

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Spring 2021 – Volume C No.1

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MENTAL MASTERY

Advice and experience
from an Olympic
medallist

BACK TO BISLEY

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
KNOW AS THE HOME OF
SHOOTING REOPENS

NEW-LOOK IMPERIAL ■ DISCIPLINE UPDATES ■ MEET YOUR TRUSTEES



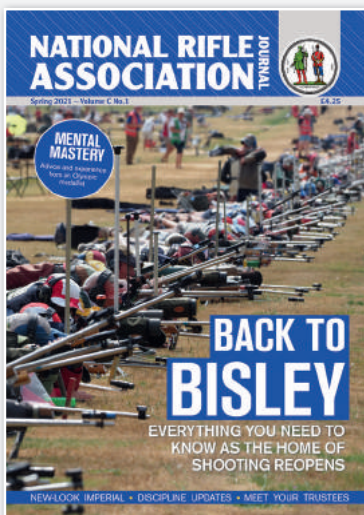
Our magazine is proud to present **Why We Shoot**, a campaign that champions the positive stories in our industry.

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Spring 2021 – Volume C No.1



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5 CEO INTRO

Andrew Mercer looks back on a challenging year for all NRA Members and looks forward to better times to come

6 NEWS

Essential information, from lockdown easing to regional reps to a call for markers

10 OUR SURVEY SAYS...

The results of the Membership Survey reveal your views on the relationship between the NRA and NSC, and how the website can be improved

12 WHAT'S NEW FOR 2021

All the changes you need to know about in the Bisley Bible

14 NEW-LOOK IMPERIAL TR

Many of the changes made in the 2020 Imperial Meeting are here to stay

16 THE JOY OF GR

Now is the ideal time to get into Gallery Rifle

18 F-CLASS COMEBACK

A busy F-Class season is fast approaching

20 CALIBRE OF CHOICE

Pam Carter swaps her 300m rifle for a lighter, easier-shooting 6mm BR alternative

23 SHOTGUN START

James Harris has the latest for the Target Shotgun community



24 IT'S A MENTAL GAME

John Kynoch reveals how mental training underpins his performance

28 MEET THE TRUSTEES

Find out about the Board of Trustees overseeing the governance

30 COMPETITION CALENDAR

Becky Mills gives an overview of the coming year from the Competitions team

32 SPRING CLEANING

Bisley Shooting Ground has had a clean-up over lockdown, reports Richie Vallance

34 RED ALERT

Red (and other) deer on camp are flourishing

36 OBITUARIES

Remembering Ted Molyneux, Bill Curtis, John McCoy, Chris Webb and John Sedgley Bennett

42 NOTICES

Key meeting and election dates and a call for captains

43 REGIONAL UPDATE

The latest from Regional Ranges Manager, Nic Couldrey

44 TRADE MEMBERS

The up-to-date NRA Trade Member listing

46 MESSAGE 10

We grab a word with Ashley Dagger



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Brighter future ahead

NRA chief executive Andrew Mercer welcomes the reopening of NRA ranges and looks forward to a return to full activity this summer

With spring now firmly upon us, lengthening days coincide with the long-awaited reopening of our Bisley ranges, which began on 29 March. I am increasingly hopeful that the impressive rollout of the vaccine programme, coupled with warmer weather and lashings of fresh air available on outdoor ranges, will allow a rapid and permanent return to busy ranges.

Planning the reopening of Bisley is complicated, with the varied facilities including rifle ranges, shotgun ranges, different categories of accommodation, catering, and retail. Thankfully, outdoor ranges are recognised as low risk for COVID transmission, so the rifle and shotgun ranges were able to be part of the 'first wave' of reopening.

The MoD have been very supportive in allowing NRA-affiliated club bookings on military ranges in England from 29 March. News regarding access to Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish ranges will be published on the NRA website.

At long last, there is a real prospect that indoor ranges will be able to open properly for their members. Far too many have lain silent for over a year, and the return of shooting will require considerable effort and commitment by club officers, committees and members. It is essential that members support their local ranges; to allow them to fall permanently silent will cause great harm to future generations of target shooters.

We do, however, need to temper our enthusiasm with caution, and recognise our individual and collective responsibilities in ensuring target shooting retains its reputation as a low COVID risk activity with calm and measured behaviour, and routine safe distancing.

Support from the NRA membership throughout the pandemic has been fantastic. To our delight, the number of members at the end of 2020 was 9,587 compared to 9,497 at the end of 2019. This positive trend looks set to continue this year, though our training team face a considerable challenge to address a substantial backlog of probationary courses.

The good news on individual membership was countered by a marked decline in club, school and association affiliations, from 855 in 2019 to 751 in 2020. I suspect that lack of competition and access to ranges were the main factors, and am optimistic that numbers will recover as the 2021 shooting season progresses.

I would like to thank the 2,278 NRA members who responded to the online website survey; please find the report later in this journal. I was reassured to find to the question "how do you rate your experience of the NRA?" 17% responded excellent, 48%



It is essential that members support their local ranges; to allow them to fall permanently silent will cause great harm to future generations

good, 26% average, 6% poor and 3% very poor. We clearly have a great deal to do to improve this rating; the comments received from the survey will guide our efforts.

2020 was a bruising year for the NRA but I am confident that in 2021 we will make significant progress to redress the damage caused by successive lockdowns. Many hard decisions have been made, with staff numbers reduced, and capital and maintenance budgets cut. I remain optimistic that with a fair wind and reliable easing of COVID restrictions, we can quickly return to busy ranges and a challenging programme of competitions and events. ■

NEWS

REPORTS



KEY DATES AS SHOOTING RETURNS ACROSS THE UNITED KINGDOM

Organised target shooting can take place once again as the government continues to ease the lockdown measures that were enforced to control the spread of COVID-19.

As of 12 April – just before this edition of the *National Rifle Association Journal* is mailed – outdoor and indoor sports facilities in England can reopen for individuals or limited groups. This means that ranges and shooting clubs are able to resume their activities, in a socially distanced manner that complies with regulations. If the range is outdoors, shooters are permitted to congregate in groups of up to six people (or two households); while indoors, shooting must be on an individual or household basis.

The next milestone for England is 17 May, at which point – subject to the government's lockdown easing tests being met – people can meet in groups of up to 30 outdoors and six people or two households can meet indoors. From 21 June, it's hoped that all restrictions on social contact may be lifted, which means shooting can return at full capacity in any setting – though, again, this date is not guaranteed and the government could choose to move it.

In line with this guidance, the NRA ranges at Bisley have reopened and a revised calendar of competitions has been planned to fit with the various stages of reopening. For more details, please review the competition calendar on page 31 and

the discipline-specific pages elsewhere in this *Journal*.

The key dates differ in other parts of the United Kingdom. In Wales, outdoor sporting activity is already permitted, but outdoor hospitality does not restart until 26 April and indoor sporting facilities cannot fully reopen until 10 May. However, as of 12 April, non-essential travel between England and Wales is permitted once again.

26 April is also a significant date in Scotland, where indoor sports facilities are set to reopen on this date. It's also when non-essential journeys to and from other parts of the UK become permitted. Scotland will then enter a tier system,

meaning restrictions on gatherings may depend on which part of Scotland a range is in.

In Northern Ireland, sports training was allowed to resume from 12 April, limited to 15 people. However, no specific dates have been announced for the next stages of easing, with the executive following a 'phases' model rather than a calendar. Once we reach the 'gradual easing' phase, indoor sports facilities will be allowed to reopen.

As always, the situation with COVID-19 and legal restrictions can change at any time, so please ensure you regularly consult the government and NRA websites for the latest updates.



IMPERIAL ENTRIES ARE OPEN

Entries are now open for the 152nd Imperial Meeting, taking place on 24 June – 24 July.

It is now possible to enter any or all of the competitions in a wide range of Imperial disciplines – including ARA/ NRA Military Adaptive, CSR, Match Rifle, Historic Arms, Sporting Rifle, McQueen, Gallery Rifle & Pistol, F-Class and Target Rifle – via the NRA's online entry portal, <https://online.nra.org.uk>.

Some essential updates ahead of this year's Imperial include:

Aggregates – The entry price has been reduced to £3 across all Imperial events, for both individual and team competitions

Entry discounts – NRA events no longer offer an early entry discount, but we continue to offer a 40% discount to under-25s

COVID-19 – we are constantly monitoring government updates and will publish specific COVID-secure procedures for each Meeting in the lead-up to the event

Cancellations – if you need to withdraw your entry for any reason, we will issue a full refund if you notify us up to 48 hours before the competition. After this point, entries are non-refundable.

TR – The Target Rifle Imperial Programme has been revised. The Grand Aggregate will now be contested over four days, the St George's Prize will fall over two consecutive days, and HM the Queen's Prize over three consecutive days. For more details, please see the dedicated article on page 14.



EU TO CONSIDER LEAD AMMO BAN FOR RIFLES

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has put forward plans for a near-total ban on the sale and use of lead ammunition for rifles, airguns and shotguns in the EU. The European Commission and EU member states could decide to make this ban a reality as soon as next year.

There are already widespread restrictions on the use of lead shot near wetlands, and in the UK, shooting organisations have begun a voluntary five-year transition away from lead-based shotgun ammunition for live quarry shooting.

However, this is the first time that lead-based rifle ammunition could also be covered by a blanket ban – though there are likely to be exceptions for sports shooting in controlled range environments.

Since this proposal was published after the UK left the EU, the UK would not be included in such a ban were it to go through. However, it could cause supply issues for British shooters, given the amount of ammunition currently manufactured in Europe.

The ECHA will send its proposals through a risk assessment and socio-economic analysis procedure, which will determine the impacts of the potential ban. This is expected to conclude in mid-2022, after which the EU Commission and member states will decide whether to approve it.

FACE, the umbrella body for European hunting and shooting organisations, said that it would be assessing the proposals carefully and following the decision-making process actively.

A SHOOTER'S LAMENT

I'd love to score fifty plus fifty
A skillfully shot HPS
I'd love to be top of the names in the list
Instead of way down with the rest

I do try so hard when at Bisley
No matter it's wet or it's fine
Enthusiastic my efforts
Though, sadly, I seem not to shine

That shot, in the aim, oh so steady
Must be a good central placed V
But the windage put right 'stead of left
Meant that bullet scored only a three

Now let's concentrate, there's no wind
So set the sights back to zero
No wavering, that shot was perfect
Is it my turn to be the hero?

All I need is a bull, just those five points
If only the fates will be just
No, that last shot was in, very nearly
But for that fierce sudden gust

But this day I think I will do it
It's really right down to the wire
Like others all bulls I have managed
Though my V count is totalling higher

Away goes my last shot so perfect
I'm certain it can't be a four
The marker shows my score a good V
Alas, on the target next door!

David Woodcock

RANGE SAFETY REMINDER

The individual firer is responsible for ensuring that their equipment is safe, serviceable and suitable for NSC Ranges.

Range Regulations, complemented by the NRA Rules of Shooting, define the types of firearms and ammunition that may be used at the NSC.

The individual firer is responsible for ensuring that his or her firearm

is correctly maintained and that the ammunition is safe and within range parameters for muzzle velocity (MV) and muzzle energy (ME).

To minimise the likelihood of ground strike, the elevation setting must be checked before releasing a shot.

A correctly zeroed firearm is fundamental to range safety.



PART-TIME TARGET MARKERS REQUIRED

Rate from April 2021:

Under 22 – £9.37 per hour

23+ – £9.99 per hour

Casual weekend work between March and October

15 years old – Saturday only

16+ – Saturday and Sundays

All markers are required to attend a 3-hour training session.

Email Markers@nra.org.uk for further details.

2-week summer work available, 10-24 July

Email imperialmarkers@nra.org.uk for more details.

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6mm 109g Long Range Hybrid Target Bullet	£46.85
6mm 144g Long Range Hybrid Target Bullet	£55.90
6.5mm 153.5g Long Range Hybrid Target Bullet	£54.95
7mm 190g Long Range Hybrid Target Bullet	£60.75
30 cal 208g Long Range Hybrid Target Bullet	£61.65
30 cal 220g Long Range Hybrid Target Bullet	£65.98

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Members' survey: The results are in

The survey highlights members' interest in the NRA's charitable work and allows us to improve the NRA website

Towards the end of 2020, NRA members responded to a brief survey sent out to establish how you – our members – view the NRA's charitable activities and website priorities.

Over 2200 members responded and we are grateful for this valuable insight, which allows the team to refine the NRA and National Shooting Centre Limited (NSC) website offerings to optimise the content and structure and in particular share more information on our charitable activities with you.

Charitable Activities

The NRA is keen to make it as clear as possible what we do as a charity – and what our trading subsidiary, the NSC, does that is not charitable but can provide funds to support the NRA's charitable activities.

50% of you told us you did not feel well-informed about the NRA's charitable activities. We want to change this and work is under way both to refresh and revamp our social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and to update the website to reflect your feedback. We will also look to include regular updates in the *Journal* on the NRA's charitable work.

It is hugely encouraging to see that just under half of the survey respondents (49%) told us they would like more information about the charitable activities that support our objectives: **"To promote and encourage marksmanship throughout the queen's dominions in the interests of defence and the permanence of the volunteer and auxiliary forces, naval, military and air."**

We look forward to sharing our plans with you on a regular basis.

The majority of members are clear on whether the NRA or NSC runs certain activities, with the NRA running training courses, the Imperial Meeting, providing advice on FAC renewals and providing membership services; and the NSC selling ammunition, offering targets for hire and providing accommodation. However, around 20-30% of members thought the reverse, and 15% weren't sure [Figure 1].

