

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Spring 2023 | Volume E No.1

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GREAT BRITAIN *F Class FTR Teams League*



TEAMS	ROUND ONE				OVERALL FINAL SCORE	BONCH	
	STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4			
BULL HITTERS	263 9	274 16	537 25 ⑤	250 18	270 13	1087 56	4
MAXIM WHT 100	262 17	277 17	539 34 ③	282 20	269 20	1090 74	2
PANDAS BLACK	277 9	275 18	563 24 ①	290 13	276 13	1129 63	1
EXCALIBRE	268 11	273 14	541 25 ②	283 17	184 9	1098 51	3
PANDAS WHITE	263 12	276 15	539 27 ④	276 16	258 12	1073 55	5
NOMADS	253 6	275 14	528 30 ⑥	276 14	257 11	1061 45	6

HAND LOADING
COURSE Q&A P6

BUDLEIGH FARM
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The National Rifle Association Journal is published on behalf of the National Rifle Association by **Fellows Media Ltd.**

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A FRESH START FOR *Site 103*

NRA Secretary General, **Andrew Mercer**, introduces the spring issue with some updates on the ranges.



Spring is upon us and the days are lengthening briskly as shooting activity on the ranges increases steadily. We have yet to see any real evidence of the negative impact of pressures on household budgets. Membership renewals and club affiliations are progressing well, and range bookings are holding up rather nicely. Costs and expenses are another matter with the price of utilities, insurance premiums and ammunition costs increasing alarmingly. As a consequence we are taking a cautious approach and carefully prioritising our capital projects this year.

One easy decision taken in December was to grasp the opportunity to acquire site 103, the derelict triangular site on the main drive into the Camp. For 10 years I have gently seethed as I drove past this eyesore at the gateway to Bisley. The site came generously appointed with asbestos and we were planning to simply demolish the buildings and return the site to grass. However our first inspection found much of the 6,000 square feet of buildings in reasonable condition, and we will refurbish and weatherproof the shell of the main buildings whilst exploring a variety of options for their long term use. Asbestos removal was nearing completion when the original contractor ceased trading; this work will recommence late March / early April. A letter dated 1 January 1920 confirms the buildings were transferred by the War Department to the NRA as part of a set off against re-instatement of the Associations land.

On a strategic level we have been working hard to secure appropriate terms of a derogation that will allow outdoor rifle ranges to continue using lead ammunition. This included hosting a day's visit to Bisley for the team from the Environment Agency who are leading the

project. We were joined by colleagues from the NSRA, CPSA and two regional range operators, and delivered a "show and tell" for how lead is contained, managed and recycled on a wide variety of rifle and shotgun ranges. Special thanks are due to Simon Favell from Thorpe Cloud range in Derbyshire and Ewen Campbell from Oundle Rifle and Pistol Club who provided detailed insights into the operations of regional ranges. The Environment Agency team were well briefed, thoughtful, and engaged in open and frank dialogue. I think they went away with a good understanding of how rifle ranges work, and protocols that enable lead projectiles to be contained and recycled. The visits to our shotgun ranges highlighted the difficulties of doing the same with lead shot.

The publishing of the report by the Independent Office for Police Conduct into the awful Plymouth shootings, coupled with the horrific suicide / murder at Epsom College led to a flurry of media contact. Much has been written about the failings of police firearms licencing staff; however I have been impressed at the high standard of professionalism of FEOs and support staff in my dealings with them. Some licensing teams appear to be poorly resourced and trained; making sure they have the time, tools and training to do their job must surely be a priority. There is more than enough firearms legislation and guidance; improving the consistency of delivery of licensing is what is required.

Perhaps it is the sign of advancing years, but I fervently hope 2023 will be an unexciting year, allowing us to concentrate our effort on delivering successful competitions, training, ranges, and all the other 'routine' activities. How we would all enjoy a year without plague, storm, flood or fire! 🍀

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NRA Basic Handloading Course & SCC

QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHAT DOES IT COVER?

The basic course is aimed at those shooters who wish to start down the reloading route. It covers the basic tenants of reloading bottle neck calibres, specifically the 308 Winchester as it's a fairly common calibre owned and used by target and live quarry shooters alike in the UK.

In the course, we look at the following aspects of reloading:

- Repeated inspection process for reloading suitability
- The basics of reading and assessing pressure signs
- Picking the right bullet/powder combination for your calibre
- Basic equipment you'll need in order to successfully make your own high grade match ammunition
- You will also make ammunition that will be fired at 200 yards usually for group assessment
- We will also use a Doppler radar to assess the capabilities of your handloaded ammunition and compare it against match grade factory ammo.

“ Our team of Instructors have between them over 150 years of reloading experience ”

WHO'S IT FOR?

If you want to start reloading centrefire ammunition and would like to gain the necessary training in order to understand the basics of what reloading ammunition is all about, this is the course for you. Our team of Instructors have over 150 years of reloading experience in a wide range of calibres between them and are on hand to answer any questions you may have. Although the course is structured around the making of 308 ammunition, other calibres are discussed at length as the course is student driven.

I AM AN EXPERIENCED HANDLOADER, DO I HAVE TO DO IT?

No, not if you are comfortable in your processes although many experienced handloaders have taken the course for peace of mind. We have also had many attending who are in the process of formulating their own reloading courses for their clubs and it is a great way of ensuring that their course content covers everything relevant, and ours too. It's a two-way street.

I HEARD FROM SOMEWHERE THAT I HAD TO DO THE NRA COURSE OR I WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SHOOT MY HANDLOADED AMMO?

No – Beware “advice” from unproven sources!

The NRA Basic Handloading Course is not the only course out there covering reloading. Your club may well have its own course which is probably perfectly suited. In fact, many clubs do have their own reloading courses, the content is spot on and produces reloaders who have a good understanding of how to do it right.

I HEARD THAT I HAVE TO DO THE NRA COURSE FOR AN ADDITION TO MY SCC IN FUTURE?

No, you don't. We will ultimately be adding the subset 'Handloading' to the NRA SCC system but there is no requirement for you to do the course beforehand.

Below is a process tree of how the system will operate – as you can see, the process is going to be painless and should be viewed as just another part of the whole SCC assessment process carried out by clubs to ensure everybody is in all respects safe to be allowed on SCC restricted ranges.

MY CLUB HAS ITS OWN RELOADING COURSE, IS THAT OK?

Absolutely, just get a copy (pdf is fine) to the NRA Training Dept and we will give it the once over to be sure it ticks all the boxes. All you need to do is ensure your students get a Code of Practice from the NRA website each to sign and for your Chairman to counter sign, just like any other subset of the SCC system.

WHY DO WE NEED TO SEND OUR COURSE TO YOU FOR CHECKING?

We do need to see your course material for a health check to ensure it conforms to the Code of Practice.

I'M THE PERSON MY CLUB MEMBERS APPROACH FOR RELOADING INSTRUCTION & TIPS BUT OUR CLUB DON'T HAVE ANY TRAINING MATERIAL, WHAT DO WE DO?

The NRA Basic Handloading Course is an option if your club has no formalised process in place or do not wish to spend ages formulating.

Contact the NRA Training Department (nra.training@nra.org.uk) and we can supply you the complete training package for the Basic Handloading Course. The pack will comprise:

- Memory stick with NRA Basic Handloading Course

Power Point, Test & Answers, Lesson notes & objectives, NRA Basic Handloading Course Manual a s PDF, Code of Practice.

- Printed A4 colour manuals can also be acquired by you (if required) @ £17.50 ea that can be posted to your location.

As you can see, there are 3 routes open for this whole process:

- Club run course with Club Reloading Course
- Club run course with NRA Reloading Course
- NRA run NRA Reloading Course.

I'M THE CHAIRMAN BUT I DON'T RELOAD, I CAN'T SIGN THEM OFF!

Yes you can. You probably also rely on knowledgeable members of your club to sign off people who shoot disciplines you don't personally shoot. There really is no difference between that and this process. You consult that knowledgeable person and they help you.

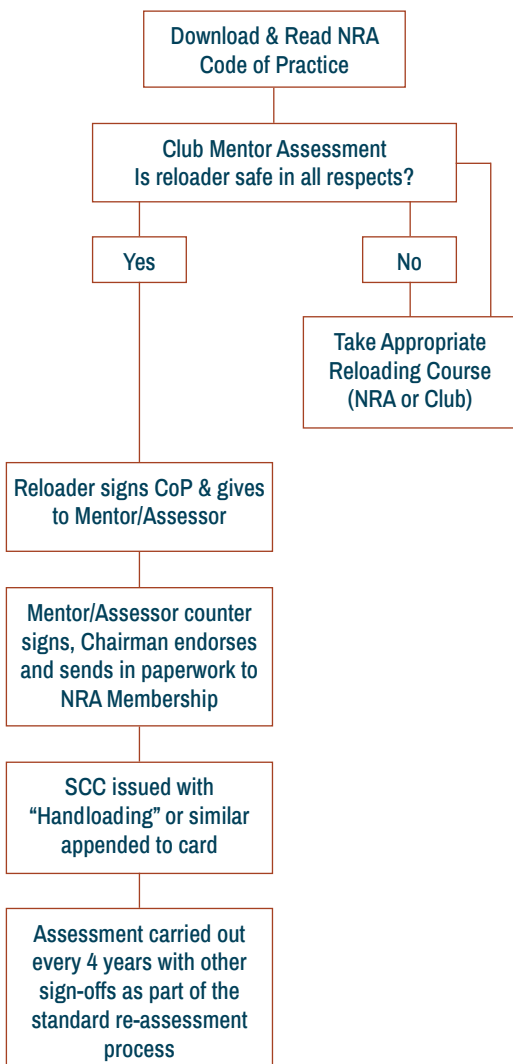
ARE THERE ANY OTHER RELOADING COURSES IN THE PIPELINE?

Yes, we are currently developing a course based around high volume pistol ammunition reloading. Specifically using the Progressive press system. We envisage the calibre to most likely be the 38 Special as it by far the most popular carbine calibre used by shooters in GR. Further down the line, we are also looking at developing an advanced reloading course which will look at other aspects of reloading not covered by the Basic Handloading Course. Information will be posted on the Internet and in the Journal nearer the time but it is not envisaged to be complete till next year. ☺

FOR MORE INFORMATION

on the above, please contact the NRA Training Department (nra.training@nra.org.uk)

Process for clubs using handloaded ammo on Military or NRA ranges



The Code of Practice (CoP) is available for download off the internet and via email if requested.

Can be your club course or the NRA Basic one if you don't have a course available.

This is necessary as part of the SCC issue process

Also necessary for the SCC issue process finalisation
The Mentor/Assessor is designated by the Chairman in your club

The NRA will amend the shooter record and issue an SCC with 'Handloading' added.

Repeat etc.



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– THE 2022 – GRAND AGGREGATE



Above: Parag accepting the Grand Aggregate Shield from Alain Marion of DCRA.

Parag Patel GC5 relives his 2022 Grand Aggregate experience.

With the backdrop of the international shooting calendar being affected by the pandemic, 2022 saw an opportunity to return to normal. With only a week prior to the meeting, we were all very excited about the prospect of an Imperial meeting of old, with our international friends. However, nature always has its way of surprising us, and without hesitation the danger zone fires put a big dent in the match rifle fixtures. We all took to social media to see the flames and hope and pray that they would not damage our much loved ranges. Some of the aerial scenes showed how much heath had been

devastated around Stickle-down along with the target numbers. Whilst the continued support of the fire services helped to preserve the buildings, much of the burning heath was unable to be reached to stop the flames. It became apparent that the Stickle-down target numbers had taken the main hit with the sandbank acting as firebreaks to stall further movement towards the firing points and clock tower.

As the days rolled on, the flames became less and the NRA with the support of many volunteers managed to rebuild the burnt target numbers only days prior to the schools competitions. Sadly many of the match rifle fixtures were cancelled.

My usual run up to the Imperial involves kit checks, dry firing, mental rehearsal and goal setting. Plus the inevitable late nights trying to get work in order and also to be as helpful around the house as possible. The inevitable guilt of leaving my wife with three boys to contend weighed heavy. However, the prospect of 10 days at Bisley made all those feelings vanish almost entirely into selfishness!

Unlike the previous years, covid recovery work had ramped up so heavily that I really did not take the time with dry firing and hence I was behind my usual curve leading up to the events. However, I rationalised this in the knowledge that this Imperial followed two of my best years. It would be fine I thought, and yet, the scorecards don't lie. I am not proud to say that I dropped more points in the Admiral Hutton shoot than in the whole of my Grand Aggregate. Added to this, my century 600yd shoot was wayward with one over the top and one underneath. Following these two poor performances I took a deep breath and did what I usually do at this point, go back through my note book and previous scorecards trying to recall how I shot the previous year.

Whilst it had passed my mind, I was not going to set a ridiculous goal of trying to achieve three Grand Aggregate wins in a row. Besides the fact that this could never really be a goal but just an outcome of ▶

“ The prospect of 10 days at Bisley made all those feelings vanish almost entirely

“My goal was to ensure my total points dropped was not too far off my previous years

the perfect set in a string of performances. Instead, I wanted to continue to maintain consistency in my position, hold and release over the entire week. Clearly I had gotten off to a poor start!

Below: Lining up for the Corporation.
Below Inset: 2022 Grand Aggregate Result.

The next day saw the start of the Grand Aggregate. My first detail was the Donegall, no problem there, but as the day wore on I had middle of the day Conan Doyle and Telegraph shoots. Neither were particularly good demonstrations of high performance, particularly in the wind reading department. The wind numbers weren't high but there was a fishtail movement which laid bare my rustiness in quick decision making and shot release. The day ended having dropped three points.

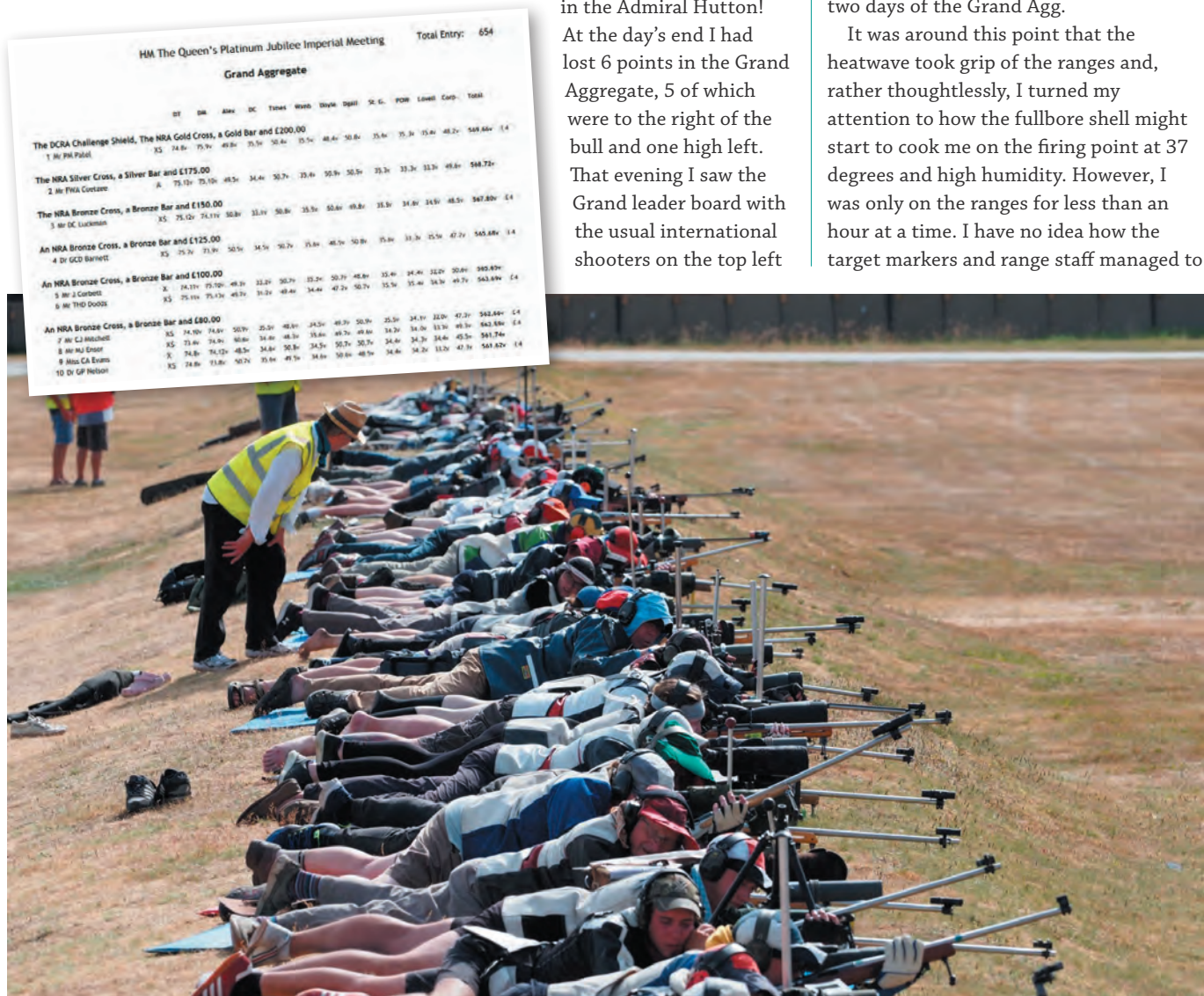
The following day saw a similar set of events, three more points lost, mainly due to poor decision making. The Corporation is never an easy shoot in the middle of the day, particularly due to the stigma around the name and the fear it raises, so I thought to myself that a 48.2 was a fine holding score to take and I should be thankful it was not the 43.1 I had scored

in the Admiral Hutton! At the day's end I had lost 6 points in the Grand Aggregate, 5 of which were to the right of the bull and one high left. That evening I saw the Grand leader board with the usual international shooters on the top left

having only lost a point or two and that momentary thought of a third win in a row had suddenly vanished. At that point I have no idea why I had even contemplated it, to be honest.

