

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Winter 2014 – Volume XCIII No. 4

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David Luckman on his shooting career and Commonwealth gold medals

New year developments

Chief Executive Andrew Mercer takes us through some prospective improvements and plans for the future from the NRA at Bisley and beyond

A busy autumn of shooting has made delivering the programme of refurbishment and improvement difficult at times. Balmy, dry weather lulls us into a false sense of security as the inevitable heavy rains that follow highlight poor drainage, worn range floors and firing points, leaking roofs and blocked guttering.

We have rediscovered the delights of wood chip as an all-weather surface, and following the installation of new drainage, three bays on Melville range have now had the muddy grass replaced with the new chip. A recent downpour confirmed the wisdom of this work; shooters were complimentary though they did suggest that a different colour would help retrieval of spent cases. Similar work will shortly start on Butt Zero, and an extensive programme of works including four new sets of turning targets a new toilet block and even heating in Cheylesmore range will be completed by the end of January 2015.



Melville range has benefited from new drainage and an all-weather surface

As demand continues to grow for our ranges, we need to increase the efficiency of how we present and manage the extensive suite of facilities at Bisley. Electronic targets are a key element and six new Kongsberg targets have been ordered for Century range with delivery scheduled for January 2015. Hard-wiring for monitors at 100, 200 and 300 yards has also been installed. Developing and delivering an effective service to support what is already a substantial investment will test our staff, and it will be interesting to see how the targets stand up to a heavy rate of attrition.

Contractors have just about finished work on the new Spencer caravan site six weeks ahead of schedule. It looks terrific, but brings the shabby appearance of much of the rest of Bisley into focus. Working with our tenants, caravan owners and other camp users to improve the appearance and character will demand a great deal of energy, not to mention considerable investment.

While shooting at Bisley is on an upward trajectory, matters in the regions are more problematic. We will shortly be recruiting a regional manager, based away from Bisley, to improve services for our many members who shoot on MoD and other regional ranges. I hope recent negotiations with the



MoD will ease a number of contentious issues; for example we have arranged a 'train the trainer' session for the new SARTS system that should improve access to ranges with these targets for civilian clubs.

There has been a flurry of events that could potentially put us at loggerheads with the police. Instinctively this feels like bad news; shooters share a common interest with the police to ensure firearms are held safely and responsibly. However, we should not shrink from protesting if we think initiatives are clumsy or potentially counter-effective. The initiative for unannounced home visits and the now-shelved Crimestoppers line are cases in point.

The case of John Lowe, the puppy farmer who murdered two women, posed a challenge when dealing with the inevitable press enquiries about firearms law and gun safety. We know the Surrey police firearms team well and they have showed themselves to be hard-working, honest, and supportive of shooting at Bisley. They now face possible gross misconduct charges. An error of judgement does not invalidate laws, processes and procedures, and criticising the police when they make a mistake risks alienating our key partner in ensuring safe and responsible firearms ownership. ■



Plans for Cheylesmore range include four sets of turning targets, new toilets and heating



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NEWS

REPORTS

DISABLED SHOOTING PROJECT

The Disabled Shooting Project (DSP) is undergoing a major transformation into a fully independent charitable organisation. This step follows a mid-term review between Sport England and British Shooting as a result of which the latter decided to re-organise the way it uses its Sport England funding for disabled shooting development.

Following that decision, the DSP's working group decided that the project should continue on an entirely voluntary basis. Later, when the new organisation structure is in place, it may well be possible to secure new funding from other sources, which would allow the project to expand. For the time being, Liz Woodall continues to handle the DSP's administration although Liz has full time employment

outside the sport and her DSP activity is entirely voluntary.

The DSP says: "Inevitably this will have an effect on the services the DSP can deliver in the shape of personal visits and meetings. However, once the new organisation is fully operational, the working group will put together a scheme to do as much as possible on this front. In the meantime, as much assistance as possible will continue to be offered via the website, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and email."

The DSP will continue to work with British Shooting on specific disabled shooting development schemes and it is hoped that the move away from reliance on Sport England funding means that the project can further its reach across Britain.



FIREARMS LICENCE FEE CONSULTATION

The Home Office has announced plans to raise the firearms certificate fee to £88 – a figure it is putting out to public consultation.

Licence fee rises had long been expected, but the Labour party sparked fears over how high they would rise earlier this year, when Yvette Cooper MP indicated the party would push for full cost recovery should it come to power.

This could have meant certificate fees of up to £200, four times the current figure. Instead, the granting of a new FAC is set to rise to £88, an FAC renewal to £62, and a shotgun certificate to £79.50.

A coterminal grant will rise to £90, while a replacement certificate will drop to £4.

The figures were put forward by an all-party working group, and take into account the cost increases since the last fee rise 13 years ago, as well as efficiency savings brought about by moving to an online system.

NRA chief executive Andrew Mercer said: "The NRA has been closely involved in the negotiations leading to these proposals and we urge all members to support what we consider to be a fair deal for the shooting community.

"There were attempts to double, triple or quadruple the current fees; the NRA considers this proposal is proportionate, reflects the true cost of licencing, and represents a fair settlement for shooters."

View and respond to the consultation: <http://po.st/FeeConsultation>.



MACHINE GUN DISPLAY

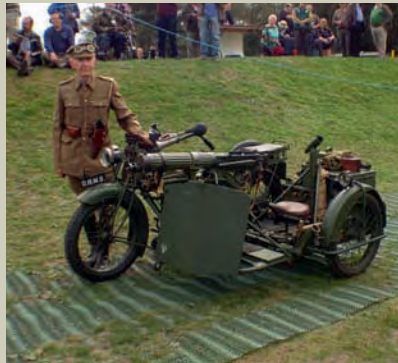
A crowd gathered on 26 September for a demonstration by the Historical Beechloading Smallarms Association (HBSA) of various historic machine guns on Butt Zero range.

It was a remarkable display that expertly demonstrated the firepower of these historic pieces.

The HBSA demonstration marked the centenary of the First World War with examples of various machine guns used in 1914 – Two Vickers, a Russian Maxim, a Chauchat, a BAR and a Lewis. Chris Roberts attended with his Matchless motorcycle and Vickers sidecar from which a Vickers was fired. Additionally a trench firing device from the NRA museum was demonstrated and a shooting comparison took place between two rifles used in 1914 – an SMLE and a G98.

Derek Stimpson, chairman of the HBSA, said: “We seek to preserve heritage and promote the study and research of these historical arms. The practical experience of shooting them is part of understanding them and their place in history, and being machine guns special arrangements are necessary which makes events like this all the more important. I am glad that our colleagues from Royal Armouries were able to attend. Co-operation between collectors and museums is vital. I am also very pleased to have demonstrated the Chandler Trench periscope device from the NRA museum.”

The event was professionally filmed and a DVD will be available in due course. The DVD of last year’s event can be bought from the HBSA website: www.hbsa-uk.org



NEWS IN BRIEF

LT COL COLIN GRAFTON

It is with deep sadness that we have been informed of the passing of Lt Col Colin Grafton, chairman of the Athelings Association on 10 November 2014. The NRA flag was flown at half-mast the day following his death as a mark of respect.

BOOK 2015 ACCOMMODATION

Online bookings for accommodation at Bisley are now being taken for 2015. For more information, please call Diane Sawyer, accommodation supervisor on 01483 797777 (ext135) or email accommodation@nra.org.uk. Details can also be found on the NRA website.

POLICE SOLITAIRE INITIATIVE

Several club officials have been invited to meetings with their local police firearms personnel as part of an initiative called ‘solitaire’ designed to raise awareness of the risks of terrorists and criminals infiltrating Home Office approved clubs to hone their shooting skills.

Feedback from these meetings has mainly been positive, and as keeping firearms in the hands of responsible and decent people is paramount the NRA requests that members attend these meetings in good faith.

GENERAL ELECTION 2015

There's a new online service for shooters to check their MPs' views on shooting ahead of the general election. The site allows voters to search for their local candidates, see their stance on shooting and interact with them via email. To access the website and contact your local candidates, visit: <http://po.st/BASC2015>

RESOURCE FOR CLUBS

British Shooting has launched a new online tool for shooting clubs. Called the Club Development Toolkit, it covers ways to grow the sport, marketing the club's activities and raising funds. Check it out at www.britishshooting.org.uk.

HOTLINE SHELVED

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has advised firearms owners that only one of the two initiatives set out on 13 October will come into force. While plans for a new Crimestoppers phone line, dedicated to reporting concerns about gun owners have been cancelled, the legislation regarding unannounced home visits will still be enforced.

ACPO came in for criticism for slipping in the Crimestoppers announcement under a smokescreen of publicity for the home-visit scheme. They announced on 5 November that they were taking a new approach and there would no longer be a new Crimestoppers phone line.

With regard to the unannounced home visits, NRA have encouraged shooters to

ensure that their security arrangements are up to scratch, however, the police do not have any new powers of entry and must provide a clear and reasoned explanation behind every home visit as specific intelligence that there may be an issue is required before a visit takes place. The NRA recommend having a witness present, or recording the interaction should an unannounced visit take place. Full co-operation is recommended in the instance of a home visit and NRA members should conduct themselves in a calm and reasonable manner.

The NRA are willing to answer questions and provide assistance where applicable regarding the home visit directive and urges anyone with concerns to get in touch.

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

Dress drama

Thanks to the many NRA members who sent in responses to the letter 'Dress impressions' in the previous edition. Here we print two representative letters:

In accordance to Mr. Houghton's view in the last issue regarding the inappropriate wearing of military clothing at the NSC, I would like to say that to an extent I agree.

As one of many ex-servicemen who shoot, I find the wearing of current UK issue kit, particularly when in full, badly fitted or with badges of rank, offensive. Recently I asked a 'sergeant' where he served. The sheepish reply was no surprise.

On one hand you could say it's a harmless act similar to wearing the shirt of your favourite football team, but particularly in the current climate you could also deem it disrespectful (and if I remember correctly not actually allowed at the NSC).

However, I will always wear a nod to my old mob on the jacket I use for shooting, and I fully support those ex-service folk who wear their old jump smocks or jackets to shoot in. They are often an infinitely practical piece of kit. You will occasionally see this and other practical military style kit used in CSR; which makes sense given what they are doing.

I don't have an issue with anyone wearing issue jackets for the same reasons but please, if you are not entitled, no badges or insignia and not full combat kit.

Invariably those that are or were entitled paid the price in some way in order to be so.

Chris Ballard

I read the views of Steve Houghton concerning the wearing of military clothing with some interest, including the insulting language used to describe those wearing it.

As a 'regular visitor' he has obviously failed to notice the number of military clubs on site or that military personnel use the ranges. A large number of serving and retired military

personnel use the ranges and wear the DPM clothing they were issued with.

Non-military shooters attending the range often buy Army surplus clothing for financial and practical reasons. The clothing is hard wearing, cheap and designed for some of the conditions we shoot in. For example, I paid £10 for a military surplus Gortex shell. I would have spent a good deal more buying a new civilian Gore-Tex coat.

Many shooters use DPM clothing for game shooting and stalking and then wear some of that clothing at Bisley. Why should they spend money on two sets of clothing? Does he also think that the military themselves, including cadets should be banned from wearing their DPM clothing?

If Steve had been observant and done his research then he would not have made such unqualified and sweeping statements. Unless of course, he would like to turn Bisley into the type of "Elitist" establishment that some golf clubs have become.

Chris Allen

Tricky business

I realise our NRA has had to become a profit-driven business and this is not necessarily a bad thing. I have been a member for some years and I am not given to random bouts of negativity about our organisation. This journal is a good example of change for the better, with articles that members may actually find informative and interesting.

I sincerely hope that your recent survey regarding home loaded ammunition is not just a precursor to an official 'NRA Home Loading Course' with another certification card without which we will not be allowed to use home loads at Bisley. The NRA's recent attempt to take control of practical shooting in the UK should serve as a cautionary tale as to how far you should be trying to expand your business ventures. I can also save you a lot of time and expense in conducting

surveys by stating the obvious: we home load for reasons of improving accuracy, reliability, consistency and economy.

Phil Morgan

French fried

On page 8 of the autumn 2014 NRA Journal appears a short item headed 'French Bisley under threat'. The item is factually incorrect and misleading, as is the information from Tir National de Versailles (TNV).

TNV were given four years of warnings that the venue was unsuitable for the purpose and that their occupation of the site would have to cease when the lease expired. It appears that TNV chose to ignore this and also ignored the fact that their lease had expired. As users would not vacate the site the local authority had to resort to court action, as a last resort.

The court report available online says a decision was taken in June 2004 by the land-owning body that the lease of that land for the range would cease on 1 July 2012. The local authority resorted to the courts two years later. A 24-hour notice to quit was ordered by the Court on 30 June 2014, with a daily penalty of 1,000 euros for failing to do so, only after the lessees of the ground on which the range sits had ignored the ending of their lease (with four years notice), and continued their activities as if nothing had happened for another two years.

That's significantly different from what was suggested in the article. All the facts can be seen by checking the websites.

Charles Young

Museum response

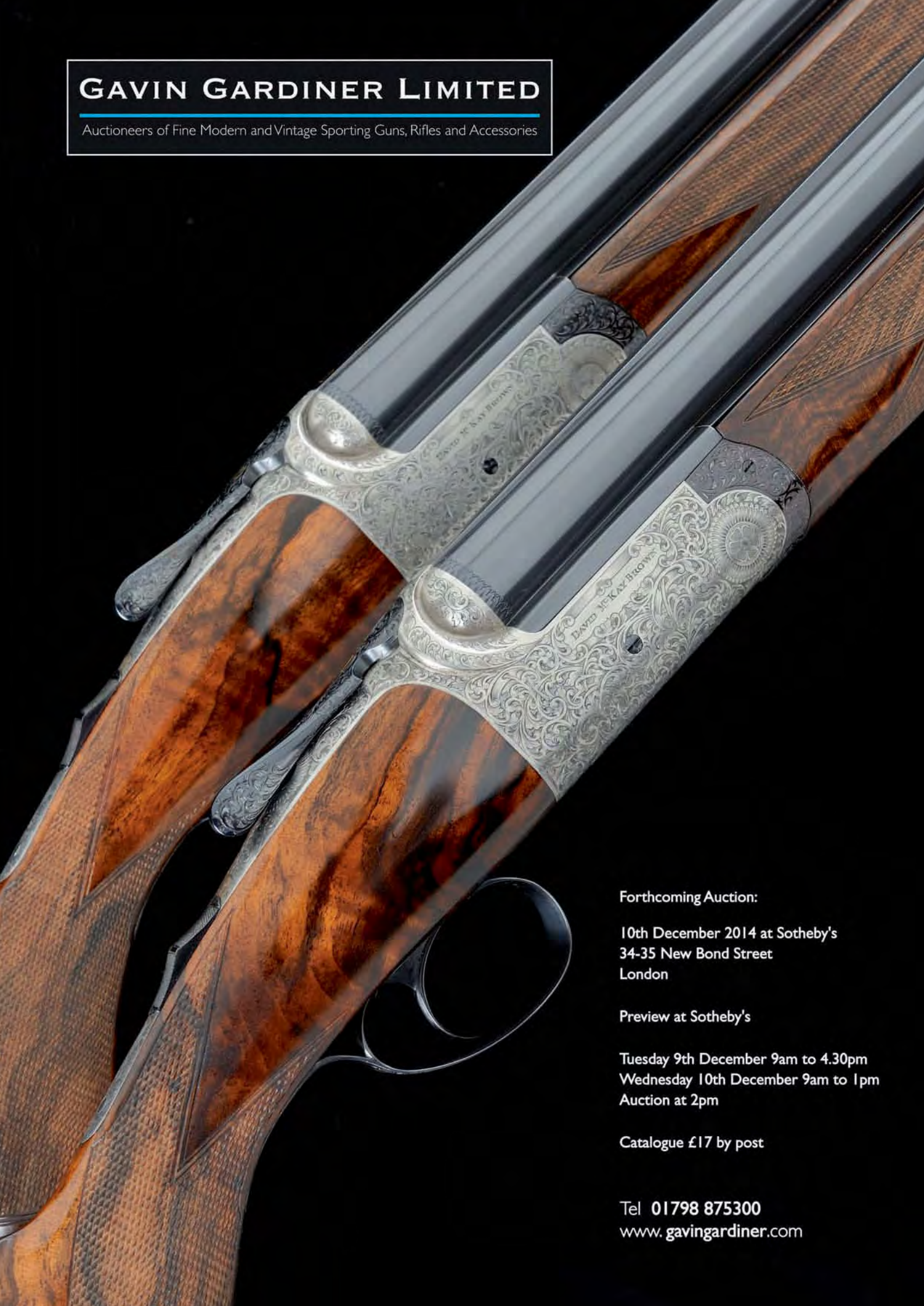
In response to the letter regarding JS Collings and the Windsor Pistol Club, querying the listing for 1997 in my article The Silver Badge in the Summer Journal:

Following this letter, I have checked the 1997 Imperial Meeting Competition Results and JS Collings is listed as "Windsor Pistol Club" throughout. In 1996 his club was quoted as "Windsor Rifle & Pistol Club" and in 1998 it was "Windsor Rifle Club". I understand that Dunblane caused the pistol section to cease to exist and was voted to be deleted from the title of the club. That being the case, either Mr Collings made an error on his entry form, or there was a recording error on the NRA computer (a P for an R).