The area of most confusion is over leasing of property and licensing caravan sites at Bisley, which is in fact an NRA activity. The NRA owns the land at the centre of Bisley Camp and leases the ranges from the MOD. The NRA has licensed the ranges to the NSC so the NSC can operate the ranges as a commercial activity. The NRA leases land at Bisley Camp to individuals, clubs and commercial entities and grants annual licenses to caravan owners.

NRA and NSC Websites

Looking at the website information, the website is clearly important to members, with 92% of members visiting the website several times a year or more, and 50% using it most months. The main reasons for frequent use are for news, updating shooting history, competition information/results and membership information [Figure 2].

Most users find the website fairly straightforward to use. However, there are aspects that are more challenging, such as accessing competition information/results and membership information [Figure 3].

The biggest problems that members report regarding the website concern the

search bar and searching the website – anecdotal comments indicate that the search results are often not what was being sought, and you often need to know the correct search term in advance (which rather defeats the object of a search bar!). Hence work has already started to make our website more accessible and relevant to you – the members – to ensure you can easily access the membership and competition information which was highlighted as one of the priorities.

Additional responses in the comment boxes of the Survey included:

- A better website experience on mobile devices, phones and tablets
- A "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) section on the website would be helpful
- The complexity of using the target booking system and associated logins, for example: "Range bookings and availability should be featured clearly and updated to real time for all members who book in to the website"
- The NRA should continue to communicate in printed form as well as online

The feedback we have received will shape the work now being done on the websites for both the NRA and NSC.

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. It has been very insightful, and the Chairman has personally read all the additional comments that were submitted.

You will hear more from us in future publications in our online media and in print, to communicate as effectively as we can the activities of both the NRA and the NSC, and in particular the charitable work of the NRA. ■

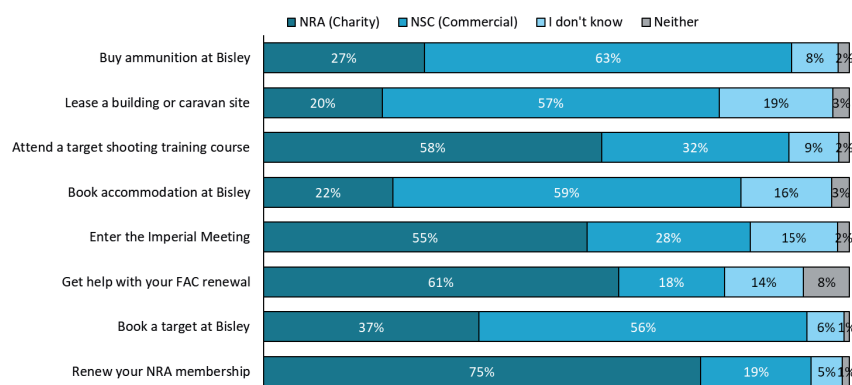


Figure 1: Which organisation (NRA the charity, or NSC the commercial organisation) would you expect to approach to do the following? (2,278 responses)

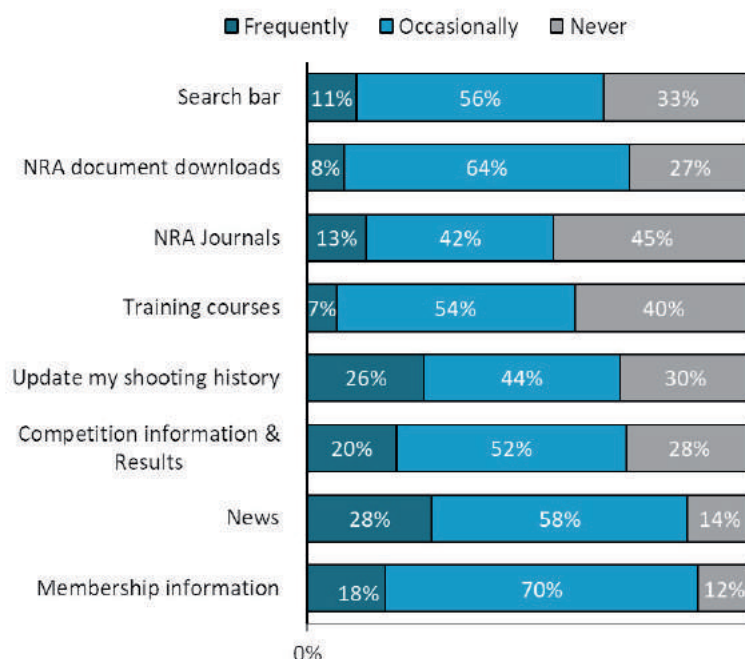


Figure 2: Which areas of the NRA website do you visit, and how often? (2,120 responses)

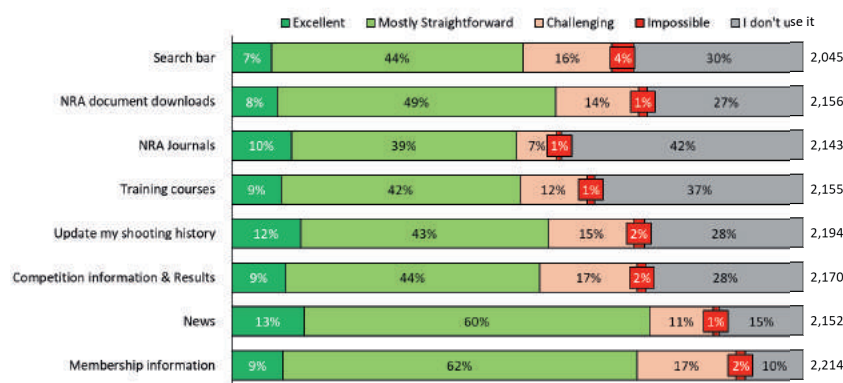


Figure 3: How easy-to-use do you find the following NRA website sections? (Number of responses shown at end of each line)



NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE BISLEY

NRA AND NSC: THE DIFFERENCE

The **National Rifle Association (NRA)** is a Registered Charity.

In 1890, the NRA was incorporated under a Royal Charter granted by Queen Victoria, and in 1963 the NRA became a registered charity.

In return for benefits such as tax advantages, special rules apply to charities. For example, the NRA's assets must only be used for charitable purposes, and any trading activity must be done by a subsidiary company, which then donates any profits to the NRA.

The NRA's Charitable Activities:

- Recruiting and maintaining its Membership
- Running training courses
- Organising competitions
- Maintaining the NRA Museum
- Publishing the *Journal*
- Granting leases of its land

The **National Shooting Centre Limited (NSC)** is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the NRA.

The NSC was formed in 1998 in order to meet the requirements of the Charity Commission that trading activities must be done by a subsidiary company and not by the NRA as a charity.

The NSC operates all the commercial trading activities at Bisley, such as range hire and ammunition sales, and donates its trading profits to the NRA to be used for the NRA's charitable purposes.

The NSC's Trading Activities:

- Providing target and range space
- Selling ammunition and accessories
- Providing accommodation
- Storing firearms
- Clay shooting services
- Corporate hospitality



New Rules for 2021

A summary of this year's Rule and Competition Changes from the Chairman of the Shooting Committee

There are relatively few changes to the rules this year, other than in the programme for the Target Rifle Imperial Meeting, where some significant changes have been introduced, reflecting popular aspects of the revised 2020 programme. These are designed to appeal to shooters who cannot afford the time and/or cost of entering the full Meeting, and are outlined in a separate article on page 14.

As usual, the changes are published in the NRA Handbook (Bisley Bible). As well as the printed copies, an electronic copy can be found (and downloaded) on the NRA website at <https://nra.org.uk/all-downloads/nra-handbooks> (or select Publications/NRA Handbooks). A summary of the key changes is given below. All changes from the 2020 version are sidelined in the Handbook and you are encouraged to read the Handbook to be aware of all the changes. It is good practice to read all the rules regularly, not

just the changes, to refresh your memory. Ignorance is no excuse!

General

A new para 73 creates a rule that can be invoked when misconduct is alleged for which penalties are defined in paras 543 to 547 but which is not a breach of any other specific rule. This follows from the structure of the Disciplinary Code.

"Dual score register tickets", as used in 2020 to reduce handling of cards, are formalised (para 339, with consequential amendments in other paras).

Appendix XIII has been amended to reduce the number of entries required for award of second and third place medals under Prize Lists C, D and F, making them consistent with standard practice in GR&P, TS and CSR disciplines.

F Class

Barrel tuners are now permitted in F Class competition (para 164).

The F Class Allcomers Team Match is split into one match for FTR and one for F Open.

Target Rifle

Adjustable straps may now be used on shooting jackets (para 203).

The reduced numbers qualifying for Classes X and A in 2020 are recognised in paras 716b and 717b.

Para 717b also changes the Class A qualification criteria by reducing the number qualifying for Class A in the Grand Aggregate from places 51-200 to places 51-150, in recognition of the smaller number of competitors. It also introduces an additional qualification for Class A whereby anyone who has qualified as Class X in two or more years within the past 10 years cannot drop below Class A, unless aged over 70 on 1 July of that year.

Note: As a result of these changes to the Class A rules, 30 people who would previously have qualified as Class A no

longer do so and revert to Class O. Equally, 24 people who would previously have been Class O are now Class A. See <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CLASS-LIST-TR-2021.pdf> (or on the NRA website select: Results/Imperial Results and Classifications/Target Rifle Classifications/NRA Target Rifle Classifications for 2021) for the revised list of those qualified for Classes X and A for 2021. Note that those who qualify as Class A only due to their previous qualification as Class X (who would have been Class O under the previous rules) are not listed in the main list, but in a separate table at the bottom of the list, where there is also a list of those who broke their Tyro status in 2020.

Changes to the TR competition programme are outlined in the article on page 14. The most significant is the removal of the first stage of the Queen's Prize from the Grand Aggregate. There are consequential effects on some of the other aggregates.

The Donegall is included in the Grand Aggregate, and the Wimbledon TR has been increased to 15 shots. The Army Rifle Association has donated a prize for the highest placed present member of HM Forces, and the Grand Aggregate Prize List is reduced to 150 names to match the Class A qualification cut-off.

The Tucker Aggregate now includes all the competitions on First Friday and Middle Saturday.

As a consequence of the Wimbledon TR being increased to 15 shots, the paired competition in the New Zealand and Young Rifleman's Aggregates and the Gary Jones is now the Prince of Wales rather than the Alexandra.

The Century Range Aggregate now excludes the first stage of the Queen's Prize.

The Overseas Teams Fund Long Range aggregate now includes the Conan Doyle in place of the Prince of Wales, correcting an anomaly that has existed since 1999, before which there had only been two long-range competitions in the Grand Aggregate. This had resulted in the 600yd Prince of Wales (previously the Duke of Gloucester) being included to make a larger aggregate.

Entries for concurrent competitions may now be made via the entry form as well as in the NRA offices.

Match Rifle

Competitors may now shoot alongside all the events that make up the Hopton using rifles and ammunition that comply with the Any Rifle rules. There will be separate prizes for those shooting Any Rifle.

The Ranken and the Match Rifle pairs will be shot concurrently only.

Schools & Cadets

Schools & Cadets events will not be held in 2021; the competitions remain in the Handbook and the section is annotated accordingly. The Cadet International Match and the Cadets & Services Short Range and Long Range Matches will still take place as usual during the Target Rifle Meeting.

The Schools' Veterans Match will take place on the usual First Thursday but, for this year, will be part of the Target Rifle Imperial Meeting, so the conditions for the Match and associated events are therefore now in the TR Teams section.

Service Weapons

Service Weapon events will not be held in 2021; competitions remain in the Handbook and the sections are annotated accordingly.

The ARA/NRA Adaptive Championships is scheduled to go ahead. Conditions are before the Service Weapons section.

Gallery Rifle and Pistol (Volume 4)

An introductory page details the changes from the 2020 edition.

New rules have been introduced regarding use of alternative firing postures by competitors physically unable to adopt the posture specified in the Conditions.

Target Shotgun (Volume 5)

An introductory page details the changes from the 2020 edition.

New rules have been introduced regarding use of alternative firing postures by competitors physically unable to adopt the posture specified in the Conditions.

A new class, Service Shotgun, has been introduced with dedicated competitions and clearance for use in some existing competitions.

The date of the Cottesloe Heath Challenge has yet to be confirmed.

Civilian Service Rifle (Volume 6)

An introductory page details the changes from the 2020 edition. Some competitions will be shot on Pirbright ranges.

Classic & Historic (Volume 7)

Volume 7, the NRA Classic & Historic Handbook, is formally authorised for use for the first time. Para 163 in Volume 2 is reduced to a reference to the Classic & Historic Handbook. ■



Be sure to familiarise yourself with the equipment controls for your discipline (rules 131-179)



Imperial TR: New Format for 2021

Peter Cottrell outlines the changes to the Target Rifle Imperial for 2021

The challenges of staging the revised Imperial Meeting in 2020 led to some changes to the format, with a more flexible programme that proved attractive to less regular attendees. For example, 25% of entries were people who had not entered in one or both of 2018 and 2019; some returning shooters had not entered the Imperial for over 10 years.

The revised format also proved very popular with regular shooters; a previous Queen's Prize winner

kindly wrote:

'I think the 2020 programme changes were excellently thought out and in my conversations with several other competitors I heard the

same appreciation. I certainly hope that the success of a revised programme is used for a more radical reconsideration for future years.'

The intention for 2021 is to provide a greater choice, especially to shooters who struggle to find the time or money to enter the full TR programme, while maintaining or enhancing the Meeting as the pinnacle of the Target Rifle calendar.

The Grand Aggregate will be contested over four days rather than the usual six, and comprises one long-range and two short-range competitions each day. The Donegall is included, and the Wimbledon TR has increased to a 15-round competition, which provides some balance at each distance.

