

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Spring 2018 – Volume XCVII No. 1

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



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New generations

CEO Andrew Mercer welcomes another competition season with new targets, proofing updates and a special event for young shooters

As we worked through a busy winter, the 11 new Stickledown Intarso electronic targets continued to prove popular. Hardy souls enjoyed their use come rain, wind and even snow. The advantages are many: we can offer targets by the hour, do not need to provide markers and can deliver a target ready for shooting at the touch of a button. As with all new technologies, we have experienced some challenges, but the service from Intarso has been excellent and we are developing high levels of reliability in the targets. Not surprisingly, we are receiving growing calls for a similar installation on Century range and we are exploring investing in 12 targets for predominantly 500- and 600-yard shooting.

After a cracking suggestion from the Marlow Rifle and Pistol Club, we offered affiliated clubs tours of Bisley ranges to explain recent developments and improvements. The first two tours were fully booked with 28 club representatives each and additional dates will be offered in 2018. I fear we have been guilty of investing perhaps too much effort in improving the ranges and not enough in effective communication to the very people who use them. In fairness, sometimes you need to see the range improvements yourself to fully appreciate how they can change the shooting experience.

We met both Proof Masters and their technical adviser at the Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House in January. After amicable discussions, the Proof Masters confirmed they will continue to proof TR-type rifles as non-standard (i.e. not to CIP standards). Therefore the *status quo ante* remains. No further pressure tests were planned or discussed; furthermore, no revision of the 1999 Memorandum was deemed necessary. There has, by my judgement, been far too much energy and resources expended in the saga of NRA Rules vs Proof Standards and I am confident that the matter is now closed for all sensible members of the fullbore shooting community.

Property matters at Bisley have often proved controversial in some quarters. The NRA is landlord to more than 100 tenants and nearly 440 licensees and lease renewals. Contested lease renewals often attract lively interest and I was pleased when a recent *cause célèbre*, the renewal of the North London Rifle Club's lease, was settled in December 2017. As you would expect with the background of growing NRA membership and rapidly increasing demand for our ranges, interest in property is strong and we have, in January and February, successfully concluded tenders for new leases on four Bisley properties.

I am waiting with bated breath for updates from the Home Office on two key issues, namely fees for Home Office Approved Clubs and the Offensive Weapons proposals. Cards are being held tightly but I was pleased to learn there was a substantial response to the Offensive Weapons consultation.



We routinely receive requests for young shooters (aged under 14) to be allowed to shoot at Bisley. We have to balance our enthusiasm for encouraging young shooters with the overriding requirement to deliver safe shooting on our ranges, so restrict permission to young shooters properly supervised on a club shoot. Iain Robertson at the NRA Offices at Bisley can provide further details.

However, we are planning to organise a special event for young shooters on Saturday 29 December. The working title is the Junior Christmas Blast and the event will include shooting in Melville and Butt Zero for youngsters aged 16 and under. Full details will follow on the website and Facebook pages.

The 2018 membership renewal campaign has been successful. As of the end of February nearly 95 per cent of members had renewed and we expect the last few as the days lengthen and the sun starts to shine. I was particularly pleased to note that new membership applications continue to increase; we received a record 211 new applications in the first two months of 2018. The demand for training is, not surprisingly, also increasing, and our training team are delivering programmes nearly every Friday, Saturday and Sunday. We need to do better in delivering similar programmes away from Bisley; David Camp, our nearly-new national training manager, is busy with his planning.

As part of an ongoing project to make Bisley (more) beautiful we had a walk around the camp with our landscape architect, Dominic Cole. Dominic has the rare ability of being able to understand the historic context of the visible features and offer advice and guidance for large-scale estates. I knew he'd grasped the spirit of Bisley when he described the camp as an attractive, but at times uncomfortable, mix of Old Colonial and Martha's Vineyard with a dash of Butlins. His visit has yielded plans for car parking, tree plantings and fence lines, which will be evident as the year progresses. ■

Message from the chairman

The chairman, John Webster, comments on the 2018-2020 Strategic & Development Review

As we begin to implement the new 2018-2020 three-year plan, the Trustees continue to work to the overarching principle that NRA members should pay for what they consume, while any non-member income is invested or banked. This is intrinsically fair to all members, whether they visit Bisley regularly or not, because it ensures there is no subsidisation between members, including any intergenerational unfairness, and that non-member income is put to work for the benefit of all.

Previous three-year plans focused on several key elements: sound financial management; increasing and improving services to members; improving the infrastructure and use of Bisley Camp; increasing shooting activity, access and infrastructure at regional ranges; and improving communications to, and services for, members.

A review of the past five years' accounts shows the degree of success we have enjoyed. Since the beginning of 2013:

- We have spent nearly £2.8m on capital expenditure, while improving our net cash position by almost £750,000. As a result, we are debt-free, we have refurbished several ranges and other facilities at Bisley Camp, and we have reinstated a full maintenance programme for the entire estate
- Our membership continues to grow, from 6,891 at the start of 2013 to 8,505 by the end of 2017, an increase of over 23 per cent. We enjoyed a net increase of 490 members in 2017 alone
- Price rises for membership, training and shooting have been kept flat in real terms wherever possible, and subsidies have been found to encourage younger members.

The new 2018-2020 plan seeks to build on the achievements of the past five years – and more. Developed in consultation with representatives from two sets of stakeholders, tenants at Bisley and regional clubs, and reviewed by the members' representative body, the NRA General Council, its reach extends to firming up regional initiatives, expanding training courses and competency certification and focusing on improving the perception of target shooting, while continuing to build on our sound financial base and infrastructure.

This reach beyond Bisley is particularly important at this time. It was correct that we focused on Bisley over the previous five years, since our world-famous range complex remains a mission-critical asset. Maintenance and investment had been necessarily shelved during prior financially-challenged periods, and some catch-up was



required. But there are another 20,000 or so fullbore shooters that practise their sport on 300 privately owned ranges and 24 MoD ranges. All these fullbore shooters have common interests, whether they are currently NRA members or not. They want access to ranges; they want to be able to practise their sport safely (as do the operators of the ranges they use); and they want those who regulate shooting to do so using an informed and rational approach.

Access to ranges outside of Bisley is not always straightforward. Privately operated facilities are typically 25m to 100m no-danger area ranges, whereas most longer-range shooting requires access to MoD ranges, where civilian shooting is a low priority. Our three-year plan involves developing better access to MoD ranges, implementing robust safety systems for private ranges, and more investment into regional ranges, including exploring opportunities to acquire.

As ranges get busier, we need to sustain our exemplary safety record. Access to MoD and privately owned facilities is possible because of the confidence the operators of those ranges have in the NRA Shooter Certification Card (SCC) regime. Over the course of this year, we will seek to implement a programme whereby the NRA will issue all SCCs centrally with tests conducted by NRA-affiliated clubs as at present, but with increasing levels of support for the many dynamic and enthusiastic regional affiliated organisations that often depend upon a handful of committed volunteers.

Regulation and scrutiny from the authorities is almost a given in the current times. The NRA will make resources available to continue making progress in developing influence with government, the Home Office and the police licensing authorities. Our efforts to date have been on promoting and informing. We know we have a good story to tell, including the all-inclusive nature of our sport; our exemplary safety record; and the fact that shooting is a major sport across the country, and we excel at it here in the UK. Our plan involves the careful, consistent and professional promotion of marksmanship.

This is a broad agenda for an organisation sometimes criticised for being overly focused on its corner of Surrey. However, a vibrant and successful Bisley will underpin and largely finance these initiatives. ■



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NEWS

REPORTS

MOVEMENTS IN SHOOTING DISCIPLINES: 2017 NRA MEMBERSHIP ANALYSIS

The table below shows an analysis of the nominated primary shooting discipline of NRA members at the end of 2017 with comparable years back to 2008. The overall increase in membership is noteworthy, as are the reported trends in popularity of the various formats of fullbore target shooting. Percentages can be misleading: whilst Target Rifle appears to be decreasing in popularity (declining from representing 54 per cent of the membership in 2008 to 46 per cent in 2017), the actual count

of members naming this as their primary discipline has increased from 3,176 to 3,925 over the same period.

It is worth noting that the analysis covers only 8,505 NRA full members; a similar exercise for the 22,000 affiliated members would be expected to show Gallery Rifle and Pistol as the most popular type of target shooting. Many shooters enjoy a plethora of types of shooting but the trends in such an analysis do help long term planning of range developments.

MEET THE CLUBS

Further to the success of the inaugural event last year, NRA affiliated clubs have been invited to present a display at the Meet the Clubs event at Bisley on Saturday 26 May 2018 during the Phoenix meeting.

The event aims to marry up shooters with clubs seeking new members; we will encourage members of the NRA Shooting club (approx. 2,000), competitors at the Phoenix meeting (approx. 550) and visitors to the Arms Fair (approx. 1,000) to visit the event.

The event is free for NRA Affiliated Clubs to participate and all visitors to attend. For those clubs interested in displaying, please email Sarah Boxall on memadmin@nra.org.uk to reserve your space.



Primary Discipline	% of M'ship 2008	% of M'ship 2012	% of M'ship 2014	% of M'ship 2015	% of M'ship 2016	Number of Members 2016	% of M'ship 2017	Number of Members 2017
Target Rifle	54	48.5	46.3	47.4	45.6	3,655	46.1	3,925
Sporting Rifle	11.5	14	13.6	13.9	13.6	1,090	13.2	1,123
F Class	4.5	7	7.4	8.1	9.3	745	9.3	785
Gallery Rifle & Pistol	9	9.5	8.7	9.5	10.3	826	10.7	909
Match Rifle	3	3	2.8	2.8	3.3	264	3.5	294
Civ / Service Rifle	3.5	4	4.6	4.1	5.6	449	5.6	478
Practical Rifle	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.4	2.3	184	2.0	173
Muzzle Loading	5	4.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	281	3.4	290
Classic Rifle & Pistol	5	4	3.9	4.1	3.4	273	2.8	237
300 metre	1	1	4.4	0.8	0.8	64	0.9	75
Target Shotgun	0	1	1.2	2.4	2.3	184	2.5	216
Total NRA Membership	5,882	6,891	7,575	7,902		8,015		8,505

NEW TARGET DIMENSIONS

There has been consideration for some time of a reduction in the size of some NRA Target Rifle targets. After considerable debate, the Trustees decided to accept the Shooting Committee's recommended changes (effective from 1 Jan 2019), which are:

- At 300 yards the NRA will adopt the ICFRA target, except the v-bull will be 0.6x the bull dimension rather than the ICFRA 0.5x.
- At 500 yards the NRA will adopt the ICFRA bull with a new v-bull 0.6x the new bull dimension.

The summary of the Shooting Committee's recommendation, the excellent and detailed review produced by the Working Group led by TR Rep Charles Dickenson, and a summary of the review with some FAQs can be found on the News section of the NRA website: www.nra.org.uk.

IMPERIAL ENTRIES ARE OPEN

Online entries to the 149th TR, MR and F Class Imperial are now open. All entries received before 5pm on Friday 1 June will be discounted by 10 per cent. Competitors who, on the last day of the Meeting, are under 25 years of age may reduce their entry fees by 40 per cent.



There is also an early entry draw for all entries over £50 received by 1 May 2018. Prizes of 100 per cent, 50 per cent and 25 per cent refunds are on offer.

Enter now at nra.org.uk/imperial.

APOLOGY

We would like to apologise for the omission of Martin Townsend's valuable contribution as Main Coach to the GB Rifle Team to Canada 2017. The updated results tables are shown here.

CANADA MATCH OTTAWA				
Captain	Chris Weeden			
Adj	Charles Brooks			
Main coach	Martin Townsend			
Target Coaches	Reg Roberts, Jon Underwood, Charles Brooks			
Reserves	Chris Mitchell, Tom Rylands			
	300yd	500yd	600yd	Total
Jon Underwood				
N Ball	50.8	50.6	50.7	150.21
I Shaw	50.7	50.6	50.5	150.18
S Walker	50.9	48.5	50.9	148.23
R Shouler	50.6	50.8	50.6	150.2
Reg Roberts				
D Rose	50.3	50.8	50.8	150.19
E Dickson	50.5	50.7	50.6	150.18
C Evans	50.7	50.7	50.5	150.19
A McLeod	50.5	50.6	50.9	150.2
Total	400.5	398.53	400.55	1198.158
Canada	398.44	394.46	396.51	1188.141

COMMONWEALTH MATCH OTTAWA

Captain	Chris Weeden		
Adj	Tom Rylands		
Main coach	Martin Townsend		
Target Coaches	Reg Roberts, Jon Underwood, Charles Brooks		
Reserves	Ben Craig, Tom Laing-Baker		
	800m	900m	Total
Jon Underwood			
N Ball	50.7	49.3	99.10
C Mitchell	50.7	50.4	100.11
P Chapman-Sheath	50.4	48.4	98.8
R Shouler	50.7	50.4	100.11
Charles Brooks			
S Walker	50.7	48.4	98.11
P Wheeler	50.6	48.2	98.8
R Birtwistle	50.4	50.4	100.8
A McLeod	50.8	50.5	100.13
Reg Roberts			
D Rose	50.6	50.5	100.11
E Dickson	50.7	49.4	99.11
C Evans	50.7	49.4	99.11
I Shaw	50.6	49.6	99.12
Total	600.76	590.49	1190.125
Canada	598.86	583.48	1181.134

FRIDAY EVENING SHOOTING

Ever drive down to Bisley for a weekend competition, pitch up on the Friday and find you have nothing to do that evening? Maybe you want to practise before the competition. Or perhaps you live locally and would like an evening out on the range. Throughout the high season we will be running a series of trial dates for Friday evening shooting on Stickledown Electronics and Winans Range.

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You can book online now, or call the Range Office for more details relating to times and dates of trials.



NRA 100

Congratulations to Roger Ellis of Wandsworth RC on winning Target Rifle class and Shane Hancock of Mars and Minerva on winning Service Rifle class in the 2017 NRA 100 competition. Commiserations to those taking part who did not win.

The NRA 100 is a three-position shoot over 200 or 300 yards shooting four non-convertible sighters and 10 shots to count in the order: Prone, Standing, Kneeling or Sitting. Because of range limitations on availability of 200-yard targets, any scores from 200 or 300 shot to the competition rules and on standard NRA face targets can be entered and will be scored side by side. This year's winners shot at 300 yards.

NRA 100 shoots and entries can be arranged by any NRA-affiliated club and shot on any suitable range during 2018. The scores and a small prize fund and badge fee of £2 should be sent to me at p.northam@virgin.net to award the winner and prize badges. NRA 100 shoots will be organised by myself and advertised so any NRA or guest entrants can attend to shoot them side by side.

I hope to see more of you participating during 2018 in what is a fun and unique competition. Congratulations to the 2017 winners, and I wish you all good shooting for 2018.

*Phil Northam, The North Herts Rifles
Organiser, NRA 100*

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Turning up the heat

The England Rifle Team spent autumn in sunnier climes, helping Guyana celebrate the 150th anniversary of their National Rifle Association, via a stop in Trinidad & Tobago

England's year-long training, planning and preparation came together as they flew into Trinidad at the start of their tour of the West Indies. Friday gave the team a chance to see the island and visit the Tucker Valley range before a weekend of shooting. The heat and humidity on the range were intense. Nobody anticipated the effects of the heat when in full shooting kit and even early on Saturday, conditions were hot and tough. Nevertheless, Laura Kennedy top scored with a 50.4 at 300 yards, before all fell back to 500 in the midday heat. The first detail finished, and intense sunshine turned to intense tropical rain as detail two got under way. The locals, well used to this, called a halt in time to get kit and shooters under cover before the downpour. The detail finished off in the new Tucker Valley Swamp, Andy 'Turbo' Barnes on top with a 50.6. A cooler (and, with fast-fading equatorial sunlight, darker) 600-yard detail followed, Andy Daw capitalising on the more temperate conditions with a 75.9.

