

ABOUT OUR CLUB



Spires was formed in 2013 by three people and the club currently has a core membership of approximately 30 people located in the South of England and Wales. As a friends and family club, we tend to find we have small clusters of members in specific locations, including Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire.

Club meetings including AGMs have historically taken place at the Witney indoor range (see below), which is located in Oxfordshire. With an increasingly geographically dispersed membership, we have taken steps to introduce video conferencing technology, which is currently being used by the club's management committee to conduct monthly meetings. We plan to make more use of video conferencing to better enable members to participate in club meetings.

The club is managed by a committee of officers who are elected annually at the club's AGM. Our constitution governs how the club operates and the committee is a representative cross section of our membership, which ensures we can more effectively take account of members' views in making club decisions.

Spires is Home Office and NRA registered. Members are covered by NRA insurance, which is a policy we renew annually. The policy is funded from the annual subscription fee which is set by the club's management committee. As well as club insurance, this fee also covers incidental club expenses, such as the club's video conferencing facility and, in response to member feedback, the cost of the printed targets which are used at the Witney and Stoke Orchard ranges.

In July 2023, we ran our first club members' survey to engage with the membership and seek feedback on what they want from the club. It has been a huge success and it is something we would like to repeat annually so that we can continue to represent members' views and make decisions reflecting the majority view. The survey was conducted electronically, which is another big step into the 21st century for Spires. We see the use of technology playing an increasing role in the way in which we communicate with our membership.

Communication with members is also undertaken via email. As well as club news, we distribute a shooting calendar, which we aim to publish twice-yearly in advance. This sets out shoots for the first and second half year, enabling members to better plan their social and shooting activities. We also send out reminders ahead of individual events.

Ideally, members should confirm their attendance at shoots by email or via Facebook (see below), although we continue to have some turn up on the day with no prior notification. Currently this is manageable, but as the club grows, we will seek to introduce a more robust booking system to enable us to plan effectively and give our membership a better shooting experience.

We have now introduced a Facebook page which is only visible to members when they request to join. Member access is managed by the Spires Facebook page administrator. Details of our shoots can also be found there in the events calendar. The page is located at:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094582292011>



OUR SHOOTING LOCATIONS

Witney Indoor Range



Located in Witney, Oxfordshire, this range is a 25 yd pistol and small-bore rifle range where members can meet and socialize as well as shoot. Our shoot takes place on the third Saturday of every month throughout the year and a 'walk on' range fee is payable by those attending. The maximum permissible calibre that can be shot at the range can be found in Section 7 of the Range Orders page on the range website:

<https://www.wpr.org.uk/?p=4>

Stoke Orchard



Stoke Orchard is a 100 yd small/full-bore range with a fully roofed firing point containing seven shooting benches. The range saw significant investment in the first half of 2023 and offers what we believe is one of the best 100 yd shooting facilities in the South of England. It is protected from wind on all sides in a stadium style layout and is located on the outskirts of Cheltenham approximately three miles from the racecourse. Our shooting takes place on the fourth Saturday of the month and a 'walk on' range fee is payable by those attending.

In the second half of 2023, we introduced additional shooting during the winter season, giving members access to outdoor activity 12-months of the year. Although the newly-built firing point provides excellent cover from the elements, at the end of every shooting detail, shooters are required to walk to the targets to check and change them for the next shooting detail. Details of permitted firearms can be found in the Stoke Orchard Range Orders.

Stoke Orchard is located by the Wingmoor re-cycling centre at GL52 7RS (OS grid ref SO 932271).

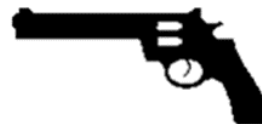
Bisley

Bisley, near Guildford, is the home of the NRA and offers extensive facilities, covering a range of shooting needs, from shotgun through to F-class shooting. From the second half of 2023, Spires will use Bisley primarily for full-bore shooters wishing to shoot at 300 yds +.

The club will be particularly focused on 600 and 900 yd shooting at the range, although there is also a 100 yd shoot for Armistice Day, a joint event with the Classic and Historic Club. Service rifles with battle sights pre-dating the end of 1945 are used for the shoot. We also run a McQueen Castle competition at 300 yds for those of you looking for more of a challenge.



Website: <https://nra.org.uk/home-page/>



CLUB SAFETY

We take safety very seriously at Spires and we have four NRA-qualified RSOs who form the club's Safety Team. One of our RSO's is RCO-qualified, which enables us to shoot at MoD ranges. The RSO team are there to protect the club and its members. Following the shooting incident in Plymouth in early 2023, we have increased the rigor around safety, and tightened up our club discipline and operating procedures. Each outdoor range shoot is managed by a qualified RSO and you will see safety briefings and safety measures being rigorously enforced. We know that members will respect the need for these measures as we all recognize the threat to our sport from the anti-shooting lobby.

MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW SHOOTERS

We are actively seeking to grow our membership. Any member joining the club is required to complete a probationary period of 6 -12 months. If you are new to shooting, you will always receive 'on-the-shoot' training and supervision.

At the end of your probationary period, you will be assessed to ensure you are safe and able to progress to full membership. This will make you eligible to apply for a Firearms Certificate and buy and own firearms and ammunition. If you are an existing FAC holder, you are still required to be passed as 'safe' by the club Safety Team.

Finally, on behalf of the club's management committee, I'd like to welcome you to Spires and I hope that you enjoy playing an active part in our community.

Simon Robinson

Club Secretary

Spires Rifle and Pistol Club

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