

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Winter 2018 – Volume XCVII No. 4

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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



Winter 2018 – Volume XCVII No. 4



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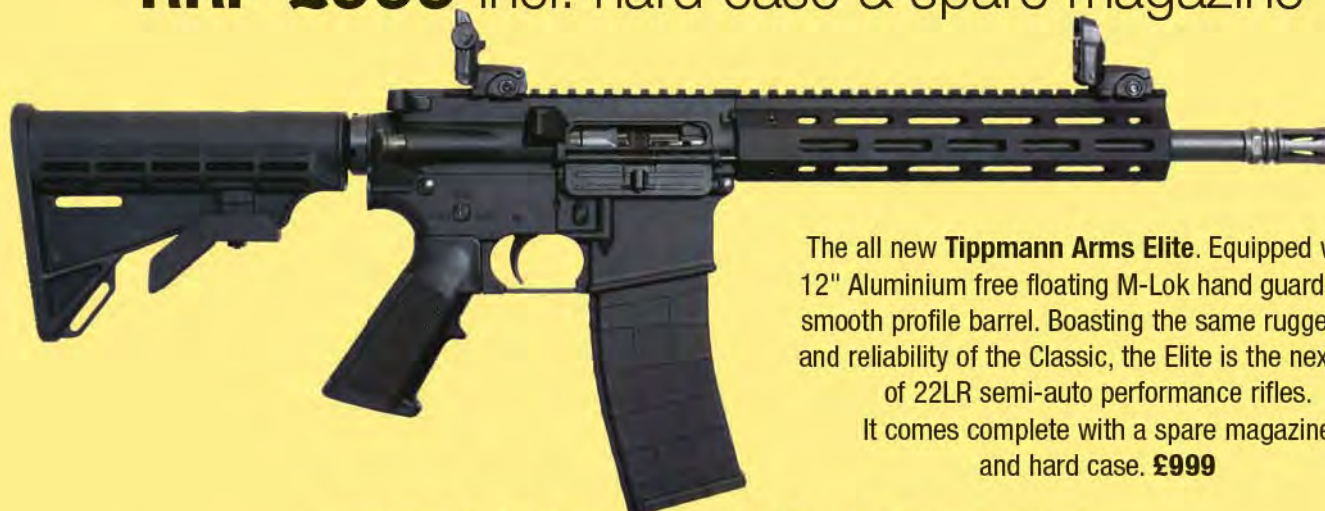
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Looking ahead to 2019

NRA chief executive Andrew Mercer sees off the year with a round up of the challenges and opportunities facing the NRA and rifle shooting as a whole

The progress of the Offensive Weapons Bill through parliament appears to have stalled, a consequence of the febrile political environment but more pleasingly cracking support from a growing number of MPs (74 at the time of writing) who signalled their agreement to replace the ban on high-energy rifles (mainly .50" calibre) with a requirement for enhanced home security. I have been particularly disturbed by the headline-grabbing and hyperbolic justifications presented to government by the National Crime Agency in support of the prohibition of high-energy and rapid-firing rifles. A frank exchange of correspondence with NCA Director General (Operations) Stephen Rodhouse yielded confirmation they had "no intent" to make misleading statements, but he has yet to correct errors in his letter to the Home Secretary.

A recent query from the Home Office regarding miniature rifle ranges and the 11(4) exemption had me scurrying to seek advice from our experts. It transpires that the exemption was enacted in 1920, reportedly as a result of the Boer war, and is extensively and efficiently used by many rifle clubs. However, there have been a number of incidents that have encouraged the Home Office's review; we have consulted closely with our NSRA colleagues on this matter.

We are nearing the end of our investigations into reports of higher numbers of unexplained shots with issued 2018 Imperial ammunition; extracting fact from fiction has proved an interesting challenge. Part of the exercise involved a flying visit to GGG's impressive factory in Lithuania; my report is included in this journal. We will shortly be publishing a summary of our findings, but I can confirm I have been reassured to such a degree that we have placed the order for the 2019 batch of 150th anniversary Imperial ammunition with GGG.

High-quality ammunition for the meeting is essential for all Imperial competitors who invest so much time, effort and money in competing. The 150th Anniversary meeting will be a very special event and we will shortly be publishing further details of the celebrations.

Our membership team are in the thick of membership and club affiliation renewals and making good progress with the production of Shooter Certification Cards. Adding to the pressure is a record year for new membership applications; to date we have received 951 and the membership count has just slipped past 9,100. This is, not surprisingly, reflected in busier ranges and bookings are up 16 per cent year on year; we are going to be ever



more resourceful and organised to ensure our ranges are used to their fullest capacity in 2019.

At Bisley we are well into the winter programme of improvements. Work to deliver 39 new serviced caravan pitches starts in early 2019, as will the fit out of the new Pavilion kitchen and café. Staff are working hard to upgrade an accommodation block and refurbish the former Lloyds Bank Rifle Clubhouse – still with the same tenant though they are no longer connected with the bank – to match its shiny new railway carriage.

The NRA's General Council is seeking volunteers to serve on the newly formed advisory estates working group. Candidates with professional property experience will be particularly welcome; further details can be found under 'News' on the NRA website.

Our armourers and training instructors received a welcome fillip recently with the delivery of 18 brand spanking new Savage rifles. These will form the cornerstone of our .308 Win training and hire rifles, half mounted with new Vortex scopes and half with iron sights. Lisa Riley, doyenne of Edgar Brothers, kindly arranged the support from Savage Arms. Special thanks are also due to Martin Baumber from Vortex for their continuing generous support. ■

NEWS

REPORTS

NEW TRAIN ARRIVES AT THE STATION

On 26 September Bisley saw the arrival of the replacement railway carriage onto the Lloyds Bank RC Bisley Station site. This represents the culmination of 4 years searching, inspecting, negotiating, and planning by the Club committee.

The blue sleeper carriage was previously used by Scottish Caledonian in their London to Edinburgh service, providing first class accommodation. It will now provide the club with sleeping accommodation.

Plans for the carriage include:

- 2 toilets with wash hand basins
- A shower (converting one compartment)
- Each of the remaining 11 compartments will have the option of either one or two bunks
- Pairs of compartments have internal adjoining doors if required
- The old steward's pantry will be converted to a secure storeroom
- There will be USB points in each compartment, with reading lights
- There will be a basin with hot and cold water in each compartment

- Heating and ventilation will be provided (methodology still under discussion)

The NRA is also in the process of renovating the clubhouse and bringing its facilities into the 21st century, while retaining its historic character. When complete there will be self-catering facilities, featuring a modern kitchen, a dining area, a lounge area, and a separate gunshed for all those adjustments.

The club is independent and no longer has any ties with Lloyds or TSB Banks; it is open to applications for membership from any shooter, of any discipline. While the existing membership is mainly Target Rifle, and thus the club's expertise is in that discipline, Lloyds Bank RC would welcome other disciplines. The club facilities are not large, so the maximum number of members is also not large, but there are vacancies at present and (once our renovations are complete) applications for membership are welcome.

Please contact Lloyds Bank RC secretary at trevor.rule@gmail.com for more information



FIFTY CALS: THE FIGHT GOES ON

Campaigning continues against proposals contained within the Offensive Weapons Bill after a Commons debate scheduled for 15 October was delayed.

Many of the Bill's most damaging proposals have already been removed, but shooting organisations are still vocally critical of plans to ban .50 calibre rifles.

The Bill was due to have its third reading, but – according to the Commons leader – urgent oral statements in Parliament meant it had to be postponed.

There was speculation that the government had pulled the debate because it was expecting a defeat, with many MPs supporting shooting and planning to rebel against the proposals.

The NRA has continued to be active in taking the National Crime Agency to task for its interventions in the argument, which have been labelled “misleading and hyperbolic”. The NCA supports a ban on .50 cal in an attempt to stop them falling in criminal hands, though it accepts that currently there is no recorded use of these firearms in crime.

All shooters are urged to support an amendment to the Bill tabled by Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, chair of the all-party parliamentary group for shooting, which would shelve a total ban in favour of stricter security requirements.

It's also worth contacting your MP to make them aware of your strength of feeling on the matter – every MP who supports the amendment makes it more likely to succeed. Find out how to contact your MP at: www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/

NEW RIFLE RANGES IN LONDON

City-based rifle shooters have a new option to get some shooting practice in without straying outside the M25.

West London Shooting School has opened 100m and 200m rifle ranges, with support from Rigby and Leica.

The 100m range boasts five lanes all covered, with the option to shoot a running boar as well as static targets.

And the 200m range offers a covered shooting hut and the chance to practise prone, seated and stick shooting.

Thanks to towering earth-bank backstops, the ranges have no danger area and therefore fit into the crowded London landscape.

Roddy Richmond-Watson, director of West London Shooting School, said: "While we have been carrying out extensive relandscaping at the shooting school to further enhance the noise bunding, it seemed sensible to improve the rifle range along with our other shooting facilities. And we are very excited to add the running boar within the range!"

For further information about the school, visit www.shootingschool.co.uk or call 020 8845 1377.



NEWS IN BRIEF

THE END OF EFPs?

Planning to head to a competition in Europe next year? It has emerged that a no-deal Brexit could change the rules on firearms from March 2019. The European Firearms Pass would no longer apply, and you would need to comply with whatever requirements your destination chooses to impose. For the latest information visit: www.gov.uk/government/brexit

TARGET SPRINT MEDALS

Great Britain's Target Sprint team won three junior medals at the ISSF World Championships. Emily Shawyer secured silver and Charlotte Huddart and Morten Van Der Schee won bronze. Charlotte, won bronze with a time of 5:30.91, and was ecstatic. She said: "I'm completely blown away. I wasn't expecting this at all. It was one of the toughest courses we've ever run on, but a great challenge."

BEVIS ON TARGET AT PARA WORLD CUP

Great Britain has its first quota place for the Paralympic shooting events, taking place in Tokyo in 2020. James Bevis was the successful shooter to bag Britain's first spot, doing so when he won gold in T9 at the Châteauroux 2018 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup. Bevis, who won a bronze medal at London 2012, qualified for the final in top spot, having scored 617.7, and he didn't disappoint in the final scoring 246.5.

WILD CARD MAKES BID FOR ISSF PRESIDENCY

A surprise contender has joined the battle to succeed Vasquez Raña as president of the ISSF. Boutros Jalkh joins Luciano Rossi and Raña's preferred successor Vladimir Lisin as candidates for the election to be held on 30 November at the federation's general assembly in Munich. Meanwhile a report from the Court of Arbitration for Sport says that Rossi's earlier treatment by the ISSF suggested "possible personal and/or political motivation", according to insidethegames.biz.

GREAT BRITISH SHOOTING AWARDS: VOTE NOW

Voting for The Great British Shooting Awards is under way – and all shooters can have their say and choose the winners.

Which products have dominated the shooting market in the past year? Who are the people that make our hobby great? This is your chance to give them the recognition they deserve.

Voting in 11 categories is being carried out by the shooting public, with an independent judging panel of industry experts adjudicating.

The categories are: Shooting Apparel, Optics of the Year, NV/Thermal Product of the Year, Ammunition of the Year, Rifle of the Year, Airgun of the Year, Shotgun of the Year, Gamekeeper of the Year, Professional Stalker of the Year, Outstanding Contribution to Conservation and Retailer of the Year (an entirely open vote). A 12th category, the Lifetime Achievement award, will be decided solely by the awards' expert judging panel.

The shortlists have been announced and voting is open, closing on 31 January 2019. So don't delay – head online to www.greatbritishshootingawards.com and vote in as many categories as you like.

Voting closes on 31 January, and the winners will be announced on 16 February.



FUNDED ATHLETES REVEALED

Seonaid McIntosh has been named on British Shooting's World Class Programme, meaning she is deemed to have Olympic podium potential and will benefit from UK Sport funding in the run-up to the 2020 Olympic Games.

Nine shooters in total have made it to this tier of the programme – but it is mostly focused on shotgun shooters, with Seonaid the only rifle/pistol athlete.

In the Paralympic segment of the programme, another eight rifle and pistol shooters are included: Issy Bailey, James Bevis, Ryan Cockbill, Tim Jeffery, Lorraine Lambert, Stewart Nangle, Mandy Pankhust and Matt Skelhon.

Meanwhile, Kristian Callaghan, Sammy Darling and Aedan Evans have been admitted to the Academy Programme for pistol shooting, and Dean Bale, Michael Barger, Katie Gleeson and Cameron Pirouet for rifle.

Read an interview with Seonaid McIntosh starting on page 32.



SAVAGE PARTNERSHIP

We are delighted to have taken delivery of 20 new Savage Model 12 rifles in .308 customised to suit the NRA's needs with a retro-fitted Palma stock.

After a period of extensive testing performed by NRA instructors, the Savage Model 12 in .308 was selected as the rifle of choice for our training and hire fleet.

Ten of the rifles are configured with iron sights and conform to the rules for TR competition. The other ten have the Savage full-profile barrel and are configured with bipods and Vortex scope sights, conforming to the rules for F/TR competition.

Lisa Riley, director at Edgar Brothers, said: "Just like watching the F Class competitions at Bisley, it was a nail-biting test of performance that concluded with

the NRA choosing the Savage Model 12 as their on-site training and hire rifle. As Savage themselves claim, winning sometimes really is everything, and we were proud to support the NRA's initiatives. The Savage Model 12 really is an outstanding product and this partnership gets them into people's hands and hearts."

David Camp, NRA national training manager, said: "We are extremely pleased to have taken delivery of the Savage rifles. This is a positive step towards ensuring that our students have access to the same firearms throughout their training and familiarise themselves with them. These firearms not only look fantastic, but they are packed with features that make them ideal training rifles."

RANGE MANAGERS' GUIDE

The first edition of the NRA's Range Managers Guide and Code of Practice is now available to download.

The publication of this guidance is in response to increasing technical enquiries received from affiliated clubs who are in the privileged position of owning and / or operating their own range.

You can download the guide now from the NRA website. If you would prefer hard copy then please email Jodie Gray-Piazza Jodie.Gray-Piazza@nra.org.uk; copies are free for NRA affiliated organisations.



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Trafalgar on the Rise

Derek Stimpson takes in the atmosphere at another successful Trafalgar Meeting

Writing this, it is difficult to believe that another year has passed and that this year's Trafalgar meeting has come and gone.

As usual, a weekend seems too short to get all the shooting, socialising and shopping done! The Trafalgar is a unique international historic arms meeting at which all of these can be done. The number of overseas visitors is notable.

In addition to a meeting with a long list of competitions to enter, there was the usual arms fair in its new frame tent home,

including the HBSA historic arms display and the Heritage pistol exhibition in the Pavilion training room. There was plenty to keep both visitors and shooters occupied whilst not actually shooting – including, perhaps, acquiring more historic arms to shoot next year!

The NRA records show that this year 193 competitors shot 1046 match cards over the weekend – that's four more competitors than last year and 75 more match cards shot (see below). It's good to see some increase over last year – let's keep that trend going,

The glorious weather was certainly a feature of the weekend and probably prompted some competitors to shoot further events, thus boosting the number of cards shot. As usual the Range Officers, on which the meeting so much depends, did a superb job in managing safe and enjoyable shooting with a wide range of historic arms, and with just the right balance of a firm but friendly hand.

I personally shot four competitions: double rifle, moving target, running boar and deer. I was glad to see a few new entrants and have some more competition but we need at least a few more competitors with double rifles.

The NRA's careful planning of range time and good organisation allowed the Scout meeting to take place on the same weekend. Thanks go both to the NRA, and to all the volunteers who contribute their time to support this meeting. I believe that the following comments from competitors are worth quoting:

"I thought the Trafalgar was very well-organised and run. Well done to you and your colleagues and especially the friendly range officers. Friends who attended feel equally delighted with their experience. On the afternoon of the Saturday and morning of the Sunday I shot on target 95 at 200 yards. The marking was outstanding."



Entries showed a slight increase on 2017 – the Trafalgar is on the up

“Just to say, it was really good to be back shooting the meeting last weekend, despite my scores (but if you don’t practise for comps you won’t score well!) I enjoyed the meeting enormously and look forward to entering again next year. Thanks to all the staff for your hard work in making it such a good weekend for us shooters”.

The long list of competitions for Trafalgar exists with good reason and the results are always interesting to study. There are some, more specialised perhaps, which had few shooters, even a single competitor in some cases, but a good number are shot by ten or more people.

Many competitors took advantage of the ‘bulk discount’ for entries so must have also been kept very busy shooting on both days and running from one competition to the next.

The stats office is a vital part of any meeting and correct recording of a wide range of scores for this meeting in particular. Thanks go to Anne and Bryden Ritchie for their work on that.

Historic and Classic Arms representative Neil Macfarlane was also much in evidence in stats, and on the ranges meeting competitors and assisting where necessary, as well as presenting the prizes on Sunday evening.

The variety of arms being used is always impressive: 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, both prone and standing.

The level of expertise and knowledge present at this meeting is always remarkable and the standard of shooting is generally very high, especially taking into account the variety mentioned above.

We should be proud that it is one of the largest historic arms shooting meetings anywhere in the world and held at such a world famous location – NRA’s Bisley ranges. It’s a historic venue in which to celebrate our heritage in historic arms, both shooting and collecting them, being well represented.