Results boded well for Sunday's team match, though there was now a fishtailing wind for the coaches to contend with. Laura again led the way on a 50.2 at 300 yards, while Trevor Bryan put in a 50.6 during a challenging 500-yard stage. Lunch was soon called, during which time, thanks to a bit of 'inter-constabulary networking' between the team's police officers and the local cops posted to the range, the team tried their hand at pistol shooting under the guidance of Trinidad Police's senior instructor, before 600 yards and the opportunity to finish business beckoned.



Conditions were no easier. The heat continued and the wind worsened. However, coaches Bruce 'Palma 2019' Winney and veteran of England's first ever tour Chris Heales, though not keeping cool, kept their cool and, assisted by Nigel Stangroom's 50.3, saw England through to their first team victory on 1143.82 to Trinidad & Tobago's 1042.42.

For the 150th anniversary the GNRA and Guyana Defence Force had done an outstanding job of refurbishing the facility, the number of targets now almost doubled

to 12 per each of two butts and billiard-table firing. With the opening shot fired by GNRA President Brigadier Patrick West (a central v-bull, naturally), competition began. Nigel Stangroom led England's way at 300 yards with 35.2, Charlie Staples and Henry Day making their mark at 500 yards with 50.6 and 50.3. Nigel came back in the afternoon, a 50.4 placing him third at 900x and second overall for the day.

Tuesday saw more strong England performances: Andy Daw's 35.5 brought victory at 500 yards and Charlie recorded

RESULTS: INTERNATIONAL SHORT RANGE MATCH

Pos	Country	300	500	600	Total
1	England	381.31	390.29	377.25	1148.85
2	Ireland	387.24	388.28	371.22	1146.74
3	Guyana	377.24	389.26	376.25	1142.85
4	Canada	368.21	372.20	362.19	1102.60
5	Trinidad & Tobago	343.9	371.19	355.16	1069.44
6	Barbados	359.13	357.14	350.15	1066.42
7	Antigua & Barbuda	345.14	362.15	350.14	1057.43

48.5 at 600 yards in particularly challenging winds. Hot, heavy afternoon conditions made long range tough, and England's top score was Phil Chapman-Sheath's 50.1. By close of play, the top English shot going into the last day of the Grand Aggregate was Nigel in fifth place (261.20), with Charlie close behind on 259.24 and steady shooting from Henry placing him 12th (255.14).

Wednesday brought a challenging start, 300 yards not yielding the sea of 50s seen at Bisley. Andy Daw led the English on 49.2, with Dick Winney following on 48.4. 600 yards was similar, and with seven shots, scores in the low 30s were common. That said, Phil and Chris delivered a brace of 35.3s, finishing first and third on countback.

After lunch, The Grand closed with its only 1000-yard shoot. Always a challenge, the first detail additionally endured intense heat, with the second detail confounded by rain. Scores suffered, with low 40s typical and many dipping well below this. Charlie led for England on a 46.1, and Martin followed with 45.3. Despite a difficult day, there was an excellent result for England: two in the top 10 (Charlie on the podium in third and Martin tenth), seven more in the top 25 and all bar two in the top 40, making the second stage.

Even the locals considered Thursday to be 'quite hot', and at 45 degrees, the reduced course of fire from 2+10 to 2+7s was welcomed, especially by the team's medics, who anticipated significant work. A total of 105.21 was available; conditions ensured that none appeared. Andy Daw secured his place in the final by winning the second stage with 103.12, with Trevor



Bryan (4th), Andrew Morley (9th), Turbo Barnes (10th), Nigel Stangroom (14th), Martin Liversage (15th) and Dick Winney (20th) joining him.

England's next opportunity to prove themselves was as a team with eight firers and two coaches, led by the captain and herded by match adjutant Andy Daw. 900 yards went well, Nigel returning a 49.4 and Laura close behind on 48.2. With the coaches sweating away (not just due to the heat) unforgiving Long Range ICFRA targets nipped away at scores, but England returned mid-to-high 40s, finishing on 368.20 – second place falling back and three points behind Guyana.

From the start of 1000 yards, something was clearly up. Scores peaked at mid-40s, with low 40s and 30s across the range. Severity varied from shooter

to shooter, with England hit particularly hard. Later examination showed that the ammunition was likely to have contributed, but not before England recorded only 668.25, fourth behind Ireland (702.28), Barbados (712.27) and Guyana (712.36).

The afternoon saw the final of the individual championships. Nigel again led for England on 47.5 at 900 yards, Trevor Bryan only a V behind amid mostly mid-to-low 40s. Most scores dropped at 1000 yards, but Nigel maintained form with a 46.1, taking fourth place and the top English spot. Trevor, like many, dipped into the upper 30s, finishing ninth, while Andrew Morley, carrying 40.2, leapfrogged into eighth place with 47.2.

Sunday dawned and with it the International Short Range match, England's last opportunity to make their mark. With the last shots fired, England had held it together, taking the match by two points on 1148.85 to Ireland's 1146.74. Guyana fished a close third on 1142.85, winning the concurrent match between the West Indies nations.

Evening dinner and prizegiving followed, the former ensuring shooters would fly home overweight and the latter that their baggage would do likewise. England picked up a haul of medals, the International Short Range Trophy and several bottles of rum from the traditional exchange of local brews. ■

RESULTS: INTERNATIONAL LONG RANGE MATCH

Pos	Country	900	1000	Total
1	Guyana	317.19	341.17	712.36
2	Barbados	360.17	352.10	712.27
3	Ireland	366.15	335.13	701.28
4	England	368.20	300.5	668.25
5	Antigua & Barbuda	341.10	305.12	646.22
6	Canada	340.17	269.7	609.24
7	Trinidad & Tobago	315.18	284.10	599.28

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Skill of the Irish

Guy Hart gives Ireland's perspective on their trip to the West Indies, taking in Barbados and Guyana

Ireland's team acclimatised in Barbados with wives and partners before heading further towards the equator to Guyana for the West Indies Fullbore Shooting Championships, coinciding with the Guyana National Rifle Association's 150th anniversary.

We were hosted by the Barbados Rifle & Pistol Club for a friendly individual international match, which was won by Ireland's very own Kim Pope. We had the privilege to train alongside the Barbados pistol and small-bore teams in their preparations for the Commonwealth Games, and also received coaching in practical pistol. A special mention has to go to Charles Belle and Marlon West, who were key in organising Barbados customs and local rifle storage.

The team touched down into Georgetown airport to a VIP welcome from the Guyana Defence Force, who arranged a military escort for our firearms. A fleet of pick-up trucks and friendly troops ensured our rifles were always at the range well before we arrived each day. In addition to this, the military butt markers worked to an exceptionally high standard with great precision.

The championships were held under ICFRA rules under the watchful eye of Phil Harrison – meaning that targets had a smaller and less forgiving v-bull.

GUYANA NRA 150TH ANNIVERSARY SHOOT: INDIVIDUAL TOP 10

Place	Name	300	500	600	900	1000	Total
1	David Calvert	33.3	35.3	34.3	48.5	48.4	198.18
2	Lennox Braithwaite	34.3	35.3	34.1	47.4	46.1	196.12
3	Jack Alexander	35.4	35.5	33.3	48.2	43.1	194.15
4	Nigel Stangroom	35.3	34.2	31.1	47.5	46.1	193.12
5	Christopher Fitzpatrick	32.1	34.4	34.2	45.5	47.2	192.14
6	Alexander Gill	34.1	35.3	34.3	46.0	43.2	192.9
7	Guy Hart	33.3	33.4	34.4	46.0	42.2	188.13
8	Andrew Morley	34.3	33.1	34.3	40.2	47.2	188.11
9	Trevor Bryan	35.3	34.2	34.2	47.4	37.1	187.12
10	Stephanie Ward	34.2	34.6	33.1	49.1	36.1	186.11

The old hands of the team knew what would be required to win and the rest of us carried on blissfully unconcerned and ultimately getting good results all round. The main things on our minds were the high temperatures, humidity and looking after ourselves on the range. The team's unrelenting hydration regime was greatly helped by ORI, who had kindly provided us with rehydration salts.

Our adopted Scotsman Sandy Gill kept his cool in the extreme heat to go 'clean' and win the Second Day Aggregate across 500, 600 and 900 yards with a score of 135.11, followed by David Calvert's silver with 132.14 and Jack Alexander in fourth with a 131.10. A humble Sandy was quoted as saying: "I remember Gary putting his hand on my shoulder and saying that it was good work." The top scores seemed to do the trick, with Calvert and Gill going on to place second and third respectively behind

local favourite Mahendra Persaud in the Day 1 & 2 Aggregate.

By day three the team had got into the groove of Guyanan shooting and the focus now turned to the Grand Aggregate, a combination of Day 1, 2 and 3 Aggregates. To the relief of the Adjutant, the entire team stepped up to the task, and everyone convincingly made it into the top 44 for the final stage. A few wise words from the experienced heavyweight team members in between details helped everyone in the youthful team deliver their best performances, with scores ranging from first to 37th. A key milestone was reached as we became the only team to get everyone through.

The Grand Agg culminated in a nail-biting 1000-yard finish, with Calvert looking the likely winner in a battle of titans against Mahendra. Gill, who had already finished, ruled himself out at this point, convinced





Gill, who had already finished, ruled himself out at this point, convinced that he hadn't done enough

that he hadn't done enough. With several shots to go and to the surprise of all watching, Calvert's target came up with a miss owing to a foresight malfunction. This paved the way for the unstoppable juggernaut that is Sandy Gill to take first with his 390.23. Local hero Mahendra was close behind with 387.33 ahead of Calvert's 384.34. The proud Scotsman was naturalised by the Guyana press, officially becoming "Irishman Gill."

The team returned to the range for the Presidents final. Of the 44 who had made the Grand Agg final, the top 20 went on to shoot the Presidents final, which consisted of 900 and 1000 yards. Our nine in the top 20 were David Calvert, Jack Alexander, Chris Fitzpatrick, Sandy Gill, Guy Hart, Steph Ward, Kim Pope, David Lindsay and Lynne Johnson, which highlighted the whole team's ability to put in consistently good scores throughout our time in Guyana.

Clearly the heat and humidity were not a problem, with six ending up in the top 10 of the final and receiving prizes. Calvert's astonishing 198.18 in the conditions put him in first, with Lennox Braithwaite of Guyana coming second with 196.12 and Jack Alexander third with 194.15. Strong scores put Chris Fitzpatrick in fifth, Sandy Gill sixth, Guy Hart seventh and Steph Ward tenth, leaving just enough space for three other lucky shooters to join us.

The WIFBSC Team Long Range match was challenging, exciting and unpredictable in its outcome. Reassuring wind coaches, slick plotters and cool-headed firers worked well together to successfully deal with 'hot ammo', tricky wind and the midday sun. The team delivered steady scores, coming in third (702.28) behind favourites Guyana (712.36) and Barbados (712.27), both of whom delivered a textbook lesson on how to handle the conditions. Kim Pope put in the top score of our team with 93.3, and a family

effort from the father-and-son duo saw Gary score 91.2 and Jack 90.5. England regained their form for the short-range team match, with very few points separating the top three teams, England (1148.85), Ireland (1146.74) and Guyana (1142.85). Our highest scorers were David Calvert and Jack Alexander, both with 147.9 and a healthy number of v-bulls for David Lindsey with 146.15.

We were delighted to host the visiting West Indies teams for an evening jointly with England and Canada. The importance of the event to Guyana was reflected in the high-profile media coverage, and the home team certainly put in the scores under such pressure. In addition to our good scores and the unique shooting conditions, the most lasting memories were thanks to our friendly Guyanan hosts.

We would like to thank the GNRA President, Brigadier Patrick West, and the GDF for the range refurbishment, logistical support and personnel to ensure smooth running of the competition. We made some really good friends along the way. Thanks to Mahendra Persaud and the GNRA committee for hosting us and organising a seriously competitive international competition to make the GNRA's 150th Anniversary one to remember. ■



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DCRA: 150 years on

We chart the history of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association from its inception in 1868 to today

This year the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association celebrates its 150th anniversary, making it only one year younger than the nation of Canada as we know it today. This article charts the evolution of the DCRA from its beginning in 1868 right up to the present day.

The Rideau Range

On 1 April 1868, the Adjutant General of the Militia, General MacDougall, through the Honourable Minister of Militia, Sir GE Cartier, called a meeting in Ottawa of representatives of the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. At this meeting it was decided to proceed with the formation of the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association, and the Governor General, His Excellency Viscount Monck, accepted the role of patron of the

Association, a position held to this day by the current Governor General.

The Association at that time brought together 33 independent rifle associations. Rules, a constitution and by-laws were drawn up, a council and executive selected, and a date was set for the first annual prize meeting, which was held at Laprairie, just outside Montreal. More than 900 competitors turned up to compete for \$5,500 in prize money. The DCRA has continued to hold prize meetings every year since, except during the two World Wars.

The national range of the DCRA became the Rideau Range, just behind the current location of the Russian Embassy in Ottawa. In 1897 the last Annual Prize Meeting was held on the Rideau Range since the Association had selected a more suitable location, with greater distances for long-range shooting, at Rockcliffe. The

site consisted of 380 acres and permitted shooting from 200 yards to 1,000 yards with room for extension back to 2,000.

It was also in 1897 that the DCRA constructed its own permanent accommodation at Bisley. Canadian teams had been attending annual matches in England since 1870, the first team being sent by the Ontario Rifle Association. The first DCRA team went to Wimbledon in 1873 and continued to do so each year until the matches moved to Bisley in 1889. 1997 marked the centennial of the construction of the Macdonald Stewart Canadian Pavilion at Bisley.

The Rockcliffe Range

The DCRA continued to hold its annual matches at Rockcliffe until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. Teams regularly visited from England, the United States and Australia. After the First World War, matches resumed at Rockcliffe for 1919 and 1920. During its period of occupancy at Rockcliffe, the DCRA had



The turn of the 20th century brought a move to Rockcliffe



We're just three years away from the centenary of the Connaught Ranges' first use

built a large administration building and a substantial set of quarters for competitors. Pressure began to mount to have the site of the range made available for other purposes.

It was at this time that the DCRA, in conjunction with the Minister of Militia, selected the current site of the Connaught Ranges for development. Since the DCRA were required to give up their buildings at Rockcliffe, the Association was granted use of the Connaught Range in perpetuity. The Association was called on to design the layout of the ranges. The original plans are still in the DCRA archives.

Connaught Ranges

The Connaught Ranges opened in time for the DCRA to hold its Annual Prize Meeting in 1921. With the exception of 1939-1946, the DCRA Annual Prize Meeting has been held on an annual basis at Connaught.

During the early years the Annual Prize Meetings consisted of small-bore, pistol, Service Rifle (A) (Military Targets) and Service Rifle (B) (Target Rifle Targets). Upwards of 3,000 competitors, including 800 cadets, attended the 10-day competitions. All competitions were under the control of DCRA staff. Additionally, in those years all members of the DCRA Bisley Team were Military members, as was most of the membership.

In 1957 the Canadian Army introduced the FNC1 as the military rifle. DCRA members were entitled to borrow these firearms from DND for competition purposes in the Service Rifle matches. The .303 continued to be the firearm used for target rifle competitions. The matches continued to be conducted by DCRA staff members.

In the mid-1970s the military staff at the National Defence Headquarters decided

to take over the conduct of the military Service Rifle competition. This arrangement lasted for about four years, after which DND approached the DCRA to again take responsibility for the conduct of the Service Rifle matches. This arrangement prevailed until the late 1980s, when army staff again took control of the Service Rifle matches. Since that time the Canadian Armed Forces Small Arms Competition (CAFSAC) and the DCRA National Service Arms Competition (NSAC) have been conducted conjointly.

