

The Bristol Bulletin

B&DR&PC NEWSLETTER

May 2008

Editorial

Late last year, after several unfortunate incidents on MOD Ranges by military personnel, the MOD reassessed their safety procedures. It was found that, under certain circumstances, bullets could escape from the safety areas.

The MOD needs to maintain combat ready troops and were prepared to accept the small risk in training them, they were not prepared to underwrite the risks from civilian users of their ranges. An outright ban for civilian users was proposed in October 2007.

This came as a surprise to the NRA, as there had been no consultation beforehand. The NRA immediately entered negotiations with the MOD and after much discussion, compromise is within reach.

This is the agreed timetable so far but the fine details is still to be worked out.

1. April 08—Civilian shooters will be able to shoot ammunition with a high muzzle energy, e.g. 338 calibre, providing they follow specific zeroing procedures under the supervision of a High Muzzle Energy (HME) RCO. Training for these RCOs is already underway.
2. New shooters wishing to shoot on MOD Ranges will undertake the NRA Probationary Course, or equivalent course approved by the NRA, either at Bisley or at their local clubs.
3. January 09—All shoot-

ers visiting MOD Ranges will be required to produce their certificate of safety and competence before shooting.

So we have the rest of the year to qualify for our certificates. This is the detail which has yet to be finalised. I will of course keep to updated as more information becomes available. By the way Bisley is a MOD Range.

The NRA has worked extremely hard in negotiating with the MOD to prevent what was, in effect, a ban on nearly all shooting on MOD Ranges.

For further detailed information the NRA Website is www.nra.org.uk.

Steve D—, Rifle Captain

shooting on mod ranges?

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Annual Subscriptions

30 June 2008

Members will soon be getting their annual membership re-newel notices. Rates remain unchanged for another year.

The Membership Secretary (**Dave W—**), will be sending out comprehensive re-newel forms asking **all** members to update their details.

Please get your remittance in as soon as possible after receiving your renewal as failure to renew on time may compromise your membership.

If you have not received your renewal notice by the middle of June then get in touch with the Membership Secretary.

Forthcoming events

The busiest time of year for the competition shooter. The Phoenix Meeting at Bisley has an article on page two.

Nearer home, in Failand, monthly club matches, with a bench rest 50 metre small bore match in May, Timed

and Precision 1 and 2 in June and a black powder Timed and Precision 1 in July.

The Wiltshire County Shooting Association (WCSA) holds it's annual gallery rifle match on Saturday 31st. May at Warminster, ETR 1A

Range. Timed and Precision 1 and 2, plus Multi Target and Phoenix A Matches (all four for just £27 entry forms on the notice board).

Full calendar of events enclosed with this newsletter.

Happy shooting!

Events

As May begins each year I begin to panic, I haven't saved enough money to enter all the competitions I would like, have I made enough ammunition and I must remember to book time off work. What's it all about—the Phoenix Meeting of course—positively the best meeting of the year.

Held at Bisley, it replaced Anno Domini Pistol Meeting eleven years ago and has been the catalyst for developing gallery rifle shooting ever since. It is more than just gallery rifle, although every gallery rifle event is available, and this year it boasts fully 75 events from 10 to 1000 metres.

Air guns, shotguns, military, hunting and target rifles, black powder pistols and rifles, long range pistols, gallery rifles and long barreled pistols and revolvers, no matter what shooting you do you will find something to in-

the phoenix—best meeting of the year!

terest you at the Phoenix.

Some of the newer events are: -

The steel silhouettes, or ducks and rabbits at 50 to 100 metres to be shot standing with a .22" rifle—very challenging.

The speed steels at just over 20 metres, shoot four plates as fast as you can and then the stop plate, five timed runs—best four to count—great way to shoot loads of ammunition.

Target shotgun—with slug ammunition—you shoot the Police and Service courses of fire, this one is for heroes.

The McQueen's sniper match at 200 metres, with the target popping out between battlements for five seconds at a time—make sure your rifle is zeroed if you fancy a go?

These and all the old favorites over the

Whit Bank Holiday Weekend—Friday to Sunday 23rd. To 25th. May.

A free extra, to further deplete your pockets, is the Trade Fair on Saturday and Sunday in the main pavilion. If you have a spare slot for a gun, you may find just what you are looking for and if you need accessories then you will probably find what you looking for. What can you get for free? Only advice, all the dealers seem keen to engage you in conversation, wonder why?

It is the must do event of the shooting year and with some fine weather it makes a good weekend great. Go for the day or the whole weekend, but once to get your first taste you will return time and again.

More details on the notice board in the Hamilton Range!

Range talk

A short summary of the changes of portfolio responsibility of the Committee Members agreed at the AGM in April. The club officers—Chairman (Pete K——), Secretary (Fred J——) and Treasurer (Dave R——) remain unchanged.

The big change is the retirement of Dennis A—— after many years (nobody could remember exactly how many) as Membership Secretary. The photograph on the back of the calendar of forthcoming events, enclosed with this newsletter, shows Pete K—— presenting Dennis with an engraved Bristol Blue bowl as a sign of

the clubs appreciation for his dedicated service. Dave W—— moves from Training Officer to Membership.

The Training role has been taken over by Graham C—— and at the May Committee Meeting Clinton Nicholls was co-opted to assist, between the two of them there isn't much they don't know about shooting.

Dave P—— was voted into the post of Club Captain. Dave has put a lot into the club, maintaining the target mechanism appears to be a particular speciality. Along with his engineering skills he is acquainted with historic and

The new committee!

military firearms and will be a great asset to the Committee.

Steve D—— retains Rifle Captain and it looks as if his portfolio will be busy this year (see Editorial). Steve H—— remains at Chief Range Officer, Mike W—— stays with the Junior Air Gun Section and, for my sins, I keep the Newsletter.

Please try and get to know your Committee, if you don't already know them, they put a lot of effort into the club for no remuneration and clubs like ours would not function without people like them.

Club news

The first meeting of the new Committee in May passed without incident.

The new Membership Secretary, Dave W——, reported that we have 134 members, including 10 probationers. No new members this month but more forms have been sent out in response to the April Guest Day and the Web Site.

Remember after May the monthly Guest Days move to the first Sunday of

what went on at committee?

the month as more of the Committee are available to meet your guests—keep them coming.

The new Club Captain, Dave P——, is keen to look at running some centre fire competitions to supplement the small bore matches over the autumn/winter. Watch out for the calendar for dates and if you have any ideas of what you would like to shoot—let Dave know!

The Chief Range Officer is going into hospital soon for knee surgery (ouch!) so he is leaving the range in the care of the Committee for the next few weeks. Summer weeds grow rapidly so it will probably entail some gardening and the two Daves (P—— and W——) have plans for repairing the target frame holders—come along and lend a hand, dates to follow.

The Committee