The last day of the Grand, Second Tuesday, will see three competitions: The St George's I, Prince of Wales, and The

HM The Queen's Prize will be a stand-alone competition, shot over three consecutive days, the first being Second Thursday, with the National following later in the afternoon. Regardless of where shooters place in the Grand, everyone has a chance to re-set their sights and mind-set on the premier event, and for those with limited time, this means taking just two days off a typical working week to be part of the Meeting.

The intention for 2021 is to provide a greater choice, especially to shooters who struggle to find the time or money to enter the full TR programme

The last two days of the Imperial broadly follow the previous format, with HM The Queen's Prize Second Stage and team competitions on Second Friday: the Kolapore, UK

Armed Forces v Home Countries, U25 teams and Chancellors and Musketeers. The Mackinnon and Universities Long Range take place on the morning of Final Saturday, before the culmination of the Imperial with The Queen's Final starting at 14.30 on Saturday 24 July.

We very much look forward to welcoming you back to Bisley. ■

Lovell, providing plenty of opportunity for movement up (and down!) the leader board. The HPS is 725.

The St George's Second Stage and Final both take place on Second Wednesday, which will be a big day for some, with County and Inter-Service team matches, plus the Chairman's Prize and the Donaldson Memorial Final.



152nd TR Imperial

Programme 15 – 24 July 2021



Thursday 15th July: Opening Shot, Schools Veterans

Friday 16th July: Astor County Finals, Admiral Hutton, Century

THE GRAND AGGREGATE

Saturday 17th July: Conan Doyle, Daily Telegraph, Donegall

Sunday 18th July: Alexandra, Daily Mail, Duke of Cambridge

Monday 19th July: Corporation, Times, Wimbledon

Tuesday 20th July: Lovell, Prince of Wales, St George's I

Wednesday 21st July: Inter-Service & Inter Counties SR & LR,
St George's II, St George's Final, Donaldson Memorial Final

Thursday 22nd July: National, Overseas, Universities National

Friday 23rd July: Kolapore, UK Armed Forces v Home Countries,
Chancellors, Musketeers, U25 Teams

Saturday 24th July: Mackinnon, Universities Long Range



HM THE QUEEN'S PRIZE

Thursday 22nd July
Stage I

Friday 23rd July
Stage II

Saturday 24th July
Final



Why not try: Gallery Rifle

Now is the ideal time to give GR a go, says Phil Woods,
Gallery Rifle Vice Captain for GBGR

Gallery Rifle is a relatively new discipline, having been around since the 1990s. The term Gallery Rifle is a little misleading, as the discipline covers events from 7m to 300m, various calibres, and several firearm types. There is no typical Gallery Rifle shooter, though they normally display similar values, being kind, always prepared to help and have fun.

It is normal to see our community members competing in non-GR disciplines, with Target Shotgun, practical shooting and CSR very much in favour. This is because Gallery Rifle is a very dynamic sport, with most of the courses of fire having a 'reaction' element. This can be two shots in three seconds (all from a ready position that isn't the firearm on target!) through to the targets turning and one shot in two seconds. This is what makes Gallery Rifle different to most other forms of target shooting.

The UK season runs from March to November each year, with many events across the country and not just at Bisley. For the more serious shooters, there are also events in Ireland and Germany. While all these events are shooting-related, they

also have a large social element to enjoy.

Like everything, COVID has affected our activities and it is difficult to have effective practice. That being said, it is not impossible. Many of the GR events require shooting in different positions (kneeling, sitting and weak side), so the lack of range time provides time to focus on the basic fundamentals and plenty of dry practice (in safe conditions off course).

The relatively small number of clubs that have turning targets is often cited as a reason that non GR shooters don't get involved. This is not a true reflection however, as it is still valuable to practice on static targets. The NRA GR handbook is an excellent place to read about the courses of fire. Better still is to come to one of the action weekends at Bisley and enter a competition or two. We often hear people say "But I'm not good enough," to which we respond, "Good enough for what? To be safe and have fun?" That is what this discipline is about. While there are many GR shooters who do commit massive amounts of time and energy to the discipline, there are more who just turn up for fun, often only once or twice a year.

FROM GARY BOWDEN, CAPTAIN FOR GBGR, 2021

I am pleased to announce the GB Gallery Rifle Team Squad for 2021. As last year, we have Shooting and Support members making up the squad. While the 2020 International Season fell victim to COVID, we hope we will get to compete in 2021. This is especially significant as we are preparing for the IGRF (International Gallery Rifle Federation) World Championships, to be hosted by the UK in 2022.

The full squad:

Gary Bowden (Captain)
Phil Wood (Vice Captain)
Chris West
Jake Mossom
Steve Lamb
Keith Kilvington
Peter Watts
Morné Van Dalen
David Guest
Jonny Cormie
Jim Starley
Robert Tonner
Robert Wheeler
Fraser Hay
Andrew Summers
Gerry Betteridge
Norman Veitch
Mel Beard
Keith Cox

The GBGR Managing Committee:

Ash Dagger (Chair / GR Rep)
Jacky Lamb (Adjutant)
Charles Murton (IGRF Rep)
Gary Bowden (Captain)
Phil Wood (Vice Captain)

Supported by:

Jim Smith (Fund Raising)
Anita Bowden (Fund Raising)
Neil Francis (IT and Social Media)
Dave Holt (Armourer)

In these 'unusual' times, why not respond in an 'unusual' way and try a discipline that you haven't before? Most people fall into GR by chance, but very few people leave once they know about it.

Hopefully you will be inspired to give it a go, or at least find out more. Why not go to www.galleryrifle.com and challenge yourself to adapt, improvise and overcome. ■

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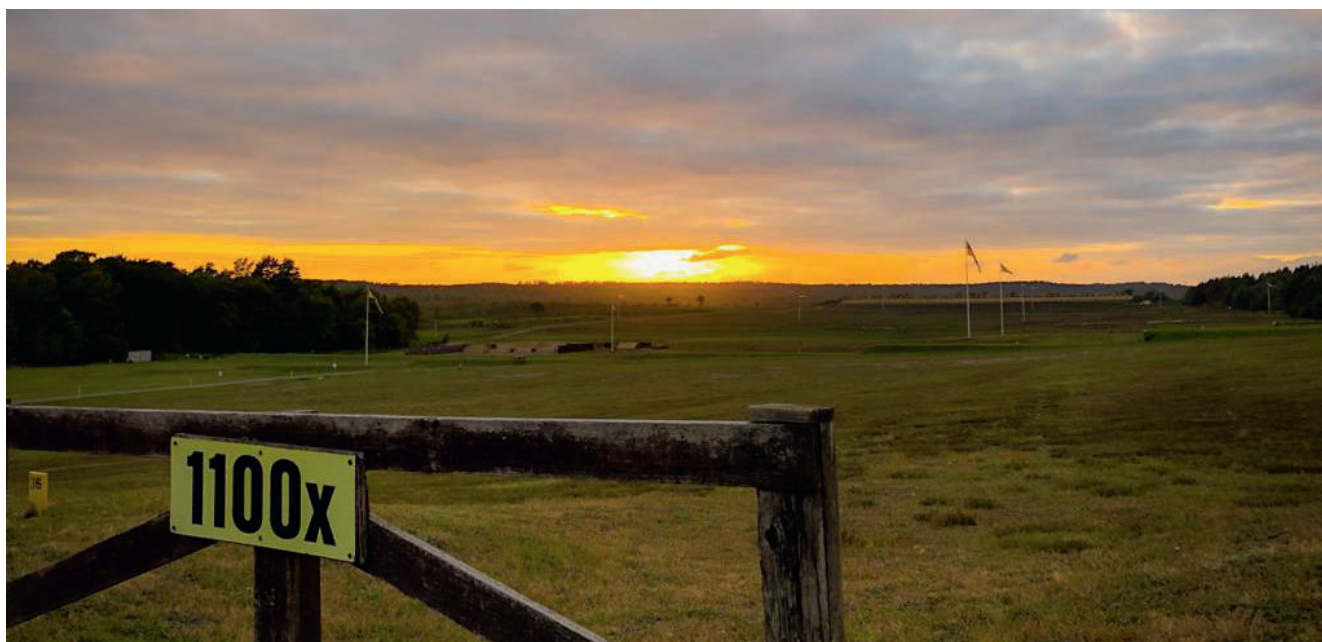
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Let there be light!

Jon Longhurst hails the dawn of the 2021 F-Class season, with photographs by James McCosh (locked down at Bisley)



Finally, there is light – and the F-Class calendar is already bursting at the seams. This terrible pandemic has taken its toll in so many ways. I cannot stress enough that now is the time to get out, get shooting, support our clubs and ranges up and down the Country, and our National Rifle Association. Regardless of the day to day, each element of our sport relies heavily on the others for their success.

Imperial Meeting

Last year we were most grateful to be able to shoot an adapted, shorter version of the Imperial in September. I have thanked on behalf of the F-Class community Peter Cottrell, Becky Mills and their team for all their efforts making this happen.

To take a positive from this situation, the 2020 Imperial attracted many competitors that have never shot an Imperial before, most likely due to starvation of shooting opportunities in 2020. Now they have experienced this unique competition, they're hooked.

The NRA are determined that this year's 152nd Imperial meeting will be spectacular, and I would like to encourage as many F-Class competitors to enter as possible. If you need any assistance or have questions regarding the Imperial please contact the NRA who will forward your enquiry to me.

Imperial Teams

On 20 July the NRA will host two teams events as part of the Imperial Meeting. One competition will be open to International Teams of four shooters, one captain and two coaches. Clearly, there are challenges to overcome this year with both a change in the permit system for international visitors with rifles, and international travel itself.

The second competition is open to all small teams and the disciplines will be divided into FTR and F Open. Restricted to four firers and one coach, with the number of small teams we have in the UK and those that do hopefully make it from abroad, this will be a hard-fought competition. Please register your interest in these teams events with me through the NRA.

New NRA Online Booking Site

The NRA has a new competition website: online.nra.org.uk. Launched last year, it could have gone unnoticed, although you may have been redirected to it through the main site when searching for competitions.

I find it far quicker and easier to navigate and I now go directly to it to view the competition calendar.

Teams League

The Teams League is really taking shape and a fantastic platform for our UK small teams to compete. Created by Gary Costello and Stuart Anselm, and now co-organised with Simon West and Ewen Campbell, their ambition is to grow this league and the teams that take part Nationwide.

Four dates are planned in 2021, the third being the Small Teams Matches of the European Championships. If you would like to take part in this league, please contact one of the organisers or contact me via the NRA and I will pass your enquiry on to them.

GBFCA League

Unfortunately, the first two league weekends have fallen victim to the COVID situation. Thankfully, the GBFCA has converted our first competition into a friendly with the same layout. My understanding is that the lack of accommodation was the deciding factor for round 1 which would be unfair to award league points when competitors who live too far away couldn't take part. Sadly, due to the layout of Diggle and also the accommodation issue, round 2 is not viable and has been cancelled completely.

The GBFCA are as keen as the rest of us to have a meaningful league this year, particularly in the runup to the F-Class World Championships 2022. As it stands, round 3 onwards are scheduled and we all hope that they will be able to go ahead.

All Distance Challenge

Details of this years' All Distance Challenge are not yet released.

It is a fantastic competition and a great opportunity to shoot on a different range. Held at Altcar, an active MoD base, Match Director Richie Jones has run this highly subscribed competition for many years.

There are green shoots at Bisley, which will soon be brimming with shooters again



This is a multi-distance competition with individual matches held on the Saturday and teams on the Sunday.

Top Gun

There is no doubting how incredibly popular this competition has become, thanks to Match Director Ian Chenery. Ian has had to adapt time and time again with COVID and incredibly high winds forcing him to push the dates. Last year, Ian wisely chose

to move the 2021 Top Gun competition from its usual February slot to December as he predicted that restrictions would still be in place.

Bisley Bible

This year the rules relating to F Class will include permitting the use of barrel tuners. This was an administrative exercise to prevent any challenges to their use under Rule 132. ■

F CLASS CALENDAR 2021			
Date	Event	Range	Contact
28-30 May	Phoenix Meeting	Bisley	online.nra.org.uk
29-30 May	Teams League – (Round 1)	Bisley	Gary Costello
14-16 May	GBFCA League – Round 2 – CANCELLED		
3-4 July	Teams League – (Round 2)	Bisley	Gary Costello
11-13 June	GBFCA League – Round 3	Diggle	gbfca.com
9-11 July	GBFCA League – Round 4	Bisley	gbfca.com
16-24 July	Imperial Meeting	Bisley	online.nra.org.uk
6-8 August	GBFCA League – Round 5	Blair Atholl	gbfca.com
6-12 September	European Championships (GBFCA League Round 6)	Bisley	gbfca.com
9 September	Small Teams Matches (part of the Europeans and Teams League Round 3)	Bisley	gbfca.com
8-10 October	GBFCA League – Round 7	Blair Atholl	gbfca.com
16-17 October	Teams League (Round 4)	Bisley	Gary Costello
5-7 November	British Championships (GBFCA League Round 8)	Bisley	gbfca.com
13-14 November	All Distance Challenge	Altcar	Richie Jones
4 December	Top Gun Teams	Bisley	Ian Chenery
5 December	Top Gun Individuals	Bisley	Ian Chenery



A discipline for Everyone

Pam Carter recounts her experiences in the 300-metre discipline, and how its indoor, low-recoil form of shooting can appeal to anyone

You will be more used to reading 300-metre articles written by my husband, but to ring the changes a little, I thought I would tell you of my way into 300-metre shooting, and also from more of a female perspective. Perhaps I may encourage more ladies to enjoy this great discipline, although you guys are also very welcome.