Now that I was effectively 'out of contention' in the Grand Aggregate I turned my attention to working on consistency. My goal was to ensure my total points dropped was not too far off my previous years. It was therefore just me and the conditions and nobody else's performance really mattered. Obviously this is how it should always be, but then again we just cannot help comparing ourselves with the usual chat in the clubhouses at the end of the day! This objective, again not really a goal, is very much reliant upon the conditions. However the forecast was for settled wind and blazing heat and so I was keen to put in some better performances in the last two days of the Grand Agg.

It was around this point that the heatwave took grip of the ranges and, rather thoughtlessly, I turned my attention to how the fullbore shell might start to cook me on the firing point at 37 degrees and high humidity. However, I was only on the ranges for less than an hour at a time. I have no idea how the target markers and range staff managed to



perform their duties in that heat for ten hours a day. Truly remarkable and we are all immensely grateful.

It was also a great opportunity to see how my improved fitness would stand up to the punishing temperatures. The reduced course of fire made shooting much more manageable and during the next two days, purely out of interest, I put my heart rate monitor on to record readings during those shoots. Whilst they were short 7 shot matches, my beats per minute averaged around 110-120 which is more than double my resting. From memory, my heart rate was not significantly up from previous testing in less demanding temperatures. It is difficult to know given the small data sample, but I certainly didn't feel the drain of the heat during those two days.

During the second Monday, my squadding allowed a restful morning, with all three shoots from midday onwards, as if to maximise the trauma of the heatwave! Whilst 300yd shoots are often high scoring, the midday squadding can often be a banana skin waiting to happen. On this occasion I managed a 50.4, only to be beaten, and I am sure a first of many, by my son Aaron Patel. As the youngest Imperial competitor this year, he scored his first possible of 50.5! A very proud moment.

That afternoon the reduced course of fire came in. Whilst the decision was a very sensible one for the safety of the staff, it did mean there were fewer points to play for and an even smaller chance of a

come back. However, I kept to the task of working on my performance which, to be fair, was almost back to the highs of 2021. Added to this, the wind was kind to me during the Wimbledon and Duke of Cambridge, never going above 3 minutes at either range. I ended the day with a clean sheet and thankful to be moving up the leaderboard.

The final day was billed to be an easy start but difficult end. The St Georges was first thing in the morning and one of my favourite shoots. Again, no issues there. However the Lovell was at 11am

and in the middle of the range. The wind seemed fairly calm which only served to increase the anxiety around taking the opportunity to get a good score. However, after two shots, the inevitable 1000yd midday wind came into play. The anxiety went and it was all about making some good wind decisions, and thankfully for only 7 shots. Pleased about the outcome of having not dropped a point over both shoots I went to 600yds for the Prince of Wales. I thought about how previously I had shot well at 1000yds only to give up points following it at 600yds by not paying attention to this shoot in its own right. The Prince of Wales at 2pm is arguably just as difficult as the 1000yd Lovell. Going into the shoot I was 6 points down and if I ended on a good note I might not be that far off my last few years

average points dropped for the Grand Agg.

During this time the leader, Alexander Coetzee was far ahead and with more centrals. He started the day having only dropped 3, half the number of points that I had dropped. Hence it was never in my mind about catching him up and, added to that, David Luckman and Jim Corbett were just behind him. The consistency over the last

three days between these three world class shooters meant I never even gave it a thought.

During that Prince of Wales, the wind was as difficult as I was expecting a 2pm 600yd shoot to be. It moved from four minutes down to one and then back up again. Previously I had often been too conservative at this range and found myself missing the bull by incorrect wind decisions of less than half a minute. I therefore decided that there was nothing to lose. I would make a decision and then add some more to the wind. This high risk

strategy thankfully paid off scoring a fairly ropery and large grouped 35.3.

I was happy to have only dropped 6 points in the end, finishing on two days without dropping a point. It also matched my 2020 Grand points dropped and at

best that might get me the silver cross. Alexander Coetzee had

to drop 2 points in the Prince of Wales during

his evening shoot which seemed

unlikely, given the dying wind but

equally the darker skies. I went to

my wing officer duty to let the

events unfold whilst I had the pleasant

distraction of watching others shoot. I really do enjoy

doing this, their varied positions;

shot routines and recoil movements are always a good way of learning about yourself. Once my duties were complete I looked at my phone and, to my surprise, the inevitable font of all knowledge that is Nigel Ball had sent me a text message "GC5". Initially I had thought it impossible, but Alexander Coetzee had sadly dropped two points high in the evening light over century. Having previously come runner up in the Grand by a single v bull to another South African International shot in 2000, I was sad for him but very happy to be its beneficiary.

Following the completion of the Grand Agg there has been discussion about broken records. Until now, Jim Spaight's long standing record of 4 Grand Agg wins had not been broken. He won those over a six year period between 1973-1978. My first two came in 2001 and 2003 when I was young, hungry and probably more technically able, despite my much loved but poorly fitted Tucker shooting jacket and leather sling. The last three wins coming many years later between 2020-2022 probably due to a better fitted jacket and certainly due to improved decision making and wind reading ability.

In truth, comparisons are almost impossible since Jim Spaight's heydays of the 70's. For now, I will enjoy the records until it is broken by one of the readers! 🍀

Above Inset: Parag Patel.



“ Until now, Jim Spaight's long standing record of 4 Grand Agg wins had not been broken

– GALLERY RIFLE & PISTOL – WHAT'S NEW

NRA Gallery Rifle & Pistol Discipline Rep, **Ash Dagger**, reviews rule changes and the 2023 GB Team.

I'm often asked what being the GR&P Discipline Representative (GR Rep) entails.... so a few words of explanation. Each of the major disciplines that fall within the NRA's umbrella of governance has a representative that provides the conduit and discipline focus between their respective shooters and the NRA organisation. The Reps are all volunteers that are put forward by their communities to take a lead on their particular element of the sport, with regard rules, procedures and management. Each is in post for 3 years,

but can be re-elected (assuming they are willing to stand again) once their initial term expires.

As the GR Rep, I sit on the NRA's Shooting Committee and I'm a member of General Council; those bodies each tend to meet three to four times per year. Responsibilities include the updates each year to the rules (The Bisley Bible and for GR – the GR&P Handbook), and addressing any discipline specific issues to the NRA, such as competition conditions and range functions. In addition, as a member of General Council, I may be asked to provide input to the wider NRA policies and issues that could affect financial investments, estate matters and how the NRA manages more generic issues (such as its interaction with MoD). You may also volunteer for other committees as your time and expertise allows.

From a personal perspective, I have a small team of like-minded volunteers who support me as members of the GR&P Working Group. Together, we have overseen changes to how the discipline is run, rationalised the GR&P elements of the Imperial and through the www.galleryrifle.com website and other channels, maintained information to support competition entries, results and stats for the community. We also support the NRA in discipline specific training activities such as GR Skills days. As a subset of that group, we've supported the GBGR Team in fundraising, organising elements of the 2022 World Cup (where we won both championship events!) and other various overseas tours. We represent GB at the International governing body (the IGRF) and generally contribute to the smooth running of international events. That GB Support Team includes Charles Murton, Jacky Lamb, Jim Smith and Neil Francis.

The new Captain for GB Gallery Rifle (Morné van Dalen) was appointed at the end of last year and he has now announced his squad for 2023 and is listed to the right. They will be looking forward to defending their various titles at the Phoenix, Irish Open and German Open in 2023.

In addition, I'm happy to report that the NRA has now formally endorsed an international Handgun team, who will officially represent GB in CF Pistol and Revolver matches overseas (shot under the auspices of the WA1500). I can also confirm that Council have recently supported the appointment of Dave Harris as the Captain of that team for 2023. He and his squad look forward to participation (and hopefully success) at the WA1500 World Cup in Sweden, later in the year. If you think you have the potential to join that squad, contact Dave directly.

So.... as the 2023 season gets underway, GR&P shooters can again look forward to a full programme of events throughout the year. There are a few rule changes and clarifications (summarised below) that will hopefully address some of the issues raised throughout last season.

Rule changes (in no particular order):

- T&P2 LBR no longer classified.

“If the community wants me to continue in this role for another three years, I'm happy to put myself forward for re-election

- 1020 LBP, 1020 LBR and Mini-McQueen now classified.
- Benched replaces “Benchrest” with new Precision targets, 1 shot per diagram; Benched Advancing Target targets unchanged.
- Fore-end support for Benched and Mini-McQueen can be bipod or small bean-bag.
- Small bean-bag allowed for rear support on all forms of McQueen – but no rear support for Benched.
- Tie-break shoots required for all McQueen scores of 50.5 and up (previously 50.6+).
- Classification boundaries updated – so you may find yourself in different classes.
- Multi-Target 3 – clarification that all ammo for the entire event must be carried on the person right the way through from the start.
- Bianchi Practical will be shot at 35, 25, 15 and 10m (instead of 25, 20, 15, 10).
- Standards (which only apply at Phoenix) updated but total Standards points to qualify for Grandmaster medal remain at 20.

All of these and more minor clarifications will appear in the 2023 GR&P handbook – available free to all shooters from the NRA front desk.

Please continue to support GR&P at what ever level you can – club, National or International. Also – please continue to use me as a focal point for our sport, into the NRA. I can be contacted on gallery@nra.org.uk.

My current stint as the GR&P Rep ends in Sept 2023. However, if the community wants me to continue in this role for another three years, I'm happy to put myself forward for re-election. I think we've achieved a lot over the past few years and I look forward to even more successes into the future. ☺

2023 GB GALLERY RIFLE TEAM

Morné van Dalen (Captain)
 Jonathan Cormie (Vice Captain)
 Andy Summers
 Chris West
 Dave Hackett
 David Guest
 David Morrow
 Gerry Betteridge
 Jake Mossom
 Joseph Pugh
 Keith Cox
 Keith Kilvington
 Malcolm Stewart
 Mel Beard
 Peter Keegan
 Peter Watts
 Phil Wood
 Robert J Tonner
 Robert L Tonner
 Robert Wheeler
 Scott Lyon
 Stephen Lamb

GBGR Adjutant : Jacky Lamb

- THE HISTORY OF - CHOBHAM RIDGES

A brief look at the history of Chobham Ridges, written by **Joe Westbrook**.

Whilst working for the NRA as a Range Control Officer and having a love for history, my spare time has been dedicated to researching the history of Chobham Ridges. Taking approximately three months, diving into newspaper articles from around the world and trips into the danger area to see the area for myself, this article only includes a part of the history of the ridges.

The Ridges have always been a hive of activity throughout history. The Maultway (the B3015), one of the oldest

roads in Surrey, runs across the ridges on the left-hand side of the range danger area (RDA). The Chobham Museum suggests that it was first used as a track between Prehistoric and Roman times. In Medieval and later times, it became a driven track which may have headed towards the Guildford animal markets. The first documented name for Chobham Ridges appeared in the Norden Survey of Windsor Castle and Forest of 1607, this survey referred to it as 'The Ridges'. The name 'Chobham Ridges' was first documented

in John Rocque's Map of the County of Surrey in 1765.

The first documented military use of Chobham Ridges appears in June 1853. Articles from the time state that men from various units marched to Chobham Common (approximately 8 kilometres from the ridges) to set up what is known as 'The Great Camp'. This was the largest military manoeuvre by the British Army since the end of the Napoleonic Wars. With rising tensions between Britain and the Russian Empire, the camp was established as a large scale military exercise. It later became a training camp for those troops that may end up going on operations. On

Monday 27th June 1853, various units assembled at the foot of Chobham Ridges and prepared to conduct a coordinated attack on 'enemy positions' up hill on the ridges. The force consisted of many cavalry and infantry units as well as some horse-drawn artillery. It appears that the assault was pushing towards the area of Curley Hill (located to the north of the RDA in Lightwater). In 1875 the War Office formally acquired the land that we now know as Pirbright and Bisley Ranges.

At the turn of the 20th Century, as the Second Boer War was in full flow, Chobham Ridges was being used for artillery training. This is evident from the physical craters that still exist in

the RDA today. Further evidence of this was reported in 1904 that the then Prince and Princess of Wales visited the ridges to watch artillery operations take place.

We can be almost certain that the ridges were used extensively for exercises in the run up to and during the First World War. Due to the reduction of war time reporting on military activities at home, it is impossible to be sure of the scale that they were conducted. However, we may have an insight from ones

“ It appears that the assault was pushing towards the area of Curley Hill



Left: Range Danger Area.
Above inset: Early Ram MKII.



Above left: Centurion MK13 Turret. **Above middle:** Chieftain MKI. **Above right:** Cruiser MKIII.

that were conducted during the interwar period. Most notably in June 1924, when King George V spectated a mock battle. This mock battle consisted of multiple infantry battalions and Vickers-Armstrong's 'new tank of the time'. The tank in question was not actually a tank, it was more of a gun tractor. Its name was the Vickers Dragon. According to newspapers of the time, the gun tractors advanced towards the ridges while supported by the infantry. After the mock battle, The Daily Telegraph reported that King George V inspected another Vickers designed tank on the ridges. The newspaper described this vehicle as being armed with one three pounder gun, four Hotchkiss machine guns and two Vickers machine guns. This description matches that of the Vickers Medium Mark I. This article from the Daily Telegraph adds up with the timeline of development for the vehicle. Prototypes were produced from 1920, the Vickers Medium Mark I entered production in 1924. Therefore, it could have been that this was one of the prototype vehicles or an early production example.

On 24th July 1935, the Evening Standard published an image of a destroyed Vickers Virginia Mark X bomber of 9 Squadron from RAF Worthy

Down (tail number K2675). This aircraft crashed on the Ridges, precise position unknown, during a night flight exercise. It was reported that the aircraft crash landed and caught fire after landing, possibly due to a flare on board the aircraft. All of the crew survived with only minor injuries.

The Vickers Virginia had a remarkably high loss rate, out of the 124 airframes built there would be 81 losses while it was in service. Introduced in 1924, it would only be retired from support and testing roles in 1941.

In the prelude to and during the period of the Second World War, military training on the ridges spiked massively. We can be certain that live mortar and rifle training took place, this is evident due to the large amount of .303 cases, 2-inch, 3-inch mortar bombs and component parts that still lie on the surface. The .303 cases that remain on the surface are usually in bad condition, meaning the headstamps are unreadable. Occasionally there may be an example that is readable and can be linked

to the 1939-1945 period or even earlier. Pig tail wire entanglements can also be found on the higher parts of the ridges.

During the Second World War, a Type 24 pillbox with a trench system to the side and behind it was installed in the north of the RDA. This

pillbox is in remarkably good condition and is free from litter and water ingress. The trench system is also clearly visible, both would have provided excellent arcs of fire over the Red Road that runs across the

north of the RDA.

Armoured vehicles from the Second World War and Post-War periods can be found in a decently high number. Having counted and identified sixteen tank hulls, there is also a similar number of Humber Pigs and one Alvis Saracen. The identified tanks are listed below:

Second World War:

- Two Matilda II hulls
- Two Valentine hulls (variant unknown)
- Two Churchill MkII hulls and one turret

- Three Cruiser Mk VI 'Crusader' hulls
- One extremely rare Cruiser Mk III 'A13' hull (only one complete example remains today)
- Four Ram Mk II hulls (two early models and two late models)

Post-War/Cold War:

- One Centurion Mk 13
- One Chieftain Mk 1

Most of these vehicles have been damaged by anti-tank weapon use over the years. Most appear to have been fired at with L1A1 LAW or L14A1 Carl Gustav. Some of the earlier tank hulls appear to have been fired at with Boys AT rifles and anti-tank guns. One of the Churchill tanks has two large calibre penetration through the reinforced upper front plate, which was armoured up to 178mm of rolled homogeneous armour (RHA). This may well have been caused by a 17 Pounder anti-tank gun as this was the only numerous gun in the British arsenal that could penetrate such thick armour at a distance. The 17 Pounder could penetrate 200mm of RHA at 100m with Armour Piercing ammunition.

Located near the wartime tank hulks, there is a former moving tank range. This includes a large stop butt with a large generator room which would have operated a pulley system. This would ▶

“ Armoured vehicles from the Second World War and Post-War periods can be found in a decently high number

have mimicked a tank moving across the range. Much like we see with the running deer range at BSRC.

Unfortunately, there have been incidents involving unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO) on the ridges. On the 29th of February 1952, The Surrey Herald and Middlesex News reported that a man was blown up by an unexploded mortar bomb on the heath below the ridges.

In July 1957, two young local boys were killed by a 2-inch mortar bomb suspected to have been picked up at Chobham Ridges. The boys took the mortar bomb home where it exploded in the garden.

At the time the RDA did not have a perimeter fence or established marked tracks, and only had the usual warning signs that most MoD training areas have.

Chobham Ridges was also home to a Royal Observer Corps post. These were small underground bunkers that would have reported to the MoD should there have been a nuclear attack against

the UK. There were 1,563 posts built around the UK, these were manned by two people, they were stocked with telecommunications equipment, monitoring equipment, food, water and they even had a dart board. The Chobham Ridge post opened in 1963 and would have had a great view of the London skyline. The post closed in 1991 after the collapse of the USSR. The MoD offered to demolish the post however Major Bob Hutchings (who was the Pirbright Range Officer at the time) decided to retain the post.

Today the RDA has a perimeter fence and is patrolled daily by the MoD to ensure no unauthorised access.

The NRA uses the ridges for its Chobham Ridge range. This range is open to bookings of up to eight shooters and has steel targets placed out to 1000m. We recently added another firing point for gallery rifle, this has targets placed out to 300m. The range offers an amazing view that looks across the danger area



Above: Chobham Ridge Firing Point. **Below:** Chobham Ridge Shelter.



“ At the time the RDA did not have a perimeter fence or established marked tracks and only had the usual warning signs that most MoD training areas have



towards the main Bisley site, and on a clear day, you can see the London skyline. Facilities currently include a newly built shelter over the original firing point providing protection from the elements. Additionally there is a troop shelter overlooking firing point 2, a hospitality room with additional warmth and light, along with ablutions consisting of a portaloos. For any further information on this range and booking availability please view the relevant Chobham Ridge page on the website or contact the range office. 📍

Left: Chobham Ridge.

