

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Summer 2019 – Volume XCVIII No. 2

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The big issues

From new legislation to the Commonwealth Games to the Imperial Meeting, NRA CEO Andrew Mercer rounds up all the major talking points members need to know about

The Royal Assent of the Offensive Weapons Bill dropped in our laps without notice and, with the sweep of a pen, 2,200 rifles were categorised as prohibited. It is clear the Home Office invested considerable resources in getting the legislation across the line; their efforts in dealing with the practicalities of compensation arrangements, and notifying MARS and lever release rifle owners that they will be committing a criminal offence if they sell or transfer their rifle, have been less than impressive. We are offering the Home Office firm encouragement to deliver a prompt, efficient and fair compensation scheme that recognises the affected owners and businesses acted wholly responsibly and in full accordance with the (then) legislation.

The first of July 2019 should have been a memorable day in the Bisley calendar, being the date Bisley Shooting Ground Limited (BSG), tenant of Council Club and licensee of Cottesloe Heath and Long Siberia ranges, yielded possession to the NRA. Sadly our tenant/licensee decided to instigate legal proceedings on 25 June 2019, claiming an entitlement to new leases. It is difficult to imagine how any profitable commercial operator could confuse a lease with no right of renewal, with a lease with a right of renewal; or a licence allowing non-exclusive use, with a lease allowing sole use. Bisley shooters may be surprised to learn that BSG's licence restricts our use of Century and Stickle-down ranges 281 days of each year. We have recruited cracking staff to manage the combined clay shooting operations at Bisley; they are fine-tuning our plans for when the legal proceedings have been completed.

The NRA and many of our affiliated clubs enjoy shooting across a wide variety of MoD ranges in the UK. This relationship demands careful consideration and attention to MoD rules and regulations, and it is imperative that club officials both understand and fully comply with them. On rare occasions we are obliged to deal with reports of non-compliance by clubs; our typical response is to suspend affiliation, withdraw shooter certification cards and qualifications etc. until a full and detailed incident report has been completed. This process can often take several months, so the importance of being aware of, and fully complying with, the rules that apply to the MoD range being used cannot be understated.



The recent announcement of the rejection of our bid for Bisley to host shooting for the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham was disappointing but not entirely surprising. Our efforts to persuade HMG, who fund 75 per cent or so of the £1bn cost of the Games, were countered by deference to the preferences of the host city. The issue of cost was also quoted; however, we could not have reduced the NRA's charge to use Bisley as we had included it free of charge. We are exploring opportunities to host an alternative event for the Commonwealth shooting family, but need more than warm words of encouragement to provide essential financial support to travelling teams and competitors.

At the time of writing we are in the thick of the 150th Imperial meeting, and it is a joy to see Bisley so busy. Our first 'Imperial Day' was Friday 14 June with Service Rifle; the last will be Queen's Final on Saturday 27 July. Six full weeks of fine marksmanship, camaraderie, fierce but friendly competition make the Imperial a unique celebration of the fine sport of target shooting. ■

NEWS

REPORTS

SCHOOL'S BIG BOOST FROM BSRC

As part of their ongoing promotion of the sport to young shooters, the British Sporting Rifle Club were pleased to have recently been able to gift a rifle to a local school, Woodcote House School in Windlesham. Pupil Theo Janelid is a junior member of the British Sporting Rifle Club and through the combined efforts of his father Fred Janelid, Club and Committee members and Shane Giddings, the master in charge of shooting, he and his fellow students now have an Anschütz .22LR sporting rifle in their armoury.

The rifle was officially handed over at the British Sporting Rifle Club on 24 February, with Club Chairman Nick Thomas saying he "hoped that once the boys have gained some experience they might want to visit the Club to take part in some of our open competitions." Let's hope so and that other schools might be persuaded to join them as it's great to see such enthusiasm from the younger generation. As well as Running Boar and Running Deer, the British Sporting Rifle Club shoot a variety of static targets all with electronic scoring – visit www.bsrc.co.uk for more information.

Below: Shooting master Shane Giddings receives the rifle from BSRC Chairman Nick Thomas, also present were BSRC member Ken Scott who made sure the rifle was fully serviced, BSRC member and NRA Sporting Rifle Discipline Representative Steve Wallis, Theo Janelid and his father Fred Janelid.



FAC NUMBERS HAVE RISEN AGAIN

As of 31 March 2019, there were 159,745 firearms certificates on issue in the UK – the highest number on record since 1987.

This continues a general trend of growth in firearms ownership – FACs have now risen for three years in a row and eight of the last ten years.

The average FAC holder also owns more rifles. Though the number of FACs rose by around 2,000, the number of firearms covered by these certificates increased by 19,000 and now stands at 596,661. This equates to an average of 3.7 firearms per certificate.

The number of shotgun certificates also rose slightly, according to the latest government figures.

Of the total 591,302 certificate holders (firearm or shotgun) in the UK, 94 per cent were male, though the number of women with certificates did increase overall. In terms of age, 65 per cent are aged 50 or older.

The areas with the highest level of firearm ownership are the rural areas of North Yorkshire (2,837), Dyfed-Powys (2,637) and Cumbria (2,512). Areas with the lowest level of firearm ownership tend to be in large metropolitan areas in England.

Finally, applications for certificates tend to be as successful as ever. In the year to March 2019, just 2 per cent of FAC applications were refused, and 376 certificates were revoked.



BIRMINGHAM 2022 SNUBS SHOOTING BID

Prominent nations are considering a boycott of the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham after it refused to add shooting to its programme.

After hearing representations from five sports not originally included, Birmingham 2022 organisers have opted to add women's cricket, beach volleyball and para table tennis to the line-up but exclude shooting and archery – a move already ratified by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF).

Since plans for the Games were initially released in 2017, shooting had made a number of attempts to get restored to the programme, centring on the use of Bisley as a venue. According to British Shooting, the ISSF had even offered “to contribute to the costs” of renovating Bisley for use in 2022.

The ISSF's chief executive Vladimir Lisin had visited Birmingham himself in an effort to get organisers to change their minds. But, according to an ISSF statement, organisers didn't even contact the ISSF afterwards: “The Birmingham OC nor CGF has ever consulted with us about any issue, including the competition program, since December 2018 when the ISSF delivered its bid presentation and offered its help.

“A large number of countries and territories will now not have the opportunity to send their best athletes to Birmingham. Most importantly, many athletes and nations will be denied the

chance to compete for medals in a major global international competition.

“The decision which has been made decreases the popularity of the Commonwealth Games and impacts negatively on many countries, dependencies and territories of the Commonwealth.”

Ian Reid, the Birmingham 2022 CEO, said the decision was “the result of a thorough review” and would help the Commonwealths “reach new audiences”. He also said the inclusion of women's cricket and para trap would make the Games “the most inclusive in history” – which makes it even more of a shock that shooting has not been included, given its reputation as a wholly accessible and inclusive sport.

This is the first time since 1974 that shooting will not appear in a Commonwealth Games.

The CGF must now approve the final programme with a vote of all 71 of its members – usually thought a formality.

In this case, nations such as India – which typically takes home a significant number of medals from Commonwealth shooting events – may vote against the move, with NRAI president Raninder Singh calling for a the country to boycott the event.

Asked if India would pull out of the Commonwealths as a whole, IOA secretary general Rajeev Mehta said: “That cannot be ruled out. We can even go to that extent.”

NEWS IN BRIEF

OWB IS LAW

The Offensive Weapons Bill was granted Royal Assent on 16 May and is now an Act of Parliament. The Act introduces new prohibitions under the Firearms Act 1968 on certain rapid-firing rifles, including lever release and MARS rifles. Manufacture, sale, transfer or acquisition of such firearms is prohibited now; prohibition on possession will only come into force after surrender and compensation plans for the firearms in question have been completed. Despite being included in drafts of the Bill, .50 cal rifles were spared from the ban.

EFP TO STAY IN BRITAIN?

Brits might still be able to use the European Firearms Pass after Brexit. The government has now said it's aiming to keep our access to the EFP, which allows shooters to travel across Europe with firearms legally. It still depends on the government agreeing a Brexit deal, but if it happens it'll work both ways, allowing overseas looking to come to the UK for competitions to use it too.

WILL WE GET A CONSULTATION?

Time's running out for the government to deliver the consultation on firearms licensing that it promised. The consultation is meant to take place before the summer recess – which has now been set for 25 July, just a week after this edition lands with NRA members. Countryside Alliance chief executive, Tim Bonner, said that “further delay would be a cause of great frustration and disappointment.”



SERVICED CARAVAN PITCHES ON BISLEY CAMP

Caravans are starting to be sited on Waldegrave Site Development. The photos below show the progress to date.

There is limited availability, and a range of show units on the site still available on leases with terms ranging from 5 to 20 years at an initial rent of £2,200 per annum.

For a site plan, visit www.nra.org.uk. For further details please contact Chris Dyers on 01483 797777 extension 180 or email chris.dyers@nra.org.uk.



OLYMPIC QUOTAS PILE UP FOR 2020

GB's shooting team has won another spot at the Olympic Games next year, thanks to Matt Coward-Holley's silver in Men's Trap at the ISSF World Cup in Changwon in May.

Coward-Holley equalled the British record in qualifying, then went all the way to the last two in the final, only missing out on gold after a sudden-death shoot-off.

He joins Kirsty Barr and Seonaid McIntosh in having won quota places for Tokyo, meaning there will be at least three Brits present in the shooting events, with several qualifying opportunities still to go.

McIntosh, meanwhile, was on the podium at the ISSF World Cup in Munich, winning silver in the Women's 3P Rifle on 29 May. She ended up just 0.2 behind the gold medallist, Yulia Zykova of Russia, after a tense final in which the Scot led for long stretches. She went on to make the final at the European Games in Minsk, too, exiting in fifth place.

PM CANDIDATES SPEAK OUT ON SHOOTING

Both the candidates to become the new Conservative Party leader – and therefore prime minister – have said they don't intend to place further restrictions on firearms ownership, should they get into power.

Jeremy Hunt said he would "base all [his] policy decisions on evidence" when it came to gun laws. He added: "I wouldn't introduce any undue restrictions on legitimate gun ownership and use."

Meanwhile, Boris Johnson said: "We rightly have some of the strictest gun laws in the world. I believe that legitimate ownership and use should come with robust levels of responsibility too. Changing these laws is not a priority."

As the NRA Journal went to press, the vote between the two candidates was ongoing, with a final announcement expected around 23 July.





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Treasurer's report

NRA Treasurer Andrew Reynolds presents his first annual report on the NRA's finances

The NRA's financial performance to December 2018 can be seen in our audited accounts – just search for 'accounts' on our website, www.nra.org.uk.

Highlights include:

- Total Income of £6.2m, up from £6.0m in 2017
- Total funds of £8.5m, up from £8.4m at the beginning of the year
- Closing cash balance of £693k, vs £584k at the end of 2017
- Capital expenditure of £488k (£723k in 2017) following cash generation by our operations of £581k (£584k in 2017)

2018 has marked another successful year for the NRA underpinned by the ever-increasing popularity of full-bore marksmanship. With over a thousand new members, the ranges have never been busier, maintaining the pressure on the Charity to deliver on its investment program.

Over the last six years more than £3m has however been invested into our infrastructure. This is in addition to the costs of upkeep which were just under £400k last year alone.

The strategic review for 2018 – 2020 signalled the Trustees intention to keep this level of investment up but this is only achievable when we work together as a collective to further our charitable aims. In line with the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance, this does mean charging shooters the cost of delivery of the goods and services we avail ourselves of.

As I mentioned in my recent speech to the NRA AGM I intend to focus on financial governance during my tenure. Although it is clear that General Council and the Trustee body provide constant oversight, direction and support of the charity, it is healthy for an organisation to double check that our processes reflect good practice both in terms of control and transparency. I look forward to reporting back to you on this in the future.

The accompanying charts form part of the current monthly management

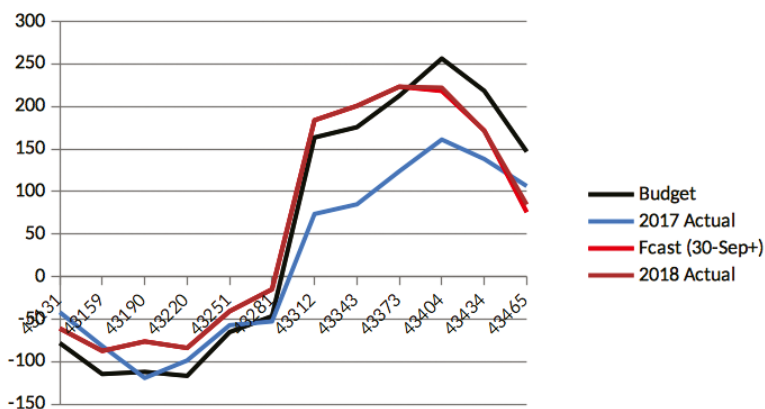
accounts presented to the Trustees. They highlight the three principal measurements chosen by the Trustees to monitor financial performance: net income for the year (excluding

investment returns), cash balance* and net current assets*.

