

# SASS December 2024

A mixed bag of distance and local shoots in December due to storms and cancellations, ending the year with a thoroughly enjoyable Christmas shoot at Popham. This edition has a surprising update on my shotgun certificate renewal and an update on lead ammunition from the HSE. There are a couple of birthday mentions this month. We start the new year with a trip up to the fantastic shoot at Hangmans Stone, after which Big Mac has kept it local for the rest of the month. One notable change is that Ower has been replaced by Chalky Hill. Keep an eye on the league, Badger is well passed Thumb Boy for second place and is knocking on the door for top shot, there could be an upset in 2025! I hope you had a very merry Christmas and look forward to a happy new year shooting with you.



## Hangmans Stone, 1<sup>st</sup> December

It was such a rainy day that Pikey, who was already at the Arms, drove his truck next to Unicks car, rather than get out to talk. When we got to the clubhouse, the ladies there had decided that they could multi-task and do the booking and cooking at the same time. This resulted in a queue twice as long at the cooking end and a wait three times as long for food, bless them. After a bacon roll we proceeded to shoot the hundred birds from the field end. Surely designed to bring guns back down to earth after a reasonable score, but as a start is totally demoralising. A new target that we did not even think was a thing was the jumping mole, after a difficult distance bird this clay jumped up less than 5m away, it caught some unawares but SASS guns killed them all. This day was Pikeys birthday so it was only right that we should let him win (I wish), well done Pikey for the highest actual 75/100 and for winning the cartridges.

## Hangmans, with handicap

1st	Pikey	49
2nd	Hunter	47
3rd	Unick	43



## Happy birthday Mr Chairman

Congratulations for your seventieth birthday on December 2<sup>nd</sup> Robbo, and many happy returns from everyone in SASS.

## Bisley, 8<sup>th</sup> December

Once again, an alleged storm caused shoot cancellations. This day was scheduled to be at Petersfield but as both they and Ower had cancelled it was back up to Bisley for the hardcore guns. We shot as one squad of five. The wind was nowhere as strong up country as down here by the coast but it still did make some testing targets. Aside from the Cathedral and Big Ben improvements penned last time, an all-rabbit multi-trap set-up was introduced. All would agree that we missed a few easy targets today but it is still a great shoot. Thank you once again to Robbo and Denise for the last minute Bisley pie and beer. Well done Robbo for winning the cartridges, there seems to be a birthday trend going on this month. Well done also, to Sturat for the highest actual 43/50.



## Bisley, with handicap

1st	Robbo	52
2nd	Sturat	50
3rd	Hunter	49
4th	Badger	48
5th	Unick	46

## Shotgun certificate renewal update

After a swift return with my medical details from MedCert I waited to apply for my licence renewal until it was eight weeks (plus a week for Christmas) before the expiry. To my surprise just two weeks in, I recieved an email from HCF asking for details of everyone else with free access to my house, apparently now a common question, which I answered. Hours later I had a text saying it had been approved and was in the post. The application to the police took eleven working days and within four days of that, the certificate was in my hand. I cannot answer why some applications are taking so long, but it does seem to revolve around the medical form. I believe that the money for MedCert was well spent. My renewal is dated, as it should be, starting the day after the existing certificate expiry in February 2025. At the time of writing, Home Office Minister Diana Johnson, in response to a parliamentary question, confirmed that the government would be pushing ahead with its manifesto commitment to impose 'full cost recovery' on firearms licences. Watch this space!

### Chalky Hill, 15<sup>th</sup> December

Seven guns left the Arms for Chalky on this dull but dry morning. Badger took his passengers on a little sight-seeing excursion on the way, but had caught up by the time we reached the shoot. It was good to see Scrapper back out after a long break having many parts replaced. By the time we had all assembled there were nine guns. Doc also was at the shoot, shooting with a friend. The ground was quite busy with queues at all stands and the ground was wet and slippery. We were entertained by stuck vehicles and slipping guns while we waited to shoot. Well done Robbo for winning the cartridges again and to Sturat for the highest actual 46/50

### Ower, 22<sup>nd</sup> December

Five guns squeezed into Sturats car for the short journey to Ower where we were treated to a bacon roll courtesy of Unick and met up with Capp. The morning was going really well until we started shooting. The ground has been defended and given several second chances by SASS members and needs to improve. There were no birds and breakages from the first pull. Two traps completely broken down, another that mostly only fired every other clay of a simmo pair, and another slow-motion action, in all over 10.5% no birds for one squad and even more for the other. On a positive note, there were not many queues so we did get back to the Arms before the door was open. It would be a shame to loose such a local ground, but while it is so poorly maintained Big Mac has taken it off the rota and replaced it in January with Chalky Hill. This is no reflection of the chap who runs ragged to try and keep the traps running, without the parts or investment he can do no better. Well done Scrapper for winning the cartridges and to Badger for the highest actual 39/50.