Since before the turn of the century the DCRA has been conducting a small-bore Winter Postal Programme, which has included a programme specifically dedicated to Cadet Units across Canada. This programme is still in existence and will continue for the foreseeable future.

The DCRA today

The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association is composed of 10 provincial rifle associations, the Yukon Rifle Association and the National Capital Region Rifle Association. All provincial and territorial associations

are affiliated with the DCRA and use DCRA rules and standards in their competitions. The management structure of the DCRA consists of a president, an executive vice president, a council, a comptroller, an executive committee, life governors and an executive director with a small staff who are located at the DCRA headquarters at the Connaught Ranges in Ottawa.

The DCRA conducts national championships for a variety of disciplines, including Target Rifle, F-Class, Black Powder, Service Rifle, Service Pistol, and Precision Rifle. In addition, the DCRA continues to work closely with the Canadian Armed Forces to further enhance marksmanship throughout the Regular and Primary Reserve Forces.

In addition to its National Championships, as a member of ICFRA (International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations) the DCRA will occasionally be granted the opportunity to host the Long Range World Championships (and the famed Palma Match) and the F-Class World Championships. ■



The impact area behind the targets at Connaught



Palma preparation

High winds, high scores and stiff competition – it's the GB Palma team's recce to New Zealand January 2018. Nick Tremlett reports

GB Palma team captain David Calvert led a brave band of adventurers to Trentham in New Zealand this January to test out various aspects of plans being made for the GB team competing in the world championships and the Palma Match in 2019. The Recon Team, as it became labelled, was also hoping to experience a typical week on one of the windiest ranges in the world.

They were not disappointed – though the hottest January on record followed by a cyclone was hardly typical! As a consequence, conditions on the Seddon Range were about as challenging as they can be. For example, Malcolm Dodson won the first day of the Belt Series at short range with a superb 200 ex-200 but then averaged 42 ex-50 at long range for 166 ex-200! As a previous winner of the Ballinger Belt, he should know the range better than most and his scores reflected the difficulty of the mercurial wind conditions.

The NRA of New Zealand and a large team of selfless volunteers were also testing logistics in preparation for 2019. They did a great job coping with an influx of foreign entries, about 60 alone from Australia and America almost doubling their usual entry for the Nationals. With the weather they were certainly tested; once target frames started to snap in

the cyclone the 'tented village' had to be hastily dismantled to avoid being suddenly relocated to Auckland! Shooting in the Belt was suspended for the best part of a day as the anemometer on the roof of the NRANZ building registered wind gusts up to 60mph.

GB Recon studiously kept a low profile throughout the NZ champs but that did not stop three of the team making the Belt final 20 shoot off: David Calvert, Jack Alexander and Jon Underwood. In keeping with the mayhem of the preliminary shoots the final was shot in perplexing conditions. Being shot at 900 yards one

would normally expect most scores to be 72+ ex-75. However there were only two scores of 71, by John Snowden and Mike Collings (both NZ), one 70 by Jim Bailey (Australia), and only two other scores over 65. Despite the ferocity of the range, John emerged as the winner by only 1v.

The week concluded with a 'Mini Palma Match'. The strength in depth of the Australian squad came to the fore to win handsomely, while the GB Recon team was content to let them have their day in the sun, confident its experience in 2018 would lead to a very different result a year hence. ■



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Smoothbore operators

James Harris braves the cold to report from a busy Target Shotgun Festival that also included the first round of the NRA Shotgun League



Andrew Thompson shooting on Winans

“Can someone please remind me why we do this?” was the muffled cry from a bulky form swaddled in multiple layers and shaking with cold. “Because it’s fun,” was the reply in an ever-so-slightly sarcastic tenor from another ambulant heap of clothes capped by woollen hat, busy putting up targets. “Oh yes... that. I remember that, much as I recall what my fingers felt like.”

And with those distinctly inauspicious words began another Target Shotgun Festival on Butt Zero: two days dedicated to smoothbore shooting and that thing called fun. Though TS matches have been running for almost two decades now, they were generally tacked on to other competitions or were half-day events. However, for the last five years the festival has been run in its current format of various matches spread

over two days, which is more successful in drawing competitors.

This year did not see any significant change in the numbers attending compared to February 2017, though the number of cards shot in the GR&P shotgun matches did fall slightly. However, the mean scores in most of the matches rose – by almost 20 per cent in some events. While this rise is no doubt in part due to the targets not swaying wildly in the wind, as was the case in 2017, there can be no doubt that the standard of shooting is improving.

This year’s top scores were only just shy of the records, with the Timed and Precision 1 Semi Auto match won by Rob Sanders, scoring 299 with 12x. No doubt in order to celebrate the day, he also took top honours in Multi-Target (MT) Manual with a creditable score of 110 and 7x.

Not to be left out of the limelight, John Chambers pipped Rob to the post in MT Semi Auto with 111 and 11x compared to Rob’s 111 with 8x – a tight margin indeed. In the TP1 Manual match, the margin was a little wider, with John scoring 298 and an excellent 24x to Rob’s 297 with 14x. Bear in mind that the x ring is a mere two inches in diameter and that this is a snap-shooting event.

If the reader is starting to think this is a two-horse race, consideration must be given to the fact that both of these competitors are using either low-powered telescopic sights or red dots, whereas second and third place were in many cases taken using conventional iron sights. Maurice Leishman scored a respectable 296 and 16x in TP1 Semi Auto to take silver. In the NRA Embassy Cup, where speed

and rapid acquisition of sight picture play a greater part, all the medals were taken using iron sights, Maurice leading the way with 118 out of 120, thus making the trip to a frozen Bisley from a frozen Scotland even more worthwhile.

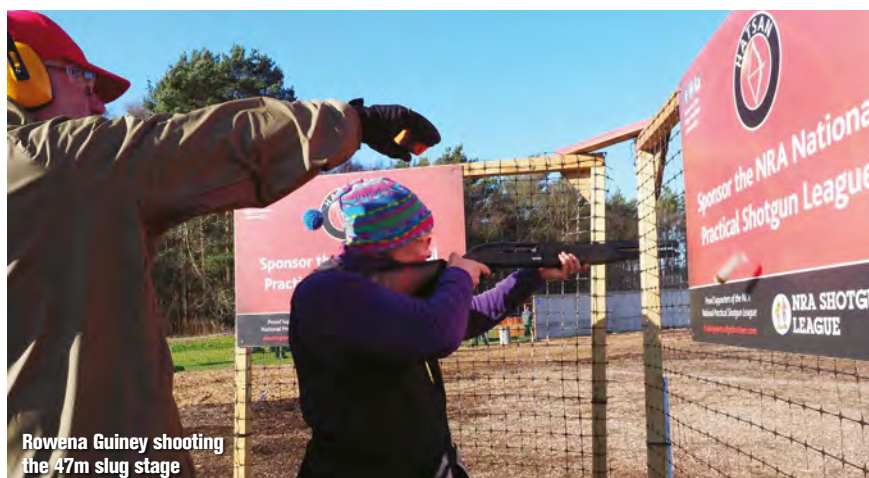
NRA Shotgun League

The first round of the 2018 Shotgun League match was shot on the Sunday, and for the second time, the event was spread over Butt Zero and Winans to allow for the increasing competitor numbers – though this does of course entail a commensurate rise in volunteers required to build and run the event.

Pleasingly, shotgun does not seem to lack support in this regard, and more than a few good men (and one lady) toiled the afternoon away erecting the barricades and laying out the targets. With eight stages to be built, there is more than a modicum of planning required for each event, particularly if the match is to follow the principle of no two stages ever being identical.

Improvements to the ranges have led to some further restrictions on what can be done, which are hopefully temporary, and further compound the complexity of the planning. Bearing in mind the expected number of attendees and forecast weather conditions, the stages themselves were reduced in size, though all maintained more than a little 'deviousness' that would catch the unwary out should they not consider the shooting challenges presented. Consider for example stage one, a simple seven plates laid out in an inverted V with the closest at about 6m and the furthest at 10m. The addition of two brightly painted penalty targets transformed this from a mere test of recoil control and target acquisition to one that required knowledge of pattern sizes and the ability to change pace for more difficult shots. Notwithstanding this, James Williamson recorded a blistering time of 3.11 seconds to be overall winner across all divisions.

Similar twists were used elsewhere, such as on stage six, which comprised 28 plates and included one or two targets placed such that most shooters were forced to shoot from the weak shoulder or suffer the consequences of an awkward position, throwing out their aim and thereby costing



Rowena Guiney shooting the 47m slug stage

them precious time in obtaining a sight picture or reloading to make up for poorly aimed shots.

Bisley being one of the few range complexes where solid slug can be used, the matches at Bisley will always include it, and full use was made of the available space on Butt Zero to put in a 'not quite 50m' stage that had to be shot standing from a constrained position. This particular stage highlighted the need to be sure of your zero and the effect of drop over distance. While most slugs used in competition may leave the barrel at around 1200fps, they have slowed to around the 900fps mark at this distance, with the attendant destabilisation as they pass through the transonic region. Therefore, despite some good scores, not one of the competitors was able to score a perfect 40 on the four targets.

With time at a premium and some slow progress during the morning details, the afternoon details were subject to more pressure. To alleviate this in future, consideration is being given to either reducing the places available or reducing still further the number of targets at the February matches – unless, of course, even more range space can be allotted. Despite all the pressure, two of the three division winners were in the afternoon detail, thus providing support to the argument that talent will override distraction and external pressure to shine through. That and the fact that they had undoubtedly been practising.

With regards to future matches, the closing date for entries will be earlier. As the numbers of entries rise, so does the lead time required for squadding and crew allocations. So please enter early to all events. ■

RESULTS			
Place	Competitor	GRID	%
OPEN			
1	Oliver Bloomfield	3462	100
2	Cansh Pope	3631	99.29
3	James Williamson	3527	95.77
STANDARD AUTO			
1	Christopher Gamlin	3547	100
2	Russell Hicks	3387	88.92
3	James Harris	1475	74.62
STANDARD MANUAL			
1	Steve Cox	3480	100
2	Richard Morgan	3790	79.63
3	Richard Dare	3483	69.69

Festival atmosphere

Scenes from the Target Shotgun Festival 2018





CSR: The league so far

With the Winter League heading towards an exciting conclusion, Mark Bradley brings us up to speed with recent stages

With the end of this year's CSR Winter league fast approaching, it's a good time to catch up on the events so far.

Since the last installment of the *Journal* there have been two further events ticked off the calendar, January and February's CSR competitions, and with 128 entries for January and 122 for February, it seems like this is going to be our most successful year to date.

To liven proceedings up and help the social aspect of our discipline grow, we have employed the services of one of camp's finer caterers to provide hot tea and coffee with very welcome bacon rolls for breakfast, followed by hot lunches or curry and stew – all served al fresco on the range. This has been successful and will continue into the foreseeable future.

Back to the shooting, and the League is taking shape nicely. To make the most of the short winter days, most shooting is done with limited movement, so no rundowns while Century Range is boggy underfoot, and PM matches are kept



short to three or four stages to make use of the failing light.

January

Once the safety briefing was over with, details A & B set off for the first of the morning's stages, Harassing Fire at 500 yards, and with the newly enforced two-minute sighting period completed, the match was under way at just after 8.30am.

This was followed up with Sitting at 400 and two stages at 300, a Snap and another Sitting, albeit on a tricky Fig 12.

A quick change around and C & D details were done and dusted, which led to an early lunch break.

At the end of the morning's activities scorecards were taken back to the Shooting Division and we had the following winners.

Historic: William Tong, 84

Iron Sights: Andrew Littler, 106

Practical Optic: Jon Elliott, 184

Service Optic: Steven Page, 180

The afternoon match started slightly earlier than was planned to make full use of the short daylight hours, and once again because of this, it was kept to four short stages at 200 & 100 yards.

The first practice was the Bisley Bullet at 200 and this was followed up with The Sitting. After this everyone moved down to 100 for the two practices there, Standing and Breaking from Cover.

All firing was completed by 3.50pm just as the light was beginning to fade. Again, here are the winners:

Historic: William Tong, 118

Iron Sights: Andrew Littler, 134

Practical Optic: Martin Camp, 175

Service Optic: Peter Cottrell, 176



Prone at 300 begins the rundown in the Urban Match

February

Alas, while the February league matches were held on a relatively bright Sunday, it did in fact turn out to be a bitterly cold winter's day with a wind chill that cut through the very best thermal clothing and left everyone eager for the hot lunch provided once again to lift the spirits and get the core temperatures up. That said, nothing seems to deter the CSR shooter and spirits as always were high, with the enthusiasm for the monthly matches as high as ever.

Sunday's events consisted of two of our more popular events, the Urban Match on Short Siberia and the Short Range Rural (Methuen) Match on Century. Firers were divided into three groups and moved off to Century firing point, Century Butts or Short Siberia, with everyone rotating to their next port of call two hours or so later.

As it is, the timings work well these days and the organising committee regularly get complimented on the efficiency and smooth running of the matches – something that can only come with years of experience in running these events, so special thanks to all those involved.

The Urban Match

This is shot in four phases of 10 rounds from 100-25 yards, with double snaps from the post at 100, kneeling round the wall at 75, standing and kneeling at 50 and 3x rapid exposures at 25. It's always one to test the abilities of anyone who tries it. No matter if you shoot it really well or really badly, there's always the desire to do better next time, and

“While the distances are shorter than normal in the Urban Match, the challenge is certainly tougher

while the distances are shorter than normal, the challenge is certainly tougher.

Historic: Andy Hurley, 146

Iron Sights: Andy Littler, 151

Practical Optic: Keith Belsey, 186

Service Optic: Richard Morgan, 190

The Short Range Rural Match

This match could be classed as what Civ SR is all about as it incorporates just about everything you are ever likely to encounter at one of our matches: fire and movement, positional shooting, rapid fire and deliberate snap shooting.

It's shot over five stages: a rapid fire at 300, 300-100 rundown with prone, sitting and standing, standing and kneeling at 100, sitting at 200 and a 300-yard snap to finish it all off. That makes for 52 rounds in total including sighters and an HPS of 250.

Historic: Hywel Davies, 131

Iron Sights: Andy Littler, 205

Practical Optic: Brian McManus, 234

Service Optic: Roy Wade, 245

Congratulations to all the winners, some who are also achieving their first victories in CSR events: Richard Morgan, Brian McManus, Roy Wade, Keith Belsey and

also Andy Littler for a PB in achieving over 200 for the first time in the SR Rural using iron sights.

So with two more dates on the calendar it's still all to play for. While Old School PR shooter Nigel Greenaway has rediscovered his form (which never really left him) to lead the SO class, he is hotly chased by Adam Chapman, Bill Ellis, Roy Wade and Peter Cottrell among others. France's Olivier Larrue has been making good use of the Cross Channel Ferries to build a commanding lead (for now) over Colin Hudson and Martin Camp in PO Class. Andy Littler leads the Iron Sights class with what appears to be an unassailable margin, and Hywel Davies is doing a sterling job of fending off the pack in Historic.

March

At the time of writing, the March ETR competition had to be cancelled owing to the Beast From The East snowstorm sweeping the country and forcing the closure of Ash Ranges. This has now been rescheduled for Saturday 21 April. ■

Further events making up the 2017-2018 Winter League:

8 April, Bisley

21 April, Ash Ranges



Stages are short and sweet but no less enjoyable



Movement stages returned in February's meeting

Chamois challenge

15 years after its debut, the BSRC's chamois and fox shoot is as popular as ever. Steve Wallis reports from the range...

Credit: Steve Wallis

With the remnants of Ophelia heading towards the UK there were some who were concerned about the weather for the British Sporting Rifle Club's annual chamois and fox shoot on Short Siberia. However, they need not have worried. The morning was still and calm as shooters rolled in to take part. This event was first run in November 2002 by members of the club who wanted to see just what they, and their sporting rifles used primarily for deer stalking or vermin control, were capable of away from their normal 100-yard ranges. It proved such a success that not only has it continued since but it has also spawned twice yearly visits to Century and Stickledown by a dedicated group of club members who compete for membership of the much coveted ½ MOA Club – more on that another time.

