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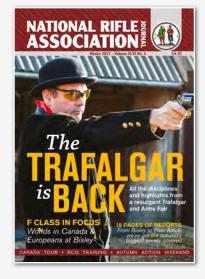
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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



Winter 2017 – Volume XCVI No. 4



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Facing the future

As another year ends, NRA group chief executive Andrew Mercer reports on the challenges that lie ahead, from consultations to Commonwealths

The last few weeks before the traditional Christmas break have seen a flurry of activity on a number of fronts. Home Office 'offensive weapons' proposals to prohibit MARS and .50 calibre rifles have generated significant concern. Quite aside from the irritation of having target shooting lumped together with flick knives and acids, the proposals are not evidence-based, poorly worded and in places downright misleading. While the absolute number of fullbore shooters threatened by these proposals is small, the risk of creating dangerous precedents was recognised by many NRA members, and I am grateful to those who helped by responding to the consultation.

We have been working carefully with the Home Office on the review of Approved Club fees; members will recall our campaign earlier this year to encourage responses to the consultation on this matter. Some 5,000 responses prompted a complete review of the fee proposals and proved to me that if the shooting community engage with the government, their views are much more likely to yield positive influence. We are waiting to see the revised final fee proposals to be presented to ministers.

We have been working up the 2018-2020 NRA Strategic and Development Review and organised a number of consultation meetings. I was particularly struck by the comments from representatives of affiliated clubs at a meeting organised in Solihull; their frank assessment about how poorly the NRA is viewed by shooters who never visit Bisley was enlightening. I had mistakenly thought that recent NRA initiatives to support regional shooting would be recognised but it is clear many shooters think NRA membership offers little more than insurance. The call for greater clarity and improved communication of the 'NRA offer' was carefully noted.

The prospect of shooting failing to be part of the 2022 Commonwealth Games has been a matter of considerable concern. Initially awarded to Durban, the Games suffered the ignominy of the host city stepping aside, prompting a re-bidding process that has seen Birmingham selected as the preferred replacement. Shooting currently does not feature in Birmingham's plans, and our efforts to persuade the Birmingham City bid team and central government to change their mind have to date proved unsuccessful. We are continuing our efforts lobbying the Commonwealth Games Federation; it seems wholly illogical not to include shooting in the programme when Bisley, a proven Games venue, sits ready, willing and able to host the 2022 shooting competitions.

Nic Couldrey, NRA regional ranges manager, and I enjoyed a recent visit to Marlow Rifle and Pistol Club. Their indoor 25m



range is located in a busy sports centre and I was met in the reception among swimwear and bathing accoutrements by their chairman, Simon Rees. The club is blessed with a committed team of officials, and their enthusiasm was great to see. I was surprised to learn that midweek evenings are the range's busiest times, and was particularly interested to hear how the growing administration of club affairs acts as a deterrent to recruiting and retaining the allimportant volunteers. The club's fullbore captain took me to task about the difficulties he faces trying to keep up with Bisley range improvements, and suggested we invite club secretaries to Bisley for a tour of the range. This stonking good (and embarrassingly obvious) idea was seized upon and will be added to the 2018 list of 'to dos'. I fear Nic and I took away far more wisdom than we left from what was a particularly enjoyable evening.

I hope by now you have renewed your NRA membership as the 2017 insurance cover ends on 31 December. Please remember that our Bisley range office staff will be asking for your 2018 membership card when the ranges open from Wednesday 3 January. As we head towards the end of 2017 I am pleased to report that NRA membership will top 8,500; in the year we have recruited 800 new members.



UNDER FIRE

A clampdown on what the government calls "offensive and dangerous weapons" could see legitimate target rifles placed under Section Five legislation, effectively banning them. The home secretary, Amber Rudd, announced plans to reclassify .50 calibre rifles and "certain rapid firing rifles" as part of a wide-ranging consultation that also seeks to investigate legislating knives and corrosive substances such as acids

Rifles based on the Manually Activated Release System (MARS) action and fiftycals are understood to be the most at risk - meaning that if the plans become a reality, groups such as the Fifty Calibre Shooters' Association would effectively cease to exist. The Home Office's impact assessment, which accompanies the consultation, says: "The range and penetrative power of 0.50 calibre rifles makes them more dangerous than other common firearms and were they to be used in criminal or terrorist activities would present a serious threat to the

public... MARS rifles pose a comparable risk to the public and police as other self-loading weapons already banned in the UK."

NRA chief executive Andrew Mercer has urged all members to register their views in the public consultation, even if they are not personally affected. "This is not a worthless exercise," he said. "The response from the shooting community to the last consultation (Home Office Approved Club Fees) yielded nearly 5,000 responses and has prompted a fundamental ongoing review by the Home Office.

"The proposals appear to be an attack on the ownership of two types of firearms on the 'we don't like it so we will ban it' basis. This must be resisted with all vigour and the shooting community must hold the Home Office to account to justify their proposals."

Submit your views at www.gov.uk/ government/consultations/offensive-anddangerous-weapons-new-legislation.

ATHOLL TENDER

Chalets 2. 3 and 4 on Atholl Row offer attractive and well-located accommodation on Bisley Camp and are available to let from 1 February 2018 for use as private dwellings or club accommodation in connection with members' shooting at Bisley.

The chalets are being presented to a high standard. One (Chalet 3) is the subject of a programme of refurbishment and redecoration, with works due for completion by 31 January 2018.

Each chalet has accommodation laid out on the ground floor consisting of lounge with modern kitchen, adjoining bedroom, and separate shower and toilet. Hot water by electric heater, and attic storage. Each chalet has an attractive veranda overlooking a designated car park.

The chalets are being offered by tender for lease on a full repairing basis for a term of seven years with rent reviewed by RPI at the third anniversary.

Tenders are sought for an individual chalet or a combination of two or three chalets.

The chalets are now available for viewing; to arrange an appointment please contact Chris Dyers at the NRA, on 01483 797777 Ext 180 or email chris. dyers@nra.org.uk.

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



ELECTRONIC TARGET UPDATE

Shortly after the installation in August 2017 of the Stickledown electronic targets, the NRA started to receive reports of missed or unrecorded shots. Shooters were claiming to be hitting the target consistently and grouping well but then a shot would, randomly, not be recorded on the system.

After receipt of several observations, two NRA staff each fired a sequence of shots at an electronic target. They found that there were shots that were not recorded by the system, immediately, but the unrecorded shot did appear at the centre of the target (co-ordinates 0,0) when the subsequent round struck. The 'unrecorded' ratio was in the region of 1 in 30.

The issue was reported to the supplier Intarso via Dr Harvey Hardaway. The fault was investigated using a 'debug' server and by analysing shockwave data. A software error was quickly identified and the targets were re-programmed.



There are still a few teething problems, but that the manufacturer has shown keenness to overcome these, and shooters are positive that all will be improved by next season.

Meanwhile, on Saturday 18 November, the Stickledown Club held the first competition conducted solely on the electronic targets at 1200 yards. The event was a success and finished in good time.

NEW NRA WEBSITE

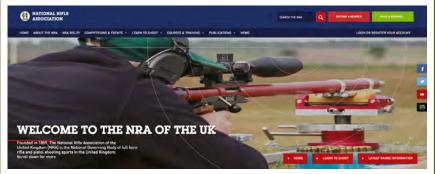
The NRA's redesigned website is now live at www.nra.org.uk.

Boasting a new look and a completely restructured interface, the modernised site is mobile-friendly and caters to those interested in learning about target shooting as well as NRA/Bisley regulars.

The back end of the website has also been updated, allowing NRA staff to capture analytics about users, make regular updates and administer technical support. "Most importantly, it is fundamentally different and may take some users time to adjust to," said chief executive Andrew Mercer.

"I have been assured that the transition will be painless and seamless; however good sense suggests that I should offer in advance my apologies for any unexpected technical problems that may occur."

Visit the new-look website at: www.nra.org.uk.



NEWS IN BRIEF

CHRISTMAS CLOSURES

The NRA office will close at 12.30pm on Friday 22 December and re-open on Tuesday 2 January, and the ranges will close on Wednesday 20 December and re-open on Wednesday 3 January.

COMPETITIONS 2018

Following a conference with the 100 most active clubs at Bisley, the NRA has published its 2018 competition calendar. Among the biggest events are: Spring Action Weekend 24-25 March, 300m Championships 12-13 May, Phoenix 25-27 May, Imperial Meeting 12 June – 28 July, Target Shotgun Festival 6-7 October, Trafalgar 20-21 October, Autumn Action Weekend 27-28 October. View the full event listings at www.nra.org.uk.

STALKERS' DAYS

Stalkers looking to improve their aptitude can take advantage of a new series of stalkers' days at Bisley, taking place on Fridays on electronic targetry at 100 yards. The cost is £18 for members and £25 for non-members per hour. To book, call 01483 797777 ext152.



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Call to arms

Derek Stimpson reports on a busy 2017 Trafalgar and calls for even more participation

he Trafalgar is a unique international historic arms meeting, but participants often are so busy that they barely have time to pause, look around, and take in all that is going on around them.

In addition to a meeting with a long list of competitions to enter, there was the arms fair in its new frame tent home, including the HBSA historic arms display, and the Heritage pistol exhibition in the Pavilion training room. Plenty to keep visitors occupied while not actually shooting.

This year 189 competitors shot 971 match cards. Last year we recorded 198 competitors who shot 993 match cards. This is a slight reduction, though messages were received from some distant competitors who did not travel because of the weather forecast. Figures are therefore steady but it would be nice to see numbers and cards shot getting back to a rising trend next year.

I shot five competitions, double rifles, and moving target, running boar and deer. I was glad to see a few new entrants and have some more competition. Shooting throughout the day, together with other tasks I had to attend to, kept me busy, so the many competitors who took advantage of the bulk discount for entries must have also been kept very busy shooting and running from one competition to the next.

The NRA's careful planning of range time and good organisation allowed the Scout meeting to take place on the same weekend. The windy and wet weather manifested itself first thing on Saturday but support to competitors and ROs from NRA staff kept people shooting and on target despite strong wind. Thanks go to the NRA and to all the volunteers who support this meeting.

There is a long list of competitions for Trafalgar (with good reason) and the results are interesting to study. There are some, more specialised perhaps, that had few shooters, even a single competitor, but a good number are shot by 10 or more people.

Recording the scores is a vital part of any meeting. Neil and Anne Roberts have stepped down from running the stats for Trafalgar and IHAM after many years. We thank them for many years of splendid work and support and wish them well in 'retirement'! They hope to continue to be involved in elements of future meetings, and perhaps even do some shooting. They can be seen below receiving a thank you award from Andrew Mercer, a certified reproduction of the "Trafalgar letter".

We are glad to announce their successors as Anne and Bryden Ritchie. Anne worked with Neil and Anne on the scores and stats. at the Trafalgar. Bryden has recently joined General Council as the Regional Representative for Scotland. Newly appointed Historic and Classic Arms representative, Neil Macfarlane, was also in evidence in stats and on the ranges meeting competitors and providing assistance.

As always I am delighted to see such a variety of the arms being used, military, target and sporting: muzzle-loading longarms and pistols, breech-loading rifles of many types, including rook rifles and large bore big game rifles. All shot on both static and moving targets, prone and standing.

The expertise and knowledge at this meeting is always remarkable and the standard of shooting high, especially taking into account the variety mentioned above.

We should be proud that it is one of the largest historic arms shooting meetings anywhere in the world. Bisley is a historic venue in which to celebrate our heritage in historic arms, with both shooting and collecting well represented.

The annual Section 7 heritage pistol exhibition organised by the HBSA was hosted in the Pavilion training room. There were some complete and interesting displays of iconic and historic side-arms including Webleys, Mauser 1896s, Colts, and some very rare arms. One notable item was two .38 Webley Fosberys with disposable brass cartridge loading discs, something I had not seen before. There was a similar disc for the more usual .455 revolver.

This year's meeting was a success but we should not be complacent. It would be nice to see even more shooting activity. We must look to the future and preserve our heritage, so keep collecting and keep shooting. We look forward to seeing you next year.





GALLERY | Trafalgar

















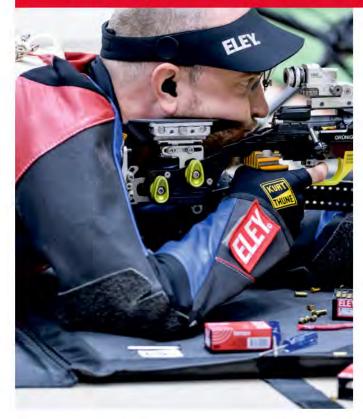








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Action packed

A bumper celebration of all things target shooting, the Autumn Action Weekend returned to Bisley on 28-29 October. We bring you the scenes from the ranges



























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GB's silver lining

Things didn't go according to plan for the GB team at the F-class World Championships in Canada, as Des Parr reveals. But there was one outstanding individual achievement...

S imply flying out of the UK proved to be an ordeal, but there is one very good tip to pass on to future NRA teams. Our advance party had been urged by customs to supply a list of all our details to expedite clearance and it proved an excellent piece of advice. By faxing the required personal details to the officials, they processed the large group with very little delay. There is a clear lesson there for other touring NRA teams: send your details to customs in advance, it helps tremendously!

The Canadian Nationals

Prior to any World Championships, the host country provides a warm-up match, usually their National Championships. That was the case with the DCRA matches, which were spread over three days of shooting; two days of individuals and a day of team shooting.

This was the first time many of our squad had shot over the Connaught ranges, so they were keen to get to grips with this unfamiliar territory. Joe West, Jason Scrivens and Simon Gambling had never set foot on the ranges before, yet Simon won the Sierra 1 Challenge, Joe shot superbly to finish eighth overall, and Jason came fourth in the Sierra Challenge Aggregate. Gary Costello had been twice before and used his experience to win a medal in the Sierra 3 Challenge. It looked like a promising start.

The team matches took an unusual format: a hybrid of four F/Open and four F/TR shooters per team. The rationale is that smaller countries might struggle to field an eight-man team in a single



discipline, but could feasibly manage a team of four from each discipline. The GB team performed very strongly together and won silver for second place, which was fantastic.

After the Canadian Nationals, we took stock. Our impressions were that it was not an easy range and in fact seemed more difficult than on previous visits; the wind flags had a tendency to remain flat against their thick poles which resembled telegraph poles, and the flags only seemed to break free when there was already about two minutes of wind present, masking what must have been quite significant wind changes. This was not going to be easy at all and was the cause of some excitement tempered with trepidation for shooters and coaches.

The World Championships

We were really looking forward to this, and all the arrangements seemed ideal. We'd be shooting on familiar grassy mounds in our familiar paired shooter format and with paid markers. The portents augured well for a resurgent and optimistic GB team.

Quickly, however, reality came crashing in when results from the first 700m stage filtered through. Opposition scores were stratospheric – higher even than in the Canadian Nationals. The best we could manage was Martin Townsend's eighth in F/O and Matt Jarram's 11th in F/TR. We expected the standard to be high, but it was alarming how high it had climbed in the four years since Raton. Little did we know that our underwhelming performance at 700m was to set the tone for the entire championships.



Day two was a better, fresher day and we still hoped for better performances, but it was not to be. None of the squad seemed to be on top form – or was it that we were simply being outshot by better rivals? Whatever the reason, notable performances by GB shooters were very few and far between – only Paul Sandie was shooting at world-class level.

Day three comprised two details at 900 yards. Both were barrel-testing 2+20 trials of endurance. The first was truly a 'bunny detail', with barely a breath of air; shooters in that detail had only to 'shade' the V-bull. The scores coming off the line were truly awe-inspiring. It was a test of rifle accuracy at the highest level. Yet again though, our squad in general just didn't seem to be able to capitalise on the good conditions.