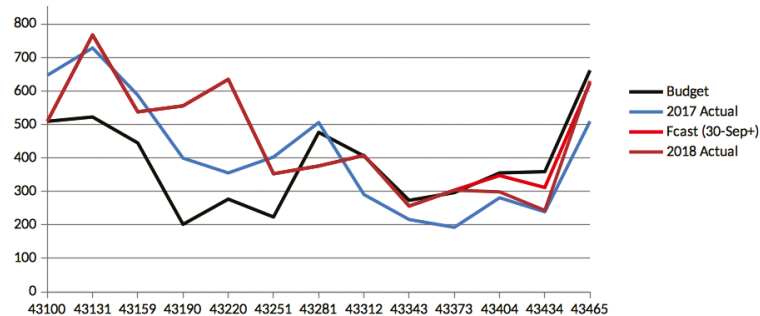
As always, the Trustees' thanks go to the Support Services team for their diligent work.

*Excluding restricted funds. ■

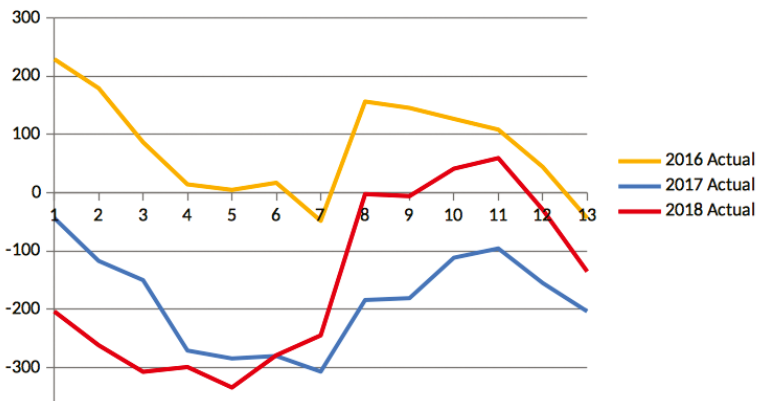
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Cash balance (£k)



Net current assets / (liabilities) (£k)



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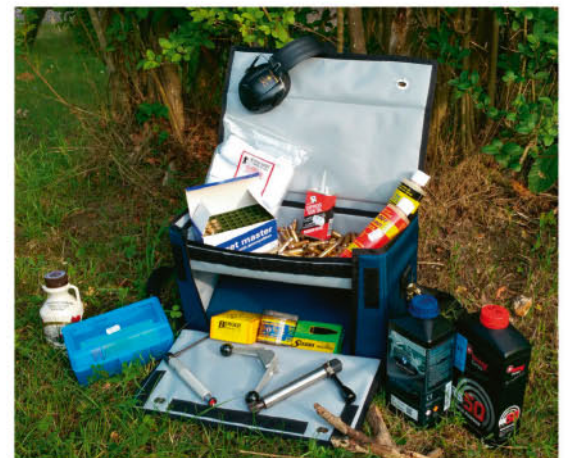
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Trafalgar Meeting - Bisley National Rifle Ranges 19th-20th October

There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.

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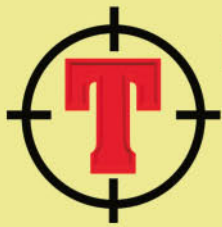
Phoenix Sights

Images from the Phoenix Meeting 2019 and the accompanying Trade Fair









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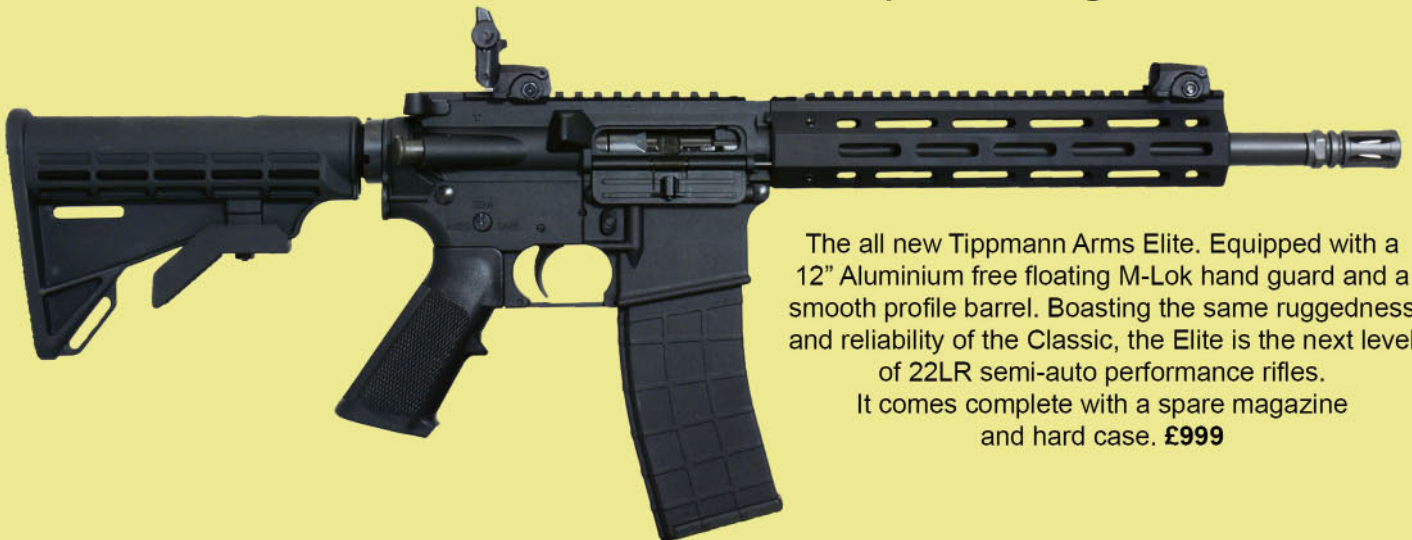
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Windy weekender

As 20 counties put together their strongest teams at Bisley in June for the Inter Counties, we all wanted to know if Surrey's dominance could finally be broken

As usual, the Saturday morning of this weekend match at Bisley started with an individual competition, the R Jarvis, shot under Queens I conditions (two convertible sighters and seven to count at 300, 500 and 600 yds). This is a chance for those who don't get to Bisley very often to sort out their zeros and get back into the groove, and 148 people took advantage of this warm-up shoot and the chance to compete for the trophy, medals and special prizes for Under 25s and Under 23s. The wind was moderate to fresh from between 8 and 9 o'clock and sufficiently variable and gusty to keep shooters on their toes, needing ½-1½ minutes at 300 yards, 1-2½ at 500 and 2-5 at 600. The bright start soon gave way to increasing amounts of cloud and ultimately, before the morning ended, a few sharp showers.

At the final reckoning, there were four scores of 105 ex-105, all from the first detail: Adam Jory won the trophy and gold medal with 13 Vs, closely followed Henryk Howard with 12 Vs for silver, Bruce Logan

with 10 Vs for Bronze and Paul Sykes with 8 Vs. There were 14 scores of 104, including 104.10 from Anthony Bromley which won him the prize for the top under 25. The 24 scores of 103 included Charlie Dart whose 103.9 was good enough to lift the prize for the top under 23.

The first of the team matches is the Lt Col H Jones for teams of eight shooters, firing one sighter plus 10 to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards (Kolapore conditions). The passing showers were not too unkind, with just a couple of short showers during the afternoon. The wind, however, had not abated and required similar allowances to the R Jarvis. The smaller ICFRA bulls this year resulted in a few more points leaking at 300 yds, with the best of the bunch being three teams on nine off (391 ex 400), Hampshire leading the pack with 47 Vs (ex 80), followed by Surrey with 45 and Norfolk with 43. Scores at 500 yds were generally higher, despite the slightly reduced bull, with Surrey showing how it should be done with 398.54, followed by Sussex on 395.51 and London on

394.47. This put Surrey in the lead with 789.99, followed by London on 783.95 and Berkshire on 782.97. While most teams struggled with the fickle winds at 600 yds, three stood out from the rest: Sussex topped the bill with 392.39, closely followed by Surrey on 391.50 and Hampshire on 389.38. Surrey's lead had proved unassailable and they won the trophy with 1180.149. Sussex had pulled up to second but were seven points adrift with 1173.128. Seven points further back were four teams within two points of each other: Hampshire won the battle for the bronze medals with 1166.126, closely followed by London, Berkshire and Norfolk all on 1164.

There were five scores of 150 ex-150, the best coming from Charlie Dart of Berkshire and Paul Johnson of Hereford & Worcester, both with 150.21 and identical V counts at each distance (eight at 300 yards, seven at 500 and six at 600).

Sunday morning was wet and windy, with a fresh wind coming up the range from 7 o'clock and a series of heavy showers

skidding through. The relatively fine angle of the wind only required around 4½-5½ minutes at the start of the 900-yard detail of the Long Range Match, but steadily shifted round towards 8 o'clock as the shoot progressed, needing up to seven minutes by the end. Although strong, it was reasonably steady except when heavy showers came through. These showers often made it difficult to see the target, and prudent teams called a halt while the rain was at its heaviest. The match conditions were two sighters and 15 to count at 900 and 1000 yards. Scores at 900 were generally quite high, with many teams keeping all their scores in the 70s (ex 75). Somerset on 585.75 showed the way, leading Surrey by 14 Vs, with Berkshire third on 584.63, all averaging 73 per shooter.

1000 yards started in a similar vein, with winds fairly steady at 7-9 minutes.

The conditions lulled most teams into a false sense of security, and part way through the second shooter on each target there was a sudden flush of downwind outers across the range, as an unseen surge in the wind caught most coaches on the hop. Nothing was obvious on the flags, but a full correction proved to be necessary.

By this time the showers had stopped and the day got progressively brighter, with the sun eventually appearing intermittently towards the end of the shoot. The wind, however, now proved to be stronger and squarer across the range than had been the case beforehand, with frequent gusts and lulls that were difficult to read, but which required allowances of between 9 and 15 or more. Scores suffered as a consequence, and scores below 60 were

not uncommon. Surrey, coached by wind wizard Bill Richards and 2019 Palma team coach Matty Ensor, were relatively unphased with no scores below 67, giving them the top score on the range of 556.38. London, coached by another 2019 Palma coach, Matthew Charlton, and Nigel Cole-Hawkins were seven points behind on 549.37, with Yorkshire posting the next best score of 541.40. Overall, Surrey proved their prowess and strength in depth by winning the Long Range Match with 1141.99. London's

Wind calls became the crucial element of the day



Part way through the second shooter on each target there was a sudden flush of downwind outers across the range



The 1000-yard stages saw brightening conditions but stronger winds

strong performance at 1000 yards pulled them up from fifth to second place 12 points behind on 1129.96. Hanging on to third were Berkshire on 1114.100.

The top score in the long range match was a fine 148.15 from Devon veteran George Cann, closely followed by Surrey's Jon Tapster on 147.17. Combined with his 149.16 at short range, this made Jon Tapster the overall top scorer of the weekend's matches on 296.33.

In the aggregate of the two matches, having won both, Surrey therefore took the trophy and gold medals for a staggering 11th year in succession. 28 points behind were London who took the silver medals with 2293.235, with Sussex taking bronze on 2285.217.

While the results were being computed, a revised format Champion

of Champions match took place. Rather than being one champion from each of the 12 NRA regions and shot late one evening during the Imperial Meeting, each county nominated their champion for the 2+15 round shoot. Firing one shooter to a target, those accustomed to string shooting took advantage of being able to shoot quickly and minimise the chance of being badly caught by large wind changes. Matty Ensor, having just coached Surrey, was on top of the wind and shot fast for a 72.4 and managed to complete his shoot just before the hooter sounded, bringing a premature stop to shooting with most people still having up to eight shots to fire.

The Army had had to enter the danger area to investigate a report of an aircraft coming down. This brought the match

to a halt for just over 10 minutes. On restarting, everyone was allowed a non-convertible extra sighter before resuming their shoot. In the end, John Sweet was the only other person to break 70, with a high V count 70.7 to take the silver medal. David Rose had the best of two 69s (69.5) to win the bronze medal.

Although some extractor failures occurred with the 2019 ammunition, they were few and the measures that had been put in place to deal with them ensured they were dealt with swiftly and disruption minimised. Some of the marking was less than perfect, which caused some teams more problems than others. This will need to be addressed for a match of this status in future years. That apart, a tough weekend of competition, against the elements as much as the opposition, was enjoyed by nearly 200 of the country's best shooters. The County Championship matches during the Imperial Meeting will be the counties' next chance to try to beat Surrey, who are continuing to set the standard to be bettered. ■

“ A tough weekend of competition, against the elements as much as the opposition, was enjoyed by nearly 200



Surrey claimed victory once again

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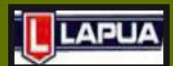
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A Brum do

Shooters descended on the Midlands to contest this already highly-regarded Birmingham Bisley competition

Taking place on 1-2 June, this year's Birmingham Bisley saw entries from 35 Target Rifle competitors, 6 F-open and 33 FTR. The competition was organised by Hereford and Worcester Rifle Association for the second year running, led by Frank Harriss, Secretary, and supported by other HWRA members. Paul Johnson and George Barnard did sterling work in the butts and Mo Morrish presided over the Firing Point.

