

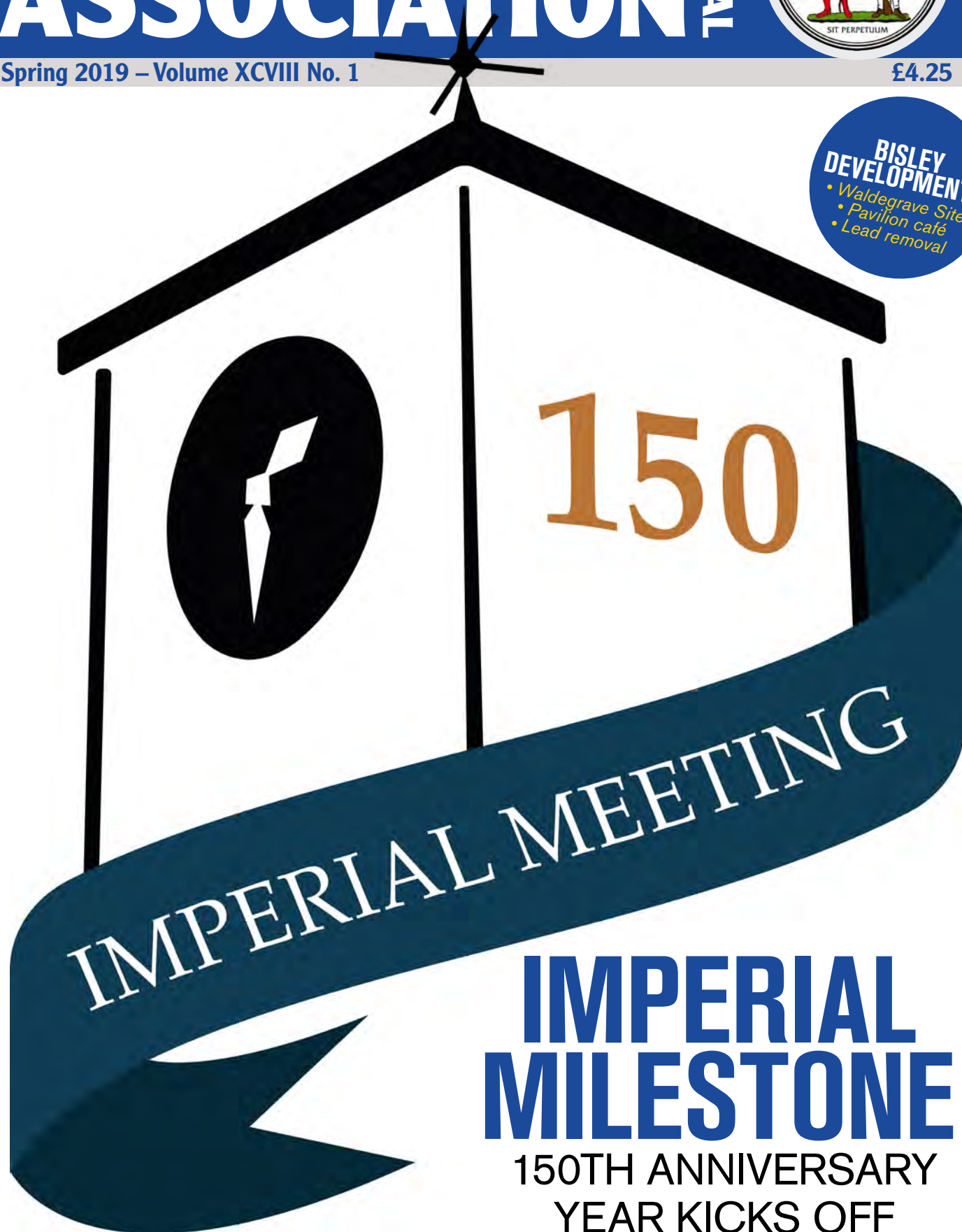
# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

Spring 2019 – Volume XCVIII No. 1



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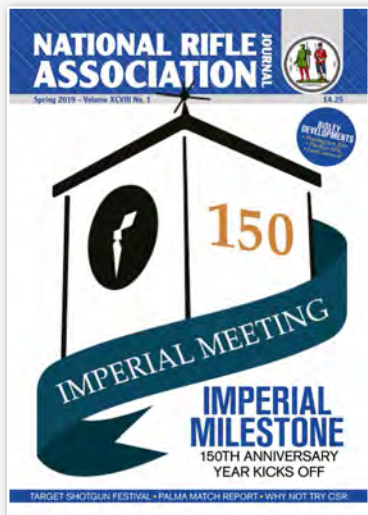
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# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



Spring 2018 – Volume XCVIII No. 1



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## 5 WELCOME

CEO Andrew Mercer outlines all the projects and initiatives set to drive the NRA forward this year

## 6 CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

NRA Chairman John Webster looks forward to another year on the ranges

## 8 NEWS

Certificate processing update, new range regulations, and other essential news for NRA members

## 12 SHOOTING PROCEDURES

How range use will change from 2020 to get more from the Bisley ranges

## 14 NEWS FROM NZ

How the Great Britain team got on during its tour to New Zealand for the Palma

## 20 SHOTGUN START

Rounding up all the action from a busy Target Shotgun Festival

## 22 SCENES FROM SAW

Everything that was going on across the ranges during the Spring Action Weekend

## 25 CARAVAN OPPORTUNITIES

Building is under way on the Waldegrave Site and you can reserve your space now



20

## 26 FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Bisley Pavilion's new café is not far from opening

## 29 DISCIPLINE UPDATE: TR

News for TR shooters including courses and ammo updates

## 30 IMPERIAL PREVIEW

Everything to expect when the 150th Imperial Meeting takes place

## 34 DISCIPLINE: CSR

Why CSR is among the fastest-growing of the NRA's constituent disciplines

## 38 DISCIPLINE: 300M

Combining the best of small-bore and fullbore shooting, 300m is worth a look for those wanting something different

## 43 DISCIPLINE: SR

A roundup of the events available to Sporting Rifle shooters

## 45 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

What the NRA is doing to reduce the amount of lead deposited in the land at Bisley

## 50 TRAINING UPDATE

The NRA Training department is growing...

## 52 REGIONAL UPDATE

Nic Couldrey provides news from Somerset to Caerphilly to Glasgow

## 52 OBITUARIES

Remembering Alan Sainter, Robert Edmiston and Roy Taylor

## 56 NOTICES

Essential updates all NRA members need to know about

## 58 CALENDAR

Plan your shoots for all of the rest of 2019

## 60 RESULTS

Classified results from major events taking place this spring

## 64 TRADE MEMBERS

The NRA's up-to-date trade member listing

## 66 MESSAGE 10

An interview with new Bisley Sporting Clays manager, Richie Vallance

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# Bright start

**Despite what misleading mainstream news stories may lead us to believe, there's plenty for target shooters to be cheerful about in 2019, says NRA CEO Andrew Mercer**

**T**hreats to target shooting abound. Just as we reach the final stages of the Offensive Weapons Bill, up pops a front page article in The Times with the headline "Military-style firearms for sale in British shops", and a leader calling for the prohibition of such firearms. Their statement "It is integral to British public life that guns are held by the armed forces and some specialists in the police, but by few others" is plainly wrong – there are around 2,250,000 firearms legally owned by civilians in the UK.

Another statement "A paucity of guns translates into a low level of gun crime" is again grossly misleading; prohibiting firearms does not affect those with evil or dishonest intent, but punishes the law-abiding shooting community. A criminal or terrorist will hardly apply to their local UK police force for a firearms certificate, inviting the detailed scrutiny and background checks that all UK applicants receive. The UK prohibition of civilian ownership of pistols, enacted in 1998, has had no effect on the use of pistols in gun crime. Government statistics confirm that pistols are the most commonly used firearm in gun crime. In 1997 (before the ban) 2,648 crimes involving pistols were recorded in England and Wales; this rose to 5,874 in 2002, and has been in steady decline to 2,685 in 2017. Where is the evidence that banning civilian ownership of guns protects the public?

Perhaps not surprisingly, my letter to the Times editor pointing out these facts was not published. It is critical that the shooting community stands together to repel these attacks on our sport. I know some in the live quarry shooting community think they are immune to such attacks, but the wider public view of owning guns and then using them to kill wildlife is likely to be equally unfavourable as owning 'black rifles'.

On a brighter note, our plans for a cracking celebration for the 150th Imperial meeting are nearly complete. Great camaraderie, keen competition, large numbers of international visitors, and jolly live music concerts will all feature. Online bookings are now open, and the number of entries is very pleasing. Please do not leave your accommodation booking until the last moment or you are likely to be disappointed. The 2019 GGG meeting ammunition has been delivered; we will shortly publish the test results.

At Bisley, contractors are busy with works to deliver the new Pavilion café and kitchen, which will open in May 2019. Think 'coffee with cake' and 'soup and a sandwich', i.e. a 'Costa-style' operation – open to all!



Works are also progressing well to deliver 39 new serviced caravan pitches on Waldegrave site. These will be available in time for the 2019 Imperial and, at the time of writing, we have a number of pitches still available – contact [chris.dyers@nra.org.uk](mailto:chris.dyers@nra.org.uk) for further details.

As if the excitement of the 150th Imperial, new café and Waldegrave caravan site was not enough, we will be taking in hand the sporting clay operation on Cottesloe Heath and Long Siberia when Bisley Shooting Ground's licence expires on 30 June 2019. Our newly appointed clays General Manager, Richie Vallance, is in post and working hard building a team to enable a smooth transition of this busy part of the NRA's Bisley operations.

When matters are fevered, I find a walk around the ranges the perfect antidote. Seeing hundreds of target shooters using a wide variety of rifles across a dazzling array of courses of fire, all in a calm, measured and good-humoured manner, is the perfect reminder of the great sport enjoyed by so many. ■

# A word from the chairman

**NRA chairman, John Webster, calls for unity among NRA members as we begin another action-packed year of shooting**

2019 promises to be a memorable year for fullbore shooting. The World Long Range Target Rifle Championships have already been completed in New Zealand. I congratulate Australia, who pretty much dominated across the board, and New Zealand, for delivering an organisational triumph at surely one of the most challenging rifle ranges in the world.

At this year's Imperial meeting, the NRA is seeking to emulate NRANZ's success, as it will be the 150th occasion of our Annual Prize Meeting. There are special events planned throughout, in particular the Imperial 150th Team event, culminating in an evening of celebration and entertainment on the second Thursday. We expect a substantial turnout, particularly from overseas, given that we are hosting the Woomera Match in Match Rifle, and the America Match in Target Rifle, which may have as many as 15 international teams competing. Please book early (via the website is best) to ensure you don't miss out.

The excitement of expectation for the upcoming season is in sharp contrast to the backdrop of March's tragedy in Christchurch, New Zealand. UK firearms laws would almost certainly have prevented the perpetrator from acquiring here the firearms he used in New Zealand. Nonetheless, firearms ownership in this country remains under threat from changes to legislation and from the costs potentially to be claimed for the policing of that legislation, which the authorities may seek to raise from responsible and law-abiding firearms holders.

When there are so many external challenges, it is all the more disappointing that a small number of our own members have sought to pursue narrow vested interests at the possible expense of all, for example through challenges via our status as a charity or by fomenting noise complaints. We each join the NRA to serve its purposes in the interests of the public at large, not merely to consume its services, yet



it seems we often “wax hot in faction” (to quote the poet Macauley). This results in scarce resources being diverted to deal with internally generated issues, where they might otherwise be applied more productively to the direct furthering of marksmanship as a whole.

So, let us remember that reaching 150 Annual Prize Meetings takes real staying power, and we have got here before football, cricket, rugby, and even golf. That is something to be rightly proud of, but it has been done by everyone sharing a common purpose and working for the greater good. It is my fervent wish that our Association holds another 150 Annual Prize Meetings, but to do so we must regain this focus.

Good shooting, and I look forward to seeing you on the ranges. ■

**“Reaching 150 Annual Prize Meetings takes real staying power, and we have got here before football, cricket, rugby, and even golf. That is something to be rightly proud of**



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# NEWS

## REPORTS



## FINAL DEFEAT FOR .50 CAL BAN

Politicians appear to have put paid to plans to prohibit 'high muzzle energy' rifles – most notably .50 cal's – for the last time.

The proposals to restrict any rifles producing over 13,600 Joules of energy at the muzzle, had originally been tabled as part of the Offensive Weapons Bill, but were subsequently removed from the Bill following submissions from a number of shooting organisations, including the Fifty Calibre Shooters' Association.

During the Bill's 4 March sitting in the House of Lords – the second sitting of the Lords report stage – Labour's Home Affairs spokesperson, Lord Kennedy, tabled an amendment that would restore this ban to the Bill with the exact wording with which it was originally proposed.

He had done this during the Lords' first reading and the amendment was not moved. This time, it was withdrawn. The government made the concession that in time it would introduce stronger requirements for security and travel arrangements, following a public consultation.

Both houses are now considering amendments to the Bill before its text is finalised and it moves to Royal Assent, though banning fifty-cals now appears to be absent from the discussion.

As part of the same debate, there was a move towards standardising processes and costs for granting or renewing a firearms certificate across the UK, as the government said it would publish a draft of statutory firearms licensing guidance this summer.

Earl Howe, minister of state for defence, undertook to hold a public consultation on the introduction of statutory guidance to police chief officers "that will apply to issues such as background checks, medical suitability, and other criteria to protect public safety."

This would end nearly three years of turmoil over the involvement of the medical profession in firearms licensing, which has raged since a GP's report became an explicit part of the application process in 2016.

And it could be another step in alleviating the problems with certificates taking an unacceptably long time to grant.

## CERTIFICATE GRANTS GET SLIGHTLY FASTER

It takes 69 days on average for a new firearms certificate to be granted, and 48 days for an FAC renewal on average, according to new figures.

Commissioned by BASC, the research found that firearms licensing units got slightly faster in 2018. The average FAC grant speed was level with 2017, while renewals were five days faster.

Shotgun certificate grants, SGC renewals and coterminous grants all also showed a slight improvement.

There is, however, still a stark contrast between the performances of various different forces. In Lancashire, for example, it took an average of 38 days for an FAC grant and 24 for a renewal; in South Wales, the same processes would have taken 155 and 151 days respectively.

BASC's head of firearms Paul Dale said: "It is encouraging to see an overall improvement in performance but it remains disappointing to see the huge difference in turnaround times.

"Those forces that are under performing should liaise with the more efficient forces to identify ways in which they can streamline their processes and improve the service they provide.

"All forces should be striving towards providing an efficient, cost-effective, robust system of firearms licensing that protects public safety and provides excellent service to the shooting community."



# NEW RANGE REGULATIONS

The new Bisley Range Regulations are now in effect. The main effort during the revision has been to simplify the language but there are some specific changes to be aware of. Some areas that require emphasis are shown below:

- 3. Only the Chief Executive of the National Shooting Centre may approve the consumption of alcohol or the use of S.5 Firearms on Ranges.
- 4. All shooters are responsible for ensuring that their firearms and ammunition are safe to use. Shooters are to make firearms and ammunition available for inspection and testing as requested by NRA staff.
- 17.f. Winans Bay A (No Danger Area Range, up to 25 metres). Rifles and pistols (including airguns) (maximum muzzle velocity of 655 m/s (2150 ft/s), maximum muzzle energy of 2030J (1496 ft lb)). Shotguns up to and including 12 bore.
- 21. Only NRA members, previously agreed commercial customers and members of organisations affiliated to the NRA may use the NSC Ranges (other than the Clay Target Ranges). Affiliated Members may also use the Zero Range on the day of, and the day preceding, an authorised range booking on Stickledown, Century or Short Siberia Ranges made by their parent organisation.
- 33. Shooters are not permitted to place equipment of any kind, including sensors and cameras, on the mantlet or targetry.
- 34. Indiscriminate firing is forbidden. Shooters must prioritise the requirement to hit the target over the need to meet time constraints.
- 39. The senior member of the Range Office staff on duty acts as CRO for the NSC.
- 55. No person may leave firearms or ammunition unattended. When not in use all firearms and ammunition must be secured in accordance with firearms legislation. Responsibility for the security of firearms and ammunition rests with the owner at all times.
- 56. The RO is responsible for any Marker that is not provided by the NRA.
- 66. All persons using Shotguns and GRP Firearms and all persons on Ranges where such firearms are in use should wear eye protection. Eye protection is mandatory in the circumstances set out in the NRA Eye Protection Policy at Appendix III to the NRA Handbook.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### IMPERIAL ENTRIES ARE OPEN

Entries to the 150th Imperial Meeting for Target Rifle, Match Rifle and F Class are now open. Full details of this year's programme, including new team competitions, can be found in the 2019 NRA Handbook (Bisley Bible) now available online. If you are entering for the first time, there is also a 'How to Enter Guide' just for you. Head to [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk) to find out more.