Only one GB member performed to the very highest standards – take a bow, Paul Sandie. This taciturn Scotsman has had a long career in F Class, getting better each year. Paul timed his progression perfectly by peaking at the World Championships, finishing second overall.

Paul's success is our most significant achievement. He used a .300 WSM with Berger 230gn bullets in a rifle made by top gunsmith Callum Ferguson.

So why was there such a lack of success when initially all the omens looked good? GB shooters have access to the same barrels, bullets and scopes as every other shooter in the world, so why the big divergence in our scores and outcomes? Could it be that the rest of the world has somehow 'moved on' in terms of their application and we have not?

The Team matches

Here was our chance to redeem ourselves by working together as teams with our coaches to show what we were truly capable of, and there seemed to be an excellent chance of winning a medal.

Conditions looked perfectly manageable; bright and dry with light winds, though from our recent experience we knew those light winds could be treacherous – they tended to be unstable, switching to and fro, and with little apparent indication.





At 700m the F/O team got off to a good, though not great, start with 591. Losing nine points at the shortest distance didn't bode well – could this be Raton 2013 all over again? The F/TR team also had their work cut out.

By close of play on day one, the GB teams were already playing catch-up. F/O were 17 points adrift of the leaders, while F/TR were 32 behind. It left us all with ground to make up – not an insurmountable task by any means – if we were to come home with a medal.

Day two, and the wind decided to practically die on us. This wasn't what was needed for F/Open – we could have benefited from a stronger wind to churn things up. Conversely, F/TR had been praying for light winds to enable their light 155s to prevail.

Neither team was satisfied with the outcome. The light winds meant that the F/O team could not realistically close the gap between them and their rivals, while the F/TR team were having a terrible time of it. The light winds were what they hoped for, but tended to be very twitchy and unstable and the wind coaches had great difficulty in tracking those movements. It was especially heartbreaking for the F/TR shooters to witness; three years of hard training and huge expense was coming to nought.

We tried our best on day two, giving it all we had got, but sadly it was just not enough. The teams endured scope
and bipod failures, barrel erosion and elevation issues with ammo, and it all

conspired against us. In fact we lost even more ground as the distances increased, while the coaches struggled and wondered what it was that we were not seeing. Despite all the trials and tribulations, morale in both squads was still surprisingly high; we had been beaten by better teams and there is no shame in that, we must simply try harder. One thing is absolutely certain: nothing stands still and the rest of the world has improved, so we must catch up.

Although the focus of this article is on the GB teams, it would be remiss not to report the winners of the most important F-class match in the world. Derek Rodgers of the USA F/TR team is now World Champion and Rod Davies of Australia is the new F/O World Champion. Regarding the Team matches, the USA's mighty F/TR team prevailed yet again, while the F/O title was won by Australia for the second time.

At the closing ceremony, a member of the winning Australian team delivered a superb speech in which he graciously thanked the hosts and addressed the question, 'What was it that made F Class so appealing to him?' He concluded that it was the people we encounter in the clubs on the ranges and at the matches.

He was right, it is a very sociable activity as well as being very competitive, and that's what will encourage GB to bounce back and try our best in South Africa in 2021.

Photography courtesy of Steve Thornton – www.getanedge.co







The F/O team takes to the firing point to contend with the light, twitchy winds

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Euro stars

After a great European Championships, Des Parr rounds up all the news, including continental teams upsetting the odds and an F/O top performance for Paul Hill

H or the third consecutive year we've enjoyed remarkably gentle winds for much of the European Championships. It was like being in the doldrums for the warm-up matches, and only increased to moderate levels for the main event.

In such halcyon conditions it is truly amazing to see what levels of accuracy F Class rifles can attain. The scores were unbelievably high, for example Reinhard Lange's 100.18 at 800 yards. We've seen this trend of increasing standards year on year and every time we wonder, 'Where will it end?'

For a detailed report on the warm-up matches, please go to the GBFCA website.

Minor Team matches

The F/TR side had nine teams in contention. The 101 club has always been a bastion of F/TR shooting and were strong enough to field two teams, with the 101 Dream Team led by Steve Donaldson cruising to a four-point victory with 364.16. Second were Italy Accuracy with 360.19 and in third place a creditable 359.13 debut performance by Team MXM.

The F/O side was just as keenly fought, with a record 11 teams in contention. Team March prevailed with a fine score of 373.21, Joe West Riflestocks A came second just two points behind and with the same v-count, while Dolphin Ukraine 2 had the same 371 but only 14 vs.

European Championships

A brief observation may give a flavour of the matches – on Friday at 800 yards the gentle conditions enabled the top 32 shooters to score 75! Spare a thought, then, for Marco Been, who took 33rd place with 74.11. On Saturday, the F/ TR shooters at 800 yards had equally gentle wind; consequently 20 shooters scored 75s. It shows the sheer accuracy potential of well-tuned F Class rifles in experienced hands. Competition is driving standards and expectations ever higher and the winners can be rightly proud of their achievements.

The 2017 F/TR European Champion is Giulio Arrigucci (475.33), the second time this genial giant has won the title. He has shown a remarkable level of high performance and consistency, and takes the silver plate back home to Italy. In second place came Evgeniy Shcherbakov (474.30) from Ukraine.

Evgeniy is clearly a talented shooter who seems to do very well at Bisley and took home a good collection of medals. Third was another Italian, Luigi Bilfulco (473.31), another very talented shooter worth watching out for in the future.

The new 2017 F/O European Champion is Paul Hill (491.57). Paul shot astonishingly









We were in for a big shock: after years of dominance, both of the GB teams were defeated by their continental rivals

well, dropping just nine points and achieving a huge v-count. Paul is a very popular winner, not least because he taught himself to do machine work to chamber and fit his own barrel, but also because he uses the less-popular Lapua bullet. Paul can be rightly proud of his achievement with a world-class performance.

In second place was Gary Costello (491.31). It was great to see Gary back

on top form again, doing well with his new rifles from PGS Precision. In third place was yet another Italian, Gianfranco Zanoni (489.49). Our good friend Gianfranco is having a terrific year, with this placing coming so soon after winning a World Championship medal.

The 2017 Individual European Championships was indeed a great



tournament and the standard of shooting continues to climb ever higher – frighteningly high, in fact! Truly, F Class deserves the title of the 'Formula 1' of rifle shooting.

A full in-depth report of the 2017 European Championships appears on the GBFCA website.

International Teams matches

On Sunday morning the wind had freshened up. This was going to be a good test of the coaches and their shooters.

Firstly, the Rutland teams, with a welcome new addition to the line-up, the far-travelled Team Kazakhstan. The Rutland teams battled it out for supremacy and it was a pretty close contest, especially in F/TR, where the 101 Greys emerged victorious by just one point. This was the second teamshooting victory for the 101 club, which prides itself on being Britain's oldest gun club.

In F/O, the Joe West Rifles prevailed over their nearest rivals, Team Kazakhstan, by a clear margin of 19 points to take the gold medals.

Turning to the National teams, all the major players were represented: Italy, Spain, Germany, Ukraine and the UK. We were in for a big shock: after several years of dominance, both of the GB teams were defeated by their continental rivals.

In F/TR the winners were Team Spain by six points. The Spanish, both as individuals and as a team, have come a very long way indeed. Italy came second, four points ahead of the GB team. The Italians, too, have made very rapid progress, and it was a huge surprise to see GB down in third.

On the F/O side, the news was just as shocking as Team Ukraine defeated GB by two points. It's a great reward for the hard work and dedication the Ukrainians have shown over the years and this, together with a substantial investment in Dolphin rifles, has paid off handsomely.

The GB teams now have a real battle against capable opponents and it looks like it is going to be a lot more exciting in future.

Best in the west

John Chambers' love affair with the NRA USA World Shooting Championships began in 2014. So how did he shape up in this year's big event? As he reveals, points make prizes...

any shooters in the UK watched the US TV series *Top Shot*, where contestants competed in shooting challenges using a wide array of guns and targetry. Having participated in most shooting disciplines myself, it caught my imagination. If only there could be a real-life version...

Well, in 2014 the first World Shooting Championship was just that. The venue was the Peacemaker National Training Centre in Glengary, West Virginia and sponsors donated brand new pistols, rifles, shotguns, scopes and ammunition for use in the match and as prizes.

Everyone uses the same equipment so the playing field is as level as it gets. That first year I finished 34th out of 159 competitors, winning a stage and taking home \$3,000 in cash and prizes. I was hooked...

This September, six UK shooters made the trip to Glengary to take part in 12 stages over three days, each representing a different discipline.



Long-range rifle, sporting clays, multigun, cowboy action, precision pistol, .22 rifle, trap shooting and action pistol are all represented and there are two divisions, Pro and Amateur.

The scoring system rewards consistency and it's quite levelling to see some of the 'stars' of shooting being beaten by an amateur because they're shooting an unfamiliar gun or course of fire.

On the first day, along with fellow Brits Andy and Daryll, I'm squadded to shoot the America's Rifle Challenge first, with a Daniel Defense 5.56mm AR-15, shooting close paper targets and steel plates at 190-300 yards.

I get off to a great start, winning the stage in Amateur division. We move to the DMR Challenge, where we're shooting nine distant steels from three positions with a .308 SLR and only 13 rounds. A miss on this stage is a whopping 30-second penalty, so accuracy is more important than speed.

Unfortunately I run the gun dry before getting to the last plate, so 19th place is the result.

Next is the PRS Long Range Challenge, shooting a slick .308 bolt-action Surgeon rifle at more steels from different positions. I'm well into my comfort zone now and hit every plate with a fast time to bag another stage win.

We're now at the last stage of day one – 'Cowboy Action'. You don't have to dress like a cowboy, but you do get to shoot a .45LC 'six shooter' and .45 Colt underlever. These guns have to be cocked before each shot, so dexterity is essential for a fast time.





Surgeon rifles ready for the PRS Long Range Challenge

All goes well until my rushed last shot, which misses high. Even with the 10-second penalty it's a good time and we've all had an enjoyable first day, so spirits are high.

Day two starts with the three-gun stage. This course of fire is six steels at 80 yards shot with a 5.56mm rifle, eight clays at 15 yards with a shotgun and 10 steel 'poppers' with a 9mm pistol.

Then we tackle the two-gun stage with two 'Texas stars' (five steel plates on a rotating hub) and five paper targets using S&W M&P rifles and pistols. Accuracy with the pistol is key in these stages as fivesecond miss penalties can be costly.

I'm not great at sporting clays, so I approach the five-stand shotgun stage with some trepidation. A total of 25 clays from eight traps are shot as singles, report pairs and true pairs with a Mossberg O/U. If I can manage a 50 per cent hit rate I'm usually happy and I scrape in with 13.

Andy puts in a great performance with 19 which places him second in Amateur and third overall in the stage. Conversely, my trap shooting improved dramatically after some coaching from David Dale at Bisley a couple of years ago and 20 out of 25 in the 'Wobble Trap' stage is a solid result.

Similar to ABT, the clays are thrown randomly left/right and up/down. Tricky, but focus on the fundamentals and a good score is achievable.

Day three is another early start at the .22 rimfire stage shooting a Magnum Research MLR22 rifle at five small steels, with three out of four timed runs to count. I'm mindful that a bad stage now would ruin any chance of a good finish



overall, so I take it steady and bank a reasonable time, hoping it's good enough.

On to the USPSA stage, consisting mainly of IPSC cardboard targets, where hits outside the central A zone adds time penalties to your score. We're using a Walther PPQ 9mm and considering it's 20 years since I regularly shot fullbore pistols, 10th place here was a satisfying result.

An abbreviated Bianchi falling plates match is our next stage, and 24 steel plates at 20 and 25 yards are engaged using a 9mm Sig P226 with co-witnessed iron and red dot sights. Some shooters were only hitting one or two plates in total and there was much debate about which sights to use.

I choose the dot and at 20 yards miss two. Not bad, but at 25 yards miss eight more to finish with 14 in total.

It's time to use my Mulligan! This is a card you hand to the RO in order to re-shoot that stage if you've had a disaster. There's only one Mulligan per competitor, but I still have mine. I shoot again, turning off the dot this time and miss the first four plates using the iron sights!

All is not lost, I have a few words with myself and persevere to finish with 16. Not great for a full Bianchi match, but good enough for ninth place in this stage and it turns out my score equals that of five-time Bianchi Cup champion, Bruce Piatt!



The final stage is Precision Pistol, shooting a .45 Kimber pistol one-handed at 25-yard bullseye targets. A score of 148/200 earns me seventh place and I breathe a sigh of relief after getting through the whole match with no complete disasters.

The awards dinner is an informal affair, where the Pros receive their giant cheques (\$25,000 for winner Greg Jordan) and the amateurs peruse a very impressive prize table worth over \$100,000. Every gun, scope and accessory used in the match is there, plus additional non-firearm prizes donated by sponsors. Everyone wins something at this match.

Final scores are revealed during dinner and I'm amazed to find I'm first in Amateur and ninth overall, beating 274 other competitors. I get prime choice at the prize table and put my name on a Surgeon .308 bolt-action rifle worth around \$5,000. I'll have to pay to get it back, but that's the gun I had my eye on from day one of the match. The 2018 WSC can't come soon enough!

If you fancy taking part, go to https:// wsc.nra.org/ or email me at john@drivedata. com and I'd be pleased to share tips and advice. See how I did it here:

https://youtu.be/LTQPHd8uTfs

Read John Chambers' interview with NRA Marketing & Communications Manager Katia Malcaus Cooper on page 66.

A sporting success

David Howson reports on why the BSRC's inter-club match grows in popularity every time it's held

wice a year, in spring and in the autumn, the British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) throws down the gauntlet to challenge its affiliated clubs over a course of four of the BSRC disciplines:

Swedish Test – based on the Swedish hunting test. One shot with the Running Deer target stationary followed by a second with the target in motion; six runs in total. Running Boar – based on the Michael Baxter BSRC Memorial Match course of fire of 10 slow runs followed by 10 fast runs on the Running Boar.

10m Running Target – 10 slow runs on the indoor air rifle moving target range.
Stalker's Test – based on the British Deer Society's shooting test comprising two shots from each of five positions (prone, sitting, kneeling, standing, bench) at a static Roebuck target.

This year the roebuck target for the Stalkers' Test was changed from the DJV target to the Bushwear 'anatomical' target shown above. The scoring rings are programmed into the electronic targets and are designed to reflect the quality of the shot in terms of a swift and humane despatch. The shooter, however, only sees the image on the left as in real life, and the 'cliff edge' at the bottom of the 10 ring catches many shooters out.

It is a team match. A team must have a minimum of three members and a maximum of five – if you have six then you form two teams of three. The overall team score is the sum of the best (or only) three aggregate scores. Affiliated clubs can enter more than one team and 'internal' BSRC teams such as John Kynoch's BSRC Old Stagers are welcomed. It has also been known for team members to change allegiance from match to match – many have a foot in more than one camp and an element of 'horse trading' often takes place at the start of the day.



There is a good core of clubs who regularly support the match such as Leatherhead, Chelmsford, Aldershot and the BDS. A new entrant at the October 2017 match was Shanklin, all the way from the Isle of Wight and captained by David Steed, formerly of Leatherhead fame. We look forward to their continuing participation.

The last match was held on 7 October and attracted 38 shooters spread over 10 teams. The overall results are shown in the table below.

The top three individual scores (HPS = 420) were: 336 (Darren Cottee, BSRC ROs), 328 (Terry Ord, BASC 'Misfits' and 324 (John Kynoch, BSRC 'Old Stagers'). The average individual aggregate score was 245.