The annual Section 7 heritage pistol exhibition organized by the HBSA and hosted by the NRA in the Pavilion training



Muzzle-loading
at 200 metres



The Trade Fair was
as packed as ever



Pistols on display at
the HBSA's exhibition

TRAFALGAR ENTRIES

Year	No of Competitors	No of Cards
2018	193	1046
2017	189	971
2016	198	993

The level of expertise and knowledge present at this meeting is always remarkable and the standard of shooting is generally very high

room was on hand to keep shooters and visitors engaged when they had spent their money at the arms fair. There were some very complete and interesting displays of iconic and historic side-arms including Webleys, Mauser 1896s (notably shoulder-stocked pistols and carbines), Colts, as well as a number of very rare arms. One display showed a dozen examples of pistols of various makes and models obtained from the USA, Argentina and Spain during WW2, for use by the Regular Armed forces, the Home Guard, the Auxiliary Units and the Special Operations Executive.

Pressures on the shooting and collecting community have never been

greater and we are working hard to maintain our position. The .55 Boys Anti-tank rifle displayed by the HBSA is a good example of heritage under pressure from potential legislation – the Offensive Weapons Bill.

We should be pleased that this year’s meeting was another success but we cannot be complacent and the struggle to protect these historic arms goes on.

We need to maintain our collecting and shooting activity. We must look to the future and preserve our heritage, so keep collecting and keep up shooting practice. We look forward to seeing you all again next year with even more entries! ■



Action Packed

Scenes from across the ranges at the Autumn Action Weekend 2018







Europe Comes to Bisley

Des Parr reports back from September's 2018 European F-Class Championships

The 2018 European Championships attracted 204 entries, drawing shooters from every corner of Europe and even further afield. It was a truly representative pan-European Championships. The Italians in particular arrived in force, with up to 48 shooters in total.

The weather was beautifully bright, warm and dry all week, and best of all was the wind. It was challenging – an over-used euphemism for diabolically difficult and infuriating. Most of what shooting is all about is contending with the wind, so it seemed right and fitting that our

most prestigious competition should have especially tricky conditions.

The wind came from the east for the first part of the week, before switching back to the more prevalent south westerly. It is strange why that keeps happening, but it's absolutely perfect weather for testing the abilities of shooters.

To begin with we had the warm-up matches. This was a series of matches at 800 to 1000yds. There were only two such stages each day, and it made things very laid back and relaxing, with plenty of time to socialise around the ranges. The wind was not too strong, but it did have a habit of fishtailing rather rapidly. It rewarded those with well-tuned rifles and punished those who neglected to refine their ammo, which is just as it should be.

The standard of shooting was exemplary. Every year it just seems to climb ever

higher, which is both inspiring and intimidating, depending on how you fared. Of all the 36 available medals to win, only seven were won by home shooters, which showed the sheer level of skill and talent our visitors brought to Bisley.

Thursday Teams Matches

The team matches proved to be tremendously popular, and clearly there was a big demand for this type of match. This was not a match for National teams only – any group could enter a team. There were corporate teams as well, but groups of friends were just as welcome to put together a team and several did, such as the Diggle Ringers and White Horse Lodge. Eight F/Open teams were entered, and an astonishing 17 F/TR teams.

It proved to be a close-run match. The F/Open winners were Team March, Gary



Sudden wind switches kept competitors on their toes

If you dropped just one point, you plummeted right down to 22nd place

Costello's team comprised of shooters all using March Scopes. Clearly they saw something the others didn't as they took first place by five points.

The hotly-contested F/TR team shoot was particularly exciting with so many teams competing for the medals. In the end, Team BCM 1 prevailed by 4 points. In second place we had the very new Team MXM, and in the bronze medal position, on their debut performance, the new White Horse Lodge team. These new teams have made remarkably fast progress.

The Individual European Championships

Friday dawned mild, dry and bright, just as it had been all week. A front had moved in across Stickledown from the south-west, the usual direction for Bisley, so it was back to business as usual.

One shooter got off to a good start by racking up an impressive 75.14 – that was Paul Sandie, fresh from coming second in the World Championships and still using his trusty .300WSM. Just think; 14 shots into 5" at half a mile. If you dropped just one point, you plummeted right down to 22nd place! Alexander Kreutz knew how that felt, though as we were to see, it didn't harm him.

As the competition progressed the weather played a much greater role. It became warmer and windier with more mirage too – everything sent by Mother Nature to test the nerves and skill of the shooters. The scores, although good of course, were indicative of the difficulty being experienced out there. The wind was up to its old tricks of changing the angle in a discreet, hard-to-see fashion, and often it was only evident, if at all, after the event. But then hindsight is usually perfect.

The wind grew rather stronger from Friday to Saturday. Instead of Friday's gentle-though-fishtailing wind, we started out with a good straightforward breeze. It made all the difference – it is possible to cope with a good breeze. For example, on the Friday at 800yds, only one F/TR shooter made 75, whereas on the Saturday that went up to 16 shooters.

The 900yds stage on Saturday was a humbling experience for many shooters who fared very badly. In such circumstances

it becomes an exercise in damage limitation, as losing too many points can be fatal to keeping one's place in the overall ranking. It could be said to have been the make or break detail of the match. The problem was the pick-ups and drop-offs, which were fast and furious. It was so easy to drop a catastrophic amount of points in a very short time. That wind was pretty brutal, and rarely have I seen it switch with such ferocity and speed. It put a premium on having good wind-reading skills, and a wee bit of luck too always helps.

Karen Robertson ran the stats and invented a new expression: "Are you above or below the sellotape?" – a reference to the

two A4 score sheets taped to the outside of her stats caravan, being in the top 50% put you above the sellotape.

We had clear evidence of the level of skill and talent of our Continental friends, as 11 of the top 20 places in F/O and 14 of the top 20 places in F/TR in the Individual Championships went to overseas shooters. It is an encouraging picture of equally dedicated shooters all brought together by a shared interest in long-range precision shooting.

In F/TR, the winner and the new European Champion was declared to be Gianmattia Molina with a superb total score of 455.19. Gianmattia was a very



Italy contributed a strong showing, especially in the F/TR Rutland match



More than 200 competitors graced the ranges over five days

popular winner who got a resounding cheer from everyone present. He is the third F/TR champion from Italy in as many years, and it is a testament to the quality of the Italian F-Class community.

The F/Open Champion is now Alexander Kreutz, who won with a superb total score of 484.48. Alexander's score was six clear points ahead and he also had the highest V-count of the match – what a super way to win. Alexander shoots for the famous German BDMP team and is a credit to his team and country. He used 215gn Bergers in his .300WSM.

The European Teams matches

Interest in the European team matches is growing stronger every year, and this time we had a bumper entry of 27 teams – the highest ever. Perhaps interest was boosted by the change of format away from big 16-man teams towards the smaller, Rutland format of 7-man teams. It is more accessible to more groups to form a smaller team, although the larger National teams may have felt they had lost a valuable opportunity to practice.

On the National team's side we have a super entry of eight in both F/TR and F/O, with teams from all the major European countries participating. On the F/TR side,

the Ukrainian A and B teams dominated, taking both the gold and silver positions, pushing the GB side into third place. The GB A F/O team made amends though by taking the gold, albeit by a slender margin over the BDMP A team, while the Ukraine team were pushed back into bronze position.

The F/TR Rutland team match was keenly contested between nine teams, with some familiar and some very new teams taking part. There is a sense of fun mixed with enthusiasm in forming these

teams which is evident in their names: Julie's Gigolos springs to mind. The Italians dominated the match by winning both gold and silver with two teams from the renowned BCM gun company. Their rifles shoot just as well as they look! The bronze medal was won by the V-Hunters, a newly-formed team of talented friends.

That concluded the 2018 European Championships. It is destined to grow even bigger and better in future. Make sure you're there next year. ■



Brits faced a stiff challenge, with visitors winning 29 medals...



...but the British contingent restored pride in the F/O team match



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The MR year that was

Nick Brasier, Mark Crichton Maitland and Silke Lohmann review 2018 in Match Rifle

The Match Rifle season starts properly in May and this year it coincided with the hottest May Bank Holiday on record. MR shooters gathered on Stickledown range at Bisley for the LMRA Individual Match Rifle championships. The wind was light and from the right, varying by half a minute or so between shots. So no excuses at 1,000 yards, and Gareth James and Mike Judge led the way with a full score of 75 points, each with 11 central 'V' bulls.

Back at 1100 yards, the mercury was rising and the wind getting more twitchy, giving changes of up to 1.5 minutes. Rob Lygoe put in the only score of 75 to remind us he was still in contention. Judge dropped a point but scored an impressive 12 central v-bulls, and remained in the lead by one point. Despite climbing temperatures that were to reach 10 degrees hotter than average, Judge kept his cool to record the top score of 74 with 9 v-bulls at 1200 yards, securing victory and the gold medal. Gary Alexander in second place and Lygoe and James were both challenged by

the 1200-yard shoot, leaving the door open for Jon Sweet to take third place.

Only five days later, the weather gods were less kind. The English VIII Spring meeting, held on 12-13 May, saw a mix of weather and lower temperatures. Downpours on Saturday afternoon made some people 'opt out' of getting their shooting kit soaked, but Sunday brought back some sunshine. Though the wind conditions looked easy, they did manage to fool many competitors.

The Saturday saw tough competition at the top during the 15 to count on each distance – 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards. Rob Lygoe was in the lead with 224.33 closely followed by John Lindsay III three v-bulls behind, and Nick Tremlett and Julian Peck on 223 only three v-bulls apart. On Sunday morning, Lindsay and Judge managed to shoot a possible at 1,000 yards, both only dropping three V-bulls – but with a Saturday score of 221.28, Judge wasn't really considered a threat. At 1,100 yards Lygoe shot himself back to be the front runner with a 74.9, one point ahead

of John Lindsay. But the old saying that anything can happen at 1,200 yards yet again proved to be right.

Even the best wind coaches seemed to be struggling at the final stage of the match and Lygoe and Lindsay both shot 69s, Tremlett seemed to have sneaked back into third place with a 72.7... until Mike Judge walked off with a stunning 75.5.

Within a week Judge managed to win his second competition with a 443.52, closely followed by Rob Lygoe on 442.59 and John Lindsay III with a 441.56. The Under 25 Trophy was dominated by the ladies – Fenella Chesterfield won it with a 432.43 ahead of Hattie Mansell (425.35) and Katherine Lightbown (409.21). The Ladies Trophy was closely fought and won by Fiona Day with a 434.40, two points ahead of Chesterfield and three ahead of Zoe Woodroffe.

The second May Bank Holiday saw 20 MR and 2 F-Class shooters attending the NRC of Scotland's Spring meeting at Blair. With temperatures in the mid-20s, blue skies, majestic scenery and not a midge in

sight, combined with shooting conditions at the longer ranges that bamboozled the great and the good, the meeting was yet again one to remember.

Saturday's 987 yards was benign enough but 1114 yards hinted at difficulties to come with a wide wind bracket, but at least all from the same direction. Saturday at 1233 yards saw senior Elcho shooters languishing in the mid-80s, but Scotland's captain Mark Crichton Maitland managed a score of 94.5, five points clear of the next highest.

Sunday morning saw competitors gather in hotter conditions yet for 2+15 at 1114 and 1233 yards. The spirits of the glen were particularly active at the longer range with a wind bracket from ¼ to 5 minutes at any one time. Tim Kidner took away the Crawford Cup with an outstanding 419.29, four points ahead of Mike Buchanan (formerly Mike Baillie-Hamilton). Derek Lowe won the Visitors Trophy.

Sunday afternoon saw the inaugural team shoot for the Tilt Trophy. Six

teams of three, shot in rotation, coached and plotted. The top six shooters on Saturday were the team captains, and team members were allocated by working from the top and bottom of the list. No sighters and 15 shots to count at the two longer distances saw a close finish in which Derek Lowe, Keith Baxby and Sophie Wentges beat Nick Tremlett, Michael Wentges and Jack Roberts by 405.29 to 405.21. Third were Ron Scaglione, Tim Kidner and Claire Halleran with 400.19.

The Imperial MR events had been the hottest for years (see the Autumn Journal) with Mike Buchanan winning the Hopton with a score of 988.99. Tim Kidner took second place with a score of 986.101 a point ahead of Nick Tremlett.

Match Rifle always has a busy Autumn season, kicked off with the Welsh Open, where MR is shot on the Bank Holiday Monday. George Barnard was the successful winner with a 221.26, followed by Jon Sweet with 218.26 and one of this

year's newcomers Adam Leech in third place with a 214.22.

Five days later, Highland and Lowland Scots and visiting English and Irish MR shooters made their way to Blair Atholl again. Mark Crichton Maitland managed to set a Blair range record at the first range when he shot 100.20 at 987 yards with both Angus McLeod and Mike Buchanan also shooting 100s, but with an inferior V count. Saturday remained mostly dry and with not too much of the interesting Blair wind. At 1114 yards, Iain Thomson took the lead with a 75.10 following his 99.11 at 987, but it became clear that this would be a close match with six 74s among the 20 competitors. 1233 yards proved more difficult than most had anticipated and top scorer Angus McLeod took the lead with his 74.9, but only by 7

Nick Tremlett seemed to have sneaked back into third place with a 72.7... until Mike Judge walked off with a stunning 75.5



Mike Judge saw off all comers in the English VIII match



The LMRA championships kicked off the season

Vs in front of Iain Thomson and a point ahead of Ron.

Sunday morning looked decidedly more rainy than the forecast had allowed us to believe and the wind also made more of an appearance to make it more exciting for all those struggling with the concept of vertical wind. That didn't stop Tim Kidner though to top score at 1114 with a 99.15, closely followed by one of the English visitors, Nick Brasier with only 7 Vs less. Steady shooting from the Lowlanders meant that the competition was still intense with Iain Thompson getting a 98.13 with one V ahead of Angus McLeod.

The Army vs Navy competition was on – and Angus McLeod was victorious with a 99.8, while Iain Thomson made up for his V count with a 98.14 and equalled on Vs, but stayed second with one point less than Angus who won with an impressive 444.55. So this Angus took all the silver (apart from the Maitland) while the locals

were in third (Scaglione), fourth (Kidner) and fifth place (Buchanan).

The Cambridge Cup saw close competition between current CURA captain Fergus Flanagan and a former CURA captain, Nick Tremlett. While Fergus put in a steady performance over the two days, Nick was catching up fast and in the end a tie shoot had to be arranged, which Nick, well-prepared for such occasions and with enough ammunition made for such eventualities, ended up winning.

The last match of the season at Bisley, with a record attendance of 60, saw a lovely sunny Saturday and a very autumnal Sunday. Wind for much of the match was gentle and deceptively benign until the final 1200-yard shoot when a fishtailing six-minute bracket with added mirage thrown in caused much wailing and gnashing of teeth. The North London Rifle Club Championship was run concurrently with the English VIII and Irish Rifle Club Meeting

due to target shortage on Stickedown on the usual match weekend. Tim Kidner was the leader after the first day, with two points clear, until the last 1200-yard shoot, when a combination of some curious marking and outstanding shooting in the conditions (75.11) by Rob Lygoe, saw a reversal of fortunes. Rob instead swept the board although Tim won the Dram trophy for the highest score on Saturday. Fergus Flanagan was second overall and won the under 25s Cup and the Donegall Badge. Fiona Day won the Ladies' trophy for the second time this year with a very respectable fifth place in the Autumn meeting.

With some shooters consistently at the top and some new names make their way on the lists, 2019 could be particularly interesting. It is a big year in Match Rifle terms with the Australian team travelling to the UK for the Woomera and all the additional matches taking place as a result. It should be a 150th to remember. ■



Mike Buchanan was victorious in the Hopton once again

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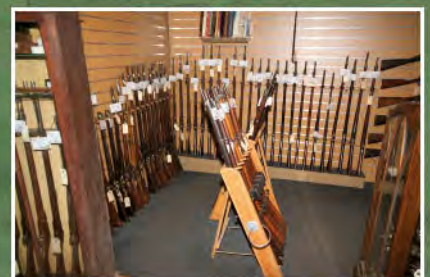
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Weathering the storm

All the action from a wet and windy European Long Range Championships

This biennial event is renowned for its entertaining weather. Most years the days start cold and misty and things rarely begin on time because the targets are barely visible. This year things were a little different...

Saturday was supposed to be dry and warm, but started with as threatening a sky as we have seen all year. Fortunately, the rain largely skirted around the range, and what little fell merely resulted in a need for light waterproofs and a truly beautiful rainbow illuminating the buffalo at the end of the range. We had a prompt start.

From there on the day grew steadily warmer, to the point where most of us were in shirtsleeves and contemplating sunscreen. A fairly strong wind from over our left shoulders, with sharp angle changes, produced many wide shots for all the teams.

England had arrived with a very strong team, complete with a coaching line-up comprised of the English coaches and main coach from the GB Palma team, as well as a number of Palma shooters.

After the first 900x range, England held a narrow four-point lead over Ireland, but that grew sharply as the day went on and, by the end of the day, England had scored 3410.241 ex 3600, some 105 points ahead of Ireland, who in turn were 90 points ahead of Scotland, with the

Channel Islands trailing a further 14 points behind them.

If Saturday was more like a summer's day, then Sunday was decidedly autumnal. Wet and windy does not do justice to the conditions that greeted the teams. A discussion between team captains meant the final 1000x range would go ahead after a slight delay. The Channel Islands team withdrew – given their next shooting would be in New Zealand and potentially getting their equipment drenched with no prospect of victory, they decided that discretion was the better part of valour.

