

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Autumn 2021 | Volume C No.3

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Imperial **MEETING**



**INTERCOUNTIES
REPORT** *P32*

**DISCIPLINE: 300M
REPORT** *P40*

**HAM & PETERSHAM
CLUB UPDATE** *P50*



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| .308 Win | 7.62 x 51 | 7.62 x 54 Russian |
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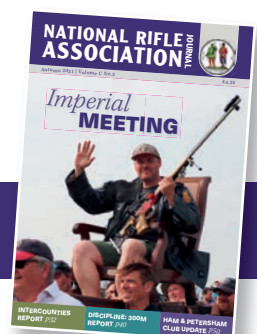
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A Challenging but Successful

IMPERIAL MEETING

NRA Secretary General, **Andrew Mercer**, opens the Autumn issue of the NRA Journal and reflects on events at the Imperial Meeting and beyond.



The 152nd Imperial Meeting was largely blessed by tropical weather and high standards of marksmanship. Entries were higher than expected which lead to some operational challenges, as stocks of ammunition and teams of markers required careful allocation. As expected, COVID-19 came calling to Bisley and our plans, to go home if you test positive or told to self-isolate, worked with the understanding and cooperation of those affected. My abiding memory of the Meeting was the good humour, common sense and enthusiasm of the shooters – they came to enjoy their shooting and test their skill in fierce but friendly competition.

Perhaps the most pleasing statistic was that 21% of Imperial competitors were under the age of 25. This belies suggestions that target shooting is becoming less attractive to the younger generation. With a fair wind the Under 25s have the prospect of 50 years of target shooting ahead of them, if the experiences G.H.H (Hugo) Brooke are anything to go by. Hugo has notched up 70 years of shooting at Bisley, starting in July 1951 as one of a cadet pair in the Ashburton, and continuing with the Blundell's Magpies in the Schools' Veterans match this year. We hope to see Hugo on the firing point for many years to come.

Two unexpected consequences of the pandemic have rather caught us on the hop. My cheery assumption that there would be large numbers of keen candidates to come and work at Bisley has proved woefully inaccurate;

we continue to wrestle with the challenge of filling a number of staff vacancies. Supplies of ammunition and components at affordable prices have also been hard to find; one major supplier is quoting a minimum 12-month lead time for deliveries. We have little choice but to try harder and be creative to address both issues.

We were delighted to welcome 12 Lords and six MPs to Bisley recently, and took the opportunity to brief them on our concerns about the Government's public consultation on banning the use of lead in ammunition. We recognise that the move away from shooting Game with lead in ammunition is already in hand, however, target shooting differs from quarry shooting as it mainly takes place on ranges and shooting grounds where the lead is controlled, contained and commonly recycled.

In practice there is no food or broader environmental issue with the use of lead ammunition in target shooting. Our Bisley ranges include a 3,000 acre SSSI, the area having been used for target shooting for over 130 years by the NRA and Army. We are, however, trialling lead-free ammunition at Bisley to support the stalking community who use our ranges for practice and zeroing.

News from the regions is increasingly positive as ranges re-open and clubs adapt to provide safe and enjoyable target shooting. Please support your local clubs and ranges, staying away reduces support at the very moment that they need it. 🍀

NEWS

REPORTS

 @NRAofUK
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  @NRAUK
  /UKNRA

ANTIQUES LEGISLATION

Regarding the short note on page 7 of the NRA Summer 2021 Journal the following clarification may assist collectors. There are seven revolvers coming off the Obsolete Cartridge List. They may be sold by the existing owner until the end of the transition period as Sect 58(2) and afterwards via an RFD if kept as Sect 7(1) on FAC The correct list is:

- 320 British (also known as .320 Revolver CF, short or long)
- .41 Colt (short or long)
- .44 Smith and Wesson Russian
- .442 Revolver (also known as .44 Webley)
- 9.4mm Dutch Revolver
- 10.6mm German Ordnance Revolver
- 11mm French Ordnance Revolver M1873 (Army)

GREAT BRITAIN MATCH RIFLE TEAM – WOOMERA MATCH, AUSTRALIA 2022

We are pleased to announce that the following have been selected for the Great Britain Match Rifle Team to compete in the Woomera Match in 2022, in Australia:

Team Captain Nick Tremlett

Vice Captain Derek Lowe

Adjutant Jon Sweet

Team Ashley Abrahams, John Lindsay, Gary Alexander, Angus McLeod, Mike Barlow, Julian Peck, Guy Blakeney, Martin Townsend, Alex Cargill Thompson, Sophie Wentges, Fiona Day, Si Whitby, Fergus Flanagan, Zoe Woodroffe, Mike Judge.

Reserves Mike Buchanan, Rosanne Furniss, Norman Clark, David Lindsay, David Dashwood, Iain Thomson, Charles Dickenson.

We are currently in the six month transition period, ending 21 September, during which these items move to Sect 5, prohibited status. However they may be retained if on a Firearm Certificate either as Sect 1 or as Sect 7(1). Most will qualify for Sect 7(1) being pre 1919. They may be sold by the existing owner as 58(2) until 21 September and if retained as Sect 7(1) they may continue to be sold through a Sect 5 RFD. Your application to add them to your existing FAC, or apply for an FAC, must be made prior to the 21 September. The new Statutory Instrument adds 23 (22 rifles and 1 pistol) to the List. They may now be kept as Sect 58(2) as a curio or ornament and without ammunition.

- .26 BSA (.26 Rimless Belted Nitro Express)
- .33 BSA (.33 Rimless Belted Nitro Express)
- .360 No 2 Nitro Express
- .40 BSA (.40 Rimless Belted Nitro Express)
- .400/360 2 ¼ in Nitro Express
- .425 Westley Richards Magnum
- .475 x 3 ¼ in Nitro Express
- .475 No 2 Jeffery Nitro Express
- .475 No 2 Nitro Express
- .476 Nitro Express (.476 Westley Richards)
- .50-90 2 ½ inch
- .50-110 2.4 inch
- .577 – 3 in (Black Powder & Nitro Express)
- .577 – 3 ¼ in (Black Powder & Nitro Express)
- 6.5x53mm R Mannlicher (Dutch/Romanian)
- 8 x 56mm Mannlicher Schoenauer
- 8x58 mm R Krag
- 8 mm Murata
- 9x56mm Mannlicher Schoenauer
- 9x57mm R Mauser
- 9x57mm Rimless Mauser
- 9.5x57mm Mannlicher Schoenauer
- 8mm Roth Steyr

The following link will take you to the relevant Home Office Circular which contains other relevant links.

tinyurl.com/2k6p5tsc

SHOOTING RESULTS FROM THE TOKYO OLYMPICS

WOMEN'S EVENTS

10 metre air rifle

Gold: YANG Qian (CHI)

Silver: Anastasiia Galashina (ROC)

Bronze: Nina Christen (SUI)

50m rifle three positions

Gold: Nina Christen (SUI)

Silver: Yulia Zykova (ROC)

Bronze: Yulia Karimova (ROC)

10m air pistol

Gold: Vitalina Batsarashkina (ROC)

Silver: Antoaneta Kostadinova (BUL)

Bronze: JIANG Ranxin (CHN)

25m pistol

Gold: Vitalina Batsarashkina (ROC)

Silver: KIM Minjung (KOR)

Bronze: XIAO Jiaruixuan (CHN)

MEN'S EVENTS

10m air pistol

Gold: Javad Foroughi (IRI)

Silver: Damir Mikec (SRB)

Bronze: PANG Wei (CHN)

25m rapid fire pistol

Gold: Jean Quiquampoix (FRA)

Silver: Leuris Pupo (CUB)

Bronze: LI Yuehong (CHN)

10m air rifle

Gold: William Shaner (USA)

Silver: SHENG Lihao (CHN)

Bronze: YANG Haoran (CHN)

50m rifle three positions

Gold: YANG Changhong (CHN)

Silver: Sergey Kamenskiy (ROC)

Bronze: Milenko Sebic (SRB)

MIXED TEAM EVENTS

10m air pistol

Gold: JIANG Ranxin/PANG Wei (CHN)

Silver: Vitalina Batsarashkina/Artem Chernousov (ROC)

Bronze: Olena Kostevych/Oleh Omelchuk (UKR)

10m air rifle

Gold: YANG Qian/YANG Haoran (CHN)

Silver: Mary Tucker/Lucas Kozeniesky (USA)

Bronze: Yulia Karimova/Sergey Kamenskiy (ROC)



The Government has announced that most legal restrictions to control the transmission of COVID-19 in England will be lifted on 19 July 2021. This includes social distancing and restrictions on the size of gatherings.

The Government has advised that individuals should still minimise the number, duration and proximity of social contacts. Government guidance is available at tinyurl.com/3574edv5. Clubs that operate an indoor range are encouraged to review the guidance which includes advice on the ventilation of indoor premises and measures to reduce the risk of transmission in poorly ventilated spaces.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has produced updated guidance on ventilation and air conditioning during the

COVID-19 pandemic.

The guidance includes advice on how to identify a poorly ventilated area and measures that may be used to improve ventilation. This information may be helpful to Clubs that operate premises that include an indoor range and associated facilities.

Details are available at tinyurl.com/kx9a6934

Clubs are encouraged to seek specialist advice from the contractor(s) responsible for the maintenance of indoor range ventilation systems. The CIBSE ventilation guidance for building operators is available at cibse.org/coronavirus-covid-19/emerging-from-lockdown

Clubs operating in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland should follow the advice provided by the Devolved Administrations.

GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Ordinary Members: GK Alexander, CM Brooks, FPR Northam, TG Rylands, R Sayer. **Regional Members:** PR Coley – South Western, RS Kenchington – West Midlands, GAE Larcombe – Southern, AN Gran – Greater London and South East, MP Watkins – Wales. **Shooting Discipline Members:** JS Harris – Target Shotgun, N St Aubyn – Civilian Service Rifle and Practical Rifle, S Wallis – Sporting Rifle.



ACCESS TO MOD RANGES IN THE UK

Recent changes announced by Government and the Devolved Administrations have prompted questions about Covid-19 Policy on MoD ranges in the UK.

We can confirm that there has been no change to Defence Policy and the supporting COVID-19 procedures for affiliated Clubs using MoD ranges. Club officials are reminded that range bookings should not exceed 30 people, members must comply with 2m social distancing rules and any local COVID-19 restrictions

set by MoD/DIO range safety staff.

Club officials responsible for MoD bookings are encouraged to check that all documentation is up to date including NRA affiliation, insurance, RCO qualifications and individual shooter competency cards.

All bookings must have a RASP and a Covid-19 Risk Assessment for the shooting activity. RCO's are reminded of the requirement to conduct a range recce prior to the booking.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Membership Renewals

2022 Individual Membership renewal reminders will be sent out by email by the end of September 2021. Online payments can be made from 1st October 2021. Direct Debit payments will be taken on Friday 10th December 2021.

Clubs, Schools and Association Renewals

2022 CSA renewal paperwork including SCC lists will be emailed to all secretaries by the end of September 2021.

2022 Range Bookings

We are currently in the early stages of planning the ranges for 2022. If you have any large bookings/competitions requirements (six targets or more, multiple days, 1200x shoots), please email Jodie. Gray-Piazza@nra.org.uk. She will issue you with a booking template you will be required to complete. Please note, while we appreciate the ongoing uncertainty, we do urge you to be as accurate as possible with your requirements. It may be that we commit you to what you request.

Team Captain Nominations Invited

Nominations are invited for the Captain of GB Kolapore Team Captain 2022. 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 Thursday 7 October 2021.

Nomination forms are available on the NRA website, or directly from Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk

Social Media

Follow our Social Media channels listed at the top of this article.



- IMPERIAL MEETING - QUEEN'S PRIZE WINNER

Imperial Meeting winner **Rick Shouler** reflects on his part in the Queen's Prize.

As I find myself reflecting on the Imperial Meeting it all seems a little surreal. I left Bisley with mixed feelings – on the one hand, I had without question my most successful meeting to date supported by my two eldest children, Sam and Alex, and my girlfriend Sarah. But on the other hand, I felt for my parents who were unable to join and could only share my celebrations from afar.

This year was the second year that the Queen's Prize was to be excluded from the Grand Aggregate and was instead a

stand-alone competition. I believe this new structure was largely due to COVID-19 restrictions, the same as last year in the Imperial, which was put on in such short notice by the NRA in September. On that note – thank you to the NRA for such an amazing effort in putting together a fantastic meeting in a ridiculously short period of time! A fantastic effort and I for one enjoyed it immensely. Personally, I do like Queen's I being part of the Grand Agg, but I do also believe that in order to realise progress you need to implement change.

Boy Slim managed third – not too shabby!

This year my Queen's I was frustrating. At 300 yards all was going well until my last to count. It was an unexplainable 6 o'clock shot – nearly a magpie. I have no idea why it decided to fly south, but these things happen. I remember 500 yards being a lesson in wind reading which resulted in a wide and squeaky 35.2 – strong winds for 500 yards but I think I saw more change than there really was.

During this time my two eldest boys were kindly delivered all the way from Nottingham by their mum so I loaded them into the car, turned up at 600 yards and gave them both a scope, ice cream and ear defenders. They really enjoyed watching and I wondered how long it would last before they got bored. I noticed that my pop-up trolley that I cart my kit around in suddenly became twice as heavy as it carried children's jumpers, hats, two extra scopes, food, sun cream, random sticks and 'treasure' they found – a theme that accompanied them whilst with me on the range. At 600 yards I had good rhythm, quick release and consistency – I scored a reasonable 104.13.

Above: HM Queen's Final Scoreboard.
Below: Rick with girlfriend Sarah and two Sons, Sam and Alex.

A SHAKY START

I started shooting the Imperial Meeting in 1993, and in recent years I have taken part in the X Class Fulton Pairs with Chris Watson as team 'Fat Boy Slim' and we were keen to win this year. That said, it would be remiss of me to say I didn't consider Queen's II of course, but Fat



“ I couldn't have been happier and it was one of the proudest moments of my shooting career.

Shortly after I grabbed a cool drink and headed back down to the 300 yards firing point for the National Match, now with a really heavy trolley.

I was pleased with my National performance of 105.16, albeit for reasons I cannot understand my seventh to count at all three ranges was a high bull. Strange. This however did make me focus on cheek pressure for the upcoming shoots. Match over, and a fantastic second victory for Wales. An amazing effort and well done!

After the shoot I was stopped by the Captain of the Kolpaore, James Watson, who advised I had made the team. I couldn't have been happier and it was one of the proudest moments of my shooting career. The illusive Kolapore had always evaded me. My boys and I decided we would go back to the caravan for a Netflix and pizza to celebrate.

WAR OF THE WIND

The following morning, I was mentally prepared and fully focussed on firing fantastic shots. I really enjoyed the experience and put in a 149.14. I was happy with my performance but didn't really have much time to take in the win.

Queen's II was interesting – someone turned the wind on and it was very different to that we had seen all week. Coming from the right hand side of the range, it meant that my squadding looked like a great line up – 300 yards starting on the left of the range and moving to range 18 at 600 yards. Sometimes a little bit of lady luck can go a long way.

There was a strong wind at 300 yards, but I think I was making a meal of it with the wind changes. It was a lovely flat shoot that spanned the full width of the bullseye for a 50.5. This didn't help at 500 yards with stronger and more variable winds, but I managed to keep it together for 49.5,

losing one out left for first to count. It was a similar story at 600 yards. I made a schoolboy error and wound myself out on a change that wasn't there for a 49.7. It was a much more reassuring shoot though and down to the score boards to see what the cut was... 144.16 – wow! I realised I wasn't looking too bad going into Queen's III but with the only 150 on the range, a well-deserved SM for Rosanne Furniss – amazing shoot! My boys were thrilled.

“Daddy are you going to win tomorrow?”. I explained that they shouldn't get their hopes up as I was a way down the pile and I would need to likely go clean, which I've never managed to do in the Queen's Final. A nagging doubt entered my mind – I have led or been close to leading the Queen's on two occasions going back into 1,000 yards, and then it has fallen apart. I just wanted a strong 1,000 yards this time, to leave the range proud that I gave it my best.

ENJOYING MYSELF

Due to Sam and Alex coming all that way to spend time with me at Bisley, I decided not to do the parting shot with Scoregasm for the first time in years. We had a lie in and a very relaxing morning and then Sarah joined me for the second weekend.

Arriving on Stickleford for Queen's III we were greeted by

wet, grey, miserable weather. I loaded up the trolley with my kit which was getting heavier and heavier whilst my children seemed to carry less and less. I had asked Rosalind Wiltshire if she would be happy to mark for me in the final and was delighted when she agreed. She was fantastic and managed to get me organised which is no mean feat.

I had the pleasure of shooting with Nick Mace and we didn't hang around, having done a post-shoot analysis I realised I was probably a little too eager to get the shots away and could afford a little more time at 1,000 yards. Not displeased with my shoot, I dressed back to 1,000 yards with focus and determination for a personal best.

TIME FOR A BREAK

At 1,000 yards I parked my kit somewhere on Range 3, as my middle son Alex and I left at a reasonable pace to go for a comfort break. Having seen the scoreboard before we started walking, I knew that Rosanne was still points ahead and many others were sitting ahead with buckets full of V's.

I had resigned myself to the fact that the pressure was off, and I could just enjoy myself. Alex asked me if I could win from here and I told him that it was highly unlikely. He then went into this full-on movie style coach pep talk. An eight-year-old telling me not to give up, maintain focus, stop dwelling on the can't and focus on the can – and go and win. I thought he was very sweet but it made little impact to my mindset – I was just too far behind and just wanted to enjoy myself.

“Five minutes to message one” – I let out a quiet expletive and then got all the kids ▶



Left: Rick with a glass (or two!) of champagne. **Below:** Rick receiving his NRA Bisley 2021 badge.



to grab all the kit and follow me to the firing point – target 47. There I was greeted by my great friend Chris Weeden. “Relax Rick there is plenty of time” he said, as I was putting my kit on the firing point with less than two minutes to go.

Chris fired quickly and my first shot followed shortly afterwards. I had no idea what to call on the wind but got a bullseye outright. Up a quarter and left a half and go again. V – that will do. At this stage a certain phrase along the lines of ‘don’t mess this up’ kept running through my mind – not in terms of winning but just having a strong 1,000 yards and a fun day. With little discernible changes on the flags but significant movement on the targets, I decided to abandon elevation and wind chart and spend my time looking at the wind and down my scope.

I started to spot trends and made the corrections, some a little brazen and gutsy. By the fifth shot in, I was completely in the zone. I am sure readers will understand when I say that there are some shoots that just flow and seem effortless as you are in the zone. Unconscious competence. I was very happy with 150.18.

UNCONSCIOUS COMPETENCE

In the process of starting to gather kit I took a quick glance at the board. I didn’t see names but

simply looked for numbers. I simply saw three, three, two, three, three. Mmm... whoever got two has done well, who was that? I panned my head and saw my name. I looked away and grabbed some kit, paused, and did a double take to properly examine the board. Wait a minute...