### ISSF VISITS TOKYO

An ISSF delegation has visited Tokyo, the host city of the 2020 Olympic Games, ahead of the shooting events taking place in the Games next year. The ISSF delegation discussed several important topics with representatives of the Organising Committee's sports department, including transportation, venue management, accommodation, procurement, sport presentation and other services. The ISSF said the meeting had had a "positive outcome".

### BECOME AN IMPERIAL MARKER

Are you interested in becoming a Target Marker for at the Imperial this July?

Application forms are now available – head to [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk) for the form and the marker starter pack. To apply you must be 16 by 11 July 2019.

Forms must be completed and handed back to the NRA Range Office or sent to [imperialmarkers@nra.org.uk](mailto:imperialmarkers@nra.org.uk) by 12 May 2019. Please also attach a recent headshot photo to your front form.

# NEW MANAGEMENT FOR SPORTING CLAYS AT BISLEY

Richie Vallance has been appointed as general manager of Bisley Sporting Ground, on behalf of the NRA.

Richie has served in the Army for nearly 30 years, and his many achievements include the creation and development of the Army Clay Target Shooting Centre. He is a qualified CPSA level 3 senior coach, course tutor and assessor, and is the consultant training manager for the CPSA.

Andrew Mercer, NRA chief executive, said "I am pleased as punch to have Richie leading the new team to develop our world-class sporting clay shooting operation at Bisley. The NRA has decided to take in hand all clay shooting at Bisley and we have exciting plans to build upon what is already a popular and successful operation. We are planning an extensive refurbishment of the sporting layouts in July and August."



# BIRMINGHAM BISLEY: ENTER NOW

Details have been released for the Birmingham Bisley 2019, taking place on 1-2 June at Kingsbury Range.

The Competition will follow the same basic pattern as last year but with equal numbers of cups for F/TR as TR, special 'Birmingham Bisley' gold and silver (coloured) medals, and prizes for Class O/T competitors in each competition.

The timetable is as follows:

## Saturday 1 June

Competition 1: The Warwickshire

TR – 2+10 at 300 and 600 yards

F Class – 2+10 at 300, 2+15 at 600 yards

Competition 2: The Kingsbury

TR and F Class – 2+15 at 500 yards

Competition 3: The Birmingham Post

Aggregate

Aggregate of Competitions 1 and 2

Club Teams – concurrent with

Competition 3. Entries made on the

range, £5 per team of 3.

## Sunday 2 June

Competition 4: The Worcestershire  
Regiment

TR – 2+10 at 300 and 500 yards

F Class – 2+10 at 300, 2+15 at 500 yards

Competition 5: The Staffordshire

TR and F Class – 2+15 at 600 yards

Competition 6: The Midlands Counties

Aggregate

Aggregate of Competitions 4 and 5

Club Teams – concurrent with

Competition 6. Entries made on the

range, £5 per team of 3.

Competition 7: The Queen Elizabeth II  
Coronation Grand Aggregate

Aggregate of Competitions 1, 2, 4 and 5

For an entry form, head to [nra.org.uk/events/birminghambisley2019](http://nra.org.uk/events/birminghambisley2019). Entries close on 18 May.



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# NEW ISSF CHIEF CALLS FOR MODERNISATION

In an interview in his new role as president of the ISSF, Vladimir Lisin says he will make it his mission to expand shooting's audience and make it more attractive to young participants.

"In order to be popular and keep the tradition, any sport should be interesting to the viewer. Undoubtedly, shooting sport is interesting for those who is already shooting. But it is wrong to limit ourselves by staying within a group of shooters from shooting clubs only," he said in an interview with Italy's *Armi e Tiro* magazine, subsequently published on the ISSF website.

Italy, of course, saw its native candidate Luciano Rossi defeated in the ISSF presidential election, and, perhaps in an allusion to this, *Armi e Tiro* asked how Italy would have a role in the future of the federation now that "in the new ISSF there are few Italians." Lisin's response was that they should come up with a contribution of their own: "The Italian industry can join not only to increase the Fund created by me, but also to make a great contribution to

its development – in Europe at least." Lisin himself, of course, has donated \$10m to a new development fund for the shooting sports.

On the attempts to restore Double Trap, prone rifle and 50m pistol to the Olympic programme, he said: "My attempts to revive these disciplines in Europe have shown that gender equality is still unattainable, and in some disciplines the number of participants is falling. However, they can be restored only by those who not only use the word 'want', but also come up with how to do it. I'm ready to assist."

And he went on to say: "If I could I would include in the Olympic Games another 10-15 shooting events (besides existing). But I want to remind you that the decision of inclusion into the Olympic program is made by the IOC together with the Organising Committees of the host countries. It depends on popularity. And, as you might know, the number of participants in the Olympics is limited in all sports, otherwise the Games would last for months."

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# Lane changes

**To make ranges available to as many people as possible, there will be some alterations to the Shooting Procedures at Bisley from March 2020**

There is a steady increase in NRA membership. During 2018 the NRA recruited around 1,030 new members and we seem to be achieving that recruitment rate year on year. In comparison the membership attrition rate is around 3 per cent. This is a net increase of around 730 members per year. Our range space, and therefore capacity, at Bisley is finite and we are already denying an increasing number of members the opportunity to shoot owing to declined range booking requests. Morally, if we are to continue recruiting we must address the issues that are restricting our capacity and ensure we can accommodate the members we recruit.

We must ensure that we use the available range capacity efficiently. There are several ways in which we can address this and it will take some effort, commitment and coordination from all parties:

- Clubs and members requesting range space must be accurate in the date they wish to shoot and the amount of space they need. Cancelled bookings or reducing the number of lanes required frustrates



everyone involved, from the Range Office who have to manually replot the range laydown to the member/club who have a booking request declined only to find that on the day there is space available. The provision of accurate information at the annual Range Booking Conference and prompt confirmation of bookings online, will be critical.

- We fully acknowledge that Members and Clubs must be able to see range availability so that they can book accurately and select an alternative distance if there is insufficient capacity at the preferred distance. However, identifying a company that is willing and capable of producing the required program and has the capacity to do so has been challenging and thus

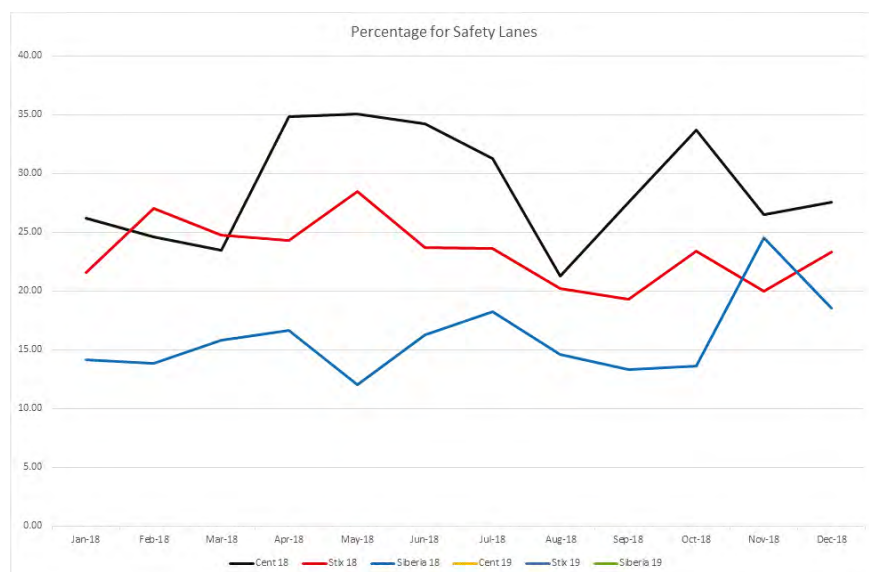
far unsuccessful but it remains a priority and we now have a short list of suitable companies. There is no short-term fix but we are optimistic that 2020 bookings will be plotted on a new, web-based system.

## Most importantly:

- We must maximise the range space that is available to be booked. This can only be achieved by changing the way in which we plan and conduct shooting during the high season. The diagram below shows the percentage of range space designated as safety lanes during 2018:

• The safety space required, due to echelon shooting, in April through to July in 2018 was over 30 per cent of the total range space available. This will be untenable in the future and from March 2020 we will be restricting echelon shooting. Once the new system is in place only designated distances will be shot on a particular day. The distances to be shot will be identified through the demand data gathered in previous years. The reduction in distances available per day will minimise the amount of range space allocated to safety. Under this system there will be no independent fall back permitted.

- This decision will not be popular in all quarters and it will undoubtedly affect some Open Competition scheduling. However, it will ensure that we provide shooting to the maximum number of members and clubs possible within our limited resources. ■





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# Hot competition

**It was off to New Zealand for the defending World Champions of the Great Britain Palma Team in January and February**

**A**fter over two years as a squad, the Great Britain Palma team left Bisley on Saturday 19 January to travel to Trentham in New Zealand to defend their World Long Range title at the Palma Match. Ahead of them lay a little R&R, a couple of days' team training, the Wellington RA Championship, Masefield, Ballinger Belt, World Individual Long Range and Palma Match but, first, 25 hours of flying and a 13-hour time difference.

## **EARLY SHOTS**

After a period of settling in, the following Friday saw the team head to the range in full force for a practice session. Conditions were beautiful, with well-tended firing points and lush greenery on the surrounding hills. The temperature was in the high 20s, with intermittent sun and thin high cloud.

Day one was at 300 and 600 yards and day two practice at 300, 900 and 1,000 yards. The latter shooting was in challenging, changeable conditions, varying from 11 minutes left to a small amount of right wind, with changes so

quick that they were hard to keep up with – a taste of things to come.

The last warm-up shooting was the Wellington RA Championship, a one-day shoot comprising 2+7s at four distances. There was a little drizzle in the morning and calm wind, so an easy reintroduction to 'string shooting'. The afternoon was more interesting, however, and caused the dropping of points by most. Our highest scorers, Bruce Winney and Parag Patel, finished 14th and 15th on 137.15, behind winner Andre du Toit of South Africa on 139.17.

## **NEW ZEALAND MATCH**

The New Zealand Match, selected before any competitive shots had been fired, consisted of two sighters and 10 counting shots at 300, 600, 900 & 1,000 yards. The 300-yard shoot set the scene for the day: GB scored 493 with 60 v-bulls but Australia were leading with an impressive 498 and 64 v-bulls. By lunchtime, after 600 yards GB were lying third, 11 points behind Australia and a single point behind the USA, having lost a shot to a bolt

problem. At 900 yards we felt totally in control of quite a tricky, changing, wind but lost a further eight points to Australia and at 1,000 yards they gained a further seven to take the win (1955.185v to 1929.158v). The USA didn't have a good 900, so slipped back to third overall, 10 points behind GB. Individual honours went to James Watson (coached by Matthew Ensor) with a fabulous 198.19, the highest score of the day.

## **MASEFIELD**

Low cloud cover burned off soon enough late in the 300 yard shoot of the Masefield, leaving 600 yards pretty warm and, after a two hour lunch break at 11am, the 900 and 1,000 yard shoots were in the hottest conditions so far. Temperatures were in the low 30s and a gentle morning wind became more fickle in the afternoon, with fast changing brackets of five to eight right with gusts up to 10, reducing to one to three right by the later shooters. GB's highest scorer was David Luckman on 139.12 and the winner of the Masefield was Arno Hasbroek of South Africa with 140.19.

### BALLINGER BELT

The Ballinger Belt (the NZ Grand/Queen's) had a gentle start on day one, with two 300 and two 500-yard distances. Acclimatisation was in full swing and scores improved, with Matthew Ensor the top Brit on the first day with 199.22. The competition was strong, though – there were 11 scores of 200.

On the second day, the heat was less draining and there were only three shoots, making it more manageable. 600 yards began in a dead calm and unsurprisingly saw 145 scores of 50. 900 yards was shot in the late morning, with more variable but still mild wind. 1,000 yards was a different matter. 96 out of 352 recorded scores were below 40 and there were just two 50s. Wind ranged from zero to about eight minutes right for much of the detail, with most people experiencing a five minute-wide bracket within that. After our confidence had been bashed to different degrees, a small group visited the target end of the range to look back and consider the effect of some of the terrain and intermittent shelter from trees. A walk down any range is certainly to be recommended if available. Trentham has its own 'magpie alley', in this case on the far left at long range, where firing points 1-10 shoot through a confluence of currents from behind coming from either side and then over a pair of dunnies abutting the fairway of the neighbouring golf course.

Day three was shot at the same ranges and the Trentham winds returned in full force. A brisk wind down the range led to rapidly fishtailing conditions from the start of the 600-yard match at 8.30am, leading to only twelve 50s. The 900 and 1,000-yard ranges to follow were very challenging. Scores in the 30s were common at 900, with the GB team managing an average of 43 at 900; John Snowden's (NZ) solitary 50.4 won the range. At 1,000 yards, we only averaged 40; our highest scores were 47.1 by Parag Patel and 46.4 by Matthew Charlton. Wind calls of 11 right to five left were noted – changing through much of that range quickly between shots. A five-minute wind change will blow the bullet completely off target here and there were a number of 'on aim' misses recorded across the range.

On Saturday, the team awoke to a day of blue skies and apparently calmer wind and a team match in the morning. The team split into four separate target teams of five shooters each, with each target coach looking after shooters from the same club but not his usual target team over 2+7s at 300x, 500x and 600x. A calm (ish – one still had to pay attention) 300x detail was followed by a stronger, fickle fishtail at 500x and a very interesting 600x wind detail. Three of our teams dropped between 13 and 16 points overall, while Holsworthy and Lyndhurst from Australia and the top South African team dropped eight each. Our Surrey RA Gold team (Matt Charlton coaching Parag Patel, Sandy Walker, Toby Raincock, Nigel Ball and Jon Underwood) dropped two points at 300 and none at 500 to be level with three teams but third on V-bulls. At 600 they got off to a slow start, as each of Parag's inner sighters was followed by a wind change, and leaders Holsworthy looked to be leaking a point or two. So Sandy fired a sighter out of turn, and after another lengthy wait fired another to confirm the value of what looked like an attractive patch of weather. It was a five and was swiftly followed by all seven of Parag's counting shots and a few of Sandy's before an inner was recorded. The range continued in staccato style, with long, patient waits interrupted by quick bursts of a few shots. And by the end, the team was victorious with a score of 519

ex-525, albeit with 20 fewer V-bulls than second place! An excellent performance, finally getting GB on the board with a team win.

We reconvened at 2pm ready to cheer on Parag, Nigel and David in the final, which was 2+15 at 900x to be added to the Belt aggregate. A typically windy and rapidly changing detail left the 20 finalists with a lot to think about. Most scored at least one outer, with several recording a few, and there was only one score above 69. All three British finalists performed well and moved up the standings, with Nigel scoring a 67.5, and Parag and David scoring a 69.4 and a 69.5 respectively. Parag ended up finishing fourth, David 10th and Nigel 13th.

### WORLD INDIVIDUAL LONG RANGE CHAMPIONSHIP

The individual Worlds were kicked off by an opening ceremony that started with all the New Zealand shooters lined up facing



Winds were not only strong, but at fast-changing angles, as this photo shows



Competition was strong and, when conditions allowed, scores were exceptional



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us, to greet us as we all walked forward. A local Maori leader spoke, sang and invoked a blessing, and was followed by an address from the NZ Defence Minister and the ceremonial opening shot, fired by 85 year-old Barry Geange, at his 60th NZ meeting, who scored a bullseye with a 100 year-old SMLE Mk3 .303. We returned that afternoon for the opening 800-yard shoot, which was unusually shot in minimal to no mirage. The rear fishtail (now very familiar, albeit unpredictable) was challenging, leading to only one 75 and three 74s among the team, and quite a few lower scores.

The next morning's 900-yard shoot was challenging, the winds building further through the two hours that it took to complete the range. By the time we 'fell back' to 1,000 yards the wind was blowing straight down the range but angling in both directions. Some chose to take on the changes, making sight corrections as needed. Others waited for the wind to change back to something that they felt they could read... not always correctly. We were reassured to see that the reigning world champion (Ben Emms from Australia) managed only 57 ex-75, putting some of our scores into context – there were many on the range in the 40s and 50s, which would be rare elsewhere. David Luckman finished the first stage in fourth place, having won the 900 yard shoot with 75.9. Jim Bailey led.

The final shoot of the day was the second 800-yard shoot. As the wind picked up, there were only three 75s at 900 yards despite the fairly low wind numbers needed. 1,000 yards in the late morning was substantially more challenging, with greater wind strength and quicker fishtailing switches. Only five scores exceeded 70, including a 71.6 for David Luckman, placing him second.