The winning team receives no reward other than a moment's smug satisfaction before realising that they will now be



charged with manning the barbecue at the next match. I can tell you from firsthand experience that this is no mean feat; it was the BSRC ROs' turn at this match and I was pleased to be treated to a masterclass from Danny Francis of BDS and taught a few useful tricks. This is one of the great things about the match: everybody mucks in and helps out. Though not on the BSRC ROs team, Terry Ord rose at dawn and already had the range set up as we ROs arrived at 8am. Others helped towards the end of the day as the ROs handed over control in order to shoot their cards.

It's a busy day and quite hard work for the ROs (Alastair Bullen, Darren Cottee, Steve Sims and myself) but rewarding to see everybody enjoying themselves. Long may it continue.

	TEAM RESULTS			
1st	BASC 'Misfits'	923		
2nd	BSRC Range Officers	920		
3rd	Aldershot Rifle & Pistol Club 1	841		
4th	BSRC 'Old Stagers'	824		
5th	Chelmsford (1944) A	798		
6th	Leatherhead	777		
7th	Shanklin	727		
8th	Aldershot Rifle & Pistol Club 2	721		
9th	Chelmsford (1944) B	649		
10th	British Deer Society	621		
NB: Highest possible score (HPS) = 1260				

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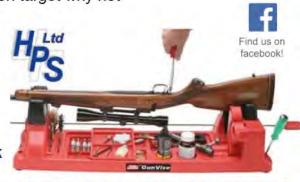
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There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.



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Hats off to success!

GB's Rifle Team spent most of August on tour in Canada, with a huge trophy haul their reward. Chloe Evans tells the full story

he journey from Bisley to Vancouver was a relatively smooth affair. Eleven months of preparation on from team selection, the GB rifle team headed to Canada ready for the challenges that lay ahead.

British Columbia

We found ourselves first in beautiful British Columbia on a range set beneath the Rocky Mountains. Recent forest fires had made the stunning scenery a figment of one's imagination, with hazy visibility obscuring much of our surroundings.

After four days of R&R we dusted off the rifles and kit-bags ready to squeeze some triggers. The team took the conditions and tight ICFRA targets in their stride on day one, coming away with all the silverware the Captain winning the City of Victoria, Nigel Ball taking the City of New Westminster as well as the City of Vancouver, and Dave Rose victorious in the MacDonald Stewart. Day two would see the conclusion of the Grand Aggregate with Rick Shouler leading at the start of the day. Dave Rose continued his form by taking the Duff Stuart, Sandy Walker picked up the Past Presidents, and Tom Laing-Baker collected the Flintoft as well as the Vern Barclay. Rick Shouler maintained his consistency over the two days to win the Grand, dropping only one point over eight shoots.

Day three saw the final individual competitions. Jon Underwood took the Life Governors to make things tight going into the final shoot. Here the wind decided to become fickle, flicking in from the right with the occasional gust. A tense wait ensued with Chloe Evans setting the lead on one off. As the final shots went down it became apparent that Rick, Nigel and Jon had dropped at least two. Attention turned to Angus McLeod, who slotted a 75.5 to take the Lt Governors Prize by a single v from Chloe.

BCRA International Match

GB entered a team of eight with two four man teams competing alongside. The eight-man team started well on the tight targets dropping just one point with the Washington Wranglers eight off and the BCRA a further five behind. The fine work continued at 500 metres with GB losing only two points. GB did not let the trickier conditions faze them at 600 metres with six points dropped, leaving them on a total of 1191.143 to the Washington Wranglers on 1174.101 and British Columbia on 1156.93.

Ottawa

The team arrived, settled into their home for the next 10 days and met up with Martin Townsend, who had been coaching and shooting in the F Class Championships at Connaught ranges.

Day one of the DCRA Championships was a leisurely affair with the traditional GB classroom setting-up before the first



shoot, the Ottawa Regiment. Ian Shaw was best of the bunch with 75.12, later going on to win after a tie-shoot.

Day two started with the Gooderham, and a light breeze meant many of the team slotted in 50s but it was Ben Craig who pipped Rick Shouler to win with 100.17. On to the Army & Navy at 900 metres, where the wind was the strongest we had seen so far. Top man from GB was Angus McLeod with a 74 but it wasn't to be for the trophy, which went to Bob Pitcairn of Canada with one of only two 75s on the range.

The last pre-Grand match on day three (the Tilton) took place at 300 metres and 600 yards and Sandy Walker took the honours with 100.18 just ahead of the Captain and Jon Underwood. This result also meant that Chris took the Champlain Aggregate for the pre-Grand matches. Now on to the Grand, where we started off with the MacDougall at 300 metres and 500 yards. Rick Shouler was first to take the lead by winning the MacDougall with 100.17. The Norman Beckett at 300 metres would start off the second day of the Grand and it was Chloe Evans who made the most of the conditions with a 50.10.

The 600 yards of the Col John Brick was trickier than the 500 and very easy to get caught in the aim. The conditions didn't deter Jon Underwood or Chris Mitchell, as

BCRA INTERNATIONAL MATCH				
Captain	Chris Weeden			
Target Coaches	Reg Roberts, Jon Underwood			
	300yd	500yd	600yd	Total
	JON UNDE	RWOOD		
P Wheeler	50.7v	49.5v	50.5v	149.17v
B Craig	50.4v	50.8v	49.4v	149.16v
C Mitchell	50.8v	50.7v	50.6v	150.21v
S Walker	50.7v	50.5v	50.8v	150.20v
	REG ROBERTS			
E Dickson	50.7v	50.6v	50.7v	150.20v
T Laing-Baker	49.9v	49.5v	49.3v	147.17v
R Birtwistle	50.4v	50.6v	47.6v	147.16v
C Evans	50.8v	50.6v	49.2v	149.16v
Total	399.54v	398.49v	394.41v	1193.144v
US Washington Wranglers	1174.101v			
BCRA	1156.93v			

they were tied with James Cook of the Army on 100.15. Jon went on to win the tie-shoot. We moved back to the second half of the Norm Beckett at 800 metres. We were shooting in 'once in a lifetime' conditions as the solar eclipse was making its way across North America, which meant during the shoot we saw a 70 per cent eclipse.

CANADA MATCH, OTTAWA				
Captain	Chris Weeden			
Adjutant	Charles Brooks			
Target Coaches		Reg Roberts, J	on Underwood	
Reserves		Chris Mitchell	, Tom Rylands	
	300yd	500yd	600yd	Total
	JON	UNDERWOO	D	
N Ball	50.8v	50.6v	50.7v	150.21v
I Shaw	50.7v	50.6v	50.5v	150.18v
S Walker	50.9v	48.5v	50.9v	148.23v
R Shouler	50.6v	50.8v	50.6v	150.20v
	RE	G ROBERTS		
D Rose	50.3v	50.8v	50.8v	150.19v
E Dickson	50.5v	50.7v	50.6v	150.18v
C Evans	50.7v	50.7v	50.5v	150.19v
A McLeod	50.5v	50.6v	50.9v	150.20v
Total	400.50v	398.53v	400.55v	1198.158v
Canada	398.44v	394.46v	396.51v	1188.141v

After a wash-out on day five, we were keen to get stuck in on day six, where we would shoot the President's and the Gibson, which had been moved back to 900. The 300-metre and 500-yard details had a light wind that kept us on our toes, but GB still had a large array of 50s. Then the Gibson, whose wind conditions managed to shake up the leaderboard, with most of the team dropping two or three – but Ian reigned supreme with one of only two 50s on the range. Ian stormed into the lead in the Grand, one point ahead of the USA's Kent Reeve.

The 600-yard detail of the President's saw breezy conditions – enough to push you out. Brit John Deane took the honours on 150.24, with Chloe and Nigel Ball close behind on 22 Vs. More trophies were confirmed with Ian winning the Gil Boa Agg, Jon taking the Gzowski & Klondike, Chloe collecting the Harrison, and the Victoria Rifles going to Surrey RA Blue (Shaw, Rose, Evans, and Underwood).

Day seven would include the Gibson at 300 metres and 600 yards (which counted towards the Governor General's Final) and our first team match in Ottawa, the Outlander. Jon's 149.17 was enough to take the spoils in the Gibson, and Nigel took the All-Comers Agg. The Outlander was GB vs GB affair as sadly no other teams entered. The official GB team won by a fine

COMMONWEALTH MATCH, OTTAWA					
Captain	otain Chris Weeden				
Adjutant	Tom Rylands				
Target Coaches	Reg Roberts	, Jon Underwood, Cł	narles Brooks		
Reserves	Ber	Craig, Tom Laing-Ba	aker		
	800m	900m	Total		
	JON UNDE	RWOOD			
N Ball	50.7v	49.3v	99.10v		
C Mitchell	50.7v	50.4v	100.11v		
P Chapman-Sheath	50.4v	48.4v	98.8v		
R Shouler	50.7v	50.4v	100.11v		
CHARLES BROOKS					
S Walker	50.7v	48.4v	98.11v		
P Wheeler	50.6v	48.2v	98.8v		
R Birtwistle	50.4v	50.4v	100.8v		
A McLeod	50.8v	50.5v	100.13v		
REG ROBERTS					
D Rose	50.6v	50.5v	100.11v		
E Dickson	50.7v	49.4v	99.11v		
C Evans	50.7v	49.4v	99.11v		
I Shaw	50.6v	49.6v	99.12v		
Total	600.76v	590.49v	1190.137v		
Canada	598.86v	583.48v	1181.134v		

margin with a score of 1154.116 to GB's second team on 1152.116.

Day eight saw the end of the Grand and Ian Shaw did not disappoint in the Gatineau, finishing with 74 to take the Grand with Nigel, Angus, Jon and Chloe all in the top 10. The excitement gave the team a huge boost for the Canada Match. GB shot exceptionally at 300 yards to go clean with Canada two points behind, and the lead was extended further at 500 yards. On the final range at 600 yards, GB again went clean to take the trophy with 1198.158 (the third highest ever score) to Canada's 1188.141.

Commonwealth Match

The team had the Commonwealth Match on day nine at 800 and 900 metres. GB started by going clean, though Canada were only two points behind and up on Vs. After a wobble at 900 metres, GB regained composure and closed out the match, finishing on 1190.125 to Canada's 1181.134.

No rest for the wicked – now it was the Governor General's Final. A strong start



from many of GB meant Chloe Evans took the lead going into 900 metres with Nigel Ball and Ian Shaw just Vs behind. A tense 900 metres went down to the wire with Chloe and Nigel both dropping a point to finish one off. Ian held his nerve to come from behind and take the title (and the traditional chairing off the range) after going clean at 900.

GB's further haul included Nigel collecting the 21st Century Aggregate, Classification Aggregate and Maple Leaf Aggregate; Chloe picking up the Short Range Aggregate, Coulter, Otter and Tess Spencer; Jon Underwood taking the Dick Hampton, Lt Gen WA Milroy and the MFC Walker; and Ian winning the Polar Bear Aggregate. GB members also picked up trophies for the Junior/Senior pairs (Chris Weeden and Luke Malcic of the Athelings), the Gillespie and Mayor of Bagshot going to Surrey RA Blue and the Champion Pairs going to Parker and Lady Penelope (Nigel Ball and Chloe Evans). A fantastic end to a successful and very happy tour.





Cadets around the world

Robert Bruce, General Secretary of the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting, reports on three successful Cadet tours to South Africa, Canada and Jersey

GREAT BRITAIN U19 TEAM TO REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

The purpose of this tour was to expose young shooters to high-level international competition to further their shooting development. The team competed in the Free State Open Meeting and RSA Bisley Championships at Bloemfontein. Tour dates were from 15 March to 10 April 2017.

The team consisted of three staff and eight firers:

Commandant: Wg Cdr Peter Turner (Air Training Corps)

Adjutant and coach: Maj Mark Geernaert-Davies (Surrey ACF)

Lady Officer and coach: Lt Hattie Bennett RLC (formerly Gresham's School)

Team Members:

Harriet Bramwell (Shrewsbury School CCF) Charles Brewin (Elizabeth College CCF) Rebecca Harrison (2 (NI) Bn ACF) Oliver Hudson (Elizabeth College CCF) Elliot Sewell (Bradfield College CCF) Tobias Shalom (Reading University) Jordan Stewart (2 (NI) Bn ACF) Polly Winter (Hants & IoW ACF)

Results

Free State Open. Individuals competed at 300, 600, 800 and 900 metres. Conditions were fairly warm – 32 degrees C at 800m – with tricky winds. Harriet Bramwell and Oliver Hudson shot particularly well to finish second and third respectively in the Junior Aggregate.

Southern International Challenge. This was also shot at 300, 600, 800 and 900m. Harriet continued her fine performance when she finished in the top 100.



Southern International Challenge – Junior International Match. This was the first team match and the Brits beat the RSA U19s convincingly by a margin of 69 points – over 10 points more per firer.

RSA Junior International Match. Despite a challenging wind the GB U19s again defeated the RSA U19s – this time by a margin of 20 points. Rebecca Harrison put in a fine performance to shoot the top score. It was appropriate that the GB team won this match as the trophy had kindly been donated by the Fraser family to commemorate Simon (former General Secretary of CCRS) who had sadly died earlier in the year. State President's Match. Elliot Sewell, Harriet Bramwell, Charles Brewin and Tobias Shalom shot some very respectable scores in stages 1 and 2 – but it was Oliver Hudson who made it through to the State President's final and finished 82nd, a very commendable performance indeed for which he received a State President's badge.

Junior International Protea Match. The GB team again beat RSA U19s – this time by 31 points to make it a clean sweep of victories over their RSA friends. Oliver Hudson again stood out by shooting the top score.

Individual performances. Individual team members won many medals with Harriet Bramwell securing 7 and Tobias Shalom 6.

UK CADET RIFLE TEAM (U17) TOUR TO JERSEY

The purpose of the tour is to enable UK cadets with shooting potential to compete at a higher level than usual in order to help improve their skills and ability. The team competed in the Jersey Rifle Association championships. Tour dates were 18-29 August 2017.

The team comprised two staff and 12 cadets as follows:

Commandant: Fg Officer Alison Carnell (ATC)

Adjutant and coach: FS Stuart Lay (Charterhouse CCF)

Team members:

Henry Ardern (Gresham's School CCF) Freddie Cade (Sedbergh School CCF) William Cubitt (Gresham's School CCF) Ben Danziger (Gresham's School CCF) James Dixon (Bradfield College CCF) Hugo Donovan (Bradfield College CCF) Struan Freeborn (Sedbergh School CCF) Jemima Hince (Wellington College CCF) James Nicholls (Pates School CCF) Maxwell Pybus (Sedbergh School CCF) Alexander Rooney (Oakham School CCF) Harry Welch (Sedbergh School CCF)

RESULTS

The team shot well collectively and retained The Cheshire Cup and the Mr P Trophy.

There were some commendable performances in the Grand Aggregate, notably from Jemima Hince, who finished 13th and was top Under 21 individual. James Dixon was 14th, Hugo Donovan 17th, James Nicholls 21st, William Cubitt 22nd, Freddie Cade 23rd, Henry Ardern 24th, Ben Danziger 26th, Struan Freeborn 33rd, Harry Welch 37th, Alexander Rooney 39th and Maxwell Pybus 42nd.





BRITISH CADET RIFLE TEAM (THE ATHELINGS) (U18) TOUR TO CANADA

A total of 18 youngsters under Commandant, Captain Verna Burrell-Taylor, took part in the British Cadet Rifle Team (The Athelings) Under 18 tour to Canada in August.

They were competing in the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Championships and also the Royal Canadian Army Cadet National Full-bore Championships; both were fired at Connaught ranges in Ottawa. Tour dates were 3-31 August 17.

