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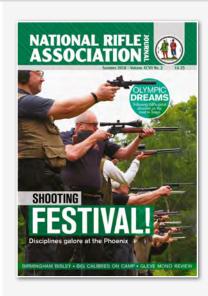
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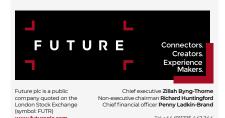
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Promoting the sport

NRA CEO Andrew Mercer comments that we should all be doing more to spread positive messages about shooting and engage non-shooters

he government published the delayed Offensive Weapons Bill in early June and paid scant attention to the 8,000 or so responses to the consultation paper from the shooting community. The first reading of the Bill was followed a week later by the second reading, allowing just enough time for us to send out briefing notes to MPs. Hansard's report included a good number of positive comments, particularly in support of the use of .50" calibre rifles in target shooting; we are working up amendments to present as the Bill progresses.

The Bill risks setting a dangerous precedent as it proposes banning certain firearms without evidence or credible justification. I am grateful for the support we received from NRA members who contacted their MPs to express their concerns; many of the comments made in Parliament originated from this correspondence.

The proposals are a result, in part, of a wider problem, namely that shooting is poorly understood or recognised by the public at large. Responsibility for this lies with the shooting community; for too long we have grumbled among ourselves and promoted our own favoured form of shooting to our supporters. The shooting community is enormous with 2.25 million legally held firearms across the UK; however, I can find scant effort invested in promoting shooting to those who neither know nor care about it. We the NRA are as guilty as any; while our social media channels are 'liked' by 30,000 individuals and have a weekly reach of up to 200,000, our output largely aims to garner the attention of the target shooting community.

Having belatedly realised our lack of effort in this area, we are now working up a carefully crafted programme to promote target shooting to those who do not know or care about the sport. Our expectations are modest; we do not seek to recruit new members or encourage participation in our sport, but aspire to inform the wider public

that shooting is a proper sport enjoyed by nearly a million decent and responsible people. We will be seeking 'good news' stories of any type of target shooting to promote through our social media channels.

At Bisley we are working our way through the Imperial meeting. It is always a pleasure to welcome the services teams to our ranges, and I was delighted to meet competitors from Oman, Canada, USA, Germany as well as the Royal Navy, RAF and British Army. It is wrong to name a favourite child or shooting competition, but a special mention must be made of the Military Adaptive Championship, which attracted a record number of injured service personnel this year. Melville range was the venue for a cracking day of competition, supported by a large number of volunteers. Our friends from the MLAGB once again provided the opportunity to experience the magic of black powder; the infectious enthusiasm of Paul Wolpe, Allan Whiffin and Paul Roberts added much to a successful day.

Facebook is our medium of choice to publicise these and most events; to my surprise, a relatively recent initiative of posting live streams has proved very popular and regularly attracts over 2,000 views.

The introduction of electronic targetry on Century and Stickledown ranges has been a resounding success. The ability to view the fall of shot almost immediately makes the ranges much more efficient but more importantly it gives an accurate read-out of the strike and, now that most of the teething problems have been resolved, is less likely to let you down on a Saturday morning than a marker.

We continue to monitor target system technology, and are acutely aware of other systems, some of which are designed for personal use and relatively cheap to buy. We are receiving an increasing number of requests to place such items on our targets, or on the mantlet. Our denial is causing some frustration and, in defence of the range staff, I feel I must explain my reasoning.



- If a shooter wishes to place a camera or sensor on their target or the mantlet, they will have to expose a part of their body above the mantlet to do so, or arrive before the commencement of shooting and remain until cessation. The temptation to 'quickly remove the device' presents a risk.
- A system failure during shooting will undoubtedly result in an attempt at repair.
- Equipment presented above the mantlet is a ricochet risk irrespective of advertising.
- A ricochet induced by equipment installed on the target could deflect a bullet into the markers' gallery. With markers operating on neighbouring lanes, this is not acceptable.
- A strike on any equipment on the mantlet will reduce velocity, increasing the likelihood of ricochet into the markers' gallery.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the current lack of shooting at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, to be hosted by Birmingham. There has been much chest-beating and blame-shedding on this matter, but the simple fact is that Birmingham have yet to be persuaded to include shooting in their Games. We have offered Bisley as a venue, applying the logic that facilities deemed good enough for Manchester in 2002, with modest investment, would surely suit Birmingham in 2022. We continue to press for shooting to be included in the Games and plan to engage with the Games delivery team once they are in place later this summer.

NEWS STATE

RISING COSTS?

Firearms licence certificate holders may face further increases to the cost of their sport, over and above the introduction of separate fees for a medical report.

Nick Hurd, the Home Office Minister for Licensing, said the overall fee structure for the shotgun and firearm licensing system was also under review.

New fees for licence grants and renewals were set in 2015 – after 10 years in which they had stayed the same – with a view to full cost recovery once all forces had set up online licensing systems. These systems have still not been rolled out.

This happens even as politicians debate tightening firearms laws further through a new Offensive Weapons Bill, which could ban the online sale and postage of knives, as well as prohibiting "certain rapid firing firearms".

Shooting organisations have met members of the All Party
Parliamentary Group on Shooting and Conservation – which includes members of the Commons and Lords – to discuss the proposals.

TEN UP FOR SURREY



The Surrey team has won the 2018 Inter Counties championship, completing an unbroken run of 10 victories.

Surrey began on Friday 15 June by winning the Lt Col H Jones VC Memorial Trophy, scoring a total of 1183.149v – eight points higher than Hertfordshire, who for the second year running take the silver medal position. Norfolk came third, a further three points back. Just nine points separated the next seven teams.

In Saturday's long-range match, Surrey showed consistent shooting to top the rankings by five points from Berkshire, with Hertfordshire collecting bronze. This made for a clean sweep for Surrey, 14 points clear in the aggregate on 2318.256v. Second was Hertfordshire on 2304.215v, and third Norfolk on 2301.231v.

WATCH OUT FOR SPOT CHECKS

Police in Merseyside are conducting unannounced 'spot checks' on gun owners, arriving without notice at their homes and demanding to inspect guns and their security, according to BASC.

Home Office guidance does not allow police to do that without good reason, and the association warns that such a policy risks damaging the relationship between police and the shooting community. It has written to Merseyside's Chief Constable, Andy Cooke, for an explanation.

Bill Harriman, BASC's director of firearms, said: "It appears the visits have been made without prior arrangement and by a team of up to four people. In all cases, no proper reason was given for the visit. Such that was given was normally limited to unsatisfactory phrases like 'spot checks' and 'routine visit'.

"It is clear from the 2016 Home Office Guide on Firearms Licensing that the police cannot just turn up to someone's home and demand entry unless they have reason to do so. They must make a proper explanation to the certificate holder, who still retains discretion not to admit them. While accepting that a certificate holder will want to maintain a relationship with their licensing department, BASC's advice is 'no reasoned explanation, no entry'."

AI SPONSORS McQUEEN

Accuracy International will sponsor two new prestigious awards for the McQueen series of competitions.

First, it will award a stunning hallmarked 1966 Sheffield Silver Salver and a Miniature AI Rifle Model to the winner of the McQueen A (Precision) Under 25 category. This match is shot at 300 yards on Century Range, two sighting shots with 10 to count with issued NRA rifles – currently AI Accuracy Tactical rifles.

Second, AI is awarding an elegant Antique Victorian 1898 Silver Cup and



two Miniature AI Rifle Models for the winners of the McQueen Pairs. This is open to any number of teams of two from any rifle club affiliated to the NRA, Unit of HM Forces or visiting team regardless of discipline. The awards will go to the team whose aggregate scores, with each member firing the McQueen A (Precision) match once only, make up the highest aggregate.

McEACHRAN MBE

Colin McEachran has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, receiving an MBE for his longstanding career and contribution to the sport of target shooting.

Colin represented Great Britain on numerous occasions, including six GB tours to Canada, and was Vice Captain in 1984 and Captain in 1990. He shot in the Empire Match (now called Australia Match) in 1974, three times in the Palma Match and five times in the Kolapore Match, and was Captain of the GB Kolapore Team in 1995. He was Captain of the Scotland Team from 1991 to 1993 and shot for Scotland in the Elcho Match (Match Rifle) in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 2002.

He was chairman of the Scottish Rifle Association for 10 years and was heavily involved with the organisation of Commonwealth Games shooting events, as director of shooting for the 1986 Edinburgh Games and team manager for the Scottish team for the 1998 Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He also served as legal advisor to the Commonwealth Games



Council for Scotland and held the position of vice chair in 1991 and then chairman for four years from 1995.

Scottish Target Shooting's Angus Loudon said: "Colin has been a fantastic ambassador for the sport of shooting and we are delighted that his achievements and hard work, both on and off the range, over the last 50 years have finally been recognised today. I cannot think of a worthier recipient and everyone at Scottish Target Shooting would like to congratulate Colin on his MBE and thank him for his tireless endeavours in helping to promote all forms of shooting to people of all ages."

NEWS IN BRIEF

GET UP TO DATE WITH GDPR

Members may be aware of new data protection regulations that came into effect on 25 May, which may affect how clubs and other shooting organisations manage data, particularly members' personal information. The NRA has undertaken a detailed review to ensure our compliancy and drafted a number of documents to assist clubs and organisations in their own review of GDPR compliance, including an awareness document, model privacy notice and data breach procedure. You can download all these from the NRA website.

HAVE YOU BEEN SWINDLED?

If you are entering the Queen's 1 (TR) or Albert (MR) in this year's Imperial, then team "swindle" competitions may see you winning your share of a £1,200 pot in the Queen's 1 or a £360 pot in the Albert. Teams are randomly selected among the entrants, and prizes are on offer for both teams and individuals as well. The swindles support the teams which represent GB or the NRA in these disciplines on tour each year, via the NRA's Overseas Teams Fund. If you didn't enter as part of your Imperial entry, you can do so when badgered around Bisley by a budding GB tourist.

ISSF SUSPENDS VICE PRESIDENT

International shooting's governing body, the ISSF, has suspended its vice president Luciano Rossi, an outspoken critic of its decisions about shooting's Olympic programme. Last year Rossi was referred to ISSF's ethics committee after criticising the governing body's decision to replace Double Trap, 50m pistol and 50m rifle events in the Olympic programme, and announcing that his "long term support to [ISSF] president Vazquez Rana has definitely come to an end". The ethics committee upheld the complaints against him and barred him from taking part in any national- or international-level shooting-related activities for 36 months.

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Treasurer's report

NRA Treasurer Derek Lowe presents his annual report on the NRA's finances



s I begin my final year as Treasurer, I am pleased to report a healthy financial standing for the NRA. The NRA's financial performance in 2017 can be seen in our audited accounts, which are available via a search on www.nra.org.uk for 'accounts', following their publication at Easter. Highlights include:

- Incoming resources (that is, revenues) of £5.98m, up from £5.73m in 2016.
- A general fund surplus totalling £106k, compared to an equivalent of £64k in 2016, with investment returns additional to these.
- Closing cash balance of £584k, vs £709k at year-end 2016.
- Cash invested of £708k (£685k in 2016) following cash generation by our operations of £583k (£928k in 2016). Over 2013-2017 inclusive, the NRA has generated cash totalling £3.5m, of which £742k was used to restore our net cash position (£339k to repay the debts which were due imminently in 2013, and £403k to strengthen our cash balance), and the remaining £2.8m has been invested in capital expenditure. Maintenance catch-up and increasing the provision of services (such as support for regional shooting) is additional to these figures, as the costs of these are taken out prior to the measurement of cash generation.

Capital expenditure averaged £568k per annum, which compares favourably with $\,$



the £1m over three years identified by the Trustees as an objective in the strategic review covering 2015-2017 (i.e. £333k p.a. on average). The strategic review for 2018-2020 has increased this target to £500k p.a., in addition to maintenance spending of £400k p.a. Investment of any amount is possible only if surpluses and cash flow can be generated on a sustained and reliable basis. Our chief executive and staff have delivered these repeatedly, while preserving the minimum cash balance required of them by the Trustees (recently increased from £200k to £250k) - well done and thank you from the Treasurer! By contrast, many members will recall the problems in the past caused by financial difficulty.

Alongside this, the Trustees remain well aware of issues such as the complex balance needed between various competing objectives, including an understandable natural tension between different interest groups (whether related to geography, discipline, property or otherwise); the need to balance between immediate spending and sustaining financial resilience; and affordability in areas over which we have influence.

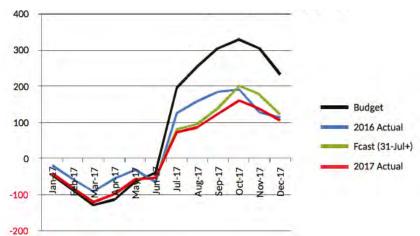
The NRA continues to preserve the real-terms cost of core goods and services to members by limiting most price rises to the inflation rate. As the NRA's environment, and footprint, become more complex, the Trustees endeavour to ensure that shooters pay for the cost to deliver shooting and the use of charity assets, particularly Bisley Camp, so that those who do not shoot at Bisley are not effectively subsidising those who do. And the Trustees aim for external revenue to make our investment programme possible.

The NRA's national and regional shooting endeavours continue to grow, with a model developed for financial investment in equipment on regional ranges in return for pre-agreed access to those ranges for NRA members; funding for both internal and third-party expert know-how in areas such as range design and close dialogue with the MoD regarding range access and respected standards for training and certification; close liaison with police firearms licensing teams; and investment in the considerable challenge of promoting to the Home Office the merits of safe and lawful marksmanship alongside advocacy for fair costing and regulatory structures.

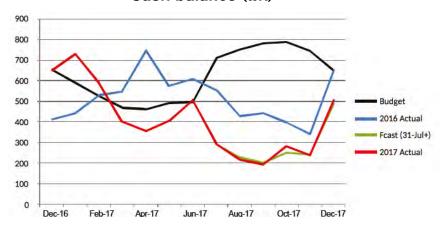
I've highlighted in the past the importance placed by the Trustees on effective communication about finances: within management for operational effectiveness; among the Trustees for oversight, direction and support; and out to NRA General Council and individual members for transparency and to foster enfranchisement. I typically provide reports to each General Council meeting, initiated the Treasurer's speech to the AGM and have written in each Summer Journal since 2014.

The accompanying charts form part of the monthly management accounts presented to the Trustees, introducing more detailed information with a ready update on the three principal measurements chosen by the Trustees to monitor financial performance: accumulated surplus during the year, cash balance, and net current assets. And the statutory accounts are prepared very promptly after each year-end for audit, followed by timely publication. The Trustees' thanks go, once again, to the Support Services team for their quick and effective work, providing tools which are essential to effective management and oversight. ■

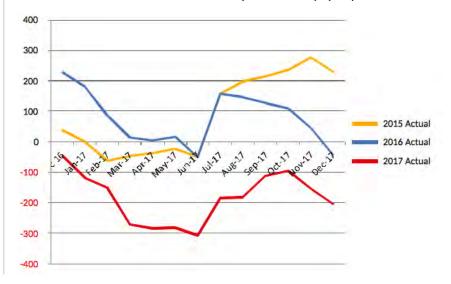
Cumulative net surplus / (deficit) (£k)



Cash balance (£k)



Net current assets / (liabilities) (£k)





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Goodwill for all

James Harris reports on the Target Shotgun events held at the Phoenix Meeting 2018, including the first ever 'goodwill' international match



he Phoenix Meeting weekend is a celebration of all types of shooting, from historic muzzle-loading revolvers to the latest F-class rifles. Over the course of the three-day event every range was in use, hosting a vast assortment of competitions to cater for the varying firearm types. On Century, sporting rifles lined up next to muzzle-loaders, while on Stickledown, long-range pistols vied for position with pre-'55 service rifles, not to mention the cornucopia of metal, wood and plastic that was put to good use punching paper at the shorter distances. Hidden away on the far side of camp, however, Short Siberia was the preserve of the ever-popular McQueen, ably run by Alan and Jason, and the shotgun events under the beady eye of the unmistakable figures of George Granycome and Andrew Thompson.