This year saw the event opened up to the wider Sporting Rifle community within the NRA. As well as members of clubs based at Bisley, shooters from further afield who could not travel down took the opportunity to follow the BSRC's lead. The Pennine Shooting Sports Association made arrangements to hold their own shoot the same weekend at Diggle, using the same targets and courses of fire. Reports from them indicate they all had a thoroughly enjoyable time, although they didn't enjoy the same balmy weather as we had at Bisley.

A challenging course of fire had been set for this shoot, which sees shooters applying the four principles of marksmanship to test their skill on

chamois and fox targets at 200 yards in various shooting positions. The Chamois is shot from two positions with no sighters permitted, the first five rounds are fired prone and using only a small knapsack or bag as a front rest – most consider these 'banker' shots. However, this is not always the case, and despite the calling notice containing words to the wise about effective elevation adjustments, the sage advice of "if in doubt read the instructions" is not always heeded. There was genuine surprise on the faces of one or two shooters when the scores were relayed back over the radio. Perhaps the most common error was turning the elevation turret the wrong way so instead of adding two minutes of elevation it was taken off, meaning that instead of shots being central on the target they were 8" low.

With the prone shots out of the way, each shooter took up the sitting position.

The rules of the competition say that only a single stick can be used as support and that it must be a type used for support while walking on the mountains where the chamois live. The whole ethos of this competition is that the shooter must use only the kit that he might take when hunting these quarry animals for real. There have been some interesting interpretations of what might get taken up on a mountain over the years, but while



Prone shooting in the initial stages of the Chamois shoot



The scene at the shoot taking place in parallel at Diggle

Credit: Kristoff Seaton

the range officers are keen to look out for any unfair advantage being sought, the emphasis is on making sure shooters are safe, enjoy the event and benefit from the valuable practice it provides for their quarry shooting activities.

This year saw an opening score of 95 ex-100 posted by the first shooter on the line, setting a good benchmark for following shooters – the Chamois has been won over the previous years with scores ranging from 94 to an HPS of 100. Competition was brisk throughout the morning, but the benchmark score of 95 still stood when the hooter went to signal the lunch break. The pause in shooting was clearly enough time for several of the shooters to compose themselves and it was not long before another score of 95 was posted. The possibility of needing to tie break these to determine a winner soon became irrelevant as a 97 was posted not long after and looked like being the winning score right up until the last shooter on the line took aim. Having stalwartly done his bit as range officer throughout the day Richard Lane took his turn to shoot and managed a fantastic score of 98 to win the 2017 Chamois Shoot.

Running alongside the Chamois was the Fox, another very challenging course of fire and again put together to help sporting shooters transfer range skills out into the field. The fox is an unforgiving target with a scoring zone that runs diagonally making it all too easy to wobble a shot left or right and drop it out of the scoring rings. Don't be fooled into thinking this is an easier event than the Chamois because shooters are allowed use of double sticks to steady themselves – this is just as challenging, if not more so, as the shooter has to fire five rounds from each of the sitting and standing positions and get each series of five rounds on target within 90 seconds. Those who have shot in the Sporting Rifle Statics event in the NRA Phoenix Meeting will be familiar both with the target and the course of fire as they are the same.

As with the Chamois, competition was brisk but scores a little lower by comparison. That said, in previous years the event has been won on three occasions by scores in excess of 90 ex-100 – the highest being in 2009 when a score of 98 took the honours. At the end of



the morning the highest score was 81. Competition slowed a little after lunch as shooters focused on re-entries for the Chamois but this did not stop the serious shooters trying to get a higher score and it was not long before there was an 85 posted. However, in a tradition that seems to follow this event, it was once again one of the range officers who, taking their opportunity to shoot towards the end of the day, put in the winning score of 89. Not only was it one of the range officers, it was the same one, Richard Lane, who

posted the winning score on the chamois. I am sure Richard won't mind me saying that this is not bad going for someone who originally joined the BSRC to get some practice at positional shooting before taking his DSC1 shooting test – it seems all those years of shooting the Stalkers Test, Sitting Fox and Roe Buck at club match days have been time well spent.

Though down on the record scores for this event, as the targets were packed away for another year, the scores at the end of the day were pretty impressive and showed just what a humble lightweight sporting rifle, primarily used in the field, is capable of on the range.

The British Sporting Rifle Club hold club matches and range days twice a month as well as running a variety of other events and competitions for sporting rifle shooters on the running deer ranges next to Melville and on Century and Stickledown ranges. If you would like to find out more about the club, details can be found on their website:

www.bsrc.co.uk ■



Credit: Cornelius Schalkwyk

CHAMOIS		
1st	Richard Lane	98
2nd	Alan Harvey	97
= 3rd	Steve Wallis	95
= 3rd	John Kynoch	95

FOX		
1st	Richard Lane	89
2nd	Cornelius Schalkwyk	85
3rd	Alan Harvey	81



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Black powder preview

Muzzleloading rep Paul Wolpe gives us everything that's coming up in 2018 for MLAGB members

The MLAGB 'end of the month' shoots have been switched to the last Saturdays of the month this year. This is due to the 100m firing point being crowded on Sundays, and there is no 200m shooting on Saturdays, enabling the full width of 100m range to be used. So far numbers have held up well.

Pictured from Saturday 24 February is Dusty Miller, who is coming up for 88 years old and first shot at Bisley with his school cadets when he was 14. His MLAGB membership number is 23 so he was really one of the pioneers who, in the 1950s, had to relearn a lot of what had been forgotten in ML shooting. The 3rd pattern LAC Enfield rifle he is holding was not yet even 100 years old when he bought it. He says his high scores are now behind him but he is generally first on the range to put up the targets, and you would still not bet too much on beating him with an original Enfield.

The first shoot at Wedgnoek is the Overseas Team fundraising event on 24-25 March. For those who have not attended these events before, the procedures are quite simple and there will always be



Good numbers are attending MLAGB monthly shoots

someone to help. Turning up on the day is fine but the competitions are £1 cheaper if you book in advance (£6 instead of £7).

The Surrey Branch of the MLAGB will be staging a Repeating Pistols Event on 22 July (the middle Sunday of the Imperial match). It is good to see that Jim Hallam's mantle has been taken up, as he has now stood down from organising these events.

This year's Entente Cordiale match is on the Easter weekend at Souppes sur Loing, an hour or so south of Paris. The annual event between the MLAGB and Les Arquebusiers de France comprises a match of two teams of six shooters using military muzzleloading rifles. It is held on alternate years in France and England. It was to have



Dusty Miller: Still as keen as ever after 60 years of MLAGB shooting

been held in Marseille in May but has been brought forward to coincide with the 2018 Challenge Poudre Noir in Souppes, to ease the travelling for the British team. The French broke a run of British success by winning last year's match.

The MLAGB pistol, rifle and musket team did well in the MLAIC European Championships in Granada last year and a team will be going to the World Championships in Eisenstadt, Austria, in August this year. Qualifying scores and criteria for inclusion in the team for 2019 can be found on the MLAGB website. There are many good club shooters who regularly achieve qualifying scores on their local ranges and who should consider stepping up to national and international competition. It really is worth the effort! ■



Skilled shooters should consider making the step to national competition

Fantastic Frome

James Harris reports on a creative indoor stage in Frome that combined the Handgun and Mini Rifle leagues

The start to the practical shooting season always draws a good entry, and coupled with the opportunity to shoot indoors in February on stages that are always well thought out and interesting, it meant a sell-out match. To maximise attendances and reduce travel costs for competitors, the Handgun and Mini-rifle matches were shot concurrently on the same stages, and while this does make constructing and administering the event easier, it can lead to delays as competitors swap equipment around to suit – something match organisers do need to factor into the time scheduling. With a 50m and 25m range to use, the stages were long both in distance to targets and the resultant round count, creeping over the 160 mark – though the use of ingenious moving targets and reduced lighting increased the actual number of shots fired for many.

Truly new stage ideas are rare, but it was noticed that the white side of the targets fluoresced under ultraviolet light, giving an opportunity to test the shooters and equipment in a novel fashion. When considering the effect of shooting in low light conditions, it is necessary to describe

the sights used in this type of shooting. Most are red dots where aiming is facilitated by aligning a dot of light projected onto an erect glass/polymer lens with the target. The next most popular sighting system is conventional iron sights, sometimes improved by the addition of a fibre-optic foresight bead. With the red-dot type, obtaining the initial alignment between the master eye and sight is a matter of practice so those so equipped were not troubled by the change in light levels. The same could not be said for those using iron sights, where the time taken to obtain a correct sight picture by using the silhouette of the sights on the gently fluorescing targets consumed much of the four seconds available for each string of seven shots. There were some who chose to shoot by presentation alone, but their scores were not as impressive as their rate of fire.

Stage winner in Standard Pistol was Nick Towndrow with a score of 75 points, some 20 points clear of second place – an impressive piece of shooting in unpractised conditions. Obviously this stage was a purely static one, but the set piece of the day was a long 26-round stage using knockover



The sights you brought made a big difference

targets that activated dropping and bobbing papers and required a run of about 40m to complete, leaving most of the field short of breath for the last targets. The fastest time of the day of 22.85 seconds was achieved by Tim Gardner, who also scored the most points (120 from 130) with an Open class pistol, which caused some consternation among the rifle shooters.

With skills such as these, the final results were almost a foregone conclusion, though there remain another 11 matches for Handgun this year for the top shots to be pushed from their perches. The full calendar of matches for 2018 is on the NRA website. ■



John Thorne from Silverstone Shooting Centre

RESULTS

LBP Open

Place	Name	%
1	Tim Gardner	100
2	Mark Darbyshire	96.42
3	Justin Cooper	92.94

LBP Standard

Place	Name	%
1	Nick Towndrow	100
2	David Ashcroft	75.94
3	Alex Florence	72.69

Mini-Rifle

Place	Name	%
1	John Hicks	100
2	Mike Darby	85.33
3	Ben Ducker	83.1

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.303 British Surplus .303 British Blank (100Rds)	£18.00
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What's new in TR

From new target dimensions to an addition to the Grand, it's an all-encompassing update from Charles Dickenson, Target Rifle Discipline Rep

Target Rifle Courses

Revalidation sessions for current NRA TR Club, County and Regional coaches have started being held. These free refresher sessions bring coaches up to speed with relevant methods of instruction and coaching techniques, and run through the training material for the NRA and Bisley Clubs' 'Introduction to TR' and 'TR Skills Development' courses, which coaches are given on completion of their revalidation. Some of the coaches on the first revalidation session are pictured to the right.

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 and have not yet been invited to attend a revalidation session, please email David Camp (david.camp@nra.org.uk) with your name, the course(s) you have completed and when you completed it, with any evidence, such as a photograph of your certificate or badge.

Two-day courses to qualify new Club Coaches will start soon – watch out for the adverts. Ideally every club that shoots with Target Rifles should have a qualified



Coaches take advantage of a free refresher course

TR Club Coach, who can help their fellow members to learn how to shoot TR well. Why not qualify as a coach and give something back to the sport from which we all derive so much pleasure?

The one-day 'Introduction to TR' courses are aimed at people who have not before shot Target Rifle (iron sights and slings, like .22" but more fun!), but want to give it a try. For those with a bit of TR experience, the NRA also offers two-day 'TR Skills Development' courses, which will help you improve your skills with

a position and technique critique, and guidance on plotting and wind reading, amongst other helpful topics. To find out more and book your place on these courses visit <https://nra.org.uk/courses-and-training/skills-development-courses/>

Revisions to Target Dimensions

As announced in the December NRA Newsletter and elsewhere in this edition of the *Journal*, the following changes will be made to the dimensions of the 300- and 500-yard TR targets from 1 January 2019:

- At 300 yards the NRA will adopt the ICFRA target, except that the v-bull will be 0.6x the bull dimension rather than the ICFRA 0.5x.
- At 500 yards the NRA will adopt the ICFRA bull with a new v-bull 0.6x the new bull dimension.

This is a trial and the effects of these changes will be reviewed after the 2020 Imperial Meeting to determine whether further changes are appropriate.

Read the summary of the Shooting Committee's recommendation: <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Minutes-of-SC-Target-Dimensions.pdf>



New target dimensions will be in place at next year's Imperial

Read the detailed report produced by the Target Dimensions Review Working Group: <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NRA-TR-Target-Dimensions-Review-Full-Report.pdf>

And a summary of the approved changes, with some FAQs, can be read at: <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/New-NRA-TR-Target-Dimensions-What-Why-Effects-FAQ-Nov-17.pdf>

Changes to the Imperial Meeting TR Grand Aggregate

For a sport where the key skill is mastery of the wind, there is very little long range shooting in the Imperial Meeting Target Rifle Grand Aggregate: just 30 out of 141 shots are at long range, and only 10 of those are at the longest distance of 1,000 yards. Those 10 rounds (The Corporation) can, nevertheless, be critical and have a disproportionate effect. The competition lasts a whole day, spread out over 10 details, and the weather conditions can change substantially during the course of the competition. This can give considerable advantage to those who are lucky enough to get easier details (often the early morning and late afternoon), and disadvantage others who are unlucky enough to get difficult details (commonly in the middle of the day) where average scores can easily be three or more points lower. When the Grand Aggregate is frequently won with a score that is between three and five points below the maximum of 705, this can significantly



The Lovell now becomes part of the Grand Aggregate

affect people's placings in the Grand Aggregate (where a single point can span more than 20 places), as well as their chances of winning.

The Imperial Meeting programme and the capacity of Stickledown range restrict the number of long-range competitions to one per day, which precludes adding another long-range competition to the schedule. It has therefore been decided to include the Lovell in the Grand Aggregate. Squadding will be arranged in a way that balances everyone's 1,000-yard and 900-yard shoots with one nominally easier (early/late) detail and one nominally harder (middle of the day) detail at each distance. The Lovell

will swap places in the programme with the Conan Doyle, so that all the 900-yard competitions will take place before the two 1,000-yard competitions, to give people more experience at long range before they shoot at 1,000 yards. There will also be a chance to practise at 1,000 yards on both the First Friday and Middle Saturday. Those who usually travel to Bisley on the morning of Middle Saturday will be able to request an afternoon detail for the Conan Doyle. Some of the aggregates have been adjusted to account for the programme changes, and a new aggregate of the two 1,000-yard competitions (the Gunmakers Aggregate) has been introduced. ■



The Conan Doyle at 900 moves earlier in the schedule

Blasts from the past

Bryden Ritchie charts the fortunes to date of the Scottish Historical Shooting Championships and calls for participation in this year's event

As with many things, some events occur simply by a chance discussion. The discussion in this case, between myself, Bryden Ritchie, the secretary of the Edinburgh based Vintage Arms Scotland club, and John Burnhill, the secretary of the Clyde-based Shandon club, took place sometime in 1999. The result was that in the following year the first Scottish Historical Shooting Championship was held at Castlewart range to the south of Edinburgh.

That this occurred at all is somewhat remarkable. As you may be aware, dear reader, the Scots are a notoriously clannish lot and the prospects of shooters from 'genteel' Edinburgh cooperating with shooters from the 'wild' west appeared slim. However, we forged ahead regardless and the event took place to everyone's satisfaction. With the support of the then NRA Historic Arms Resource Centre giving the event a slight gloss of official approval, John and I aimed to bring the 'Bisley experience' to those living north (or just south) of the border. Bisley-type shooting and scoring had not really featured in Scotland for many years, and we felt this was a great opportunity to reintroduce the genre to the nation.

