

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Summer 2017 – Volume XCVI No. 2

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REVIEW
**MONO
GLEVE**



KICKING OFF THE

SEASON

- Fabulous Phoenix 2017
- Spring Action Weekend
- Introduction to Imperial

NICK TREMLETT INTERVIEW ▪ CHOOSING A RIFLE ▪ BIRMINGHAM BISLEY



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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



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The life and times of Nick Tremlett

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3 Baffles for 17 HM2/22LR. 5

Baffles for 17HMR/22Mag

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Length: 140 mm

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From strength to strength

With the Phoenix behind us and the Imperial to look forward to, CEO Andrew Mercer reports that the NRA is growing on all fronts

We have just completed a very enjoyable Phoenix Meeting, a great end to what has been a busy May. There was a tangible atmosphere of camaraderie and keen competition. The Meeting is always well supported by international shooters, confirming the growing popularity of Gallery Rifle and Pistol shooting.

A tour of the ranges again highlighted the importance of the Range Officers; our investments to improve the physical assets of our ranges would count for little without their support. Watching a squad of 10 shooters work through a shoot involving kneeling, sitting and standing really brought home what care and professionalism is required to deliver a safe and enjoyable experience for competitors shooting shoulder to shoulder.

The Phoenix saw the opening of the newly refurbished Winans Range and our staff worked late to complete what has turned out to be an epic project. It was a considerable relief to see happy shooters on the range rather than staff and contractors. The range is set for a busy summer before we return to the next suite of works to improve the firing points.

Two other Phoenix events deserve mention. The Arms Fair moved seamlessly into a new clear span pavilion; traders were almost universally happy with the new arrangements, though I was astonished to receive one vigorous suggestion that our £200 fee for three days' trading was unaffordable. We also hosted the inaugural Meet The Clubs event and there was a happy buzz of engagement throughout the day. I was properly taken to task from an enthusiastic gentleman from Scotland who rightly challenged my assumption that the event would only be of interest to those clubs south of the border; he had collected details from a posse of Scottish clubs before travelling to Bisley to represent them.

The Pavilion project continues apace, though the ugly face of asbestos made an unwelcome appearance just as we were about to start works on the cafe, range office and gun room. This will inevitably cause delay but the training rooms, accommodation and offices are now open and working well. The main lounge will be open in time for the Imperial and we are starting to take advantage of the much-needed increase in space and quality of our facilities.

I attended a meeting with Brandon Lewis, then Home Office Minister, to discuss fees for Approved Clubs. The meeting was held the day after the announcement of the General Election and it was



fair to report that minds were distracted with weightier matters. I was however pleased to learn that the Home Office had been somewhat overwhelmed to receive some 5,000 responses to their consultation, with most respondents from NRA Affiliated Clubs. We have been promised another meeting in July when the dust of the election should have settled.

I am quietly developing the next three-year Strategic Review for 2018 to 2020. It is good to step back from the hurly-burly and try to put matters in context. The good news is that the NRA has a sound financial base, an increasing membership and ever-busier ranges. However we cannot sustain current levels of growth without delivering greater capacity and efficiency; it is apparent that we will have to increase our efforts and investments away from Bisley to sustain and improve the long-term prospects for fullbore shooting.

One final snippet may be of interest. A quick analysis by age group of 160 current probationary members yielded the following age distribution: 14-20 (11 per cent), 21-30 (17 per cent), 31-40 (18 per cent), 41-50 (28 per cent), 51-60 (21 per cent), 61-70 (4 per cent) and 71+ (1 per cent). I was mighty encouraged to note that just under half (46 per cent) are aged 40 or younger – and that you are never too old to join the NRA! ■

NEWS

REPORTS

SHOOTERS GET ACTIVE AHEAD OF 8 JUNE

LICENCE HOLDER DATA BREACH EXPOSED

Gun owners in London had their addresses handed to a private company so they could be targeted in a police-sponsored marketing campaign, it has emerged.

Headed 'Protect your firearms and shotguns with Smartwater,' the leaflets, distributed on 18 April, offered a discounted 'chemical marking' service from Smartwater in partnership with the Metropolitan Police, branded as MetTrace. To distribute the leaflet the Met used Corporate Document Services (CDS). CDS subcontracted part of the work to another company, Yes Direct Mail.

Shooting organisations have suggested that this contravenes the privacy agreement made at the point of application for a licence, which states that the holder's data may be shared with GPs, government departments, regulatory bodies or enforcement agencies – but not commercial companies.

In a statement of 20 April the Met said: "Since writing to our certificate holders, we are aware of concerns raised regarding the release of personal information to CDS and their sub-contractors, Yes Direct Mail. Their use was solely to facilitate the design and dispatch of Met correspondence supporting this crime prevention campaign. These companies are registered with the Information



Commissioner's Officer (ICO) and hold various security accreditations.

"The MPS takes its responsibilities towards the protection of personal data very seriously. CDS are a Crown Commercial Supplier and well aware of their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act. We have contacted them and the sub-contractors and we are assured that all the personal data has been deleted in line with their policies. We are investigating the matter internally and will keep the ICO informed accordingly.

"No personal information has been provided to SmartWater."

After the announcement of a snap election, shooters and organisations worked hard to ensure the voice of shooting was heard in Westminster.

BASC relaunched the political mini-site that it had used in the 2015 election, providing a comprehensive list of every MP's known opinions on shooting, allowing them to be easily contacted by voters who want to share their views.

And shooters were urged to shout about the value of shooting – it generates £2bn for the economy every year and supports the equivalent of 74,000 full-time jobs.

BASC's Peter Glenser said: "Prospective MPs need to know that shooting is a force for good for the economy, for conservation and for social well-being.

"Our website will allow us to make sure shooting's voice is heard in Westminster. Candidates will be left in no doubt that shooting matters to their constituents and it will provide us with a good indication of where MPs stand."

Meanwhile, the Countryside Alliance's Liam Stokes said: "There are many significant issues on the table at this general election, but make sure you ask your local candidates on how they intend to safeguard shooting... as Britain seeks to leave the EU. Make sure you vote for someone who values you and the contribution your shooting makes."

The *National Rifle Association Journal* went to press just a few days before the nation went to the polls.



LAST SHOTS FOR NO 8

The Lee-Enfield No 8 small-bore rifle, much loved by countless thousands of Royal Air Force Air Cadets since its adoption as a single-shot basic training and competition rifle, has been withdrawn from service, to be replaced by a newer design within a few months.

The rifle was developed from the British Army Infantry .303 Lee Enfield shortly after WWII, and used by the Cadet Forces for training and competition shooting. Used primarily on indoor 25-yard ranges, the rifle could be used effectively at ranges up to 100 yards. Pictured here, cadets from 730 (City of Truro) Squadron pose with their No 8 rifles on the rifle's very last day of service.

Squadron Leader Tim Johns said: "Shooting is treated as a discipline within the Corps and many cadets have started their shooting careers on the No 8 with thousands gaining marksmanship badges and many entering competitions and going on to win national awards."



WAR OF WORDS OVER PRONE AND PISTOL

The International Shooting Sports Federation has called an Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) to discuss the proposed removal of 50m pistol and prone rifle shooting from the Olympic programme, along with the Double Trap shotgun discipline.

The three disciplines look set to disappear from the Olympic Games as soon as 2020 after the ISSF recommended that they be replaced with mixed team events as part of widespread moves to ensure gender equality.

But more than 25 ISSF member federations have protested against the plans and called for an EGA to discuss other potential solutions.

The plans have led to a divide among international shooting's top management figures, with the ISSF accusing its own vice president, Luciano Rossi, of making "attacks based on false information."

This came after Mr Rossi referred to a "secret relationship" between the

ISSF and the IOC including "ongoing negotiations to introduce laser" into the Olympic shooting programme.

But the ISSF said there was no truth to this: "ISSF authorities explained that there are no laser systems that could be used for ISSF shooting and that the ISSF would not support this. That was the end of the discussion."

The EGA will now take place in Munich on 25 June. The IOC is already considering the ISSF's recommendations and was expected to publish its final plans in July – but now it appears the outcome is once again uncertain.

Great Britain's pistol shooters train on the Bisley ranges after they were granted special dispensation to use Section 5 firearms on the mainland. Previously they had to travel to Jersey or continental Europe for live practice.

Already pistol shooters have said they plan to switch to rapid-fire or air pistol, while prone rifle shooters are making the switch to three positions.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MET FIREARMS SURVEY

Target shooting organisations have asked their members who live in the Metropolitan Police constabulary area to respond to a survey from the Met's firearms licensing team. Taking five minutes to complete, the survey asks shooters how the team can improve its service to licence holders in the area. An NRA spokesperson said, "We recognise the considerable efforts they have made to improve their service to the shooting community and applaud their desire for honest feedback." Complete the survey at: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/FETLONDON.

IMPERIAL EARLY ENTRY DRAW

Congratulations to John Howe, Alan Griffin and Aubrey Sonnenberg, who receive refunds on their Imperial Meeting entry fees of 100, 50 and 25 per cent respectively. They won the early-entry draw, conducted by Andrew Mercer on 2 May. For more on what's new at the Imperial Meeting this year, read our dedicated feature on page 35 – and don't forget you can still enter TR, MR and F-Class online until 19 June at www.nra.org.uk.

LES PULLING

Sadly, Les passed away on Monday 17 April. Les was range warden at the Melville Range from 2000-2010. His funeral was held at Guildford Crematorium on 4 May. Donations are being sent to St Luke's Haematology Fund. Read more obituaries on page 56.

IPPC: 'MORE LICENSING OVERSIGHT NEEDED'

The Independent Police Complaints Commission has said guidance on firearms licensing should be reviewed and more national oversight should be introduced to ensure every constabulary enforces the law in the same way. The central theme of the report is that there is a lack of direction at the national level for firearms licensing, compounding a lack of training for firearms officers. The IPCC has called on the Home Office to address this.

Treasurer's report

NRA treasurer Derek Lowe returns with his annual report on the NRA's finances

As I reach four years in office, I am pleased to report a healthy financial standing for the NRA. The NRA's financial performance in 2016 can be seen in our audited accounts, available on the website since their publication in March. Highlights include:

- Incoming resources (revenues) of £5.73m, up from £5.48m in 2015
- A surplus totalling £108k, compared to £252k in 2015
- Closing cash balance of £709k, compared to £466k at year-end 2015

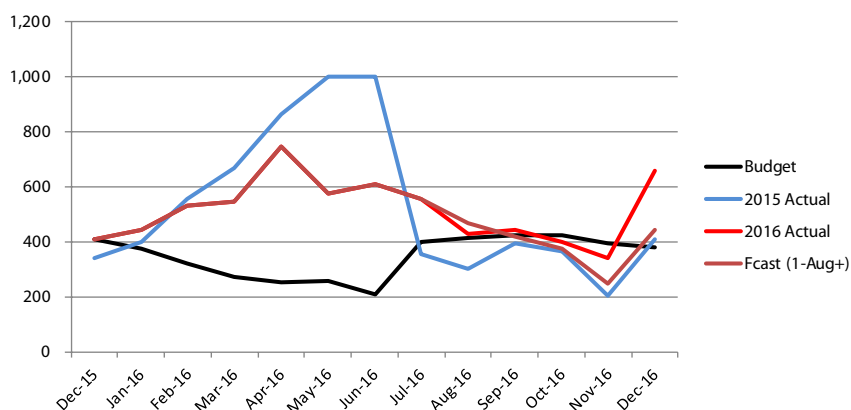
Surpluses and cash balances make possible the NRA's investments in facilities and services available for our members' and clients' wide variety of shooting. Nonetheless, the Trustees have a complex balance to strike between various competing objectives. This includes a balance between retention of cash – to make the NRA more financially resilient – and the reinvestment of cash in facilities and initiatives which will serve shooting (for members, other beneficiaries and clients) in the nearer future.

In 2016, the NRA spent slightly more than £700k on capital expenditure, bringing the total for 2014-2016 (inclusive) to £1.879m. This beats the strategic target set by the Trustees of at least £1m over three years. Projects around Bisley are timed, as far as practicable, to minimise disruption to shooting activity. As a result, work conducted late in the year is paid for early in the following year, with a corresponding impact to net current assets at year end.

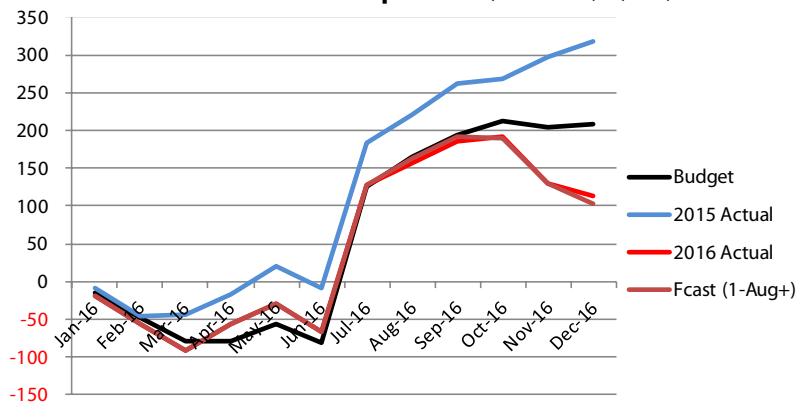
Investment in 2016

The NRA's regional shooting endeavours continued to grow in 2016. A slow-burn project was the NRA's investment in targetry for Frome and District Pistol Club's acquisition, and development of a new range in Shepton Mallet. Mid-speed projects included the work our regional ranges manager, Nic Couldrey, undertook

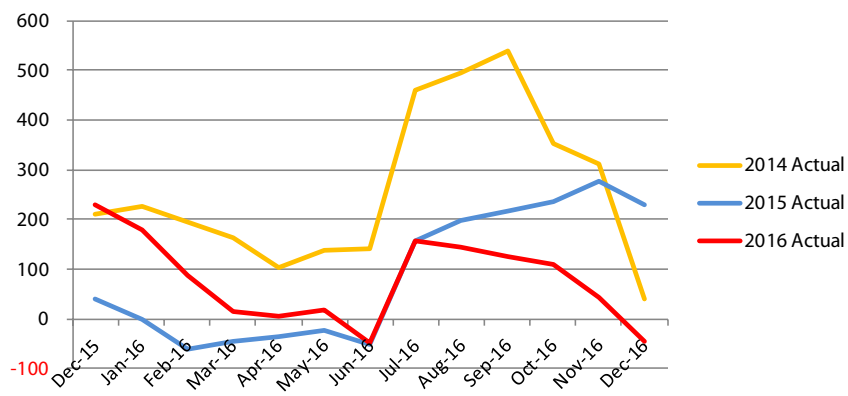
Cash balance (£k)



Cumulative net surplus / (deficit) (£k)



Net current assets / (liabilities) (£k)





The new FDPC ranges were a major target of NRA investment in 2016

with the MoD in his first full year (covered in more detail on page 46). And a rapid-response project was to assess the potential benefits and costs of acquiring a range complex in Pentre, Rhondda, which was auctioned at short notice as part of the MoD's policy to divest properties surplus to their anticipated activity. While not uncompetitive, the NRA's bid sadly did not win; the Trustees do feel, however, that we should not discount the potential benefits for the charity's beneficiaries just because auctions work at a speed, and with a lack of certainty, which may not be ideal in our view.