The third 800-yard shoot was a relatively high-scoring one, but there was still only one 75 on the range. James Watson was

Firing off matting on the hot road



the winner of the 800-yard aggregate with 222.15. Overnight placings put David Luckman and Parag Patel in sixth and tenth places.

The first shooters at 900 yards the next morning could have just about completed their shoots before the wind started blowing. Slower shooters on the first relay enjoyed a changeable two to three minutes of left wind for their last few shots. Thereafter the wind picked up. By the time all had finished many had failed to break 60 ex-75. David Luckman won the 900 yard aggregate, with 223.24. At 1,000 yards, scores were the lowest all week, with the top scorers on many targets in the 50s. The top overall (among 300 of the best shots worldwide) was D Smith from the Australian rifle team with 69.5. The 1,000-yard aggregate was won by Jim Bailey on 205.12, by a point from David Luckman. Scores were rapidly processed by the NRA of NZ with the top 10 for the final of the World Individual Long Range Championships being announced during the long lunch break.

David Luckman went into the final in sixth place, eight points behind leader Steve Negus of Australia – an apparently huge gap. Conditions were at least as

challenging as in the morning matches, and David's 66.4 (benefiting from a rapid middle section in slightly more manageable wind) was the top score among the finalists. It became apparent that young Mitch Bailey was ahead of David on V-bulls and Steve Negus of Australia required an outer with his last to count in order to win... and an outer is what he scored – it was that hard! Steve's 59.1 won him the individual Gold, while David rose to third overall, a single point behind the new world champion.

#### PALMA MATCH

Match day brought a slightly later departure for the range as the referees had chosen a 9.15am start to allow for even light conditions across the targets (the left-hand bank had started in shade at 8.30am all week). After the customary warm-up led by Zoe, we awaited the draw for targets, which started at the far left of the range at 800 yards, central at 900 and near the right for the final shoot of the day. South Africa led after 800 yards with 1194 ex-1200, two points ahead of Australia. GB had a disappointing start with 1181 for fourth place. Being to the left side of the range, our coaches had a little less notice of wind changes but there were some loose shots fired too.

At 900 and 1,000 yards, GB and USA managed similar scores with GB ahead by three at 900 and USA ahead at 1,000 by just two points despite a rear sight failure for Matt Button. Australia, however,

**Steve Negus of Australia required an outer with his last to count in order to win... and an outer is what he scored**



The GB team on parade at the ranges

## ***In difficult conditions, GB put in an excellent performance to take 21 points out of the US***

maintained strong form through the day, winning at each of the longer ranges to lead overall by 34 points at the end of day one. We lay third, behind the USA. A team get-together before dinner for some rousing words preceded an early night for all.

The second day gave GB the chance to try and claw back the deficit. Early forecasts had predicted strong winds for today, but we were greeted with flags stuck to the poles in an unusually calm morning. GB were determined to get off to a better start, which we did, shooting quickly to finish a few seconds after the USA in 25 minutes or so, and only dropping two points out of 1200. Unfortunately, anything we can do the Aussies can do better, and they finished that range with an impressive 1200 ex-1200. 900x started to show greater changeability of wind, and while GB continued to improve, the Australians once again proved that their preparation over the past few years at this range was

worth the effort, extending their lead by 15 points. It was starting to become a battle for second place, with GB gaining four points on the US to be only six points back in third. However, as we have seen so often on this tour, at 1,000x in the afternoon there is only one winner: Seddon Range. The winds picked up over the right shoulder and we saw wind consistently stronger than anything we had seen before in the tour – approaching double figures of minutes at times. Missed wind calls could now mean outers, not just inners. GB has historically been very strong here, so as a team we were determined to go out on a high. In difficult conditions, employing much of our team training (including ping-ponging – effective albeit frustrating for the firers) to try and stay on top, GB put in an excellent performance to take 21 points out of the US and claim a clear second place. However, Australia took 26 more points out of us to win their fifth range of

the match and win the Palma Match for the first time since 1988.

When the dust had settled, there was a little time for reflection. GB had started slowly but the Australian dominance of this range started right at the beginning of the tour and it was always going to be an uphill struggle to overcome them. On an individual front, Toby Raincock for the second Palma in succession was top GB shot (coached by Matt Ensor) on 440.40, by a single V-bull from Tom Drysdale (Matt Charlton) and three from Jon Underwood (Bruce Winney). Derek Lowe's top scorer was Jane Messer on 438.43. Mitch Bailey of Australia came close to setting a new record, having shot five 75s in a row before the final 1000x (he finished with a 67). Brandon Green of the US finished day 2 with 225 ex-225 – a truly epic shoot that had started with a 75.14.

The final word is one of thanks from all the team to those who have supported us: families, friends, employers, sponsors, fellow shooters, our NZ hosts and the team management (not least Chris Hockley on fundraising, Nick Tremlett as main coach and Dave Rose for his legendary adjutanting) for their enormous workload. ■

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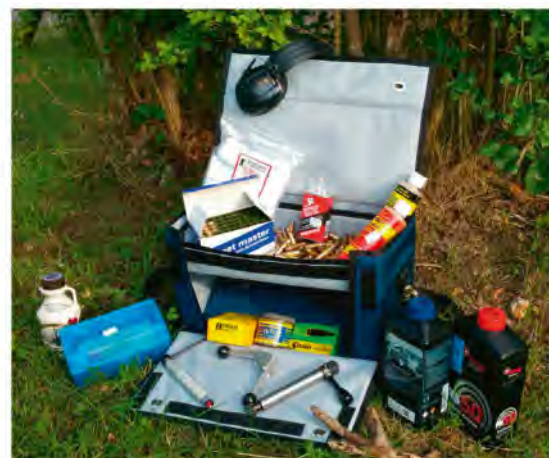
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**Trafalgar Meeting** - Bisley National Rifle Ranges 19th-20th October

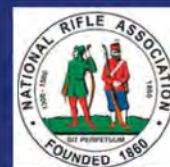
*There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.*

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# Festival in the Fog

**Low visibility? No problem if you shoot at shotgun ranges. James Harris reports from a real pea-souper at the Target Shotgun Festival 2019**

**S**aturday mornings in February on Sticklepath can be unpredictable insofar as the weather goes. The choices are normally monsoon rains, arctic blizzard, or a mild form of permafrost. However, this year brought another variation to the Shotgun Festival: Flat calm and foggy, with visibility down to 100 yards. It was a complete reverse of the 2018 meeting, which saw gale force winds bending the targets in half.

So while all the rifle shooters sat and drank tea waiting to be able to shoot, the shotgunners just got on with it. The successful format for the festival is for the solid slug matches to be held on the Saturday while preparations are put in place for the

Shotgun League match on the Sunday. A bumper entry of competitors saw all 15 targets on Butt Zero put into use for most of the morning and thankfully there were no breakdowns or problems related to the shooting. There was, however, a 'STOP!' when a lost driver thought they would follow their sat nav, which was directing them across Sticklepath via the access gate... Some rapid reaction by the ROs and some words of advice to the driver saw the issue resolved promptly. Please note that incidents like this need to be reported to control for investigation and follow up.

Notwithstanding the interruption, some very fine shooting was to be seen, though no possibles were scored. After steadily rising

through the results over the last few years Tim Jemmett finally picked up a Gold in the T&P1 Auto despite a recent shoulder injury with 299 and 17x, just edging John Chambers into second with a score of 299 and 14x. In this match the highest placed shooter with iron sights was Peter Guiney, scoring 292 with 12x. In the manual action class Terry Fry recorded a respectable 299 with 17x, pushing John Chambers into second with 298 and 21x. Top iron-sighted shooter was Steve East, he of TR fame, achieving 287 and 8x and also taking fourth place. In the Multi-Target match Rob Sanders put in a fine performance to win the auto class with 117 and 12x and also the manual action class with 114 and 12x. Long-

**While all the rifle shooters sat and drank tea waiting to be able to shoot, the shotgunners just got on with it**

time range officer and GB gallery rifle team member Peter Matthews picked up the gold medal in the NRA Embassy cup with a score of 119 ex120.

With the slug matches completed, the crew turned their attention to getting ready for Sunday's Shotgun League match. However, a positive write-up for that event is not possible. Due to a combination of slow shooters in the morning and the time restrictions on the event due to the noise complaints, not all the competitors were able to complete the event and so no overall scores were produced. It is evident that this match will need to move to later in the year during the summer hours to cope with the number of competitors that wish to take part. It is also clear that the ramifications of restrictions placed on a large number of shooters by a few complainants have yet to fully hit home. ■





# Rifle, cameras, **action!**

The Spring Action Weekend was a celebration of target shooting in all its forms – here are a few images from the ranges...





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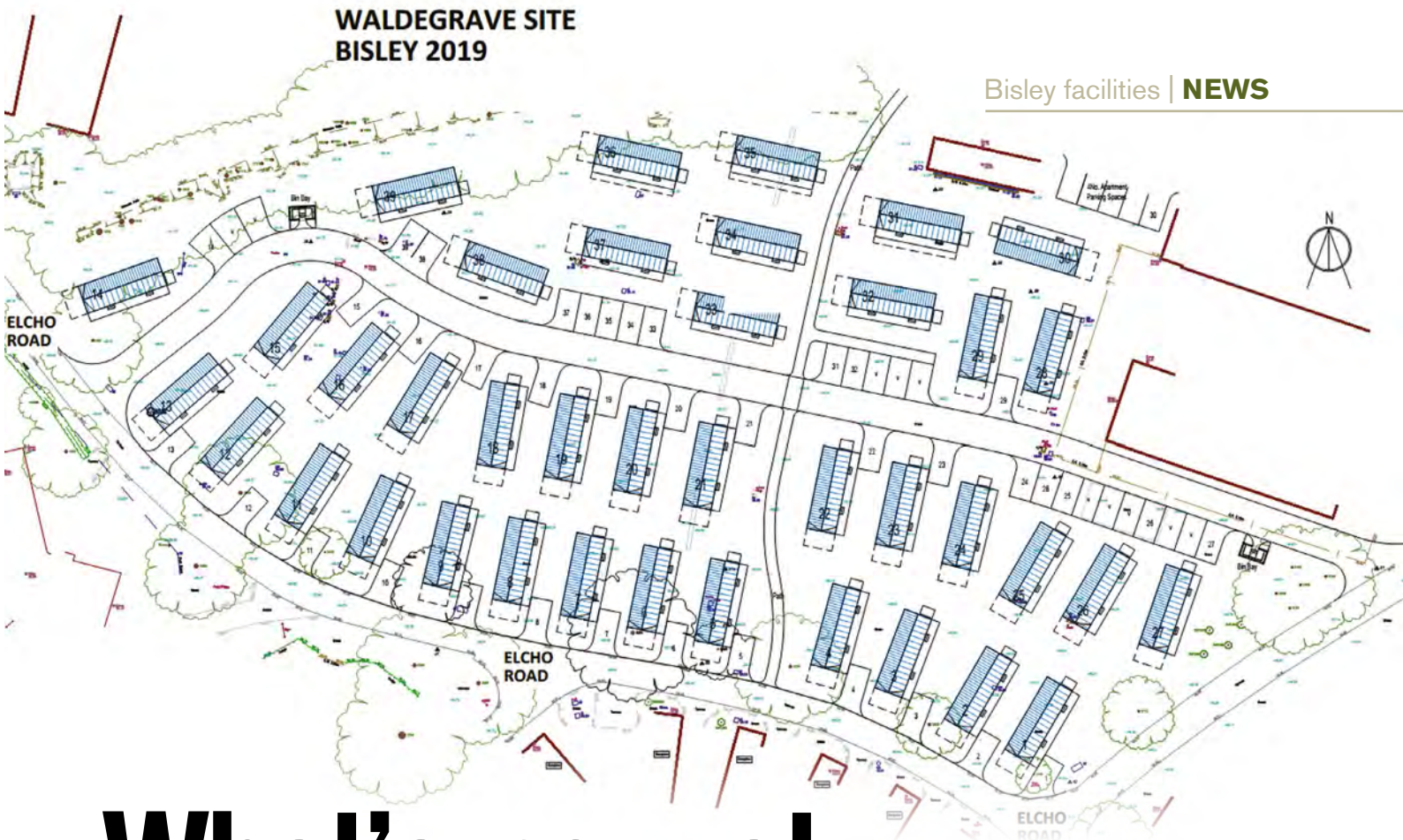
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# What's new at Waldegrave

The Waldegrave Site is the second generation of new serviced caravan pitches on Bisley Camp, and interest is already high

Following the success of the first development of fully serviced caravan pitches at Bisley with Spencer Site back in 2014, works have recently started on the next phase, Waldegrave Site.

Waldegrave Site has been very well received, with more than 50 per cent of the proposed development being snapped



Work is now well under way with pitches set to become available at the end of June

up by NRA members before even a spade was put in the ground.

The NRA has listened to members and the Waldegrave development is different because it offers greater flexibility and affordability. Specifically:

**Caravans:** You are free to select your own new or used caravan. The age of your caravan plus the length of the lease plus cannot exceed 20, so a 5-year-old caravan will be entitled to a 15-year lease, 12-year-old caravan 8-year lease, new caravan 20-year lease etc. The oldest caravan eligible for a lease is 15 years. We have appointed Ian James Caravans as our approved caravan agent; contact Darrin Bamsey 07720 895126; website <https://ianjamescaravans.co.uk/nra-bisley-caravans>.

**Lease:** Pitches will be available to NRA members and affiliated clubs on 5- to 20-year leases, with break clauses at 5, 10 and

15 years; with leases assignable to NRA members or affiliated clubs.

**Rent:** The initial annual rent for a 38' x 13' concrete base serviced pitch is £2,200. The first five years' rental is payable in advance to secure your pitch and finance the development. From year six the annual rental will be then be subject to annual increase linked to RPI.

Payment of £2,000 deposit secures one of the remaining pitches. These will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

With contractors working hard on site, we are on schedule for pitches to be available for the siting of members' caravans to be positioned from the end of June 2019.

The layout plan showing available pitches is kept updated via the NRA website, [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk). ■

Contact Chris Dyers, NRA Commercial Operations Manager [chris.dyers@nra.org.uk](mailto:chris.dyers@nra.org.uk)



# New Pavilion Café

The next step in the development of the Bisley Pavilion is nearly complete: the opening of its new café

The brand new Pavilion café will open for all Bisley visitors in May 2019, serving coffee and cakes, soups and sandwiches, salads and wraps, and other refreshments.

This is the next stage of the Pavilion redevelopment, and follows the successful establishment of the Pavilion Firearms Training Centre.

Open daily from 7.30am to 3.30pm the café will offer quality food and drink, comfortable seating in the hotel reception, and the finest toilets on Bisley Camp.

The café will also offer a comprehensive take-away service and provide breakfast for guests staying in the Pavilion hotel rooms and other NRA accommodation.

The final stage of the Pavilion redevelopment is scheduled for late 2019 / early 2020, to include the new range office, armoury, museum and retail displays, and additional café seating. ■



Hotel reception area (current photo as of April 2019)

***This is the next stage of the Pavilion redevelopment, and follows the establishment of the Firearms Training Centre***

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# TR in 2019

**An update on everything that's going on for Target Rifle shooters, from TR discipline rep Charles Dickenson**

## Target Rifle Courses

The one day 'Introduction to TR' courses are aimed at people who have not before shot Target Rifle (iron sights and slings, like .22 prone but more fun!), but want to give it a try. Courses are currently scheduled for 18 May and 28 September and bookings through the NRA website open about six weeks before the course date. If you want to find out more about the Target Rifle Discipline and give it a go, these courses are the ideal way to do so.

For those with a bit of TR experience, the NRA also offers two-day 'TR Skills Development' courses, which will help you improve your skills through a position and technique critique, and guidance on plotting and wind reading, among many other helpful topics. The aim is to get you to a level where you can feel confident in entering individual competitions, or being a strong member of club teams. Courses are currently scheduled for 27-28 April and 8-9 June.

To find out more and book your place on these courses visit: <https://nra.org.uk/courses-and-training/skills-development-courses/>

Several revalidation sessions for previously qualified NRA TR Club, County and Regional coaches were held last year. These free refresher sessions bring coaches up to speed with relevant methods of instruction and coaching techniques, and run through the training material for the NRA and Bisley Clubs' 'Introduction to TR' and 'TR Skills Development' courses, which coaches are given on completion of their revalidation. Further sessions are being arranged to revalidate coaches who were unable to attend last year's sessions. If you have qualified as an NRA Club, County and/or Regional Coach at some



time in the past and have not yet attend a revalidation session, please email David Camp ([david.camp@nra.org.uk](mailto:david.camp@nra.org.uk)) and Charles Dickenson ([target@nra.org.uk](mailto:target@nra.org.uk)) with your name, the course(s) you have completed and when you completed it, with any evidence, such as a photograph of your certificate or badge.

