

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Spring 2013 – Volume XCII No. 1

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BACK TO BASICS

Changes afoot at BISLEY

Winter shoots

Turbutt Meeting

Civ SR Winter League

ORA 150th Anniversary Match

SEEING RED

Short-range sights reviewed

MULTI-GUN Slatch

Report from February's shoot



PHOENIX PREVIEW ■ YOUNG MARKSMAN CLUB ■ F CLASS EXPLAINED

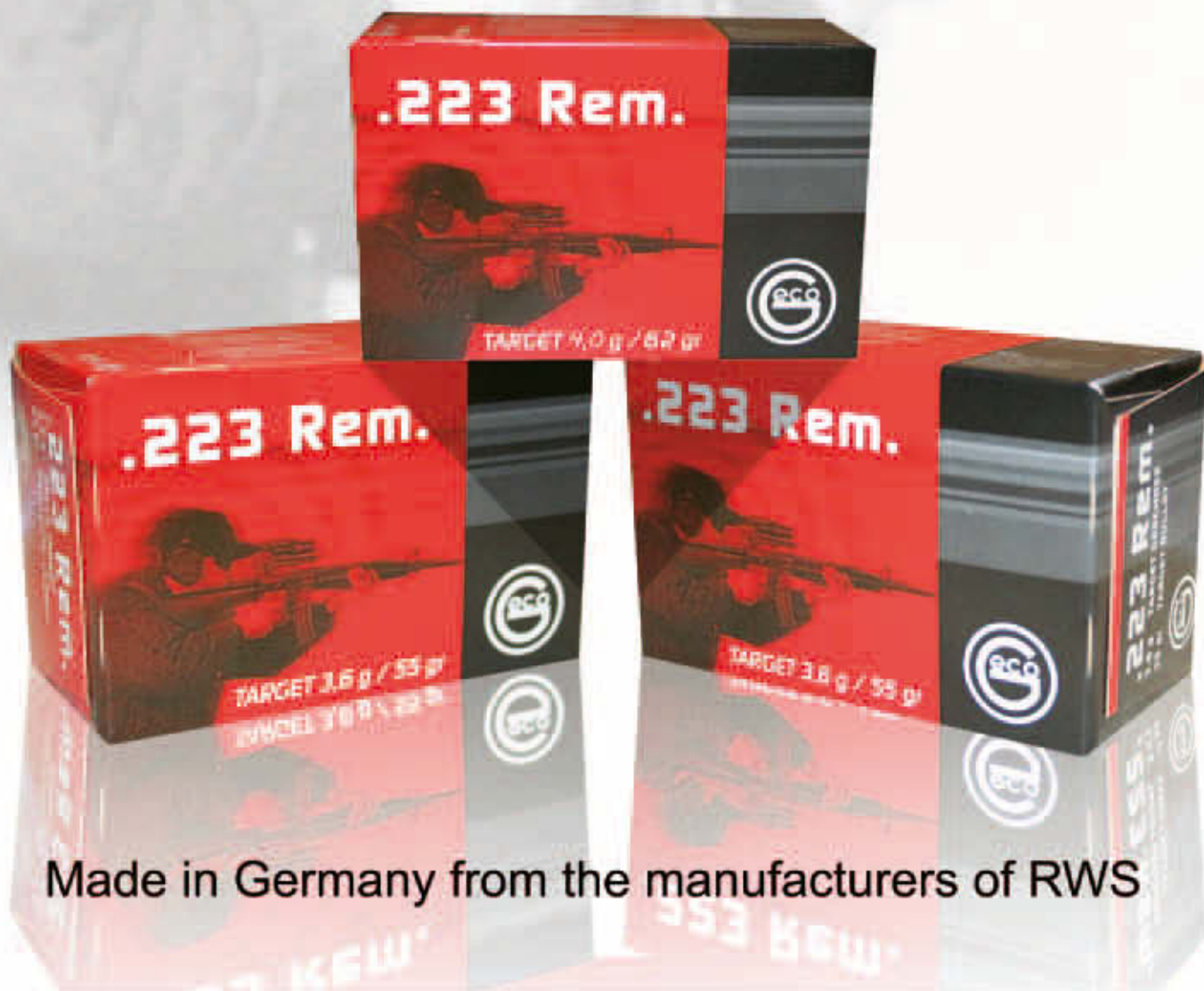


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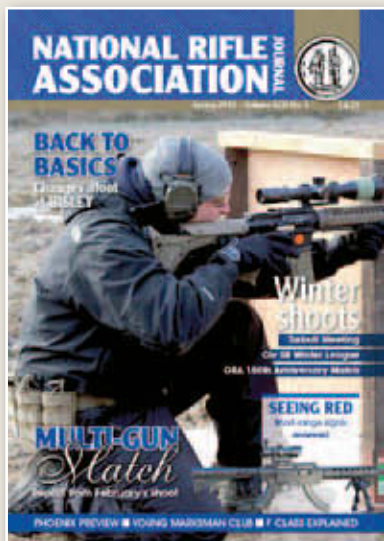
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Welcome

Getting off on the front foot

Incoming chief executive Andrew Mercer outlines his plan to go “back to basics” at Bisley and explains how the NRA can move forward in 2013

The shutdown over Christmas gave me the perfect opportunity to “beat the bounds” at Bisley and I spent a happy three hours on New Year’s Eve with my dogs walking the entire boundary of the site. Exploring the hidden areas behind the butts, safety areas, confusing mishmash of caravans, huts and dozens of buildings was a valuable experience and once again highlighted the enormous amount of maintenance work ahead. An early priority to accurately map the site with AUTOCAD has started and this will help us monitor progress and plan our estate management.

We will be concentrating on the basics for much of 2013 – regular mowing of the grass, proper cleaning of the ablutions, improving signage, and investing in IT systems that will allow our staff to improve the services we offer to members and visitors alike. We have created a new housekeeping department to deliver a proper cleaning service, now located in the Fultons block, and have started the recruitment of a crack team of Mr and Mrs Mops. Realistic plans for grass cutting and road repairs and upgrades are also being finalised.

We have just about completed our first major project with the clearance of a large area of encroaching trees and scrub on Stickledown range. Coordinating this relatively simple project was an interesting challenge requiring careful planning with military range staff at

Pirbright, ordnance clearance engineers, as well as the many regular club and commercial users of Bisley ranges. A beast of a self-propelled tree mulcher made short work of the area and took four days to complete a task that would have occupied our estate staff for many weeks. The ecologists will be pleased to see heath recovering from the tree cover, the red deer happy browsing the debris, and most importantly shooting at Stickledown will no longer suffer from variable wind.

The dreadful events at Sandy Hook presented us with a flurry of media interest in the NRA, mainly due to the assumption that we are a branch of our American counterparts. It is becoming apparent to me that hiding from the press is fraught with danger, so we did contact the Sun newspaper after they published a highly misleading front page article (but largely factually correct) about variants of assault rifles being on sale in the UK. Their response was interesting – the article disappeared from their online editions within a couple of days and they subsequently published a clarification. It is fair to say that not all NRA members supported my intervention and we will need to invest greater resources if we are to effectively promote shooting in the future. There is a risk we are far too defensive – the sport of target shooting has many great and positive features such as presenting the



opportunity to compete at the highest level from ages 18 to 80; suitability for disabled shooters; encouragement of desirable traits such as discipline, safety, and personal responsibility; and the participation of hundreds of young shooters to name but a few.

After a great deal of development, a new range system will shortly be put on live test in the Range Office. At present the process of allocating targets relies upon a sharp pencil and sheets of card and presents many opportunities for error. The new system will be subject to rigorous scrutiny before going live and will allow much greater accuracy and timeliness. Increasing range utilisation is a key element in the rejuvenation of Bisley and we need systems that will cope. If successful we should be a good way along the path to online booking and target allocation – hardly an earth shattering technological advance but essential to our long-term development.

Access to MoD ranges through the Shooter Certification Card system has been the subject of some debate recently, and these discussions have highlighted the critical importance to the sport of full bore shooting that

these ranges provide. It is essential that we are able to reassure the military authorities and their agents that we have robust procedures in place through our membership and affiliated clubs to deliver safe systems and competent procedures.

A recent meeting with Sport England provided some thought-provoking statistics, and I was particularly interested in a graph showing the age profile of active shooters. A large peak occurs at ages 14-16, which then drops like a stone until early/mid-40s when participation rises steeply to a relatively consistent level. Logic suggests that the crop of enthusiastic and skilled young shooters – resulting from the hard work and substantial investment by the cadet force and schools (the main contributors to youth shooting) – is being poorly harvested by the NRA. It may be the case that the competition from the age of 16 until 25 from other distractions (beer and wine, the opposite sex, further education and employment) is too great, but we at least need to have exhausted all initiatives before making any such conclusions.



I am greatly looking forward to my first Imperial and indeed seeing the whole range of events and competitions at Bisley. There appears to be a rather curious situation whereby some of our members feel that the Imperial is not for them. Our staff and experienced competitors assure me that the competition not only has many classes for those early on in their shooting careers but also offers

a golden opportunity to watch the skill and expertise of international class competitors. I am reliably informed that the mysterious art of competition squadding can put the very best in the competition against the newest to our sport – what a fabulous opportunity to learn and develop your techniques! Imperial schedules and entry forms are being finalised in the office so make sure you take the opportunity to enter. ■



News

THE SUN ISSUES CLARIFICATION

The Sun newspaper has issued a clarification following an article, which claimed assault rifles, like the one used at the Sandy Hook massacre, were available to buy legally in the UK. The article, written by Neil Millard, was published on 2 January in the wake of the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School where twenty children and six teachers were shot dead by 20-year-old Adam Lanza. The story, which is still on the newspaper's website said: "Lethal assault rifles like the one used in America's Sandy Hook school massacre are being legally sold in Britain."

In an article published on 24 January, The Sun printed the following clarification:

"In a story 'Massacre guns on sale in UK' we stated that lethal assault rifles like the AR15 weapon used in America's Sandy Hook school massacre are being legally sold in Britain. A Welsh-based firm describes the Ruger SR22 semi-automatic as a 'clone of the AR15'. We would like to clarify that these replica guns are scaled down versions of the originals, requiring .22 ammunition rather than the more powerful .223 calibre."

The initial story had prompted NRA chief executive Andrew Mercer to contact The Sun in a letter, as reproduced below.

"Dear Mr Millard

I read your article published in the Sun today with some concern.

At best the article is misleading – I assume this is due to a lack of accuracy of the facts you have researched.

Please note the following:-

(1) The weapons you refer to in the article as 'lethal assault rifles' are small calibre (.22) rifles – these are typically used for target shooting and the control of small vermin (rabbits and rats) and accurate at distances to a maximum of 100 metres or so.

(2) The rifle allegedly used in the awful shooting at Newtown was a substantially more powerful weapon (.223); can be used to control large animals such as deer; and is effective over long distances up to 600m.

(3) Imitation of form does not confer function – the Ruger SR-22 may look like an assault rifle but is definitely not an assault rifle. Military assault rifles are typically fully automatic i.e. they fire continuously when the trigger is pulled.

(4) Small calibre rifles such as .22 can indeed be used to lethal effect, as can kitchen knives found in every home and the average family car. The incidence of crimes involving legally held rifles is a tiny fraction of those involving the use of knives and motor vehicles.

OUT OF RANGE

A Midlands rifle club is on the lookout for new premises after being told they need to move.

Members of Hereford Pistol and Rifle Club have been informed that their Rotherwas bunker needs to be demolished to make way for an impending 'Enterprise Zone'.

Hereford Pistol and Rifle Club secretary Bob Curry says they now only have a month to find a new home, with a derelict World War II hospital in Kington on their shortlist.

He told the *Hereford Times*: "The council wants to demolish the range, which has been there since 1961, to make way for the aviation development," he said.

"We've got no say in the matter but we are not knocking the council as the site is going to bring jobs to the county.

"We have searched high and low and the Kington site is the only place we could find."

If the privately-owned former hospital site does prove suitable then it could benefit the club and its 45 members. A potential range of 40 metres would be longer than their current Rotherwas base.

"The old wards are made of reinforced concrete. It is a good spot but there is a bit of work to be done," explained Bob.

The Rotherwas area of Hereford was one of several enterprise zones identified in 2011 in a nationwide effort to boost economic growth.

Other zones were announced at sites in Cornwall, Gosport, Cheshire and Humberside and are set to be completed by 2015, creating up to 30,000 jobs.

(5) Firearms licensing in the UK is completely different to that in the USA – owning firearms in the USA is a right but wholly a privilege in the UK. We have some of the most demanding and restrictive legislation relating to firearm ownership anywhere in the world.

(6) Criminals will not apply for a Firearm certificate to gain ownership of a rifle for illegal use - they will not want their ownership recorded by the police and will use smuggled and other illicit firearms.

The National Rifle Association in the UK is a registered charity charged with promoting the sport of target shooting. New entrants to the sport undergo a strict and comprehensive probationer training course, and their conduct is carefully controlled. Each month Sport England estimate approx. 120,000 people participate in the sport of shooting. Our reactions to the events at Newtown are those of any sane and decent person - shock, horror, and profound sadness.

I know News International, as a responsible publisher, is determined to present articles honestly, accurately and fairly; and I look forward to seeing your reporting of the facts supplied above to correct the impressions resulting from your original article."

CTSA AWARDED LEGACY GRANT

Cambridgeshire Target Shooting Association has been awarded £50,000 in Olympic legacy funding from Sport England.

The award from the 'Inspired Facilities' fund will go towards the cost of building a new indoor rifle range at the association's base near Peterborough.

The CTSA has planning permission to build a 10-lane indoor 50m range with a separate eight-lane 10m air gun range at Norman Cross.

Members of the CTSA include ParalympicsGB silver and bronze medalist Matt Skelhon, who also won gold in Beijing.

GB rifle shooter Jenny Corish believes the new facility, one of the few of its kind in the country, will benefit the whole community.

"With the closing of two local clubs over the last few years, the range would be used by both our local club shooters

and our national teams as a first class training facility for shooting, as they train towards the Olympics and Paralympics," she said.

"As you can imagine, winter training for our top shooters is a struggle as shivering outdoors while trying to aim accurately is almost impossible!"

Work has already begun to prepare the site for the £200,000 project but the CTSA is still looking for donations.

Sport England's Chair, Richard Lewis, said: "This National Lottery investment is helping us deliver a lasting sporting legacy in the Peterborough area from last year's successful Olympic and Paralympic Games."

'Inspired Facilities' is part of the £150 million, National Lottery-funded, 'Places People Play' legacy programme, which will benefit more than 1,000 local sports projects across the UK.