The first Goodwill International Match was run, adding an additional level of tension to proceedings. This match was to be shot concurrently with the individual events and the nominated scores compiled

into the team aggregate. With the host nation having a significant advantage in terms of numbers and practice facilities, the composition of the teams had to be carefully thought out. In order to prevent sandbagging by entering the top three or four shooters into all the matches to count for score, a limit of four events per competitor was introduced in conjunction with a maximum team size of 12.

The team captains had to carefully judge which member of their team was best suited to which events and aim for a consistently good performance on average as a team across the field. Given that there are a variety of different skills required across the matches and that not all team members would be experienced in them all, some head-scratching was inevitably involved.





through to the finish on Sunday

The events included in the aggregate were Timed and Precision 1 (TP1), Multi-Target (MT), NRA Embassy Cup, and the 100/200 yard match that is unique to the Phoenix, with the highest two scores per team per event to count out of three nominated scores. This meant filling places in seven matches, hence the flexible team sizing.

The NRA Goodwill Team, led by its captain Rob Sanders, eventually comprised 11 members, while the National Association of Rifle and Pistol Clubs (NASRPC) team from the Republic of Ireland, headed by its captain Dean Parker, was seven strong. This undoubtedly added some additional pressure onto the ROI team, though it did not show.

Given the increased number of entrants this year, the firing lines were full from the start on Friday morning through to the finish at midday on Sunday.

Within the medal positions in the individual matches some new faces are appearing, which bodes well for the

longevity of the sport. Record scores, however, were not to be seen this time. A two-way tie on 299 in the TP1 Semi-Auto class between John Chambers (13X) and Tony Quane (11X) was broken on the X count; however, the tie in the Multi-Target Manual between John (7x) and Andreas Steinke (7X) had to be broken by distance, with Andreas emerging victorious. A special mention should be made here of the third place in TP1 Semi-Auto won by Colin Hudson with a score of 296 and 13X using iron sights – some very good shooting.

The Embassy Cup is always a match that can throw a curveball, and this year was no exception with a three-way tie in the Semi-Auto class between the ever-present John Chambers, Daniel O'Flaherty (ROI) and Brian McManus, all scoring 119.

With such consistent performance across the board, it was no surprise that the friendly international was a close-run thing, with NRA just beating NASRPC by a mere 63 points out of a possible 2360.

CAPTAIN'S Q&A

After the match we caught up with Ireland's team captain Dean Parker for a few words...

Which club do you shoot for?

Munster Target Shooting Club.

How long have you been shooting?

Thirty-nine years. I started game shooting at an early age and then progressed to target shooting with the police.

How long have you been shooting TS?

Three years.

How did you get involved?

We heard about it and decided to set it up at our club to try it out.

Where do you train for TS?

Primarily Munster and all over, including at the Midlands range.

What is the biggest hurdle to practising in ROI/UK?

Access to authorised ranges suitable for solid slug, though the range owners are working hard to improve this.

Is it a growing discipline?

Definitely. It will grow faster, though, as we promote it further on the back of the matches. **How easy was it to assemble the**

How easy was it to assemble the team?

Easy to get six, but the problem we had was the travelling costs as we have to pay our own way and we don't have a lot of experienced competitors yet.

Are you satisfied with your personal performance?

No, sadly. I shot respectable scores but not to my usual standard.

Did the team perform as expected?

The team performed well. The discipline that let us down was Multi-Target – we don't shoot it enough and it was a disappointing result. Our usual standards are higher, but we had a bad day.

What is on your priority list to practise for 2019?

Practising the MT, increasing standards across the board and bringing in as many new shooters in as possible.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS									
EVENT TP1 P/A TP1 S/A MT P/A MT S/A Embassy P/A Embassy S/A 100/200						Total			
HPS	600	600	240	240	240	240	200	2360	
NRA	596	590	219	224	236	237	84	2186	
NASRPC	592	589	183	218	223	237	81	2123	



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Practical magic

Among the highlights of the Phoenix Meeting this year was the Practical Pistol match, offering a true all-round test of pistol shooters' skills. James Harris was there...



he Phoenix Meeting is one of the major highlights of the shooting year for many competitive shooters and offers not only the opportunity to shoot in the widest range of competitions available at any of the NRA meetings but a chance to browse the vendor stands in the tents adjacent to the pavilion.

In addition to the plethora of short-range matches, there is also the

opportunity to shoot in the Bianchi, Bisley having one of the few moving target systems in the UK, and also the Practical Pistol match. Both of these events offer outstanding value for money in terms of entry fee vs challenge and enjoyment, but sadly they share the same range space, so coordination between the two is always an issue. Setup for the Bianchi is relatively simple and is undertaken by the paid staff in

the days before the meeting; however, set-up for the Practical match is carried out solely by unpaid volunteers on the Saturday night, and our thanks go to those that assist.

Because of the time constraints and somewhat limited numbers of build crew this year, only seven individual stages were laid out to test most, if not all, of the skills that a pistol shooter needs if they are to be considered a



truly practical shooter. Among the limiting factors in designing the stages is the actual effective range of the equipment in use and the competence level of the average shot. Originally, when the author set up and promoted the first such match for LBPs at Shield almost two decades ago, the choice was converted buckmark or converted buckmark! Though the accuracy of this pistol was and remains very good, its ergonomics and limited magazine capacity mean it has now dropped in popularity among the aficionados of this discipline, to be replaced by the 1911 style LBPs (Low Mills, GSG, etc) and .22 conversions of other makes such as the Grand Power (K22).

Considering that the highest scoring zone is some five inches across, most if not all of the competitors should be able to hit the A zone at all the distances up to about 40m, though the speed at which they do so will depend on their skill level, and of course on their sights staying in the right place - reliable equipment is a major factor in this match, and many have fallen foul of the mechanical gremlins. Those who prefer the noise and recoil of an LBR and are not put off by the less userfriendly reloading techniques also have to be catered for, and the appearance of the eight-shot moon-clipped revolver

adds another dimension lest the conventional six/seven shot designs are to be handicapped. With all these considerations, plus the need to be inventive and of course stay well within the safety constraints, putting on such an event is not for the faint-hearted.

When all three bays are in use, Butt Zero is effectively limited to a maximum range of 35m, and as this match is about speed as well as accuracy, most of the targets were at less than 10m, with only

25 per cent at 20m or more, the longest shots being 35m.

As a result the stages at this match required shooting from kneeling, prone if you desired, with one hand, both hands, the weak hand (the hand you don't normally use), fast reloads in awkward positions, around barriers, under barriers, through holes in barriers (to restrict sightlines to targets) and of course moving around the range. With a comprehensive stage briefing and the opportunity to review each stage and make a plan of how to approach it, every shooter attempted the stages with a slightly different approach. Some, however, were completely different and occasionally with spectacular results. John Chambers (LBP open) demonstrated this on Stage 7, where, thanks to his unique plan and accurate shooting, he held an almost 10 per cent margin over the next man, but even this was surpassed by the 29 per cent lead that Tim Gardener (Revolver) took on Stage 5. With margins like these it is not surprising that both of these shooters won their respective divisions by a significant margin, while Shaun Twomey collected his first Gold in Standard Division.

The Handgun League stopped next at Silverstone on 3 June, and subsequent to that will be at Bisley on 26 August. ■



Scenes at the Phoenix

The Phoenix Meeting and Arms Fair once again attracted a huge range of participants and disciplines, with the highest number of entrants and cards shot in recent years...





































300m Thriller

The British 300m Open Championships for Target Rifle and Free Rifle once again demonstrated the appeal of the 300m discipline, reports Robin Carter

he first day of the British 300m Open Championships opened on Saturday 12 May with the 300-metre event for Target Rifle, an event in which the rifle must meet NRA 7.62 TR rules but is shot to the ISSF procedures, timings and targets. The event was held on the 300m indoor firing point electronic target range on Bisley's Century range 10. This is the only range for this event in the whole UK, adding to the charisma of Bisley as the UK centre of shooting.

Many of the competitors will be shooting the event for the first time and used to shooting to TR rules, so will find the procedures a little different, but nevertheless quite relaxing with much more time to settle in.

The first command is the start of the 'set-up period', a 15-minute period during which they can set out their mat, their equipment, rifle and even their scope if they wish. The event is shot on electronic targets, with an individual monitor for each competitor to see their own shot placement, score, time and shot statistics, but many people still use a scope to watch the mirage – the distance may be only 300m and the firing point may be indoors, but the vagaries of the fickle Bisley wind are still very apparent, especially on such a tight target.

The target is a 10-ring style, with the 10 ring at 100mm across and an X ring of 50mm for tie breaking. The other rings are 100mm spacing, so the 9 ring is 200mm, the 8 ring 300mm, and so on outwards.

The competitors may dry-fire and practice-aim during the set up period, but may not shoot live shots. TR shooters will find that the black aiming mark is bigger than the TR target, so now they can test and change their fore sight element to suit, should they wish.

The next command will be the start of the 'sighting period', also 15 minutes. The time will be shown on the monitor screen and will count down, and they can shoot as



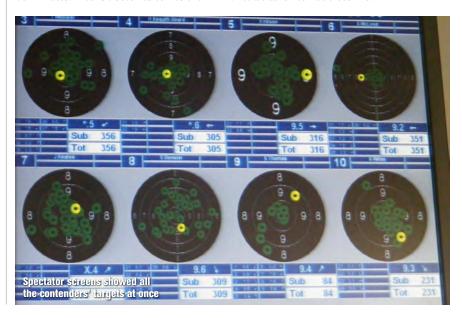
many or as few sighting shots as they wish. Ten to fifteen is common, to find the mean of the wind, to get the sights settled, and to warm the barrel. Many save a few shots for the last two minutes to ensure the wind has not changed, but it's Bisley, so be assured, it will!

The end of sighting produces the command "Stop", then the screens will be cleared and the match time will appear, 60 minutes. After 30 seconds comes the

command "Match time 60 minutes start", and the time will start to count down.

Shooters can shoot as fast or as slow as they wish; they may rest, get up, walk about and return – as long as the 60-shot shoot is completed in 60 minutes, the timing is their choice. For newcomers 60 shots is best taken carefully with rests at intervals.

The 300m targets are also a little closer together than the TR frames, so care needs to be taken to not cross fire.



Competitors have their own individual screens, but for matches spectator screens are mounted behind the firing points, with smaller versions of the entire competitor monitors shown on larger single screens, so the spectators can watch the scores or a battle develop.

After the 60 minutes the "Stop" command is given – the Bisley wind will die instantly, and the flags will hang like wet rags to rest before flapping for the next detail. The rifles are shown as safe, the points are cleared, and the results are instantaneous, shown on the spectator screens, and each shooter has a printout with their score and statistics.

The overall detail results are printed out instantly as well, so you soon know how well you did against the other competitors.

The next morning is the start of the Free Rifle details – the same procedures, but the rifles are a little different: the calibres on some may still be 7.62mm, but the majority will be 6mm, in BR, XC or PPC variants, lower recoil, very accurate, and with factory and hand loaded ammunition.

The rifles have the look of small-bore rifles. The butt plates, pistol grips and sights are often identical, and the trigger is free, so no trigger weight to lift. The stocks are also the same or similar to small-bore stocks, and mostly aluminium. Rising cheekpieces are common, so the pressure can be maintained correctly, and the cheekpiece is lifted to enable the bolt to be opened. A mirage band (Flimmerband in German!) will be fitted to stop the heat from the barrel upsetting the sight picture with a mirage - and it flaps when the wind rises to give you a warning! These are a masterpiece of engineering – I have heard them described as like smallbore rifles but with attitude.

The shoot follows the same procedure as the TR event, the ISSF standard. The 300m specialists will fight for every point, much the same as any target shooter; the Bisley wind will rise and flick as the detail starts and fade to virtually nothing when it ends. The detail ends, the congratulations are offered, and the excuses are discussed – it's target shooting and the sport we all love.

The 300-metre event in general is both highly satisfying, demanding and above all fun – and if it's raining you can fight the wind and stay dry! If anyone would like to

try it, the club would welcome you. You can shoot it very successfully with a TR rifle, and the top shooters get very similar scores with a TR as a Free rifle, so to start it is very practical with a 7.62 TR, and the GGG ammunition is well up to the job.

Contact the NRA 300m representative at 300m@nra.org.uk. The gb300m club is open to all shooters – visit the website at www. gb300m.com. Facebook: gb300m ■

The 300m specialists will fight for every point, much the same as any target shooter

FULL RESULTS								
TARGET RIFLE								
Competitor		Scores						
A McLeod	98	100	99	98	99	98	592(30)	
R Kitson	100	99	98	95	97	97	586(17)	
J Keates	95	95	94	97	100	99	580(16)	
T Webster	96	97	97	95	95	97	577(20)	
H Asquith- Beard	98	94	93	90	91	94	560(11)	
S Benson	88	86	82	88	84	86	514(2)	
A Wilde	96	96	95	88	94	9	478(10) DNF	
S Thomas	93	98	20	2	2	2	211 (8) DNF	
		ŀ	REE RI	IFLE				
Competitor			Sco	ores			Total	
A McLeod	100	98	98	99	98	97	590(27)	
P Carter	98	99	99	98	97	98	589(25)	
T Hammond	98	98	98	98	98	99	589(19)	
M Guille	96	96	100	96	98	98	584(25)	
A Reeve	99	98	98	97	96	96	584(22)	
J McIntosh	96	99	97	98	98	95	583(22)	
A Wilde	97	96	97	98	95	99	582(17)	
R Warren	97	99	90	97	100	97	580(22)	
R Carter	94	97	100	98	96	95	580(16)	
M Scrivens	96	96	95	100	96	95	578(15)	
R Kitson	97	97	97	93	93	98	575(15)	
J Keates	96	98	95	06	95	93	573(12)	
Dr R Carter	95	97	93	99	94	94	572(12)	
J Cooper	94	90	92	95	96	96	563(13)	
H Asquith- Beard	96	92	91	90	95	86	(550(8)	
S Benson	83	85	87	85	90	89	519(5)	
E Pearce	83	87	85	59	0	0	314(94) DNF	

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Back to Birmingham

Frank Harriss reports from the second outing of the Birmingham Bisley

or two sunny days in June, 46 competitors gathered at Kingsbury Ranges near Tamworth to compete in 'Birmingham Bisley'.

