

# THE BISLEY MR, TR and F CLASS MEETING – 2011

## SOME GUIDELINES FOR ADULT COMPETITORS ENTERING THE MEETING

*Last December's Survey showed with unanswerable clarity that there was a significant and worrying feeling among the NRA membership that insufficient information was available or offered about the Imperial Meeting to members, affiliated members and to young shooters.*

⇒ *What the Survey actually showed was that the most common reason for not competing in the Imperial Meeting was “Do not know enough about it”*

*Guides, for Adults and for Cadets, have in fact existed for many years, both in hard copy available free from the NRA and, latterly, on line and thus to be freely downloaded. I wrote the original Guides because, as Chief National Coach at the time, I deemed it essential for there to be basic and relevant Imperial Meeting information available to everyone. The flaw in the concept in its application was that people, other than those who took advantage of the “Aunts” & “Uncles” Scheme (see below), were not necessarily aware that they existed.*

*This, thanks to what has been written in the NRA Journal (Spring 2011), is no longer the case.*

*I will stress now what I say later in this Guide, namely that I need feedback as to its merits and defects. My contact details are: TJ Elliott - Lark Hill, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire MK45 3RB; telephone: 01234-740334 / Mobile: 07932-706171 / Email: tje@easynet.co.uk*

*The Guide is updated annually as circumstances and details change.*

### INTRODUCTION

Shooting in the Annual Bisley MR, TR and F Class Meeting for the first time looks and sounds a lot more complicated than it really is. These Notes will be of use to all who come to Bisley for their first Imperial Meeting. Perhaps, too, there will be helpful points for those who have already done a Meeting or two. Indeed, there may even be one or two points which will serve to refresh memories which are hazy after many years' experience, or perhaps out of date.

I first wrote these Notes many years ago when there was nothing comparable available; I conceived it to be a part of my duties as Chief National Coach to do so. I should be most grateful for any comments and advice whatsoever as to the content and structure of what follows. It is intended to be as comprehensive as possible, but there are bound to be omissions. I do not believe that there are any errors, but, if there are, do please tell me (see above and below for my contact details).

### LOCATION

Maps of Bisley and its surroundings are available from the NSC/NRA. The Camp is about 6 miles (10 kilometres) north of Guildford just off the A321 and to the west of the A322 (Guildford to Bagshot road which goes through Bisley village). The National Shooting Centre is well signed.

### ADMINISTRATION

The Imperial Meeting is administered by the National Shooting Centre on behalf of the National Rifle Association (Bisley Camp, Brookwood, Woking, Surrey GU24 0PB. Phone: (44) (0)1483-797777; fax: (44) (0)1483-797285; email: “info@nra.org.uk” or “squadding@nra.org.uk”; website: “http://www.nra.org.uk”).

The NSC Officer in overall charge of the 2011 Meeting is the Assistant Director, Competitions, Brian Thomas. All matters relating to squadding are handled by Karen Robertson (extension 146). The Director of Training dealing with the Schools Meeting and training matters is Mrs Phyllis Farnan TD (extension 150).

## **GENERAL**

The Rules of Shooting and the Programme are contained in the NRA Handbook. Its full title is “The NRA Handbook – Rules of Shooting and Programme for the Imperial Meeting” and it will be termed the “Bible” in what follows. You should order a copy at the same time as you obtain your entry form, if not before. You are expected to know its contents and are required to know the Rules, especially those relating to safety (See below). Although Rules change little from year to year, it is essential to be up to date for your first year. Changes from 2010 are side-barred, but you are urged to read the whole document.

## **CERTIFICATION**

Under the MoD/NRA agreement which came into force on 1 January 2009, all firers competing in the Imperial Meeting – or shooting on MoD Ranges anywhere and at any time – are required to hold and produce an appropriate certificate of safety and competence, signed by their Club Chairman and stating that they have been assessed as Safe and Competent in the use of the firearms concerned (see NRA Journal LXXXVII Number 1, pages 12 and 43 for details).

For overseas competitors, a simple letter signed by the competitor’s National Governing Body, or Club, League or Association Chairman, will be considered sufficient evidence of assessment as Safe and Competent for the issuing, by the NRA Membership Department, of such a certificate.

## **HIGH MUZZLE ENERGY**

*(This does not concern TR firers who must use the issued 155-grain ammunition, but it may concern some MR firers and will concern many F Class firers who hand load.)*

### Background

A High Muzzle Energy (HME) rifle is one using ammunition such that its Muzzle Energy exceeds 4,500 joules (3,319 ft/lbs). Such a combination of rifle and ammunition may generally only be used if it and the firer have undergone the required specific zeroing procedure at 200 yards/metres under the supervision, and to the satisfaction, of a specially trained and qualified RCO(HME) before proceeding to another distance. This zeroing procedure must be carried out each and every time such a combination of rifle and ammunition is used, but it need only be carried out once on the first day of, or the day prior to, a continuous period of competition on consecutive days (so long as the rifle’s setup is not altered by e.g. removing the rearsight).