NEWS IN BRIEF

IMPERIAL IMAGES

Images from last year's Imperial Meeting at Bisley are now available online direct from Matt Limb. His entire gallery from last July's event can be viewed on his website which also offers a reprint service. For more information visit: www.mlimages.co.uk/imperial2012/

BISLEY BIBLE

The 2013 edition of the Bisley Bible has gone to print and will be available to buy from 29 March. The 2012 Bisley Bible is still available to download via www.nra.org.uk

MEET THE EXPERTS

BASC is holding two open evenings in Wales in the coming weeks. The first event will be held in Newcastle Emlyn, Carmarthenshire on 13 March while the second event takes place on 10 April in Usk Gwent. For more information please visit www.basc.org.uk



JANE HELPS BUGS

Charity fundraiser Jane Shields gave BUGS (Blind Using Guided Sights) a surprise Christmas present when she presented them with a cheque for £542 at their annual Christmas lunch. Jane raises funds for charity

by organising fun shoots for sighted shooters at the NRA Shooting Centre in Bisley, and has adopted BUGS as her chosen charity. The proceeds were raised by various charity-shoot events, and bucket collections.

BUGS, based in St Austell, Cornwall, was established over 12 years ago to provide precision air-rifle shooting and social facilities specifically for blind and visually-impaired persons. The club currently accommodates 13 shooting members, with eight dedicated volunteers to assist them. Being completely non-funded, the Club relies heavily on the goodwill and generosity of its supporters to continue offering such benefits.

Jane's kind donation will help fund a small team of shooters to compete in the National Visually-Impaired Shooting Championships. The annual two-day event is held in the West Midlands in March, and attracts more than 50 competitors from various clubs nationwide.

Dave Whiley, BUGS Organiser said: "We are sincerely indebted to Jane for her efforts on our behalf, and to all those at Bisley who have so generously chosen to support BUGS in this manner, enabling us to keep the flag flying with regard to blind shooting in Cornwall."

YOUR *Views*

If you have an opinion or suggestion you would like to share, write to "Journal Letters" at NRA HQ or email nra@blazepublishing.co.uk

HUNGARY REPORT OFF TARGET

Dear editor,

Your contributor's rather petulant and negative article on the IPSC World Shotgun Championships in Hungary ('Hungary for change', Winter 2012) is at odds with my experience. As a Chief Range Officer in IPSC's International Range Officers Association, I consider it a privilege to have been selected to help crew the match. Your contributor complains of "easy days with only six stages to shoot each day". Of course, competitive shooters usually spend more time 'shooting the breeze' than shooting at targets: that is the nature of the sport, but the view from the crew is a little different.

The stage I ran, to quote your correspondent, was one of the "outrageously bad" slug stages. Not sure what was bad about it: it presented choice in the way it could be tackled, no shoot targets and multiple shooting positions. The fact that the top shooters shot this stage twice as fast as averagely competent shooters demonstrates, to my mind, that it was challenging – eight targets, probably three positions, start with loaded gun on a table at least a couple of paces away, all targets shot accurately in under 13 seconds – truly amazing. No gimmicky targets, just a good test of skill.

One of the great advantages of working a match is that you RO all the competitors and thus get direct feedback and the feedback was incredibly positive. Some competitors moaned about some stages, but usually ones on which they did not perform as well as they might have – funny that. The range facility was superb, the catering fabulous, excellent trade stands and a fantastic atmosphere.

Did everything go according to plan? Absolutely not. Does it ever? It was a clever, challenging, enjoyable match and the British Ladies are world champions. Brilliant. And shame on your grumpy contributor.

Alan Phillips
UKPSA Secretary

Dear Editor,

Whilst everyone is entitled to their own opinion, I wonder why the NRA would allow such a negative piece about a shooting discipline to appear in their members' publication. I was a competitor at the championships and I was extremely proud to be part of the UK Ladies team who became world champions. Mr Granycome must have been at a different championships from myself, because I thought the whole match was just fantastic to shoot. I wonder at Mr Granycome's motivation

for producing such an article. It was certainly disrespectful to our Hungarian hosts and I am embarrassed for him should they get to read his drivel. So much work goes into the running of a match of this high standard, why trash all those months of hard work?

Shooters should support each other and not try and do each other down. I would certainly hope that in future you will consider contacting others to verify some facts before publishing such articles again.

Vanessa Duffy
Regional Director, United Kingdom
Practical Shooting Association

Dear editor,

I write as a member of the NRA, an active shooter and a major sponsor of many events at Bisley. In the past twelve months I have looked forward to the arrival of the Journal...until the winter edition arrived!

I was staggered that you could print such a negative and ill-informed article such as the one by Mr Granycome. My main annoyance was that you obviously didn't canvass opinion as to the accuracy of this piece and just went ahead and printed it without question.

I contacted many of the other attendees and asked their views. The main response was that Mr Granycome must have been shooting a different match to the rest of us!

I would request that, in the future, the NRA should investigate the content of any copy before printing in a National Journal.

Peter Starley

Dear editor,

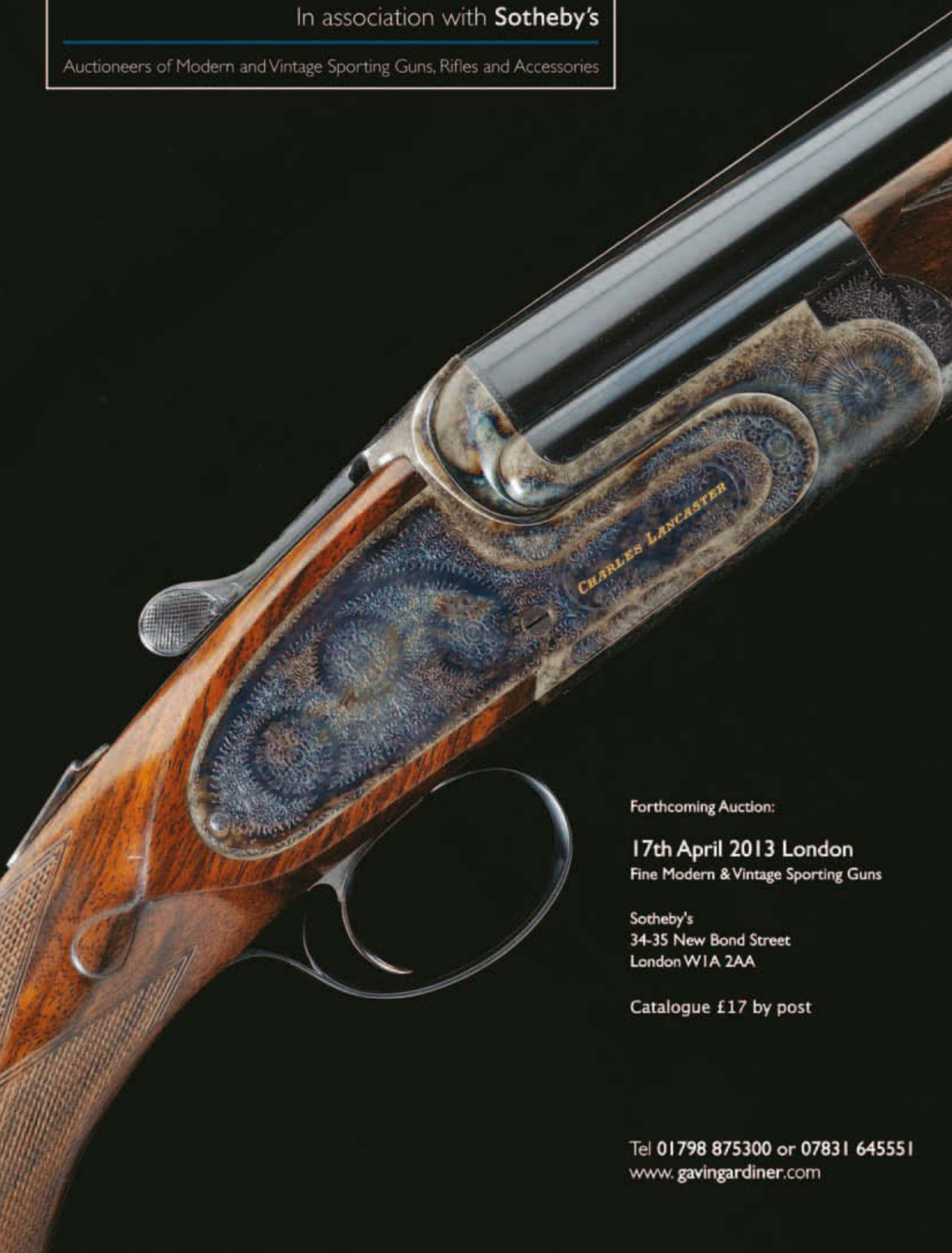
I am writing to commend you on publishing Mr Granycome's report from Hungary in the last edition. While it may ruffle a few feathers in the shooting fraternity, I believe the Journal should be more than just an outlet for positive spin. The only way the integrity of our sport can be maintained is through honest, frank reporting like this.

Andrew Bloss

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A sight for sharp eyes

Every split-second counts, says Tim Finley, so getting your sight right is vital

For short range shooting involving small-bore (.22 rimfire) and centrefire (pistol calibre) guns there are many, many choices of sight the shooter can make. The most obvious choice is between the very old and very simple rear notch and front post open sight or optical devices utilising glass lenses. Open sights are rugged and easy to use, especially if they have added highly visible coloured spots or fibre optical rods on the front and rear. It would seem that these days all serious competitors go for some form of optical sight, be it red dot or telescopic sight.

Let's start with .22s and Gallery rifle events, the main ones being Timed and Precision One and Multi-target. Both of these involve the dreaded turning targets. These start to edge on to the shooter, then snap to face the shooter for a pre-determined length of time, which can be as little as two seconds. Considering the starting position for the gun is at 45° to the horizontal, that means you have two seconds to bring the gun up, fix your aim on the highest scoring section of the target and then pull the trigger. This

effectively means you have one second to bring the gun up and one second to aim and fire. The choice of sight can therefore be the difference between winning and losing. The differing weapons of long barrelled firearms, more commonly known as LBPs or LBRs, are the hardest with which to obtain the correct aim or sight picture. Being held at arm's length, any slight misalignment of the front and rear sight, or a twist in the hold means the gun will not be aimed at the V bull.

Many LBP/LBR shooters still use open sights, harking back to when the events were shot with the now banned handguns. For greater accuracy, red dot sights and even variable magnification telescopic sights are used. Choice of red dot sight can be crucial. The reflex type where the dot is projected onto a flat glass element, with an open frame in between, has one minor drawback. If the sun is in the wrong position, as it frequently is at Bisley, then the shooter can have problems seeing the dot. Having said that, I have used them on an LBP with some success. A better choice could be red dot

sights with an enclosed body. The dot on a red dot can be green also, but any dot has to be bright enough to use on very sunny days and not be too big a dot that it masks out your aiming point on the target either.

I have found that a two minute of angle (MOA) dot diameter gives a more precise aiming mark than a four MOA. Any bigger than four and it will mask off too much of the target to find the V bull. Another type of red dot sight has a reticle rather than a circular dot – the problem is they tend to be the reflex type. The more expensive red dots with extra lenses limit parallax error and are therefore worth the extra money in my opinion. The vast majority of pistol scopes are made for firearms and again have parallax set too far out. Also many variable magnification pistol scopes alter the eye relief when you change the magnification.

When I started Gallery shooting I was amazed how hard it was. You have to get into a rhythm and if you do not shoot it a lot this can be very hard to do. Using either a rifle or an LBP/LBR needs differing



Accurate: The dot is projected onto a screen on a reflex sight



Problems: If the sun is awkwardly positioned it can be hard to see the dot

techniques. I learnt the hard way which sights work best for me for either gun. It was hard to find any advice on which sights to use, so at first I just used a bit of simple reasoning. Shooting TP1 or MT, the maximum range is 25m. This is a relatively short range so I figured the scope should be of low magnification but be capable of being turned up for zeroing purposes. I first shot TP1 with a 3-12x44 side-wheel parallax scope, made in China. The lenses were not that good but it was compact. I shot it on four times magnification, dialled in the range to the targets and altered the parallax for each differing range.

Not many shooters are aware just how much parallax error can affect the point of impact. You may think at such short ranges as in Gallery events you do not need to worry about it, given that you only have a second to get your head on the stock in the case of a rifle. Having the parallax set to the

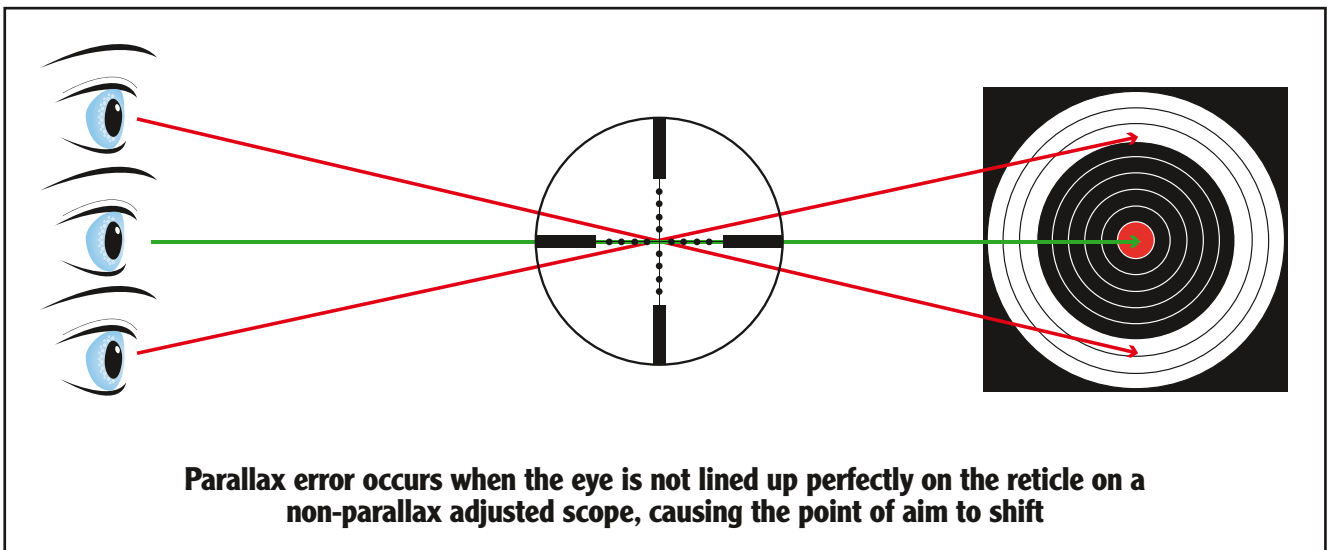
range you are shooting at will not only give you a clearer, sharper sight picture but it will also cut out any potential parallax error.

Some shooters may still think the key to Gallery shooting is the technique of the aiming process when the target faces. Well they are right, it is. However, if you then factor out any shift of point of impact caused by not setting the parallax, you must be more accurate than if you were shooting with parallax error. You can see parallax error very easily, set your scoped gun on a bench, look at a 25m target and move your head from side to side. If the P/A is correct, the reticle will stay glued to one spot on the target, if you have parallax error the reticle's position on the target will move. If your eye is not in the right place when you aim, the reticle may be dead centre but the barrel will not be aiming where the scope is – your shot will actually hit to one side or the other. Think back to when this has happened to

you, were you using a parallax adjustable scope and was it adjusted to the range you were shooting at?