How it all began **BISLEY** **REMINISCENCES**

GORDON JOHNSTON

RGS Johnston wearing the 1953 coronation medal, awarded as one of two representatives of the Cambridge University OTC selected to march in the Coronation procession.



I must be one of the few who remember Bisley and the Imperial meeting as it was in the late 1940's and early 1950's. At that time the War Office found a battalion to mark the butts and run the camp services. Competitions such as the Queen Mary, with its rattle of musketry and whiffs of cordite over the Century range are vivid in my memory.

To a 15-year-old, everyone seemed old! I remember being intrigued by a range officer, a captain in the marines, with Boer War medals and a waxed moustache. Most had war medals.

I first went to Bisley as part of Clifton's shooting contingent at Easter 1949. We stayed in the Artists' Rifles club house. With David Morgan, I was selected to represent Clifton in the Cadet Pair. We were well coached by RSM Fletcher, and won the trophy with a combined score of 131/140. Clifton had last won the trophy in 1890, as an elderly Old Cliftonian reminded us.

I shot in Clifton's Ashburton team each year, with varying success. On leaving school in 1952, I was urged by Tom Anstey, an Old Cliftonian who had captained the GB team, to keep shooting and join a Bisley club. I joined the City as a junior member, with a subscription of 10 shillings (50p) a year. I was lucky enough to win the Tyro prize in their autumn 1952 competition -Life Membership of the NRA!

At Cambridge I was an active member of CURA but missed any chance of being considered for the team against Oxford because the Imperial meeting clashed with the civil service exams. I was able however to keep up my interest in shooting during National Service, winning the Bisley Cup in the Army meeting in 1956.

Once I started work in the civil service, the demands of the job seldom allowed me to take part in the Imperial meeting, although I was in the Queen's hundred in 1958. When I finally retired from full time work in 1999, my attempts to re-join competitive shooting failed because of deteriorating eyesight.

I lost touch with David Morgan when we both left school, but in 1997 I received some investment literature with a familiar signature. I looked up 'DL Morgan' in Who's Who, and it was indeed David, risen to great eminence in the financial world. I got in touch, and we arranged reunions in 1999 and 2009 of survivors of the Clifton shooting teams. David's death in 2018 denied us the chance of a 70th reunion in 2019, but the Clifton shooters invited me to come to Bisley and present a cup in memory of our 1949 win.

In my short Bisley career I was lucky enough to meet Marjorie Foster, Lord Swansea and Ronnie Melville -all legendary figures. I look with amazement at the precision weapons used today, and compare them with the simple service rifle used in the 1940's. What remains unchanged is the comradeship of the shooting community. ☺



WHO'S NEXT?

We would love to hear how you – or someone you know – got started in fullbore shooting. Please send us a photo and a few words that tells your story to journal@nra.org.uk



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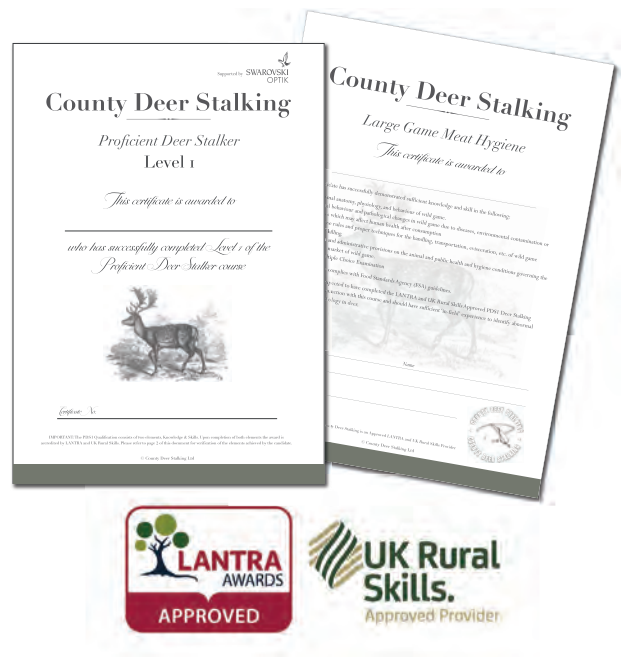
Through a series of online modules and classes, candidates are guided through the theory element of the PDS1 syllabus and are taught the practical elements involved in becoming a trained hunter.

The Proficient Deer Stalker Certificate Level 1 is a nationally recognised Deer Management Course, that has been accredited by the UK's largest, land-based awarding bodies; LANTRA and UK Rural Skills (UKRS)

Once complete, candidates are awarded a PDS1 Certificate, verifying what they have learnt, and are invited to complete a Large Game Meat Hygiene Course that complies with Food

Standards Agency (FSA) guidelines, that enables candidates to become trained hunters and place large game meat on the market for human consumption.

For many candidates, with existing practical knowledge of firearms, such as target shooters and those with experience hunting abroad, this will be sufficient. However, for those candidates who wish to compliment the PDS1 theory with the practical-based, skills assessment, it couldn't be easier. Candidates that have passed the PDS1 online are provided with a list of Approved Verifiers in their area, that will be able to sign off on the practical element of the course.



Delivery of the course online is by Peter S Jones, an Approved LANTRA and UK Rural Skills trainer, trusted industry expert and well known face in the industry. With over 30 years' experience hunting deer and large game in the UK, Europe and Africa and, as a former Metropolitan Police Detective, with extensive experience of firearms and firearms legislation, Peter is uniquely placed to deliver the syllabus of this leading, nationally recognised deer stalking course.

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THE BUDLEIGH FARM STEEL SHOOTS

Dave Guest as Match Director and **Neil Francis** as a freshman competitor give an insight into steel challenge shoots in Devon.

I've often wondered if more people knew how pleasant and relaxed a day's shooting was to be had at the steel challenge shoots in Devon many more people would attend. Held within the boundaries of the Dartmoor National park, famous for its wide open spaces, rugged tors, Dartmoor Prison, bronze age archaeology, ponies, Sherlock Holmes, myths and legends, and 20th century castles add to the list the Budleigh Farm Steel Shoots.

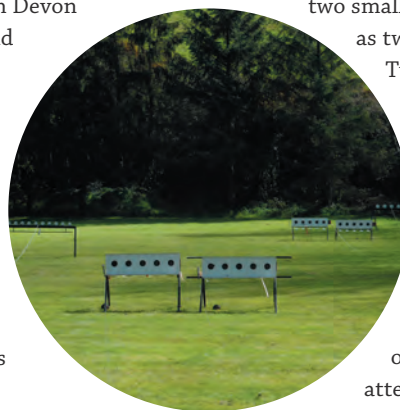
The venue is situated in the Wray valley on the edge of Dartmoor near

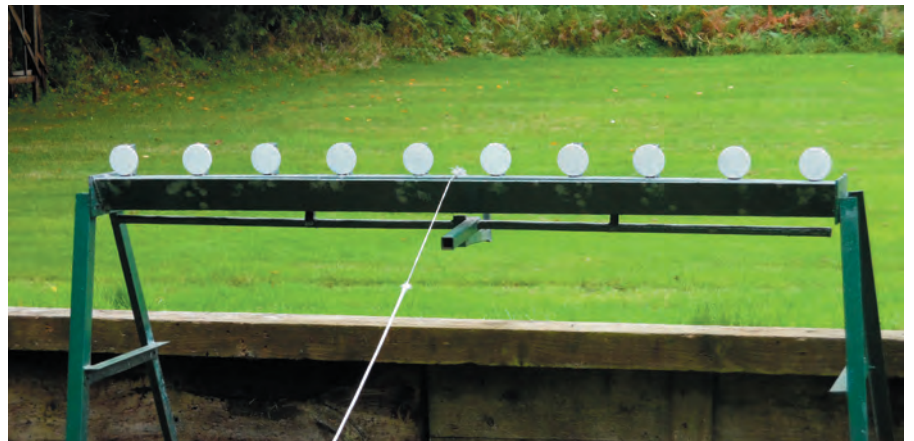
Moretonhampstead. This long established facility has a high reputation for smallbore target rifle shooting and has two small indoor ranges as well as two large outdoor ranges.

Twice a year one of the ranges is booked for two days to host the aforementioned steel shooting competitions.

These shoots are unlike the Speed Steel shooting that some of you may know from attending any of the Gallery Rifle Action Weekends (GRAWs),

including the Phoenix. Even if you haven't shot or seen these shoots you will have heard the constant background ringing of





the steels playing throughout the day at the Bisley GRAW events. The emphasis for these traditional steel plate competitions is on speed – hitting large static targets as quickly as possible. The Budleigh Farm matches are of a completely different style. For rimfire rifles only, the targets are much smaller, at different ranges and reactive – namely they fall down when hit. This makes it both entertaining to watch and addictively satisfying to shoot.

The Competition comprises three sections, each with four banks of ten unique targets designed to test both speed and precision. Each bank of targets is engaged in rotation before moving on to the next section and the 280+ round match can be completed in about three hours so there are morning or afternoon sessions available leaving you time to

take in some of the glorious scenery of Dartmoor, eat a cream tea or just arrange your travel time for a more leisurely day.

The shoot has been in the 'calendar' for many years and is accessible and enjoyed by shooters of all ages, disciplines and abilities. Because it is unlike the usual shooting disciplines, every new shooter is entered into a Freshman class for their initial competition, regardless of skill level, and their first score will dictate which Class (X, A, B or C) they will be entered into on their subsequent shoots. Competitors will climb up the classes as their scores improve – and believe me, once you have done it you will want to do it again.

The Competition is run twice a year. The first is usually early April, known as the Steel Challenge, and the second around October time is called the Rimfire Festival (not to be confused with the Frome and District Pistol Club's shoot of the same name). As an added bonus a side competition called the Pistol Challenge is also arranged for those who want to shoot LBPs. This short rapid fire shoot mimics a stage of the main competitions where the shooter engages a bank of ten targets with

a maximum of twenty rounds (two mags of ten) as fast as possible. A shot timer records the time taken to drop the last target or fire the last round, a time penalty being added for each target still standing. Each shooter gets two attempts on each of the two banks of targets and the highest score from each goes forward towards their final score. Shot during the lunch break between sessions so shooters can do it before or after the main competition. 🔄

COMPETITION DATES FOR 2023

are now fixed and entry forms can be found on-line via the usual websites (galleryrifle.com). Dates for the Steel Challenge are the 15th to 16th April. Dates for the Rimfire Festival are the 30th September to the 1st October.

The weekends are currently organised by David Guest and hosted by Budleigh Farm Target Shooting club at Moretonhampstead in Devon. For further information please contact David at btscteels@gmail.com



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Left: Panda Team huddle celebrating the success of the Panda Black Team. Well done Panda Black.

GB FTR TEAMS LEAGUE MATCH 1

The GB FTR Teams League welcomed in the 2023 New Year with a very damp, first in the season, Team's League shoot on Saturday 14th January 2023. With all the rain over the last few weeks the conditions were pretty wet and sticky to say the least. Even with everyone's slightly dampened spirits the morning started with persistent rain, which was made doubly worse with the very strong winds. Six teams were competing to be the first to pull off the first win of the season.

The teams consisted of:

- Bull Hitters
- MXM Viht 100
- Pandas Black
- Excalibre
- Pandas White
- Nomads

Hats off, almost literally, to all the team wind coaches for wind calling in what was very difficult wind conditions all

day. Conditions were changing so quickly at times there were pickups and drop-offs from anywhere between 2 to 5 MOA making quite a few shots fall out into the 3 ring and possibly the 2? At one point the rain was that intense the targets couldn't be seen. Considering the distance being shot was 600 yards just shows how hard the rain was falling. After the first two soggy details of the morning had finished the AM scores were on the board.

Fortunately, the rain abated for the afternoon shooting, but the strong winds still persisted and did for the remainder of the day. Again, the wind callers had a really tough job but fortunately without having the added nuisance of rain. In all even with the elements thrown at the wind coaches and shooters, both the AM and PM shoots went very well with only the

final results to be announced. There must have been almost every team member awaiting the final tally and then they appeared and revealed the overall scores and positions.

Great scores from all the teams especially under the pretty hairy conditions of the day. The overall score board revealing that the Panda Black team had won on the day with an outstanding overall score

of 1129 over the four details, giving a pretty substantial lead of 39 points. A very good start to the league season. Plus, congratulations to all teams for battling some extreme conditions and turning in some fantastic scores. Thanks to all those that organise the events and to the teams that support the events. 🍀

Below right: Wind Condition of the day. Below left: Almost time to start.

Teams	S1	S2	Lunchtime score	S3	S4	Overall score	Final position
Pandas Black	277 8	286 18	563.26 (1)	290 24	276 13	1129 63	1
MXM Viht 100	262 17	277 17	539.34 (3)	282 20	269 20	1090 74	2
Excalibre	268 11	273 14	541.25 (2)	283 17	264 9	1088 51	3
Bull Hitters	263 9	274 16	537.25 (5)	280 18	270 13	1087 56	4
Pandas White	263 12	276 15	539.27 (4)	276 16	258 12	1073 55	5
Nomads	253 6	275 14	528.20 (6)	276 14	257 11	1061 45	6





F-CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

teams announced

The NRA and the GB F-Class Association are sending full FTR and F-Open teams to the F-Class World Championships (FCWC) in Bloemfontein, South Africa, March/April 2023.

GB FTR TEAM

The GB FTR team formed the year immediately following the 2017 FCWC in Ottawa, Canada and has been training hard together for five years as the South Africa FCWC was delayed twice from 2021 to 2023 due to Covid.

Amongst this close-knit team are two European FTR champions and three GBFCA National FTR League Champions.

With two recce trips made to the General de Wet range in Bloemfontein in 2019 and 2022 the GB FTR is looking forward (at last) to the F-Class World Championships.

GB OPEN TEAM

The GB F-Open Rifle Team was formed following the appointment of Tony Marsh as Captain, and training swiftly began. It soon became evident that this team have a strong bond and made excellent progress with their preparations for the World Championships.

Amongst this tenacious team are an

GB F-OPEN RIFLE TEAM

Tony Marsh – **Captain**
 Paul Harkins – **Vice Captain**
 Lance Vinall – **Adjutant**
 Brogan O’Shea Smith
 David Raybould
 Gary Costello
 Gordon Waugh
 Ian Boxall
 Martin Miles
 Martin Scrivens
 Paul Hill
 Paul Sandie
 Rob Hale
 Stephen Moloney
 Tom Bindley
 Tom Reynolds

F-Open World Champion, two F-Open European Champions and three F-Open National Champions.

After multiple delays and disruptions, the GB F-Open team is finally ready for

GB FTR TEAM

David Rollafson – **Captain**
 Peter Dommatt – **Vice Captain / Adjutant**
 Carrie Ryan – **Wind Coach**
 David CW Lloyd – **Wind Coach**
 Ewen Campbell – **Wind Coach**
 Nick Gilbert – **Plotter**
 Peter Baxter – **Plotter**
 Arnaud Martin
 Dan Lomas
 Garryk Campbell
 Mark Webb
 Matt Jarram
 Mike Harris
 Peter Sheffield
 Simon Gambling
 Simon West

the World Championships and hopes to secure the World title for the first time since 2009.

Above: Preparation and practice underway before the teams travel.



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– NRA RANGES ON – WIMBLEDON COMMON

John Bloomfield evaluates the earliest known painting to depict NRA Rifle Ranges on Wimbledon Common.

This very finely executed oil painted landscape measuring 26" x 13" without frame, which adds a further 2 ½" all round, is the earliest known in the UK depicting any part of the NRA's rifle ranges on Wimbledon Common. Further significant historical interest is added by the inclusion, under the Union Stars and Stripes on the extreme right of the scene, of the earliest known US participation at Wimbledon, a demonstration of his new breech-loading rifle by Mr. Montgomery Storm of New York. A further 12 years were to elapse before the first US shooters competed on the Wimbledon ranges following the Match at Dollymount, Ireland in 1875.

The scene at Wimbledon is set in early July 1863, a few days after the battle of Gettysburg had been settled in favour of the Union, though the result of the battle was not

known in the UK until around the middle of July. The NRA's rifle ranges were established on Wimbledon Common and the first annual Rifle Meeting took place in July 1860. In 1862 the Running Deer range was established and proved a success, but it needed essential modification for improvement and reliability: this was undertaken in 1863 through the NRA Chairman, Lord Elcho, in association with his close friend, the artist Sir Edwin Landseer.

The main features of the landscape conform closely to the plan of the NRA's Wimbledon ranges published in July 1863 at the time of the NRA's Wimbledon Meeting which began on July 7th that year. It shows the firing points to be relatively un-crowded on July 6th but competitors in large numbers can be seen entering the Camp for the new Meeting which began the following day.



At the exact centre of the 1863 landscape is the new Running Deer range firing point with, as its focal point, the then Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901), being congratulated by Lord Elcho on his spectacular shoot on July 6th when christening the use of Landseer's new iron target of a running deer. The report below in the London Times of July 7th 1863 gives the account of what the Prince, then aged 21, had achieved.

