

The Bristol bullet-in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

July 2007

Editorial un-seasonal weather!

Has your ardour been dampened by the un-seasonal rain—I believe that June was the wettest on record.

Having got wet and cold at the Phoenix Meeting in May, I was hoping that the Imperial would bring brighter prospects, but no sign as yet. Never mind I will try and get along anyway and shoot a few gallery rifle matches, they are partly under cover. Pity the long range boys out on Stickedown Range I cannot see many records being broken—fingers crossed there are still a couple of months of summer left for the weather to turn.

I am reminded at times like these that there are parts of shooting sports that you can do in doors. At the AGM, the Constitution was

amended for probationers to give them more of a structure to their training.

Last Sunday a couple of probationers asked the Training Officer to be shown how to clean rifles. Remember when you got your first gun, you hardly had it home before the cleaning gear was out, but bad habits soon creep in, don't they—how long is it since your gun last saw a moist patch?

I would encourage probationers, or in fact any members, who wishes to know how to do something to ask one of the Committee—they may not know how to do it themselves but they will know someone who does.

Whilst we are on the subject of probationers, I have

an apology to make for last months newsletter. I omitted to congratulate the two new probationer members who were accepted as full members by the June Committee.

This month a new probationer member was also accepted as a full member. Most of you will know her father, who is a long standing club member.

We have one or two other probationers nearing the end of their apprenticeship, so I hope to be able to add some more names to those elected to full membership over the forthcoming months.

A full shooting calendar over the next couple of months so get down the range for some practice—**while the weather holds!**

Forthcoming events

Well Hombres, getting near the time for the last of the Western Shoots in the series, the prize will be a bottle of red eye and half a bottle of snake bite.

August will be the month so keep your eyes peeled. Time to clean up those

lever actions and black powder pistols and just remember Sam Colt has the last word.

Signed

Captain Jack

So mosey along to Failand on 8th. August!

Other competitions and events over the next couple of months both at home and farther a field so check the calendar of forthcoming events. If you have not tried shooting a competition yet then these local matches are an ideal starting point!

This issue

Editorial	1
Forthcoming Events	1
Gallery Rifle Nationals	1
Shooting Equipment—2	2
Defining Terms	2
Club News	2

The National Gallery Rifle Championships

NRA Bisley

Saturday and Sunday 25th. and 26th. August 2007

The National Gallery Rifle Championships will be held at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley over the August Bank Holiday.

All the usual favourite events 1500, Bianchi, Multi-target plus Timed & Precision will be there, and some precision matches and the exciting advancing target.

Centre fire and small bore gallery rifles are a prerequisite—there are usually some longer range events for full bore rifles.

See NRA Web Site for full details

Shooting Equipment—part 2 reticles!

The dictionary definition for a reticle is a “cross-hair” and that’s a good general term for what we see when we look through a rifle scope. There are so many different types that I thought I would give a short run down of what is on offer and try and give some idea of which sort is best for what type of shooting.

Target shooters mainly use a simple fine cross hair (FCH) which does not obscure the target and allows aiming at a small point. I am a great supporter of this type of reticle, it is good for a lot of different shooting types, including gallery rifle.

A slight variation on the FCH is the 30/30 reticle. Don’t ask me where the term came from but it differs in that the cross hairs are thickened on the outer part, with the centre third slimming down to a true FCH. This type is

popular on hunting scopes and I use one on my centre fire gallery rifle. It allows for quick approximate target acquisition between the thicker cross hairs with the final fine adjustment being made on the FCH.

Increasingly popular is the Mil-dot type. This type was designed for use on sniper rifles and can be used to approximate ranges. It comprises a FCH with a dot at the centre and at intervals on the vertical and horizontal axis. Each dot equates to a given distance at the target, this allows “aiming-off” using the offset dots without adjusting the scope. Useful I would expect at long range on a windy day but I cannot see the application to gallery rifles.

The last main category is not a true type in itself but any of the above scopes can have this additional fea-

ture, the illuminated reticle. The illuminated reticle lights up, usually with a red (sometime green) glow. This can be a single dot where the cross hairs meet or it can light up the cross hairs themselves.

Some scopes have no magnification at all and simple use a central dot for an aiming point. These so called “red-dot” sights are great for action and speed shooting events, allowing quick target acquisition. They are very popular with long barrelled revolver shooters. One or two models have been introduced recently with low power magnification (x2 or x3).

There are other more exotic cross hair arrangements for specialist uses but if you ask about at the range I am sure you will find someone with one of the four main types to try. Next time I will have a look at adjustment and zeroing.

messages to the editor

Talking to members I get the impression that some of the terms I use in the calendar of forthcoming events are not universally understood, I will attempt to clarify.

Gallery Rifle Centre Fire (GRCF) is a pistol calibre rifle intended for short range, they are mainly under lever rifles. Gallery Rifle Small Bore (GRSB) are .22 rimfire rifles, usually but not exclusively semi-auto or self-loading. The bolt action and single shot rifles in this class are mainly used for precision events.

Both GRCF and GRSB are used for the

courses of fire that were shot using pistols prior to the ban. I have described a range of these in previous newsletters articles.

Full bore rifles include sporting, target and service rifles.

Sporting rifles are the type that hunters use, usually bolt action rifle with low to medium powered scopes. There are target shooting events designed for these rifles in both .22 rimfire and full powered centre fire jobs (e.g. .223 and .308 etc), they usually have animal targets or silhouettes and you shoot from crossed sticks, and like

defining terms!

the hunter at short to medium range (100 and 300 yards).

Target rifles have been around for years, with either open sights (for the traditionalist) or more recently with high powered scopes (for those with age related failing vision).

Service rifle is a general term but mainly relates to bolt action rifles that were used by the armed services. The venerable .303 Enfield and similar are popular types. Both target and service rifles are shot out to 1,000 yards.

Hope this short explanation has helped!

Club news

I am glad to report that despite some late payers the membership renewal is almost complete, with only three members resigning.

With the three new members accepted in the last two months that means a stable membership total and when we include those other accepted as full members during the past year the club has probably grown slightly.

what went on at committee?

The Junior Airgun Captain has finally set the date for the Cadet Skill at Arms Match, which will be on Sunday 23rd. September. The range will be close for normal shooting but helpers are very welcome, these young shooters represent the future of shooting sports, so why not come along and lend a hand?

If you have a young person interested in taking up shooting then why not try starting with air guns. The Junior Air Gun Section runs throughout the sum-

mer meeting every Wednesday evening at 6.30.

A range working party will be held on Sunday 22nd. July—free breakfast specials for all those who turn up plus money of next years membership. All welcome with plenty of gardening and other minor jobs needing to be done to keep the range up to spec.

The Committee