With the goal of inclusion as the guiding principle, we designed the competition to cater for as wide a range of shooters as possible. The Historic Rifle Shooting model seemed to offer the best formula, particularly when we extended the classes to include modern target and sporting rifles as well as 'open' classes to include anything else (within reason!) that shooters turned up with. We decided, with only a 12-lane range available, to stick to the 200m

distance and run the four core disciplines of Deliberate, Snap, Rapid and Sniper across as many of the firearm classes as possible, ending up with around 24 events, run simultaneously. Thanks to Roger Horsnell, we have managed to run a fully-manned butt for the event, which has allowed us to sustain a full day's shooting with little interruption.

Initially we started using the HBSA round bull and tin hat targets for the majority of the events. For a short period we even used the 'sand and sky' blue and buff targets that were obtainable from Bisley at the time. It soon became obvious, however, that the large bull, adequate for Sniders and Martini-Henrys, was not providing sufficient challenge for the AIs and Tikkas that were creeping in, and so V and latterly X rings were added to our increasingly non-standard targets. The aim of separating the 'random lead slingers' from the 'tack drivers' was achieved to the satisfaction of all.

Castlewart range, for those of you who are not familiar with it, is located just south of the Edinburgh Bypass in the picturesque Pentland Hills. It is of comparatively recent construction, built around 1985 to replace the Dreghorn range, which was closed as a result of the construction of the bypass. The Castlewart site had been a range in the wartime period, I believe with a moving track anti-tank target facility. I am certainly aware of the gas compound that was there in the war, as it was used by my father, who, as an industrial pharmacist, was the Home Guard Gas Officer for Edinburgh.

Castlewart has two gallery ranges, both now of 12 lanes. One is limited to 300m,

the other going back to 600. The setting, although somewhat prone to southerlies and low cloud, has striking views in good weather with classic mountain scenery and surroundings. It is currently run by Landmarc on behalf of the MoD and is generally kept in excellent condition.

The competition has been run annually since its inception, with a couple of notable exceptions. The second year of its running, we decided to try to move the event around the country and ran the championship at Barry Buddon, near Dundee. This is another, much larger, MoD complex, and the event was going full swing until 11am, when the range was closed as a consequence of the only other user of the range, a TA unit, packing up early. According to the byelaws, civilians could not remain on the range, and the match had to be abandoned. After this, we remained at Castlewart, where no such byelaws are in force. The only other time the match has been cancelled was in 2015, when the range was closed for a year as a result of 'the wrong sort of sand' in the stop butt!

Since this time, the attendance at the championship has declined, and although the event has run, we could easily support twice or even three times the number of competitors. We intend to run the event again, a little earlier this year, on Sunday 26 August, and hope we can attract more supporters. Scotland – and Edinburgh in particular – can be glorious at this time of year, so if you fancy a trip north (or south!) to catch the end of the Edinburgh Festival (3–27 August), then drop a line to Vas_Secretary@btinternet.com and we will add you to the mailing list. ■



“ We aimed to bring the ‘Bisley experience’ to those living north (or just south) of the border. Bisley-type shooting and scoring had not really featured in Scotland for many years



Overseas Teams Fund: Supporting GB/NRA teams' touring costs

A report from the NRA Treasurer, Derek Lowe and the Team Finance Committee Chairman, James Watson, with thanks to Martin Townsend for his input

Several NRA disciplines send teams on overseas tours to represent Great Britain or the NRA. Touring is expensive and the teams engage in a variety of fundraising efforts. What cannot be raised is self-financed by team members.

The NRA's Overseas Teams Fund ("OTF") was set up in the 1930s to provide a central place where donated funds can be gathered and grants made in support of touring teams. The OTF is a 'restricted fund' under charity law, which means any funds donated into it may be spent only in support of GB or NRA touring teams. Summaries of the OTF's financial activity are available in the NRA's audited accounts each year.

The NRA council is supported by two committees, which inform its management of the OTF. The Investment Committee advises on the selection of managers and policies for the invested funds, and the Team Finance Committee ("TFC") co-ordinates fundraising and makes recommendations for grants to the touring teams.

The TFC is ably supported by the NRA's finance department, especially via management accounts, which make earmarking of funds straightforward. Donations into the OTF are categorised by which discipline has raised them and therefore should benefit from them (currently Target Rifle, Match Rifle and Gallery Rifle). Donors can specify whether funds can be made available immediately or, alternatively, should contribute to capital and generate investment income. Donations to specific touring teams are possible. When a donation comes from a UK taxpayer, Gift Aid provides a 25 per cent increase.

The finance department also supports the accountability of each team captain in their application of charitable funds, by reviewing the team accounts which captains are required to present after their tour.

At the end of 2017, the OTF's balance stood at around £170k. Fundraising during 2017 amounted to around £25k of cash income, £5k of which was generated by the OTF's investments. Unrealised investment returns are additional to these figures.

Each discipline has its own pattern of touring and, therefore, of grants to be requested from the OTF. The busiest discipline in terms of funds raised and granted is Target Rifle (TR), with a typical year seeing around £19k generated. The TFC's policy for TR is to make grants affordable on a rolling four-year basis (the frequency of the busy Palma Match years).

The observant reader will notice that there is no mention so far of external funding. The Sports Council provided much-appreciated support up until 2003, but hasn't since then. While the TFC's previous aspiration had been to cover each team's basic travel and shooting costs from OTF and Sports Council grants, that has been impossible from the OTF alone. The TFC recently reviewed the cost of touring to different destinations and estimates that the grant policy for TR explained above would cover an average of 13 per cent of core tour costs.

Every touring team faces a significant funding challenge and seeks to meet this by fundraising both for the direct benefit of the team and also to make a contribution to the OTF, which in turn supports them. Readers may be familiar with initiatives such as hospitality days, team brochures, auctions of promises, "spot the shot", the OTF 100 Club and "swindle" entries at the Imperial Meeting – please participate in these!

The ability of touring teams to raise their own funds varies considerably, especially across economic cycles, which tend to govern the contribution from corporate hospitality days and brochure adverts. The remaining funding comes from each individual team member. Captains are keen to ensure that no applicant is put off by the potential affordability of a tour for, especially, young shooters and new caps.

The thanks of all touring shooters who benefit from the fund go out to our many supporters, both within the shooting world and beyond. TFC is particularly keen to encourage support from those who have toured with GB/NRA in the past and, as a result, benefited from the OTF. ■



The GB team in South Africa in 2017

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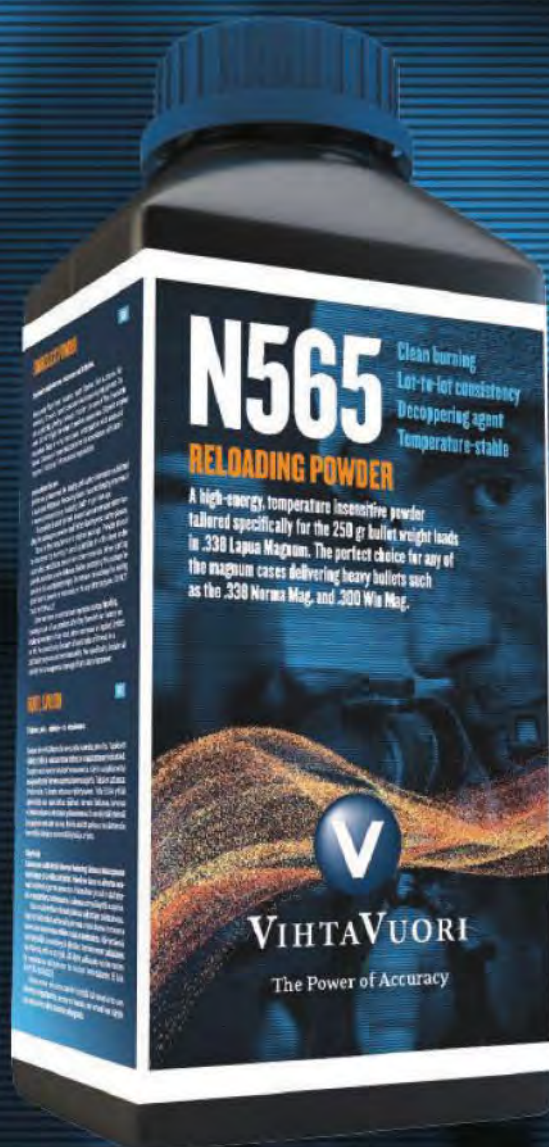
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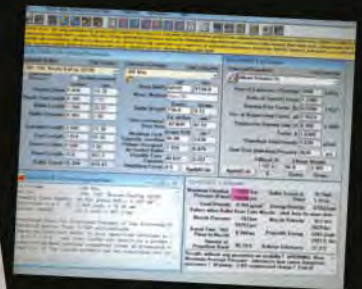
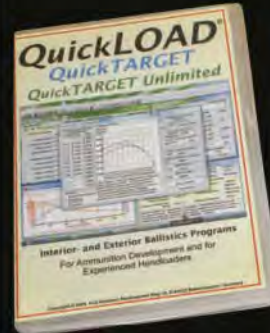


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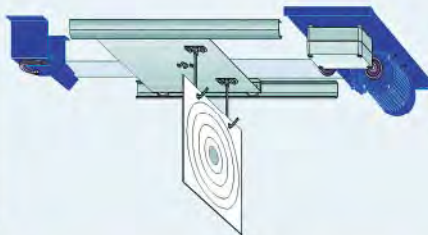
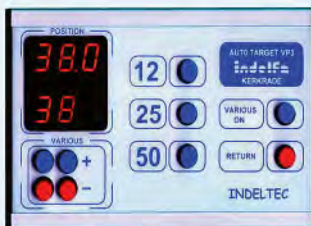
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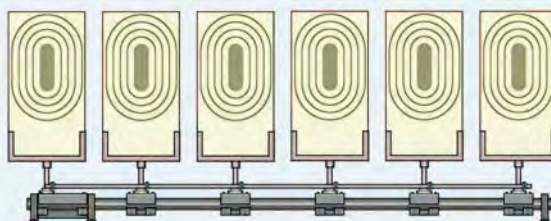
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Golds in Gold Coast

Last-gasp pairs and individual wins for England topped the bill in a hugely successful set of Commonwealth Games fullbore events for the home nations



There were nail-biting finishes in both the pairs and individual fullbore rifle competitions at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, in which both sets of matches hung in the balance down to the last shots of the final distance before the medals were decided.

In the pairs, at the start of the second and final day, England's David Luckman and Parag Patel seemed to have made life hard for themselves after surrendering their slender first-stage lead of two tie-breaking central bullseyes over South Africa. They dropped to third place after losing points at 900 yards, leaving Wales'

Gaz Morris and Chris Watson ahead of South Africa by three centrals with England three full points adrift.

However, nothing is ever certain at 1,000 yards, and the English pair staged a determined fight-back in difficult conditions to finish two points clear of Wales, with Scotland's Iain Shaw and Sandy Walker third by just two centrals. With three home nations on the crowded podium, it was a familiar set of six faces at the prizegiving.

Australia's Jim Bailey set the pace in the individual competition, holding a fractional lead after the first day, just one central bullseye ahead of England's David Luckman with Parag Patel lying





sixth, all on maximum 105s. On the second day, Bailey and Luckman were the only two left on maximum possible scores of 255, Bailey just shading it by four centrals with 255.37. Behind them, the pack reshuffled with Patel on 254.32 moving up to third on countback, ahead of Jersey's Barry Le Cheminant. Ian Shaw of Scotland lay in fifth, leaping up eight places having made the only other maximum score of 150 on the day.

With just one point separating the top five, it was all to shoot for on the final day. Bailey and Luckman went clean at 900 yards. Patel dropped one more point but held on to third place, chased hard by Shaw, also dropping one point. At 1000 yards, so often the graveyard for hopes and aspirations, Bailey faltered, losing two points. The golden door was ajar – could Luckman make 73 with enough central bullseyes to pip the Australian? He did better than that, putting in 74 to snatch the gold by one clear point, with one fewer central. Points win prizes, and his points total of

404.49 ex-405 was a new Games record. Patel, with a masterful maximum 75 to finish, took the bronze medal five centrals behind Bailey, with Scotland's Shaw fourth.

Congratulations to England's pair of Luckman and Patel for their double successes, and to Wales and Scotland

for their pairs medal performances. It is Luckman's second successive Games gold medal in both the individual competition and the pairs – and Patel's second successive win of gold in the pairs, with a bronze in the individual to add to his 2010 gold individual in Delhi and 2006 pairs gold in Melbourne. ■

SELECTED RESULTS: INDIVIDUAL

Pos	Athlete	Score
1	D Luckman (ENG)	404.49 (Games Record)
2	J Bailey (AUS)	403.50
3	P Patel (ENG)	403.45
4	I Shaw (SCO)	402.39
10	G Morris (WAL)	399.45

SELECTED RESULTS: PAIRS

Pos	Nation	Athletes	Score
1	England	D Luckman & P Patel	584.61
2	Wales	C Watson & G Morris	582.58
3	Scotland	A Walker & I Shaw	582.49
7	N Ireland	D Calvert & J Alexander	579.49



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Why not try... 300m

Robin Carter introduces the 300-metre discipline, one that's administered by the ISSF and the ideal skill-builder for target rifle shooters of all walks

What is '300 metre'? It's not just a distance, it's also a specific target rifle event and a discipline that is shot only at the 300-metre distance. The rules, target and rifles are a little different from the recognised and more common forms of fullbore target rifle shooting in the UK – TR, F Class, and CSR – but still very similar in many aspects, so much so that it can be shot very competitively with the standard TR 7.62 rifle and equipment, and can also help improve performance in those events.

The 300-metre discipline is regulated by the rules of the International Sport Shooting Federation (ISSF), the international body that controls the Olympics, World Cups, and European and World Championships. The

discipline is the only fullbore rifle event shot to ISSF rules.

The rifle has two classes, Free and Standard. Free rifle is almost identical to the regular small-bore rifle in dimensions, weight and technical requirements, sights are standard 'iron' small-bore style sights, the trigger is free, and the calibre is any calibre under 8mm. In the Free rifle class the most popular calibre is 6 mm BR, but other common calibres used include 6XC and 6PPC, and some also shoot it with reloaded 7.62 mm. The lower recoil of 6mm BR has attracted many women into this branch of the fullbore target rifle sport.

The Standard rifle class is near enough the same as the NRA target rifle rules, the trigger weight is 1500 grams, and the calibre is also any under 8mm.

The target has 10 rings, with the 10-ring at 100 mm (4" in old money) with an X ring (used for ties) of 50 mm. On electronic systems the target is recorded in tenths – a perfect ten is 10.9, a line hanger is 10.0 – but for competition it is scored only in integers, so any 10 is just a 10. It is a challenging target, with a line-hanging bull on an NRA target scoring 9.6 (just 9!) on a 300 metre target. So those who shoot Target Rifle (TR) and are determined to improve their V bull count can get a great advantage from training on the 300-metre range.

The firing points are indoors – fun on a rainy day – and each shooter has their own point and shoots on to an electronic target. We in the UK have the only 300-metre range in the country located at Bisley on range 10 of Century Range.

The difference is the match course of fire. In the prone event it is a 60-shot match with a preparation period of 15 minutes of unlimited sighters. There are also three-position events, with women previously shooting 20 shots in each position and the men 40, but a 2018 rule change has equalised it to 40 shots for all.

A 60-shot prone match is a great challenge, and is the most popular among 300-metre enthusiasts. But for many shooters, particularly those coming from other disciplines, this is something to build up to. With training dates available at Bisley, shooters are able to shoot as few or as many shots in a session as they wish – they can start off shooting 20-shot strings and then build up if they desire.

