

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Autumn 2019 – Volume XCVIII No. 3

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Change Is Afoot

From consultations into firearms licensing to the annual Imperial Meeting, NRA CEO Andrew Mercer shares all of the major talking points members should know about

We recently published our response to the Government's consultation on statutory guidance to police on firearms licensing. My key concern, however, lies not so much in the detail of the guidance but the underlying erroneous assumption that gun owners pose a greater threat to public safety. Government statistics reports an average of 3.6 homicides each year (Apr 11 to Mar 18) caused by 591,000 firearm / shotgun certificate holders – an average of one per 164,000 gun owner in England and Wales. The same Government statistics report an average of 586 other homicides caused by the total population of 56 million – an average of one per 96,000 people in England and Wales. It is therefore evidenced by the Government's own statistics that the shooting community are amongst the most law abiding members of the population, posing significantly less risk to public safety than the general population.

We welcome the intention that the proposed Statutory Guidance should ensure greater consistency of the application of firearms legislation by all police forces. Furthermore the commitment to continuous assessment should facilitate the move to longer periods between certificate renewals; and reduce the checks required at renewal. We are urging the Government to include a clear statement of intent, with defined time frame, to move to longer certificates and streamlined renewals to be included in the Guidance.

Home Office Approved Clubs (HOAC) are currently the subject of increasing scrutiny from police firearms licensing teams. We are advised that some clubs are suspected of (inadvertently or otherwise) providing shooting practice for dubious characters through guest days and the miniature rifle range exemption. In some cases it appears that club record keeping has been poor, particularly reconciliation of ammunition, member shooting records, and commissioning police checks on prospective members. Additional concerns have been raised about firearm security. Club officials would be well-advised to check to ensure their own procedures and records are up to date and compliant. If in doubt, NRA staff can provide advice and are keen to assist.

Memories of a lively and successful 150th Imperial are ebbing away but the Meeting was enjoyed by a large number of competitors over five weeks through June and July. The large number of international visitors was a particular delight, representing Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Guernsey, Jersey, Kenya, the Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa, the USA and the West Indies. Youth and maturity were both

evident; the most senior competitor was 96-year-old Joe Wright (shooting his 62nd Imperial Meeting), and youngest 10 year old Miss A Longhurst, both competing in the F-Class competitions.

The TR issued ammunition proved more troubling than expected; our "extractor clinic" was tested to the full, and I shall be eternally grateful for the sterling efforts of John Bloomfield and Tom Rylands who worked tirelessly to minimise the disruption to the programme of shooting. Careful and innovative investigations have identified the cause of the problem (energetic primers) and I now have a new word, "Brisance", in my vocabulary. The technical report can be found on the NRA website.

The dust from the Imperial settles quickly at Bisley and our ranges were host to the NSRA Summer Championships, Muzzle Loading World Championship, and F-Class European Championship in rapid succession. It is a great joy to experience the great variety that target shooting has to offer. Each discipline has a unique character and style, but participants' passion and enthusiasm are common to all.

Staying at Bisley we have sold 35 out of the new 39 serviced Waldegarve site caravan pitches; I expect the remaining four pitches to be sold this autumn. Out of the 35 owners, 15 have upgraded from other Bisley caravan sites, three previously occupied huts, and 17 are new occupiers. Having proved the success of this model of funding serviced caravan pitches we can now work up development plans for the rest of the caravan sites, ensuring there are options for a wide variety of budgets. This will give current owners of caravans on traditional pitches proposed timelines for future developments; and allow us to develop an informed programme of ablution block refurbishment / demolition, taking into consideration the additional demands from campers and hut licensees.

Finally I can report my dismal failure in our efforts to buy a range in Norfolk. News of the sale of West Raynham range reached our attention at short notice; due diligence was completed in rapid order, and trip to Norwich with authority to bid at auction quickly arranged. A few minutes into proceedings the auctioneer announced that the range (and all other lots on the airfield site) had just been sold and withdrawn from sale. Frustration is the polite description of the sentiments felt by me and committee members of the King's Lynn St. Michael's Rifle & Pistol Club. The club has been developing the barrack range over the last two years; thankfully the new owners appear supportive. I was very grateful for the efforts of club secretary Jason Ess for his calm and measured advice throughout. ■

NEWS

REPORTS

ALTERNATIVE COMMONWEALTH EVENT IN 2022?

Negotiations are under way to secure a Commonwealth Shooting Championships around the time of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, with Altcar Ranges near Liverpool being floated as a possible venue.

The Birmingham 2022 organisers confirmed shooting would not be part of the Games, sparking a furious reaction from India, who threatened to boycott the Games altogether.

Britain's sports minister, Nigel Adams, said: "I have already written to the Commonwealth Games Federation to see if we can accommodate shooting in some form, maybe a Commonwealth Shooting Championships," adding, "It's important that we do get a competition in 2022. I totally understand how passionate

people are about shooting across the Commonwealth. We want India to be here, no question."

The CGF has responded that any championships in Britain would have to be organised by British Shooting, could not be hosted simultaneously with the Games, and would need the approval of the CGF. British Shooting are reported as saying: "As the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) member federation in Britain, we are happy to work with all the relevant bodies to gauge the appetite for such an event."

Shooting is not a compulsory Commonwealth sport, but in practice this would be the first time since 1970 it has not featured. Combined, the British nations won 22 shooting medals at the 2018 Commonwealths in Australia.

PICTURES FOR SALE

Richard Britton numbered and original signed prints of Bisley are offered for sale with proceeds to go to the Overseas Team Fund for GB Under 25 and 21 teams.

These two numbered prints (both are 21 of 400) are beautifully framed and are offered to the highest bidder for each print. We suggest a reserve of £50 for the "The Last Detail at Stickle Down" and £75 for "The International Match".

Bids will close on 31 October and should be sent in a sealed envelope to the NRA General Office and marked Picture Sale and for the attention Chris Hockley.



IMPERIAL COMPETITORS RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY



The NRA maintains proud links with the military and over the course of the Imperial Meeting, competitors raised funds for two notable charities with military connections – which we are pleased to promote in line with our 1860 charter.

Help for Heroes

Donations made by CSR competitors raised £235, which will go towards ensuring that every single Hero – serving and veteran – gets support that's designed especially

for them and their recovery. A letter of thanks from the H4H team stated that "Long-term recovery is more than repairing damaged bodies and minds; it's about rebuilding lives. Our mission is to deliver an enduring network of support to help our Heroes with their challenges and to go on to live active, independent and fulfilling lives."

Gurkha Welfare Trust

Over 400 TR competitors took part in the Gurkha Appeal (concurrent with St

George's First Stage), raising £2005.64 for the Gurkha Welfare Trust. The top three placed shooters received an ornate kukri kindly donated by the Trust.

A letter of thanks from the Trust highlighted the significance of the donation "In 2019 we are celebrating 50 years of the Gurkha Welfare Trust in Nepal, and the recent donation from the 150th Imperial Meeting is an outstanding example of just how our supporters have helped us reach this milestone. Congratulations to you all too on the 150th Meeting; hopefully we one day will also be celebrating 150 years!

Thank you everyone who has been a part of the brilliant £2005.64 donation towards caring for Gurkha veterans in Nepal. This amount could cover the Welfare Pension for two of our veterans for a year, a lifeline for some who rely on this as their only income."

GALLERY RIFLE INTRODUCTION COURSE

Looking to expand your shooting knowledge or join a club that accommodates Gallery Rifle & Pistol shooting? The NRA has launched a course that will introduce you to specific techniques needed for Gallery Rifle & Pistol shooting at a Club level, as well as providing guidance to those wishing to progress into competitive shooting.

You can attend even if you are not yet in possession of a suitable rifle – although we do encourage you to bring your own so you can become more proficient with it. Rifle can be hired in advance via this booking form, these will be brought to the range for you.

If you are in possession of an LBP or LBR the course will be suitable for you; we do not however hire out these firearms.

NRA members are welcome to attend, as are non-NRA members provided they are a full member of a Home Office approved club affiliated to the NRA. An additional membership fee will also be applicable to and non-NRA entrants.

More details on the event page: <https://nra.org.uk/events/gr-course-oct-19/>



OLYMPIC SCHEDULE RELEASED

The 2020 Olympic shooting events will kick off on Saturday 25 July at the Asaka Shooting Range in Tokyo. As with previous Olympics, the women's air rifle will be the first event in the entire Olympics to award medals. The men's air pistol will conclude later that day.

Day two sees the women's air pistol and men's air rifle, then 28 July will see the air rifle and pistol pairs. The women's pistol concludes on 31 July, followed by the women's 3p rifle on 1 August.

Finally, the rapid fire pistol starts on 2 August and finishes on 3 August, followed by the men's 3p.

MEDAL 1-2 FOR SEONAIID IN RIO

Seonaid McIntosh won gold in women's three-position rifle at the ISSF World Cup in Rio – just three days after she won silver in the air rifle at the same meeting.

She qualified for the final in third place, then dominated in the final, her score of 461.2 nearly three full points ahead of silver-medallist Jehee Kim. This makes Seonaid the first Brit to win a rifle World Cup gold since 2002.

This followed her silver in the air rifle, the first medal in a World Cup airgun event in 20 years. In the final, she shot 250.6 to finish second behind India's Elavenil Valarivan.

Speaking after this event, Seonaid said: "I'm really happy with the medal. Right now I'm more pleased with this medal than most of my previous ones.

"Particularly because air rifle has always been an event I'm not so good on. I've been working really hard on it so it's really nice to have a good result."

Having already won a quota place for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics earlier this year, Seonaid must count as Great Britain's strongest medal hope for an Olympic rifle or pistol discipline in some years.

She is now ranked eight in the world in women's air rifle, and first in the world in women's 3p.



NEWS IN BRIEF

NSS MOVES A DAY EARLIER

The Northern Shooting Show has announced new dates for next year. The show will now take place on 8-9 May – one day earlier than previously expected – as Friday 8 May will be a bank holiday in 2020. As always, the show will take place at the Yorkshire Event Centre and the surrounding showground in Harrogate. Head to northernshootingshow.co.uk to buy tickets now.

EU CONSIDERS LEAD BAN

There's a new threat to the use of lead, in rifle ammunition as well as shotshells. The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) will be developing proposals for further restrictions on the use of lead across the European Union.

Though it's not clear what they will propose, anything is on the table, including a complete ban. What happens next, or if the UK will still have to comply with any new restrictions despite Brexit, is not clear, but the umbrella body FACE has promised to support the rights of all shooters.

BOOK NOW FOR THE TRAFALGAR TRADE FAIR

Looking to be a stall holder at the Trafalgar Trade Fair 2019 or know someone who might? To book your table now for the event on 19-20 October, contact Gavin Blackledge on 01483 797777 ext.135 or email on gavin.blackledge@hotmail.com.

TS LEADER SCHEME EXPANDS

The Target Sprint Leader Course is coming to more locations in 2020, allowing qualified airgunners to oversee TS events within the context of their airgun qualification. Two-hour bolt-on courses will allow coaches to join the current team of Stephen Batchelor, Paul Langford, Doug Pepper, John Saint and Robert Shawyer.

Email gorgs.geikie@britishshooting.org.uk for more information.

SERVICED CARAVAN PITCHES: LAST FOUR AVAILABLE

We are extremely excited to have available to buy a range of caravans and lodges on the brand new Waldegrave Site, in many different sizes, a range of bedrooms, both new and used and from only £18,000. Being a very popular new development, both plots and caravans are going fast, with



just four remaining at the time of going to press.

We work closely with all the leading caravan and lodge manufacturers, therefore if you're after a specific make, model, colour, furnishing or even a bespoke build, we can facilitate that. All our caravans and lodges on the new development include the price of siting, levelling and connecting to the gas and electric, meaning you can move straight in and enjoy your shooting retreat.

For Waldegrave Site pitches, contact Chris Dyers on chris.dyers@nra.org.uk or 01483 797777 ext 180.

For new and used caravans, contact Darrin Bamsey on darrin_bamsey@hotmail.com or 07720 895126.



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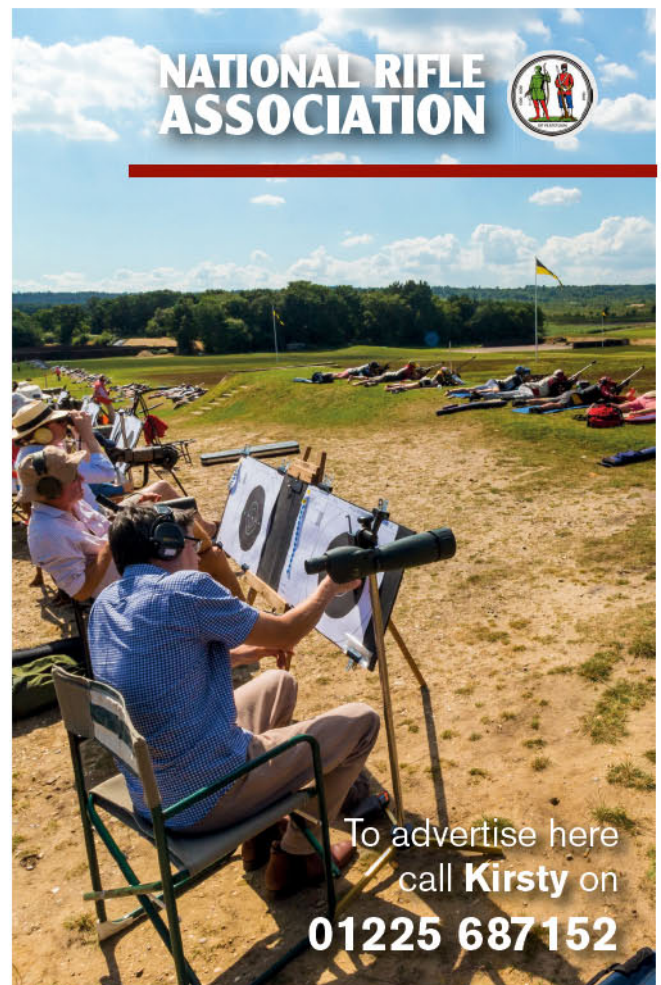
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Barnett makes it three

Alun Lewis reports on the 150th anniversary outing of
HM the Sovereign's Prize, won in style by Glyn Barnett



Would 150 be an auspicious number for the world's target shooters? That was the thought in many minds at Bisley as the NRA and others prepared for the 150th Imperial Meeting and in particular the Queen's Prize. As ever the weather played its part: record temperatures recorded on the final Thursday and then wind, clouds and even spots of rain two days later for the final.

