

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION JOURNAL



Winter 2020 – Volume XCIX No. 4

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DAVID LUCKMAN

...WINS THE
QUEEN'S PRIZE

► **COMPETITIONS
ARE BACK!**

**22 PAGES
OF REPORTS**

- ST GEORGE'S
- GALLERY RIFLE
- TRAFALGAR MEETING
- CSR WINTER LEAGUE KICKOFF





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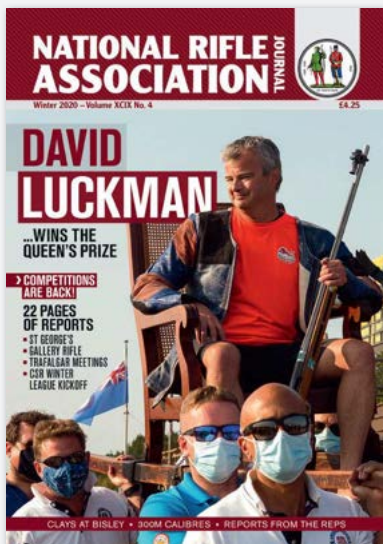
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NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION



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HPS will be displaying at the following shooting events in 2020:

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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.



The Year That Was

CEO Andrew Mercer looks back on all the unexpected events of 2020 and how the NRA and its members managed to navigate them

As I write this at the very start of the second English lockdown, it is hard not to feel a little aggrieved at the second forced closedown of the ranges. However, looking back over the year, I think we have navigated the choppy pandemic seas with reasonable success, thanks largely to the innovation, hard work and enthusiasm of NRA staff and members. We are fortunate that outdoor target shooting is, as confirmed to me by an eminent virologist, the ideal sport in COVID times, with calm and measured behaviour, routine safe distancing, oodles of fresh air, and absence of heavy breathing.

Shooting activity at Bisley grew steadily throughout the summer; the ranges were quiet in June, steady in July, busy in August, followed by a cracking September and October. The Autumn Imperial was well received; all competitions attracted enough shooters to ensure making the prize list required a high level of marksmanship. The attitude of competitors was a delight as they respected the COVID guidance and procedures, enjoyed the kind weather, and relished the opportunity to concentrate on their shooting. The issued ammunition drew much praise, and I am grateful to Law Enforcement International and GGG for their continuing support.

Away from Bisley, reports of how our regional clubs and ranges are faring vary enormously. Those who rely mainly on military ranges for their shooting have experienced a frustrating season, as sudden changes to COVID guidance prompted the closure, re-opening, closure, re-opening and then closure again of the MoD estate to civilians. Nic Couldrey, NRA Regional Ranges Manager, has received considerable support from the MoD while navigating the way through a very challenging year; and I am sure that military ranges will re-open again to NRA affiliated clubs when regulations permit.

Clubs that rely on indoor ranges continue to face considerable challenges. The support of each and every member is essential to ensure the survival of both the clubs and the ranges.

Our planning for 2021 continues apace, and we have scheduled a full programme of competitions, training courses and events. There are likely to be bumps in the road ahead, but we are



We are determined to keep the ranges open as long as it is safe to do so, and manage and mitigate the risks

we create a safe environment, then target shooters, with sensible caution, will come and shoot.

In financial terms, 2020 has been a bruising year for the NRA; £2 million or so of lost income has necessitated the loss of 20 staff, and we will end the year with an overdraft. I am, however, confident that 2021 will be better as we learn to live with the virus, and continue to deliver COVID-secure target shooting.

Finally, a reminder. Like death and taxes, one of the certainties of an NRA member and affiliated club's life is the renewal of your annual subscription, due by 31 December. Our membership team,

NEWS

REPORTS



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FIREARMS SAFETY CONSULTATION



RESPOND NOW

The government is considering tightening restrictions on what it calls “particularly powerful rifles”, including high-calibre rifles, miniature rifle ranges, and tougher controls on ammunition.

The Home Office has launched a consultation to gauge the views of the public on:

- What level of enhanced security would sufficiently reduce the risk of high muzzle energy rifles (in particular .50 calibre) being stolen and misused.
- The possession of airguns by under-18s, secure storage and safe-keeping
- Proposals that miniature rifle range operators must apply for a firearm certificate and undergo a set of police checks
- The controls required for the possession of ammunition propellants and primers.

not be necessary, bearing in mind that there was no evidence of their use in crime.” However, enhanced security requirements are still on the table.

New restrictions on rifle ranges could also make it difficult to attract newcomers to shooting – though the government says it will try to avoid this: “Members of the public do not need a firearms licence to shoot at such a range or gallery. This exemption is widely used to introduce people to target shooting. However, law enforcement has raised concerns that the exemption may allow unsuitable people to gain access to firearms, with consequent public safety risks. This consultation seeks views on improving the controls on miniature rifle ranges while retaining the benefits that miniature rifle ranges present to shooting sports.”

The consultation runs until February

BRITISH SHOOTING SHOW ON THE ROAD

The British Shooting Show has a new date and a new venue for 2021. The UK’s largest shooting exhibition comes to the East of England Arena in Peterborough on 23-25 April – two months after its usual February slot in the calendar.

It says the new venue is “for 2021 only”, having taken place at the NEC for the previous three years.

The British Shooting Show was one of the last major events to take place before the COVID-19 lockdown, running at full scale in February 2020. From March onwards, the UK’s shooting show and game fair calendar was almost totally cancelled for the rest of the year.

Now, major shows and events have largely confirmed their plans for 2021. The Northern Shooting Show will occupy its regular dates and location, taking place at the Yorkshire Event Centre, Harrogate, on 8-9 May. The Game Fair will make Ragley Hall its home on 23-25 July. The Target Shooting Show was one of the last events of 2020 to cancel, but is planning a return in November 2021.

However, IWA – the largest shooting trade show in Europe – has already

QUANDARY OVER COMMONWEALTH 2026

One of the frontrunners to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games has revealed that shooting events won't be a part of its programme – which, after the controversy over the 2022 Games, has deepened fears that we may never see shooting in the Commonwealths again.

Hamilton, Ontario, confirmed during a virtual Q&A that it was not including shooting in its bid. It said the brief had been to come up with a “programme that is modified and a little less ambitious than their usual Games programme.”

Earlier this year, Hamilton was the only city in the frame to host the 2026 Games – but now Sri Lanka and Australia are also considering bids. The Commonwealth Games Federation is understood to favour Hamilton, but the Ontario government will only support the bid if the Games can take place in 2027 instead.

The decision on the host city was initially meant to be taken in 2019, but was pushed

back to 2020 and indefinitely postpone during the COVID pandemic. However, the CGF says it is continuing its dialogues with prospective hosts.

If Hamilton wins and the programme is unchanged, this will be the second Commonwealth Games in a row where shooting is not part of the main programme. Birmingham 2022 became the first Games since 1970 to exclude shooting, although eventually a separate Commonwealth shooting event was arranged to take place in India.



GENERAL NOTICES

STAY SAFE ON THE RANGE

Bisley reopened to the public on 3 December, including the ranges, armoury, training, Bisley Shooting Ground, National Clay Shooting Centre and Pavilion accommodation. The safety of our shooters and staff is our priority, so please check your local COVID Tier status before travelling to Bisley and ensure you comply with your local regulations (see www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know or those published by the devolved governments). Bisley Camp COVID secure updates can be found at: nra.org.uk/news/covid-19

BISLEY ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation Bookings at Bisley are now open for 2021 except for July 2021 which will be opened in the new year. To book accommodation on Bisley Camp, please call 01483 798816 or visit nra.campstead.com.

HENRY KRANK CATALOGUE OUT



Looking for some last-minute gift ideas for shooters? Don't forget to check out the new Henry Krank catalogue, out now. It's got no fewer than 250 pages' worth of shooting goods, from brands including PPU, Uberti, Pedersoli and Pietta as well as newcomers like Flitz, Real Avid and Berrys. The catalogue is available for free – call 01332 565167 or



PALMA 2023 SQUAD

I am delighted to announce the names of those selected for the GB Palma Training Squad. Congratulations to all and the hard work to regain the Palma Trophy for Great Britain in 2023 starts now. Around 100 people applied for the squad. I am grateful for the interest shown by those I was not able to select and wish them well in seeking

THE SQUAD

Jack Alexander	Lindsey McKerrell
David Armstrong	Jane Messer
Nigel Ball	Matt Millar
Glyn Barnett	Chris Mitchell
Matthew Button	Graham Nelson
David Calvert	Parag Patel
Matt Charlton	Jason Pepera-Hibbert
Liam Cheek	Hannah Pugsley
Amie Clarke	Matt Purdy
Jon Cload	Toby Raincock
Ed Compton	Kelvin Ramsey
Toby Cubitt	Bill Richards
Charlie Dart	Reg Roberts
Theo Dodds	Dave Rose
Seth Dowley	Tom Rylands
Tom Drysdale	Ian Shaw
Matthew Ensor	James Shepherd
Chloe Evans	Rick Shouler
Rosanne Furniss	Oliver Spencer
Philip Hakim	Paul Sykes
Al Haley	Nick Tremlett
Miles Horton-Baker	Jon Underwood
Jon Kent	Sandy Walker
Jeremy Langley	Chris Watson
Bruce Logan	James Watson
Derek Lowe	Bruce Winney

Back to Bisley

A look back at three months of intense post-lockdown competition, including the 2020 Imperial and more



A lot has happened since the lifting of the first national lockdown, including the success of a tightly packed collection of competitions from the tail end of August until the end of October.

Wanting to keep its record intact of only being interrupted by two World Wars, the Imperial Meeting was contested in Match Rifle, CSR, F Class and Target Rifle. Revised programmes were adopted to cater for fewer competitors, while retaining the same shooting challenges a typical year would bring.

Congratulations to David Luckman for a second Queen's Prize victory, and Parag Patel for his third Grand Aggregate win.

F-Class competitors were also able to enjoy a major championship, with an adapted Imperial programme offering shooters the chance to hone their sights at distances of 3/5/600x and 8/9/1000x.

The Gallery Rifle National Open Championships were well positioned at the beginning of September, to 'continue as planned'. Staggeringly, with reduced range capacity owing to social distancing, there were more competitors than in any of the previous four years, demonstrating the pent-up demand to get out on the range!

Creeping into October, a familiar set

new aspect in the form of the Cottesloe Heath Challenge, a highlight of any shotgun shooter's calendar. The revised format provided practical and target shooting for all to enjoy, despite the miserable weather.

The CSR community enjoyed a fresh start at the beginning of the 2020/21 Winter League. A record-breaking downpour the day before was not going to stop these hardened shooters toughing it out on Century and Short Siberia ranges!

Also finding a gap in the weather was the Trafalgar Meeting, a showcase of historic arms at almost every distance the camp can offer. With a notable reduction in attendees, it was great to see the same spirit among those who travelled from across the country to take part.

Like clockwork the Autumn Action Weekend guided us out of British summer time, and just in time before the second lockdown in England.

We would like to thank those who adapted to the new procedures, and were able to make the last few months at Bisley such a success. With planning underway to hopefully bring some normality back to next year's calendar, a brief overview of scheduled competitions is included here. ■

2021 CALENDAR

CSR League	9 Jan
Historic SR Match	6 Feb
CSR League	7 Feb
Target Shotgun Festival	20-21 Feb
CSR League	6 Mar
Spring Action Weekend	27-28 Mar
Historic SR Match	28 Mar
NRA 300m Championships	10-11 Apr
CSR League	17 Apr
Small-bore LR Match	18 Apr
Phoenix	28-30 May
Phoenix International Match	31 May
Inter-Counties	12-13 June
DefOSC	18-29 Jun
NRA Service Rifle Matches	18 Jun
NRA Military Adaptive Championships	24 Jun
NRA Service Team Matches	28-29 Jun
Cottesloe Heath Challenge (TS)	tbc
Civilian Service Rifle Imperial Meeting	30 Jun – 4 Jul
Match Rifle Imperial Meeting	9-15 Jul
ISCRM	9-11 Jul
Imperial Historic Arms Meeting	10-11 Jul
Sporting Rifle Imperial Meeting	10-20 Jul
Schools Meeting	11-15 Jul
McQueen Imperial Meeting	12-22 Jul
Gallery Rifle & Pistol Imperial Meeting	14-18 Jul
F Class Imperial Meeting	16-20 Jul
Target Rifle Imperial Meeting	16-24 Jul
Gallery Rifle National Championships	4-5 Sep
Historic SR Match	2 Oct
Civ SR League	3 Oct
Target Shotgun Festival	2-3 Oct
Agas Match	9-10 Oct
Trafalgar Meeting	16-17 Oct
Autumn Action Weekend	23-24 Oct
CSR League	6 Nov

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priming tool and quick slick case lube.

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Conquering Hero

David Luckman was the deserving winner of the 2020 Queen's Prize – but the real heroes of the event were the organising team. Alun Lewis reports...



A new era, a new set of champions, new rules and regulations, but the Imperial carries on unruffled into its 15th decade. As for HM The Queen's Prize: a repeat winner, a new set of safety procedures, but the NRA and its cohort of brilliant workers and supporters still managed to stage this most prestigious of competitions.

The Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918, several huge cholera and other flu pandemics, as well as wars and many other crises have all had the potential to stop the target shooters of the world from competing in the Imperial Meeting. But the NRA took them all in its stride. Nothing but two world wars has been able to stop this most historic of international competitions. But for a while, early in 2020, our unbroken record looked in danger of being broken. Then with Covid-19 restrictions being eased, the gang at Bisley did the almost unthinkable. Peter Cottrell and his (very much smaller than usual) HQ team organised a Covid-secure Imperial Meeting, albeit a reduced one, in just four months. That is, instead of the usual 11 months' worth of planning and organisation. But the whole shooting match (literally) was up and running, and once again we crowned a great Queen's Prize champion. The winner was chaired around the camp, with a real live military brass band playing See The Conquering Hero. Though the chair bearers had to wear



Fewer shooters advanced to the final stage, but some big names



The special Queen's Final stats team couldn't be kept away

One or two of the less experienced had some tough times... The same can be said of one or two of the very experienced

masks, that did not apply to the winner, whose happy smile we could all appreciate.

The 151st Imperial almost didn't happen this year but those shooters who were able to attend, and shoot in safety at Bisley, enjoyed some excellent competitions. Social distancing meant that certain time-honoured practices obviously had to change. But luckily the targets were still in the same place: a long way away and jostling side by side, seemingly oblivious to the pandemic. Below them, the markers did a superb job of working the butts, keeping their distance and staying safe, and all seemed almost as normal. Except, of course, we sorely missed our wonderful band of overseas competitors. There were a few non-British who live in the UK or managed to be here at the right time, and they of course did manage to uphold the international tradition, so we welcomed shooters from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Germany and Italy with open arms (not literally – we were more restrained, of course). But mostly “overseas” was the epithet enjoyed to the full by the Scottish

Isle of Wight and Anglesey. We all look forward to a full complement of further-flying overseas competitors next year.

But what of this year? The morning of 19 September (calendar slippage was just one of the many changes) saw Queen's II being held on Century as normal. A small but typically enthusiastic and excited crowd saw the start of a memorable set of events.

The previous day, 318 shooters had been whittled down to 120 in Queen's I – the smaller cut being due to social distancing of course. A tie shoot for first place after two 105.15s had seen Ms Furniss and Mr Millar, first and second, separated by just one V after a further five shots. And good to see a tyro in the top three as well. The lowest scores were only a creditable four points adrift. And with no scores from this round carried forward, it was still all to play for.

The targets were set and with only 50 firing points available in the afternoon, the pressure was more intense than normal. There were half a dozen previous winners going forward to the second round on



Distanced shooting: There was a decidedly different feel to this year's Imperial

The NRA had faced what seemed to be insurmountable challenges, they did put on a grand show

usual Bisley tricks with gusts and sudden small, but significant, direction changes.

Seven shooters went clean, with 150.24 the best score, belonging to Le Cheminant from Jersey. The lowest to qualify was only two points adrift, which is important at this stage of the proceedings as the scores are carried forward to the final round. With only half the normal number going through, there were a few surprises lurking in the second half of the list. Well-known names and faces from previous finals, and even previous winners, had not made the cut. And there were some new names that had. The top fifty included a tyro, six Os, four shooters under 25, and eight women. One of those women was the youngest shooter in the final. Sophie Hodge from Wellington College was 16 and in the fine tradition of our sport was competing against the oldest shooter in the final – a mere 72-year-old. The oldest shooter in the entire Imperial was in fact 89, which once again underlines the extraordinary spread

After a short but tense lunch break, the Final Fifty trooped out onto the 900 yard firing point on Stickedown. The flags were behaving much as they had in the morning on Century, but with the little wrinkles added by the different geography of the long range. The light was good and steady but the wind was gusting, with short directional changes ready to catch the unwary. The hard-working RAF scorekeepers were poised as usual, and the spectators were all keeping socially distanced. So the first round of the final was under way.

