

# SASS February 2024

In this months issue there are a few more photographs. Thank you so much to the photographers. It is always nice to have pictures of what we have been doing, especially for those who cannot get out with their guns for whatever reason. As well as the reports on shoots that we have attended this month there is an update on shotgun licencing from Hampshire Constabularies Chief Inspector Louise Hubble. Louise, if you are monitoring SASS correspondence, which you should be, the bull is for you and you know what I mean! There is also an update on lead shot, the HSE has again requested an extension of time to review this without publicising a date, just saying! Whilst the powers that be are in disarray, we will continue to enjoy our sport for years, hopefully, to come.

## Hangmans Stone, 4<sup>th</sup> February

Five guns met at the Arms on this drizzly morning and squeezed into Pikeys car for the hour long journey to Hangmans Stone. The weather dried up by the time we passed Newbury. When we arrived at the Four Counties Shooting Ground, Big Mac and Fries were already there. Funny, the clubhouse breakfast makes this the only regular shoot that Big Mac arrives before everyone else. It was a very challenging hundred bird shoot coupled with wind. No-one shot to their handicap. There were a few no-birds and the trap at stand four where one of the two squads started, moved. After a while more and more clays hit the tree by the trap and by the time Robbo shot there was not a single pair without a no-bird. They threw a few battues into the mix this time which proved difficult for us visitors but the regulars showed us how to do it (after we had shot). Well done to Fries for joint first, winning the Sunday 25s by one shot more than Robbo and beating Big Mac by one too. Highest actual was Sturat again, this being a tough one it was only a 39/50. The drizzle started again as we drove back to the arms for a well-earned pint.



## Hangmans Stone, with handicap

1st	Fries	47
1st	Robbo	47
3rd	Sturat	46
3rd	Hunter	46
3rd	Big Mac	46
6th	Pikey	45
7th	Badger	44





## Popham, 11<sup>th</sup> February

Five guns met at the Arms and this time travelled in Badgers car for the half hour journey to the Test Valley ground. It looked a bit dull but dry and when we got there, we met the New Forest and the sober contingents. The ten guns shot in three squads. It started to drizzle and we wondered if we should have left the slips in the cars, but after a couple of stands the sun came out and it was like a different day. The new ownership of the shoot is getting more evident every time we shoot there. They really are investing in the shooting experience. Nothing that they present is un-hittable yet it is still challenging. They have plans for a third tower for some high stuff but equally, there was stand seven with two cays less than twenty feet away which caught a few guns out. Well done to Unick for winning the Sunday 25s, to Unick and Hunter for both equalling their personal bests of 44/50 and as ever, highest actual Sturat 46/50



### HSE requests (again), more time for its review on lead ban

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has requested that the timeline be extended for the final stage of its lead ammunition review in England, Wales and Scotland. The move comes following the HSE consultation in December on the socio-economic assessment of restriction proposals. The HSE has submitted a request to the Government asking for more time to sort through relevant information and evidence, before it can propose its recommendations to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. A new timeline is being drawn up and will be published following consultation with policy leads, such as Defra and the Scottish and Welsh. Extending the timeline for further review may be beneficial for the shooting community. In recent months industry campaigners and expert evidence have often apparently been ignored on related public consultations. The latest public consultation, which ended at midnight on 10 December, focused on reducing the transition period away from lead shot and the potential inclusion of lead rifle ammunition for live quarry in the ban. The shooting community has been campaigning for a voluntary transition away from lead shot and single-use plastics for live quarry shooting over a five-year period.

## Popham, with handicap

1st	Unick	60
2nd	Hunter	58
3rd	Badger	56
3rd	Big Mac	56
3rd	Spiced	56
6th	Capp	55
7th	Sturat	53
8th	Jeeves	52
8th	Robbo	52
10th	Smudger	48

Below is an update on shotgun license applications and renewals from Chief Inspector Louise Hubble, who has been involved in countryside policing for many years, & now is Head of Hampshire Constabulary's Firearms Licensing Department (Rural Times, Winter 2023-24)

“Our focus has to be on the areas that carry the most risk, and ultimately new applicants carry lower risk as they do not currently possess a firearm. That is why it's imperative we deal with renewals first. We have to ensure that the person renewing their certificate is still safe to possess a gun, and we also must process the renewal applications before the certificate expires to ensure the individual is not left in possession of a firearm illegally. I can appreciate this can cause frustration for those who are experiencing a delay in their application process, but ultimately public safety will always be our priority. Firearms are weapons that can cause serious harm even when possessed lawfully – we want to make sure that does not happen.”



