

SASS April 2023

This has been a quiet month with not many of you getting out shooting. Hopefully now that it is starting to get warmer and the game season has passed there will be a few more SASS guns out on Sunday mornings. We did six shoots this month including the charity shoot at Wallers Ash which was not scored as it was on a Saturday. Your committee also had a meeting this month to discuss whether to have a simulated game day and a weekend away as so many asked for at the AGM. We have experienced queues at some shoots due to the number of local venues sadly diminishing. This has also forced us to go further afield to fill the calendar. Hangmans Stone and Barbury were more challenging but those who shot had an enjoyable time.

Hangmans Stone, 2nd April

Five guns showed up at the Arms and all travelled together driven kindly by Unick. It was a little over an hour to drive to the shoot in the Berkshire countryside, just north of Newbury. At the shoot we found Big Mack who had driven up on his own, Unick did enquire whether he had any friends, wellbeing, being paramount in clubs and associations nowadays. The ground was reminiscent of the Hensting Lane shoot to members that have shot there. We split into two, three-gun squads for this hundred bird shoot of ten five pair stands. There were two more stands that were not included and we saw several towers that were not in use but had traps covered over. It looks like they mix it about a bit at this ground which we have overlooked for many years. That said, it was clear to see that the locals had their eyes in on the more challenging stands than we did. The tower on stand eleven evaded all but the best SASS guns. This is a lovely ground and well worth shooting more often, preferably when the sun is shining and the wind is not blowing. Well done to Pikey and Big Mac for both coming first with handicap. Under the new rules we are no longer splitting boxes so the Sunday 25 cartridges go to Pikey with the highest actual 38/50.



Hangmans Stone, with handicap

1st	Pikey	49
1st	Big Mac	49
3rd	Unick	45
3rd	Robbo	45
5th	Hunter	44
6th	Badger	40

Are queues something we will have to accept as shoots get fewer and far between?



Chalky Hill, 9th April

This Sunday was scheduled to be at Willoughby Hedge but it was changed due to a competition at the ground which altered their practice date to Saturday at short notice. Eight guns shot this substitute ground in two teams of four. It was a sunny spring day with a chilly wind on the exposed Chalky Hill ground. We got off to a good start after missing stand four because one of the traps was not working. There were a lot of late arrivals for this Easter shoot and we got stuck in queues for nearly an hour on the last two stands. With other shoots folding for various reasons, mostly not their own fault, queueing is probably something that we will have to accept going forwards. Although frustrating when we are stuck behind novices, we must remind ourselves that these guns are the future and if we do not give them the time to learn our sport it will die. Well done to Hunter for winning the Sunday 25 cartridges and to Robbo with best actual of 36/50 and for holding Sturats place whilst he was having an off day.

Petersfield, 16th April

Seven guns from SASS attended the sixty-bird shoot. This beautiful spring morning at the Arms got progressively wetter as we drove towards the shoot. There was some deliberation regarding waterproofs, Badger took one for the team and wore his so that, sods law, it would stay dry. It dried up by the time the hooter was sounded at ten thirty. We shot as two groups but suffered delays by others not splitting into smaller squads. The stands were all in the usual places, but the layout was mixed about which was enjoyable. This is very much a close in shoot with little scope for distance clays but there were some cleverly levelling targets. Everyone shot above their handicap and with the exception of Sturat with the highest actual 43/50, well done Sturat, the actual scores were all within two kills. Four guns with the same number, one with one under and one, one under again. Big Mack was using a new gun, so really well done to him for being so close to the field and pipping Sturat at the post with handicap. The actual scores are always posted on the website.

