

# The Bristol Bulletin

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

December 2008

## Editorial

### THE "SHOOTING" PAINS OF RECESSION!

The road to financial melt-down will be strewn with the discarded remains of the unsuccessful which apparently numbers amongst them table tennis, volley ball and inevitably perhaps shooting.

The lack of success at the recent summer Olympics has condemned some sports and financial support will be lavished on only the medal hopefuls.

This ethos may be considered unsporting, the conclusion one must reach being that only the successful have worth. A real shot in the arm for the concept of "Sport for All".

Unfortunately investment that follows historic success presumes continued success rather than looking forward to what might be!

In the October Newsletter we looked at the improving Paralympics Shooting Team and the success of Matt Skelhorn, will they receive funding?

At the Commonwealth Youth Games in Pune, India recently we saw young shooters James Huckle bag two gold medals while Sheree Cox took a gold and a bronze. Some would say that prospects for shooting medals with such up and coming youngsters is good and yet they will probably be ignored in deference to the past successes of others.

Now don't get me wrong I hope that cycling, rowing and swimming go from strength to strength and that we clear the board in 2012 but I think the all or

nothing approach to funding is very risky. Suppose that the current crop of rowers and cyclists, although talented, do not make it into the top flight, where will be then be—potentially medal-less.

Another aspect of support for shooting sport is the provisions to allow for practice with the "banned" handgun, but only for those who realistically have prospects of gaining Olympic Team places.

Already deluded by the behaviour of some professional sports such as Association Football, the current support for our sportsmen and women is in danger of losing the ethos of sportsmanship in exchange to success at all cost. A pity!

Ed

#### *This issue*

Editorial	1
Forthcoming Events	1
Rife Shooting	1
45/70 BP Cartridge	2
Range Talk	2
Club News	2

#### Rifle Shooting

During 2008 there was considerable disruption to civilian access to the MOD ranges that we rely on in the West Country for rifle shooting. If Bristol is your only club and you wish to demonstrate good reason to own a full bore rifle for target shooting then you need to keep abreast of what the club has to offer in this respect.

We have held some rifle dates, including assessment for MOD range certification, at Bisley. There have been one or two opportunities to shoot at Rogiet, that C—— N—— (co-opted Training Officer) has arranged. We also have standing arrangements with Frome to attend their rifle shoots as Guests.

**Keep and eye on the calendar for rifle dates.**

## Forthcoming events

December brings the ever popular Boxing Day shotgun match at Failand. This fun event is very popular with guns and ammunition being available for those who wish to have a go but are deficient in suitable equipment.

Guests are welcome and although there will be prizes the object of the morning is enjoyment of taking part in this festive get-together. Why not come along and have a go?

Also along festive lines there are Christmas shoots

on both Saturday and Sunday 20th. and 21st. December at Failand, including mince pies on the Sunday!

Dates for 2009 are filling up and events through to February are shown in the calendar of forthcoming events.

## ammunition

More accurately we should say 45-70-405, but what a mouthful! The 45 is the calibre .45", the 70 is the propellant charge 70 grains of black powder and the 405 is the bullet weight 405 grains of lead. The round was introduced in the 1870s along with the new breech loading Springfield Trapdoor rifle adopted by the American Army as seen in endless Hollywood productions.

It was designed to deliver 1,250 fps in the infantry rifle and when the cavalry carbine was introduced the full 70 grain charge was found to be uncomfortable to shoot and was reduced to 65 grains. Modern cartridge cases have reduced volume and it is difficult to get the full 70 grains in.

Winchester introduced the model 1885 under-lever rifle, with an improved and stronger action that could

## the 45/70 black powder cartridge

withstand the recoil forces of the 45/70 round and despite the myths it is probable that as many North American Bison fell to repeater as they did to single shot rifles.

The round remained in service in America until the adoption of small calibre ammunition, the Navy adopting the 6 mm Lee and the Army changing over to the 30/40 Krag in the 1890s.

The American western shooting fraternity have ensured the continuance of the 45/70 and some of its sibling offerings. These include the 45/90 and the 45/120, which is the same round with an enlarged case propelled by 90 and 120 grains of black powder respectively—truly awesome prospects to shot I would think!

Reloading components are readily

available and long range black powder cartridge shooting is increasing in popularity. If you want to take up the challenge but you don't want the mess, then smokeless loads are available from most powder manufacturers, but beware they can produce higher pressures than black powder and older and traditional reproductions may not be able to handle them.

Some modern firearms are chambered for this calibre, Ruger make there very strong No 1 rifle offering it for the 45/70 in addition to other cartridges. In modern guns the 45/70 has entered a new age, with jacketed bullets and 2,000 fps plus muzzle velocities. In my opinion this ruins the charm and I think when shooting history one should remain historical and not get hysterical!

## Range talk

Members who have recently renewed or amended their Firearms Certificates will be aware that the Avon and Somerset Licensing Bureau has moved from New Bridewell in the city centre to the newly opened Police Station at Feeder Road, Bristol.

The new address for those wishing to contact the licensing department is: -

**Licensing Bureau, PO Box 2781, Bristol, BS2 2AS.**

Please be patient with the Licensing Bureau, they have coped well with the move but they are still struggling with the National Firearms Licensing

## licensing changes for Bristol

System. With the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO) being subsumed into the new National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) it has been acknowledged that the system is deficient.

A recent NPIA report stated that the programme (National Licensing System that is) "suffered from lack of clear business objective, high level commitment and stable funding" ... so how's that any different from other public sector IT programmes?

The first lot of cards for the Precision

Matches of the Winter Aggregate have been received, with some good scores posted, as entries grow scores will be published on the reverse of the calendar in future issues of the newsletter.

If you want cards then see the Newsletter Editor (**A—W—**) at the range and you will be issued with them. All cards must be submitted by the second week of March.

Along with the Service and Police Match scores (shot on the second Sunday of each month) the precisions scores count towards the Greg Patterson Aggregate Trophy.

## Club news

At the December Committee Meeting **D— D—** was accepted for full membership, **D—** is an established shooter who has been a regular attendee at the range since starting his probation in August. Congratulations **D—**.

Accepted for Probationary Membership at the same meeting were established shooters **J— C—** from Staple Hill, introduced by **A— B—** and **T— S—** from Clevedon who is also a member of Frome Club. New to shooting

and also accepted from probationary membership were **K— P—** from Wrington, introduced by **D— C—** and **S— J—** who found out about the club through the Web Site. Welcome to you all.

The Committee is very please with the growth of the membership this year and recently there has been frequent comment on the busy atmosphere at the range on Sundays. Lets hope we can sustain the growth in our sport

## what went on at committee?

during 2009 and beyond.

The Club Committee would like to wish all Members a happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

Happy Shooting!

*The Committee*