The wind had performed a near 180-degree turnaround, but coupled with the significantly more difficult sighting

conditions, most teams found scoring at its most challenging. Not so England, who had their best 1000x range of the weekend and extended their advantage to win by an impressive 155 points over Ireland, with Scotland a further 150 points behind them.

19 brave souls elected to shoot the individual competition, but only three hardy (or foolish?) souls completed the course of fire, all three of them English, with Parag Patel pipping Martin Liversage to the Gold by a single point, 71.6 to 70.6 – both performances were out of the top drawer.

And so the European Long Range Championships were over for another two years. ■



Victorious England still manage a smile despite the torrential conditions.

Rimfire report

Richard Kenchington brings us the news from the LRRFC's Fourth Autumn Meeting

In keeping with its original concept of using the cheapest, quietest, and least violent means to puncture the bullseye while contending with the problems and enjoying the rewards of genuine long range shooting, the Long Range Rim Fire Club (LRRFC) held its fourth annual Autumn Meeting at Bisley on Saturday 6 October 2018. There was a record entry of 29, but unfortunately the weather was far from ideal as drizzle fell for most of the day (as was forecast), keeping some competitors away. A moderate-to-fresh head wind caused elevation as well as windage problems, and blew the drizzle into our faces. But despite the uncomfortable conditions, many good scores were made on the modified TR targets with somewhat enlarged bullseyes which were used at the longer distances.

After blow-off and practice shots, the course of fire was two convertible sighters and 15 to count at 200, 300 and 400 yards, using (of course) .22 rimfire rifles. The match was won emphatically by Ben Stubbins of Staveley RC, Derbyshire, who scored 65, 70 and 59 for an excellent aggregate of 194 ex 225, three points clear of the field. Notable scores at individual

distances were made by Rob Grice, Phil Morgan, Norman Clark, Peter Francis, Chris Hazlehurst, Nigel Pickford, Tim Stubbins and Steve Isherwood.

A drinks reception was held afterwards at the London & Middlesex RA, at which the trophies were presented. The Campaign Cup for the highest aggregate score was awarded to Ben Stubbins, who also won the TRSB Aggregate Trophy. The Treasurer's Spoon for the highest aggregate in the Summer and Autumn Meetings was awarded to Peter Francis, who also won the Donegall Badge for the highest aggregate at 400 yards at the two meetings. The Donegall Badge for 2017 was retrospectively awarded to Michael Haselgrove.

Following the first NRA Long Range Smallbore Trial held at Bisley in April 2013, the LRRFC began as a loose association of interested competitors, who held several informal meetings before becoming a recognisable Club in 2015. It was first affiliated to the NRA in 2017, currently has 45 members, and holds meetings at Bisley in the summer and autumn. It has strong links with Derbyshire RA, who recently held about the 70th in their series of annual Turbutt



Trophies meetings at Thorpe Cloud, Dovedale, and also host an annual match against the LRRFC in June. The NRA continues to hold its annual Smallbore Long Range Match (at 200 and 300 yards) in the spring.

Membership of the LRRFC is open to all who are interested in pushing the boundaries of .22 rimfire shooting at up to 500 yards. The Club has a website – www.lrrfc.org.uk – at which a great deal of technical information, as well as details of recent and forthcoming events, can be found. Do make contact if you would like to take part. ■

LRRFC AUTUMN MEETING 2018: MRSB AGGREGATE

	Name	Club	Class	200	300	400	Agg
1	Stubbins BF	Staveley RC	TRSB	65.04	70.08	59.02	194.14
2	Grice RG	Staveley RC	TRSB	70.03	62.03	59.00	191.06
3	Morgan P	Longparish RC	MRSB	66.07	70.04	49.02	185.13
4	Clark N	Northants & Leics RA	MRSB	64.01	61.03	57.02	182.06
5	Robbins J	Petworth & Dist RC	MRSB	62.02	65.01	54.01	181.04
6	Kenchington RS	NLRC	MRSB	61.03	65.03	53.02	179.08
7	Francis P	Carshalton RC	TRSB	67.02	56.02	56.00	179.04
8	Hazlehurst C	Swadlincote R&PC	TRSB	64.04	63.02	49.00	176.06
9	Law CD	English VIII	MRSB	60.03	64.02	52.00	176.05
10	Wright P	Staveley RC	TRSB	66.04	54.00	55.02	175.06

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CCRS News

CCRS General Secretary Robert Bruce runs us through the latest news for cadets

CCRS is a charity which works in partnership with the Ministry of Defence to promote the sport of target rifle shooting across the four cadet youth organisations: the Combined Cadet Force Association (CCFA), the Sea Cadet Corps (SCC), the Army Cadet Force Association (ACFA) and the Air Training Corps (ATC). Core shooting training is completed in cadet locations, while CCRS organises national finals in the disciplines of shotgun, air/.22, 5.56mm and 7.62mm.

CCRS annually organises two international teams – the UK Cadet Rifle Team (U17) and the British Cadet Rifle Team (U18, known as the Athelings). Each year it also hosts a visit from the Royal Canadian Army Cadet National Rifle Team (RCAC NRT). Furthermore, the charity – working in partnership with the NRA – annually organises the GB U19 team tour to the Republic of South Africa (RSA), and biennially hosts the RSA Junior Team.

Cadet National Fullbore Competition

In July CCRS organised the Cadet National Fullbore Finals (known as Cadet Bisley). This comprised six events, and involved around 1000 cadets and some 300 cadet adults.

Main features included:

- Participation of an RCAC NRT team of 18 firers.
- Participation of an RSA Junior Team of six firers.
- First visit of the new CCRS President, General the Lord Houghton of Richmond, who presented prizes at the Inter-Services' Cadet Rifle Meeting.
- Visit of Parag Patel, who presented prizes at the Schools'/CCF meeting.
- Visit of Sam Gowin, the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games bronze medallist, who presented prizes at the



The BCRT team to Canada

Cadet Imperial competition.

- Presence of representatives from Heckler & Koch and Qioptiq, with whom CCRS has a sponsorship relationship.

Notable shooting performances included:

- Grand Aggregate winner in the Inter-Services Cadet Rifle Meeting (Bossum Cup) – LCpl S Rudge, Somerset ACF.
- Team Grand Aggregate winner in the Inter-Services Cadet Rifle Meeting: 2(NI) Bn ACF.
- Grand Aggregate winner in Schools/CCF meeting: Cpl L Malcic, Elizabeth College CCF.
- Ashburton Fours winners in Schools/CCF meeting: Bradfield College CCF.
- Ashburton Eights winners in Schools/CCF meeting: Sedbergh School CCF.
- AG Bell match – Won by UK Cadets Team.
- Cadet International match – Won by Channel Islands.

2018 Imperial Meeting

Impressive performances were:

- St Georges stage 3 – LCpl M Palmer (BCRT 2018 and Epsom College CCF) finished 14th.
- Queen's Prize stage 3 – Cpl N Richmond (BCRT 2018 and 2(NI) Bn ACF) finished 35th.

BCRT (Athelings) 2018 tour to Canada

A successful tour saw the Athelings win the Rex Goddard and Michael Faraday matches against the RCAC NRT. Individually, Jemima Hince (Wellington College CCF), Miles Horton Baker (RGS Guildford CCF) and Luca O'Flynn (RGS Guildford CCF) took the top three places in the Canadian Cadet Championships.

Hugo Donovan (Bradfield College CCF) won the Junior Open TR Championship, and was second in the Junior Short-range Championship in the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association meeting.

UKCRT 2018 tour to Jersey

This was also a successful tour. The UKCRT retained the Mr P and Cheshire trophies in matches against Channel Islands cadet teams. Daisy Armstrong (Sedbergh School CCF) was the top scoring UKCRT firer in the Jersey RA grand aggregate. ■

LOOK AHEAD

CCRS Competitions Officer

CCRS is in the middle of recruiting a Competitions Officer who will be in post in January 2019.

New website

A new website will be up and running by new year 2019.

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Trafalgar Meeting 20th – 21st October 2018.

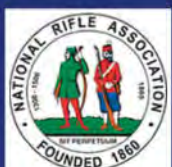
There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.

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Then The Guns Fell Silent

On 11 November 1918, the Armistice on the Western Front saw German, French, British and American guns fall silent. The war to end all wars was over. To commemorate the centenary, the NRA held a special event. Raf Jah reports...

When I saw the Armistice Commemorative match promoted by the NRA, I first thought not to take part. Being of Turkish origin, most of my family were on what most readers would regard as ‘the other side’. Every male member of my mother’s family died at Gallipoli, and her grandfather only survived because he was a coal miner. Hence I thought I’d leave this particular shoot to the British, and their SMLEs.

But a chance meeting on the range with past NRA CSR rep John Morgan-Hosey

changed my mind: he emphasised that the shoot was a commemoration, not a celebration. I looked into the history of the shoot and learnt it was created by Lee Enfield Rifle Association (LERA) founder Paul Quilliam while he was at the ATRC in 1995. The match was shot regularly until 2003 when, in Paul’s words, “getting a range confirmed was a nightmare”.

It lay idle until 2016 when John Morgan-Hosey mentioned to Mick Kelly (LERA’s guru on Enfield classes and score cards) that he’d like to stage it for the Armistice Centenary. The idea was floated with NRA shooting director Peter Cottrell who enthusiastically backed the idea.

The match would be restricted to rifles from 1914 and would use historically accurate targets hand-made by the NRA’s targetry team. Beginning with an early morning service on Bisley’s Century Range, it would end with a Vickers machine gun being fired alongside competitors finishing their day with a ‘mad minute’ of rapid fire.

Mick Kelly’s adamant view that ‘there are no winners in war’ changed my mind about entering. I too could pay homage to those who died while participating in an unusual and uncommon shooting event. So at 8am on Saturday 11 November, 100 years since the Armistice, I and over 110 other shooters – some attired in replica British, French, German and American uniforms, many others sporting the service berets and medals from their past military service or that of their forebears – paid tribute to the fallen of all nations.

Silvery mist, punctuated with soft sunlight, drifted across the range as the Reverend Mark Chester, Chaplain to the Forces who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and is a reservist chaplain at Sandhurst, conducted a brief but poignant service of remembrance, standing next to a simple crucifix made from expended 20mm cannon casings, presented to him by troops in Afghanistan. Readings were given by John Morgan-Hosey and past



A bright day greeted the commemorative shoot

“The Chaplain conducted a brief but poignant service of remembrance

CSR rep Mark Bradley, while former Royal Marine bugler James Christopher sounded exquisite renditions of *The Last Post* and *Reveille*.

Martin Camp, a stalwart of CSR, whose grandfather was killed in the First World War, laid a wreath to commemorate 38 members of the NRA who gave their lives in conflicts.

Then it was down to the business of shooting five matches, three in the morning and two after lunch, and the four assigned details went off to set up on the 200-yard firing point or to head to the butts. The vast majority of rifles used were SMLEs, with a French Lebel, a German Mauser, and a few P14s for company.

The first match in the sun-lit morning began with the order ‘fix bayonets’, then shooters got on their bellies, rested forearms on sandbags, and fired two sighters and 10 rounds in 30-second cycles at a Second Class Figure target. The second match, comprising 10 snap shots in four second cycles at a small Figure 4 target with a magazine change, was far more challenging, and began to separate the wheat from the chaff.

Even outstanding shots such as Paul Quilliam and William Tong found the going tough. I, for one, could barely see the target and despite shooting as carefully as I could, there were disappointingly few spotting discs on my target.

Match three required rapid fire of 10 rounds in 60 seconds at a convertible landscape target whose irregular geometric shapes deceived a lot of eyes – but not all!

With a number of LERA miscreants squadded next to each other, banter was soon forthcoming. As the day wore on, the solemnity of the morning service took a back seat and the comments became more amusing. As is usual with CSR and historic shooters, help and advice was always on hand: Paul Quilliam gave useful insights into changing wind conditions, while safety supervisors interpreted sighting shots. Then it was down to each shooter as no further coaching is permitted, and Will

Tong winced in silence as he watched me group eight rounds beautifully – all two inches to the left of the target!

Our butt duties were extended by some lanes having to reshoot parts of their matches, a situation explained eloquently by butts’ supervisor Adam Chapman who bellowed: “Right. Everyone stand by until we find out what dramas have now befallen the firing point!” But these delays were forgotten as several of us hung on our target frames, almost weeping with laughter at Paul Quilliam’s acerbic running commentaries.

Suddenly, the morning was done, and everyone reassembled to tuck into a delicious hot lunch of either chicken curry or Maconochie stew provided by the cooks at the ATSC. The buzz of animated conversation about shots taken and targets hit or missed, plus related laughter, rose and fell as forkfuls of food were eagerly consumed.

As the final two matches beckoned, the weather decided to give us all a small taste of what so many hundreds of thousands experienced all those years ago in the trenches. Driving rain and higher winds were to mark the afternoon – but no shooters were put off. Huddled in their rain gear, and squinting through

the rain or repeatedly wiping off glasses, shooters contested match four (two sighters and 10 rounds fired in 30 second cycles at an NRA Tin Hat target) before tackling the final match. This (match five) certainly raised the bar: fire two sighters and then 10 snaps in four second cycles from the kneeling or standing position at a small Figure 3 target – oh, and please change a magazine as well!

The formal shooting over, competitors plus families, friends and onlookers assembled to watch Colin Shorthouse from Fultons and NRA staffer Tom Chatfield set up a Vickers machine gun. Three ranks of shooters took it in turn to kneel and fire their mad minute into the sand backstop as the Vickers fired belt after belt. Being water-cooled, it simply and relentlessly kept on shooting with a steady dum-dum-dum-dum, only stopping when an empty



Many shooters were decked out in historic service gear



Once the service of remembrance had finished, the shooting could begin

ammo box was swapped for another box with its belt of 250 .303 rounds. No wonder many commented that it must have been hell to be on the other end of such a weapon, whether German or British.

When it came to my turn to join the mad minute, I found myself next to Mick Kelly and other LERA members. I laid out 25 rounds, loaded my SMLE, and when the whistle blew and the Vickers started up again, aimed, fired and worked the bolt as fast as I could. Exhilarating, to say the least!

By the time that was all over, the light was fading, rain was dripping off rifles, and



Ten rounds in thirty seconds while kneeling at the NRA's tin hat target

the Vickers was surrounded by a mountain of brass (it fired around 1,500 rounds). Colin opened the water hose on the Vickers jacket, releasing a cloud of steam to swirl across the now-silent firing point, echoing the morning mist that had started the day.

There was just one more formality: the prize-giving, led by LERA chairman Cris Scott. Given the uncommon targetry, the classic rifles, and the weather, results were impressive, with some of the usual suspects winning medals, as well as some newcomers. Full results of the match can be found on the NRA website, but particular mention must go to the top three on aggregate (all five match scores added), who just happen to be LERA members!

NRA Gold Medal – Jim Gray, 180
(on count back)

NRA Silver Medal – Will Tong, 180

NRA Bronze Medal – Ian Dewey, 178

The day done, shooters mingled, chatted, and knocked back a welcome



The empty belts that festooned the ground around the Vickers

toast of Irish whiskey, courtesy of Mark Bradley, before packing up and heading home. With today's guns as silent as those of 100 years ago, I thought back on my initial misgivings about participating – and was very glad that I had entered. Scores of NRA members, of differing backgrounds, political beliefs and nationalities, had come together to remember those from all sides who gave their all, and to hope that our respective futures are peaceful. ■



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Women In Shooting: Seonaid McIntosh

The 22-year-old prone shooting world champion talks to Katia Malcaus Cooper

In 2015 Sport England launched its This Girl Can campaign, aimed at getting more women active. The main goal is to help women overcome the fear of judgement that is stopping too many women from joining in.

The campaign was created as a result of a survey conducted by Sport's England Active People, which stated that in 2014, due to fear of judgement, two million fewer women took part in sport than men, despite over 75 per cent of women stating that they would like to do more exercise.

The campaign launched in 2015 with a controversial 90-second ad showing women of all ages and backgrounds exerting themselves. While the advert attracted a lot of criticism for its portrait of the female form, what it did do was encourage wider female participation in sport, and it is attributed to encouraging 1.6 million extra women taking up some form of sport, while 2.8 million women said that they have become more active as a result of the campaign.

While division by sex is true of many sports, shooting is very inclusive, and sees men and women compete on a level footing against each other. Many areas of the sport at Olympic and Commonwealth level see women and men separated in shooting events, but the reality on the shooting range is much different. Women and men can and do compete on an equal footing during almost every event.

In fullbore shooting there is no difference between men and women, young and not so young, as demonstrated by participation at the 149th Imperial Meeting where the youngest competitor was a young lady



by the name of Keira, a 13-year-old Sedberghian, and the eldest competitor was 96-year-old Jo Wright.

Female membership is growing, and about 12 per cent of the NRA membership is female. Unlike other organisations, we do not hold ladies-only events or training, as we believe women are no different than men and have the same ability to learn and compete as their male counterparts. We believe that this girl not only can, but she has done for quite some time, and with some formidable results.

To celebrate women's achievements in the sport, the *National Rifle Association's Journal* is starting a new series of articles on women shooters, and who better to start with than Seonaid McIntosh, with her stunning World Championship win in the 50m Prone Rifle in Korea, this September.

FACT FILE

Name: Seonaid McIntosh

Age: 22

Discipline: Smallbore rifle 3P, 50m prone, 10m Air Rifle, 300m Prone Rifle, 300m 3P Rifle

Who is your greatest inspiration?

My sister Jen. It was watching her at London 2012 that opened my eyes to International Shooting.