"The next trial was at shorter range, but at a moving instead of a stationary target, and here the Highland experiences of the Prince of Wales stood him in good stead. Those who have not actually fired at the "running deer" can form no conception of the difficulty of hitting the mark. Appearing to move very slowly, it really travels with the velocity of a railway carriage, and, as in the course of its arc of a circle, the rate of speed at different points is necessarily various. The artist has made the deer of the dun instead of the red tribe, and there is consequently little by which it can be distinguished from the bank behind, but for all that it rarely succeeded in crossing its "corrie" scatheless. At one time the Prince succeeded in planting four bullets successively in the portion of the body forming the centre of the target. The members of the Association who were present concurred in declaring that the practice which had been made at this range, if not better, was at least equal, taking the

general average of the shots, to that of any single rifle at the meeting of 1862. His Royal Highness used a double barrelled rifle made by Mr Smith, the Armourer to the National Rifle Association, and was so well satisfied with its performance that before leaving the ground he gave orders that one should be made especially for him"

Closely adjacent to the firing point of the Running Deer range, is the 200 yard range firing point seen below the Union Stars and Stripes on the far right hand side of the picture. The firing point is shown being readied for the demonstration by Mr. Montgomery Storm of New York, a leading rifle developer in the Union, of his newly designed breech loading mechanism for a military rifle. (This scene is 8 years before the US NRA was formed). So effective did this rifle conversion prove to be that the NRA's associated competition that year was won by a British Volunteer who, in the two minutes allowed, fired no less than 11 shots for a high score. The formal Report of the NRA recorded :

"The rapid, accurate, and destructive fire thus obtainable from breech-loaders has led the Council to bring the results of this competition under the special notice of Field-Marshal the General Commanding-in-Chief and of the Secretary of State for War."

It may, perhaps, be possible to identify from US records whether the large, seemingly slightly stooping, ►

gentleman wearing what appears to be a beaver top hat who is directing firing point preparations under the Stars and Stripes is in fact Montgomery Storm himself with US military attendants on the firing point.

Coincidentally reports of the outcome of the Battle of Gettysburg, which ended on July 3rd 1863, reached England during the Mont. Storm demonstration. It is interesting to speculate whether the reported outcome of that battle inspired inclusion in the picture of the 200 yd firing point and the Stars and Stripes where the demonstration was taking place, since no other national flags, apart from the Union Jack, seem to be depicted that day at Wimbledon. It is believed that there was no other appearance at Wimbledon by American riflemen in the 1860s – can this be confirmed?

The painting is unsigned and the artist so far unidentified however the distinctive monogram in the left hand bottom corner of the picture, below the Running Deer Target crossing its “corrie” (as described by the Times) bears some similarities to Landseer’s manuscript monograms of the early 1860’s and on one of his known paintings.

The Author of the most recent history of the NRA¹, published in 2019, has given the owner of the landscape his permission to re-publish the extracts below from his account of the events on the Running Deer range firing point in 1863. The Author confirms he had no knowledge of the existence of the picture (which has been privately owned since it was painted) when researching for his book. This contemporary picture from 1863 confirms the accuracy of his research.

“The NRA ‘Deer’ designed by Landseer, the great Victorian animal painter, at the instigation of Lord Elcho, was made of wrought iron and constructed, along with its carrying truck, in the Great Western Railway’s locomotive and carriage works at Swindon, Wiltshire.

The new Deer duly went into service at the NRA’s 1863 July Meeting along with an alternative target, the ‘Running Man’ and running over the same track. The ‘Deer’, however, proved the more popular. The Running Man was from a design by George Frederic Watts, another celebrated contemporary artist who had already been responsible for the design of the NRA’s Gold Medal, Sit Perpetuum Badge and Elcho Shield. The new ‘deer’ attracted a comment in The Times of July 6th 1863 also indicating that both targets were originally painted.

“The Association now has a “running deer” of its own. That in use on the previous occasion was lent for the purpose by Mr. Lancaster; but since then one manufactured which is more than a mere target - it is a work of art. The outline, life size, was sketched by Sir E. Landseer, and from this drawing an exact counterpart was made at the Swindon Works of the Great Western Railway, under the supervision of Captain Gooch. To this plate an artist, who undertook the work at the instance of Sir E. Landseer, has added the necessary colouring with such fidelity to nature that it seems like desecration to spatter over this “running deer” with the marks of rifle bullets. o vary this attraction, a “running man” will be substituted on alternate days. The figure is that of a Volunteer “at the double” and as one

“ The ability of the Prince of Wales at the running deer target was eventually matched by the legendary Walter Winans, of the USA, who first appeared at Wimbledon some 25 years later

side is represented with a gray uniform, and the other with a scarlet tunic, there will be a favourable opportunity of testing the relative superiority of colour. The outline for this target, which is also of the natural size, was drawn by Mr. Watts.”

The ability of the Prince of Wales at the running deer target was eventually matched by the legendary Walter Winans, of the USA, who first appeared at Wimbledon some 25 years later. Winans, however, had the advantage of lighter and more accurate breech loading rifles compared with the heavy muzzle loading rifles used in the early 1860s.

The events depicted on the NRA Wimbledon Running Deer Range firing point coincide precisely with those recorded in the London Times report of July 7th 1863. The owner of the painting (email below) would be most grateful to know if those depicted under the Stars and Stripes on the very closely adjacent 200 yards firing point include Mr. Mont. Storm himself, and whether there was any other known US participation in shooting at the NRA Meetings on Wimbledon Common in the 1860s, certainly none is recorded in any NRA (GB) records. In any event, observations and comment by NRA members or Authorities would be more than welcome.

Email enquiries to: Harquebus1863@gmail.com 📧

KEY TO PAINTING

- 1 Wimbledon Windmill in 1863 - built 1817, ceased working as a mill 1864, re-developed 1872 by Lord Spencer, effective owner of Wimbledon Common and NRA Chairman 1867/9
- 2 Running Deer range firing point
- 3 Sir Edwin Landseer’s iron stag target 100m from the Running Deer firing point.
- 4 The Prince of Wales, Patron of NRA 1862 – 1910 (King Edward VII 1901 – 1910) being congratulated on his score at the Running Deer on July 6th by Lord Elcho (NRA Chairman 1859-1867)
- 5 Rifle Volunteer Encampment
- 6 Monogram
- 7 200 yard firing point being readied for the Mont. Storm breech-loader rifle demonstration and related competition during NRA Imperial Meeting

¹Extracts from Targets and Tramways – The National Rifle Association, Its Tramways and the London and South Western Railway. Published by Pen and Sword Books Ltd – Copyright Christopher Bunch 2019. This illustrated 309 page history is available from the National Rifle Association, Bisley, Brookwood, Surrey GU24 0PB, United Kingdom for £25 + post and packing or through [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

²See also Chapter 3, pages 95 - 102 for much further detail and 1862 plan of the Wimbledon Common ranges.



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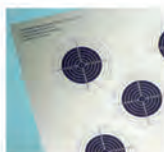
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– THE LONDON AND MIDDLESEX RIFLE ASSOCIATION – OPEN MEETING

Held on 24-25 September 2022, report by
John Saunders, LMRA Shooting Manager.

The LMRA Open Meeting was shot on the usual 4th weekend in September using the new format of Kings 1, Kings 11 on Saturday and 2 + 10 @ 900 and 1,000 yards Sunday AM. This was the first time in 70 years that most of the competitors had shot a Kings I or II. There were 57 entries consisting of 3 F Class, 5 Gresham’s pupils and 4 from the EU.

The match conditions were cool autumnal weather with a deceptive wind at times which caught some experienced shots by surprise so much so that the first Competition the Presidents was won with a score of 104.14. However the pupils of Greshams and Bradfield College seemed to have little problem. Fortunately the conditions eased during the afternoon and early Sunday morning. 🍁

Below: Georgie B receiving the Grand Aggregate U25 Sowerby Shield from Lee Winter LMRA Shooting Chairman.

“The match conditions were cool autumnal weather with a deceptive wind at times which caught some experienced shots by surprise

RESULTS				
The Presidents K1				
1	Gary Alexander	LMRA	X	104.14
2	Gary Childs	LMRA	O	103.16
3	Georgie B	Greshams	T	103.15
F	David Lloyd	LMRA		147.13
The Elizabethan Bowl Q11				
1	Andrew Wilde	LMRA	X	147.17
2	Rory ace	Bradfield	O	147.17
3	Barry LeCheminant	Jersey RA	X	147.16
F	Eddie Brice	LMRA		146.15
The Anderson 2+10 @9 00 & 1000				
1	Richard Mott	LMRA	A	99.9
2	Tim Bedwell	LMRA	A	98.7
3	Ian Farbon	LMRA	T	96.1
	David Lloyd	LMRA		134.4
Saturday Aggregate				
1	Gary Alexander	LMRA	X	249.31
2	Barry LeCheminant	Jersey RA	X	249.29
3	Paul Holmes	Manchester RC	A	249.23
The Malcolm Grand Aggregate Comps 1, 2 & 3				
1	Gary Alexander	LMRA	X	344.40
2	Ryan Warren	LMRA	O	344.33
3	Tim Bedwell	LMRA	A	344.30
Sowerby Shield U25				
	Georgie B	Greshams	T	341.43
F	Eddie Brice	LMRA		423.30



SLG BISLEY OPEN MEETING

Jacky Lamb reports on the annual fund raiser competition for SLG Bisley.

We are a small club that promotes handgun shooting in Germany and the funds are used to buy equipment to support activities.

The Meeting is run by members of the Club, an enthusiastic bunch of people who come together to provide a supportive and friendly shoot. The SLG Bisley 1500 Open sits in between the Nationals and the Autumn Action giving Gallery Rifle & Pistol shooters a chance to get some practice in before the Autumn Action and

to end the season on a high. 2022 was a record year with more people entered (55) and more rounds shot (20172) than in any previous year. The record entries might have been something to do with the special offer of a free bacon butty for breakfast and a burger for lunch! However, we hope that the supportive and friendly environment also brings people back. It enables new shooters to cut their teeth on competition shooting at Bisley, without the pressure of the big NRA shoots. Hopefully,

they then go on to become more confident and enter other competitions. With new starters shooting alongside GB GR Squad members, it is great experience. Many of the events are classified (X, A, B, etc.) which means everyone has a chance of winning something. Because this is an Open meeting, the scores count towards individual classifications, individual rankings and national records.

A good day's shooting was had by all including 1500, Advancing Target, Timed and

Precision 1, Multi-Target, 1020, 50m Precision and Mini-McQueens. With the exception of Mini-McQueens, which is GRSB only, the other events could all be shot with GRSB, GRCE, LBP and LBR.

The weather was kind to us and, despite threatening to rain on the prize table, it stayed dry. When the shooting was over, we gathered at The Spott for our innovative and quirky prize giving. All shooters placed in their class get awarded raffle tickets and the prizes are drawn after the medal winners have all been called. With some amazing raffle prizes and our bargain feast, there was lots to look forward to, even after the shooting was over.

Our thanks to the NRA for giving us their support and providing the gazebos at 25m. Everything worked very well. We'd also like to thank William Evans for generously providing some of the prizes.

We will be holding this event again in 2023 on Saturday 23rd September so get the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you then. ☺





NRA E-League

Civilian Service Rifle: Spring 2022/23

Classes: Historic Enfield, Any Iron, Practical Optic, Service Optic

Competition 1: Based on 300 Yard Match: Timed Fire

Distance & Position: 300x Prone

Targetry: 1x Fig 12

Ammunition: 10 rounds

Procedure:

1. Firers start in the standing alert position
2. Targets will make 1 exposure of 60 seconds. On appearance of the target, firers will adopt the prone position, release safety catches and open fire

Competition 2: Based on 200 Yard Match: Sitting Rapid

Distance & Position: 200x Sitting

Targetry: 1x Fig 12

Ammunition: 10 rounds

Procedure:

1. Firers start in the sitting position
2. Targets will make 1 exposure of 40 seconds. On appearance of the target, firers will release safety catches and open fire

Competition 3: Based on Short Range Match: Standing

Distance & Position: 100x Standing followed by kneeling or squatting

Targetry: 1x Fig 12c

Ammunition: 10 rounds

Procedure:

1. The target will make 5 double exposures of 4 seconds up, 2 seconds down and 4 seconds up, at irregular intervals over a period of 2 minutes.
2. The first shot in each double exposure must be fired from the standing position, and the second from either the kneeling or squatting position. Firers will return to the standing alert position after each double exposure

Ties: Overall Round standings will be counted back in Competition order: 3, 2, 1

To Enter and for more details please visit:
online.nra.org.uk/e-league-csr-spring23





NRA CSR E-League 2022-23

Spring Scorecard



Title:	First Name:	Surname:	
GRID Number:	Membership No:	Date of Birth:	
Club/ School/ Unit:			
I am a member of the military (including reserve forces), police or other emergency services			Yes / No
I am a former member of the military (including reserve forces), police or other emergency services			Yes / No
I am a Cadet member of a Cadet Force			Yes / No
I am a Staff/Volunteer member of a Cadet Force			Yes / No
Historic Enfield <input type="checkbox"/>	Any Iron <input type="checkbox"/>	Service Optic <input type="checkbox"/>	Practical Optic <input type="checkbox"/>

Please read the accompanying Event Notes and Course of Fire before competing. Record the number of hits below

Competition 1	5	4	Miss	Total
Practice 1				.
Shooter Signature:		Witness Signature:		.

Figure 12 Target: The 5 point ring is the smaller inner circle. 4 points is scored for a hit anywhere else on the target

Competition 2	5	4	Miss	Total
Practice 1				.
Shooter Signature:		Witness Signature:		.

Figure 12 Target: The 5 point ring is the smaller inner circle. 4 points is scored for a hit anywhere else on the target

Competition 3	5	4	Miss	Total
Practice 1				.
Shooter Signature:		Witness Signature:		.

Figure 12c Target: The 5 point ring is the larger outer circle. 4 points is scored for a hit anywhere else on the target



Submit Scorecard

- 1) Complete the above competitions, and fill in your results
- 2) Visit our online entry website and make your payment:
online.nra.org.uk/e-league-csr-spring23
- 3) Send a picture of your scorecard to us with your online entry or via email or post



View Results



ARMOURY UPDATE

We've started off 2023 with a bang by installing our new display racks in the Armoury that showcases all of the shooting accessories you'll need to get ahead this year.

We still have good stocks of ammunition and reloading components, however there is a Vihtavuori import slowdown which is making it very hard to keep it in stock. We still have a good supply of Focchi Large & Small Rifle Primers in stock which is limited to 300 primers per person per week.

We have the following lines of .308/7.62 in good quantities:

- GGG 7.62 147gr FMJ at £18.50 per 20
- Hornady .308 A-MAX Black 155gr HPBT at £25.00 per 20
- RWS .308 154gr Target Elite Plus at £28.00 Per 20
- GGG .308 Match 168gr at £27.00 per 20
- GGG .308 Match 175gr at £28.00 per 20
- S&B .308 175gr HPBT at £30.00 per 20

Remember to pop in to get your firearm cleaning supplies, we stock a range of Boretech cleaning solvents, rods and attachments.

We hope to see you soon in the Armoury and wish you a great 2023 and year full of V-Bulls. 🍀





Above: Bisley 1929.

- THE CLUB HOUSES OF THE - SOUTH LONDON RIFLE CLUB

A look back in time at the Club Houses at the South London Rifle Club and its involvement with the NRA.

The South London Rifle Club was founded in November 1874 by Volunteers of various Metropolitan rifle corps who wanted to indulge in more shooting than their corps could offer. Membership, however, was not restricted to Volunteers and lady shooting members were admitted from at least 1904. When she won the King's Prize in 1930 the South London RC was Marjorie Foster's principal club.

From 1875 the Club hired a privately-owned rifle range at Nunhead. This range, offering distances up to 600 yards, was also used for cricket and other sports. It was bounded on one side by housing and on the other by a railway line (firing had to cease whenever a train went by!). The owner was a local publican, Charles

Brown (also a Volunteer), and the Club naturally used his nearby pub (the Railway Tavern) as its headquarters.

Unfortunately, in 1887 the War Office inspected the range and condemned it as unsafe. They did not have the powers to close it but forbade any serving soldiers (including Volunteers) to use it. While it remained possible for Club members to shoot there in a "private" capacity this was the beginning of the end of the Nunhead range and in 1892 the Club moved its shooting to the ranges of the Metropolitan Rifle & Revolver Company at Runnymede. The erstwhile sports ground ("Browns Ground") survives to this day as a school sports ground although the Railway Tavern closed in 2003 and has since been demolished.

The extensive Runnymede ranges included a pavilion used for administration and clubhouse. Although the site of the Runnymede range is now covered by the

Wraysbury reservoir the old pavilion building remains in good condition, though much altered, visible from the adjacent M25, in industrial use.

The Runnymede ranges were much bigger than Brown's but so were the costs! This produced complaints from members so the Club began using Bisley and in 1910 ceased using Runnymede. At first the Club did not have a clubhouse at Bisley but in 1923 started to rent a corner of the Old NRA Offices for £20 per year.

When the National Rifle Association was founded, in 1859, it rented offices in London which served as its year-round headquarters. However, during the Annual Prize Meeting at Wimbledon there was a need for substantial administrative accommodation. For many years this took the form of a cluster of marquees (the "Council Group") but in 1876 the NRA built a wooden office building. It was designed and constructed such that it could be erected (with a canvas roof) during the preparation of the ranges and, afterwards, dismantled and stored (with all the other range apparatus) at "Dairy Farm" on the Common which the NRA bought in 1873. When the NRA acquired Bisley this building was brought from Wimbledon and erected permanently (with a corrugated iron roof) where it stands today. It continued as the NRA Bisley HQ until 1902 when

“ Although the site of the Runnymede range is now covered by the Wraysbury reservoir the old pavilion building remains in good condition, though much altered, visible from the adjacent M25, in industrial use.

the current brick-built NRA Office building was completed. The "Old NRA Offices" were then let to various tenants by sealing-up doors and modifying internal partitions.

The original SLRC accommodation consisted of three rooms ("two large and one small") and a separate WC in the central courtyard. Since then it has been extended in a piecemeal manner according to opportunity and the fluctuating size of the membership (and consequential finances). Partitions have been added, and removed, and doors have been sealed up. Today the Clubhouse has a large armoury, generous lounge, kitchen, four bedrooms, indoors WC and private washroom. Membership is just under 100 (participation across many disciplines) and all have a key to the front door and use of the facilities whenever shooting at Bisley. ☺

Below: Runnymede Range Pavilion 1910 (The trophies are the Middlesex Astor, which the Club had just won, and the Donegall which a member, Mr T Roxburgh, had won the previous year. The ladies are believed to be Miss Seaton and Mrs Chapman).