Chalky Hill, with handicap

1st	Hunter	53
2nd	Unick	52
2nd	Robbo	52
4th	Scrapper	51
5th	Mongrel	49
6th	Fries	48
6th	Big Mac	48
8th	Sturat	41



Petersfield, with handicap

1st	Hunter	59
2nd	Scrapper	55
2nd	Unick	55
4th	Robbo	54
5th	Badger	53
6th	Big Mac	52
7th	Sturat	51

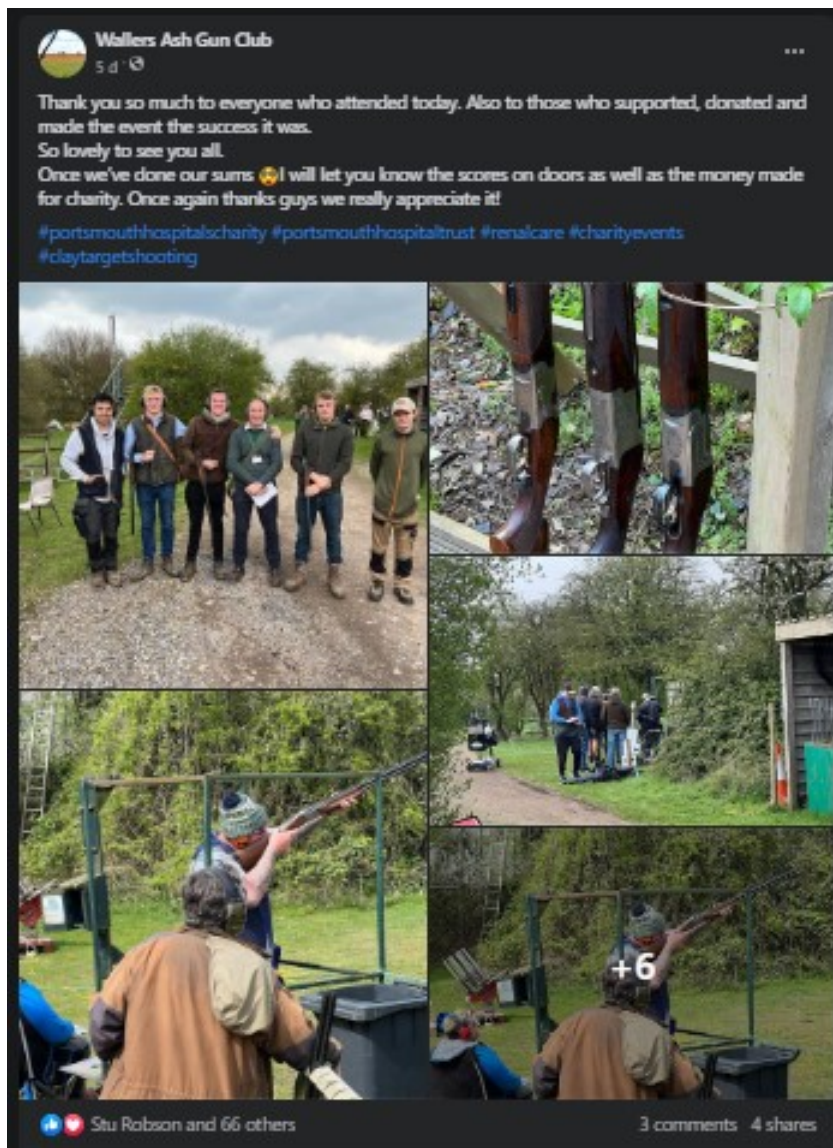
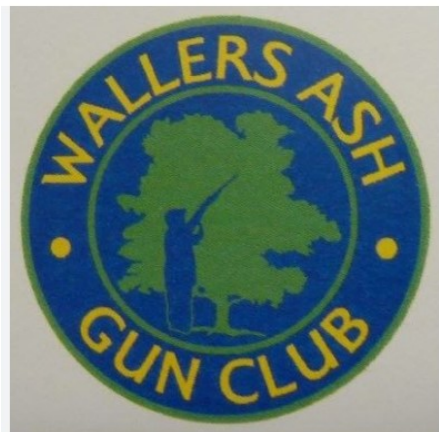


COMMITTEE MEMBERS

R. ROBSON, P. JENKS, A. EDWARDS, S. ROBSON & M. McNAMARA

Wallers Ash Charity Shoot, 22nd April

Eight guns turned out at the agreed time for this charity one hundred bird shoot. Two more SASS members attended each with a guest which made a good representation of the club at Wallers for the event. As this was held on a Saturday no scores were counted and no cartridges won. At the time of issue for this newsletter the total amount raised for QA renal unit has not been publicised, you will be updated when the money has been counted. The rain stayed away and a fun time was had by all that came. Martina however was totally confused by us being back at the Arms on the wrong day.



