and Lauren Crowson. And others had improved their chances. Parag Patel was starting to look the one to beat and had now only dropped two points, while David Crispin stayed in touch just one point behind. Captain Healy was three behind with Ringer and Fitzpatrick; a certain Miss Rankin was four points adrift, along with Luckman, Corbett, Barnett and Morris. Also making the main scoreboard were Mace, Dickson, Crowson and Underwood.

Message 1 and the last two-and-fifteen shots got under way in good if dull

What was the walk from firing point 20 to the podium like?

I couldn't stop grinning, then when I saw some of my friends, who I know will also win it, I felt guilty for beating them! But not for long.

What part did the rain play in all of this?

The rain helped – it kept the winds down. My shooting drill in the rain is the same as the dry. It's practised and makes no difference to my performance providing I don't let water into the rifle. So I just kept focus and stuck to the plan of the perfect performance for each shot. You can't think of the win – it will bring on the nerves.

When did you become aware that you had won?

When I turned back to see if 297 was enough and Lucinda, my plotter, was grinning and had her thumbs up.

What's it like being on the chair (apart from bumpy)?

I loved the chair. Now that I have tasted it, I want it again.

What next?

Commonwealth games training and the aim of selection to the Gold Coast in 2018.

conditions. All eyes on the right-hand side where Patel was churning out the Vs. But so were Crispin and Rankin. Barnett was there or thereabouts, but seemed to be shy of entering the V ring. He eventually went clean but with only seven Vs.

There was a ripple of excitement as Patel dropped a bull for an inner about halfway to the finish line. "I heard one of my children shouting that Daddy had missed one, but managed to dial it out and get composure back," he reported after the final shot. A shot that netted him a worthy 297.37v in difficult early conditions. The coveted Gold was at last his.

Meanwhile at firing point 50, Capt Healy finished his shoot at much the same time as Rankin, and there was a dead heat for second with both on 296.38v, Rankin one of only 10 shooters to go clean on the last detail. Just then, Crispin finished his shoot and claimed second place with 40 Vs to pip them both. And the final order was settled.

The winner was duly carried aloft in the venerable wooden chair to the stirring refrain of the Conquering Hero. And so it was all over until next year. History made, history nearly made and some wonderful



Patel and Grand Aggregate winner Chris Watson celebrate in style

stories from the institution that is the Queen's final.

But there is a final story to tell, involving another institution: that of marriage. Miss Jacqui Rankin is, of course, not to be Miss much longer. But what surname will she bear? The result of the Queen's decided that as well. Rumour is that as she beat her fiancée Ross McQuillan in the last round of the last competition on the last day, she may not be changing much other than her title, while her husband may find himself with a different family name. Perhaps next year's Queen's will reveal whether that has come to pass. ■

PACKMAN GOBBLES THE PRIZES

Parag Patel and David Luckman – 'Packman' as they have been christened – are a well-known pair on the shooting circuit, having won the Commonwealth Pairs Gold in 2014, along with individual gold for Luckman. In 2015 they were again united as part of Jane Messer's winning Palma team, but this year might have been their most dominant yet.

With more than 900 competitors entering Queen's I, they managed to stay in the top 15 per cent (Patel) and the top 6 per cent (Luckman) with 103.15v and 104.15v respectively. That may not look impressive for Patel, but Queen's is a test of consistency. It's the move to Queen's II that is the decider, with an 80 per cent element of skill and 20 per cent luck. And it appears that the two members of 'Packman' had both, with 149.18v for Patel and 13th with 147.18v for Luckman.

Outside of Queen's, Patel finished second in the Wimbledon after a tie shoot against Glyn Barnett, first in the Daily Mail after

another tie shoot with Jim Corbett, and second in the Grand Aggregate, a mere three Vs behind a formidable Chris Watson. Luckman finished fifth in the Agg with 696.103v.

And the pair's success carries on. In the Century Aggregate, the pair cleaned up with a first (Patel 701.109v) and second (Luckman 700.110v). St George's started for the pair in much the same as Queen's, with Patel in the top 2 per cent and Luckman a little way behind with 75.10v. St George's II saw the pair in 7th (Luckman) and 19th (Patel), with Luckman emerging victorious on Stage III with an unrivalled 150.24v.

But the ultimate TR prize went to Parag Patel with his 297.37v in Queen's, seeing him chaired off the range by an enthusiastic bunch led by Palma Team mate Toby Raincock.

Finally, the pair will be immortalised after their glorious win in the Fulton's Pairs with a formidable 505.78v.



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Watson's wizardry

In a rollercoaster Grand Aggregate beset by high winds, Chris Watson emerged the victor by the smallest of margins. Matt Charlton saw it all...

With the dust settled on the 2017 Grand Aggregate, Chris Watson topped the list of nearly 700 entrants to get his hands on the DCRA Challenge shield. With only a smattering of Vs in it after the full 11 shoots, Watson's win was anything but elementary.

It began on Saturday 15 July with the Daily Telegraph at 500 yards – two sighters and 15 to count. Conditions were not challenging, but a surprising number of good shots performed below expectations. Not, however, the 50-odd who got maximum possible 75s. Lauren Crowson (Old Sedberghian) was the only one with a perfect 75.15v – a fine score on which to be initial leader of this year's Grand.

Sunday was busier, comprising the Alexandra at 600 yards, the Duke of Cambridge at 900 yards and the Daily Mail, a 15-shot match at 500 yards. Those people hoping to benefit from early details for the Cambridge were disappointed – the first details 'enjoyed' wind between six and ten



minutes with occasional forays outside that bracket. It was manageable, though, if you had your wits about you and avoided firing as one of the flicks higher or lower occurred. Ultimately, 48 people scored 50, with 50.10v securing a victory for Canada's Catherine Choquette on her first senior tour.

In the Mail, fortunes were mixed. In later details, the left wind went through step changes. Note to shooters: when confidently winding on your new wind call, make sure you have remembered

which distance you're shooting at. But the standard was high – you needed 50.9v to gain a place in the three-way tie shoot. Matt Millar (Old Epsomians) was joined by two names that often feature close together on the Grand board – D Armstrong and J Underwood (Old Guildfordians). However, this wasn't David Armstrong but a female Tyro from Sedbergh School. When the shoot eventually took place, it was Daisy, 14, who converted a V and then scored all bulls for 25.1v to win the Alexandra. Well done her.



David Armstrong (left) needed a 74 in the PoW to win, but it wasn't to be

GRAND AGGREGATE		
1	LA Crowson	26
2	Jack Crowson	27
3	J. Crowson	28
4	DR Thompson	29
5	DR Thompson	30
6	DR Thompson	31
7	DR Thompson	32
8	DR Thompson	33
9	DR Thompson	34
10	DR Thompson	35
11	DR Thompson	36
12	DR Thompson	37
13	DR Thompson	38
14	DR Thompson	39
15	DR Thompson	40
16	DR Thompson	41
17	DR Thompson	42
18	DR Thompson	43
19	DR Thompson	44
20	DR Thompson	45
21	DR Thompson	46
22	DR Thompson	47
23	DR Thompson	48
24	DR Thompson	49
25	DR Thompson	50

Early doors: Lauren Crowson was out ahead after Saturday and Sunday

The later details of the Daily Mail were marred by raindrops, with black clouds promising more. A few shooters got up and put their waterproof trousers on, only to find that the building heat left the inside of their waterproofs soaking with sweat, rather than the outside with rain. There were 67 scores of 75, many of them not making it on to the prize list. At the top, on 75.14v, were Jim Corbett (Australia), Alex Coetzee (South Africa), Glyn Barnett (OGRE), Parag Patel (OERC) and George Cann (Exonia & Tiverton). Only one, Patel, went clean through the five tie-breaker shots – he'd be winning more than that before the Meeting was out.

On to the following day's Times at 300 yards – normally simple, if enough sleep has been had and the heat doesn't exacerbate any problems. But said heat picked up, and as the morning wore on, the right wind became more pronounced. There were nevertheless approaching 100 scores of 50, with Nick Healy (Army) and Will Broad (Old Epsomians) tying on 50.10v. Broad's perfect 25.5v in the tie shoot would secure him top honours.

Throughout the day were details of the competition many dread the most: the Corporation at 1000 yards. Not your correspondent, however. Ever since he won third place in Lord Swansea's "Swindle" in his first Corp, scoring 28 without a miss *while aiming at the middle*, he has relished the Corp. But this year, conditions required rather better grouping than your correspondent managed, and than lots of others managed too. There were a mere 15 scores of 50, with Chris Watson (UVRC)

and Mike Wood (Altcar) topping the list on 50.8v. Watson wasn't to triumph here – congratulations to Wood for coming out on top in the Grand's toughest shoot.

The wind grew gentler, and conditions for the 600-yard Wimbledon became sweeter. More than 70 shooters scored 50, including a few Tyros. It would be hard to find a more accomplished trio than those tied on 50.10v, though: Glyn Barnett (OGRE), Parag Patel (OERC) and Richard Jeans (NLRC). Barnett would triumph in a sudden death shoot-off with Patel after both scored 25.3v; Jeans dropped a point to finish third.

Tuesday brings just one individual match. The first competitors in St George's I began firing at 8am. The lucky beggars! Traditionally the earliest detail is straightforward, and so it appeared to be today. By late morning, however, the wind was varying in strength and angle, so the wind value ranged from about ¾ to 2½ minutes right. Impressively, there were 102 maximum possible scores of 75 recorded. There was only one 75.15v, courtesy of Steve Negus of Canberra RC.

Scoring at 300 yards in Queen's I the following morning was high, reflecting the non-challenging wind conditions, but a point or two were still dropped by a remarkable number of people who should know better. The wind became more interesting at 500 yards, offering still more of a challenge later in the afternoon at 600. None would beat Emma Nuttall's 105.20v as 37 went clean.

The wind was also up for the Conan Doyle at 900 yards. Your correspondent shot alongside some stars of the Great Britain team, and none managed to score above 48, though a nearby Guernseyman did score

a 'possible'. The conditions continued into the evening, with the 6pm detail reporting a bracket of seven to thirteen minutes left. Top of the 59 possibles was Surrey RA's Coleman on the only flawless 50.10v.

Having dropped two in Queen's I and three in the Doyle, Watson was now 'six off', ahead of Parag Patel on v- bulls. They were in second and third place in the Grand, with David Armstrong of Old Guildfordians one point ahead but with fewer Vs. He had gone 'clean' through the day to come from four points behind to lead.

So, to Friday's deciding Prince of Wales match. The early starters, including your correspondent, cursed as we dealt with more 'interesting' conditions than an 8am detail ever had the right to throw at us. Then we went to see Armstrong in the 11.40am detail, and realised we had got off lightly. The wind was rushing through from anything between half past eleven and half past nine on the clock face, with values between about half a minute left and five left. Parag Patel dropped a point at 8.55am and Chris Watson did the same at 10.45am, so David Armstrong needed 74 to win the Grand. Normally, a cert – but in these conditions? 'Milko' started with three V bulls, but dropped his fourth just out to the right (by which time his partner had already dropped about five points – it was that hard), meaning he had to get all the rest in. V, V, V, 5 (all a bit right of centre), then a 4 just out on the left... and Chris Watson had won the Grand. A further right-handed shot, last to count, left David fourth in the Grand, behind Chris in first, Parag in second and Rick Shouler in third. Brilliant shooting by all of them. ■



Watson awaits the outcome after shooting 74.9v in the Prince of Wales



D Armstrong – not that one, but Daisy – got her name in the history books with an Alexandra win

How St George's was won

The winner of the 2017 TR St George's match, David Luckman, reveals his experience from the range

The St George's brings back some special memories for me – it was my first Bisley success, finishing eighth as a 17-year-old at my second Bisley Meeting. I find it just as exciting 20 finals later, and was immensely proud this year to collect the magnificent trophy for a third time.

The morning of the first stage dawned calmly enough but became more blustery as the gentle weather of the weekend became a distant memory. For me the first stage is very much part of the Grand Aggregate, so my approach on Tuesday morning is the same as earlier in the week. The changeable wind in the 10.45am detail was unsettling but I, like many others on the range, focused on my Grand placing and was pleased with my 75.10v. The cut was a solid 73.9v despite the changing conditions.

The second stage of the St George's feels very different; this shoot is outside the Grand and the prospect of the final is looming. The field splits into two camps: those looking to cement a spot in the final and those looking to set up a chance to pick up the St George's trophy on Saturday. The timings of the second and third stages, late in the evening and early in the morning, mean the wind conditions are often fairly straightforward, and the trophy is often won with 150 and a very high V count. As a result, scoring a strong 75 in the second stage becomes the key objective if you want to win. In previous years I have joined those aggressive enough to cut 5s in the second stage in an attempt to maximise my v-count. Second Thursday this year, however, had been something of a beast, and I was quite happy to convert my V,5 sighters in a wind of over four minutes.



It's a third St George's badge of Luckman's career

The wind did calm down during the shoot and we saw another high cut for the final of 148.15v. I was content with my 75.12v as a decent staging for Saturday, despite being adrift of Silver Cross winner Will Broad's glorious 150.25v.

Saturday morning dawned and I joined all those carrying in a 75 in trying to convert my stage-two score into a win. The wind had already woken up by 8.30am and was blowing over the left shoulder with the potential to fishtail. Once again, it was going to be a challenge.

The wind gods were with me and my excitement built as the shoot progressed. The changes were quick but readable and I was fortunate to find a swift rhythm. Light changes halfway through the shoot led to some lost Vs to elevation, which was frustrating, but by the end, I was

proud of my shoot. Another 75.12v for a 150.24v – would it be enough?

The George's is unique in that the top 25 places are announced on the range straight after the final. As the scores were read out in reverse order, the tension started to build. This was the most nerve-racking part of my George's experience. Finding out that the first 150 was ninth renewed my hope that I had done enough, but the V counts of the subsequent placings increased quickly, adding to the nerves. I was standing with Glyn Barnett, who had scored 150.22v, during the presentation, so when John Warburton was announced in third also with 150.22v, I knew that I had done it and the elation struck. The George's is a special competition to me and I am delighted to hold the title this year. ■

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Home advantage

There were to be no upsets in the main TR team matches this year, as England and Great Britain swept up. Jeremy Langley tells the tale

National

The National Match, on the afternoon of 20 July, was for teams of 20 firers shooting one sighter and seven to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards. England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales all competed. Wind conditions were fast-moving, requiring quick thinking by the wind coaches and quick firing by the shooters.

Scotland, who used almost all the available time at 300 yards, felt they had coped well to lose 15 points (685.75v) and were well ahead of Ireland (676) and reigning champions Wales (672). England, however, put in a stunning performance to lead by eight points and a huge 22 v-bulls (693.97v). This was in no small part down to the second firers, who, though all new caps in the England team, all scored maximum points.

At 500 yards, the Scots were first to finish, their score of 674.68v this time edging Wales (673) and Ireland (670), but a long way behind England's 689.94v. England were now 18 off, Scotland 41 off, and Ireland and Wales neck-and-neck on 54 off. The result seemed a foregone

conclusion and so it proved, as in still-difficult conditions, England's firers and coaches put in another strong performance to drop 19 points, to Scotland's 35, Ireland's 29 and Wales's 26. Final totals: Dick Rosling's England 2063.270v, Scotland 2024.209v, Wales 2020.191v, Ireland 2017.203v.

In the final analysis, the England coaches managed the difficult conditions well and led the field by 39 points and 61 v-bulls. The highest individual in the match was Rick Shouler (England) who scored 105.17v and was presented with the Hossack Memorial Salver.

Alongside, Canada (1217.129v) won the Overseas Match (teams of 12) by a point from Guernsey, with Jersey, Australia and Kenya further back. In the Cadet Matches (AG Bell) the UK Cadets (1211.133v) beat the Royal Canadian Army Cadets by 11 points (1200.117v).

Kolapore

The Kolapore match, shot this year on the morning of Friday 21 July, is one

of the most high-profile matches of the shooting calendar. It is shot over 300, 500 and 600 yards by teams of eight firers shooting one sighter and 10 to count at each distance. What marks this match out as special is twofold: first it is an international match and participation is rewarded with a GB cap, and second, the targetry used is not the standard NRA target faces but the considerably tighter ICFRA targets.

