

# SASS July 2023

What a wet month July turned out to be. We managed to shoot without getting wet despite the forecasts and it was nice to see a few members who have not been out for a while. Welcome to our latest new member, Digweed, who joined at the end of June. Get well soon Scrapper, lots of members are asking after you and hope you get back to it soon. Jiraff tied the knot this month, congratulations to he and Abbey. Big Mac had to substitute Urchfont at short notice because Hangmans Stone had a competition on. We ran into a competition at Barbury at the end of the month, but they have so much space they were able to run the competition and Sunday sporting without compromising either.



## Chalky Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> July

There was a good turnout on this nice summers' day. Chalky Hill is a lovely shoot and Duncan varies it as best he can with the space that he has. This hillside above the Watercress Line can be extremely bleak in the winter, but when the sun is shining and the wind abates it is an absolute pleasure. Badger was back on form after a bit of a sticky patch, joint first with Capp. The Sunday 25 goes to Badger under the not so new anymore 2023 AGM rule of no part boxes. Well done Badger and welcome back into the room. The results show that Duncan must have put some deceptive clays out because some of our top shots failed to shoot to their handicap. Well done Sturat for the highest actual 40/50.

## Chalky Hill, with handicap

1st	Badger	54
1st	Capp	54
3rd	Unick	52
3rd	Spiced	52
5th	Sturat	49
5th	Pikey	49
5th	Smudger	49
5th	Big Mac	49

## Petersfield, 9<sup>th</sup> July

Rain was forecast but stayed away from Gunners Wood for the shooting. It was a good turnout with twelve guns shooting as three squads. There were some old faces we have not seen for a while and it was nice to catch up. There was a hard distance clay on stand two which most guns missed. Robbo was on such good form that he could not wait for his turn in the squad, jumping in the stand in front of Big Mac as he was doing so well. He did miss two of the easy targets at stand one which we shot last. That did not stop him winning the Sunday 25s. well done Robbo and Badger for joint first place with handicap. Robbo was also joint best actual 45/50 with Sturat, well done to both of you.

## Petersfield, with handicap

1st	Robbo	60
1st	Badger	60
3rd	Smudger	59
4th	Big Mac	58
5th	Hunter	57
6th	Capp	56
7th	Sturat	54
7th	Pug	54
7th	Minty	54
10th	Thumb Boy	53
11th	Tinkerbelle	52
12th	Unick	50



## Jiraffs tied the knot

Congratulations to Jiraff and Abbey who got married on 1<sup>st</sup> July

## Popham, 16<sup>th</sup> July

There were just two guns at the Arms, we had hoped to meet someone from SASS at the shoot, but it was not to be. In the shoot car park Unick was checking out the chrome on a classic car before opening a random car and putting his phone into it, only to be challenged by the owner. We started shooting the seventy-bird option then met up with a chap who was shooting on his own which worked out well. No scores to submit as there were only the two of us. We can report that it is much better shooting the seventy-bird option, thus avoiding the two pairs synonymous with the Test Valley shoot. The fast overhead missile of old was slowed down and doubled up with a going away bird making it a much more hittable stand. The rabbit was also slowed down a tad, this was paired with a driven bird at eye level which was surprisingly challenging to see. Well worth going back to, the seventy-bird option costs £28.00.



