

The Bristol bullet in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

September 2007

Editorial

200th Anniversary of Government incompetence!

I read recently that the government have presented a bill to Parliament to permit a few shooters with Olympic potential to hold pistols and practice in the UK.

I wonder what makes it suitable for those few talented individuals to enjoy this type of sport whilst those less talented cannot? So much for sport for all! Allowing the elite to train now and post Olympic Games to immediately ban them again will also do little to encourage newcomers and thus diminish the possibility of future medals.

Uninspired and illogical thinking like this that is undermining our political system, is it any wonder that people don't turn out to vote any more?

It is not just recent govern-

ments that don't understand shooting. Modern shooting is approaching a significant anniversary, it was nearly 200 years ago during the Napoleonic Wars that the government awarded a Minister of the Scottish Church, a chap name Forsyth, a contract to develop his new invention of percussion ignition for firearms. Forsyth was given a high-tech (by the standards of the day anyway) workshop and the rest is history.

Without Forsyth's groundbreaking invention the world would not have had percussion caps, Colt would not have had his six-guns, no Enfield Rifles and eventually the self contained cartridge and modern shooting may also never have been, or would have been signifi-

cantly delayed!

What is the link between the government than and now you might ask. Surely the government 200 years ago was visionary in backing Forsyth?

Well the fact is that politicians have never understood shooters, You see Forsyth was awarded £8,000 for his invention, in those days a fortune and richly deserved I would say. The folly of the government was not the lack of recognition they gave Forsyth but in the way the award was paid- despite living into old age Forsyth didn't see a penny. The exchequer took so long to pay out that he was dead before they got around to it. When it comes to shooting matters incompetence is nothing new to our Government.

Forthcoming events

Helpers are needed for the Cadet Skill at Arms Match at Failand on Sunday 23rd. September. This competition has become a regular feature of the calendar and provides an excellent opportunity to encourage young shooters. Please spare a morning or after-

noon if you can for this worthy cause.

Some dates for you calendar this October are the classified 1500 match, the Western Winner, for gallery rifle (either centre fire or small bore) and long barrelled pistols and revolvers.

It will be on Saturday 13th. October.

The following day, Sunday 14th. October, is the first round of the Winter Aggregate small bore competition. See the "Range Talk" section in this edition for more details.

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Full Bore Rifle Shooting at Bisley

Friday 21st. September 2007

The Rifle Captain has booked two lanes at Bisley's Short Siberia Range on Friday 21st. September.

Any firearm capable of shooting out to 200 yards is suitable, so it is a golden opportunity to get out the full bore rifle, sight in the stalking rifle or zero your target or service rifle.

A small charge of £10 will be made to cover the range fees and the start time is 08.30 at Bisley Camp.

Those interested please contact The Rifle Captain

Shooting Equipment —part 4 scope mounts?

Rifle scopes come in two different tube sizes, 1 inch and 30 mm. We won't go into what the difference means but it is obviously important that you know which you have so you can get the right size rings on which to mount them.

The next thing is to decide what type of mounting rail or scope base you will need. Some rifles have them cut directly onto the top of the action, whilst others come with a base and screws that you can fit yourself. Yet others are drilled and taped for a base that can be purchased to suit. Lastly some rifles have neither mounts nor are they drilled to take any. This last type will require some a skilled gunsmith to mount a scope, don't give up though it may not cost as much as you fear.

There are two main types of scope

base, either a straight dovetail onto which the rings grip at any position along the rail and secondly patent types which have groves and slots into which matching rings can be screw locked at preset intervals.

There is a further choice to be made; what material should the rings and bases be made of. Again two main choices either aluminium or steel. The steel based and rings will cost about two or three times as much as the aluminium ones and they are heavier but should be more robust. Having said that I have rifles with both types on and neither has lost there zero for years.

For a typical aluminium rail for a Marlin underlever or a Ruger 10/22, I would recommend a Weaver type. This style of base gives strong fitting, rigid mounting that will last the life of the

rifle. A base would range from between just £10 up to about £50 for a fancy long one—budget for £20. A typical set of rings will set you back about the same.

The height of the rings is very important. The larger the objective lens (front end remember) the higher the rings will need to be to give clearance above the barrel. You may remember me saying, "don't be too worried about a big objective". That is because the higher you mount the scope the higher your head position must be to get you eye directly behind it. You may have seen some shooters with great big add on cheek pieces on their rifle butts to achieve this. The ideal position is to mount the scope as close to, but not touching the barrel.

Next time we will look at fitting the scope, focusing it and setting the zero.

Range talk

I mentioned last time that the Winter Aggregate would differ slightly this year, some members have asked what the changes will be so here goes.

The Police and Service Matches will go ahead unchanged but in order to speed things up the Precision Match will take the form of a postal league.

Full instructions will be available on and after 14th October, the date of Round One. Anyone wishing to take part can draw up to six targets with stickers on the back any time between 14th. October and Round Six in March 2008. The targets will be set at 25m

and the competitor will shoot ten shots only at the target, standing without support in ten minutes. The competitor should append his/her name on the target and ask a full club member to witness by signing on the back of the target where indicated.

Completed target can be handed to me directly or if I am not available then they should be left in the box near the door to the Hamilton Range and I will pick them up when I next visit.

You can shoot any or all of the six target when and as you like, although I suggest that you spread them out a

what the members think!

bit, I know few who can shoot six good match cards straight off.

As per last year the best three scores from each of the three matches will be taken forward toward the overall aggregate. There will be medals for each competition (Police, Service and Precision) and for the overall aggregate and Greg Patterson Trophy.

If you have a .22 rifle please come and try you hand (or should I say eye). Remember last year one of the newest club members took one of the medals in the precision match, so this time it could be you!

Club news

I am sure that most of you will have noticed that since the ban, no not the pistol one the one on smoking in enclosed places, that warning signs have been posted and fire extinguishers have been located at key points on the Failand Ranges. Please make yourself aware of their location, in the unlikely event of an emergency you may need to use them.

Shooters, mainly from visiting clubs, have brought their young children to

the range. The Committee has no objection to children on the range but please be aware of the club's expectation that they are **closely** supervised at **all times**. A range can be a dangerous place and the club is liable for any injuries. There is a risk of falls in the steeper parts of the quarry and we often have small bonfires to dispose of rubbish. Also ear defenders should be use during shooting as the hearing of young children is easily damaged.

what went on at committee?

Three new probationer members join this month. Welcome one from Kingswood who has experience of shooting with many typed of firearms.

A warm welcome also to two new probationers from Abbots Leigh and Long Ashton. They are new to shooting section one firearms but have experience with shotguns.

Hope to see you all on the range soon!

The Committee