Pricing

These investments and initiatives have not come at the expense of impacting affordability to individual shooters. The NRA continues to preserve the real-terms cost of core goods and services by limiting most price rises to the inflation rate. For Target Rifle shooters in particular, the benefits of introducing GGG ammunition in 2015 continue, with its combination of accuracy and lower pricing (including the benefit of the NRA's bulk purchasing).

Both the investment rate and core price protection were among the objectives set in our strategy document published on



With prices level in real terms, accessibility to ranges and competitions is as high as ever

the NRA website in January 2015. Our chief executive and staff have delivered them, while also sustaining the minimum £200k cash balance required of them by the Trustees – well done and thank you from the Treasurer!

The charts on the opposite page form part of the monthly management accounts presented to the Trustees, providing an update on the three principal measurements chosen by the Trustees

to monitor financial performance: accumulated surplus during the year, cash balance and net current assets.

Statutory accounts are prepared very promptly after each year-end for audit, followed by timely publication (previous years' accounts can be seen on the NRA website, and in the *Summer Journals* since 2014). The Trustees' thanks go, once again, to the Support Services team for their quick and effective work. ■



A new concept

Jon Tapster, along with some seasoned international campaigners, puts the Mono – the brainchild of Gleve Rifle Systems' Steve Robinson – through its paces

At first glance the Mono looks like any of the other all-metal rifles that populate the ranges these days. However, like all things in shooting, the devil is in the detail.

The Mono is revolutionary in its design. The action isn't attached to the stock as per tradition – the action and stock are actually one and the same, CNC-machined from a single billet of metal. A channel has been cut for the triple-lug bolt and the underside has been machined and tapped for the trigger box to be attached.

This rifle was fitted with an RPA Gold trigger. A protective housing incorporating the trigger guard bolts over the trigger. On the rifle supplied for testing, the housing also incorporated a stud attachment fixing for a two-point sling.

The front of the 'action' is machined wider to accept a steel insert bonded and pinned *in situ* and threaded to

take the barrel thread. On the reverse of the action, a polymer guide sleeve keeps the bolt snug. The result is a smooth travel with hardly any slack. On the underside, ahead of the trigger housing, four cap screws secure the forend. The barrel floats freely.

The rifle under test was fitted with a 30in Krieger 1-in-13in right-hand twist barrel equipped with a 26mm adjustable foresight tunnel housing a 0.25 dioptre lens. The foresight has 50MOA of adjustment which is more than adequate for the 300- to 1000-yard ranges that the rifle will typically be used on.

The butt plate is formed from a titanium tube, which attaches to the rear and is clamped in place by two cap screws. The tube has been drilled to slot in an adjustable cheekpiece and the butt plate has 50mm of adjustment. Shooters can adjust the butt plate for cant, and the tube

stock can be rotated, which draws the cheekpiece into or away from the face as required. This is a tidy feature, as removing the butt section allows the rifle to be packed into a smaller and shorter (and therefore lighter) case, which is a key consideration for air travel by today's teams.

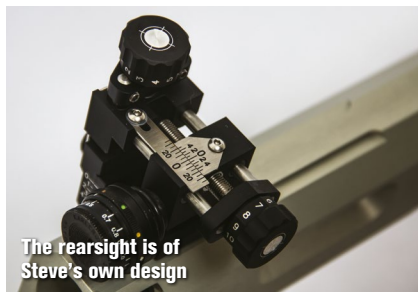
When the cheekpiece is raised beyond a given point, a small flap at the front folds out of the way in order to allow the bolt to travel all the way to the rear. Once the rifle is reloaded, the shooter has to remember to fold the flap back before continuing with his shoot. It wasn't long before this additional process was an ingrained



The titanium butt section is detachable – great for transport



The three-lug bolt cycled with ease



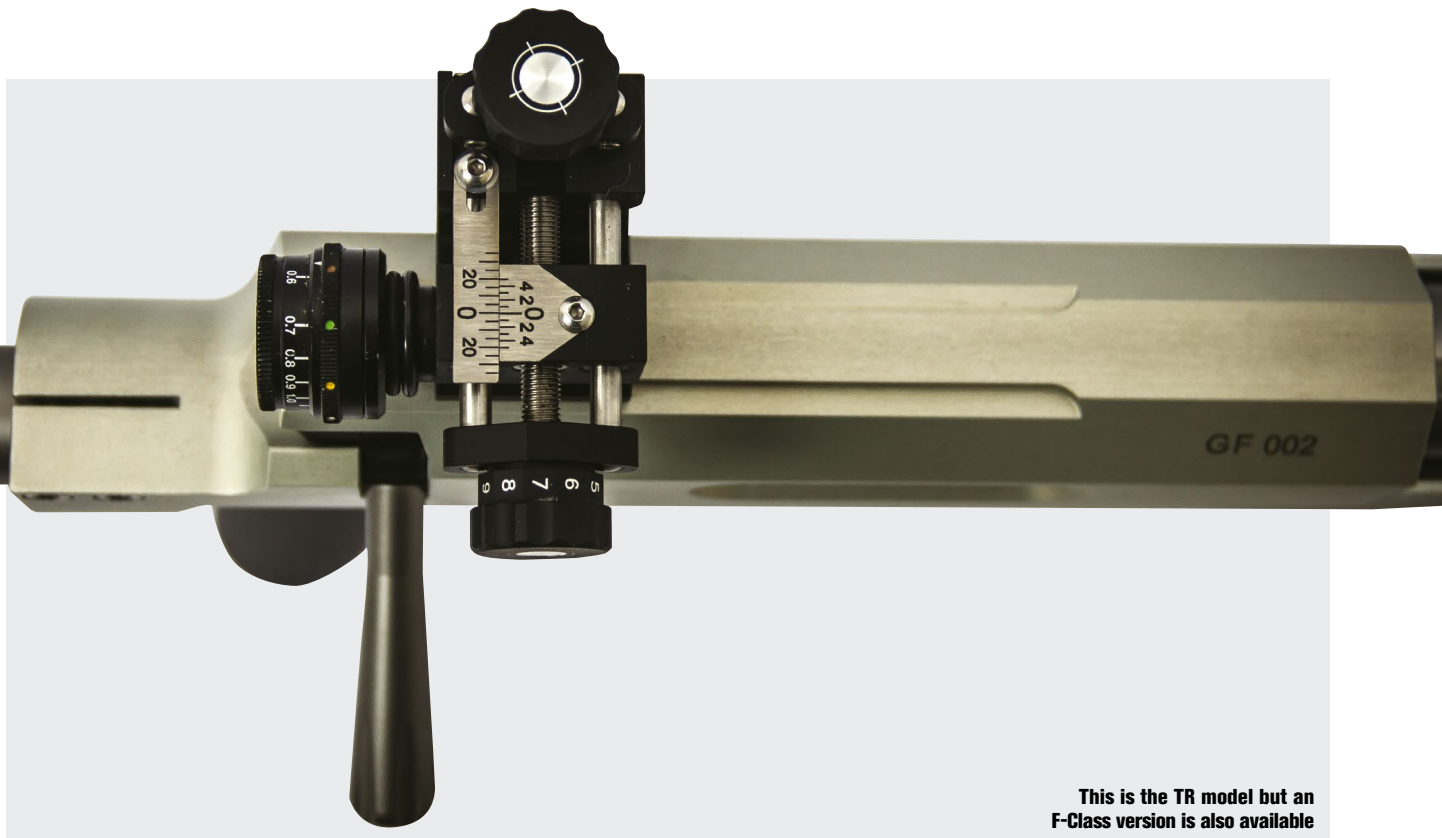
The rearsight is of Steve's own design



You can replace the tubular metal grip with a wooden grip if you desire



The TR team gets to give the Mono a real test



This is the TR model but an F-Class version is also available

part of the reload routine, and for some shooters the flap will be superfluous and can be removed altogether.

The bolt itself is based on the three-lug concept housing Belleville washers and a one-piece titanium firing pin (all of the internal bolt mechanism is titanium). In use the bolt is slippery smooth with a fast lock time following the release of the sear; the bolt handle requires very little effort to close and, after firing, can be opened with very little effort using a single finger.

The sights are of Steve Robinson's own design. Very similar in feel to the Warner sight, these are beautifully-engineered, with ¼MOA clicks and clearly legible vernier scales. The sight simply clamps to the dovetail on top of the rifle and adjusts forwards or backwards to suit head position.

So what's the Mono like to shoot? Frankly, it's a delight. It's remarkably light for its type, weighing just a shade over 5kg. In hold, the rifle feels snug and comfortable, with two types of handgrip available: a tubular metal pistol grip and a coated wooden palm grip with sculpted recesses for the fingers. The handgrip is attached to an eccentric lug, which allows the grip

to be adjusted inwards or outwards to suit the shooter's arm length.

The trigger was set to 1.5kg but it felt a lot lighter in operation, with a crisp, consistent let-off after an overly-long first stage travel. Recoil was straight back and barely noticeable, with the foresight staying easily on the target face. We all shot a course of fire of two sighters and 10 to count. The groups we achieved were impressively tight, considering that none of us had shot this rifle system before and only rudimentary physical adjustments were made to suit each individual shooter.

When it comes to downsides it's hard to find any worth the ink. The cheekpiece flap, which I mentioned earlier and which has to be flipped out of the way to open the bolt fully, was more irksome in theory than in practice. It was incorporated into the load/unload routine very quickly and I doubt I would be aware of it if I spent a considerable amount of time shooting the rifle. Depending on their build, some shooters may be able to do away with it entirely.

The only other niggle for me was thumb position. I always shoot with

the thumb directly behind the bolt but the design of the Mono doesn't allow for this. In practice, given the rifle's minimalist body, there's very little for the trigger hand to foul – no 'dragging wood' issues to be seen here. Again, after a few hundred rounds I expect this niggle too would cease to require any conscious thought to reconcile. Certainly the tight groups achieved spoke for themselves. ■

LAST WORD

Steve has also designed the Mono-F for the F-Class shooter, which will be out shortly - watch this space! The Mono-TR is available through Ron Hilyard at Thames Valley Arms and the Mono-F Class through Brian Fox of Fox Firearms at Diggle Rifle Range.

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Phoenix's new heights

The Phoenix just keeps getting bigger: more ranges, more shooters and more cards each year. Katia Malcaus Cooper and Derek Stimpson caught the action

As many will remember the Phoenix rose from the ashes of Pistol Anno Domini – Pistol AD as it was known. Pistol AD was reportedly the largest international pistol meeting worldwide, a difficult act to follow.

However, here we are almost 20 years on and the Phoenix is thriving. The premier of our five Gallery Rifle weekends, the Phoenix is a true festival of shooting. This year saw 538 competitors take part – compared with 523 in 2016 and 491 in 2015. A mammoth 3,604 cards were returned (up on last year's 3,345 and 3,115 in 2015); one shooter entered a staggering 26 events. This year we particularly enjoyed the company of Irish and German competitors who returned home with some impressive silverware.

The format of the meeting, shot over the late May Bank Holiday weekend, sees competitors all across camp

enjoying Bisley at its best. Every range in the Bisley Range Complex is used for the Phoenix, which covers a staggering array of disciplines from air pistol and practical shotgun to fullbore and CSR. There was certainly plenty of shooting activity, as can be seen from the picture gallery overleaf.

These competitions were shot at ranges from 10m to 1,000 yards. Personally I was pleased to see the Sporting Rifle competition shot at 100, 200 and 300 yards. While many of the shooters are regular deer stalkers there are entrants in this discipline who only shoot targets.

One event of note is the Bianchi, which kept the RCOs and shooters busy with its four stages. On Sunday there were some 40 entrants shooting Practical Pistol.

We were blessed with good weather, although perhaps some shelter for the happy munchers at the food court on Sit Pet Lawn might be worthwhile for the future in case the English weather strikes.



Sporting Rifle brings together shooters of all kinds, from deerstalkers to target purists

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS: PHOENIX 2017

25M PRECISION GRSB

1	D Eastwood	284.10
2	C Hudson	283.3
3	N Veitch	277.1

25M PRECISION GRCF

1	J Kehoe	299.19
2	C Douglas	298.21
3	D Foster	296.17

T&P1 SGM

1	P Stockill	299.20
2	D Parker	298.15
3	R Sanders	297.17

T&P1 SGSA

1	J Wilson	297.16
2	S Drewett	297.15
3	M Nestor	297.11

100/200/300YD SR STATICS

1	C Schalkwyk	258
2	S Lewis	257
3	S Craig	193

400/500/600YD FTR

1	J Ambler	213.17
2	A Wahid	208.12
3	I Spruce	207.14

MCQUEEN GRSB

1	C McGill	50.9
2	G Gough	50.8
3	C Schalkwyk	50.7

MCQUEEN

1	C McGill	50.8
2	S Jordan	50.7 (50.6)
3	S Doyle	50.7 (50.4)

MCQUEEN ISSUED RIFLE

1	K Knight	49.2
2=	M Kelly	49.1
2=	P Radcliffe	49.1

The Meet the Clubs event on Saturday in the training room appears to have been a success for many clubs, both in presenting themselves to prospective members and in acquiring new members.

For the second year running the NRA organised the Trade Fair, this time in a purpose-built clear span Marquee on Sit Pet Lawn. Outside traders were sited on Monument Green, and in total some 50 exhibitors took part. The event was hailed by all as a resounding success.

Sunday's prizegiving was held in the new Pavilion Training rooms, where an unflappable Charles Murton read out the prize list a mere half hour after shooting ceased.

As the camp emptied, Monday saw the Phoenix International Matches contested on Melville between Team GB, Ireland and Germany. A great well done to Ireland who won the Smallbore Cup and Ashley Dagger's Team GB who took the Centrefire Trophy.

