

The Bristol bullet in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

April 2008

Editorial

Being a shooting enthusiast in the current climate tests ones propensity for conspiracy.

It is difficult not to take it personally when you find that your long range load, that you have lovingly developed, is about to breach the new, and apparently randomly set, range envelope for military ranges. What is 3,800 joules anyway?

Then when you think you are over that one, the people that run military ranges say that we all need a safety certificate to use their (but paid for by us!) facilities. Then oops! That's an error too—we only meant if you want to shoot very powerful ammunition.

Lastly comes the notification that civilian clubs, for

safety reasons, will not be allowed to use electronic target ranges.

Risk assessment is firstly about what could happen if things go wrong—fairly obvious a shooting accident = potential fatality, and secondly the number of times it actually does go wrong—well none actually, or if it did it would be all over the press.

Are the safety lobby out to get us too, or am I just becoming overly suspicious?

The price of a can of reloading powder—nearly £30. Not that much I suppose, it does have a long way to come from America after all. But wait the same can of powder in Australia (with just the same number of air miles) is only half the price and in America itself it is

less than a third!

Are the government out to price out of shooting too?

If we look back in history when target shooting became popular (in the Victorian era) it was born out of a national movement to protect and serve the Nation and it's Empire and it was seen as a very patriotic thing to do. Now shooters are social pariahs and it is difficult to see the controls and constraints place on them as other that a co-ordinated attempt to curtailing their sporting enjoyment.

Since Victorian times what have shooters done to loose the trust of the government, or is it the people who are loosing confidence in the government?

Ed

conspiracy theory?

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Forthcoming events

In the next issue I will include a write up on the Phoenix Meeting, to be held at Bisley at the end of May.

Between now and then there is plenty of shooting to do. Frome Club have started their club competi-

tions and there is a BR50—50 metre bench rest match for .22" rifles on 18 May.

On 15 June there are the ever popular T&P (that's Timed and Precision) 1 and 2 matches. Our members are welcome to join in.

The Wiltshire County Gal-

lery Rifle match is the weekend after the Phoenix (see side panel).

The course of fire for all these matches is available on the notice board in the Hamilton Range.

Happy shooting!

Wiltshire County Shooting Association (WCSA) Gallery Rifle Championships

Saturday 31 May 2008

Warminster Range 1A

The WCSA hold annual Gallery Rifle Competitions for centre-fire and small-bore rifles and long barrelled pistols and revolvers.

The matches shot are the Timed and Precision 1 and 2, the Multi-target and the Phoenix A. You can enter one or all of the events.

There are Wiltshire and open classes for an aggregate of the T&P1, the Multi-target and the Phoenix A—come along and have a go!

Entry forms of the notice board in the Hamilton Range.

Firearms 2

William B. Ruger took out his first patent on a semi-automatic pistol in 1946 and commenced trading under the name Sturm Ruger and Co. in 1949 to produce it. Despite not having the lengthy heritage of some other US gun makers, Ruger firearms have achieved a reputation for strength and reliability. They continue to make a wide range of pistols and rifles in a multitude of calibres.

The claim that the Ruger 10/22 is the most popular rifle in the USA stems from the fact that nearly every youngster starting out with shooting sports has used the rifle one time or another. It must certainly be the most popular semi-auto .22" rim-fire in the UK, where it has become the bedrock of small-bore gallery rifle shooting. It also has many field applications for pest control for animals up to rabbit size.

the most popular rifle in the u.s.a!

Why has it achieved near universal use in gallery rifle shooting, well it could be the price? At just over £250 new it is certainly cheap enough and there are plenty of second hand models available for even less.

Sadly, "out of the box", the rifle is a little disappointing, it has a terrible trigger! The main reason for its popularity is the amount of after market parts that are available, from triggers through actions to barrels and stocks, in fact some 10/22s you see have hardly any original Ruger parts left.

I am a little less adventurous and my Ruger has had a standard trigger job including an automatic bolt release feature done by South Yorkshire Shooting. This company specializes in 10/22s and there is virtually nothing that Roger Francis (the owner) cannot do with the little gun.

I have also fitted a stock with a pistol grip and a weaver scope base for the Nikon Nighthead scope. Other than that it's still a 10/22.

Other popular upgrades include an extended magazine release and either heavy weight target barrels or light weight carbon fibre ones. Ruger also supply their own high spec versions of the 10/22, with laminated wood stocks and heavy target barrels, and very nice they are too!

For an entry level gallery rifle, costing £250, plus about £65 for a trigger job and say £80 for a new stock, you can't go wrong. You also need to get a few extra magazines—I think five is about right and a 25 round magazine is also useful for action shooting events.

Truly a rifle that will develop with you and your shooting needs!

Range talk

The Winter Aggregate Trophy was won again this year by **Dave P—**. This year was by no means a one horse race, as the schedule of results on the reverse of the calendar of events (enclosed with this newsletter) will show. Less than 10 points, out of 300, separated the first and second place, which went to **Bill D—** and less than five points behind in third place was **Dave C—**.

The individual match prizes have produced a number of new names in the winners arena. **Clinton N—** took first place in the Service Match and in round three, in December, he shot a

who won all the trophies then?

116 out of 120—the best score of the series. **Dave P—** and **Brian J—** took second and third spots in the Service Match.

Dave P—'s 293 out of 300 was the best Police Match score, he also took first place in this event. **Bill D—** and **Fred J—** took the silver and bronze medals in the Police Match.

The Precision Match was also won by **Dave P—**, dropping just 10 points out of 300 overall. Again **Bill D—** and **Fred J—** took second and third.

If you have any comment about the new format this year please let me

know.

I was asked recently by a probationary member if they could shoot the competitions—I am sad that they have picked up the impression they were not welcome, which of course they very much are. The Committee raised the idea of having a novice trophy for members new to shooting—what do you think?

It all starts again in October so let's see if we can get more entries this year—you have all summer to practice, so there are not excuses!

Club news

A new probationary member was accepted at the April Committee Meeting. **Charles A—**, a law student from Crewkerne. Charles has no previous shooting experience and is looking forward to spending some time over the summer University recess is finding out more about shooting sports.

Andrew B— from Bristol has completed the necessary number of probationary attendances and was accepted as a full member at the same Meeting.

what went on at committee?

Traditionally the club has held twelve Guest Days on the last Sunday of each month, with the exception of December, when it is used for the annual shotgun match.

The Committee have identified that the last Sunday is not ideally suited as those dates clash with many of the national competitions, which are also held at the end of the month. This means that many Committee members, including the Training Officer, are

unable to attend on at least four or five of the scheduled Guest Days.

It has been decided therefore to move Guest Days to the first Sunday in each month, starting from June. It is hoped that this small adjustment to the B&D shooting calendar will improve the experience that your Guests have when they come to try out shooting sports.

The Committee