I used to shoot fullbore TR and 300-metre with a 7.62 calibre rifle, back in the day when I was a lot younger and able to deal with the heavy recoil a lot better. I well remember shooting the 300-metre three-positional match, and in the standing position, the recoil lifting my

forward left foot off the ground after every shot. (I am not the tallest person in the world), now I am only interested in prone.

After a gap of 20 years or so, I came back to shooting in retirement, returning to small bore without too much trouble and wanted to try fullbore again. I tried TR again at our local range, but soon came to the conclusion that the 7.62 was too much for me. I could do it quite successfully, but the recoil was too heavy, and I didn't much like having to drag what felt like tons of kit from 300 yards to 500 yards then later on to 600 yards, and then share a firing point with two other people and end up only shooting 10 shots! Heaving targets up

and down in the butts, and carrying them to and from the target store, was also not my favourite activity. And even though it is a summer sport, we started shooting in March, so we were out in the open in all weathers, rain, snow, wind and sometimes freezing temperatures. No, definitely not for me!

I looked into other fullbore disciplines, learning that 300-metre shooting was still active in this country at Bisley, and it was a similar prone target shooting discipline, under ISSF rules, like the small-bore competitions I was used to.

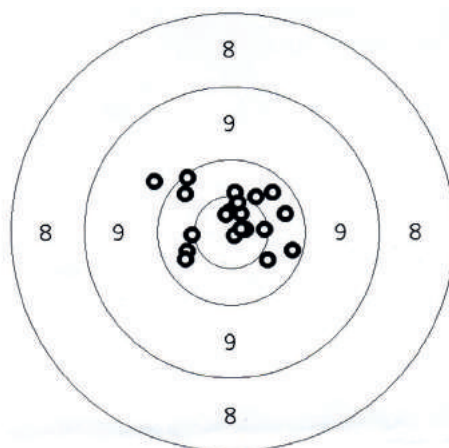
300-metre sounded much more up my street: an indoor, covered and protected



Keppeler 6mmBR: A study in purple, with a cerise breech flag!

firing point so you are out of the weather, electronic targets with a screen with you on the firing point, with which you can zoom in and out to see your shots and groups better. Also just one trip from the car park to the range carrying my kit, and finally, using the most popular calibre, 6mmBR, which is very low recoil compared to 7.62. For me, a complete win/win situation! You can also have a print-out of your shoot, so you can plot your scores and shot patterns.

The quest was then to find the right 300-metre rifle for me. My husband Robin and I travelled a lot in Europe, visiting many different shooting clubs and gun makers in Austria and Germany particularly. We found Keppeler Rifles in Germany, who were prepared to make a bespoke 300-metre rifle for me from their basic aluminium stock and action in 6mm BR. Using my small bore Walther as a model, they built me a 300-metre version of my small-bore rifle. They shortened their alloy stock, fitted a shorter, lighter barrel from Lothar Walther, and added a small pistol grip obtained from Walther so it was identical to my small-bore, all with a short trigger reach, a lighter free trigger pull, and best of all, in 6mmBR, much lower recoil than 7.62.



A Bisley training shoot printout. The famous Bisley wind was responsible for one shot...

S-S	236
H	124
B	235
X-MID	-3.2
Y-MID	7.6
TOT	582

INT 300m

41	*.7 ↑	-0.8	14.5	46	X.2 ↗	28.0	27.7
42	*.7 ↗	6.6	13.1	47	X.2 →	41.1	-12.0
43	*.5 ↑	2.7	27.5	48	*.9 ↘	2.1	-1.7
44	X.4 ↗	16.7	24.7	49	*.8 →	9.7	2.1
45	X.1 ↖	-29.5	37.7	50	*.8 ↑	-3.3	12.2
51	X.4 ↘	24.3	-18.7	56	9.8 ↖	-51.8	35.1
52	*.5 ←	-26.5	-1.2	57	*.6 →	22.6	2.5
53	*.6 ↑	4.5	20.5	58	X.2 ↖	-30.7	26.7
54	X.3 →	36.6	13.2	59	X.3 ↖	-30.7	-18.1
55	X.4 ←	-29.7	-12.3	60	*.9 →	6.6	2.8

My first ever shot with a 6mm BR was a revelation. It was love at first shot

There it was, my own little 6mm rifle. Only trouble was it was in boring blue, the same as the Walther. They could have done purple but it would have added a lot to the delivery time, and I wanted it for the start of the season. But hey ho, I thought, at this stage beggars can't be choosers. Boring blue it was.

I initially used RPA metric direction sights in 8 clicks per minute as I also wanted the option to use the rifle on our local TR practice shoots back to 600 yards.

It was delivered on time, and my first ever shot with the rifle, and of the 6mm BR calibre, was on the zero range at Bisley when zeroing and running in. My first ever shot with a 6mm BR was a revelation. It was love at first shot, the accuracy and especially the low recoil. I went on to shoot

in all the 300-metre shoots with the GB 300m Club, in the Shed on Century Range in that first year, both training shoots and matches. The competitions are all 60-shot matches, with one hour to shoot all shots, and having your own target, you can use that time as you please, shoot 10, 20 or 30 shots, rest between groups of shots as I did initially, or shoot straight through all 60 as I sometimes do now (though I generally have a break after 30). It was fun, and it had some similarities to small-bore but was still a different experience. I found it was not as easy as I'd thought to get similar scores, initially reaching into the 570s ex-600, but not even close to my small-bore scores, which were 590s.

It was demanding – but it was great fun. I even learnt to reload ammunition



Indoors, electronics – what is there not to like?

when we started loading our own, both to save cost and also for accuracy. To me, who no longer wished to do cold and wet, a great advantage was the indoor firing point: although the front is open, you are protected from the worst of the weather, and if it is really cold (we start shooting 300-metre in March too), you can take your own portable heater on to the range. How's that for luxury? You can't do that in TR.

I was quite happy shooting my rifle as it was for about two years, and had progressed nicely into the 580s, but I wanted to make some improvements for the next year, including changing the colour if I could.

Doing some research, we found a paint shop that did spray painting on Lotus racing cars (we live in Norfolk by the way), and who were agreeable to respraying my stock with a hard-spray protective coating in any colour. So I took the plunge and asked them to do it for me.

What a revelation! I now have a beautiful purple/pink stock, which looks wonderful, and of course, shoots much better. I'm convinced that the colour of the rifle is an important technical feature! I also asked them to spray my then-new .22 rifle, also in a Keppeler stock supplied

in bare metal so it could get the same treatment. That also shoots better now it is a decent colour...

I also changed the front and rear sights to the same as my small-bore sights to let more light in. Always an advantage.

In 2017, having European contacts, we obtained guest entries in the Austrian 300-metre championships, so we combined a holiday with shooting, and I christened a new barrel, and an extension barrel tube with a new personal best of 594 ex-600 at the superb wind-free mountain range in Lienz. Very different to Bisley – so little wind they did not even put out wind flags! The improved score was all down to the rifle colour, of course.

Looking forward, other 300m shooters are experimenting with different calibres, some heavier to get good wind bucking like the 6mmXC, and some with even less recoil than the 6mm BR. The .223 seems to be an interesting consideration, as the recoil is much lighter. My husband is experimenting with a .223, which I have tried, and found it very accurate and comfortable. The recoil is much lower even than the 6mm BR, and does surprisingly well in the always-tricky Bisley wind. This may be the way to go for me in the future

– that's when we can get to Bisley to shoot again, as soon as virus and vaccines permit.

I hope that this has given you some insight into 300-metre shooting from my perspective, as a small, older lady, still very interested in prone rifle shooting, and definitely not ready to give it up yet! It's open to all, men and women – we'd like to see more men, but it would be nice to see a few more ladies as well as there are some definite pluses.

If you would like to try 300-metre shooting at Bisley, on the indoor point, out of the rain and cold (even out of the sun if we get any), electronic targets, men or ladies, we look forward to welcoming you when the COVID situation is positive enough. If you are a TR shooter you can do it with a 7.62, or can look at the lower-recoil options. ■

If you would like more information, contact Pam or Robin on:
robin.carter80@ntlworld.com

I christened a new barrel and an extension barrel tube with a new personal best of 594 ex-600 at the superb wind-free mountain range in Lienz

300M CLUB DATES For the "shed" Bisley in 2021	
17 April	Saturday PM
9 May	Sunday PM
26-27 June	Both full days – NRA 300m Championships
8 August	Sunday PM
18 September	Saturday AM
25 September	Saturday PM
9 October	Saturday PM

Shotgun bulletin

An update from James Harris, Target Shotgun Representative



While 2020 proved to be something of a write-off in relation to the shooting calendar, it was hoped that 2021 would start to see a resurgence of activity, though that may be tempered by the restrictions at the time of writing. The Limax Cup (the International Match) due to be held in 2020 at the Phoenix Meeting was postponed until the next available opportunity. However, the Irish and German teams are unlikely to attend the Phoenix this year owing to travel restrictions. Therefore, after discussion with key parties, it is to be deferred again until 2022.

CHC 2020 was run some months late despite the biblical weather. Sadly, the Military requirements for DEFOSC were confirmed too late to set a definitive date for the match in 2021. It was hoped to run the match on its normal weekend in June, but that is subject to COVID-19 restrictions and other factors. An alternative date of 20-22 August is in the diary if the June date is not possible.

On a positive note, we hope to run a friendly England-vs-Ireland-vs-Wales match at the GR Nationals this September. This will not be a shoulder-to-shoulder match and no formal recognition will be given. Please contact me via targetshotgun@nra.org.uk for more information.

Also on the bright side, the International Target Shotgun Federation (ITSF) has asked the NRA if its world championships can be run at Bisley during the Phoenix 2022 meeting. Coincidentally this is also the 25th Phoenix meeting and the date of the IGRF World Championships. As this will also fit with the postponed Limax Cup, there will be plenty of opportunity for competing. If you are interested in a place in the GB team, please contact me by email.

Training and introductory days

With 2020 being virtually written off from a training perspective, there is now a backlog of people wanting to attend the TS intro days. We hope that in addition to the scheduled intro courses, additional

dates will be added once crew and range availability become clearer. In addition to this, dedicated assessment days are being considered for those that have sufficient experience and just need Safe Shooter Certification. Please contact Shooting Division for more information.

Rule changes 2021

There have been some minor changes for 2021. The most significant is the requirement to ask for medical dispensation before the match starts from the meeting director.

New match and firearms class

In 2020 the Service Match was trialled and found to be successful, if somewhat challenging, and it has been accepted formally. This match is shot at 15, 25 and 50m on two DP1 targets. To accompany this, a new firearm class has been added: Service Shotgun. This is defined in the new rulebook but if you are unsure if your shotgun qualifies please email me. ■

Competitive Shooting Is Good For Your Health

Olympic bronze medallist John Kynoch says mental training is as important as physical, and your toughest opponent is your own negative thoughts

I believe that there is much misunderstanding about the extent to which serious participation in competitive target shooting can be beneficial to one's physical and mental health. Having a good balance between one's domestic duties, one's employment efforts, and efforts expended in some all-absorbing other activity makes an extremely valuable contribution towards mental health. For me, this activity is shooting, and it has been suggested that my experiences in this connection may be of use to other shooters.

At the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico, it was confirmed that the 50m Running Boar event would be included in the Munich Games in 1972. I was British Champion at the time and resolved to do my best to get to the Games in four years. I did get there and came home with a Bronze Medal – the first medal GB had won for rifle shooting since 1924.

I lived then in Scotland, 670 miles from Bisley where the only Moving Target range in the country was. I had to devise my own development programme, which involved very little shooting on the 50-metre target.

I was not naturally athletic or strong. My cricket and rugby days were behind me. Building up my physical fitness and upper body strength was going to be a big part of this. In Moving Target, we need to bring a 5kg rifle up to the shoulder and swing it accurately to deliver an aimed shot in the five (or two and a half) seconds that the target takes to cross the gap. In those days the Course of Fire was six 10-shot series, three slow and three fast. Now it is only two 30-shot series, which is much easier! All done in an unsupported

standing position and obviously rather different to some other disciplines. However, I firmly believe in the need to have a fit and healthy body to have a fit and healthy mind. When you are fit, and you do not notice the weight of the rifle, it is one less thing to worry about and gives you great confidence.

Would I have done all that running and weightlifting without the motivation of wanting to punch holes on bits of paper in a particular way? Of course not.

I built three proportional ranges: a four-metre one for my garage and another one for dry-firing in the house, and a 20-metre one for weekend use in the factory. And I did spend a lot of time on them. However, I believe that mental training is an even more important aspect for high-level competitive shooting. I have always preached that while all sport has mental aspects, and is to an extent a 'mind game', in no other sport is it more important than in shooting. The Russians call shooting 'the sport of the will'.

I drew some quizzical looks at a post-medal-presentation media interview at the Games when the interviewer, knowing that I lived in the north of Scotland, asked "Where do you do your practice?"

"In the bath," I said. It was actually largely true. After Munich it surprised me to realise that for some years, for the hour and more that it took me to mow the lawn, and all the time when walking home from the mill, I was always thinking about some aspect of my shooting. How would I deal with this or that project? How would I cope with this or that hypothetical situation, should it arise? By going over and over every conceivable situation – including being in a position to win an Olympic medal, however pretentious that seemed – one became accustomed to the situations and thoughts, and came to decide that one would manage to cope with each.

This actually happened at Munich. Heading back after the first day's competition, I was sitting in the bus behind the team manager. I could see he was adding up the day's scores on his start list. Having completed the additions, I could see him marking "1", "2" and "3" in various positions on the

list, the last one about where I thought I was on the start list. There had been talk about keeping pressure off anyone in a potential medal-winning position, but when I said, "I am not lying third am I?" he said quietly, "Let's just say you are fairly handily placed." Fair enough. I had certainly seen some potential medal-winners collapse in the early series.

