

The Bristol bullet in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

August 2008

Editorial

Olympic practice venue announced!

I return reluctantly this month to the subject of the shooting events at the London Olympic Games.

I have previously ventured the benefits of the events being held away from Bisley, in that we will have an undisturbed shooting calendar in 2012. Of course this would never be the case with a requirement for a practice venue, which would have brought investment at the National Shooting Centre—or so we thought!

It was announced recently that the practice venue for the Olympic pistol events is none other than the Isle of Man. If it had been earlier in the year I would have been checking the calendar to make sure it wasn't an April fool!

I am no stranger to the island, although I have not been recently, and sensibly they still have access to pistol shooting but I do remember they are very proud of their independence. As an independent country (well OK semi-independent country, they are a dependant territory) are they part of the 2012 Olympics and as their taxes don't go to the UK Exchequer and should they receive the accompanying grants to develop their shooting facilities that should rightfully be our heritage, I think not.

Same old question, just another twist I suppose—and we still have four years left for further drama to unfold. For drama read foolishness!

I just thought that we have at least one member of the club in the Isle of Man, so maybe one of our members will benefit for the peculiar thinking of the Olympic Committee.

Closer to home we have been having some of our own drama—with the club post office box going into meltdown. The Membership Secretary has passed on details of how we are going to resolve the PO Box problems and I have included details in the **Range Talk** Section of this newsletter.

The Membership Secretary asks thanks members for their patience and with a little forbearance he will soon sort things out.

Ed

Forthcoming events

The National Gallery Rifle Championships for 2008 will be held at the National Shooting Centre Bisley on Saturday/Sunday 23rd./24th. August 2008. See panel for more details.

A very busy shooting calendar for the forthcoming

period including full bore rifle dates each month, a practical match at Failand on Saturday 27th. September and a precision black powder match at the Watkins Range on Sunday 19th. October.

The last Gallery Rifle Action

Weekend in at the end of October and in addition to the short range events there are also matches for services rifles.

No excuse then for not getting out and enjoying the rest of the summer—when it comes!

This issue

Editorial	1
Forthcoming Events	1
Gallery Championships	1
SMLE	2
European Champions	2
Club News	2

National Gallery Rifle Championships

Saturday/Sunday
23rd./24th. August
2008

National Shooting Centre Bisley

If you have ever fancied being a national champion then get along to Bisley on the August Bank Holiday weekend and take part in the 1500, the Timed and Precision One and the Multi Target Match. You could stand a chance of being crowned the National Champion for 2008.

More likely you may win a prize for your class and given practice and a bit more time one day you might become champion.

Details on the Notice Board in the Hamilton Range—including entry forms.

Firearms

The well known Lee-Enfield name came from the bolt operating system designed by James Paris "Lee" (an American) and a rifle barrel designed for the .303" round at the "Enfield" factory in North London. The rifle produced by the conjunction of these two strands of technology was initially produced in infantry (or long) model and a cavalry model of shorter carbine length.

In the early 20th. Century the defence authorities took the radical decision to produce a standard rifle for all branches of service. With the subsequent demise of the cavalry and the conditions that the soldiers in the First World War found themselves the decision was to result in our servicemen being armed with the best individual weapon of any army; the Short Magazine Lee Enfield or SMLE.

SMLE—short magazine lee enfield!

The rifle itself was largely unaltered but the overall length was reduced to produce a handy rifle that was light, reliable, fast shooting and accurate. Apart from some minor alterations made during 1915/16 to speed up production the British Army came out of the war in 1918 with the same gun they started with. It armed nearly five million British and Commonwealth servicemen and at the end of production (in the 1940s) over 12 million had been competed from factories all over Britain and the Empire.

The SMLE metamorphosed into the Mk 4 rifle that was introduced during the Second World War and went on to be used in Korea and many other end of Empire police actions. The Belgian designed FN self-loading rifle (SLR) finally replaced the Enfield series only in the mid 50s.

Today you can obtain good shooting examples for £300-£400, remember 3" to 4" groups at 100 yards is excellent for an open sighted service rifle. Ammunition is available at reasonable prices as are components for reloading. SMLEs are a pleasure to shoot and there are lots of competitions either exclusively for this rifle or for which it remains competitive. The gallery rifle action weekends at Bisley usually have matches for .303" rifles.

If you fancy owning a piece of history you cannot go wrong with an SMLE and good examples are increasing in value so they also represent an investment—not many firearms do that these days!

Next month we will look at the .303" round that the SMLE was chambered for.

Range talk

Last month I wrote in the Editorial about the First European Gallery Rifle Championships, held in Fermoy in the Republic of Ireland, on Friday 11th. July 2008.

The match took the form of a standard 1500 course of fire with teams of four from the Shooting Sports Association of Ireland (SSAI), the Bund der Militär- und Polizeischützen (BDMP) from Germany and the UK National Gallery Rifle Team (shooting under the banner of the NRA).

I said modesty prevented me from saying more but I can report that your

European championships results?

Newsletter Editor shot for the UK, return a 1481 (out of 1500)

The overall scores (out of 6000) were: -

United Kingdom	-	5928
SSAI Ireland	-	5907
BDMP Germany	-	5888

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The Club PO Box has been marked in error as "not in use" by the Royal Mail. Items have been forwarded to Belfast, were they are opened and redirected to the sender, the mail centre there has a 4–5 week backlog.

If you have not received your subscription notice back by the end of August please call 01278 661109 during the evening or 07809 833616 in the day, please leave answer phone messages if no reply. Alternatively you can send any returned mail to **D—W—**(the Membership Secretary).

Members will not chased for their remittance until early September. A new PO Box will be in action from November and details will follow. Apologies for this inconvenience but it is beyond our control—thank you for your patience.

Club news

The work party on Sunday 27th. July was poorly attended, but thanks go to those who did turn out to tidy things up abit.

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Details of how to get your new MOD shooting permit will be in the next issue of the newsletter—so watch this space.

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what went on at committee?

Please leave the kitchen as you would like to find it and if you use items from the first aid kit please make a note in the range log as we need to keep a record of accidents and the first aid kit stocked. It would appear that since last November 75 people have cut their fingers as an entire box of plasters is now empty!

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Remember un-bagging and bagging

of firearms must **ONLY** take place at the firing point and Range Conducting Officers are required to enforce this strictly. Anyone infringing this rule will, without exception, be asked to leave the range and will be reported to the committee.

Please make sure your guests and visitors are also aware of this procedure.

Thank you.

The Committee