Over the weekend there were at least 100 volunteer Range Officers. We owe them a vote of thanks since the event would not run without them. Do think about helping next year if you haven't already done so, and putting something back into your sport. The NRA staff also deserve our thanks for all their hard work in putting it together and ensuring that the event flowed smoothly.

Altogether it was a very successful meeting and we look forward to seeing you next year.

Results printed here are provisional; full results and prize list can be found on the NRA website. ■



The Arms Fair continues to grow under the NRA's stewardship



Ashley Dagger (front) and team proudly show off their silverware after winning the Phoenix International GRCF event

TEAM RESULTS: PHOENIX 2017

PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL CUP (GRSB)

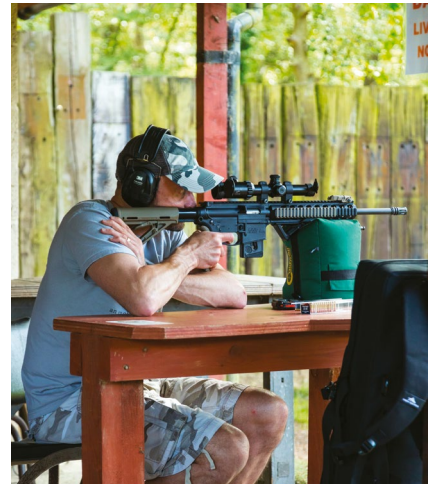
1	Ireland	5902.327
2	Great Britain	5849.329
3	Germany	5752.243

PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL CUP (GRCF)

1	Great Britain	5944.410
2	Ireland	5925.396
3	Germany	5887.341

INDIVIDUAL AGGREGATES: PHOENIX 2017

John Rolfe Trophy	J Robinson	1193.79
Sue Mansbridge Rose Bowl	G Roberts	2980.235
Bianchi Aggregate	G Roberts	3784.272
Phoenix GR Champion	G Roberts	6764.507
Alan Whittle GR Classic Trophy	A Podevin	587.50
Alan Whittle Newcomers Trophy	D O'Flaherty	40
Pete Kington Trophy	B Harris	355.33
Shotgun Aggregate Semi-Auto	R Sanders	406.22
Shotgun Aggregate Pump-Action	R Sanders	410.27





Shooting the breeze

Mixed weather conditions and a strong field proved no match for David Luckman at this year's English Twenty Spring Meeting, writes Martin Liversage

The late May bank holiday weekend saw the English Twenty Club Spring Meeting host 100 entrants across three days of competition. Shooters enjoyed (or endured) a range of weather, from baking sunshine on Saturday to heavy rain on Sunday afternoon.

The meeting started on Saturday with The Association, a Queen's I course of fire. Jack Alexander coped best with the light but unpredictable winds to score the only clean shoot on the range, a 35.5 at 300, 500 and 600 yards giving him a 105.15.

The Second Stage was shot on Sunday in more manageable conditions, evidenced by eight shooters scoring a 50 at all three distances. Top of the pile was David Luckman with 150.25, counting out John Pugsley with a 50.9 at 500 yards.

The Cortis followed on at 600 yards. Both details experienced rain at some point, but despite the weather 15 people managed to score 75, with John Pugsley counting out Chris Mitchell with 13 V-bulls. This gave John the Sunday Aggregate by a single V-bull from David Luckman. Chris Weeden was the only other shooter to go clean on the day.

The Short Range Aggregate also went to John, who counted out Chris Weeden, both dropping just one point for 329.51.

The long range shoot, contested by 90 competitors, was held on the Monday. Early morning calm helped 25 shooters score a maximum in The Long. David Luckman posted the top score of 75 with just one ordinary bull and 14 V-bulls, followed by a brace of shooters with 75.13s.

Moving back to 1,000 yards the conditions remained calm enough to allow high scoring from a number of competitors. Oliver Spencer scored the best of the 75s, managing 13 V-bulls.

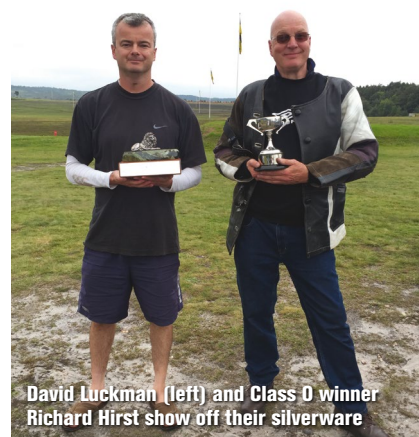
Jeremy Thompson, Oliver Spencer and David Luckman shot 150s during the morning, with David's 25 V-bulls taking the Monday Aggregate.

Jack Alexander coped best with the light but unpredictable winds to score the only clean shoot on the range

The Grand Aggregate was also won by David Luckman dropping just two points in total for a score of 478.77. John Pugsley and Jeremy Tuck picked up second and third on 476 points with 65 and 62 V-bulls respectively.

Eight cadets from Gresham's shot the full meeting, giving them great preparation for the upcoming season. Winning the Donegal Badge for top cadet was Toby Little, shooting some very good scores to finish a creditable 60th overall.

Proceedings were concluded by a quick presentation on the range. Full results can be found at www.shootingresults.org.



David Luckman (left) and Class D winner Richard Hirst show off their silverware



Changeable weather conditions kept competitors on their toes during the weekend

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Spring into action

Scenes from this year's Spring Action Weekend, held 25-26 March







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GB's clean sweep

Having captained GB's rifle team to an incredible triple victory at the Australia Match 2017, Nick Tremlett shares his experiences with us, along with his teammates

Being honoured with the captaincy of a Great Britain team was an exciting prospect. That the team was to compete in the Australia Match in South Africa, where GB has rarely won, made it a more daunting challenge.

Shooting on the de Wet range outside Bloemfontein is physically demanding. While we were there the average daytime temperature was 35°C, with no shelter, and we were on the range for 10 hours or more almost every day. Besides that the South Africans are formidable competitors on their home range and Australia sent a very strong, in-form team under the expert captaincy of Darren Enslin.

The real challenge for me, however, was to ensure the team performed better than the sum of its parts, maintaining the highest level of performance over a very gruelling series of competitions. A casual glance at the team selected to travel – with more than 700 Big Five appearances between them – would have suggested good results were a formality. I was therefore mindful of the negative impact of expectation, and how

many teams which are good on paper have failed to perform at their best.

So my main focus when preparing the team was not on the technical aspects, at which the team was already very capable, but on fostering a collective awareness of how we could enhance each other's performance. I introduced several novel ways to achieve this, from inspirational sessions with shooting greats such as Mick Gault to an advent calendar of personal training goals in the run up to Christmas. I had superb support from my management team, Jeremy Langley and Derek Lowe, and was fortunate to have team members who were receptive to new ideas. In addition I invited a physiotherapist to ensure our fitness levels met our requirements and Jackie's help proved invaluable.

Being a GBRT physiotherapist: Jackie Davies

This was my third tour and it is always an honour to be asked to be physiotherapist to the Great Britain Rifle Team. Acceptance brings a mixture of excitement, belonging,

planning and some trepidation about being able to provide a useful service. I've been a physiotherapist for nearly 30 years but touring is always a learning experience.

Injuries presented on tour are not always acute or recent in nature, having built up for a while due to poor posture, repetitive use, lack of return to full fitness after a previous injury or lack of fitness and health in general. The physiotherapist's role on tour is therefore varied: preventing minor problems becoming an impediment to performance, dealing with problems that have escalated and managing acute injuries that do occur.

About halfway through the tour I described the schedule to one member as 'brutal'. The heat was severe, there was little time for rest and recuperation and even less time to follow any exercise regime. I was the new girl to this environment – the only one not to have toured to South Africa before. The punishing schedule was no surprise to the team, who were all more prepared than teams on previous tours have been.



With average daytime temperatures of 35°C, Team GB's fitness and preparation played a vital role in achieving their match-winning scores

Pre-tour exercise and fitness were encouraged within the group and it was evident that those who had built up their fitness had the stamina to consistently provide a championship performance. I can read all the professional journals I want to tell me that, but seeing it live had a much greater impact and was, indeed, an insightful learning experience.

The Individual Competitions: Toby Raincock

By the time we started the Grand Aggregate, one week into the tour, our minds were tuned to the fast-changing and fickle winds, and our bodies to the climate. This tour will stick in the memory because of the unrelenting heat; no amount of training at Bisley in January or February could prepare us for it.

The pre-Grand matches saw the Aussies leading the way. Their match fitness was evident (having recently completed a tour to NZ) but GB had seen this before, particularly in Brisbane in 2011. We were confident our time would come now the Grand Aggregate had started.

And so it came to pass: the first long range shoot was our first big individual win. Tom Drysdale converted 5v sighters in the Municipal Cup at 800m to finish with a stunning 50.9v and into a tie-shoot with Andre du Toit (SA), which he subsequently won. We were all warmed up.



Plotting scores and windage. The range wasn't always easy but it was readable

The 'small' matter of the Australia Match (more on that later) dominated the next two days but we returned on Tuesday morning for the Dalrymple Cup. Matt Millar and Toby Raincock scored 105.15v. This earned them a place in another tie-shoot alongside Geoff Grenfell of Australia. Matt won with Toby second.

Thursday morning saw Glyn Barnett score an impressive 105.16v in the first stage of the State President's to win it outright. By this point two GB 'shottists' were vying for the Grand Aggregate, Toby Raincock and David Luckman.

So to the last shoot of the Grand Agg: the Col R Bodley Memorial at 900m. Matthew Ensor produced a superb 50, one of only two on the range, elevating him to 10th overall, one place behind Bill Richards. As the dust settled it became clear that Toby's 49 had propelled him back to the top of the Grand Agg, a single point ahead of Parag Patel and David.



Captain Nick gives a team talk ahead of the crucial 900-yard stage

The State President's second stage was shot on Friday and produced seven 150s from GB. Glyn again took top spot with 24 Vs. The scene was set for a great final the following day.

The third stage, shot after Saturday morning's sweltering Protea Match, was very challenging. Shooting finished and the usual scurry of activity to determine the winner ensued. There were a few 297s kicking about, with Matthew Ensor's 37v topping the pile. But after a short while it became clear that there was a 298 in the mix. A second State President's win was an excellent and fitting way for our illustrious Captain Nick Tremlett to end a highly successful tour.

To complete the prizes, Toby's 148 in the final saw him crowned as SA Champion. GB had seven in the top 10 of both the SA Open Championships and the State President's. We had peaked at the right time.

The Team Matches: Jeremy Langley

Once in South Africa we had less than a week's shooting before the biggest match of the 2017 calendar. Each of those days were meticulously planned to maximise our learning of the conditions and to acclimatise, in order to achieve our objective of winning all three international matches.

The day of the Australia Match dawned and GB were off to a fantastic start with the team of 10 dropping just one point at the 300m range. The team continued to dominate at 600m, dropping a mere two points (a new record at that distance), leading second-placed Australia by nine points. Although the team contained three Australia Match first-timers there were no nerves evident in any of the performances that morning.

However GB was in for a shock at 800m with winds at their most fickle, varying between eight and two minutes right. The coaching team did not adapt quickly enough and Australia clawed back four points, leaving GB a slender lead of five points.

Coaches and shooters rallied and responded, and whatever sliver of hope had been provided to Australia was quickly removed at 900m as GB produced an astounding range score to win by 26 points. We won't mention Toby's last to count at 900m for a match-leading 199 ex-200.

The team of 12 for the RSA International Match, at 800m and 900m, had a very strong list of GB reserves: Glyn, Parag and



Sharp shooters: Tom Drysdale, Richard Jeens and Toby Raincock showing off their team ties

Toby. The coaching team was annoyed at having run the clock so close at 800m, assuming we had under-performed at that range. It was a surprise to learn that we were in fact leading second-placed South Africa by two points. Confidence regained, we took another six points off South Africa at 900m to win the RSA Match by 8 points.

The last team event was the Protea Match, which is always a hard fought affair – many of the team, including the Captain and Vice-Captain, had yet to be part of a winning GB team. With the words 'a team cannot win a team match at 300m, but it sure can lose one' ringing in our ears, GB dropped five points at 300m. This was below expectations given the unusually easy conditions, and three points down on an excellent Australian performance.

The GB team was once again spurred on by

this affront to national pride and our 12 firers dropped but a single point at 600m to level the match. In the final reckoning, GB dropped 14 points at 900m with Australia dropping 30 points to finish third behind a delighted South Africa team who were only 21 off at the final distance.

So there we have it. GB: three for three.

The Captain's last word

Such success on tour achieves little in raising the sport's profile without publicity. We were very keen to share our journey with the team's supporters and so a major aspect of the team GB ethos was connection – through our website, brochure, and social media. The public-facing element of our touring received a complete facelift. I was delighted to see new, video-driven content on our Facebook page and images on the new Instagram profile (search for GBrifleteam on both platforms to follow us).

The professional-quality interviews and videos, including slow-motion, timelapse and digiscoping helped us to reach more people than ever before, including many who had not previously interacted with our sport. The number of engagements per post doubled, with typically younger and more gender-balanced audiences than previous tours have achieved. Perhaps this will inspire new people to try our sport.

Outreach like this by elite rifle teams can only enhance our sport's reputation and national profile. I hope forthcoming GB touring teams will embrace this concept, creating more content of this type in the future. ■

AUSTRALIA MATCH: GB SCORES

Competitor	300m	600m	800m	900m	Total
David Luckman	50.08	50.04	47.05	50.03	197.20
Jane Messer	50.06	50.09	47.02	49.05	196.22
Richard Jeens	50.05	50.05	47.05	49.02	196.17
Glyn Barnett	50.06	49.03	50.04	49.06	198.19
Nigel Ball	50.07	50.07	48.04	48.03	196.21
Parag Patel	50.06	50.07	49.07	49.04	198.24
Tom Drysdale	50.09	50.05	48.03	48.04	196.21
Toby Raincock	50.07	50.05	50.01	49.06	199.19
James Watson	50.06	50.06	49.04	49.03	198.19
Jon Underwood	49.05	49.06	49.03	48.03	195.17
TOTAL	499.65	498.57	484.38	488.39	1969.199

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Birmingham Bisley's back

The Birmingham Bisley, once a staple of the regional shooting calendar, was relaunched this year at Kingsbury Range. Nic Couldrey has the details

Last year I was contacted by James Bennett of Kidderminster Rifle Club. He told me about a great regional competition that had not been held for many years, citing issues with range availability and targetry. Discussions with our colleagues in MoD remedied the issues and resulted in a confirmed booking and the manufacture of new timber target frames for the event. Further discussions with James and George Barnard, NRA regional rep for the East Midlands, led to the decision to have the NRA run the event. And so the Birmingham Bisley was relaunched.