Later that evening, we bumped into the Swedes at a pizza house in town, and I got some good-natured ribbing from them. Their World Champion, record holder and hot favourite for the gold, had blown it in his first series, shooting about 10 points below his norm. I may have played a small part in that! Whereas most of us had been practicing on the range for a week or more, he had been kept away to avoid the expected hype and did not appear until the last

practice day. When he came into the range, he had to pass the firing point where I had just finished a practice. He looked up at the epidiascope screen above me and saw a rather good score, then looked back at me in amazement and said, "You?" I stuck my chest out in jest and said "Yes, me!" He did not look happy. It eventually transpired that he was not mentally strong enough to cope with the expectations.

Anyway, the Swedes ribbed me: "What got into you today? You are lying third – above Postoiarov." Valeri Postoiarov, who had twice been second in the Worlds, was a good friend and a bit of a hero of mine. He had helped me a lot at several past meetings, particularly the previous year when, by invitation, I was shooting in the Soviet Championships. I had wanted to buy a Russian twin post 'scope which were not available in the West. When his best efforts had failed, he said he would give me his at the end of shooting. "They will have to give me a new one!" he said. In return I would send him an anthology of the works of Shakespeare. Those that he had access to had been translated back into English from Russian.

And they said I had a couple of points on him. Wow! But I was not fazed. I had been there before if only in my thoughts. I slept well. All I had to do was to take, one by one, each shot of the remaining two series, as well as I could. Someone else would work out the scores. I was

**“Would I have
done all
that running and
weightlifting without
the motivation of
wanting to punch
holes on bits of paper
in a particular way?
Of course not**



Gold and Bronze medal winners, Munich Games
1972: Lakov Zhelezniak and John Kynoch

I wanted it, and by 'it' I meant a good score. That is all you can control. Whether you win depends on others

particularly satisfied to later realise that when it came to the final series, the difficult Fast Runs, we three medal winners all scored 94, the highest score of the series. It did not happen entirely by accident!

My score of 562 was 10 points higher than my current British Record. It was the world record until 12 months before. I had only ever done a higher score in a very few training series. But this was the big one. The one you had dreamt of, the one that you had worked hard for, for four years. Why would you not summon up a greater degree of concentration and determination than you had hitherto found possible? 'Get a grip' – it is a 'mind game' for goodness sake!

We Running Boar medalists had to attend an official press interview session along with the Rapid Fire Pistol medalists. I will always remember, and quite often quote, the comment given by Józef Zapędzki, who had just won his event – again. The top German sports

commentator said to him, "To win the Rapid Fire Gold medal, probably the most technically difficult of all shooting events, is a great achievement. To return and defend it four years later is without precedent. To what do you ascribe your success?" The lovely, quiet-spoken Polish Colonel said slowly, "Well, you have to shoot a lot, and you have to *think a lot* about your shooting". "Yes, Yes," said the interviewer, "but..." He, a would-be sports expert, did not have a clue what Zapędzki was talking about! And neither would many people who watch competitive rifle shooting.

This, of course, is a problem that we need to explain. Do I still train? Yes I do; but aged 87, with much loss of strength and balance, and most importantly with a much-extended reaction time when deciding when the aim is acceptable, I am only still a bit competitive in one or two events.

In 2020 I was particularly keen to do well in the Buck, a snap shooting event,

shot in the sitting position. It is one of the five matches that make up our British Sporting Rifle Championships, which we were able to get in between lockdowns. I have had some success in the match in the past. In the 41 times I was able to compete since 1964, I had won it 20 times. In eight of these I scored 96 or more; a score only achieved by others six times since 1980 when we adopted the current DJV target.

I really wanted it, and by 'it' I meant getting a good score. That is all you can control. Whether you win or not depends on others. I did a lot of weight training to restore some strength; I did a lot of dry firing at a proportional target in the garden; but most of all I spent a lot of time building up my resolve and determination. I find this really works. It is a mind game after all!

Come the day, I shot confidently – as I had prepared to do – and I scored another 96 and won by 24 points. You are ever only shooting against your potentially negative self. It is a mind game, remember.

Would I have done all the preparation to keep myself fit over the years if I did not set myself these goals? Of course not. But competitive shooting does keep you alive and striving, both physically and mentally. Good luck. ■



Running Deer Championship winners, 2019 Imperial Meeting: Asad Wahid, John Maddison, Cornelius Schalkwyk, Alan Harvey, Darren Coffee, John Kynoch, David Yendell

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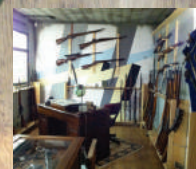
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Your Trustees

Find out more about the people who make up the NRA Board of Trustees, their backgrounds and roles

David Lacey (Chairman)



David has been a trustee since 2014 and was elected Chairman of the NRA in February 2020. He has also served on the Disciplinary Body in the past. He practised as a solicitor for over 30 years, specialising in banking and finance law.

Through Old Sergeants Mess Shooting Club, he has been involved in training the next generation of shooting sportsmen and women. His own shooting experience involves field shooting around the world, as well as competing in F-Class competitions.

He is a keen handloader, and helped introduce short-range heavy-bullet rifles to Bisley, allowing many old classic British rifles to be used.

Tom Putt



Tom Putt is a returnee to shooting, having learnt to shoot at school. He has a background in real estate and is a Chartered Surveyor who has worked in academe, local government and the NHS managing commercial and residential property. He is a member of TVGC.

Andrew Reynolds (Treasurer)



Andrew has been Treasurer since 2019. He has a long-standing association with fullbore target rifle, having shot at RGS Guildford and Oxford University.

After university he became a Chartered Accountant, and for the last 15 years has worked in Risk Management. Andrew's membership bolsters the financial management skills of the Trustee Board and brings a wealth of experience in regulatory compliance – a key focus in the charity sector.

Reg Roberts



Reg grew up in Sydney, Australia, where he learned to shoot and qualified as an accountant – both transferable skills that he brought with him when he moved to the UK in 1982.

As a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, he has had the opportunity to hone many business skills. He has run his own employment agency group as CEO, also undertaking the roles of finance director, sales director and human resources. He is an active real estate developer, both in the UK and overseas, and a keen investor, sponsoring a number of successful start-ups as a corporate angel, one of which is shortly to be listed on the AIM stock market.



Nick Brasier



Nick shoots Target Rifle and Match Rifle and has toured with GB teams around the world. Many know him as Chairman of the London and Middlesex Rifle Association at Bisley, and he is a keen promoter of the benefits that clubs can bring to individual shooters and the sport of shooting across the UK.

As well as being a Trustee, Nick is a director of the National Shooting Centre Limited (NSC).

Nick's background is in technology, working at UK start-ups and major US tech firms in software, product management and marketing roles, developing and launching new products in networking and IP telephony.

His entrepreneurial business, charity trustee and company director experience combine to bring valuable insight as we develop and execute the NRA's plans for the future of target shooting in the UK.

Robert Bruce



Robert Bruce is a former career infantry soldier who – following his military service – ran a number of charities before retiring in December 2019. His final working appointment was General Secretary of the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting. He is not a Target Rifle shot but – as a result of his operational shooting experience – fully understands the theory, principles and shooting techniques involved.

Robert joined the Board of Trustees in February 2020 as a co-opted member and feels he is able to contribute to NRA work in three specific areas. Relations with the MoD – he has an intimate knowledge of the military mindset (thinking, processes and procedures); pull-through of cadets into NRA membership – he has detailed knowledge of the four cadet youth organisations; recognition of problems and identification of solutions – he has an ordered mind (as a result of his formal management training and development as a military staff officer) and is able to operate at strategic, operational and tactical levels.

Julia Hilger Ellis



Julia is a member and the Honorary Secretary of Home Office-approved historic shooting club, Ham and Petersham Rifle and Pistol Club in Richmond.

She actively shoots Gallery, Target Shotgun and clays, and regularly delivers the Target Shotgun course for new members at HPRPC and supporting the NRA Target Shotgun Captain. As an NRA RCO, she can often be found on the Bisley ranges helping with Gallery and Target Shotgun competitions. She is also an active Shotgun and Chelsea Bun Club member, promoting the shooting sport nationally to women.

Julia runs her own programme and project management company, working with public sector clients. Her experience ranges from communication and governance to risk management. Julia also serves on the board of IPSE as a Non-Executive Director.

Andrew Nebel MBE



Andrew has lived in Rutland since 1985. He is now retired after a career in marketing and communications for major brands and as a national director with Barnardo's. After retirement he spent nine years as a non-executive director of Moorfields Eye Hospital and three years in a similar role for Southwark CCG in London.

Andrew chairs the charity Duchenne UK, and as well as the NRA, is also a Trustee for a military charity. He does 'as and when' work for Health Education England and is a Parish Councillor in his village. Andrew served for 13 years in the army and is a member of the ATSC where he enjoys shooting his 1942 Lee Enfield No 4 .303.

Gary Alexander



Gary is a director and optometrist of Specsavers Opticians in Newbury where he specialises in helping shooters.

Passionate about encouraging young shooters, Gary was shooting officer in Wiltshire ACF for many years and has managed GB U21 teams for the last two world championships.

Gary returns to the board of trustees by election from General Council after a previous stint from 2013 to 2019 because he feels there is so much to do to promote shooting sports all over the UK.

He Captains, coaches and shoots MR and TR competitively for GB & Ireland and shoots shotguns for fun.

Charles Dickenson



Charles became an ex-officio Trustee as a result of being appointed Chairman of the Shooting Committee in October 2020 and acts as the link between that committee and the NRA Council. He is also the Target Rifle Discipline Representative on General Council.

Charles is retired. He spent 20 years in the Royal Navy as a weapon engineer officer, gaining an MSc in Guided Weapon Systems and managing the maintenance of combat systems, electronic equipment and weapons of all sizes from pistols to Polaris. He subsequently spent 22 years in the defence industry as a consultant chartered engineer and project manager.

Having got into competitive small-bore rifle and pistol and fullbore Target Rifle and Match Rifle shooting at Cambridge University, he progressed rapidly from university teams to Royal Navy, Combined Services, county, national, NRA and GB teams, both as a shooter and as a wind coach, and has been captain or vice-captain of teams at every level. Over the years he has also shot service rifle, pistol and submachine gun, and had an occasional go at sporting rifle, gallery rifle, muzzleloaders and shotgun.

His priorities are to develop an NRA Strategy for Youth Shooting across all disciplines, and to improve the reach of skills training by revalidating existing coaches and qualifying new coaches, who can take quality training back to their clubs all around the country.

Competitions are back

Becky Mills outlines what's in store as restrictions on competitive sport ease

We are delighted that we will welcome you back to the ranges for an assortment of competitions to keep you busy in 2021.

At the time of writing, we aim to restart competitions from 29 March (before this issue of the *Journal* is published), in line with the government's rules on organised outdoor sport. The NRA's 2021 Competition Calendar will therefore feature the events listed across the page.

Phoenix Meeting 28-30 May (sponsored by Brownells)

If you've yet to take part in a Phoenix Meeting, let me give you a flavour of what will be happening. Three intense days of competition will see most of the Bisley ranges occupied by enthusiastic shooters, taking part in a multitude of competitions from 10 to 1000 yards. Events are available for Civilian Service Rifle, F-Class, Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Long Range Pistol, McQueen, Muzzle Loading/Black Powder, Sporting Rifle and Target Shotgun.

As a way to challenge yourself, as well as others, almost all of the Phoenix Competitions award 'Standards' based on pre-defined score boundaries. Those achieving a Gold standard will be awarded 5 points, Silver standard 3 points, and Bronze standard 1 point. By attaining 20 or more points across the Meeting, you will receive a Phoenix Grand Master medal.

300m Championships 26-27 June

Slightly later in the calendar than normal, but just as competitive. The 300m Shed will play host to a weekend of shooting for Free, Standard, and NRA Target Rifle. See our website for details of the revised programme.

152nd Imperial Meeting, 24 June – 24 July

Fingers are firmly crossed for a restriction-free Imperial, which will include most of



the regular Meetings, but regrettably not the Service Rifle or Schools Meetings.

The Imperial will start with the NRA/ARA Military Adaptive Championships on Thursday 24 June, when we welcome serving and ex-serving military personnel for an afternoon of .22 competitions on Melville including Advancing Target and Mini McQueen.

The CSR Imperial will follow its revised and well-received 2020 programme from Wednesday 30 June – Sunday 4 July, culminating in the blue-riband Methuen team match on the final day of competition.

Match Rifle shooters can enjoy their week of shooting on Stickledown from Friday 9 – Thursday 15 July, with Home Countries battling it out to take home the Elcho shield on Wednesday 14 July.

Classic and Historic firearm owners will once again make some noise on Melville, BSRC ranges and Short Siberia on Saturday 10 – Sunday 11 July, and are always welcoming to new entrants.

The Sporting Rifle Imperial will make its second appearance, hosting five unique events during the Meeting.

McQueen enthusiasts will take to the 300-yard point on Century Range from Tuesday 13 – Sunday 18 July, with separate classes for Any Target or Match

Rifle, Classic, Sporting, Any Sniper, CSR and the highly competitive NRA issued rifle class.

Melville will once again play host to the Gallery Rifle & Pistol Imperial from Wednesday 14 – Sunday 18 July, with lots of re-shoot competitions available!

The F Class Imperial will put your sights to the test between 300 and 1000 yards from Friday 16 – Tuesday 20 July, including an All-comers team event on the 20th for both FTR and F-Open shooters.

The Imperial will conclude with the 152nd Target Rifle Imperial Meeting featuring a refreshed programme (more details on page 14), which will start on Thursday 15 July with the Schools Veterans Match, and culminate with HM The Queen's Prize on Saturday 24 July.