## Petersfield, 18<sup>th</sup> February

Hunter was getting some end of season hunting in up-country, so did not shoot at Gunners Wood on this drizzly Sunday morning. It turned out to be a lovely hunting day on the Oxfordshire/Northamptonshire border. Only three guns went to Petersfield, no idea what the weather was like though. Looking at the scores, the weather had little to do with it. No close contest at all, well done to Sturat for winning the club 25 cartridges and highest actual 42/50. PS. Robbo said it was the mud that made the shoot difficult for him.

## Ower, 25<sup>th</sup> February

Six guns met at the Arms on this overcast Sunday morning. There was much hilarity and little sentiment for Pams Facebook post about their clay delivery being left at the gate because no one was there to open up. We met Capp and Smudger at the shoot. Thank you Unick for the bacon rolls before we started as two squads of four. There were a lot of no-birds as-ever, the first being just the second pair on our first stand. Robbo continued his performance from Petersfield on stands one to three, then decided that it was because his hat was on the wrong way round. He doubled his score on stand four with a straight eight and trebled it on stand five. The new scaffolding stand on five replaced the wobbly pallet and even included a gun rack with padding. Capp got so excited on stand six that he forgot he was scoring for Pikey. Brain Fart found his forte and had an exceptional score on stand seven. Whilst we were shooting stand eight someone thought he could cut across the field to the car park and sunk his car. The first clay on stand nine was hitting the tree so the trapper asked Robbo to shoot the branch, which took two goes. The rain threatened all morning but stayed away until we were back on the road to the Arms. Well done to Hunter for winning the cartridges and to Sturat for highest actual 44/50.



## Petersfield, with handicap

1st	Sturat	48
2nd	Badger	46
3rd	Robbo	39



## Ower with handicap

1st	Hunter	53
2nd	Unick	51
3rd	Sturat	50
4th	Robbo	48
5th	Pikey	47
6th	Smudger	46
7th	Brain Fart	44
8th	Capp	43



**SASS 2024 AGM 14<sup>th</sup> March 7pm at the Arms, have you sent your apology or let the committee know you will be there ?**





## Events and fixtures

With March this year being a five Sunday month, Big Mac has accommodated both of the best one hour away shoots into next months proceedings. Starting with Bisley, which we have not shot for a couple of months, the chairman has put in the order to Denise for the pies and amassed the beer orders. If you have not booked, which you must do for Bisley, get in quickly and let Robbo know so that he can update the pie and drink order, you will not be disappointed! Next, we will be shooting at Duncans place on Chalky Hill, if you want to add yourself to the simulated game day shoot on 25<sup>th</sup> May get to Chalky you need to ask Duncan very nicely because our applications have closed. If the sledge hammer reminder above was not enough, only ten members have responded to Big Mac regarding attending, or not, the 2024 AGM to date, five of whom are the committee. Please let Big Mac know if you are going to be at the AGM so we can feed you and buy you a complimentary drink. Ower was not without hiccups but the lad that was looking after the traps was extremely conscientious and kept us informed of potential downfalls. This is a much more worthy local shoot to attend than it has been in the past. Popham too is a vastly improved shoot since it has been under new management and the seventy-bird layout with the additional towers is a well worth Sunday morning activity whilst waiting for the Arms to open. Big Mac has once again managed to shoehorn Hangmans Stone into next months proceedings. This is the only shoot that we find he and Spiced at earlier than everyone that leaves from the Arms. In next months newsletter, look forward to a review of the clubhouse breakfast at Hangmans Stone by Big Mac. I bet he does not bring Fries along in March after Februarys thrashing. We hope to see you at the AGM and happy shooting.

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
03 March 2024	Bisley Pay and Play	Long Siberia, 154 Queens Road, Surrey	GU24 9AU.	8:45 AM	£46.00	100
10 March 2024	Chalky Hill Clay Shoot	Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton	GU34 5QA	9:00 AM	£17.00	50
14 March 2024	AGM, Southampton Arms	89 Moorgreen Road, West End, Hampshire	SO30 2HG	7:00 PM		
17 March 2024	Ower	Copythorne, Romsey	SO51 6GF	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
24 March 2024	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
31 March 2024	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£37.00	100
25 May 2024	Simulated Game Day	Applications closed, contact Duncan at Chalky for late applications			£150.00	