On this special anniversary every competitor was of course a winner as they had participated in one of the oldest competitions still being held. And the winner of the Queen's Prize final of 2019 has a couple of reasons to be rather proud. Dr Glyn Barnett held his nerve in trying conditions and although his overall score was equalled by five others, his V count was well clear of the chasing pack, garnering him his third Queen's prize and gained him entry to the elite "Triple Winners Club". A feat only matched by four others in the history of this meeting.

HARDY ANNUAL

On a note of history before we get down to the story of this year's Queen's, it is claimed that the America's Cup yacht race is the oldest international competition having been first held in 1851. But it has only been run 36 times. Our Imperial has been held every year since 1860 barring of course the nine years of the two world wars.

The enormous festival of target shooting that is the Imperial started this year on 14 June and ended with the final of the Queen's on 27 July. This year our youngest competitor was 10-year-old Aleesha Longhurst (F Class) and the oldest was Joe Wright at 96. What other physical sport can see such a spread of ages? Not to mention the 400 prizes up for grabs.

The Target Rifle section started on 18 July and by the second Tuesday it was time for Queen's 1. So 884 firers reported to Century for 2SS and 7 at 350 and 600 yards. In five squads they battled it out all day long, and at the end the best 300 scores ranged from a clean 105.15 to 99.9. The highest cadet was Luca O'Flynn with 103.11, winning the special CCRS prize for top cadet.

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR

So the cut for the honour of shooting in Queen's 2 on Friday had produced a heady mixture of civilians and military, men and women, young and old from all over the globe. There were 41 women, some from the home countries and others among the 10 Australians, 11 Americans, 4 Canadians, 2 Kenyans, 3 New Zealanders,

3 Germans, 5 from Guernsey and 6 from Jersey, with one each from South Africa, Guyana and the Netherlands.

But no time for most of these to rest as the competitions come thick and fast at the end of the Imperial. As this was a special anniversary, the America Match was allowed to take place on British soil for the first time. Instead of the home countries being grouped as a GB team, each shot for their own country. So in the blazing record heat of Thursday 25 July, the shooters all lay down in full kit and tried to control their heart rates, their nerves, and the sweat running into their eyes. Conditions were extreme. One Kenyan shooter commenting on the difference between shooting at home and in Britain remarked, "I wouldn't go out in this heat to compete... do you think we are crazy?"

LONG GRIND

With 11 teams taking part in the match, that meant that 88 of the Queen's 2 qualifiers were already shooting again and in tiring conditions. There was also a junior match as well where even more were on duty. England, Scotland and USA took the honours in the senior match while England, Wales and the Channel

Our youngest competitor was 10 and the oldest was 96. What other physical sport can see such a spread of ages?



The 100 shooters contesting this landmark final



Conditions made a low winning score likely – or so we thought

Islands were the podium finishers in the Junior Match.

Running concurrent to the America match was a special one-off team match – the 'Imperial 150', for teams of 4 firers including at least one Tyro. To see 47 teams competing was a wonderful testament to the legacy of this special Meeting. In the end, the Lancastrians won the Open class by two Vs, Gresham's won the Cadet class (and it must be said had the overall highest team score to boot!) and Cambridge University triumphed in the Under 25 category.

In between the Kolapore and other such matches the chosen 300 found time on Friday afternoon to shoot at 300, 500 and 600 yards in Queen's 2. But now of course things got more intense. Only 100 could get into the final on the following day and those would all take their tally from the 30 scoring shots from Queen's 2 forward. Just making the cut was not enough to be in with a chance of lifting the 150th Queen's Prize and being lifted aloft in the famous chair.

EASY BREEZY

The stifling and debilitating heat had gone and there was a variable light wind on Century with the overcast sky

making visibility much better than the previous day. However only five went clean with a further 30 on 149. Surely the winner and silver and bronze would come from this group. Overall, there were 21 from overseas, and 13 women still in with a very good chance while the youngest person on the range was 15 and the oldest 75. There were also a father and son, two married couples and a pair of brothers (one of whom shoots for England and the other for Wales – so plenty of rivalry there). And of course a good sprinkling of past winners with five from the last 10 years making it through this year.

Saturday's weather conditions would as ever play their part in determining the ranking. And after two previous years of pretty dire conditions for the Queen's final we were greeted on Saturday afternoon on Stickledown by light winds from the left and overcast conditions.

So with 15 scoring shots apiece, the 900-yard shoot started. Some favoured runners from the leading pack of the previous day's shoot started to falter early on. By the time all the competitors were 'all out', we had the first indications of who were the likely candidates for the top prizes.

LAST LEG

Back at 1000 the famous leader board was in place and the hard-working markers and runners from the RAF and CURA were poised. One or two experienced observers were predicting more points would be dropped as by now only a couple were still clean. And by the time we had most of the shooters about halfway through their 15 scoring shots we had Chris Haley still to drop a point. Hot on his heels were Sandy Walker, Glyn Barnett, Bill Richards and Jon Deane. Then, with six shots to go, Matt Button came into contention. Of course none of the individuals knew this, they just kept their heads down and tried to outguess the wind which by now had swung round to a head wind and still gusting.

A couple of shots later there were more changes. Still out in front were Haley, Walker, Barnett, Richards and Deane but now Phil Hakim had joined the party. And they were all equal on one point dropped after 56 scoring shots. The predicted low-scoring final was now a high-scoring one. Many were conquering the conditions.

Then with only a couple of shots to go the leader board showed Deane all out on 299 but as yet no V count. And it looked likely with the slightly kinder

wind conditions that more could also get 299. Indeed suddenly we were made aware that Barnett had also scored 299. Almost immediately Phil Hakim's scored was posted and he too had 299. So a V count would be needed to separate the leaders as it stood. Then Haley – for so long in the lead had now also joined the 299ers and then for the first time Elliot Sewell showed up on the board with just two shots to go and only one point dropped so far. Previous victors such as Jim Corbett, Wing Commander David Calvert and Parag Patel had finished and could not take the top spot. It looked like it was pretty much done and dusted with just a couple more shots to be fired. The V counts were corrected and we had Barnett with an incredible 299.47, followed by Hakim claiming 39 Vs and Haley and Deane tied on one point dropped and 38 Vs. Surely all over now? But there was one final twist as Elliot Sewell, remember him, was posted as an all out score of 299.39 – we had a tie shoot for second and third.

SPLITTING HAIRS

The two shooters were escorted down to the centre of the range and went head to head and shot for shot. Of course each could see what the other was doing if they so wished but probably didn't want the distraction. With just one convertible sighter and five they started firing. Sewell converted his first sighter, a V and Hakim took a gamble by taking his first five to score. In the end honours went to Hakim with 25.2 and Sewell on 23.3.

Meanwhile a very calm looking Dr Barnett was making his way up to the scoreboard ready to receive his third Queen's Prize. The other two joined him for the prize giving. Barnett was just getting used to the idea that he had won the historic landmark 150th running of the prize and that this was his third triumph in this particular event. On the podium was Anthony Harris, the oldest surviving winner of this competition. He won it in 1964 with a .303 when he was just 22 and is still one of the youngest to have ever won.

The chair was hoisted on willing shoulders as Barnett savoured the



moment and the band struck up their traditional "Hail the Conquering Hero Comes." It had been a memorable 150th all right. Queen Victoria could barely have imagined in 1860 that her prize of £250 would still be matched by the Royal family of today and that shooters from all over the world would still want to win this oldest of trophies. Although the Duke of Cambridge (1860) and the St George's Vase (1862) are also venerable, the course of fire and the status of the event make the Sovereign's Prize the pinnacle.

And as things on the range drew to a close, there was just one more

announcement. There had been a special competition for all – and a full-size Stickledown target propped up behind the firing point was the setting for it. All you had to do was predict the striking point of the first sighter fired by the lowest-scoring competitor taking part in the Queen's final. The actual shot was an inner just half an inch outside the bull on the left and about one inch low. Charles Dickenson put a marker exactly on that spot and won. The money raised in this fun side show went to the Channel Island's youth team. Yet more winners on a day to celebrate 150 years of winning. Long may it continue. ■



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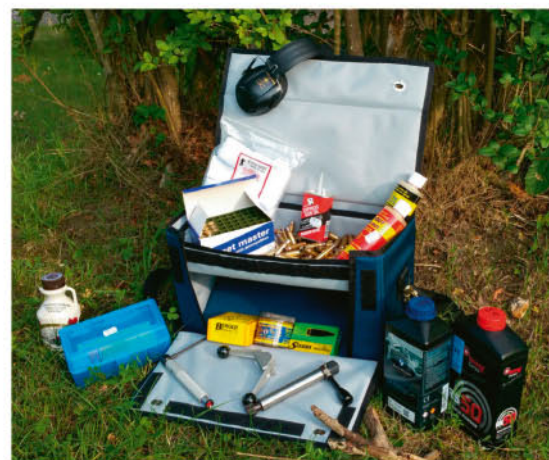
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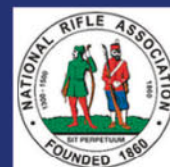
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The champion's view

Glyn Barnett GM3 takes us through his 2019 Queen's Prize win from start to finish

It's surprisingly hard to say exactly how I feel after winning the Queen's Prize, particularly as this was not the outcome I expected.

I've never shot the Queen's Prize with the intention of winning it, so if you are expecting a narrative of a goal set last year, worked up to during the preseason, and finally achieved one glorious day, then I'm sorry. This is not that story. If you want a story on the intent to win and that being the outcome, Sandy Walker's your man. I take my hat off to his Grand Aggregate finish this year – *that's* a story of knowing exactly what you need to do to win and doing it. The Queen's is different; you never *really* know what you have to score to win, there are too many factors out of your control.

But as I've been asked, I shall do my best to tell the tale that there is.

Katie, my wife, will chip in from time to time to add her perspective in italics – I hope they add an unseen insight.

QUEEN'S 1

The 'Grand Agg' is my focus for the week; maintaining form to prevent too many points slipping away, and Queen's 1 is simply part of that focus. After scoring a 103 I was surprised not to have slipped down the Grand rankings, and was pleased it was enough to take me into Queen's 2.

My third place in the Grand is something I'm massively proud of, but I'd be kidding myself if I said there was no sense of disappointment, and so the concentration switches to team shooting, George's 2 and Queen's 2, the best bit of the meeting.

QUEEN'S 2

I switched rifle for Queen's 2 (any sports psychologist or coach would choke on their protein shake if they knew this); I thank Jeremy Langley for this suggestion. I stuck one at 12 o'clock at 500 (not my usual MO, I put them at 5 o'clock) and so knuckled down for 600 making the most of the conditions on Range 11 for a 149.24v, a good end to a long day. I joined the queue and drew 3-0; happy days.

FINAL SATURDAY

The George's Final (150.22v) and Mackinnon (100.19v) went by; I was hugely pleased with the morning's performance, but my trigger had some creep following its rebuild overnight. Anton Aspin and I decided we best leave it alone...



I refer to my original statement: I don't shoot the Queen's intending to win. I seldom approach many shoots with this intention. There will be some who might question my approach; I simply ensure I perform my best, learn from each shot and move on. These are the only factors I can influence – control the controllable. There was however a small voice inside me; "You could win... not many on 150... good draw." I've learnt to acknowledge this voice and let my process take over. My process for the Final started before England's Mackinnon team had finished at 1000 yards.

SETUP AND AWAY

I always feel nervous for the Queen's final; that voice pops back into my head, there's some expectation placed upon me by others and by myself, but nerves can work for you and I try to change the perception of them to one of excitement. I revert to being a bit antisocial when I'm nervous; my family have tried to have lunch with me before Queen's in the past, it's not usually a very chatty affair. I chose to drive to the range this year – I usually walk but rain was a possibility and I decided, why make it harder

for myself? I parked at the back under the trees; no one to talk to, kit on, music on, ammo, walk to 900. Scramble board, target, fill in score book, set sights, kit ready, weigh trigger – time for the photo.

900 yards, target 38, with Reg Roberts was quick. I love a rhythmic shoot – it helps quell the nerves/excitement and allows the process to flow. I was fully

aware of my right hand position, head position, triggering, left shoulder tension, all things I've had to concentrate on during the meeting. I was rewarded with a 75.12v with some wind calls I was chuffed with. Kit away and potter back to 1000. Sweaty now.

The family had arrived, dog in tow; they were waiting at 1000 yards. As I approached, Katie smiled and said, "Someone's gone clean." I glimpsed up at the board, saw a name, but couldn't make out who it was (I know now it was Chris Haley). There were stacks of names on the row below, one of which was likely to be mine. I don't scrutinise scores – I don't need that information in my head.

TWO STEPS BACK

I said a brief hello to the family, settled at 1000 yards, changed my polo shirt for a dry one, and prepped for 1000. Once finished, I finally went and said a proper hello. I could relax for a bit.

It's a funny thing to watch the Queens final, year after year, and know that on any given year, assuming they have made it to the final 100, the roll of the die could result in your loved one being in the position of celebrating and being chaired off the range. If my calculations are right, I have been in this position on more than 20 occasions; the first time I was not there was the very time that the chair was occupied by him! Oops! Glyn then had the good grace to repeat the win the following year allowing Ella, then two years



The magical thing about Queen's is that anyone who makes the Final can win



old, and I to witness the success. There have been two more Barnett offspring since then and all of us were present this year. We timed our arrival deliberately after the 900-yard shoot – I’m not keen on watching – it’s far too stressful watching each of those shots being stuck onto the score board (I don’t manage my anxiety well by being still and, those who know me would agree, I would make a terrible shooter!). We also knew that Glyn had a bit of a ‘bee in his bonnet’ this year; as we arrived Ella, now 18, who had been working at Bisley this year and become very immersed in all things Imperial, announced, “You know, I think Daddy might do it this year...” So, after 900, a calm smile from Glyn with an announcement that he’d got 75... We said nothing more and neither did he – we all learned a long time ago that this is not the time for analysis or chat. It’s a well rehearsed understanding of accepted ignoring of each other! And so we moved to 1000 yards...