After the NRA's initiative of running the competition in 2017 for the first time since 2005, this year the competition was run locally by Hereford and Worcester Rifle Association, as successor to the Midlands Rifle Association. To ensure lack of constraint on distances, it was necessary to book both A and B ranges with Landmarc, and we are grateful to Nic Couldrey for negotiating the date with Maj Salisbury, the TSO from Swynnerton, and the latter's cooperation in granting us the range.

The Saturday distances were as in previous years, two and ten at 300 and 600, followed by two and fifteen at 500. The competition was in three classes: TR, F/TR and F-Open. The weather was warm and threatened thunder at times but this never materialised. James Bennett had resurrected three wind flags and these showed very gentle winds, which were reflected in high scores.

David Rose (Old Epsomians) swept the TR board, going clean at all three ranges with a large number of V-bulls. Thus he won the Warwickshire (300 and 600 aggregate) with an excellent 100.15, counting out Simon Shouler (Langar) with 100.14 and Michael Cooper (Comber) with 100.12. In the Kingsbury (500) David's 75.13 was superior to 75.9 from Lindsay Peden (NLRC) and Paul Wright (Staveley), with Lindsay counting out Paul. The Birmingham Post Aggregate was thus won by David with 175.28, followed by Simon with 174.26 and Paul with 174.20.

In the F/TR match, Celt Ridout from Somerset won the Plant Aggregate Cup with 172.15, with George Barnard (Nothants) second on 171.15 and Ian Chenery (Dorset Riflemen) 170.15. Needless to say, they were firing on



F-Class targets! The F-Open aggregate Guardians Challenge Cup was won by David Raybould from Pennine Shooting Sports on 174.18, with Trevor Howard (HBRA) second on 173.18. TR winners received 'MRA pots' to keep from the legacy of the late lamented Harry Thompson, and F-Class winners received MRA medals from the same source. Second and third prizes were bottles of wine.

The TR team match, hardly surprisingly, was won by Surrey (Rose, Shouler and Cooper), beating the Old Malvernians and Sheffield.

On Sunday, the winds were very light again but it was hotter and scores were

slightly lower, except for Michael Cooper, who this time went clean. The distances were slightly different from previous years, as it had been decided to drop the 'Final' in favour of more shooting for all. A two and ten at 300 and 500 was followed by two and fifteen at 600. Michael won the Worcestershire Regiment (aggregate of 300 and 500) with 100.13, followed by Mike Silver (RAF) with 99.12, counting out Simon Shouler on the same score.

In the Staffordshire (600), Michael's 75.11 saw off Mark Clewer (LMRA) and James Bennett (Stock Exchange) – both really local lads! – with their 74.11 and 74.8. The Midland Counties (Sunday) Aggregate was won by Michael with 175.24,







followed by Simon Shouler with 171.18 and Henry Sanders (Old Wellingburians) with 171.15. F-Class had to contend with a heavy mirage, especially at 600. The FTR winner was George Barnard with 170.9, followed by Ian Chenery on 169.12, counting out Celt Ridout with the same score. There were only three F-Open entries on the Sunday, and Trevor Howard came out on top with 166.13.

The prizes on Sunday were presented by Mark Garnier, MP for Wyre Forest, a member of HWRA and captain of the House of Commons rifle team. He was pleased to present the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Cup for the overall TR Grand Aggregate to Michael Cooper with 349.43, with Simon Shouler on 345.44, Paul Wright on 342.32 and David Rose 341.55. The SK Dyer Trophy for F/TR went to George Barnard with 341.24, followed by Celt Ridout with 340.27 and Ian Chenery 339.27. David Raybould won the Watson Bowl for F-Open.

The under-25 'Australia' Trophy had been presented to Megan Sanders on Saturday as there were no under-25 shooters on Sunday. Surrey again beat the Old Malvernians for the team match. We were also glad to see Nic Couldrey, NRA Regional Ranges Manager, at the prizegiving.

Closed trophies for those eligible to shoot TR for Hereford and Worcester were won by Paul Johnson (Saturday), Mark Clewer (Sunday) and James Bennett (Grand). Both Saturday and Sunday pairs trophies were won by Kidderminster (Paul and James).

I am most grateful to Paul Johnson and George Barnard for running the butts, James Bennett and Mark Clewer for putting up the flags, Brian Walford for help issuing register cards, and particularly Mo Morrish for acting as RCO. Thanks must also go to Rob and Mark the Range Wardens for their help, especially in preparing the targets, for which the faces were kindly supplied by the NRA. The only trouble is that they now want us to do it again!

Photographs by Nic Couldrey



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Shoot reports

From south to north, we round up the shoots taking place across the nation

IBIS RIFLE CLUB OPEN MEETING 2018

By Frank Harriss, Ibis secretary

A full 52 competitors shot two to a target on the morning of 14 April. The sun shone for the first time for some days and the winds were fairly benign. There were six 'possibles' at 300 yards, five at 500 yards and three at 600 yards - not too bad considering that it was the first shoot of the season for many competitors. The winner of the short range was David Rose (Old Epsomians) with 149.22 over the Queens II shoot, dropping his point at 600. Second was Chris Bowring of CURA with 148.21. There were 19 scores of 145 and above. Fourteen school pupils from Epsom, Greshams and Wellington competed at short range. Michael Larcombe from Epsom was highest under-19 score on the morning with 146.17.

The afternoon shoot was once again the 'Ibis special' of 2+10 at 1,000 and 1,100 yards, the shoot that changes one's perspective of 1,000 yards for ever! The fish-tail wind could be tricky at times and there was some slow marking. At 1,000 yards there were two 49s on top from David Rose and Andrew Wilde (LMRA). At 1,100, there were six scores of 45 or over, with David Rose comfortably ahead with 48.3.

So David won the Long Range and also the Aggregate Cup (246-13) with some exceptional shooting, especially at long range. Second was Andrew Wilde (whose name is on the Cup several times) with 235.13. Third was Colin Goad (Huddersfield), another seasoned Ibis Open competitor, with 234.25. Fourth was Rupert Fitzsimmons (CURA) with 233.18 and fifth Richard Bailie (Barbarians) with 233.17.

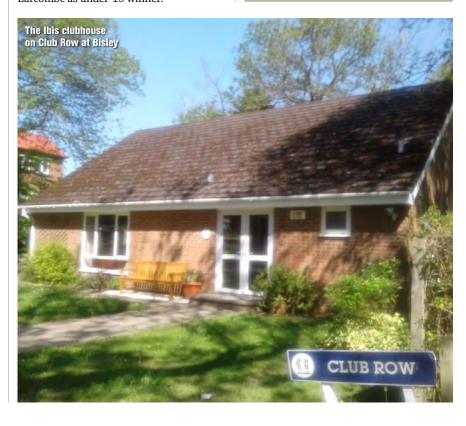
There were eight school pupils left in the competition at long range. Michael Larcombe started badly with a 38 at 1,000 but put a 43 with it to finish top under-19 with 81.3. Close behind were Kira Kapustina (Greshams) with 81.1 and Toby Cubitt (Greshams) with 80.4.

The prizes were presented by the Club Captain, Peter Griggs, who thanked the range staff and Bill Rowland for organising the competition once again. The top scorers in each competition chose in order from a tempting array of bottles and chocolates. Then there were some random prizes throughout the lists, which gave some surprises and proved one should always hand in one's scorecard and turn up at the prize-giving. Among the prizes were three HPS vouchers for £30, very kindly donated by HPS, our sponsors, who had supplied the issue ammunition for the event. There was also an HPS voucher for Michael Larcombe as under-19 winner.

Twenty-five people stayed on for a really excellent meal provided by Bill Rowland and we had a most convivial evening.

All those present will have seen that the Ibis has a central location on the Camp and very good facilities. We have club days every fortnight in the season and welcome membership applications from those who would like to belong to a smaller Bisley club.

The 'lbis special' of 2+10 at 1,000 and 1,100 yards changes one's perspective of 1,000 yards forever



DERBYSHIRE CHALLENGE 2018

By Simon Favell MIoD, range warden

The Derbyshire / NRA Challenge competition was held at Thorpe Cloud Rifle Range on Sunday 8 April 2018, with nine F/TR shooters and eight TR shooters competing for the two top prizes sponsored by the NRA of entry into the Imperial Meeting Grand Aggregate for F/TR and TR. Our thanks go to Mr Nic Couldrey and the National Rifle Association for the donation of these two top prizes and for providing the gold and silver medals for each discipline.

The morning started with cold and overcast weather, which proved to move shots all around the F/TR targets, or so I was told! However, to make matters slightly more interesting, as the NRA does not have an official 400-yard F/TR target, we shot the 300 faces again at 400 yards. This does make the shooters concentrate, and the scores were excellent once again.

Once the first detail had shot 300, 400 and 500 yards, we swapped over with these shooters going into the Butts to mark for the TR detail. The weather remained pretty constant all day - dull and overcast, with very little wind. It was unfortunate that a couple of competitors had problems during the morning detail, with Gordon Smeeton having to withdraw from shooting at 300 yards and Jim Moore at 500 yards.

To the TR detail, and with the weather warming up slightly and dropping to a cool 3°C, everyone was on top form, but momentary lapses in concentration by two shooters cost them dearly as they crossshot and lost five points each.

Scores are shown in the tables below. We would like to thank the National Rifle Association for its sponsorship of this year's event and look forward to hosting the Derbyshire NRA Challenge for 2019.









TARGET RIFLE EX 225.45									
NAME 300yd		400yds	500yds	TOTAL					
Mike Wright	72.5	73.11	73.8	218.24					
Steve Maris	73.8	74.11	70.7	217.26					
Paul Wright	72.5	75.11	69.8	216.24					
Robin Carter	68.4	73.10	72.6	213.20					
Mark Parkes	67.5	73.9	72.10	212.24					
Colin Christensen	66.6	66.2	70.3	202.6					
Ben Stubbins	59.2	61.2	66.2	186.6					
Robert Grise	55.1	59.3	63.4	177.8					







THE 'COBWEB-BUSTER' THREE COUNTIES OPEN MEETING

By Frank Harriss, secretary, HWRA

This year, the counties of Gloucestershire and Hereford and Worcester got together to host this meeting at Bisley on 15 April, with the latter still struggling from the illness and sad demise of Harry Thompson but at least providing some good silverware. The course of fire was 'Empire match' for TR, where there were 57 entries and the equivalent ranges (but 2+15) for F/TR (nine entries), though this had to be curtailed at 1,000 yards because of time problems.

The morning was overcast and gloomy with light winds. Twelve possibles were scored at 300, including a notable 50.10 by Charlie Asquith (Old Wellingburians). There were eight possibles at 600, including a stylish 50.9 from Ian Ashworth (Dursley), the CGRA Captain and organiser of the competition. This secured him the Baldwin Cup for the short-range aggregate on 100.16, counting out Keith Pugh (City of Newcastle) with the same score. Alastair Haley (Dursley) came third with 100.14. The leading F/TR competitor was Julian Parsons (27th London and Putney RC) with 145.10.

After lunch, the wind became more tricky. There was only one possible at 900 by David Rose (Old Epsomians), who won the Royal Artillery Cup, but several others were still in contention with 49s. The first detail at 1,000 yards was hit by a violent rainstorm which made visibility poor and hampered the markers. The Range Officers – Stephen Friling and Frank Harriss – had a lot to do!

Scores of 46 were very good under these conditions, with many making far fewer points. The second detail looked destined for the same but things improved almost immediately and the light got better. The Deerhurst Cup for 1,000 yards was won by David Bird (Pumas) with 49.7. The winner of the long-range aggregate was David Rose with 99.9, followed by Robin Hatcher

(Bedfordians) with 98.4 and Alastair Haley with 97.8. The top F/TR shot at long range was Ian Scrivens from Barry Shooting Club.

The winner overall, receiving the Dean Cup, was David Rose with 197.23, just managing to beat Alastair Haley on 197.22. Robin Hatcher (196.13) was third. The Officers' Cup for the top Class O/T was won by Gaurav Sarin (Stock Exchange RC) with 194.15. Jemima Hince (Wellington College) won the 'Tyro trophy' for the top under-25 score (she is 17!) with 191.14. Meanwhile, John Deane (Dursley) won the President's salver for the top over-65 shot with 191.19. Clearly 40 years of experience results in five more V-bulls!

The top Hereford and Worcester competitor, who received the Arthur Dudley Cup, was Paul Johnson with 190.15. The leading FTR shooter, who won the Coventry Memorial Trophy, was Ian Scrivens. The Baker Cup for teams of three went to Dursley A (Ian Ashworth, Nigel Watson and Alastair Haley) with 584.65, followed by Pumas with 565.56.

Stephen Friling sorted out the results in record time and the rain held off for a short prize-giving behind the Melville Range. Ian Ashworth was thanked for organising a most successful meeting.

The traditional TR two-range aggregates were won as follows. The short-range and the long-range aggregates are recorded above.

'Outside aggregate' (300 and 1,000) Adam Leech 99.12

'Inside Aggregate' (600 and 900) Ian Ashworth 99.16

'Odds Aggregate' (300 and 900) Ian Ashworth 99.14

'Evens Aggregate' (600 and 1,000) Alastair Haley 99.12

The 500-yard club

There's an exclusive honour for those demonstrating their proficiency at long ranges with a sporting rifle – have you got what it takes?



ach spring and autumn, the British Sporting Rifle Club holds four long-range shoots, two on Century and two on Stickledown. This year, 10 years after it was first held, the first Century long-range day attracted 15 shooters all keen to blow the cobwebs away and see if they could beat the wind on some sporting targets. Wind was going to be an issue, and the forecasts proved correct, with general strength and gusting increasing throughout the day.

While the course of fire involves various targets at ranges between 200 and 600 yards, the main reason many shooters attend this event is the opportunity to qualify for the exclusive BSRC 500-yard club. A hard and proudly won honour, membership is extended only to those shooters who have managed to score one or more hits on a half minute of angle target at 500 yards. The target is a well-known and freely available varmint target that can be downloaded from the internet and that has been scaled to provide a three-ring roundel of exactly half a minute

diameter. Without the benefit of any sighting shots, each shooter fires five shots and then must wait anxiously for the scores to be relayed from the butts.

This time round, six shooters each scored a single hit, one for the first time and others repeating their previous achievements. This brought the total membership of this club to 36 people.

Members of this exclusive club are presented with, and wear with pride, two 500-yard club badges (one enamel, one embroidered) depicting the target and with silver highlights. Some may also be seen wearing a similar badge but with gold highlights. These are also awarded for hitting a half minute of angle target under the same course of fire. However, there are a lot fewer of them, as to qualify the shooter must hit that target at 1,000 yards...

If you are interested in these long range shoots, or any of the other sporting rifle disciplines promoted by the British Sporting Rifle Club, please visit their website www.bsrc.co.uk for details on how to join. ■

Without the benefit of any sighting shots, each shooter fires five shots and then must wait anxiously for the scores to be relayed





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Big business

The inaugural SRHB (short range, heavy bullet) day was not just proof that big calibres can safely be shot at Bisley – it was well-attended, too

he NRA has been very active in recent years in welcoming users of a range of rifles that traditionally would not have been seen at Bisley. The growth in civilian service rifle and in target shotgun are but two examples of the new thinking at the NRA in opening its doors to accommodate all shooters.

