

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Winter 2021 | Volume C No.4

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Trafalgar **MEETING**



**THE GRAND
AGGREGATE** *P6*

**GALLERY RIFLE
CLASSIFICATION** *P30*

**SURREY OPEN
MEETING** *P34*

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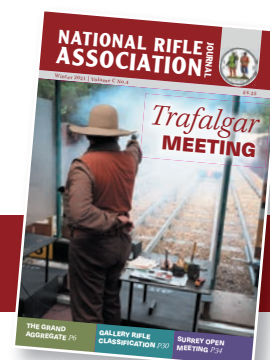
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Reflecting on 2021:

A YEAR OF SUCCESS

NRA Secretary General, **Andrew Mercer**, reflects on a competition year full of weather changes and determination to succeed.



As the last few days of British Summertime ebb away we can afford a moment to look back on a busy and successful 2021 competition season. The Trafalgar and Autumn Action both enjoyed cracking support from good numbers of enthusiastic competitors. Although the weather was mixed, the atmosphere on the ranges was warm and friendly, I was once again reminded of the determination of the target shooting community to get out on the firing points and enjoy competition amongst friends.

A shining example of this character is Viv Rodgers, who travelled up from Cornwall to serve as a Range Officer on Melville Bay A advancing targets for the Trafalgar. Viv rather spoiled my day by announcing it was his last ever visit to Bisley as Range Officer; his limp excuse of advancing age (he had just celebrated his 90th birthday) fell on deaf ears, and we expect him back on duty next year.

In October we filed our submission in response to the Health and Safety Executive's call for evidence for their assessment of the use of lead ammunition on outdoor shooting ranges, making the case that there is no justification for prohibiting lead in ammunition for outdoor target shooting on managed ranges. We explained how range design and management protocols ensure bullets fired at outdoor rifle ranges are carefully controlled and contained. At Bisley our stop butts and bullet catchers are routinely screened to remove captured bullets to maintain their safety and integrity. The bullets are recycled with the income defraying a proportion of the contractor costs. Each year we recover around 20 tonnes of lead.

Bisley ranges includes a large Site of Special Scientific

Interest (SSSI) that forms the range danger area shared with the MoD's adjacent Pirbright ranges. Millions of rounds of ammunition are fired into the SSSI each year, yet leading ecologists describe the range danger area as "some of the finest and most extensive areas of wet heath and valley mire in southeast England". I firmly believe the rare fauna and flora, including avian predators such as hobbies and harriers, flourish because the SSSI occupies an area within one of the busiest range complexes in the UK.

There is no evidence of lead poisoning in the SSSI; indeed it supports a healthy population of red deer that are culled annually, with carcasses sold for human consumption.

Since April our training team have been working tirelessly to keep up with the strong demand for NRA courses. It has become increasingly apparent that we will need to expand the delivery of training away from Bisley in 2022.

The membership team are extremely busy with individual membership and club affiliations. This year saw a modest recovery in the number of affiliated clubs; and the number of new membership applications has been very encouraging. I expect to end 2021 a squeak away from the milestone of 10,000 NRA members.

We know some FAC holders experience challenges securing GP cooperation with licence applications and renewals. We have received good reports about the service provided by MedCert (medcert.co.uk) who use practising UK GPs to complete your medical proforma. A medical records check costs £60; NRA members and affiliates benefit from a 10% discount using the coupon code NRA10. 🍀

- WINNER'S REPORT - THE GRAND AGGREGATE

Winner of the Grand Aggregate, **Dr Parag M Patel**, documents his preparation for the event.

Photos by Theo Dodds



Over the last two years the world has been contending with a pandemic, the extent of which was only seen at the turn of the century with the Spanish flu. Personally it meant significant alterations to my working pattern – most of which were unwelcome changes to my normal ear nose and throat (ENT) practice that I had become accustomed to. As an ENT Consultant, practicing in South West London, this meant working approximately 55 hours a week in five different hospitals, some private, but mostly NHS.

All this changed as private work stopped, as did the total hours worked focusing purely on airway provision across South West London. Like so many others, I played my part. The daily routine changed from breakfast with the family, to waking early, showering, changing in the garage, driving to work and donning the suffocating PPE space suits to perform tracheostomy after tracheostomy. To add spice, the odd day involved 'proning' the ITU patients which meant wrapping them up in blankets, like a Cornish pasty, and then spinning them over every eight hours. The end of the day involved returning to my garage, my new dressing room, to change and run up to the shower before returning to family life. The children – clearly lucky enough to have a garden – managed the lockdown better than those less fortunate.

THE FULLBORE SHELL

This Groundhog Day of events continued until there was a glimpse of return to life during the summer months of 2020. Thankfully, the NRA had put plans in place to hold a delayed Imperial Meeting, and I am sure like many others, it was the light at the end of the tunnel that I was so looking forward to.

There is no doubt, like the long winter months, time away from the sport we love makes us all the more excited for its return. However, this time it was different. The regular international competitors were missing and most of those entered had no chance to do any training in preparation for the events.

Roll back to summer 2019, having finished a fairly poor Imperial Meeting by my standards, I met with Tenpointnine at Bisley. I was in the market for a new shooting jacket to update my nine-year-old Creedmore. For some readers, this might seem like the time a shooting jacket is in its prime, but not for me. Over

favourite aspects of the Creedmore jacket.

Creating the Fullbore Shell took well over 20 full hours of my time with Pippa, along with two trips up to Wolverhampton to construct. We started with the chest materials, then moving onto the arms, and finally the overall fit with my rifle and a scatt machine. Once made I was excited to prove to Pippa that it was worth her investment. Sadly, both she and I had to wait almost a year before I got a chance to compete with it. During that time – like so many businesses affected by the pandemic – Pippa had to downscale her workshop and furlough a number of her staff. She was back to working out of her home and

I pulled out the scatt machine and spent many hours a week to make the required adjustments to my position. First the hand stop, then the sling and head position, and finally the shoulder butt. I suppose the only upside of not being allowed a social life, instead it was scatt and the hope of my new jacket!

There was no doubt that this new jacket held me in a very different position than my normal Creedmore jacket position. Much more upright and cadet like. I thought it best to give in to the jacket instead of fighting to make it feel the same as my old jacket. This took time and patience along with a mental willingness to change, after all, there was nothing really to lose. The 'mini' Imperial was at best a good opportunity to trial new equipment.

Added to the new jacket, I changed my glove and barrel. There was nothing like an extended off-season to make as many changes as possible. Making so many changes in one go is a risk that I regularly tell people to avoid! However, it seemed that I was not the only one making wholesale changes, the NRA was at it too. Consideration for competitors finding it difficult to take leave from work whilst trying to sustain business saw a condensed major competitions template. The Grand aggregate was held over a long weekend and the St Georges and Queen's the following weekend. Then, factoring in ►

“Over the last few years I had been fighting to maintain a consistent position

the last few years I had been fighting to maintain a consistent position and that caused longer shot release times and overall slower shooting. Yes there were some great shoots between 2017 and 2019 but the truth of the matter was the consistency was missing. Pippa, from Tenpointnine, kindly allowed me to work with her to design a new shooting jacket, the Fullbore Shell. The concept of which was based upon my past experiences with the famous Tucker jacket along with a few of my

my newly designed Fullbore Shell spent most of a year sat in my wardrobe.

COVID CONUNDRUM

During the summer of 2020, the NRA had opened its online entry to the delayed Imperial Meeting to be held in September 2020. Excitedly, I entered and started to plan how best to get the most of this opportunity. The new Fullbore Shell needed time to bed in, but there was no easy opportunity to get range time. Instead,

Left: Parag Patel Coming off the range. **Below:** Mid-shoot in the new Fullbore Shell jacket.



social distancing by reducing to two per target along with team match changes, leaving only the Lawrence match.

The benefits clearly outweighed the risk of causing an unwanted COVID spike at Bisley. Thankfully the latter did not materialise and the NRA had made some good decisions.

Personally, unlike the many recent changes in my shooting equipment, I didn't much like the idea of changes in the shooting format. I was used to the usual pattern of shoots and knew when big performances were required, squadding, range position and time dependant. Unlike most I

actually prefer a more stretched out Grand Aggregate and an intertwined St Georges and Queen's competition. This older form of timetable tended to suit my strengths of slow continued improvement over a

longer period of time. The build in my peak performance.

Having said that, I could see some advantages. Being left-handed meant shooting with the same small collective bunch for the last 31 years. Whilst it was lovely building relationships it became

pretty similar, year in, year out. Over the last two Imperial Meetings I have had the opportunity to shoot with so many different right-handed competitors, some of which I have known all my life in team competition, but never during the individual events.

Over the last two Imperial Meetings we have been blessed with fairly good weather, and that in the context of a concentrated Grand Aggregate template made the conditions fairly consistent during their four day

course. This however will work both ways and as yet, we have not seen this format hit with a four day rain period. However, as those who know me can attest, I am comfortable shooting in all conditions, including the rain.

To counteract the variable climate, the NRA changed the shooting format which is now two per target and I will certainly not complain when the day comes to be faced with rain. This significant reduction in range time exposure, in conjunction with a constant aim to get the shot off as the target comes up from the butts, is a definite advantage over the three per target days. It does of course lead to less time on the scoresheet completing the wind and elevation plots, both of which are a compulsory part of my every shoot. In fact, not a shoot goes by that I am not spending more time watching the flags and studying my wind plot, especially when it is changeable. In variable conditions picking the mean wind call on my wind plot over the last few shots has saved me so many points over the years!

“I knew that if I could keep myself in the hunt during the weekend then my long range draw would help build a score.”



PREPARATION

It is my opinion that the Grand Aggregate, much like the British Open Championships, has always been won by the most consistent shooter over the prolonged period of time, and thankfully the NRA have found a way of ensuring a fairly consistently high total number of points for the Grand Aggregate in the condensed format. Last year saw the competition out of a total of 700 points, with the introduction of the PW Richardson in place of the St Georges first stage. Added to that, the relatively recent introduction of the Lovell added another 1,000 yard shoot from 2018 meant the top grand winning score was 13 points off and a big change from the usual 4-6 points prior to its inclusion.

The recent layout changes now see three competitions on the final day of the Grand Agg. In the past, everybody knew the state of play and the pressure was on for the final thursday Prince of Wales shoot, but it was often the case that very little changed at the top of the leaderboard. If like me,

you tend to hide yourself from the general melee of shooting chat at the club houses, you can now find yourself having shot two ranges before the Prince of Wales without any knowledge of the competition. Whilst this makes for a less dramatic final shoot, I personally find this has really helped to reduce the general noise in my head and instead to control the controllables and not worry about the rest.

During the Imperial Meeting in September 2020, despite some autumnal windy days, kind draws saw my 1,000 yard Corporation last thing at night and my Lovell first thing in the morning. As we all do, there is a large amount of mental confidence that is taken when opening the squadding pack at the beginning of the meeting, to find a kind long range draw. In 2020 more than most, this draw was a huge bonus given the autumn meeting affected light and temperature conditions at the extremes of the day. I knew that if I could keep myself in the hunt during the weekend then my long range draw would help build a score. Having said that,

the Imperial Meeting, the main build-up weekend being the BCRC matches. Once again I needed to focus upon the technicalities around my equipment. Unlike some, it takes me many hours of gun time to reach peak performance and I tend to know this means around 400 rounds, at which point the Imperial has ended and the rifle is back in the locker for my amnesia to set in for another year.

I started this year by looking back at last year's plots to gain a sense of group formation and recall of where to expect bad shots to fall. Added to that I read my notes following the end of last year in which I made detailed recording of sling, elbow, head and hand positions along with recoil movement. This was not the sort of thing I used to do in years gone by but it helped focus my attention following a poor left sided shot scoring 49.9 in the Donegall and first shoot of the Grand Agg. By the end of the weekend, quite predictably, David Luckman was clean and top of the board. This was all the incentive I needed to continue to focus upon my own

“There was only one point in which a strong gust drove through the range picking up from an average of 1.5 minutes for the majority of the shoot

the Fullbore Shell was still in its infancy and bedding in with every shoot. I spent so much of my range time during shoots focusing on every natural aim, hold and shot release. It was back to basics during the weekend and into the Monday but it was clear that the recoil was becoming more and more consistent and a pleasant distraction from the building scores. In the end, mainly by this pure focus upon the technical aspects of my shooting, I managed to equal my personal best of only dropping six points. A score I previously achieved some 17 years earlier, when sheer bloody mindedness and an absolute burning desire to win dragged me over the line.

SUMMER INCOMING

This summer continued in a similar vein in which I had little time to prepare for

performance. I took confidence from the fact that my V count was strong and that meant, with good wind management, I was holding some very good groups.

SUMMER IMPERIAL

The summer Imperial saw a high pressure weather system and some intense heat and calm conditions for most of the meeting. Judging by my plots, I only had three shoots during the entire week in which I called more than four minutes of wind with the majority being under two minutes on average! Clearly a very calm year by all accounts, and certainly one in which I realised that my new Fullbore Shell, with all its padding, made hot weather shooting all the more sweaty!

This year was also my first wearing a heart rate monitor watch. A new ►

Left: The two doctors, Glyn Barnett and Parag Patel, after the event.

addition to my recent resolution to keeping fitter following what became apparent to me to be a mild attack of SARS-Cov19 in March 2020. At one point during the illness, my heart rate shot up to a constant 150 for two days in a row with shortness of breath on the slightest turn in bed. Thankfully that all disappeared into three months of anosmia.

However the three kilogram weightloss did an already thin frame no good. I therefore decided to work on my asian genetic cardiovascular high risk factors by cycling to work. A journey to Kingston Hospital saw me pedalling 22 kilometres daily, whilst St Georges Hospital was a round trip of 48 kilometres, again similar to my Kings Road Clinic. During the Summer I wore short sleeves but in winter, bright lights, ski gloves a snood and waterproof booties kept me warm.

MARGINAL GAINS

The benefits of an average 85km weekly cycle was not particularly apparent to me in the September 2020 Imperial, mainly because I had only just started my quest to lower my blood pressure and average heart rate. However, this year's Imperial was clearly a different sensation altogether. We talk about marginal gains and I will admit that I am unsure as to how significant my improved fitness was but at no stage during the week did I get any of that heart thumping stress which would normally equal my nervous brain activity. Not even during the Prince of Wales when I knew I had to score a possible to equal Jimmy Spaight's record of four Grand Aggregate wins. Added to that, I was frequently in the wonderful but unfortunate position of not having won a number of competitions outright without having to undertake a few tie shoots. Normally, having heart rate trained for such moments over the years, I would expect my heart rate to run around 125bpm during pressured competition but my heart rate monitor documenting a rate of under a 100bpm with my new fitter resting rate an average of 56.

Riding on the wave of my Grand Agg success and in the knowledge that the St George's Cross medals are truly the most beautiful winnings, I wanted to build on my St George's first stage shoot. 75.15 at 300 yards puts you in strong contention for the second stage. I therefore knew that I had nothing to lose with conditions

of less than a minute of wind at 600 yards and it being a stand alone shoot. All that was required was good hold and release, something that David Luckman demonstrated with his 75.14 in the second stage. Thankfully a combined 150.27 saw me move over the line and just in front of David by a single V. The final was a similar sort of shoot in which mild conditions and excellent ammunition saw high scores at 900 yards.

