

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL

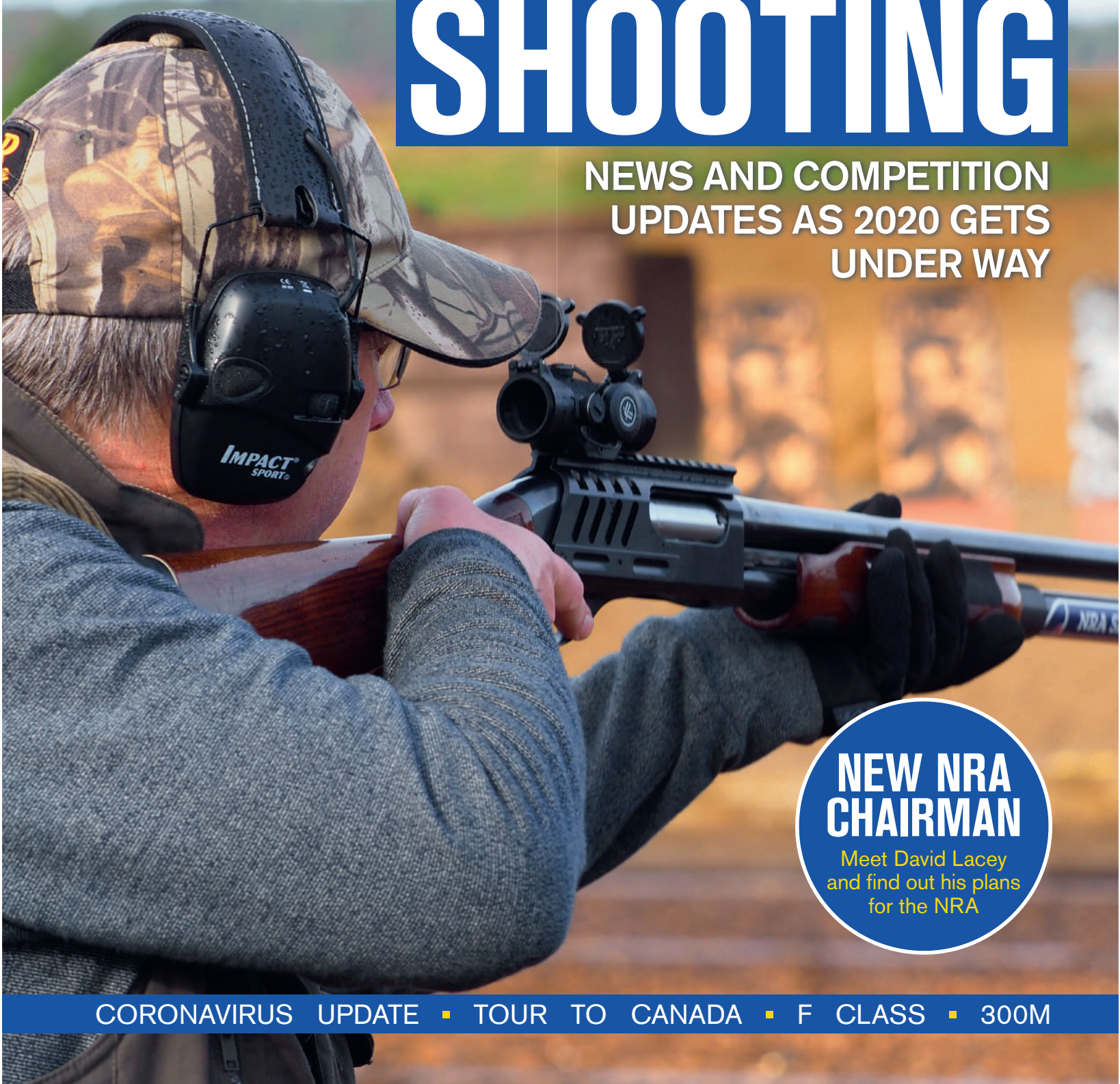


Spring 2020 – Volume XCIX No.1

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NEW YEAR SHOOTING

NEWS AND COMPETITION
UPDATES AS 2020 GETS
UNDER WAY



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and find out his plans
for the NRA

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE ■ TOUR TO CANADA ■ F CLASS ■ 300M



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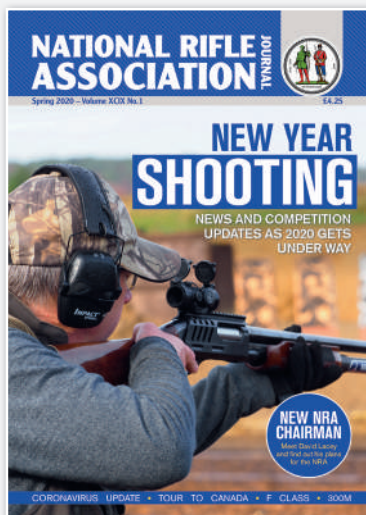
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Spring 2020 – Volume XCIX No.1



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New investments and opportunities

Alongside the challenges of flooding and coronavirus, NRA CEO Andrew Mercer notes that 2020 brings opportunities too

February saw the end of John Webster's six-year term of office as NRA Chairman. The Association has been well served by a talented, thoughtful and charming man who invested an enormous amount of time, energy and enthusiasm to improve the NRA. His six challenging years saw NRA membership nearing 10,000; Bisley benefiting from £4.25million of capital improvements funded by cash flow and no borrowings; and growing support and interest in marksmanship. On a personal note, I found his encouragement and advice invaluable. I, and indeed our staff, wish him well, and hope he can return to enjoying his time on the firing point, untroubled by members wanting "a word". Credible lead-free options for the target shooting community are less certain; lower density means longer bullets, which I am advised means tighter barrel twists to stabilise the projectiles. The smaller the calibre, the greater the challenge; .22RF and indeed airgun pellets are particularly problematic. Lead alternatives also present particular difficulties for muzzle loaders and many historic rifles.

After the floods of February we now have the plague of coronavirus upon us. To date, the reaction of the target shooting community has been as expected, with ranges (rifle and shotgun) busy as ever. We are planning for the worst but hoping for the best – our mantra is 'business as usual' until circumstances or medical advice recommends otherwise. We are continuing to post updates on the website and Facebook.

Chobham Ridge range has been a hitherto unfamiliar part of the Bisley complex, used solely by the military. The firing point is sited on the ridge seen in the far distance from Stickle-down range, and after some reorganisation and improvements, we have arranged two trial shoots in March and April, shooting at steel targets at variable distances out to 1,000 yards. The location is fantastic, with the arch at Wembley stadium clearly visible, and red deer moving around the valley below. We intend to open the improved range up to bookings for accompanied groups of NRA members and clubs in early summer – further details to be published on the NRA website and Facebook page.

Imperial Meeting issued ammunition has been the subject of much debate. This year we have started the testing regime early, with the manufacturer GGG sending by air freight samples for testing in February. I was grateful for the support of 12 hardy TR shooters who put the ammunition through its paces on a wet and windy Sunday morning on Century range. Early reports were encouraging and



all extractors survived intact. We will publish further details of the results on the NRA website.

Demand for technical and other support from operators of regional ranges has increased steadily, prompting the production of the first draft of our Range Design and Range Safety Handbook. The document builds upon the NRA Safe Shooting System, with the four cornerstones of Safe Place, Safe Practice, Safe Equipment and Safe Person. The draft is being reviewed and we will consult with other range operators before publishing later this year.

Finally, it has been interesting to see the response to the game shooting organisations' undertaking to promote a voluntary ban on lead shot when shooting live quarry. I understand the desire to protect markets for shot game; large shoots need consumers to eat the substantial quantities of pheasant and other birds produced over the season. Quite why a ban on lead shot should be encouraged for small shoots where all game is consumed by the participants is less clear. I have been disappointed with comments that fail to recognise that other types of lead-based ammunition, including that used in target shooting, are used in controlled environments with no discernible risk to wildlife or human health. One of the finest Sites of Special Scientific Interest in the UK happens to form the range danger area for the Bisley ranges. The collection of rare fauna and flora thrive because of, not despite, target shooting. ■

Chairman's Letter to Members

New NRA Chairman, David Lacey, sets out his plans and priorities as he steps into the role



Dear fellow NRA member,
I was recently elected as Chairman of the NRA and wanted to introduce myself to you and let you know how I plan to approach this new role.

I am 56, married to another keen shooter and live in Central London. I am a partner in a City law firm, but will be semi-retired from 1 May, which will give me time and space to address the challenges and opportunities facing the NRA.

I became an NRA member in 1994 and a Life Member in 2015.

I shoot in F Class competitions and use all of the ranges and facilities at Bisley on a regular basis, being a keen shotgun shooter (skeet, game and target) and a user of rifles ranging from stalking rifles to long-range target rifles, through to a .600 Nitro

Express. I am a life member of Old Sergeants Mess Shooting Club, an instructor and RCO. I stay on camp regularly and am therefore able to appreciate the concerns and interests of all Bisley Camp users.

My volunteer work with the NRA started in 2014 when I became a Co-opted Trustee. One of my first jobs was to work with Alice Gran in preparing the report into the operation of Rule 150.

The recent Charity Commission investigation has provided useful clarity on some key points of charity law, including their requirement that leases are granted on market terms. It has also resulted in improvements to our internal governance, and updating of important documents such as our Real Estate Policy and Disciplinary Code. It falls to me to carry on the implementation of the Charity Commission's recommendations, engaging with stakeholders on how best to do that.

As Chairman, my role is to lead the organisation and to represent it to the wider world. I do not do that alone, and am grateful to have the support of a group of dedicated people as trustees who bring a wide range of skills to benefit the charity. The input of General Council is also useful in ensuring a wide range of opinions are aired on important issues facing the charity.

You will see greater prominence of the National Shooting Centre Limited, the company set up by the NRA to carry out a wide range of commercial activities. As the Charity Commissioners' report emphasised, the NRA is not permitted to carry out commercial activities, and so depends on the NSC to do this instead. The profits made by the NSC are available to be re-invested by the NSC, or distributed the NRA to use for its charitable purposes.

Sound financial management is critical to the NRA and I will continue the policies that have contributed to this over recent years. The trustees must protect against finding themselves forced to make decisions based on the needs of short-term survival, rather than the long-term best interests of the charity.

I want to see more shooting activity, both the charitable shooting organised by the NRA and the commercial shooting organised by the NSC. That will include the NSC developing new range space where possible, both at Bisley and at other places in the country and making the most effective use of the existing range space.



“Sound financial management is critical to the NRA and I will continue the policies that have contributed to this over recent years”

I am keen to explore new sources of income, so that there is an increasing pot of money to be used for the advancement of our charitable purposes.

I want to see the NSC engaging with range operators across the country, to ensure best practice in range operation for everyone in the shooting community. That does not mean everyone doing the same thing, since range facilities vary enormously, but everyone should be seeking to achieve the same outcome: a safe, sustainable shooting environment.

The NRA has made great strides in becoming an inclusive organisation open to a range of competitive shooting disciplines, while the NSC promotes and supports a wide range of recreational shooting activities. This openness has seen the growth of Target Shotgun, and the introduction of rifles in classic British cartridges (a particular passion of mine) to Bisley. This is important for the sustainability of Bisley for all users.

None of this would be possible without a dedicated professional team both in the NRA and the NSC, working together to achieve the objectives of both organisations. The NSC’s range staff, the NRA’s membership team and a host of

others work together to deliver the objectives set by Council.

There will be challenges ahead. We continue to engage with the Charity Commission in demonstrating that the shooting competitions organised by the NRA contribute to the Efficiency of the Armed Forces, one of our charitable purposes. We also need to be able to demonstrate that our governance processes are fit for purpose. It is not enough to be achieving the right outcomes – we must be able to demonstrate that we are following the correct processes in reaching those outcomes.

At the time of writing, the full ramifications of the coronavirus emergency are unknown, but serious restrictions are being introduced to the movement of the public, which may by the time you read this have affected shooting at Bisley and have financial and other consequences.

If you have a view on what the NRA is doing, or should be doing, let me know at chairman@nra.org.uk. I may not always agree with you, or be able to fix the problem, but I do want to hear about it.

Wishing you and your families the best in these uncertain times.

David Lacey. ■

NEWS

REPORTS

CORONAVIRUS: UPDATE FROM THE NRA

In response to the instructions from government to minimise non-essential travel and practise social distancing, the NRA has suspended all civilian shooting on rifle and shotgun ranges operated by the National Shooting Centre at Bisley.

To support the armed and emergency forces, military and police firearms training on Bisley ranges will continue as planned.

NRA / NSC staff continue to provide assistance by telephone, email and post during normal office hours, Monday to Friday. We have decided to 'furlough' many of our staff due to the reduction in activities at Bisley; they will hunker down at home to wait for the virus to ebb away.

This suspension is subject to constant review and this is a fast-changing situation; therefore please be sure to check the NRA website and Facebook page for regular updates.