Saturday was a lovely day but with the usual 'Kingsbury fishtail', showing well on James Bennett's new flags. The new TR 300 centres took their toll with only Keirin McCamley and Paul Johnson scoring 50 here and only four 49s. One of these was from Rick Shouler, who added a 50.7 at 600 yards to win the 'Warwickshire' two-range shoot. Second was Lindsay Peden who counted out

Simon Shouler (going back to the sixth shot at 600) with 98.11.

The FTR troops had very much smaller scoring rings to contend with, of course! Nevertheless there were two possibles and six 49s at 300 (out of 50). At 600, the group had more problems and there were few scores over 70 (out of 75). Asad Wahid's 73.6 gave him victory in the two-range Burley competition with 122.11, with Brogan O'Shea-Smith second on 120.15.

After lunch, both groups shot fifteen rounds to count. In TR, Rick Shouler continued his stunning form to get the only possible 75.13, thereby winning the 'Kingsbury' and the Birmingham Post aggregate. Second in the Kingsbury was David Rose with 74.10, while Simon Shouler came second in the Birmingham Post. On the FTR side of the range, Asad

Wahid continued his successful streak with a winning 73.3 in the CCM Burley which also gave him victory in the Plant aggregate. Brogan O'Shea-Smith came second in both competitions.

The TR team match for the enormous silver Goodman trophy was won by NLRC (Michael Cooper, Lindsay Peden and James Bullock). The FTR match for the Guardians challenge cup was won by Somerset CRA (Celt Ridout, Ian Chenery and Brogan O'Shea-Smith).

Richard Kenchington, the NRA representative for the West Midlands, presented the prizes on Saturday. After telling us that it was 50 years since he had first fired at Kingsbury, he gave us a potted history of the range and mentioned how it had been moved from central Birmingham where the canal and railway were just over the stop butt!





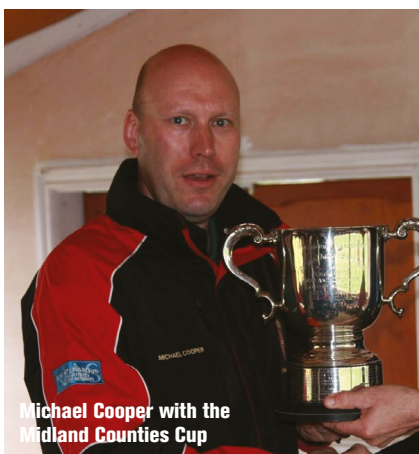
Rick Shouler receiving the QEII Cup



Celt Ridout won the Watson Bowl



Keirin McCamley, winner of the Australia Trophy



Michael Cooper with the Midland Counties Cup



Nick Gilbert receives the Allen Cup



Asad Wahid with his Saturday cups

Slightly fewer competitors came on Sunday, and the competition was cut down to five targets each for TR and FTR.

In the TR, eyes were on Rick Shouler and he did not disappoint, scoring 100.12 at 300 and 500 in the 'Worcestershire Regiment', to win with the only possible. Second was Michael Cooper with 99.16. After lunch, Rick faded, allowing Michael to win the 'Staffordshire' at 600 with 75.9 and the Midland Counties Aggregate, with Rick in second position. This was a remarkable score in difficult conditions with gusting winds and a heavy rain shower. Reg Curtis, a local Hereford and Worcester lad, came second in the Staffordshire with 73.11, also an excellent shoot. In FTR, Asad did not have quite such a good day and allowed the honours to be spread. Celt Ridout won the two-range Derby bowl with 123.16, just ahead of Nick Gilbert with 123.14 and Bob Dashwood with 123.12. The 600 Dyer competition was won by Jon Longhurst with 74.5, with Nick second and Asad

third. The daily aggregate for the Allen Cup was won by Nick, with Celt second.

The TR team match for the Painter Shield was won by 'English XX' (David Rose, Simon Shouler and Mark Clewer) and the FTR match by 'The A-team' (part of Dorset Riflemen) (Nick Gilbert, Bob Dashwood and Mike Bland) who took the Solihull plate.

Perhaps it was not surprising that the overall TR two-day aggregate for the Queen Elizabeth II Cup was won by Rick Shouler with 346.49, dropping just four points over the two days. Second was Michael Cooper three points behind, just counting out Simon Shouler. Keirin McCamley won the Australia trophy for the top score in class O/T.

The fate of the FTR two day aggregate for the Watson bowl was not so obvious but it went to Celt Ridout with 386.36, followed by Brogan O'Shea-Smith with 385.39 and Asad Wahid with 384.32.

Among the small company of F-open shooters, Justin Gough had been steadily winning gold medals in every competition

and finally won the Life Members Cup for the overall aggregate.

James Bennett had kindly provided a cup to go to the highest score by a member of the Athelings Association and this was won by David Rose.

All the closed Hereford and Worcester awards were won by Reg Curtis, the Chairman's prize for Saturday, the Depot Cup for Sunday and the Rosebowl for the Grand. Kidderminster (Paul Johnson and James Bennett) won both the James Cup (Saturday) and O-Sector Cup (Sunday) for Hereford and Worcester Club pairs.

The prizes were presented by Simon Miesegaes, the High Sheriff of Warwickshire, who introduced himself by saying that he was the Queen's Representative for legal matters in the county and also active in the RAFVR. Nic Couldrey, NRA Regional Ranges representative, was also present and Frank thanked him for making arrangements with the military authorities to guarantee us the range. ■



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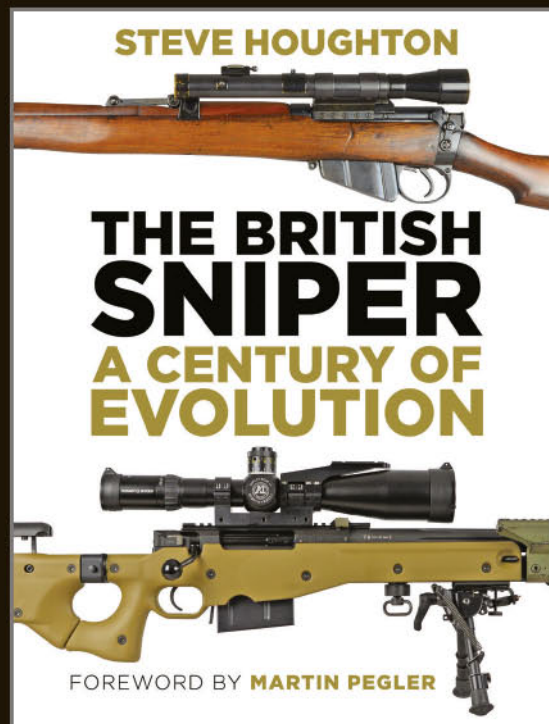
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IBIS RIFLE CLUB OPEN

13 April, Bisley

A near-record 52 competitors entered the Ibis Open shoot this year. The day started sunny but cold and when the sun went in the temperature dropped again. Those who had spent nights in caravans looked rather chilly in the morning.

The new NRA targets were in use at 300 and 500. Nevertheless there were six 50s and a host of 49s at 300. At 500, there were only four 50s. By 600 the wind had become tricky and, although there were three 50s, there were no 49s!

At the end of the morning, Robert Shaw, an Ibis member, had won with 149.20, dropping his point at 300 yards. Second was James Lawrie (Old Stamfordians) with 147.21 and third James Shepherd (Old Guildfordians) with 147.15. It was good to see seven school pupils from Wellington and Greshams taking part in the middle of their holidays. The top score from among these was Toby Cubitt of Greshams with 141.14, including an excellent 50.5 at 500.

Lunch for many was taken in the Ibis Clubhouse. After this repast, shooting began for 44 competitors at 1000 yards. There were relatively few message 4s, though the wind was tricky. Top score was Toby Cubitt with 49.04 (young eyes!), followed by Andrew Wilde (an oft-times winner of the Open) with 48.05 and Robert Shaw with 48.01. So Robert was still ahead! However, the distance of 1 km, unique to the Ibis, was still to come with some even more difficult winds. Here 45 is often reckoned a decent score and there were only seven scores of 45 and above. Top of these was Paul Holmes from Manchester with a remarkable 48.03, followed by Miles Stopher of CURA with 47.03, then Mackenzie Woodcock from Greshams with 46.03. And so Paul Holmes took the Long-Range competition with 92.05 from Alice

Good of CURA with 91.02, counting out Maxine Woodward of Langer, also with 91.02. Fourth was James Shepherd with 90.07. But what about the morning winner? Unfortunately he rather came unstuck at 1100. Top under-19 scores were Toby Cubitt with 90.06, Oscar Farrell of Wellington with 89.08 and Jemima Hince of Wellington (who had shot in the Purples match in the morning) with 88.05.

Paul Holmes won the aggregate competition, scoring 238.23, with James Shepherd second on 237.22 and Maxine Woodward third with 234.16. The top school pupil, winning the HPS voucher for the top under-19, was Toby Cubitt, scoring 231.20 and coming an excellent 7th.

Full results are available at www.ibisrifleclub.co.uk/media/other/1873/IbisOpen2019.pdf

It was good to retreat to the warmth of the Ibis Clubhouse for the prizegiving.

The top five in each competition chose from a tempting array of bottles, chocolates and several £30 HPS Target Rifles Limited vouchers. HPS has sponsored the event for many years with HPS vouchers and Ibis is most grateful to them. HPS TargetMaster was the issued ammunition. Then, in the Ibis tradition, there were spot prizes at pre-determined places down the lists, so there were some surprised faces at the prizegiving! Thanks were given to Bill Rowland, the organiser, Peter Griggs and David Smith who were the stats team and Frank Harriss and Dave Crisford who ran the ranges.

A very jovial dinner followed to which twenty-seven people stayed. Bill was thanked for providing a really excellent meal and presented with a bottle of champagne. This dinner is typical of the camaraderie of the Ibis, which is still open for membership.

By 600 the wind had become tricky and, although there were three 50s, there were no 49s



The celebratory dinner at the end of the meeting

NRA/DRA CHALLENGE

28 April, Thorpe Cloud Rifle Range



**First place F Class:
Mr Gordon Smeeton**

TARGET RIFLE

	300YD	400YD	500YD	TOTAL
Emma Nuttall	72.5	75.13	75.8	222.26
Robert Oxford	75.10	73.10	73.8	221.28
Alice Southall	73.11	73.12	74.11	220.34
Mike Wright	74.7	72.9	73.7	219.23
Paul Wright	71.8	74.9	73.10	218.27
Ramage Radford	72.5	72.5	73.5	217.15
Phil Townsend	71.6	70.6	75.10	216.22
Lewis Reid	74.7	72.8	70.5	216.20
Mark Parkes	71.9	73.8	71.6	215.23
Steve Maris	72.5	69.3	71.6	212.14
Robin Carter	74.4	71.5	70.5	212.14
Dug Robson	66.3	67.4	67.3	200.10
Ben Hirst	68.3	63.3	66.3	197.9

F CLASS

	300YD	400YD	500YD	TOTAL
Gordon Smeeton	72.10	74.7	72.8	218.25
Matthew Blake	72.5	73.1	73.6	218.12
Shaun Baker	72.10	71.6	73.7	216.23
DS	67.3	59.0	54.1	219.23

The National Rifle Association/Derby Rifle Association Challenge saw a turnout of 17 shooters. Thirteen shot TR and four F Class. Unfortunately, the shoot clashed with another shoot for F Class, which prevented several regular shooters from being able to attend.

The DRA would like once again to thank the NRA for sponsoring the prizes for this event, with gold and silver medals, and the top score for each discipline being entry into the Imperial Meeting Grand Aggregate at Bisley for 2019.

On to the day – the morning started cold but bright and sunny. The organisers managed to get everyone sorted and on the range for the first detail to start shooting at 09.00 on the 300 yards firing point. This then proved that Thorpe weather is like a micro climate, with the wind blowing straight down the range towards you one minute and then across the target faces the next. This did not pose too great a problem to the experienced shooters, who throughout the day obtained some fantastic scores. It was also great to see some new faces to competition shooting today and with some very impressive scores – well done to all.

THE COBWEB-BUSTER THREE COUNTIES OPEN MEETING

14 April, Bisley



First place TR:
Miss Emma Nuttall

Even though there was quite a challenge with the gusting wind, the weather was stayed dry and fresh all day. Competitors shot the 300, 400 and then 500 yards TR in the morning and then after a brief break for change over and lunch, the remainder for the TR shooters, shooting shoulder to shoulder with the F Class competitors.

The weather did cloud over during the day, and while the changes in sunlight and wind direction did have an effect, everyone coped very well as can be seen by some of the fantastic scores recorded.

Congratulations go to Emma Nuttall, an old DRA Team member, who is now shooting for the Army Target Rifle Club, who scored 222.26 EX 225.45 for TR, and to Gordon Smeeton of Staveley Rifle and Pistol Club (DRA) who scored 218.25 for the F Class.

The final scores for the day are shown here in the tables.

For the morning detail, there were nine TR competitors, with some having traveled from as far away as Surrey and Wales to take part.

Simon Favell

This was the second year that the counties of Gloucestershire and Hereford and Worcester got together to run this competition, a day earlier this year at Bisley on 14 April. There were a record 72 competitors – 54 TR, 15 F/TR and three F-open. The course of fire was 'Empire match' for TR and the equivalent ranges, but 2+15 for F class. At the prize giving, Ian Ashworth, the Gloucester captain, was thanked for organising things so well once again.