### At Bisley (only) **outside** the Meeting

Permission will be granted for HME zeroing to take place on the Zero Range. This is co-ordinated by the Range Office. Details are available on request from or at the Range Office.

### At Bisley **during** the Meeting

Firers wishing to zero their rifles for the purpose of confirming that they are safe to use at another distance must go to the Zero Range. There, they will be able to acquire and use the target appropriate for their combination of rifle and ammunition. If an RCO(HME) is present and supervises the procedure, s/he may, if satisfied, countersign the target and issue a receipt to this effect. The target will be retained on Range and handed in later to the Range Office. If the RCO present is not HME qualified, the target when fired must be taken to the Range Office for countersignature and for the necessary receipt to be issued.

Once the rifle zero has been confirmed by the RCO(HME) or by the Range Office, the HME firearm/ammunition combination may then be used on the day (or during the period covered by that confirmation) under the supervision of an RCO holding the standard qualification. Squadding cards for the Imperial Meeting (see below) may only be drawn against production of the receipt confirming that HME Zeroing has been carried out and being duly signed by a qualified RCO(HME) or by the Range Office.

## **SAFETY**

All who shoot on the Bisley Ranges **must** be familiar with the Safety Rules. They are given in the “Bible” (Rules 252-265 and 277), and combine with the Bisley Range Regulations; this latter document is available free on request from the Range Office (extension 152) or is available to download from the website.

All shoots take place under the control of qualified Range Conducting Officers (RCOs), but the principal onus for safety lies, of course, on the individual firer.

In particular, and in accordance with Range Orders, hearing must be properly protected at all times on the firing point, in the butts and in the near vicinity of the firing point.

## **SECURITY**

### (a) Rifles

Storage space in the NRA Armoury (extension 134) can (indeed, **must**) be hired by those who do not have access to police-approved private storage for private target rifles.

**N.B. Under current legislation, Association or Club or private lockers may not be shared without every firearm involved being on every FAC, including Visitors' Permits, involved, unless the firearms are individually padlocked.**

Legislation can change virtually without notice and such changes are routinely reported on the website and in the NRA Journal.

In no circumstances may rifles be left in caravans or huts (unless in police-approved circumstances) and, if locked in a vehicle in daytime (only), **must** be out of sight and **must** adhere to current Surrey Police security requirements, details of which are available from the NRA Firearms Liaison Officer, Geoff Doe (firearmsliaison@nra.org.uk and extension 154 when he is in the office. He mostly works from home where his number is 07738-730419).

Overseas visitors are subject to the same rules as above and any derogation sought from these rules must be checked out with the NRA Firearms Liaison Officer, Geoff Doe (see above).

**NB Legislation can change virtually without notice and such changes are routinely reported on the website and in the NRA Journal.**

### (b) Other matters

Do not forget to take care of personal property. You must take normal precautions over possessions and valuables, especially where vehicles are concerned, as the NSC/NRA can accept no responsibility for theft or damage.

### (c) Night-time security

There are civilian security patrols (with dogs) at night-time.

## **PERSONAL CONDUCT**

In view of the nature of the sport, potentially intrusive media interest and the increasing requirements of legislation, the highest level of personal conduct is required and expected at all times of all who attend Bisley.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

The central points for communication are the various Notice Boards outside the NRA Offices.

There are other, more local, Notice Boards all over Camp.

The location of the “Aunts” & “Uncles” board (“The Hub”) has not yet been determined for 2011, but those involved in the Scheme will be notified.

Notice Boards should be checked daily, especially the ones outside the NRA Offices.

## **PLANNING**

Because there is a great deal to organise, it is good sense to start planning a first MR, TR or F Class Imperial Meeting some months ahead. Apart from travel, accommodation and feeding (and the formalities required for overseas competitors bringing in firearms), the newcomer must ensure that s/he has a rifle and all the necessary equipment.

Overseas competitors must comply with the legal requirement of obtaining a Visitors’ Firearms Permit. The application form may be downloaded from the NSC/NRA website and, when completed, may be sent to the NRA Firearms Liaison Officer, Geoff Doe, for processing (see above – “**SECURITY**” – for contact details). European Community members must also include a valid (original) European Firearms Pass. The deadline for seeking the NRA’s involvement is given in the notes to the Entry Form and **must** be adhered to. Any queries concerning what can appear to be an intimidating process can be emailed to [firearmsliaison@nra.org.uk](mailto:firearmsliaison@nra.org.uk) or raised directly with Geoff.

For accommodation, see below. NSC Permanent Accommodation is routinely booked months ahead so that contact well ahead of time with Amanda Vaughan in the Accommodation Office ([accommodation@nra.org.uk](mailto:accommodation@nra.org.uk) and extension 135) is advisable. The NSC encourages early entries by running an early entry sweepstake and discourages late entries (after 31 May) by imposing a surcharge (see below).