Before we started 1000 yards my mind briefly drifted to my Lovell. I’d had a pretty duff shoot, but was brought back to the positive by my Mackinnon shoot. There was much less wind than 900 but on target 2 there’s really only a few flags to use. I hadn’t really used mirage during the meeting, so it wasn’t much help. The fall of others’ shots was helpful to pick up subtle changes. Whatever clues I was using or doing, I was scoring bulls.

It was going well and I had a familiar feeling – one of calm, no nerves, no excitement, simply calmness

Not once did I think about winning (did I mention that?)

IN THE ZONE

At about shot 10 or 11 it was still going well and I had a familiar feeling – one of calm, no nerves, no excitement, simply calmness. I recall staring at the tail end of the rounds left in my box and being surprised I’d fired so many. I had the same feeling in 2003. I simply continued with the familiar rhythm of my process on the point: squeeze shot away, head up, check flags, unload, rifle down, wind value, plot shot, elevation graph, wind graph (my way round). Bob (Oxford) fires; I load a round and slide the bolt forwards, gun up on the left hand, spot Bob’s shot, check flags. Wind adjustment, shoulder, close bolt, head down, couple of breaths and squeeze. I’m boringly routine like that – it allows no space for external thoughts.

Having seen Glyn settle into his stride, I disappeared with Mia and Erin to take as much time as possible in the ice cream queue.

Ella had positioned herself at the top of the Hill where she was keeping a close eye on the scores as they came in. Regular texts kept me updated about what was going on and, once the ice creams had been eaten, we sauntered back to the now growing crowds to hear, “It’s okay, he’s going well.”

The 15th was tough to get away, the target was moving a bit, there was now a realisation that this would be one of those (very) few possibles at 1000 yards, I made sure the shot went first time. It was a ‘V’. I smiled, might have nodded to myself; finishing the Imperial on a bull is important to me, a personal fullstop. I was happy with this finish and super happy with 150.23v in the Final. It wasn’t until later that someone reminded me that I’d scored 325 ex-325 that day, a mighty big fullstop.

ON TO THE END

The remainder of the shoot was a bit of a blur. There are vague memories of seeing more Vs or 5s being recorded and of others commenting, “another good one...” or “X”

has dropped a point... It's looking good..." but like I've said, we've been here before. Having finished with 75, there was still some uncertainty about the 'V' count and a horrid possibility that a perfect score on the final day might not be enough this time. The first suggestion that Glyn had won came as a text from Ella at the top of the Hill, closely followed by others who confirmed this.

I thought I might have done well and only now was aware there had been not yet been a cheer for the winner, nor as I finished. I deliberately didn't turn round (I'm not sure why). I concentrated on doing the maths for myself and Bob. Parag arrived. I can't recall his exact words, "I think you might have got it..." a small jolt of surprise, to which I responded "Who else is in it?" "No one, just you." I think I might have smiled, great news from a great friend.

Now I turned round; a sea of faces and then... The cheer. I managed a stifled grin. Katie was the first under the rope. Followed by Alan Fitch thrusting bubbles into my, now slightly shaking, hand.

So, GM3 it is Mr B... and the inevitable sore head that comes with this the morning

after! Ella is now keen to take up the sport... so maybe the next Barnett Queen's winner will be from the next generation?!

SEALED AND DELIVERED

The realisation took a while, delayed by ensuring the maths was indeed correct. My card was signed (badly) and handed in. I asked the Range Officer to thank the marker on target 2 and to let them know the winner was on their target – I'll never know whether they found out.

In 2002 I had no idea what I was doing; my kit was left all over the place, sling still on. In 2003 I was a bit more organised (but more surprised than the previous year). This year Toby Cubitt, who had been my nephew during the meeting and had marked my board, was all over it. He helped put my kit away, sling off, rifle slip in bag, get the rifle back out! He kindly took my car key and stowed it all away for me and took the trouble to roll up the sheets he'd been marking and put them in the car too.

It was a long and slow walk up from the left-hand end of Stickledown – many

smiling faces, handshakes, hugs, drink offers. It took ages – I loved it.

A new one for me: the media. Paul Deach was about camp all week, but to be hauled in for an interview with Alun Lewis, whom I've known since the mid-1990s, was a great surprise. I've since come across the footage for The Final and think it offers a great aspect to our sport that we've needed.

FAMILIAR FACES

The tie shoot allowed me to have more time at the top of the hill and I was able to share a beer with one of my best mates, Ant Ringer GM3, and also chat with those waiting patiently.

In 2002 Andrew Tucker, a gentleman I hugely respected, greeted me at the top of the steps. In 2003, Arthur Clarke, a mentor throughout my formative years was there to meet me, and this year, it was Tony Clayton. Tony's a great friend I've known since my school years who, earlier in the week, had stated that it would be me who would win the Queen's this year, as it was his final year. I was delighted to be greeted by his slightly tearful eyes and to have proven him right. I was presented my GM Badge by Anthony Harris, Queen's prize winner in 1964, sharing the moment with Webbie – another great friend.

It's like being in a bubble – a small, muffled bubble – up on the platform, but I made sure this time that I looked up and out to try and see the faces, hear the noise, absorb the crowd. I'm still not sure I did it justice.

I maintain that the Grand Aggregate is a better test of sustained marksmanship; to win the Queen's you need a bit of luck. Of course to win you need to be a skilled marksperson, but, for the things you cannot control, you need a bit of luck. The origin of the quote "The more I practise, the luckier I get," has been attributed to, among others, Gary Player. I feel incredibly privileged to have experienced what many strive for and few achieve, I've been 'practising' for 34 years. I have been luckier than others on three occasions. I guess the race is on for GM4. Three of us (still shooting) have a head start – who will be the lucky one? ■



Glyn toasts his victory with Tony Clayton



Success for Sandy

The Grand Aggregate is the truest test of consistent shooting at Bisley – and Matt Charlton was there to see all its events unfold

The Grand Aggregate began not with a warm and sunny day, as we might have hoped, but a wet and drizzle-filled day, with some wind variability but nothing too scary. However, that didn't stop the competition heating up; there were multiple tie shoots in the traditional warm-up shoots for the Grand. In the Donegall Ant Ringer, Johan Ahrens and Lady Jacqui McQuillan all scored 50.10, and in the Century, the tie for first place was between Roland Johnson and Glyn Barnett, both representing OGRE, and both scoring an impressive 100.14. Nigel Ball, of Wellington College, placed 3rd on count-back at 600x for the Century, with a 100.13 total. (Ahrens would win the Century tie with 24.4, while the eventual winner in the Donegall was Barnett – a sign of things to come?)

There was also a three-way tie in one of the first shoots of the Grand proper.

In the Conan Doyle, Oli Russell, Phil Hakim and Parag Patel all scored 50.10. Patel shot flawlessly in the tie shoot to take top spot.

No tie shoot was required for the Daily Telegraph, with S Hayton of Old Cranleighans taking great care to score a very impressive 75.15. Ahrens and Steve East followed in second and third place respectively, each with an equally impressive 75.14.

At the end of the first day, the top ten shooters were clean, with Jim Corbett in first place with 125.21, followed by Chloe Evans 125.19, and in third Mr K McCamley 125.18. 50th place in the Grand Agg, and the last place on the board went to Mr M Mann, with a score of 124.9. All scores of one off were on the board. The highest score of four off was good for 200th place. This was going to be a tight Grand.

Saturday

The drizzle of Friday was just the start – competitors woke the following day with the worry of thunderstorms today. Thankfully, the forecast changed (or perhaps they passed in the night). And while still some grey skies, and bits of rain, hit in the morning, we managed to see some blue sky and the day improved as time wore on.

Today, shooters would be competing in the Alexandra (600x), Duke of Cambridge (900x) and the Daily Mail (500x) – a total score of 175 to contribute to the Grand. Stronger winds, varying weather and three shoots – the one-point gap separating the top 50 would surely be wider at the end of the day.

The Alexandra was contested in the morning, where some were lucky enough to miss showers, but others were not. At the start of the 11am detail, heavens



“If you shot in the morning you might have been rained on, but if you shot in the afternoon you had more gusts – out of the frying pan and into the fire

opened and firers were drenched, with some retiring. At the end of the day we had two shooters tied at the top with scores of 50.9, Ross McQuillan of Ulster RA and James Purdy of OGRE (the latter would eventually win the tie shoot). There were over 50 ‘possibles’ as well.

The afternoon brought the second 2+15 at 500x, with the Daily Mail competition (the same shoot format as the Daily Telegraph). While the threat of rain had passed, gusty and angle-changing conditions prevailed, and in a shoot that often brings a multitude of high scores, there were only thirteen 75s with John Snowden of New Zealand winning with a 75.12. Perhaps the strength and variability of the wind reminded him of Trentham!

At long range, the Duke of Cambridge was contested. If you shot in the morning you might have been rained on, but if you shot in the afternoon you had more gusts – out of the frying pan and into the fire! Nevertheless 23 people managed to score 50, with SSgt Rob Kitson posting the winning score with a 50.8.

After all that, Chris Fitzpatrick was ahead in the Grand, three points off with

a score of 297.31. Emma Nuttall and Glyn Barnett were a point back in second and third place (296.35 each). Eight off at this stage (292) with at least 25 v-bulls would have you in the top 50 board of the Grand Aggregate.

Sunday

The third day of the Grand Aggregate opened without the threat of rain for the first time, though many grey clouds did loom ominously throughout the morning. 150 points were up for grabs, with Chris Fitzpatrick hoping to extend his lead. The Times (300x) would be shot in the morning, and with gusty conditions still present, and a smaller bull and v this year, holding a good group would be tougher than ever. The Wimbledon TR (600x) would be contested in the afternoon, with the infamous Corporation ever-present on Stickledown throughout the day at 1000x. Each of these is out of 50 points.

Even though winds were stronger, there were a huge number of 50/50 scores in the Times. There were four perfect scores of 50.10 from Simon Osmond (Manchester RC), Brian Carter (New Zealand), Nigel Cole-Hawkins

(NLRC) and Gabrielle O’Leary (WRA). The tie shoot took place the following day – in the event, Carter on 25.4 did just enough to win ahead of Cole-Hawkins on 25.3.

The Wimbledon TR was a similar situation, with shooters clearly finding their groove despite the conditions to post another large amount of 50s. No perfect 50.10s, but a four-way tie shoot was booked between Jack Alexander (LMRA), Jane Messer (NLRC), Alex Pilgrim (NLRC) and Stuart Young (Surrey RA) who all scored 50.9. More perfect shooting from Messer would see her win the tie when it took place.

The dreaded Corporation fully lived up to its reputation, with strong winds edging into double digit minutes as a norm for much of the day’s shooting. Nevertheless seven 50s were scored. R Birtwistle (Manydown RC) topped the standings in 50.6, ahead of Daniel Richardson (JRC) and John Warburton (Huddersfield RC) on 50.5.

At the end of the day Glyn Barnett headed the pack in the Grand Aggregate – familiar territory – with seven points off. In second and third place, a point back, were David Luckman and Matthew Millar.

Monday

A very long and humid day today: the first message 1 went down the range at 0800 and the last message 10 at 1935. But there was only one event to count in the Grand: the first stage of the St George's, contributing 75 to the overall total.

Wind conditions increased in strength throughout the morning, with up to two-minute wind changes occurring on the last detail of St George's. This was made evident with the cut for 2nd stage being a mere 72.9. Top score for the first stage was Chris Mitchell (OCRC), with a very impressive 75.14 converting 5 V, followed by Sandy Walker (Old Framlinghams RC) and James Corbett (City RC) both scoring 75.13.

The end of the day saw Glyn Barnett with a two-point lead with eight off in the Grand Agg, followed by Sandy Walker in second and D Brewster in third with 10 points off. Tomorrow would be a big shake-up with Queen's Stage 1 and the Lovell.

Tuesday

Sunrise greeted Bisley – a beautiful sight with not a cloud in the sky and the flags so calmly resting against their poles. What a change from earlier in the week!

Today, at Costa Del Bisley, the first stage of the Queen's Prize would take place. On top of that the Lovell, in its second year in the Grand Aggregate, would be contested at 1000x. And it would be hot... very hot.

A calm morning was quickly replaced with a tricky fishtail wind, at one moment blowing left, another right, which would prove incredibly challenging for shooters throughout the day. The Queen's Prize would start at 300x in the morning, moving to 500x and 600x, with the Lovell being shot all day on Stickledown.

Competitors tried their best, with varying scores throughout the day as the fickleness of the wind often blew shots into the inner and magpie. At the end, the cut of Queen's 1 was on the low side, with a 99.8 the requirement for a lucky 300 to make it to the second stage. Mr K Crabtree (LMRA) stood alone on 105.15v.

The Lovell at 1000x also had very varying scores as the wind, combined

with the distance, proved quite the challenge. Nevertheless there were nine 50s, with an army face off pending, with Matt Purdy and Andy Sturrock of the ATSC scoring 50.7. Well done to Captain Purdy who eventually secured the victory.

One day to go. One shoot to go. Glyn Barnett remained in front but his lead was cut to only 1 point from Sandy Walker in second and Paul Sykes, shooting a fantastic 154/155 today, in third, 1 V behind. Who would be crowned the Grand winner?

