



## Bassingbourn Rifle & Pistol Club Newsletter

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May 2006

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### From the Secretary:

The AGM held in February at The Red House Public House in Longstowe was very well attended, so many thanks to all those who attended. A summary is on page 2.

Please remember that all Club information including contact details are on the reverse of the membership cards. These cards are to be worn on all range shoots for ease of identifying members and guests. I will be arranging for Visitor badges to be available on Guest Days. On Guest Days, all guests are the responsibility of the Full member who has invited them and they will be under 1-1 supervision in accordance with Home Office rules.

Please note that no-one under the age of 18 is allowed on military ranges nor anyone who isn't attending to shoot (eg wives of shooters).

There are a couple of interesting articles that should be of interest to all shooters. These are on pages 3 and 5 and are about Pistol Shooting and Keeping your MP informed for their support.

### Web Site

Please contact Jackie on [webmaster@brpc.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@brpc.org.uk) if you have any comments on the web site and any thoughts on what you would like to see on it

### Useful Websites

**Target Shooting Shop**—[www.targetshootingshop.co.uk](http://www.targetshootingshop.co.uk). They stock goods from most manufacturers, if you can't find something in the store please contact them. They sell rear and foresights, slings, gloves, visors, clothing and much more. They have been selling target shooting equipment to shooters from the UK and across the world since 1999, and ship worldwide and have hundreds of happy, repeat customers.

See us at [www.brpc.org.uk](http://www.brpc.org.uk)

## 2006 AGM Summary

🔊 Committee elected

Chairman	Peter Cannon
Vice Chairman	Terry Gibney
Secretary	Jackie Parker
Vice Secretary	John Parker
Treasurer	Roger Benson
Shooting Captains	Doug Voak / Steven Voak
Chief RCO	Russell Taylor
Ordinary	Chris Whistler Chris Haywood

- 🔊 Club Members need to regularly check the website and range information line for up-to-date range dates.
- 🔊 The Club is in a healthy financial position, therefore membership fees will remain as for 2005.
- 🔊 An RCO course was being organised to increase the number of Club RCOs and decrease the number of duties per RCO. The Secretary was investigating the possibility of running a First Aid course to increase the number of First Aiders.
- 🔊 The following trophies were presented:
 

Turkey	J I Parker
Buffalo	D Voak
Varmint	S Voak
Any Rifle, Any Sights	R Taylor
Service Rifle	S Voak
Pre-1939	S Voak
- 🔊 Whilst many competitions are well supported, there are some competitions, for example, the pre-1939 that isn't. This may be because of lack of firearms of that era. Please support these, even if it means borrowing a rifle.
- 🔊 Club Coaches. The Committee is investigating into the possibility of Club members attending the NRA Coaching course.
- 🔊 Sniper Competition. Russell Taylor will be resuming this competition during 2006.
- 🔊 Shooting Finishing Times. The ranges are booked until 1330, but as people drift off early, it becomes increasingly difficult to continue shooting as butts and sentries need to be manned. If you want to shoot longer, then please stay longer.

## New Committee Member Required

Due to personal commitments, Chris Whistler has decided to resign from the Committee. This leaves a vacancy for an Ordinary Member.

Chris's replacement onto the Committee would be co-opted with immediate effect, to be ratified at the 2007 AGM.

If you would like to join the Committee as "new blood", please contact a member of the Committee.



# House of Commons Early Day Motion—Pistol Shooting

## HOUSE OF COMMONS EARLY DAY MOTION - PISTOL SHOOTING & MICK GAULT

Kate Hoey MP, the former Minister of Sport, has set down a House of Commons Early Day Motion on the subject of pistol shooting. It reads:

### EXEMPTIONS FOR THE SPORT OF OLYMPIC PISTOL SHOOTING

That this House recognises the importance of the success of Michael Gault in the pistol shooting events in the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne; and conscious of the fact that most of his training and that of other world-class pistol shooters has had to take place outside Great Britain due to the gun laws; calls on the Home Secretary to exempt the sport of Olympic pistol shooting from the handgun ban to allow athletes for the London Olympics to train at home.

An Early Day Motion is not debated in the House except in very exceptional circumstances which are not likely to apply in this case. The EDM is No. 1930 in a series which started with No. 1 being tabled on 17 May 2005. It is, however, an opportunity for back benchers to express a view on a particular subject. The greater the number of signatures appended and the more cross-Party support it receives the better. When originally tabled it was signed by five members of Parliament - three Labour, one Conservative and one Liberal Democrat.

To check the latest position, click on this link:

<http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=30407&SESSION=875>

Government Ministers do not sign EDMs and Opposition Front Benchers only sign in special circumstances. However this leaves around 500 Members of Parliament who could sign. Some will disagree fundamentally with the terms of the Motion. Others take little interest in them and are very selective where they give their support. The highest number of signatures on a Motion at the moment is 350 and the subject is Climate Change. By the end of the Parliamentary Session probably less than 20% of Early Day Motions will have been signed by more than 100 Members. There is a page on the EDM section of the House of Commons website where you can check out your MPs' track record - some may only sign a few, but others scatter signatures like confetti. A few have already signed over 1000 this Session!