I turned to a small crowd and looked at Sarah and the boys and I pointed to myself and mouthed ‘is it me’ and everyone cheered.

Initially, I thought it was wrong and someone has messed up somewhere, but it slowly started to dawn on me what had happened. I was so unprepared for it and wasn’t sure what to do, and I just started trying to put kit away, quickly realising that would have to wait. It was lovely to see a crowd of so many friends around me and then I turned

to Ros who was crying waterfalls and gave her a huge hug. I just about managed to hold it together.

The loveliest moment though was seeing how proud and excited my boys and Sarah were. The brightness in their eyes and huge smiles is something I won’t ever forget.

The next 30 minutes or so was a blur of adrenaline and excitement. I went up to receive my badge where I was greeted by a hugely emotional Tony Clayton who also received a bear hug. Again, I struggled to keep it together but somehow managed.

Note – all hugs were of course at least two meters apart!

“ Seeing how proud and excited my boys and Sarah were. The brightness in their eyes and huge smiles is something I won’t ever forget.

I met Mr Roger Hancox, a recently retired Birmingham Proof Master, on the stage who kindly congratulated me and we exchanged pleasantries. Then the only thought that ran through my mind as I exited the stage was ‘please don’t fall down the stairs!’

TAKING THE CHAIR

I was escorted to the chair and was met by my closest friends, which was extra special as they were willing to brave what was to be arguably the heaviest Queen’s Prize Chair in years! This was clear on the first lift as the starboard side clearly hadn’t anticipated just how much ballast they were lifting.

Glyn Barnett gave me some advice just after I finished which was to make sure I look around and take it all in. It is easy to let it all pass you by. It was great advice, and it was amazing to see so many of my friends and happy faces waving and cheering.

So for those of you who are unaware of the final destination of the chair before the prize giving it is to pull into the NRA, swap chairs to the celebration chair and traditionally sign a book that holds all the signatures of the Queen’s Prize winners. When signing

it, to say I was nervous was an understatement, but the glass or two of champagne was most welcome!

I would like to thank everyone who joined me for the prize giving and evening celebrations afterwards, and apologise to those I hadn’t managed to speak to.

The evening for me was rounded off perfectly when we arrived at the Old Sergeants Mess and my brother appeared from under a canopy – a special journey he had taken from Nottingham to be with me on this special occasion. Again, close to tears I was delighted to see him. What a day! Bisley 2021 – you were awesome. 😊



MCQUEEN TARGETS

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- IMPERIAL MEETING - THE QUEEN'S FINAL 2021

Alun Lewis reports on the Queen's Final 2021.

A sprightly 152-year-old Queen's Prize reminded us all just how unpredictable and exciting shooting can be, despite having been around longer than all of us. A new champion, some extreme performances, jubilation and heartbreak in equal measures. The weather kept us all guessing to the last minute, the qualifying and subsequent final showdown did likewise – the word tense hardly does it justice. There were surprises aplenty at every stage, of not only the Queen's, but also the multitude of other competitions that were held this year across the four weeks that is the Imperial Meeting.

Of course the days leading up to the final are always used as an indicator of potential winners and there were some remarkable performances all round. New records were being

set and faces both new and old were reveling in a hot and sunny Bisley, until the last two days when everything was turned on its head.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

Starting from the beginning, the whole NRA team did a fantastic job holding the event, with the ever-changing challenge that is the COVID-19 pandemic making sure that the team worked even more overtime than usual.

In the blisteringly hot weather of the first and most of the second week, the breeze stayed more or less

constant for most days. The challenge was that of mirage, and the discomfort of just lying there in the blaze of the sun. However, it soon became apparent that some of the

familiar names were on fire, although not literally, thank heavens!

It started with the Schools' Veterans Glyn Barnett, David Calvert and Matt Millar tying with

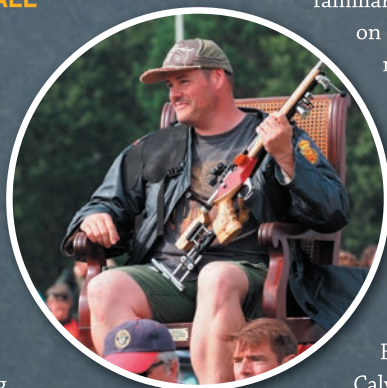
50.9s, and the possibles and high V counts kept coming. The Alexandra on the first Sunday saw a tie between Matt Millar and Christine Cuming on 50.10.

But the eagle-eyed Queen's predictors started to notice

that a certain past winner, Parag Patel, was starting to accumulate a lot of high scores.

He won Daily Telegraph 75.13 and 25.4 in the subsequent tie breaker with David Rose, and The Brigadier Aggregate of Hutton, Duke of Cambridge and Conan Doyle with 150.24.

He was followed by his old sparring partner Glyn Barnett who was only four Vs behind. A special mention here for seventh placed Dr Gale Stewart from Canada. A regular in normal times, but an irregular this year. Not only braving the flight over from Canada but also self-isolating in the Canadian Pavilion before the competition started, and presumably having to do the same before flying home. The rest of the International shooters came from expats living in the UK, which at a



Above inset: Rick Shouler taking in his win.
Below: Competitors line up in hope.



stretch allowed the organisers to claim that there were 20 countries represented.

The Wimbledon threw up some other notables with Jon Underwood, Rick Shouler and David Calvert tying on 75.14.

Then came the St George's first stage on Tuesday, with 625 entrants. Leading the ranking was Parag Patel with 75.15. This was followed the next day when the 200 shot the second round in 250 C, no cloud and a four mile per hour wind. Once again Patel topped the ranks with 150.27, pipping David Luckman by a V and Matthew Ensor and Hannah Pugsley by a couple of Vs. Winning both the first rounds of the St George's was topped when Parag won the third round with another clean score. We believe that this is the first time that all three rounds have been won by the same competitor.

More was to come as the same person won the Grand Aggregate as well with a record score! The St George's and the Grand Aggregate has never been won by the same person in the same year, so come the second Thursday of the meeting and guess who was odds on favourite for the Queen's Prize? If he could lift the Queen's that would also, of course, be the first time anyone had won all three – a very grand slam.

AN UNEXPECTED TURN

Queen's One was shot in the morning and early afternoon in similar conditions to the preceding days, and left us with Barnett and Patel along with Ringer, Curtis, Luckman and 29 other well-known

names all going clean with varying V counts. So the 613 hopefuls had become the 200. Heading into the Friday of the competition and the wind decided to cool the competitors by getting up to 12mph over the right shoulder on Century range. It was not a steady wind. Not that it seemed to worry Rosanne Furniss who topped the score sheet with an impressive 150.21. Major Nick Healy and Henryk Golaszewski, along with Jon Underwood were just one point behind. Others struggled, David

“ All had been in the frame for victory but as the scores from round two are carried forward, things had suddenly taken an unexpected turn.

Luckman for instance had dropped two along with Rick Shouler and Matt Millar. All had been in the frame for victory but as the scores from round two are carried forward, things had suddenly taken an unexpected turn. Patel and Calvert were

three points adrift.

A special mention at this point to Max Gerhardt and Tom Kidner, who at 17 and 73 respectively, were the oldest and youngest competitors to make the legendary Queen's 100. There were quite a few first timers in there as well, and most gratifying was the number of youngsters. Overall about a third of the competitors were Under 25, which is very pleasing.

BUILDING PRESSURE

The pressure was now on. Both on the expected high achievers and also on the newer names featuring. The weather forecast, for Saturday afternoon was looking grim and for those of us covering the final on the NRA's live Facebook stream, things looked bad enough ▶



Above: Queen's Final Firing Point. **Below:** Third place Rosanne Furniss and Second place David Luckman. **Bottom:** Shooting in some wet and windy weather conditions!



with thunder showers promised all afternoon. However, come the time for the start of shooting at 2:30pm on Saturday the gentle rain, with not a hint of thunder or lightning, had eased and the targets were visible but not that clear. After a few minutes the sun started to break through and it was only the slightly variable wind that offered a challenge.

High scores were expected and that's what we got.

After the 900 yard shoot was completed we had Furniss still topping the leader board having now only dropped one point overall and with a dizzying V count of 31 out of 45 shots. But the likes of David Luckman, a two times winner and current champion, and Jon Underwood had closed to within a point. While Rick Shouler and Chris

Weedon were just another point back, Glyn Barnett and Parag Patel (both previous winners) had also closed the gap to three points and were now just in contention with the last 15 shots at 1,000 yards to go.

CROWNING THE WINNER

So with the wind continuing to fluctuate it did seem as if we might be in for a cliff hanger which is what happened. Sadly for all those who wanted to see the third female winner of the Queen's, Rosanne Furniss, shooting right up on target 50, dropped two points on the last shoot. She was just edged into third place by David Luckman, who also

dropped three overall, but just had two more Vs. Still, 297.39 is an extremely good score however Rick Shouler, who started two points off the lead in the final,

held his nerve and went clean with 150.18 to take the ultimate prize with an overall 298.35.

The large crowd who were following proceedings on the range and those who had tuned in to the live video stream

had been treated to a thrilling final. The prize presentation, the chairing and brass band plus the traditional cheering for the winner, the butt markers, and the hard working RAF and Cambridge University scorers, all went off as usual.

“now we had a new name to add to the rollcall of honour of the Queen's final.”

So now we had a new name to add to the rollcall of honour of the Queen's final. Rick Shouler of the Surrey RA also handed Gemini Rifles its first ever win. Records were broken and the competition is as healthy and sprightly as ever. Congratulations to everyone who made it to the meeting let alone those who made it onto the firing points of Stickledown on Saturday afternoon.

So roll on 2022 when we hope to have our overseas friends back at Bisley, and I am sure that all of the younger competitors, and the Seniors too, will be returning to pit their skills against the sun, the wind, and the weather as well as each other. ☺

Below: Queen's Prize winner Rick Shouler after his win.



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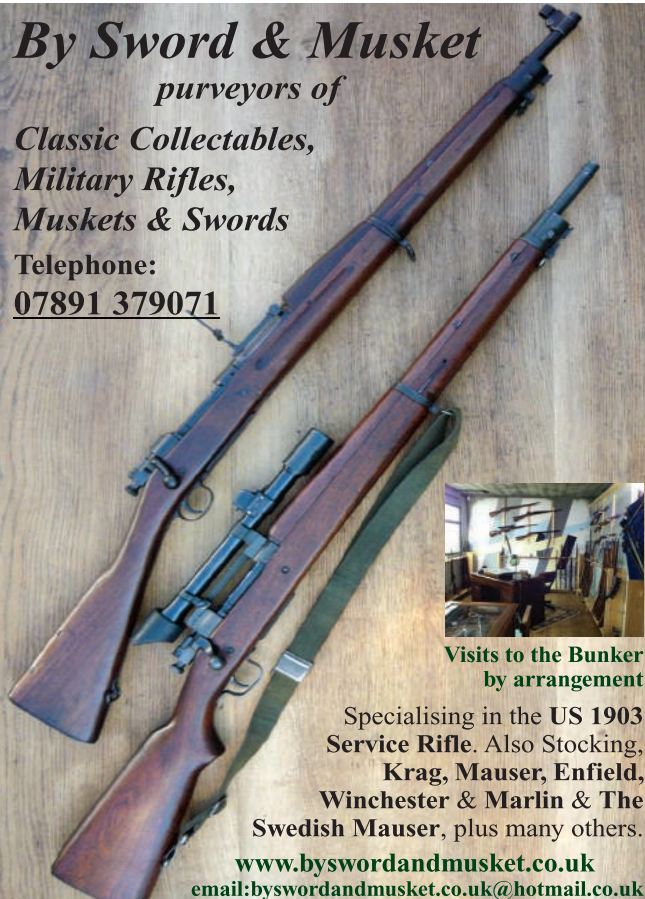

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- IMPERIAL MEETING - TARGET RIFLE

Adam Leech reports on the 2021 Imperial Meeting.

With the disturbance that 2020 brought now behind us, the Imperial Meeting returned to its normal July spot. As the MR meeting closed on 'First Thursday' with the Humphry and 1200x Any Rifle, the Opening Shot did just that for the Target Rifle event, just slightly further forward at 900 and 1,000 yards. Scoregasm came first by a clear, and rather precise, three points from the Army on 586 (ex600), with both on 59 Vs apiece. Closer to the target was the Public Schools Veterans at 500 yards, with home advantage seeing the Old Guildfordians take the trophy on 746.13 overall, second place was the Old

Above: GB Match winning team Kolapore.
Below: National team winners Wales.



Epsomians taking a moral victory recording one of only two clean targets for the highest target score of 250.40.

The first full day of Target Rifle kicked off with the Astor final, an 8am start giving a rather stark reminder of what first detail of the day feels like. A total of 19 counties were represented by the teams from their local heats and with strong scores across the board, the Old Epsomians clearly made the most of the previous day's practice to take the trophy on 623.83 (ex630.126). Others joined in as the warm-up matches kicked off with the Century at 500 and 600 yards and the Admiral Hutton at 900.

The long-range challenges of the Hutton saw only 26 50s, lead by Jeremy Tuck on the only near-perfect nine, and while more 50s overall were seen at short range in the Century, only four managed to do the double at 500 and 600 for a top score of 100, led by Jeremy Thompson with 13 Vs, two clear of his closest challenger.

SATURDAY

Saturday saw competitors thrown straight into the Grand Aggregate, with the 2020 format tested again meaning all Saturday shoots were now included. Starting at 300 yards in the Donegall, making it count

included a pair of 50.9s, courtesy of the well-established Toby Raincock and relative newcomer Cdt LCpl James Burch. There was a tie shoot for the title. Falling back to 500 yards for the Daily Mail, the extra five shots challenged many but a few were undeterred, with forty four 75s on the price list and again, a two-way tie for first place between Parag Patel and David Rose, each only two off the perfect score on 75.13. At long range, the Conan Doyle at 900 yards saw a further 44 possibles, ranging from three Vs up to nine for the top six. Yet another tie shoot!

SUNDAY

Sunday completed a full weekend of shooting and sunshine. Once again, a standard 2+10 at long range on Stickle-down, with another at short range and the usual 2+15 at 500 yards that the opening days of the Grand see.

At this point the temperature was knocking on for 30 degrees, with plenty of competitors questioning why they chose a sport than involves wearing extra layers of heavy clothing in July!

For those who managed to get both their zeroes and calls correct, nothing short of a 50.6 in the Alexandra would get you in the

top 50 of the prize list, in fact nothing sub 50 of any kind would get you above 69th. Tighter at the top, 50.10 was guaranteed to at least get you second place, with a brace of them for Matt Millar and Christina Cuming seeing them tie for the top spot.

By the afternoon, with five extra shots and increasingly challenging conditions to test firers further, 75-point possibles were indeed still possible, albeit less frequent. Starting with six Vs were two of these, one impressively delivered by top Tyro Natasha Murrin in 46th place. Towards the top a true clean slate was clearly hard work, with the top six places tying on 75.12. The day's long range contribution was the Duke of Cambridge, shot from 900 yards. Once again possibles existed with a range of Vs, from Roger Ellis' three, to the four of top Tyro (Jersey's Cdt Chambers) and the sole near-perfect nine of Parag Patel, to take the match outright with no tie shoot, an unusual turn of events this Meeting.

MONDAY

After three days of gentle long range softening up at 900 yards, Monday brought 1,000 yards in the looming shape of The Corporation. Once the only 1,000yd shoot of the Grand and now made no less infamous, or often infuriating, by the recent inclusion of The Lovell, 'The Corp' still holds a certain, ahem, charm, and not always of the lucky variety. Quite what happens in those extra 100 yards where the Corp is involved is anyone's guess, but suffice to say that where a sea of 50s is commonly seen in other shoots nowadays, the tide clearly went out at 1,000 yards leaving more of a small pool of only 18 possibles.

Rising to the surface was Keith Pugh with a tidy eight Vs and the only one of its kind. 50.7s followed but of note was the top 50.6 from Cdt Orr of the British Cadet Rifle Team, sitting in a highly respectable sixth place. Matters were a little different

Above: Opening Shoot.
Below: A different kind of Welsh supporter!



“ Those extra five shots made a subtle difference to results and top place could be achieved by dropping a V

at the other extreme of distance and at 300 yards in the Times, even the lowest 50s wouldn't get you at or above that position.

The days of a perfect 50.10 to win are back, albeit only one of this occasion and delivered by John Warburton, followed by a string of 50.9s selecting their position on the list by countback. Cdt Caldwell, a BCRT compatriot of the Corp's top Tyro, took the equivalent place having selected fourth place as being adequate.

In the afternoon, short range doubled to 600 yards with the Wimbledon TR, now with 15 shots to count. Those extra five shots made a subtle difference to results and top place could be achieved by dropping a V into the tramlines for a bull five, the result of which was a three-way tie on 75.14 between Jon Underwood, Rick Shoulder and David Calvert. Again the BCRT evidenced their strength, top Tyro being another of their number as Cdt Thompson went clean with nine Vs for 30th place.

TUESDAY

Tuesday both closed off The Grand and opened St George's. Always an unforgiving shoot, the first stage is 15 shots at 300 yards for a highest possible score of 75.15 with only one seen across the entire competition, delivered perhaps unsurprisingly by 50% of the English Commonwealth pair Parag Patel. 75s of one kind or another made up the top 43 but to make the top 200 for the second stage required a 73.7 with a V-heavy finish on countback. The last of those to deliver this was Cdt Cpl Wilkinson, this time not of BCRT but RGS Guildford. He and those above him now have a busier Wednesday lined up, with the second stage taking place

the following morning. Post-lunch, short range again doubled to 600 yards for the ever-traditional Prince of Wales to close the Grand. The sneaky winds that caught so many at 1,000 yards took full effect here too, with the last Tyro on the list being Julius Kahtava of Wellington College squeezing onto the list with a 71.6.

At the other end, only 16 75s were recorded, three of them with 13 Vs, meaning a tie-shoot between WO1 Davies, Chris Watson and Steven Thomas was due.

At long range the newly-included Lovell filled the day. Only 15 50s existed and within a further 50 places a 48 would see you on the prize list, dipping as low as 46.3 for the last Tyro in. Top Tyro was impressively at the far end of the scale, Cdt Steward, once again of the BCRT, drew with Jack Keates, John Bellringer, Theo Dodds and Jeremy Tuck on a 50.7s.

WEDNESDAY

The day comprised of nearly 100 shots under a mix of team and individual conditions. Starting at short range, the Inter-Services and Counties team matches kicked off first thing. Given the early 8:30am start at 500 yards, dropping any points at all in the Counties match was falling behind the pace. Surrey went clean on 400.68 and even second and third place Kent and Norfolk were only a point behind that.