The entry list showed that Old Epsomians had five in the final, while there were two representatives each of the Army and Air Force. Gresham, Guildford, and Lancing alumni were present as usual. And the unofficial Varsity Match was being contested by two female medics, one a vet and the other a doctor.

After those first 15 shots of the afternoon we had just three who had not

two points dropped respectively. But also up on the leaderboard as the Famous Fifty dressed back were Shouler and Bloomfield with an aggregate of one off, closely followed by Stebbings, Spencer, Sadler and Le Cheminant, all on 223. The latter two had 32 and 33 Vs to help them along.

Back to 1000 yards and now the weather did its usual trick. Not always easy to spot, the wind dropped to zero or had a little gust blowing shots off to the left. One or two of the less experienced had some tough times, with shots out in the magpie and even outer. The same can be said of one or two of the very experienced as well. The leaderboard started to change quite dramatically. Warburton, Jeens, Button, Compton, Evans, Bellringer, Ramsey and Glanville all appeared at one stage or another during the last 15 shots.

As the competition drew to a close, there were some tense moments but eventually David Luckman – no stranger to the winner's circle, having won in 2018 most recently – emerged as the one who dealt best with the weather conditions to record a mightily impressive 297.40. In doing so, he just edged out Oliver Spencer by three Vs, while Matthew Button was just one point behind him.

Although the amazing team at the NRA had faced what seemed at one point to be insurmountable challenges, they did put on a grand show and the Imperial meeting as a whole ran very well, even though there were some new and almost untried systems in place. Everyone from ground staff through to the stats team and front-office staff has to be congratulated. There was even the usual grand and impressive display of trophies, albeit in an open sided tent that complied with the then current restrictions. Everyone who participated in this year's Imperial, competitor or organiser, can say with pride that they contributed to a bit of history. The Imperial and especially the Queen's Prize cannot be halted. Almost all the usual competitions were held. That amounted to 97 team and individual events.

This time the traditional chairing ceremony tune of See The Conquering Hero had an extra special meaning: it applied



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How Luckman conquered Queen's

David Luckman GM2 tells us what it was like to win a Covid-compliant Queen's, and how it differs to his first win in 2018



Like the rest of the Imperial Meeting, The Queen's Prize was different this year, with the first stage held on Friday, three days after the Grand Aggregate had concluded. Even with the smaller entry, there was the usual buzz on the ranges, with most of the usual challengers able to attend.

For the last 25 years, the first stage of the Queen's Prize, for me, has been

this year, shooting for chance to make the second stage only and knowing that the score did not matter as long as I was on the right side of the line. It was also a short day, with only three 2+7s and without the pressures of the Grand; it would be a good day to recover some energy ahead of Final Saturday.

The day started well for me with an early 300-yard shoot, but the wind had

500 yards. I shot on the far left-hand target on the range. It was pretty tricky and I was not displeased to walk away with a 34.

At 600 yards I was at the other end of the range up on target 83. It became apparent after my very wide sighter that the trees were giving me a lot of shelter from the wind. I only needed 2 to 2.5 minutes of wind, which was a very

I was safely through, but with a right-hand wind forecast for Final Saturday, and considering my experiences of the first stage, I was acutely aware that the squadding draw of Queen's II would be more important than usual, with most hoping to be moving from left to right as they fell back through the distances. The draw, however, was not kind to me.

As the score from the second stage carries forward to the final, the field splits into two camps: those who are looking to secure the opportunity to shoot in the final on Saturday afternoon, and those whose final starts at 300 yards. A timely comment from my brother Andy reminded me of which camp I needed to be in: "The final starts here!"

A TALE OF TWO SIDES

For the first time in years, both the second stage and final were to be on the same day. I was able to approach the shoot with considerably more energy than usual without having shot the Kolapore, MacKinnon or George's final in the mornings preceding stage two and three.

After a cagey start at 300 yards, I headed off to the far left of the range to shoot 500 yards. The wind was a lot steadier than I had expected and a 50.9 led my mind to wander towards maybe winning the silver medal. Perhaps the earlier start to the day would mean the left-hand side of the range would not be the disadvantage I had anticipated in the right-hand wind?

As 600 yards went on and we moved later into the morning, it did get progressively trickier. I felt a little disappointed in scoring 48 – but it had been difficult, so surely I must be safe? Given the inners I could see on the other targets around me, it felt like a low-147-cut kind of day. As the stats started to update the predictions board, it became apparent that my thoughts from Friday had been true: it had been a range of two halves. There were eight 150s on the right-hand side of the range and (with only 50 final places up for grabs) this meant a forecast cut of 148. This led to a number of high-profile casualties on the

Patel going out. This did, however, mean that I had the great honour of having the 2020 Grand Aggregate winner marking my scoreboard for the final.

A two-point gap to the pack of 150s did not concern me too much. The forecast was for the wind to continue coming from the right – it was likely to be difficult enough. Plus the week so far had been my strongest ever on Stickle-down, so I still felt I was still in with a chance.

With a broken treeline down the right-hand side of the range, the draw was likely to be less important for the final, with a trade-off between needing less wind on the right and being able to see the changes coming. I was, however, quite pleased to be shooting 1000 up on target 39 close to where I had shot the George's final in similar wind on Thursday.

The wind that afternoon appeared to be variable and gusty, and I took the

opportunity to fire my first sighter at 900 yards in a gust to learn that the top end of the wind bracket was around 10 minutes, but that turned out to be the last gust of the whole afternoon! I shot quickly at 900 and was pleased with my wind-reading for a 75. It was, however, my worst-long range group of the week and I was quick to comment to my plotter Parag: "You will have struggled to make that look good!"

Andy was once again on hand to help me refocus by telling me, "Well done, that will have made up for Queen's II." He was right that I was now in a great position – just one point back with Vs in hand.

I knew I was going to be shooting with Chris Watson at 1000 so I was expecting another quick shoot with a good rhythm. While waiting for the rest of the range to fall back, it was a pleasure to be interviewed by Dan Richardson who was broadcasting the final live for the BBBC.

As time went on I got less sure about the wind. It'd been six minutes but was it now down to four? I hedged my bets on five

All smiles: David made the most of the revised schedule





In a year when everything was different, Luckman on the chair was a reassuringly familiar sight

Despite not being able to go on the usual evening tour of the clubhouses, it was still a magical experience

This was a fantastic idea and brought the event to those who could not otherwise have been there.

At 1000 yards the wind had settled further and was gently angling towards us and then pushing back square. My shoot started well, if a little disjointedly, by needing to send several message 4s. I got a little stuck on the right-hand side of the bull as the flags' angles became more acute and then lost one out right despite winding a minute off. After that, the rhythm

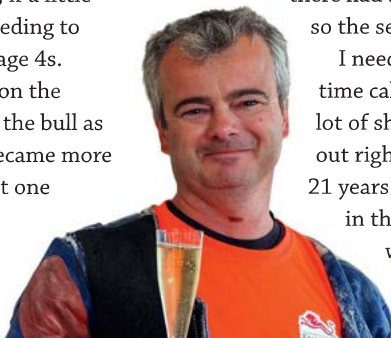
was hitting V bulls until, after shot 13, "Message four"... the target had not been pulled for Chris. A minute later it came back clear. I put my rifle down feeling sad for Chris and waited for the subsequent message 7. The target came back clear but there had been no range officer's panel so the search went on.


I needed to focus and spent my time calling the wind. There were a lot of shots on other targets going out right as the wind was dropping. 21 years earlier I had come second in the Queen's having made poor wind calls after waiting for two message 7s, but this thought did not enter my mind.

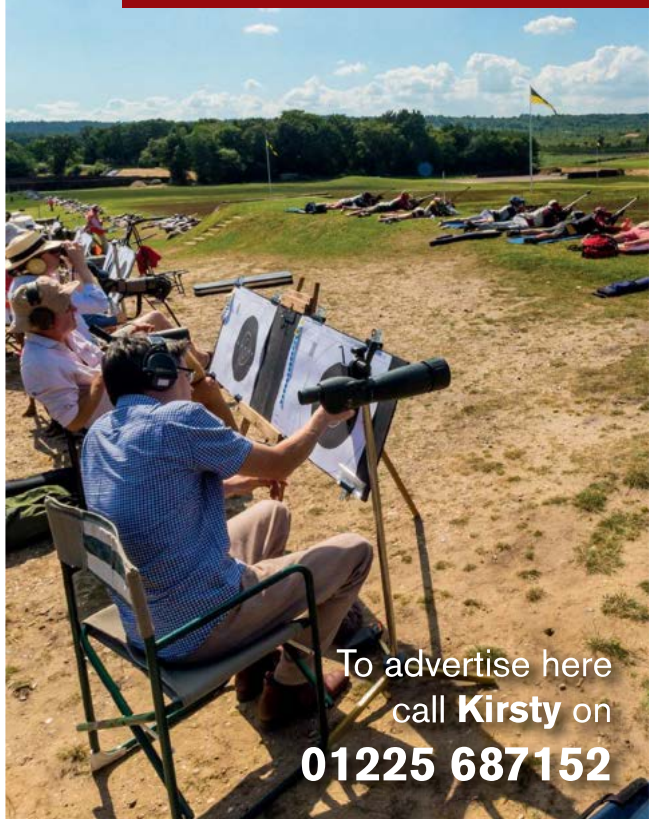
again. I was definitely calmer as a result of the issues on the target, but as time went on I got less and less sure about the wind. It had been six minutes but was it now down to four given the other inners? I hedged my bets on five and fired – I hit the tram lines! A half-minute correction for the last shot and I knew it was going to be a V.

The feeling was very different to two years ago (where dropping 11 points in my last ten shots left me confused and unable to comprehend that I might have won). This time I knew it was a great shoot and was looking for immediate confirmation. I turned around to get the thumbs up from Parag and Andy.

Being chaired from the range in a Covid-compliant way was still a wonderful experience and it was great that my family were able to be there for it. Despite not being able to go on the usual evening tour of the clubhouses, it was still a magical experience and put the perfect ending to




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Three in One

With all three stages of the St George's Vase shot on one day, Jon Underwood emerged as the winner. He tells us how he did it

Following completion of the Grand Aggregate and all the team matches for the year, this 'relaxed' outing of the Imperial Meeting moved focus to the elimination events. The first was The St George's Challenge Vase, all to be done and dusted in a single day. Would that need a different approach? Would there be any special considerations to ensure everything would go 'to plan'?

First thought: we had received the squadding for Stage 1, but what was the programme after that? Thankfully the always-on-the-pulse range staff announced the format for rest of the day as we prepared for our first shoot. In this temporary

four details starting at 8.30am, followed by an on-range compilation of the top 120 behind the 300-yard firing point, by the excellent stats team. (I don't think I have seen the stats team at 300 yards before!)

That took us to midday and lunch. There were to be two details for the second stage, starting at 1.30pm, again followed by announcements for the cut on the range, then another break before the top 50 headed to Stickle-down for Stage 3 starting at 4.45pm. Quite a nice relaxed day in reality.

As I was squadded on the second detail for Stage 1, the winds had a chance to raise the flags a little,

now from the right (when we had become used to winds from the left!) The flags were fluttering though, and from time to time indicated changes, though they never seemed to last very long. So either you got caught while aiming and probably never saw the change, or you saw the change and by the time you fired it had changed to something else – and though the numbers weren't big, it could just slip your shot over the line. That happened around the middle of my shoot as one drifted out to the right. Fortunately I managed to contain the rest to finish with 74.8, sufficient to proceed to round 2. Parag Patel won the first stage following a tie shoot with Rosanne Furniss, both having scored 75.14.

By the second stage, the winds had increased significantly, but again the



settled into a nice rhythm and confined all our shots inside the bullseye. The aggregate of our 300 and 600-yard scores meant we both finished Stage 2 with 149s.

The cut for the top 50 to proceed to Stage 3 ended up at 146.16. However, it wasn't until the following day I discovered that there were only four 75s at 600 yards. That is important, because the final total carries forward just the 600-yard score and you drop the 300-yard score (luckily for me on this occasion!) Parag Patel continued his winning streak with a splendid 150.26, with Chloe Evans not far behind on 150.19.

THE FINAL STRETCH

So it was successfully on to Stage 3 following another mini break, and up to Stickle-down target 32. Moderate winds still from the right, and flags still moving a bit – not huge changes, but enough to end up the wrong side of the line without 'due care and attention'.

Progressing through the shoot, the shots were hitting the V or bullseye, and so it continued. There is always a tinge of excitement as you approach the end of a shoot and a full house is on the cards, even more so in a major competition (as I recall the Governor General's final last year!) But you need to maintain a steady aim to get those last two or three shots in.



A 225 'possible' made Jon a more-than-deserving winner

How many others were there on 150? As the countdown reached the top five, and was still at 148, there clearly weren't many

I made it to the final shot: a fairly right-handed bullseye! Still, it was home and the score was in: 150.19. The question was,

how did it fare against the competition? Remember, at this stage I still didn't know there were only three others who could have beaten my score! However, one of them was Parag Patel, and it just seemed inconceivable that he would have lost any points – he was on fire.

To the on-range award ceremony for the top 25. The rumours started and I heard that Parag had finished with 149. How many others were there on 150? As the countdown reached the top five, and was still at 148, there clearly weren't many. In fourth place was David Luckman on 149, third place Martin Liversage on 149... at which point it became clear that I must have scored the only 150, but I still I waited for the announcement. Second, Parag Patel – at this point, the crowds gasped, as most people had been saying he had the highest score (so I learned later). And there I was, top of the heap! Thanks to the partners I shot with at each stage,



Jon with the St George's Vase after prizegiving



Lightning Shooting

With the TR Imperial condensed into two weekends, here's a day-by-day account of the competitions as they came thick and fast...

Even before cancellation of the Imperial Meeting was announced at the start of lockdown, plans were already being drawn up to hold a meeting of some sort in September. Recognising that many shooters might find it difficult to take leave when their businesses were trying to get back on their feet, while others might be suffering financially, the plan evolved to structure the Target Rifle competitions into two 'long weekends', where shooters had the option of shooting a Grand Aggregate in four days, or the St George's and Queen's, either option requiring no more than two days' leave. Team matches would be held on the Wednesday between the two 'long

In the end, 438 people entered the meeting. The NRA staff had worked out an effective means of ensuring social distancing throughout the competitions. This limited shooters to firing in pairs, rather than the usual three to a target, resulting in more but shorter details.

The week had weather that would not have been out of place in mid-July – sunny and dry with temperatures ranging from around 20°C at the start and end of the week to the mid to high 20s between Monday and Wednesday. For the first few days, the morning winds were still or light for the first detail, but picked up to moderate or fresh and became more fickle as the day progressed. While some took

way to drop at least one point. Conversely, there were plenty who managed possibles in the more tricky details, thanks in no small part to an excellent batch of GGG ammunition, which was back to the high standards of 2015-2017, and with no functional issues.

Friday 11 September

The traditional pre-Grand Aggregate warm-up competitions were welcomed by those who had missed the chance to shoot in the rearranged English Twenty and British Commonwealth meetings in August.

The Century at 500 and 600yds resulted in 13 scores of 100 from an entry of 235. Top of the pile was Rick Shouler with

Over the hill on Stickleddown, the Admiral Hutton at 900yds recorded 24 possibles, with a four-way tie on 50.8 between David Luckman, Emma Nuttall, Tom Shaw and John Warburton, who finished in that order after the tie shoot.

The Friday Aggregate went to John Warburton on 149.25, four Vs ahead of David Luckman.

Saturday 12 September

With the St George's and Queen's removed from the Grand Aggregate, the Donegall had been added in, along with a repurposed PW Richardson on the Monday replacing the first stage of the St Georges. All the shoots on this Saturday therefore counted in the Grand Aggregate, which came as a surprise to some who hadn't paid attention!

The rapidly changing winds caused some problems, even at 300yds, but the Donegall still produced 48 possibles from a field of 334 shooters, and Ian Shaw, Bill Richards and Jeremy Thompson managed to put them all in the V for 50.10. They finished in that order after a tie shoot that Jeremy Thompson had to miss.

Meanwhile in the Conan Doyle at 900yds, David Luckman also mastered the elements to win with the only 50.10. 19 others recorded possibles, topped by Kevin Hill and Matt Button on 50.9 for second and third place respectively, Kevin having finished with nine consecutive Vs.

Back on Century, the Daily Telegraph (15 shots at 500yds) was won by Richard Hurst with the only 75.14: his only shot outside the V was his first to count. 28 others managed to score 75, headed by Colin Goad who pipped Theo Dodds on countback as the only two on 75.13.

The Saturday Aggregate was won by Charlie Dart with a 174.25 to put him at the top of the Grand leaderboard, closely followed by Bob Oxford and Parag Patel two Vs behind.

Sunday 13 September

The early morning winds were not so benign, and the first detail of the Alexandra at 600yds had to contend with a moderate to fresh wind, straight across the

The 'socially distanced' coaches and plotters did their job from afar



All the shoots on Saturday counted in the Grand Aggregate, which came as a surprise to some who hadn't paid attention

managed a possible in the Alexandra, but only Sandy Walker managed a full house of 50.10, to win outright from Ian Shaw and Chris Heales on 50.9.