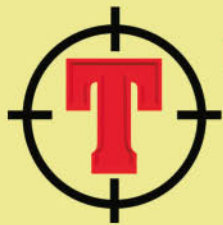
The final shoot

After yesterday's fast-changing wind, conditions on Wednesday were a little

more straightforward with a consistent left wind. The Prince of Wales would provide the final 75 points of the Grand and make or break the hopes of competitors.

Paul Sykes was the first of the leaders to shoot, posting a strong 75 with 12 V-bulls. The others knew what was required of them. Sandy Walker held his nerve, also finishing with a 75.12 to go into the lead by just one V-bull. Glyn Barnett ceded a point and dropped into third, a further three Vs behind. A very close finish after six days of shooting – and a popular and deserved winner in Sandy Walker, particularly as he finished third last year after a 74 in the Prince of Wales. ■





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Team efforts

From the National and Mackinnon to the special 150th team match, we've got all the results from the TR team matches at Bisley

The TR team matches in the 2019 Imperial started on the second Wednesday, when the National and Overseas matches were shot. England won the National, followed by Wales, Ireland and Scotland (27, 35 and 47 points behind). Congratulations, meanwhile, to Jersey for winning the Overseas match ahead of the USA and Australia.

The following day was the America Match and the special Imperial 150th match. These two grand events ran parallel all day today, and dominated both Century and Stickledown ranges.

The Imperial 150 consisted of, by this writer's count, 48 full teams – the entirety of Stickledown range was in use. All teams seemed to be in agreement, as did the markers, to start earlier at 1000x to avoid the worst of the midday sun. Rightly so: by 10am, air temperature had reached 28 degrees Celsius and was only increasing. Later it hit 38C.

In the America Match in the morning, England dropped five points at 300 yards and were a wee bit surprised to find Scotland only one point behind. At 600, England suffered a couple of mishaps but pulled out a further four points.

By mid-afternoon, a lot of teams for the 150 felt the effects of the heat, with

groups opening across a number of teams. But shooters do what shooters do best, and helped each other through – water and food was shared between teams, especially to those who were hit with heat stroke or dehydration.

Towards the close of play, word reached the 150 that England were in the lead by a good point margin after 900x, but that the points difference between second and fifth only had four points between them all. Talk about cooking under pressure! England had been on the left-hand end of the range where they dropped only eight points, versus 27 for Scotland who had sunk to fourth behind Wales and the USA.

For the 150, Lancaster won, having employed tactics to keep both shooters and their ammunition cool. 2nd place went to the Ibis RC, and 3rd place went to a team called Mosh.

In the America match, England won with 39 off after dropping just 16 on the right-hand side of the range at 1000x. Scotland came second (75 off, 28 dropped) and the USA pipped Wales for third, winning on V count three points behind Scotland. World champions Australia were fifth. For the U25 America match, England came first, with Wales second and Channel Islands third.

Many on camp are quietly agnostic of a polytheistic 'Bisley Gods' system. They control the weather, one's squadding, fortune in marking challenges and bad shots as well as fortune and misfortune in ammunition or rifle issues. One suspects that suitable offerings were made that night, as camp was shaken by the sound of Bisley-Thor hammering the sky with his 7.62 caliber Mjöltnir to break the heatwave with an impressive thunderstorm. We therefore were relieved to awake to cooler temperatures and grey skies to do battle in the Kolapore, Junior Kolapore and other short range international, university and combined services matches on Friday.

GB were keen to retain the Kolapore against world champions, Australia. Australia in turn were keen to make up for a frustrating America Match and the USA were keen to make up for having been pipped to silver by a country with a population of 5 million and levelled on gun score by a principality of 3.5 million.

300 yards in any team match is a place to lose rather than win it, and GB laid down a secure three off, to Australia's five off. Canada (ever the friendly yet lurking shooting threat) dropped seven.

On an ICFRA target face, the inner is easily found, but not so at 500 yards for

Australia who put in an impressive 398 with Canada shooting a 397 to GB's 396. Other nations fared better with the USA and Guernsey (another tiny nation who would only fill three fifths of Melbourne Cricket Ground) pulling in to fourth and fifth places respectively after some quality shooting.

At 600 yards, GB started just Vs ahead of Australia and it was going to take more than outdated jokes about sandpaper and cricket balls to keep them at bay. For the sake of the nation and for birthday-boy Bill Richards, they knuckled down for the final push. GB finished the range in good time, dropping just four at the range for 1189.148, just one point ahead of Australia's five off on the range for a 1188.130 total. Canada put in a steady performance to finish third with 1179.130 ahead of USA's 1173.130. Still noble finishes from shooters less likely to have rifles honed to the issued ammo. Special mention is deserved for Kenya who are masters of scoreboard calligraphy.

Elsewhere, Cambridge pipped their old enemy, Oxford, in the Chancellors (1158.111 to 1152.115). The University of London took the Musketeers from University of Southampton by two points, finishing 560.46. In the Junior Kolapore, Guyana won over the Falkland Islands and Trinidad and Tobago in a close match finishing 558.51, 553.44, 549.37 respectively. In the UK Combined Services vs home Countries, the forces won by 10 points from England. In the Vizianagram,



The Lords beat the Commons in this year's Vizianagram

the Lords beat the Commons, and finally in the U25 match, despite the team being listed as England U25, it was in fact a GB U25 team who beat Canada U25 885.95 to 879.62.

So to the Mackinnon on Saturday – the key long-range international match at Bisley. The brisk 11am breeze remained at 900 yards, but became a bit trickier at times at 1000 yards, varying in angle and strength. At 900, Scotland were fairly pleased to drop nine points at the (usually trickier) top of the hill to be just ahead of the USA's 10 and Ireland's 12, but it was a strong England team who led with only five points off.

At 1000 yards the teams were seeded from the centre according to their match position. England experienced a

few anomalous shots, Scotland took a fairly lengthy wait mid-shoot as other teams dropped points, and at the end of proceedings England were the victors on 1170.143. Scotland finished second on 1159.124, two points ahead of the USA and seven in front of an Australia team containing several of their world champions. Glyn Barnett, who had only just missed out on winning the Grand on Wednesday, made up for it by top-scoring with a hugely impressive 100.19.

Two other long-range matches took place at the same time. In the Universities Long Range, Cambridge were winners on 387.32 in a field of 13 teams, ahead of Oxford in second. The Junior Mackinnon was won by the Falkland Islands on 365.29, three points ahead of Nordrhein Westfalen. ■



The victorious England team in the Mackinnon

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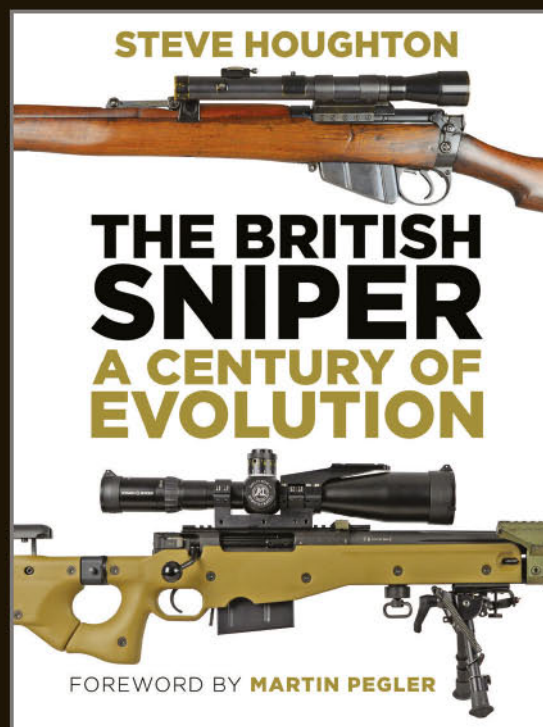
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Entente Cordiale

Sparks flew at the 52nd Entente Cordiale match, held as part of the Muzzle Loaders Championships 2019



The Entente Cordiale (EC) match is the oldest international muzzle loading match of the modern era.

This year it was held at Bisley as part of the Muzzle loading representation at the 150th Imperial Meeting on the afternoon of 20 July.

There was also a 900-yard exhibition match in the morning.

The EC competition is between teams of six shooters each from the MLAB and the Arquebusiers de France (ADF) all using original military muzzle loading rifles. The match takes place annually, alternating between ranges in the UK and France, so in 2020 France will host (at La Canourge – a wonderful range in the mountains).

This year the French team were accompanied by the ADF president Patrick Carrier and the shooting director Pierre Voiron. The ADF produced a fine piece of stained glass in the form of the ADF emblem as a gift to the NRA to celebrate the 150th Imperial. This was presented to Andrew Mercer after the match.

The matches are always very competitive but the important thing is the entente. This year MLAGB won both the long range match and the EC match but over the years the victories have been shared fairly equally. ■





Standing together

As everyone settled in for a thrilling F Class Imperial Meeting, some difficult news came from the German camp, as David Kent reports

We all heard that last year's F Open champion from Germany, Alexander Kreutz, had been taken unwell at Bisley just before the Imperial Meeting started. Indeed, he had had not one but two strokes, and he had to have an operation on his brain to remove a blood clot. We all hope that he will recover swiftly, and we look forward to seeing him next year. Jenni kept us up to date and showed us Alexander's bedside videos.

As a result, the Germans with their imported coach Jenni were still going to field a team to shoot against us, but they were a little under power. Thank you for competing with us.

ON TO THE IMPERIAL

Preparing for the Imperial Meeting is different from any other F Class shooting match except an overseas trip. It is all in the preparation. Have I chosen the right rifle? The right barrel? The right load? Have I practised enough? At 1000 yards? What equipment will break and need repairing? How much ammunition do I need? Which are my best cartridges, and can I fire my

worst as blow-offs and keep them separate from the rest?

Then there is the travelling down to the matches, accommodation, food, clothing and wet weather gear to worry about.

This year's 150th Imperial Meeting was even more exciting than previous years – it was a special celebration with musical events on some of the evenings. For seasoned attendees everything was a day early. What's more, for the first time we were having a GB match.

The meeting was, as always, wonderful. The first day, Thursday 18 July, got off slowly and we had details squadded on Stickledown at 8am, 8.15am and 8.30am. Oh, and 9am. It was misty and soon started raining hard and then harder. It would be good to see a bit more care taken on the squadding, especially for the first details. From last year's report I see the same happened on Century. The delays started with a late set of blow-offs at 8.20am and everything was then 30 minutes delayed throughout the day.

It became apparent that a TR schedule for shooting the Imperial had been used.

F Class shooters were shooting in small numbers on details throughout the whole day. The idea we had originally had was that details would be larger and shot in two or three details only for the whole match on the same ranges (Range 4) in the morning or afternoon only.

2+15 in F Class is a long shoot. It is very long indeed if the detail on the target has three shooters and it includes a novice or someone with equipment that doesn't work.

The inclusion of FTR with FO shooters mixed on a target was sometimes disruptive and caused delays and some unhappiness. In future, I suggest labelling each shooter for the meeting as FO or FTR, and squadding each one together.

The first detail seemed over – but it turned it wasn't actually finished. Some sensible shooters had stopped shooting earlier as the weather got worse and had blanked out the target. Tony Clayton, in his last meeting as Range Officer, came over to take charge, as did Peter Cottrell. Thank you both. A non-scoring sighter was allowed for those who hadn't finished.

From this inauspicious start, things got better – much better. Almost everyone adapted as the weather improved to a mixture of sun and dark clouds/showers. The results were super. In the main, a 75 with a high v-bull count was needed to win.

The individual competitions continued at four a day. The days of the team matches draw closer. The Canadians were under Captain Gordon Holloway, the Germans under Daniel Rosenberger.

Thanks to John Bloomfield and Peter Cottrell for their flexibility in the Shooting Committee meetings and in preparing the Bisley Bible, which allowed me discretion as to how to match team shooters. The visiting eight Canadians were not in the same classes we had expected and discussed. In fact they had two teams comprising three FTR and one F Open shooter for each team. I needed to make the matches fair. In the end we chose for the GB match two FO and two FTR shooters and the same again for the overall match of eight. This was 2+20, shot at 1000 yards, and both were needle matches.

Congratulations to everyone shooting and thank you also to those who registered. I hope everyone enjoyed it and gained experience of shooting with others. Germany and Canada, please come back next year.

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

John Howe's shooting went from good to brilliant as he won a number of competitions and The Grand for F Open. Gareth James did the same for FTR.

Darren Stewart changed his ammo (at last and on the last day) and he won the Farquharson in F Open, while Ken Kyle from Canada won it in FTR. Paul Hill won the St Georges in FO, with Celt Ridout for FTR.

In Open I also noticed Paul Sandie (who was second in the World Championships in Canada 2017) did really well, with several outright wins in addition to the Century and Stickledown Aggregates. Phil Shambrook also did really well in several competitions and won the World Championship Celebration Aggregate.

All in all, a wonderful 150th anniversary. ■

For the full results, see the Results section starting on page 54



Mist and rain didn't put too much of a dampener on the proceedings



The Canadian team provided stiff competition and won one of the international matches



Paul Hill on his way to winning the St Georges in FO



Shooting History

Derek Stimpson enjoys attending the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting and reports on its very first weekend in 1860

The Imperial Historic Arms Meeting, to give it its full name, took place this year on 13 and 14 July – the first weekend of the Imperial meeting. However, this year there was a difference. The Imperial is the NRA's largest and perhaps best-known meeting, but this year we were celebrating the 150th anniversary of the very first Imperial meeting.

The meeting was founded and opened in 1860 with HM Queen Victoria's famous first shot on Wimbledon Common shown in the reproduction on this page.

The meeting was a wonderful opportunity to see historic arms in use, some of which might have been around in the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century – Lee Enfields, Mausers, Mosin Nagants, the Lebel, BSAs military and sporting, Winchesters, Marlins, many Sporting rifles (my own Rigby .275 and Mannlicher Schoenauer, for instance), and plenty of interesting small-bore rifles.

There was also a large and diverse display of historic arms by the HBSA in the NRA Pavilion Webley room. Many examples of military, sporting, and target arms as well as pistols, were all on display, a reminder that shooting historic arms covers all disciplines and types of firearm.