Unfortunately, the 7,000J muzzle energy limit at Bisley has for many years meant that classic English sporting cartridges, such as the .500 Jeffery, the .505 Gibbs and the 600 Nitro Express, could not be used at Bisley.

At the start of this year, the NRA carried out various tests on Butt Zero using large calibre rifles. A series of ricochet screens were erected to confirm that bullets from these rifles remain safely lodged in the stop butt

without ricochet. Also, the poor ballistic performance of these rifles, where anything over 100 yards is a long shot, means that rounds will be safely contained in the range danger area by observing the 70mil rule.

From this testing, the concept of the short-range, heavy bullet (or "SRHB") rifle was developed for shooting at Bisley. An SRHB rifle is one that has a muzzle energy not exceeding 14,000 Joules, a muzzle velocity not exceeding 800m/s and a bullet weight of not less than 400 grains.

Friday 13 April saw a dozen shooters assemble at the Pavilion for the inaugural SRHB shoot. After a cheerful early-morning welcome from the NRA's events team, Rick Wells provided a short safety briefing and then it was off to Butt Zero.

The British Sporting Rifle Club kindly agreed to allow us to use their standing shooting bench, and the NRA set up a couple of gazebos in case the weather turned bad, which fortunately it did not. A standing shooting bench is very useful when using these rifles. They were traditionally shot from the standing position, and an elevated bench provides a supported shooting position useful for testing accuracy. The recoil of these rifles means that prone shooting is not a practical option.

We were joined on the range by David Miles of Rigby & Co, who brought one of their .416 rifles together with a quantity of their safari-grade ammunition. This enabled shooters both to try Rigby ammunition in their rifles and to try a Rigby rifle chambered in .416. I would like to record my

thanks to Rigby for their generous support of the SRHB shoot.

We used the 900-yard firing point, with targets set in Butt Zero, giving an effective distance of about 75 yards. The first step was to check that the shots from the rifles would fall into the sand at that distance. Our range officers, Rick

Wells and Clive Rew, went through this process smoothly and effectively and we were all soon on to the main morning of shooting. Shooters

took it in turns to shoot from the standing shooting bench or from a rifle rest fitted to a sturdy tripod. Turnover was quick, as four rounds at a time is usually enough before turning over the firing point to the next shooter.

There was a variety of rifles on the firing point through the morning, including a 9.3x64 Brenneke, .416 Rigby, .500 Jeffery, .505 Gibbs, .500/416 and a .600 NE – some in bolt action, others in double rifles.

You might ask why people would want to shoot these rifles. The noise they produce is considerable, as is the recoil. But there is an undeniable attraction to the history that these rifles represent. To use one of these rifles is to take a step back in time and share an experience common to the

four rounds, and of course the double
rifles hold only two rounds, the event
provides plenty of practice in reloading.
The event is scored by the scoring value
of each shot, with no adjustment for
time. If a shot is fired after the end of the
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of each shot, with no adjustment for
time. If a shot is fired after the end of the
a story the four rounds, the event

exercise in balancing speed with accuracy, with six well-aimed shots easily able to beat eight poorlyaimed shots.

With the competition over and

the light beginning to fade, it was back to the Pavilion for coffee and more talk of rifles and shooting.

The day not only provided immense fun for all who attended but also provided further evidence that cartridges in excess of 7,000J can be used safely at Bisley.

The next SRHB Day is scheduled for Friday 17 August. Anybody who has one of these rifles is invited to register their interest with Rick Wells at the NRA.



great explorers of the Victorian and Georgian eras.

At lunchtime we gathered at the Army Target Shooting Club for a generous lunch and then it was back to the range for an afternoon of snap shooting.

There are various categories of snap shooting competition for these rifles but for this event we used the "eight shots in 35 seconds" version that is used in international competition. Since even magazine rifles will hold only three or





n a spectacularly sunny Saturday, a group of marksmen met at the 300-yard firing point opposite the Artists' Rifles club house. After a short but professional briefing from the in-house range officer, the first of three riflemen lay down on the grass and began firing. There were no shooting mats or spotting scopes to be seen, no wind gauges, spotters, coaches or aids. There was simply a marksman and a safety buddy, who watched over him and the range.

Using iron sights and firing from the prone position, they were no different to any of the other Target Rifle shooters

at Bisley camp that day, except for two minor differences. Each of the shooters was equipped with a Lee Enfield .303 or marginally more modern derivative. The second difference was that instead of a standard black bull being hoisted and dropped for each shot, these marksmen were firing 10-round strings in 60 seconds at figure 12 targets. As soon as all three details had shot the harassing fire, the cycle was for snap shooting while sitting. This time the targets appeared for a fleeting two-second flash and the challenge was enhanced by the less stable position. The NRA no longer provides

handheld targets, but clubs are free to provide their own. These were on loan from the High Power Rifle Association.

This was the start of the Kut El Amara Friendship Shoot, a full day service rifle shoot from medium to long range. The only rule was that the rifles had to have been in use before 1957. As such Garand rifles, No4 MK2 in 7.62 and the L42A1 were accepted. The challenge was named after the town in Mesopotamia that changed hands twice in the Great War – first being taken from the Ottoman Turks by the Imperial British Army, the Turks then besieged and retook the town before



finally retreating; allowing the British Army to once again regain control of the surrounding area. The name was chosen for the challenge to reflect upon the friendship and peace that came after war.

Shooting at 300 yards was followed by snaps and harassing fire at 600 yards on a single figure 11. The brown target appeared in front of the foresight and shimmered in the heat. There was a slight wind and it was necessary to hold off on the very edge of the target frame. As the wind gusted it caught competitors out, and some shots peppered the white screen while others went home into the scoring zone. The shoot was becoming more challenging, and while some competitors fared better than others, all were on the target.

The morning went by quickly, as most of the shooters were familiar with the civilian service rifle competition and so were quick on and off the firing points. They were chivvied along by the author, while Mr Blair Drummond ran the firing point. Unlike other shoots, this was fully marked by very competent markers. Under the leadership of Mark Schaeffer, his team had pre-studied the course of fire, and were absolutely on the ball. The targets flashed up and down, and scores were relayed by radio soon after each practice. To save even more time, spotting discs were only shown for sighting shots. Every now and then feedback was requested by a single shooter who was not coping with the wind as well as he had hoped. Mark's team were quick to respond with accurate and immediate information. Much is often said about markers at Bisley. These people were most certainly "the A team".

Just before the hooter blew, the last shots went down range and the final morning score was relayed. The marksmen then withdrew to the Artists Rifles Clubhouse for lunch. To keep the day moving, the team had borrowed another trick from the CSR league and pre-ordered everyone's food. So fast was the service, there was even time for a relaxing cool drink after the meal.

The sun beat down relentlessly in the afternoon as the competitors gathered once again, this time at Stickledown at 900 yards. To their right was a Services TR team and to their left, the GB Palma team were practising. The standard of shooting on either side was so high, there were some concerned faces in the Kut El Amara camp, but they need not have been. Four figure 11 targets individually placed on the screen appeared at 900 yards. After four sighting shots, the marksmen on the

KNOW AND GO

The Kut El Amara Friendship shoot is organised by the Transcontinental Rifle Association. It is held by the club at Bisley three times a year. In addition, the TCRA holds the Hesketh Prichard Challenge twice a year. This is a long-range scoped rifle shoot that is designed to be extremely challenging. All competition shoots cost £49-£59 depending upon numbers, and include lunch at the Artists Rifles Clubhouse, range fees and professional markers. The next Kut El Amara shoot is on 1 September. NRA members are welcome to come along and shoot. The TCRA welcomes new members who have an interest in historic service rifle shooting or long-range precision shooting. Contact them through: www.tcra.org.uk







point steadied themselves for what was coming. The screens bounced up and stayed up for 60 seconds. A volley of 30 rounds came crashing down in rapid succession. Ten shots came from each firer, making constant adjustments for the ever-changing wind, before the practice finished. The men left the firing point with expressions of stress on their faces. The scores radioed back soon brightened everyone up, and the next details carried on.

The final practices were the most challenging. The shooters were allowed a spotter who judged the wind, and called the fall of shot, while the targets were presented at 1000 yards. This was marksmanship at its finest; the shooter had to engage the left-hand figure 11 target five times in one exposure and the extreme right figure 11 on the next exposure. With the exception of our scoped sniper rifles, the shooters had to aim off. In the case of the author, the wind was so strong he had to aim for the bull of the target team next door to his right-hand figure 11. The stress of such a shoot was becoming more apparent as

77

After four sighting shots, the marksmen on the point steadied themselves for what was coming

some competitors started to score washes. Just as some were feeling despondent, a kindly German gentleman shooter came over to watch. He gazed out at the distant targets and listened to the fusillade of harassing fire before speaking.

"Lee Enfield .303, at 1,000 yards – fantastic," he beamed. His cheer and encouragement were so greatly appreciated that spirits lifted across the board. As the day wore on and the shooters became more tired, an ice-cream van appeared, and competitors dashed off to buy soft ices and 99s in between their firing sequence. The day was soon done, and the final shoot took place before the evening hooter. Scores were relayed and noted. The author had bestowed the grand title of 'scores officer' upon Mr William Tong, in the hope

that he would do a better job than the author did. As the team raced back to the Artists Rifles Club House for a pint and to hear the scores, William was adding up the fives and fours. Mark Schaefer brought his team into the Artists' to return the targets, and receive the appreciation of the entire group of shooters. Mark's grandfather had been in the Mesopotamia campaign and had been part of the army that marched past Kut El Amara on their final push north in 1917-1919, so this shoot held a particular poignancy for him.

To his embarrassment, William Tong came overall first, Ian Dewey took the SMLE top score, and Roy Wade had a brilliant scoped shoot. Full scores can be seen on the Transcontinental website, www.tcra.org.uk. ■

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.45 ACP S&B .45 ACP 230Gr FMJ (100Rds)
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6.5x55mm S&B 6.5x55mm 140Gr FMJ (100Rds)
7.5x54mm PPU 7.5 x 54mm 139Gr French (100Rds)
7.5x55mm PPU 7.5x55 swiss 100rds
7.62x25mm S&B 7.62x25mm Tokarev 85Gr FMJ (100rds)
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Imperial Milestone

With the 2018 Imperial Meeting getting under way, we look ahead to the 150th Imperial in 2019

ext year, 2019, marks the 150th Imperial Meeting. The fourweek programme of shooting, which includes competitions for most NRA disciplines, will remain largely unchanged, and each discipline will be encouraged to develop 'special 150th anniversary' features in their programme of competitions.

Already confirmed in the programme for Match Rifle is a Woomera Match between Australia and GB, adding a day to their fixtures, and the Muzzle Loaders will be hosting a celebratory match at 900 yards and an Entente Cordiale match (GB v France) on Short Siberia, both on Saturday 20 July 2019.

The Target Rifle programme includes a special 150th Anniversary team match see below for more details - adding a day to the TR fixtures. As a result, the Schools' Meeting will be condensed to three days next year. A specially embroidered badge will be designed and presented to all competitors, Range Officers and markers for NRA competitions.

Exhibition Lawn will host musical performances during the evening of first Friday (19 July 2019 - military/classical) and middle Saturday (20 July 2019 named show band). Club row clubhouses are encouraged to open their doors to all for the concerts.

In addition, we are planning for a Trade Show first Friday, middle Saturday and Sunday (19 to 21 July 2019) on Sit Pep lawn, and an NRA guest day (with demonstrations) on Short Siberia on middle Saturday.

OVERVIEW OF 150TH IMPERIAL MEETING (14 JUNE – 27 JULY 2019)			
Event	Date	Comment	
NRA Service	14. 24-25		

(1+30NL - 2730L1 2013)				
Event	Date	Comment		
NRA Service Rifle	14, 24-25 Jun			
Cottesloe Heath Challenge	27-30 Jun			
Civ SR Meeting	3-7 Jul			
ISCRM	12-14 Jul	(Arthur Clarke Match PM Thu 11 Jul)		
Imperial Historic Arms	13-14 Jul			
Schools Meeting	15-17 Jul	Reduced to allow for additional day in TR Meeting		
	Wed 17 Jul	Ashburton, Schools Vets		
Match Rifle	Thu 11 Jul	Any Rifle Extras 1000, 1100, 1200x (AM only)		
	Fri 12 Jul	Whitehead, Halford		
	Sat 13 Jul	Cottesloe, Wimbledon, Armourers		
	Sun 14 Jul	Edge, FW Jones, Ranken, MR Pairs		
	Mon 15 Jul	Albert		
	Tue 16 Jul	Elcho Match		
	Wed 17 Jul	Woomera Match + Humphrey		
GR&P Meeting	17-20 Jul			
ML Championship	20 Jul			

Event	Date	Comment
F Class Meeting	18-22 Jul	
Cadet TR Championship	18-24 Jul	
NRA/ARA Adaptive Match	26 Jul	
TR Meeting	Wed 17 Jul	Opening Shot
	Thu 18 Jul	Admiral Hutton, Century, Astor & Team Matches
	Fri 19 Jul	Conan Doyle, Donegall, Daily Telegraph
	Sat 20 Jul	Duke of Cambridge, Alexandra, Daily Mail
	Sun 21 Jul	Corporation, Times, Wimbledon
	Mon 22 Jul	St George's I, Inter-Service & Counties LR and SR
	Tue 23 Jul	Lovell, Queen's I
	Wed 24 Jul	Prince of Wales, National and Team Matches, St George's II
	Thu 25 Jul	150th Imperial Team Matches*
	Fri 26 Jul	Kolapore, Chairman's Prize, Queen's II
	Sat 27 Jul	St George's Final, Mackinnon, Queen's Final

^{*} International and Home Countries, teams of 8; Junior International Matches for U/21 and U/25, teams of 4; club or scratch teams of 5 (4 $\,$ shooters and 1 captain/coach) with the aim to encourage as many as possible to participate. Club teams comprised minimum of 1 x Class T, 1 x Class O and not more than 2 x Class X.

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Katia Malcaus Cooper follows members of the budding British pistol shooting team on their journey to the Tokyo 2020 Olympics

he Olympic Games are arguably the pinnacle of distinction for any athlete wanting to compete at International level – that is, if your sport is present at the Olympics and you can train for it.

Shooting has been included in every Olympic Games programme except St Louis in 1904 and Amsterdam in 1918, though the type and number of events have changed over the years. For example, live pigeon shooting was originally involved, replaced by clays after the Paris 1900 Olympics.

In its current format, Olympic shooting includes shotgun, rifle and pistol.

Shotgun shooting is the most accessible of the three, and unsurprisingly the one Team GB is the most successful at. Shotgun shooting has yielded some tremendous results for Team GB, with Ian Peel winning silver in Trap in Sydney 2000, Ed Ling and Steve Scott bringing bronze home in Rio 2016, gold for Richard Faulds in Double Trap (now discontinued) in Sydney 2000, and of course the great victory by Peter Wilson at the London 2012 Olympics.