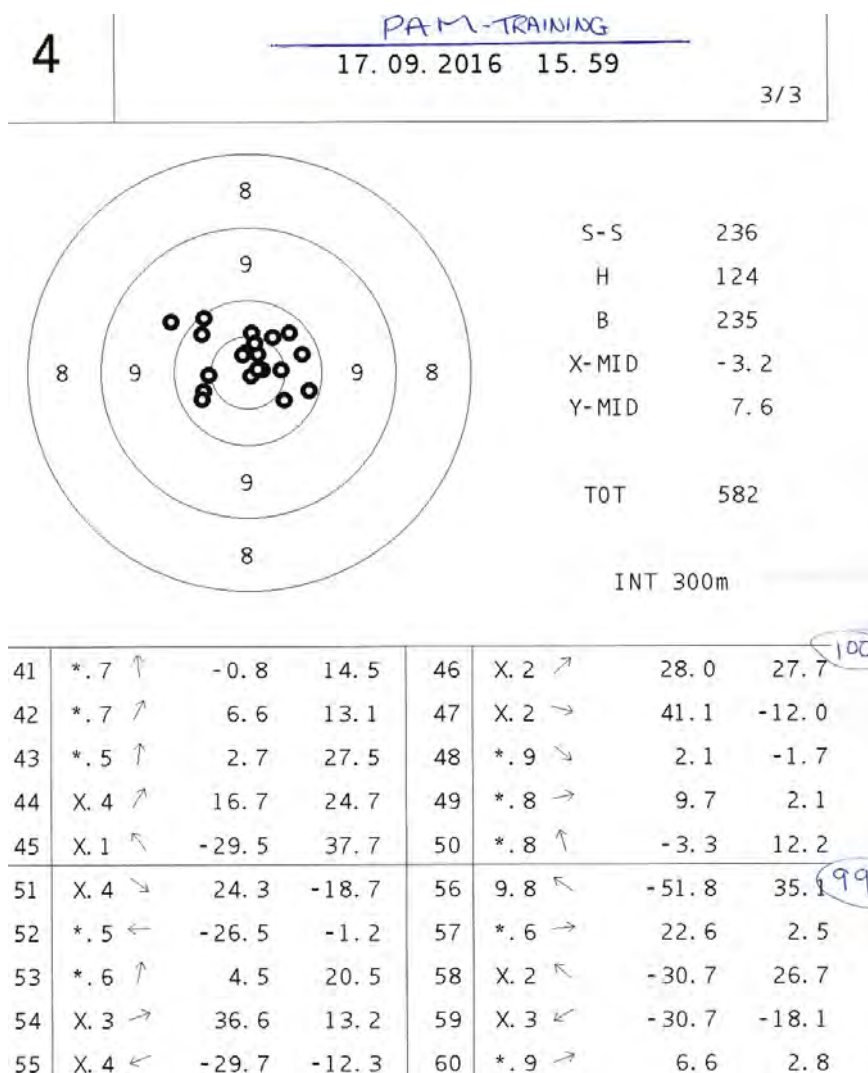
A popular training choice among TR shooters is for several to share a point and shoot 10 shots one after the other in TR timings, which is very good for training and also as an introduction to the joys of 300m.

The NRA championships in 300 metre, shot this year on 12-13 May, has a class purely for NRA Target Rifle. The numbers shooting it are increasing, and it is being won with competitive 300-metre scores.

The print-out from the electronic target is a particularly good source for analysis of your performance. TR and F Class shooters have always kept record sheets with their shots plotted and wind change recorded; now they can have an A4 print-out showing not only the fall of shot, but figures of the true group size, and distances from the centre, correct in millimetres. No more estimates on a small card!

The one shown here is a typical print-out. The X is a ten and the * is an inner ten. A good score but it does show how the shooter dropped a shot to wind (probably). More importantly, a full analysis can be taken from the figures. When cross-referenced to shot calls and wind changes, these print-outs can really aid one's ability to understand the shoot better and improve one's performance. This is vital now the TR target is reducing in size.

If you are a TR, F Class or CSR shooter and would like to try the pleasures of staying dry on a wet day and shooting on a very demanding target, or would like to test on our dedicated bench rest firing point, please contact the NRA 300-metre representative for a booking or advice: 300m@nra.org.uk ■



All this data is a huge help when analysing scores and working out why errors happen

300M BISLEY DATES FOR 2018

17-18 March	Training weekend
28 April	Training day
29 April	BFRC Spring Match
12-13 May	The NRA Championships
19-20 May	Training weekend
9 June	Training day
10 June	BFRC Summer Match
23 June	Training day
4-5 August	Training weekend
8-9 September	GB vs Cleremont (France)
7 October	Training day
27 October	Morning training
27 October	GB300m Championship
28 October	BFRC Autumn match

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HPS will be displaying at the following shooting events in 2018:

The Phoenix Meeting Bisley 25th – 27th May 2018,

The Imperial Meeting 4th – 28th July 2018, F-Class Europeans 3rd – 9th Sept 2018,

Trafalgar Meeting 20th – 21st October 2018.

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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Competitions and Training Update

An all-round update from Peter Cottrell, Head of Shooting & Training

Civ SR

The recent poor weather caused the cancellation of the planned Civ SR competitions at Ash Ranges on 3 March. With the helpful support of the DIO, these have now been rearranged for Saturday 21 April at Ash Ranges. All those who entered for March have been moved across to April. These matches will conclude the 2017/18 CSR League and with 130 competitors expected and everything to play for, this is sure to be both an enjoyable and hotly contested final day. For any late availability please contact the Shooting Division.

SBLR

Sunday 22 April sees the annual Small-bore Long Range Match, a popular event in three classes for .22 rifle owners. Shot at 200 and 300 yards, the match offers a tough challenge, especially at 300 yards where any slight wind movement can throw the shot from a v-bull to a magpie. If you own a .22LR and are keen to test your wind-reading skills, this is a great event.

300m Championship

A number of competitions run over the weekend of 12–13 May for the 300-metre discipline, with standard Target Rifle users very welcome to take part.

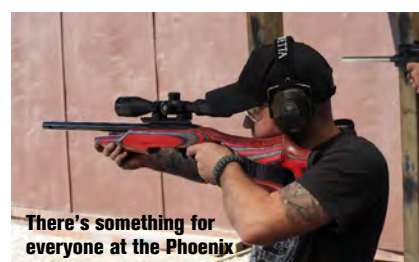
This event is serviced by reliable electronic targets and shot from the 300-metre shed on the left-hand side of Century range. Possible manual marker errors are eradicated and everyone gets a copy of their score detail, including group diagrams.

The Phoenix

The Phoenix is a celebration of shooting, spanning several disciplines, ranges and nations and is a truly inclusive meeting. Held over the late May Bank Holiday weekend between 25–27 May and shot from 10m to 1000 yards, there is something for just about everyone. Look out for details and an entry form on the main website.

Training

We are running two TR skills development courses ahead of the Inter Counties (16–17 June) and the Imperial Meeting in July.



There's something for everyone at the Phoenix

The dates are:

14–15 April

10–11 June

These two-day courses will provide those who have some experience of shooting TR with the skills to improve their scores. The courses will include individual coaching on shooting position, zeroing, plotting as an aid to group centring, wind reading and the essentials of competition and team shooting. If you are keen to take part in the TR element of the Imperial Meeting but could do with some practical tips, including the most suitable parts to enter, then these courses are ideal. ■



Small-bore shooters shouldn't miss the SBLR match this April



Out on the range for training

THE SHOOTING SHOW



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55,000 shots and counting

An update on the implementation of electronic targets at Bisley from Dr Harvey Hardaway, Intarso



The Intarso targets installed on Stickledown have been thoroughly tested at shooting distances ranging from 800 to 1,200 yards, with over 55,000 shots recorded since their introduction in August 2017. This article describes the target technology and how the shot data is being used to help the NRA manage and maintain the range to ensure that the popularity of this fast, accessible and reliable technology continues to grow.

A chamber target solution was adopted for Stickledown as it is suitable for both subsonic and supersonic bullets, and its accuracy is not affected by weather conditions. The target consists of a timber

frame with rubber sheets front and back. As the bullet penetrates the target it generates a shockwave in the air gap between the rubber sheets. The shockwave radiates from the point of impact and is detected by acoustic sensors positioned in protected locations at the chamber edge. The sensor signals are captured and analysed by the target's computer to determine the shockwave arrival time at each sensor, and these arrival times are then used to calculate the shot position. The shot position data is then sent via Wi-Fi link to the shooter's monitor, where the shot position is displayed and score calculated for the selected target type.

Intarso's standard chamber target design has been modified for Stickledown to detect shots over a larger area (3.0 x 1.8m) and fit in the existing target lifter frame. Other modifications include the addition of an electric motor to the target lifter frame, which can raise and lower the target and is remotely controlled from the range office. This capability is hugely beneficial as targets can be made available at short notice even when the target butts are unmanned.

Reliable detection for the chamber targets depends on the integrity of the rubber. Intarso's latest targets use a new rubber that offers better shot resilience thanks

to its self-healing properties and reduced weight, which makes target handling easier. However, all rubber will wear eventually and will require repair before it compromises target accuracy. To help the NRA minimise the cost and downtime associated with target repair, Intarso have been investigating the possibility of using the shot data to predict when the rubber needs replacing. Our initial intention was to use the shot count as an indicator but this is unreliable as the shot pattern across the target varies greatly depending on many factors including target type (TR or F-Class), firing distance, wind conditions and shooter ability. However, shot density per unit area gives a much better indication of the rubber condition and is easily calculated from the position data stored for every shot.

An example shot distribution is illustrated for Lane 50. This shows the highest shot density in the centre, as expected, with a normal distribution in the horizontal and vertical axis, with a greater dispersion in the horizontal axis (possibly due to variable cross-wind). Using this data we can estimate the shot fall rate and forecast when the shot density will exceed the maximum limit at which the target must be repaired. Furthermore, by monitoring the shot distribution across the target area we can determine if the whole rubber sheet needs replacing or only repairing using a rubber patch, which is

a much cheaper option. Ballistic tests on rubber samples suggest the rubber must be repaired if the average shot density exceeds 10 shots/cm². Based on this assumption the rubber on lane 50 will require patching after nine months of operation or 20,000 shots, and replacement after 18 months or 40,000 shots.

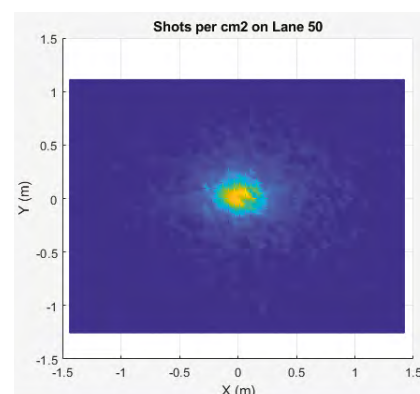
We can gain further information about the targets using shot data. For example, if we look at the shot data for Lane 50 over a three-month period we can calculate the daily utilisation, the typical shooting durations and when the shooters have their lunch! In future this information will be used to monitor range utilisation on a weekly, monthly or yearly basis to help predict demand.

We can also monitor the daily shot count for each target. The average daily shot count is 130, but the maximum daily shot count recorded so far is 866 shots. This surprisingly high shot rate illustrates how the fast response of the electronic scoring system increases shooter efficiency and enables more rounds to be fired in the time available.

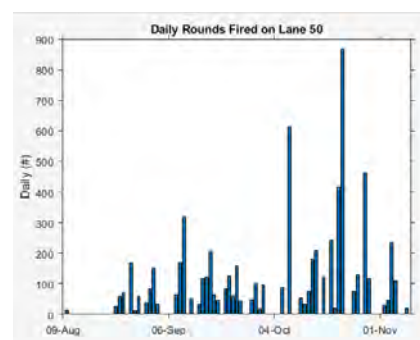
The shot data analysis software is being finalised by the Intarso's UK support team in partnership with the NRA, and when completed it will continually monitor shot data and automatically send reports to the range office and target maintenance team. The information gained from the

shot analysis will enable cost efficient and proactive maintenance to ensure long-term reliability, which will accelerate the widespread adoption of electronic targets.

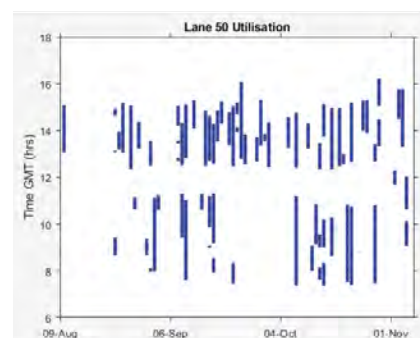
Intarso (Intelligent Target Solutions) is a leading supplier of electronic sport shooting targets with offices in Germany and UK. More information regarding Intarso's target systems and other products can be found at www.intarso.com. ■



Shot distribution data for Lane 50. After 3 months and 6,786 shots the maximum shot density is 3.2 shots per cm²



Daily shot count for Lane 50 over a 3-month period. The average daily shot count is 130, but there was a very busy Sunday in October when 866 shots were fired



The lane utilisation plot shows how often the target is used and the typical shooting duration



Portable Wi-Fi monitor positioned at the firing point

Around the regions

Nicholas Couldrey, NRA Regional Ranges Manager, with the latest updates from ranges across the nation

Heston Range

Many readers will recognise the former British Airways Rifle & Pistol Club range located at Heston near Heathrow Airport. This range is quite rare given the location and had been the home of the BA Club since the 1940s. The facilities include an indoor range, an armoury, a club room and an outdoor 100-yard baffled range. The outdoor range was originally used for .22RF shot from the prone position and then upgraded in the 1980s to allow centrefire pistol calibres from 10 to 50 yards. I gather that in happier times the range was enjoyed by large numbers of club members, often shooting in the evening under floodlights.

In September 2017, the range was acquired by Imperial College London as part of a large sports ground including tennis courts, netball courts, a large grassed area with five football pitches and two rugby pitches. It is an impressive site.

I visited the range at the invitation of Imperial College to learn more about the facilities. The ranges are currently closed; the indoor range and armoury have been condemned because of concerns about the concrete/asbestos roof. The outdoor range is also closed pending remedial works and maintenance to the stop butt and bullet catcher. Imperial College Rifle & Pistol Club is keen to see the range reopen – an ambition that we obviously support. I hope to have more news in the coming weeks.

South-west update

The project to reopen a disused 400-yard military range in the south-west continues. The MoD has decided to conduct an internal costing exercise to inform the decision making process. In broad terms, the cost of closing the range and returning the site to the landowner and the cost of doing the ground works to make the range compliant will be evaluated in the context of the military training need. The third option, allowing the range to be taken over by the



The view from the firing points at the former British Airways range, near Heston



The club room and kitchenette



The disused 400-yard range in the south-west

NRA and the landowner, will be considered once the exit/remediation costs are known. I expect this process to take some months. In the interim, we continue to develop our proposal with the landowner.

Wales update

We continue to provide guidance and support to a club in Wales keen to reopen the disused range near Llanbradach featured in the Winter Journal. This project is complicated by access to the range; a significant upfront investment is needed to upgrade a single-track lane for vehicle use. Further investment will be required to repair the mantlet, bullet catcher and stop butt to allow the range to reopen. To be continued.

Morris Range, Wendover

Members in Buckinghamshire may be familiar with the Morris Range south of Wendover. The ranges have been the home of the Bucks County Rifle Association since the mid-1950s. The NRA and BCRA are in discussion about the future of the range, which is leased from a local landowner. This

is a lovely range but does require a significant capital investment. The NRA has made a proposal to the landowner subject to an appropriate lease term. The attraction of the site is that it is an established range, with car parking, covered firing points, club buildings, electricity generator and potential to reinstate an NDA range for fullbore shooting.

MOD facilities fees

In other news, we await the 2018 fee structure for civilian use of MoD ranges. An increase in costs is expected, driven by inflation and the Landmarc pay review. Details are expected soon and will be distributed to clubs when available.