Among the many participants were regular shooters returning again this year, plus a few new ones. It would be good to see more newcomers, who are owners of historic arms, bringing them along and using them.

I am sure that there are many of you who have classic and historic arms which don't get used. The satisfaction of getting a historic rifle or ML pistol shooting well is enormous, and if you win

something – well that's a bonus! On top of which you own a piece of heritage and may be contributing to research. If you have questions, requests, or suggestions about doing so there is plenty of advice available, so do not hesitate to get in touch and above all come and join us.

The table below shows the numbers of shooters and competition entries. There was a modest increase this year, but while the numbers are relatively steady it would

be nice to see more owners and collectors of historic arms participating in the historic arms meetings – IHAM and the Trafalgar, in October, as well as other specifics such as historic CSR and the sporting historic shoots. We need more support if these meetings are to continue and grow.

See you at next year's IHAM and at the Trafalgar in October. There will be the usual arms fair at the Trafalgar. ■

Competition results are on the NRA website.

Queen Victoria's first shot in 1860, as shown in Illustrated London News. Photo: Royal Collection Trust



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Five Alive

The 2019 Imperial Sporting Rifle events included five competitions for the first time, and the feedback was terrific, writes Steve Wallis

The Imperial this year was special, not just because it was the 150th Meeting but because it saw five dedicated Sporting Rifle competitions being run for the first time. These competitions were run over the first weekend of the meeting alongside the historic arms events and attracted both those who were used to competition and those who were shooting competitively for the first time. All who took part enjoyed themselves and many took advantage of the opportunity to re-enter in an attempt to improve on their scores. I think it is fair to say that these competitions were a success and they will certainly be run again next year.

In the Stalker's Test, the top three scores of 99 ex 100 had to be split not just on worst shot but by using the decimal scoring facilitated by the use of electronic targets, with the NRA Gold Medal going to Cornelius Schalkwyk and the NRA Silver Medal to Myles Robertson. The same two competitors also took the Gold and Silver medals in the Fox Test, although this time it was Myles who took Gold leaving

Cornelius with the Silver. These were not the only medals that Cornelius picked up, as he also took Gold in the Running Boar with a score of 155 ex 200 ahead of Omar Khan who took Silver with 150 ex 200.

The Running Deer was won with a score of 44 ex 50 and an NRA Gold Medal awarded to Andrew Burgess, with the Silver Medal being awarded to Peter Watts for his score of 34 ex 50. Peter then took the Gold Medal in the Swedish Deer with a score of 49 ex 60, a very reasonable score and doubtless assisted by his participation in the twice-yearly inter-club competitions run by the British Sporting Rifle Club.

The Imperial Meeting also includes the British Running Deer Championships and Running Deer Unlimited entry sweepstakes. This year, despite telling everyone he'd given up shooting, Alan Harvey won the Championship Aggregate with a score of 168 – 85 in his singles and 83 in his doubles. Alan also won the singles with scores of 85 and 87 for a combined 172, beating Darren Cottee into second place in both cases. Darren reversed things in the doubles,

beating Alan into second place with scores of 82 and 82 for a combined 164 – it looks like Darren is the one to beat next year, as Alan sold his Running Deer rifle to another competitor at the end of the competition.

In addition to the three main trophies, there is always great competition to win the Dewar Cup which is presented for the highest score from a 10-shot 'series' – that is any series of Unlimteds or any first or second string of 10 shots from any singles or doubles entry. This year, I am pleased to say that John Kynoch won the Dewar with a score of 46. John also won the NRA Gold Medal for the first week of Unlimteds with a score of 90, beating Alan Harvey's score of 90 based on their worst shots. The NRA Gold Medal for the second week of Unlimteds was won by David Yendell with a score of 81, beating Dr John Farrimond, who was using a beautiful single barrelled hammer Rook and Rabbit rifle in .22 Hornet, by one point. ■

Full results of all the Sporting Rifle competitions can be found in the 2019 Imperial Results page on the NRA website.



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Brilliance at Blair Atholl

The Scottish Open and Scottish Long Range Championships 2019 saw some incredible performances in difficult conditions. Tim Kidner reports

There was a strong entry this year for the Scottish Open Championships held on the Blair Atholl Range on 7-9 June with 66 entries that included 6 students from Sedbergh School – 63 shooting TR and 3 shooting F/TR. Course of fire involved shooting twice at 400x, once at 500x, twice at 600x and once at 900x and 1000x and each shoot is two sighters plus 15 to count.

WHAT A RESULT

Scoring was relatively high and the Grand Agg. was won by Angus McLeod with a score of 520.73v (out of a possible 525.105v), Steve East was second on 519.61v and Kenny MacDonald third on 518.61v. The Scottish Championship is shot in three stages – the first stage at 400x, 500x and 600x was won by Lindsay Peden with the only full score of 225.26v. The second stage at 900x was won by Tom Rylands with a score of 75.12v. There was a tie after the final stage (900x + 1000x)

with Steve East and Claire Halleran both on 150.17v – Steve won the tie shoot with 23.1v against 22.2v for Claire. The Caledonian Shield (Scots only, based on the Championships first and second stages) was won by Phil Lucey with a score of 299.36v, one point ahead of Lindsay Peden. The Association Gold Medal shot at 400x and 600x was won by Kenny MacDonald with a score of 149.21v, 1v ahead of John Warburton who won the Association Silver Medal. The winner of the Schools' Prize was Freddie Cade from Sedbergh School with a score of 490.33v and Karen Fleck won the Under 25 Trophy with a score of 499.46v.

OLD RIVALRY

The Lawrence Trophy International Match between Scotland and England was reduced to a single range because of a problem with the battery power to the electronic targets – the battery is powered by a solar panel which struggled in dull conditions to maintain voltage. The match was won by

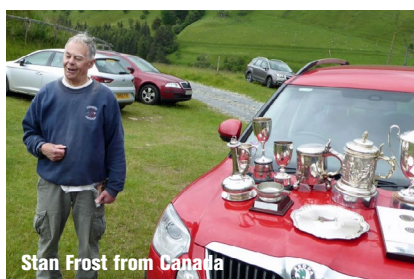
England with a score of 889.98v, 22 points ahead of Scotland on 867.91v. The David Hossack Memorial Trophy for the top score in the match was won by John Pugsley with a score of 75.11v. He is coached by Tim Webster – the trophy is engraved with the name of the coach as well as the shooter.

BACK OFF

The Scottish Long Range Championships (shooting three times at 900x and three times at 1000x) were held over the weekend of 29-30 June with an entry of 16 shooters – nine TR and seven F-Class. At the end of day one, Keith Baxby was leading the TR section with a score of 221.26v out of a possible 225.45v, with Tim Kidner in second place one point behind. Paul Key was leading in F-Open Class with a score of 210.10v three points ahead of Paul Sandie. Conditions on day two were more difficult, particularly at 1000x, and the scores were more spread out – Tim Kidner was top for TR on 215.21v 1 point ahead of John Potter. In F-Class Paul Key was top again with a score of 209.8v, six points ahead of Paul Sandie.

The TR Grand Agg was won by Tim Kidner with a score of 435.43v with Keith Baxby second on 430.41v and John Potter third on 427.42v. The F-Open section was won by Paul Key with a score of 419.18v and Paul Sandie was second on 410.26v and Des Parr third with 392.13v.

Stan Frost from Canada has been shooting the Scottish Long Range Championships for the past 15 years and at the prize-giving ceremony he presented a Dominion of Canada Rifle Association Plaque to Scottish Target Shooting to commemorate his participation in the Long Range Championships over the past 15 years. ■





Ladies Line-Up

Isle Target Sports Club invited female shooters to enjoy the debut of a long-range shooting event in August. Chris Clingham reports...

Saturday 31st August – Building on the success of our Youth Day in April, and in an effort to encourage more of our lady members to try out the longer range shoots, we held our first Ladies Day at Bisley this weekend.

With the benefit of hindsight, choosing a bank holiday week probably wasn't the best idea as we had a number of ladies

interested in attending but whom were away on holiday and couldn't make it; but four could and so Ladies Day moved from an idea into reality.

Half of our group hadn't shot anything like 300 yards before, and started the day firmly in the 25 yard camp. But our ladies were soon enjoying the challenge of new distances, new rifles, and seeing their

shots appearing instantaneously on the screens of the electronic targets. There was some really fantastic shooting going on.

Shen, who hadn't taken a shot for more than a year, and never beyond 25 yards, was walking around with a Cheshire Cat grin on her face. Soo, who's been to Bisley a few times now, was having the first opportunity to put her two new Tikka's to the test, and loving each and every shot. It's a very endearing quality that she has – she talks each shot out of the barrel and on to the target as she takes aim.

Megan has had a couple of visits to Bisley and Euston, and was quick to get herself on target, although when we changed her ammunition in the Schmeisser AR15 she was using, things did become a little more difficult. (Note to Dad – your Schmeisser doesn't like 55 grain bullets!)

And Joanne, on her first trip to Bisley and shooting beyond 25 yards for the very first time, with her new Accuracy International AX, was awesome. Very controlled, relaxed, highly observant, and full of questions, she was having a great time with some really exceptional shooting.

But 300 yards wasn't it. At 10:30 we fell back to 600 yards for the rest of the morning to stretch the legs even further.





The Ladies Day had shooters tested by targets at 300, 600 and 1000 yards

We had a great day – full of learning, good humour and most importantly, fun

The new club Sabatti STR came out to play as well, and it performed admirably in the increasingly windy conditions, shooting some really good groups and taking V-Bull after V-Bull.

We had lunch in the Clays Café at 12:30, and our ladies were buzzing with the energy and excitement of the morning's shooting but also a little cautious about the 1000 yards that was planned for the afternoon – they'd had a quick look at the range before going for lunch and concluded it was a long, long way.

The weather forecast had indicated a sunny afternoon with temperatures in the realms of 24°C with light winds. The perfect conditions for a lovely afternoon of shooting on the iconic Stickledown range, and so we started after the hooter at 13:30 with a whole new set of challenges for 1000 yards.

Those light winds were nothing of the sort! They were gusting to about 20 mph, and so our ladies learnt a whole new lesson – holding off for wind. The target board at 1000 yards is roughly 10 feet wide –

it needs to be big, obviously. We were shooting in lane 50, the wind was coming left to right across Stickledown, and our ladies were having to aim at the edge of the target in lane 49 to allow for the wind.

We've seen it worse than that before at Bisley, but if you've never shot at 1000 yards before, it's pretty disconcerting to be aiming at your neighbour's target in order to hit your own. But our ladies quickly got to grips with the wind, the equipment and the smiles and grins were soon back on their faces.

The afternoon shoot continued at a lovely leisurely pace with everyone getting plenty of shooting in. Things couldn't really get better after the ice-cream van finally came to our side of the range, and we were able to sample Oreo-smothered and strawberry-drizzled cones, or just a good old-fashioned Flake 99. It really was a fantastic day, but then the sky changed colour.

We looked on in amazement and horror as the brightness turned to a dull darkness, and those sunny intervals disappeared in

the blink of an eye. The wind picked up even more and then the heavens opened into a huge downpour that drenched us all.

It was suddenly freezing, blowing a gale and the sky was full of rain, but I insisted on the team photo before we all disappeared home – of course I did! Aaran's face says it all in the photo!

We had a great day – full of learning, good humour, and most importantly fun. Our ladies, all of them, were excellent, and all said how much they enjoyed the day, and if there was a chance to go to Bisley again, they'd definitely do it.

Well, that was music to our ears, because that's exactly what we're trying to achieve – spark the imagination of our members so they have the chance and the choice to grow their skills and involvement in our club activities. Top Shot award for the day went to Joanne who shot like a pro. Well done Joanne!

Thanks also go to Mick and Aaran for supporting with the coaching; to Soo's driver Malc for getting her there; and to Mark for coming along to support Joanne. Thanks to the Club Committee for supporting the shoot from idea to action, but most importantly, thanks to Shen, Soo, Meg and Joanne for making it such a good day – you were all stars! ■



F Class Champion!

Jon Longhurst watched Great Britain's Dan Lomas win the F Class European Championships

It was an outstanding week of highly competitive F Class shooting at Bisley for this year's European Championships. With a cruel, switching head wind that plagued shooters, the battle for the top positions was fought right to the bitter end.

This event is generously organised and supported by Mik and Tina of The Dolphin Gun Company, and this year we were grateful for additional support from our sponsor, March Scopes Europe.

2012 was the last time a Brit had earned the title of European Champion in FTR. That was Tim Stewart. In 2017, Paul Hill of Great Britain took the win in F Open. But more often than not, our friends from across Europe have repeatedly arrived at Bisley without the home advantage and prevailed.

This year, however, the atmosphere was tense as shooters' positions on the leaderboard moved up and down more dramatically than I can remember happening before as each match was shot.

By the end of day one of the Championships, Yurii Kalmykov of Ukraine was in the lead for FTR and the highest placed GB shooter was Justin Gough sitting in fifth. In F Open, Reinhard Lang was leading the pack and GB's Ian Bellis and Phil Shambrook were placed fourth and fifth respectively.

By no means was this a done deal. No one was under any illusion that they had it in the bag. As the Saturday matches draw to a close, the top ten in both FTR and F Open had been completely rearranged. Dan Lomas, who had placed 42nd in match three on day one, came to the pitch on Saturday with a new level of

focus. He cleaned match four, won match five, and placed fourth in match six by a margin of two points. That is how you win a competition as big as this.

In F Open, Ulrich Kwade of Germany held his nerve despite a difficult match five and fought through to the end. With a margin of just one point, Ulrich earned his title of European Champion for F Open, 2019.

RUTLAND TEAMS MATCHES

Team shooting in the United Kingdom is very strong and the heart of this is our Rutland teams. They compete against each other at any opportunity – allegedly for fun, but the reality is you will not find a more fiercely competitive bunch.

On the Thursday, Rutland teams competed for the Dolphin Gun Company-sponsored Bent Barrel Trophy.