The morning was very cold and frosty, with some caravan-dwellers taking a while to thaw out. It was sunny at first but, especially in overcast intervals, still cold.

At 300, there were eight scores of 50, with Sandy Walker (OFRC) and Keirin McCamley (Surrey) setting out as they meant to continue with 50.8.

At 600 there were some quick changes of angle that caught out many competitors. Dave Parkinson of Ricochet Rifle Club managed a fine 50.8, followed by Jemima Hince of Wellington College with 50.4 but there were only two 49s and many well below!

The Short Range Aggregate for the Baldwin Cup was won by Paul Holmes of Manchester with 99.12, counting out Sandy Walker on V-bulls at 600.

Ian Chenery (Dorset Riflemen) was the highest F/TR competitor with 145.16, followed by Celt Ridout (Somerset) with 142.12. Paul Fellows (Oundle RPC) was top of the F-open with 133.5.

After lunch the conditions were reasonable for the Long Range and it remained dry, though still cold. At 900, Sandy Walker won the Royal Artillery Cup with 50.8 from Chris Weedon in second with 50.5 and eight 49s. At 1000, there were no possibles but five 49s, led by Keirin McCamley who won the Deerhurst Cup with 49.7. Martin Liversage (Altcar) came second with 49.6. Top of the Long-Range Aggregate was Sandy Walker with 99.11, then Martin Liversage with 98.12.

Among the F/TR competitors, Brogan O'Shea Smith (Somerset) came out on top at Long Range with 133.7, closely followed by Justin Gough (Dorset

Riflemen) with 133.3. Paul Fellows won the F-open with 130.6.

Overall, the TR winner, receiving the Dean Cup, was Sandy Walker, scoring 198.23. Second was Paul Holmes with 196.19. The Officers' Cup for the top Class O/T was won by Keirin McCamley with 193.24. Jemima Hince (Wellington College) again won the 'Tyro trophy' for the top under-25 score (she is 18 and Class A!) with 193.17. Dave Allen (Huddersfield) won the President's salver for the top over-65 shot from a field of six with 186.13. The top Hereford and Worcester competitor, who received the Arthur Dudley Cup, was Paul Johnson with 185.16. The leading F/TR shooter who won the Coventry Memorial Trophy was Celt Ridout, scoring 274.20 ahead of Justin Gough with 272.13. Paul Fellows was top of the F-open with 163.11. The Baker Cup for teams of three went to Dursley A (Ian Ashworth, Rob Lygoe and Alastair Haley). They also represented Gloucestershire and won the 'Three Counties' Cup from the Hereford and Worcester team (Paul Johnson, Mark Clewer and Chris Marlow). This is the first time for several years that this cup has been competed for and represents the gradual resurgence of shooting in Hereford and Worcester.

Hardly surprisingly, Jemima Hince won most of the Cadet prizes but mention must be made of Charlie Crosby who won the 300 with 50.4 and Ed Atkins the 900 with 48.4.

The traditional TR two-range aggregates were won as follows:

Outside Aggregate (300 and 100)

Keirin McCamley (TR); Celt Ridout (F/TR); Paul Fellows (F-open)

Inside Aggregate (600 and 900)]

Sandy Walker (TR); Brogan O'Shea Smith (F/TR); Paul Fellows (F-open)

Odds Aggregate (300 and 900)

Sandy Walker (TR); Jason Scrivens (F/TR); Paul Fellows (F-open)

Evens Aggregate (600 and 1000)

Dave Parkinson (TR); Celt Ridout (F/TR); Paul Fellows (F-open)

Frank Harris

ENGLISH TWENTY CLUB SPRING MEETING

25-27 May, Bisley



The English Twenty Club Spring Meeting was very well supported with an entry of over 140 shooters, with 115 shooting the full competition.

Prior to the Association (QI) on the Saturday afternoon, a match was held between the English Lions Talent Development Squad and Tom Ryland's England Team to Canada. The England team took the honours, which they will hopefully repeat in Ottawa this August.

Light and tricky winds met the shooters on Saturday afternoon, which resulted in John Pugsley scoring the only 105 on the range (105.11) and Nigel Ball the only 104 (104.15)

Steadier winds blew on Sunday when the Second Stage was shot; 300x and 500x in the morning and 600x in the afternoon. This saw Steven Thomas taking the win from Nigel Ball, both on 150.22, but courtesy of a 50.8 at 600x to Nigel's 50.4. There were six 150s in all. 'The Cortis' followed on at 600x with an in-form Nigel Ball victorious on 75.13 and upcoming shooter Dan Clark second with 75.11. There were seven 75s in all. This gave Nigel Ball the

Sunday Aggregate and the Short Range Aggregate, dropping just one point so far.

Conditions on Stickledown changed drastically during the course of Monday morning. In 'The Long' (2&15 at 900 yards) five shooters managed a possible, the best of which was Adam Leech with 12 central bullseyes. The Inner Aggregate went to Nigel Ball, helped by a 75.10 at 900x.

Then the winds picked up. In the final at 1000x John Bellringer finished 3 points clear of the rest with a creditable 74.7, as out of a field of 105 shooters only six people managed to score 70 or more. One significant wind event saw more than 20 competitors score an outer or worse around their fourth to count, notable amongst which was Dick Winney scoring a 71 with his outer. The Monday Aggregate went to John Bellringer with a 146.14 and Keith Pugh second, one point adrift.

Nigel Ball's campaign suffered in the winds, managing only a 67.5 at 1,000 yards. However it was enough to secure the Grand Aggregate and the

Johnson Lion trophy, with only 15 V bulls separating him from John Bellringer in second place. Top O class and winner of the Booth Cup was Jon Ford.

A good weekend of shooting was enjoyed by the competitors, and congratulations to Nigel Ball for proving that age is no barrier to success.



On the Ball: Nigel takes top honours

THORPE CLOUD RIFLE RANGE WARDEN'S SHIELD 2019

19 May, Thorpe Cloud Rifle Range

Sunday 19 May saw the Thorpe Cloud Rifle Range Warden's Shield take place. Competitors shot 300, 400 and 500 yards as two convertible sighting shots and 15 to count – giving Ex 225.45. For the second time this year, the competition clashed with an F Class shoot, so the numbers were down on the expected turnout. That being said, the scores that were shot on the day show the very high skill level of the participants in each of the three disciplines.

To enable the competition to be fair across the firing point, the organisers run F Class on standard 300-yard targets at 300 and 400 yards and a standard 500 yard face at 500. The Open Class, is for any rifle supported on a bipod, but free of the ground in the shoulder – any sights. The Open Class get to shoot on 1995 pattern targets, but on one distance down – a 200 face at 300 yards, 300 face at 400 yards and 400 face at 500 yards. The TR is shot on standard 1995 pattern targets and is for rifles with iron sights and sling. Having the three different sizes of target allows clubs to put in a multi discipline 3- man team, depending on what each competitor shoots.

Nine competitors took part on Sunday, with four shooting F Class, three shooting Open and two TR shooters.



The weather was dull and cloudy for the whole shoot, with a light but fluctuating wind coming in from around the 11 o'clock mark. As the cloud cover changed, and the wind dropped, it made for interesting readings on the wind flags, any two of which would never show the same direction.

The scores therefore were very good, with Mark Daish having the highest F Class score of 223.24 EX 225.45; Stuart Neal taking the Open Class with 221.31 and John Kennedy taking the TR with 221.24. All fantastic scores for the day. Well done and thank you for attending.



RESULTS					
		300Y	400Y	500Y	TOTAL
Mark Daish	F Class	75.10	73.3	75.11	223.24
Stuart Neal	Open	72.11	75.10	74.10	221.31
John Kennedy	TR	75.5	73.10	73.9	221.24
Paul Wright	TR	73.9	73.8	73.9	219.26
Dave Reynolds	Open	74.11	73.6	71.4	218.21
Shaun Baker	F Class	71.9	70.2	71.5	212.16
David Smith	Open	63.3	69.7	67.4	198.14
Matthew Blake	F Class	57	68.2	70.3	195.5
Kay Airey	F Class	72.5	54	59.3	185.8



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Cottesloe Cracker!

Back and bigger than ever, the Cottesloe Heath Challenge took over the woods next to Stickle-down Range on 28-30 June. James Harris reports...

Now in its fourth year, the Cottesloe Heath Challenge is firmly established as the premier match in the shotgun shooter's diary. This year a good turnout of over 160 entrants competed in the first of the not exclusively military events of this year's Imperial meeting. With 10 stages laid out across seven temporary ranges on Cottesloe Heath, a wide variety of shooting skills could be tested under different conditions.

Stage 1 was, as is now custom, the solid slug stage, providing a wide variety of targets from close-range paper targets to be shot at high speed with a flash sight picture to long-range steel targets that required a good sight picture and steady hold to hit after the 120m uphill run from the start. Pity the range officers who had to run the stage in temperatures exceeding 33 degrees Celsius! Heat haze from the barrels and a lack of practice at the longer ranges

caused many to miss the furthest targets and put paid to any thoughts of a medal.

Stage 2 was the first of the birdshot stages with a combination of quick shots at close range, more deliberate aimed shots at the maximum effective range and a flying clay. This was another high-value stage where a solid performance was required to maintain any hope of a podium position. Next came the short standard exercises of unloaded starts and weak shoulder shooting that,



Jon Holloway making the dust fly in stage 1

while low in points value, had to be shot well so that points were not lost unnecessarily.

Stage 5 will no doubt be remembered by many as after last year’s equipment failure the eight-bird flurry was successful thanks to the load on the latest electronic traps by Alex Moreton. Top score here was an astounding 7 from 8 by a mere three competitors out of the 160-plus field with a fair few failing to hit any at all.

Stage 6 was set within the gorse and trees and tested the speed of the competitor across the ground as well as knowledge of their shot pattern, with the very last target requiring dead centre placement of shot to ensure it fell. Across the track in the first of the borrow pits that make superb shotgun ranges was stage seven comprising 16 targets and a rake of penalties all carefully placed to force the competitors to shoot from numerous positions without any bias towards left- or right-handed shooters. Smoke was an issue here later in the day, as can be seen from the photographs.

In the next borrow pit was stage 8, a very compact, almost claustrophobic stage, again with 16 targets, the first nine of which enticed many to run the gun dry without heed to the need to reload for the 10th and 11th targets – a trap for the unwary set by the course designer. To round the match off, stage 9 was a pleasant run down the hill through the woods with extra-large targets set to the left and right, which despite their size at least one competitor forgot where they were, much to their chagrin.

With such demanding stages, the profile of the results reflected this, with a clear spread across the entire field rather than the bunching effect that can be found when the stages are a homogenised mass easily hit targets in repeated arrays with little in the way of shooting challenges.

Holding on to his title won in 2018, Sam Crane took top honours in Open. A newcomer to the match but a very accomplished shooter, Josh Kenny won in Standard Auto by some margin, and making a very welcome return to the competitive circuit was Neil Smith who picked up the gold in Standard Manual.

Full results available on the NRA website ■



RESULTS		
Open		
1	Sam Crane	100.000%
2	Benjamin Ducker	99.688%
3	Graham Guest	92.881%
Standard Auto		
1	Josh Kenny	100.000%
2	Christopher Gamlin	81.582%
3	Russell Hicks	76.881%
Standard Manual		
1	Neil Smith	100.000%
2	Keith Norman	95.932%
3	John Holloway	94.539%

“The first nine targets enticed many to run the gun dry without heed to the need to reload for the 10th and 11th targets”





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F-Class Catch-up

All the F Class happenings so far in 2019, including trials and tribulations at Diggle, a wonderful weekend at Bisley and the Friday Friendly

National League Round 1, Diggle

At Diggle, you never quite know what you'll get, so you bring wellies and sun cream and figure you'll probably need both – we certainly did this weekend.

We contended with the vagaries of the weather and that much is expected, but there was an entirely unexpected difficulty to overcome; our Silver Mountain targets which had functioned absolutely perfectly all throughout 2018, strangely misbehaved.

In F/Open we had a clear winner; by a margin of five points, Gary Costello was back on top form in every sense. Gary expertly steered his beautiful new Speedy Gonzales rifle to come out on top with 241.18, earning the title of 2019 Short Range League Champion. Second place was won by Ian Boxall on 236.20, and just four V-bulls behind in third place was Joe West with 236.16.

The new F/TR Short Range Champion is Graeme Dunlop with 227.13. This is a terrific achievement, not only did Graeme win his first ever stage medal, he shot consistently well to prevail over many other well-established shooters. Second place was won by Paul Binns, his highest place finish in a League match and in third was that familiar stalwart Adam Bagnall.

National League Round 2, Diggle

We made a welcome return to Diggle, our second visit of the season in the space of three weeks, for the Pennine Challenge; 75 rounds to count at 800 and 1000 yards. The forecast this time seemed very good indeed.

There were a couple of significant changes to this second outing at Diggle; it was decided to 'play safe' and resort to manual target marking until we could be certain that the Silver Mountain

electronic targets had been fully investigated and restored. Secondly, numbers were somewhat restricted; down from 70 to 56, effectively reducing the field from five details to a more manageable four.