The programme ran over two days on the MoD ranges at Kingsbury and comprised shoots at distances of 300, 500 and 600 yards. All competitors were put into details and took turns shooting at each distance and marking targets in the butts.

The first day of competition started dry, with wind blowing down-range towards the butts. There are no permanent wind flags at Kingsbury so a temporary wind flag was rigged to provide some guide to the competitors.

There were 19 entrants in the TR discipline and 10 entrants in F/TR, many from local clubs in the Midlands – and one competitor who had travelled all the way from Belfast. The morning matches comprised the Warwickshire, shot at 300 yards, and the Martineau shot at 600 yards. During the afternoon competitors battled the wind and rain from 500 yards for the Kingsbury.

Despite the weather there was some excellent shooting and we wrapped up the first day in the comfort of the Hereford and Worcester RA clubhouse where George Barnard handed out the prizes. The full results of the day are on the NRA website; highlights include the Wilkinson Aggregate (330x and 600x) for TR won by Henry Sanders, and the Birmingham Post Aggregate for the day won by Michael



Michael Cooper, of Comber Rifle Club, cleaned up in the TR category

Cooper. Mark Downing won the F/TR Wilkinson Aggregate and Dave Raybould the F/TR Birmingham Post Aggregate for the day. Congratulations to them and to everyone that took part.

Sunday saw warm sunshine and a light breeze on the range. We had an even split of competitors with 10 entries for TR and 10 for F/TR. Some new faces arrived for day two alongside competitors that had taken part the day before. The morning matches comprised the Kings Heath at 300x and the South Birmingham at 500x. We fell back to 600x after lunch and the weather continued to improve throughout the afternoon.

Michael Cooper cleaned up the TR category, winning the Kings Heath, the Midlands Counties Aggregate, the Grand Aggregate, the Watson Bowl and NRA Gold Medal. Special mention goes to GB U25 TR shooter Thomas Smith, who won the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Cup and Gold Medal, ensuring a thrilling afternoon of shooting.

In F/TR, Dorset rifleman Mark Downing won the Midland Counties Aggregate, the Grand Aggregate and the Queen Elizabeth II final, as well as the NRA Gold Medal. Again, congratulations to everyone who took part, especially those that endured the rain and came back to shoot on day two. We had a great weekend and it's always nice to meet a new bunch of shooters.

Since the event I have been contacted by several people thanking the NRA for putting the Birmingham Bisley back on the regional shooting calendar. Kingsbury is a splendid range and our colleagues at Landmarc provided first class support during the weekend, including the fabrication of new target frames. My special thanks to Jim Salisbury at DIO SD Training for making this happen. The range is now equipped for use by affiliated clubs in the Midlands, providing the opportunity to take over the delivery of the Birmingham Bisley in 2018. ■

Match Reports

The latest shoot reports from ATSC, Ibis RC and the English VIII

ARMY TARGET SHOOTING CLUB OPEN

With a record number of entries, this year's ATSC Open Championship was a close-fought affair

The Army Target Shooting Club threw open its doors on the May Day bank holiday weekend to all comers for the Army Target Rifle Open Meeting. An exceptionally strong turnout saw 93 entries, from the 2016 HM The Queen's prizewinner to school cadets, and everybody in between! Indeed the Army Club prides itself on running a meeting that is both fun and challenging in equal measure.

Saturday saw the shooters assemble on Century range to shoot a 'Queens 1' in the morning, with two sighters and seven to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards. The afternoon was devoted to a 'Queens 2', comprising two sighters and 10 shots to count at the same distances.

The day started clear and crisp with a light breeze that barely lifted the flags off the poles, vindicating the decision to shoot on the smaller and trickier ICFRA targets. This resulted in only four competitors achieving a perfect 105 ex-105 in the morning. By the afternoon a deceptively difficult wind meant only Maj Angus McLeod remained 'clean' on 255.25 ex-255.51, earning him the Saturday aggregate win.

In the team match the Army, buoyed by winning the Army v Navy rugby game at Twickenham earlier in the day, made it two for two by beating the RAF to regain the Clarke Trophy.

The social aspect of the weekend has been a hallmark of the Army meeting

over the years and Saturday evening saw the new catering manager Carl Whiting and his team lay on an excellent traditional Army curry for some 45 people washed down with one (or three) choice beverages. We hope those who have enjoyed his fayre so far will return throughout the year.

The curry obviously did the trick as the wind on Sunday morning appeared to change both strength and angle with alacrity. Competitors would have to shoot in these tricky conditions at long range in a Palma course of fire consisting of two sighters and 15 shots to count at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards – a demanding proposition even on a calm day.

It was a considerable relief that, in a rare moment of compassion from the Army, the decision was taken to shoot on NRA targets at long range. (Ed: the decision had absolutely nothing to do with the number of hits and outers the author had on ICFRA targets during the Easter Meeting... honest).

Angus McLeod was leading at lunchtime having dropped only one point. The remainder weren't far behind. England's Steve East was one point adrift with Wales's Robert Oxford and Ireland's Gary Alexander a further point behind.

The 1,000-yard shoot separated the pack and Scotland's Bruce Logan emerged victorious in the long range match, dropping just three points and finishing

one point ahead of second-placed Robert Oxford. The RAF won the long-range team match and took home the Palma trophy for the second year running.

Remarkably steady and consistent shooting throughout the weekend saw Robert Oxford walk off with the overall Army Championships, two points clear of Maj Angus McLeod in second. Having come third in 2016 it was particularly pleasing to see Robert win the Championships.

It just remains for me to thank all the competitors and support staff for making the 2017 Army Open such a success and one of the best-attended weekend Target Rifle meetings on camp. The first May bank holiday is a week later in 2018 and next year's Army Open is likely to be held on Saturday 5 to Sunday 6 May 2018. We are already looking forward to it and hope you can join us for what promises to be another great weekend of shooting at Bisley.

RESULTS: ARMY TARGET RIFLE OPEN 2017		
PLACE	NAME	SCORE
1	Mr Robert Oxford	474.57
2	Maj Angus McLeod	472.47
3	Mr Layne Chisholm	470.39

Full results are available at www.shootingresults.org



ENGLISH VIII MEETING

Rob Lygoe edged out Fergus Flanagan by a single V-bull to take top honours at the English VIII meeting

The first big Match Rifle competition of the season, the English VIII meeting, was held at Bisley on 6-7 May 2017. The meeting was organised in conjunction with the National Rifle Club of Scotland and the Welsh Rifle Association. The event saw a strong entry of almost 80 competitors, 13 of them ladies, with a high percentage of shooters aged under 25.

The meeting was shot in conditions not usually associated with the month of May, both on the temperature and the wind front. The Saturday challenged those who started the season that day, with some rather strong wind from the right. Luckily it proved to be pretty steady though so scores were reasonably high.

Sunday's wind was less strong, but also less steady, especially by the time competitors got to the final 1,200 yards where mirage and fishtailing wind proved a definite challenge. The day had started with winter temperatures which lasted until lunchtime, to be replaced by bright sunshine and a warmer afternoon.

Ron Scaglione, part of the new Scottish squad, won the Saturday competition shot over 1,000, 1,100 and 1,200 yards (15 to count) with 223.32, a point ahead of Rob Lygoe and a point and three V-bulls ahead of fellow Scot Fergus Flanagan.

Despite attempts by several competitors to end Flanagan's continuous success on Sunday, he managed the winning score of 222.32, one V-bull ahead of Scotland's John Sweet and two ahead of Rob Lygoe. In the end he wasn't able to snatch all the trophies from Lygoe, who won the overall Welsh Rifle Association Aggregate with 444.62 – only one V-bull ahead of Flanagan. Irish shooting hero David Calvert came third with 441.61.

The 1,200-yard aggregate went to John Lindsay III – despite still suffering from jet lag, he excelled at long distance and his 147.13 put him a point ahead of Sweet and Flanagan.

Hannah Fisher won the Ladies' trophy with 427.43, ahead of Kate Fitton and Loulou Brister. The Under 25 trophy

was won – as you may have guessed – by Fergus Flanagan, with ex-Cambridge Hannah Fisher in second and ex-Oxford Hattie Mansell in third place.

Each of the three nations handed out their club prizes to their top shots:

England: Rob Lygoe (444.62), John Lindsay III (440.50), Si Whitby (437.46);

Scotland: Fergus Flanagan (444.61), Ron Scaglione (440.59), John Sweet (439.59);

Wales: Loulou Brister (423.37), Andy Burgess (206.12), Gareth James (137.13).

The London and Middlesex individual competition was shot on the first May bank holiday Monday and Rob Lygoe was also victorious there with a lead of eight points, finishing with a 225.35. Rob didn't drop a single point in at 1,000, 1,100 or 1,200 yards (15 to count each). The trailing three all shot 217 - Loulou Brister with 24 V-bulls, Layne Chisholm 21 and David Friend 15.

Full results are available at www.englishheight.org.uk.



A 1,200-yard battle between Fisher and Flanagan



John Lindsay III receives his 1,200-yard trophy

IBIS RC OPEN MEETING

Andrew Wilde put in an excellent performance at this year's Ibis Open Meeting, reports Frank Harriss

We were fortunate that the weather during this year's Open Meeting (22 April) was sunny and warm, after a chilly start – very different to last year's miserable conditions. The wind, however, was tricky, even at 300 yards, and only four of the 32 entrants managed a top score.

By 500 yards some of the wily contestants had begun to get the measure of the fishtail and succeeded in relating this to the mirage, and there were six possibles. The last distance of the short range match proved difficult again however, and there were only two possibles at 600 yards.

The short-range winner, Andrew Wilde (LMRA), scored an unlikely 50.2 at 600 yards to win with 150.16. Second-placed Andrew Gent (English VIII, though shooting TR) dropped two points at 600 to finish with 148.20.

The wind was at its most variable at 1,000 yards, the first distance of the afternoon. David Allen (Huddersfield) shot a creditable 47.5, leading Andrew Wilde's 47.3. There was one score of 45; the rest of the field floundered in the low 40s and below, thanks to the mirage and flags often being at odds and changing rapidly.

Things steadied a little at 1,100 yards and scores were generally higher than at 1,000 – unusual! Andrew Wilde, interviewed by your roving correspondent, was very concerned at coming off with a 43.2, but in the end he won by one point with 90.5 over Ibis Captain Peter Griggs' 89.6. David Allen was a whisker behind with 89.5. The top score at 1,100 yards was a fine 47.5 by Steve Robinson of Huddersfield. Your correspondent basked in the reflected glory of shooting with both Andrew and Steve in the afternoon!

The maths geniuses among you will have already figured out who won the Cup for the aggregate. Andrew is to be congratulated on winning this for the second year running, and repeating his 2009 performance of winning both the short- and long-range matches. All the board-leaders were celebrated at the prizegiving in the Clubhouse, together with others who were agreeably surprised



There was one score of 45; the rest of the field floundered in the low 40s thanks to the mirage and flags being at odds

to have won 'spot' prizes for lesser scores.

The Ibis is very grateful for the sponsorship of HPS, who this year gave a barrel fitting as a prize along with several £20 vouchers. Andrew may not need a new barrel yet but he certainly seized on the voucher for the fitting! Peter Griggs presented the prizes and thanked Bill Rowland for organising the shooting side as well as the Range Officers, several Ibis

members headed up by the Club Chairman and your correspondent.

All this time, Bill had been slaving away in the kitchen to produce an excellent meal for 24 guests. The meal was a most convivial affair and Bill was heartily thanked for working so hard to prepare it.

For more information about Ibis Rifle Club see page 48 of this edition of the *National Rifle Association Journal*.

RESULTS: IBIS OPEN MEETING 2017			
PLACE	NAME	CLUB	AGGREGATE
1	Andrew Wilde	LMRA	240.21
2	Andrew Gent	English VIII	235.26
3	Peter Griggs	Ibis	234.20
4	David Allen	Huddersfield	234.18
5	John Stirland	Club 25	233.19
6	Steve Maris	Sheffield	230.17

ANDY NEWMAN MEMORIAL MATCH

Romsey Shooting Club made great use of its facilities to put together a cracking course for its annual Practical Shotgun match in honour of Andy Newman, writes George Granycome

Romsey Shooting Club has got it all for shotgun aficionados. Their main shooting ground is at Misholt Copse near the M3/A303 junction. It is an area of beautiful woodland with primroses and bluebells in season (and mud and dripping leaves in the rainy season!). Old fallen trees are useful as stage props, as are the sink-hole depressions in the ground. With the addition of a few artificial vision barriers, interesting and challenging stages are easy to put together. More importantly, there is a very friendly atmosphere at Romsey.

This match had eight stages, including two buckshot stages – you always find buckshot stages at Misholt as there is a buckshot fan on the committee. They also have some very heavy target plates which look as though they were cut by a club member from an old battleship when it was scrapped just after WWI. Without a buckshot stage the club would not know what to do with them, so whenever you go to a shoot at Misholt always take buckshot with a good knock-down capability.

The first birdshot stage, 'Look Backwards', near the club area, was very demanding indeed. With all the natural hardcover available, 21 plates can be arranged in a very difficult way – and it was tricky to plan an efficient way forward. Plates were visible both above and below fallen trees, and from either side of tree stumps. All too often the shooter could walk past targets and



waste time prancing about going too far left or right. Nearby was 'Bobber', comprising 18 targets including two clays on a bobber and some very tight no-shoots all shot through two apertures in a small booth with restricted room for handling the gun.

Behind the central complex of caravans with the club office and coffee facility was 'X Factor', a target-rich field stage with lots of movement along a delineated path with steel plates, mini-poppers, and clay pigeons in lofty holders. It took careful planning, clear vision and calm thinking to clean the stage without walking past and leaving any of the 27 targets standing.

Next was 'Tree Fall', the stage on which I myself was the range officer for the day. It was centred on a huge fallen tree with targets balanced on the trunk – at long range under the tree and at close range over the tree. The stage continued with a choice of routes through the leaf litter to polish off the remaining plates and mini-poppers, if you could find the sweet spots.

At the bottom of the wood was 'A Long Walk in the Woods'. This was a



long, as you may have guessed, but relatively simple stage, provided you kept your head and chose a sensible path of advance. This stage held 27 steel plates, not all of which were in plain view. Adjacent to this were the two buckshot stages. Finally, there was a birdshot stage, shot at long range with target plates hidden, or disappearing and reappearing, behind various tree stumps. It was another enjoyable stage.