Pistol shooting, on the other hand, is the forgotten brother of the Olympic shooting world, with athletes not even able to own the firearms or train on home ground for the cartridge disciplines. After the 1997 pistol ban, shooters were forced to go overseas to train with pistols; this left pistol shooting behind in its ability to nurture talent and push for Olympic quota places.

In 2010, through successful negotiation with the Home Office, the NRA, as the national governing body for fullbore target shooting, was able to to create a secure Section 5 training facilities within the

Melville Range Complex, but this was with old-style training targets that did not meet International competition standards.

In 2016 the NRA, together with the Army, invested in the first purpose-built Olympic Standard training facility at Bisley, built exclusively for the use of Troops to Target (T2T) and Team GB. The facility, within the Cheylesmore complex, employs state-of-the-art traffic light style electronic targets within a secure range.

"The focus of this project is to train British athletes to a standard where they can compete at the highest international level possible. This can only be done if the training facilities are on home soil. It is crazy to think that our pistol shooters have to go overseas to train for competitions," says NRA secretary general Andrew Mercer.

Troops To Target

Shooting is something the UK excels at. You only have to look at the successes at the recent Gold Coast Commonwealth Games to get an understanding of how good we are at it. At the Gold Coast Games, British nations walked away with 22 medals (England 2G, 2S, 4B; Wales 2G, 2S, 1B; Scotland 1G, 1S, 4B; NI 1S, 1B; IoM 1S).

Despite this, pistol shooting has, for many reasons, suffered from a distinct lack of facilities and ability to train at the heart of it. The NRA felt strongly that pistol shooters should be given an opportunity to succeed, so the journey to Tokyo 2020



began with the creation of a shooting facility within easy access in the UK, designed to give our athletes the opportunity to train, develop and grow. This project was born out of collaboration between the NRA and the Army.

T2T is an initiative created by the Army Sport Control Board, together with Mr Mick Brown and the OC ARA, to train service personnel to be world-class shots with a view to UK representation at the 2020 Olympics. Team GB will be made up of the best of T2T and the British Shooting team (civilian team). They operate under the careful eye of Head Coach Steve Pengelly.

Two years on, what began as an ambitious project is starting to become a palpable reality. The journey to Tokyo started with

the permission to possess the firearms; the Home Office has granted 25 Section 5 licences to Team GB. These are for all the athletes, be they male or female, Olympic or Paralympic. While this is still a small number of individuals who have access to the firearms required to compete at International level, it is certainly a move in the right direction.

The teams started shooting ISSF pistol (10m & 25m) in the air categories, which is open to all – no licence is required. Cheylesmore and Melville ranges at NRA's Bisley provide a great place to do this.

The distinct advantage the Army have over civilians is their ability to handle Section 5 firearms in their line of duty; however, T2T secured three Section 5 firearms licences from the 25 GB allowed. These three individuals are Sgt Sam Gowin, SSgt Rebecca Carnell and Sgt Ian Jack. The remaining two pistol team members are training hard and are closing in on the minimum score needed to attain one of the coveted Section 5 licences.

On the civilian side, Kristian Callaghan is ranked number one for rapid fire and air pistol and Victoria Mullin is ranked number one for air pistol, so they have already qualified to compete for quota places.

KNOW YOUR DISCIPLINES

The main disciplines Olympic pistol shooters compete in are 10m air pistol, 25m sport pistol (Women) and 25m rapid fire (Men).

The 10m is a great way for anyone to start pistol shooting and accessible to all. The match consists of 15 minutes for sighting and preparation followed by 60 precision shots in 75 minutes, with the 10 ring being 11mm in diameter.

The sport pistol match can be shot in air or .22 but the Olympic discipline is only competed in .22. The match consists of two separate phases – one precision phase and one rapid.

Before the precision phase, athletes have five minutes' preparation and five minutes' sighting time. The match then consists of six series of five shots. This will give a score out of 300.

The rapid phase is slightly different. Athletes fire one shot at each exposure of the target;

the target faces for three seconds. Each series has five exposures and the whole phase has six series, giving another possible score out of 300, which is then added to the precision score.

The men's rapid fire is split in to two halves. The men will be given an exposure of the targets and will traverse across five targets, firing one round at each in a set time.

The timings are eight, six and four seconds. They will fire two eight-second series, two six-second and two four-second series for their first half. After a break, they will repeat the same process again and have a total score out of 600.

The pathway into the team is via air pistol competition for both the army shooter and the civilian, with potential competitors spotted at major events. Once part of the team (T2T or British Shooting Team GB), training begins.

Quota spaces

The competitions the team have attended over the last eight months are as follows:

- RIAC, Luxembourg 10m Air
- Intershoot, Holland 10m Air
- GB Trials, Bisley 25m
- BPC Champs, Bisley 25m & 10m

- ESSU Champs, Bisley 25m & 10m
- ISAS, Dortmund 25m & 10m
- IWK, Berlin 25m & 10m
- ISCH, Hannover 25m & 10m

As a result of their performances at competitions, Rebecca and Sam have secured MCS (minimum considered score) to represent England and GB. An MCS is the score an athlete has to achieve at least twice in a 12-month period to be eligible for team selection. MCS are set by British Shooting. (For more information on the pistol selection criteria, go to http://britishshooting.org.uk/policies)

Rebecca attained a score of 578 at the GB trials held at Cheylesmore range. This means she only needs one more score before she can be selected to represent GB at World Cups.

Sam Gowin has secured two MCS at GB trials held at Cheylesmore, and was selected to represent England at the Commonwealth Games, where he secured a bronze medal, putting pistol back on the map for the UK.

The system allows individuals to earn a quota space and not a place on the team, which is to say that the place goes to the team and does not guarantee the participation of a specific athlete. An athlete can earn a quota space that can be given to somebody else on the team, and each nation can earn a maximum of 30 quotas, two for each shooting event.

In Rio 2016, 390 athletes took part in the 15 shooting events. Numbers have now been reduced to 360, with equal distribution in events between men and women, with the men-only events (Double Trap, 50m Pistol and 50m Rifle Prone) replaced with mixed-gender pairs competitions (Mixed Team Trap, 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team and 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team).

Qualification for Tokyo 2020 begins in 2018 with the ISSF World Shooting Championships in South Korea on 31 August – 15 September, where 48 individual and 12 mixed team quota places will be assigned.

Quota places are awarded to athletes (or rather, the nations of athletes) who achieved top positions at ISSF World Cup series events, the ISSF World Championships and selected continental championships. When the qualification





It is crazy to think that our pistol shooters have to go overseas to train for competitions

period concludes, the National Olympic Committees (NOC) receive the official list of quota places. The ISSF will then check the world ranking list for each specific event. At this stage, the highest-ranked athlete in each event who has not directly qualified and whose NOC does not have a place in a specific event will receive a direct Olympic quota place. Finally, the host nation will automatically receive 12 quota places, one for each of the individual disciplines.

Pleasing progress

Head Coach Steve Pengelly is delighted with the progress the team is making: "Before I was a coach, I was a shooter, and after 1997, we didn't have these facilities over here, so for 10 years my training ground was Zurich, which is very far and gets really expensive. Now we are again able to train at home, and we are very, very grateful to the NRA and the army for making this possible.

"And we are already reaping the results, which are very encouraging. The use of the

electronic targets represents a real game changer for us."

It is not just about results. The public's perception of firearms and shooting is poor, and a successful Olympic campaign is an invaluable way to promote shooting as a competitive sport that can be enjoyed safely.

An excellent success story so far is Sam Gowin. Until 18 months ago, Sam had never picked up an Olympic pistol; he had done a lot of service pistol shooting, but never done this type of shooting. Through T2T, Sam was not only able to start and train, but also to compete at the highest international level, going to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and coming back with a bronze medal.

It is very clear that we have a talented bunch of individuals, supported by some experienced, passionate and committed coaches who are determined to put pistol back on the map. We look forward to following their progress through quota selection and, perhaps, seeing them on the podium at Tokyo 2020.

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One rifle, five uses

One gun for 300m 3-Positional, Target Rifle, Match Rifle, F-Class, and Benchrest? That's what the Gleve Mono claims to be – but is it even possible? Brian Fox finds out

ast year the NRA Journal reviewed the TR guise of the Gleve Mono rifle – but there is more to it than that. The model tested this time around is designed for 300m 3-Positional, Target Rifle, Match, F-Class, and Longrange Bench-rest. Yes, all those in one go. Is it really possible?

Essentially, the rifle makes itself applicable to such a broad spectrum of disciplines through a number of interchangeable forends. But the 'one rifle fits all' approach is inherent throughout the entire design. The rifle is an amalgam of 'thinking out of the box' component designs from an engineer who is also – essentially for such a project – an experienced competitive shooter.

Weak spots

Conventional rifles have two potentially 'weak spots' which may compromise accuracy: the joint of barrel to action, and the joint of action to stock. Because only about three-and-a-half of the barrel tenon threads take the strain in the joint, barrels cannot be screwed into the action body tightly enough to totally eliminate movement when heated – the threads simply will not stand the necessary strain. 'Flexing' of the joint is minimal, and less consequential, with the heaviest barrels, which dissipate heat better – but it is there.

The action to stock joint – usually between dissimilar materials – may permit some movement or change in harmonics as heat is conducted, again compromising accuracy. Glass-bedding or aluminium bedding blocks reduce movement in the stock or flexing of the action body.

(Actually, there are three joints. The third one, which occasionally brings tears, is the scope mounting system. But this is largely beyond the scope – pun not intended – of this review.)

We already have rifles out there capable of incredible precision. And only minute improvements may be possible on these. Steve Robinson, the designer and manufacturer of the Mono rifle system, is working in those fine

margins, trying to further reduce or even completely eliminate weakness at these points of connection.

The action body threading on the Mono, which accepts the barrel tenon, is machined on a slight taper, so the rigidity of the joint is achieved not only by the lock-up against the tenon's shoulder, but also by the tenon being increasingly compressed along its length, towards the breech face.

The problem of efficiently connecting the action to the stock has been overcome by simply doing away with the stock, in the conventional sense.

Essential components

The Mono action body is deeper than usual, allowing for the attachment of forend and



butt-stock, and, with an integral 20MOA Picatinny rail, is a substantial lump of metal, with the associated rigidity.

The design is reminiscent of Vincent motorcycles' front and rear suspension bolting to the engine, removing flexing of the frame by not having a frame.

The body of the action is of 7075 aluminium, with a steel insert into which the barrel screws and the bolt lugs engage, and indexes with a guide machined into the action body, and is pinned and cemented in place.

The body is correctly anodised. Anodising can alter original dimensions and harden the surface, which weakens the whole – but not in this case.

A Delrin bushing is fitted into the rear of the action body, to guide the bolt smoothly. The bolt is three-lug, with a self-lubricating finish, and is tuned to give a light lift, so as to not disturb the set-up of a rested rifle – an important feature for F-Class and Benchrest.

The short, titanium firing pin is light, and powered by Belville washers for easy tuning and fast lock time.

77

The problem of efficiently connecting the action to the stock has been overcome by simply doing away with the stock

The RPA trigger may be factory set to comply with TR requirements, or lighter to suit F-Class and long-range Benchrest.

There are a variety of forends to suit various disciplines and tastes. All attach to the action body in the same way: a guide-way and four machine screws, so even if the screws are not tight, the forend will not move.

The buttstock comprises a titanium tube which clamps into the action body, so is easily removed for transporting if required. This tube carries the cheekpiece and the butt plate, and the whole is multi-adjustable for length and height, the cant of cheekpiece and butt plate being adjusted individually. The cheekpiece does not impede the action of the bolt, unlike the quirky experimental prototype.

The pistol grip is adjustable in every way, to give correct trigger contact and comfort. The 'tool-handle' grip looks plain, but is comfortable in use. Anatomical grips may be fitted, though there is no perceptible benefit in their use.

Initial shooting impressions are that the rifle is comfortable in use, with minimal perceived recoil. Of critical importance to long-range precision shooters, the design permits the use of Heavy Varmint barrels, while keeping within F/TR weight limit.

Of course, what makes or breaks any rifle is the quality of the barrel and its fitting. That is down to the individual, but users of the Mono can be confident knowing the design permits the barrel's maximum potential to be achieved.

Contact Gleve Rifle Systems: 01484 686943, www.riflesystems.co.uk



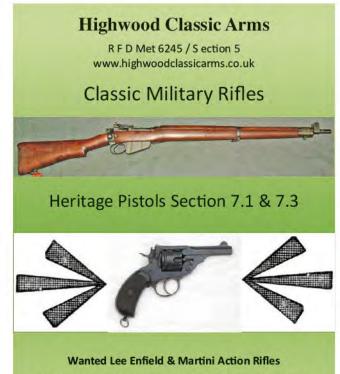
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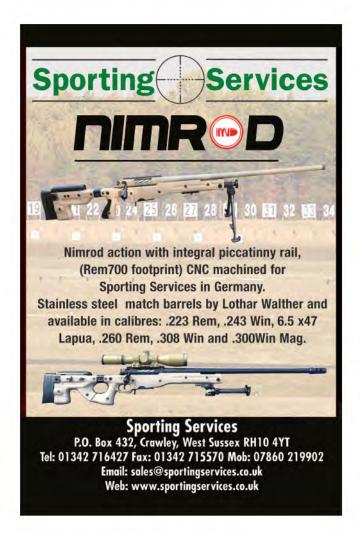
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hroughout the winter CCRS ran a number of air and .22 target rifle postal competitions which have attracted quite a lot of interest across the four cadet youth movements. These culminated in our national .22 finals at the beginning of April in the Lord Roberts Centre.

Readers may be aware that – amongst our other responsibilities – CCRS is responsible for three international fullbore teams. Two are cadet teams as follows:

The UK Cadet Rifle Team (U17) travels to the Channel Islands to compete in the Jersey Rifle Association championships in August.

The British Cadet Rifle Team (U18 and known as The Athelings) travels to Canada annually in August to compete in the Canadian Cadet Championships and also the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Championships.

A training and selection period for both 2018 squads was held over 22-25 March. CCRS is grateful to a number of international shooters who give up their time to coach and advise squad members.

The third team for which CCRS is responsible is the Great Britain U19 team, which travels to the Republic of

South Africa (RSA) annually in March to compete in the South Africa Bisley Union championships and Free State championships. This team is organised by CCRS in partnership with the NRA. The 2018 team departed for RSA on 10 March and returned on 1 April. The 2018 team is listed in the table below.

Finally – Steve Ellis had been assistant general secretary at CCRS since 1992 and retired on 2 March. All at CCRS thank him for his immense contribution to cadet shooting and send him and his family our best wishes for an enjoyable retirement. Steve's replacement is Peter Turner, who is well known to many on the Common. Peter will have an enhanced and wider role than Steve, which is reflected in his appointment title of Shooting Manager. Peter can be contacted on 01483 473095 or shootingmanager@ccrs.org.uk.