COMPETITION AND TRAINING CANCELLATIONS

We have decided to cancel all NRA competitions and training courses up to 31 August; this includes the Imperial and Phoenix meetings. This decision has not been taken lightly; however, the health and well-being of competitors, officials and staff must be our priority. We will keep the position under review in the hope we can offer a suite of 'post corona' competitions in the autumn. Training courses will recommence when it is safe to do so. Payments made for courses, accommodation and Phoenix Arms Fair stands will be carried forward or refunded.

ARMOURIES

Firearms stored in the NRA armouries can be accessed by prior arrangement only, Monday to Friday.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

All members are advised to follow the latest government instructions, which require all members of the public to stay at home unless absolutely necessary in order to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

You should only go outside for food, exercise, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home).

When outside, you are also advised to stay two metres (6ft) away from other people, and wash your hands as soon as you get home.

If you or someone you live with exhibits symptoms (a high temperature or a new, continuous cough), you should not leave home.

In addition, gatherings of more than two people in public have been curtailed, and many business premises have been required to close.

These regulations came into effect on 23 March and the government said it would review them after three weeks and relax them if the evidence showed this was possible.

Again, the situation is fast-changing, so please check online for updates regularly.

You can read the latest government advice in full at: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

We wish all of the shooting community, their families and friends continued good health and fortitude whilst navigating through these truly exceptional circumstances. We will endure the difficult days ahead confident in the knowledge that we will welcome you back to Bisley soon.





TARGET SHOOTING AVOIDS LEAD PHASE-OUT

A group of shooting and rural organisations have announced they want an end of the use of lead and single-use plastics in shotgun ammunition for live quarry shooting with five years – causing outrage among the UK’s cartridge manufacturers.

The British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC), British Game Alliance (BGA), Countryside Alliance (CA), Country Land and Business Association (CLA), Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), National Gamekeepers’ Organisation (NGO), the Moorland Association (MA), Scottish Land & Estates (SLE) and Scottish Association for Country Sports (SACS) say significant recent advances in technology have enabled the transition to take place.

There’s no indication that they want to extend the phase-out to lead in rifle ammunition or for clay or Target Shotgun shells.

The organisations issued a joint statement that read: “We believe it is necessary to begin a further phased transition [away from lead shot]. Recently, there have been significant developments in the quality and availability of non-lead

shotgun cartridges, and plastic cases can now be recycled.

“For the first time, biodegradable shot cups for steel shot, with the necessary ballistics to ensure lethality, are available. These welcome advances are continuing at an ever-quickenning pace, in response to demand from a changing market. Such advances mean that, over the coming years, a complete transition is achievable.”

The group is calling for the support of the wider shooting community in the transition. Shotgun cartridge manufacturers, however, were less than supportive of the move, saying they had been given no notice of the move and that phasing out lead shot in five years, without support from larger industries, would be “impossible”.

The ISSF, meanwhile, has been preparing a scientific paper that makes the case that lead has no harmful effects when used within the controlled environment of a shooting range. It was due to present the paper at IWA, but the trade show was cancelled owing to the effects of coronavirus.

NEWS IN BRIEF

ONLINE ENTRIES – DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that once you log into the new online entry system, you can see more details about Events that are taking bookings, such as the entry items, their price and availability?

Visit the online entry system at: online.nra.org.uk

ELECTRONIC TARGETS

The NRA has recently installed six new electronic targets known as ‘Shotmarker’. These targets are available to be booked at the following distances:

- * Weekdays – 300x & 500x
- * Weekends – 100x (Saturday)/200x (Sunday) on Short Siberia, 300x, & 500x on Century

Please contact the range office for specific dates and distances as the above may vary depending on range layout.

THE QUEEN’S PRIZE AT 150

This remarkable photo of the living winners of Her Majesty The Queen’s Prize was taken last year to mark 150 years of the competition. It includes four marksmen who have won the prize three times.

Copies are available from Tim Webster and cost from £19 for prints on card 305mm x 255mm (12” x 10”). For details email webster@netcom.co.uk



GREAT BRITISH SHOOTING AWARDS 2020: THE WINNERS

The Great British Shooting Awards crowned their second set of winners on 15 February, with Duncan Thomas receiving a Lifetime Achievement award and Browning, Tikka, Vortex and Nightforce all receiving accolades.

First launched in 2018, the Awards' aim is to give recognition to the products, organisations and people that make the UK shooting industry tick.

They announced their first winners at the British Shooting Show in February 2019 and returned bigger and better this year, adding three new categories including an award specific to shotgun ammunition and another for the most innovative product launched all year.

ALL THE WINNERS

Shooting Apparel of the Year: Deerhunter Pro Gamekeeper Jacket

Rifle Ammunition of the Year: Eley Subsonic Hollow

Shotgun Ammunition of the Year: Gamebore Black Gold

Optics product of the Year over £1,000: Nightforce SHV 5-20x56 ILL scope

Optics product of the year Under £1,000: Vortex Optics Diamondback Tactical 6-24x50 scope

Night vision/Thermal Product of the Year: Pulsar Thermion XP50

Airgun of the Year: Air Arms S510

Rifle of the Year: Tikka T3X Cerakote

Shotgun of the Year: Browning 725 ProSport

Innovative Product of the Year: Eley Hawk Pro Eco Wad

Gamekeeper of the Year: Geoff Garrod

Pro Stalker of the Year: Chris Dalton

Outstanding Contribution to Conservation:

Sporting Rifle magazine

Retailer of the Year: Sportsman Gun Centre

Lifetime Achievement: Duncan Thomas

TOKYO POSTPONED

Organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games have cancelled the Games and said will move to 2021.

Tokyo organisers had originally said the Games would continue as planned despite nearly all other major sporting events being postponed due to coronavirus.

However, after pressure from many of the participant nations, Japan's prime minister proposed to put the event back to summer 2021, and the IOC accepted.

A joint statement from the organisers and the IOC said: "In the present circumstances and based on the information provided by the WHO, the IOC president and the prime minister of Japan have concluded that the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in

Tokyo must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community."

The Paralympic Games, which were scheduled to take place after the Olympics, will also be postponed.

Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons said: "Health and wellbeing... must always be our number-one priority and staging a sporting event of any kind during this pandemic is simply not possible. Sport is not the most important thing right now, preserving human life is. It is essential, therefore, that all steps are taken to try to limit the spread of this disease."



© Lee Bowditch

INDIA WILL HOST COMMONWEALTH SHOOTING EVENTS

India will host a Commonwealth shooting event during 2022, the year of the XXII Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. The shooting won't exactly be part of the Commonwealth Games, but medals won in India will count in the medal standings, and world records will count in qualifications and finals. The ISSF will provide technical support and guarantee full compliance with the rules and regulations. The competition program is likely to include four Mixed Team events, three of which are already included in the programme for Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. Archery events will be held in India as well.

The arrangement is a compromise reached after Birmingham 2022 decided not to include shooting in its games programme. India had threatened to boycott the Games entirely were shooting not restored in some way. The compromise decision was fully supported by both the Government of India and the National Rifle Association of India, which is said to be funding the events without Commonwealth Games assistance.

Commonwealth Games Federation president Dame Louise Martin said: "Commonwealth archery and shooting athletes now have an unprecedented opportunity to compete in an elite event that will showcase the very best of Commonwealth sport and add value to the Commonwealth sports movement."



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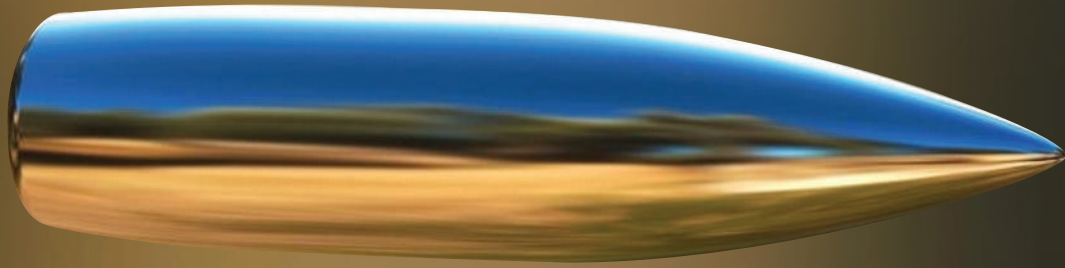
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 Seb Mini Rest £750.00	 AR500 6” Stop Sign Knock Over Target £52.00	 Sierra 5th Ed. Reloading Manual (Printed) & Infinity 7 Ext. Ballistic Software Program (Cd-Rom) £79.99	 GRS Limbsaver Recoil Pad only - 0.5” £29.00	 RCBS Reloader Special 5 Explorer Reloading Starter Kit £385	 Gunslick AR-15 Bore Guide £47.35	 K&M Neck Turners £78.00
 Redding Instant Indicator with Dial Indicator – .338 LAPUA MAG £149.85	 Lyman Cyclone Rotary Case Tumbler (240v) £225.00	 Lyman No 55 Powder Measure £100.00	 Gunslick Foaming Bore Cleaning 12oz £22.09	 AMP Annealing Machine (with 3 Pilots) £1125.00	 Tab Gear Str8 Laced Bag £80.00	 Tab Gear Zipper Pouch Rear Bag – Small And Large From £45.00
 Gunslick Master Cleaning Kit - .243 £30.00	 Hornady Match Grade Full Length Die Set - 6.5mm Creedmoor £91.00	 Hornady L-N-L Precision Reloader Acc Kit £455.00	 Barrelcool £60.00	 L E Wilson Stainless Bullet Seater Blank with Micrometer £90.00	 Tab Ras Sling £115.00	 L E Wilson Chamfer Tool – 45° £35.00
 Redding Competition Bushing Neck Die – .25-06 REM IMPROVED 40° £162.06	 Lee Pacesetter 3 Die Set – .338 Ultra Mag £32.50 Other Sizes Available	 L E Wilson Ultimate Full Length Die Kit - 6.5mm Creedmoor £291.00	 Lee Lube & Size Kit £21.80	 Little Crow Precision Prep Tool - Green only £36.99	 Breakthrough HP Pro Lubricant And Protectant 2 fl oz Bottle £15.80	 L E Wilson Primer Pocket Reamer – Small £44.00
 RCBS Chagemaster Lite (Coming Soon) £399.00	 Hornady Lock-N-Load Auto Charge Powder Scale and Dispenser 220 Volt £279.99	 Segway Reticle Leveler Black Board £22.00	 Third Eye Tactical FTR Bipod – Titanium £285.00	 Sinclair Bullet Seating Depth Tool £30.00	 Lee Spare Decapping Stem £6.50	 Reload Swiss RS60 Rifle EI High Energy £83.76

*Prices subject to change at any time

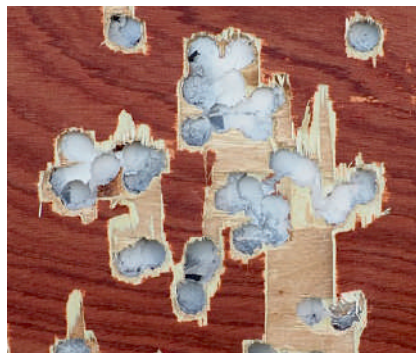


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Charity Commission Investigation

New NRA Chairman, David Lacey, reports on the findings of the Charity Commission in relation to the Association

Members may have heard that the NRA was investigated by the Charity Commission last year. The Commission has reported its findings and you can read that report on the NRA website. This article highlights some key points of the report.

Why was there an investigation?

The Charity Commissioners received various complaints, including that the NRA was not following its charitable objectives and was wrong to seek market terms for leases it grants.

Charitable activity – promoting civilian shooting?

As part of its investigation, the Commission revisited what the NRA's charitable objectives were in modern Britain.

In the 19th century and much of the 20th century, civilian marksmanship was considered to make an important contribution to the 'defence of the realm' and so promoting it was charitable. However, the Charity Commission's view is that there is only the most tenuous, if any, connection between the activities of civilian rifle and pistol shooting clubs and the promotion of the efficiency of the Armed Forces and the defence of the realm.

Also, the First Tier Tribunal (Charity), which hears appeals from the decisions of the Charity Commission, decided in 2015 that shooting is not a 'sport' for charitable purposes. As a result, recreational shooting is not part of the NRA's charitable objectives. There are also various activities, such as operating ranges for hire, that are clearly a commercial activity.

Charities are required to set up a separate company to carry out non-charitable activities that raise money for the charity. This is a long-standing requirement of the Commission, and the NRA has complied with it since 1998. So although the NRA owns the land, you hire a range from National Shooting Centre Ltd (NSC). That company runs the ranges, and carries out 'recreational shooting'. The range office staff are NSC staff. You may notice the NSC name becoming more visible, to help improve awareness of the distinction between the NRA as a charity and the NSC as the range operator.

So what is left for the NRA to do? Apart from 'defence of the realm', another charitable objective for which the NRA exists is the efficiency of the Armed Forces. This involves making various contributions to the Armed Forces, including organising competitions in which current and former military, police and other emergency services staff and current cadets compete against civilian target shooters. The NRA also continues to be the owner of Bisley Camp and grants leases of various properties to raise money to pursue its charitable purposes.

Can the NRA charge less than market rent?