Nextdoor for the Inter-Services, an even larger 12-firer team from the Army dropped only six points, giving them a comfortable lead over the RAF as the team fell back to 600 yards. Surrey managed to let one shot slip out for a 399.127, keeping them just ahead of Kent on 797.119 and Norfolk on 797.115, making a record ►

match score in the process. The Army continued their winning streak, a 590.80 giving 1184.158 and total victory against the RAF's 1155.107.

Attention then turned to individual matches and the second stage of The St George's started shortly after. Scores were high and a familiar duo of Parag Patel and David Luckman finished first and second just before lunch, both on perfect 150s separated by a single V, with 27 playing 26.

With the second stage scores carrying forwards, competitors started from a strong position of a 75 and healthy V count. As always long range offered up its own challenges, including more interesting wind conditions as the day heated up. This time there were fewer 75s, meaning that only second stage winner Patel recorded a perfect 150 (24V) for victory. The podium was otherwise occupied by a strong Welsh performance,

from Henryk Golaszewski on 149.21 and Chris Watson trailing by a single V.

As if that wasn't enough, Counties Long Range followed and another 20 shots to count for teams of six firers.

Surrey dominated, taking the match with 588.79 and in doing so, the Victor Ludorum aggregate (1387.20+6) on their own kind of three for two offer. Kent were clearly having

a good day, once again placing second and Berkshire seriously upped their game, finishing third on 585.77 after their 11th place short range. The Inter-Services match saw the Army maintain form, taking the long range match vs the RAF.

For those who felt that both they and their barrel had far too much life left in them, the Donaldson Memorial closed the day at 1,000 yards. O Class' Annabel Morriss of Bradfield College recorded one of only seven 75s, but with 12 Vs edging

ahead of Nick Tremlett who took second place with 11. Chris Watson and Nick Mace drew exactly with him on score, but on countback took third and fourth respectively.

THURSDAY

The Queen's Prize started things off – 35s were plentiful at 300 yards.

500 and 600 yards amplified this, with an increasing number of

shooters comparing their current drop to the various predictions of the cut for the second stage. To cut through a lot of science, statistics, gut instinct or whatever, the answer was 102.10, fortunate for ten firers who made it through with just that. At the other end of the scale a 105.19 was required to take the bronze medal, though even then a tie shoot between medical marksmen Parag Patel and Glyn Barnett was required, both going clean on 25 but with Parag taking it by three Vs to Glyn's one.

With a full set of short range elevations confirmed for the day, the National and Overseas matches commenced in the late

afternoon. Wales dominated 300 yards with only seven points dropped from a team of 20 firers, and everyone else had some serious ground to make up with England's 681.91 being the next closest. 500 yards saw the gap close from 12 points to nine as England's 690.92 clawed back whilst Wales dipped to a 687.78. Ireland bolstered their close lead on Scotland as the battle for the podium places commenced.

By 600 yards England's were at 694.105, the best on the range, but Scotland also showed strong form on a 693.81. The latter effort turned the tables seeing Scotland take third on 2059.230 against Ireland's 2056.269 but the former did not. Despite England's sprint-finish, Wales were two steps ahead and their early lead allowed then to jog over the line, another 687 at 600 giving them 2067.249 against England's 2065.288 and the National for the second time in the match's history.

OVERSEAS

Alongside the National, the Overseas shot the same course of fire just with more moderately sized teams of 12. Against considerable opposition, Jersey took an early lead on 400.38 and extended this at 500 and 600 yards with ever-increasing scores to take the match on 1222.122. The victorious team were absolutely elated at their strong performance against extensive competition, consisting of no fewer opposition teams than Guernsey.

Yup, sadly after last year, international travel is still not yet a thing. Apparently inter-insular rivalry is, though...

FRIDAY

Friday was again dominated by short range, with only the additional Barlow, Stickle-down and Queen's consolation shoots. The main stage was definitely Century, and the leading roles were the Kolopore and Queen's II.

The big one is without doubt the Kolopore, though as noted above, opposition this year was thin on the ground with the only stand against a strong GB side being Guernsey and Jersey. The result was perhaps unsurprising, though the number of young, new caps in both island sides bodes well for the future of their international level performances and for the sport as a whole. At 300 yards GB set an early lead on 399.50, though Guernsey started at a not-unrecoverable 391.36.

“ To cut through a lot of science, statistics, gut instinct or whatever, the answer was 102.10, fortunate for ten firers who made it through with just that. ”



Left: Queens II Stage Winner Rosanne Furniss. Below: Junior Overseas match.



Right: National Trophy Team winners, Wales.
Below right: Some of the trophies for prize winners.

Clearly motivated to address yesterday's little issue of Jersey and the Overseas, the latter being slower out of the block on a 387.28. 500 yards saw GB dip, but very marginally as they recorded a tidy 398.54. Jersey pulled back a point on Guernsey with 390.37, the latter recording a 389.54.

At 600 yards things started getting much harder to read. GB's victory was already in the bag, but not before losing more points there than at the other two ranges combined, returning a 394 and a considerable dip in V count on 37 for a 1191.141 finish. Guernsey's 380.26 extended their lead as a result of Jersey's 369.21, giving 1160.102 against 1146.86

Alongside, the UK Armed Forces match saw England and Scotland take on the military. 300 yards set the trend for the match with England putting up 588.72 against UKAF's 586.66, and Scotland's 573.60. Clearly warmed up, 500 saw both England and UKAF build on these



Chancellors, Oxford took a tight early lead on 384.40 against Cambridge's 380.39.

All to play for at 600 yards as Oxford's steady performance saw another 384.33, but conditions got the better of Cambridge as they dipped at the last moment to a 377.34, taking second with 1141.116 to Oxford's 1149.112. In the annual Commons vs Lords Vizianagram match, the

England took a strong early lead, only dropping two points at 900 for a 598.84. Ireland followed on 590.73, with Scotland and Wales trading blows

on Vs alone, a pair of 587s with 79V for the former and 57 for the latter. Guernsey maintained Kolopore momentum against Jersey, falling back fifth on 585.67 vs 580.56 from Jersey.

At 1,000 yards Scotland were at the top with 582.58. Ireland's 579.63 saw them finish third on 1169.136, only a single V behind Scotland. As you may have guessed from those placings, England's early lead was unassailable and a 581.59 sealed victory on 1179.143. Wales kept home nations scoring at 1,000 tight with a 576.56 and Guernsey close behind that on 574.56, sealing their early lead against Jersey.

Universities Long Range again saw a promising nine teams. Oxford led by example from 900 yards, coached to a 197.26 by recent alumnus Bruce Winney. Falling back to 1,000, Imperial College were a close second on 195.17 and Exeter an equally close third on 193.20. Both Oxford and Imperial College dipped to 186.13 and 187.18 respectively, Exeter maintained consistency with a 192.15, leapfrogging both Oxford and Imperial to take the match on 385.35. Oxford dipped by a point against Imperial but a two-point head start secured second, 186.13 and 187.18 respectively giving final results of 383.39 and 382.35. 🌀



“ Oxford led by example from 900 yards, coached to a 197.26 by recent alumnus Bruce Winney.

performances, still running close with 593.70 and 591.71. Scotland took an unfortunate dip to 566.44 but clearly undeterred, showed strength at 600 as they came back hard with their highest range score of the match on 574.51. Though close to UKAF's 576.61 it was never going to be close enough, especially with England extending their lead with a 581.57 to take the match on 1762.199.

UNIVERSITIES

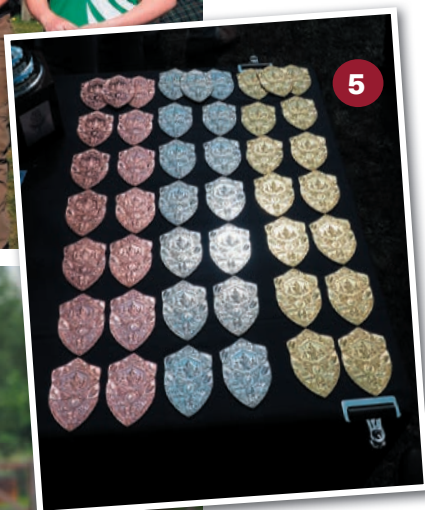
Seven Universities turned out eight teams for a mix of the Chancellors (Oxbridge) and the Musketeers. Again 300 yards was an early indicator, Southampton putting in a 191.15 whilst the others dipped to a 189 (Exeter A) or below. 500 yards was tighter and another 191.15 for Southampton was bettered by Exeter A's 191.19, and again by Durham's 194.20. The pressure was on for 600 with Durham now chasing and only by one point. Coming down to the wire both leading teams managed a 188, Southampton's 17 Vs being a moral victory of Durham's 16. Early contenders Exeter A stayed firm for third on 566.45. In the

House of Commons took it with 859.50.

Queen's II in the afternoon ensured that the morning's high-performers were kept busy again. The tough conditions seen at 600 yards continued, and along with the extended course of fire of 2+10, saw the range of scores start to spread by the time 300 was complete. Scores at 500 were notably up, proving that a combination of the tighter 300 yards target and the prevailing conditions made for a particularly tough start. 600 was therefore likely to be the decider and it certainly decided the recipient of the silver medal for top spot in the second stage. One of few people to have a perfect score so far, Rosanne Furniss went one better with an impressive 50.7 giving the only 150 on the range with 21 Vs, sending her into the final with a single point head start on anyone else.

SATURDAY

Where short range had dominated for two days, long range was now king with the Mackinnon taking centre stage. Contested by the four home nations individually increased the number of teams to six.



IMPERIAL MEETING

MATCH RIFLE

Report by **Thomas Nightingale.**

This year was largely a return to normal for the Hopton – it was back in July, with an Elcho, and Rob Lygoe winning most of the prizes. The first competitions on Saturday set the scene for much of the week, with very gentle winds. While there were enough changes to keep the less experienced on their toes, Tyros could breathe a sigh of relief that there was little risk of being blown off the target entirely.

For the more experienced shots, light winds were an opportunity for high scores and by the end of Saturday, Rob Lygoe and Julian Peck were both only one point off, with others following hot on their heels.

Sunday saw Rob and Alex Cargill Thompson scoring 100s at 1,200 yards – only the 23rd and 24th time this has ever been done. This forced a tie shoot, which was a real surprise after such a high score.

In Monday's Edge, shot at 1,100 and 1,200 yards, Alex Cargill Thompson and Fiona Day both managed the remarkable feat of 200ex200, a score not achieved in this competition at any point in the last 15 years.

Tuesday brought the Albert, the last competition of the Hopton. With no sighters at any distance this can upset even the most experienced shooters and throw the leaderboard into turmoil.

This year, though, that wasn't to be: Rob Lygoe's performance was enough to retain his position at the top of the Hopton leaderboard, with a record score no less. Indeed, the top three in the Hopton all beat Nick Tremlett's previous record of 1,009. Rob's dominant performance across the week gave him a final score of 1017.160, followed by Alex Cargill Thompson on 1014.148 and Nick Tremlett on 1,012.137. Fiona Day was the top lady with 1,000.113, while Kim Lindsay

“The Earl of Wemyss and March was in attendance to award prizes, though continued COVID restrictions meant he could only nod nobly at prizewinners

finished as top Tyro and top Under 25 with 975.99, capping a very strong week for her.

If the individual shoots largely saw normality restored – albeit record-breaking normality – the team competitions offered an opportunity for a shake-up.

In the FW Jones, the Hopton Supper Club’s long reign was brought to a sudden end, as the International MR Ladies team, led by Captain Sophie Wentges, swept to victory. Would Wednesday’s Elcho see a similar revolution? Winds had been building across the week, and were now strong enough for teams to worry about the possibility of scoreboards blowing over.

Fast shooting was followed by long pauses, as coaches studied the flags, the mirage, the clouds, and anything else available and waited for an opportune moment. In the end, England took first place on 1747.208, followed by Scotland on 1730.186, Ireland 1717.149, and Wales 1664.126.

Congratulations to England, and to Scotland’s Ron Scaglione, who shot 222.34 for the top scored in the match.

The Earl of Wemyss and March was in attendance to award prizes, though continued COVID restrictions meant he could only nod nobly at prizewinners, rather than shaking any hands.

Marking was for the most part excellent throughout the week – even, contrary to some cynics’ expectations, the morning after England’s last stand in the Euro’s final. Huge thanks are due to all the markers, and to the NRA for their part in organising another fine Hopton.

Match Rifle continues to prove itself as one of the friendliest and most accessible of all shooting sports, for the youngest competitor taking part in his first Hopton aged 16, or the oldest shooting his 60th. It was a splendid week to remind ourselves of all that is wonderful about MR – the sport, the sociability, and of course the strawberries and Pimms at the Prizegiving on Elcho Day. 🍓

6

		1200 YARDS	1000	1100	1200	TOTAL
ABRAHAMS AC		44V5VV4V54544V4	75 ¹⁴	75 ¹¹	68 ⁵	218 ³⁰
CARCILL THOMPSON AMW		55VVVVV5V5V5V45	74 ¹⁰	73 ¹¹	74 ⁸	221 ²⁹
DAY FK		55345444V535454	74 ¹⁰	73 ¹¹	65 ¹	212 ²²
GENT AM		4V4445VVV4VVSV5	75 ¹³	73 ⁸	70 ⁷	218 ²⁸
JUDGE MJ		4VV454VV5454445	75 ¹⁰	74 ⁷	68 ⁴	217 ²¹
LINDSAY III JA		V4VV455VV4VVV54	74 ¹²	75 ¹²	71 ⁸	220 ³²
LYGDE RJ		555VVVV55VV545V	74 ¹⁰	73 ⁹	74 ⁷	221 ²⁶
TREMLETT CN		44V55V4V4555555	75 ⁹	74 ⁸	71 ³	220 ²⁰
CAPTAIN	TREMLETT CN		596 ⁸⁸	590 ⁷⁷	561 ⁴³	
COACHES	LOWE RICHARDS WHITBY	WCP SJ R MR J				WON BY 17 1747 ²⁰⁸
ADJUTANT	WHITBY	R				
RESERVE	HORRELL PECK	J				



1: Hopton winner Rob Lygoe. 2: International Ladies MR Team FW Jones Winners. 3: Keeping an eye on the scores at 1200yds. 4: Match Rifle Albert Shoot. 5: Elcho Shields. 6: Elcho England’s winning scoreboard. 7: 1200yds shooting positions – benched prone and supine. 8: Albert Shoot. 9: England Elcho Shield winners.



- IMPERIAL MEETING -

IMPERIAL HISTORIC ARMS

Derek Stimpson reports on the 2021 Imperial Historic Arms Meeting.

The Imperial Historic Arms Meeting's return was celebrated on 10-11 July this year, its usual time during the first weekend of the Imperial meeting.

The Imperial is the NRA's largest and perhaps best known meeting, even internationally. After celebrating the 150th Imperial in 2019, the pandemic took hold and the meeting could not be held last year.

We were all glad to see its return in 2021 – although not yet to full strength – due to remaining COVID restrictions and without the usual arms fair and exhibitions. Hopefully they will be back for the Trafalgar and next year's IHAM.

The meeting is a wonderful opportunity, both to shoot and see historic arms in use, some of which have been around since the last quarter of the

19th Century or even earlier. To name but a few – Lee Enfields, Mausers, Mosin Nagants, the Lebel, BSAs Military and Sporting, Winchesters, Marlins, many Sporting rifles (my own Rigby .275 and Mannlicher Schoenauer included), plenty of interesting smallbore rifles, and of course muzzle loading arms.

The extensive album of photographs from the event shows many of them being put to good use.

This is also a reminder that shooting historic arms covers all disciplines and types of firearm. This year, as in 2019, the NRA Sporting Rifle

competitions ran concurrently with IHAM.

Amongst the many participants were regular shooters returning again this

year, plus a few new ones. It would be good to see more newcomers, both those who are owners of historic arms or who may acquire them, bringing them along and using them.

I am sure that there are many of you who have classic and historic arms which don't get used. You will find great satisfaction in shooting well with a historic rifle or ML pistol. Start practicing soon! If you win a competition, well

“ Amongst the many participants were regular shooters returning again this year, plus a few new ones.





that's a bonus! On top of which, you own and are preserving a piece of heritage, and may be contributing to research.

If you have any questions, requests, or suggestions about doing so there is plenty of advice available, so don't hesitate to get in touch and above all come and join us.

The new revised Classic and Historic Handbook 2021 will answer some of those questions and is available on line. Thanks go to all those who gave input and much hard work to produce and update it.

The table to the right shows the numbers of shooters and competition entries. There was a modest dip in competitor numbers this year, hardly surprising given the circumstances, although numbers of cards shot held up well. However, whilst numbers are relatively steady we need to see more of the owners and collectors of historic arms participating in the historic arms meetings – IHAM and the Trafalgar, as well as other specifics such as historic CSR and the sporting historic shoots. We need more support if these meetings are to

continue and grow and thrive.

We were also glad to note some new Range Officers joining us this year.

Thanks to them – without the volunteer ROs the meetings could not run.

The competition results are shown on the NRA website. Congratulations to the winners and to everyone who took part. We look forward to seeing you at next year's IHAM and at the Trafalgar – the 16-17 October.

Circumstances allowing, we expect that there will be the usual arms fair and exhibition at the Trafalgar. ☺

PREVIOUS MATCH STATISTICS

2021	79 competitors
	401 cards (incl GR)
2020	No meeting
2019	92 competitors
	430 cards (incl GR)
2018	90 competitors
	401 cards (incl GR)
2017	89 competitors
	455 cards (incl GR)
2016	103 competitors
	452 cards (incl GR)
2015	90 competitors
	395 cards
2014	101 competitors
	415 cards (inc GR)



- IMPERIAL MEETING - LONG RANGE CHALLENGE

Richard Jones reflects on another pressing Long Range Challenge at Bisley.

Proceedings started with a well-attended informal practice on Friday afternoon, with over 34 attendees and six targets to shoot on. We had a well oiled rolling detail in place which gave everyone the opportunity to dirty their barrels, get plenty of rounds down range, and gather accurate elevations at 1,000 yards before dressing back to 1,100 yards to repeat the process once again.

Practices can be a funny affair at times and from an onlooker's perspective quite entertaining to watch. For the serious shooter, they're a double edged sword. On one side, they can offer you valuable information and confidence in your equipment for the weekend ahead but on the other hand, when things don't go to plan they can create total confusion and really set things up the wrong way.

Because of this phenomenon, some shooters embrace practices while others avoid them like the plague!

On this occasion, shooting fell silent ahead of the Bisley klaxon and everyone was packed up and off the range by 4pm.



SATURDAY

At 6:30am on Saturday we were on Stickledown range setting up at 1,000 yards, along with the earlybirds like Dean Wallace and Steve Rigby who said they'd been on range since 4:30am. Saturday was the start of Round four and we had 34 FTR and 24 F-Open shooters entered.