Chalky Hill, 23rd April

Just three scores this week at Chalky Hill. Five guns attended the shoot but the two who were on time and shot together were unable to submit scores due to the constitutional rule of three. As it happened one would have been happy for the scores to be submitted and would have had best actual and won the cartridges, but the other was happy not to have his score counted, no names (to protect the guilty). It was a lovely spring day and not too many queues if you moved about a bit. Well done to Minty for best actual 40/50 and for winning the cartridges.

Committee Meeting, 25th April

Your committee had a meeting with lots of the mundane stuff discussed about the day to day running of the club. Two items of business you may be interested in are the proposals to hold a simulated game day at Gorcombe Park on 7th June and the possibility of a weekend away at Ashcombe in September. Look out for the emails and let the committee know if you are interested.

Chalky Hill, with handicap

1st	Minty	56
2nd	Wallbanger	52
2nd	Mr Miyagi	52



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

R. ROBSON, P. JENKS, A. EDWARDS, S. ROBSON & M. McNAMARA

Barbury, 30th April

Just six guns turned out for this much requested shoot. Five met at the Arms and after finishing dressing Unick, all got in Badgers car for the hour and a bit drive. Big Mac was in the car park when we arrived and Unick asked him for a lift home having lost a litre of sweat sandwiched between Hunter and Pikey for over an hour on the back seat. It was chillier than most had thought and a little windy. Thankfully though the rain stayed away until we were heading back to the clubhouse to pay. We were a well-prepared bunch, Unick forgot a gun, Pikey ammunition, and our advocate forgot to come at all. Unick borrowed a Barbury gun which failed to fire the top barrel so he returned it to one of the trap loaders and shot with each of our guns for his round. As we had travelled so far, we shot a hundred over fifteen stands. There were several smileys, even our top shot captain blanked a stand, but no one got close to Badgers hat trick. One stand had low clays from a butt, Unick had to stand on the steps to shoot because he could not see over the top. There was a bit of a shaky moment when we lined up to pay and Barbury had no recollection of Unick returning the gun but, after a few tense moments someone on the radio confirmed that it had been returned. It was a long morning and we did not get back to the arms until two-o'clock. On the way back Hunter and Pikey wondered how Unick managed to fit in the space between them. Martina, bless her, had saved two bowls of sausages for us, which had gone by the time Unick reached the bar. Sturat won a mixed grill pack in the Arms meat draw. Unick made a sandwich of the un-cooked black pudding between two crisps he was so hungry, but not enough so to finish it. A lovely morning shooting and banter was had by all. Well done to Pikey for winning the Sunday 25s and joint best actual with Sturat 36/50

Barbury, with handicap

1st	Pikey	47
2nd	Unick	46
2nd	Big Mac	46
4th	Hunter	45
5th	Sturat	44
6th	Badger	35

Events and Fixtures

Test Valley (Popham) is under new ownership, we will be visiting them on 7th May. Russell and Nicks Semi-Mental Day 14th May at Petersfield is now a non-charity event but the prize money stays the same. £75 winner with handicap and £75 best score without handicap. Later this month we will be going back to Hangmans Stone, ending the month with another trip to Bisley. Our Events Coordinator has been busy trying to arrange a simulated game day for 7th June, there are still spaces available. We are also looking into the prospects of having a weekend away in September at Ashcombe. Watch this space

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
07 May 2023	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£20.00	50
14 May 2023	Petersfield Gun Club (Semi Auto Challenge)	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£22.00	60
21 May 2023	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£35.00	100
28 May 2023	Bisley Pay and Play	Long Siberia, 154 Queens Road, Surrey	GU24 9AU.	8:45 AM	£44.00	100