The Commission is clear that the answer is no. Like all charities, the NRA is required to obtain the best value from its assets, and it cannot provide a private benefit to anyone. This is nothing to do with the charitable objectives, but is a general rule applying to all charities. The Commission specifically considered this in relation to providing below-market rents for clubs or individuals at Bisley Camp, and were clear that the NRA



is not allowed to do this. Obtaining market value has been a policy of the NRA for some years now, so no changes are needed.

How will this affect me?

As a civilian shooter, you will not notice any difference to your booking or range experience, as this has been handled by the NSC for some time. If you are shooting in a competition organised by the NRA, you will be asked whether you are a current or former member of the armed forces, police or other emergency services or a current cadet. You may also be asked to provide evidence of this, as the Commission requires us to collect and verify this information to demonstrate the level of participation between civilian and non-civilian competitors.

Why should I be a member?

The reasons for being an NRA member have not changed as a result of this investigation. Being a member is one of the best ways to support the charitable objectives of the NRA. It also allows you to book targets with the NSC to use Bisley Ranges, and provides you with access to the competitions organised by the NRA. ■

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Teams on Tour

The English and Welsh team captains give their perspectives from their tours to Canada for the DCRA Meeting

England Tour to Canada 2019

The tour began with the team venturing to Quebec to celebrate the PQRA's 150th anniversary. This was the first time a touring team from the UK had visited since 1972. Our hosts were happy to see us, and the hospitality of the Quebecois was exceptional. The view of the range was spectacular, backing out onto a large wooded hill.

There were two days of shooting, with a team shoot at the end of the first day at 600 yards. Our Captain, Tom Rylands, having collected plot cards and consulted his management team, selected five teams of four, with a few being dedicated coaches. Each team were asked to select a suitably witty name, which resulted in: Last Chance Saloon, England Extractors, Machine Gun Crew, English Roses, and U25. The Last Chance Saloon team won, with 199.20 in some light changeable wind conditions. Following the shooting, the team were invited to dinner at a local

Quebec restaurant, where prizes for the day were presented. This gave Tom, the captain, the opportunity to present to the PQRA (ATPQ in French) an English XX Silver Salver, which had been commissioned using donations from the team and members of the EXX club. We hope to see this used as a future trophy in the PQRA provincial meeting.

Day 2 in Quebec saw the end of the Grand Aggregate, with a final shoot at 500 and 600 yards – far more friendly than the previous day's shoot at 400 yards, which is the equivalent of our long range. 15 members of the team made it through to the Governor General's final, taking the individual scores from Day 1 and 2's shoots at 500 and 600 yards. The vice-captain, Andrew, donned his birthday tiara for extra luck.

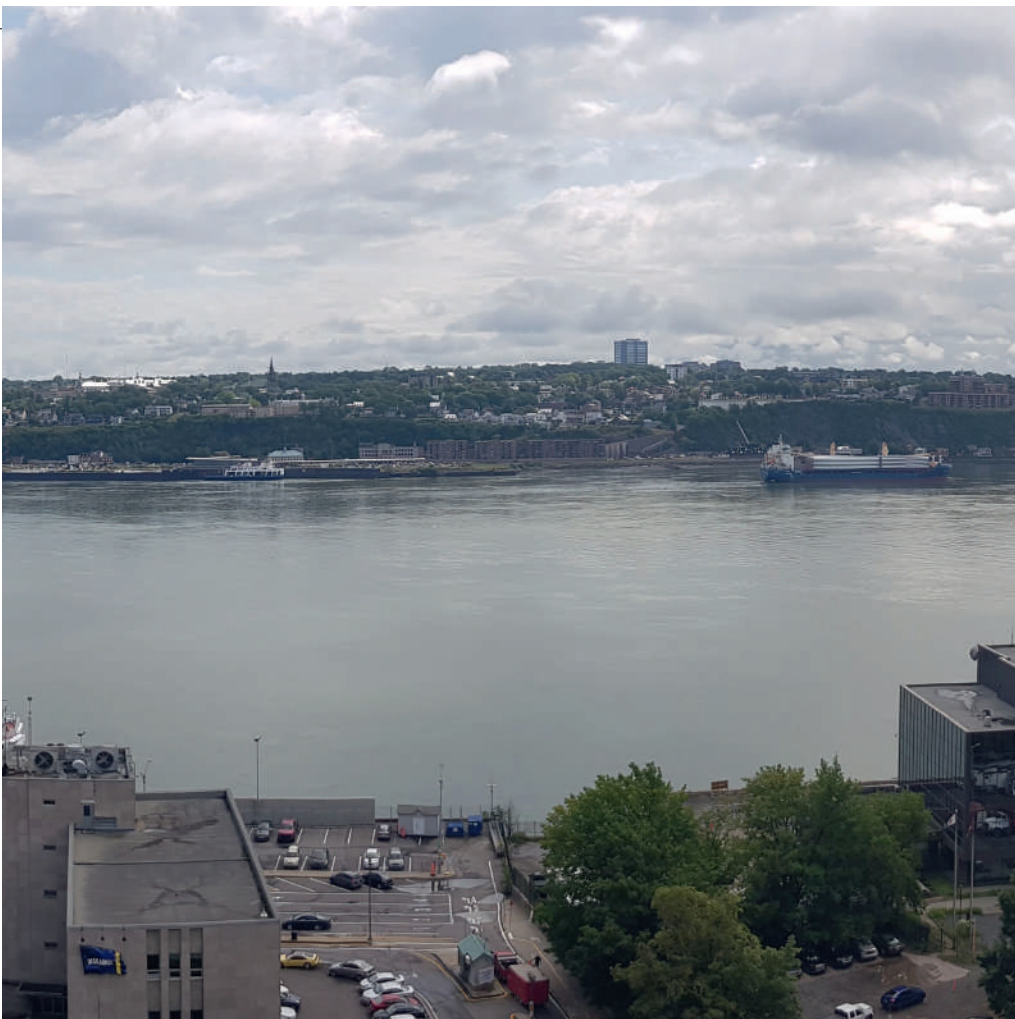
Highlights of the shooting over both days involved: David Nuthall winning the Grand Aggregate having dropped only one point, Jon Underwood coming second in

the Governor's General Final and scoring the only 75 in the final, and Katherine Fleck claiming the top U25 place in the Grand, beating Saxon Brewer-Merchant by a mere V-bull.

Gale Stewart, chairman of the PQRA, generously provided a walking tour of Quebec City in the morning of the third day. We managed to avoid the worst of the hills, while still capturing the beauty of the city and the views of St Lawrence River as we walked along the heights of Abraham.

While we were in the area, we paid a visit to Montmorency. The waterfall was 15 minutes east of the city, and was a spectacular day out – varying members ziplined across the waterfall, and some even partook in Via Ferrata where they were soon scaling the mountain itself. Figure C highlights the waterfall, which is taller than the Niagara Falls.

Following this adventurous outing, the team made the drive down to Ottawa, in preparation for the DCRA meeting in the



coming days. Sneaking in a practice at 800m allowed the team to get some zeroes with the ammunition provided by the captain. This was valuable for all the team, with every member scoring at least a 74 in our first shoot at Connaught ranges: the Ottawa Regiment. Paul Wheeler and Jon Underwood tied with 75.14, with a tie shoot occurring later in the week, which Jon Underwood won. Over the next seven days individual performances of the team were exceptional – every member of the team was able to claim a Canadian HPS – with the weather and wind playing huge roles in the overall shoots of the range.

The effort and talent displayed by the members of the team made selection for the Outlander, Canada match, and the Commonwealth match incredibly tricky. The Outlander helped act as a rehearsal for the Canada match, providing Tom and management extra information about how people performed in a team setting. We entered three teams, with the USA and Wales providing teams to compete against. The British Isles team won with 1174.122, with Nigel Ball top scoring for the team with an impressive 150.21. The selected team of 15 for the Canada match were: Nigel Ball, Chris Mitchell, Tom Smith, Katherine Fleck, Jeremy Tuck, David Rose, Paul Wheeler and David Nuthall (shooting), Tom Rylands, Jon Underwood,

Andrew Lothian, Stephen Penrose, James Postle, Archie Whicher and Andy “Turbo” Barnes (wind coaches, plotters and captain).

The rehearsal with the Outlander proved invaluable, as the team won the Canada match scoring 1185.117, beating Canada by 4 points (1181.127). The U25s had their own shoot to compete in alongside the Canada match; the team consisted of Harriet Bramwell, Jack Keates, Jemima Hince, Saxon Brewer-Merchant and Ben

Danzinger (pinched from the Atheling team). Coaching among themselves, they put on impressive display to win the U25 International Short Range Match, scoring 734.71, with Canada scoring 730.69 and the U25 GB Atheling squad scoring 721.51. This was the second time ever an England team had won the Canada match, the last occasion being in 1995. The team put this down to the Captain bringing along a ‘secret weapon’: a teapot. Coupled with the U25 winning their match, this prompted much celebration that evening.

The last day of competition sees the second international match – The Commonwealth – and the final of the Governor General’s prize. With a slightly larger team size, and the U25s having their own Commonwealth shoot, everyone was involved in some manner or other for The Commonwealth. Regrettably, the team were not able to repeat their performance of the previous day, with a series of imperfections leading to our loss to both the Canadians and the American ‘Goodwill’ team (Canada 1182.119, USA 1164.107, England 1153.93, Wales 1112.64). The U25s for England also struggled, coming third to the U25 GB (Athelings) by 2Vs, just five points off the Canadian U25 team. The England U25s for this match coached within themselves, whereas the other two teams had a dedicated coach (U25 themselves). After lunch, members of the teams who had



Jon Underwood being chaired off the range after winning the Governor General’s Prize with 300.30



The England team at the conclusion of the Tour



The Captain's secret weapon: A pot of English tea

made it to the final made their way out to the range, watching the wind become trickier as the angle had changed through zero once more.

As we neared the end of the 900m shoot, it became clearer and clearer that a tight finish may be at hand, with scores of 296s, 297s and 298s flooding the board. However, it was not to be – Jon Underwood won the Governor General's prize with an outstanding 300.30, having not dropped a single point at any distance whatsoever. Nigel Ball finished second, with an equally respectable 298.37, beating Bruce Bullock by 2Vs.

“Jon's smile nearly outshone the afternoon sun as he was warmly congratulated by all and sundry. As tradition demands, he was chaired off the range, a somewhat lighter load than some!” A small excerpt from our tour diary captures the mood perfectly.

Prize giving complete, the team assembled on the steps of the DCRA HQ for a quick couple of photos as darkness fell.

Welsh Rifle Team to Canada

The party of 12 met at the RAF Club on the evening of 4 August to sort out kit and team baggage as we had a 6am start the following day. A couple of late withdrawals meant we had 10 Welsh shooters plus Kate Watkins and our regular team supporter and advisor, David Calvert.

The team consisted of: Paul Gray (captain), Martin Watkins (vice captain) and Kate, Chris Hockley (team manager), Nia Barnes, Alan Barrell, Lottie Phillips-

Davies, Al Haley, Rob Knowles, Tony Nokes and Paul Waldron.

Flying Air Canada to Vancouver, we negotiated the red tape associated with firearms and team baggage with moments to spare. An uneventful flight was followed by offloading our firearms to the waiting Jim Paton, for which we were extremely

grateful. We then proceeded to our accommodation at the University of British Columbia. The University houses the world-famous Natural History Museum of Vancouver and, together with the many other attractions of the area such as Grouse Mountain and Capilano Suspension Bridge, we enjoyed three days'

KAMLOOPS: WELSH SUCCESSES		
Martin Watkins	50.8	Victoria Match
David Calvert	50.9	MacDonald Stewart Match
Al Haley	50.8	Vancouver Match
David Calvert	50.6	Bisley Match
David Calvert	50.8	BCRA President's Match
David Calvert	150.20	Sunday Aggregate
David Calvert	150.21	Thompson Aggregate
David Calvert	346.22	2nd place Grand Aggregate
Lottie Phillips-Davies		Winner Under 25 Grand Aggregate
Lottie Phillips-Davies		Winner Women's Grand Aggregate
David Calvert		Veterans Aggregate
David Calvert	249.33	Life Governor's Prize
Al Haley	271.33	Bronze cross - Lt Governor's Prize
HIGH VISITOR IN THE GRAND AGGREGATE:		
David Calvert		gold cross
Al Haley		silver cross
Martin Watkins		bronze cross
CELTS GREEN WINNERS LT GOVERNOR'S TEAM MATCH		
Nia Barnes, Lottie Phillips-Davies, Al Haley, David Calvert		
INTERNATIONAL TEAM MATCH		
Winners BCRA including Rob Knowles and Paul Waldron beating the Celtic Team		



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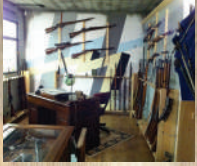
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There still may be other dates when we will be coming to Bisley, so if there is anything you need, let us know as we may be at Bisley at that time and can bring down any goods you require. Just give us a call.