To maximise our value for money the course of fire was mostly 2+20s; long barrel-warming tests of endurance, it is surprising just how long it feels like in two completely different situations; when winning and losing. When you're doing well and have not dropped many points in the 'first half', it can seem a terrifyingly long way to safely negotiate the second half while preserving a good score.

On the F/Open side, there was nobody else who could remotely vie with Gary Costello for first place, with 367.34. Not many shooters have won two consecutive League matches, but if anyone could do it, it's Gary when he's on top form, it was



great to see him back and on top again. Jordan Rubio scored 362.27 Jordan has proved himself to be a very fast learner in making rapid progress up the ranks in short order, he is now up there as a contender. It was a great result for March taking the two top slots. Your humble scribe (Des Parr) sneaked into third place with 360.27.

Turning to F/TR, well what can one say; the match was totally dominated by one man; Asad Wahid stamped his authority on this match. Asad's score of 363.37 was high enough to beat all the F/Open guys except Gary. It says a lot about Asad that he established a new GBFCA record along the way and came close to a second one, more than half of his shots were V-bulls, the highest V-count of the match, yet he remained unflinchingly modest about his achievements. He is a credit to the sport. Second place was won by local Diggle specialist, John Matthew who shot consistently well all weekend; whatever he's doing we hope he continues doing it. Third place was won by the ever-ready 101 shooter Adam Bagnall who is never far away from the front.

And finally, a "mention in despatches", for our youngest competitor; Heather made her long-range debut and did well – beating a few established shooters on Saturday.

Round 3, Bisley – The Long Range Challenge

This was what we look forward to all year; competing in tricky conditions with good friends in good weather with good rifles and ammo, it doesn't get any better.

This Long Range Challenge may go down in the history of the league as being one of the most interesting we have ever witnessed. We have seen much stronger winds in the past and we've also been soaked and scorched in the past, but this was different; it was simply a true test of wind-reading in very difficult wind conditions, it was an ideal contest of wind-reading, marksmanship and rifle accuracy.

The new 2019 Long Range Challenge Champion in F/TR is Jon Longhurst. Jon romped home to win the match emphatically, taking three stage medals

in the process. Jon's score of 381.19 was comfortably 14 points ahead of his nearest rival and would have placed him in third place in F/Open! Second place was won by the ever-cheerful and optimistic Asad Wahid with 367.14 Asad is reaping the benefits of all the considerable time and money he has spent on perfecting his shooting skills. Third place was taken by Simon West with 366.15 Simon has shown that he is a very skilful top shooter in any discipline he chooses to competes in.

Our new 2019 Champion in the F/Open Long Range Challenge is Joe West who won with a superb 386.17 Joe certainly is a "chip off the old block" seeing as he and his father each featured on the podium in both disciplines, and with good shooting genes like that, clearly this young man has a great future ahead of him. Not far behind in second place came the taciturn Scotsman Paul

Sandie with 384.23, Paul has tuned his big 300WSM to perfection and it really shows when it counts. In third place came your humble scribe, Des Parr.

The full match reports can be found at gbfclass.com/blog/

The Friday Friendly

2019 has seen a new initiative which has been driven by Jon Longhurst; the "Friday Friendly" team shoot. This is shot on the Friday before every league weekend.

The Friday Friendly is an excellent new idea and it fills a real need; we don't get anywhere near enough team-shooting experience and we've known about that deficiency for a long time, so top marks to Jon for plugging that gap – the practice and experience it provides is sure to pay dividends in the long run.

Full league results can be found at gbfclass.com/results/

GB F CLASS LEAGUE STANDINGS 2019					
	F/TR	DIGGLE RD 1	DIGGLE RD 2	BISLEY RD 3	TOTAL
1	Asad Wahid	17	20	19	56
2	Adam Bagnall	18	18	-	36
3	Jon Longhurst	15	1	20	36
4	Paul Crosbie	16	16	-	32
5	Simon West	11	1	18	30
6	David Rollafson	14	1	14	29
7	Ewan Campbell	3	12	12	27
8	Richie Jones	1	13	13	27
9	John Matthew	7	19	-	26
10	Paul Binns	19	3	1	23
	F/O	DIGGLE RD 1	DIGGLE RD 2	BISLEY RD 3	TOTAL
1	Gary Costello	20	20	12	52
2	Des Parr	7	18	18	43
3	Craig Titmus	17	15	10	42
4	Jordan Rubio	12	19	11	42
5	Joe West	18	-	20	38
6	Paul Sandie	-	17	19	36
7	Ian Boxall	19	-	16	35
8	Richard Sharman	16	-	17	33
9	Tony Marsh	9	11	9	29
10	Ian Bellis	15	8	2	25



Sporting Rifle summer shoots

An update on all things going on in the Sporting Rifle world from Steve Wallis

Phoenix Sporting Rifle Statics

Allowing for the fact that we didn't have a large contingency of shooters from South Africa this time, the number of entries for the Sporting Rifle Statics (5685) competition was reassuringly higher than last year – in fact if our South African friends had entered in the same numbers they did last year we'd have had more entries than we could have squadded over the weekend. Maybe next year we will need an additional target, let's hope so.

For those who aren't familiar with this competition, it is shot at 100, 200 and 300 yards from a mix of prone, sitting and standing positions on what are some very challenging targets. Unlike many other forms of target shooting, there are no sighters permitted and competitors need not only to know their elevation changes but also be able to read the wind pretty well too or risk shots getting blown out of the scoring area – especially at 300

yards where the bull measures around 1 MOA and the total scoring area is only about 2½ MOA across.

Considering the targets in use and the effect the wind had when shooting at 200 and 300 yards – the former not just being a case of having to allow for wind drift before pulling the trigger but also to try and shoot on a lull in the wind to stop yourself getting buffeted about – the standard of shooting was once again very respectable proving that Sporting Rifle shooters are just as capable on the ranges as in the field.

As well as individual competition, this event also has a team competition which this year saw teams from the UK and Ireland battling it out with the BSRC 'A' Team taking first place with a score of 921 points. Individual honours went to:

- **1st place:** Asad Wahid, 262 points
- **2nd place:** Justin Frankland, 258 points
- **3rd place:** Adam Hooley, 245 points

Sporting Rifle at the 150th Imperial Meeting

2019 is not just special because of the 150th Imperial Meeting, it is also a special year for Sporting Rifle shooters. With 1079 of the current 9202 NRA members being Sporting Rifle discipline members, I am very pleased to announce five new competitions that have been introduced to the Imperial just for them:

- The Fox Test
- The Running Deer
- The Running Boar
- The Stalker's Test
- The Swedish Deer

As well as these exciting new competitions there will also be old favourites in the form of the British Running Deer Championships and Running Deer Unlimiteds and the Sporting McQueen – details of these can also be found in the 2019 Bible on pages 303 and 237 respectively.

Contact the Sporting Rifle discipline representative: sporting@nra.org.uk ■

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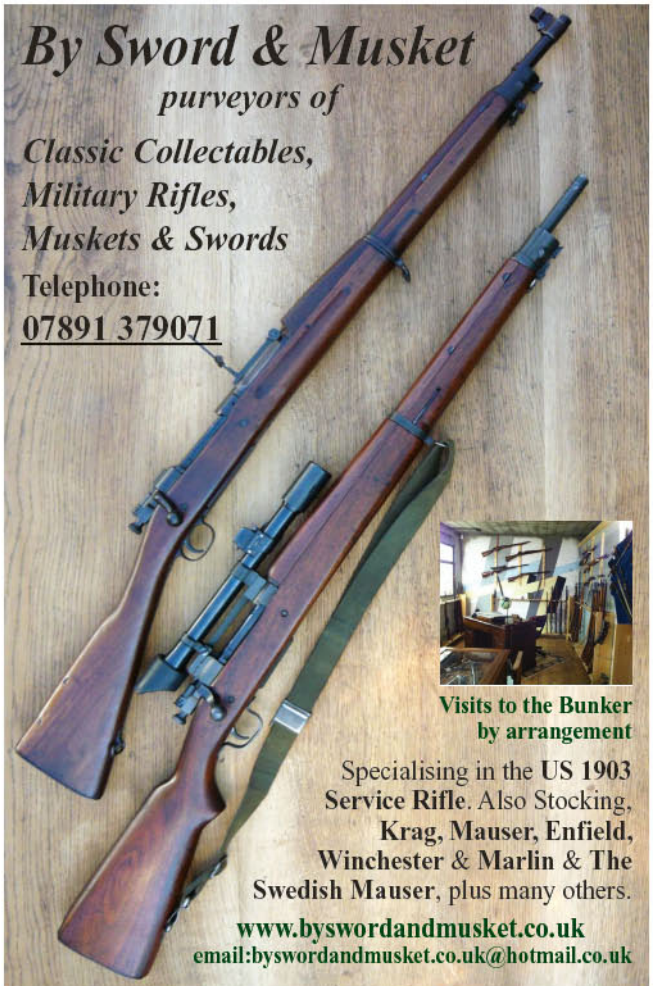
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Discipline snapshot

Des Parr reflects on a very successful start to the 2019 campaign for two shooters in particular and looks forward to the rest of the season

We have passed the summer solstice already and have not quite reached the midpoint of the 2019 competition season, that said we've had a brisk start already with three National League matches completed and the Birmingham Bisley where Celt Ridout and Justin Gough prevailed. Some members have ventured further afield to north and south of the Irish border for the Irish Open and Emerald Matches where F-Open was dominated by Joe West in the F-Open individual match and by his eponymous team in the teams' match.

In the National League standings so far, Asad Wahid and Gary Costello are currently way out in front with Gary making two very rare back-to-back consecutive League wins. Both men are supremely dedicated to their chosen sport and each has put a huge amount of effort into their preparations: it shows in their well-deserved results.

In F-Class there is simply no hiding place, the target is tiny and unforgiving, and it readily shows up who has done their homework; in that respect these

two shooters are outstanding exemplars of dedication.

As the Journal goes to press, the biggest NRA event of the year is rapidly approaching – the Imperial – and this year, of course, it will be even bigger and better seeing as it is the NRA's 150th anniversary. New teams matches are planned and one in particular is worthy of a special mention as it takes a rather novel format – it is a hybrid of F-Open and F-TR shooters. This format is a Canadian innovation and builds on Canada's long history of F-C, being the originators of the class and having previously given us the now superseded V=6 scoring system. The idea is that a viable team can still be fielded even if there are insufficient numbers for two separate sub-discipline teams, we look forward to seeing how this new format works out in practice, it could point the way forward for smaller club shoots.

Although Canada can justifiably claim to be the home of F-Class, we in the UK have not been idle. Taking inspiration from the National League with its focus on individual performance, a new team-

based league has been established by former GB team officers Stuart Anselm and Paul Harkins. The new team league is primarily focused on F-TR currently and is administered by Stuart operating from the old English Twenty club, which is now home to the White Horse Club. Their idea is a good one – to provide more opportunities for groups of friends to form Rutland teams and gain much needed experience of team shooting in friendly rivalry with other like-minded groups.

One of the most appealing aspects of F-Class is that the rules are pretty liberal and actively encourage experimentation. This is a big attraction for many inveterate experimenters, and ever since Paul Sandie's stellar performance at the 2017 World Championships in Ottawa using a .300 WSM, there has been a surge of interest in this big cartridge and other even larger ones, fuelled to some extent by new bullets offered by Berger and Sierra. The big magnums certainly have their place, there is no argument that driving a big bullet at a high velocity should

cleave its way through the wind more efficiently. That was the conclusion of the noted barrel-maker, Geoffrey Kolbe's book, *A Ballistics Handbook*, after 112 pages of detailed calculations, equations graphs and charts.

That said, we must always be mindful of the HME limits in force at Bisley and other ranges, and to that end the NRA have been conducting spot-checks of shooters to ensure compliance with the HME rules; it is a very simple procedure and we should be mindful to be observant of it to keep us all safe while we explore new options.

While the Imperial is the NRA's flagship event, the biggest event in the GBFCA's calendar is the European Championships. We look forward to welcoming around 200 F-Classers from all parts of Europe – provided an early Brexit does not intervene!

Looking at the calendar, a regrettable, but entirely unavoidable clash of dates has occurred: the fourth match of the GBFCA season coincides with the Imperial. It is extremely unfortunate given that many shooters would love to do both, but it is simply due to the congested summer season. Diggle is in big demand every weekend and there is very little wiggle room for range bookings.

Further from Bisley, the league makes a welcome return to Blair Atholl in August after an absence of nearly three years. In the intervening time,



technology has moved on by leaps and bounds and we shall be using the latest generation of Silver Mountain electronic targets. These were used last season at Diggle ranges and won over many sceptical shooters. It is fair to say however that electronic targets are not to everyone's liking, but at Blair Atholl there is simply no alternative, so we shall put our hope and faith into making the new system work successfully there.

