

COMMITTEE INFO

Chairman:
Don L

Treasurer:
Roger H

Club Captain:
Simon F

Secretary:
Alan S

Membership Officer:
Barry D

Training Officer:
Steve C

CPO:
Phil H

Webmaster:
Rhid T

Armourer:
Kevin S

Communications Officer:
Sarah J



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Club News

Hello, and welcome to the Winter edition of the SPRC Times!

In this edition of the newsletter, we look at our Winter 23 winners, learn a little about LSR and feature an article from On Target magazine about witnessing cards.



On the subject of competitions, in the Spring edition, we noted the Winter 22 Croydon League Division 1 winners of Simon F, Christine L, Fanar P and Ian P. Here we have a photo of them next to the modest shield!

As ever, if you have any ideas on potential feature articles, contact Sarah on communications@surbitonpostalrifleclub.com. We're keen to give you an opportunity to contribute and be part of the newsletter.

The **Committee** would like to take this opportunity to **wish you a wonderful festive break and a happy New Year!**



RECENT RESULTS

Winter 23 season winners:

- Surrey 50m Prone:
Rhid T Div 2
- Surrey 25yd Ladies
Individual Prone:
Sarah J Div 4
- Surrey 25yrd Prone:
Howard E Div 17
- Surrey 10m Air Pistol:
Rachel M Div 7
Roger H Div 9
- Surrey 25yd Benchrest:
Hendrik B Div 3
Gail E Div 9
- Essex Air Rifle:
Malcolm F Div 2

Competitions

Yet another successful season for SPRC. Special well done to those who persevered and to those who tried something new!

In addition to the Winter 23 medal wins, items worthy of mention;

- Josh T qualified to represent Great Britain in the Drew Match (an international postal smallbore-prone rifle competition for U21's).
- At the ESSU (English Smallbore Shooting Union) Championships back in April, Ian P was 3rd in the Men's 10m air rifle competition and Fanar P was 3rd in the Women's 10m air rifle competition.
- Ian P (3P, air rifle), Fanar P (air rifle) and Brian W (LSR Timed) qualified for the Eley finals to be shot at Bisley October 14th/15th. Fanar also shot in the prone final at Bisley in August. Rhid T qualified for the prone final but was unable to take part.
- Ian P was 3rd at the Surrey Long Range Championship final in September
- In the Croydon prone rifle finals in July at Gally Hill, Ian P won Class A, Fanar P was 2nd in Class A and Simon F won Class E
- Ian P, Fanar P and Kevin S competed in the Gibraltar Shooting Federation Open competition in June.

Congratulations all!

As part of our ongoing desire to improve awareness of competition rules and regulations we have a guide offering clarification of NSRA Benchrest Rules, which will be distributed to all registered benchrest shooters. If you're not a benchrest shooter but are interested in reading the guide, please by contacting Alan on secretary@surbitonpostalrifleclub.com.



Surbiton Postal
Rifle Club

Lightweight Sporting Rifle (LSR)

As part of our desire to give members an opportunity to experience all the different disciplines available at the club, we have asked LSR captain, Alan S, to give a brief overview of the discipline...

This has grown in popularity following the ban on hand guns. As those now enjoying the discipline have discovered, it has many advantages over traditional small-bore shooting.

The usual course of fire is 30 shots, 10 each on a PL14/06-18 card, unless you are very good, in which case it is 5 shots a card. The Eley competition is different.

Apart from a self-loading rifle, with telescopic sights and ear defenders no other equipment other than a glove is needed or permitted. Indeed, the weight of the rifle with scope and glove must not exceed 4.6 kilos. Normal dress is worn along with sensible shoes (shoes/boots must not cover the ankles). Shooting jackets are not permitted!

The shooting stance is effectively the same as for Air Rifle and is easily learnt.

Generally, the cost of a suitable rifle and telescopic sights is quite inexpensive, a good second-hand rifle can be obtained for under £500 and new ones for under £1500, with scopes. The Club does have 5 good semi auto rifles for use of members passed out as safe to shoot LSR

The main cost is for ammunition as each competition round is of 30 shots (the Eley 40) thus 3 times the amount of a prone competition.

At present 7 members are actively shooting competition cards and more are always welcome. A list of members who are qualified to instruct learners can be found on the Club Notice Board.

If you are interested in trying our LSR, get in touch with Alan for one of the instructors.



About equipment

Whilst good technique and practice are a large factor in successful shooting, the role of good and properly fitting equipment should not be underestimated.

One such piece of equipment is the shooting jacket. A required piece of equipment for many competitions, it is important to ensure you have a well-fitting jacket.

For those without their own jacket, we have club jackets in a range of sizes (both junior and adult) in the main clubroom. If you use these jackets, one key thing to note is that, when wearing one, you should not be able to bring both elbows together. This is to ensure a good fit around the shoulders and better support to the arms and back whilst in a shooting position.

Whilst using club jackets is perfectly fine – and recommended when you're still starting out – the best way to get a perfectly fitting jacket is to be measured for one. This is especially the case for female shooters. There are several places you can look but we recommend looking at TenPointNine as they offer both made-to-measure jackets and unisex, adjustable, ambidextrous options.