2018 TEAM MEMBERS				
Team Commandant				
Andy Warman	HQ ATC			
Adjutant				
Mark Geernaert-Davies	Surrey ACF			
Lady Officer				
Ruth Ford-Hunt	Hants & IOW ACF			
Team members				
Charlie Cowen	formerly Sedbergh School			
Shaun Flanagan	Hants & IOW ACF			
Sarah Gould	Epsom College			
Jemima Hince	Wellington College			
Michael Larcombe	Epsom College			
Tobias Little	Gresham's School			
Luke Malcic	Elizabeth College			
Jack Scambler	Victoria College			

Young Guns

Derek Stimpson reports on HBSA's inaugural shoot for its junior members

he future of our sport depends on engaging with young people. With this in mind, on the morning of 17 February, HBSA held its inaugural shoot for junior members on Cheylesmore range, with the youngsters shooting .22RF rifles. This covered range at 25m, with its electronically returning targets and rests, was ideal for such an occasion.

The initiative was instigated by David Franklin Johnson and strongly supported by Maurice Kanareck, both long-standing members of HBSA. At the shoot they were joined by John Beirne and his son.

We all agree on the need to encourage young people to come into the sport. We are seeking to do so through HBSA, and thus in contact with historic arms, so much the better for future preservation of heritage, both as shooting participants and collectors. The boys were using a variety of classic training rifles, with both open sights and telescopes, under one-to-one supervision.

We owe thanks to David for starting this initiative. Thanks also to the NRA, who have been most supportive.



Maurice, having been with the BBC in the early days, was heard to say: "In the words of Lord Reith, founder Director General of the BBC, 'Our youngsters we would wish to inform, educate and entertain." And indeed they were!

Following the morning shooting the youngsters were treated to lunch at the London & Middlesex clubhouse.

They were then taken to visit the NRA museum – we owe thanks to Jim Hallam for opening this up and giving the lads

an explanation of some of the more iconic exhibits.

They continued in the 'historical' vein with a tour of the ranges and wound up with a visit to Fultons, itself another piece of Bisley history. All in all a splendid introduction to shooting, the NRA and Bisley. We look forward to seeing more youngsters coming forward. Anyone wishing to introduce juniors to HBSA should contact David Franklin Johnson at dfj@brightonandhovegunroom...







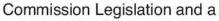
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The Imperial Meeting 4th – 28th July 2018, F-Class Europeans 3rd – 9th Sept 2018, Trafalgar Meeting 20th – 21st October 2018.

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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he early 20th century was a time of intense competition between gunmakers in England and on the continent to supply rifles to hunters travelling to Africa and Asia and to the game wardens and guides who worked there. At the top end of this trade was the so-called 'dangerous game' rifle, for use on species that would charge when threatened.

This competition produced a wide range of proprietary cartridges, with each rival maker seeking to outdo the others in terms of power and reliability. Each maker designed its own cartridge (in the days before computer aided design and accurate pressure testing) and marketed it aggressively. Many cartridges fell by the wayside, but others have stood the test of time: the .470 Nitro Express of Joseph Lang, the .505 of George Gibbs and W J Jeffery's .500 and his .600 Nitro Express are still in use today.

A successful cartridge needed to deliver enough energy, at close range, to stop an angry beast before it trampled or gored the hunter or tourist on safari. These cartridges are characterised by large cases designed to operate at low pressures while producing significant amounts of energy. The low pressures were important to ensure that the

empty cases could be extracted easily and because the heat of the African sun would inevitably result in higher pressures than would be found in England. The large cases also reflected the relatively poor energy density of the powders of that era.

Double rifles were popular because they provided a quick follow-up shot, and the redundancy of two separate locks and triggers – it was unlikely that both would fail at the same time! Bolt action rifles could be made more cheaply, and provided three or four shots before the need to reload. Both had their place on expeditions, with bolt-action rifles often used for day-to-day shooting and the larger double rifles used when things did not go according to plan.

Modern production techniques mean these rifles are much more accessible today. Famous makers such as Rigby & Co will build a best London gun in your choice of large calibres, featuring high-grade timber stocks and custom engraving. However, if your budget does not extend to that you can experience these cartridges in rifles from Heym, Krieghoff, CZ, Searcy and others.

Factory ammunition for the more obscure cartridges can be difficult to obtain, but Federal, Kynoch, Norma, RWS, Rigby and Westley Richards all make ammunition in a variety of large-bore cartridges. Components are also available along with hand-loading data.

These rifles provide a tangible link to an earlier time, one of adventure and danger in strange lands. And with factory rifles now built in a range of cartridges, components for hand-loaded ammunition, and Bisley providing a venue for them to be used, the future for them has never been brighter.

The next big bore shoot day is planned for 17 August and is designed for rifles with a muzzle energy in excess of 7,000J. For more information please email Rick Wells at rick.wells@nra.org.uk.

Read more about big-bore rifles at Bisley in the SHRB Range Day feature on page 32.



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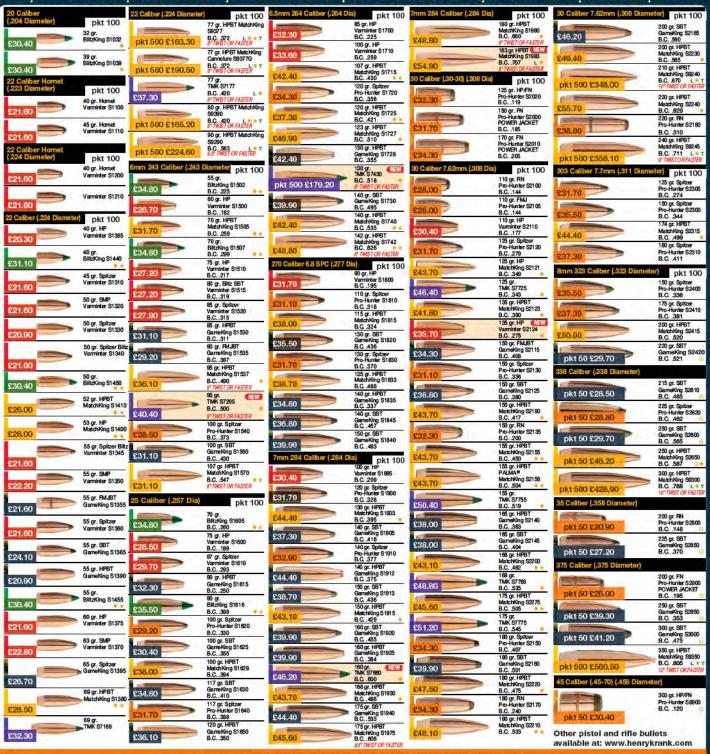
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F-Class Update

Everything F-Class shooters need to know this summer, from Des Parr



¶he new competition season is now in full swing, and what a joy it is to be back out shooting in shirt sleeves in warm weather again. After such a long and cold winter it feels good to be back on the firing points with the sun on our back and in the company of other likeminded F-classers. As always at this time of year, looking forward to a full schedule of events, the sheer logistical requirements of ammunition and barrel preparations can be daunting and can feel somewhat like having an additional part-time job, especially if one is committed to taking part in the bigger matches out there, both here and abroad. Anyone who competes in the GBFCA League and the NRA's Imperial will be kept busy now, getting ready for the rapid succession of events to come.

Regarding the F-class Imperial, this really deserves a special mention. It ought to be better-attended – this is after all the NRA's flagship and most prestigious event. It is completely different sort of competition from what it used to be: it is now much more condensed that it was, from 20 to 24 July. Most of the shooting takes place over the long weekend, which helps minimise time

off work. Not only that, but the squadding now means that all shooters are squadded together into fewer details, meaning each stage of the competition is undertaken in a shorter and thus fairer timescale. There are no short courses of fire either: all details are now 2+15, which means you certainly get your money's worth of shooting. All of these positive changes have not gone unnoticed by the wider F-class community across the country, and there have been many expressions of interest in the new format. Let's hope that translates into greater actual participation. Don't forget the 'Fopton' either, if shooting F-class at Match Rifle distances appeals - it is only a tiny little part of the Imperial, but tremendously good fun. Entry forms are available on the NRA website at www.nra.org.uk, along with much more detailed information.

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, one of the most significant items to note is the increased number of competitions scheduled to be held at Bisley. Because of restricted range availability elsewhere, the GBFCA is making more use of Bisley's ranges until such time as other venues become available. Note one particular

change from 2017: the prestigious European Championships will revert to the familiar early September slot. The remaining 2018 League match dates for your diary are as follows:

23-24 June: The Long Range Challenge t Bisley

28-29 July: The Northern Championships at Diggle

3-9 September: The European Championships at Bisley

3-4 November: The British Championships at Bisley

Members may note that the calendar has a new fixture in July: the Northern Championships have been rescheduled to take advantage of the gap in the calendar in July. The downside is that the match falls just a matter of days after the NRA Imperial, which may be unfortunate timing for any members who plan on competing at both events.

Members will be pleased to note that Tony Marsh, the former F/Open GB team Vice-Captain and Coach, has been appointed to be the new GB F-class representative to ICFRA (the International Confederation of Fullbore Rifle Associations). We wish him well in his new post.

Many prominent members of the GB squad who attended the F-class World Championships last year in Canada and enjoyed the experience may be interested to know that the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association celebrates its 150th anniversary and we expect will be putting on a very good show indeed at its annual matches in August. See the DCRA website for more information at www.dcra.ca.

Now that the four-year cycle of the World Championships has begun anew, the NRA has sought applications from those seeking to captain the F/Open and F/TR teams in the next tournament, to be held in South Africa in 2021 on the Bloemfontein ranges. As this edition of the Journal goes to press, there has been no announcement of appointments.

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Around the regions

NRA regional ranges manager Nic Couldrey visits a Nottinghamshire club and witnesses a range of competitions around the country

The 100m range, near Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire

This range, built in a copse on the site of a former quarry in rural Nottinghamshire, is part of range complex owned and operated by Notts and Derby Vintage Arms Society. The club, which was established in 1962, has a broad membership base that enjoy a variety of shooting activities at their home ranges and at a local MoD range. The seven-acre site has excellent facilities including a club house, utilities, a 100m lane with five covered firing points, a 50m range with covered firing points and a 25m range. During my visit, we discussed options for closer collaboration with the NRA to enhance the facilities and promote membership pipeline in the East Midlands.

Regional Competitions

The NRA Derbyshire Challenge returned to Thorpe Cloud in April. My thanks to Simon Favell for hosting the event and to everyone who took part, including winners Kay Airey, Mike Wright, Steve Marris and Richard Jones. Please see the match report elsewhere in this issue for all the details.

The 101 Rifle Club, based in Altcar, has organised a weekend competition to be shot at distances between 300 and 1,000 yards at the excellent RFCA range complex at Altcar. The event takes place on 10–11 November. Please contact richsjones@ hotmail.co.uk to register for the event. If you have never shot at Altcar, here is your opportunity.

In the South West it now seems likely that the disused military range in Dorset will be reopened by the MoD to meet the growing need for training facilities in the region as troops are repatriated. So for



now our plans with the landowner are on hold, but we're encouraged that the range will eventually be reinstated and become available to NRA clubs.

In Wales detailed discussions with the owner of the disused range at Llanbradach are ongoing. The immediate focus is on ensuring that reopening the range complies with local authority planning rules, particularly those concerning range safety and noise. Watch this space.

Good Practice Guide for Clubs

The Metropolitan Police, in conjunction with the BSSC and the NRA, have produced a useful guide for civilian target shooting clubs. The booklet outlines the requirements of the Home Office and the Police in key areas of administration, record-keeping, range operation and welfare. This is an excellent initiative. If you'd like to know more, please get in touch.



Rear L-R: Nic Couldrey NRA, Richard Jones, Simon Favell (range warden). Front L-R: Kay Airey, Mike Wright, Steve Maris

NRA Strategic and Development Review 2018-2020

An important objective in the recent NRA strategic and development review is the implementation in 2018 of a self-certification scheme for regional ranges. Work is under way to finalise a document to provide guidance to clubs that operate ranges, based on expert advice and our own experience operating the ranges at Bisley. Watch this space.

See you on the ranges. ■

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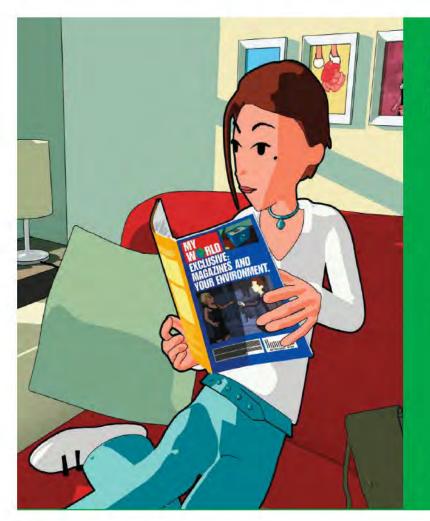


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<u>OBITUARIES</u>

HADDON DONALD 20 MARCH 1917 - 23 APRIL 2018

Haddon Donald, soldier, businessman, politician: b March 20, 1917, Masterton; m Ana Beetham, 2d, 2s; d April 23, 2018, Masterton, aged 101.

To provide. Whether that was for his family, his neighbourhood or his country, it was Haddon Donald's greatest motivation. And triumph.

At home in Masterton there was the food from his large vegetable garden, or the spoils of his latest fishing trip on Lake Taupō, to be shared with family, friends and neighbours; in the deserts of Africa and craggy hills of Crete, his fellow soldiers revelled in his calm but effective leadership.

"His love language involved acts of service," says daughter Fiona Donald, while the family prepares for a public memorial to her much-loved and decorated father.

Theirs was a traditional family, one that would seem antiquated and anachronistic today. "He did all the outside work and Mum did all the inside work, which included children," says Fiona.

Love was unsaid but certainly felt, expressed more in the act of providing for that family and sharing in the bounty of hard work.

"We had an enormous vegetable garden the size of a tennis court. Everything he did, he did meticulously well," she says. "He just had that gift." Also a gift for delegation. "He was a task master; we used to try to sneak away, and if we were caught anywhere near where he was working we were seconded to do jobs; and if we had friends they would be seconded to do jobs as well.

"He thought that working was the most important part of your daily existence."

But it wasn't all hard work and no play. "Dad loved poetry; at the dinner table he'd come out with a ditty, sometimes a rude one, which he loved."

He also loved a party. "He didn't like drinking hugely," says Fiona, "so it was mostly entertaining people and it would have a theme, so for the Melbourne Cup everyone would dress up in hats and silly things like that."

Traditional the family may have been, but Fiona and sister Robyn were expected to be able to chop wood, tie a fly and shoot a gun as well as, if not better than, brothers Rhodes and Andrew, while the brothers were expected to be just as adept at baking a cake. They were "poles-apart" politically – "he was very right-wing National and we were very left-wing liberal". That might have led to some fascinating debate around the dinner table, but Haddon's exploits during World War II had robbed him of his hearing, so there was not a great deal of discussion. Just a great deal of respect for the right of others

to hold those opinions and indulge in the debate that emboldened democracy.

Which was one of the reasons Haddon, barely older than 20, signed up to take on Hitler. He'd been fighting bullies since his older brother helped point them out on his first day of school, and this "tough, little bit of a battler" could sense another in the rise of the German leader.

"My parents had a very strong sense of fair play and freedom and the rights of people to live how they should live. That irked him most about Hitler."

Haddon joined the New Zealand
Expeditionary Force in 1939. He saw action
in North Africa, Crete and Italy as part
of 22nd Battalion and rose to the rank of
lieutenant colonel. Before his death he had
been the highest ranking New Zealand
WWII army officer still living.

