

SASS September 2023

This has been the busiest month by far for the newsletter. After Hangmans Stone at the beginning of the month, some of us went to Ashcombe where we each put almost two slabs of cartridges through our guns in the hottest two days of the year. We sunk a few beers that weekend although, we nearly lost all of our beer money. Chalky Hill was scheduled for the Sunday of Ashcombe for those that did not go but no-one went. We kept it local and several guns went to Petersfield and got around in the dry despite heavy rain being forecast. Your committee had a meeting to start thinking about next years events. September shooting ended at Popham with ten guns and four guests, fantastic! Thank you to everyone who sent photographs for the newsletter, sorry not all could be used.



Hangmans Stone, 3rd September

After exactly an hour drive six guns attended the shoot. It was a lovely summers day like the sun had never been away during August. We went around this hundred bird shoot as a single squad. The layout was varied and testing once again. There was not a cloud in the sky but there was not a single stand where the sun interfered with the field of view which shows they put a lot of thought into the layout every time. They presented some really testing distance clays but there was nothing that was ridiculous, everything was hittable. All of the stands were in the shade so, although it was hot it was not unbearable. At stand eight we almost had a perfect sixty kills with each successive gun straightening the five pairs. The pressure was too much for Spiced who was last up, he killed nine then missed the last clay. Well done Hunter for winning the Sunday 25s and to Sturat with the highest actual score 45/50.

Hangmans Stone, with handicap

1st	Hunter	54
2nd	Sturat	53
3rd	Robbo	51
3rd	Big Mac	51
5th	Spiced	50
6th	Unick	49



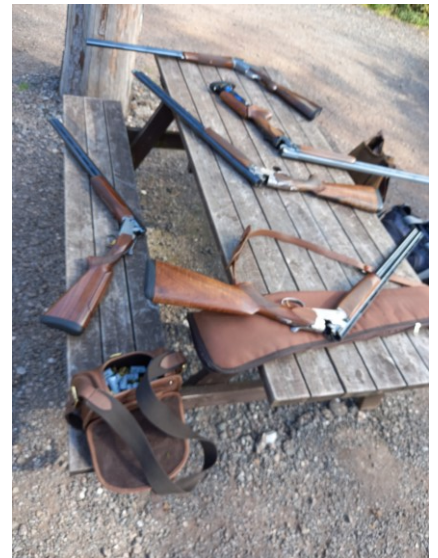
Ashcombe, 8th September

Nine guns went to Ashcombe for two of the hottest days of the year. We set off early from the Arms and stopped on the way at Fresha in Honiton for a full English. The first event of the weekend was a hundred sporting clays. The new owners have been extracting timber so the landscape was quite different from our last outing there four years ago. There were some very testing targets especially on the first bend above the ravine where three stands accounted for quite a few early smilies. Back in the carpark Robbo produced some cans and Ashcombe pies. They are the same as Bisley pies but not in Bisley, thank you Denise, unexpected but very much appreciated. We then did a round of compak before returning to the clubhouse for lunch. There was a very basic menu on the bar and quite a long wait for it as there was only one member of staff. That was not as surprising as how empty the place was. After our sit down in the clubhouse, Don set the ABT left to right and we shot twenty-five there. To finish the day there was an eighty-sporting starting with one from three quarters up the tower.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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



After a very hot day shooting it was a relief to book in to the Premier Inn in Newton Abbot. 1st call was a beer in the Beefeater next door. We had some stock trophies left over from the 2020 Mendip weekend that never happened due to covid. What we did not have was a POSA (pile of shite award) and it was becoming evident that we needed something. It was decided by the committee members present that a wooden spoon should be procured from the shop across the road. After a shower and change we met back for dinner. The food was very good, the chef knew how to cook meat and without too many weeds.