Do you feel disadvantaged as a woman?

No, not at all. I like shooting against the girls. In my mind I always want to beat the men and be the absolute World Champion. If you look at 3P, the men have been shooting longer and the girls need to catch up. They have recently changed the course of fire and doubled the shots, so we went from 3x20 to 3x40 which the men shot as an Olympic sport. The women will keep getting better at it, I know it. There are some disciplines like air rifle where women regularly post better results than men, which goes to show that sex is not an impediment when it comes to shooting.

Do you think there should be women only categories in every sport?

I don't know about every sport, but the distinct advantage is that in some parts of the world women only have access to elite sport because there are women only categories. If you take Saudi Arabia for example, women would not be sent to compete if there were only open categories. This way Saudi women have an opportunity to shoot at elite and Olympic level.

Seonaid McIntosh was born in March 1996, and is the youngest daughter of former Scotland Shooting Team Manager Donald McIntosh and four-times Commonwealth medalist Shirley McIntosh. She is also the sister of British Olympic shooter Jen McIntosh. With such a pedigree it is not difficult to see how Seonaid was always destined to great success. If what they say about teaching your children to drive could be applied to Donald and Shirley, I am sure that teaching the girls to shoot must have been no mean task, but the results clearly speak for themselves.

Seonaid started shooting at Dollar Academy, where she was part of the eight who won the Ashburton in 2013, when she also won the Schools Hundred. She went on to shoot the Commonwealth Games the year she left school in 2014, and again in 2018, where she won two Bronze medals in 50m Rifle Prone and 3P. She is the European Champion in 50m, 3P and now the World Champion in 50m Prone, as well as having secured a Quota place for Tokyo 2020. All of this in four short years!

The NRA is very proud that we were part of the pathway into shooting for this wonder woman of shooting, so I went to catch up with her on the last four years.

Since leaving Dollar in 2014, Seonaid has embarked in an Engineering Degree from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. She started off with a Mechanical Engineering Degree but soon realised that her true talent lied in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. So in 2015 she converted to Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and is now set to graduate in Spring 2019.

When I speak to Seonaid, she is calm and organised and really excited about what lies ahead. She shares her flat with another elite athlete, biathlete Holly Rees-Lay, who also understands the value of time management. "Being able to organise your time efficiently is key," says Seonaid apologetically. "I know it is a cliché, but if I don't plan my time I just won't fit it all in. And I always want to win, so this is super important to me. I want a first and I want to be World Champion!"

“There were never any expectations that the girls would turn out to be shooters. There was never any pressure

What would Seonaid like to do when uni is over?

She tells me that she would love to be an astronaut. But she knows this is a dream, and tells me that medical engineering is where her heart lies – prosthetics that work with people through the nerve system and are controlled through thoughts really interests her.

So how did a fullbore shooter turn to small-bore?

I asked her this very question and she candidly told me that fullbore is not an Olympic sport, and after Dollar she didn't have access to a fullbore rifle, whereas she had access to her mum's .22 rifle and really wanted to go to the Olympics. When Jen went to the Olympics in London it was a real eye opener – it was really cool and the eyes of the world were on shooting in a really good way. So Seonaid made up her mind that this was what she wanted.

In 2014 Seonaid took part in her first international with the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, with the World Cup just before that. Her scores are consistently great, now exceeding those of sister Jen. When I ask her if this is difficult for Jen she tells me that I will

have to ask her that, but is quick to point out that while she has had Jen to look up to, it has been a steeper learning curve for her big sis, who has undoubtedly been her biggest inspiration.

But it hasn't all been just shooting with Seonaid. I am told she is a drummer, and was part of the Dollar Academy Pipe Band when they won the World Championship in 2010 and 2014.

What was it like growing up with Donald and Shirley?

Seonaid tells me that there were never any expectations that the girls would turn out to be shooters. There was never any pressure to get into shooting, but once they showed an interest they were very supportive and encouraging. Mum Shirley feels that the girls now shoot



Not just a shooter, she's an elite drummer too



Her world championship win came in prone, but 3P is where Seonaid's talent lies



From left to right: Mum Shirley, big sister Jen, Seonaid and Dad Donald



Sisters Jen and Seonaid shoot together at the Commonwealth Games

at a much superior level than she ever did, but is happy to be on hand with training tips and encouragement, while Dad Donald is a great coach come PR manager, always making sure his girls get some good press coverage for their amazing achievements.

In a brief four years Seonaid has managed to carve a name for herself, win two golds and a silver in European Championships, two bronzes in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, a bronze and a gold at the World Championships in Changwon Korea, as well as secure a quota place for Tokyo 2020. It must have been a roller-coaster, so I ask Seonaid what the World Championship was like, and whether she felt she could come away doing as well as she did.

She takes a deep breath and tells me that she went into the World Championship knowing she could do well, but equally didn't expect anything. She knew her strong discipline is 3P so she thought she could get a medal there. The Competition went well, even though she had a few blips, but she knew she could fix it, so when she found out that she had got into the final she knew she wanted to win.

The quota places for Tokyo 2020 were decided during the final, with only four QPs available, and she feels that maybe

she lost her focus and dropped to fourth place. She tells me that what happened next surprised her even more – bearing in mind that her 3P is her strong discipline, she achieved a PB on the day, but feels that she has enough to give to smash the World Record even before Tokyo 2020.

Of course 50m Prone is what she is the World Champion for, but in her mind prone was her real weakness. Seonaid told me that she had been struggling with the position for some time, and had a bad shoulder as a result of this. So Dad Donald worked on a different position for her when she went to Sydney, she then went into Korea knowing that it could go either way. Her best shoot was the elimination. The next day she went at a steady pace and was running out of time, so decided to speed up and everything got better. As she started shooting faster her score got better. It all seem to fall into place, and she kept her place in the qualification (final) and won.

She came off the firing point a bit earlier than she had anticipated as she is often one of the last ones to finish, and as she looked behind her she saw this big crowd of Brits and Kiwis. She looked at her dad and he mouthed that she had won a medal. "In my mind I was either

going to be second or fourth, so I kept looking at the screen feeling nervous, biting my fingernails with nothing left to chew, when this lady from New Zealand gave me a fan to cool myself down. When I realised I had won I was stunned, as my score was not that great: 'What do you mean I have won?'. I was just dumbstruck and speechless, which doesn't happen very often!"

So with a gold medal in her pocket and a quota place for Tokyo, as well as the final few months to complete her degree, what is in store for this extraordinary shooting goddess? Concentrating on the degree between now and Christmas is a priority to get that uni win – the first-class degree Seonaid strives for, and then back into training, focusing on air rifle where she wants to be world class. The first test of that will be the European Air Gun Championship in March, then lots of world cups, which are perfect preparation for Tokyo. Then when she has a well-paid job, she would like to get back into fullbore and give its shooters a real run for their money. ■



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My First Teams Match

9-year-old F Class shooter Aleessa Longhurst gives us her experience of competing in the under-17s team at the F Class GB practice event

On 2 November, I took part in my first F Class teams match, held at Bisley. There were eight teams competing: six in my class, which is FTR, and two in a different class called F Open. FTR is a restricted class – you can only use either a .223 or .308 calibre rifle. I use a .223 because it does not recoil as much as the heavier .308. My lighter .223 bullet can be pushed side-to-side by the wind more than the .308, so we need to be more careful at reading the wind.

Our wind coach was called Jemima Hince. She was always calm and a very good wind reader. She definitely had the hardest job because our team were shooting different calibres and different bullet weights.

Jemima worked closely with her plotter, Luca O'Flynn. His job was to plot our shots on to a graph so we would know how our 4 shooters and their rifles were performing. He would also write down our scores and our windage and elevation settings. This is a very hard job, because it needs to be done quickly and accurately, otherwise it will slow the team down. This is why maths is important.

Our four shooters were: Charlie Smith, aged 10, Dylan Rayner, aged 14, Sam Waugh, aged 16 and myself,

All the teams assemble, with Aleessa in the centre



Aleessa Longhurst, aged 9. As I said, I shot my .223 rifle using a 90-grain VLD bullet, and the boys all shot a .308. Sam, the eldest of our shooters and also an experienced Open shooter, shot the unforgiving 200 grain bullet, which he did very well. Charlie and Dylan both used the trusted 155 and their elevations were epic.

Results

We shot two matches, both at 1000 yards. The first match was two sighters

with 15 shots to count, and the second match was two sighters with 10 shots to count. The highest possible score was 500.100 and we achieved 435.13. Although we finished in sixth place, some of our individual scores were higher than our competition, and the first team finished with 456.23 – only 21.10 points ahead.

We are very proud of our team work and our results. We competed against some of the world's best shooters and I think we did well. ■



Aleessa was more than confident shooting her .223



Amid a strong field, the under-17s acquitted themselves well

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Place	Team	Members	Match 1		Match 2		Aggregate	
FTR CLASS								
GOLD	White Horse Lodge	Steve Rigby	71	6	46	46	117	9
	Coach: Stuart Anselm	Yvonne Wilcock	71	2	48	3	119	5
		Paul Binns (Captain)	65	4	43	1	108	5
		Vincent Meyer	65	2	47	2	112	4
		TOTAL	272	14	184	9	456	23
SILVER	101 Rifle Team	Adam Bagnall	68	3	49	3	117	6
	Coach: Paul Harkins	Richie Jones (Captain)	71	3	43	0	114	3
		Julie Bagnall	66	3	44	1	110	4
		Paul Harkins	69	1	45	4	114	5
		TOTAL	274	10	181	8	455	18
BRONZE	GB Rollafson	Peter Sheffield	71	3	44	1	115	4
	Coach: Carrie Ryan	Asad Wahid	73	2	38	0	111	2
		David Rollafson (Captain)	64	5	46	2	110	7
		Dan Lomas	64	3	50	10	114	13
		TOTAL	272	13	178	13	450	26
4th	MXM	Mark Downing	67	6	44	1	111	7
		Mark Webb	63	2	44	2	107	4
		Peter Dommett (Captain)	63	2	48	2	111	4
		Justin Gough	71	4	47	2	118	6
		TOTAL	264	14	183	7	447	21
5th	GB McCosh	James McCosh (Captain)	67	1	48	4	115	5
		Igor Makarenko	65	2	44	0	109	2
		Neil Hampton	71	3	49	7	120	10
		Martyn Johns	57	1	45	3	102	4
		TOTAL	260	7	186	14	446	21
6th	Under 17s	Aleessa Longhurst	64	2	44	1	108	3
	Coach: Jemima Hince	Charlie Smith	68	1	43	3	111	4
	Plotter: Luca O'Flynn	Sam Waugh	59	0	46	3	105	3
		Dylan Rayner	68	3	43	0	111	3
		TOTAL	259	6	176	7	435	13
OPEN CLASS								
GOLD	Joe West Rifle Stocks	Joe West (Captain)	67	5	48	2	115	7
		Lance Vinal	74	8	48	3	122	11
		Tom Bindley	59	0	48	4	107	4
		Simon West	74	6	49	5	123	11
		TOTAL	274	19	193	14	467	33
SILVER	Team RS	William Sharman	62	3	47	2	109	5
	Coach: Tony Marsh	Richard Sharman	63	1	42	1	105	2
		Tony Price	72	4	49	3	121	7
		David Lloyd (Captain)	74	6	49	4	123	10
		TOTAL	271	14	187	10	458	24

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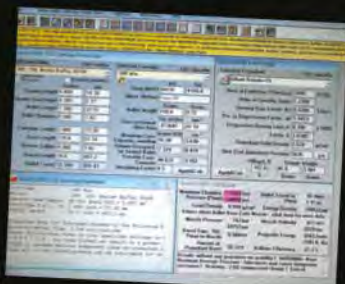
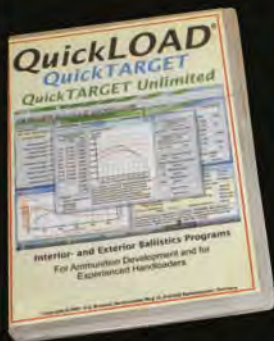


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Extreme distance

Just what is involved in Very Long Range (VLR) shooting? Raf Jah finds out

The Trans-Continental Rifle Association is a small club, which, among other things, shoots out to extremely long distances. Recently the association visited the excellent range operated by Gardners Guns and shot accurately out to 2000 metres (or 2200 yards). Since then people have asked how to shoot Very Long Range (VLR). Here, I'll explain some of the basics of VLR shooting.

The definition of 'very long range'

The first question that comes up when discussing long-range shooting, is, "What do you call very long-range shooting?" For example, our American friends call anything over 300 yards long range, with 500 or 600 yards being the limit. At the NRA most target shooters define 600 as being mid-range and 1000 yards as being

long range. Therefore, if we pay homage to the abilities of the Target Rifle community, we should carry on from where they leave the baton. For lack of a better alternative, we think of anything beyond 1200 yards as being long-range shooting. The reason for this is, perhaps, a degree of consistency can be achieved with .308 out to 1000 yards, but at 1200 yards a hit on a 30cm metal disk becomes much more problematic.

Calculating elevation

The next question is, "How do I do it?" To understand the basis of VLR shooting I would again look to the achievements of the Target Rifle community. The "TR mob", as I fondly call them, really know their stuff. They lie down in all conditions and shoot out to 1000 yards without bipods or scopes. They know exactly how many MOA they need to hit the target at

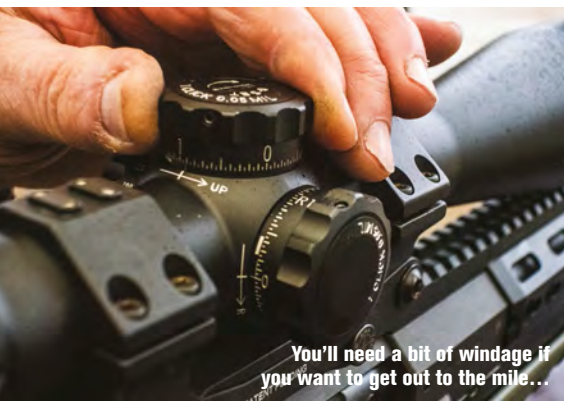
800/900/1000 yards. They understand the effect that gravity has on the bullet once fired from the barrel. I have never come across a TR shooter, no matter how new, who does not have the principles of marksmanship off pat. These principles are fundamental and knowledge of their rifle and bullet properties are essential. There can be an element of friendly banter between disciplines in the NRA and some of it is less than positive. But we in the TCRA respect absolutely the skills of TR shooters. Their shooting and published knowledge lays the groundwork for the VLR shooter to build on.

Where Very Long Range differs is in the need for first shot first hit, knowing cold bore zeroes and then being able to adjust for the hot bore. There are no sighters in VLR – the first person to hit scores the highest.

The factors that really affect VLR shooting then come into play. The first is the bullet type and speed. Most VLR shooters load their own ammunition (I am a notable exemption). The bullet chosen must then have its ballistic properties analysed against gravity and the correct coefficient established. Many bullet suppliers will publish G1 and G7 BCs for their products and this information is generally contained in many of the online ballistic apps, of which the majority of TCRA use Strelok Pro.

Cold, wet firing points are part and parcel of shooting VLR





Latitude, direction of fire, Coriolis effect, aerodynamic jump and the cosine of the shot (slope angle) will all affect the required elevation of the rifle. These, and other parameters, must be entered correctly into Strellok. What then catches most shooters out is powder temperature. On a hot day, ammunition left out in the sun will behave very differently to ammunition kept in a cool box or cool place.

The final control is muzzle velocity. Each different type of bullet that you use must be chronographed, so that the speed and SD (or ES) can be measured. Only with the speed of the bullet can effective tables be created. But now we have a dope table that deals with gravity in the area you are in, at the temperature that you are in.

In order to verify that your dope table is correct you need to shoot every distance accurately and true to the app. This can be done by changing the zero on the app. But this is a complex procedure that is best explained by an expert, such as Richard Utting of SharpshootingUK. There are so many variables that any slight error in data input can lead to a shot that lands

18 metres short at 2 kilometres. Not bad you may think, but we aim to be on target within a couple of rounds at that distance.

Wind – the devil's work

The problem now is that you have a series of dope tables (hot bore, cold bore, high powder temperature, low powder temperature and so on), but you need to calculate the wind. On Stickledown you often see Target Rifle shooters with their spotter. The spotter makes the adjustments on the sight of the shooter, constantly reading the wind. This is an absolutely essential skill in VLR shooting. The problem though is that most of our shooting is done across valleys with no flags, trees or grass to give us an indication of wind. Mirage can give clues, but it is hard to see at extreme ranges.

In our experience, when we cannot hit the target, it is always the wind that defeated us. "Elevation is science, wind is voodoo," mutters Andy Welch, the club's most accomplished VLR shooter. Wind in a valley can only be worked out with estimation, shooting and observation.



Watching the swirl of the round is essential, no matter how difficult it may be. If the shooter is using a .30 calibre round (or .50) then a tracer often helps to determine what the wind is actually doing. A swing to the right and then a dramatic swing to the left before finally coming right enough to be on the target is not unknown in a Scottish valley.

Spotting and correction

Half the struggle in VLR shooting is spotting. The shooter needs a good spotter with a fixed power 30x scope standing behind him. This is where good glass makes a difference and the spotter is able to call the shot as soon as it lands, the shooter then rapidly reloads, corrects and shoots before (hopefully) the wind conditions change. This is the only way to accurately hope to correct and hit. Shooters and spotters must work as a team. After a mile or so, the shooter is nothing without his spotter. It is not unheard of for one of our spotters to spot all morning, enjoying the success of his shooter as much as the person pulling the trigger.