Eight of Britain's best shooters (plus coaches) were selected to compete against the visiting national teams by the captain, Lindsay Peden (Scotland). Conditions were, as expected, difficult, so much so that the coaches used almost all the available time at each range, rarely allowing strings of more than two or three shots to be fired before a pause was required. After dropping six points at 300 and five at 500 yards, Great Britain lost a further 15 at 600 yards to finish on 1174.121v, 17 points ahead of Jersey (1157.92v), who were one ahead of Australia (1156.94v) in a reversal of fortunes from the Overseas Match.





Guernsey (1148.85v), Canada (1146.83v), Kenya (1128.70v) and Germany (1092.60v) followed on behind. Top scorer for GB was Parag Patel (England) on 149.20v, while the sole new cap, Sandy Walker (Scotland), acquitted himself well with 147.15v, all the more praiseworthy given the conditions and the fact that all three points were dropped at 300.

At the same time the various universities were competing on Century Range, mostly in teams of four in the Musketeers, with Oxford and Cambridge fielding teams of eight in the Chancellors, which was this year won by Cambridge. Edinburgh University won the Musketeers ahead of Exeter, London, Newcastle, Durham, Imperial and others; GB won the Under 25 Match (879.94v) to Canada's (849.73v), with Cadet Shakhman the highest scorer for GB; and finally, the House of Lords took on the House of Commons in the Vizianagram, with the House of Commons running out the victors by some 33 points.

Mackinnon

The long-range 'national' match, the Mackinnon, is shot on the final Saturday morning and is competed for by teams of 12 firers shooting one sighter and 10 shots to count at 900 and 1000 yards. Despite the longer distance, wind conditions were not as challenging as the previous afternoon at short range, and with the wind coming over the left shoulder, there was a slight advantage to being situated towards the left-hand end of the range. Guernsey made the most of it at 900 yards to take a single-point lead over England, who led Wales by a few v-bulls and Ireland

by another point. Things were close as they often are after 900, but 1000 yards is always the decider in this match.

The rain returned during the match, and England opted to only start their first firers at 1000 yards, leaving the second firers to shelter from the downpour. Fortunately conditions improved – it was interesting to see the coaches move seamlessly from using the angle of rainfall to judge the wind into using mirage, while all the time using the bedraggled flags. At this final range, Scotland stole a march on most of the teams that had been ahead of them, while England excelled themselves, scoring almost as highly at 1000 yards as they had at 900. The only time the England targets showed three inners was when the captain distracted the main coach by advising that they had a slender

lead of five points over Scotland. "Thanks Jane – it's two points now..."

The final scores showed a 15-point margin of victory for Jane Messer's England team (1174.146v), beating Scotland (1159.126v) into second place. Ireland were third (1150.122v), Wales fourth (1150.114v), with Guernsey (1142.108v), Jersey (1129.97v), Australia (1126.105v), Canada (1117.104v) and Kenya (1114.92v) occupying the remaining places.

On the same range, the various university teams took part in the Universities Long Range, in which they are permitted external wind coaches. Cambridge won with 378.36v ahead of Edinburgh in second and Oxford in third; Cambridge thus also won the Universities Aggregate. ■



Triumphant return

The second Cadet Imperial built on its first-year success, reports Silke Lohmann

Last year's inaugural Cadet Imperial proved a huge success with the cadet force and schools, and it was popular again this year, with 36 entrants. It was shot alongside the main Imperial Grand Aggregate short-range matches and gives the cadets a chance to compete as individuals for the first time.

As much as it is daunting for most cadets, it does give them a great opportunity to learn about reading the wind and be organised enough to compete on their own. After two weeks of shooting with their schools and cadet force and being coached in the Inter Services Cadet Rifle Meeting and the Schools Meeting, they are used to Bisley ranges, but they get the opportunity to learn all about target rifle shooting among a group of similarly skilled and aged competitors.

The Cadet Imperial is a fantastic opportunity for cadets to give Target Rifle a go without being thrown in the deep end and having to compete with the big names of TR shooting. There are plenty of opportunities to learn from mistakes in a friendly environment with other cadets in their first or second year at Bisley.

Last year's winner of the Cadet Grand Aggregate was Sgt Hollie Butler from the Dyfed & Glamorgan ACF, and she was awarded a free entry into the Target Rifle Grand Aggregate for this year, which she excitedly took up and was certainly not disappointed. She found that last year's Cadet Imperial had prepared her well for the 'real' world.

It is hoped that this year's winner L/Cpl K Nicholls, Somerset ACF, will have the same great experience. She won the Grand Aggregate with 542.31v (out of 580), four V-bulls ahead of Cdt B Rigo from RGS Guildford ACF, while L/Cpl N Safanov (Dollar Academy CCF) was third with 541.34v. This already shows



an improvement to last year's top score of 528.8v, which saw Sgt H Butler lead by 15 points.

Queen's I was a huge success for Scottish Dollar Academy CCF. The first three places went to the academy's cadets, who were all among the top 10 in the Grand. L/Cpl N Safanov won with 95.5v, followed by Cpl J Gibson with 94.5v, one V ahead of L/Cpl C Chen (last year's top score was 96.7v).

Andy Warman, the Chief Range Officer, was pleased with this year's Cadet Imperial: "The competition was intense but the Cadets acted as a team and supported each other. The pattern was pretty much the same throughout the meeting, with those in the top 10 overall vying for position in the top three of each competition."

Grand winner L/Cpl Kez Nicholls (14) said: "This was my second year taking part in the Cadet Imperial and it definitely went much better for me this year. I

was far more confident and made more friends. I was the only one from my company taking part, but there were two other cadets from Somerset. Last year was a good introduction and I had hoped to make the selection again this year. We practised two or three weekends and selection took place in Somerset a week before the cadet meeting started. Bisley is such a famous place – I am really looking forward to competing in the real Grand next year."

Jack Kuluman (17) of the 30F City of Llandaff Air Cadets is keen to go on a coaching course to help train others: "Shooting at Bisley is certainly different – a lot more independent shooting than I am used to – but I did a self-coaching course about a month ago, which helped a lot. I felt I could just get on with it and really liked the fact that I was learning a lot. I am hoping to enter the full Imperial next year." ■

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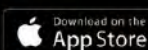
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A piece of history

Derek Stimpson gives us a flavour of the atmosphere at the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

Another year, another Imperial, and another IHAM – the Historic Arms Meeting. This year it took place again on 8-9 July, the first weekend of the Imperial meeting – which is, of course, the NRA's largest and perhaps best known meeting, founded and opened in 1860 with HM Queen Victoria's famous first shot on Wimbledon Common. It is therefore always a pleasure to see historic arms in use, some of which would have been around in the second half of the 19th century. As is often said, if only they could talk. The photograph collection accompanying this article shows many of them being put to good use.

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

Many of the regular participants were shooting again this year, plus a few new ones, but it would be good to see more owners of historic arms using them. It can

be very satisfying, sometimes frustrating, but always great fun. On top of that, you own a piece of heritage and may be contributing to research. If you have questions, requests, or suggestions about doing so, do not hesitate to get in touch.

The table below shows the numbers of shooters and competition entries. While they are steady, it would be nice to see more of the owners and collectors of historic arms participating in historic arms meetings such as IHAM and the Trafalgar. Both need your support if they are to continue and grow.

A full list of results is on the NRA website. See you at next year's IHAM and the Trafalgar in October. There will be the usual arms fair at the Trafalgar. ■



IHAM PARTICIPATION

2014	2015	2016	2017
101 competitors	90 competitors	103 competitors	89 competitors
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Not just for old men

Match Rifle defied its reputation as the Imperial MR events were more inclusive than ever. Hattie Mansell reports

The Hopton saw the Match Rifle community, with faces old and new, come together once again to compete during the 148th Imperial. For those of us still new to Match Rifle, it was a great Hopton. We got to experience the nature of the MR community, its friendliness and competitiveness in one go.

For once, we started the Hopton in sunshine, so rather than worrying about our wet-weather gear, we got to focus on our shooting and wind-reading, and went into the later stages of the competition more cheerful than we would have done if it was pelting rain. Having spent most of the weekend in the blazing sunshine and challenging fishtailing winds, the end of the Hopton brought more challenging conditions in the build-up to Elcho day. Conditions on Stickle-down proved changeable at times, especially during the second detail of the Albert at 1100 yards, as we lay ready for message 1, hoping the rain coming across would miss us. We weren't so lucky, but it did make for a more interesting and challenging shoot, rather than just the standard left wind.

The familiar faces dominated the rankings. Going into it, there were five competitors for the title: Mike Baillie-

Hamilton, Angus McLeod, Nick Tremlett, Rob Lygoe and Dave Calvert. Ultimately, it was Nick Tremlett and Rob Lygoe who fought down to the very last V in the Albert, with Rob victorious. The new squadding rules saw them paired next to each other, making it a tense contest. Not only that, but it also meant more spectators were able to join in with the last stages of the Hopton.

The morning of Elcho day brought tricky weather, with changeable winds and poor light. But it brightened after lunch, with England maintaining their lead and winning the shield for the fifth year running.

More importantly, this year marked a new rank of young shooters entering all the Home Nations' Match Rifle teams. Congratulations to Zoe Woodroffe, who held her first cap for Scotland this year, while there were also two new shooters for the Irish, with Kim Lindsay and Sophie Wentges joining the team, each teaming up with their fathers for the first time. We didn't just see a new generation join the shooters, but also the coaches, with Fergus Flanagan coaching the two highest scores of the whole Elcho, for Mike Baillie-Hamilton and Ron Scaglione for the Scots.

England also welcomed new shooters into its ranks, including John Lindsay III,

ROB'S A BANKER: THIS YEAR'S HOPTON WINNER, ROB LYGOE, GIVES US HIS PERSPECTIVE

Back gunners are often described as less able to react to wind changes, so it may have hit front gunners even harder that you won in a year with lots of wind changes. What's your secret?

Were there lots of wind changes this year? I'm not sure I did cope very well in those shoots where there were rapid changes – along with several others, I visited the magpie during the Edge 1200x.

Now that back gunners have changed to using telescopes (from Galilean sights), I think some of the disadvantages they had are reduced as they can change their sights while on aim, see mirage (near the targets!) and also see fall of shot on nearby targets. It is still hard to see the far line of flags through one's left leg though.





Ever been tempted to shoot MR in the prone position?

I find supine is much more comfortable than prone for long shoots. I did once consider swapping to prone many years ago (before fitting a telescope) – in bad weather, I attempted to dry the Galilean foresight lens rather too vigorously and part of the aiming ring came away on the cloth.

It's pleasing to see that the supine position continues to be popular with new shooters – the likes of Fergus Flanagan and Hannah Fisher shooting very well and showing the way for the next generations.

You had a pretty spectacular MR year.

What are your aims for next year?

The same as other years: enjoy shooting and try to stay dry. I've seen the dates for next year's Imperial Meeting on the NRA website – they suggest that Hopton starts on 14 July. If correct, it means that I'll be able to be at home for my daughter's birthday – this should help defuse the usual family friction about me spending precious holiday time shooting. Hopefully I can persuade my daughter to try shooting at some point – it was great to be able to point to two father/daughter combinations shooting in this year's Elcho match.

MR or TR?

MR. It's far more relaxed than TR, yet one fires more rounds in fewer days. Also the Elcho match is a glorious event – the oldest long-range rifle contest in the world.

Are trophies there to show off at dinner parties or store your daughter's soft toys?

Toy store. This year the Welsh Rifle Association presented a magnificent trophy as a prize for the Councillors (1000x) Aggregate – it has proved to have an immense toy capacity. Many thanks to Loulou Brister and the WRA. It was donated to commemorate the Welsh win in the National in 2016, obviously. I look forward to seeing what commemoration trophy they present when they win the Elcho.

who had won the Wimbledon, and Fenella Chesterfield, who is only in her second year of Match Rifle shooting. Fenella also won numerous trophies across the Hopton, including the Ogden Challenge Cup, making her and Fergus Flanagan a formidable team.

One lasting memory is the emergency landing of a helicopter across Stickledown during the second detail of the Armourers. Shooters quickly reacted to the frantic "Stop, stop, stop!" from the range officer – many had reached the end of their detail, and those who hadn't were allowed a non-convertible sighter and their final shots. For those who ended up with Vs for their sighters and magpies for their final shots, it was not the best interruption, even if

an entirely novel one. It didn't phase Rob Lygoe, though – he came out with 99.15v, three Vs above Si Whitby.

The Hopton meeting is full of traditions, and this is encapsulated at the prizegiving, where the most important part is celebrating everyone's achievements with plenty of Pimm's and sunshine at the end of Elcho Day. For those of us who spent the day helping out the various teams, it reminds us why we love Match Rifle, and how far we can go in the discipline when we have the support of all the other shooters. For new shooters joining the group, these traditions give us something in common with more experienced shooters, even if we don't yet share Rob Lygoe's scores. ■

IMPERIAL MATCH RIFLE WINNERS

Section	Name	Score
Whitehead	Mr CN Tremlett	150.21v
Halford	Mr GB Barnard	147.17v
Cottesloe	Wg Cdr DP Calvert	100.13v
Wimbledon MR	Mr JA Lindsay III	100.11v
Armourers	Mr RJ Lygoe	99.15v
Edge	Mr JMB Baillie-Hamilton	192.18v
Albert	Mr RJ Lygoe	222.32v
Hopton	1. Mr RJ Lygoe	999.129v
	2. Mr CN Tremlett	997.113v
	3. Mr JMB Baillie-Hamilton	991.112v
Elcho	1. England	1750.209v
	2. Scotland	1727.181v
	3. Wales	1700.136v

Long-distance persistence

David Kent reports on a range of winners and top scores in an F Class meeting beset by high winds



David Lloyd's successes even extended to FTR

Entries were up for the F Class events at this year's Imperial. The weather was very hot indeed, even before and after the Saturday rain.

The wind on Stickledown and Century ranges was extremely twitchy throughout, and towards the end of the five-day meeting on the Tuesday it became even more difficult. It was almost unreadable, in fact, as elevation was also affected.

In Match Rifle F Class, David Lloyd won the Halford and the Edge, while Des Parr took the Whitehead, the Armourers, and the Wimbledon, and John Carmichael won The Albert. This writer won the Cottesloe by seven points from old friend and sparring partner Des Parr. How many years is that now, Des?

At the F Open and FTR meeting, I counted 30 different shooters coming first or second in the competitions. Starting with the big trophies, the Celebration (weekend) Aggregate and the Grand Aggregate went to Tony Marsh in F Open and Ian Boxall for FTR.

John Howe won the George's in F Open, and Steph Yates won it in FTR. The Farquharson in F Open saw Paul Hill win with 94 – an amazing score considering the condition – and in FTR by David Lloyd, the GB Captain this year for the World Championships (in F Open!) Congratulations to all the winners, including all those who aren't listed above.

England won the International Match against a combined German F Open and FTR team. Thank you to Paul Eggemann, who agreed to shoot against us again despite not being well.

We had our prizegiving for the first time in the newly renovated Bisley Pavilion. Peter Cottrell read out the prize details using everyone's first names, and NRA Chairman John Webster presented the medals and cups for the F Class Match Rifle



England's victorious International Match team



Tony Marsh was a deserving aggregate winner in F Open



With the wind up, there were nevertheless some amazing scores

competitions and the F/Open and FTR competitions at the Imperial Meeting.

