

The Bristol Bulletin

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

February 2007

Editorial a renaissance in shooting

"No taxation without representation" was a slogan of the American Revolution, the implication being that government only has a right to levy duty on its citizens if they are granted the vote. So what is my point? It's the Annual General Meeting of course; we (the Committee) have taken your taxes (Club Subscriptions), so when do you get to exercise your democratic right – at the AGM!

The AGM will be held in mid-May and as a member (probationer or full) you can attend. However only full members can make proposals and have voting rights on motions. There will be official notification of the meeting sent directly to you but I felt it worth mentioning now because I was disappointed at the low

turnout at last year's AGM. If you can possibly make it then please try and get along and have your say and if you want to help the club then why not put yourself forward for the Committee, there is always plenty of work to do.

There has been resurgence in shooting sports since the handgun ban, which incredibly happened ten years ago. For those of you who don't remember what it was like in the pistol days, you used to have to queue to get a spot on the firing point before Dunblane and getting squaded in competitions relied on the principle of "book early to avoid disappointment".

Things are turning around though. I don't think any-

one has been turned away from the Phoenix Meeting (flagship gallery rifle meeting at Bisley, held in May each year) for lack of space, but last year there were over 600 competitors at the meeting and it is fast becoming the "must-do" event for gallery rifle competition shooters (and some longer range events too).

I look forward to reporting club members success later on in the year—if I get re-elected Newsletter Editor at the AGM of course (started campaigning already eh!).

There is also an excellent trade exhibition at the Phoenix for that bargain buy you didn't even know you needed – so start saving now!

See you on the range,

Ed.

Forthcoming events

Seventeen people have taken part in one or more rounds of the Greg Patterson Aggregate so far, so well done everybody who has supported the matches. See the highlights panel on this page for the dates for the final rounds and the attached page for the cur-

rent aggregate positions.

The rest of February and March are full of shooting opportunities both here at Failand and also at Bisley and in April (and hopefully with improving weather) there is a full bore rifle date at Warminster.

If any members are interested in the shooting dates away from Failand but don't know how to get started please speak to one of the Committee, they will be only too happy to help. A calendar of all the events for the next three months is enclosed with the newslet-

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Last Chance for the Winter Aggregate

By the time you get this newsletter the penultimate round of the Greg Patterson Aggregate will probably be over, the last round will take place in March.

Remember it's the best three to count so if you have only shot the matches twice, or you are looking for an improved score this is the last chance.

Sundays

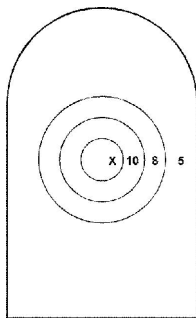
**11th. February and
11th. March 2007**

Gallery rifle part 7 bianchi—the practical match

The first practice (or match as they are called in Bianchi Cup) is the so called "Practical Match" - so what's practical about it?

You are presented with two targets, 4½ feet from centre to centre and about 6 feet from the ground measured to the top of the targets. Starting at 10 metres (it used to be yards being an American event) you load with six rounds and make

The standard Bianchi target face, used for three out of the four matches—showing the scoring zones. The centre fire target is 30"x18" and the small-bore half size.



ready. The ready position for this event is with the rifle grasps in both hands, held parallel to the ground at waist height. You first have 3 seconds to fire one shot at each target. Then you get 4 seconds to fire two shots on each target. After a relaxed reload with a further six shots (there are no speed reloads on any stage) the final series of 6 shots, three on each target is fired in 8 seconds—but this time from the weak shoulder. This is the only time you have to shoot wrong handed in this match—8 seconds is a fair bit of time to do it, but practice makes perfect and it is worth doing.

After moving back to 15 metres you shoot one shot on each target in 4 seconds, two shots on each target in 5 seconds and three shots on each (after the reload) in 6 seconds. This time all

from the strong shoulder.

Moving back to 25 you get between 5, 6 and 7 seconds for the same course of fire and at 50 metres you get 7, 10 and 15 seconds. Many shooters kneel at 50 metres to give stability and with the "generous" time allowed it worth trying out to see if it suit you.

At the end of the Practical Match you could have accumulated up to 480 points towards your final total. The timing are identical for both centre fire and small-bore and if you feel the need to try it with a long barrelled revolver that's the same as well. The "X" scoring ring counts 10 and is only used as a count back tie-breaker in the event of shooters achieving identical scores.

Next time we will have a look at the Falling Plate Match.

New members—old tricks?

Here we go again from your old friend Captain Jack!

The lever action competition was well supported, including a couple of probationers, and there were some "dumb-founded" high scores. Our good friend Deputy Ed (he of the arm-chair) shucked up and had a go, but still missed the spittoon.

Sunday 18th. February will separate the men from the women and the boys from the girls. I have it on good authority that the Failand Kid is going to show. Still wanted dead or alive, reward a bottle of Red Eye or a bottle

of Rub of the Brush. Yours,

Captain Jack (alias Graham "Nobby" Clarke—Competition Secretary).

Despite lots of activity on the range recently I have not been told a great deal for inclusion in this section of the newsletter, are you all in hibernation for the winter?

Actually not hibernation as you, the Members, have been busy given lots of people the opportunity to try out shooting sports on the Guest Days, and this has undoubtedly been a fac-

Members section

tor in the number of new probationary members coming through. Perhaps actions speak louder than words and instead of speaking to me you decided to get out and find new shooters – well done, keep it up!

If you do have anything to say this section of the newsletter is your place to do it—pass me a note or whisper in my ear and (depending on my memory) your thoughts may make it into print. You may even want to put your name to your comments or maybe a full article.

Speak with you soon!

Club news

Mentioned in the last issue were two new probationary members, in fact there were four new members accepted. Two new probationer members were accepted this month and two more old members rejoined. Welcome to you all, I hope shooting sports gives you much pleasure over many years. One of the rejoinders is now one of the few junior club members, perhaps a 2012 hopeful?

We have had a record year for new

what went on at committee?

members, which is great. We see most of the probationers at the range on a regular basis, but for those who find it more difficult to get along remember if we haven't seen you at the range for four months the Committee are obliged to review your probationer membership status.

If you are having problems getting down on club days, and we all do from time to time with the pressure of modern life, then get in touch with the

Membership Secretary and let us know, so we are aware of your continued interest.

Some of you may have heard about new fire safety regulations for building such as our ranges—it looks like another little earner for the Health and Safety Industry to get the necessary safety certificate. You should see new signs and fire extinguishers being put up soon!