

SASS January 2024

January has flown by, probably not so fast if you were doing a dry one. Congratulations if you were and have made it to the end. We started the month with a cold visit to Hangmans Stone. Gradually getting warmer and closer to home as the month went on. The committee had a meeting during the month and set the date for the 2024 AGM which is below in the events list. All events are always on our website which is regularly updated by Sturat along with scores and handicaps. We had a famous guest, who plays with balls, shoot with us a couple of times this month. Only one photograph in this issue which is disappointing. Not the image, which is a fetching woolly hat modelled by Unick from the rear, it would be nice to have more of your shooting pictures to include in the newsletter.

Hangmans Stone, 7th January

The first shoot of 2024 was a chilly one at the Four Counties ground, AKA Hangmans Stone. Five guns who met at the Arms had a cozy ride in Unicks car to the venue where we found Big Mac and Spiced finishing a full English breakfast in the clubhouse. It almost threatened to snow, with about three flakes drifting down, so some of us shot in coats rather than vests. It was a testing shoot as always but most enjoyable in the wooded setting. Someone, who shall remain nameless asked “why is the ground called Hangmans Stone”, so for those of you, and he, that missed the explanation in the August newsletter: There are over a dozen places in England with a large boulder called the Hangman's Stone, or a gate called Gallows Gate, all explained by the following tale: a sheep-stealer was carrying a live sheep home with its legs tied together, when he stopped to rest against the boulder (or gate); the sheep slipped and struggled, causing the rope to twist round his neck and throttle him. Thus, fate ensured that he would be hanged for his crime (from A Dictionary of English Folklore). Well done Sturat for starting the year with highest actual 47/50 and winning the Sunday 25 cartridges.

Chalky Hill, 14th January

Four guns and one guest met at the Arms and all squeezed into Sturats car for the journey to this local shoot. The guest was Sean Irvine and apparently, he plays with balls. A pastime which yours truly firmly believes should only be performed by women and dogs. Two more guns, Spiced and Jeeves met us at the shoot. Duncan put on a good variety of clays at his very good value fifty-bird shoot. We did get stuck behind a couple of groups and individuals that could not hit the proverbial barn door, presumably some “have a go” Christmas presents being utilised. Everyone has to start somewhere so we should not really complain, they are the future of our sport. One such group had a young lad, probably nine or ten years old with a .410 side by side (36 gauge, FYI), who was by far a better shot than the adults trying to coach him. We were back in the Arms in very good time talking balls again! Well done to Robbo for winning the Sunday 25 cartridges and to Sturat for highest actual 45/50



Hangmans Stone, with handicap

1st	Sturat	55
2nd	Spiced	53
3rd	Unick	51
4th	Robbo	50
5th	Hunter	45
6th	Big Mac	44
6th	Badger	44

Club Safety Officers Update

At the tail end of last year, Capp and Hunter successfully re-qualified as CPSA safety officers. Sturat is due to renew at the end of 2024. If you have any shooting safety concerns or questions we are here to help.

Chalky Hill, with handicap

1st	Robbo	54
2nd	Sturat	52
2nd	Hunter	52
2nd	Spiced	52
5th	Jeeves	49
6th	Badger	47



CPSA club affiliation renewal, 2024

Sturat has put up the new CPSA Certificate and letter from Mountbatten on the board at the Arms, and has uploaded the certificate to the website in the membership area to replace the one that expires at the end of the month.

Petersfield, 21st January

Eight guns attended this shoot on a windy but sunny Sunday morning. There are seven recorded scores on the website because one, yet to be member, who plays with balls, also attended. By all accounts it was a bit testing and more than one member threw their toys out of the pram. Only Robbo shot to his handicap and rightfully won the Sunday 25 cartridges. Well done also, to Sturat for highest actual 41/50.

Popham, 28th January

Nine guns came to the Test Valley shoot at Popham. It was Sturats birthday so Robbo drove, possibly doubling the mileage on his Merc for the year. Our new member, Soloman, shot his third score securing his handicap at eleven and fifth place in the Top Shots Sunday League. It was a beautiful morning with very little queueing and only one trap malfunction in the circular set-up in the woods. This shoot has really improved since changing hands. We heard farm and tactical shooting within the vicinity, so it is unlikely that the anti-shooting brigade will stop this shoot without a fight. Well done to Hunter for winning the club Sunday 25s when they are back in stock. Well done also, to Sturat for highest actual, as ever, 44/50.

Events and Fixtures

A good selection of local shoots for February apart from Hangmans Stone where we will start the month. Big Mac must love the breakfast in the Hangmans clubhouse, the shoot's not half bad either. The date for the AGM at the Arms is 14th March, please let Big Mac know if you will be there so that the committee can arrange the food. We will be putting a couple of dates in May out for a sim game day, details to follow soon.



Petersfield, with handicap

1st	Robbo	50
2nd	Unick	49
2nd	Fries	49
2nd	Spiced	49
5th	Sturat	48
6th	Badger	47
7th	Big Mac	40

Popham, with handicap

1st	Hunter	55
2nd	Pug	54
3rd	Badger	52
3rd	Robbo	52
5th	Sturat	51
5th	Brain Fart	51
7th	Unick	50
8th	Capp	48

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
04 February 2024	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£37.00	100
11 February 2024	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
18 February 2024	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£24.00	60
25 February 2024	Ower	Copythorne, Romsey	SO51 6GF	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
14 March 2024	AGM, Southampton Arms	89 Moorgreen Road, West End, Hampshire	SO30 2HG	7:00 PM		

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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