We are privileged and thrilled that outdoor sport can once again resume, and bring with it a chance to meet with friends and fellow firearms enthusiasts, and partake in our sporting endeavours.

The NRA will remain vigilant to government announcements and events will be run under published COVID-secure procedures in line with the guidance. Please ensure you understand any restrictions and comply with them during your visit to Bisley. ■



NRA Competitions 2021

CSR League: 17 April

Small-bore LR Match: 18 April

Phoenix Meeting: 28 – 31 May

Inter-Counties: 12 – 13 June

Cottesloe Heath Challenge: *To be confirmed*

NRA/ARA Military Adaptive Championships: 24 June

NRA 300m Championships: 26 – 27 June

Civilian Service Rifle Meeting: 30 June – 4 July

Match Rifle Imperial: 9 – 14 July

Imperial Historic Arms Meeting: 10 – 11 July

Sporting Rifle Imperial: 10 – 20 July

McQueen Imperial: 13 – 18 July

Gallery Rifle & Pistol Imperial: 14 – 18 July

F Class Imperial: 16 – 20 July

Target Rifle Imperial: 15 – 24 July

Gallery Rifle National Championships: 4 – 5 Sep

Historic SR Match: 2 October

CSR League: 3 October

Target Shotgun Festival: 2 – 3 October

Ages Match: 9 – 10 October

Trafalgar Meeting: 16 – 17 October

Autumn Action Weekend: 23 – 24 October

CSR League: 6 November

CSR League: 5 December

Big news at BSG

As Bisley Shooting Ground reopens, Richie Vallance reveals the latest offers, from an unbeatable membership package to new training programmes

Fingers crossed this is the last lockdown I will be referring to in these articles and that we have a clear run of shooting for the spring and summer. This lockdown has been the most difficult for our staff across NCSC and Bisley Shooting Ground, with most being furloughed. We have again endeavoured to use the time constructively, making improvements to the ground and clubhouse as well as planning new initiatives for the rest of the year.

The National Clay Shooting Centre has been permitted to open for the benefit of elite shooters preparing for international competition, including the Olympic Games. This has given us a small amount of income over this period, but more importantly it has reinforced our reputation as a ground where elite shooters want to train. We have been grateful that elite training could continue, but recognise the impact on grassroots sport and the many who were not able to do so. Primarily, this activity is being coordinated by British Shooting, and the health and safety of everyone involved has been uppermost in our minds.

Bisley Shooting Ground gun room

As part of our renovations to Council Club, we have been busy transforming what was the old gun room and cleaners' cupboard into a larger gun room, which is now compliant with Home Office firearms security guidance. A big thank-you to Marcus who did a cracking job opening up the space, fitting a complete steel cage, before fully fitting out the room. Tony Bracci, our deputy shoot manager, decorated and expertly manufactured the new gun racks.

BSG clean-up

Lockdown gave us the opportunity to start removing large amounts of clay debris that had accumulated on Cottesloe Heath over



The larger, more secure gun room

the years. We were keen to understand the most efficient way of removing the material, so we carried out a trial over a two-day period so we could assess the cost and environmental impact. The challenges were to make sure we had a method of extraction that was cost-effective and caused the least damage to the area. We targeted an area that we knew had a large concentration of debris and used a mini digger and dumper so we could manoeuvre around the trees and cause as little damage as possible.

We were surprised by the amount we removed over the two days. Our estimation was over 100 tonnes. The pile shown in the photo is what we removed after one day. The next stage is to monitor how the heathland recovers over the next couple of months so we can understand the impact and the most appropriate time of year to carry out this activity.

Membership

Getting the membership right has been very high on our agenda, particularly the

need to reassure our old and new members we are not complacent about offering value for money. With that in mind, we have launched a new membership offer that has proved very popular despite the Covid restrictions. In addition, all membership will now be managed by a new central database designed to increase our efficiency and ability to inform members of future events and special offers. We aim to process all renewals in January rather than sporadically throughout the year, and give discounts to those paying by Direct Debit.

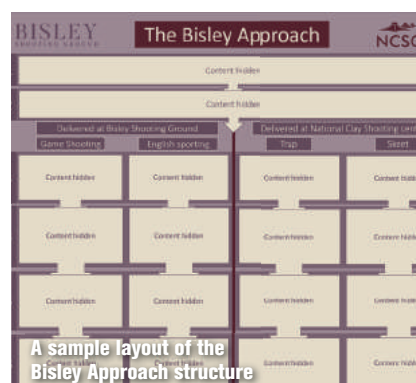
We have created a new, high-quality membership pack, which has just gone out to all our members. Feedback has been excellent. Together with our new voucher offer, what better gift for a friend or family member?

What's included:

- 15% off all shooting (excludes gun fit, group shoots, corporate and charity events)
- Free gun storage for one gun per member, with access seven days a week



The product of just one day's removal efforts on Cottesloe Heath



A sample layout of the Bisley Approach structure

- Monthly club shoot competitions – prizes awarded
- New! Free lesson for new and renewing members (excluding clays and cartridges)
- New! 1 free entry to a monthly club shoot of your choice per member
- New! 2 guest passes per member, offering members' discount for a day for your guest
- New! Members' discount for all of your shooting party on group shoots of seven or more people
- Complimentary tea and coffee in the clubroom (once restrictions allow)
- Complimentary membership of the National Clay Shooting Centre (NCSC) at Bisley
- Caddied rounds on Cottesloe Heath without the caddy fees!
- Vouchers are now available on request and come in denominations of £10, £50 and £100. They can be used as full or part payment for everything at Bisley Shooting Ground. They come in a luxurious Bisley Shooting Ground foil-printed card, complete with foil-printed voucher inside. You can make it extra special and add a black gift box for £5.

The Bisley Approach

Standardised training and instruction is important to us, so now that both shooting grounds are working together well, we will introduce a standardised instructional package for novice clients when we reopen. We will shortly be rolling out our Bisley approach to clay shooting training.

The Bisley Approach is a methodology derived from the wealth of training and experience across Bisley Shooting Ground and the National Clay Shooting Centre. Its purpose is to capture best practice taken from all shooting disciplines to arrive at a consistent

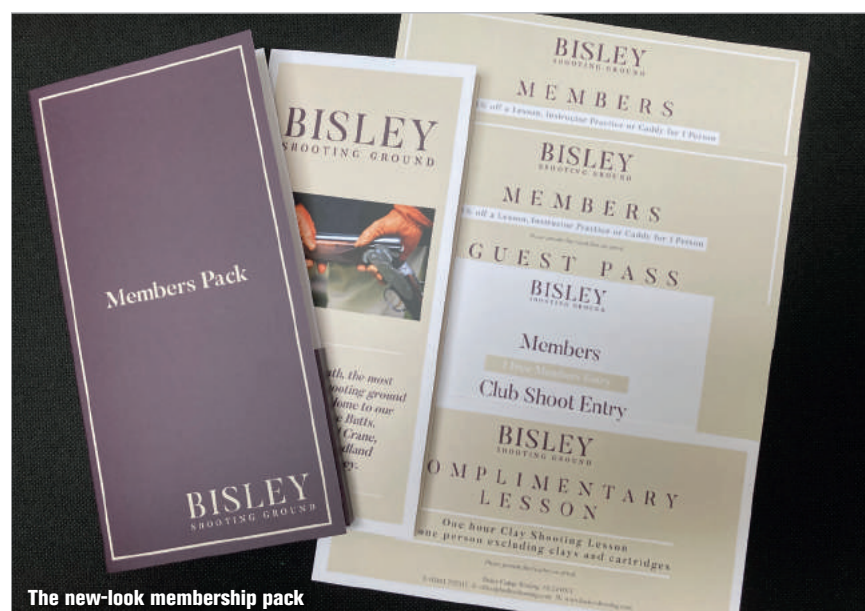
approach to shooting instruction, fit for a national centre of excellence. This will be a progressive six-lesson program that will introduce a novice to the sport of shotgun shooting in their preferred discipline: game shooting, English Sporting, Trap or Skeet. Each lesson is designed to build on previous lessons, arriving at a clear objective at the end.

On completion, our clients will have been trained in a range of skills, preparing them for whatever their objective – a first registered competition, a game shoot or even preparation for a shotgun licence application. Of course, shooters develop at different rates, so even though there is a recommended syllabus, they can progress at their own pace whatever their ability. Each discipline requires a different set of skills and instruction, but there are elements that are common to all. The first two lessons are generic to all four disciplines and include all the basics. It

might be that clients wish to start with these two lessons before choosing a preferred discipline – or you can sign up to the whole package and enjoy a discount.

The key is that clients get a package tailored to their needs. Our instructors are trained to ensure continuity and consistency throughout this multi-lesson programme while maintaining their own unique styles. Clients may wish to keep the same instructor throughout, or change to add to the diversity to the experience. During the first lesson, clients will be given a record card that will monitor progress, and once complete they are good to go. We have included a redacted flowchart representation of the training program for the six lessons over four disciplines.

We all hope this year has more to offer than that last and we are very much looking forward to opening our doors again to the public. I wish you all well and hope to see you very soon. ■



The new-look membership pack

Bisley Deer

During lockdown, deer became more prevalent on Bisley Camp – here is what you need to know about your encounters with them



The Bisley/Pirbright Range complex provides habitat for both roe and red deer, which are the only deer species truly indigenous to the UK. Muntjac have also been spotted on site but do not appear to be present in any great numbers yet.

The muntjac deer was introduced into the UK from China in the 20th century and has gained a stronghold in south-east England, but is now present in most English counties. The wild population is descended from escapees from the Woburn Abbey estate from around 1925.

In the Summer 2020 *Journal*, the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) penned an article informing members of the red deer project, which is one of the largest single-site conservation projects in southern England. The red deer are thriving and it is pleasing to see the habitat responding favourably to their influence. The red deer are managed by the 'volunteer professionals' of Defence Deer Management (DDM) under the guidance of SWT.

During the quieter periods of lockdown, the roe deer have become

much more visible around the Site, and can currently be seen grazing among the caravans if you are up and around early enough. The roe deer population has been increasing steadily but of late has noticeably decreased.

Deer Welfare

If you find an injured or dead deer, you should call the DDM Principal Deer Manager on 07786 996266. This will allow the animal's suffering to be relieved or the cause of death to be investigated. It is against the law to remove a dead deer without the landowner's permission. All leased land at Bisley belongs to the MoD. Once deer are dead and have been 'reduced into possession', they become 'property' and belong to the landowner or the holder of the shooting rights. Removal of a dead deer from Bisley ranges without permission could be viewed as theft.

If you witness people pursuing deer at Bisley, you should inform the Longmoor Operations Room on 01420 483405, who will task the MoD Police to investigate. All entitled DDM personnel will inform the

Operations Room of their activity before deploying onto the ground and you will be informed if it is legal activity.

Carrying firearms on the Defence Estate without MoD permission, outside of shooting hours, constitutes armed trespass and should be reported to the Longmoor Operations Room.

In preparation for giving birth, roe does will 'cast out' yearling deer during the Spring months. This will cause an increase in deer movement and an increase in road traffic collisions. The hot spot in the Bisley area is Queens Road, where numerous deer are killed each year. Please bear this in mind as you travel to and from Bisley. Slow down and stay alert. ■

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

NSC Range Office

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DDM Principal Deer Manager

07786 996266 – deer welfare issues

Longmoor Operations Room

01420 483405 – suspected illegal activity

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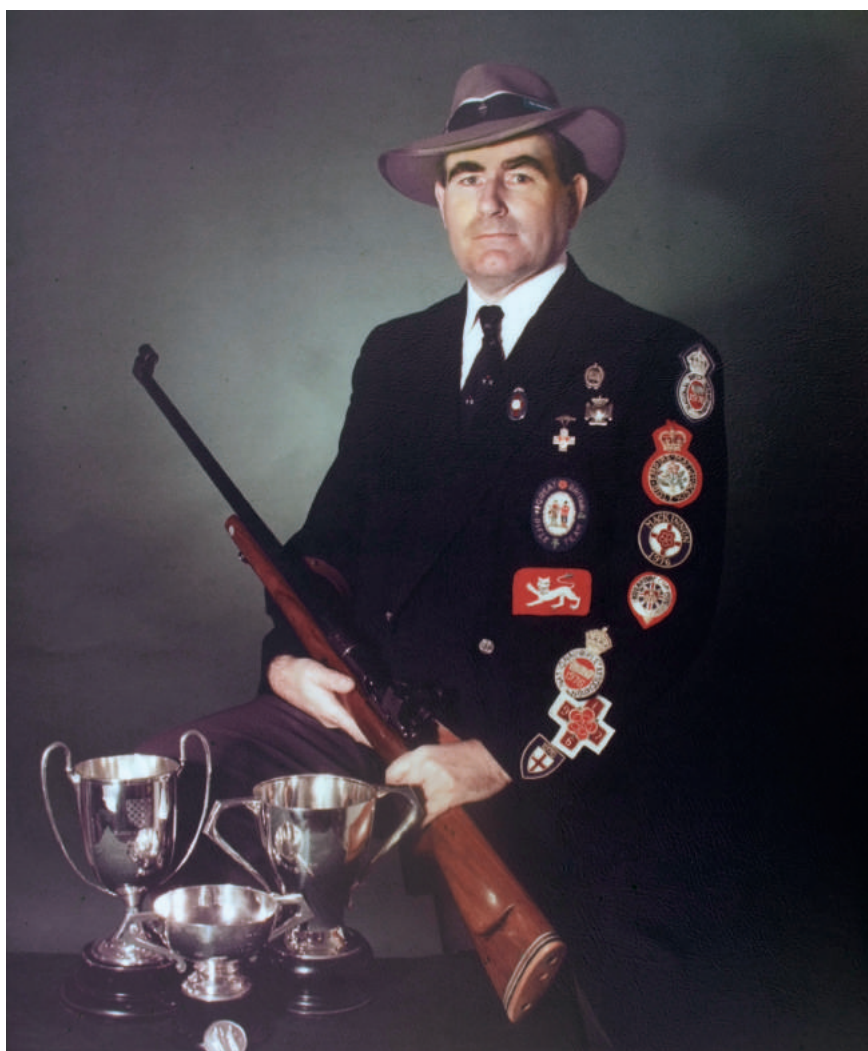
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OBITUARIES

TED MOLYNEUX 29/06/1929 – 24/01/2021



With acknowledgement and thanks to the Daily Telegraph.