There are a number of ways in which you can encourage your Member of Parliament to support the Motion. Write to him or her at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

Alternatively send an email. Almost all MPs are available via email and a link to them can be found at <http://www.parliament.uk/directories/hc/olists/alm.cfm>

They are listed in alphabetical order. If you can't remember the name, do a search (Ctrl + F) on the constituency.

Bill Wiggin MP gave very helpful advice on effective lobbying in the Winter 2005/06 edition of The Rifleman (page 13). Have a look back at it before you start writing your letter or message.

Finally remember that MPs generally do listen and read. Kate Hoey last put down an Early Day Motion on target shooting during the 2002/03 Parliamentary Session. I emailed my MP with a brief explanation of what I thought and why he should support the Motion. He read - he replied - he said he would add his name - and he did.

Maybe your MP will only need one communication to get his name on Early Day Motion No. 1930. That could be your communication.

Brian Woodall  
31 March 2006

Courtesy of an email received and the NRA website

## 2006 Dates

Sunday 28 May	Barton Road	200 / 600 m	Not a Guest Day
Saturday 20 May	Isle Target Sports Club		Guest Day
Sunday 11 June	Bassingbourn Barracks		Not a Guest Day
Saturday 17 June	Barton Road	Long Range	Not a Guest Day
Sunday 9 July	Barton Road	200 / 400 m ( <a href="#">Mad Minute</a> Pool Shoot)	Not a Guest Day
Sunday 30 July	Isle Target Sports Club		Guest Day
Sunday 13 August	Barton Road	100 / 200 m ( <a href="#">Any Rifle Any Sights</a> Competition)	Guest Day
Sunday 10 September	Bassingbourn Barracks	<a href="#">Varmint</a> Competition	Not a Guest Day
Saturday 2 September	Barton Road	Long Range	Not a Guest Day
Sunday 24 September	Barton Road	100 / 200 / 300 m ( <a href="#">Service Rifle</a> Competition)	Not a Guest Day
Sunday 7 October	Isle Target Sports Club		Guest Day
Sunday 29 October	Barton Road	200 m ( <a href="#">Buffalo Shoot</a> Competition)	Guest Day
Saturday 4 November	Isle Target Sports Club		Guest Day
Sunday 5 November	Barton Road	300 / 500 m	Not a Guest Day
Sunday 12 November	Bassingbourn Barracks		Not a Guest Day
Saturday 25 November	Barton Road	Long Range	Not a Guest Day
Sunday 10 December	Barton Road	100m ( <a href="#">Xmas Competitions</a> - Money/Turkey)	Not a Guest Day

**For those with internet access, please keep checking the website for up-to-date range bookings.**

**For those without, please keep checking the Club Information line on 07092 051804**

## RCOs

Many congratulations to Terry Gibney, Will Westlake, Chris Haywood, Dave Parker and Andrew Moncrieff on passing their RCO course in March. We have other Club members attending another RCO course during May, so good luck to them.

Currently the Club has 13 RCOs and this is greatly appreciated. If anyone else would like to put something back into the Club and become an RCO, please contact the Secretary.

## George Clamp Memorial

Name	Score
M Davies	77
N Pope	72
T Brown	71
R Taylor	70
S Voak	65
G Ellwood	63
T Chapman (Jr)	60
D Parker	52
T Gibney	51
M Coombs	49
T Chapman (Sr)	45
D Voak	44
J Clamp	17

## Pre-1939 Competiton

Name	Score
S Voak	95
R Taylor	93
T Gibney	92
D Voak	91
G Ellwood	89
M Coombs	83
N Pope	81
T Chapman (Jr)	81
M Davies	73
P Farrell	50
T Chapman (Sr)	48
C Hart	46
D Parker	20

## Why it pays to keep your MP fully informed!



No MP wants to lose their job, therefore they will be careful not to throw away votes and will want to win support whenever possible. There are usually two opposing sides to every decision and he or she will have to choose between them. Helping the MP make the right choice is called lobbying.

How does your MP know what their constituents think or care about, and how do they know what will make them vote for or against? After all, how would you feel if you had to vote on a subject about which you knew little?

As an MP I am very aware of how many letters and emails Members of Parliament receive every day. I, like my colleagues, do my best to ensure that I am meeting and listening to constituents and picking up the issues that matter in my constituency. The sheer volume of correspondence is almost overwhelming and this often means that only the most persistent and active lobbying gets significant attention. However, I suspect that we all separate the constituent's letters from the lobbying literature.