Eye relief and stock fit is another way to combat parallax error. You will see centre-fire lever action pistol calibre shooters with raised cheek pieces to improve the fit of the stock when it comes to eye position on their scopes. Lever action rifles have very low cheek pieces so some form of add-on or custom lift is needed to ensure the cheek can rest comfortably on the cheek piece, with the eye in the optimum position for the scope's exit pupil. The top shooters go for parallax adjustable scopes with variable magnification and target turrets. The target turrets allow them to dial in at each range so they are always aiming dead centre on the V bull.

Even with a non-parallax adjustable scope you can help yourself by ensuring the lens is set to an average range. Most



parallax non-adjustable scopes made for firearms are set at 50 or even 100 yards – this is too far for Gallery events. Airgun scopes are normally set at 35 yards, making them more useful for short range shooting. Those scopes whose objective lenses are not glued in can be adjusted quite easily, although it may void any warrant on the scope. That is why I recommend a scope which has parallax adjustment. I now use a Bushnell tactical scope which is a 2.5-16x42mm. It has side parallax adjustment, target turrets and a Mildot reticle. I shoot it on 2.5 times magnification for the fast snap shooting Gallery stages then wind up to six for the longer stages with more time to aim. I have the dials I need on a chart stuck to the side of my stock. That way, in the heat of a competition, it is one less thing to have to remember – it's all there for me to reference.

Mini-rifle in its truest form is very short range with quick small stages. Here a red dot is the best optical sight. I run mini-rifle events that are bigger than average and at longer ranges. I started with a Barska red dot on my GSG-5 but now use a Leupold 3-9x33mm Mildot scope on a Rimfire Magic rifle. In general terms you do not need to be as accurate as in Gallery events – if I shoot a maximum score I know I have shot the stage far too slowly. Shooting weak shoulder is also far easier with a red dot than it is with a scope, where getting the correct eye position quickly can be problematic. Parallax settings on scopes have to be an

RECOMMENDATIONS

Red dot

Aimpoint Micro 2MOA T1 | RRP £560 | Edgar Brothers – A very small light bodied sight

Aimpoint Comp C3 2MOA | RRP £490 | Edgar Brothers – A sporting version of a military sight

Barska Electro Sight 1x30 IR M-16 Riflescope | RRP £80 | South Yorkshire Shooting Supplies – It has a crosshair rather than a dot

Barska Electro Sight 1x 22x33mm Riflescope | RRP £130 | South Yorkshire Shooting Supplies – A reflex open bodied type

Variable Parallax adjustable scope (rifles)

Bushnell Elite 6500 Tactical 2.5-16x42mm | RRP £930 | JJ Vickers – The best scope

I have found for Gallery

Hawke Varmint Side Focus 3-12x44mm | RRP £140 | Deben – It has all the features you need but at a very cheap price

LBP/LBRs

Bushnell 2-6x32mm XLT (scope) | RRP £130 | A pistol scope where the eye relief does not change with magnification change, but hard to get hold of

Aimpoint micro 2MOA T1 | RRP £560 | Edgar Brothers – Perfect on a pistol due to its size

Aimpoint Comp C3 2MOA | RRP £490 | Edgar Brothers – A bigger Aimpoint

Barska Electro Sight 1x 22x33mm Riflescope | RRP £130 | South Yorkshire Shooting Supplies – The fact that it is a reflex type is its only minor flaw

average for each stage – there is no time to alter the sight's settings, either P/A or elevation. I keep a 15m zero and P/A on my scope and shoot on four times mag. The images on some of the targets are not pin sharp and you have to aim at the top or

bottom of the A scoring zone.

The choice of sight can be personal preference depending on your scores with either a red dot or scope. You may find you are faster and more accurate with a scope than you are with a red dot, or vice versa. ■



Mini-rifle competitors may choose to use scope instead of red dots



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FANTASTIC

The four-gun challenge returned to Bisley and, as George Granycome discovered, it had a little bit of everything

The Multi-Gun Match is new to Bisley – new in that this is only the second time it has been shot. Last year it was on a snowy February weekend when not only did the shooters have a good roll in the snow, they enjoyed themselves making a snowman on the aptly named Short Siberia range. To shoot the Multi-Gun you need to use four guns: a full-bore rifle with a large capacity magazine; a .22 rifle; a centre-fire gallery rifle or long-barrel pistol (LBR) with 10-round magazines; and finally a pump or semi-auto shotgun, preferably with a high capacity magazine. Not many of us own all four, but suitable full-bore rifles can be hired from the NRA and .22 and gallery rifles and section 2 shotguns can be borrowed. The match is run over two days, so many were booked into the NRA accommodation, the “lines” which are considered very comfortable by those who remember army barracks when they did National Service in the 1950s. Though spartan, they are exceptionally warm even in winter and are very cost effective at about £20 per night for a twin.

Saturday began on Short Siberia with

the full-bore rifle. The shooters begin in a line at 100 metres, shoot ten rounds standing, then at a signal the entire line runs down to 75 metres to shoot ten rounds kneeling, then to 50 metres for ten kneeling, and then to 25 metres, puff-puff, for 10 standing. There are a variety of targets based on the Figure 11 target. The next phase of that part of the competition is in the same place with your gallery rifle beginning at 25 metres then similarly moving forward to 20, 15, and 10 metres. It all seems either simpler or more complicated than it really is, but it is good fun and very rewarding.

Saturday afternoon shooting was again on Short Siberia for 104 rounds of .22 in either a rifle or a long-barrel pistol/revolver. There are several targets forming a colourful and interesting array, shot in five separate stages, each against the clock (an electronic shot timer held by the RO), first at 10 yards then moving back to 20, then 50, then 100 yards. What targets? Where? Gimme binoculars! Shooting was both variously strong shoulder, weak shoulder, standing, prone, against a



James Harris and George take a well-earned breather

barricade, you name it. Stoppages were a real problem for some and checking your equipment is reliable in all weather conditions is a must – last year the temperature was down at -10°C. This year it was a distinctly milder +2°C but even so excessive wax on the .22 ammunition may have led to it solidifying and causing the odd stoppage. This is a social event as well with the Saturday night spent in local hostelrys or the clubhouses on the Camp with tall tales and ‘if only’ stories being told late into the night.

On Sunday you had to forgo church and be on Stickle-down Butt Zero at the 800-yard point for the Target Shotgun. It was six stages of pure pleasure, four of which were shot with birdshot, and one with buckshot, and another with a mix of either buckshot or slug. Magic! For the first time in many years, these were real action or practical stages with competitors changing firing



Stage 3 at Stickle-down was a real test for numb digits!

It was six stages of pure pleasure, four of which were shot with birdshot, and one with buckshot, and another with a mix of either buckshot or slug. Magic!

Target Shotgun rep, James Harris, and the Range Safety Supervisor, Iain Robertson, that this form of shooting was permitted. Make no mistake about the amount of back end paperwork that had to be in place before this event was approved; many hours of discussions and myriad pages of correspondence. The stages themselves were built by volunteers from the supporting clubs, F4i and OWRPC, and were a distinct improvement on previous events with specially made barricades and props. The excellent metal targets were leant by a number of supporters, notably Neil Smith and Jon Holloway

positions under one-to-one RO supervision to shoot the targets according to their own plan, rather than adhering to a set stage briefing. Obviously this type of shooting requires a high level of safety supervision and it is thanks to the hard work of the



Layne Chisholm takes on the 'big one' at Stage 4



Loading and a change of position made Stage 6 more difficult



Joshua Mann takes on the 10 targets that completed Sunday morning's shotgun shoot

and stood up well to the battering of 12 gauge ammunition.

Stage 1 was straight blag with eight metal plates in a random arrangement, testing recoil control and target acquisition. Even so, with only eight rounds loaded, a single miss was very expensive to recover from. Stage 2 was a mixed ammunition stage of four paper target and two clays, so the choice was slug or buck at 20 metres on clays – tricky. Many opted to shoot buckshot only and had misses on the clays as a result, notably our very own Shotgun discipline rep, much to the amusement of others. Stage 3 was a simple eight target unloaded start with four penalty targets, but not easy with cold fingers!

Stage 4 was the big one, 18 targets to be shot from three locations through the barricades. This was the one that everyone had been waiting for and did not disappoint when it came to the fun factor. Though only requiring two changes of position, the short sprint between them was very much a take it at your own pace event shot for fun rather than prizes. Stage 5 was a buckshot only stage with seven metal targets at 10 to 20 metres and a bobbing paper target. To prevent untoward gun handling with buckshot ammo, all the targets had to be shot through a section of pipe mounted on a trestle. Combined with an awkward shooting position, the bobbing

paper target gave no end of problems for the hasty shooter. Misses abounded. Stage 6 was only 10 targets, but throw some loading and a change of position into the mix and it becomes more difficult.

Sunday afternoon was for the Civilian Service Rifle (CSR) match, three separate practices with a full-bore rifle: 10 rounds at 100 yards, 10 at 200 yards, and 10 at 300 yards, at Figure 11 and 12 style targets with limited time exposures. It is magnificent fun, very rewarding, and illustrates why CSR is gaining such a following. The CSR rep, Paul Hunter, and his de facto assistant Mark Bradley are very active in introducing new shooters to the discipline so please contact them for more information. With the purchase of suitable rifles by the NRA last year there is now the option to take part and experience this before expending funds on the necessary equipment.

In all, it was a wonderful weekend at Bisley. It takes a lot of nerve to front up for the very first time at a match which looks complicated on paper, for which you may have to borrow or hire guns, and which takes place in February. However the ROs are very helpful and the other shooters are extraordinarily friendly – although many of them you could hardly call cuddly. They will all help elderly, infirm, and nervous shooters like me to have a very good time.

Do not miss any more of these competitions! ■



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November and December 2012 MATCHES

With Civilian Service Rifle events held at Bisley all year round, the winter matches attracted a Gallic contingent

Sunday 4 November

The first CSR matches were the NRA International SR competitions at 100-400 yards. A healthy contingent of shooters came over from France for the November matches, with several of them performing very well indeed. Unusually for CSR, all morning matches started with two sighting shots prior to the course of fire. Shooting started with the 100 yard standing match. Starting from the 'ready alert' position, shooters were presented with a Fig 14 window target that made five double exposures of three seconds up, two seconds down and three seconds

up at irregular intervals over a period of two minutes.

The rules of this match require the first shot at each double exposure to be fired from the standing position and the second shot from either sitting or squatting positions, with firers returning to the ready alert position after each double exposure. This match is similar to the 'McQueen' course of fire, in that a Fig 14 window target makes ten appearances of three seconds at various places over a 6ft frontage at irregular intervals of between five and 20 seconds. Hits on a Fig 14 window target are scored as follows: 5 - hits within the 100mm

circle; 4 - hits anywhere else on Fig 14; 3 - hits anywhere on the backing.

The morning finished with a 400 yard sitting match where shooters are presented with a triple Fig 11 target, scoring 5 for a hit inside the 300mm circle and 4 for a hit anywhere on the rest of the target and 2 for a hit anywhere on the outer targets. For this match, shooters adopt the ready alert position with rifles loaded and safety catches applied. On the appearance of the target for 60 seconds, shooters adopt a sitting position and engage targets.

The afternoon consisted of the US Match 321 Excellence in Competition. Each of the four stages requires the use of two magazines, each containing five rounds and hence a compulsory magazine change, during the course of fire. This adds another challenge in addition to the short target exposures and range of required firing positions.

In the first stage, starting at the 400-yard point, shooters line up at the rear edge of the firing point with rifles 'made safe'. On the appearance of a single Fig 11 target,

shooters advance to the 400-yard point, adopt the prone position, make ready and engage the target with 10 rounds. Target exposure time is 60 seconds. The next stage is shot from the 300-yard point. On the appearance of a single Fig 11 target, shooters advance to the 300 yards point, adopt the prone position, make ready and engage the target with 10 rounds. Target exposure time is 60 seconds.

The third stage is shot from the 200-yard point. On the appearance of a Fig 12 target, shooters advance to the 200-yard point, adopt the 'kneeling' position and engage the target with 10 rounds. Target exposure time is 50 seconds. The final stage sees the shooters, on the appearance of a Fig 12c target, advance to the 100-yard point and adopt the standing position. Having fired five rounds, shooters adopt the kneeling position, make ready with their second magazine of five rounds and continue to engage the target. Total target exposure time is 40 seconds.

Saturday 1 December

The format was somewhat different to usual with a morning of short-range stages. Although the distances involved are shorter, because of the need to shoot at a brief exposure of a relatively small target from a standing, kneeling or sitting position, many find the short-range stages significantly more difficult than the medium or long-range stages. The morning matches therefore provided much useful practice. In the afternoon the focus was on stages involving fleeting exposures and the use of the sitting position, which some find problematic.

The first stage shot was the 100 yard Standing match. This was followed by the 100x Single Snaps match, in which shooters have to fire 10 rounds at a Fig 12c target from a kneeling or squatting position. To make things more challenging, shooters have to start in the standing, alert position and, on the appearance of the targets, have three seconds to adopt either the kneeling or squatting position and fire their shot. Shooters then have to return to the standing alert position prior to each subsequent target exposure.

Next came the 200x Single Snaps, during which a Fig 12 target made ten

RESULTS FOR MATCHES SHOT ON SUNDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2012 (TOP THREE PLACED SHOOTERS PER CLASS)			
NAME	MATCH TOTAL (EX 200)	NAME	MATCH TOTAL (EX 200)
SERVICE OPTIC CLASS			
NRA INTERNATIONAL SR MATCHES		MATCH 321 EXCELLENCE IN COMPETITION	
Cottrell P	186	Greenaway N	176
Ellis W	175	Ellis W	174
Mitchard M	175	Greenall M	172
PRACTICAL OPTIC CLASS			
Larrue O	182	Larrue O	182
Berthineau B	176	Elliott J	175
Cooke F	149	Dreyer A	164
ANY IRON SIGHTED			
Clarke S	146	No shooter in this class	
Collins L	77	No shooter in this class	
HISTORIC ENFIELD			
Cross D	84	No shooter in this class	

RESULTS FOR MATCHES SHOT ON SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER 2012 (TOP THREE PLACED SHOOTERS PER CLASS)			
NAME	MATCH TOTAL (EX 250)	NAME	MATCH TOTAL (EX 250)
SERVICE OPTIC CLASS			
NRA INTERNATIONAL SR MATCHES		MATCH 321 EXCELLENCE IN COMPETITION	
Cottrell P	231	Ellis W	184
Ellis W	227	Cottrell P	183
Bennington N	224	Hudson C	178
PRACTICAL OPTIC CLASS			
Sheldon S	211	Elliott J	187
Cooke F	198	Sheldon S	178
Elliott J	197	Vizard M	176
ANY IRON SIGHTED			
Clarke S	152	Clarke S	130
HISTORIC ENFIELD			
Dyer K	44	Dyer K	38

appearances of four seconds. On each target exposure, shooters had to move from the standing ready alert position to either the kneeling or squatting position before engaging their targets, before returning to the standing alert position.

Unless you have tried courses of fire like this, it is hard to believe just how challenging it can be having to re-establish a good position/sight picture in the time available – and just how tiring such seemingly minimal movement can be!