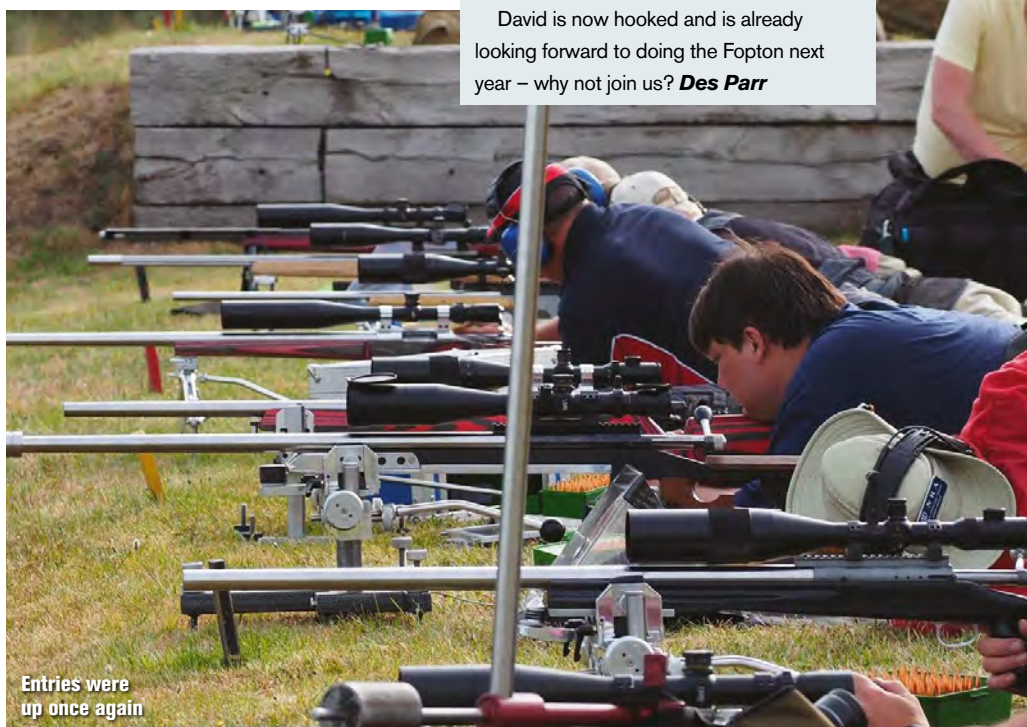
At the shooters' mini meeting after prize giving, the following change was requested:

- At short range the target faces should be automatically changed for each detail as they are shot out.

- We would like to move the extra sponsored long-range shoot on the second Monday to the Friday to be shot in the morning before the Admiral Hutton starts. That way there would be four shoots on the Friday and four on the Monday, not five, which everyone found too much.

- A suggestion from David Lloyd was to have a new competition for made-up teams to be shot concurrent with the International Match on the Tuesday. A new Imperial Meeting Rutland-style match.

We are all very tired but happy. The atmosphere and camaraderie between competitors was as good as ever. We are looking forward to next year already. ■



Entries were up once again

THE FOPTON

Every year, Bisley hosts four days of Match Rifle events: the Hopton, involving long details of 2+20 at long distances from 1,000 to 1,200 yards. In response to this, Mik Maksimovic coined the term Fopton, which seemed appropriate for the F-class Hopton.

Admittedly, the Fopton is not a big F-class event – it is tiny in fact – but it is probably our best-kept secret. It is terrific fun. The small group of participants means it is done in a relaxed and friendly manner; there is much good-natured banter between the shooters.

Shooting at up to 1,200 yards really lets us see what our rifles are capable of, and in truth, it is perfectly common to convert an inner (4). There is something about shooting at extra-long distances that makes our more usual distances seem so much shorter – “train hard, fight easy” as they say.

As for the 2017 Fopton, sadly Mik Maksimovic could not attend – his first ever absence – but in his place we had a new recruit, the current GB Captain David Lloyd. David is certainly no novice at extra-long range – he shoots Match Rifle for Wales – and his experience was put to good effect as he won the Fopton by the tiniest margin, just one point.

David is now hooked and is already looking forward to doing the Fopton next year – why not join us? **Des Parr**

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Sporting Chance

Steve Wallis delves into the history of the Running Deer discipline and the difficulty of its current incarnation in the Imperial

Positioned either side of the doorway to the NRA office are two large white painted deer. The pockmarks in them confirm them to be targets from the early days of Running Deer shooting at Bisley, although shooting at moving deer targets took place as far back as 1862 when the competition was shot at Wimbledon. Back then the targets were mounted on a carriage running on rails which was pushed down an incline to get up to speed as it crossed a 25-yard gap before being retrieved and turned around.

Between 1908 and 1956, Running Deer was an Olympic event and to celebrate winning a Gold Medal Walter Winans presented a silver cup for the Doubles and in 1921 the NRA added a Challenge Cup for the Singles. Lately these have been joined by a trophy with two silver deer donated in 1980 by the British Sporting Rifle Club for a Championship aggregate of the Singles and Doubles and most recently by the Dewar Trophy. This was found in a provincial auction sale catalogue and after some enquiries into its provenance was donated to the British Sporting Rifle Club in 2007



A piece of history: The Olympic Sporting Rifle team from 1924

by the family of the original recipient who won it with a highest possible score in 1914. The trophy is now awarded for the highest 10-shot score across the Running Deer Unlimiteds and Championships.

While Running Deer ceased to be an Olympic discipline after the 1956 Melbourne Games, Running Boar continued until the 1988 Seoul Games and 10m Moving Target until the 2004 Athens Games. Running Deer continued as part of the Nordic Shooting Championships until 2004, since when the British Sporting Rifle Club has worked with the NRA, the Norges Skytterforbund and regional shooting clubs in Norway to ensure Running Deer remains an international sport with annual competitions between the two countries. In 2012 this led to the formation of the first recorded NRA Great Britain Sporting Rifle Team.

Today, while the target still runs on rails, the targetry has changed considerably



The distinctive 'Siamese' target based on Landseer's drawing

with electronic scoring used to record shot placement on a monitor at the firing point. The target is based on the sketch made by Sir Edwin Landseer on a table cloth, the original of which is on display in the stairwell of the NRA offices, but with a "Siamese" image so there is no need to turn the target round at each end. Neither is there a need to have anyone push the trolley to get it going – it is powered by electric motors which very quickly get it up to speed to cross the 23m gap in 4.1 seconds. That's a target travelling at over 20km/h at a distance of 100m with a bull 15cm in diameter.

During the Running Deer Unlimiteds, shot on first Thursday and Friday as well as second Monday and Tuesday of the Imperial, competitors vie for the honours of an NRA Gold Medal for the best two series of 10 shots in each week. This year the winning scores were 89/100 in each week – no mean feat given that shooters start with the rifle in the ISSF 'gun down' position so have to raise the rifle to the shoulder, acquire and shoot the target all within the 4.1 seconds it takes to travel between one side of the range and the other. More impressive: during the Championships competitors shoot doubles, starting 'gun down' and taking two shots on each pass of the target. The record for this currently stands at 181/200 for the two series of 20 shots each, shot in 2006 with series scores of 93/100 and 88/100.

If all this talk of Running Deer has whetted your appetite, more information can be found on how to get involved in it, and other sporting rifle disciplines, on the British Sporting Rifle Club website, bsrc.co.uk. ■



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The CSR Imperial

John Morgan-Hosey reports from a busy set of Imperial Civilian Service Rifle events

Crowning another great year for Civilian Service Rifle (CSR), one of the NRA's fastest-growing disciplines, the 2017 CSR Imperial took place from Wednesday 28 June (the Imperial Rifle Match) to Sunday 2 July (the team Methuen Match). All 126 competitors were delighted that the weather forecast was not completely accurate and conditions largely held out. With four classes of shooters, eight individual competitions, three team competitions and three aggregates, there was something for everyone and all competitors enjoyed the camaraderie that has become synonymous with CSR. The week was spent concentrating hard on the range at the various competitions and socialising in the evenings with fellow shooters from all over the UK, as well as the familiar faces of the excellent shooters travelling to Bisley from as far afield as Ireland, Denmark and France.

On Wednesday the CSR Imperial began with the NRA Imperial Practical Rifle Match on Century. At 100-600yds, many competitors chose to shoot a different rifle for this standalone match. With so much preparation going on behind the scenes for this meeting, all squadding and range duties were allocated and communicated before the event and the Imperial began smoothly, in more sunshine than expected. The first gold medals of the meeting were later presented to Sean Clarke (Iron), Dave Green (Practical) and Bill Ellis (Service).

On Thursday morning we trooped over to the beautiful ranges on the Army Training Centre at Pirbright Camp. First was the Urban Match on the 100yd Nelson Range. This quick, four-stage match is always enjoyed, even more so when we are kneeling on grass and bathed in sunshine. With all competitors helping out with scoring and patching targets, the morning was run in a friendly and efficient way, and the gold

medal winners were Robert Illius (Historic), Doug Cross (Iron), Nick St Aubyn (Practical) and Nigel Greenaway (Service).

With the Urban Match completed, everyone moved to No.2 Hutchings Range on Pirbright Camp to complete the 100, 200 and 300yd matches. There were several tied places (with all tie breaks completed on Friday). The 100yds match gold medals were awarded to Robert Illius (Historic), Doug Cross (Iron), Nick Stirrup (Practical) and Adam Chapman (Service), while the 200yds match gold medals went to Robert Illius (Historic), Sean Clarke (Iron), Mike Dougan (Practical) and John Chambers (Service). Finally, after a seven-shooter tie-break for practical, the 300yds match gold medals were awarded to Robert Illius (Historic), Sean Clarke (Iron), Justin Frankland (Practical) and Mark Bradley (Service).

Friday's matches were back on Century. The morning was spent on the Long



The iconic Mauser trophy goes to the LPSC A team



John Webster congratulates the Methuen champs, LERA A

Range Match from 300 to 500yds, while in the afternoon the Short Range Match, 100-300yds, was held. Although the weather was threatening, it held out long enough for us to stay dry. The Long Range Match gold medals were awarded to Huw Davies (Historic), Sean Clarke (Iron), Colin Hudson (Practical) and Bill Ellis (Service), while the short-range accolades went to Huw Davies (Historic). Doug Cross (Iron), Justin Frankland (Practical) and Adam Chapman (Service).

On Saturday, the Rural Match was held on Century, with the Championship winners also decided. The scorching weather reflected the pressure – this is the only other match of the Imperial that is held from 100-600yds. Ultimately, the gold medals were presented to Huw Davies (Historic), Doug Cross (Iron), Olivier Larrue (Practical) and Bill Ellis (Service).

Following the Rural Match, many competitors continued the competitive theme at the team Falling Plates Match, held on No.2 Ash Range. This fiercely contested knock-out event, shot in Modern and Historic classes, provides an entertaining mix of fitness and marksmanship. Teams of four race from the start point to the 200yd firing point, aiming to knock down the 10 plates as quickly as possible, making it a gripping spectator sport. There were 22 Historic

teams and 16 Modern teams entered this year. After close finals, the Lee Enfield Rifle Association (LERA) Sparbrook team fought off the runners-up, LERA Enfield, to win the Fulton Team Challenge Plate. In the Modern class, the London Practical Shooting Club (LPSC) A team, after an exceptionally close final against CSAG, were crowned the winners of the Challenge Cup.

We were delighted that the Army Rifle Association Clubhouse had agreed to host the Saturday Night BBQ and prizegiving, enjoyed by everyone, and the well-earned prizes and medals were handed out. As always, the final aggregate winners of all four classes were only announced at the prizegiving. These are shown in the table below.

After a morning spent packing up cars and saying goodbyes, a record breaking 18 Methuen teams met on Century to pool their resources and coach each other to see how well they could do on this short-range match from 100-300yds. The team who came out on top of the Historic class, and were awarded the Mons Trophy, were LERA A (Seth Ellett, Will Tong, Cris Scott, Martin Kent, Paul Benneyworth, Roland Bradford) with 753 points. The Historic runners up were LERA B (629 points) and BYSA (552 points). The Practical winners of the Mauser Trophy were LPSC A (Martin Camp, Colin Hudson, David

Camp, Justin Frankland, Adam Chapman, Peter Cottrell) with 1355 points. The Practical runners-up were Highpower Rifle Association (HRA) A (1332 points) and PSSA (1285 points). Awards are also presented for the highest individual scores. The Methuen Bayonet (Historic Class) was presented to Will Tong (156 points) and, in Practical, Martin Camp was awarded the Methuen Kukri, having achieved an impressive 238 points.

With the CSR Imperial over for another year, guns are cleaned and put away and ammo restocked in preparation for the Winter League beginning on Sunday 1 October. With competitions usually falling on the first weekend of the month through to April, all newcomers are welcomed. The NRA's Introduction to CSR one-day courses are very popular and helpful for less experienced shooters, incorporating classroom work as well as practical coaching on the range. If you are interested in being involved in CSR matches and have any queries, please contact Mark Bradley (mark@bradleyarms.com) or Peter Cottrell, NRA Head of Shooting and Competitions (peter.cottrell@nra.org.uk). ■

IMPERIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: OVERALL WINNERS

Iron Sight		
1	Sean Clarke	919
Service Optic		
1	Bill Ellis	1148
2	Adam Chapman	1147
3	Peter Cottrell	1134
Practical Optic		
1	Olivier Larrue	1126
2	Colin Hudson	1117
3	John Morgan-Hosey	1108



A close-fought final saw LPSC win in the Modern class



LERA Sparbrook were Historic champions in the Falling Plates



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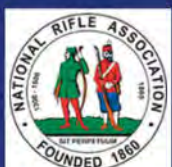
There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.

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Shooting Gallery

Neil Francis reports on how the Imperial Gallery Rifle and Pistol matches have changed over years, and encourages more shooters to enter this oft-overlooked event

Of the many Gallery Rifle and Pistol events that happen throughout the year (see the calendar for all the details), the longest and perhaps the most relaxed seems to be largely overlooked by GR&P shooters. This, of course, is the Imperial Gallery Rifle & Pistol meeting, which takes place, in bible parlance, from middle Wednesday to middle Sunday.

I think the Imperial is overlooked by many pistol shooters because they see it purely as a long-range rifle meeting. In my experience, that has never really been the case. Even in the days when cartridge pistols were available to us, there was always plenty of pistol shooting available at the Imperial meeting.

These days, most of the shooting that takes place at Imperial GR&P is with the Gallery Rifle – either centrefire (GRCF) or small-bore (GRSB). After some years of attempting to transition all the trophy matches from traditional pistol and revolver competitions to black powder in the late 1990s – admittedly with some success – all the old pistol trophies are now competed for with a rifle.

Like almost all GR&P courses of fire, they remain more or less as they were. There are six matches available for GRCF: the Police match, the Service match, the



Scott cup, the Granet cup, the Silhouettes cup and the Gallery Rifle match. The latter is itself in transition, having been subject to some experimental changes to its format over the last couple of seasons. This was mainly to try to increase interest and participation, though the jury is still out regarding the future format of this match. For its last couple of outings, the Gallery Rifle trophy has been an aggregate of the Scott and Granet matches.

There is currently only one small-bore match held at the meeting. This is the Gallery Rifle Small-bore match, or the Lightweight Sporting Rifle (LSR) match. Again, it's essentially a pistol match shot with a rifle, and in this case uses the 25m Standard Pistol course of fire. Trophies for some of the above matches have a fantastic legacy.

The winner of the Police match is currently awarded the UIT Aggregate Challenge Cup presented in 1963 by Col





Pistol shooters can compete for the Cotterill Trophy



This is as much a part of the Imperial as any long-range shoot

CJ Smith, late 168th Iowa (Inf) Regt, endowed by his widow.

The winner of the Scott match is awarded a Challenge Cup presented in 1946 by Lt Col GEA Granet DSO MC in memory of Lt P Scott RN of HMS Excellent (later Admiral Sir Percy Scott), who won the first revolver competition held at Wimbledon in 1885.

The Granet winner receives a Challenge Cup presented in 1914 by Lt GEA Granet of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

One trophy that will always be awarded for a true pistol match, however, is the Cotterill Trophy. This was presented in 2001 by the British Pistol Club to commemorate the late Les Cotterill, BPC member, GB National Coach and GB Police National Coach, who did so much to promote excellence in the ISSF (then the UIT) pistol shooting disciplines. The

course of fire is the 25-metre centrefire match for pistols, comprising a precision stage of 30 shots – six stages of five shots in five minutes – and a rapid-fire stage of 30 shots – six stages of five shots, one shot per three-second exposure.