Ted Molyneux, who has died at the age of 91, was one of the last of the distinguished group of riflemen who represented their country at international level in the period after the Second World War and through to the 1990s. In a shooting career spanning over 50 years, his contribution to target rifle shooting was immense at all levels. In addition to his active participation in competition, he also was instrumental in the organising and

opening of the Museum of the UK National Rifle Association, and acted as its first volunteer Curator.

Nigel Edward "Ted" Campbell Molyneux was born on 29 June 1929 at his parents' house in Dorking, Surrey, where he lived throughout his life. His father, William, encouraged a deep interest in the countryside and the skills of target shooting. He also told Ted of his own personal skirmishes with military authority. One such, recounted with relish by Ted, involved failing to offer suitable

deference to an officer. His father escaped from possible military discipline when the platoon sergeant suggested 'volunteering' for service abroad. His father was drafted into the horrific Gallipoli campaign and subsequently the Camel Corps. This element of family history, retold by Ted, would engender both hilarity and sober reflection in any listener.

Ted Molyneux served his National Service in the RAF at Swanton Morley in Norfolk. There he played cricket and football for the Station teams. His earlier schooling led him into a career as a draughtsman and later an area engineer with the South Eastern Electricity Board, where he was employed throughout his working life. This bred in him a draughtsman's approach to presentation, both in his capital precision in writing, and in the design of badges and crests in his sporting career. From the 1860s the established practice in shooting circles was to reward prize winners and team members with wire embroidered badges to be worn on the tunics of the early Volunteer unit soldiers. Ted put his skills to good use with some later designs for Bisley awards.

The interests engendered by his father led him to take up competition rifle shooting. He shot on one of the oldest ranges in the country, the local Boar Hill range near Dorking, where his father had been a member. He excelled at club, county, national and international levels. He worked with the Dorking Rifle Club members to restore and re-equip their range. A supporter of Dorking Museum and the Local History Group, he assisted the Museum by checking all their World War I military panels before they were printed. He accompanied a History Group trip to the Canadians' Juno Beach Museum where he presented startled but charmed staff with a bag of old WWII Canadian bullets because "he thought they would like to have them back."

He joined the Surrey Rifle Association, where he established himself as a regular member of the County side, which he captained from 1978 to 1980. At national level he was awarded his first England badge in the short-range National Match of 1958 against the other home countries.

At international level, he gained his first England Mackinnon Match badge in 1974. He was a member of the England teams in the roles of shooter, target wind coach, main wind coach, Adjutant and Captain on a total of 37 occasions between 1957 and 1997. This included captaining England in the National Match in 1991 and the Mackinnon in 1988. He even managed to find time to go as a member of the NRA team to the Channel Islands and with a goodwill team to the Pacific.

He went on to represent Great Britain in the international Kolapore Match at Bisley as a shooter on six occasions (including twice as a reserve) and also as Main Coach and Captain. In the Australia Match, shot only at the invitation of the Australian team, he made seven appearances in capacities ranging from shooter to coach and captain. He went on a total of 12 GB Team tours to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the West Indies, including four World Long Range Championships for the Palma Trophy. His visit to Canada in 1967 was the last occasion on which the British Team travelled by boat.

Individually he appeared in the final of HM the Queen's Prize on 12 occasions. In 1976 he tied with his friend Walter Magnay and Australian Libby Felton for first place. He wryly recalled the decisive tie-shoot: "I remembered earlier advice Walter had offered on how to approach tie shoots – 'get your shots off quickly so as to disconcert the other competitors'. I did just that, but failed to find the bullseye with my first two shots. I looked across at Walter and saw a sizeable grin as he waited for the breeze to steady. I could have throttled him." Ted was placed second and Libby Felton third. He won many other major trophies and was placed in the top 50 of the Grand Aggregate 11 times.

When he was not shooting, and in his retirement, he devoted much of his time

to his other three interests, establishing and developing the Museum of the NRA, collecting artefacts of the Queen's West Surrey Regiment, and small-arms ammunition. In this latter area he was noted as a world-renowned authority.

Ted first became involved in bringing the Museum of the NRA to fruition in the 1970s. He persuaded the NRA that he should build up the embryo collection of artefacts, and take charge of the project. Gradually he convinced them to make available the space that was needed to display the items. In the early 1990s the then Secretary of the Association, Col. Sandy Ewing, organised the conversion of the old statistics room on the first floor of the Association's offices: computers had replaced most of the human element.

With his colleague volunteers, Ted set about creating the displays. Through purchases, personal handiwork, borrowing and old-fashioned scrounging, he amassed the cabinets and frames that today house the collection that he and others had built up over the years. "We are not the world history of firearms," he used to say. "We are the Museum of the NRA," a statement that remains the Museum's guiding principle. For his work there as curator, and in recognition of his lifetime contribution to the sport, he was appointed a Vice-President of the Association in 1996.

A man of stature with a craggy appearance, Ted was never averse, as he put it, to a good old chin-wag. It is no understatement to say that visitors from across the world came to the Museum for the pleasure of renewing old friendships with Ted, as well as for viewing the displays that he and his colleagues had painstakingly put together. His directness was always to the point, mostly accompanied by a shout of laughter. Many a discussion or visit would end with his parting shot of "See you again soon – touch wood and whistle." On 31 December 2018 he retired from his role as Curator of the Museum, suffering from a leg ulcer that would not heal, preventing him from driving. He was 90 in the following June, and the Museum team took him out for a celebratory lunch, which lasted some time as the anecdotes flowed.

Just before Christmas 2020 he visited his doctor and was immediately taken to hospital. He was treated with antibiotics for an infection but shortly after the New Year was found to have contracted Coronavirus. He died peacefully in his sleep on 24 January.

He did not marry. In the early 2000s, by chance, he met again Helena, to whom he had been close in his younger years. Much to his great joy they became close again but, tragically, she was diagnosed with cancer and died shortly thereafter. He is survived by a close, grieving, family of cousins. He will be greatly missed by all.

JOHN SEDGLEY BENNETT



John first came to Bisley in 1952, appearing in the final of the Queen's Prize 11 times and being placed seventh on two occasions in 1971 and 1973. He represented England in the National four times (1973, 1975, 1976 and 1985), was Adjutant in 1988 and shot in the Mackinnon in 1984. He toured twice with the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada in 1974, Canada/USA in 1976 and the NRA Team to Channel Islands in 1972 and 1981. In his veteran years he won the Queen's Veterans twice in 1998 and 1999 and represented the Great Britain Veterans Rifle Team in 1996 and 2000. John enjoyed Bisley Camp and made many friends both at Bisley and overseas. RIP John you will be sadly missed.

BILL CURTIS 1933-2021

William (Bill) Scott Curtis was born in Putney in June 1931, an only child, the son of Arthur and Elspeth. He was a day boy at a grammar school in Sussex where he was brought up during the war. He witnessed many events, from aerial dogfights to a shot-up Superfortress exploding on the local airfield after landing, to armadas of Luftwaffe bombers heading north during the Blitz, and armadas of Allied bombers heading south from 1943-45, to Spitfires and Meteors tipping doodlebugs. His collecting instincts started during the war when he acquired numerous souvenirs including the tail plane of a doodlebug that landed 300 yards away from him while he took shelter in a ditch. Unfortunately his mother threw it all away after the war because he had too much 'rubbish'.

The family set off to Australia to start a new life after the war, arriving in Melbourne on the Esperance Bay in August 1948. During his time in Australia, Bill earned a living as a textile salesman and was a Sergeant in the Royal Australian Artillery Reserves, where he developed his interest in field guns and small arms. His shooting career really started here: the freedom of Australia enabled him to experiment with muzzleloaders and breech-loaders in the bush, where no one lived or much less cared.

His father's ill health forced the family to return to the UK in the early 1950s, whereupon Bill joined the Royal Artillery, 20 Regiment, 107 Battery on a short service commission as a second lieutenant. He delighted in live firing his troop's newly issued 25-pounders and formed an experience-based understanding of long-range ballistics and coefficients, which he would refer to for the rest of his life. While based at Woolwich, Bill started collecting rare muskets and rifles sold out of barrels on the street outside antique dealers in the days when dealers could not give them away because no-one was interested. I think this is where his passion for small arms cataloguing and history began; he was appalled that such fine examples of British military history were unrecorded and unloved. When his Regiment was posted to Hong Kong, he found himself



OIC of the Regimental motor pool, which enabled him to acquire (sic) military driving tests for every type of wheeled and tracked land vehicle, which, being British military qualifications were automatically transferrable to his civilian driving licence.

Bill met his wife Mary through a shared passion for horse riding. They were married in July 1960, and both were proud to receive a congratulatory telegram from the Queen on their 60th wedding anniversary last year.

On leaving the Army, Bill worked in the motor trade before finding an interest in insurance. He joined the Eagle Star in 1957 and sailed through his ACII exams in 1960 (he was extraordinarily academically gifted; he scored in the 99th percentile of the MENSEA IQ test). He worked in London before being posted to Hong Kong (for the second time in his life), whereupon he joined the Hong Kong Marine Police Reserves, which he fondly remembered for the opportunity of target practice with a boat-mounted .50 calibre at a small whitewashed rock offshore.

In 1966 he moved to Zurich Insurance where he was the assistant manager in the Nottingham branch, then manager of Cardiff and finally Bedford. His

management style endeared him to his staff, and infuriated Head Office, where changes in corporate governance led to a more 'hands on' style which conflicted with Bill's independent personality. He retired in 1984 to North Wales and never looked back. His life was one of military and firearms history and shooting; it gave him friends and was his life's work.

After retiring from his insurance career, Bill formed his own publishing house, WS Curtis Publishers Ltd. His mission was to reprint rare books that were significant contributions to small arms history and shooting. He reprinted 17 titles in all, which were almost always from his own library, in which he wrote and included new forewords.

Bill was an early member of the Muzzle Loaders' Association, joining in 1956. As a descendant of the old Curtis family business of Curtis and Harvey, the gunpowder manufacturers, it was perhaps inevitable that he would gravitate towards black powder. He held, at one time or another, all the great Offices of the Association. The Curtis and Harvey connection was invaluable when proposals regarding the storage of propellant gunpowders for private use were being discussed with

the Health and Safety Executive. These discussions resulted in the adoption of the wooden box for storage that has proved to be entirely successful ever since.

He represented his country in numerous international muzzle-loading championships. His particular speciality was long-range shooting, regularly making respectable scores even by modern standards on current Stickledown targets at up to 1200 yards with Whitworth and Rigby rifles made in the 1860s. It was his attention to detailed research of loads, bullet making and black powder formulations, together with a thorough understanding of ballistics, that enabled the MLAGB to resurrect a lost art. Bill was a competent shot with modern target rifles too – he won the Army Open and shot for Nottinghamshire many times.

Bill was instrumental in the modern revival of international muzzle-loading competition. By 1970 discussions were taking place as to the possibility of forming an international body to regularise shooting for the future. In 1971 the Muzzle Loaders Association's International Committee was born, and Bill was the British representative on the founding MLAIC Committee. Though much has changed since those early days, the MLAIC thrives to this day.

Bill was a muzzle-loading representative on the NRA Council during the 1980s before his right eye developed an uncorrectable problem in the centre of his vision, which caused havoc with his sight picture. Having tried and failed to shoot successfully left-handed, his interest turned more towards his books, and it was at this point that he developed a particular interest in the Crimean War. This was a pivotal moment for his collections because it led him to focus almost exclusively on the Crimean period, culminating in him creating his own, not insubstantial, Crimean War museum at his home in Prestatyn. It also opened another chapter in his life when he joined the Crimean War Research Society, becoming Chairman from 2002-04, and later Vice President. He enjoyed many a tour to the Crimea with the CWRS and contributed much to the research and modern understanding of that war.

In 1991 he volunteered to help the NRA catalogue and display the many Wimbledon exhibits in the NRA museum when it

was relocated. Bill worked part-time as a volunteer assistant curator until 2018. This was of particular poignance to him because of his fascination with Whitworth rifles, and he catalogued every known example. Wimbledon was opened by Queen Victoria firing a shot from a Whitworth, which is in the NRA museum with the Whitworth that won the first ever Sovereign's Prize. It gave Bill an immense sense of privilege to be associated with their public display.

He would often say, "If it opens at the breech it's weak at the breech!" Which, while a reactionary take on the post-muzzle loading era, belies his own contribution to breech-loading history. He was an honorary life member of the Historical Breech Loaders' Association. Reference to his library helped resolve many issues for HBSA members. He was one of the breechloader shooters in the 1990 celebration of 100 years at Bisley wearing his 'Green Rifleman' uniform.

Bill was a prolific collector, not only of muzzle-loaders, but bayonets, powder flasks, NRA memorabilia, early cartridges, Victorian gunsmithing tools and anything to do with the Crimean War. His library on muzzle-loading small arms and shooting is unrivalled, and he spent literally decades of his life answering questions and helping others with their own research. Bill never saw himself as the owner of anything he collected, merely the caretaker preserving something for future generations; monetary value was of little significance to him, but its contribution to history was everything.