Next was the 200x Sitting match during which, on the appearance of two Fig 11 targets, shooters have 40 seconds to move from the standing alert position to a sitting position and place five rounds on each of their targets.

In the afternoon there were a number of mid-range practices, starting with the 300x Stevens. Starting from a standing ready

alert position, on the appearance of two Fig 11 targets, shooters have 40 seconds to adopt the prone position and fire five rounds at each target. The next stage was the 300x Wantage, another 'McQueen' type match in which a Fig 12 target makes ten appearances of three seconds somewhere over a 6ft frontage. Stage three was a repeat of the Stevens course of fire at 400 yards. Because of the lay of the land on this part of Century range, it can be hard to identify your target number when shooting prone from the 400-yard point. This situation adds to the pressure of the limited time available. The final stage was a 400x Sitting 'snaps' match, in which shooters are presented with five exposures of two Fig 11 targets, each exposure lasting for eight seconds. During each exposure, shooters must place one round on both targets. ■

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MATCH REPORTS

We round up notable autumn shoots from Otmoor and Dovedale while a wintry stick shoot kicks off another year of shooting on the South Coast



ORA 150th Anniversary Match

Otmoor, 15 September 2012

By John Winter, Vice Chairman, Oxfordshire Rifle Association

The origins of the Oxfordshire Rifle Association date back to 1862 through full bore shooting members of local military units such as the Queen's Own Oxfordshire Hussars and the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry. Some documentary evidence shows that competitive shooting took place and an old ledger charting 1889-1904 shows the list of subscriptions from members, many of whom were local civilians.

In 1907, through the efforts of F.M. Lord Roberts, there was renewed interest in shooting by civilians and the widespread

creation of miniature rifle clubs. The formal organisation of the Oxfordshire Rifle Association (ORA) was eventually set up with the Earl of Jersey, Lord Lieutenant of the county, as President. The ORA was to be totally responsible for the organisation and conduct of all shooting events in the county.

In early 1908 a 'Central Range' was built at Osney Lane, Oxford and was open to the public. An outdoor range belonging to the Cherwell Club was opened in 1909, the setting of which was described as "picturesque" by the Oxford Mail.

On 24 November 1928 all clubs in the county, together with the county's Territorial Force units set up the rules and regulations that exist to this day. Section committees took over the organisation of all shooting events under an executive committee and the title 'Oxfordshire Rifle Association' would be used by all Sections. This continues to

this very day and there exists in the county many clubs that are multi-discipline and whose members shoot, in competition, all types of firearms.

Currently the ORA has about 400 members from about 24 clubs. The ORA has three shooting committees namely: Full bore (that looks after Target, Historical and Classic and Black Powder Rifle events), Small bore (all small bore rifle) and a Pistol committee that organises air rifle & pistol, Light Sport Rifle and Gallery Rifle events.

To celebrate the ORA's 150th anniversary two events were planned: a multi-discipline match at Otmoor in September and a dinner in November. The 150th Match was held on 15 September on a really lovely sunny day, which attracted a decent number, all shooting at 200 yards with all types of rifles. A list of the winners of the 150th Match is shown in the table.



Thorpe Cloud in the heart of the Peak District hosted the Turbutt Meeting

RESULTS

Classic Rim-Fire 0.22	B. Thompson
Modern 0.22 Rim- Fire	R. McKensie
FB Target Rifle	M. Silver
"F" Class	C. Warwick
BP BL Rifle	C. Woods
The Tom Boughen Cup	J Winter
Service Rifle (over 50 years)	P Bysshe
Service Rifle (over 100 years)	P Bysshe
Semi-Auto 0.22	C. Roca
Historic Sniper SR	P Bysshe
Snap SR	J. O'Neill

The Turbutt Meeting 2012

**Thorpe Cloud, Dovedale,
30 September 2012**

By Richard Kenchington

In 1947, 1953 and 1960, Colonel Turbutt of Derbyshire presented a series of cups for .22 Rimfire shooting at (respectively) 200, 300 and 500 yards. Competition for these cups continues at an annual meeting held at Thorpe Cloud range in Dovedale, on the southern edge of the Peak District. The range has three targets and extends back to 500 yards. It is situated in a gully which runs almost north-south, so it is sheltered from a direct cross wind but is susceptible to turbulence from winds blowing above the gully and to direct south-easterlies.

The most recent meeting was held on Sunday 30 September. Standard Bisley TR targets were used and the course of fire

was five non-convertible sighters and 10 to count at each distance. No rests were allowed and only iron sights could be fitted to the rifle.

Although the Saturday had been fine and calm, Sunday dawned overcast with spots of rain and a fresh to strong wind, blowing straight up the range from 6am. The morning shoot remained mostly dry, but the wind strengthened and became very strong and fishtailing, with more prolonged showers as the day progressed. At 200 and 300 yards, with firing confined within the gully, the wind strength varied from three to six minutes, but the greater exposure of the 500 yards firing point meant that the allowance required there increased to between eight and 19 minutes. Judging it was very difficult as there were no flags, so one had to rely on fall of shot.

Shooting a .22RF rifle at 200, 300 and 500 yards is similar, in terms of elevation

and wind deflection, to shooting a 7.62mm rifle at 800, 1200 and 2000 yards. Five sighting shots were really necessary, particularly at 500 yards, where many competitors had great difficulty both in finding the target and in staying on it. The highest score at any single distance was 42 and there were many misses at 500 yards.

Despite all these difficulties, the meeting was a great success and demonstrated yet again that shooting at extended ranges with .22RF rifles is both possible and most enjoyable. Many thanks are due to Alan Pidcock of Matlock & District Rifle Club for organising the meeting.

It is hoped that a trial long-range .22RF shoot will be held at Bisley (Range 19) on Saturday 27 April with the course of fire expected to be 15 shots at 200, 300 and 400 yards, on slightly easier targets. Details will no doubt be posted on the NRA website.



Christchurch Gun Club Stick Shoot

**Christchurch Gun Club, Dorset,
20 January 2013**

By Mark Davey

Every third Sunday of the month, Christchurch Gun Club in Dorset holds a club competition. The competition is a different event each month, and this January a stick shoot was held.

Despite the snow (dispelling any rumours of "soft southerners"!) 18 hardy

souls turned up to shoot. The course of fire is simple enough for most to follow – from 20 metres shoot the 45mm wide stick in half, in the quickest time. In case a tie-breaker was needed, the number of shots was recorded. All shooters had a maximum of two minutes in which to cut the stick and this kept the event to a reasonable duration.

In the end, half of the competitors managed it within the two minutes. The distance is short enough to see the shot placement on the stick, and it was great to see that stick gradually keel over and drop. Mind you, for some it was a bit

frustrating to see it still standing by the tiniest little splinter when the two minutes were up!

The results were split by class (smallbore, open, and shotgun) but it was good to see the open class featuring more than the usual marlin lever actions. A few more adventurous types used bolt action or straight pull 223s and we also saw a black powder rifle. The sole entry in the "shotgun" class involved a certain (chair) person blasting his stick to oblivion with a slug-shooting pump. All in all, a good start to the year. ■

www.christchurchgunclub.org

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It may be a familiar date in the diaries of seasoned competition shooters but, as *Neil Francis* explains, the Phoenix Meeting is open to all-comers of any ability

Why do people attend the Phoenix Meeting? More to the point - why don't people attend the Phoenix Meeting? In the lead up to the summer season, the Phoenix is always held over the spring bank holiday weekend, Whitsun or Whitsuntide – that's the late May bank holiday to the rest of us. It's been that weekend forever (OK, 2002 and 2012 were exceptions to allow for the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilees respectively) so there is no excuse to not have this as part of anybody's regular shooting calendar.

In many ways, and for many people, the Phoenix is just another Gallery Rifle Action Weekend (GRAW). Four of these are held every season at Bisley. The spring and autumn action weekends take place as the country adjusts its collective timepieces to take advantage of the daylight saving protocols we know and love so well. The last bank holiday of the summer, the August Bank Holiday,



GR event flyers are available to print off at <http://galleryrifle.com>



pays homage to the Gallery Rifle National Championships. The Phoenix Meeting sits squarely in the middle of all this and offers not only the natural plethora of gallery rifle and pistol events but a whole lot more.

As an overall event the Phoenix is billed as an annual celebration of shooting sports. Whether the competitor's interests lie in the pure Gallery Rifle (GR) disciplines, rifle events shot back to 1000 yards, pistol events shot to the same distances (yes, that's a pistol at 1000 yards), black powder, target shotgun or even air pistol, the Phoenix will have an event ready and waiting.

Understandably some events are popular, very popular, however some are surprisingly underrepresented. There are so many competitions at the Phoenix it's inevitable some slip under the radar. T&P1 Air Pistol for example, a lot of the Long Barrelled Pistol (LBP) events, some of the longer range events and a handful of classic and open events are all crying out for more competitive input.

Condensed into a long weekend, the Phoenix has a more intense look and feel about it than the likes of the NRA Imperial Meeting which is held over a two- to three-week period in high summer. A major part of this is probably due to the long-standing trade fair which dates way back to pre-Phoenix days. A lot of people back then used to travel to just visit the trade show and I'm told this is still the case. Each to their own of course, but I think people are missing out if they choose to overlook the main reason the ranges exist in the first place.



ration

long weekend of events. Theories proliferate, which range from the financial, through the “not good enough” route and eventually terminate at the oft-cited intimidatory factor of the whole experience.

The latter is particularly worrying (if correct) and we all need to spend time reflecting on the perception of this element of our sport. For whatever reason, if your fellow club members are not shooting any of our meetings, we all need to work out why. It can't stop there though – we need to work out how to overcome such perceived obstacles and work around them.

Not being good enough needs to be condemned at conception. We promote the sporting and competitive side of shooting as being open to everyone and this is an absolute truth. The most popular GR events are shot in classes. This means everyone is shooting against their peers. With the current classification rules and regulations, everyone has as much chance of achieving a place and medal shooting for the first time as for the hundredth – in fact more so!

Team events have been introduced to the Phoenix in recent years to attempt to encourage members of local clubs to partake. As with all events these are open to any members of any club to put together a

two- or four-person team, take part and get your club's name into the historical record.

Irrespective of all the above, we do need to get a sense of perspective. After all, are we not all simply shooting against ourselves? Aiming to beat our last outing or personal best? It's great to traipse back to our local clubs and ranges, banter with our shooting colleagues about who bettered who, who outshot who, more likely who messed up the least – that's all part of why we do it.

Numerous other GR events are organised and hosted both at Bisley and throughout the country by local clubs. The flyers illustrated in this article can be found at full resolution at <http://galleryrifle.com>. These can be printed and displayed in local clubs. A full calendar of events can also be found on the website.

In 2012 we created an online database of classified and highest scores so people can keep track of their scores. In 2013 we plan to enhance this to run a season-wide league table and ranking system for active Gallery Rifle competitors. In this way we aim to keep an ongoing interest in competing on the national circuit. ■

Keep an open bookmark to www.galleryrifle.com for all of this information and much more.

OF SHOOTING

For the last four or five years the bank holiday Monday has been used to host the IGRF (<http://igrf.org>) International Gallery Rifle Match. This sees teams from Great Britain, Ireland, Germany and South Africa compete head to head with centrefire and smallbore calibres in a 1500 match. This year, on 28 May, Bisley will be running this event as the inaugural Gallery Rifle World Cup which will mean one of these countries will be officially crowned world champions.

So the most puzzling misnomer any Phoenix regular, indeed any competition shooter in general, ponders, often revolves around why more people don't come along and enjoy the whole experience. Many theories are proffered around the bars, clubs and campfires, which all play excellent hosts to the influx of visitors who attend the



First steps

Enthusiastic youngsters had the perfect introduction to shooting on a cold, crisp day at Bisley

The inaugural NRA Young Marksman Club took place on 1 December on Winnan Range at Bisley. The task of running the club was taken on by Emma Nuttall, a secondary school teacher and GB target rifle shooter. Together with her team of coaches, she took 27 young shooters, aged from 10 to 15 years old, through a variety of competitions and training to introduce them to the sport.

The first day of December dawned with a very cold start, but with a beautiful blue sky and no wind, which is a rarity! Parents and shooters arrived eager to start and after they were split into groups the shooting commenced. There was a variety of different firearms including Ruger 10/22s, .22 target rifles, air rifles and air pistols with a range in styles of shooting with knock down targets and shooting in kneeling and standing. The 'Angry Birds' targets proved an amusing stand to many and the knock down targets, when hit, were incredibly satisfying. There was one minor glitch though when, with some hilarity, it started to 'rain' under cover, as the frost lining the metal roof started to melt!

There were some outstanding young marksmen and each and every one of



Fast learners: Medals were handed out to individuals who performed well

them showed good firing point drills. Medals were given to individuals who performed exceptionally well and there were some who showed a real natural talent with a rifle. There were 10 coaches involved and the feedback from parents underlined how impressed they were by the approachability and skills in coaching complete novices. Thanks go out to all of them.

The future of the club looks to be a bright one and in its conception will entail junior probationer courses, which will run over six half days. There will also be the option to do a three-day intensive course in the school holidays. Once probationary members have passed the course there will be a Saturday club, which they can attend and after three months will become full junior NRA members. The courses will include some classroom work and one-to-one coaching. They will be taught how to use a firearm safely, how they work and guidance on improving their technique.