The Duke of Cambridge at 900yds had slightly fewer possibles, 34, but two of them were 50.10s, from O-class Amie Clarke and X-class Tom Drysdale. The subsequent tie shoot was almost as high-scoring, with both registering 25.4 with their first five shots and both scoring another three Vs before Amie won with a bull to Tom's inner on the ninth shot.

The Daily Mail in the afternoon (15 shots at 500yds) saw Jemima Hince win the trophy with the only 75.14, ahead of a group of eight on 75.12. In all, there were 41 scores of 75.

Tom Drysdale, Kelvin Ramsay and David Luckman all finished the day having dropped just one point, but Charles Dickenson won the Sunday Aggregate as the only person not to drop a point all day. He joined three others on four off in the Grand Aggregate (Michael Cooper,

David Luckman who had taken the outright lead on three off.

Monday 14 September

Another bright and sunny day saw temperatures rising into the high 20s. Winds were light but fickle, and now predominantly from the right and behind, but sometimes fishtailing, particularly later in the day. Mirage was the primary guide, as the flags frequently drooped.

The morning competition on Century was the PW Richardson – 15 shots at 300yds – substituting for St George's I. The variable winds kept the number of 75s down to just 30, less than 10% of the entry, but Toby Raincock showed the way with the only 75.14, letting his penultimate shot slip into the 5. Hot on his tail were Cory Flanagan and Mike Fugeman with the only two 75.13s.

On Stickleddown, shooters had their first crack at 1000yds in the Corporation. The tricky winds limited the number of possibles to just 19, but Parag Patel and Alistair Bullen

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The Wimbledon at 600yds produced 47 possibles, most of them with high V counts (2 X-class shooters with 50.7 missed the prize list), but there was only one score of 50.10, from Chris Heales. There were six scores of 50.9, the best three (Tom Drysdale, Al Haley and WO1 JR Davies) all having dropped their second to count into the tramlines.

Parag Patel proved to have made the most of the day, dropping just one point to win the Monday Aggregate on 174.26, two Vs ahead of Toby Raincock and Al Haley. This catapulted Parag to the top of the Grand leaderboard on 519.73 (six off, out of a possible 525). Three others were also six off, David Luckman with 70 Vs, Ollie Russell with 65 Vs and John Warburton with 63 Vs.

Tuesday 15 September

In normal years there is just one competition on the final day of the Grand, making it easy to determine which of the leaders prevailed. This year there were still three competitions to shoot, making working out who had won more difficult, with scores coming in from all directions

at different times, including a second shoot at 1000yds, which could easily topple contenders.

Though the wind was very light in the early details, by the middle of the day it had picked up, with gusts up to fresh. The direction had also reversed from the previous day's right-handed tailwind to a headwind, which, as well as varying in strength, had periods fishtailing between 10 and 1 o'clock.

The benign conditions for much of the Times at 300yds resulted in 68 possibles: over 21% of the entry. Surprisingly, given the number of possibles, no one managed to score 50.10, but nine shooters got 50.9. Ian Shaw won the tie shoot, followed closely by Alistair Bullen and Barry LeCheminant.

There were no 50.10s at 1000yds in the Lovell either, with the challenging winds ensuring that only 13 people managed to score a possible. Andrew Lothian mastered the conditions in his detail to win with the only 50.9, two Vs clear of Richard Dyball with David Richards one V further back.

The early details of the 600yds Prince of Wales in the afternoon had some quite major changes of wind strength and

direction, varying between 4 left and 1 right, but the later details found the wind settle to a more consistent 10-11 o'clock blow. The result was that 51 shooters managed to score 75, with Parag Patel taking top spot with the only 75.15. Chloe Evans' 14 V finish was the best of three 75.14s, followed on countback by Jeremy Thompson and MJ Bumford.

Despite the difficulty of working out which of the contenders had dropped the fewest points, word started to filter out that overnight leader Parag Patel had not dropped a point all day. Publication of the results confirmed that, not content with winning the Monday Aggregate, Parag had also won the repurposed Athelings Centenary (Tuesday) Aggregate with the only full score, followed by two shooters on 174: Rob Lygoe with 23 Vs and Keirin McCamley with 16 Vs.

This meant that Parag finished the Grand Aggregate on 694.99 (ex-700), winning by three points from David Luckman, who took the Silver Cross with 691.95, one point ahead of Tom Drysdale. The results of numerous other aggregates emerged over the five days of competitions, all of

In many ways, the 'September Imperial' felt just like any other year





The entry may have been smaller, but the excitement of Queen's was not diminished

St George's in one day – that was the agenda: first stage in the morning, second stage and final in the afternoon

which can be found on the NRA website at: <https://nra.org.uk/results/imperial-results-classifications/imperial-meeting-results/imperial-meeting-2020/>

Wednesday 16 September

This middle day was given over to team matches. A procedure for socially distanced coaching had been worked out and publicised. This involved coaches and plotters sitting back from the shooters, giving sight corrections verbally for shooters to apply to their sights themselves (much as it was done until the 1990s, for those of us with long enough memories!)

The morning was devoted to short-range matches, 10 rounds at each of 300, 500 and 600yds. With limited numbers present, the National Match was not practical for teams requiring up to 33 people from each of the home countries. The Scots kindly offered to hold a Lawrence Trophy match for teams of 12 shooters in its place (as had been done in 2003, when the Irish held the National Match in Northern Ireland after winning

other universities contested the Musketeers and the Army and Air Force contested the Inter-Services Short Range. Numbers and programme space precluded the holding of any inter-counties matches but, following the success of last year's Imperial 150 match, an Imperial 151 match was held for scratch teams of four shooters.

A strong England Team won the Lawrence Trophy with six scores of 150 contributing to their 1789.269. Wales were second on 1777.229, followed closely by Scotland, Ireland and the Channel Islands. Parag Patel continued his fine form to score 150.26.

Cambridge avenged their defeat in the Humphry by winning the Chancellors, and Durham University pipped Southampton by a single point to take the Musketeers. The Army beat the RAF by 16 points and the Imperial 151 short range match was won by the Old Epsomians Rifle Club ahead of OGRE Gold.

Over the hill in the afternoon, the Mackinnon was won by England with

Islands not far behind in that order. The top score came from David Luckman with the only full house, 100.10. Oxford got their revenge with a three-point win over Cambridge in the Universities Long Range, with Southampton in third. The RAF also got their own back on the Army by winning the Inter Services Long Range, and the Imperial 151 long-range match was won by Queens Lodge RC by eight points over the Lancastrians.

Thursday 17 September

St George's in one day – that was the agenda: first stage in the morning, second stage and final in the afternoon.

The first stage experienced a fresh but variable breeze straight across the range from the right. This, and the inevitable pressure around avoiding dropping points for what is usually quite a high-scoring cut, meant that there were only 25 scores of 75 from a field of 292 competitors. Top of the bunch were Parag Patel and Rosanne Furniss with the only two 75.14s. Parag won the tie shoot for the Bronze Cross, but Rosanne subsequently got her revenge by winning the tie for the Gurkha Appeal large Kukri.

Owing to the reduced number of participants, constraints on range space (due to Cottesloe Heath being in use) and limitations on the number of markers available, the second stage was limited to the top 120 from the first stage, with just 50 going through to the final. The cut for the second stage was comparable to many normal years at 73.6.

The constraints also dictated that it would not be possible to accommodate everyone in one detail so, for the first time, the second stage was shot in two details. The afternoon wind proved more challenging, still fresh from three o'clock, with a habit of dropping in strength and/or veering round to five o'clock with no notice. Only four of the 120 competitors managed to record a 75 at 600yds, though two of them combined theirs with a 75 from the first stage for a 150 total. Chloe Evans had 19 Vs with hers, but Parag Patel's 26 Vs won him the Silver Cross.

The difficulty of the wind also showed

lower than the 149 often seen in recent years. Four people tied on the cut score for the last place, which was taken by Richard Hebblethwaite. Scores checked and squadding cards issued to the 50 finalists, everyone decamped over the hill for the final at 900yds. With the first stage score now discarded and just the second stage score carried forward, there were only four shooters with a clean sheet going into the final: Parag Patel with 12 Vs, Martin Liversage with 11, and Chloe Evans and Jon Underwood both with 9.

The wind continued to need careful attention at 900yds, and only five of the 50 finalists managed to record a 75 at this longer range, only one of them carrying forward a 75 from 600yds. So it was that Jon Underwood won the St George's Challenge Vase and Gold Cross with 150.19. Parag Patel's 22 Vs headed up the three shooters on 149, with Martin Liversage on 21 and David Luckman on 19.

Friday 18 September

The day was devoted to the first stage of the Queen's Prize for the 318 competitors

The wind and nerves played their part during the final distance and no one managed a 75. Only four recorded 74

who had entered. In the early details at 300yds, wind required no more than ¼ minute correction in the gentle breeze, good for checking wind zeros. It picked up to moderate as the day progressed, but remained straight across the range from the right all day.

Over a third of the competitors recorded 35s at 300 yds, with 23% at 500yds and 17% at 600yds. Stringing three 35s together proved more difficult, with only six people scoring 105, three of them on 15 Vs to tie for the Bronze Medal. In the tie shoot, Rosanne Furniss won by a V from Matt Millar with Tyro James Burch

taking third place and winning the CCRS Chairman's Prize for the top cadet.

The cut for the 120 competitors to shoot in the second stage included just two scores of 101, the only two with 13 Vs.

Saturday 19 September

Shooting the Queen's second stage on Saturday morning was novel to many, but not to those who remember shooting before 1984, when it was the norm. With 60 targets available, the second stage was shot in a single detail at each distance.

The wind remained straight across the range from the right and didn't cause much trouble at the shorter distances. Seven of the 120 competitors strung three possibles together for 150, Barry Le Cheminant winning the Silver Medal with 24 Vs, closely followed by Kelvin Ramsay and Rick Shouler on 23 Vs. The cut for the 50 to contest the final included both scores of 148.15, higher than any year other than 2002, 2010 and 2016. With the scores so tight, the winner could have been any of the participants.

Conditions were more challenging at 900yds and only three shooters managed to get them all in: Paul Sykes, David Luckman and Charlie Dart, all of whom had dropped at least one point in the second stage. Going into 1000yds, the leaderboard showed three on 224 (Rick Shouler, Charlie Dart and two-time winner John Bloomfield), with seven others just a point behind.

The wind and nerves played their part during the final distance and no one managed a 75. Only four recorded a 74 (Matt Button, David Luckman, Reg Roberts and Oliver Spencer). This was enough to lift three of them into the top three places, with Matt Button finishing third on 296.37, Oliver Spencer second on 297.37 for the Silver Badge, and David Luckman securing his second win in three years just three Vs ahead on 297.40. The weather conditions were significantly different from his first win, and his personal perspective on the competition can be found elsewhere in this Journal, together with Jon Underwood's view of his St George's win.

David was chaired off the range with a smaller-than-usual bearer party, owing to the need for social distancing, and an



Parag Patel did the heavy lifting on the

The return of GR&P

The Nationals and Autumn Action Weekend were the highlights of a truncated 2020 Gallery Rifle season



Abyl dazzles the competition with his skills as well as his shirt

GR&P NATIONALS

August and September saw a return to competitive shooting across multiple disciplines at Bisley. Gallery Rifle & Pistol was no different, with the Nationals taking place on 5-6 September. The Nationals (open to all, not just crack shots on national squads!) is usually a quieter meeting in the GR&P calendar but proved vibrant this year, with an increase of five in the number of competitors attending.

There is a virus going around (who knew?), so shooters and Range Officers alike were met with slightly altered procedures aimed at keeping everyone safe. Social distancing meant the usual gaggles of people catching up were much reduced, but the opportunity to see familiar faces and return to some level of competitive normality was welcomed by all.

The break in shooting over lockdown had clearly had an impact on some, but despite a lack of range time, the meeting did see generally good performances across disciplines. The prize list is littered



Shooters enjoy the cover of 50m during a rainy day at Bisley

expected. However, several newer shots put in excellent efforts. Abyl Kaium, a young shooter who decided to dazzle other competitors with his brightly coloured shirts across the weekend (clearly to great effect), took several medals, as did Alex Porter, including two class wins on her first Bisley outing. Finally, a new National Record was set in 1020 GRSB by yours truly, showing that a break isn't always bad.

GR&P's calendar is usually packed full

hot competition for the top places in the annual rankings list. Sadly, the calendar for 2020 has been reduced significantly with the only competitions after this being the SLG Open, Trafalgar, and Autumn Action Weekend.

AUTUMN ACTION WEEKEND

The final GR&P competition of the year was fraught with the danger of being called off at the last minute, with government guidance changing and several shooters from Wales being placed in a national lockdown on the weekend of the shoot. However, the community turned out in force for the last classified event of 2020, keen to get those final good scores in the bank for the end-of-year rankings.

Though competitor numbers were down by one, the number of competitions shot was up significantly on last year. GR&P's varied programme means that many shooters take part in each course of fire with at least two different firearm types (some of us extend that to four or five!), meaning that the number of competitions shot can easily be determined by a proportion of keen shooters. Encouragingly, there were some new faces on the line, showing that despite everything going on, shooters are still getting out on the range and expanding their horizons by trying new disciplines. Even the NRA's Competitions Manager, Becky Mills, who is usually stuck behind the scenes working hard, had a go.

Despite best efforts with ordering good weather, Saturday was a grey and miserable affair, though scores weren't affected too much and several shooters were satisfied with their performances. Jim Starley, a recent joiner on the GB GR Team, put in an outstanding performance on 1500 CF, scoring 1497(106) – let's



The 1500 bay was full throughout the day.
Photo: Mark Harris



A lack of summer holidays in 2020 made shooters keen to catch the rays. Photo: Mark Harris

SLG Bisley's bright future

Summery weather and a friendly atmosphere greeted the SLG Open. Jake TA Mossom was there

The GR&P 'circuit' is rich with Club Opens, run by individual clubs and their members to provide additional opportunities to shoot, and raise funds for activities. Stalwarts of the discipline travel the length and breadth of the British Isles throughout the year, using every possible opportunity to compete and visit new locations. One such Open, and one of few that ran in 2020, is the SLG Bisley Open at Bisley.

SLG Bisley e.V. is a non-profit organisation to promote active participation in gallery rifle and pistol shooting in Germany and elsewhere through being part of the BDMP (Bund Der Militar und Polizei). The BDMP is the shooting association that is responsible for the Gallery Rifle and Pistol disciplines in Germany, among others. Many of the

Open competitions in Europe, continuing UK participation in disciplines that often use firearms no longer allowed for sports shooting in the UK.

Supporting all of this comes at a cost. The Club Open raises vital funds every year, and 2020 was no different. A team of SLG Bisley members descended on Bisley on the Friday afternoon before the shoot on Saturday 26 September to set up Melville and prepare for a busy day.

The SLG Bisley Open has a reputation for being a friendly shoot, and this year saw several brand-new GR&P shooters attend (and shoot rather well!) The competition programme is varied, including many of the standard competitions seen at much larger competitions. This year the ranges were mostly full to capacity despite all the

Fortunately, for most of the day the weather that had been ordered by our chairman (and match director) was delivered, with bright blue skies and a fresh but tolerable breeze. The one glitch came in the form of a short shower in the afternoon to keep competitors on their toes and provide a handy excuse for some performances! The major difference this year was the lack of catering provided by the Club to competitors – unfortunately Covid made our usual bacon sandwiches, cakes, and prizegiving dinner impossible. That didn't dampen spirits, however.

Much to many shooters' relief, performances across the day were good, as confirmed by our resident stats man who had spent the day a short drive away at home in the warmth, processing cards from photographs sent across to him from Melville! Several 'usual suspects' featured in the prize-list, but as always with GR&P, we saw some new names and faces performing well too. Hopefully we will see them again next year on the circuit, when everything is getting closer to 'normal'.

The success of the day has prompted calls for expansion, so watch out next year for a bigger and better programme, as well as (we hope) the return of those precious bacon sarnies and the evening feast. ■
Details about SLG Bisley e.V., as well as



Better late than never

From a September Imperial to a November League meeting, we have the latest on this year's delayed F-Class Calendar

F-Class Imperial

We were all grateful for the combined efforts of Mik and Tina Maksimovic, Peter Cottrell and his team, and the NRA staff, many of whom work behind the scenes and are vital to the successful running of a competition such as this. In the event, Mik and Peter used what would have been our F Class European Championships meeting and salvaged this to host a belated Imperial. As promised, Peter had ensured that the two F-Class disciplines were separated by detail and the matches held were very fair. For a September Imperial, the weather was exceptional – I found myself needing to plaster the children in sun cream. Considering all the restrictions we are currently facing, the NRA and competitors adapted and persevered

of the Grand Aggregate. In F Open, Lance Vinall, and in FTR, Stuart Anselm.

