

# SASS October 2023

This is the twelfth issue of the newsletter in its new format. From next month, on the website, each one-year-old newsletter will fade into history and there will be a rolling twelve months online. We were blessed with another five Sunday month in October. In spite of the wet weather and flooding all around we managed to get through all of the shoots without a soaking. We gained one new member this month, Soloman, who shot impressively at Chalky Hill, entering the Top Shots Sunday League in fourth place, his handicap is TBA but he did not shoot anywhere else this month. The top of the league is the place to watch at the moment because Thumb Boy, who has just started regularly shooting again after time out in a new house, is snapping at Sturats heels for top shot. There are not many photos in this edition because only one member sent pics in. If a photo-less newsletter is what you want, that is fine, less editing for me. This is your newsletter about your shooting, I'm happy to write up every shoot that I attend, which is almost all, but your photos are what really make the newsletter interesting for members who can't get out for whatever reason. A picture paints a thousand words, so if you could take just one, it would be much appreciated by those who cannot get out and save me from waffling to fit a bit of space.



## Ower, 1<sup>st</sup> October

This was the first Sunday of the winter series at Ower. A friend that has shot as a guest at Botley a couple of times shot the course last Wednesday and said he was the only gun there. Eight guns shot the seventy-bird layout as two squads. There were surprisingly few no-birds, all bar one trap had been fully serviced and there were new buttons all around. The two lads that set-up were constantly checking things were ok. They were most apologetic about the trap on stand ten which was supposed to throw out a sim-pair. This was by far the best Ower has been for a long time. For the first time since the rules changed about splitting boxes we have an absolute tie. Big Mac and Spiced hit the same number of clays and have the same handicap. Well done to both for winning the Sunday 25s and for both scoring the highest actual 39/50.

## Chalky Hill, 8<sup>th</sup> October

There was a ten-kilometre run which included Moorgreen Road, so not everyone could get to the Arms because the road was closed. There was a good turn-out of eleven guns on this beautiful autumn morning for the fifty-bird layout. Welcome to our new member Soloman, who will not get his handicap until he has shot with us three times. He shot a hundred clays as he had already paid for them and straighted several stands, setting the bar high entering the top-shots league in fourth place. The ground was not as busy as usual and we got round in good time without much queuing. The run was over by the time we got back to the Arms so no beer time was lost. Well done to Badger for winning the cartridges and to Sturat for the highest actual score 46/50.

## Ower, with handicap

1st	Big Mac	53
1st	Spiced	53
3rd	Capp	52
4th	Dynamite	51
5th	Smudger	50
5th	Hunter	50
7th	Robbo	49
8th	Jeeves	45

## Chalky Hill, with handicap

1st	Badger	61
2nd	Dynamite	60
3rd	Sturat	54
3rd	Big Mac	54
5th	Unick	53
5th	Spiced	53
7th	Robbo	52
8th	Thumb Boy	51
9th	Pug	49
10th	Hunter	48

### Petersfield, 15<sup>th</sup> October

The sun was shining but this was the coldest day we have had for a while. A few ice crystals on the windscreen first thing, raising to 4°C by the time we met at the Arms. Seven guns and one guest, Albert, of course no name jokes or suggestions before we shot. Petersfield have had to raise the cost for the sixty-bird layout by £2.00 due to increased insurance premiums. They told us their insurance now costs them £200.00 per shoot. Gunners Wood was not as busy as usual, whether this is because of the shoot being more challenging last month or because of other sporting events is debatable. The layout was particularly challenging, not least because of the bright low sunlight. Several guns, not SASS, because we will always give it a go, moved on from stands that were directly into the sun or ridiculously flashing between sunlight and shade. The last time we shot Petersfield it was challenging, which was great. This time, maybe, it was set up when there was more cloud cover. Nobody shot to their handicap, some of our best shots were way short of their normal scores. Personally, I hope they re-think the layout because increasing the cost and challenge at the same time (in my opinion) could be a recipe for disaster. Well done Unick for winning the Sunday 25s and to Thumb Boy for the highest actual 35/50. Thumb Boy, who has just recently started coming out regularly again, now has the same handicap as Sturat and is snapping at his heels for top shot. Soloman was not shooting at Gunners Wood but he is looking like a worthy contender. You can check out the Top Shots League Table on the website regularly updated and maintained by Sturat.