The GB F Class team at the Euros

This is the only bent barrel you want and this trophy is the most highly contested team's trophy in Europe.

15 FTR and 11 F Open teams competed. Stickledown was full. One match, 1000 yards, a marathon two sighting shots with 20 to count per shooter. In the end, the scores were tight and both winners were well deserved. White Horse Lodge took gold in FTR with 344.16, beating Ukraine by two, and Bull Hitters nailed it in F Open with 366.15 beating Dolphin by 6.

On Sunday, they went at it again and it was an opportunity for the other 11 teams competing to reclaim ground on the White Horse and Bull Hitters. That was the plan, but it wasn't to be. White Horse Lodge were the leaders with 565.42, a five-point lead. Bull Hitters took Gold with 572.35, a clear seven points after of their closest rival. Congratulations to both teams.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS - TEAM GB FTR

The final day of the European Championships is reserved for the International Matches. Stickledown is a hive of activity during teams' events, filled with the colours of flying National Flags.

This year, teams were limited to eight members, which resulted in several countries entering two teams. Two matches were shot at 900 and 1000 yards, both comprising two sighting shots with 15 to count per shooter.

By no means was this a done deal. No one was under any illusion that they had it in the bag



Ulrich Kwade, F Open Champion

The wind continued to challenge the teams and coaches had to manage the rapidly changing conditions and direction. 14 international teams engaged in tense and tiring competition for the ultimate European title.

As the final shot was fired at 1000 yards, we all knew that there was nothing more that could be done and now the anxious wait for the results began. In FTR, Great Britain were victorious with 570.45 beating Ukraine

by 15 points. F Open saw Italy triumph with a nine-point lead over BDMP (581.49).

Very few individuals or teams enter the European Championships without considerable practice, training and preparation. The standard keeps getting higher with every year. I would like to congratulate all the medal winners throughout the week, and all the shooters who achieved their personal goals this Euros. ■



Booming BCRC

The BCRC Open enjoyed a record entry as it took place in early July

In the year of the 150th Imperial meeting, the BCRC Open was as popular an event as ever with a record (for the modern era) of 185 entries over the weekend. The event continues to go from strength to strength.

The weather was set fair on Saturday with glorious sunshine and light winds picking up through the day to present some challenging conditions to the shooters by the end of the day.

Starting with the West Indies competition at 300x, David Calvert led the way with a perfect 50.10 – but with another 16 scores of 50 following, the conditions indicated this would be a high-scoring day. Moving back to 500x we ended with a five-way tie shoot for the India trophy with Theo Dodds winning out with 25.4 in the tie to beat out Jon Ford and Jack Alexander into second and third respectively.

Moving into the afternoon, the breeze presented more of a challenge, but impressively the scoring was barely dented with 20 scores of 50 in the Africa trophy won by Jack Keates from the Army with 50.9. The day rounded out with the 15-shot Canada match at 600x which was won by Reg Roberts with an impressive 75.13.

Closing out the short-range shoots David Luckman kept a clean sheet for the day finishing with 225.31 with Theo Dodds only 3v behind on 225.28 and a further four shooters two points back.

BLOWY SUNDAY

Sunday presented more changeable conditions with variable winds changing from left to right and intermittent showers to keep the competitors on their toes. With 30 targets on Stickledown in use it almost felt like the middle of the Imperial rather than a weekend open meeting.

The morning shoots at 900x saw a superlative performance from Jane Messer, posting 50.10 to win the Falkland Islands and 75.13 to win the Australia in quick succession and moving up to second in the Grand Agg only one behind David Luckman.

So, to the final shoot at 1000x – The New Zealand match. Conditions continued to be testing and many a challenge to the lead died away, Mick Silver of the RAF was the only one to go clean, posting 75.8 – a terrific performance. The Grand went

down to the wire with Jane and David closely matched and in the end both scored 74.9 in the last shoot. That left David Luckman holding on to take the honours with 423.60 and only two points dropped all weekend, closely followed by Jane Messer on 422.65 with an impressive long range performance. Steve Thomas was the best of the rest with 419.51.

A huge thank you to Peter Turner and his team of range officers who ran the ranges effortlessly. Also a great vote of thanks to all the staff at the NRA, in particular Peter Cottrell, the range office, armoury and markers without whom it would not be possible to run such a big meeting. ■

Full results available at www.shootingcompetitions.org. The dates for 2020 will be 4-5 July and entries will open around Easter. All enquiries to bcrcteamsec@gmail.com.



Theo Dodds won the India after a closely fought tie shoot



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Distance learning

Isle Target Sports Club took some of its youngsters down to Bisley for a first taste of long-range shooting, as Chris Clingham reports...

Over recent months our club has been having a major drive to encourage members to try long-range shooting at Bisley. Since August 2018, we've had at least one, normally two, and at most four shoots each month at Bisley, and none has been more rewarding and exciting than the Youth Day shoot we held in April this year.

Six of our junior members, along with their dads, one grandad, and one stand-in dad for the day, set off at a ridiculous hour to make sure we were all there for our 8:30am kick off on Century.

A number of weeks in the planning, and supported by the Club both financially and through personal encouragement, our six young men, Jake, Connor, Luke, Will, Ben and Harrison were set for a day full of shooting and learning. Dads were there to coach and support, pay for lunch and supply firearms and ammunition, as this was a day for the boys to enjoy and learn. Dads can go to Bisley any time they want, a different story for the boys.

The day started with 300 yards on Century shot from inside the caravan, which is a whole new experience. The principle of

providing an enclosed shooting position is easy to understand, but it does need to be a stable platform, which sadly this wasn't. Every time somebody moved, the shooter could feel the motion in the caravan, which was a little off-putting. That didn't interrupt some excellent early shooting, and when you consider that hardly any of them had shot at anything like these distances before, the standard from all the lads was fantastic.

There was an array of equipment on display with our young men being exposed to Tikkas and Remingtons in .223, Schmeissers in AR15 platforms shooting the military 5.56 NATO rounds, and 6.5 Creedmoor also on the firing line. And all of this was in preparation for what was coming later in the morning and then again in the afternoon.

10.30am saw us falling back from 300 to 600 yards, and now at last we were on *terra firma* – no wobbling about any more. We set up camp on Century, club flag flying, questions being asked about what we were up to, us promoting our young members and our club approach to growing the skills of our shooters, and being very proud of who we are and what we were doing. You couldn't miss us to be honest, but that was kind of the point – do something that other clubs aren't doing much of, and celebrate it. Stand out in the crowd and make others notice us – I think we were noticed.



Getting used to a Remington rifle at 300 yards

The shooting just got better and better, and you could see from the faces of our young shooters that they really were having a good time. Conditions weren't quite perfect – although it was beautifully sunny and warm, all the flags were flapping! There was a stiff breeze which added to the challenge for our lads, but they quickly learned to read the wind, and shots were going in on target again, and again, and again.

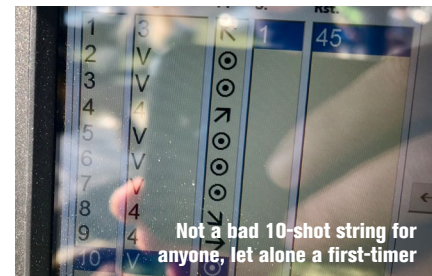
Lunch at 12.30pm was a welcome relief from the heat of the morning, and our group retired to the Clays Café for some much-needed refreshment. The lull in shooting gave us the chance to find out from the lads what they thought of the day, especially those who hadn't shot at these distances before. Connor had started off with his first shot at 300 being 12 times further than he'd ever shot before and then moved up to 600; his feedback was characteristically direct. "Sweet man!" summed it up perfectly for him.

Will, my charge for the day, had been exchanging text messages and photos with his dad, away on business, all morning. They were comparing notes – they were both enjoying a day out shooting, and the photos of targets and firearms were pinging backwards and forwards between them. And I think Will was giving Dad a run for his money with some really excellent shooting at 600.

Back on after lunch, and the big guns came out. We had hired an Accuracy International rifle from the NRA for the day, and while the option was there to use it in the morning, I think the boys were more interested to see what it could do in the afternoon.

So, 300 and 600 yards done with some excellent shooting from all the lads, and now an afternoon of 1000 yards on Stickledown, and that is a long, long way if you've never done it before.

Jake, our most experienced junior long-range shooter, started off the afternoon with the marvellous Accuracy International – unfortunately, somebody (me) didn't read the scope settings properly, and we (Jake and I) took a few shots to realise what I'd done wrong. But when we did, the marksman returned! It helps if your coach knows what he's doing.



The afternoon wind was again a challenge for our shooters – near flags were flat, no wind – midway flags were blowing freely, breezy – and far flags were flat, not an easy exercise to judge for adjusting aim points.

The boys were fantastic though, dads were great with their coaching and support, and before we knew it, there was a string of really impressive scores being racked up by all our young men. The AI proved very popular with the lads – the .308s and 6.5 Creedmoors were put to one side, and everyone stuck with the AI, which really was a great piece of shooting equipment. For those who are NRA members, you can hire one of the AIs at Bisley for £34 a day – try before you buy!

We were scheduled to shoot until 5.30pm, but by about 4.30pm it was clear that the early start, the journey and the excitement of the day was catching up with our lads, and so we called it an early finish, but not before we saw some remarkable shooting

from young Will. The v-bull is the Holy Grail of long range shooting, and to score one on your first outing at 1000 yards is a real achievement for anyone. Will's last 10 rounds read as follows on the scoreboard – 3, V, V, 4, V, V, V, 4, 4, V. Six v-bulls in one 10-shot string is awesome for a first time at 1000 yards! Dad, you have some serious competition coming your way.

A great day. Our young shooters learned and performed spectacularly, and it was totally apparent that running the day was massively helpful to their confidence, knowledge and experience, and that they would go from strength to strength in their shooting abilities.

Thanks to our young shooters for making it so successful, thanks to coaches for great support, thanks to Mick Sparrow for running the shoot like the giant he is, and thanks to Jon Francis, our chairman, and the Club Committee for supporting it all from idea through to action. ■

Regional Update

Nic Couldrey has an important update on ensuring our ranges meet Home Office approval, as well as the usual round up from all across the country

HOME OFFICE APPROVAL

In recent weeks we have been made aware of instances of the removal of Home Office Approval as a result of failure to comply with the criteria set by the Home Office. Full details of the Home Office criteria are available on-line at www.gov.uk – search for “Approval of rifle and muzzle loading pistol clubs”.

A significant proportion of the 800+ clubs affiliated to the NRA are also Home Office Approved target shooting clubs; over 300 NRA clubs operate a private club range.

I have summarised common areas of non-compliance identified by the licensing authorities. The principal officers of NRA affiliated clubs are responsible for the proper administration of the club and should familiarise themselves with the findings and check to ensure compliance.

RECORD KEEPING

An attendance register should be kept of all club members. In the case of a firearm held on a member’s firearm certificate, the register will record the calibre, type and serial number of the firearm(s) used and the date. All visiting shooters should be logged in the same way. In the case of competition shoots between clubs, the responsibility for recording the attendance of a team member will lie with the club that the shooter in question represents.

In the case of open competitions, the organising club will record details of competitors. Clubs should retain their attendance records for a minimum of six years. Clubs may wish to consider making arrangements to keep a back-up copy of critical records.

Firearms and ammunition held on a club firearm certificate must be

controlled with processes and systems in place to record the use of the firearm and ammunition (see above).

SECURITY

Club firearms and ammunition should not be unattended or left accessible to club members and guests during club operating hours. Club firearms and ammunition are the responsibility of the official named on the club certificate.

RANGES

Clubs that operate a private range should ensure that the range is safe and should keep a record of regular range inspections and a maintenance log. The NRA Range Managers Guide and Code of Practice provide further information for operators. Documents are available to download from the NRA UK website. www.nra.org.uk.



Clubs with their own ranges take on the responsibility for safety and maintenance

VISITS

Clubs should expect the police to visit the club. This may be prearranged, but it may also happen unannounced. Section 15(7) of the 1988 Firearms Act allows a constable or civilian officer authorised in writing to enter premises occupied by a club to inspect the premises and anything in them to check compliance with Section 15. Affiliated clubs are encouraged to facilitate visits and help the police to fulfil their primary responsibilities to support lawful target shooting and ensure public safety.

Finally, club officials are encouraged to familiarise themselves with any conditions set by the Home Office as part of the approval and seek further guidance if required.

MILITARY RANGE CHARGES

Moving on, MoD/Landmarc charges to use military ranges will increase in 2020. We hope to have a schedule of the fees in September to allow plenty of notice before implementation. Details will be posted on the NRA website when available.

The NRA continues to work with DIO Safety/Assurance to develop a mechanism to allow affiliated clubs to access field firing areas/LFTTAs. This initiative has proved more complex to deliver than we had anticipated. On a positive note, a potential site on Salisbury Plain is being evaluated and a preliminary on-site feasibility assessment will be conducted in mid-August. Clubs are reminded of the terms of the MoD range licence and the NRA RCO qualification detailed in the 2019 edition of the Range Conducting Officer manual;

1.2 c "It must be clearly understood that the NRA RCO Qualification Course only qualifies successful candidates to conduct firing on Gallery Ranges or other ranges with fixed firing points and target positions. Successful qualification on the NRA RCO course does not qualify an NRA RCO to: i. Plan or conduct firing on Individual or Team Battle Shooting Ranges, or Field Firing Ranges where the firing points or target positions are not fixed."

In other news, here is a summary of what's happening around the country:

Notice should be given shortly of increases to the fees for MoD ranges



Clubs should expect the police to visit the club. This may be prearranged, but it may also happen unannounced

SCOTLAND

The discussions around the feasibility of re-establishing a full-bore range at Dechmont on the outskirts of Glasgow continue. The Lowland Reserve Forces & Cadets Association

(RFCA) is broadly supportive of the initiative; critical as the range is located on an active RFCA-owned site. A steering group to represent the key local stakeholders and potential investors is being set up and we hope to convene in September. My thanks to Bryden Ritchie, NRA Representative in Scotland for the work that he has done to get us this far.