This was a far cry from previous years when 110 shooters entered and even far short of the reduced 78 original spaces that we had made available for this year. We had enough to make it a good competition all the same, so we adjusted our target

requirements and cracked on with business as usual. Things got off to a slightly delayed start since the walls on the zero range had collapsed and all HME tests had to be carried out at Butt Zero behind the 800 yard firing line on Stickledown.

F-Open were first into the breach on Saturday morning and after a short safety brief on range, were allowed to send their blow off rounds down range. Match one was a 2+15 at 1,000 yards with two details in FTR followed swiftly thereafter. This morning sequence was then repeated in Match two for another 2+15 at 1,000 yards. Conditions throughout Match 1 were fairly amicable. The sky was overcast but it was muggy from the get go and already about 19 degrees. It wasn't quite mankini weather, but you could tell it was going to be a hot morning and get even hotter towards the afternoon.

Wind conditions were steady and coming in from the left direction and as we were shooting on lanes one-11 on Stickledown, we were sheltered by Melville ranges and the heavy tree line to the left of us for the initial 250 yards down range. For F-Open this meant a wind bracket

Below: FTR winners Adam Bagnall, Arnaud Martin and Simon Gambling. F-Open winners Gary Costello, Paul Harkins and Paul Sandie. **Above Inset:** Dean Wallace sheltering from the elements.





F-OPEN TOP TEN	
Position	Shooter
1	Adam Bagnall
2	Carrie Ryan
3	Dave Rollafson
4	Dean Wallace
5	Dan Lomas
6	Peter Dommett
7	Ryan Goodman
8	Arnaud Martin
9	James McCosh
10	Matt Jarram

around 1-2 MOA and for FTR 2-3.5 MOA. Match two followed soon thereafter and with the morning air drying out the flags, they were now showing true value with temperatures increasing to 24 degrees.

The wind was still coming in from the left and there was now plenty of mirage to deal with which added to the difficulty. Wind speeds at this point had also increased to an average 2.5-3 MOA in F-Open and between 4.5-6 MOA in FTR, with twitchy drop offs causing havoc across the full lines of competitors. All that being said, there were some fantastic scores submitted in both classes with only a small margin splitting the top shooters in each class. We only had one count back to look at in the morning session and that was in Match one with Matt Jarram knocking David Rollafson off his perch and podium spot to take third place. Well done to everyone who made the medal list as it was very close at the top.

“ This extra 100 yards makes a surprising difference and can be difficult to deal with, especially if you have quick wind velocity

Saturday afternoon was the big one with Matches three and four being shot at 1,100 yards. This extra 100 yards makes a surprising difference and can be difficult to deal with, especially if you have quick wind velocity and direction changes to deal with as we all did.

Shooting started at 1:30pm sharp with F-Open and followed in the same order as the morning session. Temperatures remained hot and sticky with the sun now high in the sky. Wind speeds hadn't changed that much from Match two which enabled most shooters to get on target relatively quickly.

Above: Paul Russell, .22LR match winner at 300yds. **Right:** FTR winners Peter Sheffield, Stuart Anselm, Adam Bagnall. F-Open Gary Costello, Paul Sandie and Paul Harkins.

In F-Open, that extra 100 yards had lowered the scores but they were still very respectable. Match three had several count backs with Gary beating Ian for first place and John beating Alan Baldry for third. In Match four, Gary had proved to everyone that he'd had his Weetabix by also taking gold with Tony and Paul close behind. In FTR, only three shooters topped the 70's in Match three with Simon West showing us all how it was done with an extremely good 71.03. Conditions remained twitchy with sudden pick-ups now becoming a

problem – you either had to keep on track of the quick changes within your 45 second window or try and pick a condition that was recognisable and keep within that wind bracket. This was one downside to shooting on the far left of the range with a left wind conditions as flags A1 and A2 were out of sight to the shooters, especially for those unfortunate to be on lanes 1-7. At times like this, all you

can do is feel the force, summon the Jedi within and pray.

In Match four, Mike Harris was the only shooter to break the 70's with a fantastic 70.03. Adam was close behind and our newest league shooter, Neil Groves, making his league debut finishing third. Well done

Neil and I'm sure this will encourage the Groves household to get

more involved in the future. Hopefully we will see both you and your wife Niki shooting at the next round.

They say all good things come to an end and weather reports for Sunday included all kinds of nastiness such as heavy driving rain, thunder and lightning along with everything else that an amber warning could dish out.

SUNDAY

On Sunday afternoon the clouds were parting and it was becoming rather hot and clammy again. At 600 yards, FTR were first into the breach this time around, and with a leaderboard looking rather crammed and tight at the top, we starting with blow offs at 1:30pm and the battle then commenced.

This was followed by the second FTR detail and then the final F-Open detail. We then repeated this process again in Match six. Conditions were now very hot and the bright sky caused many elevations when it crossed paths and lit up the targets down range, adding an extra element of difficulty to an already challenging shoot.

Wind conditions were also very tricky with pick-ups and drop-offs of more than 4 MOA at a time, and although predominantly coming from the left, on several occasions I went through zero to 0.5 MOA right before having to go straight back to 4 MOA left. ▶



“ Paul is relatively new to F Class but this is not his first GBFCA medal. He is certainly one to watch

These were big changes that were costly if you didn't react to them. I personally had a few ammunition issues that cost me but it was great to see several of the leaders holding onto their places and keeping their nerve right to the last shots down range.

Going into the final Match six, Sunday's ever changing wind conditions made the final stages extremely competitive and that was more than apparent with the results. Well done to Simon for winning Match five and Julie for beating Adam and taking second. In Match six, David Rollafson was the only FTR shooter to make a clean and took Gold with a very impressive 75.09 with Adam and Arnaud not far behind. Great shooting guys, and well done.

In F-Open, Tom Reynolds had quickly learnt a valuable life lesson and had avoided scampi fries at all costs since Friday night. He came out the blocks sprinting and cleaned up on both Matches five and six, but his competitors were extremely close behind with only single points splitting the field.

Well done to all the stage winners and our final podium finishers for showing us mere mortals how it's done and a final thanks to Mike for helping us issue our awards at the end.

ADAPT, IMPROVISE, OVERCOME

We are all aware of the shortage of range space this year as the NRA do their best to accommodate as many shooters and competitions as possible in a nine-month year. This led to the Long Range being shot at 1,000 and 1,100 yards on the Saturday, finishing with 600 yards on the Sunday afternoon as there was no availability on Sunday morning.

Rather than having a lie in, the GBFCA organisers partnered with RUAG UK to run a F-Class .22lr competition at 300 yards. Some of the F Class community have already ventured into long range .22 and this division of shooting is gathering pace, helped greatly by Chris Hazlehurst and his colleges who run the Long Range Rimfire Club. Search for Chris or the club on Facebook or contact the NRA office, who can pass on your details to Chris if you are interested in this growing sport.

Three non-convertible sighters and 15 for record, it was Paul Russell who showed outstanding marksmanship and wind reading skill to take Gold in wet, miserable conditions. Paul is relatively new to F Class but this is not his first GBFCA medal. He is certainly one to watch, well done Paul. Hot on his heels was seasoned and well weathered shooter Dean Wallace who missed out by four Vs to take Silver.

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS AT BLAIR ATHOL – ROUND 5

As this Journal goes to print, there was just enough time to congratulate the medal winners of this weekend's Scottish Championships in Blair Atholl. As usual, the second most challenging range in the world battered and bewildered most shooters during the two-day event



with twitching winds one minute, to considerable pick-ups and drop-offs the next. Incredible performances were put in by both Peter Sheffield and Gary Costello who won FTR and F-Open respectively.

THE 152ND F CLASS IMPERIAL

The Imperial is a challenge to organise in a normal year and a huge amount of pre-investment and other commitments are required to make the Imperial the spectacular event that it is. There are hundreds of people involved, from markers, range officers, medical staff, volunteers, additional stats personnel, to name only some. Co-ordinating this is no mean feat. This year of course there was the added threat of last minute changes to the COVID restrictions or a complete lockdown.

So, on behalf of the F Class community, we would like to thank the NRA, the markers, range teams, the small businesses and all the volunteers who have made this Imperial the fantastic experience it was.

Sun cream was one of the most important items for the range bag this Imperial. Laying prone for 30 or more minutes in this sun is deadly for exposed skin and there were a few 'rhubarb and custards' walking around feeling sorry for themselves that got caught out.

INDIVIDUALS

The Imperial is a long event to detail it all, there were a few shooters that really stood out with some great performances.

Out of the eight that qualified for the St. George's final, it was Carrie Ryan who dominated in FTR, dropping just two points over the two matches to win the



Left: Gary Costello shooting F-Open – extremely hard to beat! Above: Mark Webb wins the Peter Hobson Cup and the Dunsfold cup. Right: Dehane Cownley wins the 2009 FCWC Celebration Aggregate Cup.

Challenge Cup. Darren Stewart in F-Open only dropped one point and winning only by a margin of one V, deprived Gary Costello of another trophy.

Gary Costello, former World Champion, was true to form scooping up an impressive hoard of silverware for his collection. The photo to the left was taken at their recently refurbished clubhouse, The White Horse Lodge on Club Row, Bisley.

Mark Webb put in a consistent performance throughout the week earning himself both the Stickedown Range Aggregate (trophy presented by Peter Hobson in 2016), and The Grand Aggregate (The Dunsfold Cup presented by Jim McAllister in 2006).

The 2009 F Class World Championship Celebration Cup was presented by David Kent in 2010 after Team GB F-Open victory, the year prior making them World Champions.

This year, Dehane Cownley won this impressive trophy after a string of medals which form the aggregate.

David Kent, now the Captain for Team GB F-Open, once more will lead a team to South Africa in 2023.

ALLCOMERS TEAMS

This year the format of the Allcomers Teams event was changed to separate FTR and F-Open. As a result, a strong field of five FTR teams entered. The competition was shot over two matches starting at 900 yards which saw the top two teams (White Horse Lodge and the Gun Foo Pandas Black) separated by one point. The final match was shot at 1,000 yards where the White Horse Lodge pulled away from the pack winning overall with an impressive nine-point advantage over Xcalibre who took second place.



EUROPEAN CHAMPION INTERVIEW

Dan Lomas prepares to defend his title this September.



You are looking to retain your title for a second year, how are you currently preparing?

The European championships of 2019 seems a long time ago now and I'm looking forward to competing again in 2021. The buzz that goes alongside the competition is great and meeting up with some foreign shooting friends, I can't wait!

The Euros is the pinnacle of the shooting calendar after thousands of rounds shot over the summer. This year has been tougher to spend the time on the range, but fortunately I have a fantastic local club and a shorter 100-yard tunnel range which allows me to spend hours making sure my rifle is tuned well.

I think this sport relies mainly on the mental preparedness and confidence on your technique and equipment, so the hours developing loads with quality components and practising is invaluable when it comes to lying on the firing point.

Can you talk us through your rifle?

I set my rifle up slightly differently than other shooters. I've come to F class from a field background and an increased desire to keep improving my accuracy. So my setup is tight and short, similar to a tactical rig.

The main battle with FTR is between performance and weight, which is why I shoot a carbon fibre stock from PSE in Ireland or a McMillan BR stock. They both suit my style of shooting, are very strong and forgiving when shooting the heavy 200gr Bergers over multiple matches in a competition.

Using the lighter stocks means I can maximise the barrel I use in my rig. I use a heavy 32" straight taper Sassen barrel that allows me easily to get decent velocity without any high pressure, meaning less stress on my components. My point of balance on my rigs are both just behind the bipod and they track beautifully. While team shooting, there are periods

where we shoot very fast if the conditions allow. It is crucial that your setup returns to the point of aim between shots so you are ready to execute your next shot.

I use actions from Jim Borden over in Pennsylvania, who has also been great at giving me advice over the years.

Why did you choose Sassen?

When I had the honour of being picked to shoot for GB I wanted to take a British made barrel with me to the Worlds in South Africa. I contacted Adam at Sassen and we chatted about my requirements and I thought I'd give one a go. The bore finish was just as good, if not better than some of the US offerings I'd previously used and according to my gunsmith, Gareth James at Vicarage Ballistics, machined well with good concentricity.

How much of your training is done on the range?

I don't get to spend nearly enough time on the range as I'd like, and with COVID restrictions this has been reduced even further. There are things you can do to practice without being on a long range though from dry firing practice at home to getting behind your rifle at shorter ranges.

When you're on the line, how are you managing the wind?

I'm always looking at the wind, even when walking my dog. I think it comes as second nature after a while, you see certain indicators and mentally make wind calls.

I think there is a stigma preventing people from entering competitions, but for anyone starting out in F Class I would say the GBFCA league is full of friendly, helpful people and it's the best way to get better quickly. ☺

- IMPERIAL MEETING - SPORTING RIFLE



Steve Wallis, Sporting Rifle Discipline Representative, reports from The Imperial Meeting and The British Running Deer Unlimiteds and Championships 2021.

“ In 2019 we initiated a series of Sporting Rifle competitions to be held during The Imperial Meeting, specifically, Running Deer, Running Boar, Swedish Deer, Sitting Fox and The Stalkers Test

July 2021 has been a busy one for the Sporting Rifle community and about time too – after 16 months of restrictions of one form or another we were finally allowed out to shoot.

In 2019 we initiated a series of Sporting Rifle competitions to be held during The Imperial Meeting, specifically, Running Deer, Running Boar, Swedish Deer, Sitting Fox and The Stalkers Test.

The Running Deer is 2 non-convertible sighting shots followed by 10 shots to count, the target is 100m away and crosses a 23m gap in 4 seconds with a single shot being taken on each run;

The Running Boar is

four non-convertible sighting shots followed by 20 shots to count, the target is 50m away and crosses a 10m gap in five seconds;

The Swedish Deer is 12 scoring shots taken on six runs of the target at 100m, the first shot is at a static target which then moves off whilst shooters reload and take a second shot;

The Sitting Fox is a static target placed at 100 yards and shot from a standing supported position, no sighters are permitted and the shooter fires

two series of five shots each in 60 seconds;

The Stalkers ▶

Right: Dewar winner Steve Castle and Richard Jeffrey, winner of the Deer singles, doubles and championships.



“ This year these competitions took place over the weekend of 10-11 July and whilst entries were not as high as would have been liked, those who attended have all been positive and keen to be able to be back and shooting them.

Test is a static target placed at 100 yards with the shooter taking two shots from each of 5 positions, no sighters are permitted.

This year these competitions took place over the weekend of 10-11 July and whilst entries were not as high as would have been liked, those who attended have all been positive and keen to be able to be back and shooting them.

The Running Deer winner, with 39ex50, was Richard Jeffery, who also won Running Boar with 183ex200. Andrew Burgess won both Swedish Deer and Fox Test with 43ex60 and 100ex100, and Nigel Jackson and Hamish McLellan came in joint first in the Stalkers Test with 100ex100.

It was great to see a tie with two scores of 100 on the Stalkers Test and even better to see a score of 100 on the Sitting Fox – although a double stick is mandatory in this event Andrew was using a fixed 8x scope so hats off to him.

From 15-20 July both the Running Deer Unlimiteds and the Running Deer Championships took place. Once again entries for both were a little down on historical levels but not so low as to raise concerns, given the current climate around COVID-19. Competition was keen during the first week's Unlimiteds

with John Kynoch, Carl Glaister and Andrew Burgess all in the running, as well as Richard Jeffery who turned up on Friday afternoon having finished work early and joined in the fun. When shooting finished John had edged the pack by a single point to win the gold medal for the first week with an aggregate score for two series of 86ex100.

Andrew and Carl returned in the second week along with some other new faces, including John Farrimond, shooting a beautiful hammer Rook and Rabbit rifle in .22 Hornet, but it was Andrew who took the gold medal with a score of 81ex100.

The British Running Deer Championships, held over the weekend of 17-18, attracted an entry of 15 shooters and again it was great to see some new faces taking part. Competition was close, especially in the Singles where there was a single point separating first and second places. Despite the clear evidence the negative effects of the various lockdowns had on practicing, there were some good scores posted and it was Richard Jeffery who came to the fore, winning not only the Singles but also the Doubles, and taking the honours in the Championship Aggregate.

As well as the three main trophies there is a fourth, the

Dewar Cup, which is awarded to the shooter with the highest score from a series of ten shots either in the Unlimiteds or from the first or second string of ten shots in any of their series of singles or doubles. This year this trophy, which was originally awarded in 1914, deservedly went to Stephen Castle with a score of 45ex50.

Running Deer Singles, Doubles, and Championship winner was Richard Jeffery with 170ex200, 153ex200 and 163ex200 respectively. Stephen Castle won the Dewar Cup on 45ex50, and the Running Deer Unlimiteds winner was John Kynoch with 86ex100.

In addition to this silverware there was also the Butterworth Decanter which was awarded to the British Sporting Rifle Club member who has the highest aggregate from the 80 shots in the combined series of singles and doubles, but who has not won any of the three main trophies. Whilst Richard Jeffery's score was the highest he was not eligible, meaning that the Butterworth Decanter was this year awarded to Darren Cottee with a score of 314ex400.

Alongside the Running Deer, for some years now there has been a Standing Boar Unlimiteds competition from which scores are taken towards an aggregate total, and an award of two medals to commemorate one of the British Sporting Rifle Clubs founders, Archie Butterworth. With a score of 243ex300, John Kynoch was this year's winner of the Silver Medal whilst Cornelius Schalkwyk



Full results of these competitions are available at
[NRA.ORG.UK/RESULTS/LIVERESULTS](https://www.nra.org.uk/results/liveresults)

took the Bronze with his score of 219ex300.

In 2014 John Kynoch introduced a special open speed shooting side event on the boar, for which he presents

a bronze copy of the Silver Boar trophy presented by ICI to commemorate his winning a Bronze Medal in the Running Boar at the 1972 Munich Olympics. The course of fire is ten shots each of four seconds exposure, with a two second penalty applied

for each shot fired which does not score. The winner is the person with the lowest combination of elapsed time and penalties. This year that person was Cornelius Schalkwyk with a time of 25.37 seconds and only one missed

“ In 2014 John Kynoch introduced a special open speed shooting side event on the boar, for which he presents a bronze copy of the Silver Boar trophy presented by ICI

shot giving him a combined time of 27.37 seconds, beating Darren Cottee who would otherwise have won with a time of 25.32 seconds but who had two missed shots.

Well done to all who took part in all the competitions and most importantly a very big thank you to those who helped run these events – especially to those who stood in whilst I was self isolating after being one of the half million plus who got ‘pinged’ by the NHS app at the beginning of July!

If you would like to find out more about how to take part in Sporting Rifle shooting please either email sporting@nra.org.uk or go to the British Sporting Rifle Club website bsrc.co.uk



INTERCOUNTIES WEEKEND

Report from the Intercounties Weekend, held at Bisley on 12-13 June 2021.

After all Intercounties matches were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, counties were glad to have the opportunity to compete again in 2021, with restrictions being lifted in time to confirm the dates for the Intercounties weekend.