There was only one point in which a strong gust drove through the range picking up from an average of 1.5 minutes for the majority of the shoot for a brief period of time to five minutes before dropping back again. I suspect most people missed that call, I know I almost did squeaking a left handed five to clinch the trophy.

It is generally accepted that age and level of fitness are more often than not linked and this year's Grand aggregate leaderboard demonstrates the depth of youth in the top-20. Me being the third oldest in the top ten and fifth oldest in the top 20, but maybe not so physiologically. I have no doubt this year of intense heat

will have likely contributed to the order in which the competitors found themselves on the leaderboard.

COMPETITION WEEK

Pleasant distractions can also help during a week of competition and this year saw my eldest son Aaron spend the week with me watching and plotting my every shoot. At the age of 13 he now attends Epsom College and is keen to learn how to plot and shoot as an individual. At the beginning of the week his plots bore no similarity to mine and one might argue as to who's was the more accurate. However during the week his elevation and wind plotting came on and it was fun to come back from each shoot to see his version of my events along with the regular quick witted remarks about my decision making.

All in all, there have been so many changes to the competition, my personal level of fitness, equipment and mentality to put a finger on the one main determinant of my fortunate successes. However, when you are in a purple patch you just have to be thankful and take it with humility in the knowledge that it won't last forever! 🍀





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SLG BISLEY 1500 OPEN

SLG Bisley held their Bisley 1500 Open Meeting on Melville Range.



SLG Bisley is a small shooting club, with a difference. The primary focus is the competitive handgun and M1 Carbine shooting in Germany and elsewhere internationally, with the added advantage that our participation also encourages gallery rifle shooting in Germany.

The SLG Bisley 1500 Open is a one-day shoot at Melville Range which was originally a one-off fund raiser, but is

now established in the annual GR calendar. The ethos is a competition for shooters, run by shooters, with emphasis on inclusion. It attracts all levels from first time Bisley to GB GR Team shooters. Our organisers and RO's are mostly SLG Bisley members, with help from some extra volunteers. All have many years of experience and can give individual help where required.

SLG has a reputation for making this a great day out



Above: Melville Range. **Below Left:** A good kneeling stance. **Top right:** Prizegiving medals being given out to the winners. **Middle Right:** Fundraising is a key component for GR. **Bottom Right:** Prizegiving in full swing.

and it was good to reinforce that with the reinstatement of food during the day, the traditional prize giving and the feast at The Spott. We had a record number of entrants, events shot, and bacon and sausages eaten with a lot of smiling faces.

The standard of shooting was also high, and a new National Record was set by Gary Bowden with 298 41X in the GRSB Advancing Target. Well done Gary!

We rounded off the day

with our unique prize giving and the feast. Entertainment assured with the varied prize table distributed by the luck of the draw. All medal places receiving tickets and then prizes drawn tombola style. The feast was served through the windows at the Spott and eaten outside. Luckily the rain held off and everyone went home full.

The date for next year is the 24 September, so get it in your diaries and we look forward to seeing you then. 🍀

“The ethos is a competition for shooters, run by shooters, with emphasis on inclusion.”





- MATCH RIFLE - AUTUMN REPORT



Thomas Nightingale reflects on the Autumn Match Rifle results.

Now the leaves are falling fast, Auden wrote, now the season's shooting's past, he might have added. The last months of match rifle for 2021 have slipped by all too quickly, and as winter approaches we are left to reminisce on high scores achieved – or to look forward to next year and the chance to redeem ourselves.

The Welsh were the first to break the post-Hopton lull, holding their Open Meeting in Bisley on 30 August. Despite an overcast sky the rain held off, and the wind made a steady but reasonably strong appearance. After two sighters and 15 to count at every distance, Tim Brooking took first place and the Gold Badge with 223.25, followed by Angus McLeod on 222.31 and Ashley Abrahams (with the only possible at 1,200) on 222.21.

Hot on Welsh heels, the Cambridge Cup at Barton

Above: The traditional post Cambridge Cup photograph.

Left: John Lindsay III, Zoe Woodroffe and Jon Sweet after their 1200 yards success.



Road saw high scores amid its typically languid shooting. Alex Cargill Thompson once again received the Dog Rose, while Derek Lowe claimed the Cup with 440.57, with top student Michael Horrell in second place only one point behind with 439.54, and Rob Bogie taking third on 439.43.

A fortnight later Match Rifle embraced its Celtic side again, this time heading north to sunny – and remarkably midge-free – Blair Atholl for the Scottish Autumn Meeting. Mike Barlow led comfortably across both days, dropping only six points to finish with 444.42 – an unassailable margin of seven points ahead of Angus McLeod (437.50) and Ron Scaglione (436.48). Alex Cargill Thompson put in 432.41 to come fourth as the highest scoring visitor, while Hon. Scot Silke Lohmann won the Maitland Trophy for the highest scorer never to have shot in the Elcho with 428.32.

Two weekends with at least some wind were quite enough for this year, and the Autumn Meeting in Bisley on the last weekend of September saw a return to dead calm. Competitors made full use of this – especially those who had benefited from Woomera training the weekend before. Three centuries were achieved at 1200 yards on Saturday by John Lindsay, Jon Sweet and Zoe Woodroffe, and the competition was tight going into Sunday.

After a wait for morning mist to clear the less than mellow crescendo of rifle-fire began and the scores started

“Two weekends with at least some wind were quite enough for this year, and the Autumn Meeting in Bisley on the last weekend of September saw a return to dead calm.”



to roll in. Rob Lygoe reprised his Hopton performance, claiming victory with 447.68 ex 450 across the weekend, while Angus McLeod once again took second with 446.63, closely followed by Zoe Woodroffe on 445.57 – all the more remarkable given she was shooting with a mix of borrowed and newly-fixed rifles.

The final match rifle competition of the season, the North London Rifle Club Championship, went off in the manner to which we had become accustomed – entirely without wind. This year has been remarkable for the number of 100s achieved at 1,200 yards – a more than 50% increase on the total ever recorded – and five more were scored in a dramatic flourish, by Ashley Abrahams, Jon Sweet, Keith Baxby, Tim Brooking and Norman Clarke. Ashley won the Cunningham Trophy for the weekend and the 1,200 yard aggregate. In Angus McLeod's absence it was left to Norman Clarke to take second in the Cunningham, and to tie for second with Jon Sweet in the 1,200 yard aggregate. The bar has certainly been set high for the future! 🎯



F CLASS REPORTS: WINTER 2021

SPOTLIGHT ON TONY MARSH AND RUSSELL SIMMONS

It was 2007 on Diggle range that two relatively new F Class shooters met for the first time, detailed to shoot together. Tony was shooting his .300 WM and Russell on his 6mm Dasher. Neither knew what successes lay before them and as fate would have it, 14 years later on, both have won yet another major title to their impressive resumes, the 2021 European Championships in F Open (Tony) and FTR (Russell).

Amongst many F Class achievements, some of the highlights of these two champion's careers include multiple Imperial Grand Aggregate winner in both F Open and FTR, British Champion,

European Champion, multiple Team GB member and wind coach – Tony Marsh; and four times European Champion, three times National League Champion, World Champion, Team GB Captain and wind coach – Russell Simmons.

I caught up with Tony and Russell to chat about their F Class careers and started with a little background.

"I competed as a TR shooter in both small and fullbore but most of my shooting was sporting rifle as a professional deer stalker. All of my rifle instruction came from my previous military training which installed the basic marksmanship principles and from where I became a coach and instructor myself," Tony reflected, whilst Russell started shooting in 2004 with a .22LR shooting on 25m ranges. "In 2006 I joined the Dorset Rifleman and I used my .243win hunting rifle. I shot my first club competition at a 1,000 yards with them and was hooked straight ►



“For me the main one is mental attitude, I have to be in the right frame of mind. I have to be confident in my wind reading abilities, and know that the gun I have is as accurate as I can make it.”

away but quickly decided that a .243win just wouldn't cut it at long range at a competitive level. Luckily for me the Dorset Rifleman mainly shot F Class so that's how I got into the discipline.”

OK, but 14 years is a long time. What is the attraction of F Class? Why don't you move onto something else?

Tony responded “I have never yet felt that I have mastered it and I continue to try and learn to do so though I really can't see me achieving that and so will continue doing it. The big attraction for me though is like minded people and really good friends.”

“I like shooting F Class, it's highly competitive and totally addictive. It can be very frustrating at times, more often

than not I've come off the firing point really annoyed with myself but then I will shoot a match and it all goes to plan. It's a great feeling and that is what I'm chasing,” replied Russell.

If you had to put in order of importance the top five aspects of your game necessary to be successful at national level, what would they be?

“Be honest with yourself as well as others around you. Knowing that your rifle/load is not as good as you plot it will not win you matches! If it's not good enough, do something about it, even if it's hard work. Listen, you can greatly reduce the time to find a solution to a problem or shortcut improvement by simply listening

to all others not just the people that are winning. There is so much available information from so many willing people and often a different approach can make a big difference. Attention to detail and preparation no matter how small, they will all add up. Equipment – ensure that it is suitable and operational and not just 'shiny'. A beautiful brand new or custom rifle will not win matches, an accurate one that fits the shooter will and use the same approach to all of your other kit too especially your reloading kit. Shiny and accurate is good though, and save money where you can but don't scrimp on the things that really matter such as barrel, brass, cartridges, bullets, primers and powder. You will not save much anyway but you will get good at losing against someone that didn't cut corners.” is the advice that Tony would give, whereas Russell would say:

“For me the main one is mental attitude, I have to be in the right frame of mind. I have to be confident in my wind reading

HIGHLAND F CLASS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Pat Allen reflects on his first trip to Blair Atholl rifle range.

I was thinking for a very long time if I should travel to this year's Highland F Class Championships in Blair Atholl. Its reputation of being one of the hardest ranges in the world to shoot well on certainly made me think twice. Having lost a good friend recently I decided you only live once, I booked my accommodation and time off work and entered.

I drove up on the Friday and went to have my first sight of this historic range. Well, for those of you not in the know it is set in stunning countryside that literally takes your breath away,

certainly far more beautiful than I had imagined. The targets set at 900 yards looked very close, more like Century at Bisley I thought. Then realisation that surrounding hills are so immense you have to focus your eyes on what you want to see. It's a strange sensation.

Saturday morning came and I was on the range early as the weather forecast was not good. I set up my pitch, with everything I needed for the day. The prediction was unfortunately accurate and rain quickly came and stayed most of the day. I had previously had some conversations with

seasoned competitors and their experience and advice from matches at Blair I found were spot on.

The first detail seemed to fly by with my new range knowledge and the WSM on good form. Shooting with Des Parr was a pleasure. I do not normally worry who I am shooting against nowadays as experience has taught me to shoot for myself and not take on board what others are doing, apart from checking their targets for indicators of change and scores. I came away with a 73-11, my two lost points down to my errors and not the weather. Second detail was shot with Paul Harkins who shot very accurately and rapidly! The third was with Ian Bellis who unfortunately had one or two ammo issues which lost him a couple of points. The conditions eluded me of the maximum score I craved, although I was happy with

thoughts of being able to shoot better on the Sunday.

Sunday, misty with clear skies, no rain but it had dropped cold to around three degrees overnight. Once again I set myself up early for the two remaining details. Detail one, again shooting with Mr Bellis, the wind had shifted from the Saturday and was giving slightly more twitchy movement and I lost one point to under-reading the left to right wind which pushed me out right into the four. I had one last attempt at a 75, shooting with Paul Sandie and oh how things had changed! The wind had picked up and was providing flag directions that made no sense! Fishtailing and gusty, with changes through zero in seconds. My first three rounds made me nervous as I struggled to get a mean wind reading, but after a centre shot reset on round three it seemed to ease my nerves. I tried to read what was going on. Needless ►

abilities, and know that the gun I have is as accurate as I can make it. If I don't have all of these working it's a struggle. Mental attitude can be developed, how many times do you see a fellow competitor take a bad shot and then the wheels fall off for them? How many times do we do it ourselves? You have to be able to rise above a bad a shot or two and just have the mental attitude to get straight back on with the comp and ignore it."

What would be your advice to a shooter aspiring to be the next European Champion, Team GB member, or World Champion even?

Tony – "Listen to as much advice as you can and be prepared to use the information that suits you even if it means a big change to what you are presently doing. Commitment, practice and don't be afraid to fail, it can lead to success. And you will also need a good amount of luck."

Russell – "Commitment. To succeed in anything, you need to put time and effort in to get results back. You need to

sort a good load out, make sure your rifle is shooting at least a half MOA, ideally a quarter. You need to spend time on the range, learn how to read the wind, work on your weaknesses, and learn how to plot. Listen to other good shooters and learn from them."

You are both seasoned team shooters, both for small teams and Team GB. Please share some of your experiences as a team member?

"I really love team shooting in a team full of likeminded and honest people. However, doing so with members that have their own agenda is frustrating especially when their agenda goes beyond the team and is individual." Tony responds. "A well operating team is fun whether you are winning or not but it really is hard work when a member of the team is operating on their own. The individual only cares about their own score and not the team's score and pulls the whole team down. We all compete as individuals and are all very competitive even if we don't think so but if

you can use that competitiveness together as a team then success will follow. Success does not always mean winning matches, improvement and fun is success in my book." – Tony

For Russell, "To be in a team can be difficult. The job of the shooter is to adjust your wind and elevation as instructed by your coach and pull the trigger when told to do so in a controlled manner. I loved team shooting in Raton, I was the last shooter and I have never felt so relaxed shooting before. I had done reading the wind, now it was down to the wind coaches, all I had to do was shoot. Plotting can be stressful especially when conditions dictate that you shoot fast, lots to do, plot the shots, call out the score, inform the coaches of any changes needed etc. Being the wind coach is of course the most stressful of all. Everything pivots around you. If you get with the wind and can see it well, and everyone's rifles work as they should it's great. If not, it can be a soul destroying experience."



to say, everyone had the same challenge and I came away losing 6 points for a 69-6. I was feeling pretty gutted at this point. Packing my kit away I noticed the score board and was very happy for it showing me I had done reasonably ok on the last detail and came overall fourth in the match. I am still smiling at the feeling of coming fourth in a GBFCA league match!

So, some people may ask what it's like shooting on electronic targets in a league

event? It is different, the fact that you are not waiting for frames to disappear and return with scores, it's a much quicker detail. That in itself for me is not bad thing as I tend to shoot quickly, especially if I think conditions are stable. It would probably not be the best way for someone new to F Class to consider on a first league shoot, as plotting, scoring, wind calls and keeping track of things could cause stress overload and while its only 20 seconds a marked target does give you that

bit extra time to get settled ready for the next shot. The electronic targets system seemed to work reliably over the weekend after some initial issues were found during the practice on Friday afternoon. As for the accuracy of the marking of them I cannot comment, but hope they are reasonably accurate, being an ex-calibration engineer I would love to see the results from any tests.

Congratulations to Gary Costello who seems unbeatable at the moment for first place in

F Open, and Carrie Ryan in FTR. Excellent shooting guys.

In conclusion, I will be definitely shooting at Blair again, it is well worth the effort. The weather was kind to us all and made shooting easy compared to normal conditions found at this superb spot. The countryside is just incredible.

If like me you are looking at the calendar wondering if the 2022 Blair Atholl matches will be worth it, I recommend giving it a whirl, you will be happy you did.