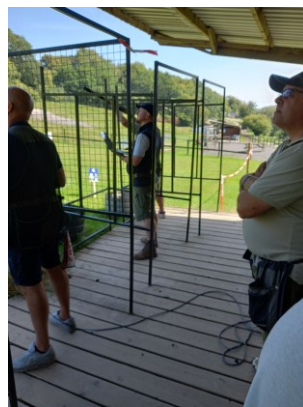
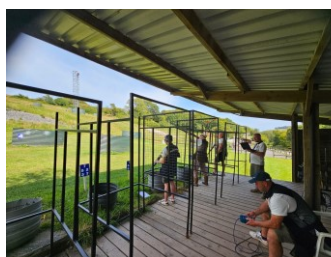
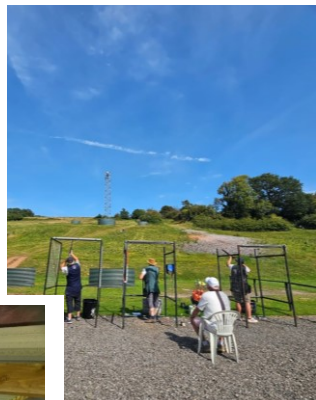
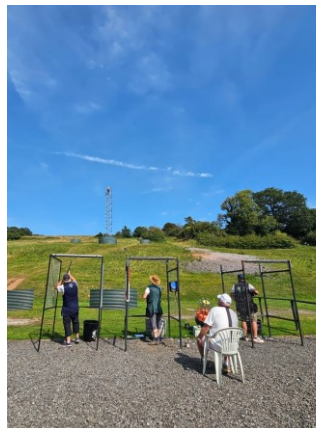
Ashcombe, 9th September

After an all you can eat breakfast which was part of the hotel meal-deal we set back off to the shoot. Don met us in the clubhouse and said that we had thirty-eight no-birds each yesterday. One of the few other guns visiting Ashcombe took a team photo for us. It was hotter than yesterday so we were kindly ferried to the top of the hill to shoot an eighty sporting to start the day. The high tower was set to the top and we shot twenty-five from the three stands at the bottom of the hill. Actually, some guns shot somewhere in the sky but did not kill many high birds. Check out the photos for the cheating shot, two guns with full use and still missed, Hotpot was still loading having just had his rightful miss. After a cool down and lunch-less break in the clubhouse we shot the rabbit skeet. The proper skeet ground had trap issues, frankly, guns were quite relieved to not go to the top of the hill again. The day was finished off with another round of compak which was completed by three-o'clock. We could have followed on with something else but it was so hot and there had been so many no-birds again that we were all happy to go back to the hotel and bar.



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We had a few beers before a shower and change for dinner. In the short time he had been left alone, Robbo had dropped the beer fund we had all chipped in to, whilst purchasing another wooden spoon, there now being two contenders for the POSA. Luckily, a cashier had seen Robbo drop the cash and told the security guard who followed him back to the pub and returned the cash. There are still some decent people in the world. The very nice man is pictured to the right. The awards were duly presented before dinner and more beers. As the remaining few of us left the pub there were a few spots of rain. In the morning we stood sheltering from the rain under a canopy waiting for the pub to open for breakfast and the drive home. Thank you to everyone involved in organising the weekend, to the drivers and to all that were there.



Team Pheasant:

Captain	Member 1	Member 2	Actual Score	Handicap Score
Sturat	Unick	Manny	772/1155	1103/1155

Team Wood Pigeon:

Captain	Member 1	Member 2	Actual Score	Handicap Score
Pikey	Robbo	Hotpot	634/1155	1004/1155

Team Grouse:

Captain	Member 1	Member 2	Actual Score	Handicap Score
Jiraff	Hunter	Badger	639/1155	1001/1155



ABT:

3rd Sturat (43)

2nd Unick (44)

1st Badger (47)

Rabbit Skeet (Team):

3rd Pikey, Robbo & Hotpot (66)

2nd Sturat, Unick & Manny (70)

1st Jiraff, Hunter & Badger (71)

Hightower:

3rd Unick (35)

2nd Hunter (42) 19 actual clays

1st Sturat (42) 20 actual clays



Compak 1:

3rd Pikey (23)

2nd Badger (34)

1st Manny (25)

Compak 2:

3rd Manny (23)

2nd Unick (24)

1st Badger (27)

TopShot:

3rd Badger (369)

2nd Sturat (371)

1st Unick (376)



Actual:

3rd Robbo (244)

2nd Unick (253)

1st Sturat (309)

Wooden Spoons:

Lowest with Handicap - Jiraff (281 out of 385)

Lowest Actual - Hotpot (164 out of 385)



Petersfield, 17th September

Five guns met at the Arms and joined up with Big Mac at the shoot. The weather forecast was rain after 09.00 but we got around the sixty-bird layout without any, although some did get a bit hot in waterproofs. Some of the stand positions were moved and we were presented with a lot of new and challenging targets. There were more than a few simmo pairs which made it an interesting morning. We had a few no-birds but once reported they were quickly fixed. The rain finally arrived as we were making our way back down the A32 and was in full flow when we got back to the Arms. Well done Big Mac for winning the Sunday 25s and to Sturat for the highest actual score of 40/50.