The team comprised three staff and 18 cadets as follows:

Commandant: Capt Verna Burrell-Taylor (Charterhouse CCF)

Adjutant and coach: AUO Alistair Smyth (1st Bn The Highlanders ACF)

Armourer and coach: Maj Alwyn McLean (Army Reserve)

Team members:

James Barlow (Dollar Academy CCF) Harriet Bramwell (Shrewsbury School CCF) Thomas de la Cour (Victoria College CCF) Samuel Edwards (Epsom College CCF) Shaun Flanagan (Hants and IoW ACF) Katie Hinkly (Wellington College CCF) James Hollingdale (Wellington College CCF) Michael Larcombe (Epsom College CCF) Matthew Le Vasseur (Elizabeth College CCF) Tobias Little (Gresham's School CCF) Luke Malcic (Elizabeth College CCF) Alex McConnell (Dollar Academy CCF) Cameron Moore (2 (NI) Bn ACF) Robert Murray (Wellington College CCF) Dominic Neal (Victoria College CCF) George Oakland (Wellington College CCF) William Ross (Sedbergh School CCF) Jack Scambler (Victoria College CCF)

RESULTS

Team matches. The Rex Goddard team match is fired in two stages, the first taking place at Cadet Bisley and the second fired a few weeks later in Canada. The competition was extremely close with the Athelings winning stage one by 775.58v to 769.53v and hanging on to win by 1575.113v to 1571.100v after being pipped by the Canadian cadets 802.47v to 800.55v in stage two. The Athelings also won the Michael Faraday match with a score of 1202.75v against the RCAC NRT total of 1158.61v. The GB Under 25 team – consisting mainly of Athelings – also won the international long-range match.

Individuals' performances. Seven cadets finished in the top 100 of the DCRA (MacDonald-Stewart) Grand Aggregate: Will Ross was 65th, Toby Little 77th, Michael Larcombe 81st, Luke Malcic 84th, Matthew Le Vasseur 93rd, Shaun Flanagan 95th and Alex McConnell 99th.

Similar performances were also recorded in the Canadian Cadet Full-bore Championships Grand Aggregate with five in the top 20. Alex McConnell was fifth, Luke Malcic sixth, Michael Larcombe ninth, Tom de la Cour 12th and Harriet Bramwell 19th.



Steve Probert, winner of a Hatsan Raider shotgun in the NRA Shotgun League prize draw, gives us his thoughts on the gun

fter recovering from my surprise and delight at winning a shotgun just for taking part in the NRA Shotgun League, I was keen to find out what it would be like. My first impression of the Hatsan Raider was positive – I liked the way it looked and felt as it came out of the box, and my first impressions were confirmed when shooting with it on a cold sunny day at Shield with Rob Pike, George Granycome and Cansh Pope on hand to give advice.

I expected issues with the feed, and was pleasantly surprised when the first five rounds fed without a hitch. After a couple of boxes of Pigeon Power 29gms I was impressed – not a single failure to feed or fire. A tendency to muzzle flip was only to be expected on a light barrel with no brake on the end.

Moving on to slug, I shot a reasonable group about six inches below the point of aim, something easily corrected as the rear sight is adjustable with a flat screwdriver. The sight picture is clear, with the green dots on the rear sight wide of the red dot foresight, giving more target acquisition. The safety catch is a standard cross bolt. The bolt release catch slides up rather than pushes in – an improvement on the common type of open class shotgun that can give you a nasty surprise when cleaning if you lay the gun down on its left side. I also like the range of chokes, including true cylinder, with their extended knurling doing away with the need for a tightening key.

The removable carry handle is balanced nicely in the gun's centre of gravity, and fixes in place with a couple of hand-tightened bolts. It is not integral to the rear sight, so it gives you an easy choice as to whether to use it or not. The bolt cocking handle has a chunky rubber grip, and there's a clip for two spare rounds in the stock recess.

A field strip of the Raider is simple and quick, with one unusual feature: a feed ramp that slips down with the release of a latch. This needs to be

lowered before you can disassemble and reassemble the gun. The feed ramp comes away by tapping out its retaining pin – something to bear in mind when putting the gun back together, as it can easily be overlooked if you aren't familiar with it. The trigger group comes out with the removal of two pins. Replacing the trigger can be fiddly as it doesn't have a positive locating point and needs tapping gently to align the pin bushings to the receiver holes. Apart from that, the parts went back together sweetly - no need to turn up with everything in a carrier bag and a sheepish look as you hand it over to Steve Pike for him to sort out.

The Raider comes with a set of stock drop spacers, which fit between the stock and receiver. Two spacers raise or lower the fit and one provides a cast either to left or right – a nice touch for left-handed shooters. I didn't use the spacers as the fit felt right for me as it was, and shotgun competitions at Shield usually involve shooting from the weaker shoulder.

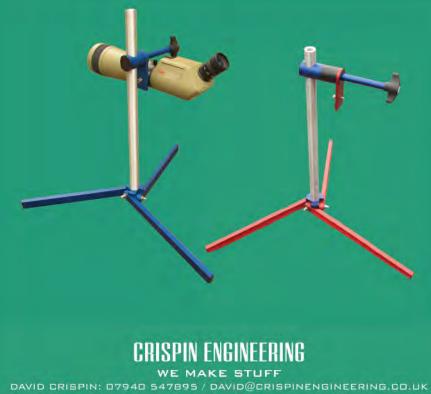
Sadly I was unable to try the 10-round magazines as they were on back order, but they are now in stock and will ensure that this shotgun is competitive in open division.

For me the Hatsan Raider feels right, shoots reliably and accurately, and strips easily so it just remains to say a big thank you to Edgar Brothers, The National Rifle Association, James Harris and everyone at Shield Shooting Centre. ■

Technical Specification

Model Hatsan Escort Raider Bores available 12, 20 Barrel lengths available 24in, 26in, 28in Chokes Multi-choke Magazine capacity 2, 5, 7 or 10 Stock finishes Camouflage, matt black, green Other features Rubber recoil pad, sling swivels, Picatinny rail, adjustable front and rear sights RRP From £773 Contact 01625 613177 www.edgarbrothers.com

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Reports roundup

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

MATCH RIFLE EVENTS BY ALEX CARGILL THOMPSON

MR went high-tech this autumn, when two of the three big Match Rifle events were shot on electronic targets.

The National Rifle Club of Scotland Autumn Open Meeting was shot on the now well-established electronic targets at Blair Atholl on the first weekend of September. The North London Rifle Club decided to give the new electronic targets on Stickledown a go for their championships as well and it proved a great success.

There were a few issues with the electronics at Blair, which were quickly



fixed, while competitors on Stickledown encountered very few obvious problems. A few things need improving to ensure the smooth running of a bigger competition, but as more and more people get used to the different rhythm of electronic target shooting, the targets will no doubt be sought after.

Scotland was showing itself from its sunniest and warmest side and conditions were relatively easy on the Saturday which led to a new record of 10 shooters scoring 100 at 987 yards. The only distraction were the midges which decided to join into the fun.

They had disappeared by Saturday afternoon which indicated that the wind had got stronger and the Sunday was definitely more difficult. The fact that only two shooters managed to score above 90 at 1233 yards says it all.

The 1114 yards pairs was won by Zoe Woodroffe and Ron Scaglione (third overall) with 327.25v. Tim Kidner won with an impressive 431.49v, a full five points ahead of the next competitor. He also received the Sandeman trophy for the best Scot. Best visitor was Alex Cargill Thompson (426.36v and second





overall) and the top shot who hasn't shot in the Elcho was Ian Thomson (422.33v).

The English VIII and Irish Rifle Club Autumn Meeting on 23 and 24 September was also sunny and wind conditions were generally not too challenging. Butt marking was excellent and Team Turner did an excellent job as range officers for more than 50 entrants.

Mike Baillie-Hamilton emerged victorious overall with 443.58v, ahead of Rob Lygoe with 442.67v and Jon Sweet another point behind and 57vs. Saturday was won by Nick Tremlett with 222.23v and Rob Lygoe was top scorer on Sunday with 224.37v. The 1200 yards aggregate was won by Mike Baillie-Hamilton with 146.19v and Fergus Flanagan won the Under 25 trophy with 420.34v.

Rob Lygoe won both the Pilcher Platter (highest score in English Spring and Autumn meetings) and the Auditor's Cup (both of those meetings and the Hopton) ahead of Nick Tremlett and Si Whitby.

The North London Rifle Club Championships were shot in early October – and again the weather gods were kind to the shooters. The overall winner of the Cunningham Cup was Jon Sweet. Zoe Woodroffe won the 1200 yards aggregate and the top Tyro prize, while Si Whitby was victorious on the Saturday and Jon on the Sunday. Hattie Mansell was the Under 25 winner.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH RIFLE CLUB OPEN MEETING BY DAVID ROSE

The BCRC Open Meeting has long been the traditional warm-up for Target Rifle shooters before the Imperial Meeting, a chance to use the same ammunition as issued for the main meeting and to hone those all-important self-coaching techniques and wind reading skills.

Entries were up again, more than 115 over the weekend with competitors from the UK, Canada and Australia, ranging from Cadets to Veterans.

Saturday comprised four short range competitions starting with the West Indies and after a quick search for the tie-shoot contenders, who had all scored 50.9, Capt Alwyn McLean emerged victorious, beating Graham Nelson and Capt James Cook.

The India at 500 yards was won by David Luckman beating Jon Underwood in the tie shoot after both had scored 50.9. Conditions became trickier in the afternoon with a flicking wind over the left shoulder, John Evans emerging the winner of the Africa with the sole 50.9 at 500 yards.

Moving to 600 yards for the Canada match, only seven competitors recorded the maximum of 75 points with David Luckman taking victory on a tie-shoot again.

At the end of the first day David took the day's Dominion Aggregate by 11 v-bulls from Bruce Logan, with a tightly packed field chasing at their heels.

On Sunday a fishtailing wind from the front was tricky for all competitors. Early honours went to Chris Watson with a 50.8 in the Falkland Islands. At 900 yards shooting slowed as competitors struggled to judge the rapidly changing wind. The Australia was won by Charles Dickenson with 75.6, the only 75 on the range.

In the afternoon we moved to the 1,000-yard point for the New Zealand, where several competitors remarked on the difficult conditions being not dissimilar from those experienced on the range at Trentham in the competition's mother country. Only seven competitors recorded a score of 70 or over, and Wing Commander David Calvert topped the tree with a fine 73.11.

The Ceylon Long Range Aggregate was taken by Charles Dickenson, who counted out David Luckman on 194.20 with a superior v-count at 1,000 yards. David hung on to win the Open Championship with 418.54, two points ahead of John Warburton with Chris Watson third.

Thanks to Peter Turner and Jerry Gloag for running a tight ship on the range, and to Izzy Logan and her crew for putting on cream teas.

RESULTS							
WEST INDIES (300 YARDS)							
1.	Capt Alwyn McLean	50.9v (tie 25.3v)					
2.	Dr Graham Nelson 50.9v (tie 25.2v)						
З.	Capt James Cook	50.9v (tie 23.2v)					
	INDIA (50	00)					
1.	David Luckman	50.9v (tie 25.4v)					
2.	Jon Underwood	50.9v (tie 25.2v)					
З.	Oliver Spencer	50.7v					
	AFRICA (5	500)					
1.	John Evans	50.9v					
2.	Gary Alexander	50.8v					
3.	Matthew Millar	50.8v					
	CANADA (600)					
1.	David Luckman	75.12 (tie 25.2v)					
2.	Bruce Logan	75.12 (tie 24.3v)					
3.	Maj Angus McLeod	75.11v					
	FALKLAND ISLA	NDS (900)					
1.	Chris Watson	50.8v					
2.	Jack Alexander	50.7v					
З.	Jon Underwood	50.7v					
	AUSTRALIA (900)						
1.	Charles Dickenson	75.6v					

2.	David Luckman	74.11v						
З.	Amie Clarke	74.9v						
	NEW ZEALANI	D (1,000)						
1.	Wg Cdr David Calvert	73.11v						
2.	James Postle	72.2v						
3.	Charles Dickenson	71.7v						
DOM	INION AGGREGATE	E (SHORT RANGE)						
1.	David Luckman	224.34v						
2.	Bruce Logan	224.23v						
З.	Maj Angus McLeod	223.34v						
RA	RAMPOOR AGOG (300, 600 AND 900)							
1.	David Luckman	198.31v						
2.	Jane Messer	198.23v						
З.	Maj Angus McLeod	197.26v						
CE	YLON AGGREGATE	(LONG RANGE)						
1.	Charles Dickenson	194.20v (71.7v at 1,000x)						
2.	David Luckman	194.20v (71.5v at 1,000x)						
З.	John Warburton	193.15v						
COMMONWEALTH AGGREGATE(OVERALL)								
1.	David Luckman	418.54v						
2.	John Warburton	416.43v						
3.	Chris Watson	413.53v						

THE AGES MATCH BY CHARLES DICKENSON

The Ages Match is a fun but competitive way to close out the main Target Rifle season before most TR shooters go into winter hibernation. Teams are made up of shooters and coaches in 10-year age bands, from Under 25 to Over 65, and over the years every age group has won the match at least once, which goes to prove that Target Rifle truly is a sport that can be enjoyed competitively by shooters of all ages.

The match format is teams of 10 shooters firing two sighters plus 10 rounds to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards, followed by two plus 15 at 900 and 1,000 yards.

None was more committed than Canadian Dan Chisholm from New Brunswick, who made an astonishing round trip of over 7,500 miles. Using a borrowed rifle and shooting jacket, he still managed to score 296.36 ex-300.60, equalling the top score of his team with just two fewer Vs.

Six teams contested the match on 28 October. With a number of potential team members away in Brisbane contesting the Commonwealth Shooting Federation championships, a single 35-54s team was entered. The weather was good, if cool (7 degrees C at the start of the match), with plenty of sunshine. The north-westerly wind, which started gentle, picked up through the 300 yards shoot until it required about a minute of correction. It was not enough to trouble most teams and they got off to an impressive start, the 55-64s setting the early pace with a 496.71 ex-500.100.

At 500 yards the scoring was even higher in winds of $1\frac{1}{2}-2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes, with all six teams recording 490 or better. At 600 yards the wind became a bit more fickle, varying rapidly in angle by enough to leech points and Vs. The wind allowance required flicked between one and $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes with little warning and scores were generally down.

At 900 yards the wind was a little stronger. The 55-64s and Under 25s both managed to average 73s ex-75, with the former beating the latter by a single point for the fourth range in a row, but the Over 65s had a bit of a nightmare shoot – signs of the approaching Halloween?

The wind became more blustery as the 1,000 yards shoot progressed, playing into the hands of the teams that shot fastest.

The 55-64s were among the early finishers with what turned out to be the top score of the range: 717.72, cementing their top place to win with 2932.365 ex-3000.600, with the Under 25s hot on



their heels, as they had been throughout, on 2918.323.

All teams had at least one high score of 293 or better, but top of the pile was John Bellringer of the 55-64s, who dropped just a single point early in his 1000 yards shoot to record 299.44 ex-300.60 – a superb shoot and a credit to main coach Nick Tremlett and his target coach Reg Roberts. Will Broad of the Under 25s was just a point behind him on 298.40.

The Under 25 team's performance bodes well as they prepare for the World Long Range Championships in New Zealand in early 2019.

