

SASS November 2023

Given that this has been one of the wettest years in the last decade, we have managed to get through November Sunday morning shooting relatively well. Southampton reportedly had 1,160.7mm of rain during the year, 343.4mm more than 2022 (13½" more in real money). In Yorkshire, Hotpots shoot bounced a rabbit on the flood water. This month Popham slowed their rabbit down. At Petersfield the guns fell silent in remembrance at the eleventh hour. Ower tried to do things differently but it did not go as well as before. Bisley was as good as ever, with plenty of options to shoot. We have plenty to look forward to in December, not least of all the Christmas shoot. Happy shooting!

Popham, 5th November

The word seems to be getting around how good the Test Valley shoot at Popham is under new management. The shoot was busy but the new circular layout caused very little queueing. Twelve SASS guns shot the seventy-bird option on this chilly but dry Sunday morning. Since they have slowed the driven and rabbit stands most guns shot to or above their handicap. A few guns stayed on and shot a round of skeet. Well done Unick for stonking away with the Sunday 25s and to Sturat with the highest actual 44/50.

Petersfield, 12th November

It was a drizzly morning when we met at the Arms. In all, nine guns shot at Gunners Wood. Solomon still has one more shoot before his handicap is official so he could not compete for the Sunday 25s but he put in a respectable score and is at 5th place in the Top Shots League. The rain stayed away throughout the shoot because Pikey was in waterproofs. There was no bright sunlight to compete with this time and the Gunners Wood team put on some nice targets that were subtly different. They could benefit with another trap or two to get away from trailing pairs but that would probably come at a cost (to us). They know, because in the past a manual trap was used to try and mix it up a bit. Their insurance probably prohibits manual trap use, which are responsible for a disproportionate number of accidents. At the eleventh hour the guns stopped as everyone observed two minutes of silence of remembrance. Well done Spiced for winning the cartridges and to Sturat for the highest actual 47/50.



Popham, with handicap

1st	Unick	59
2nd	Hunter	56
3rd	Spiced	54
4th	Sturat	53
5th	Capp	51
5th	Big Mac	51
5th	Pikey	51
5th	Robbo	51
9th	Smudger	50
9th	Thumb Boy	50
11th	Pug	46
11th	Badger	46

Petersfield, with handicap

1st	Spiced	58
2nd	Sturat	56
3rd	Hunter	55
4th	Minty	52
5th	Badger	51
6th	Pikey	50
6th	Big Mac	50
8th	Dynamite	44

In Flanders Fields

The poem by John McCrae

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.



Ower, 19th November

It was a lovely autumn morning as we drove from the Arms to the shoot, as Unick observed, then it started drizzling. As we negotiated the track, we could see that some effort had been made to improve the shoot with a low tower between stands one and two supporting two traps. Even the Land Cruiser which has been abandoned in the field for several years had been moved. Later in the morning the trap crew were driving it and it sounded smoother than their quad. The car park was a little churned up and we watched a car or two struggle through the mud. There were some grumblings of disapproval at the mud but we have had a greater than usual amount of rain since August. Twelve guns shot the seventy-bird layout in three squads. There were a lot of breakages and no-birds. Stand seven second clay was not as ridiculously distant as before but landed almost before you could shoot the incomer of the simmo pair. Well done to Spiced for winning the Sunday 25s two weeks in a row and Sturat for best actual 43/50. There were safety concerns regarding queuing in front of the traps on stand one, they were however pointing above head level. It was considered by the committee, to substitute Decembers visit to this shoot. It is a tough call, it is often too easy to criticise. It is not easy setting up a days shooting and we really ought to be grateful to those that do, so that we can enjoy our sport. It was lovely to see Hotpot visiting us from Yorkshire and back at the Arms with Christine. Below are a few stills from a rabbit clay in a flooded field at Hotpots home ground. Unick enjoyed a last quick half, (just the one), at the Arms before flying out to Australia to visit his daughter on her birthday.