Finally, I have started a dialogue with three companies that specialise in range maintenance and construction to understand the services available to civilian clubs that operate ranges. This is particularly important for indoor ranges that require robust cleaning and maintenance for the ventilation system and bullet catcher. I'd be interested to hear from clubs who have experience in this area.

See you on the ranges. ■



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OBITUARIES

HARRY THOMPSON 1937 – 2018

We are sad to report the death of WHA 'Harry' Thompson on 14 February in Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, aged 80.

Harry was a big man. He is easy to recognise in shooting photographs, nearly always the tallest and therefore in the centre of the back row. But he was big in character and generosity too. He ran various West Midlands shooting groups with aplomb and was loved and admired by those who worked with him. He had a wicked sense of humour. His son reports that when asked, 'Are you all right?' he'd reply 'No, I'm half left'.

The list of Larry Orpen-Smellie's 1975 team to Canada reads like a roll-call of the great and the good of shooting at the time, including Arnold, Calvert, Fitzpatrick, Tucker – and H. Thompson. There was also Warren Whitaker, who then took the 1977 GB team to Kenya and included many of the same people, including Harry.

Harry was reserve for the England Mackinnon team in 1990 and, in latter years, took up Match Rifle because they would let him shoot off a table. In later Imperial Meetings he was either to be found shooting Match Rifle or as a Range Officer.

Harry served as a regional Target Rifle Coach, which he continued into this century. For some years he coached Bromsgrove School, his Alma Mater. He wrote an insightful and informative Guide to Target Rifle Shooting, which also includes a few moments where the Thompson humour breaks through with such gems as 'excess living... this is good fun but not good for shooting' and 'if you were a chameleon... your right eye would be looking through the sight, while the left one was swivelling around looking at the flags. It is fortunate, therefore, that we do not have to compete with chameleons in rapidly changing winds!'

Harry was interested in all forms of shooting. He took on black powder shooting and went on shotgun trips on cross-channel ferries. He was also a bit of an inventor. When training to be a Target Rifle coach, he

made a model range equipped with flags. There is also a story of a piece of drainpipe with an explosive charge arranged to fire potatoes! He made wonderful toys and gadgets for his children and grandchildren.

As well as being a very good shot himself, Harry was an excellent shooting organiser. His longest term was as secretary of the Bromsgrove Rifle Club (from the 1960s to 2017) both fullbore (where he was Treasurer too) and small-bore. He was, for a while, secretary of the Midlands Rifle Association and, for a much longer time, secretary of the Hereford and Worcester Rifle Association. His organisation was meticulous but he would always laugh about it if things did go wrong. He was a brilliant coach in team shoots. He was king of emails, often signing off 'Horrible Harry' or 'Terrible Thompson'.

PETER RADFORD 5 June 1948 – 4 Feb 2018



Peter started shooting at a young age with an air rifle. He began clay shooting, graduating to a good level and winning a number of trophies. He was a keen rifle shot and an NRA member for 17 years, becoming treasurer of the Artists Rifle Club along the way. It was a post he held with pride, always making sure that 'his' club's finances were in good order.

In his later years he joined the Old Sergeants Mess Rifle club and shot regularly until ill health overtook him. He passed away on 4 February 2018 and will be missed by his family, friends and all at the NRA.



Harry enjoyed his national service in the RAF and then worked in the automobile trade. Apart from shooting and caring for his family, Harry was a very good woodturner and a photographer, often of steam engines.

Among Midlands shooters, Harry's name often crops up and kind words are spoken. He will be an impossible act to follow.

Harry's wife Anne died in October 2017. He leaves two children, Susan Shaw and Richard Thompson and their families. We mourn our loss but treasure his memory.

RAE WILLS 5 February 1939 – 24 January 2018



We regret to report that Rae Wills, long-standing HBSA and NRA Life member and Classic & Historic Arms Representative on the NRA General Council for many years, passed away on Saturday 24 January, after a long-term illness. Rae, who was well known to many of us, passed away at home peacefully, just a few weeks before his 79th birthday.

DICK HAYDEN 14 August 1933 – 4 February 2018

Born in 1933 in Hertford, Richard Woodley Hayden didn't come into shooting by accident. Encouraged by his marksman father, also Richard Hayden, he started shooting .22 rifles at Hertford Grammar School, and at 13 he scored the first recorded possible 100 ex-100 in the school range.

After two further years, Dick was introduced to the home of the NRA and celebrated champions, and so began a memorable 70-year journey. He clearly remembered carrying his rifle, making the early journeys by train and travelling on the 'Bisley Bullet' into Bisley Camp before the line was closed in 1952, the same year as his first Imperial Meeting. The romance of this Victorian legacy stayed with him forever.

He continued to shoot with older brother Jack, both joining Hertfordshire Rifle Association. In 1963 he added memberships to both the NRA, LMRA and shortly afterwards, the North London Rifle Club.

Encouraged by his obvious shooting prowess, he became a regular member of the Hertfordshire County Rifle Team, both

as a shooter and also as a skilled wind coach for others. He won the Individual County Championship in 1970 and in the following year he was a member of the victorious Hertfordshire team to win the County Short in 1971 with a record score at the time.

He became indispensable as a club member. Always ready to help others, he was hugely popular. His engineering skills made him the natural choice for Club Armourer, saving members considerable sums and ensuring they always had top quality equipment.

He manufactured many sets of sights for Arthur Clarke's gun building business, most of which were fitted to Mk 3 and Mk 4 Swing rifles in the 1980s.

He continued to shoot regularly at Bisley, staying in his caravan and competing in well over 50 Annual Prize Meetings, shooting both Target Rifle and Match Rifle.

His last visit to Bisley was in October last year, on the occasion of the Welwyn club's annual championships. He hadn't come to shoot this time, but more importantly, to



visit with his wife Sylvia and to present a very handsome and inaugural Club trophy.

It was named The Ross Hayden Memorial Spoon, after Dick's youngest son Ross, also a regular shooter at Bisley, who tragically died in 2015. There was never a man so proud as Dick was, on that prize-giving afternoon.

Dick Hayden was a man for all seasons and a friend to all, who leaves a huge legacy to those who had both the privilege and pleasure to share time and space with him.

Our thoughts are with his wife Sylvia, his son Richard III and grandson Richard IV, and all their families and his many friends.

PETER MOORES 1951 – 2017

Peter was born in Dorset and grew up on a large estate near Beaulieu in the New Forest. He was a countryman through and through and spent every spare moment either helping the gamekeeper care for his broody hens on the rearing field, or as a regular in the beating line during the season.

Peter left school at the age of 15. There were no vacancies on the estate at the time, but he was offered a position in America and, with his mother's permission, off he went.

Returning to the UK in the early 1970s, Peter moved to West Sussex, where he worked on an estate at Midhurst and quickly established himself as a hard-working and successful gamekeeper in his own right, developing a love of deer, which he went on to manage locally for the rest of his life.

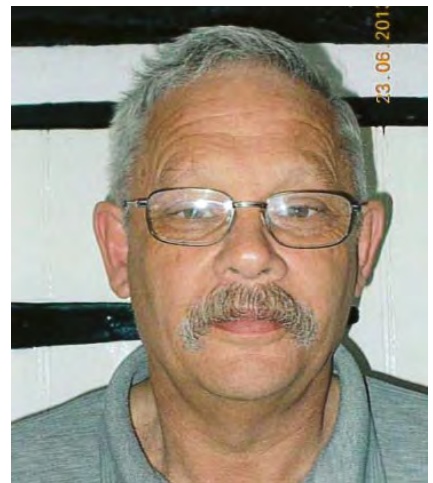
Peter was lured away from estate life to work in the construction industry, something he always regretted, but he went on to run his own building firm successfully for 35 years.

Peter was first diagnosed with cancer in the early 1980s. After aggressive experimental chemotherapy he was told to go

home and get his affairs in order. His reaction to this was to book to go deer stalking in the Highlands of Scotland, seriously believing he would die on the hill. On his return to hospital, the doctors were shocked when they could no longer find any trace of the cancer.

Peter lived a very full life – when he was younger, Peter raced Superstox cars. He would come home after a hard day's work, get his car ready and go racing all around the country, often not getting back until the early hours and then, after only a few hours sleep, be back at work again. Peter also did a lot of clay pigeon shooting for many years, as well as vermin control on local farms and estates.

Peter went to Bisley one day to collect some shooting supplies and was drawn into the world of target shooting and home loading. He became an avid shooter and supporter of the McQueen competition, where he was in the final most years and managed to win the sporting trophy himself. He also enjoyed shooting the long range days organised by BSRC. In later years he joined the OSM shooting club.



Peter was diagnosed with cancer again in 2012, and when he could no longer shoot prone, he started to shoot the Mini McQueen off the bench. Those that knew Peter knew him to be loyal, honest and not afraid to stand up to be counted when it was something he believed in.

Peter was happily married to his wife, Geraldine, for 18 years and she was at his bedside when Peter sadly passed away at home on 19 October 2017.

Notices

Procedure for the General Council Elections 2018

Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

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

Regional and Shooting Discipline Candidature and Voting

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

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

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30 April 2018.

Curriculum Vitae

In order to assist the Registered Members with their choice of representatives in the election, a CV for each Candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 150 words should accompany the nomination. A passport sized photograph of the Candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro-forma.

The Chief Executive will refer back to authors where CVs are too long or are or appear to be factually incorrect.

Key Dates for elections

- **31 March:** All Candidates and Proposers must be fully paid-up Registered Members of the Association by this date.
- **30 April:** Nominations for all

vacancies must be returned to the Chief Executive by 5pm on this date. Registered Members must be qualified for voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline Candidate by this date. All Members desiring to vote must be fully paid-up Registered Members by this date.

- **22 May:** Voting slips will be posted out to all entitled Members by this date together with the procedures for voting.
- **13 July:** Voting slips in the correct envelope supplied must be received by the NRA office by mail or by hand, no later than 5pm on this date.

Scrutineers appointed by the Council To be notified after the Council Meeting on 20 April 2018.

Results

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

Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2018, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

Five Ordinary Members

GK Alexander
CM Brooks
MJJ Charlton
JM Kynoch
PDC Turner*

Five Regional Members

Mrs ID Bennett – West Midlands*
PR Coley – South Western
GAE Larcombe – Southern
JF Miller – Greater London & South East
MP Watkins – Wales

Three Shooting Discipline Members

JS Harris – Target Shotgun
M Bradley – CivSR & Practical Rifle
A Bullen – Sporting Rifle

* Not standing for re-election

> Annual General Meeting

The 2018 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 15 June at 6pm in the NRA Pavilion.

> Bisley General Meeting

The 2018 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 July at 9pm in the NRA Pavilion.

GB Rifle Team – South Africa 2017 – summary accounts

Expenditure:

Training	£13,180.51
Team clothing.....	£2,536.04
Hotel.....	£10,957.70
Transport.....	£5,548.68
Food/team functions	£5,131.35
Other	£2,441.18
Entries	£4,723.40
Tour ammo.....	£10,874.96
Flights.....	£30,057.06
Total	£85,450.88

Income:

Personal contribution.....	£25,031.34
Cash income on tour	£769.80
OTF grant	£8,000.00
Fundraising income	£51,649.74
Total	£85,450.88

Sponsorship in kind

(not included in accounts):

- NRA GB Team Training target hire subsidy

Other expenditure not included in accounts:

- Personal expenditure on meals
- Personal expenditure on travel to/ from Bisley (practices & tour)
- Reunion dinner
- Extra team clothing purchased by individuals

Nick Tremlett (Team Captain)

David Luckman (Team Treasurer)

Woomera Match 2019

I am honoured to have been appointed by the NRA Council as Captain of the GB Match Rifle Team for the Woomera Match against Australia at Bisley during the Imperial Meeting in July 2019. All those interested in applying for selection for the squad should send me a short summary of relevant experience by email to tlk762@aol.com by 30 September and indicate if your preference is to be selected for shooting or as a wind coach.

The full squad will be announced during November and I intend to hold a training weekend in early Spring 2019 and training days in May (day before the Combined Clubs weekend) and June (weekend of LMRA MR Teams Competition) and a match practice in July prior to the start of the Match Rifle competitions. The final team of 16 will be announced during the Hopton Championship.

Tim Kidner

Notice of Captaincy

The following have been appointed as captains for the following teams:

- Kolapore Team Captain 2018 – Charles Brooks
- GB Under 25 Team 2018 – Liam Cheek
- GB Gallery Rifle Team 2018 – WD “Taff” Wilcox
- GB Woomera Match 2019 – Tim Kidner
- GB Rifle Team Canada 2020 – Rex Barrington

World Championships South Africa 2021

Nominations are invited for the GB F Class Open Team Captain and the GB FTR Team Captain for the World Championships to be held in South Africa in 2021.

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Friday 27 April 2018.