Ted Molyneux

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The Savage 12F/TR in .308 Winchester is an attractive yet purposeful gun

Savage F/TR

Nick Parrish has a new favourite rifle for F Class. It's the Savage 12F/TR in .308 Win – but is it right for you?

My long wait for a Savage target rifle ended in the usual fashion: with two coming along at once. But much as I loved the Model 12 LRPV in 6mm BR, it was the F/TR version of the same action that really whet my appetite. A 30in barrelled single-shot action with lightweight, crisp Accutrigger all planted into a sturdy laminate stock – just what the doctor ordered when it comes to starting out in F/TR. The 1-in-12in twist rate promised that the barrel would deal with the question many newbie F/TR shooters pose: Should I go down the high-speed 155gn route for ballistic performance, or to the relatively slow 185gn bullets to buck the wind?

The 30in barrel has a 90-degree recessed crown and a 1in diameter with straight taper up to 1.250in at the action, all finished with a satin bead blast. Savage's cannellured barrel nut allows for easy future barrel swaps. Twin gas

escape ports surround the floating, twin-lugged bolt face, with a tiny claw extractor recessed into the lower lug paired to a plunger ejector. If need be, all these can be swapped around to allow a bolt face change, and Savage claims superior cartridge alignment inside the chamber for improved accuracy. The results that followed certainly backed that up.

The action is solid-bottomed, with a spacious single opening to the right-hand side for loading and ejection, both of which performed seamlessly, controlled by a large, pear-shaped bolt knob.

The Savage action has come under criticism for its 'ungainly' or 'agricultural' appearance. Maybe it's justified, but I can forgive some aesthetic weaknesses when you consider that this is a tool designed specifically fit for purpose, and the contoured bolt shroud hides all the mechanics of the firing pin cocking assembly when the bolt is closed.

I bolted the supplied Picatinny rail onto the top of the action with four Torx fasteners and set up a Bushnell Tactical Elite 4.5-30x power scope in Tier One's new ultra-light TAC rings. A three-position tang safety is silently accessible, giving safe with locked bolt, safe with unlocked bolt and fire position when forward, although the safety is unlikely to see much use on a target rifle.

To the right of the action, a lever pressed down in combination with the trigger allows bolt removal. Many complain about Accutriggers but I'm a fan – it isn't a Jewell, but when treated like a simple two-stage unit with the internal red blade taken up before firing, it broke crisply at 12oz (user adjustable). I really liked it. All my shots were timed well with no hesitation and there was only the slightest amount of creep distinguishable during the final squeeze.

The three-screw Savage action is reported to benefit from bolt torque experimentation. After inspecting the

laminated stock's internals, I simply re-tightened everything to 65in/lb and was not disappointed. All three boltholes sit between the recoil lug's ample pocket and the trigger unit, and each one contains a tubular steel pillar to prevent stock compression. Any serious competitor will undoubtedly have the action bedded in the long term, but I found the stock's inlet extremely neatly machined and wouldn't rush out to get it done at the expense of getting my shooting started.

An Anschütz rail is incorporated underneath the 18in forend for secure F/TR bipod mounting, and it fits the gun's character perfectly. I felt that the forend could be longer, although this could be limited by laminate 'blank' sizes. The front end is stiff, with slight beavertail swelling to the profile. Although the floated barrel is only a millimetre clear of

the timber, it's stiff enough to keep the stout tube well supported, dampening the gun's recoil rather nicely without sagging, feeling dead, or alternatively having the fearful 'bounce' that a whippy forend accentuates. The profile offers no handhold options as it's an F/TR gun and will touch nothing other than a bipod; it's good to see Savage designing for needs rather than looks.

The rifle gives the impression of being well-balanced and streamlined, which was well received given the bulk of the barrel. Laminates are very stable in all conditions, and even if 'unnatural', carry the individuality and character that only wood grain can offer. With an open radius grip, the stock is absolutely smooth throughout the 13½in length of pull, terminating in a solid recoil pad three quarters of an inch thick on a plain

black spacer. With a tapered underside, a rear bag would easily fine-tune the rifle's elevation upon aiming. The rear bag choice depends on the type of bipod chosen but I prefer a soft bag, as I'm quite a 'hands on' shooter.

As for the recoil itself, the gun tracked straight and softly, with nothing more than delicate shoulder pressure needed to restrain the freedom of recoil travel through the all-up weight of 16.75lb. I keep my head well off the stock when shooting F/TR but if you desire a cheek weld, an unsightly yet effective plastic spacer is supplied with the gun, screwing into the comb to support your cheek.

It's clear that the stock is well machined, with all axes parallel. The only aesthetic touches are the three slots machined within the forend on either side of the fully floating barrel; I doubt they assist cooling!

I fed the gun with 155gn Lapua Scenar and 185gn Berger Juggernaut loads, worked up with Ramshot powders in Lapua Brass with large rifle primers. Both bullets favoured Wild Boar recipes, and thanks to the 30in barrel, gave excellent velocities that were in .300 Win Mag realms. For F/TR, pressures will always be firm with a .308, as speed is a 'must-have' requirement when stretching out to 1,000 and possibly 1,200 yards.

Bolt lift was easy at any powder level although the primary action (the 'snap' required to dislodge the brass case from the chamber) was a little weaker than desirable on a gun whose position you would prefer to disrupt as little as possible. Otherwise I found the gun a pleasure to shoot, with ragged one-hole test groups of five rounds at 100 yards, easily maintaining 0.25-0.3MOA clusters and extreme spreads with minimal load development happily in the 20-30fps region. This was a very satisfactory start before I began to experiment with bullet jump and primer choice. A 'hot barrel' test of 20 rounds fired in quick succession resulted in a group that was within 0.75MOA at worst, but the barrel proved hard to get hot.

It was difficult to choose between the accuracy of the 155gn Lapua Scenar and 185gn Berger Juggernauts, as both were set to deliver on paper with

An Anschütz rail is incorporated for secure bipod mounting



average velocities of 3,138 and 2,765fps respectively. Recoil from the 185gn was noticeably greater yet still not uncomfortable. This was most apparent when it came to mid-range testing where deliberate recoil handling characteristics were played with; the vertical spread displayed by the 185gn was more apparent when shot lazily. This must be balanced against the fact that it is a lot easier to learn to shoot consistently when handling recoil control than it is to pick up on the voodoo of minuscule wind changes, where the 185gn will likely fare better in bad wind. These two 50:50 factors play havoc with making a simple ammo choice in F/TR, but they certainly add to the fun.

I shot the rifle over the course of a few months and managed to get several distances out to 1,000 yards practised. I sometimes go through 'dead-spots' in my shooting life where I find myself a little bored, but there was no chance of that with this rifle – I found shooting it intoxicating. Among times of limited component availability and the constant struggle to maintain competitive shooting standards, it's nice to find a rifle that makes life easy and puts the fun back into shooting. Savage has made a gun that fulfils the rules of F/TR to a 'T'.

Front-to-rear balance is neutral on the Model 12, with a gentle hold of the rear bag keeping everything under control. The barrel is long and stout enough to deliver speed and accuracy already, and other than possibly using the spare 1.5lb to lengthen the forend, I can't help wondering if an increased 'wheelbase' (longer stock) would add further stability, moving the balance rearward and further assisting the recoil control.

Otherwise, this allowance certainly makes bipod and scope choice less problematic as it grants more room to 'manoeuvre' the ounces on your F/TR setup. Over the last year, I have enjoyed shooting this gun more than any other, and its inherent accuracy and speed were a joy to behold. I learned about different types of bipods and their preferred control techniques, and most importantly, came to rely on a gun that was a solid, dependable foundation in my continued studies of the wind – the keystone to F/TR performance. ■



The substantial forend and floating barrel help minimise recoil bounce



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Third Eye Tactical/Tier

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Recommended Retail Price	£1,999.99
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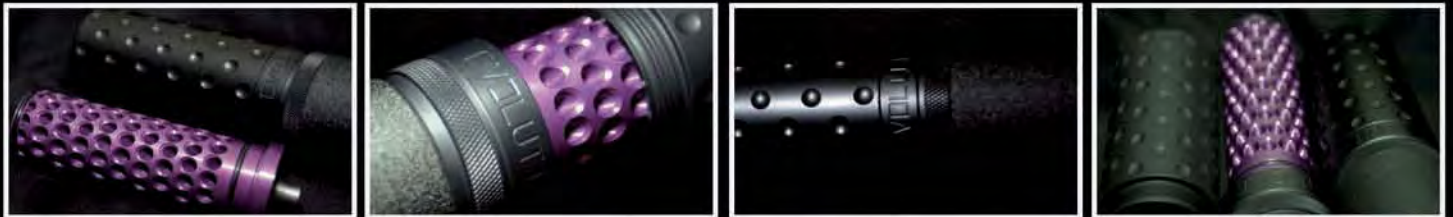
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Trafalgar weekend

With the 2014 Trafalgar meeting being the biggest yet, we have not one but two reports from Peter Ryder and Derek Stimpson with their accounts of the weekend

The Trafalgar Meeting is always a highpoint in the historic calendar and this year was no exception. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly and the weather was relatively benign. It was good to see new and younger faces mingling with the usual crowd and one comes to realise what a wide geographical catchment this meeting draws from.

The trade show was an obvious draw for people with its opportunity to search for hard to find bits as well as the chance to discover new items for ones collection. It was notable too that people from the Scouting fraternity, who were onsite for their own event, were showing an interest in both the guns and equipment. As usual the Saturday was the busier day but there were still some bargains to be found on Sunday.

The number of people shooting was slightly up on the previous year and with the rationalisation of the range space that Peter Cottrell has achieved, I believe the meeting has now achieved financial viability. It was good to see some people really entering into the spirit of the event and wearing appropriate clothing for the guns they were shooting: I saw a Union Corporal shooting a Colt Army and I believe there were others as well. As always the guns being used attract attention especially when what is basically a museum piece can be seen in full operational glory.

The exhibition of Heritage pistols was quite impressive and notably well attended. It was quite hard to move around at times and it took quite a while to take in all that was on display. It is quite saddening to realise that

some of those pistols on display were used in fierce competition in Trafalgar meetings twenty years ago, yet now are so restricted. However, at least we get a chance to look at them occasionally.

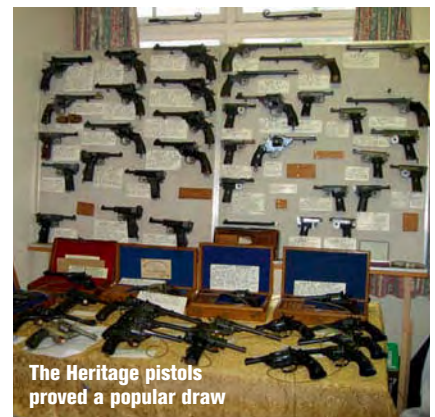
The volunteer range staff performed very professionally and it is a tribute to their hard work that the meeting went so smoothly with the minimum of glitches. The office staff are easy to forget, tucked away in backrooms, but their work is incredibly important and having done the stats myself in the early years of the Trafalgar, I am particularly appreciative of their efforts.

In all, the 2014 Trafalgar competition was good enjoyable meeting that provided opportunities for both research and competition in a sociable context.

Peter Ryder



The action gets under way on Stickledown Butt Zero



The Heritage pistols proved a popular draw



The 50m Running Deer Range in use at the BSRC



Increased entries saw all kinds of historic arms in use

The 2014 Trafalgar meeting on 8-9 November boasted increased entries and competitor numbers in comparison to the previous year, despite the ranges appearing reasonably quiet.

As usual, I met several old friends, some of whom were not shooting but had come to socialise and visit the trade show and Heritage pistol display. There were lots of treasured artifacts on show and the atmosphere was relaxed and friendly.

The collective average age of competitors probably does not reduce from year to year, and that of the firearms in use certainly doesn't! The pleasure of both using, viewing, and handling the historical, classic, and vintage arms does not diminish. To

walk around the ranges and see so many vintage and classic arms in use is wondrous – matchlocks, flintlocks, percussion, blackpowder and nitro cartridge arms; rifles and pistols. I don't recall seeing a tubelock or basefire yet!

Museums and private collectors do preserve our heritage firearms, but practical use by shooters with knowledge of these guns adds another dimension. Practical use teaches us about the firearm in the field, on the range, or at war. Comparison between alternatives available at the time of manufacture, for whatever the firearm's purpose, is always interesting.

Watching people shoot the various firearms across the ranges reminds me of

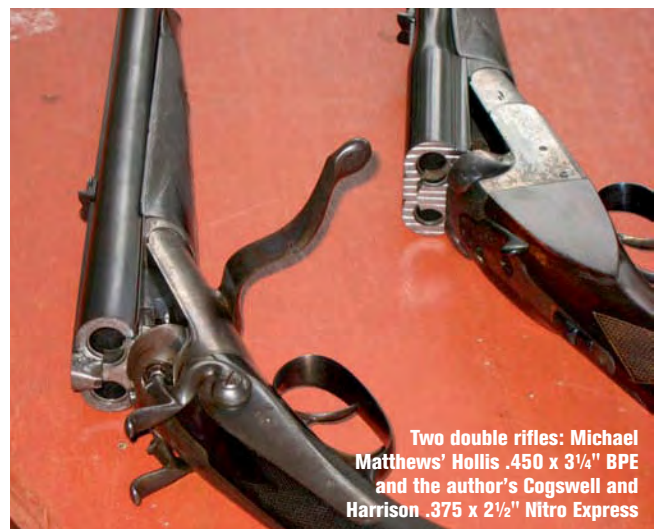
the history of their development. From flint muzzle-loader or matchlock, to breechloading nitro cartridge firearm. The facility of handling and relative accuracy of each item is striking.

Personally I always find comparisons of practicality in use interesting. Two of my favourite revolvers, the Beaumont Adams and the Colt Navy are both aesthetically pleasing but one is eminently more handy. The Beaumont Adams is very practical with double action as well as single and it shoots well. The Colt Navy, one of its contemporaries, had military contracts, but has some issues in comparison. It is single action and during shooting, spent caps may drop between the hammer and action and prevent firing, then to remove the cylinder the whole barrel had to be removed. None of this may be an issue when target shooting, unless its at a timed competition. But in a military situation it could be the difference between life and death. However, it is definitely a testament to Colt's salesmanship.

It would be of tremendous interest to see shooters in all disciplines shooting their historic arms alongside the 'moderns' in competitions throughout the year. Whether there is a 'historic' section or not, either to compete (think of the pleasure of beating some of the new fangled modern arms), or just for the interest and pleasure of using your piece of heritage. This is certainly a way to interest young shooters in shooting 'historics'. May I also add to Peter's, my own thanks to the NRA staff and volunteers who make this all possible.
Derek Stimpson



A patched ball ML rifle in action



Two double rifles: Michael Matthews' Hollis .450 x 3 1/4" BPE and the author's Cogswell and Harrison .375 x 2 1/2" Nitro Express

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Bigger than ever

Des Parr reports on the record breaking annual F-class Europeans

The 2014 European Championships was the biggest annual F-class match in the world, attracting a record 204 entries and drawing teams from every corner of Europe.

The European Championships follow the same format as the World Championships: two sighters and 15 to count for five stages, followed by a 2+20 in the last 1,000 yard stage. Many competitors arrived early in the week to make use of the minor teams matches, warm-up matches and informal practice targets – a strategy that has paid dividends for some competitors in previous years.

This was the first time the Europeans had been held in September and the weather was ideal for precision shooting at long range – it was beautifully bright, warm and dry all week with remarkably gentle easterly wind. The mild conditions really helped everyone see what their rifles and ammo were capable of and resulted in some outstanding shooting, with many personal bests set and some league records broken. In all, it was a change for the better – shooting all week in shirt sleeves in September certainly beats shivering in November.

The other major change was the format of the Europeans. Instead of the usual

two-day individual and one-day team shoot, there were four extra days of shooting for anyone who wanted it: one day of practice followed by two and a half days of warm-up individual matches and a half-day of team shooting.

Friday: stage one at 800 yards

Friday dawned mild, dry and bright with just a gentle 0.5MOA wind drifting straight across Stickle-down. The 8.30am blow-offs would have woken the neighbours as 68 F-Open shooters rattled off their shots to warm the barrels.

F-Open

Four competitors racked up the same impressive 75.12v at this tricky distance where there is a danger of over-estimating the corrections required. Split only by counting back their last shots, in first place was Gian Antonio Quaglino of Italy; second was Dutchman Marco Been and in third his fellow countryman Jan De Kok. Overseas shooters took the top six places, showing they had come well prepared to do battle. The scores were incredibly tight with just one point between first and 24th place.