THE BRITISH CADET RIFLE TEAM TOUR TO THE NORTH ENGLAND

Anton F Aspin from Altcar Range Committee reports on the event that took place on 20-21 August 2022.

Since the 1930s a British Cadet Rifle Team has toured to Canada to take part in the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA) annual meeting at Connaught Ranges near Ottawa. This year the DCRA were unable to offer range space for the cadets and the British Cadet Rifle Team (The Athelings) sadly had their tour cancelled for the third time in as many years.

In June Martin Liversage, Hon Secretary of the County of Lancaster Rifle Association (CLRA), was contacted by Brig.(Retd) Mark Pountain the Secretary General of the Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting (CCRS) with a view to organising a UK tour of the north of England for the Athelings taking in some local ranges. Brockholes and Altcar ranges were likely venues to be considered with the weekend of the 20th/21st August a preferred date. Discussions continued in July with the range at Brockholes being secured and an application for range space and accommodation at Altcar being made by the CCRS. At the end of July a meeting was held via video link between the CLRA, and representatives of the county rifle associations of Yorkshire, Lancashire, Northumberland, and Cheshire. Stuart Comins was appointed match captain for the Brockholes shoot and Ron Booth match captain for the anticipated Altcar shoot.

Both captains then contacted without delay county members inviting applications for the Northern County



Left: The Athelings at Altcar, 1000 yards.

Above: The teams after the match at Altcar.

Team. Time was short but the response was good and things looked hopeful that the invitation from the CCRS could be met by the Northern Counties Team.

AMMUNITION

Apart from securing the ranges a supply of ammunition (1560 rounds) of suitable quality was needed to be sourced by the CCRS. The National Rifle Association (NRA) at Bisley made available to the CCRS surplus and returned ammunition from the recent Imperial Meeting at Bisley. The GGG 2022 batch had performed well in the meeting and proved to be satisfactory for the two matches.

20 AUGUST: BROCKHOLES

After an overnight stay at Strensall Camp the Athelings arrived at Brockholes range near Holmfirth. The range is operated by Huddersfield Rifle Club and features three ranges (200, 400, & 500 yards) each with its own covered firing point and target butts. The targetry is electronic by the Kongsberg and Shot Marker systems so that firing can take place at all three distances simultaneously. There are three targets per range.

On arrival the Athelings were met by the traditional Yorkshire friendly welcome and customary hospitality. Of particular interest was the BBQ of belly-bursting proportions which was constantly visited. The weather was fine with a blustery wind from the right.

The firing points and butts are on either side of a rising valley making wind judgement a challenge. On the day in question the wind was coming up the

valley in gusts and the Athelings soon had their first experience of 'vertical wind'. This means that shots can be lifted by freshening wind. Experienced range users commented that at 500 yards the wind conditions were as difficult as they can get. Each team was allocated a range at a time and with four firers per target were able to shoot together as a team throughout.

There was good shooting by both teams and the result went in favour of the Northern Teams although the Athelings had climbed a major learning curve. At the end presentations were made and thanks given to the Yorkshire hosts. The Athelings departed for Altcar some time later where accommodation was waiting.

21 AUGUST: ALT CAR

After surmounting regulatory and logistical hurdles Altcar had been made available for the second part of the match.

NC V ATHELINGS 20/08/2022 AT BROCKHOLES

Name	200	400	500	Total
Northern Counties				
SarahJane Binder-Swash	49.8	49.7	47.1	145.16
John Warburton	49.7	49.7	46.2	144.16
Paul Holmes	49.4	48.4	49.4	146.12
Richard Stebbings	48.6	47.4	44.1	139.11
Alan Lightowler	49.6	48.5	47.4	144.15
Rick Webb	50.7	49.4	46.2	145.13
Jon Binder-Swash TS	49.4	48.6	50.3	147.13
Richard Hirst	49.5	47.4	49.2	145.11
Ben Craig	49.3	47.5	50.4	146.12
Martin Liversage	48.6	46.5	47.1	141.12
Trevor Byan	49.4	48.4	46.4	143.12
Rosanne Furness	50.4	49.3	46.2	145.09
Total	588.64	575.58	567.30	1730.152
Athelings				
Edward Chambers TS	48.3	50.5	48.3	146.11
Broadhirst / Lawry	46.3	48.7	45.0	139.10
Oliver Frost	45.3	48.5	46.2	139.10
Rory Roche	46.4	48.3	47.4	141.11
James Caldwell	48.5	49.7	47.2	144.14
Farly / Phillimore	48.3	50.8	44.1	142.12
Piper / Clarke	43.3	47.5	45.2	135.10
Max Sheridan-Oliver	45.3	48.5	46.2	139.10
Jameel Joomun	48.6	49.2	42.2	139.10
Madison Williams	48.4	47.3	46.2	141.09
Alexander Le Quesne	48.4	47.3	48.2	143.09
Szymon Kasica	38.0	45.1	43.2	126.03
Total	551.41	576.54	547.24	1674.119

By contrast to Brockholes Altcar is a coastal range and shooting is subject to wind, light, and tidal conditions. It remains one of the finest range complexes in the UK, training regular and reservist military personnel, as well as cadets. Civilian rifle clubs are also licensed to use the ranges subject to military requirements. For target shooting Altcar can offer 'D' Range which has eight lanes going back to 1000 yards. It was a delight to all participants that the match took place on 'D' Range with shooting at 900 and 1000 yards. Altcar remains one of a dwindling number of locations in the country where long range shooting can still take place.

The shooters split into two equal details with one shooting in the morning and after a short break changing places for the afternoon. The non-shooting detail ►



Above: The teams after the match at Brockholes.

manned the butts. Each team had two targets firing two sighters and fifteen to count at 900 yards and then two sighters and ten to count at 1000 yards. The conditions were a complete contrast to the day before with a gentle breeze coming from the right over the dunes and a treacly mirage to confuse the sight picture. The morning was steady and the Athelings posted three 'possible' scores at 900 yards ending the range one point in the lead. After a quick break for lunch the details changed places and things became more difficult. The wind would rise and then fade to zero causing the mirage to boil lifting the sight picture and causing elevation problems. This was not helped by the targets sitting low with the aiming marks just fully visible over the mantlet. The lack of lane numbers required concentration to avoid shooting on the wrong target. The Northern Counties posted three 'possible' scores at 1000 yards and when shooting finished at 15.00 hrs had taken the match.

There followed more presentations and words of thanks and appreciation all round. The Athelings would make their way down to Bisley by the weekend for a match against Wales and then partake in the Welsh Open Meeting. The Athelings had again shot well and learned much as well as gaining hard earned respect from their opponents.

CONCLUSION

The enclosed results speak for themselves and show the Athelings team to have an abundance of talent. At Brockholes the

NORTH COUNTIES SCORE CARD ALT CAR			
Name	900yds	1000yds	Total
Ben Craig	72.7	50.8	122.15
Tracey Fitzsimons	73.10	48.4	121.14
Martin Liversage	74.11	48.4	122.15
John Warburton	74.12	50.6	124.18
Richard Hirst	73.9	46.5	119.14
Paul Holmes	74.9	47.4	121.13
Simon Osmond	73.12	48.4	121.16
Tom Horrocks	72.6	46.6	118.12
Richard Stebbings	71.7	45.2	116.9
Katie Milner	73.9	50.6	123.15
Sarah Jane	74.8	42.2	116.10
Richard Webb	74.10	49.4	123.14
Total	877.110	569.55	1446.165

ATHELINGS SCORE CARD ALT CAR			
Name	900yds	1000yds	Total
Sheridan-Oliver	75.12	49.4	124.16
Chambers	73.13	49.6	122.19
Caldwell	75.13	47.5	122.18
Broadhurst	73.8	49.6	122.16
Mckenna	75.10	43.0	118.10
Lequesne	70.6	42.2	112.8
Butler	72.7	47.6	119.13
Williams	65.5	27.0	92.5
Phillimore	68.4	42.2	110.6
Clarke	74.10	49.5	123.15
Joomun	72.10	45.4	117.14
Frost	71.8	40.4	111.12
Total	863.106	520.44	1392.150

“ The morning was steady and the Athelings posted three ‘possible’ scores at 900 yards ending the range one point in the lead

Athelings had the highest cumulative score at 400 yards. At Altcar if the top six scores are taken from each team there were only three points in it. For the Northern Counties Team it was a great pleasure to meet these young people and let them experience new ranges and learn how different conditions can be from place to place. It is hoped that similar events can happen again.

Acknowledgements must be made to all who made this happen. To the officers and members of Huddersfield Rifle Club for making their fabulous range available. To the NW RFCA staff at Altcar for their hard work in making 'D' Range available and for cadet accommodation. To the club members at Altcar who travelled far just to man look-outs, road sentry duties, and conduct the shoot. To the Northern Counties Team members who came from as far north as Tyne and Wear and as far south as Hampshire to take part. To Martin Liversage and his organising team and last but not least the CCRS for hosting the two days of excellent shooting and competition and to the Athelings themselves who were a credit to the Cadet movement. 🌟

Below: The match in progress at Altcar, 'D' Range, 900 yards.





NRA E-League

Gallery Rifle & Pistol: Spring 2022/23

Classes: GRSB, GRSB Benchrest, GRCE, GRCE Classic, LBR, LBP

Competition 1: *Based on 25m Precision*

Distance & Position: 25m Standing

Targetry: GRSB, GRSB Benchrest: PL14 | GRCE, LBP, LBR: PL7

Ammunition: 20 rounds

Course of Fire:

Practice 1: 10 shots in 7 minutes

Practice 2: 10 shots in 5 minutes

Competition 2: *Based on Multi-Target*

Distance & Position: 20m Standing

Targetry: GRSB, GRSB Benchrest: 2x DP1 ½, GRCE, LBP, LBR: 2x DP1

Ammunition: 20 rounds

Course of Fire:

Practice 1: 2 shots on each target in a total of 15 seconds

Practice 2: 2 shots on each target in a total of 10 seconds

Practice 3: 3 shots on each target in a total of 15 seconds

Practice 4: 3 shots on each target in a total of 10 second

Competition 3: *Based on Timed & Precision 1*

Distance & Position: 15m Standing

Targetry: GRSB, GRSB Benchrest: DP2 ½, GRCE, LBP, LBR: DP2

Ammunition: 20 rounds

Procedure:

Practice 1: 4x 3 second exposures with 5 second intervals. 1 shot per exposure

Practice 2: 4x 2 second exposures with 5 second intervals. 1 shot per exposure

Practice 3: 6x 3 second exposures with 5 second intervals. 1 shot per exposure

Practice 4: 6x 2 second exposures with 5 second intervals. 1 shot per exposure

Ties: Competition standings by the greatest number of Xs, then by the greatest number of Xs in practice order from last to first. Overall Round standings will be counted back in Competition order: 3, 2, 1

To Enter and for more details please visit:
online.nra.org.uk/e-league-grp-spring23





NRA GR&P E-League 2022-23

Spring Scorecard



Title:		First Name:				Surname:				
GRID Number:		Membership No:				Date of Birth:				
Club/ School/ Unit:										
I am a member of the military (including reserve forces), police or other emergency services									Yes / No	
I am a former member of the military (including reserve forces), police or other emergency services									Yes / No	
I am a Cadet member of a Cadet Force									Yes / No	
I am a Staff/Volunteer member of a Cadet Force									Yes / No	
GRSB <input type="checkbox"/>		GRSB Benchrest <input type="checkbox"/>		GRCF <input type="checkbox"/>		GRCF Classic <input type="checkbox"/>		LBP <input type="checkbox"/>		LBR <input type="checkbox"/>

Please read the accompanying Event Notes and Course of Fire before competing. Record the number of hits below

Competition 1	X	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Miss	Total
Practice 1													.
Practice 2													.
Shooter Signature:						Witness Signature:						.	

Competition 2	X	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Miss	Total
Practice 1													.
Practice 2													.
Practice 3													.
Practice 4													.
Shooter Signature:						Witness Signature:						.	

Competition 3	X	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	Miss	Total
Practice 1													.
Practice 2													.
Practice 3													.
Practice 4													.
Shooter Signature:						Witness Signature:						.	



Submit Scorecard

- 1) Complete the above competitions, and fill in your results
- 2) Visit our online entry website and make your payment: online.nra.org.uk/e-league-grp-spring23
- 3) Send a picture of your scorecard to us with your online entry or via email or post



View Results

RANGE BOOKING

– QUERIES –

We answer some of your questions on the process of your range booking.

The Range Office are often asked the question as to why it can take so long to process your range bookings, therefore this article is to not only provide you with reasoning but also with some tips on how to speed up the process.

Our bookings have increased year on year and we are struggling to keep up with the demand. Since opening the system in November we have already accepted almost 5,000 bookings for the year, with a noticeable difference in last minute bookings since Covid.

Unfortunately the team are unable to provide you with availability over the phone as due to the backlog of bookings on the system, what we are advising you may not be accurate when we come to process online. Additionally this will also slow the team down in processing all your bookings. We are aware that this is a cause of a lot of frustration to our members, and please know that we are hoping for an updated online booking system in the near future.

However, for now, we ask that all bookings are submitted via our current online system. To help you with this please take a look below at some of the reasons behind possible delays and suggestions on how to make the process quicker for both you and us.

TIPS:

1. Look at the upcoming three week availability posted on the NSC website **nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/range-availability/**
2. Provide alternative options or dates in the comments section of your booking
3. Long range dates: please see the relevant page on the NSC website **nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/long-range-dates/**
4. If wanting a fallback:
 - a. See the relevant pages containing available

dates on the website **nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/fall-backs/**

- b. Weekday fallbacks, or requests for dates not shown in the above link will be subject to range availability and may only be confirmed approx. 1 week prior to the

5. Hourly bookings (excluding Melville Bay A and electronic targets) will

be subject to range availability and may only be confirmed approx. one week prior to the date requested

6. Butt Zero/1100x/800x Bookings:
 - a. During high season weekends, bookings will only be confirmed approx. one month prior depending on remaining availability on Stickle-down Range.
 - b. All other times will be reviewed one week prior to the date requested. 🔄

“ Our bookings have increased year on year and we are struggling to keep up with the demand ”



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES
 please do not hesitate to contact the Range Office on 01483 797777 ext 152 or via email at Range.Office@nra.org.uk

Update from the REGIONAL RANGES MANAGER

Nic Couldrey discusses current range availability and Policy changes.

ACCESS TO DIO RANGES IN WALES AND WEST MIDLANDS

20 NRA Clubs are currently licenced to use military ranges in the region. They rely on MoD ranges to practise with full-bore rifles at distances greater than 100 yards and run competitions like the Birmingham Bisley and the Wales Canada match.

Demand for access to ranges is very high because of MoD operations and the continuing requirement to train and support Armed Forces of Ukraine. Police and Law Enforcement users are increasingly training on MoD ranges that provide facilities suitable for high velocity firearms.

The NRA and affiliated Clubs enjoy privileged access to the Defence Estate, particularly now when surplus capacity is at a premium and maintenance of busy ranges is inevitably more challenging.

I had a very productive call with the DIO Commander responsible for the Wales and West Midlands to discuss access and availability of MoD ranges in his region. We agreed that it would be useful for all our members to have an up to date summary of the status of ranges in the region to assist planning for the coming year.

A number of ranges are closed, typically for maintenance or repairs or on a permanent basis. Adverse weather may also result in the closure of ranges at short notice; flooding at Kingsbury resulted in the range being unavailable for 90 days. 25m 1908 Barrack Ranges are closed across the UK for structural assessment and repairs.

“A number of ranges are closed, typically for maintenance or repairs or on a permanent basis. Adverse weather may also result in the closure of ranges at short notice

RANGES SUBJECT TO A TEMPORARY CLOSURE

- Nesscliff – 25m Range
- Kingsbury – 25m Range
- Sealand B
- Swynnerton – 25m Range
- SENTA – J3 Gallery Range
- Whittington – No 3 25m Range
- Whittington – No 4 25m Range
- Whittington – No 5 25m Range

RANGES THAT HAVE BEEN PERMANENTLY CLOSED

- Penally 500y Gallery Range

RANGES THAT ARE CURRENTLY OPEN AND AVAILABLE

- Sealand A – 100m Range on a 2900m RDA.
 - Sealand Butt Stop Range – 25m range. Restricted to Pistol only (9mm Ball ammunition and ME 2030J max).
 - Kinmel – 25m Range.
 - Kingsbury A – 600m Range. Clubs can fire above 4500J providing the RCO has the relevant NRA High Muzzle Energy course training and this is endorsed on their individual RCO card.
 - Kingsbury B – 600m CGR. As for Kingsbury A Range restrictions. NRA Clubs may not apply the 200mil rule for both ranges.
 - Rogiet Moor – 600m CGR.
 - Rogiet Moor – Butt Stop Range – 25m range.
 - SENTA – J2 ETR.
 - SENTA – J4 MMTTR (static firing only)
 - SENTA – Z Range
 - SENTA – G Range IBSR (static firing only)
- Club officials and the supervising RCO must ensure that all shooting activity on MoD ranges complies with the current range orders, especially the muzzle energy and muzzle velocity limits. Only targetry provided by MoD may be used; Clubs can specify their requirement during the range recce. All shooters are reminded that they are responsible for the safety of their firearm and ammunition particularly where hand loaded ammunition is used. As part of routine safety assurance DIO

staff may attend Club bookings, please provide the individual(s) with appropriate support and be ready to evidence documentation as required. (RCO qualification, SCC, RASP). As a shooting community, we all need to be aware that our conduct and behaviour on MoD sites is subject to scrutiny from a variety of stakeholders including civilians engaged in non-shooting activities.

MOD CHARGES AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS

As of 1st January 2023, all areas of the Defence Training Estate including ranges, camps and dry training areas are Tobacco Free Working Environments.

This means that the use of all tobacco products (including combustible and chewing tobacco products) is prohibited. Club officials and supervising RCO's must ensure that members comply with the new Policy.

The fee for a MoD range licence is now £210 which includes an increase in the administrative cost to prepare the licence document. Fees for facilities and the Training Operative will also increase. DIO expects to publish the new schedule of fees in February and this will be sent to licenced Clubs. The new fee structure will apply 90 days after publication.