Constituents are the most important. They get priority; therefore they are the key to success. The lobby groups know this and orchestrate card campaigns, so that their members send us postcards supporting whatever campaign is currently running. Cards cannot have the same value as letters that people have taken the trouble to write. Considering the environment of fierce lobbying which already exists, I strongly encourage your Members to keep writing to their local MP with their views and with news of their campaigns. No need to write to any other MP just your own.

I would also suggest that you keep lobbying to ensure that your cause is never lost amongst the sea of other groups and societies who meet or write to MPs on a regular basis. If your Members maintain a coordinated, concerted and on-going campaign across the UK, MPs will think twice before bringing in or supporting legislation which will cause them to be inundated with letters and criticism. Ongoing pressure is the key, and it does not hurt to be nice and thank them every now and again.

Armed with a second class stamp or two, YOU can make a difference. Just let your MP know how much shooting matters to you, how your vote depends on their vote, and how many of us there are out there.

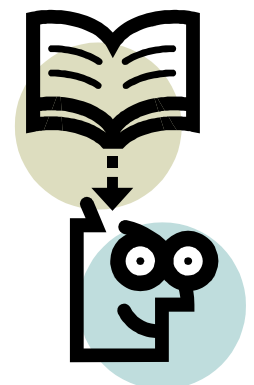
Bill Wiggin MP

**Courtesy of the NRA Website**

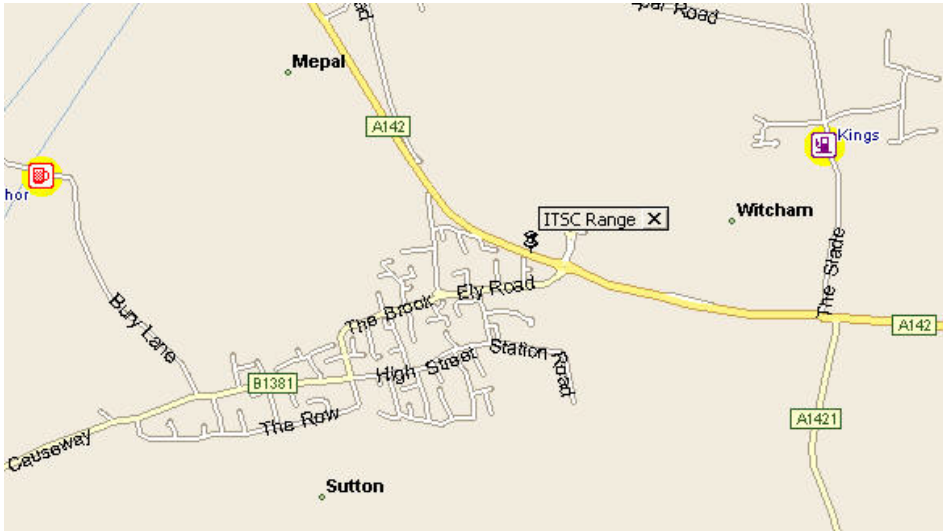
### Newsletter Editor

The Secretary is looking for someone to take on the quarterly newsletter due to the increased size of membership and workload.

If anyone is interested in taking on this role, please contact the Secretary.



## Isle Target Sports Club (Mepal)



Due to refurbishment and upgrading of the range, the range certificate now states a maximum muzzle velocity of 3250 ft/sec and a maximum muzzle energy of 3020ftlbs — there is no maximum calibre.

Facilities include 8 covered benched lanes at 25m and 2 covered (prone or standing supported eg bipod/bag) at 50m.

## Article Submission

If you would like to pen any short stories or humorous incidents please submit them to the editors. We would, of course, prefer that they be in some way shooting related and not cause offence or law suits! The editors' decision as to what may be printed is final. We would prefer that articles are supplied electronically where possible, to cut down on the amount of work involved. However we do appreciate that not all members have access to computers etc so if you submit a hand written article please use legible block capitals to give us a chance! Accompanying photographs are fine so long as they are in a format we can scan, ie No negatives or slides please and maximum size A4.

## Barton Rd Sentries Needed

Do you know anyone at a loose end one Sunday morning a month? If so, would they be willing to do sentry duties at Barton Rd Range. All they need to do is to man the sentry post for a few hours and read a book.

## Do you know your Committee members?

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Chairman            | Peter Cannon         |
| Vice Chairman       | Terry Gibney         |
| Secretary           | Jackie Parker        |
| Vice Secretary      | John Parker          |
| Treasurer           | Roger Benson         |
| Shooting Captains   | Doug and Steven Voak |
| Chief Range Officer | Russell Taylor       |
| Ordinary Members    | Chris Haywood        |
|                     | Chris Whistler       |

### Disclaimer

Articles contained on the web site and in this newsletter are based on contributor's personal experiences only and should not be relied on as a guide to safe practice. No responsibility for any consequential losses or injury associated with the use of the information in the web site or in this newsletter will be accepted by Bassingbourn Rifle & Pistol Club.