## **NRA “AUNTS” and “UNCLES” SCHEME**

There is help available on any purely shooting matter. All those entering the TR, MR or F Class Meeting, whether for the first time or not, have the option, on the entry form, of requesting this. The scheme is **free** and is open to **all** firers. Anyone who fails to indicate this on the entry form but who later wishes to participate must contact me, Tim Elliott (see above and below for details) before the end of June and preferably earlier. My details also appear regularly in the NRA Journal and are available from the NRA.

## **BANKING FACILITIES**

The Financial Manager will normally cash cheques supported by the appropriate bank card. For details, check at the Front Desk in the NRA Office or on the Secretary General’s notice board.

There are banking facilities in Knaphill (week-days 0900-1600hrs) and 24-hour ATM cash withdrawal facilities at Sainsbury’s and elsewhere.

## MAIL AND TELEPHONE FACILITIES

Stamps and phonecards may usually be bought from the NRA. There are post offices in Brookwood, Knaphill and so on.

There are a mail box and public telephones to the Fulton's side (East) of the NRA Office.

Mobile phones normally work in the Camp but there are dead spots.

## INTERNET ACCESS

Internet and email facilities are available in the NRA Front Office. Wi-fi access may be also purchased there. There are other and free wi-fi options on Camp. Ask me.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation on Camp is available in a variety of forms and should be pre-booked through the NRA Accommodation Office (extension 135 and accommodation@nra.org.uk):

(a) Hiring an NRA Hut.

The NRA has Huts for hire in a variety of formats, ranging from two-bedded Huts to four-bedded Huts and bigger Dormitories. All Huts have electricity and there are wash basins and running water in Crawford Cabins, RO lines and elsewhere.

(b) Hiring tent space.

This is the most common form of accommodation.

The tent itself is the responsibility of the individual hirer.

The cost of a tent space is the same no matter what size the tent (within reason). *Failure to hire a space and display the relevant card will, though, be expensively penalised.*

A tent space does not specify a location, and a tent, once the space is paid for, may be pitched on any of the allocated tent sites. It may not be pitched on a caravan site.

Hot water is available in a variety of ablution buildings around the Camp. Please note that, in conformity with current legislation, they are "No Smoking" areas as are all the clubhouses and offices.

Basic clothes washing facilities (sinks and dryers) are available in some ablution blocks.

(c) Other accommodation is available through some of the Clubs and Associations.

## EATING / SHOPPING

Meals are available in many places, or the competitor may self-cater.

(a) Many Club Houses are open for meals for members, associates and guests.

In the evening, dinner is sometimes a more formal affair and jacket and tie may be the expected dress. Policies vary as does the necessity to book. Enquiries should be made to the Club Steward or Secretary. Details are available from the Clubs concerned.

(b) The NRA Pavilion Hotel (there is no connection with the NSC/NRA) provides meals and bar facilities for all comers.

(c) For those who self-cater, there is, among other options, a Sainsbury near Knaphill, only a seven minute car run from Camp on the Old Guildford Road. Brookwood has small grocers, and Knaphill itself has a reasonably competitive and comprehensive Co-op. There is also a Spar shop a few minutes from Camp (turn right as you exit and then right at the first T Junction. It is on your right after the third traffic calming measure.). It now opens at 0730hrs.

- **Cooking is not permitted in Huts, caravans or tents.**

- (d) There are local Hotels and a few Bed & Breakfast facilities, a list of which can be obtained from the NRA.

## **TRANSPORT**

- (a) Private vehicles are permitted in the Camp. Normal traffic laws apply, including the police's right to stop drivers and breathalyse them (one driver was recently severely penalised). The 15mph speed limit must be observed and there are speed ramps to ensure this. Beware: some of the speed ramps are damagingly high.
- (b) Public Transport offers a train service from Waterloo to Brookwood, which is only a mile or so from the National Shooting Centre. There is an excellent taxi service to and from the Station, (for an example among several: First Choice 01483-799999).

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

Woking and Guildford offer the usual diversions. There are a variety of Restaurants and Pubs in the local area for those wishing to dine off Camp. Brookwood has a Fish and Chips shop as well as an Indian Restaurant ("The Mogul"); Knaphill also has a Fish and Chips shop, three Chinese Restaurants, an Italian restaurant, an Indian take-away and so forth – take your pick.

## **MEDICAL**

For First Aid during shooting times, there is comprehensive coverage for all the Ranges over the radio network (Channel 16, the "control" channel). This is supported during shooting hours by a St John's Ambulance Paramedic presence.

Full 24-hour medical support is available. Details are notified in competitors' envelopes and on the Secretary General's board outside the NRA. The detailed circumstances vary from year to year and it is good sense to discover how medical assistance may swiftly be sought if needed **away from the Ranges**. Range Regulations lay down the procedure for obtaining medical assistance **on Range** (see above). Remember that any accident or injury **must** be reported to the Range Office and duly logged in the relevant register.