Looking well ahead to the next World Championships, our newly appointed GB Captains, David Rollafson and David

Kent have started to make preparations. The FTR team have their Vice-Captain and Adjutant in place – Jon Longhurst and Asad Wahid respectively – and they have already conducted some initial training with the squad. David Kent called for expressions of interest in the F-Open squad at the Long Range Challenge last month and now has a cadre of experienced and enthusiastic shooters to choose from. While the 2021 World Championships may seem like a long way off, in reality, due to their timing in March/April that only leaves the squads with one and a half competitive seasons in which to get practice under realistic competition conditions. There is much to do and it will not be cheap, but the GBFCA will give financial support to any eligible GBFCA members wishing to represent their country.

And finally, don't forget the Fopton – the F-Class Hopton, whereby F-Classers can shoot all the Match Rifle events during the Imperial from 1000 to 1200 yards. It provides four days of superb long-range shooting involving up to 230 rounds and is remarkably good value and good fun – yet tends to be somewhat neglected, attracting just a tiny handful of enthusiasts. Do come along and join in the fun! ■

One of the most appealing aspects of F-Class is that the rules are pretty liberal and actively encourage experimentation



L-R: Des Parr, Gary Costello, Jordan Rubio



L-R: Simon West, Jon Longhurst, Asad Wahid

Around the regions

The latest news from ranges all around the country compiled by NRA Regional Ranges Manager Nic Couldrey

Firstly, an important reminder for the 120+ Clubs that shoot on MoD ranges: MoD and Landmarc staff are not permitted to get involved in equipment safety issues. This reminder follows a minor incident on a MoD range where a shooter was unable to unload a live cartridge from a bolt action rifle. The problem was eventually solved with the help of a member of DIO staff who dismantled the rifle so that it could be safely removed from the firing point.

Shooters are reminded that it is their individual responsibility to ensure that their firearm is serviceable and properly maintained and that the combination of firearm and ammunition is safe. As part of the planning for any shoot, be it on a MoD range or a private range – Clubs must make sure that a competent person is available to deal with a safety related equipment issue.

Good neighbours

Continuing the safety theme, I was contacted recently by a Firearms Enquiry Officer in connection with an outdoor range. The FEO became involved following complaints from a nearby resident who expressed concern about the risk of ricochet and noise. The range is operated by an NRA affiliated club and so I arranged to meet the Club Secretary accompanied by the NRA's independent range safety advisor, Frank Compton. Following an onsite inspection, we agreed the Club would suspend use of the range to allow improvements to be made to the stop butt and other range structures.

This example is a timely reminder for all Clubs that operate a range, indoor or outdoor. On the basis of Owner Occupier Legislation, the range operator is responsible for damage or injury caused by activity on the range. The duty of care also extends beyond those invited or permitted to be on a range, e.g. trespassers or a member of the public adjacent to a range. Range Operators are strongly encouraged



It's incumbent on all range operators to consider their neighbours as well as those using the range

to read the NRA Range Managers Guide and Code of Practice to ensure the safe and efficient operation of their range(s). Further advice should always be sought for new or modified ranges. The Guide is available to download from the NRA website, with more detail in the Handbook of Defence Ranges Safety – JSP 403 Volume 2.

Bisley update

Moving on, I met with the Regional Representatives at Bisley in June. We discussed the importance of access to ranges on the MoD estate, particularly those located in field firing areas. (STANTA, SPTA, OTA etc.) To recap, MoD staff are prohibited from getting involved in the planning of civilian shoots and the placement of targets. As a result access to FFAs was withdrawn two years ago. We're still actively working with DIO Safety and Assurance and

Technical Advisory Service (TAS) to produce a safety trace for civilian shoots that can be endorsed on a licensed drawing by MoD. There are additional practical complexities yet to be overcome to allow for the safe placement of targets by civilians. I realise that the current restrictions are a huge frustration for affiliated clubs and shooters and appreciate your continued patience and support while we work through a solution with MoD.

In other news, here is a summary of what's happening around the country:

Yorkshire and Humberside

Huddersfield Rifle Club continues to flourish and is becoming the 'range of choice' for many shooters in the region due to its private ownership and regular and easy access. Work to add a 400x range to the existing 200x and 500x has been delayed

Fees for the use of MoD ranges have been reviewed and increased



by a landslip at the butts; however the new range should open in late summer/early autumn 2019. The range now boasts covered firing points and electronic targets – it's widely used by TR and F Class shooters and also has a 100x range for other disciplines including a popular bench-rest section.

The Northern Heat of the KGV County Championship was shot at Deer Hill Range, Meltham. Another private range owned by Lydgate Rifle Club, Lancashire was successful and will represent the region in the final in July.

The YRA Spring Meeting is scheduled for 22 June and with entries at around 40 it will be the best attended meeting for a number of years.

West and East Midlands

The Birmingham Bisley returned to Kingsbury for a third year – please refer to the separate article in the Journal for a detailed match report.

Scotland

The good news is that it appears possible that we can re-establish a fullbore range at Dechmont on the outskirts of Glasgow. Negotiations are in progress with RFCA, who own the site, and other interested parties. This will hopefully result in the establishment of a 200m NDA range in the

central belt for civilian shooters. Despite the range being established on RFCA land, it will not be a military range and will be licenced to civil target shooting standards. The NRA's professional staff continues to provide advice and support for this important Scottish initiative championed by the Regional Representative.

Work is also ongoing to establish a new indoor small-bore/gallery rifle range on the outskirts of Edinburgh. This is a private venture range, but with a clear aim of adding to the range space in Scotland. The walls are up and the steel and curtaining are expected to be installed in June.

Eastern England

Club use of DIO ranges has been disrupted by the closure of Thetford CGR (see below) and the consequent increased demand for Barton Road Rifle Range, Middlewick CGR and Fingringhoe ETR/SARTS. The informal information exchange on range bookings continues.

The closure and disposal of Middlewick Ranges (Colchester) is scheduled for late 2020, with some of the ranges already closed. The remaining ranges are closed from June to November 2019 to allow construction of the access road to the two new 600 metre SARTS ranges at Fingringhoe (due to open in 2020).

The disposal of Middlewick Ranges for house building means there will be no gallery range in Essex. The remaining gallery ranges in the Eastern Region are Barton Road Rifle Range (Cambridgeshire), Thetford CGR (Norfolk) and Beckingham (Lincolnshire).

Regional Competitions

All are at 300, 500 and 600 metres.

25 May: Suffolk County Rifle Association Closed/Ajar, Barton Road

22 June: Suffolk County Rifle Association Open, Barton Road

24 August: West Suffolk Rifle Club Championship, Barton Road

My thanks to all the Regional Representatives for their continued support of shooting away from Bisley.

Finally, the MoD has released the new schedule of charges for NRA affiliated clubs using the Training Estate in 2019 following an annual review. Details are available on the NRA website. The NRA has been assured that Landmarc Support Services, who administer the charges on behalf of MoD, will give users a three-month notice period before implementing the new fee structure.

See you on the ranges! ■

OBITUARIES

JOHN YOUNG 12/03/1940 – 04/03/2019



John was the President of Cannock Rifle Club from 1988 until his demise. He was also a long-standing Member of the 49th Rifle and Pistol Club, Birmingham.

For a number of years he had suffered from ill health but carried on with his shooting and his official duties with the Club. He was a well known figure in the Midlands shooting community. His knowledge of firearms and reloading was legendary, knowledge he was only too willing to share with all.

John was born in Birmingham and attended school there. Upon leaving, he joined the then Birmingham Fire Brigade where he learned his trade as a firefighter. He later joined the works Fire Brigade of the Rover Motor Car Company at the factory in Lode Lane, Solihull, Birmingham. Through his hard work and dedication he became the Company's Chief Fire Officer responsible for the safety of the vast Rover factory and its various satellite outposts.

It was at this time that his interest in firearms and shooting was kindled by a fellow worker and friend, John Taylor. In those days handguns were legal and pistol shooting was his first love, and in

consequence he joined the 49th Rifle and Pistol Club and Cannock Rifle Club.

When handguns were banned in this country to all but the criminal fraternity, John and his partner Val moved their guns to France, joined a French shooting club, lodged their pistols at the Club and spent each summer happily shooting.

After the ban, John concentrated on fullbore and clay pigeon shooting and in

both disciplines won competitions and awards locally and at Bisley.

Even though he suffered from ill health, John was unflappable. He was always calm and collected, always approachable, always happy to give advice on shooting or any other subject. At Club shoots you always knew where John was – just look for the cloud of cigarette smoke.

WILLY DESCHACHT

With regret we inform you that Willy Deschacht, former NRA member, passed away on 7 May 2019.

Whoever met him at a Belgian shooting range appreciated his cheerful banter, his many shooting stories involving Bisley and the happy times he had there.

He had fond memories of the Imperial Meeting and the Palma Match in South Africa, of his friends at the RAF club, and pistol shooting matches with the Gurkhas.

Now the Belgian shooting community has lost a colourful character. He will be missed by his partner Francine, his family and those of us who knew him as the good friend he was.

CAROL PAINTING

It is with great sadness that we have to inform you that Carol lost her brave fight against cancer and died at home in the evening of 23 June 2019. Her sister, Sue, was with her in her final days and at the end.

She was one of a kind and will be remembered for her integrity, hard work, loyalty, generosity and her life-long passion for rifle shooting.

Carol was helped greatly in the last few weeks of her life by the Rowans Hospice at Home nurses. Should anyone wish to make a donation in her memory please visit:

www.rowanshospice.co.uk/donate



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- 20" or 24" threaded barrel.
- 5 round magazine.
- Bergara Varmint barrel.



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Notices

NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2020

I have been honoured by the NRA Council with the Captaincy of the NRA team to the Channel Islands in 2020. I am delighted to announce that Jack Alexander has agreed to be my Vice-Captain.

I would like to assemble a team with a mixture of experienced and developing shooters, of all ages and home nationalities. If you are keen to improve your shooting, take a major step closer to international standards, or feel that you can support the team as an experienced shooter please send in your applications as soon as possible.

Please submit your application by email to NRACI2020@gmail.com and include a short shooting CV (including your contact number, email as well

as club, county, teams you have shot on etc), also include the name and contact details of a referee who knows your shooting.

It would be great to be able to put faces to names as well so please do come and introduce yourself during the Imperial Meeting. I can usually be found either in the Surrey RA, or at my Hut "M5".

Applications will be open until the end of August, with the team selection being made in September. We will plan to have an initial training weekend in late October and then in April and May before the tour. The provisional tour dates will be from Thursday 25 May until Monday 8 June inclusive.

I look forward to hearing from you.
David Rose, Captain NRA CI 2020

GREAT BRITAIN U25 TEAM TO NEW ZEALAND 2019 SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Income:

<i>Donations</i>	<i>4633.80</i>
<i>Fundraising.....</i>	<i>10153.89</i>
<i>NRA OTF Grant</i>	<i>4000.00</i>
<i>Sponsorship</i>	<i>13779.00</i>
<i>Team Member Contributions ...</i>	<i>37530.87</i>
<i>Other</i>	<i>350.05</i>

TOTAL..... 70447.61

Expenses:

<i>Accommodation</i>	<i>(11698.91)</i>
<i>Ammunition.....</i>	<i>(12285.23)</i>
<i>Competition Entries.....</i>	<i>(7719.75)</i>
<i>Flights.....</i>	<i>(16705.16)</i>
<i>Team Activities</i>	<i>(8646.31)</i>
<i>Team Kit</i>	<i>(4807.00)</i>
<i>Team Meals.....</i>	<i>(622.34)</i>
<i>Tour Brochures.....</i>	<i>(1856.10)</i>
<i>Training Costs.....</i>	<i>(822.31)</i>
<i>Transport.....</i>	<i>(4333.20)</i>
<i>Sundries.....</i>	<i>(951.30)</i>

TOTAL..... (70447.61)

SURPLUS/DEFICIT..... 0.00

CAPTAIN NOMINATIONS INVITED

Nominations are invited for Captains of the following teams:

- 2021 NRA Team to the Channel Islands*
- 2021 GB Team to Canada*
- 2023 GB Palma Team*

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 2 August 2019.

Nomination forms can be obtained from and returned to:

Georgina.Thatcher@nra.org.uk





QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

The NRA send their congratulations to the following for their recognition in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to Target Shooting:

John Dallimore, Welsh Target Shooting High Performance Manager – MBE

Ian Thomson, Vice Chairman, Scottish Target Shooting – MBE

GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM – CANADA 2020 – TEAM INVITATION

Applicants are invited for the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada in 2020. In the first instance please email your interest to apply@gbrtcanada2020.org.uk indicating if you would like to shoot, coach or perhaps both.

It is intended to take in a Provincial Annual Prize Meeting (most likely Nova Scotia), before attending the DCRA Annual meeting at Connaught in Ontario. The likely dates are 3 August to 24 August 2020.

Requests for further information will follow after receiving your application and we anticipate choosing the team after the Imperial meeting at the end of July 2019. Please free to speak to any of the management team if you have any questions.

Rex Barrington – Captain

Jon Underwood – Vice-Captain

John Ritchie – Adjutant

BISLEY GENERAL MEETING

The Bisley General Meeting will take place at 9pm in the NRA Pavilion on Wednesday 24 July 2019.

DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION (DIO) CHARGES 2019-20

The Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) has published the new schedule of charges for 2019-2020. A PDF detailing the charges can be downloaded from the NRA website.

As anticipated, charges have increased, particularly for operative costs and the licence fee. Please let me know if you have questions.