Many people attend the Imperial GR&P meeting to simply shoot the unlimited entry events. These are shot through the week purely for medals and at the shooter's leisure. However, bringing along some of your clubmates (or university mates – some trophies are only for university teams) can result in participation for the team match trophies. Courses of fire and match conditions for the team matches can be found in the bible, but some of the trophies on offer are worthy of mention.

The Mander is probably the largest trophy on offer, and is presented to teams

shooting the T&P1 (police) competition. Seek it out next time you are perusing the NRA silverware – it is a sight to behold.

A trophy presented in 2001 by the British Alpine Rifles, commemorating Colonel Mark Beaufoy's 1809 call in 'Scloppetaria' for the development of shooting as a national sport, is offered for the top Beaufoy Gallery Rifle team for precision and rapid. It is simply called the Beaufoy.

The Fairbairn Challenge Cup was presented in 1979 by friends of Oxford University in memory of Captain WE Fairbairn and is a university team match for Advancing Target. Similarly, the McGivern cup is a Challenge Cup presented by Oxford and Cambridge University in memory of Ed McGivern of Montana for the top team of Imperial Silhouettes shooters.

The Lord Salisbury team trophy is for small-bore shooters, presented in 2001 by the Faded Blues, commemorating Prime Minister Lord Salisbury's call for the creation of a nation of riflemen.

If you have shot the Imperial GR&P unlimiteds before, why not have a go at some of the trophy or team matches next time? All the trophy event courses of fire are offered as unlimiteds so you could spend a couple of days honing your skills before competing over the weekend. Book the dates for 2018. ■



Six centrefire matches and one small-bore match make up the central course of fire



University teams are a core part of the competitor base

The Queen's crowd

**Queen's I might just be the most diverse shoot out there –
Silke Lohmann interviews six entrants from very different walks of life**

There is no denying it – the Queen's first stage is the most special shoot during the Imperial. The Wednesday morning sees everyone getting ready in great excitement to shoot 21 to count on 300, 500 and 600 yards in the hope of being one of the 300 to make it through to the second stage on Friday afternoon to shoot at the same distances, this time with 10 to count on each range. Will you be lucky enough to make it to the final 100 to compete for the honour to be carried around camp on that chair to celebrate your triumph?

Most fullbore shooters look forward to the Queen's with anticipation every year. It brings together the largest number of participants for any shoot of the year, of all ages and levels of ability. There can be no other sport in which a beginner can compete alongside the best in the country, getting to know each other in the process. The spread of details over the whole day means conditions can vary dramatically, so chance can play a big part in the outcome.

Six competitors shared their thoughts on their Queen's I 2017 with us.



THE FIRST-TIMER

Liberty Thomas 17, Wellington College
First Bisley Meeting

This was my first Bisley meeting. I only started small-bore in September and fullbore in April. On the Wednesday morning I just thought: "Oh my god, it's Queen's. Well I am just going to do it, even if I haven't done well so far. People come to Bisley just to compete in Queen's – it's pretty cool." My 300 started off well with a 34, and 500 wasn't bad either, dropping just two points. But 600 just proved too tricky, and I had a

problem with my bolt too. I only got a 31, for a 97 in total. I won't be through, of course, but the score doesn't seem like a total disaster. I also managed to shoot a 45 at 900, which is my best score so far, so I feel I had a pretty good day.

I haven't done much self-coaching, so it is all a bit scary. My wind calls on the day have been pretty much 'stick it on something and hope for the best'. A lot of people have been really nice and supportive. When I dropped my last to count, the shooter next to me said how unlucky it was, and at 600 the range officer really helped me when I had a rifle problem. All in all, I had a good experience.



THE INTERNATIONAL

Nicole Rossignol, 40s, Canadian Senior Rifle Team
Entered three times, made it to final once

It was 30 years ago that I first experienced Queen's fever. As a young shooter with the Canadian junior shooting team, I could not fully appreciate why every shooter at Bisley had this prize as a goal. Back then I did not have enough skill to make it through to the second stage.

Now I return to Bisley with the Canadian senior rifle team, more experienced and ready to feel this fever. For my third attempt I felt confident I would go further than before. The first stage passed by successfully: 300yd – 35.7v, 500yd – 34.3v, 600yd – 34.3v for a total of 103.13v. The second stage was more of a challenge. It was a very windy day, but I kept my focus on the job at hand. The last range was the most difficult as I made a few errors. As I finished I hoped that I would succeed. When I heard the news that I made it, I was ecstatic.

When the final day approached I was nervous. A fellow shooter reminded me to enjoy the experience, which I set out to do. Unfortunately it was raining miserably, but I was determined to get through this special moment with a smile and good shooting. After a soggy shoot and a few minor errors, I felt grateful to be a part of the experience and thrilled to finish with 292.33v, which put me in 31st place.

A great finish and a new desire to return and feel this experience again.



THE QUEEN'S-ONLY SHOT

David Dashwood 57, English VIII
First Queen's I in 1980 and 33 since, Q II 20 times and Q III 9 times, 4th twice

9am. 300 yards. Indecent amount of wind for so early in the day. I don't get nervous any more but I do have a morbid fascination awaiting what setbacks the fates have in store this year. A new sight has been fitted on the gun. One of the downsides of only shooting TR once this year is that Queen's I is the wrong time to calibrate the zero. Lost one point sorting it out: 34.4v.

A quick 50.5v in the Conan Doyle helped concentrate the mind, then on to a lunchtime 500. A shocking position on a bumpy firing point led to a ropey 34.1v with one lost to a gust while taking too long to steady the aim (this lack of Vs will surely to be a problem).

The usual trepidation precedes 600, which tends to be very good or very bad. Since the wind has not died down, with these little 155gn bullets *[editor's note: David shoots Match Rifle every year with much heavier*

bullets], I expect the latter. As it turns out, I only lose one when I wind off for a drop, to find it has come back while I am aiming. I still can't hit the v-bull and finish on 34.2v. 102.7v is not enough on the V front, but it's windy enough for some 101s to be in. Surely I'll be ok? Of course, the cut-off is announced as 102.10v. How can 300 people read the wind better than me? A 10th final would have been nice!



THE YOUNG GUN

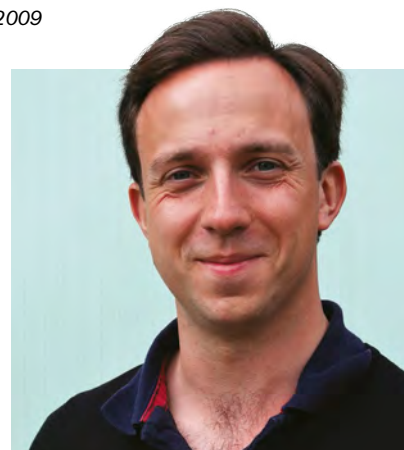
John Lindsay III 30, OCRA/NLRC
First Imperial 2007, first and only Queen's Final 2009

You want to be prepared for Queen's I day. Three and a half hours' sleep and a hangover (thanks to a birthday party in London) are not an officially recognised mode of preparedness. Nor is dropping your last shot at 300 yards for 34.5v. I told myself it's ok – 102s always make it, so I have two points left to play with.

Off for a quick distraction, the Conan Doyle at 900 yards. I shot 50.7v – hurrah! And the trigger fails the weight test, so it's really 45.7v. Still, better to find out it's too light now. Off to an armourer for a quick adjustment.

Back to 500 yards... two v-bulls (converted). Four more v-bulls (you've got this). Drop your last – maybe I haven't got it. Oh well – 34.6 – one more point to play with.

Finally, to 600 yards. It's windy. Drop one point – still ok. Drop two points – well, that's it, I didn't want a ride in that chair anyway. But my 101.14v isn't low enough



to extinguish my cautious optimism. It was windy, and I saw lots of magpies. It could be a 101 cut with high v-bulls.

Later that evening I learn the cut is 102.10v. Of course it is – it always is. At least I'll be finished by Thursday lunchtime and can go and enjoy myself, whilst musing that 2018 will definitely be my year.

THE VETERAN

Carol Painting, *Pumas RC.*

Entered 59 times, eight times in final

This was my 59th consecutive Queen's I competition. In 1959 and 1960 I competed as Carol Middleton but since 1961 have been Carol Painting. I have lost count of the times I have been through to Queen's II but my record of getting into the final is very poor. I have eight Queen's 100 badges (1966, 1968, 1969, 1971, 1975, 2005, 2008 and 2012).

I shot Queen's I at 8.30am, 12.45pm and 3.35pm, then went to 900 for the Conan Doyle at 5.15pm. My 102.11v was just enough to get through. It seemed warm at 300 but turned cooler later, with some threatening clouds.

I have a breathing problem, which means that I cannot carry my kit any distance. I used the NRA buggy service most of the time, but decided to try hiring one for Second Wednesday. After bouncing up and down on the roads as well as the ranges, I decided I prefer a vehicle with suspension. After four ranges in a day, I also felt tired.

It might sound odd but I really try not to think about scores or possibilities of getting through to one stage or another. I'm not always successful in this, but I believe that is the attitude to take. The only thing that matters is the shot you are about to fire and concentrating on trying to score a v-bull.



THE 'CHAIR MAN'

Nick Tremlett 58, *Windsor*

Shot Q1 43 times, in final 25 times, won once, also been second and third

Anticipation, excitement and trepidation. Three very common emotions on the day of Queen's I and I feel no differently since I won than in the many years before, when winning was nothing but a dream.

I am still excited at the possibility of making it through to the final, the most enjoyable individual shoot in the TR calendar. And I still feel trepidation at the thought of it being only seven to count at each range in the first stage, a small mistake potentially ruining a score. To an MR shot, this feels like an extended series of sighters!

I had an early start with an 8am detail at 300 – always a challenge for someone who needs three alarms to get up in the morning. Normally the first detail is highly prized for being windless – not this year, so work on wind judgement as well as consciousness was required.

Fortunately I escaped unscathed, and had the rest of the morning to contemplate 500, not shooting until 2.30pm. The long wait also gave me the opportunity to hear several of the usual horror stories as the day unfolded and the wind became ever more malevolent.

Another lucky shoot eventually saw me clean again at 500, but with only 3 Vs at each range I would need a good shoot at 600 to make the cut. As I had one of the later details at 600, I hoped the wind would be easing by then, but to no avail. So after further loin-girding, a couple of squeaky shots, to my great relief another 35 for 105, and on to Queen's II (I would eventually finish 42nd in the final). But not before the shooting athlete's wind down: the quiet, restrained and temperant CURA & OURC cocktail party that evening.



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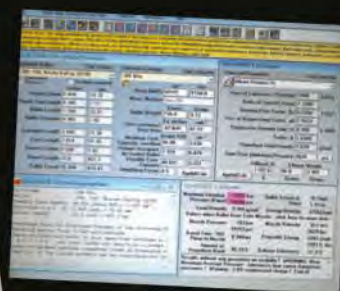
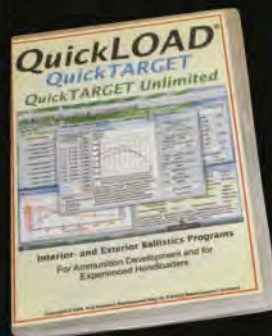


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Top marks

Jodie Gray-Piazza gives an insight into the workings of the Imperial behind the scenes, reporting on life from a marker's perspective

Another year goes by too quickly, and the markers roll in and set up camp. You can hear the excitement in their voices as they reconnect with people they haven't seen in a year, while making new friends with those who have come to experience it for the first time.

For the two weeks you spend working, down the butts is where you have the most fun. Everyone pulls together to become a big team – the atmosphere is incredible. Despite the long days, everyone keeps each other motivated, whether that be through music, Colin's inappropriate jokes or racing to see who the quickest marker is.

Pulling targets up and down all day, every day, for two weeks can be tough, but there are many things that make it worthwhile – such as getting to work next to your friends, and being able to chat as much as you want as long as you're doing your job. This can make the time pass quickly. However, you have those who get too comfortable, and suddenly a roar from the supervisor sounds: "Message four!" And everyone turns to see who missed a shot, watching a stunned marker scrambling to pull their target down, muttering to themselves, "They haven't shot, I didn't see anything" – followed by an embarrassed face when they find a new shot hole. However, most managed to stay focused when knowing the course of fire, and with 36 shots a detail, the first with a message 10 and compliments gets to have the next detail off. This makes everyone mark as rapidly and efficiently as possible.

This year things went smoother than ever, with only four markers being sacked

by Jodie and Colin. Additionally, each year we experience the usual drop-outs that just can't keep up with the pace. This can sometimes cause us a problem on Century when we reach the end of the second week, with St George's Stage II and Queen's Stage II requiring 100 targets in use. One day this year we had 18 markers not show up for work. Fortunately, with the help of willing NRA staff we managed to round up our crew, who took over Butt 15 and managed to get all competitions to still start on time despite the difficult circumstances. A special thank you goes out to them for taking the time to come down and assist with the smooth running of the competition.

One other group that deserves a special mention is the Target Shed and Range Rigging team. Many of you may not realise they are around as they work behind the scenes, but they put a huge amount of effort in, which extends much further than the two-week period. Without them and the other NRA staff that helped out this year, the Imperial would not have been a success.

An aspect of being in the butts most people don't get to see is raising money for Help for Heroes. We decided to add an extra couple of events this year: Glitter Wednesday and Butt Bingo. Both were a great success, with the bingo consisting of each butt getting a list of common phrases said by Colin and Jodie. You've never known so many 16-year-old boys to be into bingo.

We also have our own shop in the butts selling drinks and snacks. On top of this

there is a cake sale and a raffle to increase our charity raising. This year we had some amazing donations for the raffle, including iTunes and Nando's vouchers. However, first prize is always a choice of one of Colin Scholes' loud shirts – every year the winner seems to be ecstatic with this. Thanks to all of the markers, over the past four years we have managed to a total over £1,000.

On the last Friday we always have a themed day for the markers, and this year the theme was Where's Wally? This brightens everyone's mood and brings the meeting to a nice close for Century Range. It gives us all the last push we need to see the meeting through. Colin and Jodie decided to think outside the box this year and opted for a slight variation (see the pictures included here) – if you know, then you know.

Then comes the Final. On this day Jodie and other staff do their own fancy dress – this year the theme was Lifeguards. This happened to be appropriate with the weather we experienced – they ended up saving many drowning markers.

The morning dawns, and Stickledown calls. More than 50 markers headed to the meeting point to find Charlie Kibble (first-time Stickledown CBO) eagerly counting his markers. One of the best feelings you get from being a Stickledown marker is when you leave the butts after the Queen's Final. All the markers leave in one big convoy to find the shooters waiting at the other end, giving you a round of applause. It's your minute of fame before your time at the Imperial draws to a close – until next year. ■





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House of Cards

Keeping the scores at the Imperial wasn't always the modern operation it is now. Sharon Crabb gives us the 40-year perspective on turning cards into accurate results

For those of you that have ever competed in the Bisley Annual Meeting there may remain one mystery for you to unravel. Just how does your score get from the firing point to the number crunchers and from thence to the scoreboards? It is all down to a team of hard-working and oft overlooked ladies and gentlemen in the statistics office, or Stats as the shooters refer to them.

The team is led by Sharon Crabb. Sharon (Nockles, as she was then) began her involvement with Bisley in 1975 as a marker. Her father Don ran the stats office, assisted by family members. There were no computers – everything was done by hand, starting with the shooters' often illegible input of name, number and scores. As many as 30 additional staff were employed to produce the prize lists, some coming from army pay corps and Gurkha typists. Sharon's role included making tea for the multitude.

Collection of the cards from the firing point was much as it is now. Everything that followed was manual work: all cards were sorted, classed and analysed to arrive at the prize list, which was then typed on to a stencil. Each was checked for errors, corrected by application of Tipp-Ex and overtyping, and the handle of the duplicator was cranked to run off the copies. If it had not been signed off by the boss, it had to be amended and re-cranked. Sharon recalls that the worst nightmare was when a batch of score cards would go missing. If they had not gone off to lunch with a hungry range officer, they might be found under a table or left just out of sight in the stats office, which was situated in what is now the museum.