What do you need to shoot VLR?

This is the question that no one asks, and yet everyone should ask. Everyone we meet who wants to shoot VLR thinks they need to buy at least a .338 Lapua and then they will instantly be able to shoot 2000 yards. Apart from the cost this is not an overly clever idea.

The most important thing a VLR shooter needs is skill. After skill, the VLR shooter needs a phenomenal spotter. Only when he or she has these two assets lined up can the VLR shooter look at ammunition. Ammunition must be extremely consistent and have the power to get out to the range required. For example, I use a 23-inch barrel Tikka .30-06 with 175 grain Sierra TMKs. The ammunition has an SD of 5 and is hand loaded in 500 round batches by Colin Shorthouse from Fultons of Bisley. He has tailored the round to my barrel, my chamber and the length and twist of the barrel. This means that I am happily able to hit a large target at 1370 yards. I use a 30-06 because it is what I have.

Many VLR shooters use a 6.5 derivative to reach out to about 1400 yards and only then switch to something



“There are no sighters in VLR – the first person to hit scores the highest”

bigger like an HME calibre rifle. One of our other members, Mike Shiew, was happily hitting the mile gong at Gardners with his 6.5 Creedmoor with carbon fibre barrel. Many club members have a .338 Lapua, but some have .375 CheyTac. This is close to the ultimate VLR rifle (but other calibres are as good and readily available), which can get on target at 2000 metres within a couple of shots. It then stays on target all day long. But at 2600 yards, the spotting becomes so difficult that this is the greatest impediment to accuracy, not necessarily the rifle/bullet combination.

Good optics/glass is essential and the adjustment range with the scope, mount and rail arrangement must allow for sufficient elevation changes to be able to engage targets at your maximum range. When aiming at the 2650-yard target Andy needed to have about 38 mils (about 130 MOA) of elevation. He was actually holding over 2.5 mils on his scope. To reach 3600 yards, the furthest placed target at Gardners, he would need just under 80 mils (270 moa) elevation. Simply not achievable

with enough consistent precision with his current set up.

Where can you shoot VLR?

Now that you have mastered the art of Very Long Range shooting, where can you do it? Using and zeroing the smaller calibres such as a 6.5 Creedmoor or 30-06 is easy. Stickle-down often plays host to shooters with these calibres. But for anything larger the only places are the MOD field fire ranges and a series of private range facilities such as Orion Firearms Training and Gardners Guns. All of the TCRA VLR shooters are also members of the FCSA (Fifty Calibre Shooters Association) so that they can access multiple ranges at minimum cost. How to maximise the use of the Strellok App is best learned at Sharpshooting UK.

So if VLR shooting is something you want to do, you should contact one of the long range clubs about visiting and seeing what they do. Then you need to become proficient on smaller targets at shorter distances before thinking of buying a high muzzle energy rifle. ■



Brand awareness

Shooting is a truly global sport, as demonstrated by the wide array of sponsors one F/TR team has been able to attract

F-Class shooting is a discipline that is growing year on year, as more and more target shooters discover the challenge of hitting a V-bull that measures only five inches wide at 1000 yards. And F/TR takes that one step further, limiting the allowed calibres to .308 or .223, and a weight limit of just 8.25kg for everything attached to the rifle at any point during the shoot. With such limitations, it's no wonder that the discipline attracts some of the most innovative shooters in the country, each trying to gain that extra 1 per cent in everything they are legally allowed to do.

Bullet ballistics are pushed to (reasonable) limits, barrels and actions are finely fluted to reduce weight, carbon fibre bipods are a common sight on the firing point. But all this fine-tuning can start with a standard factory rifle, shot off a bipod and using factory

ammunition. Just look at the variety of equipment on display in the Phoenix and Imperial at Bisley this year to see that F-Class is a discipline that welcomes newcomers with open arms.

For newcomers, the North London Rifle Club (NLRC) holds regular friendly introductions to the discipline, and at the more competitive end, the GB F-Class Association (GBFCA) organises a weekend course each year that takes attendees to the point where national league shooting would be an easy next step to take. But in a sport that is often seen as a very individual occupation, one development in F-Class shooting that is positively blossoming is the emergence of organised team shooting, and it seems to be taking some lessons from Formula 1 motor racing and Tour de France cycling in reaching out to commercial sponsors to collaborate and cooperate with their efforts.

One team leading the way in its approach to developing commercial partners has been Team MXM (Mark Downing, Mark Webb, Justin Gough, Guy Larcombe and Peter Dommert), who picked up a bronze medal in the European F-Class Championships 2017, and stepped up one place higher to become silver medallists at the 2018 Euros that took place at Bisley on Sticklepath from 3-9 September 2018. Just one look at their team shirts and rifles will show that whatever it is that F-Class shooting has to offer, then Sierra USA (bullets), Vihtavuori (powder), HPS (shooting supplies and gunsmithing), Murom (primers) and even a beer company all want a part of it.

MXM Team Captain, Peter Dommert, described his approach to creating commercial partnerships that can really work for everyone. "I come from a blue-chip marketing background myself, and only took up F-Class shooting after attending the



GBFCA course three years ago. I saw many parallels with other professional sports in terms of the highly meticulous approach, the dedication and also the collaborative team spirit, within and across teams.

"We have all found that team shooting has been a great way of improving our own individual skills, and adds a really welcome level of mutual support, communication and friendly competitiveness to our overall shooting development. In any sport, one single team cannot compete without a highly competitive league existing around it, and we are very pleased to be competing alongside great friends and adversaries, like the 101 Rifle Club (based near Liverpool), the V-Hunters and the NLRC. But there is always room for more teams, and it just takes four like-minded folk to commit to getting involved and going for it."

But with commercial sponsorship comes great responsibility. When a commercial brand is involved, the team are also representing them as ambassadors for their brand, on and off the range. This extends to their professionalism, commitment and personal behaviour. Just like any company, the team needs codes of conduct, performance goals, and agreement on what they need to provide the sponsor for their own internal and public publicity.

Team MXM did not limit themselves to UK companies, but went global to approach the type of companies that they thought would be a good fit for their ambitions. Patrick Daly, CEO of Sierra USA, explained why they came on board: "Sierra Bullets is a US manufacturer, but we operate in a global marketplace, so we are keen to work with top-level competitors around the world to develop our successful bullet ranges. We were pleased to add Team MXM to the list of shooters using our products."

As a UK distributor for Sierra Bullets, HPS were able to facilitate the sometimes difficult logistics for

importing the team's bullets from the USA. Matthew Wade, Director of HPS, described their decision process from a commercial viewpoint: "F-Class is a growing market, and Team MXM have a clear desire to succeed in their aims for domination. So when we were asked if we would be interested in supporting the team, it didn't take long to decide." When it comes to successful partnerships, they do need to be mutually advantageous to be worthwhile in the long run. They should not compromise a team's performance, but when carefully planned they should focus the team's professional approach to their sport and ultimately improve results.

Summing up, Peter offered his advice to anyone interested in F-Class and team shooting:

"Just come along and have a chat. We're a very friendly bunch who will happily offer support on how to start shooting F-Class, how to put a team together, and how to approach potential sponsors. Don't be intimidated by colourful shirts and logos – we want more teams to compete against!" ■

In a sport that is often seen as a very individual occupation, one development that is positively blossoming is the emergence of organised team shooting



All branded up and ready to shoot!

Meet the reps

Representatives from the NRA's constituent disciplines introduce themselves

300m

Ian Shirra-Gibb

300m@nra.org.uk



This is the only NRA discipline governed by the International Sport Shooting Federation (ISSF) Rules. It is fired at only one distance, but the rifle may be 'Standard' or 'Free' and in any calibre up to 8mm. Matches may be Prone only, or Prone, Standing and Kneeling (PSK).

Firing is from a covered firing point and a metric target with smaller scoring rings than TR is used. Many more shots are fired than in most other disciplines, usually 60 shots Prone or 3 x 40 PSK (40 shots from each position). Unlike TR and MR, ladies fire fewer shots, only firing 3 x 20 in the PSK event.

As the figure implies this rifle discipline shoots at the fixed distance of 300 metres or about 329 yards.

The rules allow any calibre of rifle up to 8mm, so any target rifle shooter can still use their 308 / 7.62 Rifles.

With long competition times, new and existing small calibers are now being used to help reduce fatigue and recoil levels. Currently a range of 6mm ammo is popular mainly in 6mm BR, and 6mm XC etc, alongside 6.5x55,

7.5x55, 6mm x 47, and the most popular rifles being Swiss, by either Bleiker or Grunig.

Development by Scandinavian manufactures have provided the shooter with a round as accurate and often better than, most .30 cal ammo.

Shooters may reload for both practice and competition, and many do to keep costs down, also giving a better match of ammo/rifle combination.

The metric target which has not changed almost since it was devised, is demanding in that it has a bull of just over a 1 MOA, so the top TR shooters find this a superb practice to keep their V bull count high. International competitions are held, including a European circuit and European and World championships for both men and women in Prone and Positional events.

Although there have been UK shooters noted to have shot 300 metre in overseas competition back into the late 1800s, not much went on in the UK other than the 300 metre event in the 1948 Olympics at Bisley, which was a Positional event, not just Prone.

Following the 1970 World Championships (where we were loaned rifles) and offered a chance to compete, a small group of shooters started to get the discipline up and running again. A firing point was constructed at 300m

on Long Siberia and a competition was held during the main NRA meeting.

At that time only 300 yards was available on the main Century Range, but now being members of the Nordic Union, we had to host a Nordic Games at Bisley in 1981 so a covered firing point was hurriedly constructed on butt 10 to allow competition, we hosted another games in 1992, but still with pit marking. The NRA was presented with a cup for annual competition, and the event is normally held during May.

It was decided to form a club to run the range and competitions so the GB 300M RC was formed.

As the shooting is similar and follows the same rules of small-bore at 50 metre, pit marking changed normal shooting waiting for targets to be marked etc, so following a legacy from one shooter, electronic targets were purchased and installed. But we were not the first as the London Swiss Club had already two targets for their required military reserve practice. Unfortunately the London Swiss Club does not shoot any more. Bisley now boasts the only 300 metre electronic ISSF range in the country, still on butt 10, where a shooter in practice or competition can shoot in the dry, at their own speed, and get a printed result at the end. For more information, go to the club website.

Cadet Forces

Robert Bruce

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CCRS promotes and organises target shooting across the four cadet youth movements (Combined Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps) to promote character development in line with the movements' overall intent. We operate at the higher performance levels and organise national finals in the disciplines of clay, .22, 5.56mm and 7.62mm. Our work is facilitated through a formal agreement with the Ministry of Defence. CCRS also organises three international teams: the UK Cadet Rifle Team (U17), the British Cadet Rifle Team (U18 – The Athelings) and the GB U19 team (in which we work in partnership with the NRA). We are based in Derby Lodge on Bisley Common.

Classics and Historics

Neil Macfarlane

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I've been a shooter for more than 40 years, starting with air rifles as a teenager. When I moved on to rimfires, centrefires and handguns, I became interested in their technical aspects and history. Time in the Army also offered the opportunity to experience a wide range of firearms.

These days, when I'm not out shooting, I spend my time helping organise and run related events. Historic and Classic Arms is a fascinating discipline, combining the usual practical challenges with a unique technical element tracing the development and evolution of small arms. The range of firearms used, combined with the breadth of competitions, means there really is something for everyone.



F Class

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Match Rifle

Alex Cargill Thompson

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Civilian Service Rifle & Practical Rifle

Nick St Aubyn

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I was born in Surrey, not far from Bisley, but didn't actually get to shoot there until I was about 20. I'd done the usual progression of air rifle in the

back garden at 12 (a Webley Falcon that I still own), through shotguns and clay pigeon shooting, then applied for my FAC while studying Electronics in Portsmouth.

My first rifle was an Enfield No4, closely followed by a ratty 1943 1911A1 pistol. It was with that pistol that I had my first Bisley experience on Winans range. I shot practical pistol for a number of years at club level with the South Hants R&P Club in Portsmouth – the trusty 1911 later giving way to a 10mm hybrid ported Glock!

When the pistol ban came around I went off and sulked for a while until I saw an article in a shooting magazine about straight pull AR-15 and Highpower competitions. Interest reignited, I got one and joined the Highpower Rifle Association. The HRA shoot the American Highpower matches, which are usually shot out to 600 yards with an iron-sighted AR-15. The club also shot the occasional service rifle match. It was these matches, opened up to non-HRA members, that became the first NRA CSR matches. The NRA CSR league was then started from those.

Along the way I've been fortunate enough to shoot in the International CSR team at Bisley, and to shoot in the US with the Arizona National Guard in their annual competitions. More recently, the NRA have started running the Historic CSR matches, which I'm also enjoy shooting with my No. 4.

For many years I did the stats for the CSR league and the CSR element of the Imperial, so stepping up to be the CSR rep is a welcome privilege.

Gallery Rifle & Pistol

Ted George

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Why did I take this role? It feels like everyone else took a step back, leaving me with the job. Neil Francis did a wonderful job

as GR rep but took on a lot of

tasks to help the sport that I either have to learn to do, find someone to do or modify. Which option has yet to be decided.

I took up shooting pistol/revolver in UIT, 1500, and police pistol competitions in this country and abroad up to 1997. Then political correctness took over and we changed the names of the competitions. Pistol shooters became potential criminals in the media's and some politicians' eyes, though a more law-abiding group of people would have been hard to find.

I continued shooting proper guns abroad as part of a GB team, and gallery rifle and LBR in this country. Lying on the ground in a puddle with rain running down my neck shooting prone rifle was never a high point for me, though when walking in Snowdon or similar places, the rain has strangely never bothered me.

What would I like to see happen for the benefit of the sport and all ultimately all shooters? Better instruction for newcomers available at clubs round the country, quality training for those wanting to improve, the general population made more aware of the sport and the controls applied it so we are no longer seen as a threat. The national bodies of the sport start working towards a campaign so some centrefire pistols are allowed so people can practise in this country and maybe take part international competition. Are they possible?

If you look up and see a pig fly past then I suppose we have been successful in some way.

Target Rifle

Charles Dickenson

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I started shooting with small-bore rifles in the Sea Cadets. I began to take it seriously when I got to university, where I first encountered fullbore rifles and

became hooked, both on shooting TR and on wind coaching. After graduating, I continued shooting with the newly formed Royal Navy Target Rifle Club, and was a regular member of Royal Navy and Combined Services teams.

Following early individual successes I was selected for my first GB overseas tour, which took me to Canada with the 1982 GB Palma team. Shooting took a lower profile behind a growing family and work, but once my son and daughter had left home, my shooting and coaching had a resurgence, which resulted in a number of selections for NRA, England and GB teams. These included captaining the 2011 NRA

team to the Channel Islands, and being Vice-Captain of the 2016 GB Team to Canada and the USA. My tally of Queen's Final appearances is now 11, and I have a respectable number of county championships to my name, with Dorset and, since 1993, Berkshire.

I also shoot small-bore at club and county level (Berkshire county indoor champion in 2014), and recently resumed Match Rifle after a 40-year gap, enjoying the challenge of reading the wind at ranges up to 1200 yards. Over the years I also shot service rifle, pistol and submachine gun, and had an occasional go at sporting rifle, gallery rifle, muzzle loaders and shotgun.

My current priority is to re-establish regular TR training courses to help improve the standards of TR shooting, especially away from Bisley. To this end, coaches are having their qualifications revalidated (at no cost), and courses to qualify new coaches will start shortly. All revalidated and new coaches are given access to the Bisley Clubs/NRA skills training material, so they can deliver courses and training in their regions.

Sporting Rifle

Steve Wallis

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I have been a shooter now for over 40 years and, like many, for me it all started in the garden with an old air rifle before progressing to something more serious.

For me that was my introduction to shotgun shooting and soon after that the world of cartridge rifles, which was mainly shooting No. 8 and then No. 4 rifles as a cadet. My interests have always been weighted towards sports shooting in one form or another and I have been shooting sporting rifles since the early 1980s.

I did not come to civilian target shooting until the late 1990s when I joined the British Sporting Rifle Club, primarily to enable me to practice my positional shooting – but I was soon drawn to the thrill of competition. It was not long before my trusty old Parker Hale stalking rifle was joined by a few more specialised bits of kit and as well as static competition I got hooked on moving target shooting as well. I sat on the Committee of the British Sporting Rifle Club for 11 years and during that time helped train new members and introduce some new competitions and events to the club, including fostering links with like-minded shooters and clubs overseas.

As your newly elected discipline representative, I am keen to find out what the Sporting Rifle members of the NRA want from the Association. My intention is to introduce more events to the shooting calendar that cater for those of us who combine sporting shooting with target shooting and while I have some ideas I am developing on that front, it would be great to hear what others think. If you have any suggestions for events that can be held at Bisley, or elsewhere in the country, please drop me a brief note by e-mail. Equally, if you are able to offer any time to help organise or run any events we already have, such as the Sporting Rifle Statics competition at the Phoenix Meeting, or which get off the ground in the future, please get in touch.