Nic Couldrey, Regional Ranges Manager

SPONSORED HEADSETS FOR NRA RANGE STAFF

Talking Headsets Ltd have generously sponsored a supply of SWATCOM Active8 electronic headsets for the NRA Range Services and Competition teams working across the range complex throughout the year.

This professional family business based on the south coast is strongly committed to ongoing investment in the development of high quality communication solutions. They have the latest and most sophisticated passive and electronic hearing protection, head safety equipment, two-way communications headsets and wireless hands-free full-duplex

communications and are keen to support the NRA and the shooting community.

Their newly developed SWATCOM Active8 waterproof electronic headsets have ASIC digital electronics which offer 360 degree stereo sound reproduction to enhance situational awareness and audio clarity whilst giving optimum personnel hearing protection.

Keith Foote, owner and managing director of Talking Headsets, said: "Talking Headsets' long-standing association with shooting enthusiasts around the world has been further enhanced by an even closer relationship with the NRA. Our family business is very proud to support them with our new SWATCOM Active8 electronic headsets. These will ensure their range and competition personnel's hearing is protected, they can communicate effectively and are safer in their working environment. As the NRA represent and support the very pinnacle of the sport, it is important that together we help to educate shooters and those around them of the importance of properly protecting their precious hearing for a relatively small investment."

The NRA expresses its sincere thanks to Keith and the team for supporting its staff team in this way. Visit their site for further information: www.talkingheadsets.co.uk

The Airgun Show



Presented by experienced journalist and Airgun Brands Group Editor Mat Manning, *The Airgun Show* is the ultimate fortnightly show for all airgun aficionados. We cover every part of the airgun world, ranging from pest control and shooting for the pot to HFT and high-level Field Target.

It's all real and in the field; our cameras follow expert airgun hunters as they set out with quarry – including rabbits, rats, squirrels, pigeons and corvids – in their sights. And it's not just about hunting: *The Airgun Show* also features reviews, product news, special-interest features and more.

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Marksman's Calendar

PLAN YOUR SHOOTING WITH OUR LIST OF EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS THROUGHOUT 2019

JULY

17-21, Gallery Rifle & Pistol Imperial

NRA Mark Haigh
mark.haigh@nra.org.uk

18-22, F Class Imperial Meeting

NRA Shooting Division
shooting@nra.org.uk

18-22, F Class Imperial Meeting

NRA Shooting Division
shooting@nra.org.uk

18-27, Target Rifle Imperial

NRA Shooting Division
shooting@nra.org.uk

18-24, Cadet Imperial

NRA Shooting Division
shooting@nra.org.uk

20, Muzzle Loading Championships

Non-NRA Events

20-21, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

20-21, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun

targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

26-28, Welsh Gallery Rifle Club Open Championships

Non-NRA Events

28, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership
membership@nra.org.uk

AUGUST

7, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership
membership@nra.org.uk

17, Guest Day - 200x

Sarah Boxall
memadmin@nra.org.uk

17-18, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

25, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership
membership@nra.org.uk

31-1 Sep, Gallery Rifle National Open Championships

NRA Mark Haigh
mark.haigh@nra.org.uk

SEPTEMBER

1, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

7-8, NRA Handgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

7-8, NRA Mini Rifle League

Rep for Target Shotgun
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

11, NRA Shooting Club

NRA Membership
membership@nra.org.uk

14, NRA Shotgun League

Rep for Target Shotgun
targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

21-22, LMRA Open Meeting

LMRA

Non-NRA Events

22, NRA Shooting Club





NRA Membership
 membership@nra.org.uk
28, NRA Handgun League
 Rep for Target Shotgun
 targetshotgun@nra.org.uk
29, 'Moth-Baller' (Gloucestershire Autumn Open Meeting – 2nd Stage)
 County of Gloucester RA
 ian.ashworth1@mbda-systems.com

OCTOBER

5, Historic Service Rifle Match
 NRA Mark Haigh
 mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
5-6, Target Shotgun Festival
 NRA Sharon Baker
 sharon.baker@nra.org.uk
6, Civilian Service Rifle League
 NRA Carol Kellow
 carol.kellow@nra.org.uk
9, NRA Shooting Club
 NRA Membership
 membership@nra.org.uk
12-13, Ages Match
 NRA Becky Mills
 becky.mills@nra.org.uk
13, Guest Day – 600x
 Sarah Boxall
 memadmin@nra.org.uk
19-20, Trafalgar Meeting
 NRA Mark Haigh
 mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
20, NRA Shooting Club
 NRA Membership
 membership@nra.org.uk

26-27, Autumn Action Weekend
 NRA Mark Haigh
 mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
27, NRA Mini Rifle League
 Rep for Target Shotgun
 targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

NOVEMBER

2, Civilian Service Rifle League
 NRA Sharon Baker
 sharon.baker@nra.org.uk
6, NRA Shooting Club
 NRA Membership
 membership@nra.org.uk
9, Guest Day – 100x
 Sarah Boxall
 memadmin@nra.org.uk
9-10, NRA Shotgun League
 Rep for Target Shotgun
 targetshotgun@nra.org.uk

17, NRA Shooting Club
 NRA Membership
 membership@nra.org.uk

DECEMBER

1, Civilian Service Rifle League
 NRA Sharon Baker
 sharon.baker@nra.org.uk
1, NRA Shooting Club
 NRA Membership
 membership@nra.org.uk
7-8, NRA Handgun League
 Rep for Target Shotgun
 targetshotgun@nra.org.uk
7-8, NRA Mini Rifle League
 Rep for Target Shotgun
 targetshotgun@nra.org.uk
11, NRA Shooting Club
 NRA Membership
 membership@nra.org.uk



Results

300M CHAMPIONSHIPS

12-13 May

Target Rifle

1. S Aldhouse 564.9
2. R Warren 559.12
3. D Cowan 555.15

Free Rifle

1. H Creevy 587.22
2. S Aldhouse 586.24
3. S McIntosh 584.18

Aggregate

TR, FR, Total

1. S Aldhouse 561, 586, 1149
2. R Warren 559, 571, 1130
3. D Cowan 555, 563, 1118

PHOENIX MEETING

24-26 May. Selected results

0101 25m Precision GRSB

1. Colin Hudson 282.5X
2. Johan Griesel 278.1X
3. Les Pearson 276.0X

0102 25m Precision GRCF

1. Jonny Cormie 298.16X
2. Peter Wylie 296.17X
3. Norman Veitch 296.12X

0103 25m Precision GRCF

Open

1. Colin Hudson 300.22X
2. Adam Chapman 298.21X
3. Tony Graham 295.16X

0104 25m Precision GRCF

Classic

1. Charles Bestwick 296.11X
2. Les Pearson 295.16X
3. Steven Voak 290.15X

0121 25m Precision LBP

1. Steve Lane 287.8X
2. Marek Pawlik 287.8X

3. Andy McGee 283.6X

0122 25m Precision LBR

1. Marek Pawlik 287.6X
2. Dave Berry 284.8X

0301 50m Precision GRSB

1. Johan Griesel 290.11X
2. Gerald Betteridge 288.10X
3. Colin Hudson 288.7X

0302 50m Precision GRCF

1. Kjell Middleton 279.4X
2. Phil Wood 274.3X
3. Les Pearson 273.4X

0303 50m Precision GRCF

Open

1. Les Pearson 278.7X
2. Colin Hudson 276.4X

0304 50m Precision GRCF

Classic

1. Les Pearson 279.8X
2. Pet Pearson 275.5X
3. David Rees 265.3X

0501 America Match GRSB

1. Colin Hudson 286.5X
2. Mike O Grady 283.8X
3. Adam Chapman 282.5X

0502 America Match GRCF

1. Mike Nestor 287.15X
2. Peter Watts 287.11X
3. Jimmy Byrne 281.8X

0503 America Match GRCF

Open

1. Adam Chapman 291.8X

0504 America Match GRCF

Classic

1. Keith Kilvington 280.9X
2. Peter Watts 274.3X

0701 Timed & Precision 1

GRSB

- X1. Norman Veitch 300.18X

- X2. Jimmy Byrne 300.13X
- X3. Robert J Tonner 299.18X
- A1. Julie Moran 299.16X
- A2. Steve Jordan 299.13X
- A3. Jim Starley 298.14X
- B1. Malcolm Quigley 297.7X
- B2. Alex Day 294.8X
- B3. Max Herridge 294.6X

0702 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF

- X1. Peter Watts 300.28X
- X2. Gary Bowden 300.26X
- X3. Dave Morrow 300.24X
- A1. Michael Reynolds 300.26X
- A2. Daniel Blagojevic 300.25X
- A3. Bruno Blüße 300.23X
- B1. Simon Rafferty 300.8X
- B2. John Garnett 300.7X
- B3. Colin Delahoy 299.15X

0703 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF Open

1. Adam Chapman 300.26X
2. Dale Foster 300.23X
3. David Green 300.15X

0704 Timed & Precision 1 GRCF Classic

1. Alan Podevin 300.21X
2. Leslie Kong 300.19X
3. David Fitzpatrick 300.17X

0721 Timed & Precision 1 LBP Open

- X1. Norman Veitch 299.18X
- X2. Robert J Tonner 299.14X
- X3. Dave Morrow 299.12X
- A1. Tim Mepham 297.11X
- A2. Steve Jordan 296.12X
- A3. Michael Reynolds 294.12X
- B1. Ken Williams 294.6X
- B2. Peter Hathaway-Jones 293.9X
- B3. Peter Cooper 289.8X

0722 Timed & Precision 1 LBR Open

- X1. Phil Cowling 299.16X

- A1. William Horne 299.10X
- A2. Steve Lane 298.13X
- A3. Leslie Kong 297.10X
- B1. John Bibby 288.7X
- B2. William Pow 287.8X
- B3. Ken Williams 286.5X

0724 Timed & Precision 1 LBP Iron Sights

1. Shaun Twomey 298.8X
2. William Horne 297.12X
3. Jake Mossom 296.11X

0725 Timed & Precision 1 LBR Iron Sights

1. Stuart Rankine 299.11X
2. Phil Cowling 297.10X
3. William Horne 295.13X

0735 Timed & Precision 1 SGM

1. John Chambers 299.17X
2. Norman Brown 298.12X
3. Terry Fry 297.13X

0736 Timed & Precision 1 SGSA

1. John Chambers 298.21X
2. Norman Brown 298.14X
3. Paul Stockill 298.13X

0901 Timed & Precision 2 GRSB

- X1. Chris West 592.28X
- X2. Jonny Cormie 585.26X
- A1. Keith Kilvington 593.15X
- A2. Daniel Blagojevic 588.27X
- A3. Johan Griesel 584.27X
- B1. Gary Newman 577.18X
- B2. Paul Carr 577.12X
- B3. Karl Obrien 570.11X

0902 Timed & Precision 2 GRCF

- X1. Ray Holohan 597.27X
- X2. Gary Bowden 596.34X
- A1. Denis Cummins 598.32X
- A2. Jim Starley 594.26X
- A3. David Guest 593.36X

B1. Daniel Blagojevic 595.36X
B2. Stephen Wall 586.19X

0921 Timed & Precision 2 LBP

X1. Steve Lane 592.19X
A1. Paul Stockill 567.18X
B1. Andrew Davenport 559.12X

0922 Timed & Precision 2 LBR

X Dave Berry 559.11X
A1. William Horne 566.11X
A2. Phil Cowling 562.14X
B1. Joe Parker 469.5X

1021 Timed & Precision 3 LBP

1. Morné van Dalen 236
2. Ryan Wiggins 233
3. Shaun Twomey 233

1022 Timed & Precision 3 LBR

1. Mel Beard 236
2. Phil Cowling 234

1101 Multi-Target GRSB

X1. Jake Mossom 116.14X
X2. Keith Kilvington 116.7X
X3. Andy Summers 115.12X
A1. Daniel Blagojevic 118.11X
A2. Steve Jordan 114.10X
A3. Shaun Twomey 112.12X
B1. Stuart Rankine 111.11X
B2. David Gilchrist 108.4X
B3. Jemil Kewfi 106.6X

1102 Multi-Target GRFC

X1. Gary Bowden 119.18X
X2. Norman Veitch 119.17X
X3. Terry Fry 118.14X
A1. David Christie 118.17X
A2. Peter Wylie 118.11X
A3. Daniel Blagojevic 117.16X
B1. Jessica Eggers 113.12X
B2. Campbell Muir 112.7X
B3. Colin Delahoy 111.9X

1121 Multi-Target LBP Open

X1. Norman Veitch 117.16X
X2. David Guest 113.10X
X3. Robert J Tonner 113.10X
A1. Lynnemarie Cooper 115.7X
A2. Blair Drummond 112.8X
A3. Steve Denton 112.7X

B1. Derek Hinchcliffe 104.9X
B2. Simon Bold 104.3X

1122 Multi-Target LBR Open

X1. John Robinson 115.10X
X2. Phil Cowling 110.6X
A1. Leslie Kong 113.5X
A2. Steve Denton 103.6X
B1. Ken Williams 97.3X
B2. Christopher Jackson 96.6X

