

SASS December 2022

Thank you for your comments and support. There has been a very positive response to the November newsletter. In this issue you will find the results of the last shoot in November and the December shoots. The Christmas shoot at Spitfire on 28th December will be reported in the January newsletter. There is a link to the newsletters on the website, along with the results, shoot details and top shots table updated by Stu every week. Capp has been working hard to glean dates from shoots for you in January. Merry Christmas and if you are unable to get to the Christmas shoot, have a happy new year.

Ower 27th November

We may have jumped to conclusions too quickly regarding the pick-ups at Ower. When opening a new box of clays for the shoot at Botley at the end of last month we noticed that the new clays had less of a blaze coating than before, giving them a dirty look in the traps. It could be that this shoot isn't reloading pick-ups in the traps. Nonetheless, Ower does present a lot of no-birds.

On this mild November Sunday morning, just three guns from SASS went to the Ower shooting ground. By all accounts there weren't many there. The three SSS's started at stand two, skipped stand three then found the traps on stands four and five both being repaired. Over the year there have been several breakdowns and safety issues regarding this shoot highlighted by members of SASS. At the committee meeting held 30th November it was decided to give this shoot one more chance. No one wants to lose another shoot but when we are paying top prices, £28 for 70 clays, it is only right that we, their customers, should expect good service and a safe shoot. Well done Soap for winning the club 25 cartridges and Stu who scored the highest actual 43/50.

SASS Committee Meeting 30th November

At the committee meeting it was agreed that the treasurer and the secretary swap roles, with each being better suited to the others. There was no descent in response to the Chairmans email informing all members 05/12/2022. It is constitutionally within the committees remit to change roles as required. At a sub-committee meeting 07/12/2022 Jiraff was successfully added to the bank as treasurer and Hunter took on the secretarial position. Both are happy to stand at the next AGM for the reversed roles. The committee has set the date for the next AGM 09/03/2023. This will appear in the January and February newsletters, the website, in emails, on the WhatsApp group and hopefully, in your diary. At the 2023 AGM the committee will be proposing the minimum increase agreed. £25 for full membership and £15 colt membership for 2023-24. The events coordinator, Capp, has expressed that he will not be standing for the position again at the AGM. Capp has done a sterling job and will be missed by the committee and the society. If anyone feels that they could fill his boots, please let the committee know. Events, other than the weekly Sunday shoots from The Southampton Arms, to be discussed as a possibility for 2023 are a re-visit to Ashcombe now that the shoot is in the "hand of God" Don Brunt, Barbury and a simulated game day. All of which will be put to you at the AGM. We also have the cancelled due to Covid, Mendip shoot to consider for the future if you are still interested.



Ower Results with Handicap

1st	Soap	55
2nd	Scrappier	54
3rd	Sturat	50

Gosport and Lee-on-Solent 4th December

It was a dull, cold morning which we thought might warm up being close to the coast. Six guns from SASS shot the 70-bird layout. Some of the stands were very challenging and no one shot to their handicap. Stand one was particularly hard, being two of the hard crossing looping clays we were presented with last time we visited. Well done to Big Mac for the most kills on that stand, who broke three of the eight clays. Stand five was a Simo pair of incomers which crossed almost overhead (sometimes), saving some of us a couple of cartridges. Over the water along with the skimming duck the G&L team managed to skip a rabbit which was a fun target but really difficult to score. It didn't get any warmer as the day went on and the discussions in the car park afterwards were about the hand warmers carried by Scrapper and Hunter. Well done to Fries for winning the Sunday 25 this week and to Spiced for best actual 49/70 or 35/50.



Gosport and Lee with handicap

1st	Fries	48
2nd	Unick	47
2nd	Scrapper	47
4th	Spiced	46
4th	Big Mac	46
6th	Hunter	44

G&L are reverting back to 50 birds due to popular demand. The cost will be £18.50 for G&L members and £21.50 for non-members.