Top Gun – Individuals

Match director Ian Chenery posted that: “officially Top Gun 2020 was held on the wettest day on record since 1891”. I can believe that. Rifles were being dried and cleaned after each match and competitors did well to keep their ammunition and chambers dry. It goes to show the level of experience we have shooting in poor conditions, with high levels of accuracy being maintained, good scores given the wind conditions, and no dramas with equipment failures. There was little point getting your range mat out for this one. At least the grass drained away.

In FTR, Justin Gough secured a lead

tenterhooks as Russell recorded a 94 in the last match, six points clear of Justin. But Justin's early efforts were enough, and he was crowned Top Gun champion for 2020 with a lead of one point and one V bull.

In Open, the top three shooters – Gary Costello, Lance Vinall and Martin Miles – fought a tight battle, with none falling below 91 all day. It was Gary's incredible 98-point second match that secured him victory with a two-point and one-V bull lead over Lance.

Top Gun – Teams matches

Teams matches were held on the Saturday with a tough course of fire. Four matches, all comprising two sighters and 20 shots for the record, with teams of four shooters. Both matches after lunch had a reduced

waiting for conditions. Coaches had to take it on regardless. This is Top Gun after all, and the markers must have felt like they were in the gym with the rate of fire. At lunchtime, team CDSG held the lead, but a challenging final match saw Team MxM prevail with a six-point stage win and a nine-point overall win. Congratulations to Peter Dommett and his team for their well deserved victory.

British Championships

Finally, our first league date of 2020, in November. The weather forecast was terrible but that wasn't going to stop anyone (in FTR at least).

An average wind of 10mph coming in anywhere from 75 percent to full value, with flags that were becoming heavier with rain as the day wore on, and you can forget about mirage – it was difficult to know whether you should make bold calls or if the bracket was nowhere near as wide as it looked. Looking back, the wise understood on day one that the wind was far more consistent than it looked, Mark Webb, Peter Dommett and Justin Gough were three shooters who had recognised that, all putting in respectable scores in each match.

By the end of Saturday, Mark Webb had earned himself a 15-point lead and seemed unreachable going into the second day. However, Sunday brought with it sunshine and the wind continued. The big difference was that the wind bracket was much wider,



Top Gun Champions, Justin 'Maverick' Gough and Gary 'Ice-Man' Costello

It was difficult to know whether you should make bold calls or if the bracket was nowhere near as wide as it looked

with sudden drop-offs that kept catching folk out. This cost the previous day's leaders dearly, and in the end it was Simon West who successfully closed the gap and won the British Championships 2020 in FTR by three points and four Vs.

In F Open, there was no clear winner as Saturday progressed. The scores were tight, as is often the case in Open, and the names at the top just kept on changing. After match four, Joe West looked promising for

an overall win but in the end it was Neil Gould who was victorious to become the 2020 British Champion in F Open. ■
For scores and placings, check out our classified results feature on page 54.

F CLASS TRAINING WEEKEND 2021

Every year, Mik and Tina of the Dolphin Gun Company organise an F-Class training weekend at Bisley. It is an invaluable introduction to competitive F-Class shooting and always well subscribed. Held in March, the weekend touches on everything from equipment to what to expect in competition, plotting, and even some range time and a small competition. Demonstration F-Class rifles are provided for attendees to shoot, and the various classes are hosted by some of the UK's most experienced competitors.

Mik and Tina have already started the preparation for the training weekend in March 2021 and are hopeful that it will go ahead, subject to any restrictions at the time. Please register your interest by emailing Mik at mik@



New calibre on the block?

Robin Carter considers the favoured calibres for 300m shooting, and spends time in the workshop to devise a new cartridge in the lesser-spotted .223...

Here we are again, hopefully not still in lockdown, but certainly restricted. In the 300-metre discipline, match shooting has yet to return, and competitions are unlikely to do so until Covid is more under control or tighter management, so 2021 will be our target year to return properly. We are restricted in the number of points we can use, so although the Bisley 300-metre set up, in the 'Shed' on range 10, does have 10 electronic firing points, with Covid precautions we can only use five, which limits the numbers shooting. 300m prone being a 60-shot match, which with set-up and sighters takes up to an hour and a half a detail, also limits the number of details we can accommodate, so it looks like being 2021

before we can fully return to matches. Currently, it's training only.

So I'll use this quieter time to give you some more history and current developments in 300m, to inform you and – I hope – lure you into trying this demanding and fun discipline. The rifles have closely followed the small-bore shape, rules, and development since the 70s, but the big development has been in calibres.

Target rifle (TR) is simple in calibres. The rules initially mirrored the GB national military rifle, so that was .303, then it went to 7.62x51 (.308W) just when I started, and there it has stayed, taking a semi-pass on the current military calibre of 5.56mm or its civilian counterpart .223 Remington, which is permitted in TR, but not common.

The calibre rules in 300-metre have been unchanged since the 70s. The rule is that any calibre under 8mm can be used. Various countries used their own military calibre, in the United States .30-06, and in Europe the different countries all used theirs. In the UK we followed that route in my early time in the discipline: 7.62/.308W was the calibre for my and my wife's first 300m rifles in the early 1970s.

But the match course of 60 shots prone, and 40 shots in each position of three-positional, was a tough course to follow. This was an event for the tough guys – and gals. Speaking of which, the international bodies' response to ladies fighting the big bang was to ban them! They thought the recoil too great for the frail little things. They clearly had never seen my



Rifles may have evolved, but 300m calibre



A full three-position match can be a physically demanding affair

wife shooting three positions with a 7.62, taking a step back after every shot and then reforming her position!

But 7.62 was hard work, and the recoil was quite debilitating, so the clever ones started thinking of lighter recoiling calibres, and in the UK the clever one was Malcolm Cooper. His first rifle was in 7mm/08. Still a fairly hefty round, but Malcolm was using the 7mm 140-grain bullet at a time when most others were using 7.62 shooting 175-grain. The box you can see pictured at the lady's feet contains the Lapua versions of the 175-grain 7.62s.

But the real big step came when the Americans, initially using .30-06, started working on better calibres for benchrest. The red rag to the American bull was that some of the best of these 'wildcat' calibres were formed from Russian military cases! Development switched to a squat case formed from the American .308W but with a small primer, and the 6mmBR (BR for benchrest) was born. It was incredibly accurate, and even better, it had a low recoil, around half that of the 7.62/.308W. Ladies and men alike rejoiced. The 6mmBR calibre for 300 metres uses long, high ballistic coefficient bullets, in the 105 to 107-grain

The GGG 77gn ammunition was very good, very accurate, and very cheap at a similar price to GGG 7.62. But there always has to be a 'but'



This 6mm calibre is still the most common calibre for 300m. The world records are held with it. However, it has been joined in popularity by the 6mmXC, using the same bullets, but with more grunt from the longer case, the object being to help it beat the wind better. Does it? Allegedly, but the recoil is higher. The jury is still out.

Is that the final thing? Maybe, maybe not. In the USA, some shooters are now trying special development 'wildcat' calibres to get the accuracy/recoil/wind ability balance. They have even tried a .22BR, a very squat, short, necked-down case, with a lighter, higher ballistic coefficient bullet – even better for the low recoil brigade.

The chase for the 300m event calibre is to get the best balance of accuracy against recoil, and wind ability, on the very tight 10-ring target. The 10 is 100mm in diameter; the inner ten, the X-ring, is 50mm; the next rings out (9, 8, etc) are another 100mm diameter. So accuracy, against wind bucking and recoil, is a critical consideration. Recoil is also a significant factor in accuracy, since part of it occurs whilst the bullet is still in the barrel. The analytical among us will know that recoil is not just a force against the shooter, opposing the push of ejecting the bullet – it is also a torque reaction against the force required to twist the bullet down the barrel rifling. So recoil is a combined rearward and twisting motion. The smaller and lighter the bullet, the less those forces are in both directions

This quest has led to a multitude of new, small, fast calibres, but what has become of perhaps the most popular calibre in the UK, and the wider world, the current military calibre: the .223 Remington? The answer is, it's used in all branches of shooting sport, but not significantly in 300-metre, but it is allegedly the most popular calibre in the world. The original 5.56mm was designed as a bullet for up to 300yds, small enough for a soldier to carry more ammunition than the bigger 7.62, and to have less recoil.

But US benchrest shooters quickly discovered that with development, the civilian .223 version would shoot accurately to much greater distance. Our F-Class friends, with faster loads and

DISCIPLINE | 300m

manufacturers followed the trends by making a wide range of match bullets in weights from 56-grain up to 95-grain.

So have we missed a trick in 300m? Is it a worthwhile 300-metre calibre? On paper it should be, but I intend to find out.

The future's in sight

In 2018 I had an eye problem that may have been recoil-related. It's certainly made me reticent to shoot heavier-recoiling calibres such as 7.62. I don't want to pack up shooting, so although 6mmBR is still low-ish recoil, certainly compared to 7.62/.308W, I thought it worth considering .223 Remington, if it could be accurate enough. I had heard that some Europeans had used it very successfully in 300m, but in exceptional wind-free ranges. Hmm – wind-free ranges? Would it work at Bisley, not renowned for having subtle winds?

My initial plan was also to see if a cheaper alternative, both in rifle and ammunition, to the current German and Swiss custom match rifles in the 6mm calibres used extensively in 300-metre could encourage more people into the joys of the 300-metre discipline at a lower cost.

I already had a Barnard TR in 7.62. I liked the action, and it's cheaper than the pure 300m actions, but is also a good pure match action. I ordered a Barnard in .223 Remington with the 'Wylde' chambering, with a 1-in-8 Bartlein barrel, the plan being to use up to 80-grain ammunition, where there is a wide choice of bullet heads, and



Sam Carter shooting 300m in 1999



The new rifle resplendent in its custom stock

Initial tests in 2019 proved successful. The GGG 77gn ammunition was very good, very accurate, and very cheap

include some standard match factory ammunition. To test it, I would use it in my existing TR stock, initially with the standard Barnard trigger with light springs for a free trigger as allowed in the 300-metre event.

The initial plan was to use the new (only introduced in 2019) GGG 77gn .223 match ammunition. The GGG 77gn was receiving excellent reviews abroad, with quarter-minute groups being bandied about. That would provide a cheap route for those not wishing to reload, but if I wished, the 1-in-8 set-up would let me reload to up to 80-grain ammunition with that rifle configuration.

Initial tests in 2019 proved very successful. The GGG 77gn ammunition was very good, very accurate, and very cheap at a similar price to GGG 7.62.

But there always has to be a 'but'. Here, the 'but' was wind-bucking ability at 300m. The wind effect was significant on the tight 300m target – if a butterfly crossed the path of the bullet in flight, the wind disturbance sent the bullet on its way to the 8 ring!

The next plan was the development of hand loads, and a dedicated stock to see where we could go in 2020, but Covid had other ideas. At least it gave me loads of workshop time. The first tests of my hand-loaded 80gn bullets at our only outings late in 2020 have proved successful – stunningly successful, in fact (in tests in tricky Bisley winds, is there ever any other kind of

paper, not a range! It's accurate, low recoil and seems to spit in the eye of wind.

It's been so successful that another eye shooter who retired because of a similar eye problem to mine tried it as well, and he is now working on building a .223 Remington calibre match rifle as well. Perhaps I've started a 300m trend?

The .223 now has a Bix'n Andy 30g trigger (thought operated!) and following further testing, this little, low-recoil target rifle, appears to be a successful option for those interested in taking up 300-metre, or perhaps just those who would like less recoil. With the interest that it has generated, next year there could be several .223s on the 300m range! ■

GIVE 300M A GO

Have you thought of trying 300m? It's an indoor firing point on range 10 in the 'shed' at the Bisley camp end of Century range (great when it's raining!). It's very demanding, shot on efficient electronic targets with 10 scoring rings. The Century wind is just as demanding. You can shoot 300m very successfully with a 7.62 TR, and you are welcome to contact us to come and try the discipline. Contact: 300m@nra.org.uk or

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REPORT | Historic

Historic Homecoming

It was pleasing to see a varied collection of historic rifles return to Bisley...

Despite the best attempts of Storm Alex (which saved the worst for the following day's CSR match), the NRA's autumn Historic Rifle competition was held in relatively decent weather on Saturday 3 October.

It didn't rain (though did look ominous at times), the sun came out (briefly), and there was a decent cross-range wind to test shooters – but Century was rather muddy underfoot and dotted with large puddles from earlier days of downpours.

There were over 50 shooters on the day, spread over four details and deploying a wide range of historic rifle types in the Classic, Veteran, Veteran Optic and All Comer classes. As usual, Lee Enfields were the most popular, with SMLE, Nos 4 and 5, 4T and P14 rifles, accompanied by a smattering of foreign ironware (Garand, Mosin-Nagant, Springfield 03 and MAS 63).

After a welcome by NRA head of shooting Peter Cottrell, and the mandatory safety briefing by butts RO Martin Camp, details A and B headed for the 100-yard firing point, while C and D headed for the

The NRA's Covid-19 protocols were followed throughout: availability of hand sanitisers, gloves and masks at firing points and the butts, mandatory face masks for those in the butts, and social distancing (shooters were primarily responsible for clearing their rifles, as well as completing their own score cards).

The course of fire comprised five practices, ranging from 100 to 300 yards; using prone, sitting / kneeling or squatting, and standing positions for single

tap, double tap and rapid fire, with target exposures varying between 3, 8, 60 and 70 seconds. Total maximum score was 250.

Efficient changeovers soon brought the afternoon to a close, with Peter Cottrell examining score cards to decide the winners of assorted medals. Standards were certainly high, with some excellent scores across the classes. Congratulations to those who took home the victory spoils, thanks to the NRA for the organisation, and well done to all who competed. ■

WINNERS		
CLASSIC (SMLE)		
Gold	Blair Drummond	181/250
Silver	Jerry Hogarth	176
VETERAN (NO 4 AND 5)		
Gold	Will Tong	196
Silver	Chris Green	189
Bronze	Nick St Aubyn	184
VETERAN OPTIC (4T)		
Gold	Adam Chapman	234
ALLCOMERS		

Wet, wet, wet

Storm Alex didn't deter more than 100 CSR shooters from kicking off the Winter League on 4 October. Bring your raincoat...

Having politely held off for the Historic Rifle competition on Saturday 3 October, Storm Alex decided to let rip for the following day's CSR match, the first event in the discipline's six-month-long winter league.

From the 8am safety briefing to the final shot at around 5pm, the rain was virtually non-stop, sometimes a gentle drizzle, often a steady drenching, and coupled with a brisk to strong left-to-right wind sweeping across Century. With three separate matches scheduled for the day, who would hold out best?

The answer was clear: it was the 109 shooters competing across the Historic, Iron, Service Optic and Practical Optic classes. Damp, if not wet through, with soaked footwear, dripping headwear, cold fingers and drenched rifles, they hung on to the end before gratefully sinking into their vehicles to return home (some stripping off to don dry clothing in the 300x car park!)

Up to five details were split across Century's firing points, the butts and Short



Siberia, following a carefully synchronised schedule for the Short Range and Urban matches, and the closing Whitehead match.

The Short Range match comprised five practices at 300, 200 and 100 yards, with rapid fire, single snaps and double taps shot from prone, sitting, kneeling or squatting positions at Fig 12 and 12c targets –

and not forgetting a 300-200-100-yard rundown made memorable by seemingly endless puddles!

The always-popular Urban match ran into some hitches that temporarily delayed progress. Constant rain and wind meant target faces ripped off their backing boards, demanding frequent refacing, lots of staples, and even gaffer tape. Several reshoots were required for competitors whose bank of four targets (2 x Fig 11, 2 x Fig 14) lost one or more target faces as their shoot progressed from 100 yards down to 25.

The final match of the day, the Whitehead, tested everyone's desire to keep shooting. Four practices covered rapid fire from prone at a Fig 11 at 300 yards, a rundown to 200 yards to fire 10 snaps from standing, kneeling or squatting at a Fig 12, staying at 200 yards for five double taps at a Fig 12 from sitting position, and then a final rundown to 100 yards to fire 5 double taps from standing, kneeling or squatting at a Fig 12c.

And so the first match of the 1920-21 CSR League was done – as were most of the shooters! They hope for far drier

RESULTS		
SHORT RANGE RURAL MATCH		
Historic	Gaz Corfield	123/250
Iron	Rob England	123
Practical Optic	Colin Hudson	240
Service Optic	Nigel Greenaway	246
URBAN MATCH		
Historic	Mike Standage	116/200
Iron	Rob England	106
Practical Optic	Matt Greenall	184
Service Optic	Adam Chapman	194
WHITEHEAD		
Historic	Gaz Corfield	116/200
Iron	Rob England	108
Practical Optic	Matt Greenall	178

“I’m not good enough to compete”

NRA Competitions Manager, Becky Mills, has heard that phrase many times – but she discovered first-hand that it’s not true...

Having been the NRA’s Competitions Manager for three years now, I’ve heard the phrase “I’m not good enough to compete” more times than I can count.