1124 Multi-Target LBP Iron Sights

1. Phil Cowling 110.8X
2. Jake Mossom 110.7X
3. Alan Podevin 108.3X

1125 Multi-Target LBR Iron Sights

1. Dave Berry 114.10X
2. Phil Cowling 111.6X
3. Jim Starley 110.8X

1301 Phoenix A GRSB

X1. Jimmy Byrne 191.18X
X2. Jake Mossom 189.18X
X3. Scott Lyon 189.18X
A1. Jakub Mikolajczyk 192.19X
A2. Bob Worthington 186.16X
A3. Meik Waldvogt 186.16X
B1. Len Regan 182.18X
B2. Denis Cummins 179.11X
B3. Stephen Wall 179.9X

1302 Phoenix A GRFC

X1. Keith Kilvington 198.24X
X2. Peter Watts 197.25X
A1. David Guest 197.22X
A2. Jonny Cormie 193.22X
A3. Bob Worthington 191.18X
B1. Jimmy Byrne 196.23X
B2. Denis Cummins 195.24X
B3. David Cully 187.20X

1501 1500 GRSB

X1. John Robinson 1484.99X
X2. Daniel O Flaherty 1484.93X
X3. Ray Holohan 1482.97X
A1. Daniel Blagojevic 1480.95X
A2. Jakub Mikolajczyk 1477.90X
A3. Denis Cummins 1474.80X
B1. Meik Waldvogt 1464.76X
B2. Shaun Twomey 1459.75X
B3. Gary Newman 1456.80X
C1. Andreas Steinke 1450.69X

C2. Philip Williams-Winnal 1439.53X

D1. Peter Cousar 1373.30X
D2. Alex Day 1369.55X

1502 1500 GRFC

X1. Chris West 1493.110X
X2. Ray Holohan 1491.99X
X3. Gary Bowden 1490.112X
A1. Daniel Blagojevic 1492.108X
A2. Len Regan 1491.88X
A3. Denis Cummins 1489.103X
B1. André Georgi 1490.101X
B2. Peter Keegan 1485.85X
B3. Meik Waldvogt 1484.102X
C1. Peter Wylie 1479.88X
C2. Shaun Twomey 1478.76X
C3. Bruno Blüfse 1477.83X
D1. Jessica Eggers 1478.82X
D2. Colin Delahoy 1466.77X

1521 1500 LBP

X1. John Robinson 1491.101X
A1. Robert J Tonner 1462.71X
A2. Steve Lane 1460.82X
B1. David Gwalter 1450.52X

1522 1500 LBR Open

X1. Dave Berry 1455.64X
A1. Steve Lamb 1429.45X
B1. Robert Wheeler 1384.30X

1601 1020 GRSB

1. Robert Wheeler 1018.70X
2. Chris West 1016.82X
3. Norman Veitch 1016.77X

1602 1020 GRFC

1. David Christie 1020.81X
2. Daniel Blagojevic 1019.87X

3. Denis Cummins 1019.80X

1621 1020 LBP

1. Norman Veitch 1014.65X
2. Steve Lane 1012.73X
3. Steve Foskett 1009.61X

1622 1020 LBR

1. William Horne 997.47X
2. Phil Cowling 997.40X

1701 Bianchi GRSB

X1. Chris West 1889.131X
A1. Shaun Twomey 1747.111X
B1. Keith Kilvington 1795.118X
C1. David Cully 1763.121X
D1. Daniel Blagojevic 1585.114X

1702 Bianchi GRFC

X1. Chris West 1914.153X
A1. William Ellis 1880.140X
C1. Neil Francis 1838.133X
D1. Shane Dinkin 1662.116X

1721 Bianchi LBP

X1. Graham Searle 1748.106X
A1. Ash Dagger 1835.119X
A2. James Dodd 1822.124X
B1. Arthur Hughes 1734.100X
B2. Neil Francis 1551.66X

1722 Bianchi LBR

X1. Mel Beard 1877.139X
B1. Arwel Roberts 1765.107X

1901 Advancing Target GRSB

X1. David Guest 294.28X
X2. Norman Veitch 292.32X
X3. Keith Kilvington 291.34X



- A1. Phil Wood 290.31X
- A2. Gary Newman 289.23X
- A3. Steve Jordan 288.33X
- B1. David Cully 290.31X
- B2. Miles Herridge 279.17X
- B3. Stuart Rankine 276.14X

1902 Advancing Target GRCF

- X1. Terry Fry 178.25X
- X2. Norman Veitch 178.25X
- X3. Frank Cullen 178.20X
- A1. Dave Morrow 179.26X
- A2. Daniel O Flaherty 178.23X
- A3. André Georgi 178.23X
- B1. Daniel Blagojevic 178.27X
- B2. Andreas Steinke 176.10X
- B3. David Cully 175.23X

1921 Advancing Target LBP Open

- X1. Marek Pawlik 180.12X
- X2. Norman Veitch 179.31X
- X3. Dave Morrow 178.18X
- A1. Ash Dagger 179.25X
- A2. Blair Drummond 170.16X
- A3. Paul Cooney 170.15X
- B1. Stuart Russell 173.17X
- B2. Lynnemarie Cooper 167.11X
- B3. Arthur Hughes 165.9X

1922 Advancing Target LBR Open

- X1. Phil Cowling 178.22X
- A1. Steve Lane 168.15X
- A2. Dave Nicholson 167.12X
- A3. Glenn Gordon 163.14X
- B1. Robert Wheeler 163.9X
- B2. Derek Hinchcliffe 158.5X
- B3. Colin McMichael 156.4X

2101 Speed Steel Challenge GRSB

- 1. Shane Baker 19.53
- 2. David Christie 23.38
- 3. Steve Jordan 24.19

2102 Speed Steel Challenge GRCF

- 1. Mel Beard 34.24
- 2. David Christie 34.45
- 3. Lee Townsend 37.37

2121 Speed Steel Challenge LBP

- 1. Steve Jordan 29.51

- 2. John Chambers 29.65
- 3. Steve Lane 31.67

2122 Speed Steel Challenge LBR

- 1. Mel Beard 31.79
- 2. James Dodd 42.30

2901 The Grand GRSB

- 1. Efstratios Hatzistefanis 872.16X
- 2. Ray Holohan 829.9X
- 3. Gary Newman 820.10X

3335 NRA Embassy Cup SGM

- 1=, Mike Nestor, Dean Parker 117
- 3. Rob Sanders 116

3336 NRA Embassy Cup SGSA

- 1. John Chambers 120
- 2. Martin Steinke 119
- 3. Robin Lee 118

4701 Imperial Silhouettes GRSB

- 1. Jakub Mikolajczyk 300.23X
- 2. Adam Chapman 300.23X
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4702 Imperial Silhouettes GRCF

- 1. Keith Kilvington 298.15X
- 2. Steve Lamb 297.15X
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- 1. Colin Shorthouse 50.9V 50.9V

- 2. Chris McGill 50.8V 50.8V
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6580 McQueen

- 1. Chris McGill 50.9V
- 2. David Appleton 50.8V 50.5V
- 3. Stuart Doyle 50.7V 50.5V

6590 McQueen Issued Rifle

- 1. Mike Nestor 50.5V
- 2= Stuart Doyle, Tim Jemmett, Chris McGill 50.4V

INTER COUNTIES

15-16 June

Aggregate

H Jones, Long Range, Total

- 1. Surrey, 1180.149v, 1141.99v, 2321.248v
- 2. London, 1164.140v, 1129.96v, 2293.236v
- 3. Sussex, 1173.128v, 1112.89v, 2285.217v
- 4. Berkshire, 1164.135v, 1114.100v, 2278.235v
- 5. Hampshire, 1166.126v, 1103.85v, 2269.211v
- 6. Somerset, 1160.117v, 1106.102v, 2266.219v
- 7. Yorkshire, 1151.119v, 1111.94v, 2262.213v
- 8. Gloucestershire, 1160.119v, 1100.98v, 2260.217v
- 9. Norfolk, 1164.124v, 1089.87v, 2253.211v
- 10. Suffolk, 1153.109v, 1099.94v, 2252.203v

Champion of Champions

- 1. M Ensor, Surrey, 72.4
- 2. JPL Sweet, Hertfordshire, 70.7
- 3. D Rose, Northants, Leics and Rutland, 69.5

R Jarvis

300, 500, 600, Total

- 1. A Jory, 35.4v, 35.5v, 35.4v, 105.13v
- 2. H Howard, 35.5v, 35.3v, 35.4v, 105.12v
- 3. B Logan, 35.3v, 35.4v, 35.3v, 105.10v

MILITARY ADAPTIVE CHAMPIONSHIP

20 June

Match 1 – Advancing Target

- 1. Chris Parkes, 146.14x
- 2. Ash Hall, 146.14x
- 3. Wayne McGregor, 145.13x

Match 2 – Snaps & Rapid

- 1. Olaf Jones, 148.15x
- 2. Ryan Goodman, 145.15x
- 3. Jeffrey Winder, 145.12x

Match 3 – Mini McQueen

- 1. Ash Hall, 48.0v
- 2. Geoff Newport, 46.1v
- 3. Robert Osborn, 45.2v

Overall

- 1. Ash Hall, 337.20
- 2. Chris Parkes, 334.27
- 3. Daniel Deegan, 325.12



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MESSAGE



We talk to F-Class league leader Asad Wahid about his career so far



How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I went to university in California and visited a shooting range there. I quite enjoyed it but at that point in time, shooting at 100 yards for me was long range! I remember my disbelief when we were taken to Stickle-down during my probationary course here at Bisley and was informed that we were

going to shoot at 1000 yards. I was skeptical that a bullet would even reach that far. I was amazed that everyone in our course hit our targets and some even hit the centre bull. It was then that I truly became truly fascinated with rifle shooting.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

There are actually a few. I am most proud of the moment when I was appointed the Adjutant for Team GB F T/R for the next world championships in 2021. Competitively, the most memorable moment was when I won the first 'Top Gun' F T/R competition in 2018. Some of the best talent showed up to compete but I got really lucky that day and took the trophy home. That was my first big win. The most recent one was when I got off from the firing point at a national match at the Diggle and other competitors started congratulating me for having set a new GB F-Class 1000 yards record.

What was the biggest hurdle you overcame as a shooter?

Getting used to the fact that a 100-yard distance is actually quite short for a rifle! On top of that, shooting F-Class targets with their half a minute of angle V-bull at 1000 yards really seemed impossible. However, as time went on, my confidence got a boost witnessing other competitors clear target after target at distances up to 1200 yards.

What club are you a member of?

NRA is my primary club. However, I am also a member of a few others, most notable being the Dorset Riflemen (possibly the most competitive F Class-oriented club), the North London Rifle Club, 101 RC, the British Sporting Rifle Club, The Smoking Barrels.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

There are several. Most notable are Russell Simmonds (World Champion, Euro Champion, National Champion), Gary Costello (World Champion), Mik Maksimovic and Steve Poultney (both seem to be able to do 48 hours' worth of work in 24 hours with a smile), John Kynoch (Olympic Medal winner who still beats everyone in Sporting Rifle), David Rollafson (GB F T/R Team Captain – a top shot himself who is always pushing me and everyone to excel), John Howe and Tim Stewart (both taught me reloading and wind reading and are a shining example of the best within the F-Class community).

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

Everyone around me is extremely supportive of this passion of mine. I am privileged in that the shooting community in the UK is quite tight-knit and this is especially true of F-Class. A number of my fellow F-Class competitors are like family members and we all celebrate each other's wins and support each other when things do not go according to plan. The social aspect of shooting at Bisley is another reason why I find this sport so much fun and why I am so passionate about it.

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

I find the USA, China, South Korea, the Netherlands, Pakistan and Germany especially lovely to visit. However, my favourite country in the world, by a big margin, is the United Kingdom. The wonderful warmth of the people here with their polite, friendly and helpful demeanour makes every day a joy for me. This lovely country and its people epitomise all that is good in the world today.

How have Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

Bisley and the NRA are providing an invaluable service to the shooting community. The sheer diversity of shooting disciplines at all manners of distances one can compete in at Bisley make it a central hub for all competitors in world. Top-class competitions are held regularly where one gets to interact from those of other countries. The diverse clubs with their unique history give Bisley its colour. Everyone at Bisley, from the competitors to staff and officers of the NRA, have smiling faces and are ready to help – this really shortened the learning curve for me when it came to competitive shooting.

What do you like to do in your free time?

When not working, reloading or shooting, I like to pick up my camera and take a walk in the countryside. I also enjoy flying and sky diving.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

I have a full breakfast before a competition and try to reach the range well ahead of my designated time to observe the conditions. This gives clues as to what to expect when it is my turn to compete.

So what is next?

At this point, my focus is on the next F-Class World Championships due to be held in South Africa in 2021. This is only my second full year of competing in F-Class so I have a lot of ground to cover. I and the entire GB Squad are pushing ourselves as hard as we can to bring back with us the big trophy and several gold medals from South Africa. ■

Henry Krank



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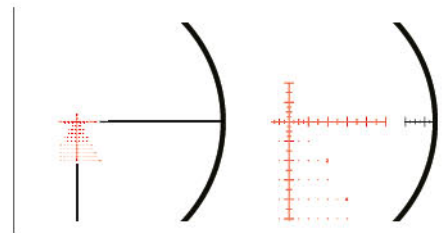
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