“In the late 1990s I joined the British Sporting Rifle Club, primarily to enable me to practice my positional shooting – but I was soon drawn to the thrill of competition”

Muzzle Loading

Paul Wolpe

muzzle@nra.org.uk



I first shot at Bisley in about 1969 with the cadets and then in the early 1970s while at Sandhurst. I came out of the Army and went to medical

school in Birmingham, not shooting again until near the end of my studies. My father had given me a musket for Christmas when I was 12 and I had always meant to take up muzzle loading, so I joined the MLAGB in about 1980.

Family (twin daughters) and work (eight sessions as a full-time GP and for 22 years also three sessions as hospital practitioner) both got in the way, but over the last 17 years I have been shooting more and more. I qualified for the international team in 2004 and have been a steady team member since, now shooting flintlock musket, matchlock musket, military rifle and target rifle in the GB teams.

If I shoot well with a .22 it is gratifying, but if I manage to shoot well with an original muzzle-loading firearm, the satisfaction is on a different level. I have had a lot of help in the past and I am happy to try and communicate my enthusiasm and what knowledge I have picked up.

Target Shotgun

James Harris

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I have been shooting since I was eight years old when my mother taught me to shoot. I have shot a variety of disciplines at competitive level including TR, CSR & GR&P, but it is Target Shotgun, both slug and practical, that holds my heart.

During my tenure as Target Shotgun discipline rep, the discipline has grown tremendously. I launched three leagues for Practical shooting under the NRA banner and am active at national level to promote the sports' grass roots. Perhaps my biggest accomplishment is the NRA National Championship for Target Shotgun, the Cottesloe Heath Challenge. This competition is now the largest event for Practical Shotgun in the country in a unique setting available only to the NRA and boasting in excess of 160 competitors.



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Visit to GGG Factory

GGG are the NRA's major ammunition supplier and we accepted their kind invitation to visit their factory in Lithuania in October 2018. Report by Andrew Mercer

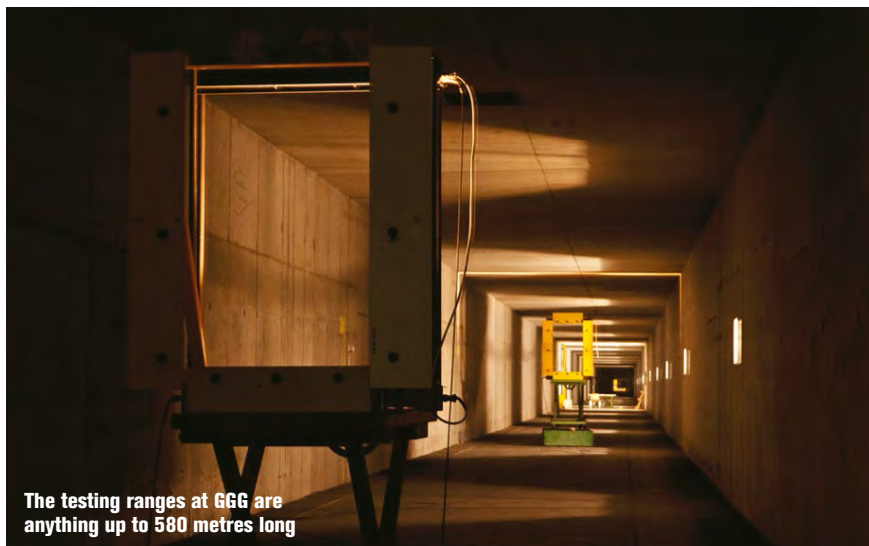
I was accompanied by John Webster, NRA Chairman, John Bloomfield (member of General Council and expert in ballistic and firearm matters), and Greg Felton, Director of Law Enforcement International (GGG's UK agent). The flight was uneventful and we landed to typically Baltic autumn weather: steady rain and a bracing wind. A short drive took us to the impressive factory and we were welcomed by Gytis Sirgedas and Aleksandras Nikonovas who explained the history of ammunition production in Lithuania.

The factory is owned by the Lithuanian government and opened in 2002, initially to produce ammunition for the Lithuanian armed forces. The production line was established first for NATO 5.56 ammunition and subsequently developed for the manufacture of 7.62 ammunition as well. As their expertise and experience increased, the factory developed a growing reputation for competitively priced quality ammunition and now exports to a large number of countries across the

globe. Approximately 90% of the annual production is exported abroad.

The NRA's first experience of GGG ammunition was with their NATO specification 7.62mm 147gr FMJ: this has proved consistently popular with a wide variety of shooters. In 2014, after careful trials, we placed an order for the Imperial issued ammunition loaded with 155gr Sierra MatchKing bullets for the 2015 season. The quality and performance of the ammunition drew considerable praise, and GGG have provided the Imperial issued ammunition for every subsequent year. The 2018 Meeting's ammunition yielded some concerns regarding suspected unexplained shots and, for some competitors, larger groups than expected, so the factory visit was one part of our efforts to ensure that the quality and performance of the issued ammunition will befit the 150th anniversary Meeting in 2019.

It was my first visit to an ammunition factory. My overriding impression throughout was of a clean, efficient operation run by professionals who understood the technicalities and processes that underpin the production of quality ammunition. We started with sheet brass. This was punched to form a 'cup' that would progressively be worked



The testing ranges at GGG are anything up to 580 metres long

to form the case. We were then shown the annealing ovens which required some patient explanations before I understood the process. Cold working the brass causes it to harden. Subsequent heating (annealing) softens the brass and alters its microstructure thereby allowing subsequent work on the case without the risk of splitting. The three stage annealing oven was a beast of a machine that took some three days to bring up to working temperature. A sequence of other highly specialised machines progressively worked the brass into the fully-formed cases. The finished cases had the noticeable two-tone coloured brass that resulted from the final session of annealing the top half of the case. In the past my cheerful ignorance of such matters led me to assume that ammunition displaying this variance in brass colour suggested some deficiency in the manufacturing process. I was fascinated to learn that it is not uncommon for cases to be polished to ensure uniformity of brass colour deemed attractive to the target shooting community. Lesson to self – shiny brass has no influence on performance, except perhaps between the ears!

We saw the bullet production process used to manufacture the NATO 7.62mm 147gr bullet. This time the process started with gilding metal sheets that are punched, cupped and then progressively worked to form the finished bullets. I was astonished to find extra virgin olive oil playing a key role in lubricating the lead wire as it passes into the machine which cuts the core of the bullets to the correct length.

Next up was the assembly area. Seating of the primers at high speed appeared to present a particular challenge, but was delivered with calm efficiency. Filling the cases with the correct volume of propellant and seating the bullets follows priming in yet another specialised machine after which the completed cartridge is measured and weighed. Finally each and every round was subject to the scrutiny of teams of humans using their eyes and experience to maintain the quality assurance prior to packing. I was particularly taken with this part of the process. GGG are adamant that the human eye, carefully monitoring rolling rounds, with good lighting and

mirrors, still provides the best final check for dents and other abnormalities difficult or impossible to pick up by automated methods of quality control.

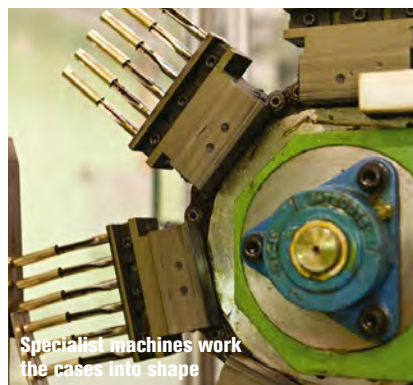
Having seen the production from raw materials to finished boxed rounds we then visited the impressive laboratories. A wide array of equipment monitors the quality of both raw materials and finished goods. I was intrigued to find a special set up that tested the force required to ignite a primer.

Our tour finished with a visit to their indoor ranges, the longest stretching

580 metres and wide enough for five or six people to walk abreast. These provide GGG with perfect facilities to test the performance of their ammunition.

I have often received well-meaning advice that the NRA should produce its own ammunition. The visit to GGG's factory firmly confirms my opinion that the production of quality ammunition in bulk should be delegated to the professionals who have the necessary equipment, facilities, testing regimes and experienced staff. ■

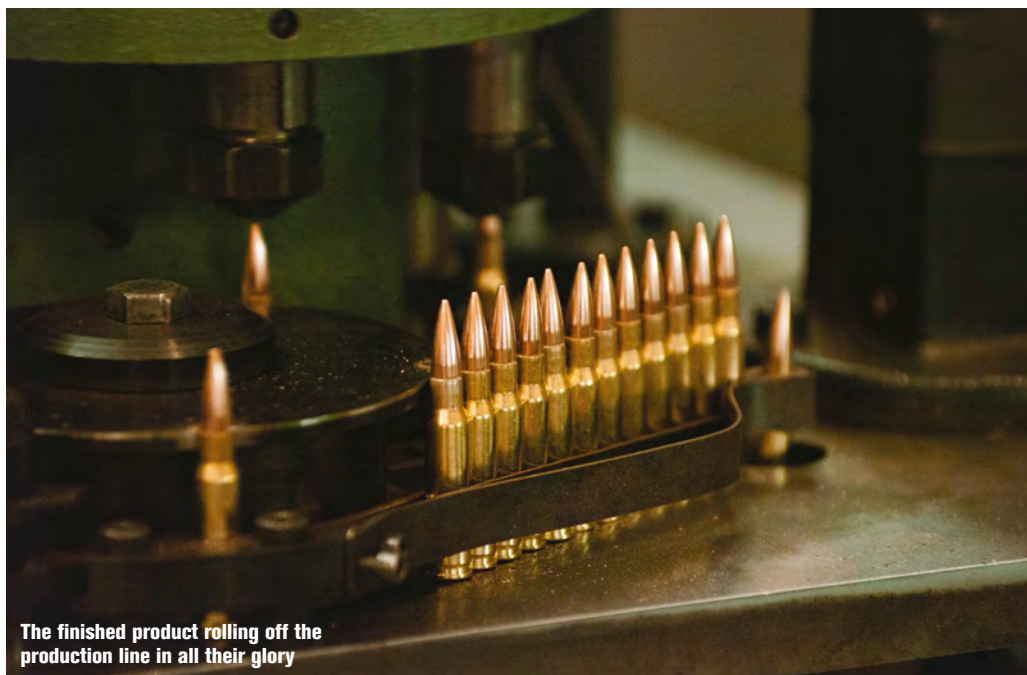
GGG are adamant that the human eye still provides the best final check for dents and other abnormalities



Specialist machines work the cases into shape



Extensive testing regime of the finished ammunition and components



The finished product rolling off the production line in all their glory

Regional developments

As we head into winter, regional ranges manager Nic Couldrey gives an update on everything that's going on up and down the country



The civilian use of ranges like Altcar is a hugely pleasing sight

We estimate based on membership data that over 300 NRA affiliated clubs are also independent range operators. The majority of these club ranges are indoor facilities, but there is a small number of clubs fortunate enough to have an outdoor range. Club ranges are a vital enabler for the continued development and success of target shooting. This is particularly true for shooters in the regions away from Bisley who rely on local facilities for regular access to shooting.

The safe operation and maintenance of a club range is a major undertaking, typically performed by club volunteers. This important work is an ongoing task, driven by range utilisation and the type of shooting practices. Looking after the range competes for time with the rigorous requirement to maintain club membership and attendance records to follow Home Office guidelines, train new members, and coach existing members.

My recent experience working with clubs suggests significant capital projects like upgrades to the bullet catcher or stop butt, and replacement of air extraction systems require long term financial

planning tied into membership fee revenues and range fees. Club Treasurers also need to balance the pressure from members to keep range fees low with the need to build up a cash reserve to pay for periodic big ticket expenses.

The new Range Managers Guide & Code of Practice for Safe Use of NRA and Affiliated Clubs' Ranges has been produced to provide guidance to operators of existing outdoor and indoor ranges, and follows our experience of operating ranges at Bisley, and the ballistic safety principles contained in JSP 403. We hope that the guide will help clubs maintain and operate safe ranges. I'd welcome feedback on the initial issue. Let me take this opportunity to thank Maj (Retd) F S Compton MBE who was instrumental in producing the document. Copies are free for NRA affiliated organisations; please refer to the NRA website here for more details: <https://nra.org.uk/range-managers-guide-and-code-of-practice-for-safe-use>.

I strongly encourage all clubs that operate a range to read the document. My recent experience suggests that particular attention be paid to defence structures,

and especially attrition to the bullet catcher. This must be regularly inspected because damage is not always obvious. I recently visited a range where rounds had penetrated the steel back plate, then passed through a concrete block wall and exterior brickwork. A robust inspection and maintenance regime would have prevented the problem.

Indoor ranges rely on adequate ventilation and air extraction systems to mitigate the risks from firearm emissions. These systems require regular monitoring and cleaning by competent contractors. More broadly, clubs that operate an indoor range must ensure that the range is kept clean. Dust and un-burnt propellant must be removed from the range to reduce the risk of fire or explosion. My own club recently used a specialist contractor to do a thorough deep clean of the indoor range, so I'd be happy to share the details with interested clubs.

Moving on, I attended the Defence Infrastructure Organisation Ranges & Training Areas Safety Conference at MoD Warminster last month. The conference provides a forum for those responsible for range safety on the MoD training estate to share updates and best practice with stakeholders. There are three significant changes coming for users of military ranges:

a) The Range Action and Safety Plan (or RASP*) process and documentation will be enhanced and will replace the existing Range Aid Memoir (or RAM) process. More details to follow in November (*an example RASP is available in the NRA RCO manual).

b) New 4x4 training safety vehicles in red and white livery will be implemented across the UK estate. These vehicles will provide greater visibility and mobility for training area safety staff.

c) Industry partner/Landmarc range operative staff will be supported by MoD Police as appropriate to deal with unauthorised incursions.

Access to military ranges is important for more than 120 of our affiliated clubs, particularly those that want to shoot at distances greater than 300 yards. On that point, it's great to see that RFCA Altcar will host the All Distance Challenge and Laurels Rutland Challenge on 10 and 11 November. This event will provide a rare opportunity for competitors to shoot at distances up to 1000 yards on the splendid Altcar complex. Please see the NRA competitions calendar for more details, or contact the 101 Rifle Club.

Staying with MoD ranges, an update from East Holme Range, Dorset. Members in Dorset will know that East Holme, a 400 yard gallery range near Swanage, has been closed for some years. We have been in discussion with MoD over the last three years about plans for the range. I am pleased to advise that MoD has decided to repair the range and bring it back into compliance with current MoD design and construction policy. The range will then be available for military training and for use by NRA affiliated clubs. No timescale has been set, but we expect the range to be in service in 2019. Needless to say this is good news for our affiliated clubs in the south-west, so look out for more news to follow.

In related news, we're in discussions with the landowner at East Holme to develop an adjacent site and build a new No Danger Range. We have done a preliminary



Returning we hope in 2019:
the East Holme 400-yard range

site assessment with the landowner and obtained advice from our SME, Frank Compton. Our initial assessment is encouraging, so watch this space.

In Wales, the project to re-open the 100 yard NDA range at Llanbradach continues. The NRA and Welsh Target Shooting Federation provided written support for the application to regularise the status of the range through adoption to Caerphilly County Borough Council. We hope to have the result of the application in November.

Finally, an update from the South Yorkshire Shooting Show in Doncaster. I was joined by the Chief Executive, Head of Membership, Head of Shooting and Training, and members of the team for the show at the end of September. The NRA has not attended a regional shooting show for some time, so this was

something of an experiment/learning experience. The weather was kind and we had an opportunity to meet a variety of attendees, including individual shooters, members of affiliated clubs and the public. The show provided an opportunity for the NRA to be present at a regional event and to promote shooting through our Yorkshire based clubs. Our presence at the show has been the catalyst for a useful discussion about the relationship between the NRA and our network of 800+ affiliated regional clubs.

My thanks to Baildon Rifle and Pistol Club for encouraging the NRA to join the show and everyone that came to the stand. The experience will certainly inform any our decision about attending a regional show in future.

See you on the ranges! ■



The South Yorkshire Shooting Show at
Doncaster Racecourse was an eye-opener

Shanklin R&PC

We pay a visit to a club that's got a 115-year history but has never been more active than it is today

Shanklin Rifle and Pistol Club recently held the ninth round of the NRA Handgun League. Almost all of the NRA members who made the trip across the Solent in late September had never heard of the club – and some hadn't even heard of the island! Having landed on 'the Rock', they were surprised to find a club that boasted impressive facilities as well as a history dating back for over 100 years.

The origins of the club date back to shortly after the Boer Wars, when General Lord Roberts of Kandahar encouraged the establishment of miniature rifle ranges to support the principle of accuracy and speed amongst those volunteering for military service. The then MP for the Isle of Wight, Major (later General) Jack Seely, DSO, 1st Baron Mottistone and Minister of Defence, enthusiastically supported Lord Robert's initiative by overseeing the opening of numerous outdoor ranges across the island, including one at Shanklin.

A detachment of the Brading Company of the Rifle Volunteers are recorded as shooting in 'The Armoury' at Shanklin. It is not known where exactly this building was, but they are recorded in the club's minute book on

22 March 1902 as the Miniature Rifle Club. The volunteers had by then built the Sibden Range at Shanklin, through the generosity of the Lady of the Manor, Margaret White-Popham and on 23 April 1903, at a Special General Meeting to reorganise the Miniature Rifle Club, it was proposed that a civilian club be formed and that the name be the Shanklin Miniature Rifle Club.

