

The Bristol Bulletin

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Editorial

You may have formed the impression that I hold the Peerage in low esteem, so I think it may be time to redress the balance. Lord Tebbit appeared on "The Politics Show" recently and the presenter, Andrew Neil, found it difficult to understand the Peer's position in support of youth shooting.

If we cannot reasonably satisfy the naturally inquisitive mind of young people, it leads to experimentation with potentially chaotic consequences. The worst teenage pregnancy rate in Europe and alcohol misuse being only two examples of society's reluctance to deal with the aspirations, of young people in a responsible manner.

What has this to do with shooting you may ask? Well Lord Tebbit eloquently

pointed out how essential good discipline was to both shooting sports and youth development, to the point that Andrew Neil was converted from shooting cynic to supporter, well done Norman!

Dispelling Hollywood myths and satisfying the curiosity of youth is important, but are shooters not also guilty of having unrealistic expectations of the youngsters who try shooting sports. The apparent failure rate is high, for every junior member joining a club perhaps only one in five actually carries on to become a long term shooter. Is this really failure? I think not. We are left with the one in five who continues to regularly enjoy shooting and four others who have been ex-

posed to a disciplined and enjoyable experience in the company of other people of all ages – not a frequent occurrence these days I suspect.

The NRA Open Day at Bisley on 3rd. May will be catering for up to 1,000 people, exposing them to all types of target sports, including; shotgun, full-bore rifle, air rifle, sporting and historic firearms and even archery. Tickets must be pre-booked at £8 for adults and just £4 for juniors.

Our own club is also having an upturn in membership applications and some farther away from retirement age that most of the current membership. I sincerely hope that this is just the start of a trend.

Ed

Forthcoming events

In addition to the Spring Action Weekend (see article on page 2 of this newsletter) at Bisley at the end of March there will be a classified 1500 match at Failand on Saturday 12 April 2008. There are entry forms for both events on the notice board in the Hamilton

Range, along with some leaflets on the course of fire for the competitions so you know what you are letting yourself in for.

Frome are holding their Service Matches on Sunday 16 March at Failand—these matches are now know as

the Multi-target and Phoenix A. Our members are welcome to take part.

There are also some full-bore dates and of course in May the Phoenix Meeting at Bisley—more about this next time.

Happy shooting!

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Western Winner

Failand Ranges, Saturday
12 April 2008

This year the classified 1500 match—the Western Winner has moved from its normal autumn spot and will be held in the spring.

There are four different competitions for centre-fire and small-bore rifles and centre-fire long barrelled revolvers and long barrelled .22 rim-fire pistols.

New shooters are welcome and even if you haven't got a current classification why not try your hand and take part in your first 1500 match at your home range—it may encourage you to greater things.

Entry forms of the notice board in the Hamilton Range.

National competitions 1 spring action weekend!

If you have never had a go at shooting a national competition I can recommend starting with the Spring Action Weekend (SAW), at Bisley of 29th.-30th. March 2008. The start of the season isn't usually as busy and the range officers have plenty of time to show any newcomers the ropes, so come along and have a go—entry forms on the notice board in the Hamilton Range, or on the National Rifle Association (NRA) web site.

All the usual events Police, Service, Bianchi and 1500 for centre-fire and small-bore gallery rifle and also for long barreled revolvers (LBR) and pistols (LBP). These matches are shot in classes, so you only ever compete against shooters of your own ability range, so you are always in with a chance of a medal.

In addition some less frequently seen

matches are on offer, the America Match a sort of mixture between precision and rapid fire at bull's-eye targets—great fun. There are 50 and 25 metre precision matches and also the very popular advancing target.

New for this year is the Timed and Precision 3 for LBR and LBP only. The match is shot in six stages between 10 and 25 metres, with a total of 50 shots. There are some quick reloads stages at close range and left and right hand shooting, standing, kneeling and sitting further back. Looks like getting the course of fire right will be an achievement in itself. If you have been wondering what to do with your LBR/LBP then this could be the event you have been waiting for. You must start from the holster, so if you haven't got one yet order it now!

If you were wondering what to do

with your military rifle then there are a couple of events for you at 200 metres in pre-1980 and pre-1950 classes, iron sights only. There is also an open class at 200 metres, so if you must use a scope then this is the one for you.

Last full-bore rifle match is the McQueen at 200 yards. A head shaped figure (politically correct these days) appears in the battlements of a castle wall and you have five seconds to fire one shot at it. Rifle matches are just £7.50 and gallery rifle matches are around the £10 to £15 mark.

Given good weather this is a great start to the shooting calendar, if you are interested then don't think you have to enter everything, two or three matches a day makes it affordable and just the right pace to have a relaxing but challenging weekend.

Range talk

I have just got back from the range having completed the final stage of the winter aggregate for the Greg Patterson Trophy. Members are going to have to wait until the AGM for the results, it will be more of a surprise that way and it may encourage a few more of you to come along.

I can tell you that we have had thirteen shooters enter one or more of the stages over the past six months, which is down slightly on last year—pity.

The format was slightly different this year with the precision match being

what's been going on?—on the range

shot in the form of a postal league, and for those who haven't done all their cards yet, and I have given plenty out, then you have just three weeks left to get them shot and submitted.

The final result will rest on how well you did over the three stages—each stage counting equally towards the total.

The spring and summer competitions now take over and for those who are travelling wide and far to enter it is time to start the mass reloading, that will continue until October when the last round in the last 1500 of the sea-

son is shot at Bisley as the clocks go back.

For those stay at home folk, you can look forward to the sun getting above the Failand quarry rim for more than a couple of hours each day and with sufficient heat to make it feel a bit warm down there.

Either way with the lighter evenings and the thought of long days shooting ahead I cannot think of a better time of year to be a shooter—lets hope that the trophy cupboard is bit enough for the expected annual haul and that our ego won't be too dented if we fail to

Club news

Calling notices have been sent out for the club AGM, which will be held at the Old Bristolians Sports Club, Longwood Lane, Failand at 8 p.m. on Thursday 10th. April 2008. Members are reminded that any items for inclusion in the agenda at the AGM must be with the Secretary 21 days before the meeting. Don't think that you can raise items on the day under other business as they may be ruled out of order and if so will not be debated.

what went on at committee?

The Committee encourages members to try their best to attend the AGM and participate in the democratic process.

The AGM is important as a new Committee will be appointed, who will manage the club on behalf of all members during the forthcoming year.

Three new probationary members were accepted at the Committee Meeting this month. One from Weston super Mare has an experienced with

shotguns and airguns and another from Bristol has also had some experience with airguns. The third is also from Bristol, has a wealth of different shooting experience and is trying to make greater use of his leisure time now he is retired. Welcome to you all!

The Committee