## **SHOOTING EQUIPMENT**

There are detailed NRA TR Notes which cover this topic. In addition there are my own fuller ones, annually updated and available from me by email (tje@easynet.co.uk). I give a suggested minimum equipment list at ANNEXE A to these Notes.

All rifles to be used must conform to Rules 150ff and all **Target Rifles** must have stickers affixed to their **barrels** (and not to the stocks) relating to Chamber Dimensions (minimum throat diameter of .3085 inches, etc.). **CTRs**, **Match Rifles** and **F Class rifles** are not required to have stickers.

## **SHOOTING CLOTHING**

Bad (which includes very hot) weather should be expected and planned for. See ANNEXE A.

## **THE ENTRY FORM**

It is necessary to complete an Entry Form and return it with the relevant payment. Most entries are made online via the NSC/NRA websites and paid by credit card using the secure payment provider. Entries received after 31 May carry surcharges which are reviewed annually.

Late entries for squadded competitions will not normally be accepted after 12:00 on the day preceding the match or matches concerned, or the first match of a staged shoot. Late entries may be accepted at the discretion of the squadding staff and only as target availability will permit.

Entries submitted before 1<sup>st</sup> May qualify for the early entry draw, so long as payment over £50 is made on entry.

Some guidance on completing this form is given at ANNEXE B.

## SQUADDING CARDS

Receipts will be issued for entries made and must be exchanged in the NRA Reception (also known as “the Front Counter”) for squadding cards. If a receipt has gone astray, appropriate evidence of having entered must be produced (identification and address is a sufficient minimum, but it causes unnecessary work for the NRA). It can save everybody time and trouble if you at least know your Index Number.

You will not be able to get your cards without showing your “Shooter Certification Card”. HME firers for MR or F Class (see above “High Muzzle Energy”) must produce their duly countersigned white certificate in order to obtain their cards.

It is good sense to pick up squadding cards as early as possible: they are normally available from 2.00pm on the Thursday before “First Saturday”.

Squadding cards are issued in envelopes which will contain various other bits of information. Competitors must read these with great attention, especially the small print where Special Duties are concerned.

Squadding cards come in the form of a colour-coded booklet with detachable cardboard cards. The colours relate to the distances to be fired. Most good score diagrams use this colour-coding. White cards are for Special Duties.

Self-adhesive white labels are issued with the coloured squadding cards. Each label is computer-printed with the details of the competition concerned. It must be detached from the backing paper and attached to the appropriately coloured card for the distance given on the label. It supplies the full information needed by the competitor in order to turn up in the right place and at the right time. This means 15 minutes early in individual competitions (Rule 266) and 30 minutes early in Team matches (Rule 286). For penalties in individual competitions, see Rule 270. Cards (for e.g. the Century match) may be a double-distance card.

The labels all give the competitor’s Index Number (the number issued chronologically in the NRA Office on receipt of the Entry Form) and other dedicated information.

In addition to labels for competing, there are labels for Special Duties, which should be stuck on to the white cards at the back of the colour-coded booklet. (However if this is your first Meeting you will not be given Special Duties and, if you are, this is normally a mistake and you **must** raise the matter **urgently** with Reception Staff.)

- (a) Assistant Range Officer (Competitor RO) and Ammunition Issuing Duties (which may be subsumed by the military). **These may not be transferred** (or neglected) without specific prior permission. Failure to do such duties will result in a five-point penalty for the competition for which you did not appear (Rule 549). If you are given such an ARO duty and believe that you are not sufficiently experienced to execute it, then you **must** raise the matter with the Assistant Director, Competitions, or with the Director of Training. This is particularly the case if you are in some way physically handicapped. In principle, competitors are not allotted more than two duties: their assistance is as necessary as it is greatly appreciated.
- (b) Butt Marking Duties. The NRA now supplies all butt markers, and there should be no requirement for any competitors to mark. In the unlikely event of competitor marking being required at short notice, this will be communicated to all competitors by the most appropriate means.

Squadding cards authorise all TR competitors to draw ammunition: it is issued from ammunition hubs on the range (usually two on Century and one on Stickledown and cards will be stamped “AMMUNITION ISSUED” on the reverse). MR and F Class must provide their own ammunition. FTR competitors may purchase Imperial Meeting ammunition from the Range Office at the special Imperial Meeting price on production of a special voucher which will be issued in their squadding envelope.

Squadding cards authorise all competitors to compete.

Squadding cards serve:

- (a) To confirm a competitor’s time, distance / range, target number and position on the firing point:

The printed label states the time of the shoot (but remember that you must arrive at least 15 minutes ahead of time for individual, and 30 minutes ahead of time for team, competitions) and gives the range number (0-4 on Stickledown for “long range”, 11-19 on Century for “short range”). The additional letter (A-K/M) represents the target number. This latter is determined by the RCO shortly before the start of the detail: s/he uses a small blackboard (the “Scramble Board”) to allocate target numbers randomly to the letters, and places it behind the her/his table or chair.