It was good to have a dedicated range officer on each stage because the ROs were familiar with their own stages and there was consistency across the board. At some venues it has become an unfortunate habit to put ROs with a squad with which they remain all day, moving with them from stage to stage. This means that ROs are unfamiliar with the stages they are supposed to brief and run, and the written brief is often differently interpreted and unfairness creeps in. Besides that, ROs naturally become friends with their own squad and give more than the benefit of the doubt.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. There were 69 shooters altogether, with the ROs shooting the same match four weeks earlier. Winner of Open Division of 16 entrants was the bold Cansh Pope; Mark Sienesi came out on top of Standard Division's 32 entries; and the Pump-Action Division title was won by Iain Guy.



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Imperative Imperial updates

Diaries at the ready – the important dates and times for competitors at this year's Imperial are now available



The 148th Imperial starts on Friday 16 June with the NRA Service Rifle Individual matches on Century Range, including the Queen Mary and Bisley Bullet. This is the day before the Inter Counties weekend competition. The United Service and International SR Team Matches will both take place on Monday 26 June, also on Century.

The Tri-Service Operational Shooting Competitions will start a week earlier this year, with the Services using parts of Century from Tuesday 13 June.

Over the weekend of 17-18 June the Services will be running matches

on Butts 17 and 19; concurrently we will be staging the NRA Inter Counties competition on Butts 11-15.

The Services' Methuen Cup Match will be on Thursday 22 June, which also coincides with the NRA Adaptive Championship (held on Melville). Both promise to be great spectator events.

As a result of the MoD bookings, civilian use of Century will be limited from 13-26 June.

Civilian Service Rifle

The CSR individual competitions take place from Wednesday 28 June to

Saturday 1 July on Pirbright, Ash and Century ranges. The NRA Methuen (the main team match) takes place on Sunday 2 July on Century Range, starting at 1pm.

The popular Falling Plates Match will take place on Saturday 1 July on Ash Ranges (No.2 Range). Teams are requested to arrive no earlier than 4pm. The competition will start around 5pm and is expected to finish by 7pm. Ash Ranges are accessible for spectators, providing an excellent opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of this dynamic competition.



Service Rifle events inaugurate the 2017 meeting, kicking off on 16 June



TR competitions lead up to the Queen's Prize Final, which takes place on 22 July

McQueen

The McQueen competitions will run from Monday 10 until Wednesday 19 July, with the finals on Thursday 20 July.

Match Rifle

The Match Rifle competitions start with Any Rifle Extras on Friday 7 July, with the main individual and team events taking place from First Saturday to First Thursday (8-13 July).

The Elcho Match will be held on Wednesday 12 July, with the final distance at 1,200 yards starting at 2.30pm. Match Rifle prizegiving will be held at the English VIII on completion of the Elcho.

Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

Matches will be staged over the weekend of Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 July on Short Siberia, Melville and at BSRC. The Meeting will include the most popular 100- and 200-yard events, Classic Sporting Rifle, as well as Advancing Target and revolver and pistol events on Melville.

The Schools Meeting

The Schools, Veterans and Cadet competitions will take place at Pirbright and Century between First Monday and First Thursday (10-13 July).

The Cadet GP matches now include shooting from the sitting, kneeling and standing supported position (fire trench), and all cadets will be allowed to shoot the Marling either in the nominated school team of six, or as individuals.

The Topham Quaich is a competition for the aggregate of all GP and cadet TR

events. Special embroidered badges will be awarded to the top three places.

F-Class

The F-Class Meeting will run from First Friday to Second Tuesday (14-18 July) along very similar lines to the successful programme in 2016.

The Farquharson and St George's Finals will be contested by the top eight competitors in each class – F (Open) and F/TR – on Tuesday 18 July, along with the F-Class International Match. Timings have been adjusted slightly to allow for more time in between the matches.

Prizegiving will take place on Tuesday 18 July in the NRA Pavilion at 2.30pm.

Gallery Rifle & Pistol

The GR&P Meeting takes place between Wednesday 12-Sunday 16 July, with all events hosted on Melville range.

The event programme contains squadded, unsquadded team and unlimited entry competitions, including the annual Oxford v Cambridge Match.

Target Rifle

Following the success of the cadet competition in 2016, which broadly followed the short-range TR events, the 'Cadet Imperial' has been included as part of the main programme. Using the cadet target rifle, this provides an opportunity for cadets to experience the main TR Meeting which we hope will cement future interest in the sport. The matches will be staged on Butt 19 throughout and will be under military control.

Target Rifle competitions start on Thursday 13 July with the 'pre-Grand Aggregate' events, culminating in the Queen's Prize Final on Saturday 22 July, starting at 2.30pm on Stickedown. ■



It's a truly international meeting, with Canada, Australia and Germany all regular visitors

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The Imperial after hours

It's not all about shooting – the Imperial Meeting is also a seriously social event. Silke Lohmann tells us more

The Imperial Meeting is fast approaching and shooters will be busy sorting out all their kit, rifle and ammo issues, and making sure they're on top form to take part in this year's competitions.

Many competitors are definitely on camp to win, but there are also plenty of others, who may not quite be in the winning league, for whom the social side of the meeting is a large part of the reason why they return year after year. It is great to catch up with all our friends, organise our own little competitions among clubs or cliques and enjoy being sociable.

I am not a skier so I can't compare Bisley evenings to *'après ski'* – but I somehow doubt that skiers meet in noisy discos and discuss how much

their brand of ski gear let them down over someone else's, or how the wind blew them from one run to another! One thing is comparable though: the majority of shooters definitely don't go into hiding after a successful (or otherwise) day's shooting – there are plenty of opportunities to enjoy Bisley camp to its full potential.

Bisley is buzzing during the Imperial. With so many more people on camp than at any other time of year there are lots of opportunities to share shooting stories and get some advice over a drink in the evening, or simply catch up with friends made in years gone by.

When the Imperial first moved to Bisley there were musical and other entertainments organised each evening. Those days are sadly over, although

occasionally a military band still makes an appearance. The clubs, however, are just as important as ever for keeping the buzz going.

If you have never done the meeting before, take note: non-members are welcome in most clubhouses during the Imperial and many shooters will gather there for a drink after they finish shooting for the day. It's also where most people meet to form their plans for the evenings.

This is usually followed by a quick change into team blazers, smart casual (most clubs don't like to see you in shooting gear after a certain hour) or BBQ attire – and then the evening starts proper!

You might have organised dinner with friends in one of their caravans, booked



After the day's competitions are finished, many shooters will head to one of the clubhouses on camp for a well-earned drink and to catch up with other shooters

into one of the clubhouses for a proper dinner or plan on going to a BBQ. There is always something on offer if you are at a loose end – and of course there is also the occasional escape from camp to visit a local pub.

Once 'feeding time' is over, most shooters gather in one of the clubhouses and enjoy a drink or two. This is prime time for catching up with old mates and

making new friends. You may bump into that nice fellow shooter who was so helpful in your last shoot, and get a chance to chat properly. It's also a great opportunity to meet some of the competitors from abroad, and to meet shooters your age (I am very much talking from personal experience here; I got into shooting through my parents so I met most of my friends in the clubs!).

You might well be surprised by the generation mix in the clubs. I always think it's really the beauty of our sport – there's no discrimination at all. We are lucky to compete in one of the very few sports that welcomes all to enter the same competitions regardless of age or gender.

That ethos continues in the evenings, with 18-year-olds sharing their latest shooting stories with 80-year-olds over a drink, and probably picking up a few good tips on shooting and life in general at the same time. And the youngsters are probably sharing the latest NRA news on social media in return, so that those still holding on to their less-than-smartphones can keep abreast of the happenings on camp that day.

Look out for special events open to all, such as the auction of promises and fundraising BBQs, which will help support GB or NRA teams going on shooting trips abroad. These are usually advertised in your welcome pack with all your shooting details. You might also be lucky enough to get invited to one of the visiting team parties or other receptions. So go out and enjoy the 148th Imperial – day and night. ■



There are plenty of opportunities to socialise throughout the meeting

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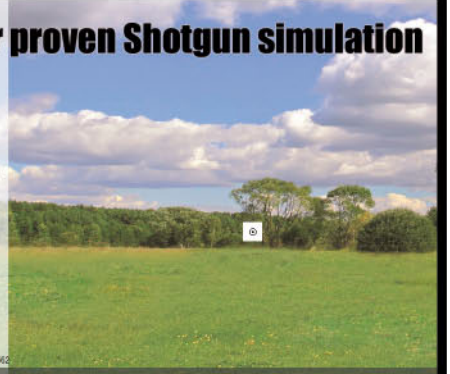
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SP	-Soft Point	FPJ	-Flat Point Jacket
PSP	-Pointed Soft Point	FMJ	-Full Metal Jacket
SPBT	-Soft Point Boat Tail	FMJRN	-Full Metal Jacket Round Nose
SPRN	-Pointed Soft Point Boat Tail	FMJBT	-Full Metal Jacket Boat Tail
HPBT	-Hollow Point Boat Tail	RNFP	-Round Nose Flat Point

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This is my rifle...

Raf Jah addresses the common pitfalls (and pratfalls) involved when choosing a new rifle – and how to better account for them

With summer almost upon us, many shooters' minds will turn to upcoming competitions, club meets or stalking outings. In most cases this means cleaning rifles, re-zeroing, fine-tuning kit, adjusting a trigger or, in extreme cases, rebarreling a rifle. Some of the new shooters among us may be looking to buy their first rifle. Whether they want a black rifle for Civilian Service Rifle competitions, a target rifle for classic shooting, an F-Class monster or a simple all-rounder, the choices are virtually infinite.

I remember clearly my own disastrous foray into buying a first rifle. I knew I wanted a .303 for nostalgic reasons but I had absolutely no idea about any other form of shooting. I had some vague ideas, reinforced by blatant cackle from some vocal (now former) club members. I was told in no uncertain terms that 7.62 NATO was a target shooting calibre and a must-have – and .303 was a historic calibre and should only be used for historic competitions.

"Buy a 7.62 with a scope," said the club know-it-all. "That will be fine for everything."

"What do you want it for?" asked the shop who sold it to me.

"Shooting everything out to 1,000 yards."

"You'll struggle with this at 1,000 yards," replied the kindly shopkeeper. "This will be good to 600 only."

I asked my only real friend at the club what he thought of Remington and he replied, quite truthfully, that they were solid rifles that could be customised. So I went back to the shop, pressed on and bought a Remington 700 in .308 with a 20in barrel. It was the only Remington they had in stock at the time. I added a Nikon 4-12x hunting scope that I picked up in America on a business trip and walked out the door.

I then went out and bought a .303 from a well-known RFD. After a month the bolt broke, and I had to have a new one fitted. After another month the rifle started firing in three separate groups, 6in apart at 100

yards. I headed to Fultons of Bisley to ask if this was normal for a .303. The rifle, I was told, was not bedded properly but it could be fixed. Some weeks later I collected the rifle and tested it with 174gn Sierra ammunition. It put three rounds through the same hole.

Shooting to learn

During this entire process, no one had really taken the time to explain ballistic trajectory, different types of scope, or the effects of different barrel lengths and thicknesses. Despite this lack of knowledge I was keen, and so I shot every week at the club and put bullets into a 2in hole with the Remington.

Shooting accurately at 100 yards with a 12x scope and bipod was not overly difficult. The club know-it-all mentioned that I should try Bisley with him, and after acquiring a Safe Shooter Certification card we went down and shot at 100, 300 and 600 yards. By this stage I was teaching myself about basic ballistics and wind. I was lucky

enough to have a friend who had been a sniper in a former life and who explained the principles of marksmanship over the phone. But no matter how competent I may have been with the Remington, I always fared better with the Lee Enfield .303.

Iron sights never worried me; I knew exactly how they worked, so I was able to shoot more accurately with the Enfield than with the Remington. When the wind picked up, someone explained how to guesstimate windage and therefore how far to aim off. I did as I was told and enjoyed a moderate degree of success.

When someone told me that I would never get to 1,000 yards accurately with the Lee Enfield, I simply booked a lane at Stickle-down one sodden morning, bought a couple of boxes of factory ammunition from the range office, lay down on the firing point, set the iron sights to 1,000 yards and squeezed the trigger. I was by no means a marksman, but after a couple of sighters and with the help of a good marker, I kept every round on paper at 1,000 yards. I had proved the naysayers wrong.

Horses for courses

Everything changed when I entered my first CSR competition with the Enfield .303. I won't go into the details of my humiliation (hearing 'wash wash wash' a number of times). Running and shooting from various positions was a different proposition to lying down and taking your time. I thought perhaps it was time to think more carefully about what shooting I wanted to do, and which rifle would be best for that job.

My path to acquiring the correct rifles for now became slightly smoother. The 20in



Horses for courses: choose your discipline before you choose your rifle

Remington became a 26in F-Class rifle, which I used for long range shooting; I bought an AR15 for CSR and, as I realised their value, I started to collect Enfield rifles.

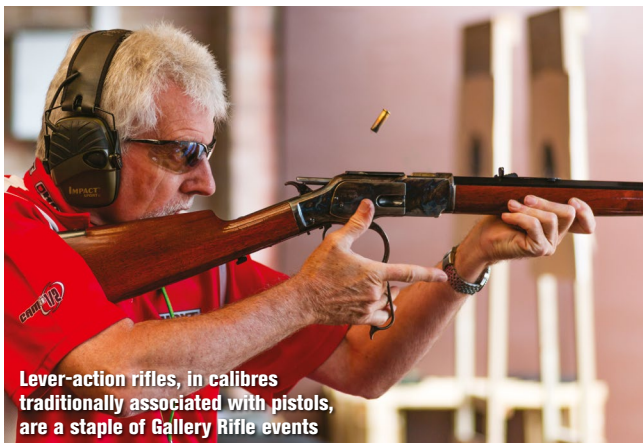
At some stage I realised that my experience with the club Walter Mitty was not unique. When I jokingly told the story of the unbedded .303 an experienced committee member of another club said, "I recognise myself in that story."

This article will, I hope, help save new shooters time, trouble and money. In order to research the subject I spoke to firearms dealers, gunsmiths, national competition winners, former soldiers and sensible shooting folk. I have summed up the maxim of their responses here.