The move to the old medals office took place in 1994; during that time the process of computerisation was started, eventually completed by Bill Richards in its current format. Sharon took over the lead role in 1994, heavily expecting at the time. Gradually the current systems have been

tried and tested, and the number of staff has reduced over the years down to the current eight multi-taskers.

By 2006 the office was needed for permanent NRA staff and the stats team moved into the porta-cabin at the back of the offices – a cramped, leaky box, freezing in the morning and boiling in the afternoon. In 2013 the team moved back into the relative luxury of the old medals office.

Sharon believes that in the 42 years she has been involved with the Meeting, the relationship between the office and competitors has changed. The old-style stiffness of her father's time has changed; her approach is to try to solve queries informally and helpfully, knowing that competitors have paid significant sums to enter the meeting. Many will be using their holiday time to do so.

With the daily round usually resulting in the last cards from competitions arriving at the desks around 6.30pm, her target is to have the provisional lists posted on the boards by 8pm. It is rare that the target is not met.

One thing she said does not change, and that is the ability of her customers to voice the same old questions and make the same old mistakes over the years. Some of the most frequent are: Missing cards, wrongly filled in cards, competitions not entered, badly written scorecards/incorrect adding up, prominent elder members winning the Young Riflemen's, competitors thinking they should be on lists when they haven't entered, the incorrect swapping of cards on the firing point, and the wrong index numbers on team events resulting in some strange team members. But they always remember they are dealing with human beings.

"We always assume the customer is right (while, hoping that, in fact, we are). We try not to snigger as we find out we are right.

"Bisley and the Imperial meeting are so much part of my life, I would not know what to do with the 3 weeks in July if I did not come here. Massive thanks to all my teams that have been with me over the years, and of course Bill Richards, keeper of the computer side of things. See you all next year." ■



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Behind the scores

How do the Queen's Final scores get on the board so quickly? Mike Jenvey looks behind the scenes at the RAFTRC scoring team

Iwonder what system of semaphore, paddles and blackboards were used for HM The Queen's Prize Final back in Victoria's day? Present-day scoring is easier to trace. To quote the instigator, Wing Commander (Rtd) Alan Robertson, RAFTRC: *It all started in 1993, the year the Grand National descended into chaos because of their antiquated starting system.*

I was standing near the scoreboard for the Queen's Final, next to John De Havilland (the NRA Chairman), watching the antiquated system then in use to transfer scores to large blackboards behind each range and then to paper messages, taken by runners to the main scoreboard to be handed to two old ladies who then struggled to update the board. They were at least 10 minutes behind events.

I remarked to John that we, like the Grand National, should update our system to the technology then available. He said: "I agree. Why don't you write me a paper?"

I happily took up the challenge and using my experience of being an official at the Commonwealth Games shooting at Barry Buddon, I developed the scheme, which has hardly changed since. The RAFTRC committee agreed to run the system if it was approved. It was then put to the NRA, approved and implemented in July 1994.

The scheme is made up of several features:

- **Miniature target scoreboards on easels behind each shooter (with numbered stickers to show fall of shot) and associated score values written in by the 'firer's friend'. This enhances the spectator viewpoint as there is no need to strain through binoculars / telescope to see how the scores appear on the target itself.**
- **Two 'range recorders', one for each half of a butt. Each range recorder notes shots (from the miniature target**



Mike Jenvey leads the RAFTRC on Queen's Final day

scoreboards) on their record sheet as they walk down the line of their respective targets. They then transfer the shot values by radio.

- **Next to the scoreboard are matching 'table recorders' with radios at the scoring tables. They receive the scores from the range recorders.**
- **An overall supervisor deciding who to prioritise when leading shooters move up, down, or off the leaderboard. This is based on score inputs from the table recorders.**
- **Tall people manning the scoreboard, moving shooters' names and scores.**

Run effectively, it is a good method of data transfer. On one occasion the RAFTRC scoring team had the winner's placement on the scoreboard within five seconds of his shot appearing on target.

Training is not really possible. The 900-yard detail is the shake-down to get the rhythm and sequencing up to speed, but we work on integrating a 'new' range recorder into the plan by being between two experienced people. To move to being a table recorder is a type of promotion – the table team directs the range team to concentrate on the 'hot' shooters as scoring progresses, so they need to have seen the process in full flow. The table recorders also need to have the 'swan' attitude, remaining calm and serene on the surface but with

feet paddling like mad to keep things on the straight and narrow.

The RAFTRC Secretary, Jim Lindsay, adds:

It was important to team up range recorders with table recorders as things often became fraught, especially in the final stages. At such times, it was useful to team up friends who would remain friends at the end of the day. I was fortunate to be teamed with our Hon Life Member from Jersey, Alan Le Sueur, for more years than I can remember, even though every year we said we wouldn't be doing the scoreboard as we aimed to be shooting in the Final instead. How wrong we were!

Looking to the future, perhaps there will be scope for a wi-fi based scoring system, with inputs from the range recorders via tablets to a large electronic scoreboard. This would reduce one level of data transfer and might allow an instantaneous display of shooters' leaderboard status, pictorial display of their target diagrams, or even a live feed. This would be web-based to cater for worldwide followers of the Final.

Regardless of the input method, we hope you appreciate the RAFTRC's scoring efforts. I know the volunteer RAFTRC team makes it look simple, but don't forget, this is a result of 23 years of practice. Alan Robertson is still waiting for his 'payment' for the successful concept – I think he deserves a bottle of malt for producing a system that has stood us in good stead for so many years. ■

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The McQueen

Possibly the fairest competition at Bisley, the McQueen is a welcoming shoot that can test your fast-firing skills like no other. Martin Camp reports from this year's Final

McQueen shooters excelled this year, with the largest ever McQueen Final. To get into a McQueen Final for the different modern rifles, you have to score a 50.10 (which is all shots in a four-inch circle). You then have to stay on the firing point and do it again.

For those who are not familiar with the McQueen competition, it is basically a snap shooting match. Silhouetted castles are set up above the mantlet, with four windows along the bottom and three loopholes on the top. The firers are 300 yards away, and after two sighters they make ready with 10 rounds. After 'watch and shoot', an NRA figure 14 target will make 10 appearances, each for three seconds in any one of the windows or loopholes in random order. The firer fires one round at each exposure.

It is definitely a stress shoot and requires considerable concentration. You can't pause to avoid a gust of wind – you have to fire within the three seconds. It is therefore remarkable that so many people scored a 50.10 and followed it with a further 50.10.

There are seven classes of rifle you can use in the McQueen, two of which are supplied by the NRA, and you have to use NRA ammunition. This means anyone can enter and take part in the fairest competition at Bisley. Same rifles, same ammunition, and same match conditions. For the five other classes, you use your own rifle and shoot your own ammunition, commercial or hand-loaded. As you can imagine, with this number of classes we get all sorts of interesting rifles, from wonderful historic sniper rifles to the latest wonder rifle from the Czech Republic or some beautifully engineered Swedish rifle.

One of the highlights was the young lady from Foyle College who won the Cadet prize with a 50.7. I was watching her shoot and she was an example to us all – very calm, stayed on aim throughout, operated the bolt smoothly, and looked very professional.

One important part of McQueens is a good butt party. They do much more than a normal butt marker. After 'watch and shoot' they wait five to seven seconds before the first exposure, then 10 to 20 seconds between exposures. What they are doing is putting an A4 sheet of paper into an A4 hole at the end of a 10-foot pole. They then have to score the targets. As an example, see the photo below of a shot target. Most would think it was nine hits; in fact it is 10 if you look at the little three-round cluster. This was called correctly as a 50.10.

One gentleman with a Target Rifle with aperture sights had a couple of goes. I thought he had no chance, but on the second attempt with the sun behind him he managed 10 hits. Pretty impressive.

For those who would like to have a go at the McQueen's, we have an admin area behind the firing point – just come along, book in, pay your entrance fee and have a go with the issued Accuracy International rifles. There is no rush, and you can go on when you are ready after you have watched a detail go through. It is very social and the McQueen experts are always willing to help.

There are many other McQueens throughout the year, some at Bisley and others throughout the UK. If, however, you wish to become a McQueen Champion in any of the seven classes, or winner of the Gold Entente Cordiale Trophy, you have to do it on that field, during the 10 days in July. All other McQueens are simply sideshows. ■



FINAL RESULTS

PRECISION

1	G Shorthouse
2	J Berry
3	S Doyle

TARGET

1	SC Lewis
2	CD McGill
3	M Deakin

CLASSIC

1	CD McGill
2	M Deakin
3	M Grant

SPORTING

1	CD Shorthouse
2	A Dagger
3	J Berry

OPEN

1	G Shorthouse
2	S Doyle
3	CD McGill

ANY RIFLE

1	D McGill
2	S Mackenzie
3	L Chisholm

CSR

1	M Bradley
2	M Deakin
3	A Burton

PAIRS MATCH

1	Bodie & Doyle
2	John Kynoch Appreciation Society
3	Team Entente Cordiale

ACE TROPHY

1	CD McGill
2	C Shorthouse

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Strong contender

Katia Malcaus Cooper is pleased to see the next generation of target shooters emerge as Daisy Armstrong wins the Alexandra

The Imperial Meeting attracts all kind of competitors from all walks of life. Young cadets and veteran shooters rub shoulders during the five-week-long meeting on the world-renowned Bisley ranges.

Going through the prize lists at the end of the day has become part of my routine. I check the results and send them on to be published by the national press; in doing so I have become familiar with a few names, who seem to dominate the top 10 in almost every competition. Among these well-known names, the unfamiliar ones catch my attention, especially when they appear repeatedly.

While looking for up-and-coming talent, this year I met a delightful girl from Sedbergh School in Cumbria, Sarah Rorison. She has a beaming smile, one of those that lights the room up, and is very humble. This was her first Imperial Meeting, and she was our youngest competitor at a mere 13 years of age. When I was introduced to her, I had the sense that this young lady would go far. She has that unassuming self-assurance that youth brings, and I was delighted to see that she was focused on the task at hand and was not afraid of what might be thrown at her during the meeting. As a mother, I also marvelled at the fact that she did not seem to be surgically attached to an electronic device.

That evening, as I was compiling the results, I became aware that the club name Sedbergh was coming up often. I checked the initials, but it was a different young lady who was catching Bisley by storm: 14-year-old Daisy Armstrong, a sparkly-eyed young lady with golden plaits falling down to her waist. Daisy was having an excellent meeting and proving that raw talent is capable of winning trophies today – who knows what experience, coupled with an unequivocal ability, can do tomorrow. Daisy went on to win a tie shoot for the Alexandra against two formidable

competitors, Jon Underwood and Matt Millar. Jon had started shooting a few years before Matt Millar of Old Epsomians was born, while Matt had also started shooting before Daisy was born.

The trio went to the firing point armed with confidence, and while Jon and Matt, with years of shooting under their belt, took a measured approach to every shot by carefully reading the weather conditions and making adjustments, Daisy converted her V and – as she puts it – ‘went for it’ with nonchalance typical of her age.

She emerged victorious with a Cheshire grin, and that smile was still on her face when Andrew Mercer presented her with the impressive Alexandra Trophy as she was about to leave camp.

We took the opportunity to snap a few pictures and catch an interview with this inspiring young lady. As we were doing this, her good friend Sarah Rorison came in to congratulate her. Well done to the Sedbergh girls – we look forward to following your progress as the years go on. ■



Happy days: Daisy Armstrong and Sarah Rorison celebrate together

INTERVIEW: DAISY ARMSTRONG

What expectations did you arrive with?

I was not too sure what to expect because it was my first Imperial, but many people had told me it is always great fun. I was really excited and a little nervous though.

And how did you find it?

Fun and exciting – a great experience. It has brought my shooting on a lot.

How did you get into shooting?

I have been shooting clays and pheasants with a shotgun since I was 12. In September 2016, when I joined Sedbergh School, the shooting master Ian Christy introduced me to rifle shooting. I have carried on ever since.

Best and worst moment?

My best moment of the Imperial had to be when I was announced the winner of the Alexandra tie shoot. My worst moment was when I was lying down on Stickledown for the 1,000-yard shoot and had absolutely no idea what the wind was doing.



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A blast on the heath

The best ever practical shotgun match? George Granycome reports from the second Cottesloe Heath Challenge

The biggest and best ever practical shotgun match in the country, and the highlight of the NRA Shotgun League, took place on Cottesloe Heath over 28-30 July. During the three days of this wonderful event, almost 160 shooters tried their hand at eight stages among the trees and ferns of Cottesloe Heath, a pretty area with encroaching fir trees and bracken immediately behind the famous Bisley clock. For most of the year it is home to sporting clays run by Bisley Shooting Ground, but the area is very suitable for special events.

The competition was made of several stages, through which shooters individually run under the supervision of a range officer who wields a shot timer and calls the score. It is shooting against the clock, with movement, and the shooter must make choices on how to shoot each stage, in consideration of the stage layout, his or her skill, gun type, choke, and cartridge selection. Oh, and wind, sun, dust, smoke, rain... There is an awful lot to think about before and during the shooting.

Taking the stages in order, Stage 1 was the biggest slug stage ever, with 15 card targets spread along the edge of the tree line, with opportunities for advantageous long-range shooting for those who had confidence in their accuracy with slug. Plus, there were two new-to-slug-in-Britain

self-resetting targets, each scoring double points, one at 65 yards and the other at 85.

Nominally the stage was of 32 rounds, but because of the long-range targets it was wise to carry more. It was a good strategy to concentrate on the closer steel for four or five shots, and if still missing, take only one shot at the longer-range steel (to avoid a failure-to-engage penalty) before moving on. This was always going to be a slow stage – the longest time was a little over six minutes. Fortunately, even on Saturday, with the biggest squads, after a nail-biting afternoon, the stage was completed a whole seven minutes before the Bisley hooter signalled the end of shooting for the day.

Stage 2 was the biggest birdshot stage, with 24 separating steel plates on low pillar bases. The shooter wound his way up a path marked by ropes and screens with targets left, right, and arrayed beyond the path's end. Many were at very long range and demanded a precise shot, preferably with a half (or tighter) choke. Poor shots with lightweight 28-gram loads of 7½ shot would often fail to knock down the plates – it is wise to use cartridges with a heavier load such as 32 gram No 5 or 6 for a stage like this. On Saturday, the last shooter finished only four minutes before the hooter.

Stage 3 was nine man-v-man targets, the ones that have a hinge and must be driven



Jon Axe smashes a clay



Targets at 75 yards tested competitors to the limit



Shooting targets from above – an unnatural and extremely challenging position



This match had everything – innovation, tactical variety and lightning-fast action



into the ground with a sledgehammer if they are to have any chance of holding firm. They are also awkward to carry and set. When I first saw them being brought up in the NRA lorry, I said to John Romanescu of the NRA range staff that I would give £50 for them to be taken away to a scrap merchant or thrown into a lake. He was on the point of agreeing, but the match director arrived and the moment was lost. These beasts were arrayed in a semi-circle, with the shooter beginning at the far end of a path towards them, needing to choose between taking a chance on long-range shots or moving closer, thus losing time.

It is easy to flip clay pigeons a few feet into the air by placing them on the end of a see-saw and shooting down a large hinged target that hits the other end, but thrown clays from a proper trap are difficult to set up and seldom seen on the shotgun circuit. Stage 4 had three such traps, each operated by its own hinged target. It was a magic stage, supremely satisfying for those who

dusted all three clays, and even more so for the stars who shot the three hinged targets one after the other and took the clays as they were airborne simultaneously.

Stage 5 was a pain: 14 plates and a couple of clays on posts, with vision lines obscured by a mound of earth and stacks of tyres, and no-shoot targets to make it even more difficult. Some plates were positioned in front of a slope covered with shattered clays, where the plates were the same colour and brightness as the background. Only the best shot this stage cleanly, and there were many misses and failures-to-engage.

