

The Bristol bullet in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

August 2007

Editorial

A heavily burdened club member was seen trudging across to the firing point on Stickle-down Range on Sunday 22nd. July. I was making my debut at the National Rifle Association Imperial Meeting, shooting some of the gallery rifle events on Melville Range at the time. I thoroughly enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and the slower pace of the meeting in the crumbling Edwardian surroundings; in fact the organisation was almost straight out of a Colonel Blimp comic strip. Whilst I enjoy the nostalgia of Bisley I do wonder where the funds are going to come from to bring Bisley into the 20th. century, before we get too far into the 21st.

The spiralling cost projections of the Olympics cou-

Olympic Heritage?

pled with the plans to hold the shooting events at Woolwich is becoming increasingly controversial. The apparent Olympic ideal of providing a lasting heritage for sport will not be apparent after the "temporary" Woolwich facilities are bulldozed into the ground and the aging facilities at the National Shooting Centre (that's Bisley to you and me) will not have been enhanced one jot. Shooters are not renowned for their left wing viewpoints but give a thought to the equal opportunity lobby (I wonder if they will thank me for labelling them as "lefties"). If all shooters played the equal opportunity card with their MPs would it have any effect? After all it is mainly public money that they are using. Perhaps the thought

of having to take a crane and wrecking ball to the Olympic Village after the games are over, in other words condemning all the newly developed sporting facilities the same treatment intended for the "world-class" Woolwich Range Complex, may concentrate the mind. I would be interested in a professional opinion on this, are there any solicitors out there that deal with equal opportunity law?

The club intended to book some rifle ranges at Bisley for those amongst you who would like a day out. Unfortunately the Rifle Captain went to Bisley at the weekend and found it closed because of the Foot and Mouth. Watch this space for further details!

Ed

Forthcoming events

The "Summer Sunshine Shootout", shown in the calendar of forthcoming events for Sunday 19th. August has been moved to Saturday 18th. August. This event, started last year when a rainstorm caused the cancellation of the Gallery Rifle Championships. It

is a chance to get some practice before the August Bank Holiday Meeting.

If you intend to get along to the Gallery Rifle National Championships over August Bank Holiday weekend, check nra.org.uk or ask a Committee Member

for details soon.

More club competitions are shown in the calendar over the next couple of months and there are some full bore rifle matches scheduled, speak to the Rifle Captain).

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The National Gallery Rifle Championship

A classified event to be held at the National Shooting Centre Bisley on Saturday/Sunday 25th./26th. August 2007.

All the usual gallery rifle events for under lever, .22 rim-fire and long barrelled revolver, plus some rifle events.

Timed and Precision, Multi-target, Phoenix A, 1500, Bianchi and Advancing Target—plenty to keep you occupied so get reloading now!

Entry forms will be posted on the notice board in the Hamilton Range for those who don't use the internet.

www.nra.org.uk

Shooting Equipment —part 3

scope knobs?

The knobs on a rifle scope are called turrets. In this short piece we will discuss what they do and by how much.

First a bit of theory. A circle has 360° (degrees), each degree is split into 60' (minutes). Fire a shot at a target 100 yards away, and then move the rifle through one tiny minute of angle, a second shot fired at the same target will impact an inch away from the first. The same test repeated at 200 yards will move the point of impact 2" and at 50 yards only ½", so doubling the distance doubles the effect and conversely by halving the distance only half the effect is noticed. In fact target shooters don't talk about inches of adjustment but minutes of angle.

Looking at the windage (left and right) and elevation (up and down) turrets on a scope we see that they are marked in inches (or fractions of

inches) per 100 yards and so equating easily to minutes of angle.

There are usually about six full turns of adjustment between end stops on a scope turret (don't force them, you won't get any more!). Each turn usually has sixty "clicks" or intervals, or 6 x 60 = 360 clicks in total. Normal convention is that each click equates to a ¼ inch at 100 yards or a ¼ minute of angle, some target scopes have finer adjustments and the turret will be marked appropriately. At 100 yards the 360 clicks (¼ inch clicks) give a total of 90" adjustment. At normal gallery rifle ranges, say 25m the total adjustment is only a quarter of this and small adjustments of the scope will have very little effect and the total movement available being in the region of 20 to 24 inches.

You can see therefore that fitting a

scope to a gallery rifle leaves little margin for error if you only have less than a couple of feet of total adjustment.

On the long range target rifle a single click of elevation will have a relatively profound effect, i.e. ¼" at 100 yards, ½" at 200, 1" at 400 and 2" at 800. At 400 yards then the 360 clicks on a scope will give you 360" or 30 feet of adjustment. Then again you will need a lot of adjustment at long range, as an example a 150 grain bullet from a .308 rifle leaving the muzzle at 2,750 feet per second (the military standard) has already dropped nearly 100 inches by the time it gets out to 400 yards.

Now we know what the knobs are for and next time we will look at scope bases and mounting systems and discuss how to mount your chosen scope on the rifle.

Range talk

I was reminded recently that the winter competitions, for the Winter Aggregate Trophy, are due to start soon. In order to make things run more smoothly this year the intention is to have the precision match as a postal style competition, which can be shot at the convenience of the competitor, leaving only the action events to be shot on the scheduled competition dates.

All being well Round One of the action events, that is the Timed and Precision 1 and Multi-Target Match, will be shot on Sunday 14 October. All you need to enter is a .22" rim-fire rifle

and 54 rounds of ammunition. Club rifles and ammunition will be available to members on match days—so why not come along and have a go. Prizes will be awarded for each of the matches and for the aggregate, so plenty of chances to do well. Details will be posted on the notice board and circulated with September newsletter.

There were a number of members this year who have paid their subscriptions but have not recorded a visit at Failand Range during the year. If you have named Bristol as your principle club and have not shot for a year the Secretary must inform the Police, so remem-

what the members think!

ber to sign your cards in the Hamilton Range every time you attend and shoot. If you shoot at other ranges, e.g. Bisley, or have attended a rifle date with the club you can also enter details of these attendances on your signing in cards at Failand.

The Guest Day at the end of July wasn't as busy as previous months but there were still a few new faces with that smile of satisfaction as they took their first shot – remember what it was like? Talking about memories I think some of the best articles in the newsletter have come from members recollections, so why not send yours in?

Club news

The range working party on Sunday 22 July was attended by fourteen members who put their efforts, on a rare sunny day, into keeping the under (or should we say over) growth down. Those industrious attendees can look forward to a discount on their subscription next year. Apparently the free breakfast was also much appreciated.

The Committee wish to sincerely thank the member who gave up his free time

to carry out repairs to the roof on the Watkins Range.

The club is looking at its liability under the health and safety regulations and will be posting notices for range officers to help them with their duties. The proposal is to produce a check list for those opening the range to complete before shooting commences.

The club would also like to identify any members with a First Aid qualification,

what went on at committee?

so if you hold such a qualification please let a Committee Member know.

Lastly to improve the organisation of Guest Days a range briefing for Guests will be held at 10.30 a.m. on each Guest Day. Please ensure that you and your Guests arrive in time for the briefing. Members are reminded that they should provide sufficient supervision for their Guests—if you are short handed this can be sorted out during the range briefing.