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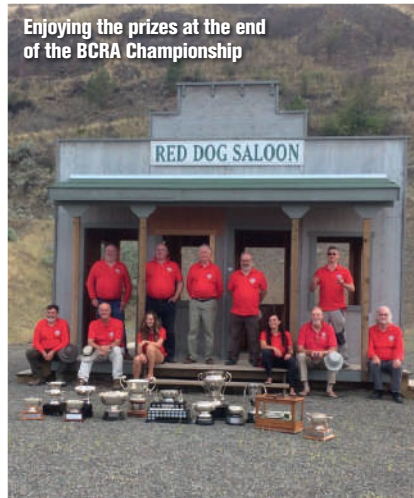
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R&R guided by our hard-working social secretary, Al Haley.

On to Kamloops for the British Columbia Championships via the spectacular Sea to Sky Highway. The BCRA Championship had to be moved from Chilliwack to Kamloops at the last moment due to the range at Chilliwack being closed. Apparently the Army had forgotten to renew the lease, which had been sold to a logging company. As a result, entries from locals were lower than normal and we were thankful for the tremendous amount of work put in by Dave Adams and Peter Dobell to take the electronic targets to Kamloops at short notice and reschedule the event, and to Bob Best for patiently instructing us on how to use the electronic targets using our tablets and phones. Many thanks to Kamloops for allowing us to use their facilities, which consisted of the same covered firing point for 300 and 500 metres with the 500m targets above and behind the 300m ones. Some team members now discovered a new way to shoot at the wrong target – not only at the target alongside theirs but at the target above theirs as well!

Adapting to competition shooting at electronic targets was a steep learning curve for most of us and led to interesting



Enjoying the prizes at the end of the BCRA Championship

discussions about how their introduction might change the sport as we know it. The ability to monitor fall of shot on neighbouring targets is an integral part of our sport and this becomes more difficult with electronic targets – some systems apparently don't allow it at all. Shooting is not considered much of a spectator sport and, unless spectators are able to monitor shots on their own electronic device or a communal one, it becomes a complete non-event as there are no spotting discs or scoring panels to be seen.

Using ammunition loaded by Dave Adams, we adapted to the unusual

CANADA MATCH	
Oscar Farrell	148.14
Al Haley	147.16
Lottie Phillips-Davies	143.11
Paul Waldron	141.8
Martin Watkins	140.13
Toby Jones	140.11
Nia Barnes	135.5
Alan Barrell	132.7
Total	1126.85
<i>Coaches - Paul Gray and Chris Hockley</i>	

conditions well, with members of our party winning four of the first five ranges. After that, the locals, mainly in the form of the Pitcairn family, took over. The concurrent team events gave us initial success as well, with 'Celts Green' winning one event and finishing runners-up in a number of others. The International Team Match became a friendly affair, with two Welshmen shooting for British Columbia and David Calvert shooting for the Celtic team. The two Welshmen tasted success in this one.

On the third day we moved back to 900 yards and fired at what had been the 500m targets with a long-range bullseye, so any wide shots would easily slip off the side of the target. Bob Pitcairn emerged victorious in the Lt Governor's Prize and was chaired off the range in the traditional manner.

Leaving Kamloops, we chose the other scenic route back to Vancouver down the Fraser Valley, again with spectacular scenery and the railway alongside featuring the Rocky Mountaineer overtaking us at one point. A visit to Hells Gate – an abrupt narrowing of the Fraser River – was fun, crossing the river in a cable car to the bottom of the valley and back.

An uneventful flight to Ottawa complete, we settled into the traditional hotel used by rifle teams at Bells Corner, where we met up with Tom Rylands' English team. Tom had loaded ammunition for many of us, for which we were extremely grateful, and we spent some time pushing bullets that evening.



The Welsh Dragons took on the English Knights during some downtime



The range where the PQRA hold their Provincial Meeting, with four distances (300, 400, 500 and 600x). The 400x is the equivalent of our long range, with much smaller targets and bulls

The next eight days were spent competing in the DCRA championships at Connaught Ranges, where we experienced highs and lows as would be expected from a team consisting of many with little experience of overseas touring and a few of us with more experience than we might care to remember. The off-range highlight of the DCRA meeting was the joint English/

Welsh reception where English knights fought Welsh Dragons. I believe a score draw was the result.

David started as he meant to go on with victory in the Sierra Long Range III on our first day of shooting on Saturday. The next day the Grand Aggregate started and David found himself close to the lead, having gone clean, with Al a point behind. David continued to rarely stray from the bullseye and won the Short Range Aggregate and the Governor General's Qualifier and remained in contention for the Grand Aggregate. Al Haley remained close behind, and the old warhorse, Chris Hockley, began to string some consistent scores together. On Thursday evening, David found himself in second place in the Grand Aggregate, one point behind Jim Paton with one distance to fire, with Al Haley in ninth place. With David being squadded with Jim on Friday morning, it amounted to a 15-round tie shoot for the Grand.

David duly prevailed on Friday morning with a 74 to Jim's 72 to add the DCRA MacDonald Stewart Grand Aggregate to his many major wins over a sparkling career.

We now had the Canada Match to ponder and I was minded that for the Commonwealth Match the following day we only had 10 people for a team of 12. I

was aware of two Welsh qualified Athelings, and after discussions with Eilidh Clarke she allowed the two, Oscar Farrell and Toby Jones, to shoot for Wales in the Canada and Commonwealth Matches. I remain eternally grateful to Eilidh for her understanding. The Canada Match team results are included in the table here.

The next day it was all hands to the pump for the Commonwealth Match in the morning with everyone shooting and David Calvert on the scoreboard, followed by the Governor General's final for Al, Chris and David. Congratulations to Oscar for top scoring in both matches for Wales even though he was there as an Atheling. Having represented Wales in the National Match at Bisley the month before, he clearly has a bright future.

The Governor General's final resulted in Jon Underwood being chaired off the range, with David finishing 8th, Chris 13th and Al 28th. Congratulations to Jon on another of his many successes.

We arrived back at Bisley tired but happy, having experienced a thoroughly enjoyable tour. Thanks to everyone who helped us along the way and my thanks to everyone in the touring party who made it such a wonderful experience. Now for our next trip. South Africa 2021 anyone? ■

COMMONWEALTH MATCH

Oscar Farrell	98.6
Al Haley	97.12
Nia Barnes	96.7
Chris Hockley	96.7
Lottie Phillips-Davies	94.4
Paul Gray	94.1
Paul Waldron	93.6
Martin Watkins	92.3
Tony Nokes	90.5
Rob Knowles	88.3
Alan Barrell	87.6
Toby Jones	87.4
Total	1112.64

Coaches – Paul Gray, Chris Hockley, Martin Watkins, Lottie Phillips-Davies, Al Haley, Paul Waldron

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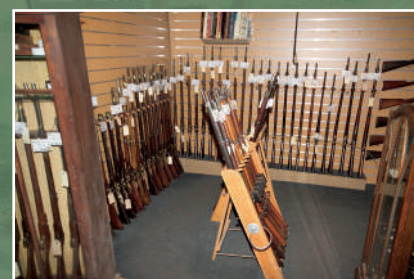
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Battle of the bushveld

Steve Wallis has the full report from the Great Britain Sporting Rifle team's tour to South Africa

On 22 October last year, a small GB Sporting Rifle Team departed from Heathrow – destination Johannesburg, to take part in an International Sporting Rifle Championships. After an overnight flight, we collected hire cars and headed to a gun shop to collect ammunition. To call it a gun shop actually does it a great injustice as in truth it was a proper emporium with a fantastic selection of every sort of shooting gear you could imagine including clothing, scopes, rifles, ammunition and reloading components. These guys had truly bailed us out of what would otherwise have been a catastrophic event for us after delays in getting import paperwork processed had resulted in all our carefully handloaded ammunition never making it out of the UK. This came at price, though, with factory ammunition costing between £2.20 and £2.44 a round depending on calibre.

With ammunition collected, and a few other necessities such as *biltong* and *droëwors* purchased, it was a three-hour drive through the Transvaal to our

accommodation at Rhino's Rest guest house just outside the town of Welkom in the Free State, arriving just as dusk fell and 24 hours after 'wheels up' in the UK. Also travelling with us and staying at the same location were the GB Gallery Rifle Team, who were competing in parallel Championships.

After some great food, a few Windhoeks and a much-needed night's sleep, our first day was spent at Kroonstad where we were treated to the sight of a small group of warthog foraging at the end of the range as we set up targets and prepared to check that all the rifles and scopes had survived the trip. Happy that everything had got there in one piece, we set about establishing elevation settings for shooting at distances in metres rather than yards, plus noting the effect that temperatures in the mid/high 30s and an elevation of around 1430m above sea level had on our UK 'real world' data.

Those who shoot regularly at Bisley will know all about the wind that picks up as the day goes on, but believe me, that is nothing compared to the wind that blows

across the veldt. We had the benefit of range flags at 100m and 200m and were also able to use mirage too, though this was just about running flat and simply confirmed the direction and that the wind was strong most of the time! Wind was full value and at a conservative estimate in the region of 30-35mph gusting – it also had an uncanny knack of changing through 180 degrees between shots. At one point in the afternoon it was blowing so hard that it was impossible to keep the sights steady on the target even when shooting off a concrete bench – it was blowing the shooter around so much. As well as zeroing our centrefire rifles, we also took the opportunity to zero the two .22LR rifles we were competing in a 'gong shoot' with the following day – fortunately due to the shorter ranges involved, only out to 200m, we did these earlier in the day, though we were later to discover the effect that wind had on our settings, especially the 150m and 200m elevations.

Our first day of competition saw the Sporting Rifle Team at the South African Hunting and Game Conservation

The Safari And Outdoors gunshop proved a lifesaver



Those who shoot regularly at Bisley will know all about the wind that picks up as the day goes on, but believe me, that is nothing compared to the wind that blows across the veldt

Association National Championships being held at the Excalibur Ranges in Welkom, taking part in the individual .22LR Sporting Rifle Gong Shoot. As we were getting our kit together, word circulated that one of the locals had just shot 18 ex-20, so we were not going to get it easy. As we waited for our first shooter to take the line, another 18 was shot – the pressure was on.

We had two near identical rifles, both Sako Finnfire Range models with Leupold scopes and normally used for shooting Mini McQueen back in the UK. Our plan was that the owners of these would shoot first and second with the benefit of familiarity of kit, and then would coach the other team members using these rifles. Well, we all know what happens when you make plans... The first GB shooter, Cornelius Schalkwyk, was dead on the

targets at 50m and 100m but at 150m his first shot went low and wide, the latter due to a slight crosswind that was only visible as a running mirage. Fortunately, our Captain, who was up to shoot second, was spotting and called the correction to elevation and hold-off on the target for the next four shots, all of which were hits. At 200m the first shot was low again and the Captain called an elevation correction and gave hold-off for wind to get the remaining four shots on target. That got us a GB shooter with 18 ex-20, so things were looking good and we now had 'real world' data for one of the rifles.

Shooting next, our Captain was using different ammunition and, confident in his elevations from the day before, did not make corrections before shooting – a mistake that turned out to cost him dearly and put him out of contention in

this event. In true team spirit, he stayed on the line in temperatures in the high 30s and coached the rest of the GB Team through, as well as a couple of the GR Team members who had joined us due to gaps in their squadding elsewhere. Calling hold-off using a combination of mirage and bullet splashes on the steel targets, when all the competitors had shot there were five people all tied on 20 ex-20 – all of them GB shooters. After a tie shoot – five targets at 150m against the clock – the competition was won by Gary Bowden from the GB Gallery Rifle Team with a time of 14.82 seconds. Second and third places went to Morne van Dalen and Andrew Burgess of the GB Sporting Rifle Team with times of 15.25 seconds and 25.22 seconds respectively.

The next day was effectively a rest day for the GB Sporting Rifle Team, though

several took part in some of the SAHGCA Nationals Gallery Rifle competitions in the morning. In the afternoon the ranges were open for practice, so given the experiences with the .22LRs we took the opportunity to recheck and adjust zeros on the centrefire sporting rifles ahead of a day of practice the following day, again with temperatures in the mid to high 30s – not something we Brits are used to. Keeping hydrated was top priority.

Competition proper started on the Monday with teams shooting the first of three rounds of the '5685 Sporting Rifle Statics' event. This is the same course of fire as used at Bisley, with 10 rounds from various positions at each of three distances. Those shooting early in the morning had the benefit of good light, little wind and only a hint of mirage, but conditions changed rapidly and by mid-morning the combined effects of heat, mirage and wind were having detrimental effects at 300m. The wind was also having an impact on the standing and sitting positions used at 200m with groups opening up off the sticks.

The GB Team were not the only ones who had their problems with lack of ammunition or indeed import permits for firearms also causing issues for other overseas competitors, and after a meeting of all team Captains it was agreed that the award of honours would be based on a reduced course of fire that enabled all teams to compete. The intention had been that team scores would be based on the aggregate of three rounds, but with the all-round lack of ammunition this was amended to the highest team score from any of one of up to three rounds.