When starting my journey at the NRA I had very little shooting experience, but having passed my probationary course, I have since entered a handful of events – namely the Speed Steels, Mini McQueen, and Fullbore McQueen. I like to think of these as ‘individual’ competition, as you are not going to disrupt anyone else’s rhythm, which is probably why I tried them first! The opportunity then arose at the Autumn Action Weekend to take part in the Advancing Target competition with two other first-time competing NRA colleagues. The match would entail shooting alongside five other competitors, with the likelihood that they had been competing in the event for numerous years. My first reaction to the prospect of competing in a ‘proper’ competition brought that same statement I had heard so many times before to the front of my mind: I’m not good enough to compete. This was swiftly followed by logistical thoughts: How many magazines will I need? Should I load them beforehand? What time should I get to the range? What words of command should I listen out for?

I realised that these are the thoughts most novice shooters would have had in the early stages of their shooting journeys, and I wondered how many stumbled at this critical stage. For those reading this article seeking a boost of confidence, here are my suggestions to help alleviate your concerns:



Pictured with the Service Rifle Imperial's Queen Mary Challenge Plate, twin to the Venus Rosewater Dish presented to the Wimbledon Ladies Champion

fire and procedures. When it comes to GR&P events, most include the words of command, so you can get a feel for what to listen for on the range. If you need anything clarified, you can always contact the friendly NRA Competitions team!

- Investigate the Introduction/Skills courses run at Bisley. Currently offered for Gallery Rifle, Civilian Service Rifle, Target Rifle and Target Shotgun, they are an excellent way to develop skills, learn about range procedures and ask questions.
- Schedule some time to practise. Even if you don’t have the correct targetry for the event you have entered, practise getting the required amount of rounds down-range safely in the allotted time. If you find you might be tight on time,

The score you get is for you to improve on next time!

- Get to the range early and try to watch the detail before (where range procedures allow this). Firstly, you will see how the event will run. Secondly, it gives you extra time to sign in with the Range Officers, who will no doubt offer their guidance.
- Enter alongside clubmates or friends. Knowing that there was someone on the range I could talk to really gave me the confidence I needed.
- Talk to other competitors (but not right before their detail!) Shooters are a friendly bunch and the shared enjoyment of the sport creates lasting friendships and great camaraderie on and off the range
- Enjoy it! Unless you have nerves of steel – which I certainly did not – you will likely be a bit apprehensive and excited by the time you get to your lane. Don’t forget to enjoy the moment. The score you get will be your benchmark, which of course you can compare with friends, but I will certainly be looking to improve on my score next time!

So after feeling that I wasn’t good enough to compete alongside seasoned competitors, I managed to get through the shoot with only one magazine jam to cause me any grief. My score may have not been the best, but I was happy with my grouping, collectively giving me some



Long-range excellence

The LRRFC autumn competition demonstrated the varied appeal of long-range rimfire shooting. Richard Kenchington reports...

Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid-19, the Long Range Rim Fire Club's autumn competition for the Campaign Cup and other trophies went ahead at Bisley as planned. The course of fire was 20 shots at 300 and 400 yards on the usual modified TR targets, naturally using .22 rimfires. The meeting attracted 16 entries, two of whom shot twice with different classes of rifle.

In contrast to the corresponding date in 2019, the weather remained dry until after the last shot was fired, though it was decidedly cold and accompanied by a moderate-to-fresh 10 o'clock wind. However, the wind strength and turbulence caused significant dispersion and most competitors suffered from elevation problems, depressing the scores somewhat. During the morning shoot at 300 yards, the wind required allowances of about 6 to 9 minutes left and the highest score was 89. At 400 yards after lunch, the strength and direction remained much the same, requiring 11 to

Particular thanks are due to the markers, John Furneaux and his colleagues Gert and Alex, for their excellent, speedy service with hardly any message 4s, which took us through three details at each distance with an hour to spare in each half of the day.

The three main trophies, for the Aggregate with the three classes of rifle, were won by different competitors, and were presented afterwards at the North London Rifle Club. The Campaign Cup, for the MRSB aggregate, was won by Steve Isherwood with 175.10. The TRSB Aggregate trophy was won by Peter Francis with 169.12, and the 28th Light AA Regiment Tankard for the SRSB aggregate went to Tony Cattermole with 136.03.

Two other trophies are awarded at the Autumn meeting for aggregates with the Summer meeting in June. The Treasurer's Spoon was won (for the third year running) by Peter Francis, with an aggregate of 344.21 out of 400. The Donegall Badge, for the aggregate of the

PRIZE LIST

MRSB 300

1	Steve Isherwood	89.06
2	Richard Kenchington	88.06
3	Tony Cattermole	85.04

MRSB 400

1	Steve Isherwood	86.04
2	Carole Silver	86.03
3	Doug Hale	83.03

MRSB Aggregate

1	Steve Isherwood	175.10
2	Carole Silver	168.07
3	Richard Kenchington	166.10

TRSB 300

1	Peter Francis	87.07
2	Roger Hoad	83.07
3	Chris Hazlehurst	83.04

TRSB 400

1	Carole Silver	86.03
2	Doug Hale	83.03
3	Peter Francis	82.05

TRSB Aggregate

1	Peter Francis	169.12
2	Carole Silver	168.07
3	Doug Hale	162.05

SRSB 300

1	Tony Cattermole	66.01
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SRSB 400

1	Tony Cattermole	70.02
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SRSB Aggregate

1	Tony Cattermole	136.03
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The success of the meeting demonstrated the practicality and enjoyment of shooting with .22 rimfires at these distances. It is similar, in terms of elevation, wind allowances and the risk of low scoring, to Match or Target Rifle at 1200 and 1600 yards. The difficulty in beating the elements and the sense of achievement in making good scores is much the same. The main differences are the lack of noise and recoil, and the much lower cost of the ammunition. New



Assortment of Arms

The depth and breadth of knowledge and shooting ability at the Trafalgar never fails to amaze, reports Derek Stimpson

After last year's successful Trafalgar meeting, none of us could have expected a year like this one. Shooting was totally suspended for a time and many events were cancelled or postponed, including the main NRA Imperial Meeting, which was only ever previously cancelled by war. IHAM was therefore cancelled.

Fortunately, the opening up of shooting and efforts of the NRA enabled the Trafalgar to be held on its original October dates.

The circumstances did not permit the usual trade fair, or the HBSA pistol exhibition and display stand. Social activity was very limited or not able to take place in pre Covid-19 form. So the only thing to do was to shoot more. Re-entries were popular!

The competitors joined in the spirit of the occasion, and while the squadding sheets were well filled, any spaces were taken up by the re-entries. I personally shot five competitions: moving target, running boar

and deer – it's good to have more competition. In fact, 601 Open .22 Sporting Rifle Running Boar displaced 406 Classic Service Rifle from top place, with 28 entries and re-entries. However, we do need more collectors with appropriate rifles, including double rifles, to come and join in. They will be amply rewarded!

It was good to see some young faces, including university students, who were full of enthusiasm and shooting, among other arms, a Martini Henry and a US Garand. We will look for them next year and hope they will spread the word about the enjoyment of shooting historic arms to their friends.

The NRA's careful planning of range time and good organisation allowed the meeting to take place in a safe, controlled environment. The Range Officers, mainly volunteers, on which so much depends, did a superb job in managing safe and enjoyable shooting with the usual wide range of historic arms. Thanks go to the NRA, and to

Comments from competitors are always illustrative and I believe that the following one is worth quoting:

I just wanted to say thank you to yourself and your staff, especially Carol in the Reception who squared me away no end, getting me into nearly every match I requested. Also to the RCOs and staff running the gallery and anything to do with the Lee Enfields on Century at 200. Not only did they show patience but also buckets of humour. To Peter Cottrell who gave me some much-needed pointers, and the other competitors who made the whole experience all the more enjoyable. I look forward to getting stuck in on CSR skills course and a few more competitions.

Your people have well and truly gotten the hook clean into me, and I must thank them.

Competitors were as usual able to make entries online in advance and take advantage of the 'bulk discount'. Nevertheless the NRA retained the 'walk-in' facility for entries on the day. The 'cashless'

The new Classic & Historic Handbook 2020 proved a useful reference for shooters and range officers alike on the ranges. The long list of competitions for Trafalgar exists with good reason, and the results are interesting to study each year. There are some, more specialised perhaps, which had few shooters (and some not shot), but a good number are shot by 10 or more people.

Thanks to Bryden Ritchie and Neil Macfarlane for their work on the new Handbook. As usual, with any new publication there may be some corrections to be made along with any errors and omissions (it seems very few, in fact) and any feedback from members is welcome.

The 'stats office' is a vital part of any meeting, and correct recording of a wide range of scores for this meeting in particular. Thanks go to Anne Ritchie for the vital work on stats and results, allowing their early publication.

As I comment every year, the variety of arms being used is impressive – military, target and sporting – muzzle-loading long-arms and pistols, both flint and percussion, breech-loading rifles of many types, including rook rifles and large bore big game rifles. All shot on both static and moving targets, and both prone and standing.

There are few, if any, meetings with such a wide number of different arms used. Not only is the standard of shooting generally high, especially taking into account the variety of arms, but so is the exchange of information on the arms, their particular hand-loads, variety and effectiveness of sights and so on. Some of these range conversations need to be recorded in publications and email exchanges for future use and research.

The Trafalgar is one of the largest historic arms shooting meetings anywhere in the world and held at such a world famous location: NRA's Bisley ranges, a historic



Social activity was very limited or not able to take place in pre Covid-19 form. So the only thing to do was to shoot more

venue where we are fortunate to celebrate our heritage.

While being pleased that this year's meeting was another success, especially allowing for the difficult circumstances, we need to look to the future and encourage more competitors, especially young ones. You can see the trend for entries in the accompanying table. Competitor numbers were down this year, as might be expected. The usual European visitors, mainly from Germany, Holland and Denmark, clearly could not arrive – nor shooters from parts of England and Wales. The average number of events shot per competitor was 4.86, only

marginally lower than last year's 5.27 but not bad given the circumstances.

The NRA maintain the broad number of competitions in the list at 197, with good reason, and to be inclusive of as many historic arms types and models as possible. We need to take advantage of this. There really is something for everyone and we need to encourage new, and especially younger, shooters to join us. Please encourage your friends and other club members to come and join in.

If you are not sure which competitions to enter, contact the NRA, who will assist. The main thing is to take part and enjoy using your historic arms, and enjoy watching others use theirs. It is also hoped that those who are now no longer shooting them, retain their historic arms as collectors, and thus contribute to preserving our heritage.

We must look to the future and preserve that heritage for future generations, so keep collecting and keep up shooting practice.

TRAFALGAR ENTRIES		
Year	No of Competitors	No of Cards
2020	125	608
2019	176	968
2018	193	1046
2017	189	971

Clay shooting progress

Throughout 2020, NCSC and BSG have been evolving and adding to their offering. Here's the latest...

During this second national lockdown, we can look back at what we have achieved over the last few months. I can reflect on some significant changes across Bisley Shooting Ground (BSG) and the National Clay Shooting Centre (NCSC). Business has been very good across both venues and although there are subtle differences in the way we operate, people are still eager to come to Bisley and make use of our facilities.

NCSC

NCSC has gone from strength to strength since reopening in July, though we are still only open five days a week and operating with a skeleton staff. Customers now book a range layout before arriving, which alleviates congestion and provides a more Covid-secure environment. This spreads the activity throughout the day, which is preferable to queuing at peak times, which used to be the case. This process has become the new normal, resulting in a calmer, quieter experience.

The unsung heroes behind the scenes in NCSC are the café staff. They have worked extremely hard this year and a special mention must go to Helle and



NCSC has gone from strength to strength since reopening in July, though we are still only open five days a week



Natalie Bales, British Open

Doina, who have held the fort in the most extraordinary of circumstances. Operating a café in a Covid-secure environment is not easy, especially with the additional responsibility of encouraging some of our more colourful customers to follow the rules. In the last few months they have not only had to contend with their normal trade, but have also taken on the catering for BSG events such as Club Shoots and Ladies' Days. They have delivered lunches for courses in the Pavilion, and during the Imperial Meeting they provided breakfast for the NRA staff as well as 60 packed lunches a day for the target markers. This is all on top of running a very busy Covid-secure café, so thank you Helle for putting up with a constant stream of requests

Competitions

We were proud to host a number of key competitions since the lockdown was lifted. These included the British Open English Skeet, the English Open Universal Trench and Olympic Trap. Entries were surprisingly high given the current circumstances, but the British Open Skeet was one of our most notable achievements. We had 229 competitors for the three-day event, which opened on an extremely windy Friday. Thankfully the weather improved over the next couple of days and three competitors shot 100 straight, leading to an exciting shoot-off on Sunday evening. Congratulations to Natalie Bales, who won High Gun. The competition ran perfect to time each

For years NCSC has only used black clays for Skeet disciplines, but now we have introduced the nets, we can use orange targets

Timmerman and the rest of the staff for running a very smooth event.

Facilities

If you have ventured to NCSC recently, you may have noticed two large netted structures on Layout 2. For years NCSC has only used black clays for the Skeet disciplines, but now we have introduced these nets, we can use orange targets for Olympic Skeet. We had been using black because orange targets ended up falling in front of the Down-the-Line (DTL) layouts, distracting the shooter who is also shooting at an orange target. This also impaired the shooter's ability to visually acquire the target when it was released against a backdrop of orange debris.

Olympic Skeet competitions in the UK and abroad always use orange targets, so the serious competitors have traditionally stayed away from NCSC to train competitively. The new nets now catch the targets, protect the DTL layouts, and stop the target before it goes out of bounds. Layout 2 is now a world-class Olympic Skeet layout, which is attracting much interest from the elite shooting community.

Coin tokens have now been made obsolete at NCSC as all of the main layouts have now fully moved on to the chip card system. Customer's cards are now uploaded with virtual tokens for each discipline, which they can use at their leisure. This has improved efficiency, giving shooters greater flexibility.

Our second training range is now complete, which has expanded the capacity of the shooting lesson diary. Our

demand, and both these ranges have been used to great effect.

Bisley Shooting Ground (BSG)

We are now nearing the end of our third month trading as BSG, and October was an extremely busy month. We went into the latest lockdown disappointed that our momentum had stalled, but with a clear vision to look for opportunities to improve the ground while we are closed.

We have accomplished much in a very short period. We have hosted three club shoots, the last of which was completely full, and our Ladies' days have continued to be successful despite the obvious challenges with entertaining large groups in line with current restrictions. We have achieved this by operating small teams of ladies remaining in their groups for the duration of the event. This worked extremely well and the feedback we

Send your name ideas for the crane on a postcard...



received showed that our customers are content to make allowances to continue enjoying their sport. Unfortunately we were unable to offer a sit-down lunch, but a socially distanced breakfast on the Clubhouse balcony followed by mid-morning snack boxes filled with delicious cakes went down equally well.

We were privileged to host our first CPSA registered shoot in October and saw over 130 people experience the beauty that our Cottesloe Heath ground offers. A truly fantastic layout designed by John Heagren and the team.

We have also demolished and rebuilt the medium pheasant tower. You will see from the pictures that the previous tower was in dire need of renovation. The new tower is two metres taller and two metres wider all round. We can operate five traps from the top, feeding high targets to a number of key shooting stands. The tower has been a hit with the game shooting community.

The crane has arrived!

Finally, we took delivery of our long-awaited new crane. This will be used to throw a series of 'high pheasant' targets, which have been missing from our shooting portfolio. We are hoping to launch this new offering as soon as we emerge from the lockdown, and then BSG will provide a full suite of targets for game and clay shooters alike. ■



Meet the reps

Want to get in touch with your regional or discipline representative? Here's how...

Regional

West Midlands

Richard Kenchington

westmidlands@nra.org.uk



Aged 68, I am a Chartered Civil Engineer, nearing the end of my 45-year career. I started .303 shooting at Bromsgrove School in 1967, first competed as an individual at Bisley in 1969 and shot TR until 1994. Early on, I was drawn to Match Rifle, entered my first Hopton in 1971 and won the Armourers at my first attempt. Since then I have won competitions including the Halford and Edge, was runner-up to Stuart Collings in the Hopton in 1995 and have shot for England in the Elcho four times. For 12 years, I have used a table and chair on the firing point to relieve my painful elbows and neck.

10 years ago, I started researching the long-range performance of the .22 and began organising Long Range Rimfire competitions in 2013. I am now Chairman of the Long Range Rim Fire Club (www.lrrfc.org.uk), which is affiliated to the NRA and successfully held

The main issues facing the region are (a) the closure of ranges, and (b) the difficulty in recruiting new participants.

(a) The closure of Tiddesley Wood in 2012 reduced the number of available MoD ranges in the region to one, namely Kingsbury. The latter is a shadow of its former self – there used to be 30 targets on range A and 24 on range B, whereas there are now only 12 on each range. But it is under heavy demand by the military and it has been difficult to obtain confirmed bookings that are not subject to cancellation at short notice. The only way to get round this is to book both ranges, even though we only use range A for target shooting, so it is very expensive. The Birmingham Bisley was revived in 2017 and held for three years running (but not this year), and should happen again in 2021, though the entry fees have needed to be high to cover the cost of range hire. Since 2012, I have made attempts to bring Tiddesley Wood and another range, Hampton Lovett, back into use but so far these efforts have proved fruitless. An initiative to build a 400-yard range in an old gravel pit at Stewponney, near

pounds – so this is a long-term project which is by no means certain of success.