Sibden Range was officially opened in June 1903 and it continued to be in use until the Shanklin Estate sold the land, including Sibden Hill where the original range was situated, for development. In 1913, again through the generosity of Mrs White-Popham, the Club built its indoor range on land between the School and Batts Recreation ground and there they stayed until 1979 when, by arrangement with the Isle of Wight County Council who wanted to rebuild the School, they built a new indoor range a short distance away on Sibden Road. Appropriately, the new facility was opened by a descendant of Baron Mottistone, Sir John Nicholson, and remains the Club's permanent HQ.

The indoor range has changed little since 1979 and includes a 25 metre small-bore

range with five firing points, a separate six-yard airgun range, an armoury and a modest club room. It is in use most nights of the week for air gun disciplines, small-bore sporting target rifle and prone target shooting. It is also used by the Scouting Association and other island shooting clubs.

In addition to its indoor facilities, in 1966 Shanklin Rifle and Pistol Club, as it had then become known, moved its outdoor range to Downend chalk pit where it remains and recently hosted round nine of the NRA Handgun League. During the last 50 years it has undergone several makeovers, generally to provide improved facilities and in order to host events such as the Island Games, where we have had target rifle and pistol shooters from all over the world.

The Downend range comprises a 10 person firing point at 25 metres and a separate 12 person firing point for 50 and 100 metres. Here the club shoots fullbore, small-bore and black powder, as well as target shotgun and practical disciplines. In 2017 a considerable amount of work was undertaken to upgrade the butts with the provision of 'pop over cover' and re-profiling the chalk cliff to ensure it complies with all current NRA safety requirements.

The club is seeking to both grow its membership and modernise its facilities, so has undertaken to enlarge the indoor range as well as investing in the Downend outdoor facility. The club boasts several high-performance shooting athletes who regularly compete on the world stage, including the Commonwealth Games, and three members on the British Shooting talent pathway. By investing in its facilities, the club hopes to support all its members and to continue to attract new shooters in order to maintain grassroots level shooting on the Isle of Wight, as Shanklin Rifle and Pistol Club has done so for 115 years. ■

For more information contact:
secretary@shanklinrifleandpistolclub.org.uk



Shanklin R&PC members outside the original indoor range near Batts road, some time between the First and Second World Wars

Safe Shooting

David Camp explains why the Range Officer is key to the NRA Safe Shooting System

The NRA Safe Shooting System (SSS) has four components: Safe Shooter, Safe Equipment, Safe Practice and Safe Place.

Let's have a quick look at how the NRA supported the training of Range Officers (RO) and why I believe the RO is the key to safe shooting.

Until January 2017 the only Range Officer course the NRA ran was the Range Conducting Officers (RCO) course. This started life in 1997 as a one day event to train current civilian ROs the correct procedures to operate a Ministry of Defence (MoD) range. It gave the successful candidate an official national governing body qualification in the duties of an RCO on a MoD range.

The NRA RCO course soon became very popular for shooting clubs to train their own ROs, even if they were never going to shoot on MoD ranges – there was no other option. The course provided external training and validation of club ROs. Because of this the NRA RCO course grew into a full two days, covering more information to assist ROs run safe ranges back at their clubs. But the heart of the RCO course still remained focused on MoD requirements.

All current RCOs have safely been supporting their clubs and will continue to do so. Although the course was very successful and widely adopted, it was eventually decided that a new course solely designed to train ROs in the application of the whole of the NRA SSS at club level was needed. Enter the Range Safety Officer (RSO) course...

So what's all this new NRA Range Safety Officer business about then?

The new RSO course was introduced in January 2018. The clue to the role is in the title of the qualification. This new course was designed to better suit the needs of a club RO. The main aim of the RSO course is to train and assess students on their ability



to carry out the duties of an RO in a civilian shooting club. The course also covers the NRA SSS and its application at club level. Students are formally trained to take a professional vested interest in all parts of the NRA SSS (not just the conduct as an RCO), and hopefully the course enthuses students to develop and study the NRA system and ensure its practical application on return to their own club. This will benefit clubs to be more confident in their range management and self-certification process, ultimately ensuring the range, people and any shooting equipment meet the required standards of the club.

2019 RSO and RCO Course Structure

The two day RSO course will form the foundation for NRA RO training. The RCO course retains its primary purpose to train and qualify ROs to use MoD ranges. From 2019 it will be a one day bolt on to the RSO course and attendees must have first successfully completed the RSO course. For clubs that use MoD ranges, the courses can be combined into a three day event, or spread over separate weekends.

Since the introduction of the RSO course we have certified 85 new RSOs at Bisley and 78 in the regions. We actively encourage regional courses and are ready to deliver both the RSO and RCO courses to your club.

Why is the Range Officer the key?

A well trained and diligent RO is the one person who must have focus and oversight of all checks and procedures leading up to the point a shooter is about to touch the trigger. They provide calm engagement ensuring that all four parts of the NRA SSS have been met to the required standard before any shooting is allowed to proceed.

Should any incident threaten safety they must have the integrity to stop it and, just as importantly, report it. Studying incidents can identify procedure failings and trends in equipment malfunctions. This honest transparency in incident management and its findings will make the sport of target shooting safer for all.

For more information about training courses for your club please contact: training@nra.org. uk or call 01483 797777 ext 149. ■

Seasonal shooting

We've got your Christmas wish list sorted – just leave this spread open for your loved ones to 'accidentally' find...

VORTEX VIPER HD SPOTTING SCOPE

A new addition to Vortex's extensive range in 2018, this continues the Viper HD line's tendency to offer high-end optics at a mid-range price. Pictured in 20-60x magnification, it's well equipped to deal with distant targets, and do so with impressive clarity, resolution and color fidelity. The smooth, fluid, and sleek helical-style focus dials in your image for sharp viewing, and it keeps the spotter's profile slim too – always handy for lugging to and from the range.

Price: Around £1,100

01462 743223 countrysportswholesale.co.uk



HW30S JUNIOR AIR RIFLE

Get someone new into shooting with this light and well-balanced air rifle suitable for shooters of any stature. The HW30 Junior Air Rifle features automatic safety, Rekord match-type trigger, and micrometer sight adjustable for windage and elevation with four different notches. The beech stock sports a long and handy forearm and cheekpiece on both sides, is ambidextrous and has a rubber buttplate. It's an ideal rifle for a youngster's first shots.

Price: Beech £237, Synthetic £229

01482 342756 hullcartridge.co.uk



BROWNING EXTRA PROTECTION

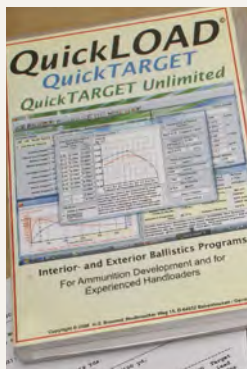
It might not be a glamorous subject but hearing protection is an essential, both on and around the firing point. And ear defenders keep on getting more advanced – these electronic hearing protectors from Browning are an excellent example. With an integrated microphone, they amplify ambient sound while acting quickly to cut out noises above a certain threshold – so while you're protected, you can still hear instructions on the range clearly. The set weighs just 270 grams, includes interchangeable shells and is available in a black-orange combo.

Price: £160

01235 514550 browning.eu



QUICKLOAD



If you are looking to take the precision of your loads to the next level, the Quickload software is for you. With over a thousand cases, powder and design functions pre-loaded, Quickload can calculate the ballistic performance of just about any load. Plus, if you are interested in developing your own custom rifle, the ballistics analysis functions in Quickload can be used to fulfil your needs – a number of highly successful rifles were conceived through this process.

Price: £125

JMS Arms 01444 400126 quickload.co.uk



HSF DEFIANCE CASE

Give your rifle a new form of transport to and from the range. Made from a durable injection moulded plastic and high density interlocking foam, the Defiance case will always do the job it needs to and keep your firearm safe and protected at all times. Security is provided by steel hinge pins and two or four sliding catches, both of which ensure the gun inside remains secure whilst in transit. Models are available to hold one or two rifles.

Price: Single £24.99, double £36.99

01392 354854 sportsmanguncentre.co.uk

LONGTHORNE CERTIFICATE HOLDER

Longthorne might be known as a British shotgun maker but their certificate holders will certainly work for your firearms certificate too, and look the part while they're at it. English-made from fine leather, the holder is available in two designs: a wallet with a push fastener, or a folder. Both styles are available in embossed burgundy and come in a Longthorne gift box.

Prices: Wallet £45 + £5 p&p, folder £40 + £5 p&p

01772 811215 longthorneguns.com

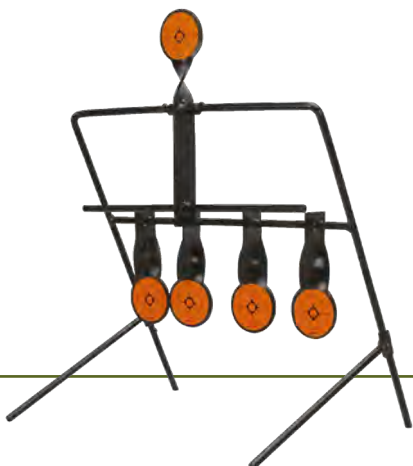


RESETTING TARGETS

Try a different kind of target shooting. These portable targets from Caldwell create an interactive shooting experience that make plinking even more fun than it already was. Made of heavy-duty steel, these targets are built to last. All resetting targets come packaged in sturdy, partial clamshells punched with for hanging the product on peg hooks. Two models are available, one suitable for air rifle and one for rimfire shots.

Price: £39.00

01625 613177 edgarbrothers.com



HIP FLASK

Rigby makes more than rifles – it's also got a range of merchandise, such as this hip flask set. It includes a 6oz flask, two cups, bottle opener and folding penknife. Strictly for when you get off the range, it's a fine gift emblazoned with a legendary brand.

Price: £225

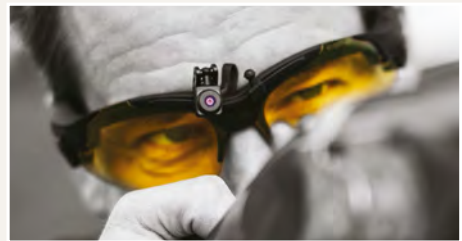
0207 720 0757
johnrigbyandco.com

AIMCAM PRO 2

The latest incarnation of the AimCam incorporates a high-quality video camera into a pair of shooting glasses so it can be aligned to look exactly where you do. The camera can record full HD at 30 frames per second and 720p at 60fps, which is perfect for slow-motion analysis. So you can watch your shots back and see in detail how your breathing affects the shot and any errors that creep in. It comes with three pairs of high impact, interchangeable lenses in yellow, clear and black.

Price: £199

aimcam.co.uk



SHOOTER'S RANGE BOX

The MTM Shooter's Range Box consists of an accessory case atop a maintenance stand base, with the two joining together into one complete carrying case. The top accessory case consists of lots of divided space to keep small accessories such as brushes, tools and solvents. The bottom maintenance stand section has two forks to suspend any firearm at the front and rear, allowing easy cleaning. The stand can also be used as a shooting rest. The tray of the maintenance section is deep enough to easily hold any items required, and the two plastic forks have a cut-out section for handling cleaning rods.

Price: £79.95

bisley-uk.com



Notices

Annual General Meeting

The 2019 Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 25 May at 6pm in the NRA Pavilion.

Notice of Captaincy

David Kent has been appointed as the GB F-Class Open Captain for the World Championships team to South Africa in 2021.

Range Booking Conference

On Thursday 1 November we held the External Booking Conference at Bisley, which for the first time was open to all. The primary purpose of this was to discuss main competitions for next year. Following on from this we discussed other updates and procedures on the ranges.

The conference notes are now online on the NRA website, and we are now taking bookings for 2019.

Should you have any questions please feel free to Jodie Gray-Piazza (Jodie.Gray-Piazza@nra.org.uk) or Kerri Littlefield (Kerri.Littlefield@nra.org.uk).



Low season offer

Starting from Sunday 28 October, throughout the low season winter period, NRA affiliated clubs are now eligible to book electronic targets by the hour.

£15.50 weekday

£18.75 weekend

Please book online or contact the range office regarding availability.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2017/2018

By elected Ordinary, Regional and Shooting Discipline Members of the General Council. From 1 September 2017 to 30 June 2018.

NAME	GENERAL COUNCIL	SHOOTING	MEMBERSHIP	
NO OF MEETINGS	3	3	2	
GK Alexander *	2	X	1	O
HRM Bailie *	3	X	X	R
GV Barnard	3	2	X	R
Mrs ID Bennett	1	X	X	R
JPS Bloomfield *	3	3	X	O
M Bradley	0	2	X	D
N Brasier	2	X	2	O
CM Brooks	2	X	X	O
A Bullen	2	3	X	D
DP Calvert	2	2	X	O
AMW Cargill-Thompson	3	3	X	D
MJJ Charlton	0	X	X	O
PR Coley	3	X	X	R
DC Crispin	3	1	X	O
CES Dickenson	2	2	X	D
HF Dunton	3	X	X	R
E George	0	1	X	D
JS Harris *	3	3	X	D
D Kent	0	1	X	D
JM Kynoch	2	X	X	O
GAE Larcombe	3	1	2	R
Miss SS Lohmann	3	X	2	O
M Maksimovic *	0	X	1	O
N Macfarlane	3	X	X	O
JF Miller	1	2	2	R
B Ritchie	2	X	X	R
RM Roberts	2	X	X	O
Mrs KD Robertson	0	X	X	O
PN Ryder	2	0	X	D
I Shirra-Gibb	3	0	X	D
I Thomson	2	X	X	O
G Trembath	0	X	X	R
PDC Turner	0	1	X	O
JD Warburton	3	2	X	R
MP Watkins	2	X	X	R
AP Wolpe	0	2	X	D

TABLE KEY: * = Members of the Council (Board of Trustees). The Council meet at least seven times a year 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

OBITUARIES

TONY COPPING 1935-2018



Anthony Reginald (Tony) Copping died peacefully at home on Sunday 12 August 2018 with his family. Tony was born on 8 February 1935 at Mill Hill, North London. He went to Highgate School (1947 – 1952) and it was there he took up fullbore shooting, visiting Bisley with his school on the 'Bisley Bullet'. He was also captain of shooting.

It was not until he married in 1964 and moved to Frimley, Surrey, that he thought of taking up fullbore shooting again, which he did in the early 70s, when he joined the NRA and the Surrey Club. He enjoyed many weekends over the following years shooting at Bisley and won a number of trophies, cups and spoons. He usually entered the Imperial Meeting in July, competing in the Grand, and in 1976 won a Bronze medal in the Alexandra and again in 1977 a Bronze medal in the Conan Doyle. He was also invited by Jeremy Thompson to shoot in his old school's Veterans Team which he greatly enjoyed.

When their daughter arrived she came too and when old enough, mother and daughter helped in the Butts, carried Tony's kit and their daughter usually collected Tony's ammunition during competitions.

In 1977 at the Surrey Club's Wappenshaw Prize giving, Tony was presented with the

Onslow Challenge Shield and souvenir Tankard. He came second and third in 1978 and 1979 respectively and won this shield twice more in 1983 and 1985.

In 1979 Tony won the Perkins Pixley Challenge Cup, having come second in 1977; he came second again in 1984 when he won the Michaelmas Challenge Trophy.

Tony always enjoyed shooting. To him it was an individualist's sport, as one was competing against the elements as well as fellow shooters. More experienced shooters were often happy to help or pass on tips to more novice shooters and in competitions one never knew whether one was sharing a target with a novice or an international shot. Although there was rivalry, the atmosphere was always friendly, unlike in some sports.

When Tony gave up fullbore shooting due to ill health he joined the Chobham & District Small-bore Rifle Club and again won a number of medals and spoons, but never really enjoyed it as much as fullbore.

Tony always went to watch the Final of the Queen's Prize on the Saturday, and when that was not possible, always followed the results in the paper, right up until his death. The last hymn at his Celebration of Life service was Thine Be the Glory.

ROGER WOOD 1935-2018



30 July 1935 – 24 September 2018
Chief Technician – Royal Air Force – S4250877
RAF Target Rifle Club
Great Britain F Class
Passed away peacefully at home.