## Urchfont, 23<sup>rd</sup> July

Six guns met at the Arms and all piled into Pikeys seven-seater with just about enough room for the guns and ammunition. The chairman sat in the cheap seat at the back and did not complain (much) but, did not want the same seat back. This Sunday was supposed to be shot at Hangmans Stone but they had a competition so the events coordinator, Big Mac, had to find an alternative at short notice. We met him and Spiced in the clubhouse finishing breakfast when we were paying for a hundred bird shoot. The setting for those of you that do not know this Wiltshire shoot is in a sloping woodland with a high tower which can present some quite high and challenging targets. That said, most seemed more challenged by the rabbits and going away clays. This is a lovely shoot but, on this occasion, was poorly managed. No one knew the start time and we waited almost fifteen minutes after the approximate start time stated until we heard the first shot. There were quite a lot of no birds and more than a trap or two that did not work or ran out of clays. There were eight stands but could have been ten, when we asked none of the setting-up crew even knew the number of stands or starting time. As a result, four of our guns ran out of shooting time and only shot ninety. It was not made clear to us at the start that there was such an early cut off time (12.30) and at least half an hour shooting time was lost due to poor organisation of the shoot. The other four guns got around in plenty of time and had very nice bacon and sausage rolls in the clubhouse. There was a short shower of rain but it was not cold and soon dried out again. Well done to Hunter for winning the Sunday 25 cartridges with handicap and to Sturat and Pikey for highest actual 40/50.



1st	Hunter	56
2nd	Brain Fart	54
3rd	Badger	51
3rd	Big Mac	51
5th	Pikey	50
6th	Sturat	49
7th	Spiced	47
8th	Robbo	43



Open consultation

## Firearms licensing: a consultation on recommendations for changes made to the Home Office (accessible)

Published 29 June 2023

You may have had a message from CPSA, BASC or another body representing our sport asking you to take part in the Firearms licensing consultation. It is a short questionnaire and to make it even more simple BASC have given us the recommended answers. Please take a couple of minutes and complete the questions. There is space for comment at the bottom where you can air your views, be careful though, this is not anonymous. My comment was ***“There is nothing wrong with the current process for firearms licensing. The root of the problem is the incompetent and protracted manner in which specific police forces process it.”*** The consultation end date is 23<sup>rd</sup> August so do not put it off, have your say.

### Barbury, 30<sup>th</sup> July

Seven guns met at the Arms on this cool summer morning for the drive to Barbury. When we arrived, we found they had a competition on. Both car parks were full and we were directed to the top field to park. It was not as bad as we had feared. The ground has enough stands to accommodate the competition and sporting practice. We met two more guns at the shoot and shot a hundred birds as three groups of three. We were able to shoot ten stands without queueing and there were still more stands available. The stands close to the clubhouse and the deer park were all available to us. There were some tricky targets at this high-end shoot and the wind played a few games with us too. No one shot to their handicap, well done to Sturat for highest actual 40/50 and winning the cartridges.

### Events, Fixtures and Any Other Business

The four shoots this month start with Hangmans Stone and get closer to home as August progresses. Please do not forget to have your say in the firearms licensing consultation or it will be another nail in the coffin for our sport, the cut-off date is 23<sup>rd</sup> August. We look forward to seeing you at some shoots and back at the Arms afterwards. If you are shooting game this season you will be needing some practice because it will soon be time. Stay safe and have a happy shooting August.

BASC's recommended answers are listed below:

Q1: No.  
Q2: No.  
Q3: Yes – more than five years.  
Q4: No.  
Q5: No.  
Q6: Yes.  
Q7: Leave blank.  
Q8: No.  
Q9: No.  
Q10: No.  
Q11: No.

Q12: Yes.  
Q13: No.  
Q14: Yes.  
Q15: No.  
Q16: Yes.  
Q17: Yes.  
Q18: No.  
Q19: Leave blank.  
Q20: Leave blank.  
Q21: Write any comments as you wish.

### Barbury, with handicap

1st	Sturat	49
2nd	Unick	48
3rd	Hunter	47
3rd	Badger	47
5th	Spiced	46
5th	Robbo	46
7th	Pikey	45
8th	Jiraff	42
9th	Big Mac	41

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
06 August 2023	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£35.00	100
13 August 2023	Willoughby Hedge	2 Holdens Farm Cottages, East Knoyle, Salisbury	SP3 6DE	8:45 AM	£35.00	100
20 August 2023	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£22.00	60
27 August 2023	Chalky Hill Clay Shoot	Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton	GU34 5QA	9:00 AM	£17.00	50