(b) With the demise of shooting in many schools, and ever-increasing restrictions on those which do still have a CCF and can offer shooting, rifle clubs are struggling to find new members. The fact that one cannot invite newcomers informally to come and 'have a go', even with a .22 at 25 yards, and a degree of commitment is required before they fire a shot, is very off-putting and detrimental to recruitment. So existing members get older and fewer. This is particularly the case with fullbore, where the cost of ammunition at nearly £1 a shot and range fees of around £25 per half-day will be too much for all but the most determined new participants. This is why I feel we should concentrate more on the .22 rifle, which as I have demonstrated over the last 10 years, can be used successfully at distances far longer than 100 yards. I feel that the establishment of 200, 250 or 300-metre ranges, for low velocity only and therefore requiring much less backstop and danger area, should be a priority in the regions. The search for suitable locations,

North West

Dr Jim Marsden northwest@nra.org.uk



My shooting career started in 1975 as a member of Wigan Rifle Club and my main discipline was .22 rimfire. I had a period away from shooting due to my career as a fire officer and returned to the sport in 2009.

My current club memberships are the NRA, Pennine Sports Shooting Association (Diggle) and the 101RC (Altcar). I am an active competitor in events organised by the GB F Class Association (GBFCA) and the UK Bench Rest Association (UKBRA). I shoot FTR at all distances and Benchrest at 100, 600 and 1000 yards.

The North West is fortunate to have some of the best shooting facilities in the country, with a healthy competitive spirit in all disciplines.

My other hobbies include clay pigeon shooting and motorcycling.

Greater London & South East

Alice Gran gtrlondonse@nra.org.uk



After completing my six-year term as an NRA Trustee, I am pleased to continue to work for the NRA as SE Representative on General Council. I am also continuing as an NSC director. I am a member of several rifle clubs, being secretary of one. This keeps me in touch with the

needs of local clubs as well as with the police and other bodies. I shoot sporting rifle, moving target and static, LWSR, occasional long-range, historic arms and Section 7.3 heritage pistol, having a joint collection with my husband Derek Stimpson, which we keep at Bisley. Shooting and collecting has never been under greater pressure and I will be glad to help members in the SE when they encounter issues as well as work with the NRA and other organisations to protect our sport.



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- 1. East Midlands** John Bloomfield eastmidlands@nra.org.uk **2. South West** Peter Coley southwest@nra.org.uk
3. South Guy Larcombe southern@nra.org.uk **4. Scotland** Bryden Ritchie scotland@nra.org.uk
5. North Guy Trembath northern@nra.org.uk **6. Yorkshire & Humberside** John Warburton yorkshumb@nra.org.uk
7. Wales Martin Watkins repforwales@nra.org.uk



Northern Ireland

Richard Bailie

nireland@nra.org.uk



I have been NRA General Council regional representative for Northern Ireland for many years. I was Long-range Captain of Ireland for 10 years from 2000, Chairman of the Irish Rifle Club Bisley until 2017, and an NRA Trustee from 2012-2018. I was introduced to shooting at Campbell College Belfast, first in Smallbore and then subsequently fullbore, shooting at Divis Mountain, Hollywood Barracks and Ballykinler.

NI Fullbore is effectively controlled by three bodies: the Ulster Rifle Association, Comber Rifle Club and Dungannon Rifle Club, whose representatives sit on the NI Sports Council Fullbore Committee.

There is effectively only one range available to civilian clubs, and that is Ballykinler. Through direct liaison with, in effect, DIO, range bookings are made to secure dates for the Irish Open and the Northern Ireland Championships. Further bookings are subject to the vagaries of availability, but civilian shooting is sadly bottom of the list of priorities.

Fullbore shooting in NI has enjoyed a long history, with some notable names among its participants. There is also growing demand for other disciplines, notably Classic and F Class, and there is always

Disciplines

Gallery Rifle & Pistol

Ashley Dagger

gallery@nra.org.uk



As someone who has been involved in Gallery Rifle & Pistol since its inception (and a few Pistol years before that), I've shot, RO'd, been a Match Director and had the privilege of shooting with and captaining the Great Britain GR&P Team.

The vacancy presented to me as my next challenge was GR&P rep on the NRA Council. With my shooting career having probably peaked (some say it was always just a trough),

redirecting my efforts into this role allowed me to continue to give back to a sport that has been a pleasure to be part of for 30+ years.

I sit on the Council and Shooting Committee as the GR&P voice, promoting, governing and hopefully developing our element of the sport. With a small team (the GR working group), we review rules, promote competitions and training, and encourage others to give back to the sport, including the important range crews. In particular, I'm looking to develop the next generation; our age profile is somewhat higher than it should be. I'm also looking to promote, raise funds for and support the Great Britain teams on the international scene.

So far, efforts have been directed at things like the new COVID rules for GR at Bisley – widely adopted across other clubs I'm glad to say – and revisions to the GR&P handbook for 2021. I've also been involved with a GR Skills training day and a review of the new Captains' Handbook (for international teams). However, my prime aim is to represent you – individual GR&P shooters across the UK – in improving our lot, at home and abroad.

Use me as a conduit to the NRA and wider community. But also – think about how you might want to help in making our sports more popular, challenging, rewarding, and a winning combination within the shooting community.

Target Rifle

Charles Dickenson

target@nra.org.uk



I got into competitive shooting at university in 1973 and progressed from university teams to Royal Navy, Combined Services,

county, national, NRA and GB teams, both as a shooter and as a wind coach. Despite having been qualified as a Veteran for a few years now, I still manage to win the odd competition, including the Sunday Aggregate in this year's TR Imperial Meeting and the Berkshire County championship a few weeks later. I also shoot 25yds smallbore regularly at club and county level (Berkshire county indoor champion in

2014) and Match Rifle. Over the years I have shot service rifle, pistol and sub-machine gun, and had an occasional go at sporting rifle, gallery rifle, muzzle loaders and shotgun.

As well as being the TR Discipline Rep, I have recently been elected Chairman of the Shooting Committee, a post that also makes me a Trustee and member of the NRA Council.

My priorities are to develop an NRA Strategy for Youth Shooting across all disciplines, and to improve the reach of skills training courses by revalidating existing coaches and qualifying new coaches, who can take training materials back to their clubs all around the country.

Match Rifle

Alex Cargill Thompson

match@nra.org.uk



Match Rifle is, in essence, a more experimental and extreme cousin of Target Rifle. Rifles are limited to the same calibres as for TR (principally 7,62mm

NATO/.308 Win), but with some constraints removed: telescopic sights are permitted, as is hand-loaded ammunition (and heavier bullets), and rests may be used to support the hand, wrist or forearm. It is shot at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards – so making sense of the wind is part of the challenge, as is firing good shots and loading ammunition that works well in your rifle.

While most competitors shoot prone, some shoot in the 'back' or 'supine' position; those with medical conditions may apply to shoot from a table. The main annual competition is the Hopton, which in a normal year marks the start of the NRA Imperial Meeting; this comprises four days of individual shoots, followed by the Elcho Match between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. After a truncated season in 2020, plans are underway for a hopefully more normal season in 2021.

- 1. Target Shotgun** James Harris target.shotgun@nra.org.uk
- 2. F Class** Jonathan Longhurst fclass@nra.org.uk
- 3. Historic & Classic Arms** Neil Macfarlane historicarms@nra.org.uk
- 4. 300m** Ian Shirra-Gibb 300m@nra.org.uk
- 5. Civilian Service Rifle & Practical Rifle** Nick St Aubyn csr@nra.org.uk
- 6. Sporting Rifle** Steve Wallis sporting@nra.org.uk
- 7. Muzzle Loading Discipline Representative** Paul Wolpe muzzle@nra.org.uk





FUTURE The Airgun Show AIRGUN SHOOTER clay SHOOTING COUNTRY LIFE THE FIELD GUN TRADE NEWS
 HORSE HOUND SHOOTING GAZETTE THE SHOOTING SHOW SHOOTING TIMES Shootinguk SPORTING RIFLE SPORTING Gun



WHY WE SHOOT

Our magazine is proud to present **Why We Shoot**, a campaign that champions the positive stories in our industry.

We've got together with our sister titles to turn the spotlight on conservation and ecology, inclusion and diversity, and mental and physical wellbeing in



New ways of training

The latest updates from NRA Training Manager, David Camp

NRA Probationary Training Programme Update

January 2021 will see the launch of our newly updated Probationary Training programme. During the course of this year's unwanted spare time, we have been busy. Lockdown allowed us to take an in-depth review of how we deliver our probationary training. The current course consists of five modules, with a mixture of classroom time and range time. The classroom time is key in imparting the knowledge required, but it did eat into valuable range time. As we all know, too much classroom time can be a bit boring, especially when all you want to do is get out and shoot.

Our main aim was to maximise range time and the excellent one-to-one tuition students receive without losing the knowledge input. We also wanted to create and integrate a smoother transition period for students from the end of probationary training to the 'going it alone' phase. This will allow them to feel completely confident in their ability to safely use the Bisley range complex, or indeed any other regional range.

The improved Probationary Training programme will consist of two distinct parts covering six days. During the first four days, Modules 1 to 4, students will have to complete home study including tests before each module – some good old-fashioned homework. This distance learning will be confirmed and reinforced in short classroom periods during each of the four modules and this will ultimately create more range time.

Days five and six are completely classroom-free but both days still have to

procedures and protocols that are required to conduct a safe and enjoyable shooting day at Bisley as an individual or a member of a Club. The structure of the day will be based around an informal Club shoot day: the Fullbore Club day (Module 5) and the Gallery Club day (Module 6).

The Club days will allow students to practise what they have learned in Modules 1 to 4 under the guidance of NRA Instructors. Students will be encouraged to discuss any aspect of the previous four modules to reinforce learning, and

instructors will be on hand to cover any shooting-related topics. This will be the time to ask all those questions not covered in Modules 1 to 4. For most students, this final polish of two days will be enough for them to feel confident in booking and enjoying their own range time.

The course must be completed within six months of starting. Successful students, who have also been a probationary member of the NRA for a minimum of three months, will then receive their Shooter Certification Card. This allows them to book ranges, hire firearms and buy ammunition as a full member of the NRA.

In summary, the key changes will be the requirement for some distance learning and a better system of transition into the confident, safe use of the NSC Bisley range complex.

Lessons Learned from Delivery of Training under Covid-19

Once we had been given the government green light to restart training in August, we went through three preparation phases:

Our aim was to maximise range time and the one-to-one tuition students receive without losing the knowledge input



- Management planning and detailed Covid-19 risk assessments
- Purchasing appropriate PPE and cleaning materials
- Training the instructors to deliver in a Covid-safe manner

Could we do this safely?

The biggest factor that played in our favour was space. The classrooms, facilities and range complex allowed for social distancing to be observed during all activities.

Other deciding factors were the amount of training firearms and training equipment we had available, alongside our dedicated instructor pool of more than 20 dedicated people. So the answer all around was yes.

Prior planning and preparation prevents...

Before writing our Risk Assessment, the team took time to walk through and visit each location where training was going to take place, discussing and practising every small element of normal training procedures to identify potentially weak areas. This in-depth real time exercise captured the detail to ensure training is delivered in a Covid-secure manner. It also highlighted the extra cleaning equipment and methods required to safely conduct training.

Breaking the old routine

With our training team returning to a familiar working environment, it was vital that clear, simple procedures and work routines were understood and in place. The pre-course training days for the instructors were both vital and very constructive.

The training team was first split into small working groups. Within each group detailed jobs were defined, with each instructor fully aware of the importance of his/her role. Instructors who would normally help and handle in many areas had clear lines of responsibilities and tasks. This reduced cross-contamination of equipment and work areas.

This break in old routine was critical to ensure Covid-19 safety procedures were carried out and people didn't regress to the old system of training delivery.

We had the space, equipment and professional control. But only through detailed planning does it all come together



this ensured standards and procedures remained in place. In summary, we had the space, equipment and professional control. But only through detailed planning does it all come together.

In the Regions

We were able to successfully deliver a

restrictions meant that some planned courses have had to be postponed to 2021. Rest assured that when restrictions are lifted we will be back in touch to carry on where we left off.

If you are interested in running RSO, RCO or Club Instructor courses for your own club in the future, get in touch with

Regional Update

Nic Couldrey, Regional Ranges Manager, reports on events taking place and funding for Clubs available up and down the country



Michael Cooper, winner of the Northern Ireland TR Championship and the Presidents Cup for the Grand Aggregate, with son Robbie who won the Owen Catchpole Trophy for under 21s.

As winter approaches, let me begin in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Open meeting, run by Comber Rifle Club, took place at the picturesque Ballykinler Range complex on 3-4 October 2020. A healthy entry of 44 saw competitors shoot a mixture of Target Rifle, FTR, F Open, Classic, Classic Optical and Transitional Sniper disciplines. A perfect example of how different shooting disciplines can happily co-exist on a range!

Extensive preparation went into organising the meeting, and the excellent relationship developed over many years with the local Defence Infrastructure Organisation staff was essential to the

Saturday started with the standalone Donegal Tankard competition at 300yds and saw Jonathan Wallace win in TR with a score of 35.6 and Liz Charleton in FTR with a score of 35.5.

The Grand Aggregate started with a Queen's II, with Martin Millar winning the Championship 300 with a score of 50.8, Richard Martin won the Championship 500 with 50.8 and Jonathan Wallace the Championship 600 with 50.7. Michael Cooper won the Gourley Tankard for the Saturday aggregate with 150.13.

Appalling weather on the Sunday morning saw a slight change to the programme. Shooting began with the Stein

600 won by David Lindsay (50.5). Michael Cooper won the Murray Homes Tankard for the Sunday aggregate with 100.13.

As is tradition, the top four Target Rifle shooters then contested the NI TR Championship Final at 600yds with Michael Cooper scoring 50.6, Rebeca Laird 50.5, Jonathan Wallace 49.9 and Martin Millar 49.7.

Winner of the Northern Ireland TR Championship and the Presidents Cup for the Grand Aggregate was Michael Cooper with the only HPS of 300.32, with runner-up Martin Millar (296.38) and Rebecca Laird (295.29) third. Robbie Cooper won the Owen Catchpole Trophy for under 21s.



It was heartening to see shooting resume at clubs all over the country

“A new crowdfunding initiative will provide matched funding to help cover lost income

with the only HPS of 300.35 with Liz Charleton runner-up with 297.32. Raymond Fitzpatrick won the Jimmy Watson Tankard for FTR with a score of 245.20 with runner-up Killian Hennessy scoring 230.9. Alf McCauley won the Classic Optical discipline with 226.16 and runner-up Andrew Charleton a close second with 224.11.”

Shooting resumes in England

After a four week pause, Club bookings on Defence Infrastructure / MoD ranges in England resumed in mid-October. I appreciate that the disruption has frustrated many regional shooters who rely on access to military ranges to practise. Notwithstanding the new Covid-19 restrictions, clubs in the South West, North and South Eastern regions now have confirmed bookings. Clubs in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are subject to rules and guidance set by the Devolved Administrations.

Financial support for Clubs in England and Wales

activity sector. Grants are available to support clubs affected by the Covid-19 restrictions; small grants between £300 and £10,000 are available to help clubs comply with government and national governing body guidance. Grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 are available to adapt premises and improve ventilation to allow sport to resume safely. This may be of particular interest to indoor

range operators seeking to upgrade existing air handling systems. Finally a new crowdfunding initiative will provide matched funding to help cover lost income. Demand for the funds is expected to be intense and clubs are encouraged to apply early. Full details are available from Sport England here: <https://www.sportengland.org/news/return-play-fund-launched>

Sport Wales has launched a £4m fund to support grassroots sports impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Grants are available between £300 and £50,000 from repurposed lottery funding. The initiative is supported by the Welsh Target Shooting Federation, and Welsh Clubs are encouraged to contact John Dallimore at WTSE. Full details of the funds and application process are available here: <https://wtsf.org.uk/be-active-wales-fund-new-fund-to-protect-and-prepare-grassroots-sport/>

Club websites

Finally, as Clubs become increasingly reliant on social media and a website to attract new members and engage existing members during the pandemic, keep in mind that content, particularly images, can be misappropriated and used out of context. It is worth checking the Club's online presence to ensure that information in the public domain is accurate and up to date. Avoid publishing images that could attract unwanted attention to your Club and members. ■



Competitors shoot at 600yds in the Northern

OBITUARIES

ROBERT MOTT 1939-2020



Robert Michael Mott, Mike or Motty, was a remarkable man. A lawyer, historian, an excellent shot in many disciplines, a unique, mischievous character and *bon viveur*. And so it is with great sadness I report of his sudden death on Monday 12 October, in the Queens Medical Centre Nottingham, just three days after his 81st birthday.