Stage 6 was 12 steel plates shot through an aperture in each of three wooden screens. Until I shot through one of the apertures from five yards away, every shooter had gone up to each aperture and pushed the muzzle of their gun through it, thus wasting time. There is something about apertures that draws people in to them.

Stage 7 was a field stage following a path with 18 steel targets. By the side of the path

were two pattern plates belonging to Bisley Shooting. I saw no shooter dare take the opportunity to pattern their gun during the stage, which would have been a first, even if it earned them remonstrance or worse.

The second of the two slug stages was Stage 8. There were four paper targets requiring two hits, but it was shot from a tower, and shooting downwards at targets is unfamiliar. The shooter was made to keep the gun pointing through a solid and well-constructed aperture, similar to the shape of an arrow loophole in a medieval castle.

Shooting this match was a wonderful one-day experience, but the helpers had even more thrills. One lady who had volunteered to do the stats in the belief that scoring was calculated on the electronic equivalent of an abacus found herself using and teaching techniques at the cutting edge of IT. Another (this writer), long frightened by the thought of using tablets to record scores, learnt in half a minute after one was thrust into his hands and the RO shouted at him.

Next year the Cottesloe Heath Challenge will take place in early July and will be part of the Imperial Meeting. This will mark a coming-of-age for Target Shotgun and will bring the sport more to the notice of the participants of the traditional disciplines in the Imperial. Finally, a huge amount of gratitude must go to Saint James Harris, NRA Trustee, Chairman of the Shooting Committee, hands-on organiser of this and many other matches, unfazed by any drama (except, perhaps, an RO using non-standard commands live-streamed on Facebook) and totally dedicated to Target Shotgun. ■

FINAL RESULTS

OPEN

1	Stuart Saunders
2	Jon Jennings
3	Graham Guest

STANDARD AUTO

1	Jon Axe
2	Mark Sienesi
3	Christopher Gamlin

PUMP ACTION

1	Iain Guy
2	Kenneally Connor
3	Jon Holloway



Peter Matthews takes careful aim



Russell Hicks accepts his RO prize

Reports roundup

We travel the length and breadth of the British Isles to cover a variety of shoots

INTER-COUNTIES MATCHES BY CHARLES DICKENSON

The 35th Inter-Counties matches took place on 17-18 June. Started in 1983 by Bill Hannah and organised initially by a group of Hampshire shooters, the fixture has become a highlight of the counties' shooting calendar. The matches are for county squads of 10, from whom eight shooters and two coaches are to be selected for both matches.

The Lt Col H Jones short-range match is two sighters and 10 to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards fired on Saturday afternoon (to allow shooters from far flung corners of the UK time to get to Bisley), and the NRA Long Range match is two sighters and 15 to count at 900 and 1000 yards, shot on Sunday morning. For those who can get to Bisley in time, there is an individual competition on Saturday morning for the R Jarvis trophy, shot in two details under Queen's I conditions (two sighters and seven to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards). This is a good chance for shooters to establish zeroes before the big matches.

We were blessed with glorious sunshine and high temperatures. The winds were light but straight down the range, fishtailing with deceptive flicks to catch the unwary. Eleven shooters were clearly on the ball, scoring the maximum 105. These included husband and wife John Evans and Charlie Clifford-Evans. John was one of three who top-scored with 105.17v, along with Bruce Logan and Dominic De Vere. The tie shoot put them in that order, with John securing the trophy with a faultless 25.5v.

The fishtailing winds continued during the afternoon in the Lt Col H Jones short-range match. Though rarely requiring more than half a minute at

all distances, deciding whether it was from the left or the right was not always straightforward, as flags and mirage at different parts of the range could be going in different directions. Surrey showed mastery of wind reading to win with 1192.180v (ex 1200.240v), 12 points clear of second-placed Hertfordshire (1180.147v).

Sunday dawned, and while the wind was strong enough to lift the flags off the poles, rising at times from gentle to moderate, it was virtually straight down the range and rarely corrected to more than a minute either side of zero. There were, though, a few brief moments at 1000 yards when the flags lifted and angled across the range, giving rise to a four-minute wind and points lost by

coaches who had been lulled into a false sense of security. Nevertheless, it is rare for coaches to confidently call a zero wind at 1000 yards as often as was done that day.

Once again Surrey put in a masterful performance to win with 1185.159v, 13 points ahead of London on 1172.133, with Berkshire third on 1164.123. In the Aggregate of the two matches it was therefore Surrey who took the top place with 2377.339v, having dropped fewer than half the points of next-placed London and Hertfordshire on 2344.283v and 2342.270v respectively. Three shooters 'went clean' over the weekend matches with 300 ex-300: Parag Patel and Danny Coleman of Surrey, and Jon Taylor of Berkshire.



Successful Surrey: Both short-range and long-range honours went to the county with 'home advantage'

IGRF WORLD CUP BY NIGEL BARRETT

They came from all corners of the world to The Midlands National Shooting Centre of Ireland (MNSCI) ranges in Co. Offaly to compete in the 2017 IGRF World Cup. There were a lot of firsts. It was the first time the IGRF World Cup had been held in Ireland, the first time the World Cup events were to be shot on one line, the first time IGRF were to award Individual World Champions, and the first time the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia were to take part. The approach of mixing up competitors from each nation – as trialled in the Phoenix 2017 – was also used, as this ensured a cross-shot target could not benefit the team of the competitor who cross-shot.

As for the individual rankings, scores would be aggregated from the individual results in 50m Precision, Timed & Precision 1, Multi Target and the 1500 to give a ranking score. The highest ranked competitor, in each discipline, would be crowned World Champion.

The event ran over four days, using three ranges full-time and a fourth and fifth range for overflow. Conditions on the ranges turned out to be relatively ok – it was hot (by Irish standards) and dry for the duration of the event. This caused a breeze to develop as the days progressed, which dried out the range surface and kicked up quite a bit of sand.

But that did not seem to put anyone off, with personal bests, Irish records and indeed world records shot every day. The Individual World Champions were very difficult to call – yet it appeared that 50m Precision could be the decider as there was very little in it for the TP1, MT and 1500.

The IGRF World Cup team events were held on the Sunday. Ireland's Karl O'Brien and his RO team were on duty to administer and score the events, with support from each nation to keep their own tally of scores.

First up was the IGRF GRSB World Cup. Unfortunately the Australian National Team were unable to compete in this event owing to restrictions in their country on the use of .22 rifles. We hope that by the time of the next World Cup,



Irish eyes are smiling: Jeff Kehoe and Ray Holohan took the top individual prizes

their situation will have normalised and they will be able to join the other nations on the line.

From the outset it could be seen that it was going to be extremely tight. South Africa's Flippie van Tonder put in the best individual performance, shooting a fantastic 1491. Yet when the final tally was done, Ireland had won the IGRF GRSB World Cup on 5921.408, with Great Britain coming second, only two points (out of 6000) behind, with South Africa taking third place.

The all five IGRF nations stepped up to the line for the IGRF GRCF World Cup – 25 of the best shots in the world in Centrefire Gallery Rifle all on one line. Again it was extremely tight – these competitors were at their absolute best. Welshman Gwyn Roberts, shooting for Team GB, had the best individual performance with a 1496 – but with seven other competitors shooting well into the 90s, the margins were extremely tight.

Once the dust had settled, and the scores were tallied, Ireland had won the IGRF GRCF World Cup, finishing on 5966.436. Great Britain were second – this time by three points out of 6000 – and again South Africa took third place.

Next, the individual World Championships. People had been adding up scores on the back of beer mats and ammo boxes all weekend, but nobody was quite sure. IGRF Chairman Dale Foster had been into stats to check on the outcome, but had been sworn to secrecy

to ensure the Champions would not know until it was called out.

Ireland's Ray Holohan was crowned GRSB World Champion with 2185.144. Ray, from Harbour House Sports Club in Co Kildare, had been putting in solid performances for a number of years, culminating in a huge weekend at the World Cup. South Africa's Flippie van Tonder was less than a point behind (2185.138), and Ireland's Jeff Kehoe took third place.

And finally, the IGRF GRCF (Standard) World Champion. Competition in this was very tough – there were massive scores rolling in all weekend. But when the final tallies were done, we had a clear winner. Ireland's Jeff Kehoe was crowned champion, his 2193.166v setting him apart from the rest.

Jeff, from the IPA Pistol Club, had been putting in huge performances all year – setting records, beating his own records, being awarded a sportsperson of the year award by the Irish police – and at the World Cup he was on fire.

Second place honours went to Great Britain's Gwyn Roberts, only four points behind Jeff, and third place went to Great Britain's Phil Wood, three points behind Gwyn.

If I have one memory to outlast all others from this fantastic match, it was the look on the face of Gerry McCarthy, NASRPC Chairman, when he realised that Ireland had won every single one of the championships. We are Sparta!

NRA SHOTGUN LEAGUE

BY JAMES HARRIS

Round 4: Shield Summer Challenge

This is one of the biggest events of the shotgun calendar – a diverse event in its spirit and nature.

Throughout the year, many competitors who shoot at Shield become familiar with its ranges and know to expect some superb layouts by range designer Steve Pike, who always throws twists in the course design to test even the most seasoned competitors. The Shield Summer Challenge takes the competition to a whole different place, logistically and figuratively. The shoot is split between the ranges and the woods, with the traditional trailer ride taking the competitors between the two.

The stages exhibited the trademark Pike-isms we have grown accustomed to. Every stage presented its own challenges, be it speed, targetry or just trying not to run dry on the long stages in the woods. Also wreaking havoc were the elusive targets hidden in the shadows, as well as the mixed stage where one had to load bird and buckshot and hope that the choice made in shooting the targets with it paid off. Many found out the hard way.

Ian Guy took first place in Standard Manual, John Axe in Standard Auto and Jon Jennings in Open.

Round 5: Phoenix Shooting Club

This is one of the most relaxed shoots of the year. The grounds are nestled in the woods between Rudgwick and Slinfold in West Sussex with easy access from the A281. A leisurely start so as not to disturb the neighbours with the rambunctious noise of a shotgun competition in late morning restricts the match to eight stages.

More than one competitor fell foul of Ron Flint's stage designs and their subtle intricacies. A fine example was the sloped platform, shallow enough to provide a non-slip surface but steep enough to force an awkward stance when shooting and test the ability to maintain a consistent sight picture.



A close-range stage of the Shield Summer Challenge

Congratulations to the winners: Ronnie Lewis in Open, James Harris in Standard and John Ellis in Standard Manual.

Round 6: Rossendale

The trip up north to see Mick, Iain (aka Lain) and the Rossendale crew is always one I do happily. This year the weather was hot and the sun dappling the sand backstop made for an interesting background to the paper on the "not quite 100 yard" slug stage. The heat certainly came into play for some after the second reload when trying to hit the targets and the barrel became too hot to touch.

Mick and Iain surpassed themselves with the stage design for the match. The recent improvement works have enabled larger stages with greater scope for target placement – just because targets were visible does not mean they can be knocked down. As previously mentioned, good use was made of the fullbore NDA range for not one but two slug stages, and the remaining birdshot stages included such 'delights' as a two Texas Stars and more than a few bobbing or flipping clays.

The real treat from this Northern club is their Iron Man Trophy, one that each

practical shooter should aspire to have on the mantelpiece. Lucky winners of the trophies were: Jon Axe in Standard Auto, Alec Blower in Standard Manual and Dave Dowding in Open

Round 7: Shield Solid Projectile Challenge

Covering 8 of the 10 ranges in this multi-gun event, the shotgun stages included skittles to knock over, clays to break from various distances and positions and a multitude of paper targets to punch large holes in.

Each stage had a Pike twist, with competitors running dry or cursing the many Virginia count (only one shot per target allowed) and weak shoulder targets.

Prize-giving saw Nick Towndrow win LBP, Peter Matthews LBR, soon-to-be-a-father Mike Harvey win Lever Action rifle, Ben Ducker win .22 rifle, Jon Jennings win Open division, with Tim Bird winning Standard Manual and Mark Sienesi Standard Auto.

Round 8 of the NRA Shotgun League was the Cottesloe Heath Challenge, the NRA's premier shotgun event, covered on page 50.

SCOTTISH OPEN TR CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY IAIN ROBERTSON

The Scottish Open TR Championships is an annual match for Target Rifle and F-class, staged on the Jubilee Range in Glen Tilt, the home of West Atholl Rifle Club. The range, facing north on the west side of the glen, takes advantage of natural contours to produce firing points back to a nominal 1200 yards from the six wireless electronic targets. The result is a minimal intrusion on the beauty of the site, but some interesting wind variations as the air flows up or down as well as across the slope.

This year just under 60 competitors fired three sets of 2+15 on Friday, shooting from 400 yards twice and 600 once. On Saturday the individual shoots are 2+15 at 600, then 500. On Saturday afternoon about half the field contested the Lawrence Trophy for teams of 12 firers from Scotland and England: 2+15 at 500 then 600. Sunday morning, flowing on to mid-afternoon, saw the final stages of the Championship shot at 900 and 1000 yards.

The 2017 Championship was blessed with (mostly) light winds and little rain, though the gazebos that go over the firing points – to protect the electronic displays, not the shooters – did threaten to blow away as the occasional gust made its way down from the Aviemore end.

In the Association Medals the southern visitors triumphed. The Gold Medal, contested by those who have previously won the Championship, Grand Aggregate or Silver Medal, went to David Young with 150.22v, with Lauren Crowson on 150.18v taking the Silver Medal.

The Caledonian Shield is a competition reserved for those eligible to represent Scotland. The 'Shield' is a massive wooden throne, flanked by statues of Robert the Bruce and William Wallace, and is reputed to be the largest sporting trophy in the world. It resides in the Blair Atholl village museum, and the winner receives a photograph of the trophy as a memento. The contest is on the First and Second stages of the Championship, and this year the prize went to Lindsay Peden with 297.30v, squeezing out Claire Halleran on 296.39v.

David Young continued on strong form after his initial success, placing high

enough in every event to take the Grand Aggregate with 518 by a point from Simon Glen, while in the small F-class field Peter Burbridge swept the board. Seven teams contested the Darnley Plate, with Central Bankers taking the honours from Manchester RC 884.104v to 883.105v.

In the Lawrence match, England took a lead from an early stage, falling back from 500 to 600 with an 8-point advantage, and added another point to take the match by 1769 to 1761. The David Hossack Memorial Trophy for the highest individual score went to Simon Glen, coached by Angus McLeod, with 150.23v counting out Steve Thomas on v-bulls at 600 yards.

An event like this takes a huge chunk of admin that is mostly unseen, and thanks go to Tim Kidner, Hamish Hunter and the members of West Atholl who made it all happen. Amazingly, in among all the admin, Tim found time not only to shoot but to score 75.11v and 74.5v at 900 and 1000 to win the Championship by two clear points from Simon Glen.

Full results for the 2017 Championship are available at www.scottishrifleassociation.org.uk/2017/2017Scottish/Scottish2017.html.



Chris Mitchell on the firing point at 1,000 yards



The big guns

The Fifty Cal Shooters' Association isn't just about making big bangs, finds Raf Jah. It's about shooting a variety of calibres with stunning accuracy in some of the UK's best range facilities

Some months ago, the informal group of shooters I belong to was looking for new long-range areas to shoot. With two .338s and one .300WM rifle between us, 1,000 yards was looking a little short. Eventually, the solution became obvious. Join the Fifty Calibre Shooters' Association.

That sets the scene for 8am on a bleak, chilly Sunday, when a series of cars meet at a lay-by off the A66. People sip coffee and look, bleary-eyed, at the hills in front of them. For some, the drive started long before dawn. When everyone is present, the convoy sets off behind the RCO. It turns up a lane and winds its way for a mile to a hut and toilet block. We pull off the road and gather for a range briefing on the sodden grass.

The usual formalities are observed. SSCs are checked, range fees paid, first aiders identified and the roster signed. But that is where the similarities end. Darren speaks in bullet points, and we listen intently.

"The left arc of fire is the gully to the right of the large wood. Can everyone see that?"

