

SASS December 2023

We have had some good shooting in 2023. Unfortunately, Gosport and Lee were forced to close earlier in the year and prices have gone up. Most shoots seem to have realised that they needed to up the service and entertainment value to match the cost. This month, Popham continued to improve the circuit and we combatted the two-pair syndrome by shooting seventy. Petersfield have upped the game with some really interesting targets, nothing that was not achievable though. Even Ower have made an effort. We shot at Bisley which, apart from one shoot a couple of years back, always put on good and varied sporting clays. It was really nice to see so many guns at Spitfire for the Christmas shoot. Not so many saw the year out at Chalky though, warming up and signing out for 2023.

Popham, 3rd December

More rain forecast and a wet journey to the Test Valley Clay Shooting Ground for just three guns. Badger could not resist his waterproof jacket, but the rain stopped between 10.00 and 11.00. Thoroughly enjoyable shoot, just a little awkward with the rabbit and incomer being black against the dark background. As we were leaving, we thanked the crew who said it will be blaze or white next time. We hope that means the time after next too, because we will be seeing the year out at Popham on New Years Eve. Well done Badger for winning the Sunday 25s and to Sturat for highest actual 42/50.

Petersfield, 10th December

Rain was forecast to start at eleven-o'clock. Most of the seven guns at Gunners Wood chose waterproofs as it was looking a bit dull. It drizzled a bit but was not too bad in the end. The layout was testing but not ridiculous. Everything was hittable although there were a couple of smileys at the far end. The rain came on properly as we were driving back to the Arms. Very well done to Sturat, who only missed two of the sixty clays, winning him the Sunday 25 cartridges and highest actual 48/50.

Ower, 17th December

We kept an open mind about Ower with the last time we shot there being much less organised than the time before. The team have made an enormous effort with the layout and trap maintenance. There was very little trap malfunction but, they are still using pickups. Maybe we should not blame them for recycling clays, after all there are many non-SASS guns that could not hit a barn door before it has rotted away. Seven guns made it to the shoot although, one of the vehicles struggled over the wet grass. There was nothing that was not hittable and this is as shoot that is well worth keeping on the schedule. Maybe a little expensive, but local, and we ought to be supporting our local shoots. Some of the stands could do with a little maintenance. Perhaps a little health and safety could provide a safe footing for stands one and five (just saying). Well done to Pikey for highest actual 46/50 and winning the Sunday 25 cartridges.



Popham, with handicap

1st	Badger	53
2nd	Hunter	51
3rd	Sturat	50

Petersfield, with handicap

1st	Sturat	56
2nd	Hunter	53
3rd	Badger	51
4th	Robbo	48
5th	Smudger	47
5th	Capp	47
5th	Thumb Boy	47

Ower, with handicap

1st	Pikey	57
2nd	Hunter	55
2nd	Dynamite	55
4th	Sturat	51
5th	Robbo	48
6th	Badger	47
6th	Unick	47



Bisley, 24th December

Seven guns met at the Arms for this Christmas Eve shoot. Robbo booked us in extra early as the shoot was closing earlier. Our Yorkshire member, Hotpot, managed to get out of visiting family and joined us. We started shooting at 9am, some guns were already ahead of us. It was an overcast but dry morning at Long Siberia. We shot as two groups and made full use of the multi trap stands. We were all shot out before eleven enjoying a beer and a Bisley Pie courtesy of Robbo and Denise. Thank you both, it is very much appreciated. For the second time this month, Sturat won the cartridges and once again was the highest actual scorer with 46/50. We were back at the Arms no more than ten minutes before Hotpots relatives tracked him down and whisked him away to play happy families again.

Christmas shoot, Spitfire, 28th December

Twenty guns shot a hundred clays at our Christmas shoot. There are nineteen scores because young Joseph was not competing. He did fire a personal best of fifty cartridges through his 28 gauge over and under, hitting more than a few targets that his old man could not find and he was an absolute pleasure to shoot with. It was a testing shoot made even more so by the high wind and we got a good soaking too. Before the pictures below tell the rest of the story, here are a few honourable mentions. Well done to Peaches for winning the hamper for the highest with handicap, beating Brain Fart on kills. Well done once again for highest actual, Sturat with 40/50. Thank you to Unick for organising the raffle and auction with Robbos help and raising £400 for the Countess Mountbatten Hospice. Thank you, Big Mac, for organising the shoot and the White Hart, to Sturat for the scores and to everyone that took part.



Bisley, with handicap

1st	Sturat	55
2nd	Jiraff	54
3rd	Unick	51
4th	Hunter	50
5th	Dynamite	48
5th	Robbo	48
7th	Hotpot	46

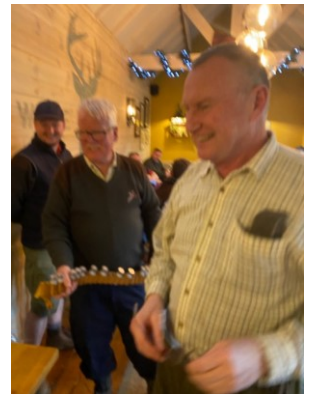
Spitfire, with handicap

1st	Peaches	51
1st	Brain Fart	51
3rd	Unick	50
4th	Sturat	48
5th	Mowgli	47
6th	Hunter	46
6th	Pikey	46
8th	Wallbanger	45
9th	Tinkerbelle	44
10th	Smudger	43
10th	Robbo	43
10th	Badger	43
10th	Spiced	43
14th	Dynamite	42
15th	Capp	41
15th	Manny	41
15th	Big Mac	41
15th	Thumb Boy	41
19th	Minty	39



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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



Chalky Hill, 31st December

With a last-minute change due to illness at Popham we ended the year shooting at Chalky Hill. Just three guns braved the wind and rain for the fifty-bird shoot. It was cold but with our extra layers we kept it out. The rain stayed away and the sun tried to shine a little. Duncans layout was very good and with no breakdowns, as professional as ever. The ground was quite quiet to start with. There were a lot of “have a go” guns, presumably Christmas presents. It did get busy later and the car park was very full as we were finishing. Well done to Badger for (just) winning the cartridges and to Sturat for highest actual 43/50. A very nice finish for the year.



Chalky Hill, with handicap

1st	Badger	52
2nd	Sturat	51
2nd	Hunter	51

Events and Fixtures

We will start the new year with a hundred bird shoot at Hangmans Stone. The ground is exactly an hour away from the Arms and well worth keeping in the calendar. Big Mac has kept it close for the rest of the month with an excellent line-up of local shoots. There are no other events on the calendar just yet. The committee will be proposing some dates for a simulated game day and are actively looking for an alternative to Ashcombe for the summer. If you have any suggestions they will be considered. Wishing you a HAPPY NEW YEAR and we look forward to seeing you out with your gun or a pint in hand for 2024.

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
07 January 2024	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£35.00	100
14 January 2024	Chalky Hill Clay Shoot	Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton	GU34 5QA	9:00 AM	£17.00	50
21 January 2024	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£24.00	60
28 January 2024	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70

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