WARCOP

The ground works required to build a new fixed range at Warcop suitable for firearms that generate

7000+ J has been delayed and should be completed in March. The range will then be re inspected before it is available for use. Once complete the new facility will provide an alternative for Lydd Serial 45 which will be temporarily closed later this year for repairs and maintenance.

NRA RANGE DESIGN AND SAFETY HANDBOOK

The NRA has published the Range Design & Safety Handbook (Edition 1) to assist civilian range operators in applying best practice to the operation of civilian rifle ranges.

The Handbook is based on safety principles contained in MoD design standards for military ranges referencing information available on ballistic properties of materials, ricochet, penetration and backsplash. It applies that data to the operation of ranges in the context of civilian marksmanship activities.

This Handbook will be updated as new information becomes available, following a risk-based approach on best available evidence. Please refer to the NRA website to ensure you are referencing the latest version. It should be read in conjunction with the NRA Range Manager's Guide, Issue 1 2018.

The NRA would like to acknowledge the considerable contribution of Maj (Retd) FS Compton MBE RE in the production of this Handbook.

nra.org.uk/range-design-and-safety-handbook/ 

Have you got a skill in Woodworking? Or know someone that does?

We are looking to improve some of our trophies by adding bases or additional tiers

We would also like to make connections with someone who could aid in repairing trophies and awards when required



Please contact Becky.Sweet@nra.org.uk if you are interested



It may only be February, but the Cheshunt Open has kicked off the 2023 Gallery Rifle Season with flare and was a complete sell out.

After many years of holding no competitions at all, Cheshunt are now the centre stage season opener, with a successful exploratory competition in 2022 laying the foundations for the full on, challenging and fun day of 2023.

It all started when the Committee decided that as an indoor range, it would be great to offer a friendly and fun shoot to start the year, the weather not really making any difference to your enjoyment as long as you possess a pair of thermals.

The membership were in full agreement

and backed this competition all the way, including drilling holes in the floor for posts and extending the shooting frame to add another person to each line. There were RO's and assistance from all shooting sections, showing what can be achieved by a relatively small Club when you all pull together.

The decision of what courses of fire to offer was a difficult one, as being a one day competition, time is limited and guns are many. Despite this, in 2022 one person managed to shoot 13 competitions! Given that experience, it was decided to stick

with the good old favourites of T&P1, Multi Target, T&P3,1020 and WA48.

As Cheshunt is lucky enough to have an electronic/mechanical whiz as a member, they do have some interesting turning target frames and their own McQueens system, so they decided to include some fun shoots unique to Cheshunt. Introducing Cheshunt Style Advancing Man, and Cheshunt Style McQueens.

Cheshunt Advancing Man does what it says on the tin, but not as you'd expect. There is one competitor at a time and they advance down the range retrieving their ammunition and loading from tables at shooting points on the way forward. It's great fun, but you have a lot to remember, so it's also very challenging. The Cheshunt McQueens is different because it requires





20 rounds and a reload, so shooters can get as comfy as they like, but they are going to have to reload and move.

With members having shot recently in Austria and fought, almost literally, to win their prizes of local ham and cheese, it was decided to try a Cheshunt equivalent. Venison burgers were sourced from a local friendly butcher and mature cheddar cheese from a local farm. It seems that meat and cheese is also very popular in the UK and these prizes were very well received.

With all the preparation in hand, the Competition Entry System was opened at the beginning of November 2022. This was with some trepidation, given the current challenges of ammunition and component shortages and rising costs. However, within 2 hours there were already several entries and within two weeks, it had to be closed as it was a complete sell out. The organisers were both surprised and delighted, especially as we all know that as shooters we leave everything to the last minute!

After all the preparations the day arrived and kicked off with an 07.30 role call at the range for the RO's. Everything was in place and the competitors began arriving early for their 08.00 start. A full day shooting followed with both ranges going non-stop from 08:00 until



18:00. To keep everyone topped up with energy, lunch was served between 12:00 and 14:30, with competitors and RO's grabbing what time they could for a quick bite to eat. Although it was cold outside, the temperature inside was kept warm in the club house with the hustle and bustle of gun changes and getting to the next detail on time. The atmosphere was super and everyone had a great day. It was rounded off with the Cheshunt prizegiving – First prize of 4 venison burgers, second prize of a lump of cheese and third prize 2 venison burgers. There were lots more smiles and happy people – see photos!

At the end of the day, the stats said it all; 23 entrants, 166 competitions and 7300 rounds, 6.5 litres of chilli, 1 kilo

of rice, a small sack of jacket potatoes, homemade flapjacks and 6 cakes, 240 venison burgers and 8kg cheddar cheese! It was also pleasing to note that not only did they have the very regular usual suspects but they also attracted some new competitors. It appears that they had a good time, with one saying 'the best bit was that run down', with a very big smile on his face! They were probably referring to the Cheshunt Advancing Man.

The atmosphere, the smiles and the thank-you's are what will be remembered and made the preparation, effort on the day and the sore feet afterwards all worthwhile. If you can do that, at the same time as raising funds for your club, that is quite something! 🍷



GB GALLERY RIFLE SUCCESS IN GERMANY

Riding high from victories at the Phoenix Meeting in May and with a squad including 4 World Champions to choose from, the GB Gallery Rifle Team made their way to Germany in November for the final international match in the 2022 calendar. **Jake Mossom** reports.

Gary Bowden, the 'Covid Captain' had managed to finally get a full season in with the squad and spirits were high for what was to be his last match in charge of the team.

Leitmar, a small town just under an hour south of Paderborn, plays host to the German Gallery Rifle Open annually and international competitors always look forward to making use of the exceptional range facilities, as well as the on-site café and bar which are a very welcome attraction at the end of the shooting day! Hospitality from Dietmar Hönersch (BDMP GR Lead and NRA Vice-President) and Anna Milke add to the draw of the weekend and given a long hiatus from competitions abroad, the enthusiasm was palpable.

This was the first year back in full swing since Covid and, more importantly since Brexit. Planning had

“
GB Gallery Rifle had managed to close out a bumper year with another 'grand slam'

begun months in advance with Adjutant Jacky Lamb on logistics and Team Finance Committee liaison, squad member Steve Lamb on firearms permits and processes and Jim Smith and Anita Bowden on fund raising. Thanks to their great efforts and support from the Overseas Team Fund, the team made their way through Europe with paperwork in order and the confidence that everything was in place for an excellent weekend. Everyone stayed in a hotel a short drive away from the range and, after an early night were raring to go.

Teams were fielded in Gallery Rifle Smallbore (GRSB) and Gallery Rifle Centrefire (GRCF), with fierce competition across both disciplines expected. Gary had used this late season opportunity to field two brand new shooters – Laura Warwick and Dave



Morrow both having trained with the squad throughout 2022 were primed for their first caps and the scene was set.

International GR&P matches utilise the '1500' course of fire. With 150 rounds fired over distances between 10m and 50m, and incorporating right- and left-handed elements as well as firing from kneeling and sitting positions this is a marathon of a competition. For those unfamiliar with the precision involved, scores in the GRSB squad averaged 1469 – 31 points dropped over the entire course of fire with a bull (X ring) that is only around 2.5cm wide and 3.8cm tall. A 50m warm up allowed the chance for final sight adjustments and the settling of nerves before the line fell quiet and the shoot began.

Enough competitors from GB, Ireland and Germany were in attendance to require multiple details for each discipline, adding to the pressure on those shooting later in the session but increasing the relief of those who finished first and could enjoy a cold beer whilst waiting for results! The GRSB shooters went first and despite an exceptional shoot from Daniel Blagojevic (Germany) who managed a 1483(100X) (the highest GRSB score of the day), GB finished with a convincing lead. Chris West in usual fine form led the pack with a final score of 1482(99X), followed by yours truly with 1474(85X) – £1 to Chris!

Having watched on for a considerable time, the GRCF team were next on the line for what would prove to be some of the closest competition ever seen in GR International Competition. At the top of the field again were Daniel Blagojevic scoring 1495(112X) and Chris West with 1493(98X) – another £1 to Chris but this time from team Captain Gary Bowden, giving a tidy profit for his efforts! A solid performance across the team including from newcomer Dave Morrow gave GB a total score of 5938(344X) – extremely respectable but by no means inherently safe. The cards were in and stats working fervently to turn around a result...

Ireland had run into issues with equipment during the shoot and weren't expected to be in the running, but Germany had, in usual form, looked



Top: The GB Gallery Rifle Team.

Above: Aiming down the range.

solid throughout. The teams assembled as the results were printed, and the all-important German score came into view – 5937(392X)! A huge margin ahead on X's (the equivalent of the V-Bull), but one point short of taking the victory! The squad was elated – GB Gallery Rifle had managed to close out a bumper year with another 'grand slam', taking the final tally to victories in both GRSB and GRCF at the World Championship in May and in the German Open.

Throughout 2022 the GB Gallery Rifle Squad had worked hard under the watchful eye of Gary and the support team, and it showed. The Gallery Rifle 'community' is just that, and members of all three nations came together to enjoy a convivial celebratory supper, happy to enjoy each other's company once again.

As Gary steps back from the helm, GB Gallery Rifle continues to develop and strengthen – the 2023 season promises international matches in May at Bisley, July in Ireland and November in Germany, and there are no-doubt many keen shooters on the range preparing to prove themselves worthy once again of joining the teams in what we hope will be further victories. 🍷

FOR MORE INFORMATION: GR&P is an extremely accessible discipline for shooters of all ages and discipline backgrounds, so why not look at joining an enthusiastic community with great diversity in people and shooting opportunities? Contact the NRA GR&P Rep, Ash Dagger AT gallery@nra.org.uk for further information



154th Imperial Meeting

Programme 2023



Entries will open on Thursday 30th March

Service Rifle: Friday 16th June

Military Adaptive Championships: Thursday 22nd June

Civilian Service Rifle: Wednesday 28th June – Sunday 2nd July

F Class: Wednesday 5th – Tuesday 11th July

Match Rifle: Friday 7th – Wednesday 12th July

Imperial Historic Arms: Saturday 8th – Sunday 9th July

McQueen: Saturday 8th – Sunday 16th July

Sporting Rifle: Saturday 8th – Tuesday 18th July

Schools Meeting: Monday 10th – Thursday 13th July

Gallery Rifle & Pistol: Thursday 13th – Sunday 16th July

Target Rifle: Thursday 13th – Saturday 22nd July

300m Championships: Monday 17th – Tuesday 18th July



HM THE KING'S PRIZE

Wednesday 19th July
Stage I

Friday 21st July
Stage II

Saturday 22nd July
Final

Obituaries



Derek Yates

In Loving Memory of Derek Yates, Bisley Stalwart from Winkleigh, Devon. The Funeral Service took place on Thursday 12 January 2023 at North Devon Crematorium, Barnstaple. Derek died in Exeter Hospital on 16 December aged 79 after a rapid decline in health in the last quarter of 2022.

Dave Lees from Rochdale remembers: "I have known Derek since 1985, when he re-joined Rochdale Rifle and Pistol Club after having not shot for many years.

In May of 1986 he came down to Bisley National Shooting Ground for the Anno Domini pistol Competitions with myself and Kjell Middleton only the week after having bought his first pistol and we three entered several events on arrival. The weather that weekend was pretty rank but we enjoyed the whole experience so much it became an annual event for

us all for the next 32 years along with the Trafalgar Meeting which we started entering in 1992...

Over the years we all enjoyed each other's company, became firm friends and even though Derek moved to Devon, we three continued to meet up at Bisley twice a year.

As time went on, Derek had to cut back on competitions that involved changing positions from kneeling to sitting and standing owing to the arthritis in his knees and even though his fingers were extremely swollen and painful, he continued to enjoy the Gallery Rifle events, especially the Advancing Target Competition, which, on his last two visits to Bisley in 2018 and 2019 he won with the Maximum Possible Scores!

In the early days we used to stay at the HAC and on the odd time at the Artists Club and then ultimately at Canada House.

Owing to COVID our last meeting was in October 2019. He was a good mate and a true friend and will be sadly missed."

As a qualified mechanical engineer (which he also taught at night school) Derek, when he wasn't shooting, was often encountered in the trade tents at Phoenix or Trafalgar, driving a hard bargain with stall holders, but also taking a personal interest in the minutiae of Firearms workings, new developments as well as old; he will be remembered discussing new innovations, pros and cons and enthusing over mechanisms and developments with gunsmiths, trade merchants and shooters alike.

Derek definitely like 'gadgets' and due to severe arthritis he developed and used his own quick change magazine releases, but his interests particularly included classic guns, including their original scopes or sights.

A kind, patient gentleman, Derek was always ready to help and give a hand, or advice. He was instrumental in developing Gallery Rifle Competitions in the clubs he attended and was a long standing member of Two Rivers Shooting Club where he encouraged new shooters and particularly promoted guidance, enthusiasm and coaching to youngsters with his calm reassuring and confidence-building manner and his soft Lancashire accent. He was instrumental in running the Phoenix Postal Leagues for local Clubs.

Whilst Derek's other interests included fishing, archery, classic cars, snooker, light aircraft, drones and his much-loved cats, his main hobby was shooting. Our warmest thoughts and condolences go to his wife Pat and his son Jonathan and to all who mourn his loss.

Brian Pavey

Brian Pavey passed away on Tuesday 15 November after a long battle with cancer.

Brian's passion was all kinds of shooting sports and was a member of the NRA for over 40 years. In his younger days, he was a member of the London Practical Rifle Club and took part in many competitions with his friend's Bob and Steve. When Brian found the run downs too exhausting he gave up the practical rifle shoots and concentrated his attention on prone shooting on various ranges at Bisley with his club friends.

Brian's primary club was Little Chalfont Rifle & Pistol Club, where he was the Friday evening range officer for many years.

Brian developed a cataract in his right eye a year or so ago and

when he found he could no longer focus on the target he said I will have to shoot left handed, so he did, and still managed to out-shoot the best of us!

Despite Brian's illness he was determined to carry on shooting for as long as he could and did so up until a few months before he died.

Brian was a lovely man and a true friend, he will be greatly missed by all of his friends and family.





Left: Graeme Berman

Below: Graeme with his daughter Karen.



Graeme Walton Berman (1931-2023)

To describe someone as “well respected” after their passing does not do justice to how much regard the fullbore shooting sport in Australia and around the world have had for Graeme Berman. Graeme packed a lot into his long life, doing so with great enthusiasm and success and provided unlimited support and an influence to many.

As an ambitious young shooter, I first got to know Graeme in 1982 at a seminar for young potential champions at Hornsby. I performed quite ordinarily but was chuffed when he stated that I had a classic Estonian position. I thought that sounded pretty good, but then he said that it was “...usually reserved for old men with beer guts”. Despite the setback to my ego, I moved to Sydney a year later and joined the Mosman-Neutral Bay (MNB) Rifle Club.

Graeme was leader of the pack in MNB which included the likes of Andrew Powell, Ken Lee, Frank McDermott, Tony McGuigan and many other prominent Australian and State shooters. MNB was THE club to be in and it was an eye-opener for a young bloke setting his sights on much higher goals. He was a tough task master and was blunt in his assessments of your performance if you did not measure up. However, I came through the fire and got to enjoy being in many teams with Graeme over the years. I am proud to look back fondly on my friendship with him and his daughter Karen. I had the honour of asking Graeme to be my match Captain of the Kolapore team in Bisley in 2015.

I thank Gary Somerville and Sandi

Moore who have contributed most of the facts in the following reminiscence of Graeme’s achievements. Other details are from magazine articles provided by Rodney Winwood from Tasmania.

At the time of his passing Graeme Berman was 91 years old and had been a member of MNB Rifle Club for around 75 years after joining in 1947. Graeme’s shooting career started with Chatswood Rifle Club becoming an accomplished Smallbore shooter prior to WW2. He joined Mosman in 1947 at the resumption of Fullbore shooting after the war. In the 1950s he recalled marking targets at Liverpool for 10 shillings and sixpence. He was the last of the Club’s “old guard” of shooters that included Ken Lee, Frank McDermott and Rod Evans.

Graeme’s father Herbert (Bert) William Berman was also a rifle shooter, first with Chatswood and after WW2, with Mosman. Graeme was proud to follow in his footsteps by winning the first stage of the NSW Queens in 1968 on the move to Malabar. Graeme’s daughter Karen continued the family links to the sport with great success.

A great raconteur, meals with Graeme while attending a Queens or a prize meeting were most entertaining as he was a great observer of people and knew rifle shooters across many generations.

Graeme was fiercely loyal to MNB and he

took particular pleasure in being a member of many winning club teams at Queen’s prizes and in the Metropolitan Grade series. The strength of the club was confirmed when they won the British Commonwealth Rifle Club postal match in the late 70s. Graeme Berman said in March 2005, “In my opinion, from the time of our move to Malabar we developed into the strongest shooting Club in the Commonwealth”.

He won the Club Championship six times. Graeme was made a Life Member in 1989 and contributed guidance as Club President for many years.

An indication of his innovative thinking and influence is that he was so impressed by the Kongsberg targets in operation in the Western Australian Queen’s Prize around 2008, that he convinced the club to join him in funding two targets. With the lead set by MNB, within two years all other clubs in Sydney had moved to electronic targets.

QUEENS WINS

Graeme was almost a permanent fixture at Queen’s Prize Shoots in Australia resulting in around 123 badges, 6 of those bearing the coveted Number 1.

Graeme’s Queens Wins in Australia and New Zealand were: Victoria 1971 & 1976, New Zealand 1991, South Australia 1992 & 1999 and North Queensland, a second Queens for the year in 1992. He took great delight in winning two of his Queen’s Prizes by one V-bull! He was particularly

pleased to get around me at the last range in South Australia to win his last Queen’s Prize at the age of 68.

BISLEY

Graeme had a number of successes during his many treks to Bisley to compete in the Imperial Meeting. He and Moire kept a caravan on site for their use and they enjoyed the social life on range at the various clubs.