His shooting career spanned over 70 years, starting in the roof of the family home in West Bridgford. He and his father set up a range with stationary and moving targets fashioned from Meccano. This range was short-lived as the bullet catcher was not up to the job, and neither were the roof tiles... or their neighbours'. Moving to the garden seemed a better idea until a mishap with a pistol and the hot water cylinder caused a flood. He continued his shooting at Nottingham High School, and shot for Castle Rifle and Pistol Club in the sandstone caves under Nottingham Castle.

He never said where his interest in shooting came from. Possibly it was from his father. Perhaps it was through his old friend Dougie Woods, a pre-war Queen's Prize winner. However, I rather think that it was more to do with a dislike of rugby, preferring a nice warm range to charging around in a muddy field!

his pals managed to tune his army surplus radio transmitter into the BBC's frequency and give a bawdy commentary to a ballet being shown on TV. They thought the commentary was just on their TV. However, it transpired that anyone watching within a five-mile radius received the broadcast too. His father took stock, removed him from the sixth form after one term and told him to report to the receptionist, at 8.30am on the dot, at the family firm of solicitors. His first conundrum was how to get there since his father rarely arrived before 10am (the joys of being a senior partner) and him not even having a bicycle. Suffice to say he made it, and over the next few years learned the business from the bottom up, qualifying as a solicitor in November 1964.

Mike remembered with fondness attending the School of Law at Guildford, mainly due to its proximity to Bisley, which resulted in an unplanned extension to his solicitor training as shooting was far more interesting than studying. He always claimed that it was his mother's fault for whisking him off to Claridge's and a night in town the day before his last exam. Frankly, either or both could be true. During this time he shot a few main meetings, and his best result was a tie for the Century. Unfortunately, he had

team that won the Public Schools Veterans Trophy, one of his favourite medals.

Returning to Nottingham, he and his school pal John Pearce settled into articles at their respective law firms, during which time they met up every Thursday night for a pint. Over the next few years old school pals returned to Nottingham and the 'gang' expanded to 20-plus in number. 60 years later, though sadly fewer in number, the pals still meet on a Thursday night.

Mike rose to the position of Senior Partner in the 1980s, running the firm until his semi-retirement (he never really retired as his counsel was invaluable). During this time he was involved in the BLA, an alternative to the London-centric Law Society. He was instructed by various government departments and was honoured with an invitation to a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. He was proud of his certificate from the Law Society marking 50 years on the Roll of Solicitors, though he often lamented the state of the profession nowadays. I have received many messages of condolence from clients saying how much they valued his counsel.

Mike eventually resumed competitive shooting, and concentrated on Target Rifle. Though he never realised his ambition of a Queen's 100 badge, he was a solid team shooter for Nottinghamshire and the Old Nottinghamians. He was in the winning team for the KG V in 1979, the first time Nottinghamshire had been seen on the honours board in the English XX club since the early 1900s. He was also in the Astor team of 1981 when it was won by the Old Nottinghamians with a then record score. His name appears on many of the Nottinghamshire Rifle Association's trophies, and he was the open county champion on at least one occasion.

He also indulged his passion for historic arms. For many years he was involved with

home of the Notts and Derby Vintage Arms Society. He would spend many hours there experimenting with loads and bullets, trying to gain accuracy with his collection of Enfields, park guns and match rifles. All his works are meticulously documented and will no doubt help others with this dark art.

His perseverance paid off and apart from his many achievements with the MLAGB, he was most proud to be selected to represent Great Britain in the World Championships in Spain and the USA, and for the NRA team to Canada, where he set two world records with his original Rigby rifle. A few years later, he captained the Great Britain Team to South Africa. He was particularly fond of Canada and South Africa, not just for the shooting but also for the genuine and generous friends he made there. He also shot in the Entente Cordiale, and as a Francophile made excellent friends among the French shooters.

Not only did he take part, he also gave back. He sat on the NRA Disciplinary Committee for a number of years. He was Chairman of the MLAGB for a while and President of the Notts and Derby Vintage Arms Society. He was also Chairman of the Notts Rifle Association for a period. He enjoyed teaching shooting and has passed on his love and knowledge of the sport not only to his children but also his grandchildren. His grandson Edward (15) has joined his local small-bore club and just taken delivery of his first rifle.

In the days before Robert died, we had been chatting about air pistols – his latest toy – and how he enjoyed plinking in the back garden, especially with no hot water cylinders in range! He had just spent his 81st birthday making charges for his next shoot and was ready for his birthday meal. The following day he was out mowing the lawn, cutting the hedge and walking Bobby, his ever-faithful and rather grumpy sidekick.

He leaves behind his wife Muriel who, over the last 35 years, worked tirelessly cooking, cleaning, marking, scoring, entertaining his cronies and the shooting widows, and generally supporting him to the extent that he could not have enjoyed himself half as much without her. Also his boys William and Henry, who both shoot, Mark and Paul, all their families of whom I know he was immensely proud, and a legacy

HUGH FORGIE 1956-2020

One of the earliest proponents of F-Class in the UK, Hugh Forgie passed away peacefully at the Beatson Institute, Glasgow, in September.

Hugh was an accomplished GB team member attending two World Championships: the inaugural FCWCs in Canada 2002 and the South African tournament in 2005.

Shooting wasn't his first choice of sport, though; Hugh was a keen runner and triathlete, a track international over 1,500 metres, competed on the racetrack across the world, and came second only to Seb Coe in 1975. He only stopped running competitively at the late age of 38 when compelled to by a persistent calf injury.

When he turned his competitive side to shooting, he was as formidable on the range as on the racetrack. A naturally instinctive shooter, he eschewed plotting and graphing his shots, preferring to keep his head up at all times and "watch the flags like a hawk", as he was fond of saying. It worked for him; right from the start of F-Class in the UK he established himself at the top, winning the Irish Open in 2000. He had a battle royale in 2002 with his old shooting partner, Peter Jackson, at the Imperial. It was Hugh's first visit to Bisley and he scored 'possibles' in the Duke of Cambridge, The Times and Prince of Wales. It wasn't quite enough to prevail over Peter, though, and he had to settle for second in the Grand Agg. Later in life he was asked what was his best day in shooting, to which he replied, "The day I came second in the Grand." And the worst day? "The day I came second in the Grand."

He represented GB on two World Championship tours: Canada in 2002 and South Africa in 2005. Those were the highlights of his shooting career. On Friday 1 April, Hugh proved he was no fool, as he won the prestigious Scottish Sword – the first time it has been won by a Scotsman. Hugh was a keen jogger and went off by himself every day running around Bloemfontein despite all the dangers. We



and wonder what all the fuss was about – he could outrun any muggler.

On the flight back from Johannesburg, Hugh asked a prescient question: "Why does F-Class not have a league like other sports?" Hugh's question put in motion a sequence of events that gave rise to the National League. Without his prompt, who knows when or even if we would have got to where we are today.

Sadly, it was not long after that Hugh discovered that he had CCL: Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia. He was determined not to let it get him down – for example, whenever he had a chemotherapy session at the Beatson in Glasgow, Hugh cycled in from South Lanarkshire on his bike. Over two courses of the drug therapy, he only drove in a couple of times, when his blood count was too low for him to manage the 46-mile trip – an astonishing achievement.

The 2015 spring edition of the NRA Journal featured a report of his remarkable spirit; Hugh and his wife Margaret undertook an extremely challenging cycle from the Beatson Cancer Centre to Malaga, Spain, cycling around 2000 miles in 10 days. They achieved this challenge and raised over £28,000. In recognition of his charitable fund-raising, Glasgow University has established the Forgie PhD Studentship in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia.

Despite repeated chemotherapy, the leukaemia became immune to treatment

ROBERT STAFFORD
1934-2020

Robert 'Bob' Stafford passed away peacefully on 23 October 2020, at the age of 85 due to prostate cancer. He was a member of the London and Middlesex Rifle Association, serving as chairman and secretary for many years. He also served on the NRA Council.

He was born in London, spent his early years in Sri Lanka, and was educated at Wellington College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge University. Owing to a hearing issue he was unable to follow in a family tradition of joining the Royal Engineers, but engineering still grabbed his attention and he sold his motorcycle to travel to Canada where he worked building Canada's highway system. He returned with the most comfortable boots he ever owned, a fur hat he handed down to his grandson decades later, and good memories of his adventure.

After studying electrical engineering at Cambridge, he worked as an engineer in England, first for English Electric in the Midlands and later on for an engineering consulting firm, ERA Technology, based in Surrey. His engineering jobs gave him opportunities for travel, and once in Surrey, regular trips to Bisley for shooting competitions were much easier.

Robert had developed a passion and skill for target shooting at Cambridge, joining the Cambridge Shooting Team and later on representing Oxford and Cambridge in Canada in 1957, Great Britain against Canada in 1958, 1974, 1978 and 1982. He was Vice Captain against Kenya and Zimbabwe in 1989 and the Captain of the 1993 GB team to South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1993. He was also a successful individual shooter, reaching the final stage of the Queen's Prize at Bisley 12 times and winning the silver medal of the Queen's prize in 1980. He made a number of lifelong 'shooting' friends, both at university and on the many international shooting trips he took over the years. His favourite part of these trips was the chance to meet up with his many friends from New Zealand, Australia, Kenya and South Africa.



were married in September 1960 and had three children: Hugh, Tim and Jenny. All three children have fond memories of weekends and summers roaming Bisley camp, getting ice cream and hunting down Robert at the North London on the veranda or in the gun room.

Though Robert and Felicity divorced in 1981, he remained actively involved with his children, encouraging them in their various activities. Hugh got involved with rifle shooting at his school and was an Atheling to Canada in 1981. Tim became hooked on skateboarding and surfing instead. Robert attended a number of Jenny's amateur theatrical performances in Bristol.

Robert served as chairman and secretary of the LMRA for many years and the Robert Stafford lounge was named after him for his contribution to the Club. Robert also served on the NRA Council for a number of years, where he presented a calm voice of reason, according to a fellow member.

After retiring from ERA in the late 1990s, he continued to travel, making

2007. Eventually he switched from target shooting to golf, reporting it was much more comfortable in the rain playing golf! Retirement gave Robert extra time to spend with his children, wherever they were based. He made many trips to the USA to visit Hugh, Cornwall to visit Tim, or Bristol to visit Jenny. The number of trips only increased once he had grandchildren in England and America.

After many years in Surrey, he moved down to Bude, Cornwall, to be closer to Tim and his granddaughter, Seren. Though living in Cornwall made international travel more involved, Robert continued to travel to the USA to see his American grandchildren, Gabby and Will. For many years he remained intrigued by new ideas and adventures – trying out four-wheeling with his grandchildren on one occasion and having to be persuaded now might not be the time to take up skiing on another. He read voraciously and remained interested in technology, though he was convinced it was designed incorrectly.

Robert was a gentle and intelligent man.

Notices

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL AND PRINCIPAL COMMITTEES 2019/2020

By elected Ordinary, Regional and Shooting Discipline Members of the General Council. From 1 September 2019 to 30 June 2020

	GENERAL COUNCIL	SHOOTING	MEMBERSHIP	
NO OF MEETINGS	3	2	0	
GK Alexander *	2	X	0	O
HRM Bailie	3	X	X	R
GV Barnard	1	0	X	R
JPS Bloomfield	3	2	X	O
N Brasier*	2	X	0	O
CM Brooks	3	X	X	O
DP Calvert	2	2	X	O
AMW Cargill-Thompson	3	2	X	D
MJJ Charlton	1	X	X	O
PR Coley	2	X	X	R
DC Crispin	3	2	X	O
CES Dickenson	2	1	X	D
HF Dunton	3	X	X	R
ED George	0	0	X	D
A Gran	1	X	X	R
JS Harris *	3	2	X	D
R Kenchington	3	X	X	R
JM Kynoch	2	X	X	O
GAE Larcombe	1	X	0	R
Miss SS Lohmann	3	X	0	O
J Longhurst	0	1	X	D
D Lowe	3	X	X	O
N Macfarlane	1	0	X	D
M Maksimovic	0	X	X	O
JF Miller	1	X	0	R
BD Ritchie	2	X	X	R
RM Roberts*	2	X	X	O
Mrs KD Robertson	1	X	X	O
I Shirra-Gibb	2	0	X	D
N St Aubyn	0	1	X	D
I Thomson	3	X	X	O
MK Townsend	2	X	X	O
G Trembath	1	X	X	R
S Wallis	2	1	0	D
JD Warburton	2	X	X	R
MP Watkins	1	X	X	R

JERSEY RIFLE ASSOCIATION

The Jersey Rifle Association (JRA) always offers a warm welcome to teams of shooters who wish to compete against the JRA, and this welcome extends to individuals who wish to join us at either our Spring or Summer Prize Meetings.

The JRA would like to organise visiting teams on a two-year lead-time going forward, with the idea being that as many visiting teams as possible are accommodated. In the last few years we have had instances where we have struggled to provide shoulder-to-shoulder matches owing to restriction on the number of targets we have, and have had to resort to two details of team matches.

The benefit to visiting teams is that they have sufficient lead-time to organise their shooters, accommodation and travel, and we in Jersey can plan a schedule of events that are enjoyable to all. The Spring Prize Meeting is always held over the last May Bank Holiday weekend where the JRA holds its traditional match versus the NRA Channel Islands touring team. Other teams and individuals are always welcome to join us during this meeting, but as much advance notice as possible would be appreciated for this event, which will next be held over the weekend of Saturday 29 May to Monday 31 May 2021.

The Summer Prize Meeting, which takes place annually in the week leading up to the August Bank Holiday weekend, will in 2021 be held from Wednesday 25 August to Sunday 29 August and will also include team matches against visiting teams.

If you are interested in joining us in Jersey, please contact our competitions secretary, Colin Mallett, by email at colin.c.mallett@gmail.com who will take bookings for 2021 and 2022 or any other future years that suit your planning.

Please remember all shooting in Jersey is now held on electronic targets so bring your iPads, tablets or smartphones.

The JRA always looks forward to

Results

IMPERIAL MEETING 2020

Queen's Prize Top 10

2nd stage, 900x, 1000x, Total

1. DC Luckman, 148.22v, 75.9v, 74.9v, 297.40v
2. OEJ Spencer, 149.21v, 74.9v, 74.7v, 297.37v
3. MCJ Button, 148.18v, 74.8v, 74.11v, 296.37v
4. CE Dart, 149.20v, 75.8v, 72.8v, 296.36v
5. JPS Bloomfield, 150.12v, 74.7v, 72.3v, 296.22v
6. AM Sadler, 149.23v, 74.9v, 72.8v, 295.40v
7. RN Stebbings, 149.18v, 74.7v, 72.7v, 295.32v
8. JD Warburton, 149.19v, 73.8v, 72.9v, 294.36v
9. PD Sykes, 148.18v, 75.10v, 71.7v, 294.35v
10. MC Cooper, 149.20v, 72.9v, 73.6v, 294.35v

Grand Aggregate Top 10

Telegraph, Mail, Alexandra, Duke of Cambridge, Times, Wimbledon, Conan Doyle, Donegall, PW Richardson, Prince of Wales, Lovell, Corporation, Total

1. PM Patel, 75.10v, 73.11v, 48.7v, 50.6v, 50.6v, 49.6v, 49.6v, 50.7v, 75.10v, 75.15v, 50.5v, 50.10v, 694.99v
2. DC Luckman, 74.12v, 75.9v, 49.8v, 50.5v, 50.8v, 50.7v, 50.10v, 49.7v, 73.7v, 73.10v, 49.7v, 49.5v, 691.95v
3. TM Drysdale, 74.9v, 75.10v, 49.5v, 50.10v, 49.4v, 50.9v, 48.4v, 49.6v, 75.10v, 75.12v, 49.7v, 47.4v, 690.90v
4. TJD Raincock, 75.9v, 75.9v, 49.6v, 49.8v, 50.9v, 49.4v, 46.3v, 50.7v, 75.14v, 75.9v, 46.5v, 50.6v, 689.89v
5. RJ Lygoe, 72.8v, 73.6v, 50.8v, 49.7v, 49.8v, 49.5v, 47.6v, 50.5v, 75.11v, 75.9v, 50.6v, 50.6v, 689.85v
6. RH Kitson, 73.8v, 74.8v, 50.6v, 48.6v, 48.5v, 49.7v, 49.6v, 49.6v, 75.9v, 75.6v, 49.5v, 50.7v, 689.79v
7. RA Wiltshire, 74.11v, 74.10v, 49.6v, 46.4v, 50.6v, 50.8v, 49.4v, 48.5v, 75.10v, 74.8v, 48.4v, 50.7v, 687.83v
8. CE Dart, 75.11v, 75.8v, 49.6v,

- 47.4v, 687.82v
9. RC Oxford, 75.11v, 75.8v, 49.6v, 48.5v, 50.8v, 49.3v, 50.6v, 49.6v, 72.9v, 73.10v, 48.1v, 49.4v, 687.77v
10. CA Evans, 74.8v, 75.12v, 49.3v, 49.5v, 50.8v, 49.8v, 47.5v, 50.6v, 75.12v, 75.14v, 46.3v, 47.3v, 686.87v