Darren points at a spot two miles away. We strain our eyes to see the thing. Arcs of fire are extremely important, as the army will be using the ranges today, and we do not want to encroach on their space.

"The right arc is the Humber Pig. Don't shoot right of the Pig. The ground is wet, so tracer is ok today. Oh, and can we have larger calibres at this end of the firing point and the rest of you further away." Thankfully the Pig, an ancient once-wheeled armoured personnel carrier, is more easily visible.

Darren pauses for effect. "And as usual, please do not shoot the sheep." This raises a few chuckles, and as the briefing ends, the air fills with rumbling. A trio of 6-ton army trucks grumble up the road. The driver waves at us cheerfully and we return the greeting.

This is the Fifty Calibre Shooters' Association, known as the 50-cal club. We

are on Hotel One Two, a range in the Warcop Training area. The FCSA regularly books military ranges for its namesake, the .50 calibre rifle. Every year, members of the club enter the world championships and shoot in the United States. The club is not exclusive, however, and other calibres are welcome.

While everyone sets up, Andy, Nick and I look ahead of us and stare at the targets. I can see four hulking battle tanks in the distance, and beyond the Pig is, to my incredulity, a Churchill tank. I get out my Bushnell rangefinding binoculars and range the Pig – it is 973 yards away. To its left is a Figure 11 target at 1,600 yards. The four tanks are beyond the capabilities of my rangefinder, so using some guesswork, we estimate the nearest tank to be 2,000 yards away and the furthest 2,400 yards distant.

There is a large bang to our right. As we glance around, we see the flat line of a .50 cal tracer shoot out towards the tanks. There is little deviation for wind, and little elevation. Even with the naked eye we can see the round strike the metal hatch of the tank turret and fly high into the air.

"Look at how flat and fast fifty cal flies," Andy says in awe. "It just goes straight out

“Accompanied by spotters, they aren’t simply aiming at the tanks. They are aiming at a hatch or a wheel at 2,000 yards

and hits the target.” I am more struck by how a civilian marksman can dial 1,000 yards on his scope and score a first round hit. But then he is shooting at a rusting Patton tank, which is by no means small. “I think he is just checking his zero,” I mutter to myself.

Andy and Nick decide to shoot 7.62 and change their barrels accordingly. After a couple of minutes of checking dope, they send a tracer at the Humber Pig. The tracer bounces off the roof and flies into the air before going out. The second round does the same. After a few shots, I start to wonder if they are seeing who can bounce the glowing ember higher in the sky, but upon further observation, they seem to be walking their tracer rounds down the roof of the vehicle in a demonstration of superb marksmanship.

There is another boom, and a .50 cal round speeds out to clang on a tank. The shooters using the .50 cal rifles are true marksmen. They can be seen quietly doing their dope calculations before taking their time acquiring their target – and always hitting it. Accompanied by their spotters, they aren’t simply aiming at the tanks. They are aiming at a hatch cover or a wheel at 2,000 yards.

These military ranges are some of the few places British shooters can fire High Muzzle Energy rifles safely and at ever-increasing distances. While the .50 cal precision shooters hone their skills and check their rifles, other club members are able to take advantage of the unique range facilities. No one at the FCSA takes them for granted.

Warcop ranges have a selection of reactive targets. These are not the metal plates of yore that fell when shot and had to be reset. They are superb electronic targets that work on the passage of the bullet through the



The titular .50 cal in action



A handful of tracers amid the .50 ammo

beam in front of the figure 12. On my left, a shooter has climbed into the pit and starts to shoot at the targets. As the target falls, it resets itself and comes back up. This rather good shooter is dropping his targets, then coming back to drop the ones that had reset. He has a never-ending series of targets. If he misses one, he will know instantly as it simply does not fall. But he does not miss.

I break out my Enfield No 5 carbine. Often incorrectly known as a jungle carbine, it was in fact designed for airborne troops. Having been in many jungles and having no desire to leave a perfectly working aircraft, I refer to mine as Jungle. Standing next to the barricade, I lean on the wall and bang away at the reactive targets. There is a certain challenge to shooting Figure 12 and 11 targets from a 70-year-old rifle with iron sights. To my credit, I drop most of them. If only I could repeat such accuracy when faced with the stresses of CSR competitions.

Before I can be happy with the .303, rain starts to splash around us. Enfields do not like wet ammunition, so I stash my rifle under a poncho while Andy and Nick cover theirs. My jacket is waterproof, but Andy simply opens his golfing umbrella so he and Nick can have coffee.

The rain becomes intense, and pools of water form on my poncho. I use the opportunity to chat to two shooters from Scotland, though one is still English. They are shooting in a .50 calibre barrel and are enthusiastically shooting and swabbing the barrel after each shot. The process looks

more like the Battle of Trafalgar than the north of England, but they are cheerful enough. The sun comes out as quickly as the rain started, and we all start shooting again. I hang my coat over the fence to dry and spot for Andy and Nick, who are now trying to shoot the errant Figure 11 at 1,500 yards.

By now people are starting to go home. Finally there is only the Scottish duo and my bunch left. Just before packing up my kit, I decide to have a pop with my Remington 700. I dial 1,000 yards on my scope, slip an FN tracer into the breech and squeeze the trigger. The round curls out over the moor and bounces off the roof of the Humber Pig.

I hear Andy chuckling somewhere in the background. I turn and look back to see him looking through his spotting scope. No one is as cheerful as Andy when someone hits the target. ■

KNOW AND GO

The FCSA shoots at military ranges including Warcop Sennybridge and Salisbury plain. The FCSA is affiliated to the FCSA USA, and shoot the same competitions as its American counterparts. Practical rifle competitions are also entered using electronic targets.

The FCSA welcomes new club members. Please read the details on membership on their website and use the contact form to apply. www.fcsa.co.uk

Military precision

Nic Couldrey presents a guide to shooting in the regions on military ranges

One of the important benefits of club affiliation to the NRA is access to the MoD's military ranges across the UK. These ranges are typically part of a larger training facility operated by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) or the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (RFCA).

The MoD training estate includes indoor small-bore ranges, outdoor gallery ranges and firing areas. The attraction of these facilities is that they provide access to a variety of target shooting options, including distances typically unavailable on private ranges, reactive electronic targets, falling plates and the chance to shoot HME calibres.

I receive an increasing number of enquiries about how a club can get access to military ranges, so what follows is a high-level overview. The process is documented in the MoD's Joint Services Publication (JSP) 403 Volume 1 Part 2 Chapter 2 Section 58, available online at bit.ly/militaryranges. The process is managed by Landmarc under contract to the MoD; the exception is the RFCA, who manage the process directly but it is broadly the same.

Clubs must buy an annual MoD range licence costing £130+VAT. The application process is managed by Landmarc through its network of regional event coordinators. First-time applicants should contact Mark Hudson at mark.hudson@landmarc.mod.uk. Clubs will need to provide evidence of NRA affiliation, public liability insurance for not less than £5m, a copy of Home Office approval, copies of NRA RCO certification cards, details of club First Aid certification,

and a list of club members. Individual members must have a shooter competency card for the firearm they intend to use, signed by the chairman of the club. The cards must be available for inspection by DIO/Landmarc staff if required.

The MoD licence entitles the club to use a specific range or ranges in the respective MoD region. In some parts of the country, this allows access to an entire training area – Salisbury Plain for example. Once the licence has been granted, Landmarc will provide a copy of the current range orders, which detail how individual ranges should be used. RCOs must familiarise themselves with these details and do an initial range recce to meet the Landmarc staff and, if needed, the Training Safety Officer to plan the shoot.

The process to book a range is managed by Landmarc using the regional event co-ordinator, who manages the interface with the MoD. Bookings are scheduled and prioritised based on local training needs. Clubs are advised to attend the monthly MoD booking conference to secure their requirements. In most cases, clubs will get the booking they request but nothing is guaranteed. Civilian access to the MoD training estate is a privilege and not a right.

The cost will depend on a number of variables including the type of range, number of lanes and targets. Weekend bookings, especially Sundays, are delivered by Landmarc staff working overtime, so expect to pay a higher rate. The daily fee for a lane on a gallery range is £36, with a minimum of two lanes per booking. The hourly rate for the Landmarc operative is

£29.50 during the week, and £41.72 max for overtime bookings.

Many clubs have developed an excellent relationship with their local MoD Training Safety Officer and Landmarc operatives. These relationships are critical, and I encourage all clubs to follow this example. My experience has been that Landmarc and MoD/DIO staff are helpful and supportive.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive summary; please get in touch with me for more details including MoD ranges in your area and introductions to Landmarc staff.

Elsewhere, discussions continue with our colleagues in the MoD to develop options for a disused gallery range in the south-west. We're working on a mutually agreeable proposal that would allow the range to be reopened for use by civilian and military users. Watch this space.

Affiliated clubs that operate their own range are a vital part of the regional shooting ecosystem. Recently I was the guest of a club in Cornwall that operates an outdoor no danger area (NDA) range to provide advice and guidance on range operation, and I visited a club range operating from a tunnel in Hampshire. I was struck by what regional clubs have achieved with limited resources. Baildon Rifle and Pistol Club are making progress with their range construction project, which will receive support from the NRA and help provide broader access to shooting for members in Yorkshire.

Finally, the Silverstone Shooting Centre is making progress with an open day scheduled for 9 September. ■



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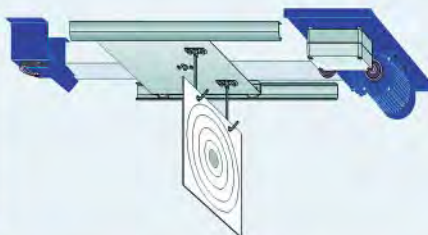
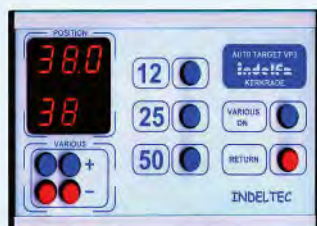


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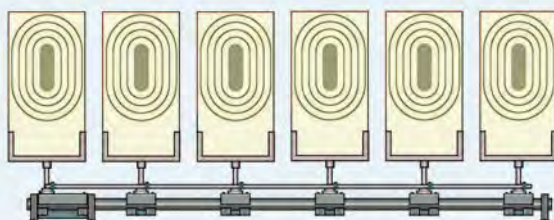
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Range requirements

With Stickledown and Butt Zero under increasing demand, Richard Wells reports on the range office's plans to maximise access to the firing points

Owing to the size of Bisley's gallery ranges it is unusual for a single organisation to use the entire range. It is accepted that two or more organisations may use a gallery range independently at different distances. This is known as "echelon allocation". If echelon allocation is employed, Stickledown can operate simultaneously and safely alongside Butt Zero. The principle to be observed when two or more organisations use a gallery range with echelon allocation is that there must be sufficient lateral separation to reduce the risk to negligible values. The minimum separation to be applied is an angular separation of 275 mils. This limit is derived from range construction data published by the Ministry of Defence in JSP 403, the Handbook of Defence Land Ranges Safety. In practical application this equates to approximately eight lanes per 100 yards on Stickledown and Century.

Owing to the complex nature of range danger areas, shooting on the Bisley site is coordinated through a system of Priority Days, which are a necessary and important safety constraint. Bisley Shooting Ground's Cottesloe Heath sporting clay layout is located on the north-eastern edge of Stickledown and cannot be accessed when

the NRA is shooting from 1200 yards on lanes 26-33 and 39-50. Priority days are negotiated annually but owing to competition requirements they follow a similar pattern year on year. In accordance with the terms of Bisley Shooting Ground's lease, the NRA is allocated 84 priority days per year, most of which enable competitions at weekends. Priority days are not normally available during the winter months (Nov-Feb inclusive) as they are all used during the summer.

Definition of Ranges

The Stickledown/Butt Zero complex consists of two overlapping ranges, which share the same range floor and range danger area.

Stickledown Range provides 50 firing points at 800, 900, 1000 and 1100 yards and 25 firing points at 1200 yards. For the purpose of range safety templates the range floor from 1200 yards to 800 yards is treated as a gallery range.

Butt Zero is a two-bay static turning and moving target range in the area bounded by the 900yd firing point to the rear and the rear face of the 800yd firing point to the front. It is worth noting that the rear face of the 800yd firing point forms the Butt Zero Bullet catcher. Stickledown Butts Road

marks the left boundary and the right-hand wall of the moving target bay demarcates the right-hand boundary. The range space on the right of Butt Zero may be allocated as a third bay at the discretion of the range office.

Most 1200yd shooting takes place on priority days with lanes 21-33 and 39-50 available to members. Lanes 34-38, inclusive, cannot be used from 1200yds owing to the flag line blocking the shooter's line of sight to the targets.

Scenarios

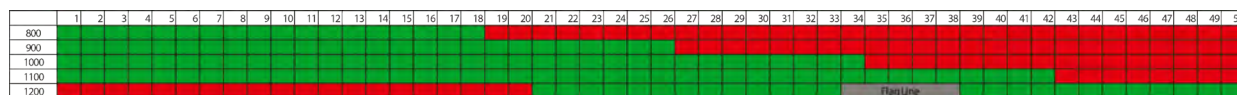
The diagrammatic scenarios across illustrate the lanes available for hire under various circumstances. However, please bear in mind that as lanes are let to members availability decreases owing to safety requirements and the range laydown changes significantly. This is illustrated in the second table, which shows shooting taking place at three distances. The scenarios shown are for illustrative purposes only and it should be noted that the ways in which the ranges can be set are countless.

Diagram [1] shows the lanes 'available' for hire during an NRA priority day if Butt Zero is not in use. There are various ways in which the range can be "set", for example it is possible to use all lanes (1 – 50) at a single distance but, in order to provide shooting at different distances, it is normal to allocate lanes in echelon. As lanes are let, the availability and laydown changes. If this is conducted reactively, in response to bookings, the range becomes inefficient and the laydown can be quite random. Diagram [2] shows nine lanes booked at three different distances. If one bay of Butt Zero is also in use, the range is full to capacity. Range allocation is more efficient with increased shooting available to members if the Range Office takes the lead to set the availability based on historic demand and the nature of the competitions being accommodated. Diagram [3] shows this in effect.

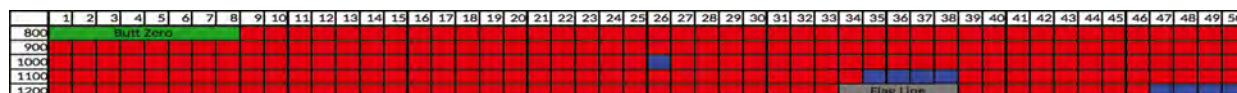


Complex situation: If Butt Zero were to be in use, these firing points would be unavailable

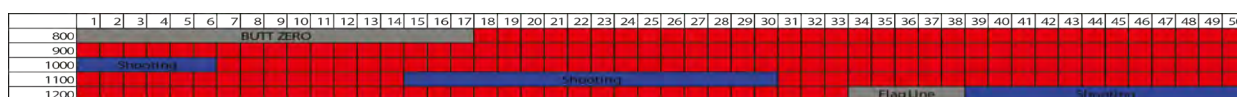
STICKLEDOWN LAYDOWNS



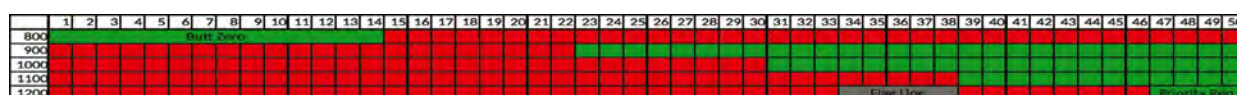
1. Basic range availability



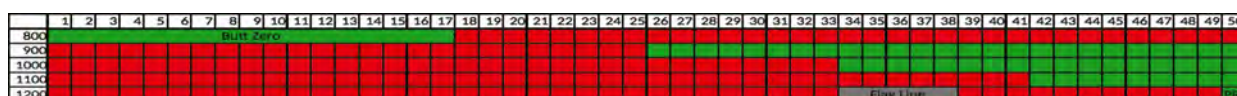
2. Inefficient booking of firing points



3. Bookings planned by the range office



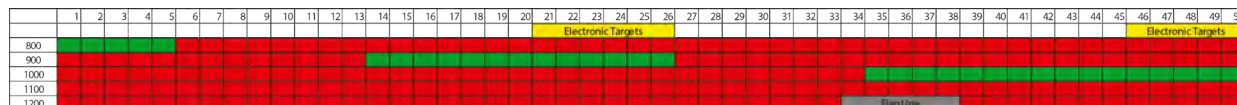
4. Availability, 2 x Butt Zero bays in use



5. Availability, 3 x Butt Zero bays in use



6. 1200-yard firing on points 21-25 (Butt Zero not in use)



7. The way forward with electronic targets

The lanes available for hire if two bays of Butt Zero are allocated are shown in diagram [4]. As previously, the laydown will be adjusted to comply with safety constraints as lanes are let. If three bays of Butt Zero are allocated, the situation changes to that shown in diagram [5]. If Butt Zero is not in use it is possible to shoot from 1200 yards on target numbers 21-25 without priority – see diagram [6]. The effect of this is extreme, if Butt Zero is in use, with minimal target availability at other ranges. Therefore it is only permitted *in extremis*.