It is hoped to restart two-day courses to qualify new Club Coaches later this year – watch for the adverts. Ideally every club that shoots with Target Rifles should have a qualified TR Club Coach, who can help their fellow members to learn how to shoot TR well. Why not qualify as a coach and give something back to the sport from which we all derive so much pleasure?

## GGG Ammunition

The investigation into the reports of flyers and larger-than-usual groups from the batch of GGG ammunition used during last year's Imperial Meeting has completed and has been reported on the NRA website at <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018-Ammunition-Release-to-Members-Jan-2019-Final.pdf>. The conclusion was that a small number



NRA issued ammunition has undergone close scrutiny

of bullets had defective lead cores, which fully explains both the flyers and the larger groups. Despite extensive checks, no other factors were identified that made any significant contribution to the issue. Having identified the problem, and introduced actions to prevent recurrence, it is confidently expected that the 2019 batch of GGG will be back to the excellent standards seen in 2015, 2016 and 2017. ■

# The 150th Imperial Meeting



## **DefOSC: 11-23 June**

Tri-Service team and individual matches including the respective Queen's Medal competitions

## **NRA Service Rifle: 14 June**

The Queen Mary and NRA Service Rifle Championship

## **NRA/ARA Military Adaptive Championships: 20 June**

Open to Serving and Retired injured Service personnel – Melville Range

## **NRA Service Team Matches: 24-25 June**

The International Service Rifle Match and Inter-Service events: The United Service, Urban Contact, Whitehead Pistol Cup and Bargrave Deane

## **Cottesloe Heath Challenge: 28-30 June**

Multiple dynamic stages for individuals and teams in three SG categories: Standard, Standard Manual and Open

## **Civilian Service Rifle Meeting: 3-7 July**

Events for teams and individuals, including the Falling Plates match on Saturday 6 July and Methuen on Sunday 7 July

## **Match Rifle: 11-17 July**

The Elcho will be competed on Tuesday 16 July and the Woomera (GB v Australia) on Wednesday 17 July

## **ISCRM: 10-13 July**

Including the Arthur Clarke Match on Thursday 10 July

## **Imperial Historic Arms Meeting: 13-14 July**

Shot In the Spirit of the Original – Classic and Historic arms in action from 10 yds to 200 yds

## **McQueen: 14-24 July**

Precision snap shooting with prizes for cadets, U25, pairs and individuals in 7 classes



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**Schools Meeting: 14-17 July**

The Ashburton and Schools Vets to be held on Wednesday 17 July

**Gallery Rifle & Pistol: 17-21 July**

Individual and team medal competitions available throughout the Meeting; squadded trophy matches on 20 and 21 July

**ML Championship: 20 July**

900 yds and 100 yds – see MLAGB for details

**F Class: 18-22 July**

Individual and team competitions including a special international team match on Sunday 21 July

**Target Rifle: 18-27 July**

In addition to the extensive programme of individual and team events, Thursday 25 July will see the Imperial 150 and the America Team Matches

**HM Queen's Final: 27 July**

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Saturday 20 July: Ambassador (Live Soul / Disco / Pop music) From 7.30pm – Exhibition Lawn Marquee

**Prize-giving**

Civilian Service Rifle: Saturday 6 July @ 7pm

Match Rifle: Tuesday 16 July @ 5pm

Schools: Wednesday 17 July @ 6pm

F Class: Monday 22 July @ 2pm

Target Rifle & Main Prizegiving:

Saturday 27 July @ 6pm





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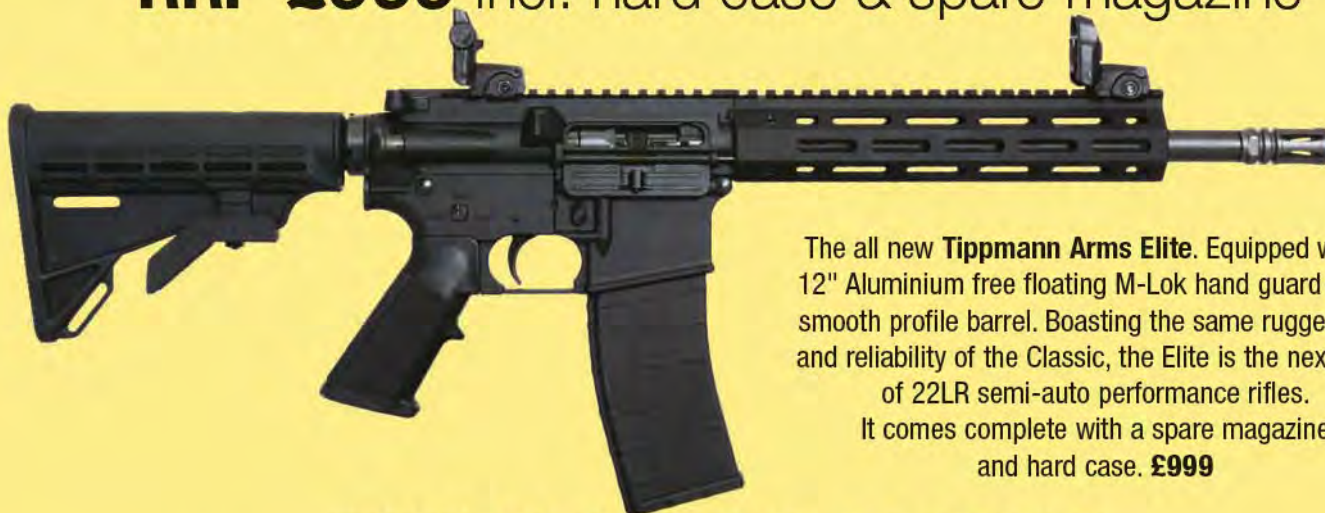
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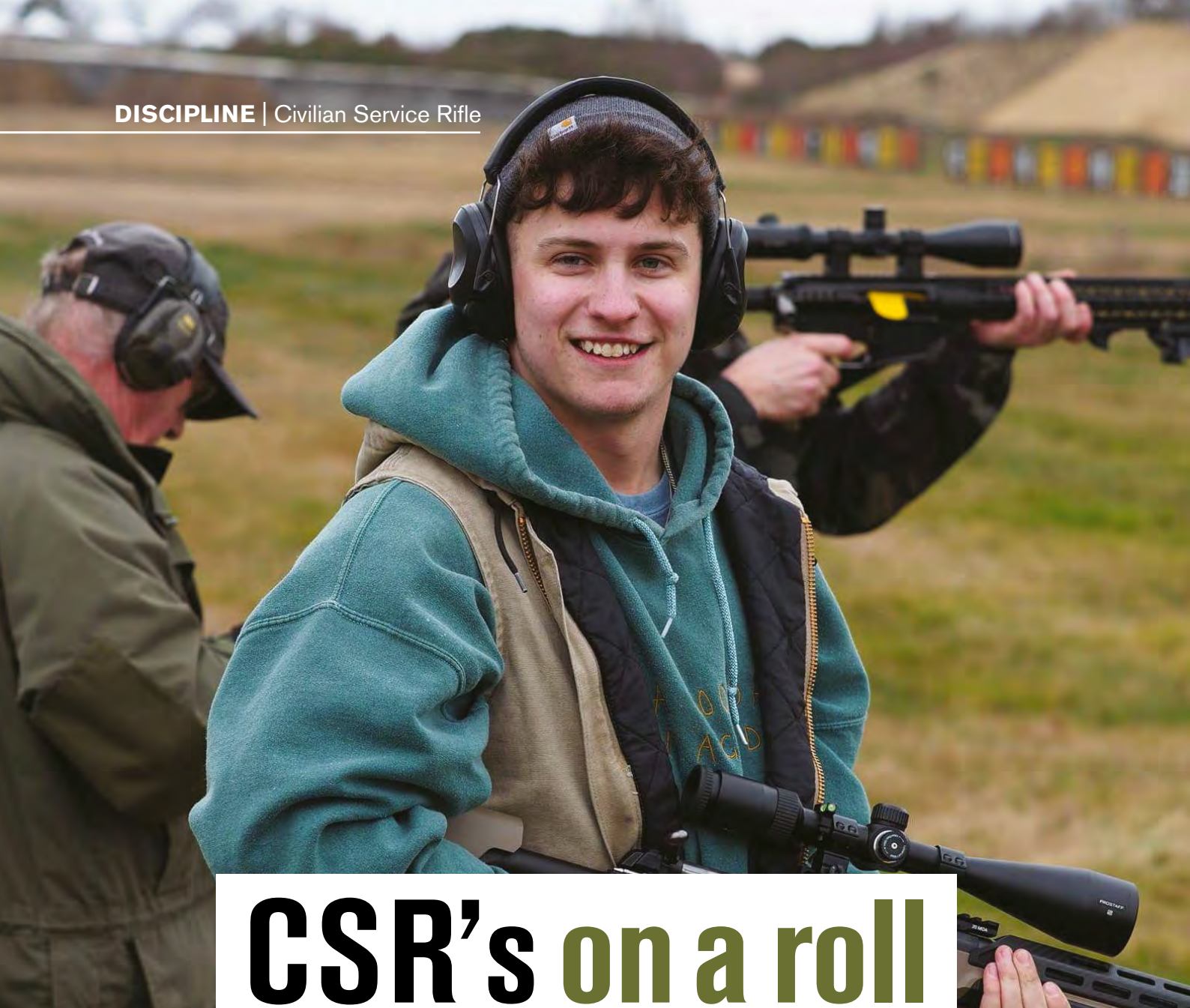
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# CSR's on a roll

**The most recent match for the Civilian Service Rifle Winter League featured the most shooters ever – around 130. Now 20 years old, this most dynamic of shooting disciplines is attracting lots of new shooters, not least youngsters joining their parents. Blair ‘Tin Knees’ Drummond asks them why CSR appeals**

## **Is it easy to get unto CSR?**

It's pretty straightforward. As long as you have a safe shooter's card in the appropriate category, and a suitable rifle, that's it.

If you want to learn more about CSR before you jump in, just sign up to one of the NRA's regular CSR skills training days led by NRA shooting director Peter Cottrell and supported by experienced CSR shooters. A training day comprises classroom-based presentations about the discipline's history, rifle classes, courses of fire, and shooting advice. Then it's out on to the range to shoot CSR rifles on cut-down courses of fire over 100 and 200 yards.

After that, simply watch the NRA website or the popular online CSR Forum for news of upcoming CSR matches and sign up (via the NRA website or by phone). CSR's winter league runs from October to April, with a shoot on the first weekend of each month, and you can choose morning or afternoon matches, or the full day (the latter costs around £30-£35). If you don't have your own rifle, you can hire a suitable one from the NRA.

The major mid-summer shoot is the CSR Imperial meeting (2018's was very hot!) Usually held in early July, this runs from a Wednesday to a Sunday, and competitors can shoot as much or as little as their schedule allows.

Most matches take place at Bisley, but a handful are held at nearby Army ranges, and these are always popular and often over-subscribed.

## **Is it challenging?**

CSR is contested by shooters of all standards, shapes and sizes, from expert to 'newbies'. As CSR is based on military courses of fire, targets can be small (Fig 12 at 300 yards, anyone?); can appear for as little as three seconds and in a different position (acquire the target once it's shown and fire a round) or for up to 60 seconds (fire 10 rounds); and are shot at distances of between 25 and 600 yards.

**“Is CSR really only for the fit and young? Far from it. The average competitor is certainly on the wrong side of 30**

A typical CSR match will involve different shooting positions (prone, sitting, kneeling, squatting or standing), often with some movement from one to another i.e. standing to prone, standing to kneeling/squatting etc. It can also include 100-yard run-downs between firing points – you’ve got 45 seconds to get from one firing point to the next and then be prepared to fire, huffing and puffing permitting.

Does this mean CSR is really only for the fit and young? Far from it. The average competitor is certainly on the wrong side of 30 and the oldest shooters are in their 70s. A number have various physical disabilities or limitations – yet they compete on the same terms as younger or more able-bodied competitors. Range officers can and do allow some less able shooters to adapt normal shooting positions to their needs, as long as they are safe and don’t give an advantage.

Everyone takes their turn in the butts, which means either hoisting handheld targets, or using the much-maligned fixed target frames. The latter can require some muscle power (stooping, stretching and pulling up and down) but as everyone is squadded in pairs, there’s always a helping hand.

#### **Is help available?**

Lots. New shooters are warmly welcomed by the CSR crowd, and are squadded with more experienced shooters who can provide guidance and calm understandable nervousness. Everyone has to start somewhere, and gentle words of advice are available at every stage. The same is true in the butts, where ad-hoc lessons in correct target presentation and scoring are freely dispensed. Off the firing point, there is

#### **FATHER AND SON**



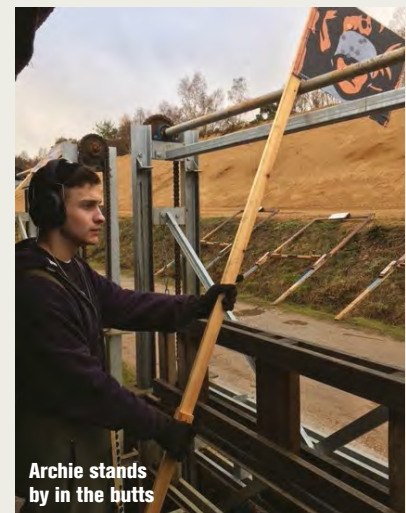
Farnham father Andy Barnes and son Archie (18) came to CSR after participating in NRA-organised disciplines such as practical shotgun and mini rifle, plus British Sporting Rifle Club events. So why CSR? “It’s the variety of shooting you get all in one day, plus being challenged to adapt quickly to different targets at varying ranges and being up against the clock at the same time,” says Andy.

“Learning to shoot standing, prone and kneeling has definitely made both of us better shots. It’s not often you can shoot at 100 yards and 500 yards in one session, and understanding how to set your sights with very little time between distances definitely adds to the fun. We have some great father and son time, and a healthy competition!”

Both Barnes began with a CSR training course late last year (“we were hooked straight away”), with Andy entering his first competition a month later. His first competitions were slightly daunting but, as he explains, “I was paired with very friendly regulars who helped me a lot so I could relax and enjoy it. Archie joined me for my third match, and so I was able to help him.” They share a 10 shot, bolt action .243 stalking rifle, but Andy plans to get a straight pull .223 next season.

Like many shooters, Andy and Archie only compete against themselves (and each other), trying to improve their scores each match – “and there’s no humiliation if you mess up as it happens to everyone.” They’re also impressed, and encouraged, by the fact that competitors are always prepared to give advice and guidance, whether on the firing point or in the butts.

Andy is categorical that CSR provides some of the best-run competitions around. “Other disciplines,” he explains, “often have lengthy downtime between shooting, and quite a bit of waiting around. With CSR, it’s pretty much non-stop all day, apart from lunch.”



**Archie stands by in the butts**

plenty of advice (sometimes conflicting) on rifles and their components, telescopic sights, ammunition, clothing and the like, and the CSR Forum is useful in this regard.

Several long-standing shooters make fine CSR rifles (for both service and practical optic classes, most usually in .223 and .308 calibres), and many regular shooters use these to excellent effect. Those who compete in the Historic class mainly use Lee Enfield No 4s, 4Ts and 5s, as well as SMLs.

The typical CSR shooter only carries what he or she needs on to the range: a rifle contained in a gun bag or appropriate backpack; a safety flag or magazine block; magazines; ammunition; some basic tools; the day's squadding lists and courses of fire; and shooting earmuffs or hearing protectors, plus food and drink.

As most CSR matches are shot in winter, shooters wear weather and waterproof jackets and trousers on top of layers of clothing that can be shed as the day warms up, plus sturdy boots, gloves and hats.

### Is CSR well organised?

Very, which is a source of pride for those involved, and a reason why CSR is growing so fast. It's a self-help discipline that's been honed by years of running matches. Smooth running relies on shooters being organised i.e. knowing where they have to be, when they have to be there and what for!

Before any match, the NRA handles entries, creates the squadding and duty lists (there are usually four details – A, B, C and D – with two details shooting and two in the butts), and provides the required targetry.

On the day, all shooters must attend a mandatory safety briefing. Experienced CSR volunteers then run the firing point and the butts aided by 'wing' officers who assist with safety and scoring by radio. Practice makes perfect, and the fact that over 100 CSR shooters can have a full day's competitive shooting, with minimal delays, owes everything to sound organisation and everyone pitching in.

That efficiency carries on after everyone's gone home, as the NRA can generally post detailed provisional scores from the day, plus updated overall league positions, within a few hours.