With some juggling of squadding times and judicious use of ammunition, camaraderie prevailed and rifles were shared between teams over the second and third rounds to ensure all teams got a crack at the title. This meant that for at least one GB team member, the benefit gained by the drop in temperatures and lack of wind shooting at 100m and 200m late in the afternoon on day two was balanced by the lack of light as he then shot 300m at dusk as the light disappeared fast.

When all was said and done, it was fair to say that every member from



each team had done their best in challenging conditions over the three days of competition. With the organisers deliberately not publishing the results, it was not until the prize-giving on Thursday evening that the Great Britain Sporting Rifle Team were announced as the overall winners, with Australia in second place and Ireland third.

Despite the late night on Thursday, Friday morning saw an early start and a 40km drive south to the Goldfields Game Ranch for an 8am range briefing. This was a range with a difference: targets were steel gongs placed at unknown ranges of between 80m and 350m, with 30 targets shot over six different stations and from a variety of positions including off the roof of a pick-up truck. As well as shooters from the international teams, there were around 60 local shooters participating

in an individual competition with prizes from Leupold for the top three shooters, including a top-of-the-range scope for the winner – competition was going to be hard, and home advantage counted for a lot with some fantastic scores from the locals, who evidently participate in this sort of event quite regularly.

All too soon the shooting was over and it was back to the lodge to pack ready for the following day's departure – there would be no time in the morning as it was the final of the Rugby World Cup, which we watched in the company of a lounge full of South Africans who took great delight in the final result before wishing us a safe trip home.

Thanks are due not only to those who organised the trip but also those who endured the heat and other challenges to make it the success it was. ■

Back to Basics

Ryan Warren has rediscovered his love for 300m shooting – and says now is the right time for you to discover it too



Seonaid McIntosh: European Champion in 300m Rifle Prone with an equal world record score

2020 is the year of many new things. And that is great because there's something in the human spirit that naturally draws us towards new things and the transformative experiences that come as a result of being willing to find the courage to try something new.

Humans are engineered for fresh starts. Our brain is hardwired to respond to new stimuli as a part of our learning processes. This allows us to neurologically wire our understanding of life, ourselves and the natural order of things. It allows us to grow, to push forward into creating new stories, new inventions, to adapt.

Yet it's easy to get lost in routine. Our jobs require us to regularly perform the same set of tasks. While routine allows us to master skills or become industry experts, it can also hinder growth or expansion in other areas of interest. This is relevant in all aspects of life and I'm seeing it in my shooting too.

This is my third season after a 25-year break. I am determined to be at least as good as what I can remember. And to

improve, I must both master skills through routine and grow by trying new things.

Like many others, I started with small-bore: a .22LR target rifle over 25, 50 or 100 metres. This is a cheaper way to focus on the routine element of practice where I can develop and master a good position and technique.

And I am trying new things too. I've let off some steam by rolling in the sawdust before pelting a steel plate through a hole in the bottom of a wall in Practical Shotgun.

I've run down the range (not in camo), barely avoiding a heart attack, to shakily chamber a round and place a wobbly five shots in a Figure 11. I had fun shooting each of these and the other disciplines I tried. But my favourite is still fullbore target 300m ISSF. If I could, I would shoot this all day every day.

It is the only NRA discipline governed by the International Sport Shooting Federation (ISSF) Rules. While it is fired at only one distance, it is a demanding discipline, which appeals to me. Firstly, the ISSF target has 10 rings rather than the NRA five rings. In fact, the bull on an NRA target would be equivalent to only nine points on an ISSF 300m target!

Secondly, many more shots are fired than in most other disciplines. Prone matches are usually 60 shots within 60 minutes. This brings with it many challenges. From ensuring a robust shooting position that can provide a stable and accurate platform throughout the long competition time, to dealing with fatigue and changing wind conditions.

Participants can use any target rifle with a calibre up to 8mm. That means fullbore target rifle (TR) shooters could use their .308 or 7.62mm rifles.

And on the topic of TR, this is the new thing that I am going to try this year – in between the 300m meetings, that is.



The view down-range from 'the shed' on 10 range at Bisley



Now's the time to get into 300m and learn something new



The author's finely tuned set-up



Simon Aldhouse showing a good shooting position

As I set forth to explore TR, I want to bring with me what I've learnt from other disciplines. To let the mastery from routine support the growth from trying something new.

To do this, I have set up each of my target rifles now to be the same across all prone disciplines. I use the same rifle stock for smallbore in .22LR, 300m in 6mm BR and TR in 7.62mm. And I'm obsessive about getting all the set-ups precisely identical, from length of pull to trigger position to sight line above the bore. My wife keeps telling me I can't do two things at once, and I tend to agree with her. So by having the same rifle set-up I can let the unconscious competence built up from repetitive routines in other disciplines take over without me even noticing. I can then focus consciously on getting right the aspects of that discipline's unique course of fire.

It hasn't been easy getting the TR rifle set up correctly. Each time I seemed to find a solution for one problem, the next one reared its head. The first was getting a Barnard P action into my aluminium Grünig & Elmiger XRS stock. I imported an adaptor block from the US to solve this one. Except it didn't fit precisely and, no surprise, UK bedding bolts don't fit in US holes. But my local gunsmith fixed that. Then the cheekpiece was just in the right position to stop the rifle's bolt from opening. My good friend Robin came to the

By having the same rifle set-up I can let the unconscious competence from routines in other disciplines take over

rescue and built me a special cheekpiece that tilts out of the way when opening the bolt. Though, of course, he now must build another two for the other rifles so I can keep the set-up and feel consistent between them. I do love these cheekpieces because, besides the exceptional engineering, he has made them from Mpinga and Mopani, two types of wood indigenous to my homeland, South Africa.

I'm now looking forward to getting my new TR rifle out on the ranges. No doubt there will be plenty of new things I will learn that can only improve my marksmanship.

Look out for me at the Imperial later this year and I'll be able to tell you if its working.

I'm also really looking forward to the start of the 300m ISSF season. Let's see if I can apply any TR learnings to improve on my 300m scores in 2020. But either way, it will be a damn sight better shooting from under cover in the 'shed' on butt 10 than running down range in the cold rain and mud. You're welcome to come join us and try something new this year too. It doesn't matter how big or small, or where or what you decide to try. All that matters is that you do it and you learn from it. Make it a goal and tackle it. ■

BISLEY 300M SHOOT, 2020

18-19 April	Practice
9-10 May	BFRC Spring Competition
16-17 May	NRA Championships (3P, Prone, Standard Rifle)
6-7 June	BFRC Summer Competition
20 June	Practice
12-13 September	BFRC Autumn Competition
25-26 October	GB300m Club Championships

For further information or to enter a competition or just come along to shoot, please contact the NRA 300m representative at 300m@nra.org.uk or telephone the GB300m club on 01483 797777.



Carrie Ryan dominated every match in the SpudGun Challenge

F Class Forecast

All the updates F Class shooters need to know for 2020

With the new year only six days old, we were on the range shooting a competition to celebrate Dean Wallace's 60th birthday. Suitably christened The Care Home Challenge, it has been promised to be an annual competition. With tough, bitter winds, it made for an interesting and closely fought match. Congratulations to Matt Jarram (1st), David Lloyd (2nd), Jon



Longhurst (3rd), Asad Wahid (4th) and Carrie Ryan (5th).

TOP GUN 2020

As the UK was being relentlessly battered by one storm after another, it was the right decision by Top Gun organiser Ian Chenery to postpone the competition to a later date. Winds gusting to 50mph on Stickledown far exceeded the safety limits set.

New dates of 3 October for the Top Gun teams and 4 October for the individuals have now been agreed.

SPUDGUN CHALLENGE

F Class shooters were spoilt this year with a bonus competition kindly organised by Simon West and generously sponsored by Spud Reloading Supplies.

A whole day of competition starting with 2 matches at 1000 yards in the morning and the finale at 600 yards, a tough 2 with 20 to count.

There was no question as to the winner in FTR as Carrie Ryan put in a first class performance match after match. In F-Open, Tony Price was the superior shot of the day with some outstanding scores for a winter shoot. Congratulations to you both.

IMPERIAL NEWS

Following feedback from the F Class community, this year's Imperial F Class meeting will be squadded by class in the same way our league shoots are organised. Competitors will declare their class, either FTR or Open, at the point of submitting their entry. The match organisers will make every effort to squad FTR separate from Open and each class will take it in turn to start each day as detail 1.

This will make for a much fairer competition by reducing the chance of one competitor shooting in more preferable conditions than another for the same class.

This year, our Imperial Meeting does not conflict with any League matches, so we are all hoping for a good turnout and some serious competition.

2019 saw a one-off International Teams event organised by David Kent. Though this is not going to be included in this year's Imperial, it is being discussed if this could become an annual feature starting in 2021. Various points are being considered such as the conditions of entry and the minimum number of teams required to form a meaningful competition. It is my hope that this will go ahead and that we could see overseas teams attending next year.

F CLASS CALENDAR

The NRA has now launched a new calendar on their website, which contains many of our F Class fixtures. This can be found under the Competitions tab on their home page. Of course, our own GBFCA website contains the list of league dates and is also home to the shop where competitors must purchase both their GBFCA membership and league match entries.

For anyone wanting to get involved in F Class in the UK, the GB F Class Association Facebook page is arguably

the central hub of the community where access to details of competitions and a wealth of other information can be found.

TEAM GB - FTR

Message from the Captain, David Rollafson

The F-Class FTR discipline in the UK has continued to go from strength to strength, supported by the GBFCA League and other competitions. This has made for an expansive and highly competitive GB training squad in 2019.

Everyone's focus and commitment won Team GB the 2019 European Championships, and we're confidently

looking forward to the F Class World Championships in South Africa, 2021.

It is our pleasure to announce the final 21 members of Team GB FTR:

- David Rollafson Captain
- Jon Longhurst Vice Captain
- Asad Wahid Adjutant

Wind Coaches

- Carrie Ryan
- David Lloyd
- Ewen Campbell
- Jon Longhurst

Shooters

- Dan Lomas
- Igor Makarenko
- James McCosh
- Justin Gough
- Mark Downing
- Mark Webb
- Martyn Johns
- Mike Harris
- Neil Hampton
- Nick Gilbert
- Peter Dommett
- Peter Sheffield
- Richie Jones
- Ryan Goodman
- Simon Gambling ■



TEAM GB FTR
MMXXI

ROUND	DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
	18 April	IBIS Open	Bisley	Frank Harris f.foh@btinternet.com
1	24-26 April	League Shoot	Bisley	gbfclass.com
2	16-17 May	League Shoot	Diggle	gbfclass.com
	22-24 May	Phoenix	Bisley	mark.haigh@nra.org.uk
	30-31 May	Birmingham Bisley	Kingsbury	Frank Harris f.foh@btinternet.com
	6-7 June	City Rifle Club Open	Bisley	crc.secretary@btconnect.com
3	13-14 June	League Shoot	Diggle	gbfclass.com
4	4-5 July	League Shoot	Bisley	gbfclass.com
	17-21 July	Imperial Meeting	Bisley	NRA
5	8-9 August	League Shoot	Blair Atholl	gbfclass.com
6	7-13 September	European Championships	Bisley	gbfclass.com
	3 October	Top Gun Teams (Usually held in February)	Bisley	ischenery@gmail.com
	4 October	Top Gun Individuals	Bisley	ischenery@gmail.com
7	10-11 October	League Shoot	Blair Atholl	gbfclass.com
8	30 Oct – 1 Nov	League Shoot	Bisley	gbfclass.com



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What's going wrong on the Bisley ranges?

Andrew Mercer, Chief Executive of the National Shooting Centre, calls on all shooters to observe the Range Regulations

Each month we hold a meeting to review incidents on the Bisley ranges. On a busy range complex it is perhaps inevitable that things go wrong and mistakes are made, with varying degrees of severity and a wide range of causes. Our range risk assessments and regulations have evolved steadily to address these issues, but it is impossible to legislate for every eventuality.

I have identified some of the more common incidents below with, where applicable, the relevant passage from Range Regulations. By far the most common root cause of incidents is the failure to read and understand NSC Range

Regulations, which can be found at: nra.org.uk/nra-bisley/ranges/latest-range-information/range-regulations.

Some of the most common issues include:

- **Failure to produce a valid Shooter Competency Card.** This is the foundation of our Safe System of Shooting and ensures that we have 'Safe People' on the Range.

"All users of NSC ranges must be in possession of a current Shooter's Certification Card issued by the NRA, or be supervised on a one-to-one basis by the holder of such a card. The card must be valid for all the firearms that the user intends to fire. ROs are required to

produce their SCC when signing on to the range. All shooters are to present their SCC on request. ROs are responsible for ensuring that all members of their group comply."

- **Shooting before and after the klaxon.** Observation of the official commencement of shooting and ceasefire is fundamental to the 'Safe Place'. The klaxon is the indication to our staff that it is safe, or unsafe, to move into danger areas to carry out maintenance or change targetry.

- **The emergency signal** indicates that something is wrong, most commonly that



there is someone or something in the danger area.