He was tough, resourceful and resilient. Unlike many others, he seemed built for the battle. In an interview long after the war, he even admitted that some of it was "fun".

"Because he did everything so well as a task, I think he did the war quite well," says Fiona. "He saw it in terms of a task and strategy, and outwitting.

"He said in his book [In Peace and War: A Civilian Soldier's Story] that he looked back on his ancestors and there were a few of them that were warriors, so he thinks he had the warrior gene in his family."

The citation for Haddon's Distinguished Service Order said: "His personal courage, energy, and resourcefulness were all of the highest order. His personal presence, his optimism and his leadership were an inspiration to all those under his command, contributing in a large measure to the unflagging momentum of the advance."

Fiona suspects that his fellow soldiers, like his family, responded to her father's work ethic, calmness under pressure and ability to find fun, even in adversity.

Haddon was injured four times, including the blast that so badly damaged his hearing, and he would go on to receive numerous other medals, including the Military Cross,





Efficiency Decoration and the Officer of the Legion of Merit from the United States.

Others returned home from the war scarred and broken. For Haddon it was like "life as usual."

The garden needed tending, there was the regular Sunday trip to Trentham for competitive rifle shooting (he was a life member of the National Rifle Association and led the New Zealand team five times), and there was the family woolpressing firm, Donald & Sons, for which he was company chairman for 16 years.

But his country would come calling again, drawing once more on Haddon's drive for duty, his innate ability to see the task done, and well. The National Party member became its MP for Wairarapa in 1963. He held that electorate for two terms before being narrowly defeated by Labour's Jack Williams in 1969.

"He wasn't a career politician, he was doing it for duty," says Fiona. "Dad had enough nous to be interested in politics because it helped business."

Later he would say that he had "given 12 years of my life to my country; six years to risking my life and six years to risking my reputation."

Highlights included tours of South America and Asia to promote New Zealand agriculture.

But it was tough on the family, particularly a young Fiona. "It was lonely," she says. "I basically didn't see my father for six years. He would come home at the weekend, do the gardening and shooting the next day."

She was just six. "I was young enough to say, when they rang the house one day and said where is your father, I said he's gone to an erection meeting. That was a big joke for a long time. And he loved that kind of thing."

It's a moment of levity tinged with a little sadness. But also pride for a life well lived, and love expressed and felt through the act of giving. *Rob Mitchell*, 5 May

DR JAMES CHARLTON (JIM) THOMPSON 4 JANUARY 1941 - 12 APRIL 2018

Jim Thompson, DCRA Life Governor, NRA Vice President, born 4 January 1941 at Leeds, Yorkshire, died 12 April 2018, Peterborough, Ontario, aged 77.

Jim was the elder son of Col HJ (Tommy) Thompson and, as is usual with an Army family, spent his early years in varied and exotic places including India, Denmark and Cyprus. With strong parental support, his love for shooting began with small-bore and progressed to .303 while receiving his early education at St. Lawrence College, Ramsgate, where he shot in the School Eight, winning the Ashburton Shield. He studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, gaining a First in 1962, and was awarded his PhD in 1965. During that time he continued to be involved in shooting, representing Cambridge University and Yorkshire, his county of birth of which he was always very proud.

He spent the first two years of his teaching career at Rice University in Houston, before being offered a position at the University of Toronto in 1967, where he became Professor of Chemistry, eventually heading the department until retiring in 2003.

In 1970, Jim began shooting seriously in Canada and won the Ontario Lieutenant Governor's Final in 1976. He became a Canadian citizen in 1972 and was then able to qualify for Bisley teams, which he did as a shooter four years in a row and then as Coach, Team Adjutant and Commandant. He was involved with Canadian Palma teams, shooting in 1972, 1973 and 1979, and was Captain and Coach for the 1982 Team.

Jim was a major contributor to the running of the Ontario Rifle Association, holding the position of Secretary early on and Membership Secretary up to 10 years ago. He became Chairman of Council in 1976, serving until 1983, and was recognised for his provincial support in 1986, when he received an Ontario Special Achievement Award.

In 1973 Jim became part of the DCRA Council and Executive and throughout the years supported almost every committee, including co-editing the *Canadian Marksman* for over 20 years. He joined the MacDonald Stewart Pavilion Committee in 1984 and took an active part in this for the rest of his life. He chaired the Program Committee for



nearly 15 years and helped organise National Championships, including acting as Match Director for the Palma World Championships in 2007. He was Executive Vice President of the Association for 12 years, retiring in 1995, and on two occasions was interim Executive Director. At the time of his passing Jim held the position of Vice-Chairman of Council, and among his more recent responsibilities were those of Comptroller and Chairman of the International Teams Committee.

He was active in the international community where possible, supporting both ICFRA and CSF, and served as a jury member at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne (2006), India (2010) and Glasgow (2014).

Jim received numerous acknowledgements for his support to the DCRA, being made a Life Member and Life Governor in 1990 and being inducted into the DCRA Hall of Fame Builders Category in 2005. In 2015, the NRA recognised his contribution to promoting relations between the UK and Canadian Associations by making him a Vice President.

In appreciation of his many years of dedication to Canadian and international shooting in general, the DCRA's home office located on the Connaught Ranges at Ottawa is to be named the Dr JC Thompson Building.

Jim was a driven man who was blessed with three loves: his family, education and the fullbore community. He showed wisdom, fairness and good humour and made many friends during his travels and when communicating online. One could not have asked for more from a friend who felt any situation could be solved through intelligent conversation and a social beverage.

Jim passed away on 12 April and is sorely missed by his immediate family, daughters Claire and Eva, their families and the wide circle of friends he made over the years.

Marksman's Calendar

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

HHIV

04-08, Civilian Service Rifle Imperial Meeting

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

07-08, British Commonwealth Rifle Club Open Meeting

BCRC - David Rose bcrcmemsec@gmail.com

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

Dorset
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

16-25, McQueen

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

18-22, Gallery Rifle and Pistol Imperial Meeting

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

Russell Hicks Wnsc-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk

21-22, SLRC Repeating Pistol Team Meeting

SLRC – Jim Hallam slrc@jjimhallam.eu

21-22, Surrey Branch MLAGB Repeating Pistol Meeting

MLAGB (Surrey) surreybranch@jimhallam.eu

22, NRA Shotgun League 2018 - Round 7

Sussex - Ron Flint ron@phoenixshootingclub.co.uk

AUGUST

11, Suffolk County Rifle Association F Class Long Range Match

Paul Hill 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

SEPTEMBER

02, Mini Rifle Match: NRA Mini-Rifle League

- Round 6

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

08, Suffolk County Rifle Association Anglia Long Range Challenge

Christopher Heales christopherheales@yahoo.co.uk

08–09, NRA Handgun League 2018 – Round 8Dorset

Steve Pike steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

08-09, NRA Mini-Rifle League 2018 - Round 7

Neil Brooklyn neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com

09, Surrey Branch MLAGB Repeating Pistol Meeting

MLAGB (Surrey) surreybranch@jimhallam.eu

11-13, PSUK Open Championships 2018

PSUK Martin Armstrong-Prior entries@psukshooting.org

29, NRA Handgun League 2018 - Round 9Isle of Wight

Richard Clifton isleshoot@gmail.com

29, West Suffolk Rifle Club Championship



Christopher Heales christopherheales@yahoo.co.uk

29-30, English & Irish Autumn Meeting

English Eight – Bill Taylor Bill@englisheight.co.uk

OCTOBER

06, Historic SR Match

NRA Peter Cottrell peter.cottrell@nra.org.uk NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk Rep for CSR csr@nra.org.uk

06, LRRFC Autumn Meeting

Richard Kenchington ecretary@lrrfc.org.uk

06-07, Target Shotgun Festival - October 2018 & NRA Shotgun League - Round 9

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

07, CSR 2018/19 Winter League - October

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk Rep for CSR csr@nra.org.uk

13, NRA Handgun League 2018 - Round 10

Worcester - Russell Hicks wnsc-hgsec@wnsc.co.uk

13-14, European TR Long Range Championships

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

20-21, Trafalgar Meeting 2018

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

27-28, Autumn Action Weekend 2018

NRA Becky Mills Becky.mills@nra.org.uk NRA Mark Haigh mark.Haigh@nra.org.uk

28, NRA Handgun League 2018 - Round 11

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

NOVEMBER

03, CSR 2018/19 Winter League - November

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk Rep for CSR csr@nra.org.uk

10, Armistice Centenary Commemoration Match

10-11, The All Distance Challenge & Laurels Rutland Teams Event

Richard Jones richsjones@hotmail.co.uk

17–18, NRA Shotgun League 2018 – Round 10 Dorset

Steve Pike steve@shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

DECEMBER

02, CSR 2018/19 Winter League - December

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk Rep for CSR csr@nra.org.uk

08-09, NRA Handgun League 2018 - Round 12

Neil Brooklyn neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com

08-09, NRA Mini-Rifle League 2018 - Round 8Somerset

Neil Brooklyn neilbrooklyn@btinternet.com

PLUMBULLA LONGE IT

Or, 'a little lead goes a long way...' A look at long-range .22 shoots in the UK

400 yards is not a distance we use for fullbore TR shooting, but you may see people shooting at this distance. You might notice that it is much less noisy than fullbore, so what is going on? The answer is long-range rimfire shooting.

The .22 rimfire rifle has been around a long time. Most people who use .22 rifles shoot at fairly short distances, often indoors at 25 yards. If you are lucky enough to have a .22 range with longer distances available, 50m and 100 yards are popular. For many years the Leslie Williams has been held at 200 yards, and historic matches during IHAM or the Trafalgar meeting also use 200 yards for .22 rifles.

A few years ago some experimental shoots were held at 200, 300 and 400 yards. These encouraged a group of shooters to practise and develop the sport. Two years ago the Long Range Rim-Fire Club (LRRFC) was formed, which now has 36 members. The NRA

runs a spring shoot at 200 and 300 yards, and the LRRFC runs a summer shoot at 300 and 400 yards plus an autumn shoot at 200, 300 and 400 yards. These events are open to NRA members who are not members of the LRRFC, but certain trophies are only for club members.

The picture below was taken at 400 yards on 9 June, when the LRRFC meeting was held in ideal conditions. Note the three people using benches and the service rifle .22.

We use three classes: MRSB (with scope sight and rest), TRSB and SRSB. It is interesting that the scores from MRSB and TRSB competitors are similar. Some people find a scope sight helpful for the large range of elevation needed but others prefer normal iron sights. If you would like to have a go, there is plenty of information available on the LRRFC web site, including the results of the shoot on 9 June: www.lrrfc.org.uk



Results

PHOENIX 2018

25m Precision GSRB

- 1. Colin Hudson, 276.3v
- 2. David Sprigg, 275.3v
- 3. Jonnie Cormie, 274.2v

25m Precision GRCF

- 1. Keith Cox. 298.21v
- 2. Adam Chapman, 297.18v
- 3. Ray Holohan, 297.18v

25m Precision LBP

- 1. Steve Lane, 285.4v
- 2. William Horne, 282.9v
- 3. Marek Pawlik, 280.9v

25m Precision LBR

- 1. Adam Chapman, 285.8v
- 2. Marek Pawlik, 281.9v

50m Precision GRSB

- 1. Colin Hudson, 287.10v
- 2. Daniel O'Flaherty, 286.11v
- 3. Chris Douglas, 286.9v

50m Precision GRCF

- 1. Daniel O'Flaherty, 281.3v
- 2. Steve Lamb, 279.5v
- 3. Jeff Kehoe, 277.4v

50m Precision GRCF Open

- 1. Dale Foster, 268.1v
- 2. Kjell Middleton, 260.5v

50m Precision GRCF Classic

- 1. Meik Waldvogt, 268.3v
- 2. David Rees, 263.3v
- 3. Kjell Middleton, 262.4v

America Match GRSB

- 1. Keith Cox, 285.2v
- 2. David Rees, 277.8v
- 3. Jakub Mikolajczyk, 277.4v

America Match GRCF

- 1. Keith Cox, 284.8v
- 2. Adam Smyth, 278.7v
- 3. Len Regan, 277.10v

Timed & Precision 1 GRSB

- X1. Keith Cox, 300.22v
- X2. Norman Veitch, 300.19v
- X3. Jake Mossom, 299.18v
- A1. Dietmar Hönersch, 299.11v
- A2. Jakub Mikolajczyk, 298.16v
- A3. Dave Morrow, 298.14v
- B1. Daniel Fickling, 295.13v
- B2. Andreas Steinke, 293.13v
- B3. Bryan Hall, 292.6v

Timed & Precision 1 GRCF

- X1. Keith Cox, 300.29v
- X2. Keith Kilvington, 300.25v
- X3. Gary Bowden, 300.25v
- A1. Dave Morrow, 300.22v
- A2. Paul Lyu, 300.21v
- A3. David Christie, 300.20v
- B1. Peter Ryder, 299.8v
- B2. Nigel Porter, 298.18v
- B3. Maurice Leishman, 298.17v

Timed & Precision 1 LBP Open

- X1. Steve Lane, 300.17v
- X2. William Horne, 300.12v
- X3. Robert J Tonner, 299.19v
- A1. Robert Tonner, 298.13v
- A2. Marek Pawlik, 297.17v
- A3. David Guest, 297.13v
- B1. Keith Kilvington, 293.6v
- B2. Cornelius Schalkwyk,
- B3. Graham Gough, 288.5v

Timed & Precision 1 LBR

Open X1. John Robinson, 297.16v

- A1. William Horne, 296.15v
- A2. Robert Tonner Snr, 295.12v
- A3. Glenn Gordon, 295.8v
- B1. Robert Illius, 292.10v
- B2. John Bibby, 290.9v
- B3. Paul Lacey, 290.8v

Multi-Target GRCF

- X1. Keith Cox, 119.15v
- X2. Stephen Wall, 119.13v
- X3. Jeff Kehoe, 118.17v

- A1. Jon Avetoomyan, 120.12v
- A2. Jake Mossom, 119.11v
- A3. Nigel Porter, 118.14v
- B1. Lance Peltz, 112.10v
- B2. Alistair Rafferty, 109.8v

B3. Mario Madden, 109.6v **Multi-Target GRCF Open**

- 1. Dale Foster, 118.16v
- 2. Peter Radcliffe, 117.17v
- 3. David Green, 115.9v

Multi-Target GRCF Classic

- 1. Alan Podevin, 118.12v
- 2. James Starley, 117.13v
- 3. Neil Francis, 117.11v

Multi-Target LBP Open

- X1. Norman Veitch, 116.15v
- X2. Phil Cowling, 115.10v
- X3. Glenn Gordon, 114.8v
- A1. Steve Lane, 113.9v
- A2. Phil Milsom, 112.9v
- A3. Stuart Russell, 109.6v
- B1. Steven Christian, 105.9v
- B2. Graham Gough, 105.4v
- B3. Cornelius Schalkwyk, 104.7v

Multi-Target LBR Open

- X1. Phil Cowling, 113.9v
- X2. Robert Tonner Snr, 112.9v
- A1. Morné van Dalen, 107.6v
- A2. Neil Roberts, 106.8v
- A3. Dave Ferguson, 105.2v
- B1. David Farrow, 108.8v

