

The Bristol bullet in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

June 2007

Editorial 9 medal haul at the phoenix!

Despite the indifferent weather Bristol and District took 4 golds, 3 silvers and 2 bronzes, at the Phoenix Meeting held at Bisley over the Whit Bank Holiday.

One member took the honours with gold in the Bianchi Cup centre fire (A Class), silver in the small bore 1500 (B Class) and another silver in the shotgun Embassy Cup (Semi-Auto Class). The same member also took bronze in the Bianchi Cup Aggregate, dropping only 98 points in both centre fire and small bore matches. He also came third in the 1500/Bianchi Cup Aggregate, but as only 8 competitors shot all four matches no bronze medal was awarded. Well done, Bristol's top shot this year!

The Chairman starred at long range taking gold in

the 400/500/600 yard Production Free Pistol A Match. He was also the runner up, by a single point, in the 800/900/1000 yard Free Pistol 18½ barrel match, but with only four entries no silver medal was awarded.

A fast shooting member beat the field to take gold in the Long Barrelled Revolver Man v. Man Event. A classic pistoleer shot a fine 94 to take bronze in the Classic Production Pistol. I picked up a gold in the Bianchi Cup centre fire (C Class). I also shot in the centre fire International 1500 Match, against Germany and Ireland, with the four-man Phoenix B Team who came runners up to the Phoenix A Team with tied scores (Phoenix A taking it on X count), Germany A took third place, just 61

points (out of a possible 6,000) behind. Well done everyone on some great performances!

As well as the medal winners I spotted about 20 of our members at the Phoenix Meeting, including several of the newer probationer members being tempted at the Trade Fair, or were they just hiding from the rain?

I send out about 125 newsletters every month, so 20 members represents about one sixth of the club who managed to get to the Phoenix over the Whit Bank Holiday and many members also performed range conducting officer duty and were there the whole weekend.

Ed

Forthcoming events

There are a couple of full bore rifle dates coming up in the next few months, if you want to take advantage of them please give the Rifle Captain a ring.

Ahead of the NRA Gallery Rifle National Championship at Bisley (25th./26th.)

August) there will be a day of match practice on Sunday 19th. August on the Hamilton Range. You may remember we had a similar event last year when the national championships at Bisley were washed out. There will be a small charge for targets but if you have

not tried shooting in matches or you just fancy a bit of final practice before the national championships this is an excellent opportunity.

Why not pack some lunch and make a day of it?

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The NRA Flagship Event

The Imperial Meeting
Bisley
14th.—28th. July 2007

The Imperial Meeting is the highlight of the NRA Shooting Calendar and virtually every shooting type is on offer from 10 yards to 1,000 yards.

You don't need to be an NRA member as you can pay a small fee for temporary "Meeting Membership". Events start at just a couple of pounds for the un-squadded gallery rifle matches.

For further information contact the NRA on nra.org.uk or—see the notice board in the Hamilton Range for more details.

Shooting Equipment—part 1 what scope?

Most gallery rifles are plenty accurate enough at 25 metres with iron sights? True but if you shoot at 50 metres the scoped up guns always take the prize, and there are no different classes for guns with iron sights!

Far Eastern and eastern European manufacturers have made literally hundreds of rifle scopes available at competitive prices with excellent optical quality. Even some of the traditional names have their scopes made in the far east and then branded with their logo. With such choice how do I get the right scope for my rifle? That is what this short series is all about.

There are two main types of scopes, fixed power and variable. A fixed power scope is always optically superior to the variable—the moving lenses required to vary the magnification always add slight optical imperfec-

tions. Yet most shooters have variables (hunters and stalkers being the exception)? In truth if you fit a scope for 50 metres you can't take it off for the other distances, so you need to lower the magnification at short range to stop the "wobble" factor. Few can hold rifles with very high magnification scopes still whilst shooting off-hand without getting the wobbles.

The first thing to do is to try a few different scopes and see what suits you. I can't hold much above 10 times magnification (x10) still offhand and I get the wobbles at close range with much more than x5, so I use 4-12x. Some shooters have incredible muscle control and use up to 32x scopes but you need to find out what works for you, so ask other is you can have a look "down their tube" —so to speak.

It is often thought that you need a big

objective lens (that's the one at the front—nearest to the target or objective) to let enough light in. This may be true for the stalker at dawn or dusk but I don't know of any gallery rifle events that are held at dusk and duelling (traditionally at dawn) was outlawed years ago. It is best to fit a scope (more about which in a later article) as low down as possible. It allows the shooters head to remain in contact with the stock without the need to use a raised the cheek piece on the butt, so don't get hung up about the need for bucket size front end, my scope has a 44 mm diameter objective lens and is bright enough.

So a 4-12x44 scope is one with magnification varying from 4 to 12 times with a 44 mm objective lens.

Next time we will look at reticules and parallax, and a few other terms.

Obituary for ron belsey

I regret to inform members of the recent death of a long standing member of the club. This obituary was received from Ted Saunders: -

Ronald H. R. Belsey FRCS – died 22nd. May 2007, aged 97 years.

For many years Ron was the most highly regarded President of this Club until he recently relinquished the office due to age.

He was an enthusiastic supporter of the club and a fine pistol shot in his own right.

Ronald Belsey was a world renowned Thoracic Surgeon who for the time that we knew him was based at Frenchay Hospital. He retired from the NHS in 1975 but continued to travel widely, lecturing and operating until his 80th. year. His other great interest was fly fishing, which he was able to carry on from his home on Dartmoor on the River Dart until late in life.

The funeral took place in his local village of Holme on 1st. June last where a full church was evidence of the popularity of an outstanding gentleman.

The Club was represented by your

President and Vice President.

A Founder Member

I remember the article in the September newsletter last year about the start of the club and it become obvious to me, as a new member of the club who didn't know Ron personally, that he was one of the formative group of people who created the club we now enjoy. From these kind words he also seems to have had a busy and fulfilling life.

Ed

Club news

A couple of thank you messages this month, firstly to the member who has donated a toolkit to the range, which has already been put to good use on the recent range maintenance day and also to one of the longstanding veteran club member, who has made a generous cash donation to club funds.

Two probationers, who joined the club in November last year, were accepted as full members at the June Committee

what went on at committee?

Meeting. We look forward to their continued shooting success, some may remember that one of them has already taken one of the club aggregate prizes this year using club and borrowed guns—what chance do we have when he gets a gun of his own?

Members are reminded that from Sunday 1st. July the range buildings will be designated no smoking areas. The change is necessary to comply with new legislation – perhaps it's a good

time to give up the nasty weed?

Could shooters please ensure that any broken targets that have reached the end of their useful life are brought up to the fire pit in the car park.

A final reminder to get your subscriptions paid by the end of the month please and don't forget to include your name and membership number with your remittance.