St George's

2nd stage, final stage, total

1. JC Underwood, 75.9v, 75.10v, 150.19v
2. PM Patel, 75.12v, 74.10v, 149.22v
3. M Liversage, 75.11v, 74.10v, 149.21v
4. DC Luckman, 74.9v, 75.10v, 149.19v
5. TM Drysdale, 74.12v, 74.8v, 148.20v

The Lawrence Trophy

300x, 500x, 600x, Total

1. England, 595.81v, 596.93v, 598.95v, 1789.269v
2. Wales, 589.76v, 596.82v, 592.71v, 1777.229v
3. Scotland, 587.67v 594.74v 593.78v 1774.219v
4. Ireland, 594.84v, 587.70v, 589.62v, 1770.216v
5. Channel Islands, 583.60v, 586.69v, 581.66v, 1750.195v

The Mackinnon

900x, 1000x, Total

1. England, 582.54v, 567.46v, 1149.100v
2. Ireland, 580.56v, 559.43v, 1139.99v
3. Wales, 574.54v, 558.27v, 1132.81v
4. Scotland, 571.46v, 546.46v, 1117.92v
5. Channel Islands, 563.57v, 552.39v, 1115.96v

The Chancellors

300x, 500x, 600x, Total

1. Cambridge University, 335.39v, 342.34v, 347.52v, 1024.125v
2. Oxford University, 329.31v, 332.37v, 339.29v, 1000.97v

The Musketeers

300x, 500x, 600x, Total

1. Durham University, 192.22v,

- 190.19v, 196.20v, 195.19v, 581.58v
3. Warwick University, 77.3v, 135.5v, 126.3v, 338.11v

Inter-Services

Short Range

300x, 500x, 600x, Total

1. Army, 535.60v, 542.66v, 539.66v, 1616.192v
2. RAF, 536.62v 528.50v 536.69v 1600.181v

Inter-Services

Long Range

900x, 1000x, Total

1. RAF, 515.44v, 511.31v, 1026.75v
2. Army, 521.50v, 491.29v, 1012.79v

Hopton Aggregate

Whitehead, Halford, Cottesloe, Wimbledon, Armistice, Edge, Albert, Total

1. CN Tremlett, 150.23v, 148.18v, 100.17v, 99.13v, 98.13v, 193.24v, 221.30v, 1009.138v
2. RJ Lygoe, 148.22v, 148.17v, 99.15v, 98.15v, 98.11v, 193.22v, 218.29v, 1002.131v
3. JPL Sweet, 149.24v, 144.16v, 100.17v, 97.9v, 96.10v, 194.23v, 220.26v, 1000.125v
4. AR McLeod, 149.22v, 146.20v, 100.19v, 99.12v, 97.8v, 193.19v, 216.24v, 1000.124v
5. AMW Cargill Thompson, 150.25v, 144.17v, 100.16v, 97.9v, 99.8v, 191.20v, 219.20v, 1000.115v
6. AL James, 149.20v, 148.12v, 100.15v, 99.7v, 97.11v, 190.21v, 215.23v, 998.109v
7. AC Abrahams, 147.23v, 148.16v, 98.15v, 98.7v, 96.7v, 190.16v, 219.28v, 996.112v
8. JC Peck, 148.22v, 146.13v, 98.14v, 97.8v, 95.9v, 193.17v, 219.25v, 996.108v
9. JA Lindsay III, 150.25v, 148.20v, 99.17v, 100.12v, 96.8v, 182.18v, 220.26v, 995.126v
10. MJ Judge, 149.23v, 146.14v, 99.11v, 99.9v, 96.5v, 191.21v, 214.22v, 994.105v

200, 100, total

- Historic, W Tong, 155, 129, 57, 45, 25, 411
Iron, D Cross, 156, 147, 76, 57, 28, 464
Practical, J Frankland, 232, 181, 100, 88, 34, 635
Service, R Wade, 245, 189, 97, 99, 33, 663

CSR Long Range Aggregate

Class, winner, Long Range, Rural, Total

- Historic: W Tong, 116, 132, 248
Iron: D Cross, 124, 199, 323
Practical: J Frankland, 183, 274, 457
Service: R Wade, 183, 284, 467

Methuen Cup

Class: winner, score

- Historic: LERA A, 731
Practical, HRA A, 1400
Historic Individual:
S Ellett, 156
Practical Individual:
A Chapman, 242

F Open Grand Aggregate

Donegall, Alexandra, Kent, Mail, Wimbledon, Conan Doyle, Duke of Cambridge, Corporation, Dolphin, Total

1. LK Vinall 75.8v, 74.10v, 150.17v, 75.12v, 75.7v, 95.4v, 144.11v, 90.2v, 69.4v, 847.75v
2. J West 75.13v, 73.7v, 149.10v, 75.10v, 71.2v, 87.3v, 145.13v, 92.6v, 74.4v, 841.68v
3. AJ Price 75.10v, 70.4v, 139.6v, 74.11v, 75.7v, 95.6v, 144.12v, 93.5v, 73.3v, 838.64v
4. PJ Harkins 75.10v, 72.6v, 143.10v, 75.8v, 74.4v, 93.4v, 140.12v, 92.6v, 73.4v, 837.64v
5. D Raybould 74.8v, 75.8v, 144.8v, 75.8v, 72.11v, 93.4v, 140.10v, 93.6v, 71.1v, 837.64v

FTR Grand Aggregate

Donegall, Alexandra, Kent, Mail, Wimbledon, Conan Doyle, Duke of Cambridge, Corporation, Dolphin, Total

- 93.7v, 140.7v, 84.3v, 66.2v, 821.60v
2. DJ Rollafson 74.10v, 75.8v, 140.9v, 75.14v, 74.6v, 87.3v, 140.14v, 85.2v, 70.2v, 820.68v
3. M Jarram 74.7v, 70.3v, 140.13v, 73.9v, 74.9v, 88.3v, 135.6v, 92.3v, 68.4v, 814.57v
4. SJ Gambling 73.4v, 70.4v, 141.8v, 73.5v, 71.7v, 88.3v, 142.4v, 87.2v, 67.2v, 812.39v
5. S West 75.13v, 72.6v, 146.14v, 75.10v, 74.9v, 81.3v, 142.14v, 82.4v, 62.0v, 809.73v

TARGET SHOTGUN FESTIVAL

Timed and precision 1 SGM-0735

1. R Sanders, 299.16
2. R Stubbs, 289.9
3. L Hilger-Ellis, 287.6

Timed and precision 1 SGSA-0736

1. R Sanders, 299.16
2. T Jemmett, 297.11
3. A Addison, 295.14

Multi-Target SGM-1135

1. R Sanders, 108.11
2. M Pearson, 106.5
3. G Isaacs, 99.6

Multi-Target SGSA-1136

1. R Sanders, 116.12
 2. J Parsons, 109.7
 3. S Denton, 107.11
- ### NRA Embassy Cup SGM-3335
1. G Isaacs, 116
 2. L Hilger-Ellis, 1132
 3. A Addison, 107

NRA Embassy Cup SGSA-3336

1. A Addison, 118
2. T Jemmett, 117
3. P Matthews, 117

Service Match – SGSV – 3430

1. R Sanders, 105.2
2. P Jebson, 102.2
3. A Addison, 98.2

TRAFALGAR MEETING

102 Muzzle Loading Service Rifle 100yds

1. P Wolpe, 87
2. E Munro, 85

203 Vintage Service

1. L Brown, 41.3
 2. M Horner, 39.1
- ### 402 Classic Rook & Rabbit Rifle 50m
1. P Pearson, 128.14
 2. T Read, 128.13

405 Classic Any Rifle 200yds

1. D Clayton, 48.2
2. P Bysshe, 45.3

406 Classic Service Rifle 200yds

1. I Grant, 49.4
2. J Mead, 48.4
3. L O'Brien, 48.3

408 Classic Service Rifle 500yds

1. E Munro, 43.1
2. K Henderson, 40.1

412 Classic Service Sniper Rifle Optical 200yds

1. L Foreman, 50.6
2. M Hodgins, 49.5
3. M Heyes, 49.4

416 Classic Service Rifle Single Snaps 200yds

1. J Mead, 49
2. P Bysshe, 38

450 Classic Service Rifle 600yds

1. D Miller, 42.2
2. P Lovatt, 38.1

465 Classic Service Rifle Rapid 200yds

1. P Bysshe, 58
2. J Mead, 57
3. P Newhouse, 43

467 Classic Service Rifle Double Snaps 200yds

1. P Bysshe, 38
2. J Stevenson, 31

506 Veteran Service Rifle 200yds

1. P Bysshe, 48.1
2. M Skinner, 46.0
3. P Newhouse, 45.4

508 Veteran Service Rifle Sniper Optical 200yds

1. L Foreman, 50.7
2. C McGill, 50.3

510 Veteran Service Rifle 200yds

1. S Twomey, 41.1
2. P Cottrell, 38.2
3. E Corry, 37.1

541 Veteran Enfield Minute Rapid 200yds

544 Veteran Service Rifle Double Snaps 200yds

1. P Bysshe, 50
2. P Cottrell, 48

601 Open .22 Sporting Rifle Running Boar 55yds

1. N Greenaway, 162
2. J Venter, 155
3. D Stimpson, 142

611 Open Any Rifle Historic Running Deer 110yds

1. N Greenaway, 31
2. J Burnhill, 30
3. D Stimpson, 28

615 Open CF Military Running Deer 110yds

1. N Greenaway, 66
2. J Venter, 63

625 Open McQueen Sniper Military 200yds

1. C McGill, 44
2. M Deakin, 40

630 Open Target Rifle NRA .303 SR(b) 200yds

1. A Morley, 50.4
2. R Ellis, 49.7

635 Hesketh Pritchard Military 600yds

1. N Greenaway, 49.4
2. E Burrige, 46.3
3. G Robinson, 46.2

805 MLAGB Standard Revolver 25m

1. D Ellison, 88
2. J Walton, 86

826 Gallery Rifle Any Rimfire 50m HPS = 140

1. S Twomey, 134.14
2. M Owen, 130.14

843 Slowfire Any Lever Action Repeating 25m

1. A Podevin, 138.18
2. N Francis, 137.17

845 Slowfire Any Centrefire 25m

1. I Grant, 140.20
2. N Francis, 139.19

846 Slowfire Any Rimfire 25m

1. R Hankey, 139.19
2. S Twomey, 138.18

863 Bobber Repeating CF Gallery Rifle 25m

1. A Podevin, 199.12
2. M Tedesco, 199.7

865 Bobber Gallery Rifle/

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866 Bobber Historic .22 Self Loading Gallery 25m

1. G Moffatt, 199.10
2. G Bowden, 198.9

874 Surrenden Repeating CF Gallery Rifle 25m

1. A Podevin, 82.9
2. K Henderson, 78.10

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1. A Podevin, 149.15
2. P Ryder, 146.13
3. M Tedesco, 144.15

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2. B Yard, 150.20
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1. M Deakin, 150.22
2. A Podevin, 148.23

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1. P Bysshe, 104.3
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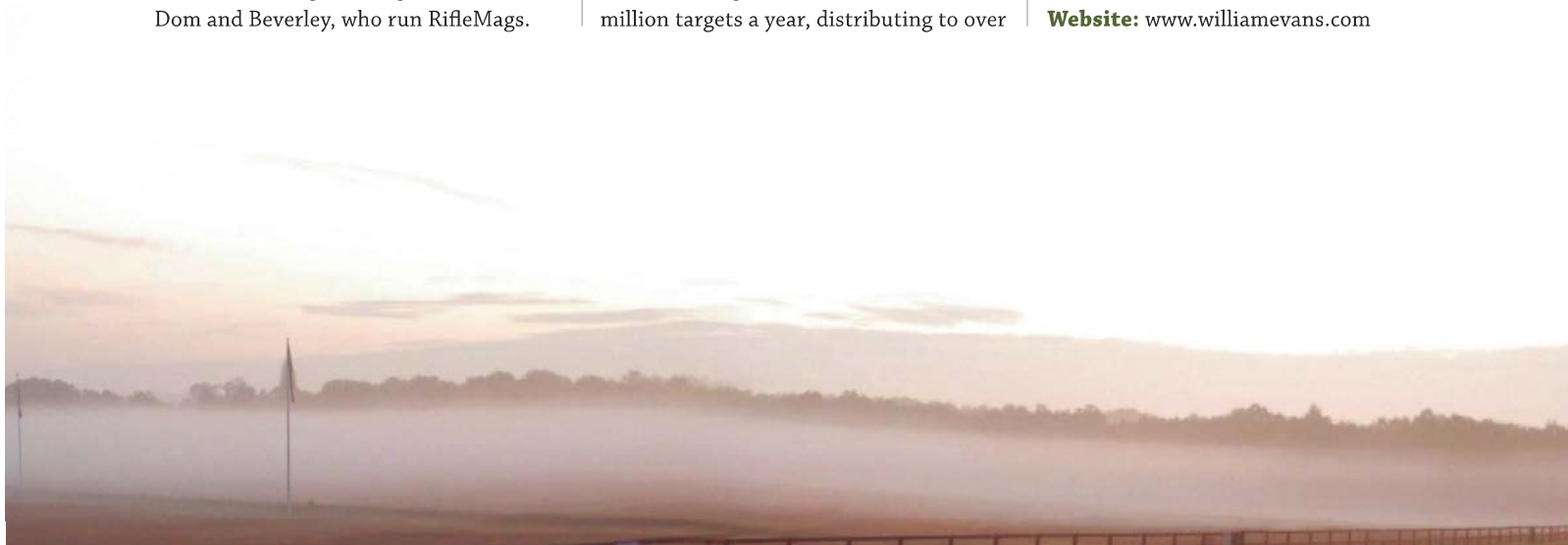
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MESSAGE

10



James Harris, former Chairman of the Shooting Committee, talks to NRA

How did you get into shooting and at what age?

I started shooting cartridge firearms over 30 years ago. That was primarily with my Club (Old Windsor RPC) but I had been shooting air rifles with my mother and brother for some years before that.

What is the most memorable moment in your career?

It's not over yet! To be serious, memorable moments are many. One that comes to mind often is shooting falling plates with an Uzi in Israel with some good friends. It wasn't so much the competition (purely bragging rights) but the atmosphere. Other moments include closing down the range after the first Cottesloe Heath Challenge knowing that our team had put on the first of many excellent competitions, and also surprisingly collecting a medal at the SMLE match for the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. That was a particularly enjoyable moment as my SMLE was a gift from Katia.

What was the biggest hurdle you overcame as a shooter?

Money; time and money. Sadly it's either not having the time, or not being able to justify the conversion of gold into lead dust. Fortunately I have been able to gain enough experience that not being able to practise (I haven't practised seriously for about eight years) doesn't have that much of an impact. Obviously my scores

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

My family have always been supportive and encouraging, and most of my friends also shoot, or have shot in the past.

What sort of music do you listen to?

Anything loud, My hearing is not what it was...

What Club are you a member of?

Old Windsor Rifle and Pistol Club since 1989, though in recent years work and shooting have kept me away from club nights and shoots. I still keep my eye on the club and it is fabulous to see it thriving and attracting new members.

Which is your favourite country in the world?

Is it somewhere you have visited on tour?

Without treading on the toes of my overseas friends, I particularly like Jersey. I had the pleasure of working there as an official at the Island Games in 2015 and it was a fabulous 10 days.

How has Bisley and the NRA influenced you?

I'm older and greyer (what's left of it!) after six years as an NRA Trustee. On a serious note, I now understand the attachment people have for Bisley, though I do like to think I have been able to influence the NRA rather than the other way round, and help make it more inclusive of niche shooting activities.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Free time? Have you met me? I assume that you mean time spent not working or shooting (teaching running competitions and competing), of which there is very little. At present, my brother and I are refurbishing my '66 Sunbeam Alpine after a few years off road with dodgy brakes.

Do you have any pre-competition routines?

None I can consciously remember. Other than ensuring I have all the equipment and ammunition I need, I don't have 'routine', and to be frank I think such things are actually detrimental to performance. If you need to follow a routine, checklist, or set of bullet points, your head isn't in the game anyway. You should be able to just turn up and shoot. If, after all the practice, you can't just turn up and shoot, you haven't practised enough.

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

Make your own path. Learning from others is all well and good up to a point, but they are not you, and once you know the principles, examine your own ability and weak points and develop a plan to improve. From a financial perspective, I would suggest that they consider why they want to shoot, and remember that very, very few people make a living from shooting, so treat it as it is: something to be done for enjoyment even when it's competitive.

So, what next?

Well, now that I am freed from the constraints of Council, I have some more free time to dedicate to my discipline (Target Shotgun)



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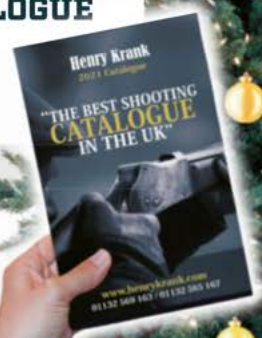
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