B2. Paul Joyce, 95.5v **Phoenix A GRSB**

- X1. Jake Mossom, 193.23v
- X2. Gary Bowden, 193.21v
- X3. Jonnie Cormie, 193.19v
- A1. Jimmy Byrne, 194.28v
- A2. Phil Wood, 188.16v
- A3. Steve Jordan, 186,21v
- B1. John Crouch, 176.18v
- B2. Len Regan, 174.9v
- B3. Martin Steinke, 172.9v

Phoenix A GRCF

- X1. Pete Watts, 198.25v
- X2. Norman Veitch, 195.29v
- A1. Gary Bowden, 199.27v
- A2. Dave Eastwood, 196.27v
- A3. Morné van Dalen, 195.20v
- B1. Ray Holohan, 193.19v
- B2. Clive Jackson, 189.19v
- B3. Paul Stockill, 187.17v

Phoenix A LBP

- X1. Steve Lane, 186.10v
- A1. Norman Veitch, 190.19v
- A2. David Guest, 189.18v
- A3. Paul Stockill, 180.14v
- B1. Christopher Jackson, 180.13v
- B2. Graham Searle, 169.10v
- B3. Blair Drummond, 167.7v

Phoenix A LBR

- X1. David Green, 171.9v
- A1. Peter Matthews, 183.16v

A2. Morné van Dalen, 172.17v

B1. Jake Mossom, 149.5v

- **1500 GRSB** X1. John Robinson, 1489.114v
- X2. Andrew Jarman, 1486.79v
- X3. Chris West, 1485.103v
- A1. Daniel Blagojevic, 1476.76v
- A2. Chris Douglas, 1471.96v
- A3. Denis Cummins, 1468.75v
- B1. Sven Rohde, 1469.60v
- B2. Keith Kilvington, 1462.72v
- B3. Shaun Twomey, 1459.82v
- C1. Martin Steinke, 1461.77v
- C2. Karl O Brien, 1443.66v C3. Johannes Symington,
- 1442.65v
- D1. Darren Wheatley, 1366.31v
- D2. Louis Potgieter, 1351.30v
- **1500 GRCF** X1. Chris West, 1492.113v
- X2. John Robinson, 1492.112v X3. Keith Cox, 1490.108v
- A1. Daniel Blagojevic,
- 1492.109v
- A2. Jonnie Cormie, 1490.104v
- A3. Greg Rastall, 1484.97v B1. Glenn Gordon, 1493.103v
- B2. Meik Waldvogt, 1488.90v
- B3. Chris Douglas, 1487.102v
- C1. André Georgi, 1481.89v
- C2. Martin Steinke, 1479.93v C3. Bruno Blüße, 1477.82v
- D1. Shaun Twomey, 1461.70v

D2. Peter Wylie, 1456.67v 1500 LBP

- X1. John Robinson, 1497.113v A1. Steve Lane, 1472.87v
- A2. Glenn Gordon, 1471.72v
- B1. Lance Peltz, 1441.46v B2. David Gwalter, 1432.69v

1500 LBR Open

- X1. John Robinson, 1490.102v
- A1. David Green, 1330.38v B1. Dave Ferguson, 1274.38v
- Bianchi GRSB X1. Mel Beard, 1859.140v
- A1. Phil Milsom, 1772.102v
- C1. Daniel O'Flaherty, 1802.130v

- C2. Will Danaher, 1780.109v
- D1. Aidan Corry, 1598.113v
- D2. Toby O'Brien, 1580.77v
- D3. Martin Steinke, 1577.102v

Bianchi GRCF

- X1. Mel Beard, 1906.150v
- A1. Robert Wheeler, 1858.117v
- Advancing Target GRSB
- X1. Robert Wheeler, 293.39v
- X2. Graeme Dodds, 290.23v
- X3. Gary Bowden, 288.33v
- A1. Len Regan, 287.28v
- A2. Adam Smyth, 285.21v
- A3. Meik Waldvogt, 283.18v
- B1. Martin Steinke, 273.19v
- B2. Phil Milsom, 272.21v
- B3. Paul Carr, 272.17v

Advancing Target GRCF

- X1. Keith Kilvington, 180.32v
- X2. Glenn Gordon, 180.31v
- X3. David Guest, 180.26v
- A1. David Christie, 180.25v
- A2. Frank Cullen, 179.24v
- A3. Dave Morrow, 178.27v
- B1. André Georgi, 177.22v
- B2. Anthony Graham, 176.20v
- B3. Will Danaher, 175.15v

Advancing Target LBP Open

- X1. Norman Veitch, 179.25v
- X2. Morné van Dalen, 178.24v
- A1. Peter Whomersley, 176.21v
- A2. John Chambers, 175.20v
- A3. Gary Bowden, 174.16v
- B1. Tim Smart, 173.16v
- B2. William Pow, 171.13v
- B3. Scott Lyon, 169.14v

Advancing Target LBR Open

- X1. Phil Cowling, 179.27v
- X2. Jim Smith, 171.16v
- A1. Steve Denton, 166.10v
- A2. David Green, 165.13v
- B1. David Farrow, 161.8v
- B2. Bryan Hall, 159.8v

NRA Embassy Cup SGM

- 1. James Harris, 118
- 2. David Payne, 118
- 3. Andreas Steinke, 117

NRA Embassy Cup SGSA

- =1. Daniel O'Flaherty, 119
- =1. Brian McManus, 119
- =1. John Chambers, 119

Practical Pistol (Open)

- 1. John Chambers, 100.00%
- $2.\,Justin\,Cooper,\,93.83\%$
- 3. Tim Gardener, 92.05%

Practical Revolver (Open)

- 1. Tim Gardener, 100.00%
- 2. Richard Clifton, 65.90%

Practical Pistol (Standard Iron)

- 1. Shaun Twomey, 100.00%
- 2. David Ashcroft, 99.86%
- 3. Alex Florance, 90.10%

100/200/300yd Service Rifle A pre 1955

- 1. David Moran, 119.5v
- 2. Adam Chapman, 119.5v
- 3. William Ellis, 119.3v

100/200/300yd Service Rifle B pre 1955

1. Stephen Wattam, 82.4v

100/200/300yd Service Rifle Open pre 1955

- 1. David Moran, 132.5v
- 2. Steven Voak, 117.2v

100/200/300yd Sporting

- 1. Myles Robertson, 148.17v
- 2. Johannes Symington,
- 146.18v
- 3. Barend Verster, 145.19v

800/900/1000yd F Class Open

- 1. Gerco Damen, 219.13v
- 2. Pouwke Jongbloed, 215.12v
- 3. Piet Damen, 212.15v

800/900/1000yd FTR

- 1. Justin Gough, 216.8v
- 2. Peter Dommett, 211.12v
- 3. Dean Wallace, 202.4v

McQueen GRSB

- 1. Chris McGill, 50.8v
- 2. Graham Gough, 50.7v
- 3. David Moran, 50.6v

McQueen

- 1. Christopher Wilson, 50.7v
- 2. Chris McGill, 50.6v
- 3. Stuart Doyle, 50.6v

McQueen Issued Rifle

- 1. Peter Radcliffe, 50.6v
- 2. David Nash, 50.6v
- $3.\ Chris\ McGill, 50.5v$

BIRMINGHAM BISLEY

TR - Saturday

- 1. David Rose, Old Epsomians, 175.28
- 2. Simon Shouler, Langar, 174.26
- $3.\ Paul\ Wright,\ Staveley,\ 174.20$

F/TR - Saturday

- 1. Celt Ridout, Somerset, 172.15
- 2. George Barnard, Northants, 171.15
- 3. Ian Chenery, Dorset Riflemen, 170.15

F-Open - Saturday

- 1. David Raybould, Pennine Shooting Sports Assoc, 174.18
- 2. Trevor Howard, HBRA, 173.18

TR - Sunday

- 1. Michael Cooper, Comber, 175.24
- 2. Simon Shouler, Langar, 171.18
- 3. Henry Sanders, Old Wellingburian, 171.15

F/TR - Sunday

- 1. George Barnard, Northants, 170.09
- 2. Ian Chanery, Dorset Riflemen, 169.12
- 3. Celt Ridout, Somerset, 168.12

F-Open – Sunday

1. Trevor Howard, HBRA, 166.13

Grand

TR – Michael Cooper, 349.43 FTR – George Barnard, 341.24 F-Open – David Raybould, 339.33

NRA SMALL-BORE LONG RANGE MATCH

Match Rifle Small-Bore,

- =1. M Haselgrove, NRA, 67.5v
- =1. J Mead, Chipstead &
- District RC, 67.5v
- =2. B McManus, KLSM, 65.4v =2. J Booty, Kings Lynn St.

Target Rifle Small-Bore, 200x

Michaels, 65.4v

- CA Painting, Pumas RC, 69.3v
 A Robertson, Bicester RPC, 68.4v
- 3. B Stubbins, Staveley RPC, 67.5v

Service Rifle Small-Bore,

1. DJ Moran, KLSM RPC, 69.4v 2. SJ Isherwood, LERA / NRA,

Match Rifle Small-Bore, 300x

- 1. M Haselgrove, NRA, 68.5v
- 2. RS Kenchington, NLRC / LRRFC, 65.2v
- 3. B McManus, KLSM, 64.5v

Target Rifle Small-Bore,

- 1. P Francis, Carshalton RC / LRRFC, 67.7v
- 2. C Silver, NRA, 67.3v
- 3. B Stubbins, Staveley RPC,

Service Rifle Small-Bore,

1. DJ Moran, KLSM RPC, 61.2v 2. SJ Isherwood, LERA / NRA,

55.1v Match Rifle Small-Bore, 200/300 Agg

- 1. M Haselgrove, NRA, 135.10v
- 2. B McManus, KLSM, 129.9v
- 3. J Mead, Chipstead & District RC, 128.7v

Target Rifle Small-Bore,

- 200/300 Agg
- C Silver, NRA, 134.4v
 B Stubbins, Staveley RPC, 132.7v
- 3. CA Painting, Pumas RC, 132.5v

Service Rifle Small-Bore, 200/300 Agg

DJ Moran, KLSM RPC,
 130.6v
 SJ Isherwood, LERA / NRA,

CSR WINTER LEAGUE Iron League Winners

Andy Littler, 1,000 Bill Pasquier, 329.68

109.2v

Historic League Winners

Hywel Davies, 918.20 Toby Stevens, 932.03

James Gray, 710.42 **Practical Optic League Winners**

Olivier Larrue, 984.72 Martin Camp, 977.62 Colin Hudson, 971.72

Service Optic League Winners:

Adam Chapman, 987.34 Nigel Greenaway, 982.23 Peter Cottrell, 976.74

Notices

Bisley General Meeting

The 2018 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 25 July at 21:00 in the NRA Pavilion.

Notice of Captaincy

Stuart Young has been appointed as Captain of the NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2019.

David Rollafson has been appointed as the F/TR Captain for the World Championships team to South Africa in 2021.

GB F Open Team Captain Vacancy

Nominations are invited for the GB F Class Open 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 July 2018. Nomination forms can be requested from georgina.thatcher@nra.org.uk. Nominations to be sent to Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk.

Great Britain Match Rifle Team - 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 e-mail 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



Disciplinary notices

The Disciplinary Committee met on 2 May 2018 to consider two cases.

A member was reported as having fired at a target on Century range during the lunch break and at a later time the same day to have discharged a shot into the ground a few feet in front of the firing point. The member was acting as his own RO and on completion of the range activity reported no issues. The conduct was admitted. Under para 545, the Disciplinary Committee decided that the member be required to:

- Undergo formal assessment by NRA instructional staff
- Based on that assessment, undergo such remedial training as was <u>considered necessary</u>
- On completion of assessment and training, shoot under close supervision for a period.

The member declined to participate in that programme and resigned from the NRA. In parallel with advising the police of the resignation, the NRA pointed out that it lacked confidence in the ex-member's capability to operate safely on a range.

Mr DC Crispin contacted the NRA in writing to seek permission to deploy electronic target equipment on Century range. Permission was refused in writing. Mr Crispin fitted the equipment to a target.

In a contested hearing, the Disciplinary Committee found that the NRA had not proven its assertion that Mr Crispin or members of his range party either shot at or intended to shoot at the target with electronic equipment fitted, but did find the primary allegation of a breach of discipline under para 546g proven. Mr Crispin was issued a severe reprimand.

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MESSAGE



Triple Queen's winner David Calvert talks to NRA marketing and communications manager Katia Malcaus Cooper

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

My first introduction to target shooting was with the Cadet organisation using the .22 No. 8 rifle at school in Belfast towards the end of '64. Then in the summer term of '65 the sporting options at school were cricket, athletics or fullbore shooting at Divis Range overlooking Belfast – you can probably guess which I chose!

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Though the memory is a little hazy, winning a first-ever medal at 14 in the Northern Ireland schools cadet pair competition (with a total entry of two teams!) was very special. Cross-firing (minus 10 points) with the first to count at the first range of the 2003 World Championships was also pretty memorable, if for the wrong reasons. Top of the list would be either a first Palma team Gold, a first Commonwealth Games Gold or, more recently, a first Queen's Prize.

What was the biggest hurdle you overcame as a shooter?

I guess time has been the biggest hurdle while in full-time work. The demands of a busy flying career with the Royal Air Force were the main reason I didn't tour with GB teams for 15 years after my first tour to Canada in '75. However, I have been lucky to have huge support over the past 50 years from family, friends, the Royal Air Force and what is now Sport Northern Ireland, so if I couldn't jump over the hurdles, I was usually able to navigate around them!

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

My family attended and still attend Bisley over many weekends during the 'season' and for most of the Main Meeting in July. Having had a caravan on site since 1979 has been a real help – and a step up in luxury from the early years in tents. What makes our sport so special is the social side and the fact that you can train,



compete and socialise with many friends, at home and abroad, over not just years but over the decades.

What club are you a member of?

Primarily the Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club (from its formation in the late '60s), Comber Rifle Club in Northern Ireland and the Irish Rifle Club at Bisley.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

Within our sport I especially admired and respected the late Arthur Clarke, who competed and remained competitive to a ripe old age. In the wider sporting arena, perhaps Jack Nicklaus as an outstanding competitor, sportsman and gentleman. But the greatest inspiration, for sport and for life in general, would undoubtably be my father.

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

Canada (and in particular British Columbia) is special, with New Zealand coming a close second. From a shooting perspective I really enjoy taking part in the South African Championships, attending over each of the past 20+ years. That said, I always enjoy going back 'home' to Northern Ireland, both to visit and to compete.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

At a rough guess, over the past 50+ years I have spent around 2,000 days and nights at Bisley, mostly competing in target, service and match rifle as well as in shooting-related activities (such as NRA Council and committee meetings and hosting fund-raising Guest Days, etc). So it has been very much a 'home from home'.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

Not really. I tend to avoid turning up unnecessarily early!

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

For good fun, comradeship and a sport for life, it's hard to beat.



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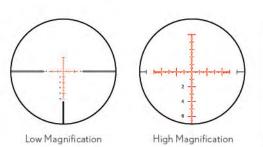
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