

The Bristol bullet in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

January 2008

Editorial

LOOKING BACK ON 2007 AND FORWARD TO 2008!

A happy New Year to all our readers. How about making a resolution to offering a short article for inclusion in the newsletter this year. Between 150-200 short words is all it takes to see you name in print and your views will be aired world wide with the e-version on the web site—go on you know you want to, otherwise you will just get more of my ranting.

I know you are suppose to reflect on the year at the end, but I forgot in the last issue so I'm going to do it now, here goes. According to my recollections 13 new probationary members joined during 2007, but only two made it all the way through to full membership. Although I think some of them are coming up for full membership in

the next month or two, so things will improve.

The Phoenix Meeting at Bisley in spring brought an 9 medal haul for the club, I don't know if this is a record but we should try our best to beat it this May if we can.

The Olympic Committee announce the venue for the shooting events at the 2012 London Games (well I never said it was all going to be good news). Some good news though, shooting at Bisley **will not** be disturbed by the Olympic Games in 2012.

The Failand Range is looking great and the weather was dry and bright when it hosted the third Western Winner open national 1500 match in October—2005 was freezing and the rain

torrential in 2006 for the same event.

Whilst on the weather, the summer was not worth it's name and the butts at Bisley nearly collapsed again as they did in 2006 during a flash flood following torrential rain. Is there a pattern emerging?

Dave Perry was the winner of the first Greg Patterson Trophy Aggregate and was crowned with a great Bristol Blue glass trophy!

I bought some news guns, ruined my bank account on shooting and had a great time!

So what for the forthcoming year? Lets just hope we can help out club grow and we can all continue enjoying our shooting.

Ed

Forthcoming events

Some full bore rifle practice on offer in the first three months but don't forget to check with the Rifle Captain **Steve Downs** on 0117 977 2752 before you set out as the military has a habit of cancelling at short notice.

The lasts rounds of the

Greg Patterson Aggregate Trophy during February and March, last two chances to get you averages up. There are also some club matches that Frome will be running, our members are welcome to take part as well.

The NRA Spring Action Weekend at the end of March, when the clocks go forward.

I will do a short piece in the March newsletter about the spring meeting to let you know what to expect.

Happy shooting!

This issue

Editorial	1
Forthcoming Events	1
Visit from America	1
Marlin under-levers	2
Range Talk	2
Club News	2

From your old fried Captain Jack,

On Thursday 20th, December 2007 I brought to the club "One Ear Pete" and his woman (Joan), who were visiting Bath from Providence, Rhode Island. Clinton (Nichols) and myself provided a good variety of hand guns and rifles for them and they enjoyed themselves, after which they treated us to a meal at the pub next to the range. They wish to continue their relationship with the club and will keep in touch. I have already had a card thanking Clinton and I. Some posters of the Failand Kid are now on display at Lincoln County Gun Club.

'til next time here's mud in your eye.

Captain Jack

Firearms 100 year old design that's still going strong!

For every 50 centre fire gallery rifle shooters you see in matches 49 will be using a Marlin under-lever rifle and with good reason. Amongst the alternatives the Winchesters are well engineered but have complicated actions that are prone to breakage and Rossi's, although robust, are top ejectors which don't lend themselves to mounting a scope.

There are three types of Marlin; firstly the 1894CS in 38/357 calibre, with an 18½ inch barrel and nine round magazine capacity (ten if you stick to 38 specials). The second option is the 1894S in 44 calibre (either specials or magnums). They have a ten round capacity with a 20 inch barrel. Both are well balanced and handy rifles.

At the top end of the scale and the third option is the Cowboy model with a 20 or 24 inch heavy hexagonal bar-

rel in either 38/357, 44 or 45 Colt calibre and an enormous magazine capacity, 15 for the long 357 option.

All are predrilled and use readily available scope mounts, although some of the western style Cowboy models are not drilled to maintain authenticity for western style shooting. Second hand Marlins are as rare as hen's teeth and new they cost over £450, over £600 for the Cowboy model!

One reason why Marlin's are so popular is their simplicity, remove one screw and you can take out the lever, breech and ejector and gain access to clean the barrel from the breech end.

Another benefit of the Marlin is the availability of parts to "tune-up" your gun. The basic trigger, like all American firearms, is pretty heavy with a lot of creep. The Wild West Gun Com-

pany makes the so called "trigger happy" kit that reduces the trigger pressure to break at an even 2½ lbs within negligible creep.

Another enhancement is to fit a one piece firing pin, made of tool steel or titanium, which gives absolutely reliable ignition even if you fit a reduced pressure main spring (available from Woolf Springs). Another replacement spring is also available for the under-lever which makes the action very slick to open and close.

Total cost of all these enhancements, about £120 but you'll have a great gun which every gallery rifle shooter should seriously consider. Now all you need is to put 1,000 rounds through it to get loosened up.

Next time we will look at the 38 special round in the Marlin rifle.

Range talk

Picture the scene, a frosty morning at Failand Range, the shooters gather and the rabbits scatter—well most of them anyway!

After a few shooting details it becomes apparent that one particular rabbit is near to meeting its maker and going up to the big hutch in the sky. Up goes the cry who will put the sad creature out of its suffering and ease its passage into the afterlife?

One brave sole steps forward and stealthily creeps up on the unsuspecting beast—well it didn't run away because it couldn't, it was too poorly!

the tale of the fearless hunter!

Heavy calibre in hand (a bit too much calibre in my opinion for such a tiny creature but then again I'm no hunter) and pointed the business end towards the motionless furry bunny. Then BLAST!!

A loud report and the crowd, well the few intrepid folk who attended the range that day between Christmas and New Year, held their collective breath in an air of expectancy. Then the little furry ball slowly limped off.

"The shot had gone right through" announced the hunter (told you—too much gun for the job) and called for a

bearer to bring forward more ammunition. Now there's confidence, only taking a single round with you when out hunting!

The second shot soon put the creature out of its suffering and without too much trauma overall.

There ends the tale of the Great Fearless Christmas Hunter, who was this bold fellow I hear you ask? Well all I can say is that he is nearly as old as Santa but he hasn't grown the beard just yet.

Happy hunting!

Club news

The Boxing Day Clay Pigeon Shoot was well attended as usual this year and was also blessed with fine weather, everyone seemed to have a great time, keeping up this seasonal tradition.

The toilets at the range have backed up again and steps will be taken to get them sorted out as soon as possible, please be patient and don't drink too

what went on at committee?

much tea maybe?

We are having troubles changing over the club post office box number and it appears that letters are being returned, with notification that the address has been suspended. As soon as we sort it out I will let you know.

Three probationary members achieved

full members status at the January Committee Meeting. Congratulations Clinton Nichols, Carl Goodwin and Josella Thomason.

Clinton is an experienced shooter and a FAC holder. Carl has had firearms experience with the armed forces but is new to civil shooting, as is Josella. We hope you have a long and enjoyable membership.

The Committee