He survived two heart attacks and a serious stroke in his later years that robbed him of his ability to use his vocabulary effectively, either in verbal or written form. As a historian, an academic and a researcher whose passion was communicating with others, this frustrated him immensely, but it never diminished his verve to try. Everyone who knew him made allowances and his contribution to research continued, albeit slowly, until he eventually passed away peacefully on 4 January 2021 in Leominster Community Hospital. Although he succumbed to old age, he is officially a COVID statistic. Quite fitting in a way – he would have wanted to be part of something historical and not to have just faded away.

Bill is survived by his wife Mary, and their only son Reg.

JOHN MCCOY



John McCoy – life member of the NRA, ENGXX & LMRA – passed away peacefully on Friday 22 January 2021, aged 83. John had a stroke in 2019 and in the last few months was resting in a nursing home, then more recently, was admitted into hospital and developed Covid-19.

John started his shooting career with Wolverton Rifle Club, then moved to Bedfordshire County Rifle Club in the late 1960s, winning many Club and County competitions in East Anglia. He represented Bedfordshire on a number of occasions.

John was a well known figure around Bisley Camp particularly in the 1970s and 80s. Contrary to today's fashion for carrying large shooting bags and heavy jackets, John would be seen at the back of the firing point carrying only a rifle, spotting scope, one plotting sheet, two foresight elements safety-pinned to his breast pocket, and a mitt stuffed in the back pocket of his Tenex jacket. He shot very fast and very accurately.

John reached the Queen's Prize final three times. In 1975 he finished 14th, in 1980 finished 88th and in 1983 finished 14th. John was a reserve for the National (for England) in 1981.

John made many friends at Bisley. When asked to shoot in a club team he would say, 'I am not shooting well – I dropped one!' Looking at his score card, one would invariably discover it was one 'V' he dropped.

For years John and Jill had a caravan at Bisley where they spent many weekends away from home, enjoying Bisley and the atmosphere around the ranges. Bless you John, rest in peace, your companionship and humour will be greatly missed.

CHRIS WEBB 1948-2021

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of NRA and RAFSAA Life Member, Flight Sergeant Chris Webb.

Chris was a skilled and enthusiastic marksman, competing for over 35 years in a variety of disciplines. He specialised in Pistol, in a golden age for Royal Air Force Pistol shooting, representing England and Great Britain in Police Pistol events. He was Captain of the Royal Air Force Pistol VIII throughout the 1990s and won the NRA Service Pistol Championship six times between 1991 and 2000.

Chris was born in Plymouth in 1948, the eldest of six brothers and a sister. An early example of his ingenuity and ability to inspire came when he granted his sister a critical role in support of her brothers: that of the stumps in their game of cricket.

Chris joined the Royal Air Force via an apprenticeship in 1966 and served as a Communications specialist for a 33-year career, continuing in the RAF Reserves on retirement. His highly classified role saw him serve in various locations, including the extensive radio installations at RAF Akrotiri and RAF Troodos, from which he developed a deep affection for Aphrodite's Island.

Regardless of where he was based, Chris spent much of his time during his service at Bisley, not only as a competitor but also as an organiser, coach and leader. In the 1970s, based at RAF Spadeadam, a secretive outpost high on the moors of Cumbria, he encouraged, trained and managed a station team to the RAF Championships. In the 1980s when Chris's Service Rifle shooting was threatened by the introduction of the strictly right-handed SA80 rifle, his ingenuity and perseverance led him to obtain an optical sight for the now-obsolete SLR, as a way to remain competitive without having to use his weak right eye. However, this was not without its problems. The SUIT sight contained, amazingly, a barometric altitude compensator, and a leak in that component led to vertically scattered shots as the rifle decided that Bisley must itself have moved to a mountaintop.

It was about that time that his elite skill as a pistol shot began delivering regular reward. He went from leading station teams to being Captain of the RAF Service

Pistol Team. Surrounded by a group of GB-level competitors, his teams routinely won the Whitehead inter-Service Pistol competition, which, alongside the similarly talented RAF Target Rifle teams, regularly saw the Inter-Services combined shooting championship for the Burdwan Cup in RAF hands. Chris also took the RAF Pistol team to Little Rock, Arkansas, for the Armed Forces Skill at Arms Meeting, with success on the international stage. Throughout that period, Chris gave his characteristic effort to develop the skills of RAF pistol shooters – a little bit better every time.

On retiring from Regular Service, Chris centred on Bisley. He found employment with the NRA from 1999 to 2001, then with the NSRA from 2001 to 2005 where he was the Facilities Manager. He returned to the NRA in 2005 as Regional Manager, Range Supervisor and finally Range Office Supervisor.

Chris not only found employment at Bisley, but also love. A long-standing friendship originating in joint enthusiasm for shooting sports blossomed into something much deeper. Chris and Heather married in 2002.

Throughout, Chris continued support for RAF shooting, encouraging and mentoring, volunteering for the Royal Air Force Small-Arms Association as House Member and RAF Auxiliary Member. His dedication and authority showed in his regular support of Operational Shooting Competitions in the often thankless role of Chief Butts Officer.

Chris moved to Yorkshire shortly after retirement from the NRA in 2015. It was cruelly unfair that Parkinson's and dementia progressively limited his final years.

Chris is survived by his wife Heather and stepson John, and by his daughter Sarah and grandchildren Jade and Hannah from his first marriage.





Phoenix Meeting 2021

Friday 28th – Sunday 30th May

A truly diverse Meeting with Competitions for:

Civilian Service Rifle, F Class, Gallery Rifle & Pistol,
McQueen, Muzzle Loading, Sporting Rifle and Target Shotgun

- Competitions -

25m Classic
25m Precision
25m Timed
50m Precision
1020
1500
100/200/300 Yards
400/500/600 Yards
800/900/1000 Yards
Advancing Target
America Match

Bianchi
Embassy Cup
Grand
Granet
IGRF Limited Bolt Action
Imperial Silhouettes
McQueen
Mini McQueen
Multi-Target

Multi-Target 3
Phoenix A
Practical Pistol Match
Rapid Fire Pistol
Speed Steel Challenge
Sporting Statics
Surrenden
Timed & Precision 1
Timed & Precision 2
Timed & Precision 3
WA48



*Phoenix Grand Master Medal awarded to individuals scoring
more than 20 Points during the Meeting*

Notices

PROCEDURE FOR GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021

Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

Only persons who are Registered Members of the Association and who have fully paid up their subscriptions as of 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 2021.

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.

Programme of key dates for Elections

31 March 2021

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

30 April 2021

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.

31 May 2021

All entitled Members will be balloted by this date, either by electronic or postal means with the procedures for voting.

19 July 2021

Postal votes must be received no later than 6pm on Monday 19 July 2021 by placing the voting slips in the correct envelope supplied. Electronic votes must be made by 6pm on this date.

Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 17 April 2021.

Results

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

Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2021, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

Five Ordinary Members

GK Alexander
CM Brooks
MJJ Charlton
JM Kynoch *
MK Townsend

Five Regional Members

PR Coley – South Western
RS Kenchington – West Midlands
GAE Larcombe – Southern
AN Gran – Greater London and South East
MP Watkins – Wales

Three Shooting Discipline Members

JS Harris – Target Shotgun
N St Aubyn – Civilian Service Rifle and Practical Rifle
S Wallis – Sporting Rifle

* Not standing for re-election

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2021 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 11 June at 6pm.

BISLEY GENERAL MEETING

The 2021 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 July at 9pm.

TEAM CAPTAIN NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited for the following team captains:

GB Kolapore Team Captain 2022

GB Under 25 Team Captain (UK Match) 2022

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Friday 21 May 2021.

Nomination forms are available on the NRA website, or directly from Georgina.

Thatcher@nra.org.uk



Regional Update

Regional Ranges Manager, Nic Couldrey, gives clubs a reminder of the rules as shooting reopens

Access to outdoor MoD ranges

The announcement of a phased relaxation of National restrictions in England not earlier than 29 March allowed the resumption of affiliated Club bookings on outdoor MoD ranges from 30 March. Clubs are encouraged to check that the MoD range licence and supporting documentation is up to date, including the Covid-19 risk assessment. Clubs are reminded that shooting activity must comply with local MoD Covid-19 procedures, which may include access restrictions and a 30-person booking limit. To comply with restrictions imposed by the Devolved Administrations, no cross-border bookings are permitted. We continue to monitor the guidance from each of the Devolved Administrations and hope to resume bookings in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales when appropriate.

Members will be aware that we have been working with the MoD to allow the resumption of bookings on field firing areas to allow the use of firearms that generate more than 7000 J muzzle energy. Currently, Lydd Serial 45 range in Kent

is the only location where these firearms may be used. We had hoped to use a site on Salisbury Plain. Unfortunately access restrictions to mitigate the risk associated with unexploded ordnance (UXO) means that this option is no longer viable. We're in discussion with the MoD to find another suitable location and thank Clubs for their continued patience.

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has confirmed that the relevant charges for access to DIO ranges in the UK will remain unaltered during the financial year 2021/2022. The charges will be reviewed for the following financial year.

Club-operated ranges

Outdoor shooting ranges in England operated by affiliated clubs were able to reopen as of 29 March. The NRA has published its COVID-19 secure procedures for the ranges operated by the NSC at Bisley, which Clubs may wish to use as the basis for their own range specific Covid-19 procedures. Club officials are reminded that formally organised outdoor fullbore target shooting may resume without

gathering limits, provided that the activity complies with guidance published by the NRA.

Details are available on the NRA website here: <https://nra.org.uk/covid-update-23rd-february-2021-shooting-ranges-to-open/>

Indoor ranges in England operated by affiliated Clubs may reopen as of 12 April 2021 in line with Government guidance published on 24 February 2021. Club officials responsible for indoor ranges are encouraged to review the guidance provided on the NRA website here: <https://nra.org.uk/nra-affiliated-clubs-that-operate-an-indoor-range-in-england-during-covid-19-restrictions/>

Club websites and social media

Finally, I would like to repeat my suggestion that Clubs carefully review content, particularly images and video, on social media and websites. It is worth checking the Club's online presence to ensure that information in the public domain is accurate and up to date. Avoid publishing images that could attract unwanted attention to your Club and members. ■



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Email: info@hps-tr.com

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Website: <https://riflemags.co.uk>

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William Evans at Bisley Camp is the first reference point for shooting sportsmen and women. We provide everything from firearms and ammunition, hearing protection, to shooting socks. Our gun room racks contain traditional game shotguns and rifles, clay-shooting guns and tactical sporting firearms for our target shooting customers.

Tel: 01483 486500

Email: richard@williamevans.com

Website: www.williamevans.com

MESSAGE



Full Name: Ashley James Dagger

Age: 62 (I know, I can't believe it either!)

How did you get into shooting?

A chance meeting with a family friend in a maternity unit in 1985. We'd both gone to see my new niece, but I was more intrigued by the logo on his jumper, Frome and District Pistol Club. I thought, "That sounds more interesting than babies!" I was on a range within weeks.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

In terms of pulling the trigger: taking on the mantle of Captain for the Great Britain Gallery Rifle Team in 2010/11 (and again in 2017). Thanks to a lot of hard work by a few (as is always the case), we were formally recognised by the NRA in 2010. In the wider shooting world: this is my first year as discipline rep for Gallery Rifle and Pistol. Now that my shooting career has peaked(!), this is my way of giving back to the sport that has been a way of life for 35 years.

What was the biggest hurdle you overcame as a shooter?

Back pain. I got into shooting after my playing days in rugby came to a close. The ups and downs of GR shooting sometimes take their toll. Also, the lack of knowledge of our sport within the general public. Never have so many people had an (adverse) opinion on something they know nothing about. It's up to us to change that perception.

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

I have a very tolerant family. Disappearing around the UK and abroad is sometimes hard to justify, but I get away with it on most occasions. It has brought me into contact with a huge number of shooting friends. A true friend is one you don't see for three months, then pick up a conversation as though it was yesterday.

What Clubs are you a member of?

I've been a member of Frome & District Pistol Club since 1985 and have served as Membership Sec, Secretary, Chairman and now President. FDPC has been a significant part of my life for 35 years. I'm also a member of B&DRPC, the ATSC, English XX and the NRA.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

A boss in my early days in MoD (I won't embarrass him by naming him); he showed me the difference between management and



leadership. I learned that it's not about the job, it's about the people. If I can provide a fraction of the inspiration he did, I'll be happy.

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

From a shooting perspective it has to be the USA. Many years ago (just after the Pistol ban) I and four other shooters descended on the southern States for a two-week road trip. Everywhere we went, we had pistols and ammo thrust upon us; they were the best hosts one could find and sympathetic to our cause. Outside of shooting, New Zealand – the most spectacular country I've ever visited.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Every time I go through the gates at Bisley, I feel separated from the trials and tribulations of the 'real world'. With my years of shooting, ROing and involvement with GBGR, I feel like one of the NRA family, and the support they provide to the sport has been significant and very gratefully received.

What do you like to do in your free time?

What's free time? I have a T-Shirt that reads "Eat; Sleep; Shoot" – that says it all!

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

Sit quietly, don't rush, and think about the course of fire. When you're on the line, the only thing to focus on is the X ring – everything else should come naturally.

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

Join a club (I'm biased, but try www.fdpc.org.uk) and experience the variety of shooting. You'll never know what you're good at until you've tried it. Or, try one of the GR&P Experience days at Bisley. If you want more info about GR&P, email me on gallery@nra.org.uk.

So what next?

As discipline rep, I'll continue to support, promote and draw others into the GR&P world. That includes my continued involvement in the GB and England teams. As long as we all have a safe, enjoyable time, that's the most important thing. It is, after all, only a sport – albeit the best one. ■

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