“The commencement of each shooting period is announced by one blast of the siren. Firearms are not permitted on the firing point until the siren has sounded and the RO has given permission.”

“The cessation of each shooting period is announced by two blasts of the siren. All shooters must then cease fire, unload and remove firearms from the firing point.”

“The unscheduled end of a shooting period is announced by no fewer than four blasts of the siren. All shooters must stop shooting immediately.”

• **Radio Traffic.** The communications at Bisley have been checked on several occasions with no fault found. In order to avoid ‘cutting out’ transmissions, listen before you speak on the radio and keep your message brief. Procedure to be employed for radio transmissions – press the button to transmit, pause, then speak.

Emergency Signal – Four or more blasts on the klaxon. Minimise radio transmissions to allow our staff to manage the incident.

“All radio users must select the Control channel and await instructions. General permission to recommence firing will be announced by one long blast on the siren. Range Control may permit shooting to continue or recommence on selected ranges”.



Safe people – a fundamental element of the overall safety framework at Bisley

Paying attention to the RO's instructions at all times is paramount



• **Range incursions and movement of safety boards.** Moving around a range complex is potentially dangerous. All shooters and Range Officers must be vigilant for range incursions and individuals must be aware of their actions. The distraction of mobile phones has significantly increased the risk in this area.

Safety boards are lines of demarcation and deployed to ensure shooters are safe on the range; they should not be relocated by anyone other than NSC safety staff, and must not be crossed under any circumstances.

• **Ammunition.** Live ammunition, especially .22LR, is not to be left on the ranges or disposed of in the rubbish bins.

• **Use of the Zero Range.** The only positions permitted in the Zero Range are prone and supine. Maximum time permitted per individual is 20 minutes. The door is not to be bolted on the inside while the range is in use. Permission is required to ‘run in’ a barrel on the Zero Range, and is not permitted on weekends. NSC staff will provide assistance where required.

General Points

There are some non-safety-critical points that also require addressing:

- **Electronic Targets** during the High Season. Electronic targets are not available for hire by the hour during the high season.
- **Payment before shooting:** unless previously arranged to pay via invoice, all clubs and individuals are to attend the range office and pay before shooting.
- **Targetry.** When a range booking is submitted, please ensure you detail how many backing boards are required. This will allow the range team to prepare more efficiently. Any additional faces will be charged for. On completion of shooting, targetry should be removed from frames.
- **Armoury Services.** The receipt and issue of firearms is time-consuming. Please pre-book hire firearms and give notice to the armoury if you wish to submit or withdraw a large number of firearms.
- **The Range Safety Staff** operate under the ‘No Fear, No Favour’ mantra. Safety is paramount and everyone gets treated in the same manner.

Please remember that the most common cause of incidents is failure to read Range Regulations. *Ignorantia juris non excusat* (Ignorance is no Excuse). ■

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Handgun heaven

Club Secretary Jim Bowman gives us an overview of the Northern Ireland Target Sports Association's facilities

The Northern Ireland Target Sports Association complex is set on a six-acre site which was bought by the membership in 2009. Located at the Buskhill Road, just off the A1 Dual Carriageway and six miles south of Banbridge, we are only a 30-minute drive from Belfast. The ranges are a 50-minute drive from Belfast International and City airports and Dublin airport.

It has been quite a journey for the club, which can trace its roots back to the 1940s. We are a progressive and dynamic club with an ever-growing membership drawn from all sections of the community. Originally just a seven-lane, 25-metre outdoor pistol range, we now boast no fewer than six firing ranges and a modern clubhouse complete with diner, training room and a well equipped RFD, The Reload Shop.

Ranges 1 to 4 are 25-metre all weather 'full cover' ranges complete

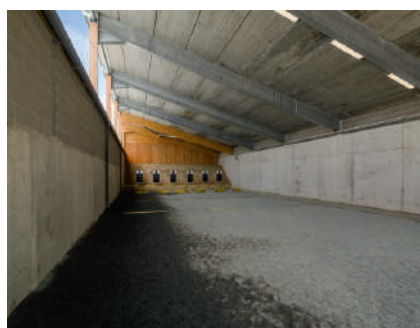
with LED lighting. Ranges 5 and 6 have covered firing positions at 50 metres. We have a total of 35 firing points at 25 metres and 11 firing points at 50 metres. Future development plans include the construction of six indoor ranges, two of which will be 100-metre and suitable for fullbore rifle, plus a 50-metre and three 25-metre.

NITSA is a non-profit taking club and the land and property is owned in trust by the membership. We are proud of the diverse make-up of the club, with shooters from all backgrounds and no fewer than 17 different nationalities among our membership. We welcome competitive shooters as well as those who simply enjoy target practice, and we provide a wide range of disciplines such as Police Pistol, Service Pistol, ISSF Standard Pistol, IPSC, PPC1500, PPC Standard Semi Auto, PPC Standard Revolver 4-inch, Mini Rifle and Bench Rifle. Competitions are provided each

Saturday, with the members receiving the monthly schedule of events via email so they are fully up to date with what is happening at the ranges.

Each year NITSA host the Northern Ireland Glock National Championships, which are sponsored by Glock and Viking Arms (the Glock competitions are held in October). The WA1500 PPC Irish Open is also held annually with the next match in June 2020. For the last few years we have held six Level 2 IPSC Handgun comps: three in the Spring and three in the Autumn. Currently we are at the initial stages of preparing an IPSC Level 3 Handgun Match. With IPSC approval, the Level 3 will be held on 15-16 May 2020.

We have been affiliated with the NRA for well over 30 years and we look forward to working with the NRA in promoting the accessibility of fullbore competitive handgun shooting within Northern Ireland. Could we possibly see





NRA members are more than welcome to spend a day or two with us on a no-obligation basis

an annual NRA Championship Match at the NITSA Ranges? NRA members are more than welcome to spend a day or two with us on a no-obligation basis. If you would like to take up this offer, please do get in touch – you will be made very welcome.

Training and safety are of paramount importance. Our purpose-built training room can accommodate 12 students. Also provided are advanced training courses for members who wish to volunteer as Range Conducting Officers, First Aiders, plus IPSC and the PPC WA1500 disciplines. On the ranges, members are supervised by Range Conducting Officers.

There are 40 club guns, which include the following fullbore pistols: 14 Glocks (models 17, 19, 26, 34, 35, 43 and 48), four Smith & Wesson

.38/.357 revolvers (models 586 and 686), four 9mm CZ SP01 Shadows and a 9mm Heckler & Koch. The club guns are free to use – just buy your own ammo and targets.

The clubhouse is also home to The Reload Shop, a registered firearms dealer primarily geared towards supplying the club members with a wide range of firearms, ammunition and accessories. On top of that, Nevin's Diner is located upstairs. It's been awarded with a five-star hygiene rating from the local council, and offers a friendly service each Saturday providing breakfast, lunch and afternoon tea. The Diner is popular with the members and visitors who compete in the numerous open competitions for which the NITSA ranges are so eminently suitable. ■

BECOME A MEMBER

We welcome members from Great Britain. We currently have NRA and UKPSA members among us. The good news is that we have a very affordable GB membership offering. For only £15 per month payable by standing order, you can join NITSA and start planning your trips over to Northern Ireland's premier handgun facility, the NITSA ranges. To join, please download the GB membership application form at www.nitsa.org.uk – or you can email info@nitsa.org.uk to request a form. Send the completed form to us and we will issue you a membership number and provide the bank details so you can set up the standing order. It really is that easy.

Young Talent

Maurice Kanareck witnesses the conclusion of the HBSA Junior Section's first year, in which the Association's youngsters demonstrated wisdom beyond their years



At 11am on 10 November, the firing point on the NRA's Melville range, Bay D, fell silent. Four adults and eight boys stood respectfully during the traditional two-minute silence. An appropriate image, I would suggest, for the final meeting of the HBSA's Junior Section's inaugural year.

Why, you might ask?

I think the answer lies in the guiding principles that the Association considered when setting up the Junior Section. Initially restricted to children of existing members, it was felt that this was not to be simply just another shooting club, but rather the opportunity to introduce them to the historic arms that form the *raison d'être* of the HBSA. Many NRA members will be familiar with the HBSA displays of Historic and Heritage arms at the NRA Historic Arms meetings.

As a result, the founding fathers of the Section, David Franklin-Johnson and Bill Skinner, together with the assistance of John Beirne and my humble self, set about instilling into our wards the necessary rules and etiquette of firearms handling and range discipline, together with an informed appreciation of the historic arms that they would be shooting. We were also greatly encouraged by the

support and assistance we had from the NRA, who are always keen to encourage new, and responsible, young members.

In a short time, our raw recruits showed not only an aptitude for shooting (young eyes being a considerable advantage) but also an appreciation of the different types of actions they were able to experience: bolt actions, lever actions, falling block and self-loading rifles – albeit of the .22RF variety – as well as the many different sighting systems, open sights, aperture and scope, all of which they took to like the proverbial ducks to water, and at ranges varying from 25 to 100 yards.

What also impressed us was the way they responded to their training in firearms handling. Not only did they take it seriously, but they quickly showed a respect both for their



instructors and the arms they were handling. As a result, their behaviour on the range was both responsible and respectful, something that didn't go unnoticed by other clubs and individuals sharing the range. A credit to both the Juniors and their mentors.

This year was also the first time we bestowed our special award, which consists of a splendid mounted duo of cartridges in a presentation case, illustrating the largest and smallest cartridges used by the British Armed forces: a .55" Boys Anti-Tank Cartridge, together with a .22" Short Cartridge, both inert. This award, from our sponsor, is conferred not only for shooting but also for demeanour on the range and interaction with fellow members. This November it was awarded to Jack Fulcher, who will hold it for the next three months, before returning it for future presentation a further three times each forthcoming year, every recipient then receiving a certificate recording their having won the award.

We know that in the fullness of time, when work, social life and adult responsibilities begin to take their toll, that these young members may temporarily be unable continue with their initial interest, but we are equally certain that when, and if, they do, it will be to return to the classic discipline of Heritage and Historic arms that they were introduced to in those early years. ■



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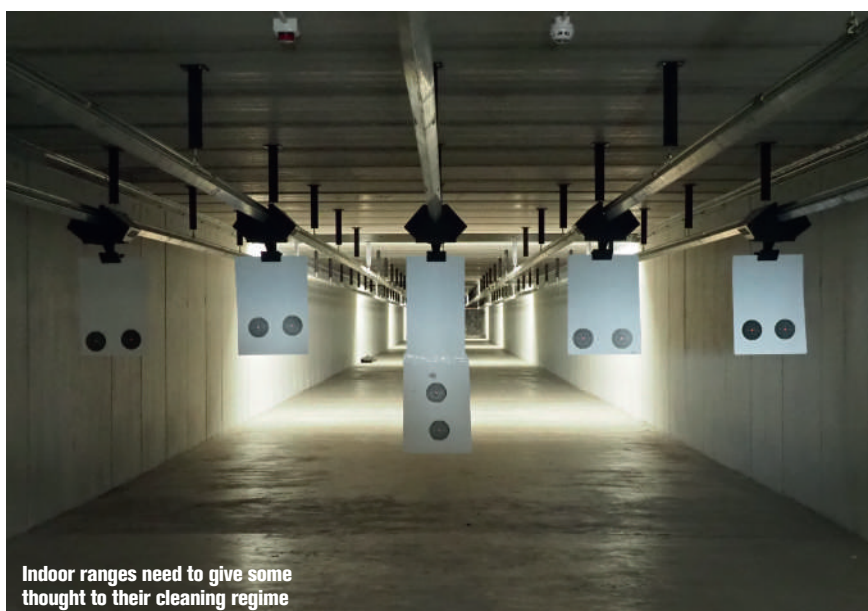
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Around the regions

The latest update from Regional Ranges Manager Nic Couldrey, covering MoD and indoor ranges



Indoor ranges need to give some thought to their cleaning regime

MoD Training Estate

The new schedule of charges for affiliated clubs to use the MoD Training Estate was released in January, effective 1 April 2020. Charges have increased by approximately 2 per cent. Full details are available on the NRA website. MoD has signposted that an independent study is under way to benchmark expenses, so it is possible that adjustments up/down will follow in due course. We will be given at least six months' notice of changes. DIO policy is to provide access to ranges throughout the UK wherever there is irreducible spare capacity, subject to the third party income agreement and MoD Policy.

Clubs are encouraged to follow the detailed process for shoots on MoD ranges, particularly the requirement to do a range recce, read current Range Standing Orders and comply with the energy restrictions detailed on the Form 904 on display at the range.

Wales and West Midlands

The restriction on Black Powder, HME and calibres that exceed 7.62mm on MoD ranges

was lifted by DIO HQ Wales and West in late November. Full details of ranges available to affiliated clubs is available on the NRA website, note that many of the 1908 Barrack ranges are closed basis the Range Advice Notice published in October.

South West

The project to develop a fixed range suitable for civilian rifles that generate more than 7000J was paused for 60 days to allow MoD to conduct an access assessment of the intended site. I am pleased to confirm that the assessment has been completed and we're now in a position to restart the project. Drawings have been prepared by our range safety advisor and submitted to DIO for review. In the interim, licensed clubs are limited to a specific range at Lydd in Kent.