## Lead ammunition update

The HSE has published its proposal to prohibit the use of lead ammunition for live quarry shooting and target shooting. The recommendations are for a ban on all lead shotgun ammunition after a five-year transition with a derogation for elite level clay shooters. This will be considered by the government and the likelihood is of a ban on lead shotgun ammunition probably in 2030. Tim Bonner from the Countryside Alliance says "The primary reason for the prohibition is to prevent around 7,000 tonnes of lead, which can be toxic to wildlife, being deposited in the environment every year. This is something we should all be positive about, not least because it is difficult to properly promote all the conservation benefits of shooting and wildlife management whilst using lead ammunition"

### Chalky Hill, with handicap

1st	Robbo	56
2nd	Big Mac	54
2nd	Hunter	54
2nd	Spiced	54
5th	Sturat	53
6th	Unick	52
7th	Pikey	51
8th	Scrapper	49
9th	Badger	47

### Ower, with handicap

1st	Scrapper	52
2nd	Capp	51
3rd	Badger	47
4th	Hunter	46
5th	Unick	45
6th	Sturat	43



## Christmas shoot at Popham, 29<sup>th</sup> December

Eleven guns met at the Test Valley ground for the Christmas shoot, Pikey sent in a sick note. The ground asked us to start at three different stands, which we would have anyway. It was a foggy morning in the woods, there were a couple of traps playing up but the team sorted them out quickly and there was not too much queueing. We shot two rounds of fifty and the ground gave us members rates for the day. After the shoot we went to the White Hart in Stockbridge for presentations, food, and a drink. Well done Capp for highest with handicap and winning the hamper. Sturat and Big Mac had the highest actual scores of 90/100 each and Smudger came away with the wooden spoon. A great time was had by all, Dynamite hosted the charity raffle and raised £300 for the Countess Mountbatten Hospice. Last but not least was the excuse of the year which goes to Soloman for “I have a paper cut on my little finger” for which he will receive a bottle and some cartridges from Dynamite.

## Popham, with handicap

1st	Capp	60
2nd	Big Mac	59
3rd	Hunter	58
4th	Spiced	55
5th	Scraper	54
6th	Sturat	53
6th	Dynamite	53
6th	Badger	53
9th	Fries	52
10th	Robbo	51
11th	Smudger	48



## Events and Fixtures

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
05 January 2025	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£37.00	100
12 January 2025	Chalky Hill Clay Clay Shoot	Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton	GU34 5QA	9:00 AM	£17.00	50
19 January 2025	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£24.00	60
26 January 2025	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
12 March 2025	AGM, Southampton Arms	89 Moorgreen Road, West End, Hampshire	SO30 2HG	7:00 PM		

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

R. ROBSON, P. JENKS, T. MORGAN, S. ROBSON & M. McNAMARA



### Committee meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> November

Your committee had a meeting this month and amongst other mundane stuff, agreed the date of March 12<sup>th</sup> for the 2025 AGM. Some of the events discussed for next year include a Semi-Auto Day in March or April and a side-by-side competition in the summer. We would also like to have the weekend away shoot at Sporting Targets in Bedfordshire as it was agreed by all that went this year, that the venue had much more to offer than Ashcombe (and buggies). The sim-game day by Duncan was very good and less than half of the price of the previous, so we will be looking out for his date this year. Last but not least we would like to have a team or two at the RN RM competition shoot next year.

### Christmas Shoot, 29<sup>th</sup> December, Popham

If you have not yet booked your space for the Christmas competition please get in touch with Big Mack. The cut-off date for inclusion is Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December. This is so we can order the food for when we meet afterwards at The White Hart in Stockbridge for presentations, a bite to eat and a free drink. Robbo has the hamper and some raffle prizes collected through the year. Other prize donations are always welcome. Dynamite has pledged a hundred cartridges and a bottle for the best one-line excuse of the year. Excuses so far this year include: "My hat was on the wrong way round," "I had My Eyes Closed," "I lost it in the tree Line," "I have a paper cut on my little finger," "I pulled the trigger at the wrong time" and "I could not concentrate after a females arse made an impression." There may be others to add, the excusers names will be revealed after the vote.

### Shotgun Certificate Renewal Update

Medcert were very efficient with producing the medical proforma. The firearms renewal application has been completed online and the £49 fee paid. One niggly point, once the form is completed you are still required to send a copy of your current licence to the firearms "team" by email, but there are no contact details within the form. Renewal is due in February, so is within the eight-week notice.

### Website Update, by Sturat

I am pleased to say that ShootCert are now showing us as supported and a useful link on their website. Feel free to take a look using the following link.

[Useful Links & Supporters » ShootCert](#)

I have also added a useful links section to our site under media and have added the Southampton Arms and ShootCert with their permission. Thought that this could also boost membership.

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
01 December 2024	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£37.00	100
08 December 2024	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£24.00	60
15 December 2024	Chalky Hill Clay Clay Shoot	Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton	GU34 5QA	9:00 AM	£17.00	50
22 December 2024	Ower	Copythorne, Romsey	SO51 6GF	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
29 December 2024	Christmas shoot, Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£36.00	100
12 March 2025	AGM, Southampton Arms	89 Moorgreen Road, West End, Hampshire	SO30 2HG	7:00 PM		