All competitors on a given target will have an identical squadding number on the printed card, but the three cards will also have Left, Centre or Right printed to show where the firers should shoot on the Firing Point. MR squadding cards broadly follow this procedure, but there are sometimes changes year-by-year for particular competitions.

F Class competitors will all be squadded together on a ‘partial-butt’ on each detail.

- (b) To record a competitor’s score:

The competitor hands the card to her/his register keeper (see below) for the register keeper to record the value of each shot fired. The competitor will initial the card after firing to confirm that s/he agrees the shot values and the score as written down. NB: the **total** score **must** be written in ink.

- (c) To affirm that a competitor’s rifle has been cleared **with the bolt removed**:

The register keeper may **only** sign the squadding card (giving her/his name and Index Number) **after** s/he has carefully checked that the firer’s rifle is clear on completion of the shoot. This procedure **must** include checking that the bolt has been removed so that you may look down the barrel and **must** include confirming that the action and chamber have no round remaining in them. See Rules 341 to 349.

➔ **THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THE REGISTER KEEPER’S DUTIES.**

- (d) To assist the RCO in the event of having to reallocate a firer to another target (e.g. if four are accidentally squadded on a target instead of three).

It is customary for Range Officers to request the firer with the highest Index Number to move in the event of four firers being squadded to one target unless one is a late-comer who may therefore be relocated with minimum disturbance to the others.

Rule 267 lays down that firers, if very unusually required to fire singly, do so with the lowest Index Number firing first.

- (e) To record Aggregates:

Claim cards are used for some aggregates. They must be properly completed and handed in either with the last shoot of the Aggregate or, within the prescribed time-scale, to the NRA (in the blue Claims Box which may be outside the front door of the NRA main offices or beside the Stats Portacabin at the back of the NRA Offices). In the case of Match Rifle, there is normally a Stats Caravan at 1200 yards.

## **PRINT-OUT**

Every competitor is issued with a computer print-out of competitions entered together with details of timings. This is a useful summary document (but, again, remember Rule 255).

## **PUTTING UP SCORES**

Virtually all firers enter their scores on their Club or Association scoresheets posted in a variety of places in the Camp. This is not compulsory, but it **IS** customary. If you are eligible to shoot for one of the Home Countries (England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales) please make yourself known to the relevant Secretary or Captain and put your scores on their boards too. The same applies where counties are concerned.

## **FIRING POINT PROCEDURE**

ANNEXE C gives a brief outline of who-does-what on the firing point.

## **REGISTER KEEPING**

The duties of the Register Keeper go well beyond merely keeping a firer's score. The "Bible" lays down these duties in Rules 341ff.

### ***During the shoot:***

- (a) S/he must confirm, through a telescope [binoculars are not normally adequate, especially on Stickledown, unless they are very powerful], that the value of the shot as indicated coincides with the location on the target of the spotting disk.

If there is a discrepancy of whatever nature, s/he **MUST** have it addressed, but first call "Wait" to ensure that the next firer does not shoot.

- (b) S/he records the firer's score on each shot as it is marked. Challenges must be recorded (Rule 319) on the card if unsuccessful.

V-bulls are recorded as "V" and score 5 points in the total, the number of "V"s being shown separately after a decimal point. A shoot scoring 74 with eleven "V"s is thus shown as "74.11". Do not use any other designation.

- (c) S/he must **audibly** call out the (number and) value of each shot as it is marked.

Sighting shots are convertible into scoring shots: confirm with the firer if s/he wishes to convert the second or both sighting shots before s/he continues to shoot.

- IN ALL THE ABOVE, IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT THE RECORDED VALUE OF A SHOT MAY **NEVER** BE CHALLENGED ONCE A FURTHER SHOT HAS BEEN FIRED.

It is, therefore, imperative, at the outset, to ensure that the firer (who may be hard of hearing as well as wearing plugs and muffs) can hear the Register Keeper's call. It may be necessary to arrange a signalling system.

### ***After the shoot:***

- (d) S/he must total the firer's score. ***All total scores must be (re-)entered in ink (Rule 342)***

The firer is required to initial the squadding card to show that s/he concurs with the score.

- (e) S/he must carefully inspect the firer's rifle **WITH ITS BOLT OUT**, confirm (preferably audibly) that it is clear (see above) and then and only then sign the firer's card with name **and** Index Number as evidence that this has been done.

## **RADIO MESSAGES**

Communications between the firing point and the butts are mostly by a numeric code, numbered from 1 to 14.

They are given in the "Bible" in Appendix III, and the relevant ones for MR, TR and for F Class are listed (along with some advice on their use) at ANNEXE D.