Most stockists feature measurement guides you can use but, if you are able, we recommend being fitted in-store to ensure the proper fit. Especially as each manufacturer tends to have its own measurement guide! Another benefit to visiting in-store is that some stockists can make small adjustments for you.



Witnessing cards

The following is an article written by Bob Vassie, NSRA Central Scorer and Course Leader, and featured in the Summer edition of On Target magazine.

Some time ago I was having a conversation with a shooting friend and the subject of witnessing came up. I asked why he thought we needed a witness. He replied 'So the card doesn't get disqualified.' That was not exactly what I expected to hear, and one hopes it is not a widespread belief. Nevertheless, that answer made me wonder how many witnesses really know what their duties are.

Witnessing a shoot is about verifying that the competitor has complied with the rules. Like every other sport, shooting has comprehensive rules that exist to make competitions fair. No sportsman wants to take part in matches without the much-cited "level playing field". The obvious first question is 'Why do we need a witness to sign shot cards for postal competitions, but not at open events where shooters compete shoulder-to-shoulder?'. The answer is that witnesses are not used at open meetings because everyone is surrounded by other competitors, so each shooter's actions are observed by many others. Range Officers also oversee proceedings, and will deal with any individual's attempts to gain an advantage. It is not the same when postal matches are shot on competitors' home ranges and the opponents could be hundreds of miles away. All participants will want to be satisfied that the opposing teams or individuals are following the rules and conditions. This is where witnessing is essential.

At this point we refer to the NSRA's *Rules and Regulations for the Conduct of Small-bore and Air Rifle, Small-bore and Air Pistol and Crossbow Competitions*, Section 7 of which covers Postal Competitions. Sub-sections 7.5 and 7.6 set out all the rules on witnessing, except where an electronic target system (ETS) is used; the rules for that are in Sub-sections 7.4.8 and 7.4.11. As is often the case, the rules themselves are a little dry and indigestible, so some years ago the Association also provided very comprehensive explanation, advice and guidance in its *Guide to Competing*, where witnessing is covered in Part 6.7. All of these rules and guides can be found in the NSRA Handbook, a copy of which should be held (and used!) by every affiliated club.¹

Rule 7.5.1 states simply: 'Every shoot must be witnessed'. The next rule then makes it clear that not just anyone can act as a witness. Rule 7.5.2 lists those persons recognised as qualified to witness shoots. Anyone asked to be a witness should check the rules to ensure that they are eligible to do so.

¹If the Handbook cannot be found, the Rules and Regulations are available to download from the NSRA's website, though not the Guide to Competing.



Witnessing cards...continued

Put simply, the witness is required to confirm that the shooter has adhered to the conditions of the competition, and accordingly the witness is expected to see that the shooter has actually done so. The operative word is 'see' - so not just take the shooter's word for it, or indeed the word of someone else who happened to be there.

Suppose you are approached by a shooter who asks you to witness a series of time-limit cards when you were not present during the shoot. How can you possibly know what happened? Was the timing accurate, or was the shoot timed at all?

The first requirement, then, is for the witness to know and understand the rules and conditions of the competition concerned (Rule 7.6.2.1). The second is for the witness to satisfy himself that those rules and conditions are complied with; and not just at the start of the shoot, but throughout it. So the third requirement is for the witness to be present before the card is put up on its frame, then the whole time until the shot card is brought back and signed by the shooter (7.6.1.2). In fact, the shooter should ensure that the witness is present all the time, otherwise the shooter himself is guilty of an infringement.

After the card is shot, the competitor signs it to say 'I have complied with the rules to the best of my ability? The witness who observed the shoot then adds his or her signature to say 'I have witnessed this shoot and all the rules and conditions were met.' The witness also dates the card. Sometimes a shooter will write in the date to be helpful; if this happens the witness must put a line through the date and write it again underneath or alongside.

Witnessing is the bedrock of postal competitions and must be conducted in an efficient and accurate manner. Fortunately cheating is rare in our sport, but nevertheless we must be vigilant, and that is where conscientious witnesses are so important. Even if rule infringements are the result of ignorance rather than dishonesty, that must still be corrected. Rules may have been up-dated, or new ones introduced, so shooters and witnesses alike need to keep abreast of developments.

Finally, all writing on targets, witness certificates or ETS records must be legible and in the designated places. Too many shoots are disqualified because of poor signing procedure, which is sad for all concerned.

NATIONAL SMALL-BORE RIFLE ASSOCIATION, LORD ROBERTS HOUSE,
BISLEY CAMP, BROOKWOOD, SURREY, GU24 0NP

Name A NYBODY
(Block letters)

Club UPDOWN R.C.

Signature A. Nybody

Witness [Signature]

Date 22/5/23 22.5.23

All shots touching or inside the trim line will be scored

Left: It doesn't matter if a card is dated by every other member of the club. If the witness hasn't dated it, the card is liable to disqualification.