LONG RANGE RIM FIRE CLUB SEVENTH AUTUMN OPEN MATCH

Event held on 10 October
2021, reported by **Chris
Hazelhurst.**



The Long Range Rim Fire Club Premier event of the year, the seventh Autumn Open. Shooting three non-convertible sighters, two convertible sighters and 20 to count at 300 and 400 yards with .22 rifles.

All four disciplines – Service Rifle, Target rifle, Match Rifle and F Class were all represented at the meeting with a great array of weapons in each discipline.

Considering we have been faced with Coronavirus and then the 'fuel crisis' there was a great turnout with 31 competitors covering all four disciplines, six of which being a gluten for punishment, making a dual entry.

The morning started off overcast with a temperature of ten degrees and damp, better than the day before where a ground fog caused shooting to be held up till after 10:00. Wind, initially for what there was, was coming in from the North West and occasional mini gusts caught a few out at 300 yards as we were in the latter targets of Century Range, in Magpie Alley and it doesn't take a lot to blow the 40 grain .22 bullet off line. Some found themselves putting left wind on to counter the flags coming from the right and for those that didn't, to cause them to doubt their wind zero.

The weather steadily improved over the four details in the morning and the scores per discipline were consistent with no-one seemingly benefiting from an early or later detail. Scores at 300 yards of 99.13 by Chris Hazlehurst and 99.10 by Gavin Moffat were hit with F Class, 96.08 by Chris Hazlehurst and 94.06 by Mark Blatchly in Target Rifle,

95.11 by Mark Hodgins and 95.09 by Richard Kenchington in Match Rifle, whilst 60.00 by Michael Standage and 63.02 by Mark Hodgins in Service Rifle.

By lunch the temperature had risen to a pleasant 17 degrees the sun was starting to make an appearance but also the wind had woken up.

The first couple of details at 400 yards found the fruity wind quite challenging, which was fishtailing and giving some between a 3L to a 9R and some significant elevation changes. A few minor frustrations were voiced over slow marking which caused fatigue for Target Rifle.

Later in the afternoon the golden sun started to lower itself in the sky, the wind decreased and the later detail (seemingly to earlier shooters) benefitted from the relatively benign conditions, but no grudges were held – for long.

At 300 yards, scores of 97.13 by Simon Edwards and 94.03 by Chris Hazlehurst in F Class, 93.06 by Ben Stubbins and 86.03 by Chris Hazlehurst in Target Rifle, 95.07 by Nick Tremlett and 91.09 by John Robbins in Match Rifle and finally 70.01 by Michael Standage and 54.02 by Mark Hodgins in Service Rifle.

The day was marred for a couple of shooters where rifles failed or borrowed

and fatigue set in due to a glitch in the butts. Sights were twiddled the wrong way much to the expletives as they saw rounds climbing higher and higher on the target and the wind had a slight chuckle by picking up, dropping off and flicking the other way only to repeat. But then again, that's Bisley for you...

Kevin Sayers of RUAG was in attendance, with the majority of the competitors shooting RWS ammunition, either R50 or R100 – he even shot the competition himself.

Prize giving took place in the London and Middlesex RA with some new names appearing on the winners list.

Congratulations to all the winners and all those that took part and helped make the event an enjoyable occasion after the last 18 months which we've all endured.

Trophy winners were as follows:

Overall Aggregate – The Secretary's Wine Cooler – Chris Hazlehurst. Summer and Autumn Meeting Aggregate – The Treasurers Spoon – Chris Hazlehurst. Match Rifle Aggregate – Campaign Cup – Nick Tremlett. Service Rifle Aggregate – 28th Lt AA Regiment Tankard – Michael Standage. Target Rifle Aggregate – TRSB Agg Trophy and St Pauls cup – Ben Stubbins.

THE SUMMER & AUTUMN AGGREGATE

The Treasurers Spoon – Chris Hazlehurst.

Also contested concurrently at the Autumn Meeting and Summer Meeting is the Donegal Badge.

Presented by the NRA for the shooter with the highest score in the Summer 300-yard and Autumn 400-yard Aggregate and has never won the badge before.

Congratulations to Ben Stubbins.

Long Range Rim Fire shooting is conducted at Bisley and Thorpe Cloud in Derbyshire at distances from 200 yards to 500 yards. At these distances it is ballistically equivalent to shooting a .308 from 700 yards to 2000 yards. A challenge and fun.

Anyone interested in shooting Long Range Rim Fire or has questions about the different disciplines, please contact secretary@lrrfc.org.uk

LRRFC SEVENTH AUTUMN OPEN MATCH RESULTS

Name	Class	300	400	Aggregate	Trophy
M Standage	SRSB	60.00	70.00	130.1	28th Lt A.A. Regiment Tankard
M Hodgins	SRSB	63.02	54.02	117.04	
B Stubbins	TRSB	91.05	93.06	184.11	The TRSB Trophy & St Paul's Cup
C Hazlehurst	TRSB	96.08	86.03	182.11	
P Francis	TRSB	91.06	85.06	176.12	
M Blatchly	TRSB	94.06	82.04	176.10	
S Hale	TRSB	82.02	65.00	147.02	
N Tremlett	MRSB	93.10	95.07	188.17	The Campaign Cup
J Robbins	MRSB	94.07	91.09	185.16	
R Kenchington	MRSB	95.09	85.03	180.12	
S Isherwood	MRSB	86.06	89.03	177.09	
M Haselgrove	MRSB	93.06	81.04	174.10	
C Hazlehurst	FCSB	99.13	94.09	193.22	The Secretary's Wine Cooler
S Edwards	FCSB	92.05	97.13	189.18	
K Sayers	FCSB	96.08	92.04	188.12	
M Blatchly	FCSB	92.05	90.06	182.11	
A Ross	FCSB	88.03	92.07	180.10	

SUMMER & AUTUMN RESULTS

Name	Autumn 400yd	Summer 300yd	Donegal Badge
C Hazlehurst	94.09	92.06	186.15
B Stubbins	93.06	95.06	188.12
P Francis	85.06	91.07	176.13
R Kenchington	85.03	90.08	175.11
J Mead	83.05	97.10	180.15
M Blatchly	82.04	92.08	174.12
G Moffatt	80.02	82.02	162.04
N Doe	76.00	63.02	139.02
S Hale	75.02	90.05	165.07
T Jackson	75.01	94.11	169.12
M Townsend	73.01	95.07	168.08
D Hale	65.00	79.01	144.01
K Ballard	65.00	79.01	144.01
M Hodgins	54.02	87.06	141.08
Mrs C Silver	0.00	84.05	84.05

GUN FU PANDAS

WIN THE BENT BARREL

Dan Lomas reports on the success of the Gun Fu Pandas.

Congratulations to the Gun Fu Pandas and Captain Ewen Campbell for guiding the team to victory in the European Dolphin Rutland teams match. It was a morning of lolling winds that switched and gained enough to take you out of the five. The individual matches were shot in the morning so I knew how tricky the conditions were. I couldn't seem to centre my shots.

Going into the team match I knew I was shooting flat but those line cutters weren't in my favour – all the guys in the team are shooting really well. We, as a team, had been sharing drills and training methods during the lack of shooting in the last year and it's paying off. The team had a debrief and Ewen was steering the team on his lonesome so Mike Harris and myself would alternate and try and assist where we could and plot for him.

In match one, Ewen managed to guide us to a score of 354.19 ex 400.80. After plotting next to Ewen I shot last and we had no idea how we had done

compared to other teams. We felt good as a team and made sure we remained focused.

We moved to the second target at 1,000 yards and continued with myself and Mike feeding as much information to Ewen, although he didn't need it as he was in the zone. Match two finished 370.24 and then it was a case of wait and see. The wind calls had to be bold, making some massive changes that I had to double check whilst plotting.

We had no idea how we compared to all the other teams. It wasn't until we saw the new TV screen

come up with our score we realised we'd taken the Bent Barrel trophy. 🏆

“It wasn't until we saw the new TV screen come up with our score we realised we'd taken the Bent Barrel trophy.”



TRAINING & COURSES

– JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2022 –



MODULE 1

Start Date 8 Jan 2022

Venue National Shooting Centre



MODULE 2

Start Date 9 Jan 2022

Venue National Shooting Centre



MODULE 1

Start Date 14 Jan 2022

Venue National Shooting Centre



MEMBERSHIP ASSESSMENT

Start Date 15 Jan 2022

Venue National Shooting Centre



MODULE 3

Start Date 15 Jan 2022

Venue National Shooting Centre



MODULE 4

Start Date 16 Jan 2022

Venue National Shooting Centre



MODULE 1

Start Date 22 Jan 2022

Venue National Shooting Centre



RSO COURSE (2-day)

Start Date 22 Jan 2022

Venue National Shooting Centre

FURTHER COURSES & DATES

22 January 2022

Module 5

23 January 2022

Module 2

Module 6

28 January 2022

Module 2

Membership Assessment

29 January 2022

Module 3

30 January 2022

Module 4

5 February 2022

Module 1

Club Instructor (2-day)

Module 5

6 February 2022

Module 2

Module 6

11 February 2022

Module 3

Membership Assessment

12 February 2022

Module 3

RSO Course (2-day)

13 February 2022

Module 4

18 February 2022

Module 4

19 February 2022

Module 1

Module 5

20 February 2022

Module 2

Module 6

21 February 2022

Hand Loading Course (2-day)

25 February 2022

Module 3

26 February 2022

Module 4

MLAGB Range Officer Course

27 February 2022

Membership Assessment

Black Powder Certification

Further course dates and information can be found online at
NRA.ORG.UK



- THE 2021 - AGES MATCH

John Webster reports from an eventful day of last-minute changes, held at Bisley.

The promised fine weather that can make autumn-time visits to the ranges at Bisley such a great treat took a while to arrive. The scheduled start at 8.30am saw Century range shrouded in mist, and it soon became obvious that we were not going to be able to complete the morning's planned course of fire, a Queen's II. Consequently, Fat Tony's did a roaring trade as team members from all

age groups congregated over bacon butties and hot coffee, whilst the Team Captains deliberated over next steps with Match Manager, Becky Sweet, and Range Officer Tony Lawson. The net result was an agreement to truncate the morning shoot to a 2 and 15 at 300 yards, which we started shortly before 11am.

When shooting got underway, conditions were pretty still and there was some excellent scoring.

“ The 45-54s continued their good long range form at 1000 yards under the guidance of 2019 Palma coaches, Bruce Winney and Derek Lowe.

Twenty-five of the 40 firers formally taking part in the match scored 74 or 75, with the reigning Grand Agg. Winner, Parag Patel, scoring a perfect 75.15, despite apparently complaining that he felt a little rusty! After 300, the 25-34s (aka the Millennial Falcons) held a slender three-point lead over the 45-54s and the Under 25s, who were separated only by a single V-Bull.

After lunch, we repaired to





Above: First place team winners, 54-54s. **Left Inset:** A misty start to the day called from some last-minute event changes.

Range Zero on Stickledown to complete a Queens III (2 & 15 at 900 and 1000 yards). By this time, we were enjoying a beautiful sunny afternoon with a gentle but variable right-hand wind. A change of strategy saw Nick Tremlett take the Main Coach's seat for the Over 55s (aka the Golden Years), and the multiple Hopton Winner and Palma Team main coach managed to drag his team back into respectability if not contention. Both the Golden Years' and the 45-54s averaged a healthy 73 and a half points per team member at 900 yards. This allowed the 45-54s to overtake the Millennial Falcons and go into the final range with a five point lead. By this stage, both the U25s and the Over 55s

“As ever it was a most enjoyable day, and our thanks go to Becky Sweet and Tony Lawson for all their hard work to make it so.

had quite a bit of ground to make up. At least the U25s could look to an individual rifle issue as the cause of this. The Over 55s could only really blame overindulging at breakfast!

The 45-54s continued their good long range form at 1000 yards under the guidance of 2019 Palma coaches, Bruce Winney and Derek Lowe. No-one scored below 70 in a fine team performance to seal victory in the match by seven points from the 25-34s.

Top score on the day went to Chris Mitchell of the 25-34s with an impressive full score of 225.31, ahead of Parag Patel of the 45-54s on 224.35. Sophie Hodge top scored for the Under 25s with 224.25, whilst John Halahan was top score for the over 55s with 223.16.

As ever it was a most enjoyable day, and our thanks go to Becky Sweet and Tony Lawson for all their hard work to make it so. It was a shame that only four teams competed in the match (the over 65s and the 35-44s were absent) but full credit to the U25s under Jason Pepera-Hibbert for putting out two U25 teams (although one had to shoot for honours only). 🍷



Above: Second place team, 25-34s. **Left:** Top scorer Chris Mitchell. **Below:** Parag Patel, second highest score.



NORFOLK'S 300 METRE HISTORY

Robin Carter discusses the history behind the 300m discipline, and how the Norfolk Group started shooting the event.

Winter is approaching, and with it is the approaching copy deadline for the *Winter NRA Journal*, and it's been a thin year for the 300 metre discipline. We've had very few dates and most of those were half days at that, so what on earth do I write about?

In previous articles I've already told you about the discipline, about a historic rifle, my wife has told you about how she developed her current rifle, and came back to the event in retirement, I've discussed calibres that we can use for 300 metres, I've even shown you an economical way to build a very tricky 300 metre rifle. But now it's winter, there are no events on now, and I want to lure you into the discipline, so how about a bit of nostalgia, and the story of how our Norfolk group started shooting the event back in the 70's and 80's!

In the early 1970's my wife was in the Great Britain shooting squad, one of her teammates was the late great Malcolm Cooper, and Malcolm had recently discovered the 300 metre discipline, was loving it, and let everybody know about it. Another squad member John Davis had already been recruited into the event, and Malcolm knew we both already shot NRA Target Rifle so we were the next targets for his enthusiasm!

We did not take much convincing, in those days, 1975 (I think?), there were few dedicated 300 metre rifles, most people shooting it in the UK used their TR rifles, and most people shot the event using 7.62 calibre, so we already had the rifles for the job.

That was also mirrored internationally as most countries were using their current military calibre, and the USA was using 30.06. So for us it was a case of simply using our TR rifles.

There were two classes in 300m, and

Left: 300 mt 3 position from the 1970's, no 6mmbr's then, 7.62 mm, 175 grain Lapua!

Right: 1970's Classic prone 300 metres.

“ We did not take much convincing, in those days, 1975 (I think?), there were few dedicated 300 metre rifles.

there still is, as the NRA target rifle was effectively the same as the 300m Standard Rifle, and the 300m Free Rifle was close to the Smallbore Free Rifles rules, with a free trigger, and just with a full bore action. The permitted calibre was anything centre fire under 8mm, and at that time the attraction of small calibres had not been discovered.

Malcolm arranged some paper targets for us, and we were away! He even came and joined us on one shoot, using his TR in 7.62. It was early days for all, even him!

The enthusiasm soon built, and we shortly had a group of our TR shooters regularly on the International ten ring 300m targets, both prone and even a couple at three positional, my wife, and our friend, Peter Gray. Peter had already bought a Grunig 7.62 in an Anschutz stock for TR, hope you are well Peter, and not too shocked seeing your name in the NRA Journal, and also (just) in a picture!

We used paper targets, with a convoluted scoring system, (ten ring targets), we shot at 300 yards, as that was what firing points we had, we had no covered firing points, so it was outdoor, (before we got soft, and stopped doing

cold and wet!), and in Norfolk at that time it thrived.