Photography by Kevin Hill

RESULTS: TOP INDIVIDUALS									
TEAM	TEAM TOP	300	500	600	900	1000	SR	LR	TOTAL
55-64	John Bellringer	50.07	50.08	50.06	75.14	74.09	150.21	149.23	299.44
Under 25	Will Broad	50.07	50.10	50.07	75.09	73.07	150.24	148.16	298.40
35-54	Andy Daw	50.07	50.09	50.04	74.08	72.10	150.20	146.18	296.38
25-34	James Cook	50.07	49.07	50.07	72.10	74.09	149.21	146.19	295.40
U25 Dev't	D Clarke	49.06	50.05	49.05	72.09	74.09	148.16	146.18	294.34
Over 65	Mick Silver	49.08	50.06	49.07	73.11	72.05	148.21	145.16	293.37

	RESULTS: OVERALL									
	TEAMS	300	500	600	900	1000	SR	LR	TOTAL	
1	55-64	496.071	497.073	491.058	731.091	717.072	1484.202	1448.163	2932.365	
2	Under 25	495.062	496.066	490.054	730.076	707.065	1481.182	1437.141	2918.323	
3	35-54	495.062	494.072	493.056	718.072	709.062	1482.190	1427.134	2909.324	
4	25-34	493.061	497.064	490.057	725.079	686.054	1480.182	1411.133	2891.315	
5	U25 Dev't	478.047	490.052	481.040	715.068	687.052	1449.139	1402.120	2851.259	
6	Over 65	488.055	492.064	479.051	698.068	690.053	1459.170	1388.121	2847.291	











Service rifle and the .303

Raf Jah looks at the rise of historic service rifle shooting, with a CSR event in his sights

here is nothing quite as exciting as a service rifle shoot. The marksman has to take all the principles of marksmanship and compress them into seconds, as a small target appears in a flash, holds for a moment and then drops below the mantlet.

Standing, kneeling, sitting and prone shooting are all required within minutes or seconds of the previous position. The shooting is almost instinctive, but when the wind gets up and the distances increase, there is no avoiding a mental ballistic calculation that has to be done in seconds.

The service rifleman's body has to be flexible, the brain agile and the hold on the rifle rock steady. Add into this equation a heavy wooden rifle that was designed over a century ago for a conflict on the highlands of Africa, and you end up with a monumental challenge. This is the world of historic service rifle competitions.

Service rifle shooting with Lee Enfields was once very popular among NRA members, but it fell by the wayside until 1998 when a new discipline was started, that of Civilian Service Rifle (CSR) shooting. The UK CSR league is now a large part of civilian shooting. Within a few years, the Lee Enfields were replaced by more modern, user-friendly rifles.

But there was always a desire to shoot old rifles among the members. So in 2014 the NRA and the Lee Enfield Rifle Association (LERA) got together to create the first historic service rifle competition. Indeed, CSR shooting is now perceived to be the fastest growing shooting sport in the UK. So successful was the first year that a second historic shoot was added at the end of the CSR Season. It was with this background in mind that I found myself in the butts hauling down a target. All historic and civilian service rifle competitions require shooters to work the targets for the other shooters. The .303 round cracked over my head and deep into the sand. It was well wide of the target.

"Do you want to tell the shooter where he is going?" I asked the butts officer. "He'll ask if he needs to," he replied sagely. The second sighting shot was closer but still missed.

The butts officer looked at me and said: "I don't have much sympathy – this is supposed to be a shooting competition." He strode off, busying himself with the last seconds of preparation. No one asked any more questions and all too soon the newly patched targets were ready to be hoisted.

"Targets up," came the command from the venerable butts officer. I hoisted mine and with that the shoot started. Thankfully my shooter must have seen the splash of his missed shots as bullet after bullet smacked into the target. After 45 seconds the shout went over the loudspeaker: "Targets down."



I obeyed the command, counted up the shooters' scores, noted them on a scrap of paper, and inserted the orange spotting discs. There is no time to waste on a service rifle shoot. The targets must be up and shown quickly so that the next shoot can begin. My biggest concern was to avoid underscoring a fellow shooter.

"Did this cross the line?" I showed my neighbour, Blair, a very experienced professional.

Blair is an old Africa hand, and a superb shot with a .303. Often he is asked to work as an official at such competitions. He glanced at my target





and the round that came oh-so-close to breaking the line of the 5 ring.

"Yes mate, give him that one." Blair went back to his own target as I waited for the scorer to come down and take scores. As soon as the scores were given and the shooters declined to challenge, we hauled down the targets and patched them for the next practice. Speedy stuff, usually done by a two-man team.

By chance I was on my own, but my neighbours lent a hand now and again. Soon enough the practices were all over and we walked back to the car park, collected our kit and hurried to the firing point.

Less than a quarter of an hour later, I found myself lying prone on a damp Bisley mound with a Canadian-made Long Branch .303 clenched in my clammy hands. A DP1 target appeared as if by magic in front of me. The black and white swirls are the civilian version of the "charging Ivan" figure 11. I raised the Long Branch into my shoulder and let the foresight rest on the centre of the DP1.

I fired, reloaded rapidly and fired again. I repeated the process until my magazine was empty. By this time I had broken out into a sweat. The stress of trying to get all the rounds on target was noticeable. Everyone around me was still shooting. I looked about and eventually the targets disappeared. It seemed I might have been faster than was necessary.

"You had 45 seconds," said Peter Cottrell, the head of the shooting division, and the inspiration behind the Historic Service Rifle competition. "But I think you got your rounds off in 10!" He was joking but he made a valid point. My scores were commensurate with my speed rather than care. I took more time on the next practice.

Using 180-grain Sellier and Bellot ammunition requires some thought. The bullet comes out faster than PPU at 2,400fps, but the weight means that it does drop slightly more inconsistently than the ladder sights on a .303. The wonderful thing about it is that it does not waver in slight to mild wind. It is what a shooting aficionado calls "a very slippery pill".

Slightly annoyingly the wind was neither slight nor mild, but came in occasional sneaky but powerful gusts which seemed to appear in consonance with the DP1. The DP1 flashed up and I lined the sights up with the swirl, the wind picked up suddenly and blew past my face, I held off on the edge of the target and squeezed the trigger. Taking my time, my scores were far more respectable. They were still nowhere near the top shooters but thankfully a good distance from the bottom. The shoot worked its way back to 300 yards and volley after volley of .303 bullets went down-range.

All too soon the final practice was over. The shooting stopped, the hooter went, and Bisley fell silent once again. Some shooters did incredibly well, dropping only a few points. They were recognised at the informal prizegiving ceremony at the end of the day. Peter Cottrell asked Mick Kelly of the LERA, and an invaluable source of information on all things Enfield, to present the medals. The sky darkened, winter getting ever closer, and as soon as the final medal changed hands, we retired in good order.

KNOW AND GO

The next NRA shoot will be at the end of the CSR season. Contact the shooting division for details. The Lee Enfield Rifle Association runs (historic) service rifle and (historic) target shoots throughout the year. The LERA welcomes new members, both experienced and novice, who wish to add shooting Lee Enfields (or other historic rifles) to their shooting calendar. Contact the Association Secretary on seclera303@ gmail.com stating whether or not you have an FAC and SSC. Membership of the LERA is a mere £40.

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Meet the reps

Here's how to get in touch with the representative of every NRA discipline...



300M *Ian Shirra-Gibb* 300m@nra.org.uk

Classics and Historics

Neil Macfarlane classic@nra.org.uk



I've been a keen shooter for more than 40 years. Starting with air rifles and pistols as a teenager, the first – of pre-WW2 vintage – may have actually been responsible for initiating an interest in historic arms.

When I moved on to rimfire and centrefire rifles and handguns, I became particularly interested in their

technical aspects – and their history. Time in the Army also offered the opportunity to experience a wide range of firearms (old and new) in a number of locations. These days, when I'm not out shooting on the range or in the field, I spend my time helping organise and run related events. Historic and Classic Arms is a fascinating discipline, combining the usual practical challenges with a unique technical element tracing the development and evolution of small arms. The range of firearms used, combined with the breadth of competitions, means there really is something for everyone – so why not give it a try some time?



F Class David Kent fclass@nra.org.uk

Schools & Cadets Lt Col Robert Bruce gensec@ccrs.org.uk



My name is Robert Bruce and I took up the appointment of General Secretary of the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting (CCRS) about 12 months ago. CCRS promotes and organises the sport of target rifle shooting across the four cadet youth movements (Combined Cadet Force, Sea Cadet

Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps) to promote character development in line with the movements' overall intent. We operate at the higher performance levels and organise national finals in the disciplines of clay, .22, 5.56mm and 7.62mm. Our work with cadets is facilitated through a formal agreement with the Ministry of Defence. CCRS is also responsible for organising three international teams: the UK Cadet Rifle Team (U17), the British Cadet Rifle Team (U18 – The Athelings) and the GB U19 team (in which we work in partnership with the NRA). Our small staff of three is based at Derby Lodge on Bisley Common.

Target Rifle

Charles Dickenson target@nra.org.uk



I first encountered fullbore rifles at university in 1973 and rapidly became hooked, both on shooting and wind coaching. I broke my Tyro status in style on my first TR competition in

my first Imperial Meeting, with third place in the Clock Tower (now Admiral Hutton). Further early success (two top 25 Grand Agg places and two top 12 Queen's Final places in two years) resulted in my first GB overseas tour, to Canada with the 1982 GB Palma team.

Shooting subsequently took a lower profile (wife Sue is not convinced) as a growing

family and work (weapon engineer officer in the Royal Navy until 1993, then engineering consultant and project manager in GEC Marconi/BAE Systems) took priority. Once my son and daughter left home, my shooting and coaching had a resurgence, which resulted in a number of selections for NRA, England and GB teams, both as shooter and coach. These included captaining the 2011 NRA team to the Channel Islands and Vice-Captain of the 2016 GB Team to Canada and the USA. My tally of Queen's Final appearances has now reached 11, and I have a respectable number of county championships to my name, with Dorset and, since 1993, with Berkshire.

I also shoot 25-yard small-bore at club and county level (Berkshire county indoor champion in 2014) and, having taken early retirement, have resumed Match Rifle after a 40-year gap, enjoying the challenge of reading the wind out to 1,200 yards. Over the years I have also shot service rifle, pistol and sub-machine gun, and had an occasional go at sporting rifle, gallery rifle, muzzle loaders and shotgun.

When not shooting, organising shooting, thinking about shooting, coaching less experienced shooters or acting as treasurer to shooting organisations (just two at present), most of my time seems to be spent walking the dog and helping keep the ever-growing garden under some sort of control. I'd like to find the time to do more travelling, and maybe even take up golf.

Gallery Rifle & Pistol

Ted George gallery@nra.org.uk



Why did I take this role? It feels like everyone else took a step back, leaving me with the job. Neil Francis did a wonderful job as GR rep but took on a lot of tasks to help the sport that I either have

to learn to do, find someone to do them or modify them. Which option has yet to be decided.

I took up shooting pistol/revolver in UIT, 1500, and police pistol competitions in this country and

Target Shotgun

James Harris targetshotgun@nra.org.uk



I have been shooting since I was eight years old when my mother taught me to shoot. I have shot a variety of disciplines at competitive level including

TR, CSR & GR&P, but it is Target Shotgun, both slug and practical, that holds my heart.

During my tenure as Target Shotgun discipline rep, the discipline has grown tremendously. I launched three leagues for Practical shooting under the NRA banner and am active at national level to promote the sports' grass roots. Perhaps my biggest accomplishment is the NRA National Championship for Target Shotgun, the Cottesloe Heath Challenge. Now in its third year, this competition is now the largest event for Practical Shotgun in the country in a unique setting available only to the NRA and boasting in excess of 160 competitors.

The only way for the sport to continue to grow is by provision of more facilities. The modification of Winans to permit the use of shotguns will go a long way in assisting with this process. 2018 promises to be a busy year so ensure you enter matches early to avoid disappointment. abroad up to 1997. Then political correctness took over and we changed the names of the competitions. Pistol shooters became potential criminals in the media's and some politicians' eyes, though a more law-abiding group of people would have been hard to find.

I continued shooting proper guns abroad as part of a GB team, and gallery rifle and LBR in this country. Lying on the ground in a puddle with rain running down my neck shooting prone rifle was never a high point for me, though when walking in Snowdon or similar places, the rain has strangely never bothered me. those taking part so we are no longer seen as a threat. The national bodies of the sport start working towards a campaign so some centrefi pistols are allowed so people can practise in this country and maybe take part international competition. Are they possible? If you look up and see a pig fly past then I suppose we have

What would I like to see happen for the

Civilian Service Rifle & Practical Rifle *Mark Bradley*

csr@nra.org.uk



I was born in Qatar, and ever since I can remember there were firearms kicking around, so shooting is truly in my blood.

I took up shooting

formally in 1996, just as the handgun ban was taking place. When the ban was announced, I decided to diversify and get into rifle shooting, starting on the PR circuit. From that, one thing led to another and success within it followed.

I started shooting CSR at Bisley when it started in 1999. After a few years of being a successful shooter and winning many competitions, I felt that I wanted to build my own rifle. In 2006 I became an RFD and haven't looked back since.

I've been involved in the running of the Service Rifle matches and the League since 2005 when CSR started to take off in a big way, so when the opportunity presented itself to run for CSR discipline rep, it was only a natural progression into the post.

benefit of the sport and all ultimately all shooters? Better instruction for newcomers available at clubs round the country, quality training for those wanting to improve, the general population made more aware of what the sport is about, the controls applied to those taking part so we are no longer seen as a threat. The national bodies of the sport start working towards a campaign so some centrefire pistols are allowed so people can practise in this country and maybe take part international competition. Are they possible? If you look up and see a pig fly past then I suppose we have been successful in some way.

Muzzle Loading Paul Wolpe muzzle@nra.org.uk



I first shot at Bisley in about 1969 with the cadets and then in the early 1970s while at Sandhurst. I came out of the Army and went to medical

school in Birmingham, not shooting again until near the end of my studies. My father had given me a musket for Christmas when I was 12 and I had always meant to take up muzzle loading, so I joined the MLAGB in about 1980.

Family (twin daughters) and work (eight sessions as a full-time GP and for 22 years also three sessions as hospital practitioner) both got in the way, but over the last 17 years I have been shooting more and more. I qualified for the international team in 2004 and have been a steady team member since, now shooting flintlock musket, matchlock musket, military rifle and target rifle in the GB teams.

If I shoot well with a .22 it is gratifying, but if I manage to shoot well with an original muzzle-loading firearm, the satisfaction is on a different level. I have had a lot of help in the past and I am happy to try and communicate my enthusiasm and what knowledge I have picked up.



Match Rifle Alex Cargill Thompson match@nra.org.uk



Sporting Rifle Alistair Bullen sporting@nra.org.uk

Discipline Updates

The latest on the Target Rifle and Muzzle Loading scenes

TARGET RIFLE

By Charles Dickenson, Target Rifle Discipline Rep

England and Ireland Teams Tour to Guyana

Teams from England and Ireland (the latter supported by some fellow Celts from Scotland and Wales) travelled to the West Indies at the end of September to join in the Guyana National Rifle Association's 150th anniversary celebrations and compete in the individual competitions and international matches associated with the West Indies Fullbore Shooting Championships. En route, the English team stopped at Trinidad & Tobago for some R&R and a few warm-up shoots against the Trinidad & Tobago teams, while the Irish team enjoyed the pleasures of Barbados.

In Guyana, individuals in both teams picked up a large number of first, second and third prizes. Notable winners were Sandy Gill (the Scot in the Irish team) who won the Grand Aggregate, with Charlie Staples of England in third place, just behind Mahendra Persaud of Guyana. Irishman David Calvert won the 150th Anniversary Individual Shoot-off (2+7 at 300, 500 & 600 followed by 2+10 at 900 & 1000), with fellow Irishman Jack Alexander third behind Lennox Braithwaite of Guyana.

In the Long Range match, seven teams competed, with hosts Guyana showing mastery of the difficult conditions on their local range to win with 712.36v, just nine Vs ahead of Barbados on the same score. Ireland took third spot with 701.28v while England were fourth with 668.25v. England got their revenge in the subsequent Short Range match, winning with a score of 1148.85v, two points ahead of Ireland who were second on 1146.74v with hosts Guyana



third on 1142.85v – a close and hard-fought match. Well done all.

Target Rifle Coaching Courses

After a gap of over five years, we intend to reintroduce courses to qualify TR Club Coaches, starting early in the new year.