F/TR

First place in F/TR went to Paul Crosbie with an excellent 75.12v, two Vs ahead of Jason Scrivens on 75.10v who in turn nudged Tim Stewart into third by just one V. The scores were just as impressive as in Open class – dropping a point would push you down to 14th place where Bill McIntyre stood with 74.11v.

Friday: stage two at 900 yards

By 11am, the sun had woken and mirage was present, but not objectionably so. Some shooters remarked that they could sometimes detect a conflict in the mirage and wind flags, possibly due to eddy currents in the gentle breeze as it came over and through the trees on the right.





Italy shot their way to second in both team events, and Giulio Arrigucci claimed top spot in F/TR

F-Open

James Finn from Ireland scored a very respectable 75.10v. Only one V separated him from your humble scribe in second place. In third place, with a still perfectly respectable 75.7v, was once again Marco Been. Marco certainly was having a superb morning, with two stage medals to his credit already despite only shooting long-range in the UK.

F/TR

The F/TR took place close to midday, with the sun well up and the mirage stronger. Mirage is one thing we don't get much of in the UK, unlike Tullamore in Ireland, which gets plenty of mirage owing to the boggy land. Maybe that's why first place went to Irishman Kevin Clancy with 75.3v – the only 75. Second place went to the ever-jovial Welshman Dean Wallace with 74.8v, and in third was relatively new face Matt Jarram on 74.6v – Matt later received his GB cap, so well done to him.

Friday: stage three at 1,000 yards F-Open

As ever, matches are won and lost at this, the longest distance. So I was hoping, anyway, as I managed to come first with 74.10v. In second, all the way from the Ukraine, was Vasyi Ivanchenko with

74.6v. In third was James Finn again with a solid 73.4v – clearly James was having a great day and is somebody we will need to watch out for in future.

F/TR

In this round the wind remained steady and gentle from the right; it was turning out to be a match for the trigger pullers as much as the wind readers. Continental visitors were well represented in this stage – seven of the top 10 were from overseas. First was Andrea Ceron with 72.6, and Giulio Arrigucci came in second with 71.3. This left Paul Crosbie flying the flag for GB in third with 70.7.

That concluded the activities for Friday. Perfect conditions had prevailed all day, showing what the rifles were capable of and who had done their homework in tuning their rifles and ammo. In the evening, competitors enjoyed good food and good company at various locations in and around Bisley. Our Italian friends in particular made themselves at home in their encampments, creating a home-from-home with their campervans.

Saturday dawned bright and dry, but colder and with lingering mist. The mist was not sufficient to delay shooting, but it did reduce sight picture clarity. Now, could the leaders hold on to their overnight positions?

Saturday Stage Four at 800 yards

The wind was just slightly stronger than it was on Friday, starting with 1MOA at 90 degrees.

F/TR

This time, the F/TR was first. The top place was taken by Italian visitor, Amleto Gabellone, with a superb 75.12v. In second and third were a pair of 101 club members who could only be separated on countback; John Cross took silver and Bill McIntyre third, both with the respectable score of 75.11v.

F-Open

Our continental visitors showed their enduring class as they again took seven out of the top 10 places in this stage. First place went to Mattia Mollina with an outstanding 75.13v. In second was Claudio Romano with the same amazing score, just pipped on countback. Those guys were really on form. In third place with 75.12v was Marco Been, who collected his third stage medal of the championships.

Saturday: stage five at 900 yards

Falling back to 900 yards, the wind maintained much the same level of difficulty, only with the obvious addition of another 100 yards to compound the challenge.

F/TR

Ukrainian Sergii Gorban shot a simply amazing 74.9v, making short work of first place. For some shooters, variety is the spice of life, and so it seemed when F-Open shooter Liam Fenlon took up his F/TR rifle to score 74.8v and take second place. The 101 club produced another medallist when Adam Bagnall racked up 74.7v for third place.

F-Open

In F-Open the three top places in the stage went to our continental friends; they clearly knew their stuff and had come prepared with superbly accurate rifles. In first with a remarkable 75.10v was Jose Lema Soto – well done to him. In second was Gino Pesic with just one fewer V-bull on 75.9, who in turn had squeezed past Rudolf Eckbauer from Germany, who carded 75.8v.

Stage six at 1,000 yards

By now at last the wind was starting to pick up to something a bit more like the Bisley we all know and love. Those at the bottom of the hill needed to keep their wits about them as the flags fluttered with the strengthening breeze.

F/TR

Top man in F/TR was Irishman Kevin Clancy, taking his second stage medal with the gold for his simply excellent 95.5v. Kevin was two points clear of his nearest rival, Oleksandr Suvorov on 93.6v, who in turn just edged out John Cross into third place with his 93.5v.

F-Open

Getting on straight after lunch, the F-Open lads knew this was make-or-break time. The winds, although freshening to 3MOA, were thankfully steady enough to rack up good scores. So it was for GB captain David Lloyd, who recorded a simply stunning 99.6v at the bottom end of the line. David pushed your scribe into second, with 98.10v. In third place was another Irishman, James Flinn, taking his second stage medal of the weekend with an excellent 98.8v.

In F/TR all three top places in the individual championships went to overseas shooters. Taking the title of European Champion with a superb score of 455.30v was the big, genial Italian Giulio Arrigucci. It was a well earned win for Giulio, having travelled all the way from Italy to show he could compete with the best. In second place with 454.30v was Francisco Franco Mosquera. Francisco had not featured in any of the stage wins, but had maintained a good high level of performance throughout, showing great consistency. In third place was the familiar figure of Sergii Gorban with 452.36v – a great score and an even better V-bull count.

In F-Open, somehow, more by luck than design, I managed to prevail with 470.48. All I can say is thank you to my gunsmith, Callum Ferguson at Precision Rifle Services – his superb workmanship made my job easier. Taking the silver medal was the Irishman, James Finn. James was just seven V-bulls behind, and has only been shooting F-Class for two years. Clearly, the man has a talent for shooting and will be a force to be reckoned with in the years ahead. Taking

third place was the familiar figure of Marco Been with 467.49v. Marco is something else – for a man who gets no long-range practice at home, he seems to excel.

The top places in the Individual European Championships showed a good, healthy distribution of winners from all over the continent. It is an encouraging picture of equally dedicated shooters, all brought

together by a shared interest in long-range precision shooting.

We all owe a big debt of thanks to Mik and Tina – well done to the pair of them for organising the biggest and best F-class match in the world, which is certainly destined to grow even bigger and better in future. Make sure you're there next year. ■

Top places showed a healthy distribution of winners from all over the continent... an encouraging picture of shooters brought together by a shared interest in long-range precision shooting





Great Britain Rifle Team 2014

Great British tours

Matthew Charlton talks through the highlights from the 2014 Great Britain Rifle Team tour of Canada and the USA – then Chloe Evans reports on the BCRC team's experience

The Great Britain Rifle Team's (GBRT) 2014 tour to Canada and the USA took on an ambitious schedule, with seven team matches and three individual meetings, including the US and Canadian national championships as well as a meeting in Ontario. The US Nationals at Camp Perry were added to the tour to serve as preparation for the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA) Meeting, and also to aid Palma Team management in their efforts to prepare and select for the 2015 World Championships, to be held in Ohio.

However, with several members of the team of 20 injured or ill, doubts about the team's final composition persisted until July, so John Halahan was asked to be travelling reserve by way of insurance.

Ontario

Jet lag was conquered by launching straight into shooting. Day one in Ontario involved

individual 2+10s at 300, 600, 900 and 1,000 yards on a range where the mirage was deceptive at times. Ontario's Roger Romse was the victor on the day, with GB's Will Broad and Angus McLeod in second and third on 199.

Day two was the tour's first team match. Ontario's team of 12 internationals dropped five at 900 yards but Great Britain opened their account with a statement of intent, scoring 900 out of 900. 1,000 yards was trickier and GB finished on 1,779 to the hosts' 1,763. Will Broad and Jon Underwood led the scoring on 150.20v, while Emma Nuttall shot 150.18v before the team's eight-hour drive to Ohio.

Camp Perry

Day one of competition at Camp Perry started early for roll call, before 'Colors' – the local tradition of playing the Star Spangled Banner while raising the US flag. After two sighters and 15 to count at 300, 600 and 800

yards, shooting finished earlier than Perry veterans expected because of paid marking – a novelty there!

The following day's shooting was at 600, 900 and 1,000 yards, punctuated by crowd-pleasing shoot-offs for the first day's matches. Team members' groups appeared rather more open at 1,000 yards, which at this stage was put down to the struggles experienced with sight picture against the unfamiliar backdrop of sky, rather than a stop-but – an experience repeated the next day at 300, 600 and 1,000 yards.

Commodore Perry Match

The Commodore Perry Match was the first major international match. The format had changed shortly before the tour from teams of 12, to separate matches for a mean team of eight and four. GB also loaned three to BCRC and one to GBU25. The 'GB VIII' started brilliantly, dropping just one point at 300 yards and one more point at 600

to be 10 ahead of the USA at lunch. Once again, 1,000 yards proved trickier, with sight picture and mirage causing problems and a hint of suspicion about the ammunition at that range. Nevertheless, Great Britain averaged 73 at 1,000 yards to finish on 1782.189v, led by Jon Underwood and David Armstrong on 224.28v and 224.27v, well ahead of the USA on 1756.178v and Canada on 1732.150v. As well as being the highest score on the range, this was the first time GBRT had triumphed on US soil since 1992.

The final day's individual shooting, all at 1000 yards, saw adjutant Archie Whicher fire his only shots of the tour (standing blow-offs) before vice-captain Jane Messer finished seventh in the final in front of a packed grandstand.

Mini Palma

At 800 and 900 yards, the Great Britain VIII dropped one and seven points, to lie a couple of points behind the USA but comfortably ahead of Canada. The wind, though strong, was steady, but again the groups opened substantially at 1,000 yards, causing 22 more points to be dropped for a total of 1770.205v, led by Jon Underwood's 223.28v. This time, USA won with 1781.217v.

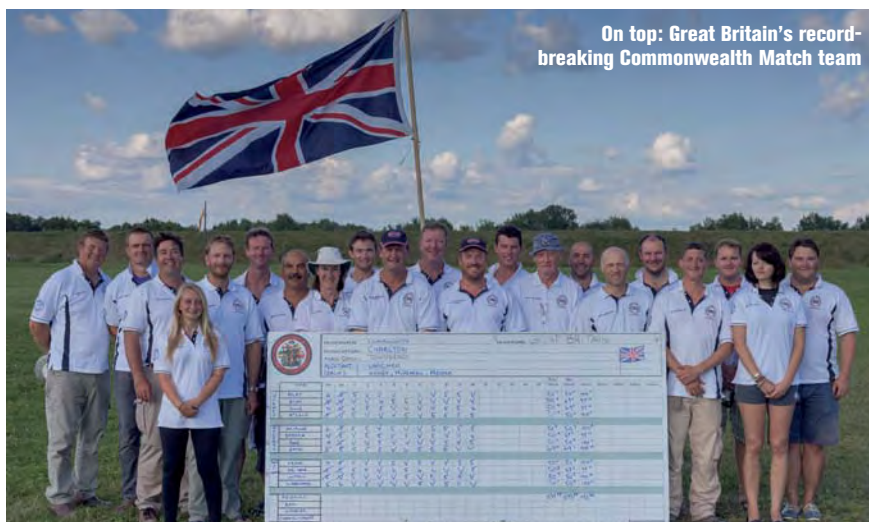
The GB IV, although behind the USA on 889 and Australia's superb 895, dropped 15 points to equal the VIII's average (with Angus McLeod scoring 223.23v), boding well for future team selections.

Algonquin

R&R unfortunately stood for 'Rain & Rain', as the day in Ohio and three by the Lake of Bays were washed out, but still a much-needed break.

Connaught

Jon Underwood tied for first on 75.13v in the Ottawa Regiment at Connaught. The following day, Al Haley won the Gooderham on 100.18v. Monday brought sunshine and Jon Underwood won first the Ottawa Regiment tie shoot, then the Col John Brick, while Jane Messer won the Norman Beckett to win the Monday Aggregate and remain the only person clean in the Grand. Angus McLeod won the Macdougall and Will Broad the Coulter Aggregate, before Jon Underwood (second) led GBRT's nine in the top 20 of the Grand, and Emma Nuttall (sixth) topped GBRT's 15 Governor General's



finalists. Kent Reeve (USA) won both. Great Britain entered seven teams in the Coaches' Match at 1,000 yards – an opportunity to try out some different ammunition options. Our best two pairs went clean but came third and fourth behind two superb US pairs.

Outlander Match

GBRT entered two evenly matched VIIIs. Late infirmities meant coaches Bruce Winney and Matthew Charlton had to shoot for GB 'Red', who nevertheless beat the USA by just five v-bulls in a match curtailed by lightning.

Canada Match

An adventurous GB selection for the Canada Match featured four new caps, with the youngest just 21. Great Britain went clean at 300 yards, one ahead of Canada and three ahead of the USA. One point was dropped at 500 yards, equalling Canada and the USA, who proceeded to drop only one point at 600 yards. Final scores were 1197.163v for Great Britain (the third highest ever), led by Will Broad on 150.23v, ahead of the USA on 1195.166v and Canada 1195.144.

Commonwealth Match record

The Commonwealth Match was an opportunity to deploy a team of 12 and represent the wider squad, with ammunition now refined. Great Britain laid down a clear marker at 800m by scoring 599, but only led by one point from the USA, with Canada a further three behind. Great tension built at 900m, as the lead changed hands on more than one occasion.

Canada finished on an excellent 1187.141v, before the USA broke the match record with 1190.129v. However, Angus McLeod was yet to finish, and he closed out assuredly for Great Britain to score 1192.132v – another superb performance and a new match record. Jon Ford and Emma Nuttall were top scorers on 100.14v.

America Match

The final day of the tour saw the America Match. GB dropped three at 300 yards, to be one behind Canada and three ahead of the USA, with Japan trailing. Things changed, however, at 600 yards, where the Americans went clean to leave us nine points off, three behind both our main rivals.

At long range in the afternoon, GB dropped three points at 800m and two at 900m, finishing with 2386.316v. USA only dropped one point at each range, somehow overturning their 300-yard performance to wrestle the match record score away from GBRT. Canada were one behind while Japan finished fourth. Congratulations to the USA, and to Messrs Underwood, McLeod and Haley who all scored 300.

So ended a fun, demanding and successful tour to Canada and the USA. We had achieved what we set out to achieve by each learning something, making and renewing friendships and being good ambassadors for Great Britain. GB shooting, achieving excellent results along the way including a record aggregate in the Canada, Commonwealth (and America) Matches. Thank you to all our hosts and team members for making the tour so enjoyable.

LOVE TO TOUR

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH RIFLE CLUB'S CHLOE EVANS REVIEWS THE BCRC'S PERFORMANCE AT CAMP PERRY

A 15-man British Commonwealth Rifle Club goodwill team headed to Camp Perry in Ohio for the National Fullbore Championships. The team were greeted by a thunderstorm of biblical proportions looming over the lake. Fortunately the storm passed and the rest of the week was dry.

On Sunday we were thrown in at the deep end with a match at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards. BCRC was split into four teams of four, with Nigel Ball and Jane Messer stepping in from Team GB. The conditions in Perry were a shock – especially as there were only inches between the targets, and their off-white colour against the black target face made for a poor sight picture. In Camp Perry there are no sand butt stops like at Bisley – the targets are framed against the sky and the shooters shoot out directly over Lake Erie. BCRC Blue was our highest-placed team in third, with top score from Dave Rose with 448.29.

Monday was a day of practice before the individual competition started the next day. The course of fire on Tuesday was two sighters and 15 to count at 300, 600 and 800 yards. This was our first time string-shooting in Perry, which is totally different to what we are used to at Bisley. There were five people per target, shooting then scoring for the firer following them. The conditions at 600 and 800 were tricky with the wind constantly changing direction. Chloe Evans, aged just 20, won the day aggregate going clean with 225.36, two v-bulls ahead of Australia's Tim

Berry. She also won the 300-yard tie-shoot and the 600-yard tie-shoot for second place.

Wednesday started well, with David Crispin the top score from BCRC with 75.11 to put him third overall. At long range the much-talked about issue of sight picture emerged as the day got hotter and mirage worsened. But Bill Richards shot 75.7 at 900 yards to put him 11th and Ross McQuillan shot 74.5 at 1,000 to put him 18th. This highlighted the need for us to be bold with foresight iris size. Top score for the day was Matt Button with 222.23 to finish 12th.

Thursday dawned and the wind was easier than it had been but still enough to blow you out of the bull. The weather was hotter too, making shooting even more uncomfortable in the 30-degree-plus heat, but Bill prevailed to put in a solid 224.27 and land himself in second place.

1,000 yards proved tricky once more with the mirage creating havoc. Dave Rose was top for BCRC in seventh with a tidy 74.8.

A motivated BCRC team headed out to 300 yards on Friday morning for the Commodore Perry. BCRC were shooting the match for honours only but our score of 1773.184 would've landed us in second place. Henry Day top scored for the team with an outstanding 224.25.