The enthusiasm built and stuck for many years, it is after all a great discipline. Some (my wife and I) took it to a higher degree, we still used the same rifles (Sportco's in Walther stocks) just we had two triggers, a Hart free trigger, for Free rifle, and the Sportco for TR and Standard events. I still have one of the Hart's and it will go on the .223 Sportco I'm building, the subject of the last Journal article!

The old gang? Well, some may recognise some faces, one became a GB Olympian, one I met again at the LMRA Target Rifle

Above: The 1970's Norfolk 300 metre line up, big skies in Norfolk.

meet in September, here he was a youthful Gresham's lad, some are no longer with us, including – probably – the best TR wind coach that Bisley ever saw, but they all shot and enjoyed the 300 metre discipline. Anyone who knows me will never recognise me, even I struggled, I had hair then, more than I remembered! ☺

SHOOTING 300M

300 metre is a great challenging event still, its fun and demanding in itself, we only shoot it at Bisley now, if you want to succeed in TR you can do no better than practice on the tight 300 mt ten ring targets, to get more opportunity next year we may be on range 19, as well as the 'shed', if you would like to join us, or would like some guidance on the event, contact me on robin.carter80@ntlworld.com





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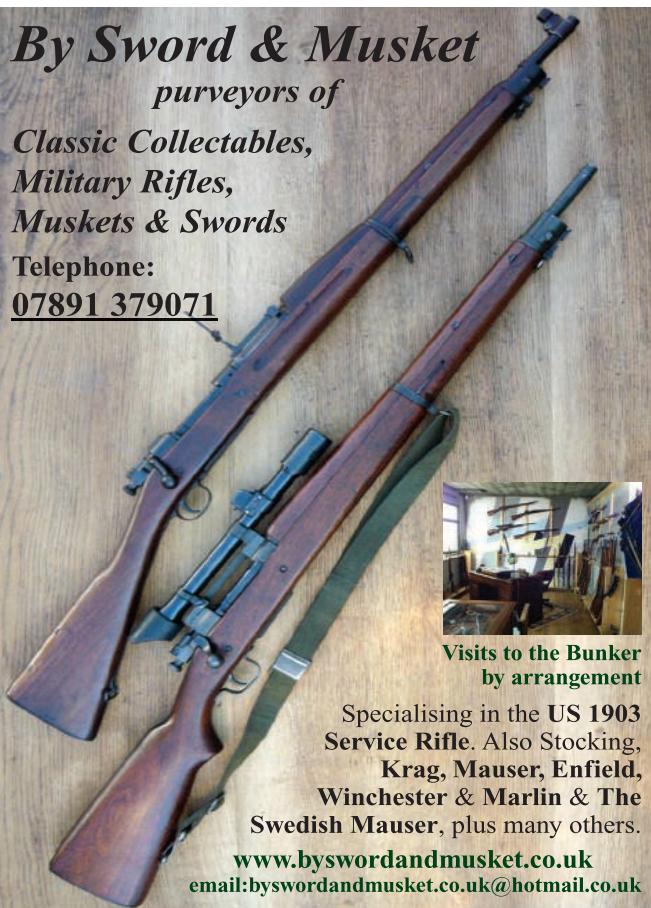
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BISLEY SHOOTING GROUND

Richie Vallance gives an update on the last couple of months at Bisley Shooting Ground and the NCSC.

The last couple of months have been by far our busiest since we took over the business and we have also hosted the two largest events of our calendar. The Surrey Police shoot has traditionally been held at Bisley Shooting Ground for many years and it was a privilege to host it once again. We were uncertain as to how many would attend, considering the impact of COVID and the fact that this event would be squadded, with a finite amount of slots available. I am pleased to say that we were at capacity for the day and were able to host 230 entries. It was great to see such a large number of shooters using Cottesloe Heath and the facilities in the Council Club. Proceeds from our Clock Tower Pool Shoot went to the Police charity and the Overall High Gun was won by Cliff Goodwin with a score of 96.

We were equally honoured to host the annual Teenage Cancer Trust charity fundraiser, which has been our biggest event by far. The car park was taken over by a marquee, plus accoutrements to host a much larger amount of guests than normal. Although the final numbers were impacted by COVID and the fuel shortages, we were still able to host 125 guest for both shooting and fine dining.

The day started with an early breakfast followed by an 80-target competition together with a flush. We also ran two Pool Shoots which helped raise a considerable sum for this very worthy cause. Many thanks to the 27 Instructors who made sure the shooting went like clockwork and ensured all had a great time.

“We were equally honoured to host the annual Teenage Cancer Trust charity fundraiser, which has been our biggest event by far

After shooting our guests enjoyed a superb lunch, which was a collaboration between Darren from The Cracked Hog company who provided the main course and our own caterers, Event Catering Group, who made sure all the hospitality went without a hitch. After the meal it was straight down to business hosted by our special guest comedian Adger Brown. He gave a splendid performance followed by an auction of promises on the charity's behalf.

There were some truly remarkable items available for the bidders – ranging from football boots signed by Harry Kane to VIP tickets to see The WHO. At the end of the day we raised in excess of £100,000 for Teenage Cancer Trust which was a remarkable achievement. A big thank you must go to Nancy our Events Manager and Shirley and the office team for ensuring the day was well organised and executed with impeccable precision.

NATIONAL CLAY SHOOTING CENTRE (NCSC)

Many of you will have noticed a lot of activity at NCSC over the last few weeks. We have begun a refurbishment program of the whole facility, which will include replacing much of the tired equipment along with infrastructure repairs and a staggering amount of paint. Please bear with us while we complete this work as we will need to close ranges in order to achieve our aim. Full details on the refurbishment will be included in the next article. ☺

Above left: Our guests before parting with their hard-earned cash. **Below left:** The Events Catering Group team. **Below middle:** The marquee all set for the day's event. **Below right:** Adger Brown preparing for his audience.



GALLERY RIFLE AND PISTOL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Neil Francis explains the rules and regulations of the Gallery Rifle and Pistol Classification System.

“A new shooter can immediately be placed into X class for any event and any gun type.

Anyone who has ever shot a Gallery Rifle & Pistol (GR&P) match in the UK will probably appreciate the fact that events are shot in classes or divisions. Not all events are classified – some do not have the competitive numbers to justify being divided as such and some events are simply not shot often enough. Generally the most popular events for the main GR&P gun types are defined as classified.

At time of writing the following events are listed as classified. The following classification structure was ratified for the start of the

2020 season when more popular events had their number of classes increased and the less popular events classes reduced.

- **Timed and Precision 1:** GR SB, GR CF – three classes; LBP, LBR – five classes
- **Timed and Precision 2:** GR SB, GR CF, LBP, LBR – three classes
- **Multi-Target:** GR SB, GR CF – five classes; LBP, LBR – three classes
- **Phoenix A:** GR SB, GR CF, LBP, LBR – three classes
- **The 1500:** GR SB, GR CF – five classes; LBP, LBR – three classes

- **The 1020:** GR SB, GR CF – three classes
- **The Bianchi:** GR SB, GR CF, LBP, LBR – three classes
- **Advancing Target:** GR SB, GR CF – five classes; LBP, LBR – three classes

Note – classes apply independently to the gun types. Namely: Gallery Rifle Centrefire (GR CF), Gallery Rifle Smallbore (GR SB), Long Barrelled Pistol (LBP), Long Barrelled Revolver (LBR).

In any of the above events competitors will have an existing classification of X, A, B, C or D which will be based on scores recorded in



previous classified meetings. A classification of U may also apply and means a competitor has not shot the event before or they have dropped out of the classification window (see Figure 1 to the right).

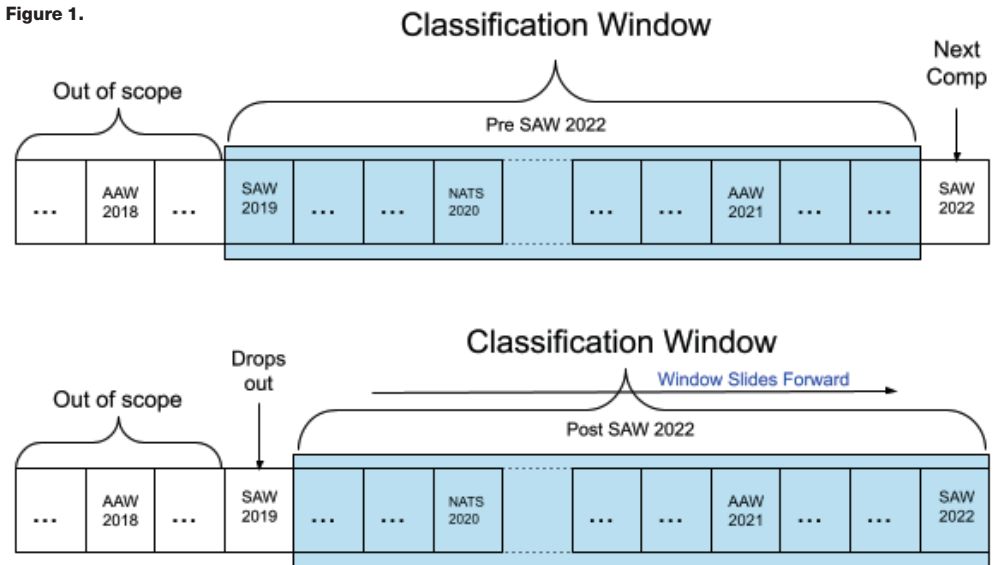
THE PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy is simple enough. Like many other sports, the GR&P classification system enables competitors to shoot numerous events within a class or division, therefore only against others of similar ability. The intention is to create an environment in which everyone has a chance to achieve their personal goals and compete against others of similar ability or experience. It also produces a general comparative measure against which to gauge individual progress and improvement by promotion, and now demotion, through the classes.

THE THEORY

The GR&P competitive circuit defines classified meetings. These meetings

Figure 1.



are run to national standards and scores for the events any competitors shoot are recorded and used to generate a shooter's classification. It is the responsibility of the meeting organisers to record and submit these scores to the national system appropriately.

Technically, competitors will always enter a meeting with a classification, even if that classification is U. This is the division they will compete in for the respective events at that meeting. Anyone entering a competition for the first time will be placed immediately into the class their score maps to at that meeting.

The class a competitor lies within will depend on their highest recorded score achieved over a historic three-year window and will be continuously revised during the season after every classified meeting they submit a score for. The three-year window was introduced at the beginning of the 2020 season.

There is no unclassified class – if someone enters a classified competition as unclassified (U) it is important to appreciate they will immediately compete in the class they achieve their inaugural score for. Just to

be clear, a new shooter can immediately be placed into X class for any event and any gun type.

As a result of competing in a classified event competitors achieving a class promoting score will be reclassified before the

next meeting. Changes made at the start of the 2020 season means shooters can also be demoted – more on that below.

There is no obligation for match directors to offer their events in the nationally defined classes. Many do but numerous factors may dictate whether this would be feasible (competitor numbers mainly). However, at an official classified match the competitor's score will always be processed appropriately. Anyone shooting a class promoting score will be competing in that higher class at their next competition.

Class boundaries are reviewed annually by the Gallery Rifle working party/sub committee and published appropriately elsewhere. Consideration is given to the balance of active competitors within a class for each gun

type. The general philosophy for class divisions is to keep an appropriate number of active shooters within the divisions as a pyramid – as shown below.

- Three classes – X = 10%; A=30%; B = 60%
- Five classes – X = 5%; A=10%; B=20%; C=30%; D=35%

“The class a competitor lies within will depend on their highest recorded score achieved over a historic three year window”

2020 CHANGES

One common dislike with the legacy classification system was the issue of class demotions – there weren't any! Prior to the 2020 season anybody recording a ▶

“Not all events are classified – some do not have the competitive numbers to justify being divided as such and some events are simply not shot often enough.”

promoting score would be moved into the appropriate class and essentially remain there. It would mean a single one-off extraordinarily high score could penalise a competitor and see them competing in a higher class than their ‘real world’ average. Unless a class boundary review fell in their favour this single outlier score penalized them for the rest of their competitive career.

Another flaw with the traditional system was the fact that competitor’s classifications were based on every score ever recorded. Theoretically this could be going back to 1997 but more practically back to the mid 2000’s when the discipline’s data recording practices became slightly more formalised. Like any sport, a shooters’ classification in any event should reflect their current levels of ability, skill and expertise and not delve into any historic archive. Many shooters in the classification database were

no longer actively competing and people also take breaks from the sport. A classification achieved ten or more years ago isn’t really relative for today. At the end of the 2019 season the decision was taken to review the overall system whilst still keeping it as relative and as easy to manage as possible.

Without delving too much into the machinations it was decided the simplest way to address the demotion and currency/score relevance issue was to reduce the classification window to a three year period. This means the division a shooter now resides in for any event and gun type will only be

based on the scores achieved within the last three years.

The window slides forward on a rolling meeting by meeting basis rather than season by season. This allows the ethos of class promotions to continue to be realised immediately, as before, but also caters for class demotions as described below. Results data will continue to be processed after every meeting to update any potential changes to a shooter’s classification.

Demotion in the new system is implied. If a competitor has not recorded a class appropriate score within the three-year sliding window they will be demoted to the

appropriate class in which they do have a recorded score. This could be a demotion to any class, including U, depending on how current the shooter is, and what scores they are shooting in that particular event and gun type.

One consequence of the 2020 changes is a shooter can now be class demoted by essentially doing nothing. The most extreme case will be by recording no scores at all in a particular event within a three year period. In that case they will drop out of the back end of the sliding window and receive a recorded class of U. A more realistic example would perhaps be a shooter who has recorded a single X class score in an event and has never recorded one since. Once that single X class score has regressed out of the back of the three year sliding window they will automatically be re-classified appropriately.

AUSTRIAN OPEN 1500: 2021

David Harris, SLG Bisley e.V.

The Austrian Open 1500 took place over the first weekend of October in Hopfgarten im Brixental. With Covid 19 travel restrictions lifting five people made the journey to Austria. We took three different paths through Europe: Doug Green travelled via Hull, Neil Jones and Ken Williams via Dover and I travelled from Portsmouth to meet Andy Pain, who lives in France.

We had arranged with the organiser, Pepi Laiminger, to meet at the range the afternoon before the shoot for some much-needed practice – most of us had not shot a pistol since we last attended Hopfgarten in 2019. The first few shots were a little shaky, but we soon settled down and I was pleased to see that my sight settings from 2 years ago were still valid.

It was a real pleasure to see so many friends over the weekend and to be shooting again on Hopfgarten’s well organised mountainside range. Most of us took part in 6 or 7 events over the weekend with matches being held for both Revolver and Pistol 1500 together



THE PRACTICALITIES

Whatever system is in place it always has to be appreciated that somebody, somewhere, is administering it. For the classification system to function, scores data has to be submitted in an appropriate format to an appropriate location. It also has to be submitted in a timely manner so it can be processed to allow shooters to compete in their appropriate class at the next competition.

The detailed mechanics of data submission is not for this article. However match directors and organisers of classified GR&P meetings should be aware that the match is not complete until results are published and data has been submitted for processing. Whatever local systems are used for capturing and publishing scores please ensure it can also export data in the requested format to fulfil these requirements.



THE FUTURE

Apart from season to season reviews of the event breakpoints there are no immediate plans to change the system. It would be good to classify more events but that always depends on

shooter numbers. There is always a balance between slicing events too granularly and offering meaningful competition. More automated methods of generating shooter classifications is on the aspirational horizon as well

as easier ways to submit and retrieve data.