Ultimately the purpose of this club is to fill an obvious void where, unless you are in Cadets or Scouts, it is very difficult to participate in this sport at a high level. This will teach 10-16 year olds all they need to know, giving them enough information to choose a discipline and feed them into clubs once they are old enough. It also makes shooting a little more fun, participating in a fantastic sport with likeminded individuals of the same age. ■

For more information about the Young Marksman Club contact Emma Nuttall at youngmarksman100@gmail.com



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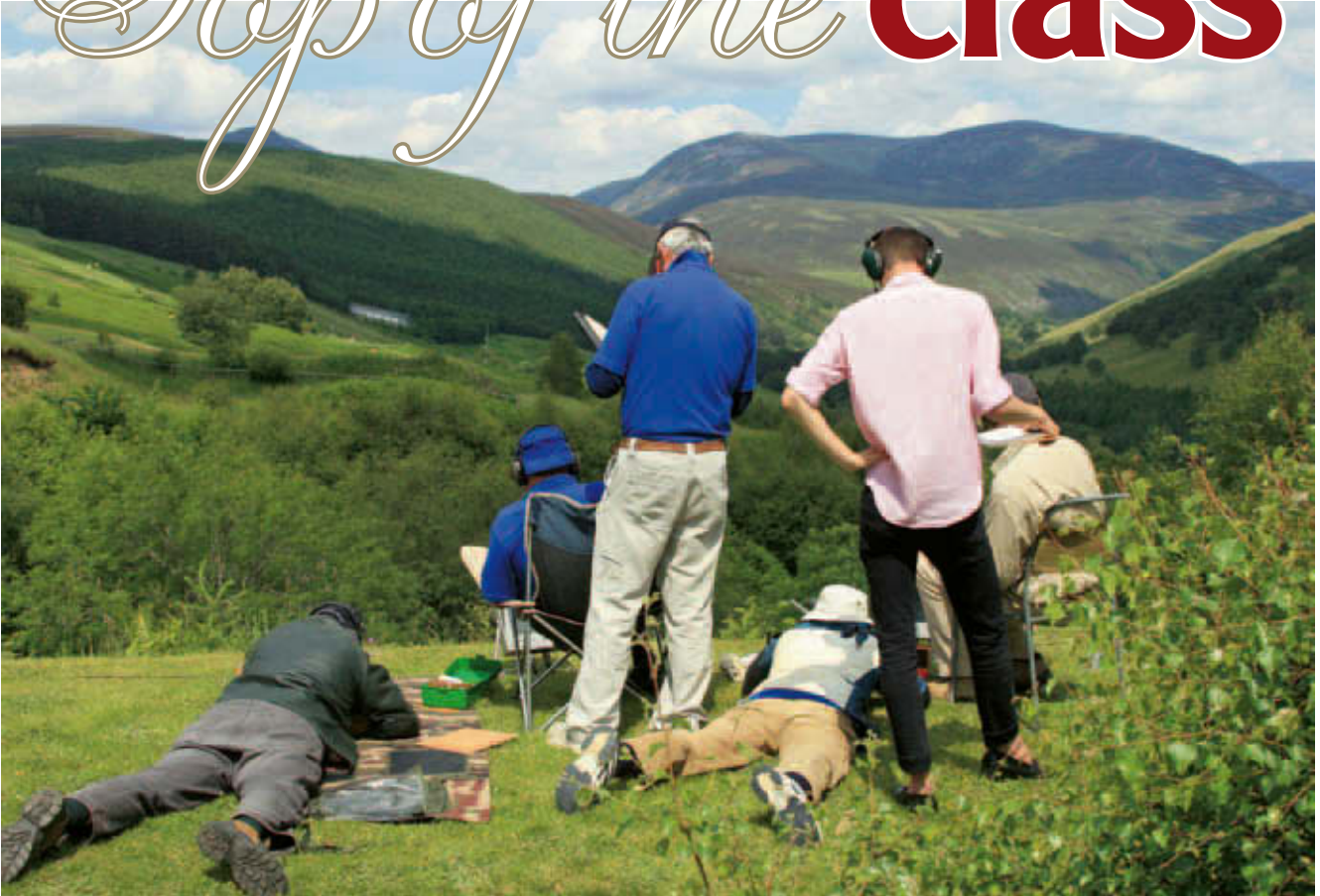


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Top of the class



The 'Formula One' of target rifle shooting is more accessible than you think, and growing in popularity every day. It's time to try out F Class

FClass shooting has become a successful shooting sport in its own right – and with showpiece events such as the European Championships held at Bisley every year, it's a major part of the UK target shooting calendar. But just what F Class entails may be a mystery to many TR shooters. How does it work, where can you shoot it, and just how much money do you really have to spend on the kit?

It began as the brainchild of a Canadian called George Farquharson, whose initial puts the F in F Class. He loved his shooting, but old age was making it harder for him to get into the resting-on-elbows position needed in long-range target shooting, and his eyesight was making it difficult to gain the correct sight picture through the iron sights.

He came up with the idea of putting a

scope on his rifle to get over the iron sight problem and a bipod on the front to take the weight of the gun. This new class of gun was soon recognised as a legitimate new class and was shot for the first time in a Canadian national championships in 2001. Canada then held world F Class championships, and as soon as shooters saw how it made long-range target shooting more accessible and more enjoyable, it took off all over the world.

The individual disciplines are not overcomplicated either, with two distinct classes. The original Open F Class was joined in 2007 by F/TR, a class for rifles chambered in .308 Win or .223. You'll find the full rules in the box overleaf – they may seem daunting at first, but in fact they take little getting used to, and despite F Class's reputation as the 'Formula One' shooting

discipline, you can actually get going with modest equipment.

So what do you need? First off, you'll need a rifle. While in Open class there are all manner of exotic calibres being bandied about on the range. You can, as mentioned above, use a trusty .308 Win and be in good stead. You will, however, want to look more closely at the barrel and stock. The former should be 28-30in and a heavy profile – you want to make the most of that 22lb weight limit to ensure long-range accuracy. As for the latter, if you've got the cash, there are a number of specialist F Class stocks on the market, made from fibreglass or wood laminate. These boast a three-inch-wide, flat forend – but there is no need for the adjustable butt plates and cheekpieces often found in TR.

Then there's the scope – and that's

F CLASS CALENDAR 2013

Round 1	23/24 March	Diggie Ranges	Short Range
Round 2	27/28 April	Blair Atholl	Long Range
Round 3	18/19 May	Diggie Ranges	Long Range
Round 4	29/30 June	Bisley	Long Range Challenge
Imperial Meeting (Optional)	5-11 July	Bisley	Match Rifle & F Class
Imperial Meeting (Optional)	12-20 July	Bisley	TR & F Class
World Championships	15-30 August	Raton, USA	Selected Open & F/TR Teams
Round 5	14-15 September	Diggie	Long Range
Round 6	5-6 October	Blair Atholl	Long Range
European Championships	1-3 November	Bisley	Long Range



Electronic targets are more than welcome on Blair Atholl's 1,233-yard range



ALL THE GEAR: Powerful scopes are a common sight, but F Class isn't all about showing off your kit

where F Class nuts spend their serious money. You'll be shooting at 1,000 yards and over, so a scope with 25x magnification at least will serve you well. Top-end brands such as Nightforce, Sightron and Schmidt & Bender are common sights at an F Class shoot. But if you don't have two grand hanging around, fear not – there are a number of entry-level options, such as Fox Scopes's 10-40x50 model, a solid choice retailing at just over £100.

On top of that, front and rear rests, a shooting mat, safety glasses and hearing protection are all essentials (though in F/TR you can only use a rear rest). And you'll need all that kit to get on the paper – targets are half the size of those used in TR, at eye-wateringly long distances. Blair Atholl, a regular stop on the F Class circuit, boasts a range that is actually 1,233 yards long.

It becomes clear that, as with all disciplines, it's not the rig you put together that really matters – it's how you use it.

F CLASS: THE RULES

Open

1. Any rifle up to a maximum weight of 22lb or 10kg including scope (and bipod if used). Any safe trigger is permitted; muzzle brakes are not
2. Any scope – no limit on power
3. Any calibre up to 8mm providing it complies with range safety rules. It is up to the individual shooter to verify this
4. The rifle may be supported front and rear on sand bags. The front sandbag may in turn be supported on an adjustable pedestal. The rear bag must not be attached to the front support but a combination of sandbags may be used. A bipod may be used in place of a front sandbag

F/TR

An F/TR Class rifle must not weigh more than 8.25 kg (about 18lb 2oz) including scope and bipod

Permitted calibres are .308 Winchester/7.62 Nato and .223 Remington/5.56mm

The rifle can only be supported by a simple bipod or sling. A sandbag may be used under the rifle's butt

There is no restriction on scope power

Factory or hand-loaded ammunition may be used and any bullet weight is permitted

A perfect set-up will let you fire every shot without hindrance, but it's up to you to put them in the right place. You'll need all your wind-reading and steady shooting technique to put the bullet in that tiny v-bull. Intrigued? Get to one of the meetings in the box above and find out more, or head to www.gbfcclass.co.uk. ■

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2013 EVENTS PREVIEW

We take a look ahead at what's coming up this year at Bisley and beyond...

Competitions

In the next quarter we have the final two Civilian Service Rifle Winter League events on 3 March and 6 April. The roots of this discipline are in the Service Rifle competitions where armed forces use the current military issue rifle (the SA80 for British Forces or, for overseas competitors, that of their own country). The Winter League courses of fire are based on, or have a flavour of, those fired by the Armed Forces today and usually involve a physical element (e.g. a 500 to 100 yard run down firing two shots every 100 yards). Matches may involve deliberate, rapid fire and snap shooting, and will usually involve firing from a variety of positions including prone, sitting, kneeling and standing. These positions can be supported or unsupported, e.g. firing around a wall while kneeling or using a post to steady the firing positions. Competitions are usually fired on representative figure targets such as the Figure 11 and Figure 12. Competitors use a rifle with a telescopic sight and a magazine capacity of at least 10 shots is advisable. The AR type firearm with a straight pull action seems to be a popular choice. The NRA currently has a stock of these in the Armoury for hire and details can be obtained from armoury@nra.org.uk. As these are held monthly the next event's details are released via the NRA website soon after the preceding event.

Predominantly to satisfy the Gallery Rifle and Pistol (GR&P) discipline there are two events coming up – Spring Action Weekend on 23-24 March and the flagship Phoenix Meeting from 24-26 May. The GR&P discipline covers events shot at short and medium distances by various rifles and pistols. Many of the events are classified so competitors shoot against others of similar ability. There are four types of firearm and the most commonly used are semi-automatic .22 rifles, lever action rifles, semi-automatic .22 long barrelled pistols and long barrelled revolvers. The majority of events are shot at distances between 10m and 50m, with a few going out to 300 yards. There is a large selection that only requires a range of 25m. All of the rules and the common courses of fire for this discipline can be found in the GR&P Handbook, available from the NRA offices from late March and electronically to download from the NRA website. Although mainly for GR&P you can find other disciplines catered for at both SAW and Phoenix such as Full-bore rifles, Target Shotgun and Civilian Service Rifle and additionally at the Phoenix there is a small offering of Muzzle Loading Pistols, F Class and Long Range Pistol, with the last two groups of firearms competing out to 1000 yards.

Finally the NRA 300m Championships is held over the weekend of 18-19 May. This is the only NRA discipline governed by

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 on Century Range and a metric target with smaller scoring rings than Target Rifle is used. For additional information visit the GB 300 metre shooting website at www.gb300m.com

More details and entry to the above events and disciplines can be obtained from NRA discipline representatives and other knowledgeable volunteers via the NRA shooting and competitions department at shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

NRA Open Day 2013

Do your partners and families eye you with suspicion as you leave the house before dark; come rain, hail, snow or sunshine for your days shooting at Bisley? Do their eyes glaze over as you proudly boast of a 49 with 6 in "Maggie Alley"? Do they sigh and move their cup of tea as you lovingly clean your black powder pistol on the coffee table? If this is an all too familiar situation then why not reveal the mysteries of Bisley to them and bring them to the Open Day on Saturday 4 May.

NRA Open Days were started 9 years ago with the main objective being to enable



those who would not normally have access to shooting the chance to try out a variety of firearms under one-to-one supervision. All guests pre-register online – the registration fee is £20 (£5 for NRA members and those under 14, though some restrictions will apply to those under 14) and then vouchers are purchased which can be exchanged for shooting. On the day guests will need to bring photo ID with them as proof of identity, they then collect their wristbands and paperwork from reception, which is set up in the pavilion. Then the fun begins!

Choose from a huge variety of firearms; on Melville, experience the thrill of firing a black powder pistol, replicas of those fired during the American Civil War. To the left of Melville on the Sporting Rifle Range try to outwit the running boar and running deer and to the right of Melville in Butt Zero try your luck with the Steels Challenge. Walking up the hill from Butt Zero you will find an array of 7.62 rifles firing at 1000 yards on the main Stickleddown range. While crossing onto Century range why not stop to try out the muzzle loading shotgun or conventional shotguns at the National Clay Shooting Centre – this also houses a great café! Once you make it to Century you will find sniper rifle, target rifle, and historic firearms including Lee Enfield .303s, while a host of knowledgeable volunteers will be eager to answer any questions. For the 10 -14 year olds we also have full bore rifles in .223 calibre and on Exhibition Lawn, archery and laser clays can be found. Complete the day with a visit to the

fascinating NRA museum located in the main NRA building.

For all the information you need please visit: www.nra.org.uk – lets try to share shooting's best kept secret!

UKPSA Postal Leagues

The United Kingdom Practical Shooting Association has been running Postal Leagues for practical shooting for a couple of years now. Last year saw over 240 competitors, shooting in four different leagues that covered a number of different gun divisions. In 2013, the UKPSA are adding Action Air to their leagues for Long Barrel Firearms, Shotgun Slug, Shotgun

Birdshot and Handgun. The leagues are open to all shooters and are free to enter.

The Long Barrelled Firearms League includes Gallery Rifle, LBR, LBP and LWSR/Mini Rifle. In Open and Standard divisions, it begins in March as does the Handgun League. The two Shotgun Leagues and Action Air will start one month later in April. New for 2013 will be team entries, consisting of four club members shooting in the same division. Clubs may enter as many teams as they wish. ■

Full details are available on the UKPSA website at www.ukpsa.org or you can contact the UKPSA competition secretary via postalleagues@ukpsa.org





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RETURN OF THE NATIVE RED DEER

The Pirbright Range Danger Area has become such a thriving environment for wildlife that red deer are being reintroduced to the heathland for the first time in centuries

The Pirbright Range Danger Area (RDA) is part of Pirbright Range Complex, managed by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO), the Ministry of Defence's property and services provider. It is an important land resource for the UK Armed Forces and the National Shooting Centre at Bisley.

The land was bought by the government in 1877 and has remained undeveloped and little disturbed since that time. The public were allowed into the area until the 1970s, when access was banned due to the danger of unexploded ordnance. The lack of disturbance has created a unique environment and a thriving wildlife community.

The RDA is classified as Lowland European Heathland – an internationally important habitat existing only in a narrow climatic belt along the North Atlantic seaboard. The UK lost 85% of its lowland heath between 1850 and 1980, which in proportion is a far greater loss than that of the tropical rainforests.

Lowland Heathland is rich in rare species. The only British habitat to support all six native reptiles, it has more species of dragonfly and damselfly than any other UK habitat and is home to what is claimed to be the fastest (size for size) land animal on earth, the Heath Tiger Beetle.

The RDA is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a European Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). These protections are for the undisturbed peat and wetland areas and three threatened heathland bird species (Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler). These breed either on the ground or within the heather, making them vulnerable to disturbance from people and dogs; the RDA thus provides the perfect sanctuary.

Management & Problems

The RDA has not received any formal management for over 100 years. In most heathland sites this would have resulted in a rapid transition from heath, to scrub,

to woodland, but the RDA has remained heathland largely due to the fires that have regularly swept across the site. Such large fires are no longer a viable conservation option due to the proximity of housing. On other sites, heathland managers use a variety of management methods, including mowing, tree and scrub cutting, turf stripping and grazing using domestic livestock. Due to access restrictions on the RDA, none of these proven techniques are possible and yet the international importance of the site means that doing nothing is not an option.

DIO has a statutory obligation to maintain the heathland, while allowing the continuing use of the RDA for vital military training. What followed was the beginning of one of the most exciting conservation projects in the UK.

Observation of the effects of deer grazing elsewhere on UK heathland, led to the idea of re-introducing a herd of large deer to the Pirbright RDA. Red Deer were common in the area 400 years ago

and were the natural choice. Between 2005 and 2007 meetings were held to discuss the project's feasibility with the then Defence Estates (now DIO), Natural England, Defence Deer Management, RSPCA, Defra, the Deer Initiative, consultant deer specialists and Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT). The creation of the SWT grazing team with specialist staff in 2007 – and the green light from the Defra grazing animals welfare group - marked the start of the project. Deer specialists Dr Jochen Langbein and Neil Brooks provided advice on deer containment and likely environmental impacts, whilst Defence Deer Management provided advice on their management.