Saturday would be our final day of shooting before the Mini-Palma match on Sunday – and it would be the biggest test as we were shooting twice at 1,000 yards. Scores were lower than hoped for due to the

Chloe Evans was the youngest on the goodwill team, aged only 20



sudden change in wind strength, but Matt Button shot outstandingly to claim victory with 149.15. This was enough to propel Matt into the shoot-off between the top 10 of the Grand Aggregate, where he finished fourth.

Sunday we shot a Palma-style format at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards. Rumour had it the Americans were putting out their full-strength team, and the Australians had a very strong team after Ben Emms and Tim Berry finished first and third respectively in the individual competitions. The wind has lessened and that showed in the scores as BCRC and GB only dropped a point at 800. 900 was a tight contest finishing with BCRC Gold six points off, GB seven off and BCRC Yellow eight off. We went into 1,000 only one point behind the Americans.

Competition was halted at one point when a jet-ski strayed into the danger area, meaning some of the team were stuck on the firing point in the boiling conditions. Despite this, BCRC ended eight off to finish on 1785.215, four points ahead of the Americans. But as we had entered for honours only, USA took the match with GB in second. Top score from BCRC was skipper Toby Raincock with a brilliant 225.33.

The team achieved some amazing results, showing encouraging signs for the World Championships next year. Huge thanks must go to Toby Raincock, James Watson and Ross McQuillan for organising this tour and for the members of the team for making it such an enjoyable trip. Love to tour! ■

The British Commonwealth Rifle Club goodwill team in Ohio



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Gallery revolution

Neil Francis wraps up the 2014 Gallery Rifle season in time for Christmas and looks forward to changes in 2015

It was encouraging to see the numbers up for both the Trafalgar and Autumn Action Weekend (AAW). The Autumn Action Weekend's figures were especially encouraging as this has always been the weakest of the four Bisley Gallery Rifle Action Weekends (GRAWs) in the calendar.

This year 211 shooters took to the historic stage at the Trafalgar, which was around a five per cent increase on last year. The AAW saw 177 shooters submit 1,028 cards. This was a hefty increase on last year's meeting – over 40 per cent! It is difficult to determine why – perhaps a combination of a few changes made to the programme of events including the introduction of a 1020 match and the .22 'Mini' McQueen.

About this time last year members of the Gallery Rifle (GR) community met with the NRA to discuss how we should progress with GR meetings at Bisley. Some changes have been introduced, although nothing too radical. This year, after calling for volunteers to form a new Gallery Rifle sub-committee, an initial meeting was held to discuss how to progress into next season.

Our classification system is in need of an overhaul, so changes can be expected in the breakpoints for next season. We also considered the ranking tables to have been worth running, and will continue this again next year. We welcomed some sponsorship involvement for the rankings this season for those who shot consistently well in T&P1, Multi-Target and 1500.

The regional events we have on the calendar are healthy in many respects, but could always do with more publicity. We need to continue to reach out to areas and clubs who seem to have fallen into relative obscurity and regional engagement is an area that we intend to focus on and improve for 2015. GR would like to find ways to increase communication with NRA regional representatives and continue to work together to keep GR moving forward.



There were over 1,000 cards submitted at this year's AAW



The younger generation were out in force at the AAW

As long-barrelled pistol and long-barrelled revolver shooting continue to evolve in the discipline, it is hoped that we can encourage the numbers of pistol owners out there to compete. There are a couple of interesting developments on the horizon, and one cryptic and possibly fictitious theory that may or may not come to fruition is that we are on the cusp of something that was witnessed in the past. Who knows? However, one task the sub-committee has set itself from a visionary point of view is to try to answer this question. Hopefully a future journal article will address this.

GR shooters should refer to the Galleryrifle.com website for news, views and a lot more over the winter months. ■



Josh with Dad Chris. Josh, 13, was the youngest competitor during the Autumn Action Weekend



2014 AAW figures were especially encouraging

Multi-gun range revamp

James Harris reports on the latest action from this fast-growing discipline

The most recent NRA multi-gun match held on 14 September was certainly a fun way to enjoy the recently revamped Cheylesmore range complex. As the range use has changed in recent years, a decision was made to alter the layout while refurbishments to the covered firing point and store building were undertaken. Out went the middle sleeper wall and in came a few more tonnes of shingle, creating a larger central bay fitting up to 16 shooters side to side – just the thing for a large multi-gun stage. The match counted towards the F4i multi-gun league and some of the more keen competitors travelled some distance to participate.

With three squads out, the first shots went down-range promptly at 9am. Stage one was a speed stage of 10 mini steel plates to be shot from standing – with the targets only three inches high at 25 metres, knowing your zero was critical. Ashley Ross set the standard, making a clean sweep in 13.75 seconds.

Stage two saw the competitors forced to shoot from the weak shoulder in a crouching position before a short sprint to retrieve their shotgun and knock down a host of steel plates. Showing a clean pair of

heels to the rest was Jon Holloway with a time of 23.23s.

Stage three loomed large; with 26 paper targets and eight steel plates it was the most challenging stage of the day. Target distance varied from 10 to 20 metres with multiple positions to shoot from. Targets only need one hit to score if hit correctly, and there were many mag changes made as the shooters progressed through the stage. Remembering when and where to do these changes saved vital seconds for Malcolm Dowding, who went through in 64.2s.

The more sedate stage four came next. Flexibility and balance came to the fore as the targets had to be shot around the left and right sides of a barrier, which made you lean right out. Not unexpectedly, a certain amount of lankiness helped the meeting director win this in a time of 22.46s. With the bulk of the match done, stage four offered some respite for the weary with a quick shoot on eight papers and eight steels. John Thorne raced through the targets and put in a good time of 20.3.

Rounding off the match was the bobber, simple enough – pull the rope and shoot the targets as they sway from side to side. Or at least that's how easy Steve Denton

made it look with a time of 8.97s, shooting a long-barrelled pistol. The closest rifle shooter was 30 per cent slower.

Regrettably results were not available on the day so there was no prizegiving, but the medals and goodie bags should by now have reached the winners in each class. For more information about multi-gun contact targetshotgun@nra.org.uk or go online to four4islands.org, which is a free-to-use website dedicated to action/practical shooting.

As with all events, they only run thanks to the help of the volunteers and our thanks go to the build crew and ROs for all their hard work. ■

OPEN CLASS		
1st	Malcolm Dowding	1116
2nd	John Thorne	1099
3rd	Peter Matthews	1092
STANDARD OPTIC		
1st	Ben Ducker	1105
2nd	Ashley Ross	1076
3rd	James Harris	1061
STANDARD IRON		
1st	Tulga Cordan	949
2nd	Paul Costa	902
3rd	Paul Nicol	875



James Harris deals with a tricky shooting position



Match winner Malcolm Dowding shoots as Jon Holloway ROs

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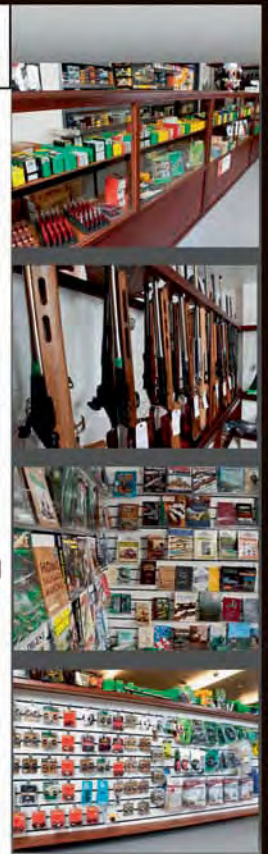
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Shooting for a good cause

James Harris reports on the annual Shield charity shoot

As the autumn clouds draw in, many of the south's practical shooters head west for the annual Shield charity shoot at Shield ranges in Dorset on 6-7 September. This year's charity is the local Air Ambulance service whose craft can sometimes be seen above the ranges. This match was multi-gun at its best with seven large stages spread out across the complex, carefully built by Steve Pike and his team to present a challenging but fun competition.

The ranges lie stretched out along the line of an old quarry, and through the door in the high wall, the first stage was to be found. As with most multi-gun stages you could choose whether to start with .22 or 12-bore. The canny shooters realised that the shotgun targets had to be shot from the most awkward positions and so opted to start with that. Interspersed between old tractor tyres, they were awkward to see once the smoke had appeared, so those in shadow needed to be shot first.

The next was the largest stage of the day, laid across the 30-metre-wide, 25-metre range. The running certainly made a few people puff as they had to backtrack and recover ground. Again there were decisions to be made, as you either had to spend time getting closer to targets or shoot them from afar and lessen the chance of a hit.

Moving along the line saw the next squad tackle some close paper targets with the .22, many forgetting the sight offset and missing



The WNSC team

low. This stage required a lot of manoeuvring around the screens to shoot the targets and forced a few awkward positions to be taken, disrupting the normal sight picture and resulting in a lot of top-up shots.

Range nine brought a new set of challenges – in particular, remembering where the targets were. It seemed that even when in plain sight at 6 metres they were invisible, leading to the ROs wondering if the shooters knew something they didn't.

Arriving at the last stage was certainly a relief for the weary crew after two days on their feet (nothing at all to do with the ale from the local hostelrys). But as the team from Worcester Norton Shooting Club (WNSC) had helped patch all day, we were early and the targets were still prominent in the late summer sunshine. It was a

fast and furious stage to end on with 20-odd targets from 5 to 25 metres and just enough low positions to make it awkward.

People don't attend this event for the chance to take the top slot; it's more about taking part, having fun and supporting a worthy charity. The raffle held a host of superb prizes including half a dozen guns, including an SGC Lever release 9mm, a Bora 99 Shotgun and a Caledonian arms K22. Unsurprisingly, ticket sales were brisk.

A very special thank you to the event sponsors, whose generosity is deserving of support: shieldshootingcentre.co.uk, Southern Guns, Caledonian Arms, Westlake Engineering, Helston Gunsmiths, Four4islands.org, Riflecraft, Hannams reloading supplies, Cobra Targets and Gunfellas.

Overall the event raised more than £4,000 for the charity. Donations can be made via www.dsairambulance.org.uk. ■



Gareth Biddle makes the plates tumble

SHIELD SHOOT: TOP 3

PLACE	NAME	%
1st	Mark Sienesi	100
2nd	Mike Darby	95.51
3rd	Jon Axe	91.03

Civ SR: Get involved

Jonathan Elliot is getting stuck in to the Civ SR Winter League; his best shooting time at Bisley

The Civilian Service Rifle Winter League will once again be running from October to April, attracting ever more shooters, many competitors travelling far and wide to take part. Civ SR's popularity has also spread to mainland Europe, with shooters regularly travelling from France and Denmark to compete in the Civ SR events at the Imperial meeting and in the Winter League.

Sunday 5 October

To take maximum advantage of the available daylight and range time, three matches were shot:

The short range rural contact match – this was shot at distances between 100 and 300 yards with stages comprising fire and movement, positional shooting and a rundown.

The urban contact match – with stages shot at 100 to 25 yards as a single, continuous practice and shooters carrying all the equipment needed for the match with them.

The infantry individual match – shot from 400 to 100 yards, the emphasis being on rapid but accurate fire.

Saturday 1 November

In November, we shot:

The NRA International Service Rifle Match – A longer range match with stages from 500 to 100 yards

The Match 321, Excellence in Competition – shot from 400 to 100 yards with compulsory magazine changing and some very rapid positional changing and adoption at the shorter ranges.

As can be seen, even from the brief descriptions given above, Civ SR offers a diverse range of challenges to the shooter. The courses of fire always incorporate measures designed to break one's cheek-weld and stable position, with sufficient physical effort to elevate the pulse and breathing rate of all but the fittest. Many

stages place additional pressure on the shooter through fleeting target exposures or tight stage timings.

This year's winter league will consist of fifteen matches. Final league positions in each class will be based on the shooters' best 10 scores obtained at these matches. This is how the top of the league table looks after the October and November matches: If you would like to have a go at Civ SR,



2014-15 CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE WINTER LEAGUE RESULTS TO DATE		
CLASS	PLACE	COMPETITION
HISTORIC RIFLE	1st	P Bentley
	2nd	J Drummond
	3rd	R Morris
IRON-SIGHTED RIFLE	1st	J Geering
	2nd	D Moran
	3rd	T Lawson
PRACTICAL OPTIC	1st	N St Aubyn
	2nd	J Morgan-Hosey
	3rd	C Hudson
SERVICE OPTIC	1st	A Chapman
	2nd	W Ellis
	3rd	D Wylde

please do! Dates of future fixtures are posted on the NRA website. All you need is a rifle with a ten round minimum magazine capacity and a functioning safety catch. You will also need a safe shooter certificate for the type of rifle you intend to shoot issued by the NRA or an affiliated rifle club. The NRA also run introductory courses for the discipline run by experienced Civ SR shooters.

Both matches were shot in uncharacteristically good weather; many stripping down to T-shirts in the afternoon. However, if you intend to come to future matches, be sure to dress for whatever an English winter can throw at you and bring dry clothes for the journey home! ■



Note: The full results table can be found on the NRA website

Shotgun fest

George Granycome reports from a fantastic Target Shotgun Festival, 8-9 November 2014

The competition started on Butt Zero of Stickleddown, a welcome change from the usual location of Short Siberia. The two target shotgun events were 'Timed and Precision', and 'Multi-Target'. They both make use of turning targets and are based on the old Service Pistol and Police Pistol events. For aficionados they are great fun and the size of the hole punched in the paper targets by a shotgun slug can be of immense satisfaction. Some great scores were put in despite the drizzle.

Meanwhile in the other Stickleddown bays, James Harris the course-of-fire designer, supported by an enthusiastic build crew constructed the stages for the next day's IPSC-style match. The build was completed mid-afternoon, leaving time for sipping wine as the evening and the rain drew in.

Sunday was a wonderful sunny day, over 30 shooters competed, organised into three squads. Taking the stages in the order my own squad shot them; we began with a birdshot stage of eight falling steel plates shot through two apertures. It seemed simple but it was quite easy to hit the no-shoot targets which caused a 10-point deduction.

Our next stage was for eight rounds of slug, two hits required on each of four paper targets from behind a door, which forced a weak shoulder shoot from both left and right handed shooters. There were some very tight no-shoots to encourage precision and some fast times were put in.

Stage 3 was a buckshot stage with five paper targets, each requiring two buckshot hits, plus two large octagonal steel plates and a popper – a hinged falling target. Shooting down the popper activated a bobbing paper target. All this was shot through two narrow vertical apertures in a screen. It is appropriate here to mention that while one competitor shoots, the next

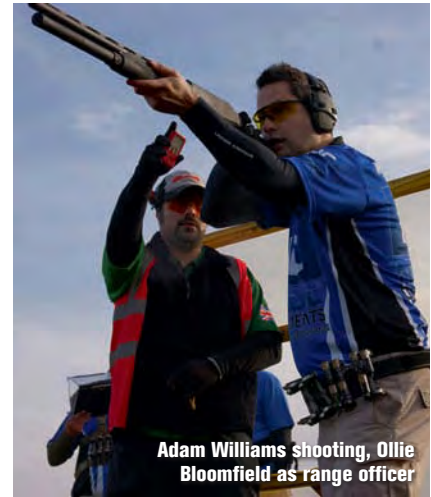
competitor gets ready, but all others are expected to patch targets or reset steel plates. This is integral to the smooth running of a competition.

Next we moved to the middle bay for a pair of class birdshot stages. The first was a longish traverse across varying apertures for a 20 plater. Mark Sienesi put on a bravura performance on this stage, his first of the day. The second was a quirky 12 plater with many options requiring more than a little thought.

Shooting stopped at the eleventh hour as all Bisley observed a thoughtful two minutes silence for Remembrance Sunday.

The organisation and set-up was so slick that there was actually time for lunch. Afterwards the match continued with four very nice birdshot stages on the top bay. The first was of 16 plates, followed by two speed shoots of eight plates were shot in succession, the first beginning with an unloaded gun, and the second with the gun loaded and made ready. I was taught years ago that on a speed shoot with an unloaded start it is quicker to load only the minimum number of rounds, and shoot that bit more carefully, but it's a high risk strategy; I was grateful I had spent time loading an extra!

The final stage of the glorious autumn afternoon of low sun and vivid colours, was of eight plates shot through two low apertures. It was a nice stage to shoot cleanly. High points of the day included witnessing a new practical shotgun shooter with a borrowed Section II pump action rapidly improve as his confidence, ability and enjoyment grew. Full results will be online but congratulations to Mark Sienesi winning standard, Andrew Hatfield, winning manual and Richard Ingram winning the open.