EASTERN ENGLAND

NRA Chief Executive Andrew Mercer and committee members of the King's Lynn St. Michael's Rifle & Pistol Club (KLSM) attended the Norwich auction of West Raynham range in mid-July. To our considerable frustration the auctioneer announced the former airfield lots had been sold just as the auction was due to start.

The club has been developing the barrack range over the last two years and only became aware of the freehold sale in the days running up to the auction. The good news is that the new owner of the range is in discussion with KLSM and we hope that the club will continue as a tenant and range operator in the immediate term. The NRA will continue to support KLSM particularly in the context of the ambition to upgrade the existing range facilities.

WALES

I travelled to Llanbradach near Caerphilly to meet Brian Llewellyn, Martin Watkins the NRA rep for Wales, and the landowner William L, to discuss plans to re-open the range at Llanbradach Fawr Farm. I am encouraged that the landowner and his farm manager are keen to see the range re-open; detailed discussions are now ongoing to agree a lease so that ground works can begin. Our thanks to Brian, who has been the driving force for this project over the last 2+ years. ■

OBITUARIES

MARK BRADLEY 1962 – 2019

Mark Bradley of Bradley Arms, born in October 1962, passed away peacefully at Whipps Cross Hospital on 18 August 2019, aged 56 years, surrounded by family and friends. He is survived by his elder brother, Jim and sister Kathleen.

Since childhood, Mark was passionate about shooting and took every opportunity to enjoy this both home and abroad. From shooting air rifles in Doha as a child, he became a highly proficient shooter and frequently won accolades when shooting at the National Rifle Association Bisley Camp, whether competing alongside friends or the military. He was also highly regarded in the States where he was invited annually to shoot alongside the Arizona National Guard in their All Weapons Weekend, as well as shooting in the Arizona Highpower league matches at Rio Salado. He travelled there almost every year to compete with some of his close friends, Dave Green, Matt Greenall, Bob Wightman, Paul Hunter and Nick St Aubyn.

In 2006 Mark applied for his RFD and Bradley Arms was born, which became his full time occupation in November 2012. Although his primary objective was to build straight pull AR15 rifles, this was not all he did. He built .22 semi-automatic rifles on an AR platform and AR10s, amongst others, and worked on many other rifles and shotguns; he was keen to ensure shooters from all disciplines were able to achieve the rifle that they wanted, regardless of where the rifles had originally been sourced. All work was unconditionally guaranteed with speedy and reliable service. This is reflected when looking at the high number of Bradley Arms rifle owners on shooting ranges all over the UK, who continue to be loyal customers and friends.

Providing gunsmithing services was not the only area in which Mark contributed to the sport. After his friend and mentor, Pete Bloom, started the Civilian Service Rifle (CSR) Winter League at Bisley, Mark continued his work designing the

competitions and arranging squadding, both during the winter and for the summer CSR Imperial competition. Despite the inclement winter weather, competitor numbers regularly grew from an average of 30 competitors to over 100 today every month travelling not only from the extremes of the UK but also regularly from Europe. In July 2019, the CSR Imperial drew in record numbers of 163 individual entrants, reflective of Mark's dedication to spreading enthusiasm for CSR at every opportunity and on every shooting platform, on and offline. These competitors not only came from all over Europe but a team from Australia travelled over for the whole week of shooting.

In November 2000 Mark was one of the founding members of the Highpower Rifle Association. Originally set up to provide UK shooters with a club that held monthly Highpower competitions, this was developed further to include regular CSR practice days as well, plugging a gap in the market for regular CSR shooters to practise courses of fire at all CSR distances.

Mark worked tirelessly to ensure every rifle was produced flawlessly, every competition ran smoothly and every

competitor had the ammunition they wanted, along with bipods, scopes and all other shooting accessories which were sourced quickly. Many will be pleased to hear that the legacy of Bradley Arms will continue to go from strength to strength under the watchful eye of Nick St Aubyn.

Glaucoma struck Mark and his right eyesight was affected. As this progressed, Mark took the bold step to convert his right handed service rifle. Within a short time, he was once again achieving excellent scores with a left handed rifle and inspiring other shooters with similar problems to do the same. Bradley Arms has since carried out many right to left handed straight pull conversions.

However, Mark did not only focus on shooting. Being self-employed, he was able to do some travelling, including a visit to his family in Australia, stopping in Qatar to have a look at Doha today, and Singapore to have the obligatory Singapore Sling. His number one tip was to make sure you always had your BOAC Junior Jet Club logbook with you!

Despite his deteriorating health, Mark continued to be Secretary of the HRA as well as the CSR and Practical Shooting representative on the NRA Shooting



Mark Bradley (third from left), proud winner of the Methuen Cup with friends from the HRA

Committee until September 2018, when Nick St Aubyn took on these positions. He also continued shooting competitively in Service Optic class right up until the CSR Imperial in July 2019, travelling around Bisley in a buggy and occasionally scaring the living daylights out of others who were given a lift!

His incredible contribution to the shooting world was acknowledged at the end of the CSR Imperial in 2018 when he was presented with a special National Rifle Association long service medal by Andrew Mercer, Chief Executive, suitably engraved "Long Service and Questionable Conduct"!

Mark was also quite passionate about ensuring that the sport became more accessible to the next generation, going to some lengths to ensure that some younger shooters were able to get involved. Ferdi Haywood, aged nine, became the youngest permitted full bore shooter at Bisley in March 2019, thanks in part to the NRA and the Highpower Rifle Association. He was also placed sixth in an open competition, with Gavin, his father, only managing seventh. Mark also loved that his godson, Matthew Hunter, was also a very capable shooter.

In between managing all the CSR matches, Mark renewed his love of motorbikes, sharing his allegiance between Ducati and Triumph. Mark was encouraged to participate in The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride by one of his closest friends, Gavin Haywood who also rode. The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride unites classic and vintage style motorcycle riders all over the world to raise funds and awareness for prostate cancer research and men's mental health. In September 2017 he rode with over 1,000 bikers, including Gavin Haywood and Gavin's eldest son, Ferdi, together raising over £4,000. The following year, in September 2018 they rode again also with Gavin's younger son, Milo, raising over £8,000 for men's suicide awareness and cancer awareness. Mark achieved such a high amount of fundraising that Triumph asked him to be one of their featured riders and presented him with one of 100 custom made Hedon crash helmets.

Some may feel that all of that could be enough to squeeze into his far too short 56 years, but Mark was also a closet musician, enjoying much soft rock and a big Bruce Springsteen fan. He also played the guitar

ANN BILTON 1933 – 2019



A keen member of the shooting fraternity, Ann sadly died on 3 June, after she fell and broke her hip and then suffered complications after surgery.

Her father, who had been a member of the 202 Auxiliary, the British resistance, during the war, had introduced her to shooting and when he gave up the sport he passed his P14 on to her, which she used for many years.

She was Secretary of the Suffolk County Rifle Association for 15 years in the 1970s and 1980s during some of its best years when, with John Francis as Treasurer, attendance at the County

Championship at Bromeswell rifle range grew to over 100.

She loved Stickledown and was in the final of the first Donaldson Memorial and well placed in The Corporation several times. At short range she was self-conscious and nervous as an individual shooter, but with a coach beside her, particularly the late Jim Allen, a former Queen's Prize winner, she excelled and was a fixture in the County team for 20 years, proudest when she and her husband were top-scorers.

She will also be remembered for the barbecues she put on for the County and friends. She and other (non-shooting) wives raided butchers and greengrocers during the day and put on a feast come rain or shine.

As an occasional pistol shooter she was, shall we say, inconsistent. Practising with an air pistol in the garage one day, she put the first shot dead centre in the bull and the second through an oil can on the shelf above.

She gave up shooting 20 years ago when she began to find it difficult to get up afterwards, but continued to support her husband, always coming on the last Saturday, hoping to see him in the Final, but was usually disappointed.

Apart from shooting she was a great gardener and entertainer and doted on her three great-grandchildren. She is greatly missed by many.

and enjoyed teaching Milo Hayward how to play *Stairway to Heaven* in February 2019. Chris Ballard also arranged for him to fly a Westland Scout with the HAAF in April 2019; Mark spent the entire day grinning from ear to ear.

Mark Bradley was a bright character in life's tapestry and many would say a 'shooting God'. He was not to everyone's taste, but he was open and honest, and a very loyal friend who enjoyed living life. He always knew his own mind and did not suffer fools, nor did he accept anyone not putting in 100 per cent effort in anything they did. After one or two inventive cocktails, occasionally with a firing pin put in place of an umbrella (just for a photo), Mark would also be keen to share his views enthusiastically, particularly online! With

CSR in particular, Mark would be the first person to say 'just enter a competition' and was supportive of anyone stretching themselves outside their comfort zone. If he promised to deliver in any aspect of his life, he did. He raised CSR from a small competition to being on the agenda of many shooting arenas. Mark was a bright light that has now gone out and has left a gaping hole in many people's lives. The National Rifle Association flew their flag at half-mast as a mark of respect.

His funeral was held on Monday 9 September at St Paul's Church, Woodford Green, followed by Commitment at Forest Park Crematorium. A reception was held at The Three Jolly Wheelers, Chigwell. There will be a commemoration service at Bisley later in the year, details to be confirmed.

THE SHOOTING SHOW



www.theshootingshow.tv

@ShootingShowTV | www.youtube.com/theshootingshow | facebook.com/TheShootingShow

Notices

TEAM CAPTAIN - NOMINATIONS INVITED

Nominations are invited for the Captain of the following teams:

GB Kolapore Team 2020

GB Under 25 Team Captain 2020

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Friday 22 November 2019. Nominations to be sent to Georgina. Thatcher@nra.org.uk.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 30 May 2020 at 6pm in the NRA Pavilion.

BISLEY GENERAL MEETING

The 2020 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 May 2020 at 9pm in the NRA Pavilion.

AUTUMN ACTION MEETING 2019

Saturday 26 – Sunday 27 October 2019

The last of the NRA Action Weekends of 2019 offers opportunities to shoot a range of matches available to GR&P, full-bore rifle and target shotgun competitors hosted at the National Shooting Centre – Bisley.

Details and Courses of Fire can be downloaded from the handbooks section of the NRA website.

This Meeting offers the opportunity for fun and competitive shooting for competitors of all levels, with the usual range of discounts to encourage new shooters to Bisley, the Under 25s and those looking to shoot more matches.

On Butt Zero on Saturday we will have Target Shotgun and Speed Steels matches all day.

Elsewhere multi-positional full-bore shooting runs side by side with the 200 yard McQueen matches on Short Siberia on Saturday, with the increasingly popular Mini McQueen throughout the weekend on Time Limit.

Range Officers

As always, we are actively seeking Volunteer Range Crew to run this event. If you are able to offer your time, please complete the online form. Range Crew will have access to the ranges to shoot their matches on Friday 25 October – please note RCO qualifications are not required.

TRAFALGAR MEETING 2019

The Trafalgar Meeting is now open for entries!

Taking place on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 October, this weekend champions Classic and Historic firearms with a range of short range competitions on Melville, Time Limit and Running Deer ranges, and long range on Butt Zero, Century and Stickledown.

Full details, and entry forms can be found on the NRA website.

Trade Fair

To book your table now for 19-20 October please contact Gavin Blackledge on 01483 79777 ext.135 or email on gavin.blackledge@hotmail.com



Results

Queen's Prize Top 10

2nd stage, 900x, 1000x, Total
1. GCD Barnett, 149.24v, 75.12v, 75.11v, 299.47v
2. PM Hakim, 150.20v, 74.9v, 75.10v, 299.39v (Tie: 25.2v)
3 E Sewell, 149.20v, 75.11v, 75.8v, 299.39v (Tie: 23.3v)
4. JR Deane, 149.18v, 75.10v, 75.10v, 299.38v
5. CD Haley, 150.20v, 75.12v, 74.6v, 299.38v
6. ANR Walker, 149.22v, 75.14v, 74.9v, 298.45v
7. WCP Richards, 150.26v, 74.7v, 74.10v, 298.43v
8. DP Calvert, 148.18v, 75.14v, 75.10v, 298.42v
9. C Gordon, 149.24v, 75.8v, 74.9v, 298.41v
10. PD Sykes, 149.18v, 74.10v, 75.11v, 298.39v

Grand Aggregate Top 10

Telegraph, Mail, Alexandra, Duke of Cambridge, Times, Wimbledon, Doyle, St George's I, Queen's I, PoW, Lovell, Corporation, Total
1. ANR Walker, 74.10v, 74.10v, 47.4v, 49.5v, 50.8v, 50.7v, 49.5v, 75.13v, 104.14v, 75.12v, 46.4v, 47.5v, 740.97v
2. PD Sykes, 74.12v, 73.7v, 50.7v, 43.1v, 50.9v, 50.7v, 49.5v, 74.14v, 105.12v, 75.12v, 49.6v, 48.4v, 740.96v
3. GCD Barnett, 75.12v, 74.7v, 50.8v, 50.5v, 50.9v, 49.7v, 47.3v, 74.13v, 103.12v, 74.10v, 46.3v, 48.4v, 740.93v
4. DC Luckman, 75.13v, 73.5v, 49.4v, 47.4v, 50.7v, 50.6v, 49.7v, 72.5v, 104.15v, 75.10v, 46.4v, 49.7v, 739.87v
5. JH Messer, 73.5v, 73.10v, 46.3v, 50.5v, 50.6v, 50.9v, 50.9v, 74.12v, 102.11v, 75.5v, 49.6v, 46.5v, 738.86v
6. M Pozzebon, 75.6v, 72.4v, 49.7v, 47.5v, 49.6v, 50.8v, 48.5v, 73.8v, 104.11v, 74.11v, 49.4v, 48.5v, 738.80v
7. CJ Watson, 74.6v, 73.6v,