This year the matches were held on the second weekend in June, so avoiding the

usual clash with Fathers' Day made for many happy families!

The choice of date proved to be fortuitous from the weather perspective as well, sunny and warm with temperatures climbing to the mid-twenties. Even the wind played ball, fishtailing with some quite quick and significant changes to provide a challenge that kept coaches on their toes.

Before the matches started there was the usual individual shoot to blow out any cobwebs and establish zeros. The R Jarvis follows the Queens first stage format: two and seven at 300, 500 and 600 yards, shot in two details.

The moderate to fresh fishtailing wind coming up the range from the target end proved too much for all the 148 participants to master, with no scores of 105 and only 11 scores of 104, almost all with relatively few Vs.

Experience clearly paid dividends for Peter Griggs of Kent who topped the pile to win the R Jarvis trophy with 104.14, two Vs ahead of Jon Underwood from Surrey, who was himself two Vs ahead of Yorkshire's John Warburton, the only three 104s to break 10 Vs.

The top Under 23 shooter was Ben Danziger from Norfolk on 104.8, followed by Berkshire's Charlie Dart and fellow Norfolk teammate Toby Little, both on 103.11, but with the former having the stronger finish. The prize for top Under 25 (but not under 23) went to Jason Pepera-Hibbert of Lancashire with 102.10, followed by Cheshire's Luke Coventry and Jemima Hince representing Northants, Leicestershire & Rutland.

After a break for lunch, the Short Range match for the Lt Col H Jones VC Memorial Trophy started at 300 yards at 1:45pm. Teams of eight with coaches from the county squad of ten would fire two and ten at 300, 500 and 600 yards.



Left: Jon Ford - Champion of Champions. **Right:** Surrey first Place winners.



“The top individual long range was Surrey’s Jon Underwood with the only clean sheet on 150.21

The fishtailing wind, flicking between one left and one and a half right, and the tight 300 yards bull proved too challenging for most, with even Surrey dropping 13 points for 387.47, just ahead of Sussex on 386.33 and Northants, L&R on 385.34. Way ahead of all of them, however, was Berkshire who had dropped only six points for an early lead on 394.33.

Back at 500 yards the fishtailing wind, now needing between two left and two and a half right, continued to cause points to leak. Surrey came back strongly with 390.41, two ahead of a quartet on 388: Kent with 42 Vs, Norfolk and Northants,

L&R both with 41 Vs, and London with 38 Vs. Berkshire’s 386.49 kept them in the lead, but with their lead cut to just three points with Surrey breathing down their necks.

At 600 yards the wind angle shifted a little to be predominantly from the left, but the fine angle changes still needed significant sight changes of up to two minutes between shots. Only two teams broke 390: Berkshire with 391.41 and Surrey with a storming 394.50 to catch Berkshire, both on a total of 1171. Surrey took the Lt Col H Jones trophy with 138

Vs to Berkshire’s 123. Somerset, Sussex and Norfolk scored 388 with 43, 41 and 41 Vs respectively, but it was too little too late. Northants, Leicestershire and Rutland’s 385.34 was enough to secure the Bronze medals on 1158.108, a full 13 points behind Surrey and Berkshire. Norfolk and Sussex took the next two places on 1155 with 112 and 107 Vs respectively.

Given the tricky fishtailing wind it is little surprise that there were only two scores of 150: Berkshire’s Charlie ►



“ At 1,000 yards, the teams with the most experienced coaches came to the fore. Once again Surrey, coached by Bill Richards and Matty Ensor...

Dart with 20 Vs and Surrey’s Toby Raincock with 18 Vs. Hampshire’s Richard Birtwistle had the only 149, with an impressive 24 Vs that included a 50.10 at 500 yards and a 50.9 at 600 yards.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny for the NRA Long Range Team Match, but still with a fishtailing wind, albeit from behind the firers and gentle to moderate this time. The wind grew steadily trickier and more changeable as the morning progressed, often showing markedly different indications at different points

down the range and needing up to three minutes or more in both directions by the end of the match. The conditions for the teams of 8 shooters were two and 15 at 900 and 1,000 yards.

Surrey set the early pace at 900 yards with 592.78, an average of just 1 point dropped per person. Hot on their heels were Kent on 591.65 and Hertfordshire on 589.78, with Northants, L&R, Lancashire and Somerset all on 588 with 72, 69 and 65 Vs respectively.

At 1,000 yards, the teams with the

most experienced coaches came to the fore. Once again Surrey, coached by Bill Richards and Matty Ensor, led the way with 576.58. Berkshire picked up from their slightly slow start at 900 yards (585.64) to post 572.46, closely followed by Somerset on 570.55. Devon had the next best 1,000 yards score with 567.51 – 14 points and five Vs better than their 900 yards score! Cheshire, Hertfordshire, Hampshire and Suffolk on 566.40, 565.50, 561.46 and 560.40 respectively were the only other teams to break 560 (an average of 70ex75 per person).

Having topped both distances it was a foregone conclusion that Surrey won the Long Range match with 1168.136, ten points clear of Somerset who took the silver medals on 1158.120, one point ahead of Berkshire on 1157.110. Hertfordshire were edged into fourth place on 1154.128 while Cheshire secured



fifth on 1153.105. These five teams were the only ones to break 1150ex1200, a clear indication of the difficulties posed by the fickle wind.

The top individual at long range was Surrey's Jon Underwood with the only clean sheet on 150.21. Parag Patel of Surrey scored 149.26 and Somerset's husband and wife pair David and Susie Luckman posted 149.22 and 149.19 respectively. The only other 149s came from Gloucestershire with a 149.21 from Jon Ford and 149.19 from Mike Bumford.

Having won both the short and long range matches, Surrey secured their 12th successive win in the aggregate of the two matches with a total score of 2339.274. Berkshire were 11 points behind on 2328.233. With a team mostly under 30, this bodes well for their future. Third placed Somerset with 2306.237 were the only other team to break 2,300ex2,400,



Top: Somerset 3rd Place winners. **Above:** Berkshire 2nd Place winners.



testament to the tricky winds all weekend.

Top individual over the weekend's matches was Surrey's Jon Underwood with 298.41, followed by Berkshire's Charlie Dart on 298 37. There were two 297s: Somerset's David Luckman with 45 Vs and Surrey's Toby Raincock with 35. Well done to the coaches!

While the scores were being checked and prizegiving prepared, the Champion of Champions was held as an individual two and 15 shoot at 1,000 yards for each county's champion. Jon Ford showed mastery of the fickle winds to win with a near perfect 74.7,

losing his penultimate shot into the inner. Second place went to Jon Taylor of Berkshire with a 72.8 that included a magpie when caught in the aim by a particularly large wind change. Paul Sykes of Sussex and Surrey's Kelvin Ramsey were third and fourth, both on 71.7 but the former having a V for his final shot.

The prizes were presented on the range by the NRA Chairman, David Lacey. All in all a most enjoyable weekend, with thanks to the Peter Cottrell, Becky Sweet and the NRA team for organising it with their usual professionalism and thoroughness. 🍷

“ All in all a most enjoyable weekend, with thanks to the Peter Cottrell, Becky Sweet and the NRA team ”

LONG RANGE RIM FIRE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Richard Kenchington reports on the Annual Summer Meeting, held on 20 June and the Annual Challenge Match, held on 21 July.



LRRFC SUMMER MEETING 2021 PRIZE LIST		
	Name	Score
FCSB 200 1st	Carl Bailey	99.8
2nd	Peter Francis (TRSB)	96.12
3rd	Norman Clark (MRSB)	96.7
FCSB 300 1st	Mike Harris	99.8
2nd	Peter Dommert	98.12
3rd	John Mead	97.10
FCSB Agg 1st	John Mead	191.20
2nd	Peter Dommert	191.17
3rd	Carl Bailey	191.12
MRSB 200 1st	Peter Francis (TRSB)	96.12
2nd	Norman Clark	96.7
3rd	Mark Blatchly (TRSB)	92.5
MRSB 300 1st	Mike Townsend	95.7
2nd	Ben Stubbins (TRSB)	95.6
3rd	Trevor Jackson	94.11
MRSB Agg 1st	Peter Francis (TRSB)	187.19
2nd	Ben Stubbins (TRSB)	186.14
3rd	Mike Townsend	185.13
TRSB 200 1st	Peter Francis	96.12
2nd	Mark Blatchly	92.5
3rd	Ben Stubbins	91.8
TRSB 300 1st	Ben Stubbins	95.6
2nd	Mark Blatchly	92.8
3rd	Peter Francis	91.7
TRSB Agg 1st	Peter Francis	187.19
2nd	Ben Stubbins	186.14
3rd	Mark Blatchly	184.13
SRSB 200 1st	Mark Hodgkins	72.0
SRSB 300 1st	Mark Hodgkins	87.6
SRSB Agg 1st	Mark Hodgkins	159.6

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Long Range Rim Fire Club's annual summer meeting went ahead at Bisley as planned on Sunday 20 June. The course of fire was 20 shots at 300 and 200 yards using .22 rimfire rifles. For the first time, FCSB (F-Class Small Bore) rifles were allowed at the meeting that attracted 26 entries.

Contrary to the heavy rain forecast, the day remained largely dry, although dull, with only occasional slight drizzle. The wind was almost absent and scoring was high. During the morning shoot at 300 yards, the wind fishtailed between zero and three minutes right and the highest score was 99. At 200 yards after lunch, the strength remained much the same but the direction had moved slightly to the left, requiring one and a half left to one right, and again the highest score was 99.

The trophies for the Aggregates made with the four different classes of rifle were presented when we met for drinks afterwards at the LMRA. The Celtic LXI Urn, for the FCSB Aggregate, was won by John Mead with a score of 191.20. The Nonington College Cup, for the MRSB Aggregate, was won by Peter Francis, who also won the Old Gloryhunter Goblet for the TRSB Aggregate, with 187.19. Finally the Woodbury Ceylon Cup for the highest SRSB Aggregate went to Mark Hodgkins, shooting a Model 1894 Kongsberg conversion, who scored 159.06.

Particular thanks are due to the markers, Gary Ledger and his colleagues, for their excellent service with hardly any message 4s, which took us through four details at each distance with time to spare in each half of the day.

On Wednesday 21 July, the annual Challenge Match, hosted by Derbyshire RA, took place at Thorpe Cloud,



Dovedale in very good weather. Although this was not the most convenient of dates, both DRA and the LRRFC managed to field a team of six. As usual, the match was shot at 200, 300 and 500 yards.

With the advent of FCSB rifles, it was agreed that each team must include at least one TRSB competitor, with the four highest scores to count. Nevertheless Derbyshire, most of whom shot TRSB, ran out the winners in a close match, by 700.31 to 697.35.

We are having a 300 and 500 yards practice day at Bisley on 5 September, and the Autumn meeting at 300 and 400 yards, our premier event of the season, will follow on Sunday 10 October. In between, the Annual Turbutt Trophies Shoot at Thorpe Cloud, for TRSB only at 200, 300 and 500 yards, is scheduled for 26 September.

Shooting with .22 rimfire rifles at these distances is similar, in terms of elevation, wind allowances and the risk of low scoring to Match or Target Rifle at 800 to 2000 yards. The degree of difficulty in beating the elements and the sense of achievement in making good scores is much the same. The main differences are the lack of noise and recoil, and the much lower cost of the ammunition. New members are most welcome: for further details, please visit our website, lrrfc.org.uk

LRRFC SUMMER MEETING 2021 FINAL SCORES				
Order	Name	200 yds	300 yds	Aggregate
1	J R Mead	94.10	97.10	191.20
2	P A Dommett	93.05	98.12	191.17
3	C Bailey	99.08	92.04	191.12
4	P Francis	96.12	91.07	187.19
5	B F Stubbins	91.08	95.06	186.14
6	M A Harris	86.08	99.08	185.16
7	E Campbell	94.04	91.10	185.14
8	M R Townsend	90.06	95.07	185.13
9	A M Blatchly	92.05	92.08	184.13
10	N Clark	96.07	88.02	184.09
11	P S R Russell	92.07	91.07	183.14
12	T Jackson	88.05	94.11	182.16
13	R S Kenchington	92.95	90.08	182.13
14	C Hazelhurst	89.06	92.06	181.12
15	S H Hale	91.04	90.05	181.09
16	B G W Mclwaine	88.05	87.06	175.11
17	C D Mclwaine	78.04	92.07	160.11
18	D Miller	85.05	84.03	169.08
19	C E Silver	81.03	84.05	165.08
20	G D Moffatt	80.02	82.02	162.04
21	R M Hodgkins	72.00	87.06	159.06
22	D Hale	79.01	79.01	158.02
23	K F Ballard	73.02	79.01	152.03
24	S Diprose	71.02	70.01	141.04
25	N P Pickford	54.02	69.05	123.07
26	N R Doe		63.03	63.02

TRAINING & COURSES

– OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2021 –



MODULE 4

Start Date 1 Oct 2021

Venue National Shooting Centre



MODULE 3 (limited spaces)

Start Date 2 Oct 2021

Venue National Shooting Centre



RSO (2-day full course)

Start Date 2 Oct 2021

Venue National Shooting Centre



MODULE 4 (limited spaces)

Start Date 3 Oct 2021

Venue National Shooting Centre



CERTIFICATION ASSESSMENT

Start Date 8 Oct 2021

Venue National Shooting Centre



GALLERY RIFLE & PISTOL INTRO

Start Date 9 Oct 2021

Venue National Shooting Centre



FULLBORE CLUB DAY

Start Date 9 Oct 2021

Venue National Shooting Centre



MODULE 1 (full)

Start Date 9 Oct 2021

Venue National Shooting Centre

FURTHER COURSES & DATES

10 October 2021

Gallery Club Day (Module 6)

Membership Assessment

15 October 2021

Module 1 (limited spaces)

16 October 2021

RCO Course

Module 3

17 October 2021

Module 4 (limited spaces)

29 October 2021

Module 2

Membership Assessment

30 October 2021

Club Instructor (2-day)

6 November 2021

Module 1

7 November 2021

Module 2

12 November 2021

Module 3

13 November 2021

Module 3

Membership Assessment

14 November 2021

Target Shotgun Skills

Module 4

20 November 2021

Fullbore Club Day (limited spaces)

Module 1

26 November 2021

Module 4

Certification Assessment

27 November 2021

CSR Skills

Module 3

Certification Assessment

28 November 2021

Module 4

Membership Assessment

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

THE IBIS OPEN COMPETITION

Frank Harriss recounts on the event at Bisley on 23 May 2021.

This competition was held later than usual this year, postponed from April so that many of our regular clients could use their caravans. We had to accept 300/600 instead of the usual Queens II course and 900/1,000 instead of 1,000/1,100. We did fire 2+15 at 300 and 600, though. This year we opened the competition to FTR and F-open, firing on their own challenging targets.

The TR competition was full with 36 entries well before the day, as was the FTR with 12. In the end, F-open was one short with three competitors. It was great to welcome the F-class entries, mainly thanks to the recruiting skills of Mark Downing.

There were rain showers all day and difficult winds, especially in the afternoon. Scores varied at 300, with Ibis member Bob Shaw putting in a fine 75.12 at TR, Neil Gould (Dorset Riflemen) scoring 75.8 in the F-open and David Rollafson (NRA) 75.6 in FTR.

At 600, there were five TR possibles, headed by Richard Hirst and Michael Rewston (both Huddersfield) and Peter Griggs (Ibis), all with 75.10. Neil Gould topped the F-open with 73.7 and Mark Webb

(NRA) the FTR with 74.9. The TR short-range competition was won by Hirst with 148.18, closely followed by Rewston and Griggs with 148.17. Martin Arnaud (Oundle) won the FTR with 148.11, followed by Webb with 147.18 and Neil Gould topped the F-open with 148.15.

In the afternoon, the F-class continued with 2+15, while TR shot 2+10. The difficulty of the wind was shown by the fact

that there was only one possible at 900 for TR (local lad Peter Griggs with a fine 50.6), the highest score for FTR was 72.4 (Rollafson) and F-open 70.4 (Gould). At 1000, things became more difficult, with even Griggs slipping to 47.5, the highest TR score. The highest

FTR score was 63.4 by Arnaud and Gould slipped to 57.2, which shows what they had to contend with.

So the Long Range winners were Griggs for the TR with 97.11, well ahead of Richard Bird (Old Lawrentians) with 92.05 and only six scores over 90. In FTR, the winner was Jon Longhurst (Dorset Riflemen) with 135.4, followed by Ewen Campbell (Oundle) with 133.4.

Those who have read the account carefully so far, will realise that Peter Griggs must

have won the TR Cup. He did so in style with 245.8, beating James Postle (Old Epsomians) on 238.21 and Bob Shaw with 237.29. In FTR the HG Clarke Cup went to Longhurst with 282.12, followed by Webb with 280.21 and Gould won the Insurance cup for F-open with 275.12.

We were pleased to welcome ten under-19 shooters from Epsom College, Gresham's School and Oakham School. The winner of the HPS £20 voucher was James Duffy of Gresham's with 229.19, just counting out Tallulah White of Epsom with the same score.

We wish them and all the young shooters success in their shooting careers.

The Cups (and £30 HPS vouchers to the TR and FTR winners) were presented at the conclusion of the 1,000 yard shoot by David Smith, the Club Chairman, who had acted as RCO for the day, ably assisted by Bill Rowland and Dave Crisford. We are very grateful to HPS for their sponsorship and for providing the issue ammunition. For obvious reasons, there could be no prizegiving in the Clubhouse nor the splendid dinner later. Back to normal next year? 🍷

“ We were pleased to welcome ten under-19 shooters from Epsom College, Gresham's School and Oakham School.

Right: Peter Griggs with his winning trophies.



UPCYCLED SPORTCO'S FOR 300 METRES

Robin Carter discusses upcycling an old rifle for 300m, whilst around the world in Canada, friend **Jason Jarvis** has the same idea.

The pandemic and its lockdowns have changed many things in our lives, it's given many of us time to think of what we want to do, how we go about it, and for us keen target shooters it's no different. One of the good sides of the lockdown has been the time many have found for projects, long sat in the backs of our minds, and unlikely to ever come to fruition.

This year, most target shooting has only been able to get started in a reduced manner, and the 300m programme has been the same, restricted, so for the 300m scene we shall leave the coverage of this year to the Winter Journal, and I'll use this one for an interest article on some of the equipment that could help you get into it. Not that I'm biased, well, maybe a bit, but having shot all forms for 40 years, I think it's the best!

A point I often hear is about the high cost of the specialised rifles for 300m, new they are upwards of

£6,000, and the 6mm ammunition is expensive, unless you reload. I've already shown that good hand loaded .223 can compete, now I'll show you an alternative rifle route.

Yes, I have said for years that a 7.62 TR rifle can compete on an equal basis, but, and there is always a but, 60 shots with sighters is hard work with 7.62 recoil, so any one who is considering taking up 300m seriously will be looking for a specific 300m rifle in a more suitable calibre. Most use Grunig & Elmiger, Keppeler, and Bleiker, but some like to be different and also show it can be done with out lining the coffers of Europe.