## **PRIZE LISTS AND SCOREBOARDS**

Prize lists are posted on the boards beside the NRA Office.

They usually go up the same evening as a shoot or aggregate. Scrutinise these (white) lists carefully in case there is an error which concerns you. Appeals will only be considered (in the NRA Stats Office) within 24 hours of the time of posting and a deposit of £1 will be required to make a formal protest, this fee being returnable if the appeal is upheld. There are sometimes minor errors: do not let these become cast in concrete. Everyone appreciates accuracy in statistical matters. Final lists are normally yellow.

If you are involved in a tie shoot, details for TR and F Class are posted on pink paper on the NRA offices end of the boards. MR tie shoots normally take place on the spot.

Tie shoots posted are only for first places or where a trophy or possibly a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> place embroidered badge, is at stake. For multiple-distance shoots such as Queen's II and St George's II there is either an immediate shoot-off or a shoot-off once the other details have finished.

A scoreboard in front of the NRA Office gives a daily list of the top 50 in the TR and F Class Grand Aggregates. MR positions in the Hopton are normally published in the window of the Stats Caravan.

## **ETIQUETTE**

As has been said before, Bisley is a place where etiquette is perhaps regarded more highly than elsewhere. It is, therefore, helpful to highlight a few matters:

- (a) Do not do or say anything on or near a firing point which is likely to distract a competitor before, during or after her/his shoot.
- Although some people compete at Bisley as mere participants, most take their shooting extremely seriously.
- (b) Where and when necessary, conform to custom in the Camp (however strange it may seem).
- Many of the people at Bisley are genuinely and rightly proud of the traditions of the place and are affronted if others do not follow such customs as dressing appropriately in the evenings in certain Club Houses.

## **AND FINALLY**

There is plenty of help and guidance available to all shooters, young and old. If in any doubt about anything, **ASK!** My mobile phone number is given below.

***Tim Elliott (Former NRA Chief National Coach TR) – March 2011***

TJ Elliott - Lark Hill, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire MK45 3RB

Telephone: +44 (0)1234-740334; Mobile: +44 (0)7932-706171; Email: tje@easynet.co.uk

Hut H6 – Council Lines

## ANNEXE A

### SHOOTING EQUIPMENT

Planned sharing of equipment can be negated by the squadding system which, of course, is random. It is therefore best not to plan to share.

1. Hearing Protection is **mandatory**

A firer MUST have earplugs and earmuffs in good condition. All firers are required to protect hearing as effectively as possible (e.g. wearing plugs and muffs together on the firing point and one or other when behind the point or in the butts). Moulded earplugs are comfortable and, being made to fit, are a very useful basic protection. Remember though that sound waves can penetrate through the skull's bone structure so that earmuffs are probably better while on the firing point. To wear both, of course, is preferable.

2. Rifle

There are various options depending on circumstances:

- (a) Privately owned rifle;
- (b) Private, Club, Association or NRA rifle, hired or loaned in accordance with current legislative requirements;

NB The transporting of rifles is subject to legislative controls. These controls must be rigidly observed. Essentially, rifles carried in a vehicle must, when left unattended, be out of sight and locked away.

Each rifle must have rearsight, foresight, elements and bolt (and handstop and breech flag if used). Other equipment is optional, but often desirable e.g. rifle case, rain-proof cover, bipod stand, filters, eagle eye, allen keys, screwdrivers, cleaning equipment (rod, rod guide [essential], flannelette, cleaning fluid, oil.....).

Remember that although the safe functioning of a firearm is the responsibility of the FAC holder. The user, in e.g. a Club situation, shares that responsibility.

There is a "Snail Trap" on Zero Range where blow-off shots may be fired without having to use the Range in the prone position. Care must be exercised when using this facility, so read very carefully the encapsulated instructions affixed beside the Snail Trap before using it. Do not deviate from them: there have been minor accidents when the instructions have not been precisely followed.

3. Sling

4. Telescope and stand

Telescopes must be properly protected fore and aft against rain. To protect the front lens, many models allow you to use a cut down plastic bottle which may be pulled forward; to protect the rear lens, a 4mm hole drilled in the centre of the lens cap is very effective.

Binoculars, as stated above, are unsatisfactory both for firing and for register keeping.

5. Scorebook with pencils, eraser and so on (NB: Rule 316 stipulates that pen or biro is also required for inking in total scores).

6. Towels or chamois leathers for wet weather shooting.

## **SHOOTING CLOTHING**

This is a very personal matter. A few generalisations may help the less experienced. Again, a full list is available from me at [tje@easynet.co.uk](mailto:tje@easynet.co.uk).

The following are suggested for TR. MR and F Class firers will have their own ideas:

1. A correctly fitting jacket with properly fitting padding in the appropriate places and, if used, a sling loop which is infinitely adjustable and does not interfere with the sling setting at the top of the arm.
2. A cap or hat to shade the eyes. This must not interfere with hearing protection or with your rearsight.
3. A glove for single-point sling users.
4. Waterproof trousers.
5. Appropriate footwear.
6. A shooting mat with good quality rubber.

