

The Bristol Bulletin

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

June 2008

Editorial mod Range Certification?

The situation regarding the requirement for shooters using MOD ranges to be certificated is becoming clearer with the recent guidance from the National Rifle Association (NRA). Do you want to shoot on MOD ranges? If you don't then nothing will change, if you do then read on.

If you are an NRA member then you should have received an application form in the post, the completion and submission of which will result in the issue of suitable certification at no cost. This could be a good reason for joining the NRA but more about that another day perhaps. You are asked the types of shooting you need to be certificated for, e.g. rifles with iron sights or scopes, long range pistols or gallery rifles etc.

My advice is ask for everything, but to make it less complicated don't ask for high muzzle energy (HME) certification unless you own one of the super cannons such as .338 Lapua Magnum or .300 Winchester Magnum.

If you aren't in the NRA the process is similar but the certification is by the Club Chairman and there may be a small charge to register your club certificate with the NRA. Chairman Pete Kington will provide full details of how to apply for these "club tickets" in plenty of time to meet the requirement, which comes into force in January 2009.

Skeptics may still think that these new rules and regulations are just invented by the NRA to raise extra

funds. However, I cannot believe that they would take on the extra administrative burden required to manage this certification programme unless it was absolutely necessary.

Whilst on the subject of the NRA, members should also have received a voting form for the election of the NRA Council. Amongst the nominees you may have noticed the name of the Chairman of the Frome Club, Ashley Dagger. I would encourage you to consider supporting Ashley, he has enthusiasm and a wealth of experience of shooting and if successful his election would give the West Country representation on NRA Council.

Ed.

Forthcoming events

.Frome Club hold their Timed and Precision 1 and 2 matches, on the Hamilton Range on Sunday 15th. June, Bristol members welcome. Frome also hold their popular three gun shoot at the Shield Shooting Centre in Dorset on 12th./13th. July ... small-bore

and centre-fire and shotgun stages (about 100 rounds per stage) ... entry forms on the notice board in the Hamilton Range, enter one, two or all three stages.

The NRA Imperial Meeting gallery rifle matches will be held at Bisley between 19th.

– 22nd. July and they are great value at just a few pounds each. See the NRA Web Site for full details, entry forms on the notice board, but many are just turn up and shoot events ... so if the weather is good get down there!

This issue

Editorial	1
Forthcoming Events	1
Imperial Meeting	1
.22 Rimfire	2
Phoenix Results	2
Club News	2

Imperial Meeting

NRA Bisley

July 2008

The NRA flagship event, the Imperial Meeting will be held at the National Shooting Centre, Bisley between 7th. and 26th. July 2008.

There are all sorts of shooting events and you don't have to be an NRA member to shoot, you can buy day or meeting membership for a few pounds.

For a full list of the hundreds of available events phone the NRA (01483 797777) and buy a "Bisley Bible" for about £8 or you can download entry forms from the NRA Web Site, nra.org.uk.

Ammunition Probably the most popular round in the world!

Almost lost in the sands of time are the origins of the ubiquitous .22 long rifle cartridge. Cartridges of the World, by Frank Barnes attributes it to J. Stevens Arms and Tool Company in 1887. It was the natural development of the .22 Short cartridge, which was developed by Smith and Wesson for their First Model revolver in 1857. In the 150+ years since it was introduced the .22 Long Rifle has become the most popular match rifle cartridge in existence, and the hollow point variety it is the accepted standard for small game hunting and pest control for rabbit sized animals out to 75 yards range.

Originally loaded with a 40 grain bullet driven by 5 grains of black powder it was successfully converted to smokeless powder in the early 20th. century. Interestingly it went through a short transition phase when it was powered

by a smokeless and black powder mixture. I don't know the purpose of this, but duplex loads as they are known are not uncommon amongst black powder cartridges, such as the .45/70, which have made the transition to smokeless.

Modern .22 Long Rifle cartridges are produced by virtually every manufacturer in profusion of types. The standard velocity (about 1050 fps) 40 grain bullet loading has been supplemented by sub-sonic types (with associated low muzzle report) and high velocity types (which shoot flatter at long range). Standard and high velocity types are usual for gallery rifle shooting and the sub-sonic fodder is primarily for hunting. Bullet weights range from 29 to 40 grains in a variety of profiles. Some are electro-plated with a thin film of copper, so called copper-

washed, designed to reduce lead fouling in the barrel.

In 1977, CCI introduced their hyper-velocity loading, called "Stinger", this was followed by similar products from other manufacturers. These cartridges usually have lighter bullets (29-36 grains) and have muzzle velocities of up to 1600 fps.

In 1959, before the hyper-velocity version, the Winchester Magnum Rimfire (WMR) was introduced. The additional volume of the WMR case held sufficient powder to drive the 40 grain bullet at 1900 fps and for safety the longer cartridge could not be chambered in rifles designed for the standard Long Rifle cartridge.

Still going strong the .22 Long Rifle is the most popular cartridge in the world - well probably!

Range talk eight medals for Bristol at phoenix 2008!

I am barely over the excesses of my weekend at the Phoenix Meeting at Bisley over the Whit Bank Holiday (Thursday 22nd. – Sunday 25th. May 2008) but have just had enough time to download the prize list from the NRA Web Site and bring you news of the Bristol medal winners.

Bob K— took silver in the 25 metre muzzle loading pistol precision event, he was held to 2nd. place on count back with a score of 138. **Steve S**— took two golds with his long barrelled revolver in the Timed and Precision One (285) and Multi-target (106) B class events.

In the action shooting **Graham S**— took gold in the Bianchi small-bore B class with a score of 1787 and in the centre-fire Bianchi A class he also took gold with a score of 1849. Yours truly (Ed) managed to get out of C class with gold in the Bianchi centre-fire match with a score of 1896. A new event at the Phoenix this year was the Granet, a snap shooting match at 25 metres, **Dave W**— took bronze with a score of 293, and he said he could have done better without the hand-over!

At longer range **Mike P**— took bronze in the McQueen, 200 yard

sniper style match, with a score of 56, just one behind the winner and second placed shooters, both tying on 57.

If I have missed anyone please let me know, but in my reckoning its five golds, one silver and two bronzes for Bristol ... great show everyone!

Great weather, great shooting and lots of Bristol members in view. On the Sunday we ran into a unhappy Chairman (**Pete K**—) who got all the way to the firing point, opened his range bag only to find he had left his rifle bolt at home ... **did they refunded your entry fees Pete?**

Club news

A reminder that the annual membership renewals will be sent out soon. Subscription rates remain the same, £70, for another year. In order to comply with legal requirements all members are required to complete their renewal, even life members.

Please return your remittance promptly as details of lapsed memberships must be forwarded to the licensing authorities at the end of July. If you haven't received your renewal

what went on at committee?

forms in the next couple of weeks then tell the Membership Secretary, **Dave W**—.

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The Committee wish to congratulate **Colin H**—, who has successfully completed his probationary period and was accepted as a substantive member. You may remember that Colin was an established .22 shooter who wished to try other types of

shooting—you can go ahead now and get that application submitted for those extra slots on your certificate!

Alexander I— was accepted as a junior probationary member. Alexander is new to shooting and has already attended a couple of Guest Days. 15 year old Alexander lives in Somerset.

The Committee