Nominations to be sent to Georgina. Thatcher@nra.org.uk



Marksman's Calendar

PLAN YOUR SHOOTING FOR ALL OF 2018. ALL EVENTS AT BISLEY UNLESS STATED

APRIL

29, NRA Shotgun League 2018 – Round 3

Romsey Shooting Club

MAY

12-13, NRA 300m Championships

NRA Becky Mills Becky.mills@nra.org.uk

NRA Carol Kellow carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

25-27, The Phoenix Meeting 2018

NRA Mark Haigh mark.haigh@nra.org.uk

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

26, Suffolk County Rifle Association Closed/ Ajar

Thetford, Norfolk

neilgkeighley@gmail.com

26-28, English XX Open Rifle

Championships

springmeeting@englishtwenty.org.uk

27, NRA Handgun League 2018 – Round 5

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk

Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

28, The Phoenix International Match

JUNE

02, NRA Handgun League 2018 – Round 6

Silverstone Shooting Centre

John Thorne info@silverstoneshootingcentre.co.uk

02, NRA Mini-Rifle League 2018 – Round 4

Silverstone Shooting Centre

John Thorne info@silverstoneshootingcentre.co.uk

02-03, Birmingham Bisley 2018

Kingsbury Ranges, Warwickshire

Frank Harriss f.foh@btinternet.com

08-10, Scottish Open Championship 2018

Blair Atholl

Timothy Kidner tlk762@aol.com

09, Target Rifle Skills Development Course

09, LRRFC Summer Meeting

Richard Kenchington

15-17, NRA Shotgun League 2018 – Round 4

Shield Shooting Centre

Steve Pike steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

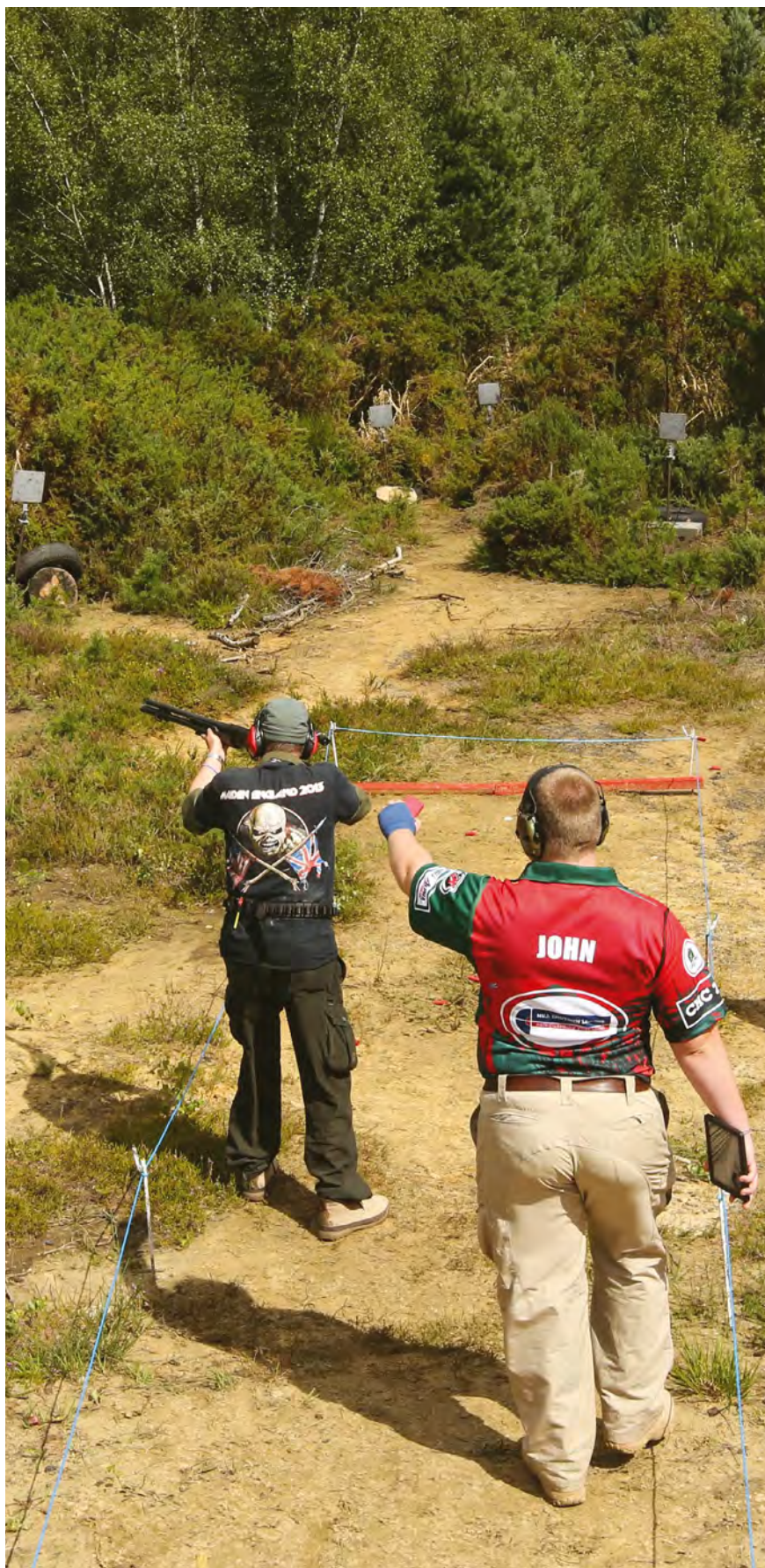
15-26, Service Rifle Imperial Meeting

NRA Mark Haigh mark.haigh@nra.org.uk

16-17, The Inter-Counties

NRA Mark Haigh mark.haigh@nra.org.uk





21, Military Adaptive Shooting Championships 2018

NRA Becky Mills Becky.mills@nra.org.uk

26, Suffolk County Rifle Association Open

Thetford, Norfolk

neilgkeighley@gmail.com

28, Cottesloe Heath Challenge: NRA Shotgun League 2018 – Round 5

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk

Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

30-01 July, 2018 Scottish Long Range Championship 2018

Blair Atholl

Timothy Kidner tlk762@aol.com

JULY

04-28, The 2018 Imperial Meeting

04-08, CSR Imperial Meeting

NRA Carol Kellow carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

13-19, Match Rifle Imperial Meeting

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

14-15, Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

NRA Becky Mills Becky.mills@nra.org.uk

NRA Mark Haigh mark.haigh@nra.org.uk

14-15, NRA Shotgun League 2018 – Round 6

Shield Shooting Centre

Steve Pike steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

16-19, Schools Imperial Meeting

NRA Becky Mills Becky.mills@nra.org.uk

NRA Mark Haigh mark.haigh@nra.org.uk

18-22, Gallery Rifle and Pistol Imperial

NRA Becky Mills Becky.mills@nra.org.uk

NRA Carol Kellow carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

20-24, F-Class Imperial Meeting

NRA Carol Kellow carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

20-28, Target Rifle Imperial Meeting

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

21, NRA Mini-Rifle League 2018 – Round 5

Worcester Norton Shooting Club

Russell Hicks Wnsc-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk

22, NRA Shotgun League 2018 – Round 7

Phoenix Shooting Club

Ron Flint ron@phoenixshootingclub.co.uk

AUGUST

26, Suffolk County Rifle Association F Class Long Range Match

Barton Road Rifle Range, Cambridge

paulhill57@btinternet.com

25-26, Gallery Rifle National Championships

NRA Becky Mills Becky.mills@nra.org.uk

26, NRA Handgun League 2018 – Round 7

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk

Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

Results

Handgun League 2017

LBP Standard

1. David Ashcroft, 72.882.
2. James Harris, 65.36
3. Richard Clifton, 58.9

LBP Open

1. Tim Gardener, 72.54
2. Ben Ducker, 60.29
3. Russell Hicks, 55.69

Revolver Open

1. Gareth Biddle, 92.00
2. Christopher Jones, 72.84
3. Peter Matthews, 47.18

Shotgun League 2017

Standard Manual

1. Steve Cox, 67.35
2. Iain Guy, 50.00
3. John Ellis, 48.02

Standard Auto

1. James Harris, 83.99
2. Ben Ducker, 76.32
3. Chris Gamlin, 61.98

Open

1. Oliver Bloomfield, 69.08
2. Peter Matthews, 50.29
3. Canish Pope, 48.84

Mini-Rifle League 2017

1. Josh Hicks, 99.44
2. Ben Ducker, 74.15
3. Mark Hamill, 59.54

The Ages Match

1. 55-64, 2932.365v
2. Under 25, 2918.323v
3. 35-54, 2909.324v

Top individual score: John Bellringer, 299.44v

Historic Service Rifle Match – Sept 2017

Veteran

1. A Chapman, 230
2. A Hurley, 207
3. N St Aubyn, 204

Veteran Optic

1. R Wade, 248
2. P Bennyworth, 196

3. M Mitchard, 192

Classic

1. I Dewey, 185
2. J Foreman, 159
3. R Macnabb, 143

All Comers

1. W Ellis, 233
2. F Cooke, 227
3. C Hudson, 189

Spring Action Weekend 2018 – selected results

25m Precision GSRB

1. Colin Hudson, 284.5x
2. Neil Jones, 277.4x
3. David Eastwood, 271.4x

25m Precision GRCF

1. Norman Veitch, 297.17x
2. David Eastwood, 296.19x
3. Neil Jones, 296.13x

25m Precision LBR

1. Adam Chapman, 280.6x
2. Les Pearson, 279.7x

Timed & Precision 1 GRSB

- X1. Norman Veitch, 300.23x
X2. Keith Cox, 300.19x
X3. Keith Kilvington, 299.18x
A1. Shaun Twomey, 299.14x
A2. Jake Mossom, 297.16x
A3. Tim Mephram, 297.11x
B1. Dave Morrow, 298.12x
B2. Laura Warwick, 296.10x
B3. Joshua Brown, 293.12x

Timed & Precision 1 GRCF

- X1. Norman Veitch, 300.27x
X2. Keith Cox, 300.27x
X3. Steve Lamb, 300.26x
A1. James Starley, 300.22x
A2. Mark Harris, 300.17x
A3. Michael Reynolds, 300.16x
B1. Paul Lacey, 299.20x
B2. David Parsons, 299.15x

T&P 1 LBP Open

- X1. Gary Bowden, 300.14x
X2. Steve Lane, 300.13x
A1. Marek Pawlik, 297.12x
A2. Adrian Kwa, 296.10x
A3. Christopher Green, 296.5x
B1. Stuart Russell, 287.8x

B2. Spencer Roberson, 284.4x

T&P 1 LBR Open

- X1. Phil Cowling, 298.14x
A1. Leslie Kong, 295.11x
A2. Neil Roberts, 291.12x
B1. Robert Illius, 290.7x
B2. Robert Wheeler, 284.7x

Multi-Target GRSB

- X1. Norman Veitch, 118.20x
X2. David Eastwood, 118.15x
X3. Keith Cox, 115.14x
A1. Stuart Russell, 115.8x
A2. Malcolm Stewart, 113.12x
A3. Shaun Twomey, 113.9x
B1. Lee Townsend, 106.4x
B2. Mark Lloyd, 104.7x
B3. Colin Delahoy, 102.7x

Multi-Target GRCF

- X1. Norman Veitch, 119.19x
X2. Steve Lamb, 119.15x
X3. David Eastwood, 118.16x
A1. James Starley, 118.17x
A2. Keith Kilvington, 118.16x
A3. Fraser Hay, 117.14x
B1. Paul Lacey, 114.10x

Multi-Target LBP Open

- X1. Morné van Dalen, 118.15x
X2. Marek Pawlik, 115.12x
A1. David Guest, 118.16x
A2. Peter Watts, 116.10x
A3. Steve Lane, 114.14x
B1. Christopher Green, 107.4x
B2. Stuart Russell, 106.5x

Multi-Target LBR Open

- X1. Phil Cowling, 110.9x
X2. 632 John Robinson, 109.10x
A1. 1765 Leslie Kong, 112.10x
B1. 1291 Robert Illius, 106.6x

1500 GRSB

- X1. Chris West, 1486.111x
X2. Greg Rastall, 1483.94x
A1. Jake Mossom, 1480.89x
A2. Mel Beard, 1471.90x
B1. Ash Dagger, 1447.64x
C1. Shaun Twomey, 1468.77x
C2. Steve Jordan, 1452.69x
C3. Jacky Lamb, 1431.65x
D1. Joshua Brown, 1394.58x
D2. Daniel Iwo, 1339.36x

1500 GRCF

- X1. Phil Wood, 1495.108x
X2. Chris West, 1493.110x
A1. Greg Rastall, 1490.106x
B1. Fraser Hay, 1488.96x
B2. Tim Mephram, 1482.97x
C1. Peter Keegan, 1480.94x
D1. Rachel Goldsworthy, 1461.80x

Advancing Target GRSB

- X1. Robert Wheeler, 287.24x
X2. William Pow, 285.22x
A1. Michael Reynolds, 292.23x
A2. Steve Jordan, 282.26x
A3. Stuart Russell, 282.21x
B1. Charles Horner, 268.17x
B2. James Badman, 266.14x
B3. Alan Wragg, 264.12x

Advancing Target GRCF

- X1. David Guest, 180.28x
X2. Greg Rastall, 179.24x
A1. James Starley, 180.25x
A2. Adam Chapman, 179.18x
A3. Dave Morrow, 178.27x
B1. Lee Townsend, 180.20x
B2. Mark Harris, 170.16x
B3. Barry Morgan, 169.13x

Advancing Target LBP Open

- X1. Morné van Dalen, 178.29x
A1. David Guest, 178.23x
A2. Gary Bowden, 176.19x
A3. Steve Lane, 175.16x
B1. David Livingstone, 173.25x
B2. Blair Drummond, 172.16x
B3. Stuart Russell, 167.12x

Advancing Target LBR Open

- X1. Phil Cowling, 175.22x
A1. Steve Denton, 166.14x
B1. Daniel Taylor, 151.7x
B2. Robert Wheeler, 151.4x

McQueen GRSB

1. Chris McGill, 50.9v 50.8v
=2. Cornelius Schalkwyk, Graham Gough, Peter Radcliffe
50.9v 50.6v

McQueen

1. Peter Lomas, 50.7v 50.3v
2. Stuart Doyle, 50.6v 50.8v
3. Chris McGill, 50.6v 50.7v

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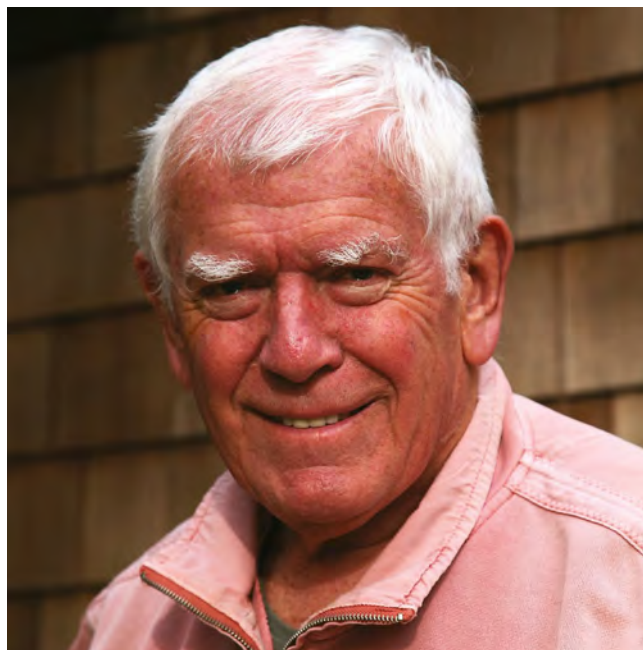
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MESSAGE



Rob Sanders talks to NRA Marketing & Communications Manager, Katia Malcaus Cooper

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

An old .22 Diana air rifle started it all at about 9-10 years. After that, at around 15, it was a .22 BSA Martini action, graduating to .22 pistols and then weekends at Bisley with .303 rifles and 9mm pistols.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Back in the 1980s, the Kent Police ran a big open charity competition, The Invicta. It was for pistol, rifle, and shotgun, like a forerunner of more recent 3-gun events. I enjoyed winning it twice. My old friend John Chambers, young then, also has this one on his CV, an omen of what he would do in the future. There's been a lot in between, but more recently, I'm pleased to have won the NRA Target Shotgun National Championships at Bisley a couple of times.

What was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome?

I'm still trying to overcome the biggest hurdle. It's getting older, slower and facing fading eyesight. This is one that I'll never win.

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

My wife Francoise has always been supportive of my shooting. She berates me when I go off at the crack of dawn, in rain, wind or snow, but would never try to stop me. I've also made some true friends in the sport. They know who they are and I'm glad they've been in my life.

What sort of music do you listen to?

That's difficult, because I like many types of music. Jazz and some of the oldies. Springsteen, Dixie Chicks, but also the up-to-date stuff: Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith, Pink and Bruno Mars. Oh, and some opera.

What club are you a member of?

My primary club is the NRA. It's like home in the UK. I am also a member of OSM at Bisley.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

Back in the day, when we were permitted pistols in the UK, I was impressed by an unknown American, who knocked me out of a revolver

Man-v-Man Comp, at the Anno Domini Meeting at Bisley. I wasn't too shabby with a .45ACP S&W in those days, but he was Jerry Miculek. Anybody as good as Jerry is an inspiration, but there are others.

What is your favourite country? Is it somewhere you have visited on a shooting tour?

I, of course, have concerns over the recent horrific shootings in the USA, but as a shooter, I enjoy the countless possibilities whenever we are there. Outside of shooting, it's Thailand, India, or the Caribbean.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Since my first visit to Bisley as a 15-year-old, I've loved the place and its history. It's always felt like a time warp, but although I saw few changes for many years, now it's constantly being improved. The NRA are to be applauded for this. The pistol ban in 1997 was sad, as was the earlier ban on self-loading rifles, but the sheer variety of shooting offered by the NRA is catering for all that is left to us.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I like photography, and I always try to have a DIY project on the go, also gardening. Since we have a house in Normandy as well (big garden and proper pistols!) there isn't too much free time.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

Steady on the wine the night before, and a good night's sleep. Ticking off a checklist is essential to me, to avoid a rush in the morning.

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

With so many forms of shooting available, I'd suggest trying as many as you can. You will soon find out what floats your boat, and then it's just a matter of practice, for which there is no substitute. Watch the experienced shooters, and ask questions – there should be no lack of people to guide you. Good luck – shooting is a wonderful sport.

So what next?

At 75, I have to be a realist. Speed events are no longer my forte (though I'll still try) but I hope that I still have a few more years in the sport that I love. Perhaps I'll look more at the classic events. I always liked the old guns. ■

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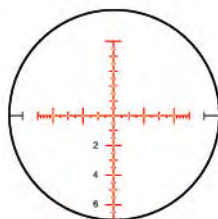
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