## ANNEXE B

### THE ENTRY FORM

The Entry Form is available on line and in paper form. It is a good deal less complicated than it looks. The online entry is **much** easier than the paper entry form and does all the mathematical calculations for you.

Read the notes attached to or on the reverse of the Form before starting to complete it. They are also available to download in the online entry section. It is helpful, but not vital, to have a “Bible” beside you so as to confirm the competitions you are entering.

The crucial point is to complete all relevant parts legibly [**especially the email address**] and, where requested, to repeat information.

The main problem is selecting which competitions to enter. This is a personal matter, depending on all sorts of factors; however, a few suggestions and observations may be helpful:

#### Financial concessions.

Competitors still at school and wishing to benefit from three years’ free membership must ensure that their mistress or master in charge contact the NRA Membership Secretary (extension 138) about this concession no later than January in their final year.

Competitors under 21, or under 25 **and** undergoing full-time education, are not required to pay a Membership fee for their **first** Imperial Meeting.

Those who, on the last day of the Meeting are under 21, or under 25 **and** in full-time education, pay a reduced Membership fee for subsequent Imperial Meeting entries.

The concessionary rate for Junior Life Membership (aged 14 to 25) is seriously worth considering for any young person likely to continue shooting beyond a first Meeting.

Competition Entry and Aggregate fees (not Cash Sweepstakes) are reduced by 30% for those under 21 (or under 25 if in full-time education) on the last day of the Meeting.

#### Squadded competitions.

It is worthwhile for younger competitors, given the concessionary fees, to enter as many squadded competitions as possible, money permitting.

#### Aggregates.

This is a matter for personal decision. TR Tyros are strongly encouraged to enter the Young Riflemen’s Aggregate. If you shoot well you can appear on prize lists and win bars.

#### Cash Sweepstakes.

This, too, is a matter of choice. A competent Tyro, for instance, may well win (back) some money.

#### Class of competitor.

ALL persons firing for the first time in the NRA TR Meeting are, by definition, Class T (Tyros), unless they are overseas competitors who **MUST** be classified in accordance with their own national classification. If in doubt, clarify the matter with the Squadding Department.

MR and F Class are subject to a different regime: generally there is no “Tyro” class.

#### Email.

Because of the increasingly wide, if not almost universal, use of electronic mail by the NRA, please be sure, as mentioned above, to include an email address and, above all, to do so **legibly**.

## FIRING POINT PROCEDURE

Arrive in plenty of time: at least 15 minutes early for individual shoots and 30 minutes early for team shoots.

You need to make sure that you are in the right place and at the right time. If you arrive once the 5-minute preparation period is under way, you may not be permitted to shoot and, if you are, you may incur at least a one-point penalty at the discretion of the Chief Range Officer or his Deputy.

You need to have a good look at the conditions.

Your squadding label will show whether you should lie down on the left, centre or right of the available space on the firing point. The right hand firer fires first as explained below.

For TR, you need to take your squadding card to the ammunition point for ammunition to be issued and for your card to be initialled or stamped on the reverse. This also applies for MR and F Class competitors using issued 7.62mm RWS ammunition.

Move forward **ONLY** when your firing point is clear, firing has ceased on each flanking target **AND** the RCO or her/his deputy instructs you to do so. RCOs, under the direction of the Chief Range Officer or his Deputy, are required to implement and enforce this. Be mindful of those still firing.

Remember that you lie to the **left** of the coloured peg showing your target number.

The sequence of firing and register keeping is as follows. It is based on the simple premise that the firer on the right always fires first and that a firer records the value of the shot fired AFTER her/his own shot.

Thus:	<b><u>Left</u></b>	<b><u>Centre</u></b>	<b><u>Right</u></b>
<b><u>Fires</u></b>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b><u>Card goes to</u></b>	Centre	Right	Left
<b><u>Register keeps for</u></b>	Right	Left	Centre

In the event of there only being two to the target, you simply exchange cards. Additional time will not normally be allowed for each shot in these circumstances (the normal limit of 45 seconds from target up to shot break still applies), but sympathetic attention is normally given by RCOs and AROs in this situation.

You must set yourself up and adjust your position in time for the start. RCOs will issue instructions as to when to dress forward and you are entitled to not less than five minutes' settle-in time before you start to fire – unless, of course, you are late but permitted to fire.

The Chief Range Officer will give you plenty of notice (again, at least five minutes) as to when Message One will be passed. Message one does **NOT** mean “load and carry on”: that order will **ONLY** be given by an RCO.

A ‘sighting-in’ target will be exposed for three minutes in the centre of each butt with five minutes to go before the start of a detail and when the five minute warning is given. **Do not fire at this target: it is purely for sighting purposes.** (No order to Load will have been given by your RCO.) It will be “pulled” with one minute to go before the start.