The Arrival of Animals

SWT bought its first 22 hinds and two stags from the accredited TB-free herd at Bailing Hill Deer Farm in Warnham in 2010. Following a comprehensive series of blood and health tests, undertaken by Peter Green (British Deer Society veterinary advisor), the deer were released into the Danger Area.

Herd movement patterns were tracked from the start using ten GPS collars fitted to both hinds and stags. This has allowed monitoring of the animals' movement and dispersal patterns, behaviour, feeding habits and response to seasons and stimuli.



Jumping for joy: Hinds were first reintroduced in 2010

Eleven calves were born in the first summer. The same winter provided some of the hoped for ecological impacts, with the herd grazing on regenerating heather as well as starting to bark strip and fray prominent pine and birch saplings. In 2011 the herd thrived, with 17 calves being counted in June. Covert trail cameras were used for the deer census, as well as providing data on calving times and the welfare of the herd.

In 2012, 19 calves were born giving a calving success rate that year of 83% and a total herd size of 65 animals. The rut in October proved fascinating with the seven-year-old stag being defeated by his five-year old rival who claimed the majority

of the hinds. The two-year-old stags had a go at joining in, bellowing from discreet locations on the edges of the rutting grounds but were soon seen off by the older males.

The Future

The project is already a success. The deer are healthy and starting to provide the intended ecological benefits, which will doubtless increase as the herd grows to the planned 160 in 2016. It is also potentially valuable for research into red deer behaviour and ecology, as well as providing a surprising and inspiring sight for those looking into the Pirbright RDA. ■

James Adler, Steve Proud and Roger Owen



Natural wonder: Pirbright is home to nearly 1000 hectares of heathland

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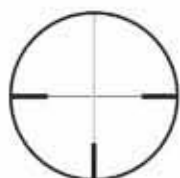
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Price: £7.55

Napier 01235 812993 www.napieruk.com



Left: This model featured in NRA Autumn '12 issue p45 – but also note the new Stratos range will hopefully be in the UK soon

LEICA CRF 1600 RANGEFINDER

Optics manufacturer Leica recently launched the Rangemaster CRF 1600-B rangefinder. The CRF 1600-B has an integrated ballistics system, which calls upon stored data to analyse the ballistic parameters and deliver the required details of the sighting point. In addition to the data on calibre and charge, the CRF 1600-B also stores information on the angle of declination, temperature and barometric pressure for calculating the ballistic curve.

Price: £649

Leica 02076 291351 www.leicastoremayfair.co.uk



ALPHA POWER MUFFS

New to the UK from Walker's Game Ear, the Alpha Power Muffs boast sound reduction of 24dB while retaining clarity of speech and other sounds. In fact, they amplify sound by up to five times thanks to two microphones, while still muffling sudden or sustained loud noises. Importer Viking Arms has labelled the technology as "revolutionary" – let's hope the end user agrees.

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All Randolph lenses are 100 per cent UV absorbent, and boast distortion-free optical-grade polycarbonate in the lenses for excellent definition and clarity. There are two styles available: the Ranger XLW with wraparound-style frame and cable, and the Ranger Edge in a more classic style. There are standard three-lens sets and premium sets available for each design, and a number of tints including polarised options.

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American company Real Avid's ZipWire System takes a new approach to gun cleaning: it pulls debris towards the muzzle of the gun instead of the breech, removing fouling while also protecting the crown.

ZipWire accessories rotate with the rifling so dirt won't brush across the lands and grooves. The ZipWire flex rod has a rotating handle, preventing coiling, while the ZipJag's multiple grooves force the patch against the bore for a deeper clean. The synthetic butterfly-shaped ZipPatch eliminates bunching, maximising bore coverage for fewer passes.

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Viking Arms 01423 780810 www.vikingarms.com



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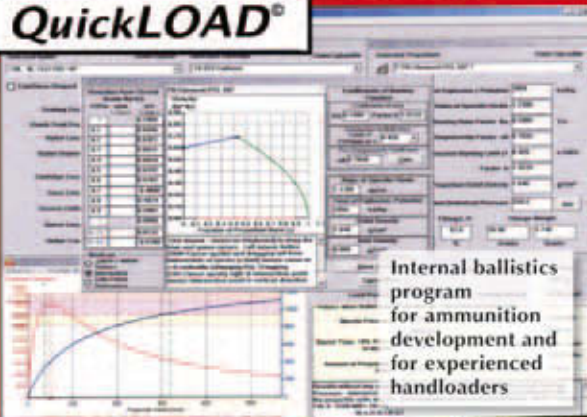
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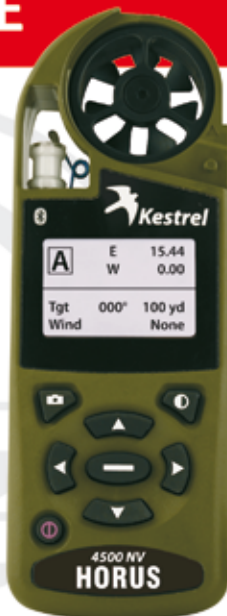


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100 YEARS AGO

A century ago, Britain was in the midst of a naval arms race with Germany. N.E.C. Ted Molyneux takes us back to 1913 as he explores the NRA museum...

The major powers were intent on protecting their empires and some had aspirations towards adding territories so, beneath the surface, there were machinations afoot, both military and civil. Militarily the accent was towards formidable navies, with warships being built of mighty proportions. With the tragic loss of the 'unsinkable' Titanic the previous April, the British navy was reviewing the designs of its warships. The use of submarines and their design was also being developed. The potential of aircraft was being recognised and that January the Australian Flying Corps was formed, quickly followed by the 1st Aero Squadron of the U.S. Army, in March 1913.

The Suffragette movement was causing civil unrest and the population had many grumbles, which were gradually surfacing. However, January saw Britons entitled to illness and maternity benefits for the first time, so politicians were becoming aware of the unrest.

Military complacency had been exposed in the 1899-1902 Boer War, by the accuracy of rifle fire, demonstrated by the Boer farmers, over our troops. This became a national scandal, which developed into a great boost to the fortunes of the NRA. Public outrage demanded improvements and so civilian rifle clubs were formed all over the country and the NRA, in 1900,

was encouraging civilian clubs to affiliate. By 1 January 1913, the number of affiliated clubs stood at 2,531 with a further 44 enrolling in the first quarter of



that year. Rifle shooting was at its most active and popular, which the NRA encouraged by donating a bronze medallion, annually, to every affiliated club.

This medallion was known as a 'Donegal Badge', to be shot for as the recipient club saw fit. The winners were entitled to compete for the Donegal Challenge Cup at Bisley. That year, the conditions were seven shots at 300 yards and ten at 600 yards. No individual could win more than one of the bronze medallions but winners of subsequent club shoots could add date bars. In such cases the medallion was awarded to the next highest scoring non-holder.

The potential of youth was not overlooked, with the Imperial Challenge Shield' senior and junior competitions, held throughout the Empire, consisting of teams of not less than eight shooters. These competitions benefited from the munificence of Lt. Col. R.W. Schumacher, who presented silver challenge shields with bronze replicas, silver and bronze commemorative medals as well as a fund of £231.10.0 divided into £144 prizes and £87.10.0 in grants towards ammunition to unsuccessful teams.

There was also the "Schools of the Empire Match" (senior and junior) open to one team of eight pupils per school having a bona fide corps. Seniors had to be under 20 years of age and the juniors under 16. For the seniors there was the 'Prince of Wales Challenge Cup' and, for the juniors, the 'Natal Challenge Shield'. The competition, for the 'Ashburton' Challenge Shield, flourished with 56 teams shooting and Repton winning by a single point from Rugby. The future looked rosy and, with the Empire Match to come, the 1913 Imperial Meeting was to provide a feast of top class competitors demonstrating that the 'Defence of the Realm' was an important issue and in good hands.

To end the first quarter, good news was reported that the huge oil painting, depicting H.M. King George V, as chief of the NRA, together with some 88 members of the Council of the NRA and prominent supporters of rifle shooting, was nearly finished by the famous artist, Wallace Hester, who had been engaged on the painting for the past two years. It now hangs in the NRA's front office, for all to see and admire. ■

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Obituaries

DAVID HOSSACK

6 NOVEMBER 1943 –
8 DECEMBER 2012

David Hossack was one of Scotland's finest rifle shooters of the modern generation. By profession a quantity surveyor, he used his calm and measured approach in all aspects of his life, whether in business or at his chosen sport, target rifle shooting. Even in retirement he helped to nurse the ailing National Rifle Association of the United Kingdom back to operational health after one of the most precarious periods in its history.

James David Ian Hossack was born on 6 November 1943 in Rawalpindi, then in British India, while his father Brigadier Ian Hossack was serving in the Indian Army in Eritrea with Skinner's Horse. David returned with his mother to the UK after the war. Educated at the Edinburgh Academy and Glenalmond College he gained from both his love of music and shooting.

At school he played the violin and sang solos in opera productions. An early success at the Edinburgh Academy was in Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Ruddigore' in which, as a treble, he took the role of Rose Maybud.

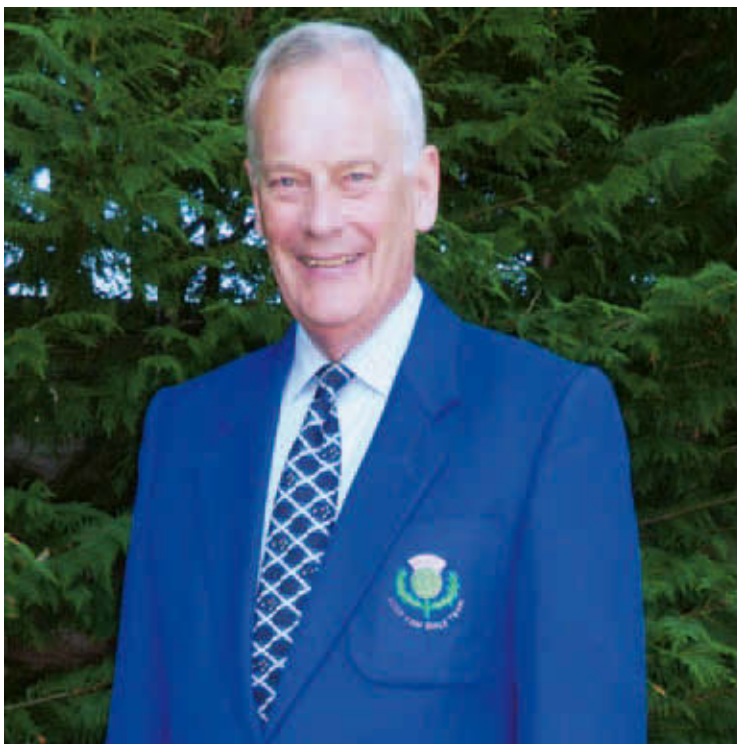
In 1962, on leaving school, he joined Gibson & Simpson of Edinburgh where he trained as a quantity surveyor. While there he saw performances by Rostropovich and Menuhin at the Edinburgh Festival by working as an usher.

In 1969, after the death of his father and beloved grandmother within a week of each other, he took an early career break, driving across Europe and Africa in an MGB to arrive, after many adventures, in Capetown, South Africa. There, over a game of clock golf, he met an English girl, Hillary, who was to become his wife.

On his return to the UK he joined HA Brechin and opened its office in the borders town of Kelso. In 1981 he took up the opportunity to become a partner with Cyril Sweett in London, moving to Lewes, Sussex. Projects he was involved in included the Lakeside and Bluewater shopping centres and the M16 building in Vauxhall. He retired from the role of Managing Director in 2000, moving to Mapledurwell in Hampshire in 2001.

Living in Sussex put him within easy reach of Glyndebourne where he loved to go to enjoy his particular passion, opera. He sang at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh and with the Brighton Festival chorus.

In the target rifle shooting world he won universal regard as



a fine ambassador for the sport as a member of Scottish and British teams overseas, cementing international relations, and as a host at home looking after visitors.

Indeed he was at his unflappable best when a visiting Kenyan team turned up with double the number of personnel expected. Hossack organised accommodation for the extra bodies and acquired more rations for their evening barbecue without blinking an eye.

He was, in terms offered by one of his shooting colleagues, the "still small voice of calm" in any crisis or argument, soothing antagonists until they were able to reach a considered decision on the matter in hand. Nevertheless, he had a very strong sense of fairness. He was often heard berating people with a "you prat", or "stupid boy", but these expressions were just as regularly levelled at himself and were always accompanied by a smile.

A powerful man both in stature and personality, he is remembered by those that shot with him as having an infectious humour, always seeking enjoyment for others from their participation in the sport.

In 1974, with Colin McEachran, he represented Scotland in the open rifle pairing at the Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. He toured with British rifle teams five times, once as captain. He took two Scottish teams to Australia (in 2000 and 2010) and an NRA Goodwill team to the West Indies in 2006.

At home he was a member of the Scotland National Match team in 1964 when they upset the shooting applecart by beating the powerful England team (who were becoming habitually accustomed to winning the match for teams of 20 a side), and was a member of the team that repeated the feat in 2010. Over five decades he totalled 38 caps in that match and a further 25 in the Mackinnon long range match for Scotland, as well as shooting in and captaining the Great Britain team in the Kolapore Match.

Hossack had a profound impact on Scottish shooting. He encouraged his colleagues to develop the strength in depth in their squad that could tip the balance among the Home Nations.

His support of the young shooters was crucial to Scottish fortunes in recent years: the number of young shooters at his funeral was testimony to that. It was evident to all those who toured with him, whether he was their captain or simply another team member, that he was able to coax personal best performances from new caps and experienced shooters alike.

He always said that one of his proudest moments came from the shooting success of someone else, his daughter Joanna, when in 2000 she became the second woman ever to win HM The Sovereign's Prize at Bisley. It was a very emotional father that

joined the ceremonial bearer party, to help chair her off the Stickle-down Ranges at the end of her winning shoot.

From 2000 to 2004, at a time when the National Rifle Association was in dire financial straits with debts of nearly £2 million, Hossack gave his time and expertise to the National Shooting Centre.

He helped to bring the operations of the NSC to better order, making a big contribution to the recovery plan and survival of the organisation. He also played a leading role in the preparation work for the shooting events of the 2002 Commonwealth Games, held at Bisley. He found time to be the Chairman of the North London Rifle Club and a Trustee of the Sussex County Rifle Association.

Hossack suffered a stroke at home in the first week of December 2012. He did not recover. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Hilary, and by his son and daughter.

Hilary, Jonathan and Joanna would like to thank everyone for their very kind letters and cards. Donations to the Stroke Association in David's memory have reached £2,500.

