

The Bristol bullet in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Editorial shooting is a growing sport!

Do you read any shooting magazines? I take "Target Sports", which emerged from "Shooting Sports" which was the journal of the National Pistol Association (NPA) before the handgun ban. The magazine is becoming a little bit air-gunny though, but it is the nearest thing we have to a representative magazine for gallery rifle shooting.

I welcomed the short article from Gwyn Roberts in the May edition about the growth of this type of shooting since the pistol ban. Of further interest is the projected series of articles that Gwyn plans on gallery rifle shooting in future editions. Gwyn also aims to produce a coaching manual to improve gallery rifle shooting and he finally envisages holding coaching

courses to hone shooting skills.

I hope these aspirations come to fruition. I attended a team training day for the Phoenix International Gallery Rifle Team recently and I gained a lot from swapping ideas and talking with some of the best gallery rifle shots in the country. If some of these top shots come on board with the coaching sessions they will be great, good luck with the project Gwyn.

I suppose my message from all this is that it has taken ten years but shooting sports is now recovering from the wounds inflicted by the handgun ban. I think we can all see signs of this on the range on guest days and by the number of new members these days have generated. I

know other clubs are experiencing the same upsurge and more shooters than ever are registering for national competitions.

With the demise of the NPA it remains up to the National Rifle Association (NRA) to promote our type of shooting. Judging by another article in Target Sport (also in the May edition) on target shotgun (yes shotgun!), which has been grouped in with gallery rifle by the NRA it seems at last we are being taken seriously. The NRA have even stated their aim of reducing the membership rates by increasing the membership; I think they even have an introductory offer for new members, so why not join now?

Ed.

Forthcoming events

I have just sealed the envelope and posted my Phoenix Meeting entry forms and am prompted to remind you that a late entry fee of £1 is payable if you don't do the same soon. The Squadding Officer for the Phoenix tells me that entries are up on the same

time last year, so don't delay. I know that some of our members were disappointed and couldn't get the slots they wanted last year.

In July we have the Imperial Meeting (at Bisley) and the Frome 3-gun (at Shield

in Dorset). The Imperial has every type of shooting event at very reasonable prices. For those who like practical shooting the 3-gun is now the premier event of its type.

See calendar of forthcoming events for details.

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Wiltshire County Shooting Association (WCSA)

Open Gallery Rifle Match

Saturday 9th. June 2007

The Wiltshire County Shooting Association are holding an open gallery rifle match on Saturday 9th. June 2007. There are four different matches to enter (Multi-target and Phoenix A plus the Timed and Precision 1 and 2) and you can shoot them in either or both centre-fire and small-bore classes. The venue is 1A Range at Warminster, so not too far to go. Why not come along?

Entry forms on the notice board in the Hamilton Range.

Gallery rifle part 10

The last stage of the Bianchi Cup Match is the mover. The “tombstone” target is mounted on an overhead wire or track way system that allows it to traverse from left to right and back again in front of the shooter. The target appears from behind a screen and travels the 60 feet, and then disappears again behind another screen – all in 6 seconds, thus moving at 10 feet per second. All the shooter has to do is place the required number of shots from each of the defined distances – sounds simple but the shot gunners amongst you will know the difficulty of hitting a moving target.

The shooting distances vary from 10 to 25 yards. Six shots are fired at each pass at 10 and 15 yards and three per pass at 20 and 25, no speed reloads required. A total of 48 shots (12 at each of the four distances) and poten-

tially another 480 points up for grabs.

The mathematicians amongst you will have worked out that the predictable movement of the target enables the amount of “lead” (or how far ahead of the target you must aim) you need at each distance to ensure that both bullet and target meet during their travel, hopefully at or near the “X” scoring ring. For the mathematically challenged there is a mover lead table on the back of the calendar of forthcoming events attached with this issue. Alternatively you can invest in a movable scope mount. The movable mount or “mover base” can be switched left or right to automatically apply the required lead whilst the scope conveniently remains pointing at the central scoring ring. Which ever way you go it still requires quick target acquisition and fast shooting so low

the bianchi—mover

powered scopes or red dots are favoured.

Fortunately the Hamilton Range has mover equipment and so the very necessary practice facilities are at hand, if anyone fancies having a go let me know we usually get it out a couple of times before major events and its lost of fun.

Now we have finished our short tour of the four-in-one Bianchi Cup Match and also some of the other gallery rifle events. I will come back later to the premier gallery rifle match, the “1500” but for now I hope that this short series has stimulated your interest in trying a few of the events.

Next time I intend to look at the sort of equipment you need to compete in these matches, starting with rifle scopes. Happy shooting!

What the members think!

The recent diatribe of the newsletter editor prompted some adverse comment from a couple of long standing members recently. Apparently the comment about “inheriting a first class facility”, i.e. the Failand Range complex in a recent issue was deemed inaccurate as some of the senior members were is at the conception and helped create the facility. Can you inherit the product of your own labours or can a legacy only be for others? Either way whilst technically true one could infer the context of the comment was to encourage the newer members (and not just the

same regulars) to come along and help maintain the facilities on the work party days.

Whilst the newsletter editor offered his apologies he remains happy in the knowledge that a least some of the membership does read the “Bullet-In” and that they wish to occasionally contribute (albeit in a slightly derogatory manner) to the members section, so thank you!

Some of the new probationers have indicated that they are keen to learn about some of the wider aspects of shooting, which prompted the idea for

Members section

a series on rifle scopes.

I cannot remember the number of occasions that I have overheard conversations along the lines of, “how many grains of what powder do you use?”. I have sort of agree to help a couple of the newer members to get started with reloading and I thought of doing a couple of evenings during the summer down at Failand, were we could shoot a few round, reload them and then shoot them again. I have some semi-portable equipment so if anyone wants to have a go then let me know and we can get started sometime in June.

Club news

In June the club subscriptions fall due and as no motion has been tabled for the AGM then they will remain at the same rate as last year. When you get your renewal notice please return it promptly and please complete the form so we know who has paid. Failure to pay may mean that your membership lapses and the police will be informed if this happens. You will also have to pay another joining fee if your membership lapses.

what went on at committee?

Anyone attending range working parties from now on will be given a voucher for money off your annual subscriptions. You can earn up to £10 off your membership each year—sorry life members we cannot give cash-back!

The Secretary represents the club on the local firearms licensing group. At a recent meeting the club presented a letter expressing disappointment with the delays in turning around renewals

and variations—they are currently processing them in five weeks (mine is in at the moment and I cannot even hurry the process up and I work for them—Ed!)

New rules now apply for deer stalkers (calibre and dates of shooting seasons) and for buying air guns, other than by private sale—so check before you next stalk or buy an air gun. There is also a ban on “realistic imitation firearms” - I think that’s what we used to call toys!