Choosing your discipline

The first question you need to answer is: what do I want the rifle for? If you are only going to shoot target rifle, then you need a good target rifle. If you are only going to shoot Civilian Service Rifle, then a scoped rifle with interchangeable magazines would be best. If you are into F-Class then there are plenty of reasonably-priced, heavy, long-barrelled F-Class monsters out there. And if you are into historic rifles, you'll need a WWII vintage rifle. It goes without saying that .22 and gallery rifle shooters have unique rifles.

Bear in mind that, unless you happen to be a national champion, there is little



Lever-action rifles, in calibres traditionally associated with pistols, are a staple of Gallery Rifle events



The .303 Lee Enfield will hit targets out to 1,000 yards - but there are better options if you plan on shooting CSR



**The reality is
that there are
guidelines to rifle
choice but there
are no rules**

point trying to shoot a Fig 11 target at a mile with a 7.62 scoped rifle. I write from experience: I have tried this and failed.

Things get difficult when you want a multi-purpose rifle. If you wish to do more than one discipline with the same rifle, you need to think very carefully. There are, for example, some very good target rifles that can be scoped and have a bipod added to make them usable for F-Class. And I have seen at least one target rifle converted for CSR shooting.

Choosing your rifle

Once you have chosen your discipline, you would do well to consult your friends and fellow shooters. These people around you are the best people to take information from to make your own decision. Ask to use club rifles to see what works for you. Mark Bradley of Bradley Arms, the leading producer of AR15 rifles in Britain, says: "Try out a rifle, shoot with it in a competition and see if it works for you."

There is no golden answer to this issue. The reality is that there are guidelines to rifle choice but there are no rules.

Many people cannot afford three dedicated rifles and so wish to conduct several forms of shooting with the same rifle. This is possible in the case of CSR



When it comes to rifle choice, there's no substitute for practical testing

shooting, hunting and McQueens. A bolt-action Remington 700 with a 20in barrel in 7.62 would work perfectly, though you will require interchangeable magazines and a detachable bipod. Many gunsmiths around the nation would be happy to customise a rifle in this manner for you.

If you are only interested in CSR shooting, and US 'High Power' competitions, then the clear answer would be an AR15 or AR10-type rifle. All you have to choose is weight, barrel length, calibre and quality of parts used.

The cheapest entry into CSR and target shooting is the venerable Lee Enfield .303. Plenty are available or you could get one built. You could also stalk deer with

the .303 and have a detachable scope for fun shooting. In its target form, a .303 is an excellent (if ageing) target rifle.

When it comes to Target Rifle, there are enough choices to boggle even the most composed minds. Prices range from the affordable to the astronomic. Think carefully before spending any money.

To this end I asked Robert Turner, the proprietor of Fultons, for his opinion on the best target rifle: "Don't just come in and buy something to find out you don't like it. Try out many different rifles, see what you like and what fits you. Don't rush into it."

His sage words would seem to *precis* my entire article. ■



Updates from the ranges

Winans and Cheylesmore Ranges have both undergone serious renovations, and the range office staff told us all about it

Two major projects have recently been undertaken, both aimed at improving range facilities and range availability at Bisley. The first was the refurbishment and recommissioning of Cheylesmore Bay C and the second a wholesale redevelopment of Winans Range. In future both ranges will provide 25m shooting from covered firing points.

The aspiration for Cheylesmore was to provide a facility, within Bay C, suitable for use by wheelchair users and bench shooters. This was to be achieved by improving the ballistic protection and installing overhead retrievable targets (ORT).

Winans Range was completely redesigned to provide two bays, one housing a No Danger Area (NDA) canopy and the second a large, versatile, area suited to shotgun and several other uses. The Zero Range is an integral part of the complex but remains in its original format. It is scheduled to be improved during the winter of 2017/18.

Both of these projects presented similar challenges. Due to their locations both ranges had to qualify as NDA ranges with the ballistic risk as low as reasonably practicable, ensuring that the National Clay Shooting Centre (NCSC) could continue to operate

immediately behind the backstop of Winans. It was also imperative that risk to habitation in the area of Cheylesmore remained at an absolute minimum.

NDA canopy

After some lengthy research and valuable suggestions from contractors it was decided that the NDA canopy in Winans Range would be built to similar dimensions as the existing Zero Range. Interlocking precast concrete blocks, 750mm thick and resembling large Lego bricks, would be used for the construction.

The blocks will reportedly contain a round fired from a .50 calibre rifle at close



Concrete 'Lego bricks' form the basis of the NDA canopy's construction



Cladding improves both the durability and appearance of the backstop

“The cell material is expected to last 10 years if exposed to the elements; as we are cladding it the life is extended immeasurably”

range but they do present a splashback hazard, thus all walls likely to receive a direct hit required cladding to ensure that rounds were contained within the structure. The blocks proved to be a quick, relatively easy and effective solution.

Ballistic protection and noise attenuation

Frank Compton, the NRA range advisor and a former Officer Commanding of the Technical Advisory Section (Royal Engineers) (TAS(RE)), provided reliable and impartial ballistic protection advice. After some deliberation, the NRA chose DefenCell to provide ballistic protection. DefenCell is endorsed by the Ministry of Defence; a DefenCell engineer was allocated to oversee the project and provided invaluable advice on construction, design and product requirements.

DefenCell provided a non-metallic cellular construction system designed and used to provide ballistic protection. The system is made from a non-woven geotextile material, which is strong, durable and resistant to multiple shots. The vertical cell walls minimise deflection and reduce the ground footprint for construction.

The risks of ricochet and secondary shrapnel are minimised by the system's lightweight and non-metallic construction, which also facilitates transport and installation. Very importantly, the material is environmentally neutral and easily disposed of.

All installations are surface-mounted with a low ground loading, thereby avoiding relocating or damaging underground services and cabling.

Smaller sacrificial units can be used behind high-use target areas. These can be removed and replaced as necessary, at relatively low cost. The sacrificial cells retain all shot, reducing the cost of maintenance by easing the sorting and disposal of sand/lead.

The aesthetics and durability of the construction attracted much comment. To clarify, the cell material is expected to last 10 years if exposed to the elements; if it is clad, as we are doing with much of our constructions,

the life is extended immeasurably. Cladding also addresses the appearance issues that were raised.

The advice and assistance provided throughout by DefenCell engineer Carl Atkinson has been second to none. He provided the initial training on how to use DefenCell and has been on hand throughout the project with timely advice and assistance. He has spent a large amount of time on-site providing ongoing advice and solving issues as they arose.

The service provided by DefenCell has been outstanding throughout the entire process, and we, the NRA, have no hesitation adding our endorsement to this company and their product.

Targetry

The targetry in Cheylesmore Bay C will be presented on an ORT system provided by Intarso. It is simple to operate and presents the target on the firing point at an ideal height for bench shooters. However, it is a retrievable target system and not a moving target system. The system features a gantry-mounted rail system moving a cable-powered trolley at varying speeds. The target comes to the shooter and not vice versa, negating the need for personnel to advance down-range; this allows members to book by lane and not by bay. ■



Cheylesmore's targetry removes the need to retrieve targets down-range

Growth beyond Bisley

Regional ranges manager Nic Couldrey details the NRA's two-channel approach to expanding opportunities for regional shooting

Regional clubs and their members depend on access to ranges delivered through two important channels. The first is the MoD estate, including ranges operated by the DIO and RFCA.

Approximately 130 clubs spread across England, Scotland and Wales are licensed to shoot on MoD ranges and this channel is vital for target shooting at distances greater than 300 yards, and for long range and HME firearms. For many regional shooters military ranges are the only place to shoot. This constraint limits the development of our sport.

The second, equally important channel is the network of hundreds of smaller regional ranges. These facilities are typically run by clubs, relying on the skills of individual members and on limited resources. They provide various opportunities, from entry-level air rifle shooting to modern indoor ranges with turning targets and training facilities. A subset of this group is the handful of clubs that operate outdoor gallery ranges such as Thorpe Cloud, Deer Hill and Brockholes.

Developing a strategy for each of these very different channels is an important part of the NRA's broader strategy.

I am working with our colleagues in the MoD to explore options for a disused gallery range in the south-west. The range was closed nearly four years ago but has been well-maintained by DIO and Landmarc. I recently met stakeholders from Regional Command South West at the range to understand the background to the closure. We discussed options that would allow the range to be reopened for use by civilian and military users.

I am pleased to report that the initial outcome of the meeting was positive, with both parties agreeing to work



Phoenix Range, home of Baildon Rifle and Pistol Club

Close and continuous collaboration with the MoD is one of the keys to securing access to outdoor ranges away from Bisley

together on a plan to reopen the range. This is just the first step on a complex journey but I remain convinced that close and continuous collaboration with the MoD is one of the keys to securing access to outdoor ranges away from Bisley.

Affiliated clubs that operate their own range are a vital part of the regional shooting ecosystem. I travelled to Baildon in West Yorkshire to meet the Treasurer and Chairman of Baildon Rifle and Pistol Club to learn more about the club. Like many other clubs, Baildon relies on the support of its members to maintain and develop club facilities. I was impressed to see how much has been achieved with this model; building a new tube range is on the agenda for the future. I look forward to the

continuing dialogue as we explore closer ties to promote regional shooting.

Finally, and with about a month until the Birmingham Bisley, I joined the NRA's head of shooting and training, Peter Cottrell, NRA representative for the East Midlands region, George Barnard, and friends from Warwickshire Firearms Club at Kingsbury range to recce the facilities in preparation for the event in May. The availability of suitable target frames had been a concern at Kingsbury and we worked with colleagues in the DIO and Landmarc to ensure we had what we needed. I wrote to clubs in the Midlands that shoot at Kingsbury to encourage early registration for this exciting competition.

See you on the ranges. ■

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Club focus

We profile two more NRA-affiliated clubs that are eager to welcome new members

IBIS RIFLE CLUB (1992) Sited on Club Row at Bisley Camp, Ibis Rifle Club is a great base for TR and F-Class shooters

The Ibis Rifle Club has its roots on Bisley Common stretching back to 1913, when the original premises were purchased by the Prudential Assurance Co for £550 (equivalent to around £54,000 today). For many years the old bungalow with a veranda served as the meeting point for employees of Prudential, and was run under the auspices of the Ibis Sports Society.

The premises were quaint, and though restricted in capacity the club has set no limit on the activities of members, who have ensured Ibis has always been a name at the fore of all aspects of target rifle shooting. While fullbore was, and still is, the Club's principal activity, there was also a strong small-bore section with ranges at the company's Head Office in London and at the Ibis Sports ground at Chiswick.

In 1988 the old Bisley premises grew too dilapidated and were replaced with the current bungalow. A good deal of work was put in by the members and the Club still depends on this input from its members. The building provides all the usual features you would expect to find in a modern home and gives members a warm, dry and spacious communal meeting area.



The old clubhouse - picturesque but restricted in capacity



The modern clubhouse has extensive facilities

In 1991 the Prudential closed down the Ibis Sports Society and the Ibis Rifle Club (1992) was formed as an open club, responsible for its own finances, with the members of the new club acquiring ownership of the Clubhouse (thanks to various loans).

These days the club caters mainly for Target Rifle and F-Class shooters. Our membership includes a past winner of HM The Queen's Prize, National and County standard Target Rifle shooters together with a winner of the F-Class Queens I. Other members have a broad experience of shooting disciplines. Members come from Wales, the south-west, the West Midlands and across the home counties. We have several younger members and we work hard to encourage more.

Club days are held at Bisley fortnightly (alternating between Saturdays and Sundays) from February (brrr!) to November and usually consist of a long-range shoot in the morning followed by short-range in the afternoon, with 'bangers and beans' in the Clubhouse in between.

There is a secure armoury, a gunroom and a drying room (which comes in useful on occasion!). The club also has superior bunk accommodation and is usually full for the Imperial, where the standard of catering is very high.

The club holds its Open Meeting in April, attracting around 40 competitors. A conventional Queens II in the morning is followed by a less conventional 'two and ten' at 1,000 and 1,100 yards in



The clubroom bar is much admired!

the afternoon. In the evening there is a splendid meal, cooked by our resident chef (also Treasurer) Bill Rowland.

During one of the Club Championships, held in September, 1,100 yards is again a staple – 'two and fifteen' at 1,000 and 1,100 yards. It is interesting how one's attitude to 1,000 yards changes when it is the 'easy' range of the pair!

There are other Championship shoots at short and long range held over another September weekend, with an excellent meal on the Saturday evening. A fine meal also accompanies the AGM in December. Catering is clearly an important part of the club's social life and we have just invested in a refurbished kitchen.

Ours is a small club, but with premises on Club Row that provide a really comfortable base at Bisley. There is a friendly, relaxed atmosphere and, as has been mentioned, the standard of DIY catering is high! We are recruiting new members from young to old, expert to novice. We would welcome applicants from all Bisley disciplines. When you have made contact, we suggest you drop in to see what a friendly bunch we are! ■

Get in touch

Contact: Frank Harriss, Secretary
Address: Ibis Rifle Club, Club Row, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB
Email: f.foh@btinternet.com
Web: www.ibisrifleclub.co.uk

BISLEY FIELD TARGET ORGANISATION

No FAC? No problem! The BFTO is the sole airgun-only club on Bisley camp

The Bisley Field Target Organisation started off life as the Guildford Field Target Club in the late 1980s. In the early 1990s the NRA asked the club to put on a demonstration of Field Target shooting at Bisley; soon after they were invited to have a permanent place on the Bisley ranges. and the Bisley Field Target Organisation was born.

In 2016 the BFTO celebrated its 25th birthday – positively young compared to some clubs on Bisley. Our 350 members are all keen airgun enthusiasts who enjoy both collecting and shooting airguns of all types, either for the sheer enjoyment or for use in competition.

The BFTO is a Home Office approved airgun-only club catering for all non-FAC air rifle and pistol disciplines, with the possible exception of the Olympic disciplines as we do not have any indoor ranges.

The main disciplines we cater for are Field Target, Hunter Field Target and Pistol Hunter Field Target. We also have a healthy set of ‘paper punching’ competitions including 10-yard standing and 25- and 50-yard benchrest, along with 6-yard and 10m pistol competitions. We have a thriving vintage section that uses air rifles made before 1939, in competitions shooting at traditional bell targets as well as more fun-orientated competitions like shooting playing cards edge-on.

We also run themed shoots during the year, such as our Halloween Vintage shoot where one of the ranges is decorated with Halloween-themed decorations and competitions.

The emphasis is on having fun while shooting safely. We encourage all our members to take part in competitions



as we believe it can only improve their shooting skills.