50.7v, 48.4v, 48.6v, 49.4v, 50.7v, 74.8v, 102.11v, 75.11v, 46.5v, 49.4v, 738.79v
8. MRM Millar, 74.11v, 72.8v, 50.6v, 49.5v, 50.4v, 50.5v, 50.7v, 73.7v, 103.8v, 75.12v, 45.3v, 47.2v, 738.78v
9. EJ Nuttall, 75.9v, 73.8v, 49.8v, 49.3v, 50.8v, 48.6v, 50.7v, 73.9v, 101.9v, 74.6v, 48.1v, 47.5v, 737.79v
10. R Johansen, 75.6v, 73.7v, 48.2v, 48.6v, 50.8v, 50.3v, 50.6v, 73.10v, 104.12v, 74.8v, 46.3v, 46.2v, 737.73v

St George's

2nd stage, 3rd stage, Total
1. CJ Watson, 75.14v, 75.13v, 150.27v
2. C Rivett-Carnac, 75.13v, 75.12v, 150.25v
3. J Corbett, 75.14v, 75.11v, 150.25v
4. ERT Jeens, 75.11v, 75.12v, 150.23v
5. OEJ Spencer, 75.12v, 75.11v, 150.23v

The National

300x, 500x, 600x, Total
1. England 675.71v, 676.66v, 686.82v, 2037.219v
2. Wales 671.71v, 669.62v, 670.66v, 2010.199v
3. Ireland 655.54v, 674.58v, 673.69v, 2002.181v
4. Scotland 657.53v, 666.57v, 667.70v, 1990.180v

The Kolapore

300x, 500x, 600x, Total
1. Great Britain 397.54v, 396.51v, 396.43v, 1189.148v
2. Australia 395.40v, 398.47v, 395.45v, 1188.132v
3. Canada 393.44v, 397.51v, 389.35v, 1179.130v
4. USA

389.48v, 396.55v, 388.27v, 1173.130v
5. Guernsey 389.37v, 394.41v, 387.30v, 1170.108v
6. New Zealand 386.40v, 395.44v, 386.35v, 1167.119v
7. Jersey 391.38v, 392.45v, 382.24v, 1165.107v
8. Kenya 387.35v, 392.39v, 383.33v, 1162.107v
9. Germany 379.28v, 382.35v, 385.22v, 1146.85v

The Mackinnon

900x, 1000x, Total
1. England 595.81v, 575.62v, 1170.143v
2. Scotland 591.75v, 568.48v, 1159.123v
3. USA 590.62v, 567.46v, 1157.108v
4. Australia 584.70v, 568.54v, 1152.124v
5. Ireland 588.72v, 559.48v, 1147.120v
6. Wales 584.73v, 561.53v, 1145.126v
7. Jersey 578.65v, 554.36v, 1132.101v
8. Guernsey 574.65v, 551.39v, 1125.104v
9. Kenya 560.43v, 544.31v, 1104.74v
10. Canada 581.52v, 506.41v, 1087.93v

Hopton Aggregate

Whitehead, Halford, Cottesloe, Wimbledon, Armourers, Edge, Albert, Total
1. CN Tremlett, 148.13v, 144.13v, 99.12v, 98.7v, 96.7v, 195.27v, 220.32v, 1000.111v
2. DP Calvert, 149.21v, 139.14v, 100.14v, 97.10v, 99.11v, 189.21v, 222.25v, 995.116v
3. RJ Lygoe, 146.20v, 140.13v, 98.16v, 95.5v,

98.13v, 198.22v, 218.28v, 993.117v
4. JA Lindsay III, 147.14v, 140.9v, 98.11v, 95.10v, 95.10v, 197.23v, 217.31v, 989.108v
5. MJ Judge, 143.14v, 143.12v, 99.15v, 98.10v, 97.8v, 193.21v, 216.22v, 989.102v
6. G James, 142.13v, 141.8v, 97.11v, 94.8v, 96.9v, 199.26v, 220.25v, 989.100
7. DN Lindsay, 145.16v, 140.11v, 97.11v, 97.12v, 97.11v, 195.26v, 216.23v, 987.110v
8. MJ Barlow, 143.11v, 139.9v, 98.8v, 98.11v, 96.8v, 194.18v, 219.27v, 987.92v
9. JPL Sweet, 146.16v, 132.14v, 100.16v, 96.8v, 98.14v, 193.25v, 221.26v, 986.119v
10. AM Gent, 148.15v, 139.9v, 99.10v, 95.8v, 97.13v, 193.22v, 215.25v, 986.102v

The Elcho

1000x, 1100x, 1200x, Total
1. England 586.80v, 578.66v, 563.43v, 1727.189v
2. Scotland 588.74v, 569.48v, 558.38v, 1715.160v
3. Wales 580.57v, 552.34v, 539.25v, 1671.116v
4. Ireland 572.50v, 561.46v, 531.27v, 1664.123v

The Ashburton

300x, 500x, 600x, Total
1. RGS Guildford CCF 263.19v, 250.10v, 246.15v, 759.44v
2. Gresham's School CCF 246.15v, 261.12v, 249.13v, 756.40v
3. Sedbergh CCF 253.23v, 251.14v, 250.11v, 754.48v

**Civilian Long Range
Aggregate**

Class, winner, LRRC, RC, total
 Historic, G Corfield, 115,
 164, 279
 Iron, D Moran, 145, 244, 389
 Practical, S Sheldon, 180,
 257, 437
 Service, P Cottrell, 182, 272,
 454

**Civilian Short Range
Aggregate**

*Class, winner, SRM, UM, 300,
 200, 100, total*
 Historic, K Winning, 112,
 119, 103, 46, 17, 397
 Iron, D Moran 204, 178, 125,
 87, 37, 631
 Practical, N Stirrup, 228,
 183, 150, 96, 36, 693
 Service, N Greenaway, 244,
 193, 148, 94, 46, 725

Methuen

Class, winner, score
 Historic, LERA A, 763
 Practical Optic, LPSC A,
 1378
 Historic Individual, S Ellett,
 154
 Practical Individual, C Vale,
 242

Police Match

1. M Peppitt, 300.24X
 2. K Kilvington, 300.17X
 3. G Bowden, 300.15X

Service Match

1. M Peppitt, 116.13X
 2. N Francis, 116.11X
 3. A Podevin, 116.11X

Scott Cup

1. IA Grant, 294.15X
 2. A Podevin, 291.16X
 3. RN Fowler, 290.12X

Granet Cup

1. K Kilvington, 298.15X
 2. MJ West, 296.19X
 3. N Francis, 296.14X

Silhouettes

1. K Kilvington, 299.15X
 2. M Peppitt, 95.13X
 3. M Gibson, 295.10X

Gallery Rifle Match

1. N Francis, 586.22X
 2. MJ West, 585.26X
 3. M Peppitt, 582.21X

LSR Match

1. IA Grant, 589.31X
 2. G Bowden, 589.28X
 3. A Chamberlain, 584.18X

**British Running Deer
Championship 2019**

1st Singles, 1st Doubles, Total
 1. A Harvey, 85, 83, 168
 2. D Cottee, 80, 82, 162
 3. J Kynoch, 83, 76, 159

**F Class 150th Anniversary
International Match**

1. Great Britain
 D Lloyd, 95.6v
 P Sandie, 95.5v
 T Price, 93.4v
 G James, 86.3v
Total 369.18v
 2. Canada
 F Cotton, 96.9v
 G Holloway, 96.3v
 A MacDonald, 90.3v
 K Kyle, 87.1v
Total 369.16v

3. BDMP Germany
Total 355.12v

**F Class 150th Anniversary
International "Alongside"
Match**

1. Great Britain
 C Ridout, 85.1v
 S Gambling, 92.3v
 P Hill, 89.3v
 S Baker, 93.6v
 G James, 86.3v
 D Lloyd, 95.6v
 P Sandie, 95.5v
 T Price, 93.4v
Total 728.31v
 2. Canada
 F Cotton, 96.9v
 A MacDonald, 90.3v
 K Kyle, 87.1v
 G Holloway, 96.3v
 M de Champlain, 82.1v
 F Bezeau, 80.1v
 J Wu, 88.1v
 Z Dong Li, 82.3v
Total 701.22v

3. Germany
 R Eckbauer, 85.2v
 D Rosenberger, 93.6v
 R Adler, 88.3v
 S Schmitz, 89.1v
Total 355.12v

**F-Class International
Team Match**

900x, 1000x, Total
 1. Canada
 A Macdonald, 74.7x, 73.5x,
 147.12x
 K Kyle, 72.6x, 74.8x, 146.14x
 G Holloway, 75.7x, 69.4x,
 144.11x
 F Cotton, 74.7x, 70.2x,
 144.9x
Total 581.46x

2. England
 SJ Baker, 74.6x, 72.5x,
 146.11x
 PA Hill, 73.4x, 72.5x, 145.9x
 T Price, 72.7x, 72.7x,
 144.14x
 G Waugh, 69.5x, 68.5x,
 137.10x
Total 572.44x

3. Germany
Total 569.37x

**F Class Allcomers Team
Match**

900x, 1000x, Total
 1. England B
 J Howe, 73.6v, 72.4v,
 145.10v
 N Hampton, 73.5v, 70.4v,
 143.9v
 SJ Gambling, 71.5v, 71.5v,
 142.10v
 CR Ridout, 68.6v, 66.3v,
 134.9v
Total 564.38v

2. Maritimers
 X Li, 72.9v, 72.4v, 144.13v
 M Dechamplain, 69.3v,
 69.3v, 138.6v
 FB Bezeau, 71.3v, 66.5v,
 137.8v
 J Wu, 72.6v, 63.4v, 135.10v
Total 554.37v

**BRITISH
COMMONWEALTH
RIFLE CLUB OPEN
MEETING****The West Indies**

1. D Calvert, 50.10
 2. N. Gibbins, 50.9
 3. S. Belither, 50.8

The India

1. T Dodds, 50.8 (25.4)

2. J Ford, 50.8 (25.1)
 3. J Alexander, 50.8 (24.4)

The Africa

1. J Keates, 50.9
 2. D de Vere 50.8
 3. D Luckman, 50.8

The Canada

1. R Roberts, 75.13
 2. S East, 75.11
 3. C Haley, 75.10

**The Dominion Aggregate
(short range)**

1. D Luckman, 225.31
 2. T Dodds, 225.28
 3. J Alexander, 223.34

The Falkland Islands

1. J Messer, 50.10
 2. M Millar, 50.8
 3. P Hakim, 50.8

The Australia

1. J Messer, 75.13
 2. S Thomas, 75.12
 3. D Luckman, 75.12

The New Zealand

1. M Silver, 75.8
 2. D Luckman, 74.9
 3. J Messer, 74.9

**The Ceylon Aggregate
(long range)**

1. J Messer, 199.32
 2. M Millar, 199.27
 3. D Luckman, 198.29

**The Rampoor Aggregate
(West Indies, Canada,
Australia)**

1. D Luckman, 200.28
 2. J Messer, 199.31
 3. S Thomas, 199.29

Sighters Aggregate

1. D Luckman, 69.11
 2. S East, 69.8
 3. P Patel, 69.7

**The Commonwealth
Aggregate (Open
Championship)**

1. D Luckman, 423.60
 2. J Messer, 422.65
 3. S Thomas, 419.51

TRADE MEMBERS' LISTING

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MESSAGE



Sandy Walker talks to the NRA



Full Name: Alexander (Sandy) N R Walker

Age: 32

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I first discovered .22 shooting when I was 13 and had just started senior school at Framlingham College. I had a serious knee injury that kept me out of contact sports for a couple of years and was asked if I wanted to give .22 a go. I saw that I had a natural talent and it quickly satisfied my loss of competitive sport. Six months later I was introduced to Fullbore and have never looked back.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Aside from winning the 2019 Grand Agg knowing that I needed a 75.12 in the 12pm PoW detail, it has to be competing at the Commonwealth Games in Australia 2018 where Ian Shaw and I won bronze. This was the end result and one I had played through in my mind many times leading up to the Games but what people don't see are the hours of planning, training, perfecting and long selection process in the years prior. It was made extra special

achieving this in front of my parents, sister, best friend, fiancée and future parents in law. A moment I'll never forget!

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

Supporting my shooting financially when I was younger.

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

A huge role. They are a support through both the ups and downs.

What sort of music do you listen to?

A wide range but I'm a big fan of modern Country Music – Lady Antebellum were on repeat in Australia last year!

What Club are you a member of?

The Surrey Rifle Association and the Old Framlinghamians Rifle Club

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

My mum. She's always wanting to come and watch the main matches at the Imperial. Her endless support and willingness to drive me around the country to train or compete has been integral to my development over the years. She is, without question, the reason why I'm answering questions this year in the NRA Journal.

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

I have a fascination with America. It's vast and has such a range of scenery I can't help being drawn to it. My love for America started before I visited with shooting but the fact that it has a great championship at the Berger South West Nationals in Arizona helps!

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Bisley is my second home and offers an escape from day to day life. The place and the amazing people I have met over the years have had a major influence on me. I look forward to many years to come.

What do you like to do in your free time?

If I'm not training or competing, I enjoy travelling, spending time with Hannah, seeing friends and family and generally having fun!

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

I have slightly different routines for team and individual competitions. When shooting individually, my routine tends to kick in about 45 mins before firing my first sighter. I like to get myself ready in a certain order and will always go through the same process every time. My routine is broken down in to three phases; kit preparation behind the firing point, kit set up on the firing point and competition - after all, key to shooting well is consistency!

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

Always make sure you enjoy it.

So what next?

The last major individual prize eluding me in the UK is the Queens so that's the aim. The next aim with GB is 2021 Australia Match and the 2023 Palma where we have our work cut out to become World Champions. Hopefully shooting will return at the Commonwealth Games but lots to work towards in the meantime! ■



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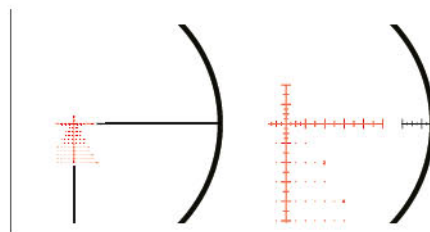
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