## A FAMILY AFFAIR

Historic class shooter Toby Hayes is often joined on the firing point by son Austin (17) and daughter Lexy (15). Hayes Senior returned to rifle shooting in 2015 after many years away, while the kids (already keen clay shooters) completed their NRA Probationary Course and then the CSR Skills Course in 2017.

"Austin was keen to get stuck in, having had some shooting experience in the cadets," explains Toby, "but Lexy was worried about competing against older, experienced shooters. That concern was quickly dispelled at her first competition as she was made so welcome by the instructors she'd met during training.

"The CSR Skills course was invaluable in helping to understand the safety drills, competition disciplines, and how a typical league shoot operates. It was a fantastic chance to get tuition from some of the best shots in the country, and being able to then shoot with those instructors in a proper competition was great."

Toby was relaxed at his first CSR competition, while Austin and Lexy fretted about remembering the courses of



fire and the requirements for each detail. But the buddy system ensured they were helped and encouraged all the way, and they ended that first day with big grins.

To Toby, shooting Historic class means "the electronic target and urban contact matches are as much fun as it's possible to have with a Lee Enfield." Austin likes having the chance to shoot in positions and at ranges that aren't available in the cadets, while for Lexy, "CSR is a day doing something none of my friends do – and beating my Dad in the process!"

There's no gender difference in CSR: men and women compete on equal terms. For Lexy, AR15 guru Mark Bradley rebuilt her rifle to reduce weight and lighten mechanisms. She admits she does need help with some of the heavier target frames in the butts – but on the bright side, "there's rarely a queue for the ladies' WCs at Short Siberia."

Toby is proud about seeing his offspring's confidence grow in leaps and bounds as they get their safety drills right and hold their own against older, more experienced shooters. Lexy's high point was borrowing CSR ace Peter Cottrell's rifle – and then beating him with it!



CSR shooters travel a long way to attend matches. They come from Wales and the West Country, the North and the East, Scotland, and even France and Denmark. One shooter who works in Saudi Arabia arranges his time off so that, where possible, it coincides with matches.

They make that effort for one reason: they know they'll have a full day of competitive but fun shooting. They'll see old friends and make new ones. They'll continue to learn more about how to shoot CSR, no matter what the weather and their degree of expertise. They'll see

at first hand that a shooter with a fancy rifle, an expensive scope and carefully hand-made ammunition can be beaten by someone with a battered old rifle, a basic scope, and a couple of boxes of factory ammo.

Like the sound of this easy-to-join, challenging and friendly shooting discipline, and want to be part of it? Then sign up for a CSR Skills training course – check <https://nra.org.uk/courses-and-training/course-calendar/> for dates, or contact CSR rep Nick St Aubyn at [csr@nra.org.uk](mailto:csr@nra.org.uk) with any questions. ■

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# New year, new discipline?

**Could this be the year to give 300 metres a go? Robin Carter has heard it described as 'small-bore with attitude'...**

**I**t's New Years day, I'm bored of watching old films on TV, and I'm suffering from a 'fullbore deficit'. My first fullbore choice is 300-metre; the last date for that was in October, the first this year is not until March. Our local TR club dates are much the same, so I relieved the yearning by starting some reloading.

For 300 metres, my wife and I shoot with 6mmBR. I have checked, and neither the bullets nor the cases are gold-plated, but factory ones cost close to as if they are, so reloading provides a pair of old pensioners with an economic way of shooting the discipline, as well as allowing us to match our loads very well to our rifles – and it also provides a winter pastime!

Of course we also have small-bore .22RF rifle shooting to shoot through the winter season, we shall be off tomorrow to our local club to shoot .22RF and wrestle with the wicked Norfolk wind (and think of Bisley!) I suspect many TR shooters do the same. I do enjoy small-bore, my wife more than I, but you can't beat the real thing. But this set me thinking of what the real differences

are between small-bore and fullbore, and particularly where they cross over and one helps the other.

Small-bore has developed the rifle ergonomically, with better fitted stocks, grips, cheekpieces, balance, and feel. This is mostly due to the development in free rifle, and the move away from standard rifle. The TR rifle has developed from what was close to a military rifle, the international 'standard' rifle rules have followed a similar path, but both in recent years have taken a massive step towards modernity and followed the small-bore trends. TR rifles have benefited from this trend, though one can still see very standard stocks and two-point slings being used to the highest level – so modernity is not obligatory or necessary, but so many of us love it, so perhaps it's as ever still fashionable! I'm old enough to remember starting fullbore with a P14 action, set in a copy Anschütz stock, which was very *avant garde* for the day, using a single-point sling, in a time when most other club members were using two points, and decrying this modern rubbish!

The first pure target actions soon appeared, and in the early 1970s my wife shot the Imperial meeting with her Sportco action, fitted in a copy of a Walther GX1 small-bore stock. The original was a thumbhole stock, illegal then for TR. Hers was slotted, just wide enough for her small thumb to pass through, reinforced in the grip with an alloy bar. She was 'escorted' to the NRA office many times during that meeting by an indignant old jobsworth who had demanded that the range officer disqualify her rifle. I can still see the look now on the face of the then NRA senior official, Air Commodore Riall, on our third visit to the office, as he rolled his eyes with a "Not again" look. He then wrote on NRA headed paper, *This rifle is legal*, and signed it. She waved it under several noses for the rest of the meeting. I wish we still had the note...

But today? Things have changed. We have target actions, thumbhole stocks, alloy stocks, separate pistol grips, multi adjustments, and a two-point sling is a rarity.

This has all come from small-bore, along with variable iris sights and attachments.

I suspect that many fullbore shooters also shoot small-bore, and some predominant small-bore shooters also shoot fullbore, but here's an idea for you both. The next time you are shooting small-bore, perhaps using your fullbore experience to beat the wind, shooting on a tight ten-ring target, indoor firing point so no waterproofs, and dry out afterwards, just think: Okay, it's fun, but what if it was scaled up? Still a ten-ring target, still an indoor firing point, the rifle still much the same, but with the fullbore 'oomph' you miss, and a bit longer distance?

That 'what if' discipline exists. It's called 300-metre. The fixed distance is 300 metres, the targets are ten-ring, they are proportional to the small-bore 50-metre and 100-yard targets, the firing points are indoors, and at Bisley they are shot

on electronic targets, and if you are a TR shooter you can use your TR rifle in the standard rifle class. Or you can shoot it as it is or execute a very simple upgrade to shoot it in the Free Rifle class.

As the TR rules allow alloy stocks, I have had my TR rifle made to the same dimensions, fit and lines as my small-bore rifle and my 300-metre rifle. I use the same butt plate for both: simply leave off the butt hook for TR and have two sets of trigger springs, one set for TR at 1500 grams, and another free weight set.

I even have the cheekpiece height the same as my small-bore and 300-metre rifle, and just have a folding cheekpiece to allow the bolt to open (also legal in TR). The mirage band is a necessity on 60-shot 300-metre shoots, but is also an aid for TR on hot days. I do have a dedicated 300-metre rifle in 6mmBR but I could shoot

it with my TR rifle if I wished, thus having one rifle for two disciplines.

The 300-metre rules allow any calibre up to 8mm, so TR 7.62 rifles are permitted, and as TR allows .223 Remington, that also gives you a chance to have a TR calibre that with its low recoil will also suit 300-metre. It's one I will try this year as I'm also having an identical actioned .223 system made to fit in the same stock, so I will get the chance to try that in both TR and 300-metre form. The motive to have a .223 was due to an eye problem that may have been recoil-initiated,

**Next time you are shooting small-bore, just think: Okay, it's fun, but what if it was scaled up?**



A TR rifle that can be adapted to 300 metres

but we will see how well the calibre shoots. Regardless, there are people doing very well with them in TR and there was one notable success with one last year in 300-metre.

The dedicated 300-metre rifles are usually in smaller calibres than TR – 6mmBR, and 6mmXC are the most popular. These are very accurate calibres but also lower recoil, and the recoil over a 60-shot match is a factor. In particular for those coming from TR it can be a notable difference – 6mmBR is half the recoil of 7.62. Although being built as a TR rifle, it will be interesting to see how the .223 shoots as that gives half the recoil of 6mmBR.

The 300-metre stocks are made to Free Rifle rules and are generally either small-bore or similar stocks. Several makers, Bleiker and G&E, make both full and small, and make adaptors to use the same stock

with either a small-bore or fullbore action. The triggers are free, i.e. no restriction on weight. I know of one rifle that has a four-gram electronic trigger! My wife has gone a different route of having her Walther small-bore rifle in the same Keppeler stock as her Keppeler 300-metre rifle, and very successfully with both – though I'm not sure that is not down to the lurid colour scheme, the same for both!

The technique? I've heard it described as small-bore with attitude. The recoil is definitely a factor – it needs controlling – and with a ten-ring target it needs a high degree of precision. It's very demanding, and great fun – why not come along and try it? Be you from a TR background or a small-bore shooter, the GB300m club will welcome you. Contact the NRA 300-metre representative at [300m@nra.org.uk](mailto:300m@nra.org.uk) ■

**“The triggers are free, with no restriction on weight. I know of one rifle that has a four-gram electronic trigger”**

### 300 METRE, BISLEY

#### Calendar

27 April	Training Day
28 April	BFRC Spring Competition
11-12 May	NRA Championships
18-19 May	Training Weekend
8 June	Training Day
9 June	BFRC Summer Competition
22 June	Training Day
3-4 August	GB300M Summer Competition
26 October	Training & BFRC Autumn Competition
27 October	GB300M Club Championships



300m targets ready to shoot at Bisley

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# Why not try... SR

**Lightweight and loads of fun, Sporting Rifle is a discipline that can be enjoyed by everyone, writes Steve Wallis**

**S**o what is Sporting Rifle? Well, to sum it up, it is a discipline that traditionally caters for those of us who have quarry shooting as their primary good reason to hold an FAC but who want to use our rifles for practice and enjoy shooting in competition as well. As such rifles tend to be relatively lightweight, both in terms of overall weight and barrel weight, have a 'scope sight fitted to them and be in a variety of popular hunting calibres rather than restricted to .308 Win or .223 Rem as is the norm for the non-gallery rifle centre fire rifles used in other disciplines.

Within the discipline there are two main followings, those who shoot static targets and those who shoot moving targets. That is not to say these are exclusive and many shoot both. As well as using modern rifles, there are also those who enjoy the challenge of shooting with older sporting rifles such as the single barrelled rook and rabbit rifles popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries or the converted service rifles such as sporterised Lee Enfields.

Static shooting is typically at ranges from 100 yards to 300 yards due to the limitations of sporting rifles, or more often the 'scope sights on them which tend to be low magnification and often fixed power. However, that is not always the case and there are many who enjoy the challenge of pushing their kit to see what it can do with regular shoots on both Century and Stickledown right out to 1,200 yards in some cases!

While most of the shooting is done at Club level, one event that Sporting Rifle shooters can enter is the NRA Phoenix Meeting, which is a 5685 Sporting Rifle Statics event. This is a combination of



## 2019 SPORTING RIFLE EVENTS

March	Open Historic Sporting Rifle Competition at the British Sporting Rifle Club
May	NRA Phoenix Meeting – 5685 Sporting Rifle
July	NRA Imperial Meeting – sporting McQueen (300 yards), British Running Deer Championships & Running Deer Unlimited entry sweepstakes
September	Open Chamois & Fox Shoot at 200 yards on Short Siberia run by the British Sporting Rifle Club
October	NRA Trafalgar Meeting historic sporting rifle competitions

three different targets shot at 100, 200 and 300 yards from prone, sitting and standing positions with sticks to aid stability in the latter two positions. It can be shot readily by those with fixed power scopes and the distances mean that it is simple enough to hold over or under on the target at given ranges so you don't need fancy expensive scopes to take part. Watch out for this in the Phoenix entry forms and give it a go.

On the Moving Target side, this is predominantly 50m and 100m shooting the Running Boar and Running Deer respectively. Facilities for this are under the control of the British Sporting Rifle Club on the Running Deer range next to Melville. Running Boar is typically shot using a .22LR rifle and there are a number

of different courses of fire, including slow, fast and mixed runs. This is often a popular event with those taking part in the Trafalgar Meeting where not only can they use older .22LR rifles but also the rook and rabbit rifles as well. Running Deer is typically shot with rifles chambered in .222 Rem or .223 Rem as the full course of fire can be a bit daunting if using a .308 Win. That said, as well as the 20-shot singles and 20-shot doubles there are 10-shot singles and 'stop at the wall' events for those using larger calibre rifles.

As well as the 5685 Sporting Rifle Statics competition in the Phoenix there are a number of other open events throughout the year and I am hoping to add a new series to these this year. ■



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# Ahead on lead

With growing concern expressed about the environment, it's good to know that the NRA is at the forefront of recycling technologies designed to eliminate any impacts shooting may have – the dispersal of lead foremost among them

**T**he impact that human activities have on the environment is undeniable and more studies are being conducted each year to show the extent of the issue. The issue of contamination caused by lead ammunition has attracted attention and it is not, as some believe, restricted to lead shot used in hunting, below is an extract from an Early Day Motion from the House of Commons:

#### **Tabled 10 January 2019**

2017-19 Session

*That this House notes that even low levels of lead are toxic to humans and other animals and that in the UK, lead was banned from use in petrol, paint and water pipes decades ago, with most other uses strictly controlled;*

*further notes that lead ammunition (gunshot and bullets) remains a glaring and largely unregulated exception; expresses concern that at least 5,000 tonnes of lead ammunition is deposited into the UK environment annually, accumulating a toxic legacy and causing suffering and death to large numbers of birds; is alarmed that in England, even the limited restrictions from 1999 banning certain uses of lead gunshot are largely ignored;*

In addition, the November 2018 edition of the European Chemicals Agency Newsletter included an article addressing the same issue:

#### **Use of lead ammunition at shooting ranges**

*There are also growing concerns in the scientific community on the exposure of target*

*shooters to lead dust used in lead ammunition, primers and propellants. It is estimated that sports shooters in the EU use around 10,000 to 20,000 tonnes of lead in shot cartridges per year on shooting grounds.*

*In addition, shooting ranges using lead shot and bullets also represent a risk of soil contamination in terrestrial areas, and risk contaminating nearby (ground)water sources in the EU. Expensive remediation may be needed based on the specific site's situation.*

Following 129 years of shooting at Bisley remediation of the site is a daunting task. However, the NRA has been working hard to ensure that the National Shooting Centre is an exemplar of responsible range management with minimal effect on the surrounding environment.

### Rifle Ranges

The capture and containment of the lead projectile is fundamental. If the lead can be contained it can be extracted and recycled. All Bisley rifle ranges have a stop butt, or bullet catcher designed to capture and hold the projectile thus containing most of the effect of our activities.

The bullet catchers are maintained regularly to ensure that they are effective in 'holding' the projectile. This is achieved by removing the bullet debris from the surface of the bullet catcher, rotation of the sand/rubber and the maintenance of the front facing profile to 34 degrees to minimise ricochet.

The first stage of the process is the removal of contaminants from the sand. This is achieved by employing a simple

sieving, or screening, process. A screening bucket is attached to an excavator and scoops up the sand, the drum within the bucket is rotated and the sand exits through the screen. The sieve screen is designed to capture 5.56 and 7.62 bullet heads. The results from the screening vary depending upon the weather, the quality of the sand and the time available.

The recovered material consists of bullet heads, made up primarily of copper and lead, traces of other alloys, sand and stones, rubber, wood and other contaminants that all require separation.

The material is removed from Bisley by a company called Manufacturing Production Solutions (MPS) for further refining and separation. There are several technologies and processes that can be used to separate

the contaminated material into its base elements. More on one of the main methods is below.

### Fluidised Bed Separation

In this method, the recovered materials in the Fluidised Bed Reactor are supported inside a vessel by a porous plate, known as a distributor. A fluid is forced through the distributor and through the material. As the fluid velocity is increased, the reactor will reach a stage where the force of the fluid is sufficient to balance the weight of the solid material. Once this minimum velocity is surpassed, the differing densities and properties of the elements will cause the material to start to separate. The fluid velocity reduces as the material passes along the distributor causing the material to drop through the distributor and separate.

### Recycling

The resulting materials are all recycled with a target of zero material going to landfill:

- Rubber – Used as a fuel in the smelting furnace or incinerated for electricity generation (known as Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)).
- Wood – Used as a fuel in the smelting furnace or incinerated for electricity generation.
- Stone and Sand – Used as aggregate or inert (non-hazardous) landfill compaction material.
- Lead is smelted to be used in various industries.

### The National Clay Shooting Centre

Environmental problems are also becoming important in the clay target shooting world. The primary contaminant of concern is, of course, lead but a cursory look at the National Clay Shooting Centre will quickly indicate that the problem is far wider.