Of course the current overseers of the classification system would always be grateful for feedback and comment. Please contact us via the usual methods. ☺

with an optical class and the various short 48 shot matches for 4-inch revolvers, 2.75-inch revolvers, 5-shot revolvers and “stock” (i.e. fixed-sights) semi-auto pistols. The Austrians run the Police Pistol 1 match, which is normally shot with a “stock” 9mm semi-auto pistol, in several different classes, including “super magnum” and rifle.

With all this shooting going on and the number of different guns we use it’s easy to get confused but I think we only had one occurrence of “right gun wrong ammo” and this was very quickly resolved.

The Austrian ROs run the two available ranges very efficiently to get the maximum number of shooters through and manage to do this without the shooter feeling rushed. Shooting finished by 5pm and by 6pm prize giving started.

Prize giving is always fun in Austria; Manfred Hörl keeps the whole thing moving along at a good pace. The trophies are unique and make a welcome addition to any trophy shelf. Due to the lack of practice none of us managed a top three this year but we did all achieve at least one certificate for being in the top 10. The free

raffle for the prize table is the highlight of the weekend and we are pleased to report that we went away with enough of the locally produced cheese and ham to see us through to next year.

I would like to thank all the Austrian organisers, ROs and helpers for, once again, inviting us to take part and for all the help they give us with firearms and ammunition; without their assistance we would not be able to attend. Next year’s trip is already being organized so we will return to Hopfgarten in 2022. Full results can be found at wa1500.org





SURREY AUTUMN MEETING

Held on 18-19 September 2021. **Jon Underwood** reports.

It was a pleasant sunny Autumn morning, when those competing in the Surrey Open Championship turned up on the firing point to learn about single string shooting. Those familiar with shooting in Australia and New Zealand recalled the procedure, and ensured that everyone knew what to do and when. SurreyRA was using the string shooting system this year to fit the shoots into the available targets and timings.

After a Queen's I course of fire in the morning and ten scores of 105, ahead by just one V-Bull was Toby Rainock with 105.16. A satisfying lunch break and back out on the range for the second instalment of string shooting over a Queen's II course of fire, in very pleasant weather, with light but changeable winds. There were 11 scores of 149, but just ahead were the only two maximum scores of 150 – Tom Drysdale with 150.16 in second place, and the winner of the Peek Competition, Jon Tapster with 150.20.

Overall, after the first day of competition the only

person having not dropped a point was Tom Drysdale with 255.31, the winner of the Reload Swiss (Saturday) Aggregate, closely followed by five others who had dropped just one point, the top of those being Matthew Ensor on 254.37.

“The weather continued to deteriorate, but Simon Cleveland put in an excellent 75.9 at 1,000 yards

FINAL STAGE

All were refreshed by a good nights sleep ready for the final stage of the Championship over a Queen's III course at 900 and 1,000 yards, and back to shooting in pairs. However, the weather had turned and rain was in the air. To eagle eye or not to eagle eye?! The dilemma. How strong was the rain to be? As the morning went on the rain drops were increasing in frequency and size. The winds moved around enough to catch you out when not

paying attention, or if distracted by the rain. After 900 yards and a sound 75.11 Jon Tapster moved up from fourth to take the lead, equal on points with 329 to Tom Drysdale but just ahead on V-Bulls by 45 to 43. Toby Raincock was

a further five V's behind on 329.38. Many contenders for the Championship were still only one or two points behind, with the all important 1,000 yards to go.

The weather continued to deteriorate, but Simon Cleveland put in an excellent 75.9 at 1,000 yards, (the only 75), to go with his 75.10 at 900 yards and win the Cannon Competition. Jon Underwood with a 74.11 at 1,000 finished second with 149.25, and this year's Queen's prize winner, Rick Shouler finished third in the long range with 149.23.

How did that affect the standings at the end of the weekend? Toby Raincock held steady with a 148.20 to finish on 402.49 in third place, Jon Tapster with a total of 402.51, pulled up into second place, but as others dropped two or three points at long range, Jon Underwood's 149, left him in first place with 402.58, and winner of the Surrey Open Championship for the third time.

It just remains to thank all of those involved in making the event happen.

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Cantlay (2 & 7 300,500,600) was won by Toby Raincock on 105.16, Peek (2 & 10 300,500,600) was won by Jon Tapster with 150.20, The Reload Swiss (Saturday Aggregate) winner was Tom Drysdale on 255.31 and Cannon (2 & 15 900,1000) by Simon Cleveland on 150.19.

Jon Underwood took four titles, winning The Willoughby Aggregate with 253.40, The Thames Valley Arms Aggregate on 298.43, The Surrey Open Championship on 402.58 and The Surrey County Championship with 402.58. 🏆

SUMMARY OF THE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES – TOP 10

Name		300	500	600	300	500	600	900	1000	Total
Mr J Underwood	x	35.6	34.5	35.4	50.4	49.7	50.7	75.14	74.11	402.58
Mr JP Tapster	x	35.6	35.4	34.4	50.7	50.5	50.8	75.11	73.6	402.51
Mr TJD Raincock	x	35.7	35.5	35.4	49.4	50.5	50.4	75.9	73.11	402.49
Mr TM Drysdale	x	35.3	35.6	35.6	50.4	50.7	50.5	74.12	72.8	401.51
Mr RRSF Shouler	x	35.4	34.5	35.5	48.1	50.6	50.6	75.13	74.10	401.50
Mr J Cload	x	33.4	34.2	35.7	49.8	50.6	50.6	74.9	75.10	400.52
Mr JEM Bellringer	x	35.5	34.3	35.4	50.8	50.7	49.8	75.12	71.8	399.55
Mr J Watson	x	35.5	35.5	35.5	50.7	49.6	50.8	73.8	72.9	399.53
Mr SL Cleaveland	x	34.4	35.4	34.4	48.4	50.7	48.6	75.10	75.9	399.48
Mr P DeVoil	x	35.5	35.6	34.5	50.7	48.4	50.8	72.10	73.9	397.54



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SAYING GOODYBE TO HAMPTON LOVETT



Richard Kenchington remembers Hampton Lovett Rifle Range.

“**S**orry I’m late, Sir, I was cleaning my rifle”, I called to Mr Ireland, the Chemistry master, as I hurried into first period after break. It seemed to me a perfectly reasonable excuse, but it didn’t wash with him and I was duly rebuked. When he wasn’t teaching us about Ethyl Acetate and the Dissociation Constant, Mr Ireland spent his time supervising swimming and water polo.

That summer term of 1969, which I am shocked to realise was 52 years ago, we cleaned our rifles (.303 No 4s fitted with Alfred J Parker sights) at break nearly every Saturday and sometimes on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well. We would collect the rifles and kit from the Armoury during last period, excusing ourselves from hymn practice, and trundle along in the minibus, driven by Mr Whitehorn and Mr Ryder, munching our packed lunches with the rifles lying on groundsheets

under the seats. The minibus was an old Commer with a bench seat along each side and peculiar front wheels which were closer together than the rear ones. In 20 minutes, we were parking at the end of the metalled road by Hampton Lovett church, and unloading our equipment.

The 600 yards or so between the church car park and the range had to be traversed on foot, carrying our rifles and equipment. The gate by the church led to a grassy earth track, which went under a bridge through the railway embankment, round a sharp bend, down a steep slope, through two more gates and over a concrete and sleeper bridge across a stream. The track

then disappeared, but a dry field led to the danger notice and the fence marking the range boundary, to the south of the 200 yards firing point and the butts.

The range lay in the fields, with the butts at the foot of a steep little hill covered by a dense wood. The three Hythe target frames were in a well-kept gallery built of brick and iron, with a substantial mantlet supported by iron posts and a wall of iron plates, protected at the ends by riveted wrought iron refuges. Behind the gallery, the sand stop bank was laid on the hill and the whole butt was surrounded by a barbed wire fence. At the left-hand end, there was a brick storage chamber with an asphalt ►

“ *The 600 yards or so between the church car park and the range had to be traversed on foot* ”

Above: Hampton Lovett Butts in 1964. **Below:** Shooting at 500 yards in 1969.





Left: 2 Targets in Butts –1969. **Left below:** Under Mantlet. **Below inset:** C J Pudge and M I Rhys-Davies on the 200 yard firing point.

the range and the wooded hill at the butt end, there was never much wind – not that there were any wind flags! So we paid no attention to the wind, but just as with our .22 rifles at 25 yards, we only altered our windgauges to centre our groups. Nevertheless, we made some good scores

– frequent 33s, several 34s and the occasional possible.

Looking back, it seems incredible that we were allowed to shoot over two hedgerows, with the targets only in view through the gaps, but we thought nothing of it. If anyone

had ventured across the range,

we would not have seen them, but there was no sense that we were putting anyone in danger and needless to say, no-one disturbed us. Like *Adlestrop*, “no-one left and no-one came”.

The little range among the fields, in the middle of nowhere, was a peaceful refuge from academic work and the trials of cricket and athletics and, from today’s viewpoint, a quirky and very special place to go and shoot. I treasured those Saturday afternoons and always hoped I would go back one day.

More than ten years ago, I was given a copy of the press cutting from *Berrow’s Worcester Journal* announcing the opening of Hampton Lovett range. It was constructed as a two-target iron target range by the Droitwich company of Volunteers in 1892-94, as a replacement for their previous range at Summer Hill on the east side of Droitwich, which had been deemed unsafe. It was opened on 21 April 1894 with a match between Officers and Other Ranks under Queen’s I conditions, presumably using Martini-Henry rifles (and won by the Other Ranks). The press cutting stated that the range was “the safest in the County, the firing points at the long ranges being on a natural plateau. Ricochetting will not be known”.

“It seems incredible that we were allowed to shoot over two hedgerows, with the targets only in view through the gaps

roof, and beyond it the targets were kept in a ramshackle corrugated iron shed riddled with bullet holes. Outside, the field nearest the butts was a carpet of wild flowers, level for nearly 300 yards, with little firing points, just large enough for six people to lie on, edged with concrete slabs. The telephone lines enabling communication between the butts and firing points were carried on timber poles, like the telegraph poles along a railway. The line of poles defined the orientation of the range, which was slightly south of east.

Even though there was a footpath crossing the range at about 300 yards, and a bridleway running along the top of the hill behind the butts, we never posted any sentries or lookouts, but we just started shooting when we were ready. Time seemed to go slowly, and the VIII, Ninth Man and Cadet Pair were usually able to complete their

2+7 at 200 yards and still have time to do some snapshooting and a Marling practice, which consisted of running forward from 300 and firing ten shots at 200 yards on Figure targets.

After we had finished at 200 yards, it was time to move back to 500. This was not straightforward, as a deep, fast flowing stream ran diagonally across the range at 300 yards and there was no bridge at this point. To cross the stream, we had to go back to the sleeper bridge and then fight our way up to the 500 yard firing point through the undergrowth on the other side.

Beyond the stream was a thick hedgerow, with a gap kept trimmed nearly to ground level to enable the targets to be seen from the longer distances. Beyond the hedgerow,

there was another level field, but from about 400 yards, the land began to rise gently to the 500 and 600 yard firing points. These were in a third field, beyond another hedgerow, fence and gate. Because of the presence of the two hedgerows across



I have since heard it said that the two 10ft x 6ft targets, each made up of five iron plates, and the two riveted iron mantlets, came from Wimbledon after the ranges there closed in 1889.

After the introduction of the .303 rifle in 1897, the iron target plates and mantlets were taken down and re-used to construct a gallery wall, and new Hythe frames for three canvas targets were installed. It is not known how much use the range saw up to the 1930s, but it is believed to have been revived by a local unit of the US Army when they were based in the UK from 1942. After the war, the range remained under the control of the MOD and was used by local units and clubs until 1967, when the lease was taken over by Dudley Rifle Club.

The latter continued to use the range occasionally until 1978, when the then landowner (a Scottish finance company) declined to renew the lease.

Shortly afterwards, the telephone lines and poles were dismantled and the land was ploughed up for crops, but the butts were not demolished and were simply left as they stood.

One afternoon in the summer of 1982, I parked at the church and retraced my steps to the range. It was rather disappointing to find that the carpet of wild flowers had been replaced by a field of maize, and the firing points and telephone poles had

disappeared. Undaunted, I pressed on and found that the butts were still there, with the target frames and mantlet in reasonable order and even the targets still in their corrugated iron shed. However, the gallery floor was half buried under sand which had been washed down from the stop butt.

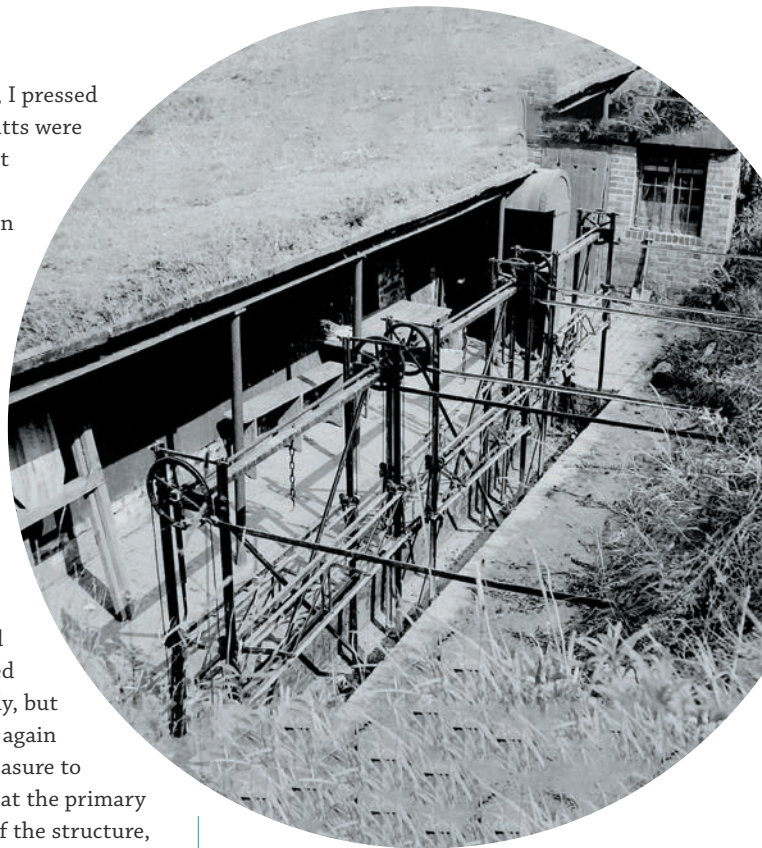
In 1999, the land was bought by an arable farmer, who continued to grow crops on it. By 2011, the condition of the butt had

deteriorated significantly, but on visiting again it was a pleasure to discover that the primary elements of the structure, particularly the target frames, gallery wall and storage chamber, were still intact, although suffering from years of neglect and screened from view by thick undergrowth. The mantlet roof was falling in and the stop bank was heavily overgrown with bracken.

Another ten years have now gone by but the state of the butts, as far as I know, remains much the same.

Closure of the ranges in the stretch of country between Birmingham and

“Closure of the ranges in the stretch of country between Birmingham and Bristol over the last 60 years has been relentless.”



Bristol over the last 60 years has been relentless. The number of available ranges in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire has fallen from ten in 1955 to five in 1975, two in 1995 and none today. The world has changed and unless we do something about it soon, I am afraid there is not much prospect of open range target rifle shooting taking place again in this part of the country. I would love to be proved wrong and remain keen to take part in any endeavour to reverse these closures; but meanwhile, rest in peace, Hampton Lovett Rifle Range. 🕯️



Above right: 1968 Target Machines.
Below: 1969 – Minibus at Hampton Lovett church.