Adam Williams shooting, Ollie Bloomfield as range officer



Christian Barr shooting around the barricade on stage two

Marksman's Calendar

PLAN 2015 WITH OUR DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO THE BIG SHOOTS AND TRAINING EVENTS. ALL EVENTS AT BISLEY UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

JANUARY

10 Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

Carol Kellow, www.nra.org.uk

11 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

17 Probationary Training - Module 1

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

18 Introduction to Civilian Service Rifle

Carol Kellow, www.nra.org.uk

24 RCO HME Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

24 Probationary Training - Module 2

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

25 Probationary Training - Module 3

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

31 Probationary Training - Module 4

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

31 Introduction to Target Shotgun

Peter Cottrell, peter.cottrell@nra.org.uk

FEBRUARY

1 Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

Carol Kellow, www.nra.org.uk

1 Probationary Training - Module 2

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

7 Probationary Training - Module 3

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

7-8 Basic Hand Loading Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

7-8 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

Sun 8 Probationary Training - Module 4

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

14 Probationary Training - Module 1

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

14-15 Action/Practical Shotgun Match

Shooting Division,
shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

15 Probationary Training - Module 5

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or

01483 797777 ex139

20-22 F-Class Training Weekend

Mik Maksimovic,
mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

21 Probationary Training - Module 2

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

21-22 Club Instructor

(General Skills) Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

22 Probationary Training - Module 3

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

22 Introduction to Civilian Service Rifle

Carol Kellow, www.nra.org.uk

28 Probationary Training - Module 4

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

MARCH

1 Probationary Training - Module 5

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

7 Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

Carol Kellow, www.nra.org.uk

7 Introduction to Gallery Rifle Course

Peter Cottrell, peter.cottrell@nra.org.uk
or Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

7-8 "The Hardy" Practical Shotgun (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

7-8 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

14 Probationary Training - Module 1

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

21 Probationary Training - Module 2

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

21-22 Gallery Rifle Spring Action Weekend

Shooting Division,
shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

21-22 F Class League Shoot (Diggle)

Les Holgate, lesholgate@btinternet.com

22 Probationary Training - Module 3

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

28 Probationary Training - Module 4

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

29 Probationary Training - Module 5

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

APRIL

4 Probationary Training - Module 2

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

4 Historic Service Rifle Match

Shooting Division,
shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

5 Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

Carol Kellow, www.nra.org.uk

5 Probationary Training - Module 3

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

11-12 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

12 Mini Rifle/Practical Pistol (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

18 Probationary Training - Module 4

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

19 Probationary Training - Module 5

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

25 Probationary Training - Module 1

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

25 RCO HME Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

25-26 F-Class League Shoot (Blair Atholl)

Des Parr, desparr@yahoo.com

26 The Small-bore Long Range Match

Shooting Division,
shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

MAY

2 Probationary Training - Module 2

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

3 Probationary Training - Module 3

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or
01483 797777 ex139

9 Probationary Training - Module 4

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or 01483 797777 ex139

9-10 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

10 Probationary Training - Module 2

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or 01483 797777 ex139

10 Steel Challenge (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

16 Probationary Training - Module 3

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or 01483 797777 ex139

16-17 British 300M Championships

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk or 300m@nra.org.uk

17 Probationary Training - Module 4

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or 01483 797777 ex139

22-24 Phoenix Meeting

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

23-24 F-Class League Shoot (Diggle)

Les Holgate, lesholgate@btinternet.com

30 Probationary Training - Module 5

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or 01483 797777 ex139

30-31 Club Instructor Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

31 Probationary Training - Module 1

Mark Haigh, mark.haigh@nra.org.uk or 01483 797777 ex139

JUNE

6-7 Summer Challenge, Practical Shotgun (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

6-7 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

13-14 NRA Inter-Counties Meeting

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

17-2 July Service Weapons

Events and Aggregates

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

24-28 NRA Imperial Meeting - Civilian Service Rifle Meeting

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

25 NRA Military Adaptive Shooting Championship 2015

Carol Kellow, www.nra.org.uk

27-28 Long Range Challenge

Mik Maksimovic, mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

JULY

3-9 NRA Imperial Meeting - MR Events

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

6-9 NRA Imperial Meeting - Schools Meeting

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

8-12 NRA Imperial Meeting - Gallery Rifle and Pistol Events

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk

9-18 NRA Imperial Meeting - TR Events

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

10-15 NRA Imperial Meeting - F Class Events

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

18 NRA Imperial Meeting

- HM Queens Prize

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

19 Solid Slug Practical Match (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

AUGUST

1-2 Club Instructor) Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

1-2 Practical Pistol Match

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

8-9 F Class Long Range Shoot (Diggle (England))

Les Holgate, lesholgate@btinternet.com

15-16 HBSA Miniature Rifle Meeting

HBSA, www.nra.org.uk

29-30 Gallery Rifle and Pistol

National Championships

Neil Francis, gallery@nra.org.uk or shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

6 Mini Rifle/Practical Pistol (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

7-13 F Class European Championship

Mik Maksimovic, mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

12-13 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

26 RCO HME Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

OCTOBER

3 Historic Service Rifle Match

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

3-4 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

3-4 F Class Long Range Shoot (Blair Atholl)

Des Parr, desparr@yahoo.com

4 Civilian Service Rifle

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

10-11 Ages Match

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

17-18 The Trafalgar Meeting 2015

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

18 Steel Challenge (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorchester, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

24-25 Club Instructor (General Skills) Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

24-25 Gallery Rifle

- Autumn Action Weekend

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

31-1 Nov Practical Pistol Match

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

31-1 Nov F Class Long Range Autumn Challenge

Mik Maksimovic, mik@mikdolphin.demon.co.uk

NOVEMBER

7 Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

7-8 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

15 Autumn Practical Shotgun (Shield Shooting Centre, Dorset)

Steve Pike, www.shieldshootingcentre.co.uk

21 RCO HME Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

21-22 Target Shotgun Festival

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

DECEMBER

5-6 RCO Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk

6 Civilian Service Rifle (Winter league)

Shooting Division, shootingdivision@nra.org.uk

12-13 Club Instructor (General Skills) Course

Chloe Evans, chloe.evans@nra.org.uk



Cadets in Canada

The British Cadet Rifle Team travelled to Canada to take part in the National Cadet Full-bore Championships and the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association meeting. Athelings Adjutant 2014, Captain Sarah Proudlove shares her experiences

The opportunity to spend nearly the whole of August in Canada with the British Cadet Rifle Team, The Athelings, is the pinnacle of cadet shooting and 2014's tour was an enormous success. Following a stringent application process where shooting experience, scores and references were taken into account, a team comprised of 18 members plus three non travelling reserves all aged between 17 and 19 was selected in December 2013.

The team assembled for the first time over a long weekend at Bisley in March 2014 for 'Ex-Maple Taste' – a busy weekend of shooting, and lectures on elements of marksmanship and sports psychology. It was an excellent precursor to the tour with thanks going out to Frank Harriss and the team of expert coaches for their support. It was obvious to all involved that there were a bumper crop of Athelings this year.

The Imperial Meeting was the first official outing of the team, competing in Stage I of the Rex Goddard against the Canadian National Rifle Team in July. All members competed as individuals and some were chosen to represent the home countries in the Cadet International. The Athelings also competed in the Inter-Services Long-range matches. The Meeting provided the perfect opportunity for The Athelings to get to know each other and build a strong sense of team at the Athelings Association barbecue.

After months of build-up it was eventually time to depart for Canada. Pre-departure admin was extremely smooth thanks to Major Fraser and his team and it was fantastic to see the cadets looking well turned out in their MTP uniform in our early morning drill session. Sadly, Heathrow customs wasn't such an easy affair but thankfully the Commandant made the flight!

Before the competition the team took in a week of Canadian culture, with highlights including visiting Ottawa's poignant Canadian War Museum, watching the impressive Changing of the Guard at Parliament before touring the building and climbing the Peace Tower. They also made time for some team building exercises at the Camp Confidence obstacle course and watched the Blue Jays play baseball.

After this week of sightseeing the team got down to serious business as the shooting phase began with the National Cadet Full-bore Championships (NCFC) at Connaught 11-14 August. Practice time with the C12 rifle before the NCFC meeting was limited due to severe rain, but some good individual performances were made.

The less than perfect results of the Rex Goddard and Michael Faraday were obviously not what we set out to achieve



The Athelings team of 18 members

as a team – especially in the UK based match, where everyone learnt a lesson they’ll never forget! It was a pity that we were unable to compete against the same Canadian team who came to Bisley, and we hope this can be restored in future years.

The Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA) meeting at Connaught, 15-23 August was a very challenging event this year, with world class individuals from the UK, USA and Canada in attendance. The DCRA meeting is a Canadian version of the Imperial meeting. With such a quality field, it made the individual part of DCRA even more challenging, but the Athelings rose to the challenge with Max Willing claiming outright victory in the Army and Navy Veterans (900m) with an outstanding 75.11. Throughout the meeting the team amassed 70 ‘possibles’ between them.

In the Walker Aggregate, Taylor Mason picked up the O-class prize, on the same gun score as the A-class winner. Adam Partridge won both the Cadet Open TR Championship, and the Russell Potter Memorial with his Grand Aggregate score of 808.64. Danny Dineen won the O-Class prize (Strachan Trophy) with 801.62 as well as the class prize for the Aggregate of the 21st Century with 1133.83. Such was the strength of the assembled

shooters that only one cadet, Oliver Marshall, (Victoria College) and Alwyn McLean, Team Armourer made it into the Governor General’s final. Oliver finished in 37th place, with the team supporting behind the firing point.

The Athelings put in a good performance in the U25 short range match with a narrow victory of just two points. The long-range match culminated in a nail-biting finish with huge pressure on Canada’s closing firer, resulting in a six point winning margin for Canada.

After a tiring shooting phase, we spent the next two days relaxing at the Gatineau National Park, visiting the Mackenzie King Estate, walking the Laurialt Trail and enjoying the lakeside fishing, swimming, and canoeing as well as stargazing around the campfire at the breathtaking Lac Philippe.

Back at Connaught we completed all of our admin with efficiency thanks to the enthusiasm, energy and selfless leadership of ACF cadets Taylor Mason (Athelings Captain) and Connor Truman. We enjoyed our last Connaught feast before being bid farewell by the CO who presented the Commandant and Adjutant with a lovely coffee table book each and all of the cadets received their HPS prizes and a T-shirt.

There is no doubt that we were all sad to leave such a special country and we will hold with us the memories of our tour for many years to come. There are many people to thank for making the tour possible but heartfelt gratitude to Major Fraser and Major Postle who play such a vital role in ensuring that Cadet Target Rifle shooting thrives. ■



The prizegiving ceremony at Connaught



Team results: Athelings scoring at Bisley



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Mobile: 07952 119609

Big Game of Oz

Derek Stimpson goes down under to take part in the 5th International Big Game Rifle Match on Little River Range, near Melbourne

There has been an informal round of international big game rifle competitions operating bi-annually since 2006. Graeme Wright, author of *Shooting the British Double Rifle* along with his fellow members of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia (SSAA), who all shoot 'Big Game Rifle' competitively, instigated the competitions. There is an active big game rifle shooting fraternity in Australia and their various monthly competitions are based on big game shooting practice, similar to the British Sporting Rifle Club (BSRC) 'stalkers test' for deer stalking. The annual BSRC 'Ashes Match' was founded on these competitions and has been adapted to suit our needs in UK and the ranges available, the actual ashes being those of the first targets shot at the inaugural match won by Robin Eastwood, Australia.

In September 2008 the International Big Game Rifle match was held in Wisconsin, USA. British Sporting Rifle Club, Bisley hosted the match in 2010 and in 2012 the competition was in South

Africa at the Pretoria Practical Shooting Club outside Pretoria. Previously the match format had also been included in the Vintagers shoot in the USA.

This year we were invited to the fifth of these international matches on 6-7 September, hosted by the Big Game Rifle Club of Victoria and held at the SSAA, Little River Range near Melbourne. Countries participating were Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe and the UK. The range was so remote that most GPS systems couldn't locate it. The area was generally open and surrounded by scrub, bush, agricultural land and woodland. Despite the 'secret' location, the facilities were excellent.

Three members of BSRC attended: Alice Gran, Derek Stimpson (myself) and Tim Cooper. Tim is a Life member of the Australian Club and we both shoot large calibre rifles, which are less common in the UK than in Australia. The Big Game Rifle Club of Australia (BGRC) is very likely the largest and most knowledgeable group of classic British double rifle users in the world. Australian firearm laws allow

them to have many dedicated rifles and as a club they shoot them monthly.

Rifles are categorised according to calibre and power. Group one is .330 or greater (.375 and 9.3 are most popular), group two .400 upwards (.404/.416/.458/.470), group three .485 and up (.500 & .505 the most popular here), each with bullet weight and energy taken into account.

Two examples of match competitions are the 'Special Snap' comprising eight shots in 35 seconds, and 'Group One', which involves two shots standing unsupported and two sitting at 100yds in your own time, two shots at 50yds standing without a time limit, and two in 10 seconds, then at 25 yards two shots in 10 seconds, twice. There are also competitions specific to doubles, and for black powder.

I was handed a .505 Gibbs for the Group three stopper, comprising six shots in 25 seconds, with only two rounds in the rifle with reloads. I got off four decently aimed shots in the time. Needless to say the general standard of shooting was impressive and the array of firearms even more so!



Given the effects of travel and other contingencies we didn't do too badly in a field of 58 shooters. Tim came third in the Stalking Rifle competition that he shot with a .450 Rigby, and myself seventh in Group 2 Nitro, with a .458. Full details will be posted on the BSRC website in due course.

During one afternoon an echidna, which had been rescued from the road, was brought in to be released in the bush behind the range, so we had a good view and photo-opportunity of this iconic Australian animal that is perhaps less known than its co-monotreme, the platypus. In the prize giving, three Eastern Grey Kangaroos swept through the firing points and bounded off up the range. Neil Hibble, BGRC Vic President, quipped: "You have no idea how hard they are to train!"

In all we had two outstanding days, during which we had a tremendous reception, loan rifles and ammunition for all competitions, not to mention fabulous hospitality. At a meeting following the two days of shooting the 'International BGRC' was further formalised with the following aims and objectives:

- To foster and perpetuate an interest in the use of vintage and modern big game sporting rifles. Moreover, to encourage organised competitive shooting with a view towards a better knowledge of the safe handling and proper care of such firearms.
- To provide a set of international shooting Rules which will guide competitors and assist competition staff in the orderly and consistent management of Big Game Rifle shooting worldwide.
- To compete, by way of simulating field conditions, thus improving firearm operation skills, safe handling and field skills, in the pursuit of large and dangerous game.

The international committee, as convened, will comprise two members from each country and it was decided that the next International Match would be in UK at BSRC at Bisley in September 2016. As two of the UK members present, and as we are currently involved with the Ashes Shoot, Tim and I were



The rifle rack – some serious firepower on offer!



It's a growing attendance for the BGR match



British contingent: The BSRC team in Australia

designated the two UK committee members and I was elected chairman for the UK event. The chairmanship will transfer to the next host country at each subsequent event – an idea adopted from the Olympics. Needless to say there are many details to work out before then and contingencies to solve. ■

For those who would like to learn more about the BGR scene in Australia there is further information on the main SSAA web site: www.ssaa.org.au



The author shooting a .505 Gibbs

www.FoxFirearmsUK.com

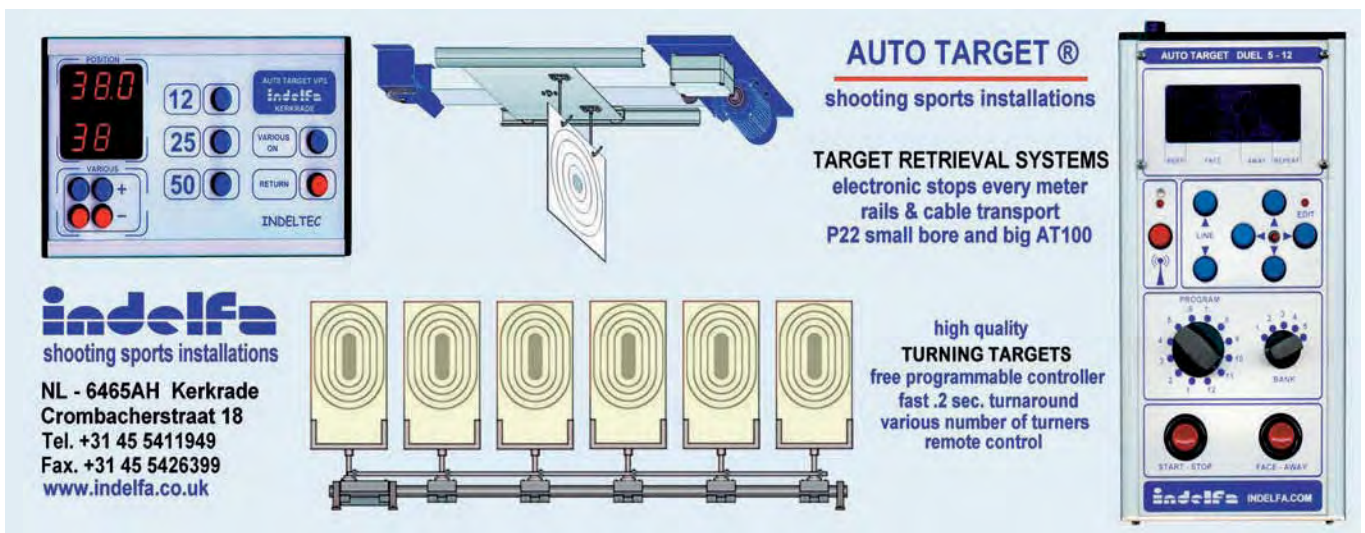
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Match Reports

A round-up of results from a range of notable competitions in the Autumn calendar, from the European Long Range Championships to the Welsh Open

10TH EUROPEAN LONG RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS BISLEY, 11-12 OCTOBER By Gary Alexander

This year there were six teams of 12 shooters on three targets per team with coaches, adjutant, plotters and a captain making numbers up to as many as 21 per team.