### Lead Shot

The extraction of lead shot from the ground at Bisley is conducted by Plomb & Ecologic. They provide the extraction service at no charge but take the lead for recycling as payment; however, they do pay the NRA a small dividend for each load, of approximately 25T, that is recovered. Plomb & Ecologic have visited Bisley on



While shooters collect their brass, it's the NRA's task to collect lead bullets



Plastic cases are the next major subject to tackle



Butts and bullet catchers undergo regular maintenance



two separate occasions, once in 2017 and again in 2018. The lead recovery process is considerably more difficult when the ground is wet and the soil 'sticky' so there is a trade-off between weather and the custom on the ranges. The visits have taken place on both occasions during the autumn/winter months and despite the poor weather in 2018 have resulted in the extraction of 339 tonnes of lead.

The soil is picked up with a small excavator, or in some areas hand shovels, and processed through a centrifuge machine. As the centrifuge spins, the soil is ejected through the sides and the lead drops through to the bottom. Once it has been cleaned it is returned to the ground in its original location.

The centrifuge is based on several layers of different sizes which separate stones, lead shot and soil. The smaller particles pass through the different levels while the bigger particles remain on top. The speed of the machine and type of movement of the machine can be regulated according to the specific soil type and its condition.

After the separation process, lead shot is cleaned and washed through an industrial blowing system.

Clean soil is put back on its original location, and in a short period the ground recovers its initial appearance.

The recovered lead shot is smelted and reused by different industries such as fisheries, lead roofing or lead shot manufacturers.

#### Plastic Wadding and Clay Debris

The NCSC clay ground is littered with clay debris and plastic wads and there have

been several unsuccessful attempts to identify a means to separate them.

It was Sheerspire Deleading Ltd that came up with the current methodology, which is laborious but working well. The mixture of wads and clay debris is loaded into the screening bucket and rotated with two large metal balls. The effect of the balls is to crush the clay debris to a size that exits the bucket through the sieve screen. The plastic wads are deformed but generally maintain their size, which is too big to fit through the sieve.

#### Cartridge Cases and Wads

Unfortunately we have not identified a technology or methodology for recycling cartridge cases or plastic wads but with the current focus on single-use plastics we are hopeful. ■

#### SCREENING RESULTS



**“Visits took place in the autumn/winter months and, despite the poor weather in 2018, have resulted in the extraction of 339 tonnes of lead”**

#### QUANTITIES OF LEAD RECOVERED

AREA DE-LEADED	QTY SAND TAKEN FROM NRA (TONNES)	QTY LEAD RECOVERED IN TONNES
Stickledown	6.46	3.892
Century	8.806	5.703
Short Siberia	2.595	0.975
Melville	4.13	2.041
Cheylesmore	1.31	0.64
Winans	1.83	1.26
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>25.131</b>	<b>14.511</b>

# Gearing up for a big year

2019 promises to be a memorable year. The sizeable NRA competitions calendar is well under way, building momentum towards the 150th Imperial Meeting

## CSR League

These popular Meetings held once a month between October and April have seen a record high this season, with over 200 individuals vying for league position throughout the four classes. Competitors have once again braved the elements, including the memorable February Meeting with snow-covered firing points accompanied by clear blue skies.

The league has been delighted to welcome new competitors as well as its long-standing ones, and now boasts five under 25 competitors. The final meeting on Ash Ranges filled its quota of 130 spaces in under 3 days, showcasing the ever growing popularity of this discipline.

## 300m Championships

The 300m shed on Bisley's Century Range will once again play host to the Championships taking place on 11 and 12 May. Competitions are focused towards Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning with electronic targets available to all competitors giving immediate feedback and detailed grouping diagrams. Entry is available to anyone possessing a 300m rifle or suitable Target Rifle with maximum ammunition calibre of 8mm.

## Phoenix Meeting

This diverse multi-discipline Meeting will once again throw open its doors to over 500 competitors over the late May bank holiday weekend - Friday 24 May to Sunday 26 May. Competitions take place between 10 and 1000 yards across Bisley Ranges, catering for existing and first time competitors.

The Queen's Prize will this year conclude on 27 July



Look out for full competition details and how to enter on our website.

## 150th Imperial Meeting

June and July 2019 will celebrate the landmark 150th Imperial Meeting, showcasing the diversity within the sport of target shooting. In addition to the traditional structure of the Meeting, exclusive competitions unique to this year will feature, including:

**F Class:** The 150th Anniversary International Match, Sunday 21 July

**Match Rifle:** The Woomera Trophy, Wednesday 10 July

**Target Rifle:** The America Match and The Imperial 150, Thursday 25 July

Further celebrations are planned on and off the range, for full details please keep updated via our website: [www.nra.org.uk/imperial](http://www.nra.org.uk/imperial)

## 150th Imperial Programme:

**Service Rifle Individual:** 14 June

**Adaptive Championships:** 20 June

**Service Rifle Team:** 24-25 June

**Cottesloe Heath Challenge:** 28-30 June

**Civilian Service Rifle:** 3-7 July

**ISCRM:** 11-13 July

**Match Rifle:** 11-17 July

**Historic Arms:** 13-14 July

**Schools:** 13-17 July

**McQueen:** 15-24 July

**Gallery Rifle & Pistol:** 17-21 July

**F Class:** 18-22 July

**Cadet Imperial:** 18-24 July

**Target Rifle:** 18-27 July

## Skills Courses

Ahead of the Inter-Counties (June 15-16) and Imperial Meeting, we will facilitate the Target Rifle Skills Development Course, aimed at improving skills ready for the main competition season. This two-day course is ideal for those aspiring to take part in the TR Imperial, you will benefit from some practical pointers on all elements of the Meeting.

There are two opportunities to take part in this essential course before the Imperial:

■ Saturday 27 – Sunday 28 April

■ Saturday 8 – Sunday 9 June. ■

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# Bigger, better, brighter

**With new staff members, a new armoury and new courses on offer, the NRA Training Department continues to grow**

**C**ongratulations to Myles Robertson, who has been appointed our new Deputy Chief Instructor. Myles has been part of the NRA Training team since the Wimbledon Common days and has been instrumental in the design and launch of the new Hand Loading course, which welcomed its first students in March. Together with the longstanding NRA Chief Instructor Charles Perry, they will be key in the running the ever-increasing range of courses on offer at Bisley and throughout the UK.

## Training Facilities

The new training armoury went live in January and now boasts a full complement of 40 department firearms. The location of the Training Office, store, and the two classrooms in the NRA Pavilion has truly created a home for the team and will greatly assisting in the smooth delivery of all training courses.

## NRA Instructors

The main engine room of the training team is the Instructors. The team at Bisley

consists of 20 enthusiastic instructors with a further 10 located in other regions across the UK.

These ladies and gentlemen are passionate about the sport of target shooting and their diverse knowledge ensures that our courses provide the best quality of teaching in a safe environment. By forming working groups all our courses are internally validated to ensure consistency in the information and procedures we teach. The Range Conducting Officer (RCO) working group have totally realigned the one-day RCO course content to better train and test students as a result of the reintroduction of the Range Action Safety Plan (RASP) by the Ministry of Defence in January 2019.

## Club and RCO use of MOD Ranges

From 1 January 2019, the MOD require all range users to produce a Range Action Safety Plan (RASP) before conducting live firing on MOD ranges. Previously the Range Aide Memoire (RAM) was the preferred document, however we are reverting to the RASP which was in use until 2015.

The RASP is essentially a risk assessment which provides the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) with an audit trail. Much of the key information needed is extracted from the first page, covering range/date, an outline of the planned shoot with any relevant references, and who is conducting it. The other important part is the dual signatures at the end of the RASP – one by the RCO and the other by another club official/senior planning officer.

An NRA RASP template, approved by the MOD, is included in the updated 2019 RCO manual. It is written from a club perspective, with references to Pam 21 removed, together with any overtly military terms. A template is available from the NRA website for clubs to amend to suit their requirements: NRA > Training & Development > RCO.

## NRA RCO Manual now on website

The latest RCO manual is now available via the NRA website (NRA > Training & Development > RCO). Additional hard copies can be obtained from the training department via [training@nra.org.uk](mailto:training@nra.org.uk) for £7.50 inc p+p.

## New RCO Renewal process

A new online system will replace the old paper method for RCO renewal, aiming to be released in April this year. RCOs due to renew their certification at their 6 year point will go to the NRA website and complete an online open book RCO test using the updated RCO manual. This test will serve as a 'remind and revise' session for the duties of the RCO; all the answers will be in the manual. This will better assist us in communicating important and useful information that RCOs may need to know. Any safety notices or potentially dangerous trends along with changes in policy will be put on to the new Range Officer Portal (NRA > Training & Development > RCO). ■



Just some of the corps of Bisley instructors



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<sup>†</sup>UNFAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2005-2015.

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# Regional Update

**From a new indoor range in Somerset to discussions to reopen MoD ranges to civilian use, Nic Couldrey gives an update on everything that's going on around the regions**

**F**irstly, exciting news for shooters in Somerset.

Rifleman Firearms Ltd has opened a new 100-yard indoor fullbore range. This complements the existing outdoor air rifle range and retail outlet at Bowdens Farm near Langport in Somerset. The range, designed by Meggitt Training Systems, has a number of features that will be of interest to shooters:

- Five heated firing points, each one separated by ballistic Hardox steel plate and muzzle blast protection
- User-programmable, retrievable turning target system allowing illuminated targets to be engaged at any distance up to 100 yards
- Full air extraction and ventilation system
- Shooting from the prone, seated or standing firing positions

More details about the new range and Home Office Approved Club can be found at: [www.riflemanfirearms.com](http://www.riflemanfirearms.com) or <http://bit.ly/RiflemanFirearms>.

The NRA hosted the range operator at Bisley to share our experience running ranges and recently sent Training resources to Somerset to deliver the new Range Safety Officer Course to four members of the range staff. We look forward to further opportunities to promote target shooting and training at the new range in future.

Staying in the south-west of England, an update from Dorset.

Following the preliminary site assessment described in the Winter edition of the Journal, the landowner at East Holme has been exploring options to build a new No Danger Range in the former quarry next to the MoD gallery range. Laying out the range to make best use of the former quarry and provide a sympathetic outcome in keeping with the landscape are important considerations. We understand that the MoD has yet

***The NRA's Regional Representative has identified a disused military range near Glasgow that could be converted to a No Danger Area range***



**Targets are returnable on every lane of the new Rifleman ranges**

to start the remedial ground works to reinstate the 400-yard gallery range.

Meanwhile in Wales, I travelled to Caerphilly to meet the Borough Planning Officer to discuss the application to reopen the 100-yard range at Llanbradach. Unfortunately the application to regularise the status of the range was rejected. The rationale provided was that the Planning Authority found no evidence that the range had been in continuous use for the preceding 10 years. The Planning Officer explained that if resubmitted with supplemental evidence, the application could be favourably considered. May I therefore ask NRA members that used to shoot on the Senghenydd Full Bore Pistol Club range at Llanbradach between 2008 and the club's closure to contact Mr B Llewellyn at Pro Shoot Firearms Ltd: brianllewellyn50@gmail.com.

In Scotland, the NRA's Regional Representative has identified a disused military range near Glasgow that could be converted to a No Danger Area range for civilian target shooting. An initial site inspection was conducted in February with the estate manager and further feasibility assessment work will happen in April.

In February the government withdrew the proposed prohibition of firearms

**On-target lighting means excellent illumination at all distances**



capable of producing more than 13,600 Joules energy from the Offensive Weapons Bill. Members may be aware that MoD withdrew civilian access to Field Firing ranges on the Training Estate where these firearms could be used, pending the new legislation. With the prohibition removed we are now working with our colleagues in DIO to explore ways to reinstate club

access to Field Firing ranges; this is critical because most constructed MoD ranges are limited to firearms that produce up to 4500 Joules energy. We've sought technical advice from the NRA's independent range safety consultant and engaged key MoD stakeholders to agree an approach based on the principle of a fixed-range layout on the training area. This process is expected to take time and I will provide a further update in due course.

The MoD has indicated that charges for NRA-affiliated clubs using the Training Estate will increase following an annual review. The current fee structure ran until 31 March 2019; no details of the new charges are available at the time of writing. The NRA has been assured that Landmarc Support Services, who administer the charges on behalf of MoD, will give users a three-month notice period before implementing the new fee structure. Further updates will be provided via the NRA website once the new charges have been published.

Finally, some good news for shooters in Wales and West Midlands: the safety restriction on access to the markers' gallery at Rogiet Moor range near the Severn Bridge has been lifted. Clubs are reminded that the ME limit on the range is 4500 Joules. Licensed clubs can now make bookings through Landmarc Support Services in Sennybridge.

See you on the ranges! ■

**The view from the firing point**



**Users can program in different distances, turning targets and even lighting changes**



**A fully-indoor range, it is suitable for shooting in all weathers**



# OBITUARIES

## ALAN SAINTER 1930 – 2018

Alan was born in Withington, Manchester. When he was seven he moved with his parents to Southport, where, with the exception of a few years in his early twenties, he lived for the rest of his life.

Alan's lifetime hobby, shooting, started when he was eighteen, in the days of .303 SRb. He was among the earliest at Altcar to make the switch to 7.62mm, and latterly .223. His attempt at Match Rifle was unsuccessful. For a few years he shot in the Liverpool small-bore league. More recently, after attending a course, he took up hand loading.

Over the years he shot with several of the many clubs that are based at Altcar Rifle Range, conveniently situated 10 miles from Southport. He soon realised that Altcar RC, with its multiple distance and long-range shoots, offered more opportunities to improve his shooting, and this became his principal club. He was Club Champion for many years. Over the years he was a committee member, Club Captain, Chairman and finally Club President. And when he could no longer shoot he would still turn up each week, come rain or shine, to do a stint on lookout. His last visit was for the 2017 Christmas shoot when he did his stint on lookout before joining in the festivities in the clubhouse. And after his passing his family decided that his ashes should be sprinkled round the Club's flagpole.

Alan shot for his county for many years, and was also a coach. He served on the CLRA Council and was Captain, Vice-Captain and Chairman. He was responsible for helping to revive the annual match between Lancashire and Middlesex (now between CLRA and LMRA). He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Roses Match. Alan was also District Superintendent in the English XX Club for several years. He was a regular competitor in the Bisley Meeting for 40 years.

Alan developed links with Germany, which he started wind coaching in the junior international matches at Bisley – interesting

at times as foreign languages did not come easily. He travelled to the ranges at Sennelager in Germany to compete in the annual prize meeting. Alan never travelled alone, usually managing to take someone new to international shooting. Several times he took a larger team. The club also entertained visiting German teams at Altcar Range. In 1987 Alan was awarded Honorary Membership for special services to the Bund der Militar und Politzeischutzen (BDMP). The certificate was presented to him by the Mayor of Paderborn.

Alan also developed links with Dutch shooters and, when the timing was right, would manage to shoot in both Dutch and German Open Championships. These visits helped in a small way to satisfy his desire for foreign travel, as he usually managed to include a short visit to somewhere he found interesting. In the few months between the Berlin Wall being opened and his next visit he anxiously watched television news reports, afraid that the wall would be dismantled before he could get there. He did get there in time (with hammer and chisel), and his piece of the Berlin Wall is now in the Altcar RC clubhouse.



Alan also travelled in the UK, shooting regularly for many years in the Yorkshire Open – as a true Lancastrian he always liked to win a trophy from a Yorkshireman! He also competed in Scotland, Cornwall, Northumberland and Northern Ireland, and was on one occasion a member of the NRA team to the Channel Islands.

When Alan retired from work he was able to devote more time to his interest in gardening. He had a cold greenhouse, which he filled with tomatoes, cucumbers and chili peppers. He also had a grape vine. Each year he entered the amateur section of the Southport Flower Show and was delighted when he finally won first place with his grapes.

Alan had been a Freemason for many years and in his retirement was able to devote time to raising money for charities by re-furbishing masonic regalia. With Jessica's help he raised over £140,000 in 14 years, which he donated to charities both masonic and others with which he felt a special connection, such as the Royal Hospital Chelsea, Queenscourt Hospice Southport, the North West Air Ambulance and the Gurkha Welfare Trust.

Alan's family was important to him, and he was very supportive, knowing when to leave his children to make their own mistakes and when to step in and lend a hand. When he knew he that he was going to be a grandfather for the first time he remarked how wonderful it would be – he had never even expected to be a father! And shortly before his passing he became a great-grandfather.

Alan's final illness was mercifully not too long. He did have time to contact friends and relations to say his farewells. He passed away at home with his immediate family close by. He leaves a widow, Jessica, herself well known in shooting circles, a son and daughter, four grandchildren and a great grand-daughter.

## ROBERT BURNS EDMINSON 1953 – 2018

It is with great sadness that I mark the passing of my friend Robert Edminson, one of the great characters of historic shooting, who died on 14 November 2018 following a period of rapidly declining health.