Petersfield, with handicap

1st	Big Mac	52
2nd	Hunter	50
2nd	Robbo	50
4th	Sturat	48
5th	Unick	47
6th	Badger	46

Committee meeting, 20th September

Your committee held a meeting at the Arms to wash-up after Ashcombe and discuss the day to day running of the society. Ashcombe is cost neutral to SASS and everyone involved has paid all of their balances. Some future events were discussed such as the Christmas shoot which is all booked, Thursday 28th December, (Spitfire and White Hart, Stockbridge). Ten members have confirmed they are going so far but we need a minimum of twelve for it to be viable. As usual the food and a complimentary drink is paid for from SASS funds. If you have not done so already, please could you let Big Mac know that you intend to go before the 31st of October. Robbos Christmas raffle was a success last year, the committee would like someone different to organise the raffle each year so that other chosen charities can benefit. If you would like to organise the raffle, please let Big Mac know. Looking ahead, we would like to have another weekend away in 2024. Probably not at Ashcombe, we are looking for alternatives within approximately three hours travel, if you know somewhere that could be considered, let any of the committee know. The simulated game day was cancelled this year. This was partly because some members who would have liked to go had other commitments arranged for the day. Continued over:

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It was agreed that Gorcombe Park was a good venue. Big Mac will be offering three separate dates with plenty of notice this time so that we can choose the date that suits the most members in 2024. One last thing, the accepted practice of calling the scores has gradually started to fade away. The only chance you have to dispute a loss or kill is whilst you are in the stand. Please can scorers call the scores for every pair so that anyone unhappy with their score can resolve it at the time.

Popham, 24th September

Breaking news from the Arms car park, Brain Fart finally got his licence through after just fifteen months since the application. Now he will have to take his gun home and clean it himself. Ten guns and four guests shot the seventy-bird layout at Popham which is the most guns we have had for a long time. The Test Valley team are trying to mix it about a bit without upsetting the locals who appear easily troubled by change. Everyone agreed that the shoot is much better under the new management. The tower is now in place and they presented one target on stand eight from it. The plan is to add another two levels and get more traps elevated to maximise the use of the ground. There was a nice mix of trailing pairs, pairs and simmos this time around. Well done to Hunter for winning the Sunday 25 cartridges and Thumb Boy for the highest actual 44/50.

Popham, with handicap

1st	Hunter	57
2nd	Pug	55
2nd	Badger	55
2nd	Spiced	55
5th	Big Mac	53
5th	Thumb Boy	53
7th	Unick	51
8th	Sturat	50
9th	Robbo	45
10th	Brain Fart	45

Events and Any Other Business

Ower shoot is back to Sundays so Big Mac has scheduled it for the 1st of October. Hopefully the traps have all been serviced over the summer and Pam has bought lots of new clays for us to shoot at, no pick-ups or breakdowns, oops, must have been dreaming! We have plenty of local shoots next month, Chalky, Petersfield and Popham are all on the list. The seventy-birds at Popham are much better than the two pairs synonymous with the fifty-bird layout. Do not forget to put your clocks back for Hangmans Stone at the end of the month, it is well worth the visit if you have not been already. Finally, please remember to let Big Mac know by the end of October if you want to go to the Christmas shoot on 28th December.

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
01 October 2023	Ower	Copythorne, Romsey	SO51 6GF	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
08 October 2023	Chalky Hill Clay Clay Shoot	Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton	GU34 5QA	9:00 AM	£17.00	50
15 October 2023	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£22.00	60
22 October 2023	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£18.00	50
29 October 2023	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	8:45 AM	£35.00	100
28 December 2023	Spitfire (Christmas shoot)	A30, Stockbridge	SO20 6JR	9:00 AM	£34.00	100