There were some doubters who felt the heavy downpour and gusty winds through the night would make for a less than enjoyable shoot but with 30 minutes to go, the sun cracked through the storm clouds and when Flapping Jacks opened for fresh Colombian coffee and bagels it was clear that we were in for a cracking weekend.

After a training session at 900 yards that allowed elevations and wind zeros to be co-ordinated we started the first days programme of 2+15 at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards.

At 800 yards the wind ranged between two and four minutes getting up to five to seven minutes at 900 yards and six to nine and a half minutes at 1,000 yards. Groups were wider than expected at 1,000 yards and scores suffered disproportionately on the ICFRA target. Scotland coped best with the conditions and the group sizes gave them a significant lead after the first day.

The following morning dense fog caused a delay. Eventually at 10.30am we started a revised programme of 2+10 at 900 and 1,000 yards. Scotland, under Matt Charlton's leadership, did not give the chasing pack any chance to catch up and extended their lead to an admirable 53 points over England in second place and



Wales's Chloe Evans shooting with Mike Bumford (left) plotting and Chris Hockley (right) coaching

Wales in bronze medal position, followed by Ireland, the Channel Islands and then BDMP Germany.

Once the team honours had been decided, it was on to the individual, open to three shooters from each country, to include the two top scores and a captains pick. It was string shooting with one firer to a target. The late start meant a reduced course of fire and an extreme rush to finish in time. Individual honours went to the Irish captain, Gary Alexander, with a 50.7v. Euan Maclean from Scotland came second with 48.4v and it was great to see the Germans in the medals with Gunter Kunz in third place with 48.4v.

The matches made for another great weekend on Stickle-down and as the season comes to a close the next opportunity at this course of fire may be the World Championships in America.



#	NAME	COUNTRY	SCORE
INDIVIDUAL			
1st	Gary Alexander	Ireland	50.7v
2nd	Euan Maclean	Scotland	48.8v
3rd	Gunter Kunz	Germany	48.4v

#	COUNTRY	SCORE
HALFWAY STAGES		
1st	Scotland	2564.191v
2nd	England	2511.159v
3rd	Wales	2505.164v
4th	Ireland	2503.165v
5th	Channel Islands	2481.148v
6th	Germany	2435.117v
FINAL TOP THREE		
1st	Scotland	3698.277v
2nd	England	3661.246v
3rd	Wales	3645.245v

MATCH RIFLE By Silke Lohmann

This year, autumn turned into a busy season for MR shooters. A must in the Match Rifleman's diary is the English VIII Autumn meeting, which took place on 27-28 September 2014. Rob Lygoe was the clear winner with 449.76v – four points ahead of Angus McLeod with 445.61v and David Friend on 445.56v. Rob took home trophies for both Saturday and Sunday competitions, and the 1200 aggregate. To trump it all, he also won the Pilcher Platter, which goes to the shot with the best results in the English VIII Spring and Autumn meeting, with an impressive 853.101v. The Under 25 Trophy went to Michael Boucher (CURA), who scored 437.48v, one point ahead of Ashley Abrahams.

Away from Bisley, the NRC of Scotland Open Autumn Meeting always attracts visitors from down

south and across the water. Shot on the picturesque Blair Atholl range on the first weekend in September, this meeting always presents the participants with a bit of a challenge, being shot at 987, 1,114 and 1,233 yards. Mike Baillie-Hamilton took most of the silverware home, with a particularly impressive performance at 1,114 yards, shooting a 75.10v and

99.11v. Tim Kidner on 429.42v and Mike Barlow with 428.37v fought for the second and third place on this electronic target range.

The autumn also saw two MR club championships – the Cambridge Cup, which celebrated its 150th anniversary, and the North London Rifle Club championships, both won by Nick Tremlett.



Mike Baillie-Hamilton being presented with one of his trophies by Tim Kidner on the Blair Atholl range

PRACTICAL SHOTGUN MATCH ROMSEY SC, 21 SEPT 2014. By James Harris

September was a busy month for action shooters in the South of England. Romsey SC hosts two matches per year as the seventh round of the F4i league and this latest event continued their high levels of challenging stages. For those not familiar with the location, their shotgun grounds are near to Popham Airfield, which has easy access from London and the West Country resulting in good turnouts. Romsey have built all their own targets up by making good use of salvaged agricultural and haulage parts. Stages one to three consisted of eight combine harvester guide blades set end to end to make some large but reliable knockdowns.

Stage one was an unloaded start: on the beep, load and shoot. Nothing much to think about except the old conundrum of do I load eight or nine? Stage two was seemingly simple until the nice smiling RO said "from the weak shoulder," easier said than done for some. From the short and fast the competitors moved on to something requiring a little more thought



Neil Smith prepares to shoot the heavy steel plates at Romsey SC

and balance. 10 targets spread out among the undergrowth all of which had to be shot while standing on a narrow walkway. There were no penalties for falling off, but cutting the corners would earn a procedural or two!

From the most constrained stage we continued on to the most freestyle stage of the match with myriad ways of completing it, 20 targets laid out from 5 to 30 metres, with targets that were exposed once others had fallen and a few static clays raised high into the air on posts that many forgot were there. Knowing your effective maximum range with the choke and pellet size in use were essential here, many forgot that as

the pattern disperses so does the energy transmitted over a defined area.

Romsey is one of the few clubs that has the facilities to shoot buckshot and as ever, they had laid on a creative stage using old tractor weights as target. Being almost an inch thick and over a foot in diameter these are no ordinary steel plates. A tight buckshot pattern in the right place was required to knock them down, while a few optimistic souls tried using birdshot, they found that either multiple shots with the resultant reloads were required or they had to get closer and therefore spend more time covering ground. This requirement to plan what

**THE WELSH OPEN
NRA BISLEY, 23-25
AUGUST**

By LouLou Brister

The Welsh Open was held as usual over the August Bank Holiday weekend. With hand loads or commercial 155-grain ammunition used, scores were high and the weather was kind. Consisting of the usual Queens 1, 2 and 3: the open maximum score was going to be 405. Starting on Saturday lunchtime the Queens 1 was completed in the afternoon with the Queens 2 Sunday morning and the 900 and 1,000 yards in the afternoon. This left bank holiday Monday morning for Match Rifle. Sadly the good weather did not continue for the Match Rifle element.

In the Stockwood (Queens 1), good weather and ammunition resulted in

high scores, with Sarah Cheslyn-Churt (NLRC) scoring a perfect 105.15v. Welshmen Henryk Golazewski and Ed Jeens were next, both on 104.15v.

On Sunday morning in the WF Bell (Queens 2), high scoring continued, with Ed Jeens scoring 150.24v beating a 150.19v from David Crispin and Andrew Wilde scoring the best 149.24v to come third. The afternoon competition named after yet another great Welsh shooter, Bob Hassel, continued to benefit Ed Jeens who was on a roll. Ed scored an excellent 148.22v in the 900 and 1,000 yards with David Calvert 148.15 and David

Crispin on 147.19v. The Open Championship was won by Ed Jeens with 402.61v, closely followed by David Crispin on 401.51v and the two Welsh Commonwealth Games competitors, Gaz Morris and Chris Watson in third and fourth with 398.50v and 397.50v respectively. David Calvert the Northern Island Commonwealth Games competitor came fifth with one V bull less.

Following tradition, teams of six were selected from the Welsh and the English. The Welsh won, scoring 2363.289v and leaving England behind on 2316.230v.

#	NAME	%
OPEN DIVISION		
1st	John Thorne	100
2nd	Cansh Pope	98.85
3rd	Richard Ingram	96.16
STANDARD DIVISION		
1st	Mark Sienesi	100
2nd	James Harris	95.46
3rd	Neil Smith	86.04
STANDARD MANUAL		
1st	Iain Guy	100
2nd	Graham Hill	75.38
3rd	Gary Dyer	69.94

you are going to shoot, from where and with what combination of choke and ammunition is why many people find this sport so enjoyable. The results speak for themselves, with Mark Sienesi and Iain Guy both showing a very clear lead over the next placed competitors in the Standard divisions. Practice and aptitude are required to constantly take the top spot, but just turning up and taking part are the only requirements for having fun. Contact James Harris target.shotgun@nra.org.uk for more information or go online to four4islands.org or fullbore.co.uk.



There was a brisk wind to deal with at long range



LouLou Brister (right) in charge on Stickledown

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New appointments

John Webster, chairman of the NRA, introduces the newest members of the NRA Council

I am delighted to welcome three new trustees to the NRA Council, taking our number up to a full complement of 12.

Our constitution allows for a maximum of 12 trustees, of which up to four can be co-opted. New trustee positions were advertised earlier in the year. Encouragingly, 14 people came forward to express an interest, and 11 followed up with a full CV on request.

The Council drew up a shortlist from this group to be put forward for interview. Decisions were made following an evaluation of different factors, using a scoring system to ensure objectivity and confidentiality.

David Evans (NRA vice-chairman), Derek

Lowe (treasurer) and I then conducted interviews with those shortlisted, and invited the three successful candidates to join the Council.

I would like to thank all those who originally put their names forward. If the quality and strength of all the candidates and their willingness to volunteer to put their shoulder to the wheel is anything to go by, then the health of the NRA should be robust and its prospects promising. Organisations such as ours can only thrive if people volunteer their time and experience in meaningful quantities. It was very encouraging that so many were prepared to do just that, and each one deserves our thanks.



John Webster



ALICE GRAN

As well as a lifelong interest in shooting, Alice has two principal qualities that impress: her commercial experience and her communicating and dealing with governmental agencies and similar organisations. Alice was involved in setting up a New York Stock Exchange listed company, has extensive board experience, and managed the finances of a 30-strong law firm in addition to being a practicing lawyer. Although she has yet to be involved in negotiating with British governmental agencies, the experience and skills

associated in dealing with US administrative and regulatory agencies as well as lobbying US Congress should be transferable and useful, particularly in maximising our impact through British Shooting.



DAVID LACEY

David has extensive rifle shooting experience both on ranges and in the field. He is currently a member of the NRA disciplinary committee, and has impressed in that role with the independence and clarity of his thinking. His legal experience includes time spent in the charity sector as well as in dealing with complex issues concerning company boards of directors. David demonstrates an impressive clarity of vision; that and his proactive thinking will be a considerable asset to the Council.



JAMES HARRIS

James' energy and enthusiasm for the sport of target shooting is palpable and infectious. Many know him as the discipline representative for Target Shotgun. He organises many shooting events as well as participating in a wide array of shooting disciplines. His background and qualifications in project management in the infrastructure construction sector, with experience in procurement and project processes such as planning, design and implementation, will be invaluable to the Council in helping guide the chief executive in many of the initiatives that we are undertaking.

His breadth of knowledge and interest in different forms of shooting make him a good candidate to lead a regional range initiative at the Council level.

Missing piece

Ted Molyneux shares some fascinating history from the first Imperial meeting and welcomes a new exhibit to the NRA Museum, an Enfield-Whitworth pattern 1863 rifle

H.M. Queen Victoria fired the opening shot at the first Imperial meeting, held at the ranges on Wimbledon Common, July 1860. The rifle was a hexagonal-bore, muzzle-loading Whitworth, mounted on a Whitworth 'Iron Man'. That year she created an annual prize of £250 to be won at the Imperial meeting, now called 'HM The Sovereign's Prize'.

After the eliminating stages, the 40 finalists would shoot the long ranges with Whitworth rifles that were provided especially for the competition. These were considered to be of proven superior accuracy to the current pattern Enfield rifles.

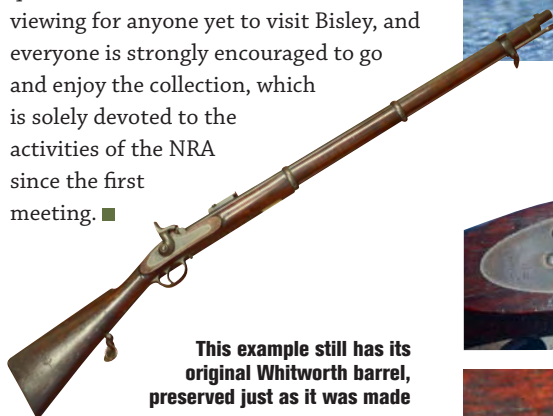
The museum already holds a number of Whitworth rifles, including the one famously shot by Her Majesty as well as the one that Private Edward Ross used to win the prize in 1860. It also holds a Snider Conversion Whitworth, but not an example of a 'missing link' between the two: until now! That omission has been rectified and we now have an Enfield-Whitworth pattern 1863, a hexagonal bore .451/.480 calibre.

W.S. (Bill) Curtis, a Crimean War period and percussion muzzle loading rifle expert, shares an extract from the NRA meeting programme for Wimbledon, 1867, below:

The Enfield-Whitworth pattern 1863 was made at Enfield between 1863 and 1864 using barrels provided by four makers. Cornforth, Firth and Berger each supplied unfinished barrels. The fourth supplier was Whitworth himself and only these were delivered to Enfield in a finished state.

This rifle, dated July 1864, is one of the few rifles fitted with Whitworth barrels that has not fallen into the gun trade and has therefore been preserved exactly as it was when made. This rifle has been added to the museum collection (number F101) and will soon be on display.

The museum as it is now opened in 1997, and many visitors have since donated additions. A free 'Museum Guide' is available and museum volunteers are on hand to answer questions. The museum is essential viewing for anyone yet to visit Bisley, and everyone is strongly encouraged to go and enjoy the collection, which is solely devoted to the activities of the NRA since the first meeting. ■



This example still has its original Whitworth barrel, preserved just as it was made



The distinctive hexagonal bore of the Whitworth



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The Enfield stamp on the stock

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Going the distance

Raf Jah and friends make the long journey to a desolate valley in Wales that is home to Orion Firearms Training. They set themselves a challenge: to ‘stretch the legs’ of their rifles and shoot out to 1,200 yards

It's nine in the morning on a cool summer's day in West Wales. The wind blows over the tops of the hills and down the winding valleys. We pull into a pub car park and a man steps out of his crew cab pickup.

"Gentlemen, good morning," he says and shakes our hand. Bob is our instructor today. "Well, no one else made the RV, so let's go." We pile into our shared car while he leads us off down the road. We seem to keep climbing and climbing until we come to a piece of flat ground atop a valley. We are taken out to a weird-looking container – which turns out to be a comfortable, warm firing point.

After much rummaging around for kit, I grab my first rifle. As far as I am concerned it's a straight-pull M16, but the world insists on calling it an AR15. It might not be the pinnacle of finesse, but it's cheap to fire and very accurate at short ranges.

We are given the go-ahead to fire out to 200 yards, to check our sights. Paul and Sammy use their .308s while I put the AR15 to good use. I'm well into my

second magazine when Bob chuckles over his telescope: "You really can get through some ammunition, can't you?"

"Just getting the feel of my new rifle," I snort back over the butt and keep firing. But as the third magazine goes in, I remember that I have foolishly only brought 200 rounds of 5.56 ammo. So I bring out my staple: a Canadian .303 No. 4 rifle with a Walther barrel and Nikon hunting scope. Everyone I know laughs at this set-up; the purists think it's disgusting and the wannabe sniper mob think it's ancient. It's zeroed at 300 yards, so I have to undershoot – but that's easy. The steel plates ping at the near distances and it's all good fun.

Bob starts to give us more challenging targets with steels further and further away, until we are shooting at 800 yards. By now, we are shooting slowly and selectively. Sammy hits a clay pigeon – that's a disk 2.5" wide.

Far out on the other side of the valley is a small, grey indentation – just a scrape on the side of the hill. To its left, right and inside it are what seem to be incredibly

small steel plate targets. This is the 1,000-yard range. Paul and I move slowly out to this and ring the gong.

The next challenge has to be the 1,200 yard mark. At this stage we are pushing the 7.62 ammunition out to its farthest usable distance. Paul has loaded his own, with a charge that mimics the British Army sniper round, and his scope is 24x. His Remington barks and with a couple of ranging shots, he is on the target.

My old .303 is a different proposition. I have long held that the .303 will go further than the 7.62 but it is probably less controllable. I don't have a bipod, so I rest on an ammo box and beanbag. I squeeze the trigger through its long double pull



DISTANCE LEARNING: Shooting out to 1,200 yards at Orion



Sinking buoys and ringing the gong on a semi-submerged boat

and watch the Slovakian bullet fly down the range – I see the mud splatter as it hits marginally low.