Anyone who met Robert was unlikely to forget him. In a world inhabited by strong characters, Robert stood out. There would be a direct and gimlet-like response to anything but a carefully rehearsed and presented suggestion. There was, however, always a twinkle in the eye and a deep-seated although somewhat arid humour ticking away in the background! Robert was a serious and driven character, but always honest, loyal and kind behind the somewhat bluff exterior.

Robert was a customs officer in real life. His working life was wholly taken up with the various aspects of HM Customs from VAT to 'rummage', finally completing a long stint with the customs staff at Edinburgh Airport. Robert's knowledge of firearms was officially recognised, and he was the first point of contact for any questions in this area. I have to suspect that Robert would probably have been happier had Customs remained in the 19th century, as one could easily picture him in a tricorne hat, pea jacket and sporting a cutlass, though I suspect he would have preferred to have carried a nice two-band Enfield by a good maker rather than the more traditional blunderbuss!

Robert had two abiding passions in his life, cars and guns. His car affliction presented itself in a bizarre collection of unreliable but 'significant' modes of transportation over the years. His interest in shooting and guns was parallel, with an emphasis on the uncommon and unusual rather than the most accurate or convenient. It is no surprise that Robert was one of the gallant band of pistol shooters who refused to be cowed by the ban and who were determined to keep shooting their classic hand guns, despite the odious restrictions.

Robert was one of the leading lights behind the re-establishment of the Tameside shooting facility and club and spent huge amounts of time and energy on the project. Denied the opportunity of having a classic pistol site in Scotland, Robert became one



of the dedicated group of Scottish shooters who regularly came south to exercise their right to maintain this tradition. When the administration of the facility hit a rough patch a few years ago, it was Robert who took a leading role in sorting things out. We are indebted to his efforts in this regard, and for the retention of such a significant and valuable facility.

Robert also had a significant part to play in the establishment of the Scottish Historical rifle meeting, which has now been running for nearly 20 years. Robert was a key member of the planning and delivery team and took a keen interest in the scrutiny task for the many years he was able to participate.

Latterly Robert's health suffered. Despite the best efforts of his doctors, Robert lost first one leg and then another as his health deteriorated. Robert took these health setbacks as challenges and remained determined not to let them limit his desire to shoot and travel. He was still appearing on ranges both in Scotland and at Bisley just weeks before his final demise.

I would finally like to make mention of the help given to Robert by his close friends, who did much to support him in his later years. Of these Ian Mackie and John Burnhill need special mention for their unstinting loyalty under what were very trying circumstances in the final stages of his life.

*Bryden Ritchie*

## ROY TAYLOR 1934 – 2019

I am sad to announce the death of Roy Taylor of the Kent County Rifle Association. Roy was an Honorary Vice President of the Association and former Hon. Secretary.

He set out in his early career as a musician and was an accomplished sax, clarinet and flute player until the lure of engineering tore him away and into process engineering, a career which he pursued until forced into retirement due to ill health some 30 years ago.

His shooting interests were in small-bore and fullbore target rifle and he competed in the Imperial Meeting for many years. He transferred from Target Rifle to Match Rifle, for which he built his own rifle and used handloads.

A highlight of his shooting career was his selection to shoot in the Elcho Match for the successful England Team in 1985.

Roy was one of the three founder members of the TAGEME Rifle Club and was proud that this team reached the final of the Astor Competition on many occasions.

Sadly Roy was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in the late 1980s and it was amazing that he was able to carry on shooting for many years after his diagnosis, albeit shooting from a bench rest on Stickledown Range.

He leaves his wife, Pearl, two children Mark and Louise and five grandchildren.

We are sorry to lose a friend of very many years standing.

*Peter Merry, KCRA Chairman*



# Notices

## PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2019

### Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

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

### Regional and Shooting Discipline Candidature and Voting

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

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

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30 April 2019.

### Curriculum Vitae

In order to assist the Registered Members with their choice of representatives in the election, a CV for each Candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 150 words should

accompany the nomination. A passport sized photograph of the Candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro-forma.

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

### Key dates for Elections

#### 31 March 2019

All Candidates and Proposers must be fully paid-up Registered Members of the Association by this date.

#### 30 April 2019

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

#### 22 May 2019

Voting slips will be posted out to all entitled Members by this date together with the procedures for voting.

#### 12 July 2019

Voting slips in the correct envelope supplied must be received by the NRA office by mail or by hand, no later than 5pm on this date.

Scrutineers appointed by the Council  
To be notified after the Council Meeting on 13 April 2019.

### Results

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

### Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2019, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

Five Ordinary Members

M Maksimovic, RM Roberts, Mrs KD Robertson, I Thomson, SCW Dixon

Three Regional Members

G Trembath – Northern, Dr JD Warburton (GM GC SB3) – Yorkshire and Humberside, HF Dunton – Eastern

Three Shooting Discipline Members

CES Dickenson – Target Rifle, DN Kent – F Class, Dr AP Wolpe – Muzzle Loading

\* Not standing for re-election





## GB U25 TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2017 – ACCOUNTS

### Income:

Contributions from team members.....	£27,899.89
Corporate Day revenues (net) .	£3,630.00
Auction profit.....	£2,721.83
Brochure revenue (net).....	-
Interest on savings (net of 20% income tax) .....	£13.78
Donations .....	£5,500.00
Fund raising.....	£2,124.00
Other .....	£5,247.94
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£47,137.44</b>

### Expenditure

Training Weekends balance (ex ammo) ....	£3,331.40
Flights.....	£6,072.60
Accommodation .....	£7,151.31
Ammunition.....	£11,615.80
Transport.....	£2,020.92
Entry fees.....	£2,000.00
Team receptions/dinners & food...	£53.80
Clothing.....	£5,870.59
Gifts.....	£95.00
Tour spend .....	£623.74
Sundries.....	£8,302.28
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£43,806.04</b>

## MEETING DATES 2019

### General Council Meeting Dates 2019

Friday 14 June 2019, 3pm, NRA Pavilion  
 Friday 6 September, 2pm, NRA Pavilion  
*Minutes of previous years' Council meetings can be downloaded from [www.nra.co.uk](http://www.nra.co.uk)*

### Annual General Meeting 2019

Saturday 25 May, 6pm, NRA Pavilion  
*Minutes of previous years' AGMs can be downloaded from [www.nra.co.uk](http://www.nra.co.uk)*

### Bisley General Meeting 2019

Tuesday 23 July, 9pm, NRA Pavilion

## NRA CHANNEL ISLANDS TOUR 2019

I am pleased to announce the following have been selected to represent the NRA on the 2019 tour of the Channel Islands. Please join me in congratulating them and wishing them every success for the tour.

**Captain:** Stuart Young GB, England, Lancashire

**Vice-Captain/Coach:** Ed Compton GM GB, England, Sussex

**Adjutant/Coach:** David Young GB, England, Lancashire

### Shooters:

Adam Lloyd, Durham & Northumberland

Yusef Ali, Kent

Jack Keates, North Hants, Leicester & Rutland

Saxon Brewer-Marchant, Yorkshire

Christopher Crabtree, Wiltshire

Alison Carnell Wales, Herefordshire

Richard Webb, Lancashire

Autumn Burrows, Lincolnshire

Jacob-Jude Parsons, Sussex

### Reserves:

Adam Fowler, Surrey

Guy Hart Ireland, Surrey

Steve McDowell Wales, Suffolk

James Shepherd Scotland, London

*Stuart Young*

## MEET THE CLUBS

After two successful Meet The Clubs events held during the Phoenix meeting at Bisley we have decided to 'rest' the format this year. Thank you for your support; we are exploring new options for 2020.

# Marksman's Calendar

PLAN YOUR SHOOTING WITH OUR LIST OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS THROUGHOUT 2019

## APRIL

### 28, NRA Shotgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

### 28, Derbyshire Challenge

Simon Favell simonfavell@aol.com

## MAY

### 8, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership membership@nra.org.uk

### 11-12, 300m Championship

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

### 18-19, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

### 19, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership membership@nra.org.uk

### 24-26, Phoenix 2019

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

### 26, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

### 27, Phoenix International Match

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

## JUNE

### 1-2, Birmingham Bisley 2019

Frank Harriss f.foh@btinternet.com

### 2, Guest Day - 300x

Sarah Boxall memadmin@nra.org.uk

### 2, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership membership@nra.org.uk

### 7-9, NRA Shotgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

### 14, Service Rifle Imperial

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

### 15-16, Inter-Counties

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

### 15-16, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

### 15-16, Clive Amstien

LMRA

### 20, Military Adaptive Championship

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

### 22-23, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

### 23, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership membership@nra.org.uk

## 24-25, Service Team Matches

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

## 28-30, Cottesloe Heath Challenge

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

## JULY

### 3-7, CSR Imperial Meeting

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

### 3, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership membership@nra.org.uk

### 6-7, NRA Shotgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

### 10, Arthur Clarke Match

### 11-17, Match Rifle Imperial

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

### 11-13, Inter Services Cadet Rifle Meeting (ISCRM)

### 13-14, Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

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

### 13-14, NRA Shotgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

### 14-17, Schools Meeting

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk





#### 15-24, McQueen

NRA Shooting Division [shooting@nra.org.uk](mailto:shooting@nra.org.uk)

#### 17-21, Gallery Rifle & Pistol Imperial

NRA Mark Haigh [mark.haigh@nra.org.uk](mailto:mark.haigh@nra.org.uk)

#### 17-27, Target Rifle Imperial

NRA Shooting Division [shooting@nra.org.uk](mailto:shooting@nra.org.uk)

#### 18-22, F Class Imperial Meeting

NRA Shooting Division [shooting@nra.org.uk](mailto:shooting@nra.org.uk)

#### 18-24, Cadet Imperial

NRA Shooting Division [shooting@nra.org.uk](mailto:shooting@nra.org.uk)

#### 20, Muzzle Loading Championships

Non-NRA Events

#### 20-21 NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun [targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 20-21, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun [targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 28, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

### AUGUST

#### 7, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

#### 17, Guest Day – 200x

Sarah Boxall [memadmin@nra.org.uk](mailto:memadmin@nra.org.uk)

#### 17, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun [targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 25, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

#### 31-1 Sep, Gallery Rifle National Open Championships

NRA Mark Haigh [mark.haigh@nra.org.uk](mailto:mark.haigh@nra.org.uk)

### SEPTEMBER

#### 1, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun [targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 7-8, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
[targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 7-8, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
[targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 11, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

#### 14, NRA Shotgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
[targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 21-22, LMRA Open Meeting

LMRA

#### 22, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

#### 28, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun [targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 29, 'Moth-Baller' (Gloucestershire Autumn Open Meeting – 2nd Stage)

County of Gloucester RA  
[ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com](mailto:ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com)

### OCTOBER

#### 5, Historic Service Rifle Match

NRA Mark Haigh [mark.haigh@nra.org.uk](mailto:mark.haigh@nra.org.uk)

#### 5-6, Target Shotgun Festival

NRA Sharon Baker [sharon.baker@nra.org.uk](mailto:sharon.baker@nra.org.uk)

#### 6, Civilian Service Rifle League

NRA Carol Kellow [carol.kellow@nra.org.uk](mailto:carol.kellow@nra.org.uk)

#### 9, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

#### 12-13, Ages Match

NRA Becky Mills [becky.mills@nra.org.uk](mailto:becky.mills@nra.org.uk)

#### 13, Guest Day – 600x

Sarah Boxall [memadmin@nra.org.uk](mailto:memadmin@nra.org.uk)

#### 19-20, Trafalgar Meeting

NRA Mark Haigh [mark.haigh@nra.org.uk](mailto:mark.haigh@nra.org.uk)

#### 20, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

#### 26-27, Autumn Action Weekend

NRA Mark Haigh [mark.haigh@nra.org.uk](mailto:mark.haigh@nra.org.uk)

#### 27, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun [targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

### NOVEMBER

#### 2, Civilian Service Rifle League

NRA Sharon Baker [sharon.baker@nra.org.uk](mailto:sharon.baker@nra.org.uk)

#### 6, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

#### 9, Guest Day – 100x

Sarah Boxall [memadmin@nra.org.uk](mailto:memadmin@nra.org.uk)

#### 9-10, NRA Shotgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
[targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 17, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

### DECEMBER

#### 1, Civilian Service Rifle League

NRA Sharon Baker [sharon.baker@nra.org.uk](mailto:sharon.baker@nra.org.uk)

#### 1, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

#### 7-8, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
[targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 7-8, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun  
[targetshotgun@nra.org.uk](mailto:targetshotgun@nra.org.uk)

#### 11, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk)

# Results

## NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

3-10 February

### 2019 Palma Trophy

1. Australian Rifle Team  
Lee Robinson, 445.042  
Matt Shepherd, 444.048  
Andrew Wilson, 444.042  
Mitch Bailey, 442.058  
Christopher Schwebel, 442.053  
Donna Negus, 442.045  
Duncan Davies, 441.059  
Ben Picton, 441.049  
David Black, 440.058  
Matthew Pozzebon, 440.052  
Gillian Webb-Enslin, 440.048  
Ashley Bidgood, 437.045  
Kathryn Kent, 437.045  
Brett McCauley, 436.039  
Robert Sweegers, 425.044  
TOTAL: 7028.773

### 2. Great Britain Rifle Team

Toby Raincock, 440.040  
Thomas Drysdale, 440.039  
Jonathan Underwood, 440.037  
Parag Patel, 439.047  
Jane Messer, 438.043  
David Armstrong, 436.045  
Alexander Walker, 436.045  
Jack Alexander, 435.041  
David Luckman, 434.041  
Matthew Millar, 433.033  
James Watson, 432.043  
David Crispin, 432.035  
Nigel Ball, 432.029  
Rick Shouler, 431.038  
David Rose, 430.028  
Matthew Button, 423.024  
TOTAL: 6951.608

### 3. USA Rifle Team

Brandon Green, 447.048  
Nate Guernsey, 445.048  
Ben Cleland, 439.052

Oliver Milanovic, 439.037  
Trudie Fay, 437.050  
Justin Skaret, 437.043  
Amanda Elsenboss, 436.046  
David Littlefield, 433.049  
Morgen Dietrich, 433.038  
Keith Hoverstad, 432.036  
Adrian Harris, 431.042  
Kerry Spurgin, 430.044  
Erik Rhode, 428.040  
Kevin Nevius, 424.040  
John Field, 422.038  
Dan Altman, 419.035  
TOTAL: 6932.676

### Long Range World Championships

1. Stephen Negus, Australia, 703.43  
2. Mitchell Bailey, Australia, 702.65  
3. David Luckman, GB, 702.55  
4. Ashley Bidgood, Australia, 698.61

### World Veterans Teams Match

1. Australian Vets  
GC Edser, 196.18  
M Chad, 195.17  
G Wellburn, 195.13  
J Jeffery, 194.27  
P Maher, 193.23  
G Aitchison, 193.19  
C Jones, 193.9  
MI Buchanan, 192.20  
K Young, 191.19  
G Grosskreutz, 190.16  
TOTAL: 1932.181

### 2. Great Britain Vets

C Fitzpatrick, 198.18  
D Richards, 195.16  
PD Griggs, 105.8  
N Ball, 192.17  
S Belither, 192.15  
D Calvert, 191.21  
LM Peden, 191.19  
J Mehta, 191.15

PAE Charlton, 191.14  
C Skellett, 188.12  
TOTAL: 1924.155

### 3. New Zealand Vets

MJ Collings, 197.19  
J Miller, 197.12  
PA Tidswell, 193.16  
A Owens, 192.16  
MR Steele, 192.16  
LJ Arthur, 192.14  
R Mason, 190.15  
MJ Dodson, 190.13  
JN McLaren, 189.18  
JR Whiteman, 187.11  
TOTAL: 1919.15

### World U25 Teams Match

1. Australia U25  
M Bailey, 199.29  
D Smith, 197.25  
A Davies, 197.19  
A Hoffmann, 192.21  
A Martin, 190.20  
TOTAL: 975.114

### 2. Great Britain U25

L McKerrell, 195.23  
T Dodds, 194.15  
A Clarke, 192.17  
R Macleod, 192.17  
J Pepera-Hibbert, 192.15  
TOTAL: 965.87

### 3. New Zealand U25

C Flanagan, 196.18  
B Palatchie, 196.17  
AL Dent, 193.17  
M Snowden, 190.16  
J Cavanagh, 188.10  
TOTAL: 963.078

### U21 Teams Match

**1. Australia U21 #1**  
W Ruan, 194.20  
P Jacombs, 192.23  
N Sims, 192.20  
S Hopkins, 188.14  
J Pratt, 187.16

### 2. New Zealand U21

C Beardslee, 197.21  
S Riddle, 191.15  
B Hutching, 189.13  
D Alexander, 184.12  
SL Kershaw, 168.6  
TOTAL: 929.67