The first priority will be to re-qualify those existing (but time-expired) club, county and regional coaches. This will consist of an afternoon refresher session, after which coaches will be given the material used for the TR Skills Development course. They will also be asked to help deliver a TR Skills Development course, either at Bisley or in their local region, to demonstrate their coaching skills and ensure they are fully familiar with the TR Skills Development course material.

Unfortunately, with updates of NRA computers, some of the records of those who have completed the NRA club, county and regional coach courses have been lost. If you have qualified as an NRA club, county and/or regional coach, please can you email Peter Cottrell (peter. cottrell@nra.org.uk) with your name, the course(s) you have completed and when you completed it, with evidence such as a photograph of your certificate or badge.

Once re-qualification of existing coaches is under way, two-day courses to qualify new Club Coaches will start up. Ideally every club that shoots with Target Rifles should have a qualified TR Club Coach among their members, who can help their fellow members to learn how to shoot TR well. This is a chance to give something back to the sport from which we all derive so much pleasure.

Target Rifle Sub-Committee

The Target Rifle Sub-Committee provides help and guidance on all TR matters to me, as the TR Discipline Rep. This covers changes to rules, competitions and anything that can help to improve participation in or enjoyment of TR as a discipline. There are currently several vacancies on the TR Sub-Committee. We meet every 3-4 months. Meetings are held by Skype, to avoid the requirement to travel. If you would like to be part of the team that makes things happen in TR, please contact me at target@nra. org.uk with an indication of your TR experience, club(s) and region.

MUZZLE LOADING

By Paul Wolpe, ML discipline rep

When you get to the end of the year's muzzle loading shooting, there is the satisfaction that all the events went well and then there is the anticipation of doing the whole thing again next year. For those who organise the events, there is the prospect of repeating the hard work involved – range bookings, entry forms, squadding and lots of other admin before the event itself is actually staffed and run on the day.

Jim Hallam, who devised and ran the popular Repeating Pistol competitions for many years, is stepping back from this work, but we hope that the meetings will continue.

Range bookings at Bisley worked well last year and are now being finalised for next year. The general increase in range use at Bisley means that the dates allocated there have become the dates around which the rest of the national competitions away from Bisley are organised.

In September Great Britain sent a team of 21 shotgun, pistol and rifle/ musket shooters to the European Championships in Granada. Taking part were 22 countries and more than 200 competitors. This event was held in September (rather than the usual dates in August), to avoid the worst of the summer heat. Even with this and the first details starting at 8.30 in the morning, some competitions were shot with temperatures in the mid-30s. It was a well organised event and the ranges at Las Gabias are excellent. The GB team did almost as well as last year, coming second in the team events and fourth overall. The dominance of Germany was again emphasised. A notable performance was Josh Hough's gold in the Youth Off-hand Target Rifle. This award was made at the final banquet and was a great way to finish the week. 2018 is a World Championship year and these will be hosted by Austria at Eisenstadt.

For those who are interested in taking part in these international competitions, the qualifying scores and events are set out on the MLAGB web page. Shaun Twomey put in qualifying scores at the Oversea Team Fundraising event held at Wedgnock in October. He had shot pistol in Granada as a Tyro but qualified with an original Remington 1863 contract rifle. He joins the small group who can shoot both pistol and rifle to international standards.

The need to avoid clashes with other events meant that the Short Range Championships took place on the weekend after the team returned from Spain. Entries were down but there was some great shooting with Mark Hambleton equaling one national record and setting another with his 97 in the off-hand reproduction military rifle.

The end-of-the-month rifle practice on Short Siberia will transfer to Saturdays from Sundays in 2018. This is to take advantage of the extra 100m firing points available on Saturdays when no 200m firing is allowed.

Provisional dates are being set and the 2018 calendar will be available in November, laying out another year's worth of shooting.



Club focus

We profile two more clubs that are keen to attract new members

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB BDRPC caters for shooters with a large range of interests

Bristol and District Rifle and Pistol Club (BDRPC) is a friendly little club with about 150 members, situated in a picturesque setting a few miles to the south of Bristol, where it has two ranges.

Members shoot all sorts of firearms, including historic and black powder, from the comfort of 27 covered shooting points.

The club was formed in 1955, originally shooting on a Territorial Army Rifle Range at Pilning, by the River Severn. This was very exposed with the steady gale blowing up the Bristol Channel and in the winter a .22 range in a TA Drill Hall was used.

Soon, an abandoned quarry was found on the other side of Bristol, after a period in an old aircraft machine-gun range at Filton Aerodrome. Firing points were established for 25 and 50 metres and the number of targets was gradually increased to 14, with a corrugated iron roof over the 25-metre shooting point. Turning targets were installed; the first set of these came from Bisley, and had been used in the 1948 Olympic Games.

In 1986 BDRPC bought the quarry land outright and could then level the quarry and seriously set about developing its facilities. The Hamilton Range – named after the first Club Secretary – was constructed and the range building provides 19 shooting points all under cover. From these points, both



25 and 50 metres can be shot. The target system at both distances has automated electronic turners, which have been specially built. These are electronically controlled and fully programmable with a remote 'key-fob' control. The range also has a kitchen as well as safety areas, plus toilets.

The Watkins Range, which was created in the mid-1990s, has eight shooting points, with automated targets at 20 metres, and also houses a Committee or Training Room.

We are a Home Office approved club and so have 12 guest days per year. Visitors with FACs may shoot when invited by members; there are small fees for guests and visitors. Members can shoot any day except Christmas Day, as long as two full members are present, after 10.00am and before sunset. We also shoot elsewhere, for example Bisley.

New probationary members go through a thorough training scheme, which has been accredited by the NRA, and which includes training on muzzle-loading firearms. It is great to see more ladies are joining our ranks. Several of our members shoot for Great Britain and England Teams; the current Honorary Secretary is a former



England Team member and the current Great Britain Captain is one of our members.

Competitions are held at least once a month. All interests are catered for, since they are based around the contents of the members' gun cabinets! The main competition is a GRSB TP1 and MT over five months; there is a service rifle competition and a black-powder competition, as well as competitions for lever-action firearms, LBRs, and BP Revolvers.

Get in touch

Contact: The Membership Secretary Address: Hamilton and Saunders Ltd, PO Box 3335, Bristol BS3 9HL Email: membership@bdrpc.club Web: www.bdrpc.club



LLOYDS TSB RIFLE CLUB Based on the old Bisley Station site, this club is steeped in history but still looking to the future, with a new carriage on the way

Most people know 'the carriage' at Bisley – it's part of the scenery having been at the old Bisley Station for over 30 years. It's also home to the Lloyds TSB Rifle Club, which has been at the Station site since before the carriage arrived.

Although the club still retains the bank's name, it is not supported by them, and does not restrict membership to bank staff.

The Station and carriage give members cost-effective accommodation and somewhere to relax and socialise between shoots. Mainly small-bore and fullbore Target Rifle shooters are catered for, however the club is keen to increase membership for shooting in any format.

The club has an active fullbore shooting season at Bisley between March and September, with a range of weekend practices, league competitions and shoulderto-shoulder events against other clubs. We also have a contingent of entries into the Imperial competitions from club members who base themselves at the clubhouse.

Since the loss of our central London smallbore range as a result of Thames Tideway construction works, we are now restricted to shooting postal league competitions as a club. However, we also have two small-bore tours each year, one near Bisley in April and the second at the Norman Cross Range at Peterborough in November.

The club was formed as Lloyds Bank Rifle Club in 1910 when a 'miniature rifle'



competition was held between different sections of the St James Street bank branch, although inter-bank shooting at the bank actually began in 1897.

We have been shooting at Bisley since the early 1920s, initially with .303 calibre rifles, moving to .308 in the 1960s.

We have had much success down the years both in team competitions and as individuals and the club has frequently held both the United Banks Small-bore and Fullbore Championship Trophies. Our members have shot at County, National and International level including in GB and NRA teams and we are proud to have had a Commonwealth medallist among our membership.

The Station itself has a fascinating history. A branch line from Brookwood to Bisley was built and opened in 1890 and had two stations. One was to the west of the main Bisley Camp level crossing road near the Pavilion and known as the Pavilion station. The other was situated where the line entered the camp having just passed over the Cowshot level crossing. However the two stations were quickly abandoned and a more convenient central one was built for £300 and opened in July 1891 by the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII) and his wife Princess Alexandra. After being requisitioned by the government during both World Wars, the camp's railway eventually closed in 1952.

Our current carriage has been at the site since 1984, having been opened by Sir Ronald Melville KCB, Chairman of NRA Council. Given its age and condition it is scheduled for removal, but the club has secured a replacement sleeper carriage that is scheduled to arrive during 2018. This more modern carriage, coupled with the refurbishment of the clubhouse by the NRA over the winter, will bring better, more modern facilities to our members.

Get in touch

Email: secretary@ltsbrifleclub.org.uk Web: www.ltsbrifleclub.org.uk





Try The Shed

Robin Carter takes a look at this state-of-the-art 300-metre facility on Century

I m sure many of you will have admired the excellent picture on the Trade Members' Listing pages that appears in every copy of this Journal.

It's an early morning panorama of the Bisley Century ranges. A layer of mist hovers close to the ground, the wind flags hang motionless and alongside the poles – a windless Bisley, a sight very rarely seen by target shooters! You can see and feel the peace. To the left is a building, high on a bank, one that many have seen but not known what it is.

Affectionately known as The Shed, it is located on range 10 on Century range. It was built in the 1980s as the national 300-metre range, and has predominantly been used as such ever since. In the early 2000s the GB 300-metre club fitted out the left-hand end in the picture with 10 KME electronic targets (the same as installed by the NRA on range 19), and a control room to monitor them.

The firing points face the stop butts through roller doors, with 10 points in five bays of two on a carpeted board floor and sound deadening barriers between the bays, and each point has its own monitor scoring screen.

The 300-metre range is probably the most sophisticated fullbore Target Rifle range at Bisley, and certainly the driest and warmest!

Featuring indoor points, carpeted floor, electronic targets and a coffee maker, it is available for use by any NRA member with a shooter's certificate of competence and shooting any zeroed rifle, and by NRA affiliated clubs, whether shooting a 300 metre rifle, an NRA target rifle, F class, CSR rifle, Bench Rest, or for ammunition testing.



And as an aid to performance evaluation, especially for the serious shooter, print-outs are available of scores, group placements, group sizes and data with the distribution on an X and Y axis.

Shooters have the target entirely to themselves and can shoot in their own time without pressure, giving them an opportunity to refine their technique – or perhaps help them read the fickle Bisley wind.

New for 2018, the club will provide dedicated facilities for rifle and ammunition testing, or just ordinary Bench Rest shooting, with a dedicated firing point permanently set up with a solid Bench Rest table and rest, so that any shooter can test their rifle, and reloaders can test their ammunition. This will be available for any



shooter, but should be particularly suited to reloaders, F Class rifle shooters, and Bench Rest shooters.

Range dates for next year are to be confirmed, but all dates will be on weekends, and will include training days and match events. Training days are open to any NRA member with an SCC and shooting a zeroed rifle, or NRA affiliated clubs, and are bookable by the hour.

There will also be 300-metre match dates. They include the NRA 300-metre Championships which, as well as events for ISSF 300-metre shooters, has a competition specifically reserved for Target Rifle shooters. By arrangement TR shooters can also compete in the other 300 metre match events.

So, do you want to test your ammunition or your rifle, or train and improve your Target Rifle, F class, CSR, or Bench Rest technique, or just shoot in the dry with modern facilities?

The Shed is available to all NRA members and clubs, and in 2018 range time can be booked by contacting the NRA 300-metre representative at 300m@nra.org.uk.

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.308 Win Remington 700 GRS Hunter/Varmint Stock,	£1995
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.308 Win Remington 700 20" Barrel, GRS Beserk stock,	£1650
MTC 5-20X Genesis Scope	
.243 Win CZ 550 Stutzen Sporting Rifle Fitted with 1.5-5X	£495
Hawk Night Eye Scope	
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Bender German scope	
.22Ir Anschutz Rifles various models	from £250 to £1250









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Improved training for RCOs

David Camp reports on an overhaul of range officer safety training. with a new course set to start in January

he NRA Training Department at Bisley is now firmly established in its new office in the Pavilion with an adjoining training store and two classrooms. It continues to deliver training across the regions and at Bisley for the organisation and sport of target shooting. This is largely down to the excellent commitment of our instructors and regional trainers. Keep up the good work!

RCO Training Review

The Range Conducting Officer (RCO) course, introduced in 1997, has been constantly updated over the years but it has now reached a point where two days are not sufficient to cover the theory and practical elements of both club and MoD ranges. In addition, we find many attendees have no intention of ever using MoD land ranges; they just require formal training in the running of a safe range for their local club.

The requirement for two courses is plain and from January 2018 we will be splitting the delivery of range officer training into



Training courses for RSOs are recommended for clubs of all disciplines

a new Range Safety Officer's (RSO) course and an improved RCO course.

RSO Course

The new two-day RSO course is intended for club shooters of all levels of experience who may not have had any formal training in the practical aspects of running ranges. The primary aim of the course is to enhance range safety by



providing practical and relevant training and guidance.

It is not specific to any particular shooting discipline, or type of range, and is designed to give as much opportunity as possible for the students to practise running a safe range. Regionally the course will be tailored to the needs of individual clubs.

Time is divided roughly equally between classroom and range, and the active participation of students is essential. Much of the classroom work consists of preparatory material for the practical range work. Other essential topics, such as the law, range regulations and guest days will be covered. The RSO will command the same status as an RCO on all civilian ranges.

For many clubs who operate their own ranges, the RSO course will provide qualified range officers with relevant training in the running of a safe range, more suited to the club's requirements.

A number of NRA Regional Instructors are available to deliver this course. The booking form will be available on the NRA website shortly.

RCO Status

From 1 January 2018, the process to become an RCO eligible to run shooting on MoD ranges will change. Applicants must first pass the new RSO course before joining the RCO course. This will provide new RCOs with a minimum training pipeline of four days.

The entry requirements for the RCO course will remain, including the need for a minimum of six months' experience of assisting with the running of ranges for their club. The only other route will be converting military range qualifications within six months of leaving the services.

RCO Renewals

Early in 2018 we will implement a new

procedure for RCO qualification renewals. This is designed to provide the assurance that RCOs have maintained best knowledge and practice. All RCOs will be sent an upto-date manual and will need to pass an open book written test to qualify for their renewal. Further information about the new procedure will be announced shortly.

Probationary Training

Our probationary members' training is providing a constant flow of new shooters to the sport, with 283 people attending the final Module 5 during 2017 (up 21 per cent from 2016). To satisfy demand we are offering additional weekend and weekday courses to increase capacity by a further 20 per cent in 2018.



A survey of probationary members revealed that the top three shooting disciplines they are keen to try on completion of training are Civilian Service Rifle, Target Rifle and Gallery Rifle and Pistol. Further Skills Development courses will be provided in these three areas next year, as well as the already established Target Shotgun and Muzzle Loading introductory courses.

Club Coach (Target Rifle) Course

With the helpful support of Charles Dickenson and his Target Rifle Working Group, we will be re-introducing a Target Rifle Club Coaching qualification early in 2018.

The aim of the two-day course is to train and assess students to a recognised standard to be able to deliver TR coaching at club level. It will be open to members of the NRA or affiliated clubs who are experienced Target Rifle shooters, keen to deliver further coaching into their clubs.

Further details can be found in Charles's article on page 46. ■

FIND OUT MORE

For more details on the NRA's upcoming training initiatives, email training@nra.org.uk.

100 years on

On 5 November 2017, the Spires Rifle & Pistol Club held a competition with a historical twist to mark the centenary of Passchendaele

fter last year's shoot commemorating the centenary of the battle of the Somme, the Spires Rifle & Pistol Club decided this year to remember the Battle of Passchendaele, also known as 3rd Ypres.

