

The Bristol bullet in

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

February 2008

Editorial

MORE OLYMPIC MADNESS!

I listened with interest to my favourite Peer of the Realm, that's Lord Coe if you've forgotten, on the radio the other day. He was answering questions about why an event at the London Olympics was scheduled to be held at an unusual venue and not to the traditional British home for the sport.

All the usual objections about the unsuitability of the temporary venue and lack of lasting heritage and/or infrastructure for the sport ... so what's new I hear you say?

Well the sports in question are the equestrian events at the 2012 Olympics, not the shooting! The plan is to hold them in Greenwich Park, with visually stunning backdrops of the London skyline and the National

Maritime Museum, and very nice too.

Now I don't know much about equestrian events but the well informed speaker on the radio with Lord Coe who was trying to get the venue moved pointed out that the course at Greenwich Park would be the flattest and shortest in Olympic memory. As the GB equestrian team like long challenging courses we presumably also intend to throw away home advantage, in one of the few sports we are likely to pick up medals, by choosing this location!

Then the penny dropped ... the American's won't pay "mega bucks" for the television rights unless they get picture postcard views of quaint English backdrops.

Hence the ancient monuments, beach volley ball at Horseguards Parade etc. I am surprised that they haven't thought of putting the swimming in the duck pond behind Buck House ... please don't tell me they have!

Still I suppose we need to do everything we can to get our money back, the whole thing has tripled in cost and there is still four years to go, who would bet on the final price tag?

Whatever the organisers do to mess up the arrangements for the games I do know that our sportsmen and women will rise above the difficulties and they will do us proud.

I am looking forward to the beach volleyball though!

Ed

Forthcoming events

You can see the nights becoming longer and you know the spring events are on there way ... and still we need more practice.

The last round of the winter aggregate in March, so your last chance to get those averages up and

don't forget the precision cards must also be shot before the end of March!

Frome club starts it's club competitions with a precision match in February and Service A and B in March.

The Bisley Spring Action Weekend at the end of

March, watch out for an article next month for details of new competitions.

In April the "Western Winner" 1500 match is brought forward from it's usual autumn spot to the spring, come and have a go.

Happy shooting!

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Bristol and District Rifle and Pistol Club

Annual General Meeting

All club members are welcome to attend the AGM scheduled for 10th. April, but only full members have voting rights.

This is the one time in the year that you can have your say by contacting the Secretary, **Fred John**, and asking for an item to be put on the agenda.

If you feel you wish to contribute more to the running of the club then why not put your name forward for one of the Committee posts, you will need the support of a proposer and seconder (any full member can do this).

Please watch out for the meeting calling notices which will be sent out

AMMUNITION

Smith and Wesson introduced their 38 Special round in 1902 for their new Military and Police Revolver, which is still in production over 100 years later. Although never adopted by any government as a military cartridge, it has seen near universal adoption by police forces worldwide.

It has achieved renown for its accuracy and became the accepted standard for target shooting, with the 148 grain (7,000 grains to the pound) wad cutter bullet. The round has little recoil and shooters can usually achieve a good standard within a short time.

In Britain it is used in under-lever rifles, most shooter changing over after the handgun ban sticking to the 38 that they were already set up to reload.

The standard 158 grain bullet achieves 800 fps at the muzzle of a revolver.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THE 38?

The same round today will deliver about 1,000 fps in a rifle with longer barrel and closed breach.

For under-levers you need to use flat pointed bullets. Pointed bullet could cause the igniting the primer of the round in front of it in a tubular magazine, with obvious catastrophic consequences. Flat nosed or "truncated cone" bullets are readily available in 125, 140, 158 and 180 grain weights.

Cheap to reload, you can expect to make a 100 rounds for less than the price of a box of 50 factory cartridges. More important than cost, reloading ensures a consistent ammunition supply, subject to availability of components of course, getting hold of regular supplies of the same factory fodder is often difficult.

Reloading also allow you to tune your

load, to get the best out of your rifle. I have found Marlin rifles are rather fussy and even small variations in powder charge weight can have a profound difference in group size at the target. My trials show that fast burning pistol powders works best, lit by standard pistol primers. With a rested, scoped rifle you should expect sub 2 inch groups at 50 yards (the best I've every achieved is just over 1½ inches), this is plenty accurate enough for most gallery rifle competitions.

Over 100 years old and still a firm favorite and likely to be so for the next 100, that's what make the 38 so special.

Next time we will look at the first match of the season, the Spring Action Weekend at Bisley, so you can give your 38 Marlin an outing.

Range talk

Last month two western shooters, "One Eared Pete and his partner Joan", from over the pond visited Failand Ranges as guests of Captain Jack. They have since sent Captain Jack some tune up part for his western lever guns from a gunsmith at their home club in Lincoln County, USA.

I have included the link for "The Smith Shop" on the Web Site, it is full of interesting parts for all kinds of western guns ... well worth a look next time your browsing. Here is the best news they are willing to dispatch to UK, so if you need to slick up your six shooter

the bits are a short air freight journey away. I am going to e-mail them and see if they will start doing parts for Marlins as well as the Winchesters ... fingers crossed!

Great news and congratulation to nine times Commonwealth Games Pistol Champion, Mike Gault, on being awarded an OBE in the New Years Honours ... if you haven't already heard. Outstanding achievements by Mike over many years makes this award very well deserved and it might not be his last with the Common-

wealth Games just around the corner in 2010. Good luck for the future!

More good news on the membership front, two people have contacted the club through the Web Site and have asked to be considered for membership. They have both been invited to the February Guest Day. Lets hope this is the start of something good in raising awareness of the club.

It is hoped that more information on the shooting disciplines held at Failand will soon be included on the Web Site, keep checking.

Club news

One probationary member who joined us last year has completed the necessary attendances and training sessions and seems to have thoroughly enjoyed himself. He has been accepted for full membership, well done John.

Another experienced small bore shooter from Staple Hill was also accepted as a probationary member. He tells us that although he wishes to continue small bore shooting he wants to try some other types as well. Wel-

come to the club Colin, I sure we can meet your expectations.

Looking at the forthcoming events members are reminded that the Hamilton range will closed for general shooting on Saturday 12th. April. The annual national classified "1500" match, the Western Winner, will be held on that date. Our members are welcome to take part.

The date of the AGM has been set as

what went on at committee?

Thursday 10th. April 2008, members will be sent calling notices in due course. Remember if you want any issues raised they should be formally placed on the agenda, by contacting the Secretary. Don't think that you can raise issues on the day under "other business", as they may be ruled out of order.

The Committee