TRAFALGAR MEETING 2021



Right: Taking aim on the Sporting Rifle range

Derek Stimpson reports from a very busy and cheerful 2021 Trafalgar Meeting, held on 16-17 October 2021.

This year has seen the return to shooting with the NRA able to successfully hold major meetings again. The NRA Imperial meeting went ahead, and was notably followed by the traditional prize giving after the Queen's prize final.

The Trafalgar was no exception and was held on its original planned October dates. It proved a busy and cheerful meeting with a move towards earlier years numbers of entrants.

On the Saturday evening the Trafalgar dinner was held, and much enjoyed by attendees, although with modest numbers. The Council Club is a very attractive venue and the excellent traditional fayre enjoyed by all, the Nelson toast being made in the traditional form.

The circumstances did not permit the usual arms fair, or the HBSA pistol exhibition and display stand but we hope that these will be able to be held next year.

Acting both as a range officer and also shooting certainly fills the day as many of us know. A particular thank you goes both to the NRA for their enthusiastic support, and to all the volunteers who contribute their time to support this meeting as volunteer ROs or otherwise.

Those of us that had ordered a packed lunch had a very pleasant surprise when a delicious boxed hot meal arrived. A real boost in the middle of a busy day.

My own activity kept me occupied at the BSRC range as RCO and shooting the running boar and running



“ It proved a busy and cheerful meeting with a move towards earlier years numbers of entrants.



deer, plus double rifle. I was glad to see some new entrants on the running boar and deer as well as the regulars, and have some more competition. The Sporting Rifle Running Boar competition proved second most popular event at the meeting.

Shooting moving target is something different for most static target shooters and once they begin, proves addictive.

Match 406 200 yards prone Classic Service Rifle was in top place with 37 entries and re-entries; 601 Open .22 Sporting Rifle Running Boar in second place having 32 entries and re-entries; 506 200 yards prone Vintage Service Rifle with 29 was in third place ▶

Right: Lining up on Century Range. **Below:** Checking the shots on target.

of popularity, with Match Director Peter Cottrell taking time off to take second place separated from first place only by V bulls, as was third place.

In competition 100, the 200 yards

ML Rifle prone, Andy McBain, a member of Robin Hood Rifles, produced a score of 49.7 with 4 V bulls, which is certainly good shooting and we believe a record

for the competition! There may be other records as yet unidentified.

I'll repeat, as I do each year, that we do need more collectors with the appropriate historic rifles, including double rifles, to come and join in. They will be amply rewarded.

We hope that they will also

spread the word about the enjoyment of shooting historic arms and introduce friends to it.

To encourage entrants we have online advance booking

including the 'bulk discount', but we are still retaining the walk-in facility for entries on the day, and the cashless system facilitating re-entries.

The Classic and Historic Handbook 2021 proved

a very useful reference for both shooters and range officers alike on the ranges. There are some, the more specialized perhaps, which had few shooters, even a single competitor, (plus some not shot), but a good number are shot by ten or more people. As mentioned above the top competition this year was 406 with 37 entries and re-entries.

I am told by Bryden Ritchie that he

“Shooting moving target is something different for most static target shooters and once they begin, proves addictive.”



stepped down as an RO to assist his wife Anne in getting the scoring done, and results were published just in time for the prize giving. Thanks go to Anne and Bryden Ritchie for their work on stats and results allowing for early publishing of them, and to Roger Ford for assisting on Sunday.

I understand that there will be some more tweaks to iron out a few further anomalies in the Handbook. Any feedback from members relating to the Handbook will be welcome.

Every year there is an impressive and remarkable variety of arms being used – military, target and sporting – muzzle-loading long-arms and pistols, both flint and

percussion, breech-loading rifles of many types, including rook rifles and large bore big game rifles. All shot on both static and moving targets, and both prone and standing.

This is reflected in the photograph gallery from the meeting.

The Trafalgar is an important meeting. It is one of the largest historic arms shooting meetings anywhere in the world. It is an exceptional meeting in which we are able to participate. We are also fortunate that it is held at such a world famous location – NRA's Bisley ranges – a historic venue where we are fortunate to celebrate our heritage in historic arms, both





“The Trafalgar is an important meeting. It is one of the largest historic arms shooting meetings anywhere in the world.

shooting and collecting them being well represented at the meeting.

Looking at the entries the following are the figures for the last five meetings.

2021: No of Competitors – 152, No of Cards – 898.

2020: No of Competitors – 125, No of Cards – 608.

2019: No of Competitors – 176, No of Cards – 968.

2018: No of Competitors –

193, No of Cards – 1046.

2017: No of Competitors – 189, No of Cards – 971.

The average number of events shot per competitor went up this year to 5.9 from 5.0 in 2020.

Sadly, once again, our usual European visitors, mainly from Germany, Holland and Denmark, did not arrive. Hopefully that will change next year.

The NRA maintain the broad number of competitions in the Trafalgar list at 210, with good reason, and to be inclusive of as many historic arms types and models as possible. We need to take advantage of this. This year 163 matches had at least one entry out of the total number available of 210.

The meeting ended with a well attended and lively prize giving, at which Andrew Mercer officiated. There was a rousing

round of applause for Viv Rogers, in his absence. He had retired from his Range Officer role at the Trafalgar at the youthful age of 90 and had earlier been presented by the NRA with an engraved decanter in thanks and to mark the occasion.

Viv had acted as RO for on Melville advancing targets for many years – it had become his range.

There really is something for everyone and we do need to encourage new, and especially younger shooters to join us. Please encourage your friends and other club members to come and join in.

If you are not sure which competitions to enter contact the NRA who will assist. The main thing is to take part and enjoy using your historic arms, and enjoy watching others use theirs.

We must look to the future and preserve that heritage for future generations, so keep collecting and keep shooting historic arms.

We look forward to seeing more of you next year with even more entries. ☺

Below: Viv Rogers accepting his decanter from Peter Cottrell, Match Director.



- WINTER 2021 UPDATE - REGIONAL RANGES

Advice from the Regional Ranges Manager **Nic Couldrey**.

The main advantage of an indoor range is protection from the elements, and as we approach winter now is a good time to review basic advice for Club Range Managers.

FIREARM EMISSIONS

A small amount of lead dust is generated each time a firearm is fired. Lead is present in the primer and in the projectile. As a round is fired gas containing lead

escapes from the muzzle. Lead may also be generated from base burn on uncapped lead bullets and from the rifling in the barrel if unjacketed projectiles are used. Lead is also generated at the target end of an indoor range when projectiles strike the bullet trap. A proportion of the dust becomes an airborne contaminate. An effective air handling system will move airborne contamination clear of the firing point and provide fresh air dilution down

range over the firing points.

The Range Manager should risk assess the indoor range to determine the level of exposure to lead in air. Factors to consider are type of shooting activity and the firearms used. The assessment should consider range users and visitors. Range officers, supervisors and coaches who are routinely in the range for extended periods may be at greater risk of exposure. Air monitoring may be carried out by a

AFTER



“ The range manager should routinely inspect the range and be responsible for maintenance.

specialist contractor who will be able to provide advice tailored to a specific range and use case. Detailed guidance is available from the HSE- search CLAW 2002.

UNBURNED PROPELLANT

A small amount of unburned propellant is expelled from a firearm when it is fired. Short barrel and muzzle loading firearms are particularly prone to this problem. Provided that unburnt propellant is not allowed to accumulate it may not represent a hazard. As part of the risk assessment the range manager should identify features in the range that may

“A small amount of unburned propellant is expelled from a firearm when it is fired. Short barrel and muzzle loading firearms are particularly prone to this problem

allow dust to accumulate, for example gaps or joints in the walls and ceiling or store rooms and cupboards. The air handling and exhaust systems should be specified to take account of potentially explosive dust. Anyone working in the area of the bullet catcher should be warned of the potential explosive hazard.


MAINTENANCE OF INDOOR RANGES

The Range Manager should routinely inspect the range and be responsible for maintenance. Key considerations include:

- An effective cleaning regime to ensure that dust does not accumulate on the range. Visible dust will contain lead and unburnt propellant. Eliminate areas that may harbour dust. Equipment, material, apertures or rooms/ areas in the structure that allow dust to gather are to be avoided.
- The bullet catcher must be maintained to reduce the risk of backsplash. This includes regular removal of bullets/projectiles by competent personnel or specialist contractors and renewal of the anti-backsplash curtain.
- The ventilation system, including the exhaust to atmosphere should work correctly and filters (where fitted) be maintained in accordance with manufacturers advice. Maintenance intervals should be determined by risk

assessment (frequency of use, type of firearms/ammunition used basis the range log).

- If there is a change of use or a significant amount of dust is generated, the range manager should do a further risk assessment to determine if this results in a change to the level of lead exposure.
- Only explosion proof/ATEX vacuum cleaners designed for use with unburnt propellant and lead should be used on indoor ranges.
- The range manager should ensure that maintenance works are subject to a risk assessment particularly if work is done in confined spaces/the bullet catcher.
- Frequency of cleaning should be driven by risk assessment and consider type of ammunition used on the range, frequency and number of rounds fired, efficiency of the ventilation and extraction systems and the porosity of surfaces in the range.
- Dry sweeping and dusting is prohibited.
- Deep cleaning by a specialist contractor is recommended on a periodic basis, typically annually. The range manager should keep records of maintenance works and appropriate removal/disposal of any hazardous materials.

More information is available in the NRA Range Managers Guide, download a copy from nra.org.uk/home-page/ 

Left: An example of what one Club has done to refurbish an indoor range follows. Our thanks to Colchester Rifle Club for sharing pictures of refurbishment work underway at the club indoor range. The tarmac range floor has been replaced with sealed concrete screed and the walls/ ceilings painted with a washable product used in the food industry. The improvements will greatly assist maintenance and provide an enhanced shooter experience.

BEFORE

CLEARANCE TO FIRE ON MOD RANGES

RCO's are reminded that they must comply with Range Standing Orders and safety procedures. We've just been notified of near miss on a MoD range in Kent; the RCO did not get clearance to fire before allowing shooting to commence.

The risks associated with live firing without permission are obvious and could be catastrophic. An investigation is underway, lessons learned will be shared in due course.

RANGE OFFICE



CSR PRACTICE – FRIDAYS

The CSR League competes throughout the winter months here at Bisley. It is the same as the Service Rifle competitions run by the military, and only differs in the fact that we naturally use UK target civilian firearms.

Finding the time to practice multiple distances leading up to these events has always proved somewhat difficult. However, as of 2022 we have put in place a format which will permit multiple distances for training on the Friday prior to each league match. The event will be run by the HRA and is open to all CSR members. Please contact frankie-hra@gmx.com for more information. The following format will be plotted and available:



	AM	PM
7 Jan *	1/200x	3/400x
4 Feb	1/200x	2/300x
4 Mar *	1/200x	3/400x
8 Apr *	1/200x	3/400x
30 Sep	1/200x	2/300x
4 Nov *	1/200x	3/400x
2 Dec *	1/200x	3/400x

* For those wishing to practice 500x, a separate booking will need to be made. In the first instance, it may be helpful to co-ordinate with Frankie.

TARGET SHOTGUN PRACTICE

Target Shotgun is a growing discipline and as such we want to provide extra facilities for everyone along with providing some opportunities for training before competitions.

Therefore on the following Saturday Morning Sessions in 2022 the left hand side of Short Siberia will be available to be booked for Target Shotgun Practice:

- 8 January
- 5 February
- 5 March – closest date possible leading up to the SAW
- 2 April

- 21 May –Phoenix Preparation
- 27 August –GR NATS Preparation
- 24 September – TS Festival Preparation
- 5 November
- 3 December

The cost will be that of a normal lane on Short Siberia but will include 1 turning target with a backing board. All odd number turners will be available to be used, therefore up to a maximum of 6 lanes. All shooters will be required to coordinate movement with each other on the day.

To make a booking please submit a normal Short Siberia request via the online system for 100x, and in the comments state 'Target Shotgun Practice'.

For any queries please contact **range.office@nra.org.uk**



RANGE BOOKING CONFERENCE

The Range Booking Conference was held at Bisley on 28 October 2021. The conference aims to highlight all major competition and event dates for the following year, along with any updates in procedures and causes for concern.

The full conference slides can be found under the news section of the website. All important dates can be found on the NSC website under ranges, and latest range information.

Main points to note

- Short Siberia McQueen castles will be half size from 2022, Century will remain as full size.
- CSR Practice dates will be hosted by the HRA on the Friday prior to each league match (read separate article).
- TSG practice dates on LHS of Short Siberia on some Saturday mornings (read separate article).
- Markers cannot be guaranteed. We aim to provide 25 markers on a Saturday and 15 on a Sunday due to age working restrictions, these markers will be allocated to competitions first.
- Cancellation policy for high season weekends is Tuesday prior for a full refund. During low season or weekdays this will remain at 48 hours. There may be a separate cancellation policy for large events which will be posted on the website/emailed out once confirmed.
- Bookings taken within the cancellation period will still be subject to the cancellation policy.

- There are set fall backs on weekends, should you wish to have a different fallback this can only be confirmed one week prior to the date, subject to range availability
- For fallback competitions, if shooting 300x along with either 500x or 600x there will be an additional charge of £3.60 per pin on target (subject to change in line with range hire charges).
- Hourly slots on standard targets can only be confirmed one week prior subject to availability.

Causes for concern

- Zero range can only be purchased for use on the day in question, not in advance
- HME zeroing must be three clearly visible shots
- Please ensure you remove your targets from the frames at the end of your shoot
- Please do not put your own Targetry on top of NRA targets. Request a blank face
- Vehicles on the range are only be permitted with Range Controls authorisation and will be dependent on weather
- For GR&P range bookings please ensure you state your targetry requirements, it is unlikely we will be able to provide targets last minute.

The online system will open for bookings on approx. the 1st November 2022. Bookings will begin to be processed as of December. Initially a single run through of the whole year will be conducted, after which priority will be put on bookings in date order.

Any concerns regarding your bookings for next year please email **range.office@nra.org.uk** 📧



SHOOTING AT CHELYSMORE RANGE

Sam Gowin gives an insight into his training on Cheylesmore Range.

The Chelysmore Range in Bisley camp is a one of a kind range in the UK. The range itself is split into three bays – Bay A, which we use, is a secured range to restrict unauthorised access as this allows the usage of Section 5 Pistols. The ability to use these firearms here gives a unique opportunity that isn't available to the same extent anywhere else in the country

and thus provides an excellent training opportunity, for which I have grabbed with both hands.

The range is equipped with two sets of electronic targets, each set has five individual targets making ten targets in total. The targets are 25 meters away from the sheltered concrete firing points. The Targets are made by Megalink, a

respectable target brand and these are easily operated by user interfaces at the firing points. This electronic target system provides instant feedback and data and enables proper ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) matches and programs to be run, and therefore they provide me with a great place to train for my chosen discipline of Rapid Fire Pistol.

“The range is equipped with two sets of electronic targets, each set has 5 individual targets...”

WHAT IS RAPID FIRE PISTOL?