The BFTO operates its own ranges, located behind the BFTO club house and next to the British Sporting Rifle Club ranges. Targets are always set out for our members to practise or plink away the hours. For full members we are open every day of the week, shooting into the evenings on our floodlit ranges. Most weekends see a competition of some sort at the BFTO – any member is welcome to participate or come along to see what it is all about.

Our members regularly participate in regional and national airgun events and for the last couple of years have hosted a round of the prestigious British Field Target Association FT Grand Prix series, which sees the best Field Target competitors from around the country descend on our quiet corner of Bisley camp to compete.

One of the draws of the BFTO is its accessibility. Other airgun clubs can be quite restricted on when they can operate but we are privileged to be able to offer seven-day-a-week facilities for our members.

Although our clubhouse is not big and lacks a full kitchen, we do offer free tea

and coffee for members and visitors alike – always welcome on those chilly winter evenings on the range.

As the only airgun only club on Bisley camp with our own ranges, we offer a friendly and unique introduction to shooting without the necessity of obtaining your FAC. At the same time the club embraces the atmosphere and spirit that being on Bisley Camp brings. Many of our members go on to join fullbore clubs on Bisley while still maintaining their BFTO membership.

We always welcome new members, though we do have a waiting list at the moment. If you would like to find out more about joining the British Field Target Organisation, you can contact our membership secretary by email or by visiting our website and filling in the enquiry form. ■

Get in touch

Contact: Tim Offen, Secretary
Address: BFTO, Malabar 126, off Elcho Rd, Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB
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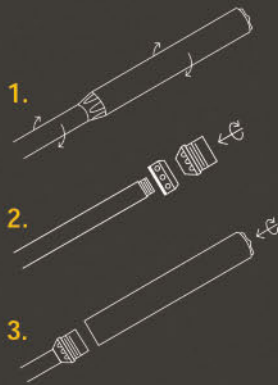
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2. Slide the nut down the barrel and tighten. Screw the silencer connector to the barrel end.
3. Screw the silencer onto the connector. All parts included with rifle.



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Discipline updates

The latest reports from the NRA Shotgun and Handgun Leagues, plus updates from the reps for muzzleloading and TR

MUZZLELOADING

Paul Wolpe – Muzzleloading Pistol and Rifle representative

The muzzleloading shooting season is really in full swing now, with a lot of opportunities to compete in ML pistol and rifle matches coming up in the next few weeks.

The Repeating Pistol Championships scheduled for 6-7 May unfortunately had to be cancelled but there are Repeating Pistol matches to be held under the auspices of the South London Rifle Club on 15-16 July, and the Surrey branch of the MLAGB on 10 September. Forms for these will be available via the NRA and MLAGB websites.

TARGET RIFLE

Charles Dickenson – Target Rifle representative

A very successful NRA Target Rifle Basic Skills course was held at Bisley on 8-9 April. Excellent feedback included: 'Very informative well run course', 'A good couple of days, well worth doing,' and 'Two-day course – great value for money, informative and helpful.'

Further courses have been scheduled for 27-28 May (Bisley Clubs), 29-30 July (NRA) and 9-10 September (Bisley Clubs). If there is sufficient demand, more



Another busy muzzleloading season has already got under way

courses will be organised. These courses teach you all you need to know to shoot TR competently and include time in the classroom and on the range. They are ideal for those who are relatively new to TR or want to learn how to shoot competitively.

An Advanced Target Rifle Skills course is also being developed that will help take club shooters up to at least County standard. You can book NRA courses through the NRA website. Contact Brian Cudby for details of the Bisley Clubs courses: briancudby@uk2.net.

Great Britain Target Rifle Teams

After the success of the GB Rifle Team to South Africa (see page 23 of this edition for details) attention turns to the GB team captained by Chris Weeden that will be touring Canada for the British Columbia Provincial Championships and the National Championships in Ottawa. We wish them luck – and will be following their progress on their website (www.gbtrf.org.uk) and Facebook page (@GBRifleTeam).

John Warburton has been appointed Captain of the GB Rifle Team to Canada in 2018. The team will compete in the Ontario Rifle Association meeting prior to the DCRA's 150th Anniversary Championships in Ottawa. All interested in applying for selection should write to John at jdwarburton@btinternet.com before 28 July 2017.

If you want to help develop the future of Target Rifle, especially encouraging those who are new to our discipline, please contact Charles at target@nra.org.uk with an indication of the help you can offer.

TARGET SHOTGUN

James Harris – Target Shotgun representative

Hard on the heels of the very successful Target Shotgun Festival at Bisley (covered in the Spring edition), the second round of the NRA Shotgun League was held at Shield Shooting centre in Dorset on 11-12 March.



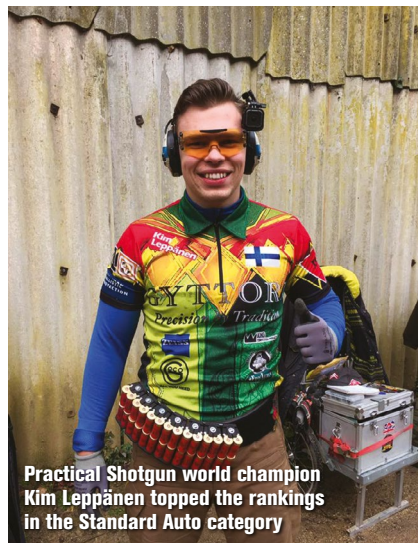
GB's triumph in South Africa could inspire greater participation and success in future tours

The stages were inventive and in some cases unique – enough to entice reigning world champion Kim Leppänen from Finland, who made a very welcome visit, much to the chagrin of those who had eyed the top spot! With 10 stages to count towards the overall result, every competitor had many opportunities to lose the event by suffering from a malfunction (be it mechanical or mental). To single out a few of the more innovative stages will give the flavour of the match.

Stage two was laid out in the largest of the ranges (25m long, 20m wide) and consisted of a pair of large circular vision screens that forced the competitors to maintain their focus on the possible locations as they traversed the stage. Unsurprisingly the combination of changing location, concentrating on reloading and also trying to remember where the targets were proved too much for many, and numerous missed targets were recorded on the scoresheets.

Further up this multi-range complex was an old favourite with a twist: a vertical target array consisting of eight steel plates on 'ladder' – load one, shoot one – something that many participants on TS intro days will be acquainted with and enjoyed. The enjoyment factor was less evident among those that had forgotten how to do this efficiently or had never tried it before!

Overall results were available soon after the last shots were fired and, as is normal



Practical Shotgun world champion Kim Leppänen topped the rankings in the Standard Auto category

for Shield, were announced over late lunch for many in the clubhouse. While the home team were hoping for a win it was clear that we have some way, albeit short, to go before reaching world class level.

NRA Handgun League

The second round of the Handgun League took place on the Sunday of the Spring Action Weekend. This was the first outdoor match of the season, which can often mean dampened spirits and multiple red-dots should the heavens open. Fortunately we were blessed with sunshine, which no doubt spurred competitors on.

As ever the match is built the evening before, by a small (but growing) band



David Ashcroft tackles the course at the second round of the NRA Handgun League

of volunteers. These saints toil away as the light fades and rarely get time to relax in the evenings with their fellow competitors, something that is a large part of the meeting weekends – so much so that some of the 40-odd competitors missed the 8am safety briefing! That caused a few grumbles, but fortunately not a single complaint was received about the match itself.

With nine separate stages spread out across the Bianchi complex on Butt Zero, and numerous ROs, scorers and even some extra target patches, the match flowed well. In fact it went so well that, for the first time, it didn't look as though the extra half hour gained by shooting through the lunch hour would be required.

As with the Shield Hardy match a few simple twists were added that really sorted out the proficient all-round shooters from those that only practise the commonly-encountered shooting challenges. With two weak-hand-only stages and a particularly short fixed-time stage, good dexterity and familiarity with the firearms were crucial. The match also saw the first outing of yet another weird and wonderful firearm in the shape of a custom-made eight-shot revolver; the majority of LBRs are capable of holding six or seven rounds. The eighth shot may have made a significant difference to the overall scores, and future stages will be built with the intent of levelling out the need to reload.

Results from the Shotgun and Handgun Leagues can be found on page 61.



At the second round of the Shotgun League, Rob Capolongo claimed his £50 voucher from last year's raffle sponsored by AW Armoury



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(two sizes available)
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OBITUARIES

MAJOR SIMON FRASER MBE

Readers will recall that our Winter 2016 issue contained the following farewell to Major Simon Fraser following his retirement after 24 years as General Secretary of the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting. Many will be aware that Simon's retirement was short as he died on 27 January 2017 after a short illness.

The Fraser family will implement one of Simon's last wishes by holding memorial drinks, including a hog roast, on 16 July 2017 at 6pm in the Army Target Shooting Club. The family extends an open invitation to all who knew Simon; the event will be celebratory so all are asked to come with a smile and fond memories.

Simon Fraser retired as General Secretary at Derby Lodge on 7 November, after 24 years of outstanding service. Latterly this service was only to cadet shooting, but until the amalgamation of the TA Rifle Association (TARA) with the Army Rifle Association, that service benefited TA shooting as well.

He arrived at Derby Lodge in 1993, after it had seen three General Secretaries in four years, and immediately settled into the job with dedication and enthusiasm. These qualities were to be the hallmark of his time at Bisley, as he served both TARA and the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting (CCRS) equally well, either individually or in the form of the Joint Committee.

Simon came to his new life at Bisley after 24 years in the Coldstream Guards, which included four tours of duty in Northern Ireland. He is particularly proud of his service with Operation Agila in Zimbabwe, the very delicate operation to separate the Southern Rhodesian and Nationalist forces and thus bring an end to the war there. Simon was responsible for much of the logistical support of both the British and Commonwealth troops.

One of his last jobs was as the staff officer responsible for cadet matters in London District, bringing him into direct contact

with Combined Cadet Force and Army Cadet Force cadets. This affinity with young people was always visible at Bisley, where he was a constant friend to cadets and those involved in the cadet movement. He was a servant of all ranks concerned with shooting, from the most junior cadet upwards, whether national or international. He welcomed the Royal Canadian Army Cadet National Rifle Team every year, and led a successful Athelings team as Commandant in 2002.

Simon's relaxed approach was reflected in the permanent chaos of his desk, from which everything emerged when required nonetheless. This included, in his role as General Secretary, the minutes of innumerable meetings as well as everyday correspondence and essential paperwork, all of which were of very high quality.

Thanks to Simon's engaging personality the Great Britain Under-19 Rifle Team to South Africa has flourished. His love of that country has been reflected in the constant enthusiasm with which he has promoted the tour to cadets who often, depending on their age, were in the throes

of A-Level revision. The experience they had was immensely educational, at the South African Bisley Union (SABU) meeting at Bloemfontein and during the accompanying tour. The gratitude of South Africans to Simon for – quite literally – keeping junior shooting alive, by providing a visiting team each year against which a team had to be fielded, is reflected in his appointment as a Vice President of SABU. Despite the lion's share of the administration of the tour falling on Simon's shoulders, he always competed. He is no mean shot in his own right, having learned to shoot at Rugby School, where he was Captain of the VIII.

In 1997 he and his family moved to Somerset, requiring a weekly as opposed to daily commute. The theory was that he would leave at lunchtime on a Friday and return on Monday; the practice was, inevitably, different. Despite the pleas of CCRS Trustees Simon would regularly leave Bisley in the late afternoon – if indeed he left at all, as there were frequent shooting events he felt obliged to attend. In all weathers he preferred to sleep in his



caravan, snug beside Derby Lodge, rather than make his way to a cold and draughty clubhouse elsewhere at Bisley. However, this meant that he never really got away from his job, and was regularly to be found in his office late into the evening working quietly. This work regularly concerned the CCRS accounts which Simon, a proud Scotsman, kept with great care and canniness, always determined to spend as little money as necessary to achieve a given result. Given

the opportunity, he would don his kilt for a formal occasion, and he is a knowledgeable source of information about whiskies.

It was a great joy when Simon was appointed MBE in 2008, an award described by one officer as the hardest earned he knew of. It reflected Simon's immense and varied contribution to CCRS and cadet shooting, whether negotiating with a general on their behalf or cleaning a rifle in the armoury. The longest serving Secretary at Derby Lodge by

far, his substantial presence will be greatly missed by all his many friends at Bisley and in the cadet world as a whole, as he enjoys his very well deserved retirement. It is entirely consistent with his commitment to cadet shooting that he should consider his greatest reward from his time at Derby Lodge to be that 23 of the 26 members of the recent winning Palma Team are former cadets, many of whom were active during his tenure at CCRS.

CHRIS PAUL 1944 - 2017

Chris studied zoology at university and continued that career when he started work. He then studied tax accountancy and moved into the City, working for the stockbroker Brewin Dolphin. He started there as a blue button and moved on to become an analyst in the oil and mining sections.

Having previously shot at university, Chris joined the Stock Exchange Rifle Club in 1971. He won the SERC small-bore championship in his first year. He must have taken after his father, Denis Paul, who won the RAF fullbore championship with a Lee Enfield in 1937. Apparently his grandfather was also a good shot.

Chris soon migrated to fullbore shooting at Bisley, where he joined the London & Middlesex Rifle Association. Chris was a stalwart LMRA team member for many years, a regular shooter for the County of London, and a reserve for the National in 1997. He also managed to get through to the Queen's Prize final on a number of occasions. He attended his last Imperial Meeting in 2005.

His main loyalty was to SERC and he won the SERC fullbore championships on six occasions and was a team member when SERC won the Astor in 1990. SERC were in fact fortunate to get to the Astor final that year as the majority of the team attended one of Chris' notorious parties at 'the madhouse' where he lived in Wimbledon. The partygoers all turned up for the match worse for wear and dropped 12 points at 300 yards. The coach (and author of this obituary) was not amused. But they pulled themselves together and dropped just one more point at the two remaining ranges.

Chris also toured with LMRA to the West Indies and Australia, with an NRA Goodwill

Team to Zimbabwe and with an SERC team to Australia.

Chris was the main creator of the well-known garishly coloured SERC sweatshirts, still seen around Bisley today. They all had a humorous motto – normally in Latin – and sometimes a picture. The very first sweatshirt was grey with the Stock Exchange crest and motto '*Dictum Meum Pactum*' ('My word is my bond'). Chris changed the motto to '*Quantum ille cannis in fenestra est*' (the motto of St Custard's Skool, which translates as 'How much is that doggy in the window'). This somewhat typified Chris' attitude to authority. Next year's shirt had the motto 'The Stock Exchange Drinking Club Rifle Team' along with the motto '*Vera Illusio Funt Quam Vina Absentia Factant*' ('Life is just an illusion brought on by the absence of alcohol'). There were many others.

