

# The Bristol bullet-in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

September 2006

## Editorial

What a state of affairs at Bisley with the un-seasonal downpour washing out the National Gallery Rifle Championships over the Bank Holiday weekend. Lets hope that global warming brings us an Indian Summer because there is a lot to look forward to over the next few months.

I have tried not to moan in this section of the Newsletter but I feel I must mention target frames—which seem to get more scarce each week. I will be raising the matter at committee but the situation isn't helped by shooters putting four or five target faces on each board and shooting it to pieces. Surely you can walk up and down between details and keep your **centre** (that's short for target) some-

where near the **centre** (that's short for middle) of the board. Also don't put your aiming mark too low, many of the boards have had their leg shot away and low shots also strike the mantle guarding the 50m target gear. There, that's got that off my chest!

Thanks this month for articles on page 2 from our Rifle Captain, with an introduction to Full Bore Rifle Shooting. Thanks also to an Original Founding Member, who tells how it all started with a history of the club.

A small band of members had a great afternoon as guests of the Army School of Infantry in Warminster on Thursday 24th. August. The collection is nothing short of a museum of the

history of small arms and those who went along haven't stopped talking about getting to grips with some of the rarer specimens. Thanks to the Competition Secretary for organising the event.

Thanks again to the duet that provided a lunchtime feast for twenty odd of us that turned up for the barbeque on Sunday 3rd. September. Thanks also to another veteran member who assisted the duo and proved to be a dab hand in the kitchen.

I have about half a dozen e-mail contacts on my list and I will be mailing the first e-version of the Newsletter this month—let me have address and you can also join the list if you e-mail the Ed.

## Forthcoming events

### A busy autumn of shooting events ahead

There is a full calendar of shooting events during the autumn both at home and further a field.

September sees the start of the club winter aggregate. Shoot it at least three times between now and March to be in with a chance to lift

the first Patterson Trophy.

The autumn will also see Frome Club complete their gallery rifle matches. We are welcome to take part in all these events so why not come along and have a go.

Mike Wadsworth is on the

look out for helper for the Cadet "skill at arms" match on Sunday 22nd. October. Come along and help the youngsters get started in shooting sports.

**Full details in the calendar enclosed with this Newsletter, happy shooting!**

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### **The National Gallery Rifle Championships**

#### **Bisley**

Saturday 28th. and Sunday 29th. October 2006

This event is usually held over the August Bank Holiday weekend, but as you have probably heard it was washed out by a freak storm.

It has been rescheduled for the Gallery Rifle Action Weekend (GRAW) the last week in October.

Full details are available from the National Rifle Association or speak to a Committee Member, there is even an on-line application form for the internet compatible.

## Full bore rifle what's on offer to members

Belated greetings from your Rifle Captain. I am afraid that a busy build up to a frantic Phoenix plus my heart attack afterwards has prevented me from getting to the committee meetings or the range recently.

Many thanks to all who have enquired after my health. Contrary to a certain wag's comments, the heart attack was not brought on by carrying the takings from the Phoenix to the bank. Oh! that it were so.

Talking to many of you, it seems that there are a lot of full bore rifles out there not being used. We are lucky in this area that we do not have to go all the way to Bisley. Our unique relationship with Frome and District Pistol Club and Bristol Muzzle Loaders allows us to join in their full bore rifle dates at

Warminster, Bulford and Yoxter, using both electronic target ranges (ETRs) and gallery ranges. ETRs are mainly situated at the School of Infantry at Warminster. These ranges have up to 12 firing points, or lanes, with targets at 100, 200 and 300 metres all operated from a console behind the firing points. The targets can be set to fall when hit or remain up and register hits on the board at the console. So no butt detail, more time shooting, more people able to shoot and with all the targets being operated from one spot all sorts of practices and competitions can be run.

On one of these ETRs there is a computer controlled monitor on each firing point that shows each hit on the target, it even shows when you miss and by how much! All targets are

based on the figure 11 advancing man.

The ranges are booked until 1 p.m., but with continuous shooting you usually run out of ammunition before this. Bristol Muzzle Loaders will be sending dates for their Yoxter Shoots soon, so watch out for lots of full bore fixtures in forthcoming Newsletters.

If any of you retired gentlemen of leisure wish to shoot at Bisley during the week let me know so that I can book a range for you. Often you have the whole of Short Siberia (100 and 200 metres) to yourselves.

If anyone has ideas to promote full bore shooting in the Club please let me know, either at the range or give the Rifle Captain a call.

## How it all began a brief history of b&dr&pc

In the post war years Tony and Ted met at a local fencing club and discovered a mutual interest in "skill at arms" in particular pistols. As both had guns (legit) they teamed up looking for places to shoot. The indoor small bore rifle clubs were suspicious and unfriendly and they ended up in Pilning where the goodwill of the TA and range warden allowed access on vacant dates. Rifles always took precedence!

The word spread in the mysterious fashion of grapevines and the nucleus of a club was forming. In the 50s a

breakthrough came with access to Filton's RAF range. Luxury, convenient location, a much tidier facility for all calibres.

Attitudes relaxed towards pistols and both NRA and NSRA reinstated national meetings and members began to take things seriously. Other venues became available and by 1955 the club formally became B&DR&PC.

The Cold War climate caused the authorities to show increasing concern and civilian clubs became less welcome at military establishments. The

change prompted the search for a permanent home and in the 60s negotiation with Lord Wraxall concluded and the club found its present home, Failand.

Over time, with some effort, new blood and enthusiasm conditions improved until we have what must be undoubtedly regarded as one of the best private club ranges in the West. How many can also boast a pub on the very doorstep!

Thanks to our author and an original founding member.

## Club news what went on at committee?

The Committee would like to congratulate a probationer who was accepted as a Full Member at the September meeting.

Another new probationary member was also accepted into the club at the same meeting. Welcome!

Many of you will have noticed that a number (well quite a lot actually) of target faces have found their way onto the range. They are a bit of a

mystery however! Where did they come from? The Committee would like to thank the anonymous donor for their gracious gift so if you know who our mysterious benefactor is please let the Committee know.

The Cadet "skill at arms" match scheduled for Sunday 22nd. October will require a number of similar guns. The club has a good supply of air guns but if anyone could offer the loan of a

Ruger 10/22 with a medium power scope it would be of great assistance.

With the books now closed we can report that only seven members failed to renew this year and with some new members already accepted the membership can be considered very stable. The Committee continues to encourage members to use the Guest Days to promote new blood.

**The Committee**