My wife and I both have 6mmBR Keppelers, but I have also built a very successful .223 with a Barnard action in a special Dolphin stock with a Bix'n Andy trigger, so I know .223's work, but I had a lockdown project in my mind, to turn an old friend into a competitive 300m rifle, my Sportco M44 target rifle from the 1970's.

“I've already shown that good hand loaded .223 can compete, now I'll show you an alternative rifle route.”



The coincidence is a friend from Canada, Jason Jarvis, was thinking something similar – so this article will be a joint one, with input from us both, and we'll start with Jason.

“After shooting smallbore for almost 30 years, I decided to look for a used full-bore rifle that I could play with locally. I was also interested in 300m shooting, as I live within a reasonable drive of the Minneapolis Rifle Club, where they have an active league with electronic targets and with heating (for Minneapolis winters!).

“After mulling over various rifle ideas I stumbled across a Sportco M44 that had been converted from 7.62 to .223 when the DCRA was still issuing ammunition in the 1990's. It came with sights and had a one in nine inch twist barrel so getting ammunition to shoot wouldn't be a problem but, not quite. I had various problems and might have only fired 20 shots before I tucked it away, but being stubbornly determined I reached out to TSE in Australia and ordered a new barrel, a barrel adapter, firing pin, and a Remington style cocking piece. I wasn't sure what I was going to do with the rifle, but I knew that I would need those parts so I tucked them away once they'd made the trip to Canada.

“Move on to 2018, and Robin had been telling me for a while about 300m shooting in the UK at this point, and had also shared how he had recently resuscitated his Sportco 44. I thought it looked fabulous and began thinking about what I could do with mine.”

So now both Jason and I had a quest to turn our 1970's Sportco's into competitive 300m rifles. Many of you may know of the Sportco M44 – its a compact single shot match rifle from Australia that first appeared around 1970. It has a very stiff action on the Remington 700 footprint and are massively underrated. Its problem, if it has one, was that the original ones had the locking lugs in the barrel,



“

The little known

fact is they are now owned

by Total Solutions Engineering (TSE) in

Queensland, Australia, who will make you a

one new to this day!

which made them even stiffer, but you then had no choice on rebarreling, you had the original one in 12 twist Black Mountain barrel, or nothing! They were made mostly in 7.62, but some also in .223 Remington, although very few of those found their way to the UK.

The little known fact is they are now owned by Total Solutions Engineering (TSE) in Queensland, Australia, who will make you a one new to this day! They tell me they make very few, as there are so many used ones available in Australia, but they do make and supply new spares. The Sportco is now very popular in Australia as an F Class rifle, and many have been modified to shoot it very successfully.

TSE have solved the barrel issue, they make an adaptor with the recoil lug, which screws on, and voila! Any barrel can be fitted!

If Sportco had done that 50 years ago, there would be more at Bisley today than Swings, and they are better made! Many modern actions are extremely similar to the Sportco.

My Sportco was bought when we returned to TR in 2010 after a break, we'd had them back in the day, so it seemed natural to look for one to return to. It went through a variety of stocks, and I got an adapter from TSE and fitted the then go-to Border barrel. I modified the action Aussie style with the extra middle action screw and did not use the rear one, and because I wanted it mounted rearward in the stock, the rear part of the action was ▶

Left: The completed “Canadian “ build Sportco Special.

Above: Robin's Modified Sportco, with adapter, centre action screw, and shortened action.



“Dennis does a lot with F Class rifles so after confirming all the details I was confident he could handle the job, and shipped the lot to him after Christmas 2020.

milled off. It became my favourite TR and was only when I had a recoil related eye issue and stopped shooting 7.62 that it then sat feeling sorry for itself in my cabinet, until lockdown, and I needed a project!

I had already built my Barnard .223 300 mt rifle, and Jason was already talking of converting his Sportco into a 300m rifle, so off we went, two projects started 5000 miles apart, same action, different stock plans, and different routes, but with the same objective.

BACK TO JASON

“My plan was use the same stock as my smallbore, a Grunig & Elmiger XRS and after seeing how easy my Anschutz 1907 bolted in with the correct bedding block, after a few hours research I’d mostly convinced myself that it wouldn’t be a big deal to also do the same with the Sportco in .223.

After much back and forth with Robin, we both decided to go for it. He with his, and me with mine. I decided to reach out to Dennis Lair of Go Ballistic Gunsmithing in Star City, Saskatchewan. Dennis does a lot with F Class rifles so after confirming all the details I was confident he could handle the job, and shipped the lot to him after Christmas 2020.

Dennis fitted a KS Arms stainless MTU profile barrel 24” long, in one in eight twist, he turned down the recoil lug on the new barrel adaptor and installed a Barnard style recoil spigot, and bedded the action to a stainless steel block drilled for the stock with a four screw Anschutz mounting pattern, so now I can switch Anschutz and Sportco to the same stock.

He replaced the bolt handle with a sweptback shape threaded for an Anschutz knob.

It has a Bix’n Andy 700 competition trigger, I’ve been assured it will be as nice as the Anschutz I’m using the same sights as my smallbore Centre LR in 1/8 minute

Above: Jason’s 50 year old action in a Modern stock (why not!). **Left:** The cheek piece folded to clear the bolt for reloading.

clicks, and a six inch Uptagrafft bloop tube to mount the Centra front sight.

A CERACOTE FINISH, AND ITS NOW READY TO GO

I did the first shakedown tests and run in with factory Ammo, 77gr Federal Gold Medal, and I am delighted with it. I now have to refine all the set up, and then see what it and I can really do. Robin is working to get me to reload and I will then use 80 gn bullets, then the real fun will start!”

Back to my plan here in the UK, the first objective was to get a .223 bolt head from TSE, easier said than done, they were by now in lockdown, and when they returned they had been shut for four months, so had a big backlog, and it took almost a year to get my bolt head and the associated parts! But now as I type, its all sat at Dolphin Guns and Mik is fitting a new 26” Bartlein .223 barrel in my profile, which matches my Walther KK500 smallbore, so we can get the weight distribution similar. ▶





- 2021 - NRA COMPETITIONS

APRIL

- 17 CSR League
18 Smallbore LR Match

MAY

- 28-31 Phoenix Meeting

JUNE

- 12-13 Intercounties
24 NRA/ARA Military
Adaptive Championships
26-27 NRA 300m Champs
30-4 Jul Civilian Service Rifle
Meeting

JULY

- 9-14 Match Rifle Imperial
10-11 Imperial Historic Arms
Meeting
10-20 Sporting Rifle Imperial
13-18 McQueen Imperial
14-18 Gallery Rifle & Pistol
Imperial
16-20 F Class Imperial
15-24 Target Rifle Imperial

SEPTEMBER

- 4-5 Gallery Rifle National
Championships

OCTOBER

- 2 Historic SR Match
3 CSR League
2-3 Target Shotgun Festival
9-10 Ages Match
16-17 Trafalgar Meeting
23-24 Autumn Action Weekend

NOVEMBER

- 6 CSR League

DECEMBER

- 5 CSR League

**Please keep up-to-date on all
competition times and dates via
our website:**

www.nra.co.uk

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Left: Robin's completed stock, modified from a 40 year old Walther.
Below: Jason's Sportco action with bedding block and the Bix'n Andy trigger.

GET INVOLVED!

If this has enthused you to consider shooting 300m, the GB300M Rifle Club, based at Bisley would welcome you to join us, if you would like information on 300 metre or the Club, contact me on robin.carter@ntlworld.com.

I will use a Hart 2 oz trigger that was used by my wife 40 years ago when she shot with a 7.62 Sportco, they made them tough then! The trigger was supplied by the late Malcolm Cooper, and has been sat in my spares since, with the "it may come in handy one day" thought, and now it has!

Although I'm slightly envious of Jason's Bix'n Andy 700 trigger, as I have one of the Austrian products on my .223 Barnard, and hmmm, the best trigger I have touched in over 40 years of shooting!

I decided my lockdown project was to build my own stock. Like Jason I'd have liked to put my Sportco in the same stock as my smallbore rifle, a Walther KK500 Alutec, but it's impossible, the Sportco action, although a slim 700 footprint is 2mm wider than the stock so my answer was to short cut building one new from scratch, but to reshape and rebuild a 50-year-old Walther UIT prone stock, previously used in its standard form to house the Sportco when it was 7.62 in TR spec, so it already had an alloy machined Dolphin bedding. All my work could be on the external shape and the fittings and accessories and my plan was to mirror as much as possible the feel, balance,

and shape of the KK500. Also to make all my own parts, adjusters, for length, height, a folding cheek piece to clear the bolt, and many other details, the objective to have it adjustable in every plane.

The only new parts not made by me was my favourite butt plate, a Walther KK200 type, which at that time Walther still made to special order, but no more, I had the last one! I could not resist ordering the Walther flag wing nuts from the KK500 which I have modified for my butt plate clamps, £50 each but you have to humour yourself in a lockdown!

At this time I'm waiting for the action and barrel, so unfortunately there are no finished pictures just yet, but it will have Centra LR sights, and my favoured Centra Cube front sights eventually.

Mine will be a 50-year-old action, 50-year-old stock basis, 40-year-old trigger, and all built by a 75-year-old!

Jason's will be a 50-year-old action, modern state of the art stock, and trigger, but still built to the same ethos!

So two of us, friends, 5,000 miles apart, with a similar idea, but different routes to the same end! 🎯

CLUB FINAL DATES

The clubs final confirmed dates for this year are:

- 18 September – Morning
- 25 September – Afternoon
- 9 October – Afternoon

There are often also short notice dates available, due to the cooperation of the NRA range office.





BRITISH COMMONWEALTH 2021 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

With the end of Lockdown and the Imperial Meeting fast approaching the BCRC Open meeting was a popular as ever with entries selling out in 12 hours! **David Rose** reports.

We are extremely grateful for the support of the NRA and the NSC – in particular Iain Robertson and the Range Office. The latter very kindly shuffled range allocations to give us the extra targets required to accommodate our waiting list. With 180 competitors firing 16,000 rounds of GGG at 43 targets over two days, this made the

BCRC Open the biggest single meeting outside the Imperial!

Heading out for the short range on Saturday, the competitors were greeted by gentle southern breezes from the left and it was soon clear that this would be a very high scoring day.

The West Indies (300x) was taken outright by Glyn Barnett with 50.10. This

was swiftly followed by a tie shoot at 500x between Jane Messer, Parag Patel and Richard Vary who all scored 75.13. Parag took the tie shoot with 25.2 winning the India trophy.

The thunderstorm warnings earlier forecast seemed to have disappeared by the afternoon and the sun even managed to make the odd appearance, so following the lunch break the competitors headed out to 500x for the Africa trophy. Leading the pack this time were Reg Curtis and Jon Underwood, both on 50.10, with Reg edging the tie shoot 25.5 to 25.4.

“ Sunday morning started early for many with a torrential downpour, waking up those in caravans and under the tin roofs of their huts... Arriving at 900x though the rain had stopped



Moving back to 600x for the Canada trophy the scoring remained high with, at this point, eight shooters having not dropped a single point. There was a three-way tie for the lead between David Luckman, Parag Patel and Richard Vary, all tied on points and vees!

The Canada match resulted in a three way tie on 75.13 and David Luckman won the tie shoot over Ian Shaw and Tom Drysdale. David also took the Dominion Agg (Short Range) by just one vee bull over Richard and Parag. All to play for on the Sunday at Long Range!

Sunday morning started early for many with a torrential downpour, waking up those in caravans and under the tin roofs of their huts... Arriving at 900x though the rain had stopped and message one brought the delightful sight of the whole of Stickle-down in use, perhaps for the first time since the 2019 Queens final.

The Australia Trophy at 900x was won outright by David Calvert on 75.14, with five others just behind on 75.13. This again looked to be a high scoring day.

The weather would have its say at 1000x as detail one got down and just before message one the heavens opened, and for the first part of the detail at least they got soaked. Detail two sitting snugly in their cars came out to broken sunshine and must have thought they had got away with it, but just to even things up they also took a soaking.

The New Zealand at 1000x was won by Maj. Nick Healy with the only 75 on the

range, this also earned him the Ceylon Agg (Long Range) just one point ahead of Chris Watson, Jemima Hince and Parag Patel. The Rampoor Agg (3/6/900) was taken by David Luckman with four others also going clean.

So to the overall championship. The Commonwealth Aggregate became a one range shoot-out between Parag and David, having both stayed clean up to 1000x. Parag's 74.8 just edged it at 1000x over David with 73.7. Chris Watson finished

third, just two vees further back. Jemima Hince was the top under 25 in the Grand and Sophie Hodge was the top Cadet.

A huge thank you to the Range Officers Peter, Lisa, John, Tony and Mike, the Range Office team, and of course the Markers. We look forward to next year already and hope to see the return of our international visitors.

Full Results can be found at shootingresults.org

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 2021 RESULTS			
	1st	2nd	3rd
The West Indies	G Barnett 50.10	P Patel 50.9	J Underwood 50.9
The India	P Patel 75.13 (25.2)	J Messer 75.13 (24.2)	R Vary 75/13 (24.1)
The Africa	R Curtis 50.10 (25.5)	J Underwood 50.10 (25.4)	S Belither 50.9
The Canada	D Luckman 75.13 (25.4)	I Shaw 75.13 (25.4)	T Drysdale 75.13 (24.3)
The Dominion Aggregate (short range)	D Luckman 250.42	R Vary 250.41	P Patel 250.41
The Australia	D Calvert 75.14	D Luckman 75.13	C Watson 75.13
The New Zealand	N Healy 75.12	G Alexander 74.11	C Watson 74.9
The Ceylon Aggregate (long range)	N Healy 150.25	C Watson 149.22	J Hince 149.18
The Rampoor Aggregate (WI, Canada, Australia)	D Luckman 200.35	C Watson 200.33	T Shaw 200.29
The Commonwealth Aggregate (Open Championship)	P Patel 399.57	D Luckman 398.62	C Watson 398.60



BIRMINGHAM BISLEY: COPING WITH COVID REGULATIONS

Frank Harriss reports on the FTR and TR competitions, held on 5-6 June 2021 at Birmingham Bisley.

Once again Nic Couldrey liaised with the TSO for Wales and West to obtain a date and we are most grateful to both of them. Initially we hoped that a dispensation from the Government-implied rule of 30 could be obtained but this proved not to be the case, so the competition was changed to an FTR day on 5 June with a TR day on 6 June, both with competitors and support staff totalling 30.

SATURDAY 5 JUNE

The FTR day was lovely, warm sunshine and light though tricky winds towards the end of the day. The 28 competitors fired single string according to COVID rules. They fired in groups of two per target, with the register keeper socially

All the ranges were 2+15. The first shoot was at 300 yards for the Burley Cup. Scoring was high, with most scores over 70 on the small F Class targets. Dean Wallace of Barry Shooting Club and Ian Boxall of Dorset Riflemen both scored 75.9, but Wallace just counted out Boxall to win the Cup. Ian Chenery of Dorset Riflemen came third.

The winner of each competition received a Birmingham Bisley gold medal, and second and third silver, though the description refers to the colour not the composition!

A classification system had been devised to match the TR system. Those who had won medals before at Birmingham Bisley and those who are, or had been, in national F Class

score of 74.11, with Peter Dommett of Tonbridge second and Derek Jordanou-Bailey of Oundle third. As Derek was Class M, the silver medal went to Rob Hale.

600 proved more difficult for both details, with the wind angle varying. Ian Boxall won the Allen cup with 73.7 with Simon Gambling of Dorset Riflemen second and Ryan Goodman (Mars and Minerva) third. Jordanou-Bailey was the M Class winner.

So the Watson bowl for the FTR aggregate was won by Ian Boxall with 221.20, with Dean Wallace 219.23 and Simon Gambling 216.20. Here there was a cup, the Life Members, and a gold medal for the top M Class shooter who was Rob Hale with 216.18.

Through the persuasive efforts of Mark Downing, there were seven teams of three. The winners were the 'Bull Hitters', Ian Boxall, Tony Marsh (SCRA) and Rob Hale, who won the Guardians cup and three silver medals. They were followed by the Dorset Riflemen and MXM.

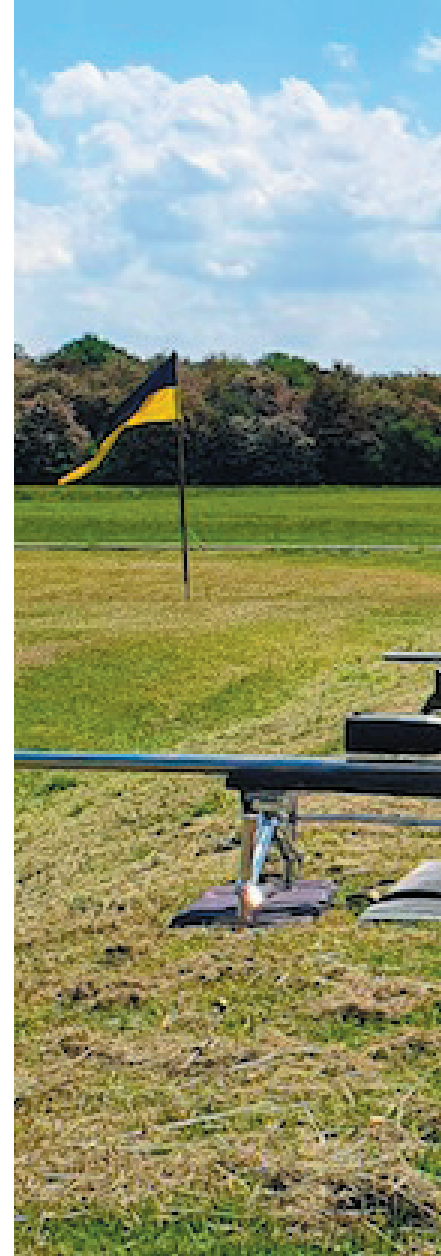
Frank Harriss, the organiser, presented the prizes. He thanked all those who had supported the shoot, Mark Downing for his considerable input and also Henry Sanders, who was shooting on Sunday in the TR competitions, who

“Until the evening of 5 June, the forecast for the Sunday had been equally fine, then suddenly showers were forecast for the TR day.”

distanced behind the firers and swapping over once the first firer had shot. This took longer, of course, than firing in pairs. Single butt markers were also required by military rules, but the marking details did a good job of keeping things moving.

squads were classified as X Class, whereas all others were class M Class. The M Class winner of a silver medal at 300 was Patrick Allen of Swadlingcote with 74.9.

At 500, Dean Wallace won the CCM Burley cup with a



had offered to be RCO for the FTR day. Mark and Ste Gough had also done great jobs as Butt Officers.