He made the Grand Aggregate top 50 on eleven occasions, winning the Silver Cross in 1984 with a score of 591, the winner recording 594. The medal is proudly displayed in the club house.

Graeme made it into the St Georges Top 25 final six times. He also made the Queens

“...He was a great observer of people and knew rifle shooters across many generations”

final top 100 on eleven occasions, resulting in eleven Bisley Queens badges. This was a tremendous performance given the uncertainty of how each year's ammunition batch would perform in a rifle prepared in the antipodes.

Graeme was a prominent shot, coach and Captain in Teams matches for Australia. He represented in the Kolapore match on six occasions, the first being in 1974 as shooter then finishing in 2015 as Captain. He top-scored in the winning 1976 team and shot again in the winning 1978 team.

The Australian team also won the Empire [now Australia] match in each of those years and Graeme shot well in those teams. He was Captain and Coach of the winning Australian team in the Mackinnon match in 1996.

Graeme was a Vice President of both the NRA and the British Commonwealth Rifle Club. He was also an honorary Life Member of the South Africa Bisley Union.

STATE TEAMS

Graeme represented NSW 15 times as a shooter and coach in Merrett matches

between 1970 to 1985, winning on several occasions. He received 'baggy blue' number 338.

In my first team with Graeme in 1985 he demonstrated sound team psychology skills by taking us all to the pub for a night of team bonding before the Merrett Match. Needless to say, newcomers Mark Buchanan and I had less nerves the following day and NSW took out the match.

ADMINISTRATION OF SHOOTING

For many years Graeme served on the Metropolitan DRA committee and then on the NSWRA Council.

Graeme was elected Chairman of the NSWRA from 1976 – 79 and held the role of President of the NSWRA in the 1990s. It was during this period that the Federal Government raised a threat to the use of ANZAC Rifle Range by Rifle Clubs. As President, Graeme was instrumental in negotiations that allowed the NSWRA continued use during the period of discussion and court actions taken.

Graeme was later made an Honorary Vice President and Life Member of the NSWRA.

He was also a Director of Firearm Safety & Training Council Ltd.

CAREER AND FAMILY

After school, Graeme studied Chemical Engineering going on to a successful career in Australia and New Zealand. He was later involved with Blackmore's pharmaceutical and health company and enjoyed the fruits of its success. One story has it that Graeme introduced Tiger Balm to Australia.

Graeme married Moire in 1956 and raised Peter and Karen. In later life, Graeme and Moire enjoyed cruising the world on the big ocean liners such as the Queen Mary.

Graeme was still scoring double possibles in 2018, but his last shoot with the club was in February 2020. He then donated all his gear to young shooters.

Graeme continued to follow my progress over the past dozen years or so and was quick with a congratulatory call or email when I achieved success. He must have been surprised that a classic Estonian position could take me so far.

Rest in peace my friend.

Stephen Negus, NRAA Chair



Hamish Hunter

We are very sorry to announce the death of Hamish Hunter on Thursday 5 January. Hamish went to school

at the Glasgow Academy and took great advantage of the opportunities offered through the cadet corps activities by learning to play the pipes and to shoot rifles. Through his four years in the pipe band he eventually became the pipe major. However, despite playing the pipes for many years afterwards, it was shooting that became his passion and where he developed his lifelong love of the sport. With the school team, he travelled three times to Bisley to shoot in the Schools Meeting and in 1968 stayed

on after the Schools Meeting to shoot in his first National Championship. After leaving school, throughout his professional life as a Chartered Accountant, and then into retirement, this was to become an annual pilgrimage. As his skill and proficiency gradually developed both at his local club at Dechmont near Glasgow and by competing elsewhere in the UK, he advanced to shoot for his county, Scotland and eventually Great Britain. On his journey, he made a multitude of friends both in the UK and abroad and of course, once met never forgotten, with his bright flaming red hair and irrepressible enthusiasm.

However, it was not only on the rifle range that he shone. He willingly took on many administrative functions starting as secretary of the thriving West of Scotland Rifle Club (WSRC) in the '70's through until 1987. Part of this role included organising the annual Scottish Championships initially at Dechmont, with assistance from his mother, another able administrator. He then took the Championships to Barry Buddon near Carnoustie where he was also organiser of

the Scottish Long Range Championships and finally moved it to its current home of Blair Atholl. Throughout his active shooting career, in fact, his administrative involvement in club, SRA and STSF matters was both deep and prolonged. Being an accountant, he was ideally suited to Hon. Treasurer roles and was consequently entrusted with overseeing the finances of WSRC, WARC, SRA, NRC of S and STSF.

In his long and distinguished shooting career in both Target Rifle (TR) and Match Rifle (MR), he first shot for Scotland in the National Match in 1972, which was to be the first of almost annual selections for over 40 years, with all of them latterly as target coach. Similarly in the Mackinnon match, he started the first of several appearances in the team in 1977, when Scotland won, and again became a regular coach in later years. His first GB TR tour to New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong was under the captaincy of Lord Swansea in 1979, departing Heathrow eight hours late on New Year's eve in 1978 on the last flight out of the airport before it was closed due to a snowstorm. During the tour he shot in both the Palma Match in New Zealand and the Empire match in Canberra. ▶

Mike Martel (1939-2023)

Mike Martel was one of Guernsey's most accomplished rifle shots and made nearly seventy appearances at the Imperial Meeting. His shooting career began in earnest at Elizabeth College in the mid-1950s when he was a member of award-winning small-bore teams. He quickly adapted to full-bore and became Guernsey's island champion five times, representing Guernsey at the Commonwealth Games in Canada in 1978 and Edinburgh in 1986. At Bisley, he was a member of Guernsey's Kolapore team on fifty-six occasions, more than any other competitor from the competing nations since the competition began in 1871. In 1968, Mike won the St George's and a year later took the bronze medal for the Queen's First Stage. In 2004, he won the Queen's Veterans and was in the Queen's Final eighteen times.

Mike was a leading light of the Old Elizabethan Rifle Club which won the Schools' Veterans match three times.

as well as shooting in Sydney, Tasmania, Adelaide and Hong Kong.

He featured in many Scotland Touring teams over the years, visiting Canada first in 1976 with Alistair Munro in BC then again in BC in 1981 with Jack Anderson and ultimately 1995 and 2005 at Connaught, the last being under Bill Sharman's (Womble's) captaincy. He travelled to South Africa with the unofficial Tartan Target Team led by John Glen in the days of Apartheid and again in 2009 when Allan Mabon took an official Scotland Team, followed by tours to Australia twice, the second time in David Hossack's Team and New Zealand in 1992 when he himself captained the Scotland Team when Scotland competed (under special NRA dispensation) in international matches against NZ, Aus and GB. He was also one of a small team of privileged firers who visited the Falkland Islands after the cessation of hostilities with Argentina.

His TR successes in individual competitions include Scottish Championship wins at Barry, the Grand Aggregate at the Altcar Meeting in the early '80s where his prize was a gold watch which he wore for years afterwards, Queen's Prize finalist on 10 occasions, culminating as Runner-up in the

Although a staunch Guernseyman for the whole of his life, Mike made his home in Hampshire after teacher-training at King Alfred's College, Winchester. He had a number of teaching appointments in the county before becoming headmaster of Hawley School.

He was soon to become a stalwart of county shooting with Manydown Rifle Club, Crookham Rifle Club and the Hampshire Rifle Association. He won the Astor on multiple occasions with Manydown and the Hampshire County Championship in 2012. Always a great supporter of club and county, Mike was very proud to be appointed president of

1992 Final.

In MR he finished 8th as a Tyro in his first Hopton. He went on from there to represent Scotland as a shooter and later coach in many Elcho Teams, including several which won. In 2004 he was a member of the GB MR tour to Australia.

Through his association with STSF, he became heavily involved with Commonwealth Games Fullbore-Rifle shooting at both the administrative and managerial levels, being overall Shooting Team Manager for the Manchester Games (held at Bisley) in 2002, and thereafter helping run Scotland House, the base for all Scottish CWG athletes, Team PR matters and visitors, at the Melbourne Games in 2006.

He will be sorely missed on many ranges in the world, with his striking appearance, bubbly personality and bonhomie leaving a lasting impression on all that he met. Our thoughts are with his family and many friends at this time.

The funeral was held on Tuesday 24th January at the Hurler Crematorium, and afterwards a reception at the Dalmey Park House Hotel in nearby Barrhead.



both Manydown and the HRA in 2021.

Contrary to perceived opinion, Jersey and Guernsey sports enthusiasts do occasionally come together. Mike was the perfect Channel Islands captain and highly respected by rival Jersey shooters. This was demonstrated when he captained the Channel Islands to an historic win at the European Long Range Championships in 2006 before leading the team to Ottawa for the Palma Match and World Championships in 2007.

His legacy will live on in his research and writing, having co-authored the History of Guernsey Rifle Shooting, contributed to A Rifle-Shooting Century which was a history of shooting at Elizabeth College to celebrate its one-hundredth appearance in the Ashburton last year and compiled the History of Crookham Rifle Club. Mike had also compiled The Fallen: Old Elizabethans Who Served and Died in World War One and a similar book dedicated to OEs who died in the Second World War. More recently, Mike greatly enjoyed the time he spent volunteering in the NRA Museum.

Mike will be remembered as a true gentleman of rifle-shooting who dedicated much time and effort towards helping others, especially younger shooters. We offer our heartfelt sympathy to his wife Manuela, his daughter Caroline and his grandchildren.

Above Right: Mike was presented with a framed letter from the Bailiff of Guernsey, Sir Richard Collas, congratulating him on his 50th appearance in the Kolapore

Nigel William Penn

On the 19th December 2022 Nigel passed away, aged 71, following a long fight with cancer which he met with courage and dignity. Our deepest sympathies go to all his family, especially his wife Sarah and children Hannah and Joseph.

Nigel was born in Northamptonshire in October 1951 and brought up in a traditional farming family. He attended Winchester House boarding school from the age of seven, until 1964 when he went to Bedford School where his interest in target rifle shooting began.

Despite early “inconsistency” in his small-bore shooting, under the watchful eye of his school shooting master Tim Elliott he was encouraged to shoot full-bore at Bisley and never looked back. In 1969 he shot in the first ever Bedford School team to compete in the Ashburton Shield schools competition – the beginning of what was to become a “stellar” shooting career for Nigel and

an exceptional era for Bedford School shooting, of which he was always very supportive.

His determination and persistence to become an accomplished marksman, as well as his wife Sarah’s enduring support for him to pursue his shooting ambitions, was unquestionable. He missed only one Bisley NRA Meeting in 45 years between 1976 and 2021, winning several individual top 100 and top 50 badges in HM The Queens Prize, the St Georges and the Grand Aggregate main Bisley competitions.

Influenced by his lifelong interests in rugby and cricket, team shooting was where Nigel thrived, regularly fulfilling the roles of firer, wind coach, adjutant or captain for his various clubs, county and country. In his early shooting days he shot for, and later captained the county of London but

soon after moving to Cambridge in 1993 he changed his allegiance to his county of birth, Northamptonshire. For the rest of his career he was dedicated to the combined counties of Northamptonshire, Leicestershire and Rutland, enjoying the role of captain from 2009 to 2011.

Unsurprisingly his commitment and dedication led him to shoot at National and International level. He won his first Great Britain cap touring the West Indies in 1986 and went on to tour with a total of seven National Rifle Association, England and Great Britain teams to the Channel Islands, South Africa and the West Indies. He also

represented England in the Lawrence Match against Scotland in 1988 and the much coveted four nations National Match at Bisley in 2000.

Nigel was honoured to be captain for two of his tours, the NRA team to the Channel Islands in 2003 and the Great Britain Rifle Team to the West Indies in 2013. Both teams were successful in winning all their matches, which included The Australia Match in Barbados in

2013 where his tactical decisiveness and courage in the face of imminently changing weather conditions played a significant part in their win. He was very proud of both his teams and really valued the life-long friendships and the fond memories he made on all his tours and with the shooting communities he visited.

In all walks of life Nigel gave generously of his time and had an incredible aptitude for organisation,

none-more-so than in his dedication to the Freemasons, where he became one of the highest ranked and most respected Freemasons in the country.

It was through these same qualities that he also made an enormous contribution to fullbore target rifle shooting. Between 1989 and 1993 he was Hon Secretary and Treasurer of the British Commonwealth Rifle Club and went on to be appointed Captain from 2003 to 2006. In fulfilling these roles he ran the club efficiently, was praised for his excellent stewardship of funds, and most significantly developed many friendships with visiting shooters from across the globe, becoming a well-respected ambassador for our sport.

The Bedfordians Rifle Club was another beneficiary of his many talents. After leaving school he was Club Secretary for 12 years, overseeing their transition into a more inclusive and sustainable club for old boys and their offspring. He always encouraged and took pleasure in the success of younger shooters, but especially when second generation Bedfordians shot well, beating their fathers at their own game! Throughout his career his example provided the club with a sense of direction

“After leaving school he was Club Secretary for 12 years, overseeing their transition into a more inclusive and sustainable club for old boys and their offspring



and ‘tone’, but most importantly he simply ‘made things happen’. For many years it was Nigel who encouraged and cajoled Old Bedfordians onto the ranges after they left school, assembled their Public School Veterans and Astor teams and organised their very enjoyable first club tour in 2017 to Jersey. He had a major influence in making the club what it is today.

Perhaps Nigel’s greatest attribute was his natural ability to build warm and enduring friendships. Despite his apparently sensible surface he never took himself too seriously making him so approachable by all – he recently recalled his joy at being invited to coach ‘Scorgasm’ in the Opening Shot Match at Bisley, gamely wearing their dayglo yellow colours and taking part in their bizarre dressing-up routine during and after the match!

However his many friends will remember him fondly for the times spent chatting over a pint of real ale in “The North” or “The Surrey” and the genuine interest he took in their lives outside shooting and in helping them get maximum enjoyment from their sport. He had a canny knack of subtly orchestrating the conversation to spice it up, tone it down or bring it to order often revealing his playfulness accompanied by his impish chuckle or uniquely raucous laughter.

Nigel’s many shooting achievements over nearly 60 years were the product of a life-long commitment to a sport he loved and his ability to make the very most of all his talents. He will be greatly missed .

Lt. Col. Rex Edmund Goddard MBE

Rex was born in London in 1919, the oldest of four children. His family moved to the Midlands where he attended Solihull school, and in 1938 he went up to Cambridge to study Maths. After graduating in 1940 with a two-year wartime degree, he joined the Royal Artillery and was an anti-aircraft gunnery instructor based on the south coasts of England and Wales.

After the war in 1947, Rex became a civilian instructor in Maths at Sandhurst. The following year (1948) he took up a position teaching Maths at Epsom College where he spent his whole teaching career and was housemaster of a boarding house for 20 years. In 1949 he married Jill, who was teaching Biology at Cheltenham Ladies College at the time, so the College became the home where their three children, Hugh, Alison and Graham, grew up.

Rex’s war years’ service prompted his keen interest in rifle shooting, and he became Officer Commanding the school Combined Cadet Force Contingent and was Master in Charge of rifle shooting at Epsom College for 23 years. In 1973 – to his great delight – Epsom won the prestigious inter-school Ashburton shooting trophy at Bisley for the first time. In 1974, Rex was awarded the MBE for his services to cadet forces. He was also Chairman of the Council for

Cadet Rifle Shooting from 1978 until 1990 and remained interested in all CCRS matters well into his 102nd year.

Rex’s involvement with Epsom shooting led to his invitation to be Commandant of the 1962 British Cadet Rifle Team (The Athelings); he was invited to take over as Athelings’ Organiser in 1970 and remained in that role until 1995. This long involvement with the Athelings and their Canadian equivalent – the Royal Canadian Army Cadet National Rifle Team – is permanently reflected in the Rex Goddard Match which the teams compete for annually. Rex and his wife, Jill, regularly visited Canada to support the Athelings, and he was particularly pleased to travel there in 2010 to mark the 100th anniversary of the exchange. At the age of 99, together with Frank Harriss, he co-authored the book ‘History of the Athelings 1920-2010’ which was published in 2019.

On his retirement from Epsom College in 1980, he and Jill moved to a small village in the Piddle Valley in Dorset. Whereas many would have considered taking it easy at this stage in life, Rex became very involved in the local community. Activities during his four decades of retirement included being treasurer of the village church, treasurer of the local Royal Artillery Association, Governor and then Chairman of Piddle Valley First School; he was also chairman of various other charities and trusts. After Jill passed away in 1999, he continued living independently in Dorset for another 23 years.

Rex passed away peacefully on 15th February 2022 at the age of 102, surrounded by his family. He is remembered as a truly humble and talented man who inspired and was respected by many. He was a proud father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and his family remember him with deepest affection.

Left: Rex Goddard holding the Rex Goddard trophy during the last visit he made to Connaught ranges in Canada (age 91)



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NOTICES

National Rifle Association
notifications and news.

PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2023

Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

Only persons who are Registered Members of the Association and who have fully paid up their subscriptions for 31st March are eligible to be Candidates for election to the General Council and to be Proposers for such Candidates.

Regional and Shooting Discipline Candidature and Voting

Those voting for Regional Candidates must live in the appropriate Sports Council Region even though their nominated Candidates for election may live elsewhere.

Those voting for Shooting Discipline Candidates must have previously declared that Shooting Discipline to the NRA as their primary Shooting Discipline.

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30th April 2023.

Curriculum Vitae

In order to assist the Registered Members with their choice of representatives in the election, a CV for each Candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 300 words should accompany the nomination. A passport sized photograph of the Candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro-forma.

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

The Programme of key date for Elections

- **31 March 2023** – All Candidates and Proposers must be fully paid-up Registered Members of the Association by this date.
- **30 April 2023** – a. Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Chief Executive by 17:00 on this date.
b. Registered Members must be qualified for

voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline Candidate by this date.

c. All Members desiring to vote must be fully paid-up Registered Members by this date.