Bob directs me to add a couple of clicks – which I do. As soon as my breathing steadies, I dig my elbows in deeper and squeeze off another round. The bullet flies slowly off across the valley. I see no splash.

“Hit,” exclaims Bob.

“What?”

“Listen,” he commands, and we all fall silent. After a few seconds the faint ringing of the metal plate wafts back to us. The

metal target is swinging. I am incredulous.

So I try again.

“Hit,” shouts Bob.

I reload the old No. 4 and fire again.

“Hit,” Bob chuckles from his seat and stares at me. “You’ve got a two-inch group at 1,200 yards.”

I simply don’t believe him. I clear my .303, have it checked by Paul, place it on the ground and scramble over the RCO’s chair. I ask if I can look through the cheap but effective 48x scope. There are three clear markings on the gong.

After lunch we head to the overwater firing point. Here our shooting is all over the place. Bob smiles as we shoot down at a radical angle on unknown distances into a lake. After watching us shoot high and wide, Bob intervenes with a couple of tips. As soon as we know what we are doing wrong and how to mentally calculate the drop and distance, we start sinking the buoys and ringing the gong on a semi-submerged boat. This is fast shooting with no time to adjust sights. It is all about mental adjustment and snap shooting. Paul is the clear leader at this game with his long-barrelled, heavy M16, but I try to give him a run for his money with the .303.

At the end of the day, we drive out a different way, “We need to come back,” mutters Sammy. No one disagrees. ■

“We all fall silent. After a few seconds the faint ringing of the metal plate wafts back to us. The metal target is swinging. I am incredulous. So I try again

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Efforts are afoot to bring LBR and LBP back to their former levels of participation

Extended barrels

Richard Wilson hails the return of the Smith & Wesson-based revolver to the UK, and encourages more people to take up LBR and LBP

It's easy to hark back to the days when we could own 'normal' revolvers and Police Pistol matches were some of the most popular disciplines in competitive shooting. Literally hundreds of competitors would enter events at Bisley or the 1500 Nationals. Big 'open' matches were put on almost every weekend somewhere in the country. There was a thriving postal match league, with trade support and sponsorship. Those days are sadly gone, and so are the revolvers, but the matches still exist.

So why is Gallery Rifle not as popular as the pistol matches it replaced? To my mind it comes down to two things: time and age. The time it took people to get their 'compensation' money after the ban, the time it took for a viable alternative to be born, and the average age of the shooters.

Many pistol shooters just quit – my own club lost two thirds of its membership. Many others couldn't afford to re-equip in the three years it

took to get the compensation. Some people just drifted away to other disciplines and with them went the momentum that was bringing new and younger competitors into the sport.

Those that decided to carry on had to start almost from scratch in forming what is now Gallery Rifle. They are building the sport back up, and that is what got me involved again. The best part of my job back then was going to matches, setting up shop in the big white van, and supporting the shooters and the organisers. There was a great camaraderie and a great atmosphere – that's what I miss the most and want to get back.

Background

Precision Pistol Competition (PPC) had grown rapidly in the 1980s, and Marylebone Club under Vic Adams had started to promote the 1500 match. Most competitors used stock Smith & Wesson and Colts, but a handful had managed to get the prized Bill

Davis Revolvers. As a young gunsmith I decided that the best way to learn my trade was to go the USA and ask the masters to teach me. I went to Bill Davis and to Jim Clark; both were welcoming but initially I needed to show them I was serious, so I came back with distributorships for their products. I had something to prove, so I threw everything into selling as many guns as I could get my hands on. By selling them at a price that was affordable, the number of Davis revolvers on the circuit went from a handful to a hundred in a few months. Competitions hotted up as an unplanned side effect, as suddenly there were dozens of shooters with the equipment to win. It snowballed to the extent that Bill could keep up no longer, and so trained me how to build them myself. Not long after that he sold the business, and I was on my own.

Business thrived, and I approached Parker Hale, who imported for Smith & Wesson, about using their CNC equipment to machine my barrels.



Long-barrelled revolver (LBR) in training



The popularity of GR&P in all its forms is increasing

Following this, my guns were distributed through their specialist dealer network in the UK and Europe. Over 1,400 Wilson Match Master revolvers later, it all came to a grinding halt in 1998.

Having been approached by customers from Germany to start building PPC revolvers again, I was encouraged by members of SLG to come and see some Gallery Rifle matches, and met a few familiar faces. They were as friendly as ever, and I realised what I was missing.

The inevitable question arose about the possibility of a Wilson Match Master LBR, but getting S&W to supply a base frame that had never been a complete Section 5 firearm looked impossible. While exhibiting my new line of revolvers at IWA in Germany, a meeting with S&W lead to their tentative support for the project, and the ball was rolling. Having placed an order with S&W for a considerable quantity of frames I hoped that there really was a market – there appeared to be only about 65 people who shot LBRs on a regular basis at the ‘Open’ meetings. I went to the Phoenix with a prototype, and was astounded by the reception.

Subsequent analysis of the potential client list revealed a few unexpected things. What was most interesting was that about 50 per cent were not already shooting LBRs. Many of them had owned competition PPC revolvers in the old days. They had tried early on after the ban, but for them the available revolvers were not up to the job. It is a bit of *déjà vu*, trying to compete with

stock basic revolvers like in the early 80s. Don’t get me wrong – without Taurus and Ruger there would be no LBR, and we should be grateful that they had the commitment to support the UK market. But we need to take it to the next level.

From a personal perspective I would dearly love to be a part of building LBR back to what it was in its heyday, and with it encourage new blood, younger shooters, and more women to join in.

There are hundreds of long-barrelled revolvers and long-barrelled pistols out there in club-land, and we need them used in competition; nothing that generates enthusiasm as much as competition.

Many ‘old’ PPC shooters, and some of the real top-level competitors, are still out there. Shooting pistols is not something you forget how to do, and it wouldn’t take long to get back up to speed. I can attest to that, having just been abroad to compete in my first Practical Pistol match in 17 years. I was a bit rusty at the beginning, but it all came back and by the end of the day I won the match.

The sport is a generation older than when I was last involved, but many of us now have kids that we should be encouraging to pick up a LBR or LBP and get into it.

I am really hopeful that if we can raise the game, get more competitive, and drag some of the old guard back into it, new people will start to get involved in the sport. The 2015 Gallery Rifle & Pistol season will be as full and varied as ever. ■

WILSON MATCH MASTER



Join our club

Looking for a new club to join? We call in on four rifle and pistol clubs – both at Bisley and further afield – to make the choice easier

Frome & District Pistol Club

Frome & District Pistol Club (FDPC) was founded in 1973, the original club range was located in an old quarry building and offered just three small-bore shooting points at 25m, but with the vast MoD Warminster complex with half a dozen fullbore ranges ideal for new pistol disciplines just 10 miles away, it was not long before the club boasted membership of over 200.

The late 1980s saw an expansion into a new range complex at Gurney Slade. However, the loss of pistol shooting in 1997 was followed not long after by the closure of the Gurney Slade ranges. Some gave up, but most vowed to continue with the new Gallery Rifle (GR) disciplines. Despite the absence of a 'home range', FDPC remains one of the largest, active and successful clubs in the south-west, hosting the 'Western Winner' 1500 and other practical events. Several of the Great Britain GR team along with many national ROs are members, offering a wealth of experience and assistance to new shooters. Looking ahead to 2015, the opportunities for a permanent home seem likely.

Currently, FDPC provides shooting opportunities on Thursday and Friday

evenings as well as monthly bookings at a local Bristol GR range and MoD full-bore rifle ranges. The club offers most types of shooting with a wide range of club firearms.

Frome & District Pistol Club has an increasing number of junior and female shooters, and would like to encourage anybody with an interest in shooting to join this active, friendly and competition-orientated club.

Frome & District Pistol Club – 'The Best in the West'!

DISCIPLINE: Most Action shooting disciplines including SB, GR, FB and PSG.

LOCATION: Between Frome and Bristol in the South West of England

OPENING: Thurs & Fri evenings, plus weekend bookings for competitions.

CONTACT: Contact the club via their website – www.fdpc.org.uk



Frome and District Pistol Club in training

Surrey Rifle Association

The Surrey Rifle Association (SRA) was founded in 1861 and has been at Bisley since 1895 in a building that was known as the Surrey Brigade Hut. Over the last 10 years, the hut has undergone some serious refurbishment and has been extended in every direction.

SRA is home to some of the best Target Rifle marksmen, members include gold, silver and bronze Commonwealth Games medallists. Excellent training and coaching is available for anyone looking to improve their Target Rifle shooting. The club has an armoury to store rifles, a bar (with

impressive gin and whisky collections), garden and dining room that can seat 100 people. The reloading room is a recent addition, where members can make their own ammunition using the club's equipment.

SRA caters for beginners through county, national and international levels and is run by members, for members with a dedicated committee who keep the place running smoothly. Although primarily a target rifle club, shooters of any discipline are welcomed to use the facilities for a small social membership fee. There is an annual programme of friendly matches against other clubs to encourage members

to try competition shooting in a friendly environment and an open meeting every September, as well as a variety of social events throughout the year.

Surrey Rifle Association

DISCIPLINE: Primarily target rifle shooting, from beginner to international standard

LOCATION: The Surrey Hut, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking GU24 0NY

OPENING: Weekends from March to October and out of season by appointment

CONTACT: David Crispin, Chairman, and Jon Tapster, Secretary, 01483 473159
www.surreyrya.org



The City of Newcastle Rifle Club team at Bisley

City of Newcastle Rifle Club

The City of Newcastle is a small TR club with a big track record. Throughout its 114-year history the club has produced several international shooters and has won the Astor Club teams match at Bisley on several occasions. Current members include a young shot in the 2015 GB Palma Team to the USA, and member of the 2015 under-19 team to South Africa member and two GB Veterans team members. This worldwide platform is testament to the skills honed at CNRC.

Despite the quality of the members, the club remains small with only 20 active members. New faces are always welcomed although access to formal training is limited so previous shooting experience with targets and .22 rifles is preferred.

The club currently has several young shooters showing not just technical ability and promise, but also the sort of loyalty and *esprit de corps* that is one of the Club's strongest traits. Nothing gives our experienced members greater pleasure than explaining the nuances of changing light and wind conditions to those less experienced, and seeing them develop into regular team shooters.

City of Newcastle Rifle Club

DISCIPLINE: TR

LOCATION: Near Ponteland and Newcastle

OPENING: We have around eight club shoots per year, between April and October

CONTACT: Michael Black, michaeljblack@yahoo.co.uk, www.cnrc.co.uk

Marylebone Rifle and Pistol Club

Marylebone Rifle and Pistol Club (MRPC) was founded in 1905, one of the many clubs inaugurated under the Lord Roberts scheme for civilian rifle clubs following the Boer War. The club shot on ranges both at Marylebone baths and in the open at the Marylebone Grammar School for two years before moving to a purpose built range at Harewood Avenue. In 1968 the club moved to Moorgate but had to leave in 2008, due to a proposed redevelopment. Thanks to the help of The City of London Corporation premises were found under London Bridge in April 2013 (pictured below).

The London Bridge Range is a completely new development with state-of-the-art range facilities for Section 1 firearms and airguns. There is secure storage and a comfortable club room. MRPC is currently awaiting Home Office approval to continue with Heritage (section 7.3) activities. Currently disciplines comprise Gallery Rifle (both centrefire and small-bore), muzzle-loading pistols and air pistol and rifle. The club also has premises at Bisley and hires various ranges during the year including Melville, Sporting Rifle and longer ranges from 100 yards to 1,000 yards.

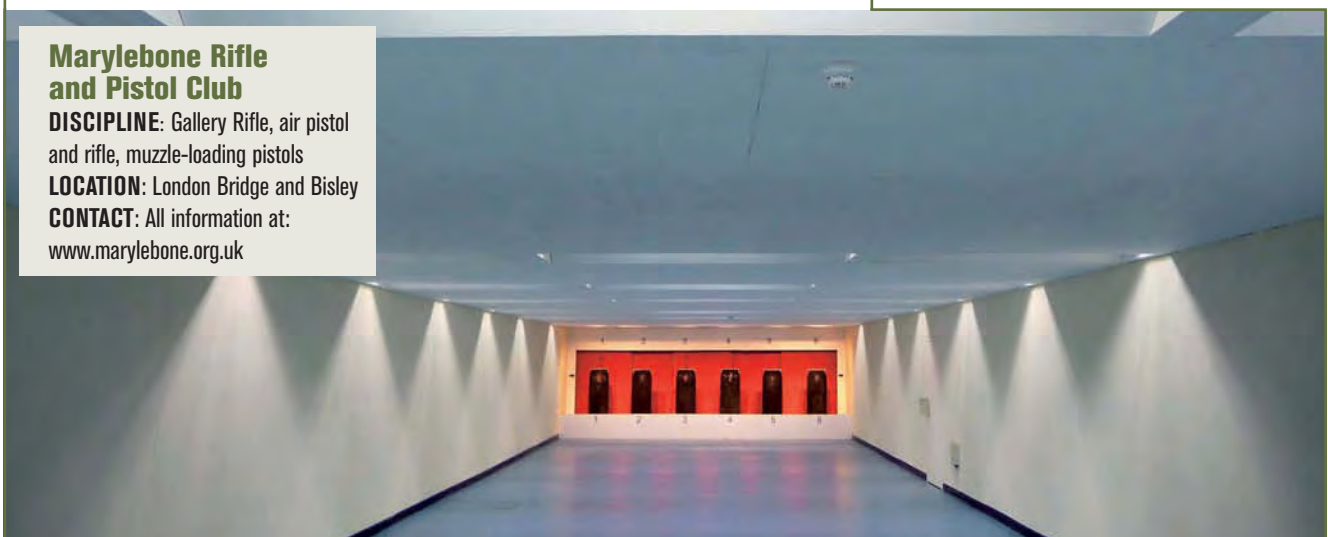
During its existence, MRPC has had many members who have represented their country at Olympic and Commonwealth games as well as many International competitions. The club boasts a friendly atmosphere with members of all ages and ability, there is full disabled access to the main range, and they are well situated for public transport.

Marylebone Rifle and Pistol Club

DISCIPLINE: Gallery Rifle, air pistol and rifle, muzzle-loading pistols

LOCATION: London Bridge and Bisley

CONTACT: All information at: www.marylebone.org.uk





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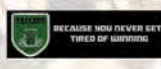
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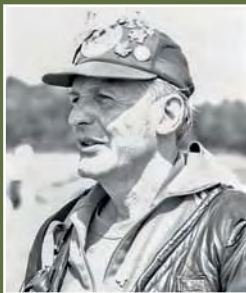
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OBITUARIES



PETER PAGE
1927-2014

Peter passed away on 19 June following a long battle with Parkinson's disease. Peter will be remembered by many in the global shooting fraternity, where he was well respected for his contributions to the sport. Peter was president of the Vancouver Island section of the BC Rifle Association for many years, later becoming a life governor. He was a regular competitor and frequent winner of the Winter Indoor Postal .22 matches. Brenda accompanied Peter on some of his shooting travels to the USA and to England. Peter is remembered for his gentlemanly demeanour by fellow members of the Maple Bay Yacht Club and by other dog walkers along the Cowichan River, where he took his beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniels for their daily 'constitutional'. Peter was a larger than life character who will be sorely missed by all who knew him. Peter leaves wife Brenda, daughter Jane, son-in-law John and their children. He is also survived by a son, Michael.

BARRY HALL
1927-2014

Barry joined the Shanklin Rifle and Pistol Club in 1942. He was elected to the committee in 1947 and was an active member.

He left the Isle of Wight and became a member of Havant Rifle Club where he was secretary for five of his 15 years, opening their first outdoor range. Barry returned to the Island in 1963 and was Elected Secretary in 1965. He found and arranged the rental of the outdoor range facility that is still used today. He was instrumental in obtaining the land for the indoor range and for organising the funding to build the indoor range which was completed in 1980. He succeeded in registering the club as a charity which helped finances enormously.

Barry was influential in the organisation of the Island games for Target Shooting Sports. He was the Inter Area Representative for the Island for many years, organising the Island's Inter Area teams and also having a keen interest in our County involvement with the NSRA Queen Alexandra competition.

Barry stepped down as Secretary in 2009 after 44 years. His constant efforts, hard work and tenacity ensured that the Shanklin Rifle and Pistol Club is a Premier Target shooting Club with facilities that many other clubs in the south of England would envy.

DAVID BUTLER
1944-2014

Chelmsford Rifle Club sadly announces the passing of club officer David Butler at his home on 10 September, aged 71. David was a well respected officer in the club.

He was educated at Stationers Grammar School where he joined the School Cadet Unit aged 15. Within six months he was appointed joint armourer and held the keys for the armoury. After leaving school he joined the Inland Revenue where the rifle range in the basement of Somerset House really activated his interest in shooting. David joined Chelmsford Rifle Club in February 1970 and soon became treasurer - he was by then an Inspector of taxes.