- REMEMBER THAT YOU MAY NOT PRESENT AMMUNITION TO YOUR RIFLE UNTIL A SPECIFIC ORDER TO DO SO IS GIVEN BY YOUR RCO (and **not**, repeat “**not**”, by the Chief Range Officer’s warning that firing is about to start). See Rule 255.
- It is good practice not even to **TOUCH** your ammunition until you hear your RCO’s order to “Load and Carry On” (Have another look at Rule 255).

If you have a problem which is likely to prevent your punctual start, tell the others on your target and the RCO or ARO: they will invariably react positively.

It is good practice to close your bolt on a round only when your target starts to reappear after a shot. You only have 45 seconds (and you only need about 15) to release your shot.

***Remember, though, to observe the 70 mils Rule.** It is mandatory to close (or open) your bolt on a live round **ONLY** with your barrel held horizontally (Rule 257). (Current experience of premature initiation following such as a broken or protruding firing pin suggests that this is more safely achieved with the rifle out of the shoulder.) The rifle once loaded, whether on the ground or in the shoulder, **must** be kept pointed towards the assigned stop butt along its discrete line of fire and not be allowed to deviate beyond the limits of that butt when being raised to the shoulder (Rule 258).*

If you have a misfire (that is, when a round goes “Click!” rather than “Bang!” and potentially the most dangerous of all incidents – read carefully Rule 262), summon the RCO immediately. A round with a primer which has been struck **however lightly** must **NEVER** be re-presented for firing (this, incidentally, applies to **all** ammunition and of every calibre, especially rimfire). It will, for issued ammunition, be exchanged by the RCO for a fresh round.

At the end of the shoot:

- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b><u>send</u></b>                 | Message 10 (or Message 12 if appropriate) <b><u>and take your bolt out;</u></b>   |
| <b><u>ensure</u></b>               | That your rifle is clear and that someone else (your register keeper in squadded competitions, your coach in team matches and, in the absence of one of these, the RCO or his deputy) has checked it; |
| <b><u>check &amp; announce</u></b> | That the action and chamber of the rifle of the firer for whom you are register keeping is empty and then ( <b><u>AND ONLY THEN</u></b> ) sign her/his card;  |
| <b><u>ensure</u></b>               | That you have completed the firer’s card <b><u>in ink</u></b> as to the total score;  |
| <b><u>check &amp; initial</u></b>  | your own card and take it, along with your empties and any unexpended rounds (converted sighters) if applicable, to the RCO’s table. The number of empty cases and unfired rounds will be checked.    |

Do **NOT**, though, stand up when a flanking target has a firer on aim.

Return promptly and silently to your firing point and remove your rifle and equipment.

**DO THIS WITHOUT TALKING SO AS NOT TO DISRUPT THOSE STILL FIRING.**

## ANNEXE D

### BISLEY RADIO MESSAGES

The messages relevant to TR, MR and F Class shooting are:

- Message 1 Firing is about to start; the targets are to be raised.  
**NB** This is **NOT** an invitation to load and fire.
- Message 2 No spotting disc is visible.
- Message 3\* The value indicated **UNMISTAKABLY** disagrees with the location of the spotting disc.
- Message 4\* Please examine the target. A shot has been fired and the butt marker has not reacted.
- Message 5\* The firer challenges for a higher value than that indicated.  
The firer must have £1 available for payment after the shoot should the challenge not be upheld.
- Message 7\* The firer challenges for a Hit on a target which has been marked as clear.  
Again, £1 must be available to the Range Conducting Officer in the event of the challenge failing.
- Message 9 The butt marking is unacceptably slow.  
It is most unwise to use this message without very good reason .....
- Message 10 The firers have completed their shoot and the butt marker may stand easy, patch out the target and half mast it.
- Message 11\* It is thought that the butt marker has patched out the wrong shot hole, usually leaving the spotting disc in the previous hole. Only to be used after an unsuccessful Message 4 or 7.  
This is a tricky one to negotiate, but is on occasion most useful.
- Message 12 The firers have completed their shoot and the butt marker is to patch out the target, raise it again and stand easy.  
This is most used in team matches.
- Message 13 This is for use between CRO Stickledown and the Chief Butts Officer only and concerns blow-off shots during the MR Meeting.
- Message 14\* “It is suspected that there is a second shot on the target: inspect the target and indicate any further shot found in addition to the one indicated.”  
(It is best when seeking this message to address the RCO or ARO “in clear” so as to avoid confusion with the similar-sounding “Message Four”.)

\* The RCO, on hearing from the butts, will confirm the results of Messages 3, 4, 5, 7, 11 and 14 to the firer.

The Butts Supervisor is required to display an orange “lollipop” to show that he has personally examined the target if so required (Messages 5, 7, 11 and 14).