SUNDAY 6 JUNE

Until the evening of 5 June, the forecast for the Sunday had been equally fine, then suddenly showers were forecast for the TR day. There was some drizzle first thing but the second detail at 300 received quite a downpour. However, it should be noted that the top two scores at 300 were found in this detail. After Saturday's experience of single-string shooting, it had been decided to have two details shooting 3/5/6, changing the butts once only at lunchtime. In the event, while the first two distances were 2+15, it was necessary to cut the 600 shoot to 2+10



to keep to time. All this led to a certain amount of 'order, counter order, disorder' over the squadding, which was met with great humour a by the assembled company.

At 300, Rick Shouler from Surrey scored 74.9, winning the Worcestershire Regiment Cup and a gold medal, followed by Paul Johnson, from Kidderminster, with 74.7. Keirin McCamley, also from Surrey, with 73.12, who both won silver medals. The O/T class top score for a silver medal was Mark Clewer (LMRA) with 73.6.

At 500, Henry Sanders (Old Wellingburian) won the WH Smith Cup with a fine 75.11 from Reg Curtis (HWRA) with 74.11 and McCamley 74.8. The top O/T shot was Robert Eayrs (Dursley) with 74.3.

At 600, Shouler won the Staffordshire Cup with a good 50.8, followed by Sanders

who counted out Curtis with 50.6. James and John Kennedy of Nottingham City tied on 49.5 for the O/T silver medal, with the advantage in the count-out on this occasion going to youth!

The overall winner for the Clubs Aggregate Cup was Reg Curtis with 197.25, closely followed by Paul Johnson with 197.13.

Frank Harriss, again presenting the prizes, could not help pointing out that

both of these were members of the HWRA TR team. Henry Sanders came third with

“ The Stowe bowl, resurrected from the old MRA ‘Ashburton Trial’ days, was presented to the top school shooter, James Caldwell from Ellesmere College

196.27. Robert Eayrs won the Australia trophy and a gold medal for the highest O/T aggregate with 194.13. It was very pleasing to see ten school pupils from Oakham, Uppingham and Ellesmere among the

competitors, accompanied by their school coaches.

The Stowe bowl, resurrected from the old MRA ‘Ashburton Trial’ days, was presented to the top school shooter, James

Caldwell from Ellesmere College, who is hoping to be selected for the UK Cadet Rifle Team to the Channel Islands. Tom Rylands won the Athelings Cup for the highest score from a member of the Athelings Association, presented by James Bennett in 2018. The top team were Lloyds (Reg Curtis, Paul Johnson and Ian Dampney) who won the massive Goodman trophy. Needless to say, the highest HWRA scorer for the rosebowl was Reg. Ian leVallois and Chris Marlow won the James Cup for the HWRA club pairs for Bromsgrove. Frank thanked all those who had helped, especially the RCOs Henry Sanders and Peter Kelly and the Butts Officers Paul Johnson and Reg Curtis.

Next year, back to normal? 🍷



HAM & PETERSHAM

RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB



We look at the improvements and investments made to **Ham & Petersham Rifle & Pistol Club** over the past year.

A stone-throw away from the river Thames, hidden by a narrow lane is the Ham & Petersham Rifle & Pistol Club (HPRPC), which is home to a seven outdoor and two indoor ranges.

This historic club has been a part of the community for more than a century, in fact, the club opened in 1906, founded by Charles Hanbury-Tracy, the fourth Lord Sudeley and supported by the Earl of Dysart. The Earl gifted the land to members on the condition that it was used for the furthering of sport, particularly shooting.

The club still has Sudeley's scrapbook with notes and documents of every event held there in the early 20th century, as well as the international competition successes of its members.

HISTORY

HPRPC is also home to a large collection of historical images and documents, including the original minutes from 1906 and is also proud to host a number of famous shooting trophies. The original Clubhouse foundations and some features are still in place, with the current air rifle range having been part of this.

During the First World War, the private club opened its ranges to allow men headed to the front to practise their shooting –

more than 24 thousand people trained there. The Surrey Comet praised the club for its invaluable work during the war, so again in the Second World War, and to this day, still has links with the Ministry of Defence, Government and Military Police, enabling them to use it for training.

Over the course of the 20th century, the club continued to build on its reputation for excellence, and has a rich history in both competing in and hosting national and international competitions. Today, it is run by a team of volunteers who look after the members, grounds, Clubhouse, and also host competitions.

However, many shooting clubs are in a difficult situation currently, as there is often a negative image surrounding shooting and is not always perceived as a sport, or even encouraged! But like all sports facilities, they operate for the promotion of the activity and benefit of their members, whilst trying to keep fees down to encourage new members to join and keep the sport affordable.

At the same time grants for shooting clubs are few and far between, yet many clubs urgently need to upgrade their facilities in order to ensure compliance with the latest legislation and rules. It is almost an impossible situation as clubs also strive

to make their facilities more accessible to shooters from all backgrounds and of all abilities, which again in some cases requires structural changes.

FUNDING

The Coronavirus lockdown impacted on HPRPC as the indoor ranges are particularly well used in the darker winter months. When COVID hit, the committee were bracing themselves for a really difficult time financially – not being able to welcome new members, offer safety training for probationers, or support their members in their shooting endeavours.

They decided to use the time well with a club-funded initiative for refreshing and updating all the outdoor ranges. Many members rolled their sleeves up and got stuck in (COVID safe of course).

The Club Secretary started looking for grants and opportunities which could help maintain and develop the club. Not only did she sign up with the local council for business grants, who were extraordinary helpful during this difficult time, but she followed up when she received an alert from NRA colleague Nic, on potential funding opportunities from Sport England which applied to shooting clubs.

Realising that plans for upgrading the indoor ranges actually matched the criteria for the grant, the Honorary Secretary wrote a comprehensive bid with the aim to improve ventilation and accessibility of the

indoor ranges, and to upgrade the gunroom to make it accessible for members even during COVID conditions.

When the Club received the initial offer from Sports England the committee assembled a project team, and with their help refined the quotes and budgets for the final submission which was approved by Sport England.

The team decided to use the opportunity whilst closed to not only make all the critical upgrades, as agreed with Sports England on the indoor ranges to make them COVID safe, but to run a general, self-funded, update programme of work in parallel, including updating the flooring and roof of the Clubhouse.

An extraordinary amount of work has been completed by members to improve the general appearance of the club and to support HPRPC's key initiative of upgrading the indoor ranges and gunroom with perspex dividers on the firing points, wipeable materials for the firing points and gunroom, new ventilation, and of course a new target retrieval system.

As part of the upgrade process to the indoor 25m range and to improve accessibility for disabled shooters, HPRPC also wanted to improve the existing target system. Although the club had static target positions at 10m, 15m, 20m, 25m and also at 25 yards, it also had a pretty antiquated air-powered turning targets at 25m. These had become quite unreliable and were hardly ever used anymore.

GENERAL REPAIRS

As the club team were specifically doing upgrades to allow indoor operations in a COVID-secured fashion, Perspex dividers were set between each shooting lane, but shooters would still have to move forward to change targets etc. To reduce touch points and reduce footfall in close environments, the team looked at the availability of Overhead Target Retrieval (OTR) systems. This would also improve the available facilities for all members with disabilities as they would not need to move forward or rely on others to change their targets on their behalf.

The challenge was now to find a supplier with a suitable system that is available in the UK. This proved more difficult than originally thought. Although there are a number of systems and suppliers abroad, especially in the US, what the team wanted

is pretty non-existent in the UK. The Club Captain did find a local manufacturer, but he was pretty much a one-man band that did it as a hobby. He also only had a single previous installation to his name. This seemed a bit risky for that size of investment, as it certainly was not cheap!

Although there are UK based target system manufacturers and suppliers, none of them made OTR systems. They do make great turning target banks and controllers and clearly that was what the local market is mainly interested in. The Club finally found a German supplier, Intarso, that not only made turning target systems and

OTR's, but were also happy to supply to the UK. They are a long-established company and are well-known in the industry, also providing target systems to the NRA with current installations at Bisley.

What was even better for the Rifle Club is that Intarso are currently working on the next version of the OTR system. It not only provides all the standard functionality you would expect from a OTR system, but also adds turning target capability! HPRPC will be the first range in the UK that had this version and so the committee offered to be a reference site to showcase their new state of the art system. As you can imagine everyone is quite excited about this.

Unfortunately COVID has impacted industries across the world and Germany is no exception to this. This has caused some delays in the manufacturing, but HPRPC are still on track to have this new system in September. In the meantime it was full steam ahead with the rest of the upgrades to the indoor range, with a COVID safe queuing system, improved lighting, a lick of paint, easy clean surfaces and improved wheelchair access to and from the ranges and firing points still to go.

VENTILATION

Another key upgrade supported by Sport England was the ventilation system, critical to protect members during COVID. Our 10m air range had no ventilation and required some structural work to the

roof to enable ventilation installation. The ventilation on the 25m range was antiquated and need an urgent upgrade to ensure compliance. The project team decided to use Vent-Axia due to their range ventilation experience. Vent-Axia has been operating since 1936 and originated by making fans for ships and tankers to provide some ventilation. Since then it has expanded to a company turning over in excess of £70million.

As it happens, HPRPC was able to draw on in-house knowledge in terms of the design for the system, as the club membership secretary designed the

“ She followed up when she received an alert from NRA colleague Nic, on potential funding opportunities from Sport England which applied to shooting clubs.

system which he then put forward to Vent-Axia to check to ensure the system would function as intended. The checks consisted of correctly sizing the fans to ensure adequate airflow for the volume of the range. The system is a simple supply/extract of fresh air, with the extract taking more air out than it is supplying to create a negative pressure and ensure the airflow is continuously flowing in a single direction down range.

The design was not without its complications in terms of working with the current infrastructure and physical limitations available to us, however, with the help of the members and committee, HPRPC were able to install the system in preparation for use. The 10m range is now complete with a new ventilation system whilst the final touches are made to the system on the 25m range.

The club team are immensely proud of what has been achieved so far and it is important to note that working together on the updating the club has also renewed and refreshed a sense of belonging and purpose for many members. 🔄

HAM & PETERSHAM RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB

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THE DERBY OPEN 2021

James Smith, Match Director reports on the event from 25-27 June.

The Derby Open is one of the highlights of the Gallery Rifle competition circuit, and probably now the largest outside Bisley. Being in the centre of the country makes it accessible to many shooters. I will not say easy, as some travelled many hours from Scotland, North and South Wales and parts of England.

The atmosphere was great as the shooters were able to get out and compete again after Lockdown. The remaining Covid restrictions meant that there were a few changes to procedures, but the shooting was largely unaffected, and for three days people made up for lost time.

Shooting commenced at 10:30 on Friday and it was surprisingly busier than previous years, which helped the squadding over the weekend which started at 8:30 in the morning.

Timed & Precision 1, T&P 3, Multi-Target, 1500 and 1020 matches were offered and many brought three, four, and in some cases five guns

to enter as many events as possible. Scores were high and very close, making a great competition but with most of the England, Scotland and Wales teams present it was to be expected. The 1020 Match was included for the first time and attracted a massive entry and the LBP and LBRs numbers were greater than at the Phoenix Meeting.

There was good-humoured rivalry between shooters and it was great to hear the boisterous comments when they had beaten another competitor by a single X or on countback – all good fun, especially when Laura beat Jake more than once. The scores can be seen at drpc1999.club or galleryrifle.com.

1: A remarkable prize table. 2: Laura Warwick. 3: A well-earned break for CRO Phil. 4: Winners come in all sizes. 5: C Range is impressive with 18 competitors on the line shooting a 1500 Match. 6: The Scottish Team. 7: LBR shooters were well represented. 8: The winning England team.

The Derby Open usually hosts a shoulder-to-shoulder Home Counties Match, but Scotland and Wales were still struggling with COVID restrictions hampering practice and travel so to ensure the competition took place the individual scores were used for the Home Counties Match. England won the Rifle Event for the Brownells Shield, Wales won the LB Pistol Match and Scotland the LB Revolver Match, all team personnel receiving attractive Brownells medals.

The ranges looked good, and the Crew worked tirelessly to get all the shooters through. They are long days, and the volunteers earned their bacon rolls – especially B Range who consumed more than most.

The Derby Open has grown over many years and has also become a social occasion, and part of this is that the BBQ team provide Bacon cobs at midday and Burgers for lunch. The cost is included in the entry fee, but donations are accepted

for the Air Ambulance Service. Probably half the competitors camp on-site or bring Caravans and Campervans so the long light evenings are as much part of the weekend as the shooting.

Many years ago, we realised that most shooters have enough medals and shields and so an alternative prize table developed – now winners can choose from sporting accessories, beer, wine, spirits and shooting consumables. The prizes were enhanced by generous sponsorship from many Shooting Companies with ten supporting the event, which was unexpected in the difficult trading conditions.

It was good to be back. 🍷

“They are long days, and the volunteers earned their bacon rolls – especially B Range who consumed more than most.”







BSG & NCSC ANNIVERSARY

Richie Vallance General Manager of Bisley Shooting Ground, reflects on a very successful year.

As we celebrate our first anniversary as the new business owners of Bisley Shooting Ground and our new collaborative relationship with the National Clay Shooting Centre, I am glad to report a very successful year despite the obvious challenges. I must once again recognise the effort made by all of our staff who have had to contend with a year of both extraordinary change and the uncertainty bought about by the pandemic.

I believe we have emerged stronger and remain focused to continue with plans to improve going forward.

Left: Gary Young – selected for the England team after a year training hard at NCSC

NATIONAL CLAY SHOOTING CENTRE

We have achieved much over the last year and I have enjoyed providing updates on many of our improvements to the ranges and Clubhouse in these articles. It is a delight to look out over NCSC and see a green meadow instead of a lunar landscape, and we now we begin the task of renovating the tired infrastructure around the Skeet and Trap layouts. We have a new manager, Oliver Jones, who is a great addition to the team and has already made his mark in the few months he has been in post.

As well as infrastructure, we have also been focused on building relationships this year. We have forged strong links with British

Shooting and it was a pleasure to provide their elite shooters with a secure training base in preparation for the Olympic Games during the lockdown. Our congratulations go to Mathew Coward-Holley on achieving an Olympic Trap Bronze medal in Tokyo.

We have also just hosted the first British Shooting Summer Camp, where many young shots on the talent pathway have been training hard over a five-day program.

We are privileged to have had the British Army shooting team using NCSC as their training ground for their Olympic Skeet and Olympic Trap development program.

As a result, three members have just been selected for the England team this year. We have also seen the start of the Army's 'Women in Sport' introduction to shooting, where we saw just short of 100 ladies shooting at NCSC for the first time. The day was a great success and we are hopeful many will now take up the sport and excel in the future.



The Clays Café was last to open after the pandemic and we have welcomed new manager Karen, who I am glad to say survived her baptism of fire after taking up this post just in time for the Imperial Meeting. The whole Café team have once again gone above and beyond during the Imperial, making early breakfasts for the NRA staff, together with up to 100 pack lunches a day for the Butt Markers. This, along with the normal day to day traffic during a very busy couple of

“ We will be running our first “BSG Open Day” this month to attract new customers over the holiday period.



weeks, has been particularly difficult in the kitchen given the extreme hot weather we have had. I'd like to extend my thanks to Karen and the team for delivering such a great service under the most demanding of conditions.

BISLEY SHOOTING GROUND

A year on I am pleased to say business has been very good – despite two lockdowns – and we have now started to see a steady increase in demand for our corporate events. I believe this demonstrates a level of confidence from our customers that things are getting back to normal. Our corporate offer is an area we have worked particularly hard to improve over the last few months. We have engaged new caterer Darren, who is providing a great service and he is now very much embedded as part of the new BSG team. Breakfasts, snacks and fine dining have all been elevated to a new level, offering increased value for money for our customers. In addition, our Simulated Game days, Ladies days and Young Shots days are regularly fully booked now that word is spreading!

We will be running our first BSG Open Day this month to attract new customers over the holiday period. I am particularly proud of our marketing achievements this year. Shirley along with the reception team, have raised

the bar considerably in terms of the website, Facebook and Instagram posts. Our membership packs, vouchers and marketing paraphernalia are now of exceptional quality and we are receiving great feedback from all of our customers.

I mentioned previously the new 'Bisley Approach' methodology standardising our instruction. This initiative has been particularly successful over the last couple of months and we are now in the process of training more of our instructors in its delivery.

Our customers have been enjoying the addition of our new clock tower Sportrap range, which is just outside Cottesloe Heath. This Facility incorporates a Sportrap competition layout, together with a platform to instruct basic lessons including group shoots. It also gives us the flexibility to run competitions in collaboration with NCSC, but also to offer our clients the opportunity to try something a little different once their lesson is complete. The clock tower range has been the perfect facility to run have-a-go lessons during large NRA rifles events.

FUTURE EVENTS

Since the pandemic many shooting grounds have adopted a squadding system to manage customers during large events and competitions. As we move back towards normality, many are questioning whether we

BESPOKE BISLEY CARTRIDGES

I am pleased to announce the introduction of our new Bisley Training Cartridge, which we have developed over the last year in conjunction with Hull Cartridges. We now have a suite of cartridges to cater for all of our clients needs. Our 21gram training version has been developed specifically for lessons and corporate events in mind. Low recoil and noise were our key requirements, but performance could not be compromised. The result is a softer, quieter fibre cartridge in both 12 and 20 gauge that can still be effective on our highest targets from the crane. For our customers who want a bit more punch and some extra lead in the air, we have developed a very effective 27gram cartridge that is based on the Hull Superfast, which has been detuned slightly to reduce the recoil and noise. We are now successfully using these products across both shooting grounds for lessons.



should revert to the old system or continue with squadding for events. Early on, customers were resistant to squadding, however the mood has since changed as shooters now enjoy less queuing at stands and the ability to plan their day better.

The disadvantage to the shooting ground of course, is there are only a finite number of slots available which potentially reduces income. The BSG Club Shoot can only accommodate a maximum of 100 shooters with the squadding system, however we have taken the decision that it gives the shooter a much more positive experience, so we will continue to operate this way for the time being.

Over at NCSC, the pre-booking of layouts has relieved the bottle necks on ranges during peak periods as well as giving our customers the ability to book uninterrupted periods for themselves and their friends. Although this is not to all of our customers' liking, the vast majority prefer the new system. Our advice is to book ahead if you want a guaranteed slot, but by all means turn up and take pot luck if you wish. In time we wish to offer an online booking option for all events and competitions across both businesses, so watch this space. 🍀

Below: Some Future Gold medalists in the making?



Regional UPDATE

All the updates for this Autumn from **Nic Couldrey**,
Regional Ranges Manager.

RE-OPENING CLUB OPERATED INDOOR RANGES

With the removal of COVID-19 restrictions across the UK, Clubs are keen to resume shooting on indoor ranges. Evidence from the Government Environment and Modelling Group (SAGE-EMG) confirms that ventilation is an important mitigation in the control of transmission of COVID.