Marksman's Calendar

PLAN ALL YOUR SHOTS FOR 2019 NOW. ALL EVENTS AT BISLEY UNLESS STATED

JANUARY

05, 2019 CSR Winter League 2018/19

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

FEBRUARY

03, 2019 CSR Winter League 2018/19

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

Rep for CSR csr@nra.org.uk

23-24, 2019 Target Shotgun Festival

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

Rep for Target Shotgun targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

MARCH

02, 2019 CSR Winter League 2018/19

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

Rep for CSR csr@nra.org.uk

30-31, 2019 Spring Action Weekend 2019

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

APRIL

06, 2019 Historic Service Rifle Match

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

07, 2019 CSR Winter League 2018/19

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

Rep for CSR csr@nra.org.uk

14, 2019 Small-bore Long Range Match

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

MAY

11-12, 2019 300m Championship

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

24-26, 2019 Phoenix 2019

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

27, 2019 Phoenix International Match

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





JUNE

14, 2019 Service Rifle Imperial

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

15, 2019 Inter-Counties

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

20, 2019 Military Adaptive Championship

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

24-25, 2019 Service Rifle Team Matches

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

28-30, 2019 Cottesloe Heath Challenge

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

JULY

3-7, 2019 CSR Imperial Meeting

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

11-13, ISCRM

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

11-17, 2019 Match Rifle Imperial

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

13-14, 2019 Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

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

14-17, 2019 Schools Meeting

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

15-20, McQueen

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

17-21, 2019 Gallery Rifle & Pistol Imperial

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

18-22, 2019 F Class Imperial Meeting

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

18-24, Cadet Imperial

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

18-27, 2019 Target Rifle Imperial

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

27, HM The Queen's Prize Final

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

AUGUST

31-01, GR&P National Open Championships

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

OCTOBER

05, 2019 Historic Service Rifle Match

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

05-06, 2019 Target Shotgun Festival

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

06, 2019 Civilian Service Rifle League

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

12-13, 2019 Ages Match

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

19-20, 2019 Trafalgar Meeting

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

26-27, 2019 Autumn Action Weekend

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

NOVEMBER

02, 2019 Civilian Service Rifle League

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

DECEMBER

01, 2019 Civilian Service Rifle League

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

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Results

TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL

Timed & Precision 1 SGSA-0735

1. R Sanders 298 15x
2. T Jemmett 298 13x
3. J Brock 295 8x

Timed & Precision 1 SGM-0735

1. R Sanders 296 15x
2. J Brock 254 2x
3. R Keeling 211 4x

Multi Target SGSA-1136

1. R Sanders 112 11x
2. S Denton 111 12x
3. T Jemmett 111 9x

Multi Target SGSM-1135

1. R Sanders 109 9x
2. R Keeling 95 4x

NRA Embassy Cup SGA-3336

1. P Matthews 118
2. T Jemmett 114
3. M Harper 113

NRA Embassy Cup SGM-3335

1. I Dunn 94
2. R Keeling 85

NRA Embassy Cup SGA-3336

1. P Matthews 118
2. T Jemmett 114
3. M Harper 113

NRA SHOTGUN LEAGUE ROUND 9

Open

1. B Ducker 100%
2. O Bloomfield 78.1%
3. P Matthews 68.26%

Standard

1. J Ellis 100%
2. J Harris 97.41%
3. D Livingstone 73.81%

Standard Manual

1. S Cox 100%
2. R Dare 95.79%
3. R Morgan 90.88%

AUTUMN ACTION WEEKEND

0101 25m Precision GRSB

1. C Hudson 285 6x
2. L Pearson 276 2x
3. W Pow 272 8x

0102 25m Precision GRCF

1. L Townsend 296 11x
2. D Rees 295 12x
3. P Pearson 294 14x

0104 25m Precision GRCF Classic

1. D Rees 298 18x
2. S Hale 296 12x

0121 25m Precision LBP

1. D Guest 282 8x
2. S Lane 279 5x

0122 25m Precision LBR

1. A McGee 278 10x
2. S Lane 278 6x

0301 50m Precision GRSB

1. C Hudson 293 7x
2. L Pearson 289 7x

0302 50m Precision GRCF

1. L Pearson 277 3x
2. D Rees 274 6x

0501 America Match GRSB

1. D Rees 275 5x
2. S Jordan 273 3x

0502 America Match GRCF

1. S Hale 272 6x
2. P Pearson 271 7x

0701 Timed & Precision 1 GRSB

1. x C West 300 19x x
2. x D Guest 300 14x x
3. x J Cormie 299 21x
- A. 1. D Morrow 299 15x
- A. 2. M Stewart 298 17x
- A. 3. J Lamb 296 17x
- B 1. A Hopkins 293 8x
- B 2. D Sprigg 292 8x
- B 3. J. Badman 291 11x

0702 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF

- X 1. G Bowden 300 29x
- X 2. K Kilvington 300 27x
- X 2. D Guest 300 27x
- A 1. F Hay 300 25x
- A 2. D Morrow 300 24x
- A 2. L Townsend 300 24x
- B 1. K Mayo 299 15x
- B 2. K Foster 299 13x

0703 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF Open

1. T Smart 300 13x
2. C Delahoy 298 19x

0704 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF Classic

1. K Kilvington 299 22x
2. L Kong 299 20x
3. A Podevin 299 16x

0721 Timed & Precision 1 LBP Open

- X 1. P Watts 300 23x
- X 2. N Veitch 298 17x
- A 1. M Pawlik 299 18x
- A 2. C Bartlett 297 8x
- A 3. T Mephram 296 6x
- B 1. S Jordan 290 7x

0722 Timed & Precision 1 LBR Open

- X 1. P Lacey 293 12x
- A 1. P Matthews 296 11x
- A 2. S Lane 293 9x
- B 1. W Pow 285 6x

0724 Timed & Precision 1 LBP Iron Sights

1. A Podevin 296 11x
2. P Cowling 293 6x

0725 Timed & Precision 1 LBR Iron Sights

1. P Watts 295 8x
2. A Podevin 295 4x

0735 Timed & Precision 1 SGM

1. J Chambers 299 23x
2. R Sanders 298 10x

0736 Timed & Precision 1 SGSA

1. J Chambers 299 15x
2. C McGill 298 9x
3. T Jemmett 294 15x

0901 Timed & Precision 2 GRSB

- X 1. P Wood 589 27x
- A 1. R Wheeler 579 19x
- B 1. R Goldsworthy 569 7x

0902 Timed & Precision 2 GRCF

- X 1. P Wood 597 36x
- X 2. C West 596 33x
- A 1. G Rastall 595 36x
- A 2. K Kilvington 592 29x
- B 1. C Bartlett 577 15x
- B 2. F Cooke 572 20x

1021 Timed & Precision 3 LBP

1. C West 248
2. P Lacey 238

**1022 Timed & Precision
3 LBR**

1. G Gordon 242
2. M Beard 233

1101 Multi-Target GRSB

- X 1. N Veitch 119 16x
- X 2. J Mossom 117 13x
- X 3. G Bowden 117 13x
- A 1. L Townsend 113 12x
- A 2. D Morrow 113 11x
- A 3. G Gough 113 9x
- B 1. D Fickling 115 14x
- B 2. N Porter 110 6x
- B 3. D Ward 105 5x

1102 Multi-Target GRCF

- X 1. G Rastall 120 13x
- X 2. G Bowden 119 17x
- X 3. D Guest 119 15x
- A 1. D Morrow 119 15x
- A 2. M Stewart 118 17x
- A 3. P Keegan 116 7x
- B 1. D Andrews 105 5x

**1121 Multi-Target LBP
Open**

- X 1. N Veitch 119 15x
- A 1. S Lane 118 12x
- A 2. S Lyon 111 9x
- B 1. G Gough 107 9x

**1122 Multi-Target LBR
Open**

- X 1. P Matthews 107 3x
- A 1. S Lane 106 11x
- B 1. A Barker 99 5x

**1124 Multi-Target LBP
Iron Sights**

1. A Podevin 112 8x
2. J Cormie 105 10x

**1125 Multi-Target LBR
Iron Sights**

1. P Watts 103 3x
2. P Cowling 102 6x

1301 Phoenix A GRSB

- X 1. G Rastall 196 27x
- X 2. N Veitch 195 26x
- A 1. K Kilvington 191 19x
- A 2. L Warwick 185 15x
- B 1. D Fickling 182 16x
- B 2. L Townsend 171 11x

1302 Phoenix A GRCF

- X 1. Greg Rastall 197 23X
- A 1. Keith Kilvington 198 23X
- A 2. Lee Townsend 189 16X
- B 1. Stuart Russell 185 22X

1321 Phoenix A LBP

- X 1. N Veitch 190 17x
- A 1. D Guest 188 14x
- B 1. T Smart 171 5x

1501 1500 GRSB

- X 1. C West 1482 107x
- X 2. J Robinson 1481 102x
- A 1. M Stewart 1474 85x
- B 1. K Kilvington 1474 88x
- C 1. C Bartlett 1457 67x
- C 2. D Fickling 1449 64x
- D 1. Alan Hopkins 1364 34x

1502 1500 GRCF

- X 1. J Robinson 1499 120x
- X 2. M Beard 1491 103x
- A 1. J Cormie 1495 104x
- B 1. M Stewart 1492 104x
- B 2. P Keegan 1489 97x
- C <only one entry>
- D 1. A Hopkins 1390 41x

1601 1020 GRSB

1. G Bowden 1019 81x
2. N Veitch 1018 83x
3. G Rastall 1018 83x

1602 1020 GRCF

1. G Rastall 1020 75x
2. G Bowden 1019 95x
3. P Keegan 1019 78x

1821 WA48 LBP

1. P Watts 479 35x
2. J Chambers 479 33x
3. P Lacey 478 34x

1822 WA48 LBR

1. P Lacey 479 27x
2. P Matthews 469 25x
3. J Mossom 468 13x

**1901 Advancing Target
GRSB**

- X 1. S Lyon 288 29x
- X 2. D Guest 279 31x
- A 1. S Russell 285 30x
- A 2. S Jordan 284 19x
- A 3. C Bartlett 279 21x
- B 1. L Townsend 277 18x
- B 2. J Brown 276 18x
- B 3. A Wragg 266 12x

**1902 Advancing Target
GRCF**

- X 1. S Lamb 179 27x
- X 2. D Guest 179 24x
- A 1. D Morrow 178 26x
- A 2. P Cooney 175 22x
- B 1. S Hale 173 18x
- B 2. K Foster 172 12x

**1921 Advancing Target
LBP Open**

- X 1. N Veitch 179 28x
- X 2. D Morrow 178 21x
- A 1. M Reynolds 177 24x
- A 2. C Bartlett 174 21x
- A 3. S Lyon 172 15x
- B 1. K Foster 164 13x
- B 2. J Dodd 162 12x

**1922 Advancing Target
LBR Open**

- X 1. P Cowling 173 16x
- A 1. S Lane 167 14x
- B 1. D Farrow 164 7x
- B 2. J Dodd 158 5x

**1925 Advancing Target
LBR Iron Sights**

1. P Cowling 172 17x
2. M Harris 162 7x

6501 McQueen GRSB

1. G Gough 50 9V 50 7V
2. C McGill 50 9V 50 6V
3. B McManus 50 8V 50 7V

6580 McQueen

1. S Doyle 50 6V 50 3V
2. D Nash 50 5V 50 6V
3. P Green 50 5V 50 1V



**CSR WINTER LEAGUE
AS OF 3 NOVEMBER****HISTORIC**

1. R England, 463.14
2. J Foreman, 308.23
3. M Standage, 284.23
4. H Davies, 275.02
5. R Higgs, 258.45

IRON

1. M Jah, 441.93
2. A Littler, 298.44
3. S Clarke, 276.67
4. J Elliott, 268.53

PRACTICAL

1. B McManus, 476.94
2. N St Aubyn, 471.84
3. J Frankland, 470.49
4. S Sheldon, 460.67
5. M Camp, 460.30

SERVICE

1. P Cottrell, 484.21
2. A Chapman, 478.22
3. N Greenaway, 474.63
4. D Mcilwaine, 472.43
5. C Vale, 468.66

**TRAFALGAR
WEEKEND****102 Muzzle Loading
Service Rifle 100yds**

1. A McBain, 90
2. P Wolpe, 89.1v
3. E Munro, 82

**103 Muzzle Loading Free
Rifle 200yds**

1. A Buse, 42.1v

**109 Any Muzzle Loading
Rifle Any Sights 600yds**

1. C Goed, 46.2v
2. A Buse, 42.2v

**110 Patched Ball Rifle
Open Sights 50yds**

1. J Cox, 83.2v

201 Vintage Any Rifle 200yds

1. L Kranen, 46.3v
2. K van Megen, 43.3v

3. D Gregory, 43.1v
4. A Buse, 42.3v
5. R Vogels, 42.1v
6. W Josuttis, 39.1v
7. B Schoenmakers, 37.2v
8. P Dunn, 31.1v

**202 Vintage Service Rifle
Single Shot Large 200yds**

1. K Henderson, 37.1v

**203 Vintage Service Rifle
Single Shot Medium 200yds**

1. P Wolpe, 44.2v
2. L Foreman, 44
3. L Brown, 42.2v

**204. Vintage Service Rifle
Single Shot Large 200yds**

1. L Welsh, 29

**205. Vintage Service Rifle
Single Shot Medium,
200yds**

1. P Wolpe, 34

**207 Vintage Repeating
Rifle 200yds**

1. D Chappell, 20

**207 Vintage Repeating
Rifle 200yds**

1. D Chappell, 20

208 Any Vintage Rifle 500yds

1. C Silver, 43.1v
2. L Kranen, 42.1v
3. J Brocklehurst, 41.2v

**209 Vintage Service Rifle
500yds**

1. M Zimmer, 38.1v
2. P van den Bergh, 35.1v

**402 Classic Rook & Rabbit
Rifle 50m**

1. S Garlick, 133.15v
2. N Doe, 130.11v

**403. Classic Single Shot
Service Rifle 200yds**

1. L O'Brien, 46.1v

405 Classic Any Rifle 200yds

1. J Meyers, 50.6v
2. P Bysshe, 47.4v
3. U Hausler, 46.3v

**406 Classic Service Rifle
200yds**

1. M Zimmer, 50.2v
2. T Jackson, 49.6v
3. M Waldvogt, 47.4v

407 Classic Rifle Any 500yds

1. U Hausler, 41.1v

**408 Classic Service Rifle
500yds**

1. M Waldvogt, 45.3v
2. D Gruner, 45.3v
3. M Zimmer, 45.1v

**412 Classic Service Sniper
Rifle Optical 200yds**

1. L Foreman, 50.8v
2. S Voak, 50.8v

**414 Classic Service Rifle
200yds**

1. R Newnham, 37.1v
2. A Russell, 37.1v

**452 Classic Service Rifle
900yds**

1. U Hausler, 62.3v

**461 100m Standing Rook
and Rabbit Rifle**

1. F Boulton, 148

**EUROPEAN LONG
RANGE TARGET RIFLE
CHAMPIONSHIPS****Senior Teams
Championship**

1. England, 4261.302v
2. Ireland, 4106.229v
3. Scotland, 3956.189v
4. Channel Islands, 3201.159v

**Junior Teams
Championship**

1. Ireland, 2729.159v
2. England*, 2829.191v
3. Scotland, 2620.134v
4. Germany, 2582.109v
5. Channel Islands, 2192.123v

Individual Championship

1. PM Patel, 71.6v
2. MJ Liversage, 70.6v
3. L Cheek, 51.1v
4. PD Sykes, 43.2v
5. J Cload, 37.1v

**England won the Senior Match and under the competition rules, are placed Runner-Up in the Junior Match*



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MESSAGE



Jim Douglas talks to NRA Marketing and Communications Manager Katia Malcaus Cooper

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I got into shooting in 1986 when I joined the military, but it wasn't until 2006 when I first came to Bisley as a Regimental Sergeant Major with my unit. I had a really good coach in the battalion that really got me interested and taught me a lot of tricks of the trade.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

On a personal level, winning the Queen's medal and being chaired off. I knew after the first day that I was second from the top and I couldn't afford to make any mistakes on the following days as there were 800 points to play for, and I knew after my last shoot that for anyone to beat me they would have to have done extremely well.

What was the biggest hurdle you've had to overcome?

The biggest hurdle is time on the range, working that into your day-to-day life, your job, your family and your commitments. Getting enough time on the range to practice can be tricky, and without the practice you cannot achieve greatness.

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

Well my friends are all shooters, and are interested in shooting, so we can bore each other to death with stories about shooting and what we love doing. My family have been very supportive throughout my military career and now that I am in the reserves, most of my time is taken up with coaching and training reserves to shoot.

What sort of music do you listen to?

Anything from the 80s, Depeche Mode, Deacon Blue stuff like that... you know I am a child of my generation.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

In the type of shooting that I do, physical fitness and mental fitness are very important. I try to be as fit as I can and build up my upper body strength and muscle memory as you find that if you start getting tired your results are not good. In Service rifle, where you are carrying all your kit and your armour and helmet, you get very quickly fatigued, and if you are not physically and mentally fit your shooting suffers.

What Club are you a member of?

I am a member of the NRA where I am a Safety Officer. I am also a member of BASC, I love anything to do with shooting and conservation. When I left the Army, I converted all my qualification to the NRA's. I love coming to Bisley to shoot. So now that I am a member, I can come to Bisley, shoot a modern rifle and speak to like-minded people, and there is always somebody on hand to answer questions. It is a sport where status and wealth do not come into it, if you have an interest, there is something there for everyone.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

I always want to do better, so I look at those who do better than me and try to learn from them, but there isn't one single person who has been inspirational as such. All shooters have something to teach.

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

I have been travelling to America for team competitions, and I would like to visit Canada and Australia, which I hear have some very demanding competitions. But I think in the UK itself, our shoots are challenging – especially for Service Rifle – which pushes a lot of people to always do better.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

I love living in this area because of the amount of shooting that goes on, especially at the NRA at Bisley.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Most of my free time is taken up with the Reserves. At the weekends I do a lot of deer stalking. It is called free time, but if you ask my wife, it is not free time with the family.

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

Commitment has to be the most important thing if you want to be a competitive shooter. Some other things will have to be put to one side. You need to put a lot of time and effort into constantly improving your shooting and if someone invites you to travel 100 miles to attend a shoot, you travel 100 miles without question. It is a lifestyle.

So what's next?

Train and go to America with the army reserves next year and try and win as much as we can. I will also try to get back on that chair. You always try – if you don't try, you don't do yourself any justice. You should always aim to beat the person above you, it's the only way you will improve. It is not about getting one over them, it is about your personal journey to improve. You have to strive to always do better. ■



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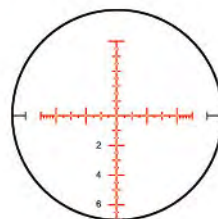
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