Club operated indoor ranges

Many clubs operate an enclosed or indoor range. The safety advantages of this type of range are well understood, some also provide facilities for members to socialise. The main disadvantages of enclosed ranges are noise

and exposure to lead, unburnt propellant, accumulated dust and carbon monoxide.

I recently visited a 25m indoor range operated by an affiliated club. The range has been in operation for some years and used for firearms up to 4500J using unjacketed ammunition. During the visit we identified an issue: there was an accumulation of lead dust and unburnt propellant on the range. The internal structure has many gaps and corners where lead dust and unburnt propellant have accumulated over time. An exposed bullet trap with a sand box to collect bullet debris had generated dust in the range and created a serious hazard to those cleaning the trap.

We agreed that the range and the bullet trap should be deep cleaned to minimise the risk of exposure to lead and unburnt propellant. This will be done by a specialist contractor using appropriate protective equipment, spark-free cleaners, and so on.

Regular maintenance and deep cleaning are an important part of operating an indoor club range. The frequency of cleaning will depend on how the range is used and the type of firearms used on the range. For example, up to 7 per cent of the propellant used in certain types of pistol will be ejected from the firearm unburnt and collect on the range floor in front of the firing point. The ventilation and air extraction system should be regularly maintained and cleaned based on the frequency of range use. The NRA Range Managers' Guide provides useful information for range operators and is available to download from the NRA website.

Operating an indoor range can present specific challenges, not least the availability and affordability of specialist contractors and equipment. It may therefore make sense for clubs to collaborate and share experience and potentially costs. One way to achieve this is to establish a working group of operators, I'd be interested to hear from clubs that support this idea.

See you on the ranges! ■

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OBITUARIES

MARK SILVER 1952 – 2019

Mark Silver, a well-known and well-liked man about Bisley, lost his long battle with cancer on 7 December 2019. He is survived by his wife Carole, daughters, Cherry and Kim and sons, Tom and Joe.

In his early years Mark had worked in the fencing and then roofing businesses before 'retiring' at 37 to take up farming, and 30 years ago branched into the scaffolding business, which his two sons run to this day.

Mark had started his target shooting with The Foresters Shooting Association and developed his interest in shooting Black Powder Cartridge rifles on their regular visits to Bisley. This led him and wife Carole (they being members of that rare but welcome 'club' of husband and wife shooters) to join the NRA and make weekly visits to Bisley from their Sussex farm, he to shoot his Browning .45-70 and Carole to shoot her 7.62 Target rifle. Their camper van became well-known to NRA staff on camp until they took over one of the huts for rent.

He was a long-time member of the Single Shot Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Club GB, one of many NRA affiliated clubs based at Bisley. His first encounter with SSBPCRC was during a 'Five at 200' in 2008, which the club was running for the NRA at an Open Day designed to introduce the public to target shooting. According to sources, he shot the tightest group of the day in the morning, only being beaten by a club member who shot at the end of the day when the wind had dropped significantly.

That was impetus enough to make Mark join SSBPCRC in January 2009, with Carole joining him in June the same year. They quickly became firm fixtures in the club, attending all of the club's bi-monthly shooting days in addition to their regular weekends on Bisley Camp. His bluff, easy manner, coupled with a robust sense of humour, made him a popular member of that small but friendly club.

Whatever type of shooting Mark took up, he embraced enthusiastically, and BPCR was

no exception. He soon acquired a number of Shiloh Sharps Model 1874 rifles, quickly showing his mastery of shooting old-style Black Powder rifles with his name appearing regularly on club trophies.

Mark and Carole took on organising the club's long-range shoots on Stickle-down and many happy hours were spent shooting at 900 and 1000 yards – an excellent way to hone wind-reading skills. Even four inches of snow on the firing point and minus 13 degrees Celsius didn't stop him shooting. He also cleared the firing point of snow the night before for the other hardy shooters.

One annual high point was the club's weekend shoot in July against our friends in the Quigley Shooting Association (Mark was a member of QSA) at the excellent Diggle Ranges near Oldham. Mark and Carole would take their camper van, squeeze it down the narrow lanes to the range and spend the next two days camped in the car park surrounded by the moors with only the sheep for company at night. Saturday was spent shooting the 1000-yard Billy Dixon and Sunday was a steel Ram and Buffalo competition at 400 and 600 yards.

He did, however, do most of his shooting at Bisley and was a regular participant in the Historic Meetings such as the Phoenix and Trafalgar, while also giving back by volunteering (with Carole of course) as RCO

at the Trafalgar. Many a happy lunchtime was spent people-watching at the trade area. At the coffee van, his ability to charm his way to a discounted cup of cappuccino was something to admire.

Mark had a generous nature, which was clearly demonstrated several years ago when the NRA needed to make refurbishments to the famous Clock Tower. He organised for his company, Green Scaffolding, to supply the scaffolding for the job without charge.

In 2018 his health was more affected by his illness, and casting bullets and loading ammunition for two rifles became a strain. To keep shooting, he turned his hand to 7.62 Target Rifle, joining the London and Middlesex Club. He also engaged in Long Range Rimfire shooting too. True to form, he fully embraced classic TR, buying a new rifle for himself and a second-hand left-hander for Carole, as well as two striking made-to-measure shooting jackets. When Carole found problems with the bolt of her rifle, he good-heartedly took a lot of ribbing from close shooting friends about not having bought her a new one. They both soon showed their shooting ability and were regularly in L&M shooting teams, though he did confess to never getting used to having someone else adjust his sights.

Despite having his last SSBPCRC shoot in April 2018, he maintained his membership and would always drop by to chat with his old friends when grabbing a spare moment from team shoots in the L&M.

It is a statement of truth that Mark Silver was an all-rounder when it came to target shooting, but his first and main interest was shooting BP single-shot cartridge rifles because of the challenge of shooting well with such heavy, slow bullets at long ranges. At this he excelled.

He will be missed, but not forgotten, by all in the shooting fraternity who knew him. A measure of the man was that on hearing his name mentioned, the first reaction was to smile – a fine legacy to leave.



ANDY LOWE 1952 – 2019

Andy was born in 1952 in Fareham but spent most of his childhood in Kirkee, India, now Khadki, where his father was an engineer in a munitions factory – so Andy had gunpowder in his blood from the start. Andy's first gun was an air rifle at age seven. After returning to the UK to take his 11+, Andy attended Price's School, Fareham, where he enjoyed the Airforce Corps and associated use of firearms as well as playing rugby. Later, Andy shot at the MoD Tippner Ranges near Portsmouth; he worked at The Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys, as it then was, in Titchfield, then moved to the London Office where we met in 1976.

We went shooting at the Civil Service Shooting Club's underground range in Marsham Street while we were looking for a club near to Belmont, where we lived. In the late 1970s, we joined the Reigate & District Rifle & Pistol Club (RDRPC) and shot pistols every Sunday in Betchworth quarry. Unfortunately, because of a change of ownership and land use at Betchworth Quarry in the mid-1980s, the club could no longer hold its meetings there. Going forward, the RDRPC held monthly shoots at Bisley. Andy was Club Secretary for many years, until the club folded in 2008.

Andy became a member of the NRA long ago, belonged to The National Clay Shooting Centre at Bisley, CPSA, the British Deer Society, UKPSA and used to go bunny-bashing, as he called it, with a mate on farmland in Sussex. Andy went to the AD pistol shoots at Bisley every year with any or all of us Lowes until 1997, when The Phoenix competition was born (after pistols were banned). We shot target rifles and a black powder pistol too from time to time. Andy's main interest since 1997 was Gallery Rifle, which he initially learnt as an RO, then took up as his main pursuit, in which I soon joined him. We went all around the country to Gallery Rifle competitions at various clubs and took part in the four annual Gallery Rifle competitions at Bisley, at which we ROed until 2007.

Andy enjoyed researching the optimum load required for any given



calibre and firearm to produce the best round to give a good group. He reloaded all calibres that we shot, except .22. Getting the load right for the black powder pistol was a long and interesting process that involved trying out unusual fillers such as semolina. Progressing from not being able to hit the target to a fairly good group at 50 metres was fun and satisfying. He did all the work and I got all the pleasure of following the process and enjoying the bangs and smoke as well as the holes in the targets.

In 2007, Andy was selected to join the GB Gallery Rifle team and shot in international competitions at Bisley and in Fermoy. Unfortunately, surgery for melanoma in 2008 put an end to his being able to compete internationally, but we continued to enjoy our practice sessions at Bisley ranges and shoot (I won't say compete) in the four Gallery Rifle competitions each year until the Phoenix in 2019, Andy's melanoma having returned earlier in the year. He died at home on 2 December.

If anyone would like to make a donation in Andy's memory, he was a long-time supporter of RNLI. We are also raising contributions for Princess Alice Hospice (www.pah.org.uk) whose home care nurses looked after Andy, making arrangements to meet his end-of-life wishes and nursing him in the last few days. Andy benefited from the work done by the Institute of Cancer Vaccines and Immunotherapy (icvi.org.uk) during the last nine months of his life.

WILLIAM HENRY NIGEL FLEMING 1928 – 2019

Nigel was born on 25 July 1928, the eldest of three children. In 1940 Nigel was evacuated to his mother's cousin, whose husband was a gamekeeper on the Marquis of Northampton's estate. It was there he had his first experience of guns – namely a shotgun and shooting rabbits. He had also shown an avid interest in science, especially chemistry, while at school. He did his national service in the Royal Army Medical Corp and in 1950, after demob, got a job at Philip Harris Ltd. They manufactured medicines and surgical products. Nigel made and bottled medicines, and at the time he died he could still tell you the Latin names of common medicines such as syrup of figs.

In 1952 he joined Birmingham City Police. It was in the force that his love of shooting took off when he joined the Police Shooting Team. He soon became one of their top shots and was in the pistol team that won the Mander Trophy at Bisley.

In 1968 he was awarded the Queen's Commendation for brave conduct for disarming a man with a sawn-off shotgun who was cornered in a block of flats and had fired one barrel and narrowly missed him. His natural instinct through rifle shooting warned him he was going to fire, so he ducked. He became captain of the Police Rifle Teams and was Police champion three years running at Bisley. He also won the Times Trophy in 1975, placed 12th in the Grand Aggregate in 1968, and placed 82nd in the Queens Prize in 1975.

In his 60s he took up beekeeping and, still promoting his love of science, undertook a microscopy course so he could analyse honey to see what the bees were feeding on and be an inspector of bee diseases.

Over the years Nigel became profoundly deaf, which frustrated him, and he was in a high degree of heart failure. He passed away peacefully in his sleep in the early hours of 21 October 2019 at the age of 91.

Notices

PROCEDURE FOR THE GENERAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2020

Eligibility of Candidates and Proposers

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

Regional and Shooting Discipline Candidature and Voting

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

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

Eligibility for voting will be determined as at 30 April 2020.

Curriculum Vitae

To assist Members with their choice of representatives, a CV for each Candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 150 words should accompany the nomination. A passport-sized photograph of the Candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for the CVs is on the pro-forma.

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

Key Dates for Elections

31 March 2020

All Candidates and Proposers must have been fully paid-up Registered Members of the Association by this date.

30 April 2020

By this date:

- Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Chief Executive by 5pm.

- Registered Members must be qualified for voting for their respective Regional or Shooting Discipline Candidate.
- All Members desiring to vote must be fully paid-up Registered Members.

31 May 2020

All entitled Members will be balloted by this date, either by electronic or postal means with the procedures for voting.

20 July 2020

Postal votes must be received no later than 6pm on Monday 20 July 2020 by placing the voting slips in the correct envelope supplied.

Electronic votes must be made by 6pm.

Scrutineers appointed by the Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 17 April 2020.

Results

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

Routine Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies in 2020, all of whom are entitled to stand for re-election.

Five Ordinary Members:

JPS Bloomfield (GM2 SC)

NRJ Brasier (GC)

Wg Cdr (Retd) DP Calvert MBE (GM3 SB3 SC2)

DC Crispin (SB)

SS Lohmann

Four Regional Members:

HRM Bailie – Northern Ireland

GV Barnard – East Midlands *

BD Ritchie – Scotland

J Marsden – North Western

Four Shooting Discipline Members:

Dr AMW Cargill Thompson – Match Rifle

ED George – Gallery Rifle and Pistol

I Shirra-Gibb – 300 Metres

N Macfarlane – Historic and Classic Arms

* Not standing for re-election

MEETINGS AND CAPTAINCIES

Annual General Meeting

The NRA's 2020 Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 30 May 2020 at 6pm, followed directly by the NSC's Annual General Meeting, in the NRA Pavilion.

Bisley General Meeting

The 2020 Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 July 2020 at 9pm in the NRA Pavilion.