We used the same format as last year, requiring competitors to use rifles of the type used in the Battle of Passchendaele. Rifles eligible included the Lee Enfield SMLE, Long Lee Enfield, Pattern 14, Mauser G98, Lebel and so on. One firing point was reserved for practice and another for the competition. We shot from bench rests to simulate trench warfare, and the only rest permitted was one sandbag. The distance was 100 yards on Short Siberia.

Competitors came from the Spires Rifle & Pistol Club and The Classic & Historic Firearm Club. For the winner, a pewter replica of an Enfield SMLE rifle awaited; second-place trophy was a similar model of a Mauser G98, and third place an antique silver spoon. All competitors received a parchment certificate.

The winner was Jason Gillan, who just happens to be a member of both clubs. Second was Vic Farmer of the Classic & Historic Club, and third place went to our youngest entrant, Lawrence Clabburn.

Holding an event in November makes it weather dependent but, thanks to the



generosity of the NRA Range Office, we were supplied with a substantial gazebo. That made a cold and windy day very tolerable. In fact we had a great deal of support from the NRA, and all the takings, after deduction of range fees, were donated to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The amount donated was £350.

Next year we intend to continue the theme with a competition to commemorate the Armistice. At that event, eligible rifles will be 'any rifle of an exact type used by any of the major armed forces in the First World War'. This brings in the US Springfield, Pattern 17 Enfield, Mosin Nagants, Turkish Mausers and some that you would not immediately think of such as Model 1892 and 1894 Winchesters (they were used by the Royal Navy, as were 7mm Remington Rolling Blocks). It should be a great show as well as an interesting competition.





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New beginning

NRA regional ranges manager Nic Couldrey reports projects to open two new ranges, and reiterates the need for exemplary conduct on military ranges

e have an emerging opportunity in Wales. I was contacted recently by Brian Llewelyn, Secretary of Pro Shoot Firearms and Shooting Sport, who wanted to re-open a disused range located near Llanbradach.

The range had been constructed on farmland in the 1960s using a 30-metre high heap of mining spoil as the stop butt. In the 1980s the range was operated by a local club and finally closed some four or five years ago. Martin Watkins, NRA Representative for Wales, and I arranged to meet Brian to look at the range and meet the landowner.

The pictures show the remains of the bullet catcher and mantlet; much of the original material has slipped over time. The old 100-yard firing point is still visible although surrounded by swampy terrain. The target shed to the left of the bullet catcher remains, including a useful reminder about range flags!

Our initial discussions with the landowner were positive; he supports the idea of reinstating the range and has agreed to allow access via a track across his estate. The NRA is providing specialist advice through Frank Compton (retired Office Commanding Technical Advisory Services, Royal Engineers) to help Brian determine what work needs to be done to reinstate the range, including repairs to the mantlet, bullet catcher, stop butt and firing point.

We're also exploring what additional firing points could be built leveraging the space available and the existing features of the site. This project demonstrates the NRA's ongoing commitment to increasing access to fullbore shooting away from Bisley.

South-western opportunity

In the south-west we continue to work with the Ministry of Defence and the landowner to explore options to re-open a closed military range. We invited the landowner to Bisley to share our recent experience of range upgrades including investments in range infrastructure, target systems and the practical complexities of operating a range for NRA members.

Our objective is to find a solution that benefits members, the landowner and the MoD. This project, like Llanbradach, represents a significant investment in professional services and the NRA's unique competencies to provide a sustainable solution for fullbore shooters in the region.

Updates from DIO

I attended the Defence Infrastructure (DIO) Ranges and Training Areas Safety Conference in Warminster in September. It was hosted by Technical Advisory Services and provided a unique opportunity for the exchange of best practices and discussion on a broad range of safety related topics including range design and lead in the air.

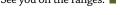
I was again struck by the privileged position that we enjoy in the UK; few countries allow civilians access to military ranges. Our colleagues in DIO face continuing pressures on the training estate as troops return to the UK, ongoing cost and resource constraints and the growing problem of unauthorised incursions into ranges and training areas.

Therefore it is crucial that affiliated clubs and members that shoot on MoD ranges continue to demonstrate high standards



of safety and conduct. Documentation is critical; it is not too soon to apply for the 2018 range licence. Make sure club RCOs are familiar with current range orders, the handbook of defence ranges safety (JSP 403), and where invited, join the booking conferences. All club shooters must carry a valid competency card for the firearm(s) used on an MoD range. Look out for cyclists, dog walkers and others who may have inadvertently wandered on to the range.

Finally, Bryden Ritchie has joined General Council as the new regional rep for Scotland. Bryden is also the secretary of Vintage Arms Scotland and located in Edinburgh. His contact details are on the NRA website. See you on the ranges. ■



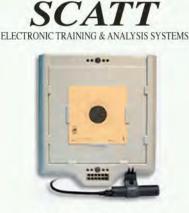




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OBITUARIES

DAVID ALAN TAYLOR 20 January 1949 – 5 October 2017

David was born on 20 January 1949 in Davyhulme, Manchester. He grew up on Briercliffe Road, Burnley, with his parents and younger sister, Norma. David attended Barden High School and joined the Sea Cadets. He had a love of nature that remained with him all his life. "Going for a walk with David", recalled Norma, "was like going on a nature information walk".

After leaving school David took a plumbing apprenticeship. It was during this time that he met his future wife Kate.

When he turned 20 he travelled to Jersey. Starting with casual work, unloading ships at St Helier docks or picking daffodils, he soon found a job as a steel erector. He worked on the frame for the control tower at Jersey airport. He was sacked, however, after going on strike in support of permanent workers who wanted fairer pay. Returning to Burnley, he set up a heating business and continued his courtship with Kate, getting married at St Phillips Church, Nelson, in 1970.

Around this time David was developing an interest in target rifle shooting. He started small-bore shooting at Broughton Hall, and then became a member of the British Legion in Colne, eventually joining Altcar Rifle Club and entering the full-bore target rifle world.

At County level, he was a past Chairman of the CLRA and served as County Captain for the last few years. At national level, he was Lancashire's English Twenty District Superintendent for over 25 years.

His National Honours started in 1982 when he was reserve for the England National Team. He shot in the team in 1985 and 1991 and coached for England in 2005.

He shot for or coached England in the Lawrence Match 16 times during Scottish Meetings since 1982, winning several trophies including the Scottish Association Silver Medal in 1983 and Gold Medal in 1993. He also came second in the Scottish Grand and third in the Championship.

He toured with an NRA team to the Channel Islands in 1983 and two GB teams



to Canada in 1984 and 1993. At the allocated accommodation at one of the ranges in Canada, the severe winter had burst so many pipes that there was no water supply. David set to work organising a trip to the local hardware store to buy the necessary materials and then carried out the repairs needed to re-establish the water supply.

In 2004 he was Vice Captain when England toured South Africa. The Captain, Dick Horrocks, and he had organised 'secure' accommodation for the team in Bloemfontein and on arriving were issued with keys for the allocated rooms. However, on giving out the keys, David noticed a certain similarity. On closer inspection, every key proved to be identical, including those for the rooms they didn't occupy. Fortunately secure storage was found.

He was Adjutant in the winning National Match team of 2008 and Adjutant again in the record-scoring Mackinnon team of 2010.

At County and Regional levels there has hardly been a team match during the last 20 years when he has not been wind coach. At an individual level, he was in the George's and Queen's Finals several times. He had a love of long-range shooting, appearing in the Donaldson Final many times and in 2015 winning The Lovell at 1000 yards. He was CLRA County Champion three times and Altcar Club champion in 1993.

He was always willing to help the tyro and encourage new club members, especially if they were eligible to shoot for Lancashire. He put a lot of time into organising team shoots and the County All Comers meeting, helping re-organise the program for the benefit of the shooter, even 'volunteering' family members to help with the marking.

He was strong-willed and never left a problem unresolved. If he counted you as a friend, you were a friend for life. Using words by Robert Burns, he was "the friend of man, the friend of truth".

David died on holiday in his favourite part of Crete with his wife Kate, daughter Annette and granddaughter Ella by his side. He also leaves two sons Alex and Robert, and granddaughter Lilly. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him, family, personal friends and friends in the shooting world. *Ron Booth*

JACK BROGDEN 26 July 1929 - 1 August 2017

Jack passed away on 1 August at The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice, Farnham, at the age of 88 after a short illness.

Born in Manchester, Jack had a sister and two brothers, who all pre-deceased him. He married his wife Jean in 1950. Their son, John, was born in 1962. Jean died in 2008.

Jack left formal education aged 15 and went to art school, becoming an apprentice signwriter. He began shooting during National Service at Elgin, Scotland, where he joined the Royal Engineers Corp ('Sappers'). The Royal Engineers required that every sapper, in addition to carrying out engineering and other trades, could also be called upon as a soldier. There was a long history of rifle shooting within the Corps, and new recruits were introduced to 'skill at arms' in the earliest stages of basic training.

Soon he was posted to the Suez Canal zone, taking the opportunity before leaving to propose to and marry Jean, who remained his lifelong companion until she died 58 years later. While in Egypt. Jack came under the influence of a major who organised rifle shooting teams where he began to develop his skills as a marksman.

After National Service, Jack returned to Manchester and extended his service as a volunteer in the TA. He was inspired by the shooting skills of Captains Frank Rose and Tony Brasher, and, being of a competitive nature, set about the challenge of matching their level of skill. His shooting took place on the windy Pennine ranges at Crowden, Diggle and Brushes Moor, shooting every Sunday possible and transitioning from the Lee Enfield .303 to the FN self-loading rifle. His determination and focus culminated in his selection in 1962 to the eight-man team representing the TA in the Armed Forces inter-service match at Bisley. He was also a key member of the 42 (Lancashire) Infantry Division (TA) team that won the China Cup, the blue riband trophy for TA rifle teams.

In 1964 a new job took Jack to Liverpool, and he took the opportunity to buy a house a mile from Altcar Rifle Range. For many years he was a member of 101 Rifle Club, later joining Altcar Rifle Club.

In 1974 Jack finished as Runner-Up in the Queens Prize after a four-way tie. This event was reported locally as follows: "BISLEY BID FAILS BY A POINT – Local sharpshooter Mr Jack Brogden failed by one shot to win the Queen's Prize at Bisley. Mr Brogden, an advertising representative from Formby, finished second in the competition, which produced one of the most dramatic finals for nearly half a century.

"In the final, four men finished with 283 points out of a possible 300. A tie-breaker saw Jack and Captain Frank Harriss, a schoolmaster from Worcestershire, tie again with 23 out of a possible 25 points.

"The rules called for a second tie-breaker the first since 1926, on a sudden death basis. Firing first, Captain Harris put his shot into the inner bull from 1000 yards, and Mr Brogden put his shot into the inner ring, losing him first place by a point."

His achievements continued with another Queen's final badge in 1979, three St George's badges, and a place on the NRA Channel Island Team in 1974. He shot for England in the National in 1977. By 2000 he was shooting F Class and in 2001 shot this discipline for the NRA team to South Africa.

Jack began to suffer macular degeneration (AMD), which made his shooting more difficult until he had to stop altogether. He spent more time looking after Jean, and in 2006 they moved to Fleet in Hampshire to be closer to his family. He started playing bowls and said his time spent shooting and 'aiming off' gave him a head start at this pastime.

Although never one to suffer fools gladly (or at times silently), he was always willing to help those shooters who genuinely needed guidance. Any new 'cap' in the Lancashire team was given Jack as their coach as his friendly encouraging dialogue would calm the most nervous first-timer into earning his or her shoulder flashes.

He had a devilish sense of humour and those who didn't know him found it difficult at times to tell if his conversation was sarcasm or just playful banter.

Over the years he developed a keen vocabulary that he practised in his many missives to 'the authorities'. After one shoot at 1000 yards with an un-readable strong wind, he commented euphemistically on Bisley's 'capricious zephyrs'.

One of the characters of Bisley days gone by, he once arrived at Bisley having ridden



from Formby on his motorcycle, rifle on his back. He found he couldn't hit the target and realised that as he had fallen off his bike on the journey down, he may have 'altered' his sights. Actually the barrel was bent.

He leaves his son John, daughter-inlaw Gill and grandchildren Jonathan and Amy, and will be remembered by many in the shooting world.

NOTE: David Taylor, whose obituary appears opposite, being a fellow Lancastrian and close friend of Jack, was working on this tribute before his own untimely death. He was one of the last people to visit Jack. *Ron Booth*

Notices

Disciplinary Decision

A Disciplinary Committee met on 16 November to consider an allegation that Mr LR Chisholm, an NRA member, had breached NRA Rules of Shooting para 308, knowingly claiming or accepting points not made, specifically by submitting register cards that he had altered after the card had been signed by the register keeper. The Committee found the allegation proven.

Under Rules of Shooting para 544(v) the Committee directed that: - Prizes claimed by Mr Chisholm since 15 July 2017 be forfeit - Mr Chisholm be struck off the register of NRA members

- Mr Chisholm be expelled forever from Bisley Camp and Ranges

GB Veterans Team to New Zealand

The following have been selected to represent the GB Veterans rifle team to New Zealand 2019:

Captain: John Webster, England Vice Captain and Main Coach: Martin Townsend, Ireland Adjutant: Jon Sweet, Scotland Target Coach: Charles Brooks, England Target Coach: Reg Roberts, England *Shooters:* Nigel Ball GC SM SC, England Simon Belither GC2 SM, England David Calvert GM3 SB3 SC2, Ireland George Cann, England Paul Charlton, Ireland Gary Childs SM, England Chris Fitzpatrick GM SM, Ireland Peter Griggs, England James Mehta, Scotland Andrew Morley, England Lindsay Peden GM, Scotland David Richards GM SC, England Travelling Reserves: Mick Silver, England Colin Skellet, England Non- travelling Reserves: John Bellringer GC SB, England Jonathan Haward, England

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2016/2017

By elected Ordinary, Regional and Shooting Discipline Members of the General Council. From 1 September 2016 to 30 June 2017.