On this day last year, and only in America!



U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) in a Christmas photo of his family holding guns, in this image obtained from Twitter, posted on December 4, 2021. Courtesy of Twitter @REPTHOMASMASSIE / Social Media via REUTERS

4th December 2021

In the process of looking for something else, this appeared and I could not resist sharing it with you. According to Reuters Dec 4th in Washington, a US congressman posted a Christmas picture of himself and what appeared to be his family, smiling and posing with an assortment of guns, just days after four teenagers were killed in a shooting at a Michigan High School. **“Merry Christmas! Ps. Santa, please bring ammo,”** U.S. Representative Thomas Massie of Kentucky wrote on Twitter.

From a Safety Officers point of view, looks like mums favourite son is not wearing a red shirt, just saying!

Willoughby Hedge 11th December

Only three guns met at the Arms. Pikey turned up late and followed us to this Wiltshire shoot. The temperature rose from -6°C to a balmy -1°C but as we were emptying our 100 cartridges into our coat pockets it began snowing a little. The doors to the signing in shed were shut but when we got in, they had an environmentally friendly diesel space heater blasting away, so good it could melt your wellies.

The layout was different again from the time we visited in November with good use of the land contours. This was not an easy shoot, one of the stands in the lower field had a going away bird which you needed to be vertically challenged to see below the tree. We did a good deal of tree pruning for the following guns. Still no stand numbers or instructions so we shot ten stands of four pairs and the last two stands of five pairs. Yes, that is twelve stands, last month was eleven, which shows that the Somerset shooting ground team are varying the targets and investing in this shoot. The GPO van with the boom was nowhere to be seen in the top field, presumed by Robbo to be on strike. In place of that was a tractor with the trap raised on the front-end loader. Just in case it wasn't difficult enough with the cold and snow it was loaded with white clays.

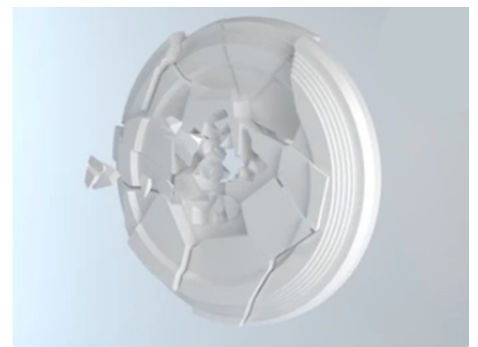
Mongrel barrel planted his 525 into the only bit of un-frozen ground and had to clean the mud plug out of the choke with a tool fashioned by Robbo from a cartridge box before he could safely shoot stand nine. There were no queues because only the hardest, possibly foolhardest, turned out. We had a great time even though it was cold.

Back at the heated barn we all had a hot sausage roll courtesy of Pikey before returning to the Arms for a pint. Thank you, Pikey and well done for the highest actual 80/100 and for winning the Sunday 25 cartridges by a mile.

My favorite Christmas decoration. It's a cartridge in a bare tree.



The above picture was forwarded to the newsletter by Robbo from our Yorkshire member, Hotpot.



Willoughby Hedge with handicap

1st	Pikey	51
2nd	Robbo	41
2nd	Mongrel	41
4th	Hunter	40

Misfire or Hangfire! Do you know the difference?

This month, one gun experienced a misfire. Capp, Hunter and Sturat are all qualified and insured CPSA safety officers and know exactly what to do in this situation. This may be teaching you to suck eggs but if this helps one less experienced gun it is worth reminding. When the Captain or one of your committee members selects the days grouping, we try to ensure that the less experienced and/or guests are shooting with a safety officer. This is not always possible and anyone could experience a misfire. Do not be complacent, even the most expensive cartridges can fail occasionally. Unless you know, for example, you had the safety catch on or forgot the second trigger, you should ALWAYS treat a misfire as a hangfire. A hangfire is delayed detonation of the cartridge. When you pull the trigger and the gun does not fire wait at least 20 seconds before opening the gun and keep it pointing down range. If the misfire is a hangfire and you do not wait, it could detonate as you open the gun and the cartridge casing will take the path of least resistance, backwards. Below is the safety guidance from the CPSA and the image on the right is a live cartridge, left, a normally ejected casing, middle and the misfired cartridge, right. It can clearly be seen that the primer of the misfired cartridge has been struck by the guns firing pin. Please think safety and always shoot safely.