Looking forward

With the increasing demand on our ranges and the installation of electronic targetry, the manner in which the ranges are allocated must change to become more efficient and make the most of the targetry. The electronic targets installation and a possible range laydown, without NRA priority and Butt Zero not in use, is shown in diagram [7]. The electronic installation is designed to permit the targets to be shot at from two different distances. The same laydown could be transposed to 900, 1000, and 1100. Shooting on electronic targets at

1200yds is possible without priority with the same caveats as mentioned above.

The range office is charged with providing the maximum amount of shooting possible to our members. To achieve this, there is a requirement for compromise from individuals and clubs. The first and most important step in this process is the Club Range Booking Conference, which will be convened in October. If your club requirements are significant throughout the year, please ensure you are represented at the meeting, details of which will follow in the near future. ■

Results

IMPERIAL MEETING 2017

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

Queen's Prize top 10

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

1. P Patel; Old Epsomian RC; 149.18v; 74.11v; 74.8v; 297.37v
2. DC Crispin; Surrey RA; 148.20v; 74.9v; 74.11v; 296.40v
3. JM Rankin; Surrey RA; 147.20v; 74.7v; 75.11v; 296.38v
4. N Healy; ATSC; 148.18v; 74.10v; 74.10v; 296.38v
5. GCD Barnett; OGRE; 148.19v; 73.11v; 75.7v; 296.37v
6. DC Luckman; Sedgemoor TSC; 147.18v; 74.9v; 75.9v; 296.36v
7. NC Mace; Guernsey RC; 146.15v; 74.7v; 75.11v; 295.33v
8. GE Morris; Uppingham Veterans RC; 146.16v; 75.9v; 74.6v; 295.31v
9. J Corbett; City RC; 147.18v; 74.11v; 73.8v; 294.37v
10. EC Dickson; Old Marlburian RC; 146.12v; 74.10v; 74.13v; 294.35v

Target Rifle Grand Aggregate top 10

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

1. CJ Watson; 74.12v; 75.10v; 50.8v; 50.7v; 50.9v; 50.9v; 47.5v; 75.13v; 103.15v; 50.8v; 74.9v; 698.105v
2. P Patel; 75.12v; 75.14v; 50.6v; 48.3v; 50.8v; 50.10v; 49.3v; 75.13v; 103.15v; 49.7v; 74.11v; 698.102v
3. RSF Shouler; 75.10v; 74.12v; 49.8v; 49.7v; 50.8v; 50.4v; 49.5v; 75.13v; 104.16v; 47.5v; 75.10v; 697.98v
4. DR Armstrong; 75.13v; 75.11v; 49.6v; 49.6v; 50.8v; 49.4v; 50.6v; 75.10v; 105.15v; 48.5v; 72.8v; 697.92v
5. DC Luckman; 75.10v; 75.13v; 50.8v; 49.8v; 50.8v; 49.9v; 48.4v; 75.10v; 104.15v; 47.4v; 74.14v; 696.103v
6. GCD Barnett; 74.11v; 75.14v; 49.5v; 50.6v; 48.7v; 50.10v; 49.7v; 75.13v; 103.11v; 49.5v; 74.9v; 696.98v
7. PR Wheeler; 75.12v; 75.9v; 48.6v; 47.6v; 50.8v; 49.7v; 50.6v; 75.12v; 104.12v; 48.6v; 75.13v; 696.97v
8. DP Calvert; 74.11v; 75.12v; 49.7v; 50.4v; 49.7v; 48.6v; 49.6v; 74.11v; 104.16v; 50.7v; 73.11v; 695.98v
9. WJD Broad; 75.10v; 75.11v; 50.6v; 49.3v; 50.10v; 49.7v; 49.7v; 75.14v; 103.14v; 47.4v; 73.9v; 695.95v
10. JH Messer; 74.11v; 74.8v; 49.7v; 49.3v; 49.8v; 50.8v; 48.4v; 74.10v; 105.11v; 49.5v; 74.14v; 695.89v

St George's Prize

Name; club; second stage; final; total

1. DC Luckman; Sedgemoor TSC; 75.12v; 75.12v 150.24v
2. GCD Barnett; OGRE; 75.10v; 75.12v; 150.22v
3. JD Warburton; Huddersfield RC; 75.12v; 75.10v; 150.22v
4. FWA Coetzee; South Africa; 75.13v; 75.9v; 150.22v
5. J Corbett; City RC; 75.10v; 75.10v; 150.20v

The National

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

1. England; 693.97v; 689.94v; 681.79v; 2063.270v
2. Scotland; 685.75v; 674.68v; 665.66v; 2024.209v
3. Ireland; 676.70v; 670.66v; 671.67v; 2017.203v
4. Wales; 673.62v; 673.68v; 674.61v; 2020.191v

The Kolapore

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

1. Great Britain; 394.47v; 395.45v; 385.29v; 174.121v
2. Jersey; 392.38v; 388.27v; 377.27v; 1157.92v
3. Australia; 383.30v; 395.34v; 378.30v; 1156.94v
4. Guernsey; 386.27v; 387.33v; 375.25v; 1148.85v
5. Canada; 388.34v; 386.30v; 372.19v; 1146.83v
6. Kenya; 376.27v; 387.26v; 365.17v; 1128.70v
7. BDMP Germany; 361.20v; 373.27v; 358.13v; 1092.60v

The Mackinnon

Team; 900x; 1000x; total

1. England; 589.84v; 585.62v; 1174.146v

2. Scotland; 587.72v; 572.54v; 1159.126v
3. Ireland; 588.76v; 562.46v; 1150.122v
4. Wales; 589.67v; 561.47v; 1150.114v
5. Guernsey; 590.66v; 552.42v; 1142.108v
6. Jersey; 570.57v; 559.40v; 1129.97v
7. Australia; 580.69v; 546.36v; 1126.105v
8. Canada; 576.59v; 541.45v; 1117.104v
9. Kenya; 575.58v; 539.34v; 1114.92v

F Open Grand Aggregate

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

1. AW Marsh; 74.7v; 74.6v; 75.4v; 71.3v; 75.7v; 71.3v; 69.3v; 658.49v
2. J Howe; 74.10v; 74.6v; 75.6v; 70.8v; 75.7v; 71.7v; 67.3v; 651.66v
3. PA Hill; 72.8v; 74.9v; 74.7v; 71.5v; 74.6v; 74.7v; 68.4v; 651.61v
4. RE Eckbauer; 75.10v; 73.5v; 75.6v; 67.7v; 75.8v; 72.4v; 65.3v; 648.56v
5. P Shambrook; 73.4v; 73.7v; 73.7v; 72.8v; 75.8v; 72.6v; 67.5v; 647.52v

FTR Grand Aggregate

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

1. I W Boxall; 75.8v; 74.7v; 72.5v; 72.4v; 73.6v; 75.7v; 62.1v; 649.55v
2. D Lloyd; 71.6v; 73.5v; 67.5v; 71.3v; 74.7v; 73.7v; 64.3v; 638.49v

3. P Eggemann; 71.3v; 71.3v;
69.5v; 72.4v; 73.5v; 70.7v;
63.0v; 622.38v
4. DJ Pickering; 75.6v; 73.7v;
68.3v; 63.3v; 74.10v; 70.5v;
59.2v; 620.41v
5. GJ James; 72.2v; 69.2v;
70.6v; 70.4v; 73.10v; 72.6v;
61.1v; 619.41v

The Hopton

*Name; Whitehead; Halford;
Cottesloe; Wimbleton;*

Armourers; Edge; Albert; Total

1. RJ Lygoe; 150.19v;
146.15v; 99.15v; 96.12v;
99.15v; 187.21v; 222.32v;
999.129v
2. CN Tremlett ;15;0.21v
144.11v; 99.12v; 97.11v;
97.9v; 191.20v; 219.29v;
997.113v
3. JMB Baillie-Hamilton;
147.20v; 142.14v; 99.14v;
97.14v; 95.10v; 192.18v;
219.22v; 991.112v
4. AR McLeod; 148.15v;
140.13v; 98.13v; 98.9v;
98.14v; 191.19v; 216.20v;
989.103v
5. DP Calvert; 149.19v;
144.13v; 100.13v; 94.12v;
99.10v; 189.14v; 214.16v;
989.97v
6. MJ Judge; 140.14v;
145.14v; 99.11v; 98.14v;
97.13v; 186.14v; 220.21v;
985.101v
7. AWC Meldrum; 147.17v;
141.11v; 97.10v; 98.10v;
97.6v; 186.13v; 218.19v;
984.86v
8. JA Lindsay III; 145.16v;
141.16v; 99.14v; 100.11v;
98.9v; 184.19v; 216.28v;
983.113v
9. TLW Kidner; 145.14v;
139.15v; 99.13v; 99.12v;
94.8v; 190.19v; 217.15v;
983.96v
10. DN Lindsay; 147.16v;
139.11v; 100.8v; 98.10v;
96.14v; 182.11v; 220.29v;
982.99v

The Elcho

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

1. England; 593.90v;
589.76v; 568.43v; 1750.209v
2. Scotland; 579.73v;
581.71v; 567.37v; 1727.181v
3. Wales; 577.65v; 575.49v;
548.22v; 1700.136v
4. Ireland; 578.74v; 572.63v;
543.35v; 1693.172v

The Ashburton

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

1. Wellington College;
263.19v; 257.17v; 252.17v;
772.53v
2. Elizabeth College;
256.21v; 24;8.12v 245.5v;
749.38v
3. Sedbergh; 254.23v;
247.14v; 246.10v; 747.47v

Ashburton Fours

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

1. Erskine Stewart's Melville
School; 122.6v; 122.4v;
119.5v; 363.15v
2. Oakham School; 116.6v;
121.5v; 125.9v; 362.20v
3. Sevenoaks School; 116.5v;
121.3v; 122.6v; 359.14v

Civilian Short Range Aggregate

*Class; winner; SRM; UM; 300;
200; 100; total*
Iron; S Clarke; 195; 137; 138;
81; 31; 582
Practical; N St Aubyn; 223;
186; 148; 92; 38; 687
Service; A Chapman; 240;
185; 143; 93; 45; 706

Civilian Long Range Aggregate

Class; winner; LRRC; RC; total
Iron; S Clarke; 126; 211; 337
Practical; O Larrue; 181; 270;
451
Service; P Cottrell; 175; 273;
448

Civilian Methuen – Historic Individual

Name; score

1. W Tong; 156
2. M Kent; 149
3. G Van Wyke; 131

Civilian Methuen – Historic Team

Team; score

1. LERA A; 573
2. LERA B; 629
3. BYSA; 552

Civilian Methuen – Practical Individual

Name; score

1. M Camp; 238
2. N St Aubyn; 237
3=. A Chapman; 235
3=. N Greenaway; 235

Civilian Methuen – Practical Team

Team; score

1. LPSC A; 1355
2. HRA A; 1332
3. PSSA; 1285

Service Rifle Championship

Name; regiment; total

1. Zahli; SOAF; 379
2. Mandhart; SOAF; 371
3. Rawahi; SOAF; 367
4. Nasseri; SOAF; 366
5. Rashidi; SOAF; 365

Gallery Rifle Grand Aggregate (GRCF)

Name; club; total

1. T Fry; Aldershot RPC;
1327
2. A Podevin; SE Essex; 1313
3. AEH Warner; BAR; 1284
4. B Yard; MRPC; 1273
5. VAF Dauppe; Old
Sergeants Mess RC; 1178

Gallery Rifle Grand Aggregate (GRSB)

Name; club; total

1. T Fry; Aldershot RPC;
1351
2. JTA Mossom; MRPC; 1349
3. K Kilvington; Aldershop

RPC; 1344

4. S Jordan; Sigma; 1339
5. A Chamberlain;
Springfield; 1334

LBR Grand Aggregate

Name; club; total

1. SC Denton; NRA; 876.34
2. N Roberts; Fulwood;
862.37
3. MP Matthews; NRA;
849.34
4. A Podevin; SE Essex;
836.24
5. J Bibby; Ledbury; 804.18

LBP Grand Aggregate

Name; club; total

1. S Lane; Sigma; 915.57
2. A Kwa; Langar RC; 887.37
3. N Roberts; Fulwood;
877.28
4. J Bibby; Ledbury; 865.21
5. SC Denton; NRA; 847.33

British Running Deer Championship

Name; singles; doubles; total

1. Alan Harvey; 89; 81; 170
2. John Kynoch; 80; 86; 166
3. Darren Cottee; 81; 83; 164
4. Richard Jeffery; 79; 81;
160
5. John Maddison; 78; 78;
156

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MESSAGE



Chris Watson, this year's Grand Aggregate winner, talks to NRA marketing and communications manager Katia Malcaus Cooper

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I first shot .22 at Winchester House School, and then fullbore at Uppingham School as I wasn't keen on cricket and my brother suggested it over athletics. I recall my first shoot which was at Bisley at 600x scoring a 33.3 ex 35.7

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Tough choice between Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, winning the National with Wales last year and winning this year's Grand Aggregate, but there are so many significant memories to choose from – for example winning the PoW in 2006, my first major competition win, with a new rifle, which was an early wedding present. Or there's that first Kolapore at 300 yards, or gaining my Big Five in one year...

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

My brother! Seriously, though – self-belief probably as in the early years I thought it was me that couldn't shoot rather than my rifle/barrel.

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

I am extremely blessed to have married a shooter's daughter who loves Bisley but does not shoot. We don't talk about how much I spend on shooting, but without Vicki's support I would not be where I am today in terms of the level I have achieved. Vicki and my children love to come and support me, as well as her parents, and my parents come to the Queen's final annually.



What sort of music do you listen to?

Most – I'm known for playing a wide range in the Surrey on some Imperial nights when DJing.

What Club are you a member of?

The Uppingham Vets, Northants Leicestershire and Rutland, Surrey Rifle Association, Welsh RA, British Commonwealth RC, Tetbury Rifle and Pistol Club, NRA

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

In my younger years, Old Uppinghamian Ant Ringer, and in more recent years, close friend David Luckman.

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

New Zealand. The GB tour in 2010 was my fourth trip and I've always wanted to migrate there. (I am slightly jealous of my CG partner Mr Morris.)

How have Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Bisley has been the source of so many of my close friendships, through socialising in the Surrey and L&M since starting to shoot there, and making a wider network of good friends around the world as a result of touring with the NRA, Wales and GB. It has also meant that shooting is the focus of most of my free time and money.

What do you like to do in your free time?

What's that? Shooting or just relaxing and socialising/entertaining friends.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

A few stretches (time permitting). I generally go through the same motions of preparation every shoot.

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

Budget for it, enjoy it and believe in your own ability. Focus on trigger release above all else.

What next for you?

CSF and Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast (hopefully), then next year's Queen's Prize. I've been close and I know I can do it one day. ■

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