The evidence continues to suggest that in poorly ventilated indoor spaces, airborne aerosols are a possible transmission route for the virus. Maintaining good levels of ventilation remains the key focus, even in colder weather conditions, whilst minimising occupant discomfort.

The Ministry of Defence provides guidance notes for indoor ranges in DSA 03.OME Part 3 Volume

2. The guidance seeks to mitigate the risk associated with lead, unburnt propellant, dust and carbon monoxide. Whilst each indoor range will present different design problems, the key is to remove contaminants with a ventilation system. MoD guidance is for the air extraction system to provide at least 10% negative pressure to pull air down the range. Detailed guidance for indoor range operators is available in Chapter 25

“Control of Hazardous substances in an indoor range”. The document is available at [gov.uk/government/publications/dsa03-ome-part-3-ranges](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dsa03-ome-part-3-ranges)

The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) has published updated ventilation guidance (version 5

July 2021) for building owners, managers and operators. The guidance provides advice on how to operate ventilation systems to maintain adequate air quality and reduce the risk of airborne infection.

Key elements include the transmission risk associated with poorly ventilated indoor spaces or ‘dead zones’ and the need to avoid recirculating air. In order to decide what actions may be appropriate, Club Officials responsible

“ In order to decide what actions may be appropriate, Club officials responsible for the range are encouraged to conduct a risk assessment and consult the ventilation system provider or the contractor responsible

for the range are encouraged to conduct a risk assessment, and consult the ventilation system provider or the contractor responsible for maintenance of the system. The CIBSE Covid-19 advice is available to download at [cibse.org/Coronavirus-\(COVID-19\)](https://www.cibse.org/Coronavirus-(COVID-19))

Club Officials are encouraged to review the guidance provided by MoD and CIBSE as part of plans to resume shooting on indoor ranges.

LANGAR RIFLE CLUB INDOOR RANGE VENTILATION UPGRADE

Our thanks to the Chairman of Langar Rifle Club who kindly agreed to share the Clubs recent experience with a ventilation system upgrade. The Club operates a 25 yard indoor range near the village of Langar in Nottinghamshire. The Club applied for funding from Sport England to upgrade the range ventilation system. Within two weeks the application was approved and work began to commission the new system. The Club used a local contractor to design and fabricate the system to increase airflow in the range and the clubroom. The system was commissioned by a local NICEIC qualified electrician. The exhaust is filtered to avoid the possibility of hazardous materials being discharged into the local environment. Carbon Monoxide detectors were installed in the range. The club has implemented an online booking system and a key fob entry system to cut down possible transmission and support the NHS track and trace process. These protocols will remain in place despite recent changes in legislation. The Club provides wipes and hand sanitizers to facilitate member hygiene and keep surfaces clean.

We hope that Clubs find this example of what a regional club has been able to achieve useful and informative.

Langar Rifle Club Indoor Range



COVID-19 POLICY ON OUTDOOR MOD RANGES

Recent changes announced by Government and the Devolved Administrations have prompted questions about COVID-19 Policy on MoD ranges in the UK.

We can confirm that there has been no change to Defence Policy and the supporting Coronavirus procedures for affiliated Clubs using MoD ranges. Club Officials are reminded that range bookings should not exceed 30 people, members must comply with two metre social distancing rules and any local COVID-19 restrictions set by MoD/DIO range safety staff.

NRA RCO QUALIFICATION AND ACCESS TO MOD RANGES

The NRA RCO qualification only qualifies successful candidates to conduct live firing on MoD ranges with fixed firing points and target positions; typically a Gallery Range. The RCO qualification does not allow the individual to plan or conduct live firing on LFTTA, IBSR or moving target ranges. NRA affiliated Clubs will only be offered bookings on appropriate ranges by Landmarc/MoD staff. Questions about the suitability of the NRA RCO qualification for a specific range should be directed in the first instance to the NRA.

HIGH MUZZLE ENERGY

Clubs in the South East of England may be aware that Serial 45 on Lydd ranges has been closed to allow repairs to the sea wall. Works are expected to continue for the remainder of this year. Clubs will be offered bookings at Hythe ranges which permit firearms that generate up to 7000 Joules ME.

Our colleagues in MoD have agreed that the closure of Serial 45 accentuates the need to deliver a suitable range for HME firearms that exceed the 7000 J limit, particularly 50 BMG/ 12.7mm rifles. Delivery of the new range on the Warcop training

“ Clubs will be offered bookings at Hythe ranges which permit firearms that generate up to 7000 Joules ME.

area requires input and support from multiple stakeholders in MoD. We're working closely with all stakeholders to expedite the delivery of the new range and will provide further updates in due course.

HAM AND PETERSHAM RIFLE AND PISTOL CLUB

Our thanks to Ham and Petersham Rifle and Pistol Club who are featured in a separate article in this Journal. The Club have kindly agreed to share their recent experience securing Sport England funding to upgrade the indoor range ventilation and target systems. See the Club update article on pages 50-51 for more information.



RESULTS

Results and scores from NRA Competitions.

QUEEN'S PRIZE TOP 10

2nd stage – 900x, 1000x, Total

- 1 RSF Shouler – 148.17v,
75.6v, 75.12v **298.35v**
- 2 DC Luckman – 148.19v,
75.13v, 74.9v **297.41v**
- 3 RL Furniss – 150.21v,
74.10v, 73.8v **297.39v**
- 4 JC Underwood – 149.17v,
74.8v, 74.7v **297.32v**
- 5 CP Weeden – 148.21v,
75.13v, 73.9v **296.43v**
- 6 GCD Barnett – 147.15v,
74.13v, 75.8v **296.36v**
- 7 PM Patel – 147.20v,
75.12v, 73.9v **295.41v**
- 8 TC Cubitt – 148.19v,
5.12v, 72.10v **295.41v**
- 9 R Stewart – 148.18v,
72.11v, 75.6v **295.35v**
- 10 CJ Mitchell – 147.15v,
75.11v, 73.7v **295.33v**

GRAND AGGREGATE TOP 10

*Daily Telegraph, Daily Mail,
Alexandra, Duke of Cambridge,
Times, Wimbledon, Conan
Doyle, Donegall, St. George's
I, Prince of Wales, Lovell,
Corporation, Total*

- 1 PM Patel
75.13v, 75.12v, 50.8v,
50.9v, 50.7v, 75.12v, 50.8v,
49.9v, 75.15v, 75 .11v,
48.5v, 49.6v **721.115v**
- 2 DC Luckman
75.8v, 75.7v, 50.9v, 50.8v,
50.8v, 75.9v, 50.7v, 50.4v,
75.12v, 74 .8v, 48.6v,
47.5v **719.91v**
- 3 CJ Mitchell
75.11v, 74.9v, 50.8v, 49.6v,
49.6v, 74.13v, 50.9v, 50.7v,
74.13v, 74 .10v, 49.8v,
49.6v **717.106v**

- 4 THD Dodds
75.10v, 75.10v, 50.7v,
46.5v, 50.7v, 74.10v, 49.6v,
50.8v, 75.13v, 74 .10v,
50.7v, 49.4v **717.97v**
5. MJ Ensor
75.8v, 74.10v, 50.6v,
48.6v, 50.6v, 75.8v, 48.7v,
50.6v, 75.11v, 73 .10v,
50.6v, 49.5v **717.89v**
6. NJ Ball
75.9v, 75.11v, 50.7v,
49.6v, 50.8v, 74.8v, 48.4v,
50.6v, 74.9v, 74 .11v,
49.3v, 49.3v **717.85v**
7. AC Haley
74.11v, 75.11v, 49.5v,
50.7v, 50.9v, 74.11v,
50.9v, 50.5v, 74.9v, 74 .9v,
48.5v, 48.7v **716.98v**
8. J Keates
75.12v, 75.8v, 50.6v,
49.4v, 50.7v, 75.10v,
50.5v, 49.7v, 74.9v, 73 .8v,
50.7v, 46.4v **716.87v**
9. GCD Barnett
74.7v, 75.11v, 49.7v, 50.6v,
50.7v, 72.11v, 50.7v, 50.8v,
75.8v, 74 .10v, 49.6v,
47.3v **715.91v**
10. TM Drysdale
74.10v, 74.12v, 50.8v,
49.6v, 50.2v, 73.8v, 49.7v,
50.8v, 72.3v, 74 .11v,
50.6v, 50.6v **715.87**

ST GEORGE'S

2nd Stage, 3rd Stage, Total

1. PM Patel
75.12v, 75.12v **150.24v**
2. HJ Golaszewski
74.9v, 75.12v **149.21v**
3. CJ Watson
75.12v, 74.8v **149.20v**
4. M G Whicher
74.9v, 75.8v **149.17v**
5. CJ Mitchell
74.8v, 75.7v **149.15v**

THE NATIONAL

300x, 500x, 600x, Total

- 1 Wales
693.86v, 687.78v,
687.85v **2067.249v**
- 2 England
681.91v, 690.92v,
694.105v **2065.288v**
- 3 Scotland
680.74v, 686.75v,
693.81v **2059.230v**
- 4 Ireland
681.87v, 689.90v,
686.92v **2056.269**

THE KOLAPORE

300x, 500x, 600x, Total

- 1 Great Britain
399.50v, 398.54v,
394.37v **1191.141v**
- 2 Guernsey
391.36v, 389.40v,
380.26v **1160.102v**
- 3 Jersey
387.28v, 390.37v,
369.21v **1146.86v**

THE MACKINNON

900x, 1000x, Total

- 1 England
598.84v
581.59v **1179.143v**
- 2 Scotland
587.79v,
582.58v **1169.137v**
- 3 Ireland
590.73v,
579.63v **1169.136v**
- 4 Wales
587.57v,
576.56v **1163.113v**
- 5 Guernsey
585.67v,
574.56v **1159.123v**
- 6 Jersey
580.56v,
569.45v **1149.101v**

**HOPTON
AGGREGATE**

*Whitehead, Halford, Cottesloe,
Wimbledon, Armourers, Edge,
Albert, Total*

- 1 RJ Lygoe
150.28v, 149.26v, 99.12v,
100.16v, 100.16v, 198.29v,
221.33v **1017.160v**
- 2 AMW Cargill Thompson
148.24v, 148.21v, 97.12v,
98.13v, 100.16v, 200.29v,
223.33v **1014.148v**
- 3 CN Tremlett
147.24v, 150.18v, 100.18v,
99.15v, 95.8v, 199.25v,
222.29v **1012.137v**
- 4 A McLeod
149.22v, 148.15v, 97.12v,
98.11v, 99.12v, 194.25v,
222.19v **1007.116v**
- 5 JA Lindsay III
149.21v, 148.21v, 100.16v,
97.8v, 94.7v, 199.23v,
218.24v **1005.120v**
- 6 JPL Sweet
148.17v, 145.17v, 100.13v,
99.9v, 94.11v, 194.27v,
223.28v **1003.122v**
- 7 RJ Scaglione
150.20v, 145.16v, 100.17v,
99.16v, 93.9v, 194.22v,
221.29v **1002.129v**
- 8 MJ Judge
147.17v, 147.18v, 99.12v,
100.10v, 96.11v, 198.23v,
215.24v **1002.115v**
- 9 AC Abrahams
149.21v, 141.15v, 98.10v,
99.12v, 98.11v, 195.26v,
221.28v **1001.123v**
- 10 D Calvert
148.22v, 145.18v, 99.14v,
98.14v, 94.11v, 194.21v,
222.27v **1000.127v**

THE ELCHO

1000x, 1100x, 1200x, Total

- 1 England
596.88v, 590.77v,
561.43v **1747.208v**
- 2 Scotland
587.79v, 588.62v,
555.45v **1730.186v**

- 3 Ireland
584.62v, 583.49v,
550.38v **1717.149v**
- 4 Wales
575.53v, 562.49v,
527.24v, **1664.126v**

**CIVILIAN LONG
RANGE AGGREGATE**

Class, winner, LRM, RM, Total

HISTORIC

S Ellett 107, 161, **268**

IRON

S Clarke 122, 175, **297**

PRACTICAL

C Hudson 194, 227, **421**

SERVICE

C Vale 178, 222, **400**

**CIVILIAN SHORT
RANGE AGGREGATE**

*Class, winner, SRM, UM, 300,
300, 100, Total*

HISTORIC

W Tong
138, 154, 51, 73, 38 **454**

IRON

S Clarke
206, 134, 79, 72, 26 **517**

PRACTICAL

N St Aubyn
232, 182, 97, 96, 40 **647**

SERVICE

R Wade
239, 184, 100, 96, 46 **665**

METHUEN

Class, winner, score

Historic

LER A 657

PRACTICAL OPTIC

HRA A 1395

HISTORIC INDIVIDUAL

A Hurley 147

PRACTICAL INDIVIDUAL

C Vale 244

POLICE MATCH

- 1 K Kilvington 300.24x
- 2 A Podevin 300.20x
- 3 N Francis 300.15x

SERVICE MATCH

- 1 K Kilvington 115.12x
- 2 A Podevin 114.13x
- 3 N Francis 114.9x

SCOTT CUP

- 1 IA Grant 297.19x
- 2 RN Fowler 294.9x
- 3 A Podevin 289.11x

GRANET CUP

- 1 P Watts 297.11x
- 2 A Podevin 296.14x
- 3 K Kilvington 295.12x

SILHOUETTES

- 1 N Francis 294.14x
- 2 K Kilvington 293.12x
- 3 MJ West 287.8x

GALLERY RIFLE MATCH

- 1 I Grant 588.20x
- 2 A Podevin 585.25x
- 3 RN Fowler 584.18x

GRSB MATCH

- 1 IA Grant 586.15x
- 2 K Kilvington 583.25x
- 3 MJ West 557.16x

**BRITISH
RUNNING DEER
CHAMPIONSHIP 2021**

1st Singles, 1st Doubles, Total

- 1 R Jeffery 85, 78, **163**
- 2 D Cottee 87, 67, **154**
- 3 J Maddison 79, 73, **152**

**BRITISH
COMMONWEALTH
RIFLE CLUB OPEN
MEETING****THE WEST INDIES**

1. GCD Barnett 50.10
2. PM Patel 50.9
3. J Underwood 50.9

THE INDIA

1. PM Patel 75.13
2. JH Messer 75.13
3. RAH Vary 75.13

THE AFRICA

1. RJS Curtis 50.10
2. J Underwood 50.10
3. S Belither 50.9

THE CANADA

1. DC Luckman 75.13
2. ITG Shaw 75.13
3. TM Drysdale 75.13

**THE DOMINION
AGGREGATE (SHORT
RANGE)**

1. DC Luckman 250.42
2. RAH Vary 250.41
3. PM Patel 250.41

THE AUSTRALIA

1. DP Calvert 75.14
2. DC Luckman 75.13
3. CJ Watson 75.13

THE NEW ZEALAND

1. N Healy 75.12
2. GK Alexander 74.11
3. CJ Watson 74.9

**THE CEYLON AGGREGATE
(LONG RANGE)**

1. N Healy 150.25
2. CJ Watson 149.22
3. JM Hince 149.18

**THE RAMPOOR
AGGREGATE (WEST
INDIES, CANADA,
AUSTRALIA)**

1. DC Luckman 200.35
2. CJ Watson 200.33
3. TP Shaw 200.29

SIGHTERS AGGREGATE

1. JME Cook 61.8
2. AJ Clarke 60.9
3. NJ Verduyn 60.8

**THE COMMONWEALTH
AGGREGATE (OPEN
CHAMPIONSHIP)**

1. PM Patel 399.57
2. DC Luckman 398.62
3. CJ Watson 398.6

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MESSAGE



Full name: Mike and Oscar Deakin
Age: 54 and 13

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

Mike: I started shooting rats in the redundant steelworks around Rotherham with my air rifle with my cousin. I was about 14 years of age and would earn pocket money for collecting the rat's tails which the council would buy.

Oscar: I was around seven when an old friend of Dads gave him a .410. He shortened the stock and used a piece of car number plate as a butt plate – I used this to kill my first pheasant.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Mike: Without a shadow of a doubt it was the Imperial prize giving in 2021, when I stood on the stage with my son collecting the McQueen sniper pairs trophy... with Oscar telling me that he had shot a higher score for the 50th time!

Oscar: Winning the McQueen cadet trophy, not just for myself, but for my Royal Marine Cadet unit. I am very proud to have taken the trophy, presented by Martin Camp in honour of his Grandfather who was killed during the first world war.

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

Mike: Oscar's age when he first started shooting at Bisley as we jumped through so many hoops to allow Oscar to shoot at a club level. If it had not been for Iain Robertson and Peter Cottrell I don't think

we would have managed it so we both owe a big thank you for guidance and help.

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

Oscar: Mum is always there to pick up the pieces when it all goes wrong and the world topples over and when I'm losing confidence in the middle of a detail, Dad tells me to just think that it's us two on Melville together on a Sunday afternoon. It's also all the people I compete with, they are like a second family and the wonderful ROs who pass on tips as to where I'm going wrong and point me in the right direction.

What club are you a member of?

Oscar: We are both proud members of the British Alpine Rifles. We are also members of the British Sporting Rifle Club, Marylebone Rifle and Pistol Club and Oscar is a junior member of the NSRA. Dad is a member of the NRA and I will be able to join in eight months and counting!

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

Oscar: My Dad because he is a Northerner and they are supposedly always right!

Mike: My son, who else!

Which is your favourite country in the world? Have visited on tour?

Mike/Oscar: We love shooting pistol at all the amazing ranges in Switzerland with the British Alpine Rifles. Even mum shoots as she says with pistol shooting there is none of that laying down and getting dirty.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Oscar: Bisley has given me the perfect environment to flourish. The encouragement from the NRA staff and members has fuelled my want to succeed.

What do you do in your free time?

Oscar: Royal Marine Cadets is my thing when I am not dragging dad down to the range. I enjoy everything to do with cadets, from learning to kayak to survival and fieldcraft weekends, camouflaged and up to my eyes in mud.

Mike: Absolutely nothing, just chill out with a large gin.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

Oscar: Dad says we don't want to take ourselves too seriously as we are not topflight athletes. So we just have a cup of coffee, a biscuit and get in the van. Dad always mutters "second is the first of the losers and don't forget it" as we drive along.

What advice would you give someone wanting to learn to shoot?

Mike: Try as many types of the sport as you can until you find the right disciplines for you. Don't get put off by jargon or red tape. Find a strong club to belong to with people who will go out of their way to help you. As shooters we need to give back something to the sport we love.

So, what next?

Mike: Retirement before Oscar starts to thrash me. People have said the best is behind me...don't I know it!

Oscar: Thrashing Dad and winning the McQueen A trophy so that mine and Dad's names are both on it. 🍀

What sort of music do you listen to?
Mike/Oscar: One thing we both enjoy is to sit in the loading room and listen to classic comedy, Hancock's Half Hour, Steptoe and Son and of course Jimmy Edwards.



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