Notice of Captaincy

The following have been appointed as captains for the following teams:

- GB Gallery Rifle Team 2020 – Gary Bowden
- GB Target Shotgun Team for Limax Cup 2020 – Rob Sanders
- GB Kolapore Team 2020 – James Watson
- NRA Team to Dominion of Canada National Service Conditions Championship 2020 – Adam Chapman
- GB Under 25 Team Captain 2020 – Daniel Clark
- GB Australia Match Team 2021 – Jane Messer
- GB Veterans Australia Match Team 2021 – Nick Hinchliffe
- GB Palma Team 2023 – Jeremy Langley
- GB Veterans World Long Range Championships 2023 – Charles Brooks



© Lee Bowditch

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Following approval at the NRA's 2019 Annual General Meeting to allow electronic communications, including electronic voting, we are encouraging members to ensure their membership records are up to date with a valid email address.

All future General Council elections will be conducted both electronically to those eligible members who have provided a valid email address, and by postal vote to those eligible members who do not have a valid email address.

This will ensure all NRA members are enfranchised to take part in any relevant election and the NRA hope to increase their engagement with their members, as well as provide a significant cost saving to the Association.

Make sure you continue to have your say by providing a valid email address on the NRA Azolve database.

Please contact the Membership Team should you have any queries: membership@nra.org.uk

NRA TEAM TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS 2021

I am greatly honoured to have been appointed Captain of the NRA team to tour the Channel Islands in 2021. And I'm delighted to welcome two very experienced and successful shooters: Andrew Thompson (Herts, England and GB) as Vice Captain and Nick Brasier GC CGM (London, England and GB) as Adjutant.

The tour will take place from Thursday 27 May to Sunday 6 June 2021, starting in Jersey and then moving on to Guernsey.

The team will comprise a squad of 14, a mix of experienced and developing shooters. I should like to take this opportunity to invite any shooters who would like to be considered for this team to apply. I especially welcome applications from those who have not toured with a representative team before.

Please send me your current shooting CV detailing your team and individual

experiences and successes over the last two years together with a short resume as to what attributes you believe you could bring to the team. In addition to your shooting abilities, please highlight anything you consider particularly merits you for inclusion in the squad.

Please write to me at:

Doug Stewart
Hookwood House
Reigate Road
Hookwood
Surrey RH6 0HU

Or email: dstewart@salmonproperty.com

The closing date for applications will be 31 July 2020 and the team selection will be notified in August. It will be great to put names to faces as well so please do come and introduce yourself when at Bisley, especially during the Imperial meeting. I can usually be found in the LMRA clubhouse.

Doug Stewart

Results



CSR WINTER LEAGUE STANDINGS

As of 7 March stage

Historic

1. J Gray, 878.71
2. M Standage, 778.57
3. J Foreman, 754.05
4. H Davies, 753.48
5. GCorfield, 598.92

Iron

1. A Littler, 1000.00
2. R England, 758.45
3. L Carter, 561.16
4. D Cross, 251.19
5. M Burns, 249.12

Practical

1. N St Aubyn, 966.62
2. P Allsop, 955.60
3. C Hudson, 952.68
4. P Spink, 939.85
5. S Sheldon, 935.52

Service

1. A Chapman, 992.07
2. R Wade, 983.36
3. N Greenaway, 944.46
4. C Vale, 941.25
5. P Cottrell, 941.01

TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL

22-23 February

0735 Timed & Precision 1 – SGM

1. John Chambers, 300.22X
2. Rob Sanders, 298.14X
3. Glenn Isaacs, 293.8X

0736 Timed & Precision 1 – SGSA

1. John Chambers, 298.17X

2. Rob Sanders, 297.11X
3. Glenn Isaacs, 296.8X

1135 Multi-Target – SGM

1. Rob Sanders, 111.9X
2. John Chambers, 108.11X
3. Stephen East, 99.4X

1136 Multi-Target – SGSA

1. Rob Sanders, 117.9X
2. John Chambers, 115.7X
3. Peter Matthews, 109.11X

3335 Embassy Cup – SGM

1. Glenn Isaacs, 114
2. Rob Sanders, 110
3. James Harris, 100

3336 Embassy Cup – SGSA

1. Peter Matthews, 119
2. Glenn Isaacs, 117
3. Timothy Jemmett, 115

Sunday Practical Match Open

1. Benjamin Ducker, 100%
2. Lee Bowditch, 82.3724%
3. John Chambers, 77.2357%
4. David Ashcroft, 74.6054%
5. Oliver Bloomfield, 70.0140%

Standard

1. Josh Kenny, 100%
2. Jon Jennings, 94.4098%
3. James Harris, 91.8750%
4. Timothy Ward, 77.6045%
5. Robert Chidwick, 70.1493%

Standard Manual

1. Matt Liddy, 100%
2. Conor Kenneally, 99.5795%
3. John Holloway, 89.1466%
4. Richard Dare, 83.5237%
5. Neil Smith, 82.4211%





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Marksman's Calendar

ALL EVENTS AT BISLEY UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE

APRIL

18-19, ATSC Open Meeting

Rebecca Carnell entries_atsc@hotmail.com

18, CSR Winter League – April

Ash Ranges

sharon.baker@nra.org.uk

carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

18, IBIS Open Meeting

Frank Harriss f.foh@btinternet.com

19, Small-Bore Long Range Match

becky.mills@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 160

24-26, F Class League – April

GB F Class gbffclass.com

25-26, JSPC Spring Open

Galashiels

JSPC Competition Secretary, Bill Vaughan,

wtvau99@talktalk.net

26, County of London vs Middlesex

26, 3 Counties Cobweb Buster

Ian Ashworth, County of Gloucester

MAY

1-3, Basildon Open

Basildon Rifle Club

galleryrifle.com/event/the-2020-basildon-open

2-3, Army Open

atsc.open.meeting@gmail.com

2, KGV Southern Heat

secretary@englishtwenty.org.uk

3, Mattersey Open

Mattersey Rifle Club

mattersey.comps@email.com

9-10, FDPC Western Winner

Shepton Mallet

fdpc.org.uk

9-10, English VIII Spring Meeting

Contact the English Eight club for more information

9-10, County of Lancaster Open

Altcar Ranges

16, Northumberland Open

Ponteland

Tr-Secretary@cityofnewcastlerifleclub.com

16-17, RAFTRC vs Home Nations

MatchSec@raftrc.org

16-17, F Class League – May

Diggie Ranges

GB F Class gbffclass.com

16-17, 300m Championships

becky.mills@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 160

22-24, Phoenix Meeting

mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139

23-25, English XX Meeting

secretary@englishtwenty.org.uk

23-25, Jersey RA Spring Meeting, NRA

Match

Jersey

www.jerseyrifleassociation.org/contact#

30-31, Birmingham Bisley 2020

Kingsbury Range

Frank Harriss f.foh@btinternet.com

30-31, 108th Irish Open Championship

Ballykinler

Trevor Steele steele.trev@gmail.com

30-31, LMRA Open

https://www.surreyra.co.uk/contact-us

JUNE

5-7, Scottish Open

Blair Atholl

Scottish Target Shooting

admin@scottishtargetshooting.co.uk

6-7, City Rifle Club Open Meeting

crc.secretary@btconnect.com

6-7, 140th Aberdeen Wapinschaw

Cairngall Range

www.afbgc.co.uk/wapinschaw.html

6, RAFTRC Total

Challenge

MatchSec@raftrc.org

7, Kent Open

KCRA – Peter Grigggs

peter.grigggs@blueyonder.co.uk

12, Imperial Service Rifle Individual &

4-Man Unit Team

mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139

13, Southern Counties GR Shorts

Shepton Mallet

www.fdpc.org.uk

13-14, F Class League – June

Diggie Ranges

GB F Class gbffclass.com

13-14, Inter-Counties

becky.mills@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 160

18, Military Adaptive Championship

becky.mills@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 160

19-23, Imperial Service Rifle Team

mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139



20, Yorkshire Spring Open

Brockholes Range
www.yorkshire-ra.org.uk

25-28, Cottesloe Heath Challenge

sharon.baker@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 208

26-28, Derby Open

Derby RPC
www.drpc1999.com

JULY

1-5, Imperial CSR Meeting

carol.kellow@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 146

3-5, NASRPC Irish Open and IGRF Gallery Rifle Open

Braken Shooting Club
competitions@nasrpc.ie or PRO@nasrpc.ie

4-5, British Commonwealth Rifle Club Open

David Rose brcrmemsec@gmail.com

4-5, F Class League – July

GB F Class gbfcclass.com

4, Falling Plates Team Match

Pirbright Range
mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139

5, Methuen Match

mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139

11-12, Imperial Historic Arms Meeting

mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139

11-12, Scottish Open Gallery Rifle

Championships
Galashiels
jointservicespistolclub.com

11-12, Imperial Sporting Rifle

becky.mills@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 160

12-16, Imperial Schools Meeting

becky.mills@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 160

13-23, Imperial McQueen

becky.mills@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 160

15-19, Imperial Gallery Rifle & Pistol

Meeting
mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139

16-25, Imperial Teams – TR

becky.mills@nra.org.uk

25, HM The Queen's Prize Final

AUGUST

8-9, RSO Course

7-9, Welsh Gallery Rifle Open

Haverfordwest Shooting Ground
WGRC Secretary adjutantwgrc@gmail.com

8, Catastrophy

secretary@lmra.co.uk

8-9, F Class League – August

Blair Atholl
GB F Class gbfcclass.com

26-27, Jersey RA Summer Prize Meeting



Jersey

www.jerseyrifleassociation.org

29-31, Welsh Rifle Association Open

SEPTEMBER

5-6, GR Nationals

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

12-13, RSO Course

NRA Jane Barnes jane.barnes@nra.org.uk

19, CSR Introduction Course

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

20, Target Shotgun Skills Course

NRA Carol Kellow carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

NRA Sharon Baker sharon.baker@nra.org.uk

20, TS Introduction Course

NRA Shooting Division shooting@nra.org.uk

26-27, Club Instructor Course

NRA Jane Barnes jane.barnes@nra.org.uk

OCTOBER

3, Historic Service Rifle Match

sharon.baker@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 208

3-4, Budleigh Farm Rimfire Festival

Budleigh Farm
www.teignbridgefullbore.co.uk

3-4, Target Shotgun Festival – October

Sharon.baker@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext.208

4, County of Lancaster LSR (GRSB) Open

Burnley Rifle Club

Paul Holdstock paul@holdstock.eu
0844 778 6372

4, CSR Winter League – October

sharon.baker@nra.org.uk
carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

10-11, European TR Long Range Championship

becky.mills@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 160

10-11, F Class League – October

Blair Atholl
GB F Class gbfcclass.com

17-18, Trafalgar Meeting

mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139

24-25, Autumn Action Weekend

mark.haigh@nra.org.uk 01483 797777 ext. 139

NOVEMBER

7-8, Chelmsford Winter Action Weekend

Chelmsford Rifle Club
www.chelmsford1944rifleclub.org.uk

7, CSR Winter League – November

sharon.baker@nra.org.uk
carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

28, FDPC Rimfire Festival

Shepton Mallet
fdpc.org.uk

DECEMBER

6, CSR Winter League – December

sharon.baker@nra.org.uk
carol.kellow@nra.org.uk

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Email: richard@williamevans.com

Website: www.williamevans.com



MESSAGE

10

We talk to Peter Cullimore as he looks forward to his 70th Imperial Meeting

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I was not good at any athletic sports at school but found that by being in the Combined Cadet Force I was able to learn how to shoot. I first went to Bisley with the school in 1951. In those days the Bisley Bullet was still running from Brookwood into Bisley Camp, and the markers were marched into the butts preceded by a military band.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

By being part of the Northamptonshire team which won the King George V Trophy in 1985 and hopefully firing at least a few shots during the 2020 Imperial Meeting, which will be my 70th successive Imperial Meeting.

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

Myself!

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

After I left school I persuaded my father to join me in taking part in the 1959 Imperial Meeting. We had a choice of having either a Member's tent or a Competitor's tent. We chose a Member's tent which meant that an orderly made our bed every day (just blankets) and brought us a cup of tea in the morning.

What sort of music do you listen to?

Light classical.

What Club are you a member of?

Old Wellingburian Rifle Club, London and Middlesex Rifle Association, City Rifle Club.

Who has been your biggest inspiration?

The support of Gillian, my late wife.

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

Malaysia.



How have Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

It has been a major part of my life. Having started living there in a tent, we moved to a rented caravan, our own caravan and then the most fortunate move was to The Hut, which we bought from Lord Swansea.

What is your occupation?

Though I am a Chartered Engineer, my late wife Gillian and myself set up a business, Universal Care Ltd, which is now a charity and provides carers to enable people to remain in their own homes.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Play occasional golf and look after the house.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

No.

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

That they need to persevere in order to get it right.

So what next?

Keeping on shooting at Bisley – as long as I can hit the correct target. ■





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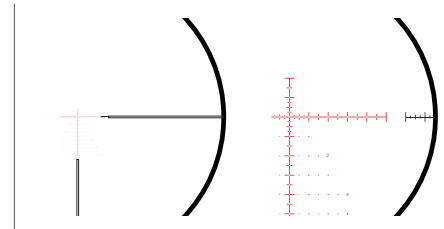
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