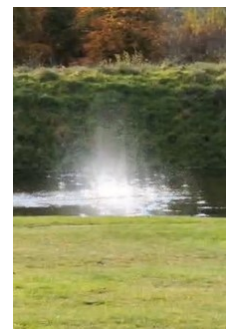
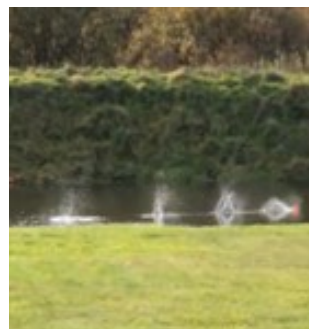


Ower, with handicap

1st	Spiced	52
2nd	Sturat	51
2nd	Smudger	51
4th	Unick	50
4th	Capp	50
6th	Hotpot	48
6th	Thumb Boy	48
8th	Hunter	47
8th	Big Mac	47
10th	Jeeves	45
11th	Brain Fart	44
12th	Robbo	43



Rabbit Hotpot



UK Shotgun Licence renewal controversy, Hampshire Constabulary

Several SASS members guns are lodged with other members at the moment due to poor renewal processing by Hampshire constabulary. BASC have discovered that backdating is shortening the period of certification, which will not only compound the shortfalls of the Constabularies turn around, but could be illegal, see below:

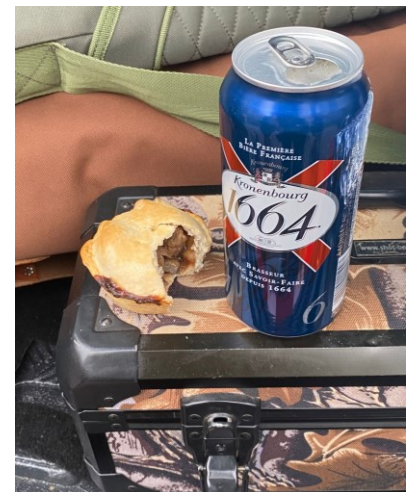
Some certificates have been backdated in circumstances where, due to delays in renewing, individuals have been issued Section 7 temporary permits. The temporary permits have sometimes been in place for more than 12 months. When a new certificate was issued, it was backdated to the previous one's expiry date. This is directly in contravention of Section 28A of the Firearms Act 1968, which states: "A certificate shall, unless previously revoked or cancelled, continue in force for five years from the date when it was granted or last renewed." It is also against Home Office and Firearms and Explosives Licensing Working Group advice, but there is evidence that this is occurring around the country.

Bisley, 26th November

Four guns made the hour-long journey to Bisley, which is the same time it takes to get to Hangmans Stone and only fifteen minutes more than Petersfield, (give or take, someone will no doubt have done the journey at a different pace). Long Siberia has over twenty stands which can cater for all capabilities, many with multiple traps. This time around we shot a hundred clays and every multiple trap stand that we shot, we used every option available. We bypassed every stand that had other guns shooting and when we got to our last three pairs, we still had a choice of stands to shoot from. In the car park we enjoyed a Bisley pie courtesy of Denise and a beer from Robbo. Thank you both very much. Once again this made other guns envious of SASS.

Bisley with handicap

1st	Hunter	52
2nd	Robbo	48
3rd	Sturat	46
3rd	Pikey	46



Shotgun licence fees set to double

Since last year, the Home Office has been discussing fee rises associated with shotgun licensing. The last rise in fees was in 2014. The current cost for the grant of a shotgun certificate is £79.50. There is speculation that the fees may rise by almost double; this would represent an increase well above the inflation rate over the past nine years. A rise in line with inflation according to the Bank of England's inflation calculator would take shotgun certificates to around £106, not the higher figure being mooted. The proposed fee increase comes at a time when the majority of the 43 licensing authorities are providing inefficient services. <https://www.shootinguk.co.uk/news/firearms-and-shotgun-licence-fees-set-to-double-146699/>

Events and Fixtures

I believe we now have twenty-two members coming to the Christmas shoot which will be held on Thursday 28th December at Spitfire with the usual presentations and food back at the White Hart in Stockbridge. Unick will be back from his travels soon and will be looking for some raffle prizes. Thank you to those who have already donated. The hamper and shooting prizes are ready to go thanks to Robbo. Mostly local shoots again for December, organised by Big Mac. Except for Christmas eve which will be at Bisley. If you want to go to Bisley, let Robbo know so that you can be booked in for shooting, a Bisley Pie from Denise and a beer from the chairman. We will be shooting Bisley at the earlier time of 09.00, because we can! If we do not see you before, merry Christmas from all of the committee.



Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
03 December 2023	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
10 December 2023	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£22.00	60
17 December 2023	Ower	Copythorne, Romsey	SO51 6GF	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
24 December 2023	Bisley Pay and Play	Long Siberia, 154 Queens Road, Surrey	GU24 9AU.	8:00 AM	£46.00	100
28 December 2023	Spitfire (Christmas shoot)	A30, Stockbridge	SO20 6JR	9:00 AM	£34.00	100
31 December 2023	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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