This obituary first appeared in the Times on 19 January 2013 and is reproduced here by kind permission of Times Newspapers

KEITH HASKELL

9 MAY 1939 –
28 NOVEMBER 2012

Keith Haskell died on 28 November 2012, after a long and debilitating illness borne with great courage and forbearance, the consequence of a tropical disease that he had contracted during his diplomatic career in South America. Keith will have been known among shooters in recent memory as a Matchrifleman, but in his younger days he was a first-class shot in all disciplines, including pistol. A long and distinguished career in the Foreign Office, spent almost entirely overseas, meant the sacrifice of much of his shooting, but with his love of the sport he managed to appear at Bisley to shoot Match Rifle and occasionally The Queen's whenever his career postings allowed, and then more frequently and with conspicuous enjoyment during his retirement.

Keith was educated at Portsmouth Grammar School, from where he won a place to St Catharine's College, Cambridge and gained a first class degree in classics. He was Captain of CURA in 1961, remembered as a warm and encouraging coach of young shooters, and worked hard with the CUOTC to overcome the difficulties that surrounded fullbore rifle shooting in the university at that time. He quickly displayed a talent for Match Rifle, winning the Armourers and shooting for England in the Elcho as an undergraduate in 1961, and coming second in the Hopton in 1962.



Keith concealed his brilliant intellect and flair for languages beneath an exterior that was self-effacing, quietly spoken, warm and generous, witty, and above all instilled with a love of life, especially the humorous side of it. He had a splendid sense of the ridiculous, a valuable asset for Match Rifle in particular, where unexpected disaster lurks at every shot. (This he did once take to extreme limits, as will be described later.) But the Foreign Office will not have been deceived by this amiable exterior. They recruited Keith straight from Cambridge in 1961 and posted him almost immediately to their school of Arabic in Lebanon (a well-known breeding ground for people in Intelligence) where he rubbed shoulders for a time with subsequent notorieties such as Kim Philby. There followed a series of postings in other Arab countries. Whilst a junior diplomat in Cairo at the time of the World Shooting Championships, Keith was delegated to look after the GB team. On being allowed to shoot with them in practice he caused some embarrassment by out-shooting several members of the official team!

The Middle East was no quieter then than now. In Baghdad, Keith experienced two revolutions, during one of which he was shot at whilst trying, unsuccessfully, to defend the embassy's launch. It is reputed that he later took revenge, after a good night out, by firing cans of beer from the embassy's old Turkish canon at the opposing side. In Damascus, then at loggerheads with Iraq, he was described in a local paper as 'the infamous Haskell, well-known subverter of popular regimes', an accolade that he wore with pride. In Tripoli, at the time Gaddafi took over, a revolutionary shot at him and his young wife Toni (whom he had married in 1966) but thankfully missed. A posting as Consul General in Dubai proved more peaceful; he was awarded the CVO for his organisation of visits first by the Queen and then by Mrs Thatcher. On return to London he later became Head of the Middle East Department at the FCO.

Germany came next and whilst Head of Chancery in Bonn in the late 80s Keith organised a shooting tour of some of his close friends (known privately as 'The Spoon Club') where he used his influence to gain access to the 1000 metre range at Sennelager, firing at six-foot targets. His team beat the locals, but the individual prize went to a young soldier from BOAR, shooting TR. His name was Angus McLeod.

An earlier posting to Chile during the time of the infamous Pinochet regime signalled a change of direction towards Latin America in the final part of Keith's career, perhaps influenced by the fact that Toni, whom Keith had known from a young age, was Portuguese. Hence Keith had long been fluent in Portuguese, in addition to his command of Spanish, French, German and Arabic. He was ambassador first to Peru 1990-95 (where he contracted the fateful disease), being awarded the CMG in 1991, and then to Brazil 1995-2000, a senior and important post, after which he retired. In Brazil he was highly effective in fostering business and commercial relations between Brazil and

Britain, organising many ministerial visits between the two countries, including that of Brazil's President Cardoso to the UK. I visited him there myself on business, where it was apparent that his open, informal, engaging but businesslike manner, totally devoid of airs and graces, was very much in tune with the Brazilians. They must have appreciated too his organisation of an Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race against Brazil on the Amazon. (Oxbridge foundered; Brazil won.) Previous ambassadors at this level had been knighted and Keith must surely have deserved to be. As to why a knighthood never came his way can only be answered, one assumes, within the inner workings of the FCO.

Keith's shooting in retirement never quite returned to the high standards of his youth. He shot essentially for pleasure and good company, persisting in using Galilean sights to the end. Even then travel continued to intervene. With his expert knowledge of the Middle East, Keith was much in demand as a lecturer on Swan Hellenic cruises to the Eastern Mediterranean, and on tours to Latin America too. But Toni and he were able to take part in a goodwill Match Rifle tour of Tasmania, Victoria and New Zealand, promoting the joys of MR, and a great time was had by all. He also succeeded Lord Swansea as President of the Cambridge University Long Range Rifle Club. Typically, he said he was not distinguished enough as a shooter to deserve the honour, but the club's members turned a very deaf ear to that. Keith was the ideal person, and he threw himself into organising the first ever international MR shoot at Barton Road against the visiting Australian MR team in 2006, a match that Cambridge won under his captancy.

Having dodged the bullets during his career, Keith did however court disaster during retirement. Shooting MR in the back position on Stickledown during a cold November day, a sudden spasm of cramp jerked his leg at the very moment he squeezed the trigger. A horrified onlooker behind him exclaimed "My God, Keith, you haven't shot yourself in the foot?" Keith is said to have replied, as only a seasoned British diplomat could, "Do you know, I rather think I have." By a miracle the bullet had passed through his foot without touching a single bone, leaving only fragments of sock and shoe-leather to be excavated, and no serious damage was done. A clear target was recorded.

Bisley, Stickledown in particular, will be much the poorer for Keith's absence. On the ranges this eminent man of powerful intellect, who did so much for his country, was only ever the most modest and amiable companion who loved shooting and all the idiosyncrasy of Match Rifle and the laughter that went with it. His final appearance at Bisley, fittingly, was to attend the celebrations in July 2012 for the 150th anniversary of the Elcho. His many friends will miss him profoundly, and we extend our deepest sympathy to Toni and his four children.

Colin Hayes

RAY BRAMLEY

Ray Bramley was born in Nottingham where he spent his childhood and studied hard to gain engineering qualifications. He was in a reserved occupation during WWII.

He and Joan met during the war and were married in 1946. They lived in Nottingham before moving to various locations as his job dictated – in Kent, Birmingham and retiring to Church Stretton, Shropshire before moving to Farndon, Nottinghamshire some fourteen years ago. They had no children but Ray was very orientated and took great interest in the development and progress of three generations of nieces and nephews.

Ray's hobby and love was his rifle target shooting and he represented the GB Rifle Association on numerous occasions – some of them as Team Captain. This took him all over the world including Australia, New Zealand and Canada, as well as shooting annually at Bisley, where he narrowly missed winning the Queen's Prize on two occasions. He also captained a touring team, which was aptly named "The Bramley Seedlings".

In 1981, at the Scottish Open Meeting, he took the Friday

aggregate, the City of Glasgow and the Grand Aggregate.

In 1983 he "almost cleared the deck" at the Scottish meeting making a clean sweep of both major open prizes. "He shot as if the wind (at best difficult and at worst unreadable) was only blowing on other people's targets".



Ray was very fond of wildlife and he and Joan were much travelled throughout the world, having safaried in Africa and sailed on a passenger-carrying cargo boat around the Arctic Circle. They also loved holidaying each year in Switzerland, Austria and Germany.

Ray died on 22 December 2012 at the age of 92.

CATH HARRINGTON

28 JUNE 1932 – 3 FEBRUARY 2013

It is with much sadness that we have to inform you of the sudden death of Cath Harrington on Sunday 3 February 2013, following a short battle with an aggressive cancer that attacked her kidneys, liver & lungs.



Cath came to shooting quite late in life in the 1970s, as a clay shooter with Mays Green Sporting Clay Club in Surrey. Always an organiser, she soon found herself acting as both secretary and treasurer of the club and a key member in keeping the club running. During this time she actively supported Hatchford Park School for handicapped children in Hatchford, Surrey, by organising fundraising and sponsored shoots.

In the mid-1980s, she took up pistol shooting and joined Ham & Petersham Rifle & Pistol Club and then later Wembley Rifle & Pistol Club. In the late 1980s she joined Enever Rifle & Pistol Club (based at Bisley NSC), initially as a Pistol Shooter and then after 1997 as a Gallery Rifle shooter. Once again her organisational skills found her taking up the joint roles of secretary and treasurer for the club.

She held these roles for over 25 years and, although passing on the secretary role in 2010, she still acted

as treasurer and continued to organise both the club's finances and also 'the desk' taking shoot fees and selling ammo, a job she did pretty much unbroken since joining the club. Although reducing her shooting in later years, she carried on shooting into her 80th year and the last shoot she attended was just a month or so back in December 2012.

She will be sadly missed by both the club and her family. Cath leaves behind her husband Ernie to whom she was married for 57 years & a son, Roy.

IAN CHEESEMAN

It is with much regret that the NRA has learnt of the death of Ian Cheeseman of the USA. Ian was a regular visitor to Bisley Imperial meetings, both as an individual competitor and as a member of visiting teams from the USA. He will be best remembered for almost single-handedly establishing the US under-25 team program, the 'Young Eagles'. It was his vision, energy, and financial support that enabled the Young Eagles to become World under-25 Champions in 2011 and have a vibrant sustainable program, from having no team at all in 1999.

BERTIE VENTER

It is with sadness that we have to announce the death of Lt Gen Bertie Venter. Our sincere condolences to his friends and family at this sad time.

Schalk Cullinan, SABU

Results

F CLASS EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS – 3-4 NOVEMBER 2012

F OPEN GRAND AGGREGATE		
PLACE	NAME	TOTAL
1	Lee Tomlinson	459.30
2	Maurizio Battaglini	458.38
3	Daniel Mckenna	452.26
4	Olaf Jones	451.32
5	Grant Taylor	450.31
6	Vyacheslav Kovalski	449.42
7	Anthony Dunne	449.27
8	Peter Frederiks	446.32
9	Wolfgang Scholze	446.32
10	John Campbell	446.29
11	Marco Been	446.28
12	Ian Boxall	445.31
13	Mark Daish	444.30
14	David Lloyd	444.28
15	Paul Sandie	444.28
16	Enda Walsh	444.27
17	Paul Hill	444.24
18	David Kent	443.33
19	Barry Dowsett	443.26
20	Peter Hunt	442.25
21	Velibor Pesic	441.32
22	Tony Marsh	441.26
23	Des Parr	441.25
24	Hugh Inglis	441.24
25	Ian Chapman	440.27
26	Phillip Sammons	440.23
27	Joan Martorell	439.32
28	Dmytro Hrymalyuk	439.32
29	Liam Fenlon	439.28
30	Joan Monells	439.24
31	Andy Wyspianski	439.23
32	James Sullivan	438.28
33	Valter Boni	437.33
34	Ulrich Kwade	437.30
35	Robert Koch	437.24
36	Klaus Effing	437.22
37	Norbert Eilmess	436.25
38	Jan De Kok	435.22
39	Rudolf Eckbauer	434.33
40	Greg Thompson	434.29
41	Lorenzo Lozano	434.24
42	John Carmichael	434.22
43	Joe Melia	433.22
44	Horst Mitera	433.20
45	Devid Canal	432.21
46	Gary Costello	431.27

47	Darren Stewart	430.25
48	Helmut Metz	429.35
49	Giovanni Cassin	427.23
50	Ceferino Masip	427.23

FTR OPEN GRAND AGGREGATE		
PLACE	NAME	TOTAL
1	Tim Stewart	439.23
2	Fabrizio Giuggia	437.17
3	Russell Simmonds	436.24
4	Steve Donaldson	431.24
5	Steve Rigby	430.24
6	Klaus Trietchen	428.16
7	Sergey Gorban	426.24
8	Andrew Burgess	426.21
9	John Chambers	426.18
10	Bill McIntyre	424.22
11	Maksym Semonovykh	424.13
12	Evgeniy Scherbakov	423.22
13	Steve Thornton	423.20
14	Mark Bannon	422.25
15	Paul Harkins	421.20
16	Marco Grasso	420.21
17	Stuart Anselm	420.14
18	Adam Bagnall	418.15
19	Mykola Bozhko	417.24
20	Paul Crosbie	416.27
21	Carlos Bustamante	415.23
22	Ross Opperman	414.16
23	John Cross	412.20
24	Anthony Donnachie	411.17
25	Ian Dixon	411.15
26	Giulio Arrigucci	411.11
27	Laurie Holland	410.24

28	Dean Wallace	409.17
29	Stephen Lynch	408.22
30	Joe Mcloughlin	408.17
31	Joey Barfe	408.15
32	Alan De Lacy	408.12
33	Paul Eggemann	407.18
34	Giuseppe Romeo	407.15
35	Ramon Fito	406.20
36	Sergey Baranov	406.18
37	Valenlyn Ponomarenko	405.17
38	Eduardo De Fontcuberta	403.16
39	James Treanor	402.11
40	Rick Carless	401.11
41	Jason Scrivens	400.20
42	Terry Mcquaid	400.16
43	Raymond Hennessy	399.11
44	Alexandr Suvorov	399.11
45	Jean Francois Pioche	398.17
46	John Dean	398.14
47	Pat Hunt	398.10
48	Richard Jones	397.16
49	Jose Lopez	397.12
50	Jose Arburua	396.14

TEAM RESULTS

Open

1. Great Britain 747.52; 2. Ireland 728.42; 3. Germany 721.33; 4. Italy 701.26

FTR

1. Great Britain 714.36; 2. Ukraine 711.29; 3. Germany 678.19; 4. Ireland 677.26; 5. Spain 631.24; 6. Italy 600.26



NRA / BLUE TEAM AUTUMN SHOTGUN FESTIVAL – 10 NOVEMBER 2012

MODIFIED

PLACE	NAME	CAT	REG	POINTS	%
1	Anna Tsangaropoulos	L	GBR	420.0000	100.00

OPEN

1	Andy Haines	–	GBR	359.5154	100.00
2	Dave Rollinson	S	GBR	287.0487	79.84
3	Gary Humphreys	–	GBR	282.4253	78.56
4	Michael Peter Matthews	–	GBR	280.3612	77.98
5	Michael Shiew	–	GBR	271.9551	75.64
6	Keith Watson	–	GBR	254.9395	70.91
7	Stuart Burford	S	GBR	241.7410	67.24
8	Tony Maclean	–	GBR	191.1245	53.16
9	Roger Middleton	–	GBR	186.0693	51.76
10	David Harrison	–	GBR	143.9609	40.04