David was later introduced to the National Pistol Association, where he was joint chairman. He then became involved in the National Pistol Association's annual Bisley shoot, which enlarged each year and included international entrants. It became the largest pistol competition in the UK, until pistols were banned.

Recently David was very proud to receive a special NRA Medal awarded for his contribution to shooting. His funeral was very well attended with many club members present. Our thoughts go out to his wife Brenda and family.

DEREK SANVOISIN
1931-2014

Derek's early shooting experience started at the City of London School where he shot smallbore with the school eight and fullbore with the School Combined Cadet Force. He held a National Service Commission in REME and was

trained on the full range of infantry weapons. Derek was a founder member and Club Secretary of The Elliott Brothers (latterly GEC Marconi Avionics) Rifle Club and held the Club Firearms Certificate. During the last five years Derek regularly practiced clay pigeon shooting, held a shotgun certificate and owned a shotgun. Derek always maintained a keen interest in the operation and technical aspects of

firearms and read widely on the subject, having a full understanding of safety issues and legal requirements.

Derek trained his two sons in the sport of shooting, taking them regularly to local shooting clubs, instilling in them the care and rules of handling firearms safely. Derek enjoyed his days at Bisley and will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

DIANA WELLS 1949-2014

Diana was much loved by residents of site 4 near the Bisley RAF Club. She brought her formidable medical skills learned as an Accident & Emergency nurse, ward sister and assessor of trainee nurses to a wide number of sports and will be remembered with affection.

Diana and her twin sister Jacqueline were born in Bradford on 4 February 1949. She first met Nigel at Bradford Technical College, age 16. Despite his youthful infatuation with her they did not get together again until nearly 10 years later, when they met in Accident and Emergency at Bradford Royal Infirmary by which time Diana had a daughter Allyson. Diana and Nigel were married in 1978.

She was an accomplished tennis player in her own right until a shoulder injury put paid to serious competition. She was also a determined albeit cautious skier who was at her best when the conditions were such as to limit the vistas that altitude brings. She had the flair to ski almost anywhere, but she did not enjoy heights.

In her retirement Diana turned down all thoughts of living in warmer or more glamorous places. A static caravan at Bisley and a touring version to Scotland was the norm. At both, she knew everything that went on thanks to her constant stream of visitors.

Her family was very important to her, Allyson always went skiing with them, and in the summer Diana looked forward to Craig, Allyson and grandson Callum coming to Bisley. In the summer Callum joined them for the Bisley NSRA week, and they all gathered in Scotland in the winter.

She was a popular and industrious person who gave heart and soul to everything in which she was involved. She will be greatly missed by Nigel and the family and all the members of Bradford Salem Rugby club, the RAFTRC, LMRA and the Police Clubs at Bisley, who came to know her so well.



DON TRUBY 1932-2014

Don Truby was born on 11 May 1932.

He was the eldest of three brothers: Donald, David and Derek. It must have been interesting when the post arrived addressed to Mr. D. Truby!

Don was educated at Isleworth Grammar School and gained his apprenticeship with an electrical contractor. At the same time he studied at The London Polytechnic and achieved National and Higher National Certificates.

In 1953 he was called up for National Service in the RAF. As a result of his qualifications he was trained to repair radar installations. 1953 was the year of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II and Don was given the honour of lining the route of the coronation procession. As part of his service, he was obliged to take up a sport.

Don would be the first to admit that he was built for comfort, not speed and he chose .22 rifle shooting, because he could do it lying down. Subsequently he took up the .303 rifle and became a very competent shot. So good, that he was selected to represent his squadron at the Services Skill at Arms meeting.

Don met Barbara Turner while he was in the RAF and they were married in 1954. On leaving the RAF in 1955 they lived in Feltham in Middlesex and had one son, Christopher, born in 1956.

Don was initiated into Freemasonry in Square Conduct Lodge Nr. 6816 in February 1976 and raised in February 1977. He joined Sit Perpetuum lodge Nr. 5725 in 1987 and was installed as WM in March 1997. Three things that stand out in Don's Masonic career are firstly his compassion for his fellow man and secondly his service to his Lodges and Chapters. The third being his red socks. I have no idea how Don came to always wear these at Masonic meetings, but I know that we will all remember them with a fond smile.

Don passed to the Grand Lodge above on 31 July 2014. His ashes were scattered at Southampton Crematorium on 22 August where Barbara's ashes had been scattered in 2003. At last they are together again.

CHARLES ALBERT WILLIAM WEBB 1937-2014

Charles was a member of Sussex

County Rifle Association and a life member of the National Rifle Association. A regular at shoots, mostly at Bisley, he won several competitions including the County Championship. Charles' proudest moment in shooting was coming a close second to Keith Pilcher in the Queens Prize in 1973.

For the last 20 years of his working life Charles was a distinguished Funeral

Director in Crawley, until he suffered a stroke in February 2000 following which he remained in care at Heatherley Cheshire home.

Charles met wife to be Christine on the rifle range and they were married in 1973. He leaves Christine, as well as step-children Jane and Peter, brother John and sisters Kit, Jessie, Janet and Jennifer.

The funeral service took place at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium in October. Charles was carried in to 'Hail the Conquering Hero', having narrowly missed out on having the tune played for him in 1973.

LT COL TW WHITTAKER 1918-2014

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Lt Col TW Whittaker. There will be a full obituary in the Spring Issue of the NRA Journal.

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Results

ROSES MATCH, 7 SEPTEMBER

Lancashire

Team Total, 1162.140v
Top Score, D Young, 147.20v

Yorkshire

Team Total, 1156.123v
Top Score, J Stevens, 147.25v

LMRA OPEN MEETING, 27-28 SEPTEMBER

Grand Aggregate

1. B Le Cheminant, 403.56
2. P Kent, 402.53
3. S Penrose, 401.54

HISTORIC SERVICE RIFLE MATCH, 4 OCTOBER

British SR (a)

1. C Vale, 216
2. O Larrue, 197
3. B Drummond, 192

British SR (b)

1. S Isherwood, 118

British SR (open)

1. N Greenaway, 223
2. M Bradley, 177
3. R Chaplin, 161

Foreign SR (a)

1. F Cooke, 206
2. D Cross, 198
3. D Moran, 183

Foreign SR (b)

1. M Hodgins, 181

AUTUMN ACTION WEEKEND, 25-26 OCTOBER 25m Precision GRSB

1. P Tester, 217.7x
2. T Ward, 268.4x
3. C West, 367.3x

25m Precision GRCF

1. K Cox, 299.19x
2. N Jones, 297.16x
3. P Tester, 296.18x

T&P1 GRSB

X Class, D Hackett, 300.19x
A Class, T Ward, 296.11x
B Class, R Wheeler, 290.6x

T&P1 GRCF

X Class, M Hale, 300.25x
A Class, M Reynolds, 300.18x
B Class, D Ashcroft, 299.9x

T&P1 LBP

X Class, M van Dalen, 297.20x
A Class, C Webber, 296.11x
B Class, S Denton, 286.7x

T&P1 LBR

X Class, J Taylor, 298.17x
A Class, S Arnold, 292.11x
B Class, D Farrow, 283.10x

Multi-Target GRSB

X Class, J Smith, 117.18x
A Class, M Reynolds, 108.9x
B Class, D Perks, 100.8x

Multi-Target GRCF

X Class, G Bowden, 119.17x
A Class, N Veitch, 116.10x
B Class, D Perks, 114.5x

Multi-Target LBP

A Class, D Hackett, 115.14x
B Class, M Reynolds, 105.4x

Multi-Target LBR

A Class, S Denton, 108.9x
B Class, G Goldsworthy, 102.8x

1500 GRSB

X Class, F Hay, 1471.73x
A Class, A Podevin, 1469.61x
B Class, P Cooper, 1445.61x
C Class, B Ducker, 1408.47x
D Class, N Veitch, 1464.81x

1500 GRCF

X Class, T Fry, 1494.108x
A Class, G Bowden, 1489.96x
B Class, J Lynch, 1474.70x
C Class, G Stevens, 1469.73x
D Class, D Ashcroft, 1416.57x

Advancing Target GRSB

X Class, N Veitch, 295.29x
A Class, P Cooper, 288.26x
B Class, D Farrow, 258.10x

Advancing Target GRCF

X Class, D Guest, 180.33x
A Class, N Veitch, 179.29x
B Class, J Daniells, 170.17x

Advancing Target LBP

X Class, M Reynolds, 176.18x
A Class, D Guest, 171.16x
B Class, S Denton, 166.11x

Advancing Target LBR

X Class, P Cowling, 177.22x
A Class, S Bowden, 173.24x
B Class, F Garre del Olmo,
163.10x

McQueen GRSB

1. D Hackett, 57.7v
2. T Fry, 56.7v
3. S Wallis, 55.5v

McQueen

1. C McGill, 59.9v
2. D Holt, 56.6v
- 3= K Cox, P Lomas,
B Reacher, 53.5v

McQueen Issued Rifle

1. S Doyle, 53.3v
2. T Jemmett, 52.3v
3. B Reacher, 50.1v

NRA SHOTGUN CHAMPIONSHIPS, 8-9 NOVEMBER

T&P1 SGSA

J Chambers, 297.7x
B Reacher, 295.9x
R Ingram, 291.10x
T&P1 SGM
R Sanders, 297.21x
W Nicholson, 249.2

Multi-Target SGSA

J Chambers, 109.10x
R Ingram, 107.8x
P Matthews, 106.8x

Open

R Ingram, 100%
J Thorne, 94.84%
M Ball, 80.80%

Standard

M Sienesi, 100%
S Saunders, 87.59%
J Harris, 82.09%

Manual

A Hatfield, 100%
G Granycome, 93.28%
C Kenneally, 85.44%



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Again as promised in our last NRA Journal ad,

HPS can now supply Rain Guard Kits for the 22mm ladder foresights!

22mm Rain Guard Kits are:

£42.50 including light tube, insert rings, inserts discs and locking ring.

£22.20 if you already have the light tube.

32mm Rain Guard Kits are:

£55.00 including light tube, insert rings, inserts discs, and locking ring.

£23.00 if you already have the light tube.



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.224 in 52, 53, 69, 77, 80, and 90 grain,
6mm in 70, 95, 107 and 115 grain,
6.5mm in 107, 120, 123, 140 and 142 grain,
.270 in 115 and 135 grain,
7mm in 130, 150, 168, 175 and 180 grain,
8mm in 200 grain,
.338 in 250 and 300 grain and finally
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The HPS shop at Bisley (The Old Bisley Gun Club) is now closed for the 2014 season.

We would like to thank all our customers for their patronage and would like to let you know that we will be back there again next year during the usual dates for the Phoenix, Intercountries, Imperial, F-Class European Championships and Trafalgar. Once the dates for these meetings are known they will be posted on our website.

(There is even light at the end of the tunnel that we may have a permanent location on camp in the very near future!!)

So if you are rooting for us – make your voice heard!

We would like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and very Happy 2015!



Check out our Santa's Specials on our website for gift ideas!

There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley before next season's shows, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring whatever goods you require. Just give us a call!

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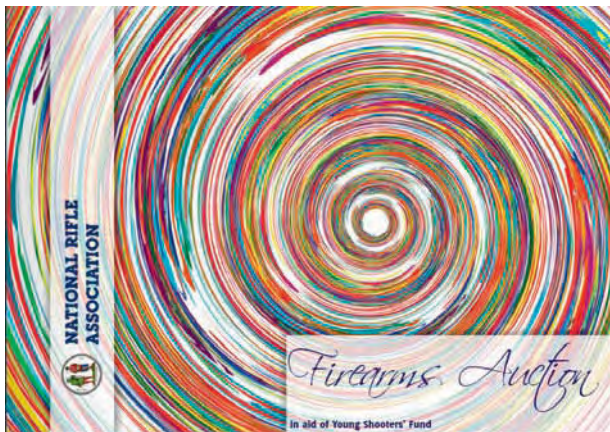
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GENERAL NOTICES

Grand Auction of Rifles, Shotguns and Pistols

The NRA is redesigning the armoury at Bisley and has over 200 surplus rifles, shotguns and pistols. We have decided to auction the first batch to NRA members / affiliated clubs, associations and schools, with proceeds going to the Young



Shooters' Fund (YSF). Among the lots are a number of rifles that have been generously donated by members wishing to help young shooters.

The YSF provides financial assistance to shooters under the age of 25 to help them participate in shooting disciplines controlled by the NRA. The YSF normally acts by providing grants and interest-free loans to purchase or hire items of shooting equipment, to use facilities and otherwise to take part in or continue to take part in the sport.

We have produced an online catalogue and are inviting sealed bids for all 132 lots. Bids opened on 9am on 24 November and will continue until 12pm on 19 December, with viewing taking place on 13 December.

The catalogue can be viewed on: <http://joom.ag/jpgb>

GB Match Rifle Team for Tasmania, Australia 2016

Following on from the previous issue, we would like to announce and congratulate the following on their appointment to the GB Match Rifle Team to Australia 2016.

Martin Townsend	Captain	Ireland
Nick Brasier	Vice-Captain	England
Richard Whitby	Adjutant	England
Alex Cargill Thompson	Treasurer	England
Nick Tremlett	Team Training	England

Ashley Abrahams	England
Gary Alexander	Ireland
Hugh Butcher	Scotland
David Dashwood	England
Rosanne Furniss	England
Mike Judge	England
Tim Kidner	Scotland
Rob Kitson	Ireland
Derek Lowe	England
Angus McLeod	Scotland
Julian Peck	England
Mike Wentges	Ireland
Simon Whitby	England

NRA Practical Shotgun League 2015

Dynamic forms of shooting such as those promoted by the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) are growing in popularity across the world. The NRA is keen to encourage wider participation and competition in Practical Shooting throughout the UK and their remit to promote shooting has been expanded to include a National League for practical shooting. There will be two leagues, one for Shotgun and one for Handgun (long barrel pistol and long barrel revolver), which will be free for affiliated clubs to enter.

These events will be covered by the NRA's existing Insurance policy; keeping costs to a minimum. Clubs will need to provide proof of insurance, comply with league rules and supply match results.

The first round of the Shotgun league will be held at Bisley on 15 February 2015 and the second round at Shield, Dorset on 7-8 March 2015; other dates will be advised once 2015 club calendars are finalised.

These league events will provide an excellent opportunity to raise the profile of your club. Clubs wishing to enter the league can contact james.harris@nra.org.uk for more details.

Trade members' listing

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Message 10

David Luckman, double Commonwealth gold medallist, tells the NRA's marketing and communications manager Katia Malcaus Cooper what's next in his shooting career

How did you get into shooting?

I started shooting at age 12, because my dad and brother did. We went to the local small-bore club together and I really enjoyed competitions. I started shooting fullbore aged 16 and found I really enjoyed being outside as the changing conditions mean each shoot is different. At 17 I shot in my first Cadet International Team and I first shot for England at 19.

I stepped things up when I came to Bisley; I made so many friends there. It's true what people say – the friendships you make at Bisley are for life.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

I was going to say winning the World Championships in Canada in 2007, but this summer has surpassed that. The Commonwealth Games was an amazing experience. Team England was very well run – we all supported each other. The real memorable part, surprisingly, was not the winning, but what happened afterwards. The level of support was overwhelming.

The most bizarre thing was having a cat named after me.

What was the biggest hurdle you had to overcome as a shooter?

Initially, it was being recognised as me. My brother is a successful shooter, so coming out of his shadow was important to me.

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

My dad, brother, wife and her family all shoot. The whole family goes to Bisley. You make so many good friends on the International tours and form lasting bonds and friendships.

What club are you a member of?

Sedgemoor TSC is where I started, but I am



also a member of the British Commonwealth, the SRA and the English XX.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

My brother. We are very close. He inspired me to get into shooting in the first place as he was very successful. Witnessing his successes spurred me on. Seeing him win the Grand and the Queen's made me want to do the same. We have always been very competitive and supportive of each other.

What do you do in your free time?

I enjoy sports. I swim, run, and used to play tennis, but it is harder now I have children.

I like nice food, wine, travel and touring. We try to get away somewhere warm near the sea to do some surfing. I also like to ski.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

I have a fairly set routine. I eat as though I am doing a more physical sport – a balanced diet that is low in sugar.

I like to get on the range early, do my stretching routine and set up the kit in a particular order. I put my earphones in and listen to my music. I did have some lucky shorts but sadly they ripped.

If I am shooting with Parag, the routine incorporates a technical chat, but we both stick to our established routine.

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

It's a great sport, the competition side is really enjoyable, the friends you make are amazing, everybody is so supportive, and Bisley is a great place to bring the family too. Clubs play a very important role in providing training and competition practice.

So what next?

My short-term focus is to win the Palma team match and the individual World Championships next year. I have not won the Queen's Prize, and I would very much like to do that before I am done. ■

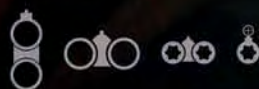
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