NAME	GENERAL COUNCIL	SHOOTING	MEMBERSHIP	
NO OF MEETINGS	3	3	1	
GK Alexander *	2	Х	1	0
HRM Bailie *	3	Х	Х	R
GV Barnard	2	2	Х	R
Mrs ID Bennett	1	Х	Х	R
JPS Bloomfield *	3	3	Х	0
CM Brooks	1	Х	Х	0
A Bullen	3	1	Х	D
DP Calvert	2	3	Х	0
AMW Cargill-Thompson	2	2	Х	D
MJJ Charlton	1	Х	Х	0
PR Coley	3	Х	Х	R
DC Crispin	3	Х	Х	0
CES Dickenson	3	3	Х	D
HF Dunton	3	Х	Х	R
N Francis	1	1	Х	D
GMLN Gilpin	0	Х	Х	0
JS Harris *	2	3	Х	D
J Morgan Hosey	2	3	1	D
D Kent	0	3	Х	D
TLW Kidner	0	Х	Х	R
JM Kynoch	3	Х	Х	0
GAE Larcombe	3	3	1	R
M Maksimovic *	1	Х	1	0
TS McDowell	3	Х	1	0
JF Miller	3	Х	1	R
RM Roberts	2	Х	Х	0
Mrs KD Robertson	2	Х	Х	0
PN Ryder	3	3	Х	D
I Shirra-Gibb	3	3	Х	D
I Thomson	3	Х	Х	0
G Trembath	0	Х	Х	R
PDC Turner	1	Х	Х	0
JD Warburton	2	Х	Х	R
MP Watkins	2	Х	Х	R
AP Wolpe	2	3	Х	D
D Young	0	Х	Х	R

TABLE KEY: * = Members of the Council (Board of Trustees). The Council meet at least seven times a year and its members are expected to attend all or most of such meetings. In addition, Trustees give attendance at other times for formal decisions. X = not a member of that committee O = Ordinary member R = Regional Member D = Shooting Discipline Member





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Results

TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL

11-12 November Timed and precision 1 SGSA-0736

1. R Sanders, 297.21x 2. J Chambers, 296.16x 3. B McManus, 294.11x 4. T Jemmett, 294.8x 5. M Leishmann, 289.8c Timed and precision 1 SGM-0735 1. R Sanders, 297.14x 2. J Chambers, 288.20x 3. J Brock, 272.4x Multi-Target SGSA-1136 1. J Chambers, 115.14x 2. R Sanders. 113.12x 3. T Jemmett, 110.10x 4. B McManus, 102.5x 5. A Addison, 99.4x Multi-Target SGSM-1135 1. J Chambers, 112.10x 2. R Sanders, 110.7x NRA Embassy Cup SGSA-3336 1. B McManus, 118 2. M Leishmann, 112 3. M Harper, 109 4. T Jemmett, 90 5. N Smith, 86

AUTUMN ACTION WEEKEND

28-29 October Selected results. Full results available from www.nra.org.uk 0101 25m Precision GRSB 1. C Hudson, 276.3x 2. M Watroba, 267.3x 3. L Pearson, 264.3x 0102 25m Precision GRCF 1. C Hudson, 299.25x 2. L Pearson, 293.15x 0121 25m Precision LBP 1. M Pawlik, 286.9x 2. S Lane 286.9x 0122 25m Precision LBR

1. M Pawlik, 281.4x

0301 50m Precision GRSB 1. C Hudson, 297.14x 2. L Pearson, 282.3x 0302 50m Precision GRCF 1. C Hudson, 290.6x 2. L Pearson, 272.2x 0501 America Match GRSB 1. M Deakin, 280.8x 2. G Oliver, 260.3x **0521 America Match LBP** 1. S Lane, 269.6x **0522 America Match LBR** 1. L Pearson 235.2x 0701 Timed & Precision 1 GRSB X1. D Guest, 300.15x X2. K Kilvington, 299.12x X3. N Veitch, 298.21x A1. J Mossom, 298.18x A2. M Watroba, 298.13x A3. L Townsend, 297.13x B1. D Evans, 298.12x B2. F Cooke, 293.9x B3. A Burstall, 292.6x 0702 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF X1. P Wood, 300.25x X2. G Bowden, 300.25x X3. K Cox, 300.25x A1. J Lamb, 300.24x A2. J Starley, 300.22x A3. M Stewart, 300.20x B1. B Pugh, 298.13x B2. C Bartlett, 296.15x B3. M Pugh, 296.15x 0703 Timed & Precision 1 **GRCF** Open 1. 3767 C Horner, 300.19x 2. M van Dalen, 299.15x 0704 Timed & Precision 1 **GRCF Classic** 1. A Podevin, 300.25x 2. J Starley, 300.22x 3. N Francis, 299.20x 0721 Timed & Precision 1 LBP Open X1. S Lane, 300.15x X2. P Watts, 299.21x A1. D Guest, 298.14x

A2. M Pawlik, 296.15x A3. S Denton, 296.5x B1. T Smart, 292.6x B2. G Oliver. 289.4x 0722 Timed & Precision 1 **LBR Open** X1. M van Dalen, 292.11x A1. L Kong, 294.13x A2. N Roberts, 293.7x B1. R Illius, 290.11x 1101 Multi-Target GRSB X1. K Cox, 118.8x X2. F Hay, 116.11x X3. J Smith, 115.9x A1. M Reynolds, 110.11x A2. M Watroba, 107.10x B1. G Gough, 108.5x B2. G Oliver, 106.6x B3. L Warwick, 104.6x 1102 Multi-Target GRCF X1. K Cox, 118.20x X2. P Wood, 118.11x X3. J Smith, 117.17x A1. V Stephenson, 118.11x A2. M Stewart, 117.14x A3. J Starley, 116.13x B1. S Bold, 111.11x 1121 Multi-Target LBP Open X1. J Avetoomyan, 118.16x X2. D Guest, 114.10x A1. M Pawlik, 118.12x A2. P Watts, 114.13x A3. S Lane, 111.8x B1. S Twomey, 113.8x 1122 Multi-Target LBR Open X1. M Pawlik, 112.11x X2. L Kong, 110.9x A1. N Roberts, 112.10x B1. R Illius, 101.7x 1501 1500 GRSB X1. J Robinson, 1485.98x X2. P Wood, 1485.93x A1. M Stewart, 1475.79x A2. J Mossom, 1470.88x B1. K Kilvington, 1437.77x B2. J Lamb. 1429.71x C1. F Cooke, 1426.45x D1. C Delahoy, 1410.34x

1502 1500 GRCF

X1. J Robinson, 1497.125x X2. P Wood, 1494.95x A1. T Mepham, 1489.93x A2. R Wheeler, 1487.102x B1. J Starley, 1487.103x B2. D Morrow, 1470.97x C1. P Keegan, 1466.83x 1901 Advancing Target GRSB X1. G Bowden, 295.29x X2. G Dodds, 290.23x A1. A Dagger, 280.17x A2. S Russell, 277.14x B1. C Bartlett, 267.17x B2. A Wragg, 266.17x 1902 Advancing Target GRCF X1. D Guest, 179.24x X2. K Kilvington, 179.23x A1. G Gordon, 179.25x A2. D Morrow, 177.26x A3. W Pow, 177.20x B1. J Starley, 175.29x B2. M Reynolds, 174.19x B3. S Russell, 174.18x **1921 Advancing Target LBP** Open X1. M van Dalen, 175.22x A1. D Morrow, 180.27x A2. M Reynolds, 176.16x A3. S Twomey, 175.21x B1. T Smart, 167.14x B2. W Pow, 163.9x 1922 Advancing Target LBR Open X1. P Cowling, 171.18x A1. J Smith, 169.15x B1. C Bosley, 149.7x 6501 McQueen GRSB 1. B McManus, 50.9v, 50.8v 2. K Cox, 50.8v, 50.7v 2. C McGill, 50.8v, 50.7v 6580 McQueen 1. C McGill, 50.6v, 50.6v 2. P Lomas, 50.6v, 50.3v 3. S Doyle, 50.5v 6590 McQueen Issued Rifle 1. A Wyspianski, 50.6v 2. S Doyle, 50.1v 2. J Burstall, 50.1v

Results | NOTICES

803 MLAGB Target Pistol 25m

CSR WINTER LEAGUE STANDINGS

As of 4 November Historic 1. H Davies, 310.30 2. J Gray, 297.32 3. W Tong, 293.94 Iron 1. A Littler, 500 Practical 1. O Larrue, 485.05 2. M Camp, 478.20 3. C Hudson, 475.35 4. B McManus, 470.82 5. F Cooke, 459.72 Service 1. N Greenaway, 485.53 2. A Chapman, 482.84 3. W Ellis, 462.78 4. D McChesney, 462.22 5. D Sanderson,457.08

TRAFALGAR MEETING

21-22 October Selected results. Full results available from www.nra.org.uk 102 Muzzle Loading Service Rifle 100yd 1. W Parnham, 88.1v 2. A Fuller, 87.0v **103 Muzzle Loading Free** Rifle 200vd 1. A Buse, 40.2v **107 Muzzle Loading Target** Rifle 500vd 1. A Buse, 39.0v 201 Vintage Any Rifle 200yd 1. B Schoemakers, 36.0v 2. A Buse, 29.0v 203 Vintage Service Rifle Single Shot Medium 200yd 1. L Foreman, 42.2v 2. G Claes, 32.1v 3. L Brown, 27.1v 208 Any Vintage Rifle 500yd 1. M Silver, 47.5v 2. C Taylor, 45.2v 230 Vintage Any Rifle 600yd 1. G Claes, 40.3v 2. C Taylor, 38.0v 3. M Silver, 36.1v 301 Carbine Service 200vd 1. I Le Vallois, 43.2v 2. K Braithwaite, 42.0v 351 The Century Match 100m 1. J Meyers, 192.8v

361 The Martini Target Match 100m 1. L O'Brien, 198.8v 405 Classic Any Rifle 200yd 1. J Meyers, 48.7v 2. D Gruner, 43.3v 406 Classic Service Rifle 200yd 1. D Gruner, 49.4v 2. M Waldvogt, 48.4v 3. U Häusler, 48.3v 407 Classic Rifle "Any" 500yd 1. D Gruner, 48.2v 2. J Meyers, 46.1v 408 Classic Service Rifle 500yd 1. C Jones, 47.4v 2. A Russell, 42.2v 3. E Munro, 41.3v 409 Classic Rifle "Any" 600yd 1. J Meyers, 45.2v 2. U Häusler, 36.2v 411 Classic Sporting Rifle **Optical 200yd** 1. S Voak, 50.6v 412 Classic Service Sniper **Rifle Optical 200yd** 1. L Foreman, 50.8v =2. M Heyes, S Voak, 50.5v 450 Classic Service Rifle 600yd 1. M Waldvogt, 44.2v (won tie) 2. U Häusler, 44.2v 3. C Jones, 41.3v 451 Classic Target Rifle 900yd 1 J Meyers, 62.1v 505 Veteran Any Rifle 200yd 1. J Meyers, 48.4v 2. L Beckel, 46.4v **506 Veteran Service Rifle** 200yd 1. M Waldvogt, 47.3v 2. D Clayton, 44.3v 3. O Eckhard, 44.1v **508 Veteran Service Rifle Sniper Optical 200yd** 1. I Hollingsworth, 50.8v 2. A McCauley, 50.7v 3. L Brown, 50.2v 523 Veteran "Any" Rifle 500y 1. L Beckel, 47.3v 2. D Hönersch, 45.5v 524 Veteran Service Rifle 500y 1. R Preid, 46.1v 2. M Zimmer, 44.3v 3. M Waldvogt, 44.2v 528 Veteran "Any" Rifle 600y

1. J Meyers, 49.5 2. D Hönersch, 39.1v 530 Veteran Service Rifle 600y 1. M Waldvogt, 43.3v 2. O Eckhard, 43.2v 3. J Huber, 41.1v 603 Open – Double Rifle Smallbore 50y 1. D Stimpson 84 630 Open Target Rifle NRA .303 SR(b) 200yd 1. R Ellis, 49.3v 2. G Shenton, 48.3v **635 Hesketh Pritchard** Military 600y 1. S Voak, 48.3v 2. I Hollingsworth, 46.4v 3. G Shenton, 46.3v 636 Hesketh Pritchard **Civilian 600y** 1. M Hodgins, 45.3v 660 Hesketh Pritchard Military 900y 1. S Voak, 66.4v 2. G Robinson, 61.6v **661 Hesketh Pritchard Civilian 900y** 1. M Hodgins, 63.9v 664 Open Rifle Service Sniper 200yd 1. I Hollingsworth, 50.8v 2. C McGill, 50.6v 3. L Brown, 50.5v 667 Open .22 Rimfire 200yd 1. J Clark, 42.1v 2. J Meyers, 41.2v 3. C Painting, 31.1v 668 Hesketh Pritchard Military 1000y 1. I Hollingsworth, 63.0v 669 Hesketh Pritchard Civilian 1000y 1. M Hodgins, 72.5v 710 Transitional Any Rifle 200vd 1. J Meyers, 45.3v 2. E Munro, 43.1v 712 Transitional Any Rifle 500yd 1. J Meyers, 49.7v 2. E Munro, 47.4v 714 Transitional Any Rifle 600yd 1. J Meyers, 45.3v 2. E Munro, 35.1v 716 Transitional Any Rifle 900vd 1. J Meyers, 69.4v

1. I Waghorn, 92.0v 2. M Maldar, 85.1v 804 MLAGB Any Revolver 25m 1. R Hankey, 89.4v **805 MLAGB Standard Revolver 25m** 1. L Pearson, 85.0v 825 Gallery Rifle Any **Centrefire 50m** 1. G Betteridge, 138.18v 2. L Pearson, 137.17v 826 Gallery Rifle Any **Rimfire 50m** 1. K Middleton, 137.18v 833 Gallery Rifle Rimfire Target 100m 1. K Clark, 191.8v 834 Gallery Rifle Sporting Rifle 100m 1. L Pearson, 170.1v 835 Gallery Rifle Any **Centrefire 100m** 1. L Pearson, 175.0v 2. K Middleton, 150.0v 884 Advancing CF Gallery **Rifle Manual 25m** 1. M Waldvogt, 148.20v 2. W Horne, 148.18v 2. G Betteridge, 147.14v 885 Advancing RF Gallery **Rifle Semi Auto 25m** 1. D Yates, 150.24v 2. M Tedesco, 147.22v 886 Advancing RF Gallery **Rifle Manual 25m** 1. M Tedesco, 149.21v 2. A Warner, 145.17v 901 Advancing Aggregate 1. M Tedesco, 428 902 Precision Lever Action Agg 1. P Pearson, 416 940 Classic SR Short Range Agg 1. J Mead, 101.0v 2. M Waldvogt, 89.4v 941 McQueen Aggregate 1. J Meyers, 139.10v 942 Perrier SR Agg 1. C Jones, 135.9v 951 Veteran SR Agg 1. M Waldvogt, 134.8v 2. J Huber, 125.4v 952 Veteran Any Rifle Agg 1. J Meyers, 142.13v 971 Transitions Mid Range Agg 1. J Meyers, 139.13v

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MESSAGE



John Chambers talks to NRA Marketing & Communications Manager, Katia Malcaus Cooper

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I was maybe eight or nine and my parents took me camping in Italy. We ended up at a funfair shooting gallery where I was handed an old Winchester 62 pump action .22 rifle. I'm sure the sights had been carefully adjusted to ensure point of aim and impact didn't coincide, so that's probably where I learned how to aim off, as I remember winning a prize.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Winning Amateur Division at the 2017 US NRA World Shooting Championship (WSC) is going to stay with me for a while. To go to the US and beat 274 other amateurs and pros mainly using firearms we can't own in the UK was special.

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

Recently, I've had to invest in prescription shooting glasses so I can focus on iron sights again, but I see that as an inevitability rather than a hurdle.

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

Most forms of target shooting aren't exactly 'spectator friendly', so support from friends and family is something we all need as validation that what we do is really not much different to playing a game of golf or kicking a ball around a field.

What sort of music do you listen to?

My music collection ranges from ABC to ZZ Top and anything in between, like Led Zeppelin, Talk Talk, Philip Glass, The Fall and Pink Floyd.



What club are you a member of?

My primary club is the NRA and I'm lucky enough to live 20 minutes from Bisley.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

My long-time shooting buddy Rob Sanders had been shooting for at least 20 years before I even started! He is still ultra-competitive.

Which is your favourite country in the world? Is it somewhere you have visited for shooting?

I visited Japan many years ago and I'm still fascinated by the culture and love the food, although shooting opportunities are limited.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

It's certainly played a big part in helping me diversify. My first full bore gun club was Tudor in Kent and I shot mainly practical pistol and a bit of shotgun. In 1989 I moved to Berkshire and from then on I seem to have spent a great deal of time and money at Bisley shooting anything I can get my hands on!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to do a bit of cooking. I also seem to acquire new gadgets frequently. The latest is a high-speed video camera that is capable of over 20,000 frames per second – fast enough to see a bullet in flight.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

If it's an early start, I need at least three cups of tea to wake up. I do use sports visualisation techniques to help me focus and identify weaknesses I might need to work on. I don't usually practise much as I've always felt the pressure of competition is the best way to improve.

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

Try as many different guns and disciplines as you can before deciding if you have a favourite to focus on.

So what next?

I need variety and new challenges to keep interested and motivated. I'd like to do more matches in the US next year and I'll definitely compete in the WSC again next September.



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