### 3. Great Britain & U21

M Larcombe 188.10  
R Lindsay 182.7  
A Hellings 181.12  
C Cowen 178.10  
C Dart 146.8  
TOTAL: 875.47

## SPRING ACTION WEEKEND

**30-31 March. Selected results – see [nra.org.uk](http://nra.org.uk) for full results**

### 25m Precision GRSB

1. Colin Hudson, 284.11x  
2. Les Pearson, 276.4x  
3. Keith Cox, 270.2x

### 25m Precision GRCF

1. Keith Cox, 297.10x  
2. Pet Pearson, 293.14x  
3. Les Pearson, 292.15x

### 25m Precision GRCF Classic

1. 570 Les Pearson, 291.15x  
2. 2148 Pet Pearson, 290.10x

### 25m Precision LBP

1. 570 Les Pearson, 285.6x  
2. 3428 Steve Lane, 284.6x

### 25m Precision LBR

1. 050 Dave Berry, 279.4x  
2. 570 Les Pearson, 278.6x

### 50m Precision GRSB

1. 2245 Colin Hudson, 293.7x  
2. 570 Les Pearson, 285.10x  
3. 3114 Norman Veitch, 284.5x

**50m Precision GRCF**

1. Steve Lamb, 285.7x
2. Jacky Lamb, 273.4x

**America Match GRSB**

1. Colin Hudson, 283.10x
2. Steve Jordan 276.3x

**America Match GRCF Classic**

1. Keith Kilvington, 282.10x
2. Peter Watts, 275.4x

**Timed & Precision 1 GRSB**

- X1. Michael Reynolds, 300.16x
- X2. Norman Veitch, 299.21x
- X3. Chris West, 299.14x
- A1. James Starley, 298.13x
- A2. Colin Delahoy, 298.10x

**Timed & Precision 1 GRCF**

- X1. Cornelius Schalkwyk, 300.25x
- X1. Keith Cox, 300.25x
- X3. Jim Smith, 300.24x
- A1. Nigel Porter, 300.24x
- A2. Michael Reynolds, 300.22x
- A3. Jake Mossom, 300.21x
- B1. Daniel Taylor, 300.18x
- B2. Joshua Brown, 299.10x
- B3. Colin Delahoy, 298.15x

**Timed & Precision 1 GRCF Classic**

1. Peter Watts, 300.25x
2. James Starley, 300.21x
3. Alan Podevin, 299.17x

**Timed & Precision 1 LBP Open**

- X1. Steve Lane, 300.13x
- X2. Norman Veitch, 299.18x
- A1. Blair Drummond, 297.14x
- A2. David Guest, 296.8x
- A3. Malcolm Stewart, 296.7x
- B1. Steve Jordan, 294.11x
- B2. Cornelius Schalkwyk, 290.7x

**Timed & Precision 1 LBR Open**

- X1. John Robinson, 298.8x
- A1. Steve Lane, 297.11x
- A2. Dave Berry, 294.7x
- B1. Robert Wheeler, 290.7x
- B2. David Farrow, 284.8x

**Timed & Precision 1 LBP Iron Sights**

1. Phil Cowling, 296.12x
2. Shaun Twomey, 293.12x

**Timed & Precision 1 LBR Iron Sights**

1. Phil Cowling, 295.13x
2. Dave Berry, 294.11x
3. Alan Podevin, 292.9x

**Timed & Precision 1 SGM**

1. John Chambers, 299.17x
2. David Watkin, 295.13x
3. Rob Sanders, 294.15x

**Timed & Precision 1 SGSA**

1. Rob Sanders, 298.19x
2. John Chambers, 298.15x
3. David Pollock, 298.11x

**Timed & Precision 2 GRSB**

- X1. Phil Wood, 587.24x
- A1. Robert Wheeler, 579.25x
- B1. James Starley, 575.20x

**Timed & Precision 2 GRCF**

- X1. Gary Bowden, 594.35x
- A1. James Starley, 592.35x
- B1. Daniel Taylor, 589.21x

**Timed & Precision 3 LBP**

1. Christopher Green, 234
2. Paul Lacey, 234

**Timed & Precision 3 LBR**

1. Mel Beard, 232
2. Phil Cowling, 231

**Multi-Target GRSB**

- X1. Chris West, 118.13x
- X2. Jake Mossom, 116.6x
- X3. Norman Veitch, 114.15x
- A1. Dave Morrow, 113.8x
- A2. Stuart Russell, 112.10x
- A3. James Starley, 111.11x
- B1. David Parsons, 106.7x
- B2. Peter Cousar, 105.2x
- B3. James Cooper, 104.5x

**Multi-Target GRCF**

- X1. Peter Watts, 119.16x
- X2. Gary Bowden, 119.16x
- X3. Steve Lamb, 117.14x
- A1. James Starley, 119.20x
- A2. Nigel Porter, 118.13x
- A3. Lee Townsend, 117.15x
- B1. Charlie Horner, 109.4x

**Multi-Target LBR Open**

- X1. John Robinson, 114.11x
- A1. Morné van Dalen, 116.10x
- A2. Neil Roberts, 106.4x
- B1. Lee Townsend, 95.3x

**Multi-Target LBP Iron Sights**

1. Shaun Twomey, 116.15x
2. Phil Cowling, 112.8x

**Multi-Target LBR Iron Sights**

1. Graham Trimmer, 112.8x
2. Phil Cowling, 111.7x
3. Dave Berry, 110.5x

**Multi-Target SGM**

1. John Chambers, 111.12x
2. Norman Brown, 110.13x

**Multi-Target SGSA**

1. Rob Sanders, 114.11x
2. Tim Jemmett, 112.12x
3. John Chambers, 112.7x

**Phoenix A GRSB**

- X1. Keith Kilvington, 195.21x
- X2. David Guest, 194.16x
- A1. Stuart Russell, 186.15x
- A2. Paul Cooney, 179.14x
- B1. Lee Townsend, 176.11x

**Phoenix A GRCF**

- X1. Peter Watts, 197.27x
- A1. Jim Smith, 193.22x
- A2. Alan Barker, 190.18x
- B1. Laura Warwick, 183.17x

**1500 GRSB**

- Z1. Chris West, 1484.103x



X2. Gary Bowden, 1482.88x  
A1. Keith Kilvington, 1470.76x  
B1. Steve Jordan, 1475.87x  
C1. James Starley, 1457.73x  
D1. Peter Cousar, 1351.39x

#### **1500 GRCF**

X1. John Robinson, 1492.112x  
X2. Chris West, 1492.106x  
A1. Colin McMichael, 1483.84x  
B1. James Starley, 1493.108x  
B2. Keith Kilvington, 1479.93x

#### **1500 LBP**

A 1. Steve Lane, 1468.77x  
B 1. Keith Cox, 1452.58x

#### **1500 LBR Iron Sights**

1. Alan Podevin, 1433.55x  
2. Neil Jones, 1429.45x

#### **GRSB**

1. Norman Veitch, 1016.75x  
2. Phil Wood, 1015.79x  
3. Gary Bowden, 1015.71x

#### **1020 GRCF**

1. Gary Bowden, 1020.88x  
2. James Starley, 1020.80x  
3. David Guest, 1019.82x

#### **1020 LBP**

1. Steve Lane, 1017.65x  
2. Norman Veitch, 1012.64x

#### **1020 LBR**

1. Paul Lacey, 996.42x  
2. Dave Berry, 996.39x

#### **WA48 LBP**

1. Steve Lane, 480.42x  
2. Peter Watts, 480.33x  
3. John Chambers, 479.35x

#### **WA48 LBR**

1. Phil Cowling, 475.18x  
2. Jim Smith, 473.25x  
3. Paul Lacey, 471.18x

#### **Advancing Target GRSB**

X1. Robert Wheeler, 294.40x  
X2. Keith Kilvington, 289.24x  
A1. James Starley, 280.24x  
A2. Steve Jordan, 277.27x  
A3. Lee Townsend, 276.24x  
B1. Alan Wragg, 267.11x

B2. Stuart Smithson, 260.16x  
B3. Achim Dreyer, 247.9x

#### **Advancing Target GRCF**

X1. Robert Wheeler, 179.29x  
X2. David Guest, 179.27x  
X3. James Starley, 179.26x  
A1. Stuart Russell, 178.22x  
A2. Dave Morrow, 177.26x  
B1. Scott Hale, 171.17x  
B2. Joshua Brown, 169.15x  
B3. Charlie Horner, 164.18x

#### **Advancing Target GRCF Classic**

1. Keith Kilvington, 179.29x  
2. Alan Podevin, 179.22x  
3. Robert Wheeler, 178.24x

#### **Advancing Target LBP Open**

X1. Norman Veitch, 179.28x  
X2. Michael Reynolds, 177.20x  
A1. Tim Smart, 177.18x  
A2. Peter Whomersley, 174.19x  
A3. Blair Drummond, 172.13x  
B1. Steve Jordan, 177.19x  
B2. James Dodd, 166.13x  
B3. Stuart Russell, 165.11x

#### **Advancing Target LBR Open**

X1. Phil Cowling, 173.17x  
A1. Steve Lane, 167.10x  
B1. Arthur Hughes, 161.9x  
B2. Arwel Roberts, 158.9x  
B3. James Dodd, 155.7x

#### **Advancing Target LBP Iron Sights**

1. Phil Cowling, 178.22x  
2. Shaun Twomey, 169.17x

#### **Advancing Target LBR Iron Sights**

1. Michael Reynolds, 169.13x  
2. Graham Trimmer, 169.8x  
3. Phil Cowling, 168.21x

#### **Speed Steel Challenge GRSB**

1. Steve Jordan, 22.49  
2. John Chambers, 22.79  
3. Julian Fox, 25.19

#### **Speed Steel Challenge GRCF**

1. Lee Townsend, 36.56  
2. Mick Tedesco, 39.02



#### **Speed Steel Challenge LBP**

1. Tim Gardener, 24.32  
2. John Chambers, 27.1  
3. David Ashcroft, 27.37

#### **Speed Steel Challenge LBR**

1. Mel Beard, 28.95  
2. Tim Gardener, 29.79

#### **Rapid Fire LBP**

1. Steve Lane, 291.12x  
2. David Guest, 267.3x

#### **Practical Pistol (Open)**

1. Justin Cooper, 100.00%  
2. Tim Gardener, 94.84%  
3. Ian Chamberlain, 87.48%

#### **Practical Revolver (Open)**

1. Tim Gardener, 100.00%  
2. Gareth Biddle, 62.84%  
3. Christopher Jones, 62.56%

#### **Practical Pistol (Standard Iron)**

1. Russell Hicks, 100.00%  
2. Alex Florance, 92.98%  
3. James Harris, 87.92%

#### **200m Any Full-Bore Rifle**

1. Peter Cottrell, 170  
2. Bill Ellis, 164

#### **200m Service Rifle A pre 1955**

1. Paul Green, 113  
2. Brian McManus, 93  
3. Robert Clarkson, 90

#### **McQueen GRSB**

1. Stuart Doyle, 50.9v 50.6v  
2. Graham Gough, 50.8v 50.6v  
3. Chris McGill, 50.8v 50.5v

#### **McQueen**

1. David Nash, 50.7v 50.8v  
2. Chris McGill, 50.6v 50.5v  
3. Stuart Doyle, 50.5v 50.7v

#### **McQueen Issued Rifle**

1. Chris McGill, 50.6v 49.5v  
2. Tim Jemmett, 50.4v  
3. David Nash, 50.2v

### **TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL**

**23-24 February**

#### **Timed and Precision 1 SGSA**

1. Tim Jemmett, 299.17x  
2. John Chambers, 299.14x  
3. Rob Sanders, 296.15x

#### **Timed and Precision 1 SGM**

1. Terry Fry, 299.17x  
2. John Chambers, 298.21x  
2. Rob Sanders, 297.16x

#### **Multi-Target SGSA**

1. Rob Sanders, 117.12x  
2. David McGill, 114.11x  
3. John Chambers, 111.15x

#### **Multi-Target SGSM**

1. Rob Sanders, 114.12x  
2. John Chambers, 107.7x

#### **NRA Embassy Cup SGSA**

1. Peter Matthews, 119  
2. Tim Jemmett, 118  
3. Martin Harper, 111

#### **NRA Embassy Cup SGM**

1. Matt Downes, 96  
2. Rebecca Brearley, 100

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**Email:** richard@williamevans.com

**Website:** www.williamevans.com

# MESSAGE



## **Richard (Richie) Vallance, General Manager at Bisley Sporting, talks to the NRA**

### **How did you get into shooting and at what age?**

I started shooting Target Rifle with the cadets at the age of 13, but joined my father's small-bore club at 14 where I shot in their league for several years. When I joined the army, I continued to shoot competitively, first in Biathlon and then service rifle and pistol. A severe neck injury forced me to look for another discipline, which is when I took up clay target shooting about 18 years ago.

### **What was the biggest hurdle you overcame as a shooter?**

The biggest hurdle for me was central vision. Clay shooters are often encouraged to shoot with both eyes open. However, if the shooting eye over the gun isn't master, not all of us are able to do this. I see two separate blurred gun barrels when focusing on the target, which meant I had to shoot with one eye shut or struggle with the double image. I eventually developed a product and technique that enabled me to shoot with both eyes open and my scores started to improve.

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

I was inspired by my father, who was successful at small-bore and regularly competed at Bisley when I was a child. Latterly, I created a clay ground for the Army about 15 years ago, which my wife and children have been very much a part of. My wife took care of the accounts and the café, while my children grew up having various jobs on the range. I was extremely lucky to have this support as the shooting ground became a family affair that kept us all together. I believe it was this support and the resulting atmosphere that made the ground such a success.

### **What sort of music do you listen to?**

I listen to a variety of artists ranging from Green Day to Josh Groban.

### **What Club are you a member of?**

Until now I was the manager of Bramley Shooting Ground, but I am in the process of handing it over as I am leaving the army. I was in the army shooting team for a few years and I am still a member of the Army Target Shooting Club.



### **Who has been your biggest inspiration?**

My father. When I was a child I used to follow him to all his shooting competitions and thereafter the sport was always something I wished to pursue in some shape or form.

### **Which is your favourite country in the world?**

The country I have missed the most on leaving it is Norway. I spent many winters there and particularly enjoyed the people along with cross-country skiing through the beautiful landscape.

### **How have Bisley and the NRA influenced you?**

Bisley is a name I used to hear my father talk about as far back as I can remember. It had magical connotations for me as a child, and I competed there as a cadet and as a soldier many times. Leaving the army for another career based in Bisley is the icing on the cake for me.

### **What do you like to do in your free time?**

Other than having run a busy shooting ground in my spare time, I spend much of my time restoring old shotguns, blacksmithing or creating other metal craftwork on my lathe.

### **Do you have any pre-competition routines?**

When I used to compete, I did have a routine, but kept it as short and concise as possible. It was centred on carrying out the correct set-up regarding my stance, gun mount etc. The last thing I did before calling "pull" was tell myself to focus on the target.

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

I would recommend having a lesson with a reputable instructor, or alternatively sign up for a basic shotgun skills course. This will prevent you forming any bad habits. Also, don't buy an expensive gun too early on. Wait until you have mastered the basics and have a reasonably consistent gun mount. I would also suggest that you take someone who knows what they are doing with you when you buy a gun. Some gun dealers are better than others in determining correct gun fit!

### **So what next?**

Next on the agenda is 1 July when the NRA takes control of all clay shooting at Bisley. We will be rolling out the new Bisley Sporting Ground and will focus on the significant refurbishment of the existing facilities for an official opening date at the beginning of September. ■



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### Ranger BC 4-16x56

The Ranger BC (Ballistic Control) is supplied with five different caps that cover all major calibres. Mount the cap which corresponds to your chosen calibre and the elevation settings will be calculated, allowing you to make the perfect shot.

With Steiner High-Contrast-Optics providing bright, brilliant images and edge-to-edge sharpness; the Ranger BC, like its non BC counterpart, also features a 4A-I illuminated reticle with 5 daytime and 6 nighttime settings.

4-16x56 £990 RRP  
4-16x56BC £1135 RRP

### Ranger BC 3-12x56

3-12x56 £900 RRP  
3-12x56BC £1045 RRP

### Ranger 2-8x42

An ideal compact scope with a wide field of view. Lightweight, shock proof and with excellent light transmission, this is an ideal scope for woodland stalking.

2-8x42 £860 RRP

### Ranger 1-4x24

Designed for driven hunting with a wide field of view (37m at 1x and 9m at 4x zoom at 100m). The illuminated reticle ensures quick target acquisition and aids shooting with both eyes open.

1-4x24 £820 RRP

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