Rapid Fire Pistol (RFP) is a discipline of target pistol shooting that currently features in the summer Olympic Games.

on each other target. During a half course, there are two, eight seconds series, two, six second series, and two, four seconds; in each of the series, five shots are fired in total so during the 4 seconds series, a shot is being fired at a different target every half second or so!

THE 2020/2021 SEASON

Due to the obvious, this sport just like every other, has been hugely effected by the pandemic, it wiped out the 2020 season and caused issues for the lead up to the Tokyo Olympic Games in terms of qualification events and logistics. Many things were planned for the 2020 season and just a few days after producing my training calendar for that season, I had to delete it all and train from home instead.

The home training lasted over the course of the first lockdown, around five and a half months and I clocked up around 55,000 dry fire shots, no wonder the trigger mechanism in my pistol is extremely worn! As soon as clearance was given to come back to Bisley, we set up on Chelysmore and I have never been stronger and more consistent in my technical abilities.

Finally sporting events were allowed to continue and I was selected to represent

Great Britain at the ISSF World Cups in India and Croatia and the European Championships also in Croatia. The NRA have been so supportive by allowing me to train on Chelysmore prior to these events, because I am on the World Class Program as an athlete, I was allowed to attend training even during the second national lockdown. Due to the NRA's great support as well as dry firing, I achieved top-ten

finishes in all of these major events, something I am very proud of. I finished eighth in India, eighth at the European Championships and fifth at the World Cup in Croatia; that alone was a brilliant experience as I made the final at a World Cup, something that no other British pistol shooter has ever done.

We are very lucky to have a range like this, it is truly unique and allows us Section

5 athletes to train and compete with the correct equipment. We are also very lucky and thankful for the help and support that the NRA provides for us, they allow us to train as much as possible which is crucial to meet our objectives and they keep the range usable and well maintained. One day, we, using Chelysmore A and with the support of the NRA will produce an Olympic pistol athlete! 🙏

“We are very lucky to have a range like this, it is truly unique and allows us Section 5 athletes to train and compete with the correct equipment.”

It is dynamic and fast so it demands total concentration mixed with a very high level of precision movement, a great challenge indeed and exciting for spectators, this is the discipline that many pistol and rifle shooters say they would love to try. RFP is very much a 'sprint' event as a-posed to a 'endurance' event, it has 60 shots to count which in total take around 72 seconds to complete! It is also shot one handed!

It is actually split over two 'half courses' and this is how it goes:

Twenty-five meters away there are five targets of equal size, equally separated side by side, the targets are circular with concentric scoring rings going from a five-point outer ring up to a ten-point inner ring. Above the target is a red light and below is a green light, to signify when to start and stop firing.

Before the green light comes on you must be in position, pistol in hand, loaded and made ready with your firing arm pointing down to the ground at a 45 degree angle. When the green light comes on, you have to raise the gun to the first target and fire one shot and continue to fire one shot

Above: Shooting on the range. **Below:** Chelysmore Range.





NOTICES

National Rifle Association notifications and news.

NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE LIMITED (TRADING SUBSIDIARY OF THE NRA) SEEKS INDEPENDENT DIRECTORS

The National Shooting Centre Limited (NSC) is the wholly owned trading subsidiary of the NRA. NSC operates trading activities from its base at Bisley Camp in Surrey; the main sources of income come from the operation of rifle and shotgun ranges, sale of ammunition, accommodation, food and beverages. The NSC board of directors meet quarterly; directors also receive regular email traffic between meetings, which may require response. Directors are unpaid but can be reimbursed for expenses.

The NRA is seeking to recruit at least one Independent director ("Independent" excludes NRA employees / current Trustees / recently retired Trustees). Applicants with marketing and communication, hospitality, or clay pigeon shooting experience will be particularly welcome.

To register your interest of for further details please contact NRA Chairman David Lacey at chairman@nra.org.uk

The deadline for applications is Friday 28th January 2022.

NRA TEAM TO TOUR THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2022

We are pleased to announce that the following have now been selected for the NRA team to tour the Channel Islands in May/June 2022

Team Captain:
Doug Stewart

Vice Captain:
Andrew Tompson
Adjutant: Nick Brasier
Wind coach / Armourer:
Tom Rylands
Team:
Mike Bumford
Patrick Costello
Oscar Farrell

Guy Hart
Jemima Hince
Tom Johnston
Toby Little
Luca O'Flynn
Alex Sadler
Tom Shaw
Reserves:
Jonathan Brooking
Jon Thorp



NRA CHANNEL ISLANDS TEAM 2023 TEAM CAPTAIN - NOMINATIONS INVITED

Nominations are invited for the Captain of the NRA Team to Channel Islands 2023. 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 21st January 2022. Nominations to be sent to Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2020/2021

By elected Ordinary, Regional and Shooting Discipline Members of the General Council. From 1st September 2020 to 30 June 2021

	General Council 3	Shooting Discipline 3	Membership Committee 7	
GK Alexander*	2	X	7	(O)
HRM Bailie	3	X	X	(R)
JPS Bloomfield	3	3	X	(O)
N Brasier*	3	X	7	(O)
CM Brooks	3	3	X	(O)
DP Calvert	3	3	X	(O)
AMW Cargill-Thompson	3	3	X	(D)
MJJ Charlton	1	X	X	(O)
PR Coley	0	X	X	(R)
DC Crispin	3	3	X	(O)
A Dagger	3	3	X	(R)
CES Dickenson*	3	3	X	(D)
HF Dunton	1	X	X	(R)
A Gran*	3	X	7	(R)
JS Harris	2	3	X	(D)
R Kenchington	3	X	X	(R)
JM Kynoch	2	X	X	(O)
GAE Larcombe	2	X	7	(R)
J Lawrie	1	X	X	(R)
Miss SS Lohmann	3	X	7	(O)
J Longhurst	2	3	X	(D)
D Lowe	3	X	X	(O)
N Macfarlane	2	3	X	(D)
M Maksimovic	0	X	X	(O)
Dr J Marsden	2	X	X	(R)
BD Ritchie	3	3	X	(R)
RM Roberts*	3	X	X	(O)
Mrs KD Robertson	3	X	X	(O)
I Shirra-Gibb	0	0	X	(D)
N St Aubyn	0	2	X	(D)
I Thomson	3	3	X	(O)
MK Townsend	2	X	X	(O)
G Trembath	2	X	X	(R)
S Wallis	0	3	0	(D)
JD Warburton	3	3	X	(R)
MP Watkins	3	X	X	(R)
AP Wolpe	0	3	X	(D)

* - Members of the Council (Board of Trustees). The Council meet at least 7 to 8 times per annum and its members are expected to attend all or most of such meetings. In addition, Trustees give attendance at other times for formal decisions.

X - not a member of that committee

(O) - Ordinary member

(R) - Regional Member

(D) - Shooting Discipline Member



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION COMPETITION CALENDAR

Competition dates for the
2022 calendar year.

JANUARY

Civ SR League 8 January

FEBRUARY

Historic SR Match 5 February

Civ SR League 6 February

MARCH

Civ SR League 5 March

Target Shotgun Festival 12-13 March

Spring Action Weekend 26-27 March

Historic SR Match 27 March

APRIL

Small-bore LR Match 3 April

CIVSR League 9 April

MAY

Phoenix/World GR Championships 26-29 May

JUNE

Inter-Counties 11-12 June

Imperial Meeting 13 June-23 July

JULY

Imperial Meeting 13 June-23 July

AUGUST

Cottesloe Heath Challenge 19-21 August

SEPTEMBER

Gallery Rifle National Champs 3-4 September

OCTOBER

Historic SR Match 1 October

Civ SR League 2 October

Target Shotgun Festival 1-2 October

European TR Long Range Champs 8-9 October

Trafalgar Meeting 15-16 October

Autumn Action Weekend 22-23 October

NOVEMBER

Civ SR League 5 November

DECEMBER

Civ SR League 4 December

IMPERIAL MEETING BREAKDOWN

Imperial Meeting 13 June-23 July

DefOSC 13 June-28 June

NRA Service Rifle Matches 17 June

NRA Military Adaptive Champs 23 June

NRA Service Team Matches 27-28 June

Civilian Service Rifle Meeting 29 June-3 July

F Class 6-10 July

Match Rifle 8-13 July

ISCRM 8-10 July

Imperial Historic Arms Meeting 9-10 July

McQueen 9-17 July

Sporting 9-19 July

Schools Meeting 11-14 July

Gallery Rifle & Pistol 13-17 July

Cadet Imperial 15-20 July

NRA 300m Championships 18-19 July

Target Rifle 15-23 July

HM Queen's Final 23 July

RESULTS

Results and scores from NRA Competitions.

GR NATIONALS

National Champion GRCF	Jonny Cormie	2190.158	
National Champion GRCF Classic	Robert Wheeler	2163.137	
National Champion GRSB	Jake Mossom	2186.124	
National Champion LBP	Steve Lane	2026.122	
National Champion LBR	Neil Jones	1910.50	
Home Countries National Match	GR	England	1650.96
Home Countries National Match	LBP	England	1633.99
Home Countries National Match	LBR	Scotland	1571.53

HISTORIC SERVICE RIFLE October 2021

Classic:

1. I Dewey	160
2. V Jary	148

Veteran:

1. P Cottrell	214
2. A Chapman	196
3. R Higgs	166

Veteran Optic:

1. R Wade	189
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All Comers:

1. W Ellis	164
2. S Hood	154

CSR LEAGUE OCTOBER 2021

Short Range Rural Match

Historic:

1. M Standage
2. S Bulmer

Iron:

1. W Daysh

Practical:

1. W Ellis
2. N St Albyn
3. P Allsop

Service:

1. R Wade
2. P Cottrell
3. N Greenaway

Urban Match

Historic:

1. A Hurley
2. M Standage

Iron

1. A Cattell

Practical

1. N St Aubyn
2. W Ellis
3. P Allsop

Service

1. A Chapman
2. N Greenaway
3. R Wade

Whitehead Match

Historic

1. T Hayes

Iron

1. A Cattell

Practical

1. W Ellis
2. C Hudson
3. L Hinds

Service

1. R Wade
2. P Cottrell
3. N Greenaway

CSR LEAGUE OCTOBER 2021

Timed & precision 1 S

GM - 0735

1. R Sanders	296.16
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Timed & Precision 1

SGSA - 0736

1. R Sanders	297.14
2. J Cakebread	297.12
3. S Denton	297.7

Multi-Target SGM - 1135

1. L Hilger-Ellis	110
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Multi-Target SGSA - 1136

1. L Hilger-Ellis	115
2. P Matthews	113
3. G Issacs	110

Embassy Cup SGSV - 3330

1. G Isaacs	93
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Embassy Cup SGM - 3335

1. L Hilger-Ellis	114
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Embassy Cup SGSA - 3336

1. G Issacs	120
2. P Matthews	119
3. L Hilger-Ellis	119

Practical Match Open

1. J Williamson
2. P Hastings

Practical Match Standard

1. J Harris
2. J Williamson
3. B Dawson

Practical Match Standard Manual

1. J Holloway
2. G Hill
3. M Harris

AGES MATCH

Team

1. 45-54	2202.296
2. 25-34	2195.269
3. 55-64	2179.221
4. Under 25s	2167.243

Highest individual score:

C Mitchell	225.31
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TRAFALGAR MEET

100: 200x Prone ML TR

1. A McBain	49.7
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101: 100x Prone ML TR

1. Paul Wolpe	92.0
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102: 100x Prone ML SR

1. A McBain	88.0
2. J Buckingham	87.1
3. P Wolpe	84

103: 200x Prone ML AR

1. W Parnham	38.0
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104: 200x Prone ML SR

1. P Wolpe	43.2
2. W Parnham	42.0
3. M Hunting	40.0

106: 200x Standing ML SR

1. D Minshall	28.0
2. M Hunting	27.0
3. W Parnham	23.0

107: 500x ML TR

1. A McBain	37.0
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108: 500x ML SR

1. M Huntin	31.0
2. W Parnham	26.0
3. H Aspinshaw	23.0

109: 600x MLAR

1. J Buckingham	38.0
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110: 50x Standing ML SR

1. W Keverne	73.1
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111: 50x Standing ML TR

1. J Cox	84.1
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115: 200x Prone ML Flintlock

(Repro) 1. A Russell 15.0

117: 100x Standing ML

1. J Privett	51.0
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118: 200x Standing ML AR

1. W Parnham	29.1
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119: 200x Standing ML PB

1. A Russell	24.0
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201: 200x Prone Vintage AR

1. D Gregory	41.3
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202: 200x Prone Vintage SS LB

1. K Henderson	34.1
2. L Foreman	27.0

203: 200x Prone Vintage SS MB

1. L Foreman	44.3
2. L Brown	42.1

207: 200x Standing Vintage

Repeating R

1. G Henshaw	9.0
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208: 500x Vintage AR

1. J Brocklehurst	43.4
2. S Isherwood	43.1

209: 500x Vintage SR

1. W Parnham	30.0
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211: 100x Prone Vintage SS LB

1. G Moffatt	135
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212: 100x Standing Vintage

S/MB 1. L Pearson 144.1

213: 100x Prone Vintage SS

S/MB 1. L Pearson 131.1

230: 600x Vintage AR

1. D Minshall	44.2
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232: 900x Vintage AR

1. D Minshall	35.0
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234: 200x Standing Vintage AR

1. R Scott	40.1
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235: 200x Rapid Vintage**Single Shot**

1. K Henderson 23.1

251: 200x Standing Vintage**American**

1. L Pearson 32.1

253: 600x Vintage Buffalo

1. J Brocklehurst 36.0

300: 100x Three Position**Carbine CF**

1. M Gunning 113.0

301: 200x Prone Carbine SR

1. I Mackie 39.2

2. M Gunning 39.0

351: 100x Prone Carbine Bolt**Action TR**

1. G Shenton 192.4

361: 100x Prone Carbine**Martini Action TR**

1. L O'Brien 200.5

2. W Phelps 198.7

402: 50m Classic Rook & Rabbit

1. G Betteridge 137.18

2. J Cox 132.13

3. T Bowden 129.13

403: 200x Prone Classic SS SR

1. L O'Brien 47.3

404: Running Boar Classic**Rook & Rabbit**

1. J Burnhill 141.0

405: 200x Prone Classic CF

1. P Bysshe 47.3

406: 200x Prone Classic SR

1. P Bysshe 49.3

2. J Mead 49.3

3. R Cormie 48.3

408: 500x Classic SR

1. C Willson 45.2

2. R Cormie 43.3

3. A Russell 43.0

410: 200x Prone Classic**Sporting 1. T Jackson 39.0****411: 200x Prone Classic****Optical Sporting Rifle**