- **31 May 2023** – All entitled Members will be balloted by this date, either by electronic or postal means with the procedures for voting.
- **17 July 2023** – Postal votes must be received no later than 6.00pm on Monday 17th July 2023 by placing the voting slips in the correct envelope supplied.

Electronic votes must be made by 6.00pm on Monday 17 July 2023.

Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 22 April 2023.

Results

All results will be confirmed at the General Council meeting in September.

Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2023, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

• Five Ordinary Members

JPS Bloomfield (GM2 SC)
NRJ Brasier
Wg Cdr (Retd) DP Calvert MBE (GM3 SB3 SC2)
DC Crispin (SB)
SS Lohmann

• Four Regional Members

HRM Bailie – Northern Ireland
JPS Bloomfield (GM3 SC) – East Midlands
Dr JA Marsden – North Western
BD Ritchie – Scotland

• Four Shooting Discipline Members

Dr AMW Cargill Thompson – Match Rifle
A Dagger – Gallery Rifle and Pistol
N Macfarlane – Historic and Classic Arms
SK Aldhouse – 300 Metres

DISCIPLINARY HEARING

REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH NRA HANDBOOK RULE 541

A Disciplinary Committee hearing held on 12 November 2022 considered the following allegations against a member of the NRA ("Respondent"): That the Respondent as a member of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and whilst on NRA grounds:

- had illegal drugs in his possession;
- offered to supply/share illegal drugs with other adults at Bisley Camp;
- offered to supply/share illegal drugs with cadets on the ranges at Bisley Camp;
- engaged in inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature towards (i) a female non-member visitor and (ii) a female member during the Imperial Meeting in July 2022.

And in doing so:

- i. was guilty of conduct which the Disciplinary Committee may consider to be so discreditable as to justify expulsion (NRA Rules of Shooting 544 xiii); and
- ii. was guilty of acting in such a manner as to bring the NRA into disrepute (NRA Rules of Shooting 544 xiv)

Finding

The Committee found as matter of fact that, on Bisley Camp:

- (A) the Respondent was in possession of illegal drugs.
- (B) the Respondent offered to supply/share illegal drugs with other adults (but not for financial return).
- (C) the conversations the Respondent had with a female non-member visitor during the Imperial meeting in July 2022 constituted inappropriate behaviour of a sexual

nature (though on the evidence before the Committee it was not proven that the Respondent was aware of the inappropriateness of the behaviour at the time).

In relation to the allegation that the Respondent offered to supply/share illegal drugs to cadets on the ranges at Bisley Camp, on the evidence available the Committee did not find that allegation to be made out as a fact.

Outcome

Based on the above finding of fact, the Committee concluded that the Respondent:

- (1) was guilty of conduct so discreditable as to justify expulsion; and
- (2) had acted in such a manner as to bring the NRA into disrepute.

Penalty

As a consequence of the above findings, and taking in to account all relevant factors set out in paragraph 9 of the Disciplinary Code, the Committee imposed the following penalty:

- (i) the Respondent be expelled from Camp until the later of
 - (a) 1 January 2024; and
 - (b) such date as they produce to the Secretary General of the NRA a valid and current certificate issued under the Firearms Acts; and
- (ii) the Respondent be struck off the register of NRA members and be prohibited from reapplying for membership until 1 January 2024.

AJ MERCER
Secretary General
9 February 2023

TEAM CAPTAIN NOMINATIONS

Nominations are invited for the following team captains:
GB Kolapore Team Captain 2024
GB Under 25 Team Captain (UK Match) 2024

Nominations in writing, signed by three proposers all of whom must be full annual or life members of the NRA, must be received by the Secretary General not later than 5pm on Friday 7th July 2023. Nominations forms and CV pro-forma available on the NRA website, or from Georgina. Thatcher@nra.org.uk.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The NRA's 2023 Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 9 June 2023 at 6pm, followed directly by the NSC's Annual General Meeting, in the NRA Pavilion.

BISLEY GENERAL MEETING

The 2023 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 July 2023 at 9pm in the NRA Pavilion.

The Athelings Association is holding a Hog Roast and BBQ in July to commemorate the life of Lt. Col Rex Goddard and his remarkable work on behalf of the Athelings and CCRS. More details to follow.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION COMPETITION CALENDAR

Upcoming dates for the year.

APRIL

- 15** **IBIS Open Meeting 2023**
F Class, Target Rifle, Non-NRA Event
- 16** **The 'Three Counties Cobweb-Buster' 2023**
F Class, Target Rifle, Non-NRA Event
- 29** **Chippenham Rifle & Pistol Club Open – April 2023**
Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Non-NRA Event

MAY

- 14** **Chippenham Rifle & Pistol Club Open – May 2023**
Match Rifle, Non-NRA Event
- 25 – 28** **Phoenix Meeting 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic & Historic, F Class, Gallery Rifle & Pistol, McQueen, Muzzle Loading, Sporting Rifle, Target Shotgun, NRA
- 27 – 29** **English Twenty Spring Meeting 2023**
F Class, Target Rifle, Non-NRA Event

JUNE

- 3 – 4** **Birmingham Bisley 2023**
F Class, Target Rifle, Non-NRA Event

- 10** **Inter-Counties - Individual R Jarvis 2023**
Target Rifle, NRA
- 10 – 11** **Inter Counties 2023**
Target Rifle, NRA
- 16 – 27** **Imperial Service Rifle Individual & Team 2023**
Service Rifle (Armed Forces), NRA
- 22** **Military Adaptive Championship 2023**
Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Service Rifle (Armed Forces), NRA
- 26 – 27** **Imperial Service Rifle Team 2023**
Service Rifle (Armed Forces), NRA
- 28 – 2 Jul** **CSR Imperial 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic & Historic, NRA

JULY

- 1** **CSR Falling Plates Team Match 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, NRA
- 2** **CSR Methuen Team Match – 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic & Historic, NRA
- 5 – 9** **F Class Imperial Meeting 2023**
F Class, NRA



- 7 – 13 Match Rifle Imperial Meeting 2023**
Match Rifle, NRA
- 7 – 9 ISCRM – Inter Services Cadet Rifle Meeting**
Schools & Cadet, NRA
- 8 – 9 Sporting Rifle Imperial Meeting 2023**
Sporting Rifle, NRA
- 8 – 9 Imperial Historic Arms Meeting 2023**
Classic & Historic, Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Muzzle Loading, NRA
- 8 – 16 McQueen Imperial Meeting 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic & Historic, McQueen, Sporting Rifle, Target Rifle, NRA
- 9 F Class Imperial – Teams 2023**
F Class, NRA
- 10 – 13 Schools Imperial Meeting 2023**
Schools & Cadet, Target Rifle, CCRS, NRA
- 13 – 16 Gallery Rifle & Pistol Imperial Meeting 2023**
Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Muzzle Loading, NRA
- 14 – 22 154th Target Rifle Imperial Meeting**
Target Rifle, NRA
- 17 – 18 300m Championships 2023**
300m, Target Rifle, NRA

AUGUST

- 18 – 20 Cottesloe Heath Challenge 2023**
Target Shotgun, NRA

SEPTEMBER

- 2 – 3 Gallery Rifle National Open Championship 2023**
Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Target Shotgun, Muzzle Loading, Civilian Service Rifle, McQueen, NRA

- 3 Scottish Historical Rifle Meeting**
Classic & Historic, Non-NRA Event
- 23 SLG Bisley 1500 Open Meeting**
- 24 The Gloucestershire ‘Moth-Baller’ 2023**
F Class, Target Rifle, Non-NRA Event
- 30 Historic SR Match – September 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic & Historic, NRA
- 30 – 1 Oct Target Shotgun Festival – Autumn 2023**
Target Shotgun, NRA

OCTOBER

- 1 CSR Winter League – October 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic & Historic, NRA
- 7 Ages Match 2023**
Target Rifle, NRA
- 21 – 22 Trafalgar Meeting 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic and Historic, Gallery Rifle & Pistol, Muzzle Loading, NRA
- 28 – 29 Autumn Action Weekend 2023**
Gallery Rifle & Pistol, McQueen, Muzzle Loading, Target Shotgun, Civilian Service Rifle, NRA

NOVEMBER

- 4 CSR Winter League – November 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic & Historic, NRA

DECEMBER

- 3 CSR Winter League – December 2023**
Civilian Service Rifle, Classic & Historic, NRA



RESULTS

CSR WINTER LEAGUE STANDINGS

As at Feb 15 2023

Historic (X)

1 Gray, J	890.99
2 Winning, K	863.16
3 Hayes, T	823.81

Historic (A)

1 Rigby, M	600.83
2 Packham, M	414.5
3 Jennings, A	355.7

Iron (X)

1 Cattell, A	832.09
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Iron (A)

1 Meredith, S	669.47
2 England, R	590.85
3 Clarke, S	385.37

Practical (X)

1 Ellis, B	967.81
2 Hudson, C	955.05
3 St Aubyn, N	940.02

Practical (A)

1 Stevens, R	925.2
2 Camp, D	913.39
3 Lawton, M	888

Practical (B)

1 Green, D	929.53
2 Eustance, M	928.68
3 Wylde, D	920.55

Service (X)

1 Wade, R	983.26
2 Cottrell, P	981.91
3 Radcliffe, P	946.38

Service (A)

1 Devlin, S	912.12
2 Defreitas, A	902.97
3 Sanderson, D	897.09

Service (B)

1 Lee, M	886.97
2 Waters, A	876.06
3 Lavandera, G	864

CSR SHORT RANGE MATCH

Sun 5 Feb 2023 (total/points)

Historic

1 Winning, K	146/100
2 Gray, J	144/98.63
3 Bulmer, S	144/98.63

Iron

1 Meredith, S	197/100.00
2 Thomas, A	183/92.89
3 England, R	122/61.93

Practical

1 Timms, J	238/100.00
2 Dunn, O	235/98.74
3 Ellis, B	235/98.74

Service

1 Chapman, A	244/100.00
2 Cottrell, P	242/99.18
3 Radcliffe, P	240/98.36

CSR URBAN MATCH

Sun 5 Feb 2023 (total/points)

Historic

1 Bulmer, S	148/100
2 Hayes, T	142/95.95
3 Packham, M	133/89.86

Iron

1 Cattell, A	144/100
2 Meredith, S	132/91.67
3 Collins, L	120/83.33

Practical

1 Wylde, D	187/100
2 Allsop, P	186/99.47
3 Eustance, M	185/98.93

Service

1 Chapman, A	191/100
2 Wade, R	190/99.48
3 Cottrell, P	187/97.91

CSR SHORT RANGE PRACTICES

Sat 7 Jan 2023 (total/points)

Historic

1 Gray, J	110/100
2 Rigby, M	96/87.27
3 Winning, K	90/81.82

Iron

1 Clarke, S	143/100
2 Meredith, S	103/72.03
3 Cattell, A	99/69.23

Practical

1 Ellis, B	184/100
2 Camp, D	168/91.3
3 Day, J	166/90.22

Service

1 Cottrell, P	174/100
2 Defreitas, A	171/98.28
3 Wade, R	169/97.13

CSR LONG RANGE PRACTICES

Sat 7 Jan 2023 (total/points)

Historic

1 Winning, K	120/100
2 Gray, J	102/85
3 Rigby, M	88/73.33

Iron

1 Clarke, S	160/100
2 Cattell, A	120/75
3 Meredith, S	118/73.75

Practical

1 Hudson, C	243/100
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2 Ellis, B	225/92.59
3 Green, D	225/92.59

Service

1 Wade, R	234/100
2 Cottrell, P	223/95.3
3 Radcliffe, P	222/94.87

PRACTICAL LEAGUES

(league avg./match avg.) (%)

Handgun

Long Barreled Pistol Open

1 Tim Gardener	100/100
2 David Ashcroft	65.46/87.28
3 Paul Nicol	50.59/67.45

Long Barreled Pistol Standard

1 Tim Gardener	96.81/96.81
2 David Ashcroft	69.21/92.28
3 James Harris	58.99/58.99

Long Barreled Revolver

1 Tim Gardener	100/100
2 Jim Starley	69.44/69.44
3 Paul Nicol	58.14/54.99

Mini Rifle

1 Kelvin Leaton	97.25/97.25
2 Jim Starley	94.02/94.02
3 Tom Ellaway	86.56/86.56

Practical Shotgun

Shotgun Open

1 L Bowditch	90.86/84.95
2 P Matthews	78.16/73.17
3 O Bloomfield	72.86/91.07

Shotgun Standard

1 J Harris	91.97/87.85
2 W Thomas	71.00/71.00
3 J Derenne	67.79/67.79

Shotgun Standard Manual

1 J Holloway	94.07/94.07
2 R Dare	76.38/76.38
3 S Cox	75.82/75.82

HISTORIC SERVICE RIFLE MATCH

Sat 4 Feb 2023

All Comers

1 Green, D	210
2 Tadman, M	183
3 Gilfedder, G	177

Classic 1

Drummond, B 179

2 Hay, J 108

Veteran

1 Ellett, S 207

2 Ellis, B 204

3 Avetoomyan, J 196

Veteran Optic

1 Wade, R 239

2 Atraghji, D 224

3 Greenaway, N 214

– 2023 NRA HANDBOOK –

CHANGE TO SAFETY RULES

Iain Robertson, NRA Safety Legal & Technical Officer, Secretary to the Shooting Committee and editor of the NRA Handbook.

The 2023 NRA Handbook is at the printers as I write. It will be available both to purchase and online towards the end of March and is effective from 3 April.

The 2023 revision introduces a significant change in the safety rules regarding the handling of loaded firearms. The previous rule, at para 118, was written on the basis of deliberate shooting on a gallery range, leaving a big gap in safety procedures. In dealing with that, the basic concept is that a loaded firearm should always point within the confines of the range and

danger area, and a firearm that is ready to fire should point, to the greatest extent possible, at the intended target. Obvious really. However, writing that in a form that caters for all disciplines has been an extended challenge. Shooting Committee, with input from NRA staff and approval of Council, has produced a more sophisticated rule with different requirements for various types of range and various shooting activities. This was judged to be more useful than a simple rule that would have inevitably involved limits that were in some areas more restrictive than necessary.

The new rule specifies different standards for no danger area ranges, event-specific courses such as are used in many dynamic events, and other ranges. There are elements specific to shotgun, muzzle loaders, prone deliberate shooting, target arrays as used in precision rifle and other special situations.

It has literally taken years to reach agreement on this rule change. All disciplines have contributed to the review. Shooting Committee believe the rule sets clear boundaries without impinging on shooting activity as currently carried out. You can find the new rule on the NRA website under Publications/ NRA Handbooks or at nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/NRA-Handbook-main-text-2023.pdf on page 61. Please read and follow it. 🔄

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MESSAGE



Full name:
John Heagren
Talks to NRA

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

My father was a gamekeeper at Middleton Estate Longparish for 28 years. I was 10 years old the first time I started shooting. I was very lucky to have grown up on the estate which was 4,000 acres. It enabled me to hone my skills on all types of quarry. My first gun was a Browning A1 which belonged to my father, I used it for many years until I wore it out!

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

Winning the Stratstone Super Seven. It was a competition where the winner got to keep a £100,000 super car! Among the choices were a Morgan Aero, Range Rover, or Aston Martin! The criteria for keeping the car was to shoot 23 or more out of 25 on an extremely high tower challenge. I did win the competition that day, beating the top twenty who had qualified for the final, but with a score of 19, and for that I was given a Morgan to use for 6 months, simply the most fun I have had with a car. I went on to win the competition again a year or two later, my prize that time was the use of Jaguar X-type. The Morgan was still the best!

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

The adverse effect on my hearing. Hearing protection wasn't so much advised 50 years ago. Thankfully nowadays hearing protection has advanced and I always endorse using the best you can get hold of.

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

I was very lucky that my parents encouraged me in all my sporting interests. Cricket was my main sport, golf, skiing and shooting were the others. In my spare time I instructed in all of them, until I became an instructor at Bisley, then that became my career for the last 30 years.

What sort of music do you listen to?

AC/DC, Guns N' Roses, U2, Queen.

What Club are you a member of?

None.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

All sports people at the top of their game, I always look at them as to how they got there and how they keep on winning. I then adapt the things I have observed and apply them to my coaching. Most sports are similar in their teaching techniques, it's just a matter of adapting it to shooting.

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

Lech in Austria is the place where I could quite easily spend the winter teaching skiing. The Arlberg region is the powder capital of Europe! Spectacular skiing together with quality hotels where they have the most amazing chefs and wine lists!

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

My career started 30 years ago at Bisley. It began with Paul Beecher and myself as the two instructors. We had two trappers then, nearly every trap we had were manual ones! John Dehaviland was the NRA Chairman at the time, he was very keen to see the clay shooting side expand and was very supportive of the changes. Long Siberia was the next expansion and has become a welcome addition to the complex. After that time the clay shooting facilities were divided into Cottesloe Heath and the NCSS. I was involved in the initial set up of the NCSS. I then concentrated solely on Cottesloe Heath designing the stands and building and developing the grounds. Over the years I was able to grow the business to where it is today. Bisley is

still evolving and I am still as enthusiastic as the day I started! With the NRA being more directly involved now it is great to be part of the continuing development.

What do you like to do in your free time?

I have almost gone back to my childhood days! I have quite a few farmer friends who call me when they have a Pigeon or Corvid problem on their crops, so I spend most of my time protecting their crops. Nothing better than sitting in a field watching the world go by!

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

I am a very instinctive shooter and try and keep things as simple as possible, once I have set up and taken the first pair of targets, I like to get into a quick-ish rhythm. For me taking too much time in between pairs can let the conscious side of the brain get involved, which we all know is the destructive side of shooting! Let the subconscious side JUST DO IT!

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

Try it first to see if you enjoy it, once you have decided it's the sport for you, find an instructor that you like and stick with them until you become reasonably proficient. Please do some research to find the right instructor for you. Finding the best shot doesn't necessarily mean they are the best teacher, would you have Tiger Woods teach you (great fun) or Butch Harmon who taught Tiger! 😊





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