Chris had an underactive thyroid which meant that he easily fell asleep. This gave him a real problem with trains and he used to put a notice on his briefcase asking to be woken up at Wimbledon. As an example, one evening Chris rolled out rather late from the SERC shooting club premises at St Alphage House to find he had missed the last train home to Wimbledon.

The guard of the mail train took pity on Chris and made an unscheduled stop at a darkened Wimbledon station. Chris was so grateful that he put his hand in his pocket and handed over some 'folding paper' by way of a generous tip. It was only when he was a little clearer the following morning that Chris realised that the 'folding paper' he had handed over was the stubs of the raffle tickets he had been selling to raise money for club funds.



Chris always maintained his interest in zoology and he could often be seen with his head down the ditch behind the 400 yard firing point. He had planted a venus fly trap in this ditch and he took the opportunity to tend and nurture the plant whenever he could. His main love was frogs and all four sides of his coffin were painted with enormous frogs, which the family arranged to signify the fun that Chris engendered.

Chris was a great guy and a great supporter of his clubs and his friends. Chris was one of those rare breed of 'characters' that people loved to be with and who shared his passion for fun. Chris will be greatly missed by all his shooting colleagues.

CONTACT US

Send obituaries and other news items to Katia Malcaus Cooper at the NRA (media@nra.org.uk) or Colin Fallon at Future Publishing (colin.fallon@futurenet.com).

Or write to: NRA, Bisley, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB, or Future plc, 4 Jephson Court, Tancred Close, Leamington Spa CV31 3RZ.

We request that obituaries are kept to a length of 250 words with a suitable photo.

MIKE COUTTS

It is with great sadness that we have to inform members of the death of D.M.J. ('Mike') Coutts from cancer on Monday 16 January.

A member of the NRA for more than 40 years, Mike was a distinguished TR shot, particularly at a young age. He shot in his first HM Queen's Final in 1974, aged just 16 years 3 months, while still a pupil at Gresham's, and went on to gain 10 more HM Queen's final badges, as well as five Grand Aggregate crosses. An Atheling in 1975, he toured with the GB senior team three times, twice to Canada (1977 and 1983) and once to the West Indies (1986). He also shot twice for England in the National Match (1980 and 1991) and was a reserve for the 1983 England Mackinnon team.

A regular visitor to Bisley, he was a stalwart member of Norfolk County teams for many years, as well as both the North London Rifle Club and the Wandsworth Fullbore Rifle Club.

In recent years he bore his illness with great fortitude and little fuss, typical of his calm and thoughtful character.



MICHAEL BAILEY 26 August 1937 - 8 November 2016



Michael Bailey, known to all as Mike, was born in Ash, Surrey. He spent all but four years of his life living in Surrey. When he went to Farnham Grammar school he started in small-bore rifle shooting. He became Rifle Captain. He shot competitions and instructed other boys how to shoot. Subsequently he went to London University and did not shoot for a time.

In 1959 Mike did national service – obviously in Surrey – and did fullbore rifle shooting. In 1970 he returned to small-bore shooting and within six months he was a member of the winning Surrey team for the Queen Alexandra Trophy at Bisley. He was shooting at Bisley small-bore week at the same time. He continued shooting this every year, and at the Scottish small-bore week every year until 2012.

He enjoyed Bisley very much and had a caravan there, still there in fact, and besides being a life member of the NRSA and the NRA he shot less fullbore than small-bore. He became very involved in the Surrey Small-Bore Rifle Association being Rifle Captain, then Chairman, then President. He became ill in May 2016 and died in November 2016. He was buried in Ash and his wake was at the Old Sergeant's Mess.



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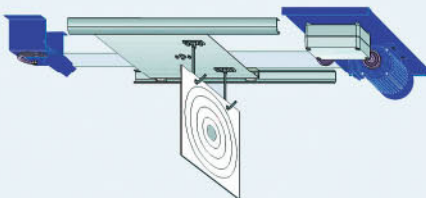
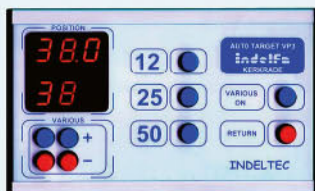
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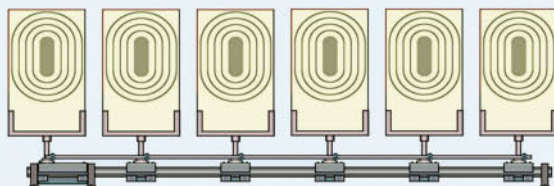
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Results

Target Shotgun Festival, 25 February

T&P1 Semi-auto

- 1 J Chambers 299.19
- 2 T Jemmett 297.10
- 3 M Leishmann 295.11

T&P1 Manual

- 1 J Chambers 297.13
- 2 R Sanders 295.14
- 3 S East 279.2

Multi-target Semi-auto

- 1 J Chambers 117.15
- 2 R Sanders 114.8
- 3 S Twoomey 112.8

Multi-Target Manual

- 1 R Sanders 112.8
- 2 J Chambers 109.11
- 3 S East 81.1

NRA Embassy Cup Semi-auto

- 1 J Chambers 120
- 2 P Matthews 118
- 3 T Jemmett 114

NRA Embassy Cup Manual

- 1 M LeRichie 72
- 2 R Breatly 70
- 3 R Breatly 60

NRA Shotgun League Round 1

Open

- 1 R Ingram 100.00
- 2 C Pope 89.92
- 3 M Humphreys 72.73

Standard

- 1 M Gustaffson 100.00
- 2 C Gamlin 95.21
- 3 B Ducker 87.21

Standard Manual

- 1 J Ellis 100.00
- 2 D Fung 89.39
- 3 C Keneally 88.47

NRA Shotgun League Round 2

Open

- 1 C Pope 100
- 2 B Pope 95.44
- 3 M Darby 95.38

Standard Auto

- 1 K Leppänen 100
- 2 J Axe 93.39
- 3 J Jennings 86.36

Standard Manual

- 1 I Guy 100
- 2 M Flatley 99.88
- 3 A Blower 89.85

NRA Handgun League Round 2

Long Barrel Pistol

Open

- 1 T Gardner 100
- 2 R Hicks 89.78
- 3 B Ducker 74.35

Long Barrel Revolver

Open

- 1 R Ingram 100
- 2 T Gardner 75.46
- 3 G Biddle 73.45

Long Barrel Pistol

Standard

- 1 J Harris 100
- 2 R Clifton 92.2
- 3 S Twomey 90.8

CSR Winter League 2016-2017 Final Standings

Historic

- 1 H Davies 993.48
- 2 J Foreman 837.79
- 3 T Stevens 351.45

Iron

- 1 D Cross 950.99
- 2 A Littler 873.71
- 3 W Daysh 479.88

Practical

- 1 J Morgan-Hosey 979.33
- 2 N St Aubyn 975.44
- 3 C Hudson 970.00

Service

- 1 P Cottrell 990.17
- 2 A Chapman 988.34
- 3 J Chambers 963.63

CSR Winter League, 4 March

RouPELL Match

Historic

- 1 H Davies 100.00
- 2 T Stevens 69.57
- 3 B Graham 34.78

Iron

- 1 A Littler 100.00
- 2 D Cross 82.61

Practical

- 1 O Larrue 100.00
- 2 J Morgan-Hosey 100.00
- 3 O Dunn 97.06

Service

- 1 P Cottrell 100.00
- 2 A Chapman 100.00
- 3 D Sanderson 91.89

Roberts Match

Historic

- 1 H Davies 100.00
- 2 T Stevens 88.89
- 3 B Graham 61.11

Iron

- 1 D Cross 100.00
- 2 A Littler 86.67

Practical

- 1 M Dougan 100.00
- 2 F Cooke 97.78
- 3 S Sheldon 97.78

Service

- 1 G Haywood 100.00
- 2 P Cottrell 95.52
- 3 R Wade 93.88

CSR Winter League Match, 2 April

Imperial Match Short Range

Historic

- 1 J Foreman 100
- 2 H Davies 92.31

Practical

- 1 C Hudson 100
- 2 J Morgan-Hosey 98.69
- 3 B McManus 96.07

Service

- 1 A Chapman 100
- 2 P Cottrell 98.31
- 3 R Morgan 97.88

Imperial Match Long Range

Historic

- 1 H Davies 100
- 2 J Foreman 46.15

Practical

- 1 J Morgan-Hosey 100
- 2 C Hudson 98.64
- 3 O Dunn 96.36

Service

- 1 P Cottrell 100
- 2 W Ellis 96.85
- 3 A Chapman 95.95

Historic Service Rifle Match, 1 April

Classic

- 1 I Dewey 182
- 2 J Morgan-Hosey 180





3 J Foreman 129

Veteran

1 O Dunn 215

2 W Ellis 212

3 C Ballard 196

Veteran Optic

1 I Grant 215

2 N Greenaway 212

3 R Wade 211

All-comers

1 D Cross 199

2 R Higgs 190

3 V Jary 188

NRA Small-bore Long Range Match, 23 April

MRSB

1 MJ Haselgrove 138.12

2 MR Townsend 136.12

3 RS Kenchington 134.9

TRSB

1 P Francis 131.7

2 FPR Northam 131.6

3 CA Painting 124.6

SRSB

1 SJ Isherwood 115.6

2 G Moffatt 108.2

3 J Selwyn-Smith 107.2

Spring Action Weekend

McQueen GRSB

1 C McMichael 50.7 (50.6)

2 C McGill 50.7 (50.4)

3 K Knight 50.7 (49.3)

McQueen

1 S Doyle 50.5

2= J Smith 50.4

2= P Green 50.4

2= A Wyspianski 50.4

McQueen Issued Rifle

1 C Shorthouse 50.7

2 K Knight 50.2

3= B McManus 50.0

3= C McGill 50.0

Embassy Cup Manual

1 J Chambers 119

2 J Harris 100

3 J Symes 97

Embassy Cup Semi-auto

1 J Chambers 119

2 J Harris 117

3 D Pollock 117

Speed Steel Challenge

GRSB

1 T Gardener 23.29

2 R Parkhouse 24.74

3 J Chambers 24.92

Derbyshire Challenge 2017

F-Class

1 D Raybould 222.17

2 R Jones 218.23

3 G Smeaton 217.17

Target Rifle

1 R Shouler 224.40

2 P Wright 224.24

3 S Maris 220.25

Notices

General Council Elections 2017

Voting slips have been posted out to all entitled Members. Voting slips in the correct envelope supplied must be received by the NRA office by mail or by hand, no later than 5pm on 13 July. All results will be confirmed at the General Council meeting in September.

Annual General Meeting

The 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 16 June at 6pm in the NRA Pavilion.

Bisley General Meeting

The 2017 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 July at 9pm in the NRA Pavilion.

TR & NRA Team Captains

Nominations are invited for Captains of the following teams:

- GB Kolapore Team 2018
- Under 25 GB Team Captain 2018
- NRA Team to Channel Islands 2019
- GB Rifle Team to Canada 2020

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Friday 6 October 2017. Nominations to be sent to: georgina.thatcher@nra.org.uk.

RCO Instruction Manual (Edition Seven)

Range Conducting Officers' Course Instruction Manual (Edition Seven) can be purchased by current, in-date NRA RCOs for £7.90 (+£1 postage). To order a manual please contact Training on 01483 797777 ext 149 or training@nra.org.uk.



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Tel: 01483 486500
Email: richard@williamevans.com
Website: www.williamevans.com



MESSAGE 10

Nick Tremlett talks to NRA Marketing & Communications Manager Katia Malcaus Cooper



How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I started shooting at school when I was 13 to get away from being pulverised on the rugby pitch. Being very weedy I was pushed back 6in on the firing point every time I fired a .303 but that didn't put me off!

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

There have been many and obviously winning the Queen's Prize was a dream come true, but in terms of being seared into my memory there are two. The first was dropping as many points in my first two shots of the 1992 Palma Match as the rest of the team put together. Secondly I knew, with five shots to go, I was leading the Queen's in 2009, and managed to hold it together to win. My answer to the next question may explain why that was so special!

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

Nerves. Until I shot in the 1992 Palma Match I had always had absolute confidence in my ability to shoot under pressure. I was so nervous in the Palma Match it took me by surprise and it was a long time before I learned how to perform despite being nervous.

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

Resigned tolerance! None of my family shoot and are rarely enticed to Bisley. Most of my friends come from shooting and that friendship is even more important to my enjoyment of the sport than taking part in competition.

What sort of music do you listen to?

An eclectic mix of rock, jazz and R&B.

What clubs are you a member of?

I am a member of several clubs, both at Bisley and elsewhere. The first club I joined was Windsor Rifle Club, in 1976, and I have been a member there ever since.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

From a shooting perspective that would have to be Andrew Tucker. In his day a superlative shot and competitor, but always self-effacing, insightful and willing to spend time helping you.

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

For its spectacular geography, wildlife and welcoming people it must be Nepal. Sadly there are no ranges there!

How have Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Bisley is unique and entering camp is always a special moment. It is such a privilege to shoot there, and going on tour just emphasises how lucky we are to have such an amazing facility. Keeping it in good order and serving the members' interests is certainly a big challenge for an often beleaguered NRA!

What do you like to do in your free time?

Spare time? Oh that! A bit sparse at the moment with a busy veterinary practice to run but tie designing and making, and cooking when I can.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

I am very careful what I eat on competition days and stick to decaf coffee. As I get older a warm-up before shooting is very beneficial. However the one thing I try to do before any big competition is tell myself to enjoy the moment. It is all too easy to get completely absorbed in trying to do well and forget to enjoy it. The more I'm aware of that, the more positive I feel and the better the memories. Post-competition routines vary depending on the result, and may involve over refreshment – of a non-medical kind!

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

It's a great sport for anyone irrespective of size or physical fitness, and friendships we make can last a lifetime – so the advice is do it!

So what next?

It has taken me a while to back in gear after the tour to South Africa so my immediate focus is preparing for the Imperial. However I am very fortunate to be involved with the next Palma team to New Zealand in 2019, for which training has already started. So no chance to rest on any laurels! ■

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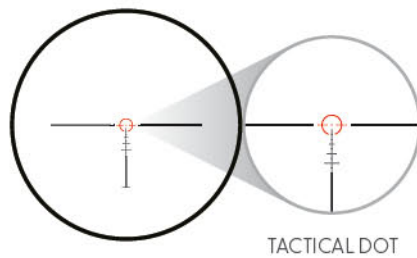


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