STANDARD

1	Rob Adam	S	GBR	346.4743	100.00
2	Vanessa Duffy	L	GBR	329.5559	95.12
3	John Chambers	–	GBR	304.1492	87.78
4	Rob Sanders	S	GBR	299.0862	86.32
5	Andrew Duffy	S	GBR	298.9200	86.27
6	Richard Perry	S	GBR	292.7555	84.50
7	Pete Savage	SS	GBR	290.3088	83.79
8	Kevin Strowger	–	GBR	273.9000	79.06
9	Steve Denton	S	GBR	261.2199	75.39
10	Antonio Bello	–	GBR	255.9652	73.88
11	Tim Smith	–	GBR	250.6996	72.36
12	Vin Chapman	S	GBR	250.4436	72.28
13	Dave Ward	S	GBR	249.8246	72.10
14	Steve Allery	–	GBR	243.3097	70.22
15	Bradley Smith	S	GBR	238.2160	68.75
16	David King	–	GBR	231.8404	66.91
17	Nick Vernon	–	GBR	223.2947	64.45
18	Gary Dyer	–	GBR	216.1484	62.39
19	Andrew Munro	–	GBR	205.1659	59.22
20	Martin Voles	–	GBR	192.4467	55.54
21	Perminder Tony Singh	–	GBR	176.8397	51.04
22	John Morris	S	GBR	148.3241	42.81
23	Chris Gibbs	–	GBR	138.4557	39.96
24	Ian Fletcher	–	GBR	126.6031	36.54
25	Alfred Caetawo	–	GBR	123.7502	35.72
26	Paul Boef	–	GBR	101.6504	29.34

STANDARD MANUAL

1	Brod Fox	–	GBR	373.8422	100.00
2	George Granycome	S	GBR	342.6686	91.66
3	Clive Taylor	S	GBR	300.4534	80.37
4	Bruce Perry	S	GBR	256.8815	68.71
5	John Sichel	–	GBR	239.9886	64.20
6	Anthony Mayes	–	GBR	141.6901	37.90



CORRECTED RESULTS: NRA V JRA TEAM MATCH 2012

EIGHTS MATCH

JRA	300	500	600	TOTAL
M Norman	50.09	50.08	50.07	150.24
BA Horwood	50.06	50.07	49.06	149.19
R Benest	50.08	48.06	50.08	148.22
G Harris	49.07	49.05	50.08	148.20
A Langley	50.06	48.05	50.08	148.19
K Le Quesne	50.07	49.07	48.07	147.21
B Le Cheminant	48.05	48.03	50.08	146.16
IT Jones	45.04	48.04	50.05	143.13
TOTAL	392.52	390.45	397.57	1179.154

NRA	300	500	600	TOTAL
P Chapman-Sheath	50.05	50.04	50.06	150.15
J Alexander	49.08	50.07	50.08	149.23
T Smith	50.08	49.05	50.08	149.21
S Dash	50.06	48.05	50.06	148.17
R Kitson	49.04	49.04	49.03	147.11
G Morgan	49.08	48.05	49.03	146.16
E Hoolahan	48.06	47.05	49.05	144.16
I Power	47.02	49.05	46.03	142.10
TOTAL	392.47	390.40	393.42	1175.129

RESERVES

NRA	300	500	600	TOTAL
E Cannings	47.03	48.02	50.06	145.11
E Joseph	46.04	49.06	48.06	143.16
TOTAL	93.07	97.08	98.12	288.27
JRA	300	500	600	TOTAL
R Smith	49.08	49.04	48.06	146.18
T Gordon	45.03	47.04	48.06	140.13
TOTAL	94.11	96.08	96.12	286.31

MULTI-GUN MATCH AGGREGATE – 16-17 FEBRUARY

POSITION	NAME	URBAN CONTACT	NATIONAL DEFENCE	TARGET SHOTGUN	CSR	AGGREGATE TOTAL
1	P. Tasker	93.90	100.00	100.00	89.93	383.82
2	L. Chisholm	93.60	78.51	75.22	95.68	343.02
3	K. Chambers	100.00	77.24	83.25	80.58	341.06
4	W. Ellis	95.35	84.22	55.09	97.12	331.78
5	D. Green	95.93	76.31	45.49	97.84	315.58
6	M. Hale	91.28	66.79	65.41	82.73	306.22
7	P. Hunter	99.71	–	94.26	97.12	291.09
8	M. VanDalen	87.50	64.86	66.37	71.22	289.96
9	M. Pearce	50.29	78/28	78.35	79.14	286.05
10	N. Bennington	81.69	73.13	34.53	83.45	272.80
11	A. Dreyer	62.50	75.41	46.78	86.33	271.02
12	R. Sanders	86.63	49.05	71.02	64.03	270.72
13	J. Hutchinson	84.59	60.73	38.63	79.86	263.81
14	L. Hinds	69.77	68.09	47.35	71.22	256.43
15	M. Bradley	63.66	46.45	52.40	90.65	253.16
16	N St Aubyn	90.41	–	59.78	100.00	250.18
17	G. Granycome	57.85	65.33	84.31	41.73	249.21
18	S. Denton	74.71	61.43	52.75	56.12	245.00
19	A. Waters	83.72	55.67	27.71	77.70	244.80
20	B. Chapple	75.58	50.48	40.32	73.38	239.77
21	D. Hodgson	96.80	35.68	36.40	64.75	233.62
22	F. Graham	50.00	57.81	36.98	65.47	210.25
23	J. Mann	89.83	53.18	48.57	–	191.58
24	P Major	65.70	44.13	30.80	24.46	165.09
25	F. Cooke	93.90	64.01	–	–	157.90
26	J. Symes	–	83.25	–	83.25	–
27	D. Kiddle	–	–	81.10	–	81.10
28	J. Harris	–	–	72.44	–	72.44



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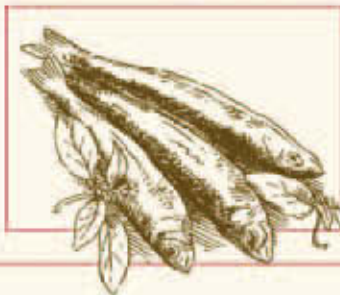
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General Notices

2014 NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

I am honoured to have been asked to captain the NRA team to the Channel Islands in 2014. I am delighted to announce that Antony Ringer (Norfolk, England and GB) and Robert Welford (London) have accepted my invitation to be the team's Vice Captain and Adjutant respectively. This tour is expected to take place over the Whitsun Bank Holiday in May 2014, lasting around six days with matches against both Guernsey and Jersey.

I shall be following the traditional model for this tour which is designed to broaden the experience of those TR shooters who wish to take their shooting to the next level by gaining some touring experience while still remembering to have some fun along the way. The team will be 14 strong. So if you have not yet represented GB at TR either at home or abroad; have attained, or are close to attaining, County Level status at target rifle; and would like to broaden your experience then I am interested in hearing from you. I would be keen to invite applications from both young shooters who want to take their shooting to the next level and from more experienced shooters who feel that they might want to reinvigorate their shooting career.

I would plan to organise training days and fundraising events, including at least one corporate day, the first of which could be late September, to keep tour costs down

in these financially stringent times. Team members would be expected to attend both corporate days and training days.

I would ask that applications be submitted to me either in writing or by e-mail along with a shooting CV by Final Saturday of the 2013 Imperial Meeting. I envisage that the team would be announced by 1 September.

It would be my objective to lead a successful and enjoyable tour combining competition at a senior level with a relaxed social content in the company of our many friends in the Channel Islands.

John Webster



© Angus MacRae

TR TEAM CAPTAINCIES

Nominations for Team Captain are invited for the following Target Rifle teams:

GB Team to Canada 2014

GB Under 25 Team to USA for the World Championships 2015

Nominations for captains of the above teams must be made by three full members of the NRA whose membership is fully paid up at the date the nomination is made. Nominations, which must be in writing (email is acceptable), should be sent to the Secretary General, to be received at the NRA Office not later than 5pm on Friday 22nd March 2013 (Email nominations to georgina.thatcher@nra.org.uk)



SPORTING RIFLE DAY

The NRA will be holding two Sporting Rifle days at Bisley on 9-10 March.

The event, supported by Edgar Brothers, will allow participants to come and try a variety of rifles.

Rifles available will include:

Remington 700 Target Tactical .308 Win

Savage 25 Lightweight Varminter .17

Hornet

Savage 10BA .308 Win
Remington 597 .22 LR with a VTR A-2 16" scope (Package)

Nosler Model 48 .308 Win...plus many more!

Participants can book onto a morning or afternoon session on Saturday 9th or Sunday 10th March. Both NRA members and non-members are welcome to attend.

If you would like to come and have a fun day shooting targets such as running deer, time limit, firebirds or even play some snooker, visit www.nra.org.uk

Booking times available: Saturday & Sunday morning: 8.30am - 12.30pm; Saturday & Sunday afternoon: 1.30pm - 4.00pm

Annual General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 14 June at 17:30 in the NRA Pavilion.

Bisley General Meeting

The 2013 Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 17 July at 21:00 in the Umbrella Tent.

Team Captaincies

The following are appointed as captains for the following teams:

GB Target Rifle Team Kolapore 2013:

John Warburton

GB Target Rifle Team Channel Island

2014: John Webster

GB Target Rifle Team Palma 2015:

Jane Messer

Procedure for the General Council Elections 2013

ELIGIBILITY OF CANDIDATES AND PROPOSERS

Only persons who are registered members of the Association and who have fully paid up their subscriptions for 2013 by 31 March are eligible to be candidates for election to the General Council and to be proposers for such candidates.

REGIONAL AND SHOOTING DISCIPLINE CANDIDATURE AND VOTING

Those voting for regional candidates must live in the appropriate Sports Council region even though their nominated candidates for election may live elsewhere. Those voting for Shooting Discipline candidates

must have previously declared that Shooting Discipline to the NRA as their primary shooting discipline.

ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING WILL BE DETERMINED AS AT 30 APRIL 2013

Nomination forms for candidates and proposers and an explanation of the procedures for nominations are available from the Chief Executive's office.

CURRICULUM VITAE

In order to assist the Registered Members with their choice of representatives in the election, a CV for each Candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 150 words should accompany the nomination. A passport-sized photograph of the candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro-forma.

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

PROGRAMME OF KEY DATE FOR ELECTIONS

31st March 2013

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

30th April 2013

Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Chief Executive by 17:00 on this date. Registered Members must be qualified for voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline candidate by this date. All Members desiring to vote

must be fully paid-up, registered Members by this date.

24th May 2013

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

15th July 2013

Voting slips in the correct envelope supplied must be received by the NRA office by mail or by hand, no later than 5.00pm on this date.

SCRUTINEERS APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 12th April 2013.

ROUTINE VACANCIES

There will be the following vacancies in 2013, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

Four Ordinary Members

* J H Carmichael

A R K Clayton

M Maksimovic

K Robertson

Four Regional Members

G Trembath – *Northern*

J D Warburton – *Yorkshire & Humberside*

* D D Watt – *Eastern*

D G Young – *North West*

Two Shooting Discipline Members

P H Hobson – *F Class*

D Spittles – *Muzzle Loading*

* *Not standing for re-election*

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Marksman's Calendar

The events still to come in the NRA calendar this year

MARCH 2013

3 NRA CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE, WINTER LEAGUE

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

3 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER HME COURSE

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

9-10 CLUB COACH COURSE

Caroline O'Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

16-17 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER COURSE

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

23-24 NRA SPRING ACTION WEEKEND

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

30-31 CLUB INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Caroline O'Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

APRIL 2013

6-7 WIND COACHING COURSE

Caroline O'Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

6 NRA CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE, WINTER LEAGUE

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

6-7 WIND COACHING COURSE

Caroline O'Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

13 IBIS OPEN

Bill Rowland, 0207 696 5249, billvbull@yahoo.co.uk

27 CLUBS MINI PALMA MATCH

RAFTRC Match Secretary, 07974 128462,
MatchSec@raftrc.org.uk

27 SMALLBORE LONG RANGE TRIAL SHOOT

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

MAY 2013

4-5 WEST OF SCOTLAND OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (BLAIR ATHOLL)

John Potter, 01416 443017, jmdpott@
googlemail.com

4-5 CLRA ALL COMERS MEETING (ALTCAR)

County of Lancaster RA, secretary@clra.org.uk, www.clra.org.uk

11-12 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER COURSE

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

18-19 NRA 300-METRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

24-26 NRA PHOENIX MEETING

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

27 PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

JUNE 2013

7-9 SCOTTISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (BLAIR ATHOLL)

Allan Mabon, mabooscotland@ntfworld.com

15-16 INTER-COUNTIES MEETING

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk

21 JUNE – 5 JULY SERVICE WEAPONS EVENTS AND AGGREGATES

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

22-23 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER COURSE

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149,
maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

22-23 SCOTTISH LONG RANGE OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS (BLAIR ATHOLL)

Tim Kidner, 01224 321468, tlk762@aol.com

26-30 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE MEETING

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

29-30 BRITISH COMMONWEALTH RIFLE CLUB OPEN MEETING

Ed Jeens, edjeens@hotmail.com

JULY 2013

3 NRA MILITARY ADAPTIVE SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Brian Thomas, 01483 797777 x 148, brian.thomas@nra.org.uk

5-11 IMPERIAL MATCH RIFLE EVENTS

Brian Thomas, 01483 797777 x 148, brian.thomas@nra.org.uk

6-7 IMPERIAL HISTORIC ARMS EVENTS

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

8-11 IMPERIAL SCHOOLS MEETING

Peter Turner, schools@nra.org.uk

11 IMPERIAL SCHOOLS VETERAN MATCH

Heather Webb, 01483 797777 x 138,
memsec@nra.org.uk

11-20 IMPERIAL TARGET RIFLE EVENTS

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

12-20 IMPERIAL F-CLASS RIFLE EVENTS

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

20 HM QUEEN'S PRIZE

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

22-24 COMMONWEALTH SHOOTING FEDERATION CHAMPIONSHIPS

John Bloomfield, 01623 491199,
jpsbloomfield@btconnect.com

AUGUST 2013

24-25 GALLERY RIFLE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Chris Farr, chris.farr@nra.org.uk



5-20 July: The 144th Imperial Meeting is the highlight of the 2013 calendar

31 AUGUST – 1 SEPTEMBER CLUB INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Caroline O'Connor, 01483 797777 x 158

SEPTEMBER 2013

14-15 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER COURSE

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

OCTOBER 2013

5 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

12-13 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER COURSE

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 X 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

12-13 WIND COACHING COURSE

Caroline O'Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

19-20 TRAFALGAR MEETING

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

26-27 AUTUMN ACTION WEEKEND

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

26-27 AGES MATCH

Brian Thomas, 01483 797777 x 148, brian.thomas@nra.org.uk

NOVEMBER 2013

3 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

9-10 RANGE CONDUCTING OFFICER COURSE

Maureen Peach, 01483 797777 x 149, maureen.peach@nra.org.uk

DECEMBER 2013

7 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

Shooting Division, shootsec@nra.org.uk

14-15 CLUB INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Caroline O'Connor, caroline.oconnor@nra.org.uk

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

29 March – Good Friday – Offices and ranges closed all day

1 April – Easter Monday – Offices closed all day, ranges closed PM

6 May – Early May bank holiday – Offices closed all day, ranges closed PM

27 May – Spring bank holiday – Offices closed all day, ranges closed PM

26 August – Summer bank holiday – Offices closed all day, ranges closed PM

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19-20 October: The Trafalgar Meeting brings together a vast array of competitions



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