- iii) In the event of a **MISFIRE** or **MALFUNCTION** the person holding the gun should remain on the firing point keeping the gun closed and pointing out over the shooting area until the referee/instructor instructs the shooter to do otherwise.
- iv) **"Hang Fire"** This is the term used when due to a problem within the components of the cartridge, it does not fire immediately. Although with today's modern components it is almost unheard of, theoretically it can happen. If there is no instant detonation of the cartridge when the trigger is pulled, the gun should not be opened immediately, wait a short while (at least 20 seconds) keeping the gun closed and pointing out over the firing range before opening.

Chalky Hill 18th December

The forecast was for milder weather on this last shoot before Christmas. It didn't feel any milder on the exposed hillside of Chalky especially as it rained too. Six guns and a guest braved the elements and shot as a three and four. Duncan put a cheeky little mini trap in half way round which tricked guns into thinking it was a midi further away. It was quite a relief in the cold, that this is one of the few remaining fifty bird shoots although the tide may be turning. Gosport is going back to fifty in the new year. The cold and damp were beginning to set in and it was a relief to get back into the cars. This was the third shoot as a guest for Steve and back at the Arms, nicknames were discussed for if he decides to join SASS. It won't be published until he joins and is on the handicap table. Well done to Sturat for the highest actual 45/50. Well done to Smudger and Robbo who came joint first for the cartridges.



If you know, you know that these are not 20 pence cartridges. Once in a while even the most expensive ammunition can go wrong.



Chalky Hill with handicap, estimated

1st	Smudger	56
1st	Robbo	56
3rd	Sturat	52
4th	Scraper	50
5th	Hunter	46
6th	Capp	44

Fixtures and Events

It has been extremely difficult to schedule next years January fixtures without repetition because most shoots are taking their own sweet time to publish next years dates. Gosport is on January 29th but as it is already in twice. We will hold out and see if anywhere else comes up on that date. Capp has done his absolute best to schedule January shoots with the limited information available. Thank you very much Capp, it is such a shame that he is not available to stand as events coordinator at the AGM. Capp will be a tough act to follow but someone will have to do it. If you have a little time to do something positive for SASS please raise your hand, the committee position of events co-ordinator will sadly be vacant at the AGM.

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
28 December 2022	Spitfire (Christmas shoot)	A30, Stockbridge	SO20 6JR	9:00 AM	£38.00	100
01 January 2023	Gosport and Lee	1 Shoot Ln, Lee-on-the-Solent	PO13 9PA	9:00 AM	£21.50	50
08 January 2023	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£22.00	60
15 January 2023	Gosport and Lee	1 Shoot Ln, Lee-on-the-Solent	PO13 9PA	9:00 AM	£21.50	50
22 January 2023	Bisley Pay and Play	Long Siberia, 154 Queens Road, Surrey	GU24 9AU.	8:45 AM	£44.00	100
29 January 2023	TBC					
09 March 2023	AGM, Southampton Arms	89 Moorgreen Road, West End, Hampshire	SO30 2HG	7:00 PM	start	

Any other business



Thank you all for your comments and photos for the newsletter. Sadly, they can't all be used. See you at the Christmas shoot which will be covered in the January newsletter Merry Christmas and a happy new year. Lastly, a big thank you Unick for taking the Christmas car park injury out of the country this year.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

R. ROBSON, A. EDWARDS, P. JENKS, S. ROBSON & A. WISE