1. R Cormie 50.8

412: 200x Prone Classic SR

1. L Foreman 50.4

414: 200x Standing Classic SR

1. B Ellis 42.1

2. D Fletcher 34.0

416: 200x Prone Agony Snaps**Classic SR**

1. D Parr 24.3

2. I Dewey 20.3

420: Running Deer Classic**Sporting**

1. N Greenaway 32.0

2. P Plotkin 30.0

450: 600x Classic SR

1. B Ellis 39.1

2. A Russell 39.1

3. C Wilson 38.1

451: 900x Classic TR

1. P Bysshe 43.1

461: 100x Standing Classic**Rook & Rabbit**

1. A Russell 150.1

463: 200x Standing Classic**Rook & Rabbit**

1. A Russell 31.0

465: 200x Rapid Classic SR

1. P Bysshe 63.9

2. D Parr 50.7

3. B Ellis 50.0

467: 200x Double Snap**Classic SR**

1. P Bysshe 27.2

2. D Parr 20.1

470: 200x Standing Classic**RF Schutzen**

1. J Burnhill 72.1

471: 200x Standing Classic**CF Schutzen**

1. J Burnhill 72.1

472: 200x Standing Classic**Open Schutzen**

1. R Scott 75.0

506: 200x Prone Veteran SR

1. P Bysshe 46.4

2. P Cottrell 46.2

3. T Read 46.1

508: 200x Prone: Veteran**SR Optic**

1. L Foreman 50.9

2. L Brown 50.8

3. R Cormie 50.8

510: 200x Standing Veteran SR

1. S Twomey 42.1

2. E Corry 37.2

523: 500x Veteran AR

1. G Shenton 45.2

524: 500x Veteran SR

1. E Corry 47.7

528: 600x Veteran AR

1. G Shenton 46.3

530: 600x Veteran SR

1. B Ellis 42.5

2. J Avetoomyan 40.1

3. R Cormie 40.1

538: 900x Veteran AR

1. R Cormie 41.3

539: 200x Agony Snap Veteran SR

1. M Todman 42.0

2. P Bysshe 32.5

540: 200x Rapid Veteran SR

1. B Ellis 58.9

2. P Bysshe 55.6

541: 200x Rapid Veteran Enfield

1. B Ellis 53.6

2. J Stevenson 44.6

544: 200x Double Snap**Veteran SR**

1. P Bysshe 27.3

2. B Ellis 21.3

601: Running Boar Open Any**Sporting**

1. K Kilvington 151

2. N Greenaway 150

3. D Stimpson 149

602: 50x Standing Open LB

1. D Stimpson 81.0

611: Running Deer Open CF

1. N Greenaway 38

2. C Glaister 37

613: Running Deer Open Big**Game Rifle**

1. D Stimpson 24

615: Running Deer Open**Military Rifle**

1. N Greenaway 78

616: Running Board Open**Sporting 1. K Kilvington 84****625: 200x McQueen Open****Sniper**

1. C McGill 48.1

2. G Shenton 46.1

3. E Burrige 43.1

630: 200x Prone Open**Commonwealth TR**

1. G Shenton 49.5

2. L O'Brien 47.1

635: 600x Open Sniper

1. N Greenaway 49.7

2. G Robinson 48.7

646: 200x Double Snaps Open**AR 1. B Ellis 32.2****664: 200x Prone Open Any SR**

1. C McGill 50.7

2. L Brown 50.7

710: 200x Prone Transitional**Rifle**

1. P Bysshe 50.10

2. R Ellis 48.8

803: 25m Precision Target**Pistol**

1. T Bowden 90.0

2. S Twomey 86.0

822: 50m Precision Lever**Action Rifle**

1. J Avetoomyan 136.7

2. G Betteridge 134.16

843: 20m Slowfire Lever**Action Repeating Rifle**

1. J Avetoomyan 139.19

2. I Grant 139.19

3. A Podevin 134.14

852: 25m Duelling Percussion**Pistol**

1. A Burt 92.3

2. A Pitfield 89.1

863: 25m Bobber CF

1. A Podevin 197.3

2. G Betteridge 195.8

884: 25m Advancing CF

1. G Betteridge 149.17

2. W Horne 148.17

3. M Tedesco 147.18

AUTUMN ACTION WEEKEND**0101: 25m Precision GRSB**

1. K Cox 285.9

2. C Hudson 280.7

3. J Cormie 279.6

0102: 25m Precision GRCF

1. J Cormie 299.16

2. K Cox 298.20

3. C Horner 269.12

0121: 25m Precision LBP

1. M Pawlik 290.9

2. D Morrow 290.5

3. S Lane 289.7

0122: 25m Precision LBR

1. A Chapman 289.8

2. N Jones 278.8

0301: 50m Precision GRSB

1. C Hudson 294.11

2. R Wheeler 287.6

3. W Pow 285.7

0302: 50m Precision GRCF

1. C Horner 277.0

2. R Wheeler 275.4

0321: 50m Precision LBP

1. S Lane 266.4

0322: 50m Precision LBR

1. C Pannell 246.1

0701: Timed & Precision 1 GRSB

X1. C West 299.18

A1. S Lyon 300.19

A2. W Pow 300.15

A3. C Bestwick 298.20

B1. S Lane 297.14

B2. M Lloyd 296.14

C1. A Gardiner 296.14

C2. O Deakin 294.5

C3. J Fox 293.8

D1. J Lake 287.2

D2. E Gadd-Chapman 286.6

0702: Timed & Precision 1 GRCF

X1. P Watts 300.29

X2. G Bowden 300.28

A1. W Pow 300.25	X2. M Pawlik 116.11	X2. G Bowden 1017.76	1922: Advancing Target LBR
A2. N Porter 300.24	A1. D Guest 115.10	A1. S Lyon 1016.76	X1. M Pawlik 177.21
A3. S Lane 300.23	A2. C Horner 112.12	A2. A Jarman 1015.66	A1. N Jones 173.16
B1. L Kong 300.25	A3. G Gordon 112.9	B1. S Twomey 1016.62	A2. A Barker 164.9
B2. M van Dalen 300.22	B1. J Cooper 103.7	B2. G Stevens 1010.62	B1. P Nicol 161.9
C1. D Parsons 300.20	B2. C Pannell 103.5	B3. A Kaium 997.29	2101: Speed Steels Challenge
C2. L Bestwick 298.17	1122: Multi-Target LBR	1602: 1020 GRCF	GRSB
D1. T Williams 299.11	X1. S Lane 117.14	X1. G Bowden 1020.83	1. T Gardener 25.43
D2. P Cousar 297.12	A1. P Lacey 113.13	A1. C West 1020.82	2. J Fox 26.10
0721: Timed & Precision 1 LBP	A2. J Cormie 109.9	A2. D Morrow 1017.71	3. S Bayly 26.28
X1. D Morrow 299.18	B1. M Harris 103.7	B1. S Russell 1012.61	2102: Speed Steels Challenge
X2. J Cormie 299.14	1135: Multi-Target SGM	B2. G Dodds 1010.62	GRCF
X3. S Lane 299.14	1. R Sanders 117.11	1621: 1020 LBP	1. L Townsend 36.95
A1. G Dodds 299.16	2. N Brown 109.11	1. S Lane 1016.68	2121: Speed Steels Challenge
A2. L Kong 296.7	1136: Multi-Target SGSA	2. M Pawlik 1014.60	LBP
A3. J Smith 295.12	1. A Chapman 119.21	3. N Francis 1013.62	1. S Bayly 27.73
B1. J Cooper 296.13	2. R Sanders 113.9	1622: 1020 LBR	2. A Roberts 27.81
B2. S Bayly 296.9	3. E Plant 112.6	1. N Jones 1003.49	3. T Gardener 29.94
0722: Timed & Precision 1 LBR	1301: Phoenix A GRSB	2. P Lacy 1000.47	2122: Speed Steels Challenge
X1. M Pawlik 299.14	X1. G Bowden 194.18	3. L Kong 994.52	LBR
A1. P Lacey 269.9	A1. W Pow 187.17	1821: WA46 LBP	1. T Gardener 29.48
A2. S Lane 295.14	B1. C Horner 184.20	1. R J Tonner 479.37	2. S Bayly 31.75
A3. J Bray 295.10	B2. M Reynolds 174.16	2. S Lane 479.35	3335: Embassy Cup SGM
B1. M Harris 293.13	1302: Phoenix A GRCF	3. C West 478.31	1. R Sanders 115
0731: Timed & Precision 1 SGMB	X1. G Bowden 198.31	1822: WA48 LBR	3336: Embassy Cup SGSA
1. N Brown 293.9	A1. A Barker 189.15	1. N Jones 472.29	1. G Isaacs 118
0735: Timed & Precision 1 SGM	A2. M van Dalen 188.23	2. J Bray 472.24	2. D Pollock 118
1. N Brown 299.16	B1. M Reynolds 177.13	3. D Berry 471.26	3. P Matthews 117
2. R Sanders 295.11	1321: Phoenix A LBP	1901: Advancing Target GRSB	6380: 200x Any Full-Bore Rifle
3. G Isaacs 289.8	X1. S Lane 194.17	X1. K Kilvington 296.32	1. P Cottrell 173
0736: Timed & Precision 1 SGSA	A1. A Barker 179.13	A1. S Twomey 287.31	2. G Gordon 173
1. A Chapman 300.16	A2. N Francis 177.15	A2. L Townsend 286.26	3. W Ellis 172
2. R Sanders 296.16	B1. S Lyon 152.7	A3. P Drake 284.29	6381: 200x SR A Pre-1955
3. G Isaacs 296.12	1322: Phoenix A LBR	B1. A Gardiner 283.19	1. P Cottrell 114
0737: Timed & Precision 1 SGC	A1. N Jones 162.10	B2. A Chapman 271.21	6382: 200x SR B Pre-1955
1. R Sanders 296.16	1501: 1500 GRSB	C1. O Deakin 269.17	1. W Ellis 146
1101: Multi-Target GRSB	X1. J Robinson 1484.105	C2. P Jebson 268.15	6383: 200x SR Open Pre-1955
X1. G Bowden 116.13	X2. G Bowden 1484.91	C3. G Podevin 266.10	1. A Bathe 112
X2. G Dodds 114.14	A1. M Beard 1467.70	D1. J Lake 249.7	6392: 200x SR Post-1955 SO
A1. L Townsend 116.15	B1. S Lyon 1474.84	D2. J Smith 241.9	1. E Ellis 179
A2. R J Tonner 116.12	B2. T Mephram 1463.65	D3. A Philpott 235.7	2. R Wade 171
A3. S Lyon 116.12	C1. S Foskett 1453.67	1902: Advancing Target GRCF	3. P Cottrell 159
B1. C Horner 115.11	1502: 1500 GRCF	X1. K Kilvington 179.29	6501: Mini McQueen
B2. R Worthington 110.6	X1. J Robinson 1495.116	A1. R Wheeler 180.26	1. N Jackson 50.9
C1. C McMichael 110.8	A1. C West 1493.115	A2. S Lamb 179.24	2. D McGill 50.8
C2. J Cooper 107.7	B1. K Kilvington 1490.104	B1. D Holt 177.21	3. S Doyle 50.8
D1. P Jebson 95.3	B2. P Watts 1489.105	C1. A Hughes 169.14	6507: Mini McQueen Issued
1102: Multi-Target GRCF	C1. J Bray 1467.80	C2. C Murton 169.12	1. N Jackson 50.8
X1. G Bowden 120.18	1521: 1500 LBP	D1. M Harvey 162.12	2. D McGill 50.7
A1. M van Dalen 119.21	A1. D Morrow 1471.78	1921: Advancing Target LBP	3. Achim Dreyer 50.6
A2. C West 119.18	A2. G Gordon 1471.69	X1. S Lane 179.23	6580: McQueen
B1. C Bestwick 119.15	A3. P Watts 1464.67	X2. M Pawlik 179.21	1. S Walker 50.8
B2. C McMichael 118.14	B1. S Twomey 1445.63	A1. A Hughes 177.14	2. S Doyle 50.6
B3. S Lane 117.10	1522: 1500 LBR	A2. J Bibby 174.23	3. D Morrow 50.4
C1. G Trimmer 109.8	A1. N Jones 1450.62	A3. G Dodds 174.20	6590: McQueen Issued
D1. J McDonagh 90.2	B1. K Williams 1385.29	B1. J Cooper 174.17	1. D McGill 50.7
1121: Multi-Target LBP	1601: 1020 GRSB	B2. J Derenne 158.7	2. S Doyle 50.5
X1. S Lane 117.16	X1. J Robinson 1018.84	B3. P Jebson 157.8	3. N Jackson 50.5

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MESSAGE 10



Full name:
Kim Lindsay
Age: 22

How did you get into shooting?

I was first introduced to shooting around the age of ten by my dad as he is also a competitive TR and MR shooter. I used to attend the odd practice with him at our local fullbore range, Ballykinler, where I would watch the shooters and help out with buttmarking. I got into competitive shooting at the age of 13 as an Army Cadet where I started shooting smallbore leagues and doing fullbore competitions representing my company and NI. I thoroughly enjoyed shooting with the cadets and the support I received from my instructors was invaluable in helping me become competitive at a higher level.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Winning the Irish Open Championships in May 2021. It was a great competition which was very well organised by the URA. It was my first TR competition since the Imperial in 2019 so I was just hoping for a good weekend with nice weather and a catch up with other shooters. I shot well over the weekend and made it to the final but I didn't look at the scores going into the final as it never occurred to me I might be near the top. I think this mindset helped me as I managed my first self-coached 75 with the added bonus of nine v-bulls.

What was the biggest hurdle you have overcome as a shooter?

As a young shooter, the biggest hurdle with shooting is cost. The equipment

and competitions are expensive and as a student it was hard to fund these. However, it is great that the NRA offer membership discounts for under 21s and under 25s, as well as discount for competition entry fees and ammo. Additionally, as a MR shooter, the Lovell and Green Trust provides some funding for entry fees and ammo for the various MR competitions throughout the year. Living in Northern Ireland makes it difficult to get range days away from Bisley. Additionally, it makes it hard to get over for weekend competitions throughout the year as significantly more planning is required when traveling with rifles.

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

I am very fortunate that my dad shoots both TR and MR, my twin brother shoots TR, and my mum is a great manager and support crew while we are all at Bisley. This makes shooting enjoyable as it is a family affair and adds some healthy competition. I have also made some amazing friends through shooting and it is great to have other young people in the sport.

What club are you a member of?

My main club is Comber Rifle Club based in County Down, Northern Ireland. They have great facilities including an outdoor smallbore range which has a 50m electronic ISSF range in addition to a 100m range. I am also a member of the Irish Rifle Club Bisley and the North London Rifle Club in Bisley, and was a member of Southampton University Rifle Club.

What has been your biggest inspiration?

My dad – he has always encouraged both me and my brother to continue shooting. He has a great mindset regarding competitions and always has good advice.

Which is your favourite country in the world?

I visited Australia as a child and would love to go back again, it would be an added bonus if it was with a touring team!

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Being a member of the NRA is great as it allows me to practice a sport I enjoy. Attending Bisley has been a huge part of my life, my first visit was at three

months old and I have been coming back ever since! It is like a home away from home and provides a unique environment with a sport we all love and get to catch up with people we don't see during the year.

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy going to the gym on my days off work in addition to baking for both my family and my colleagues. To relax I like meeting up with friends for some good food and a movie. I also attend fullbore practice days at Ballykinler and my local smallbore club for some practice.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

I wouldn't say I have a routine, however I do make sure I am organised ensuring all my equipment is in my bag (I have learnt from previous mistakes!) I usually try and get a good nights sleep before and try not to overthink about the competition ahead.

What advice would you give to somebody wanting to take up shooting?

I would suggest getting in touch with your local club and having a try. The NRA run open days at Bisley for people to give shooting a go and another great way to get involved with shooting if you are around school age is joining the Cadets or CCF as they have all equipment and both smallbore and fullbore rifles for you to use. If you are at University, there are a number of universities across the UK that have rifle clubs with all equipment needed.

So, what next?

I want to continue improving my ability with both smallbore and fullbore. I would also love to make it onto a touring GB team for the experience and the chance to represent GB. 🇬🇧





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