### Popham, 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Nine guns shot the seventy-bird round at Test Valley on this bright sunny morning. The circuit they have been doing for a couple of months flows really well, there was not much queueing at all. One trap on stand four needed a motor change which we thought might take a long time. The team changed the motor without any fuss and in good time. We did have a short queue at the end on stand four because so many skipped it and went back. We were still away by eleven-thirty and a good number of us went back to the Arms. Well done to Minty and Dynamite for joint first place with handicap, Minty takes the Sunday 25 cartridges with one kill more under the not so new rule for split boxes. Congratulations again to Thumb Boy for highest actual 43/50 watch the Top Shots League on the website as the margin for first place is getting close.



### Petersfield, with handicap

1st	Unick	49
2nd	Badger	48
3rd	Hunter	47
4th	Robbo	45
5th	Thumb Boy	44
6th	Pug	43
7th	Sturat	38



### Popham, with handicap

1st	Minty	57
1st	Dynamite	57
3rd	Wallbanger	56
4th	Badger	53
5th	Unick	52
5th	Thumb Boy	52
7th	Sturat	50
7th	Robbo	50
9th	Hunter	49



## Hangmans Stone, 29<sup>th</sup> October

What a week, flood warnings and torrential rain forecasts. Waterproofs all round for this hundred bird shoot, or so we thought. Six guns met at the Arms and when we arrived at the shoot, we found Big Mac and Spiced indulging in the club house breakfast. Eight members and two guests shot this slightly more challenging layout. Brain Fart took great delight in announcing that he had killed more clays than our number one shot on the rabbit stand. Stand nine was a real score killer with a pair of distance clays out in the open. Well done Brain Fart and thank the rabbits for winning the Sunday 25s and to Sturat for highest actual 41/50.

## Events and Fixtures

The fixtures have been sorted by Big Mac for November and he has kept it as local as he can with the first three Sundays. Popham has come a long way since under new management and now that we are shooting seventy, we are avoiding the two-pairs synonymous with the ground. Big Mac has arranged for us to shoot skeet as well as the sporting layout this time. The cost for a round of skeet at Popham is £10. The sun should not be so much an issue at Petersfield this month due to the clocks having gone back. The ground cannot put any clays to the North because of the road. Ower was vastly improved last month and many of us are looking forward to shooting there again. At the end of the month we are going to Bisley, it has been a while since we have shot there. We do have to book to shoot at Bisley and make sure the chairman knows you are going or you will miss out on Denises wonderful Bisley pies washed down with a drink from Robbo. Big Mac now has seventeen for the Christmas shoot which will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December at Spitfire with the usual presentations and food back at the White Hart in Stockbridge. Unick has kindly stepped up to organise the Christmas raffle and will be asking for prize donations in due course.

## Hangmans Stone with handicap

1st	Brain Fart	53
2nd	Sturat	50
2nd	Badger	50
4th	Spiced	48
5th	Hunter	47
5th	Pikey	47
7th	Robbo	46
7th	Big Mac	46

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
05 November 2023	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
12 November 2023	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£24.00	60
19 November 2023	Ower	Copythorne, Romsey	SO51 6GF	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
26 November 2023	Bisley Pay and Play	Long Siberia, 154 Queens Road, Surrey	GU24 9AU.	8:45 AM	£46.00	100
28 December 2023	Spitfire (Christmas shoot)	A30, Stockbridge	SO20 6JR	9:00 AM	£34.00	100