

# SASS October 2024

October newsletter should be in the fiction section as no shoots were attended by the editor. This month there was the Empress Shield, sponsored by Pikey and the RN & RM shoot at Barbury organised by Spiced. Also, an update on Triggers bench and a real time shotgun certificate renewal below. Thank you Sturat, Robbo and Unick for taking me to the Arms after shooting and to everyone giving feedback for reporting. None of the names have been changed to protect the guilty. That is the longest month done, now for November. Big Mack has kept it local except for Hangmans Stone at the beginning of the month. If you only do one long haul shoot, in my opinion Hangmans is the one to do. Happy shooting.

## Empress Shield, Chalky Hill, 6<sup>th</sup> October

It was raining at the Arms when guns left for Chalky Hill, but it dried up by the time they got to the fifty-bird shoot. For the eleventh Empress Shield event, kindly sponsored this year by Pikey, guns split into randomly chosen teams of two. It stayed dry although the wind was cold. It can whip across the valley and apart from the short avenue of trees down by the butt at the far end there is nothing to stop it. Our ex-chairman, Ninja, was at the shoot and came back to the Arms for a social, which was nice. Sturat kindly collected me on the way back from the shoot to join in. Well done to this years victors of the Empress Shield, Pikey and Unick, and well done everyone for taking part.



## Petersfield, 13<sup>th</sup> October

Four guns met at the Arms and headed out to Gunners Wood. They found the ground quite quiet, which is a shame. The Petersfield ground was quiet when we shot there last month. It is a lovely little shoot nestled in what cannot be more than three acres of woodland. The ground is already constricted by the locals for half an hour with a ten thirty start. If guns do not support this local shoot, it will soon be another one lost. The excuse of the day came from Unick who “could not concentrate after a females arse made an impression” after enquiring where the impression was made “his perverted mind” no further enquiries were made as to a female what! Thank you Unick for providing the foundation upon which your injured editor pretends he was there. Well done to Sturat for the highest actual 43/50, being the only gun to shoot to his handicap and winning the cartridges.



## Empress Shield, pairs with handicaps

1st	Pikey & Unick	107
2nd	Badger & Big Mac	105
3rd	Spiced & Sturat	94
4th	Digweed & Robbo	88



## Petersfield with handicap

1st	Sturat	50
2nd	Unick	47
2nd	Badger	47
4th	Robbo	46



## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

## RN RM Shoot, Barbury, 19<sup>th</sup> October

SASS entered a team of five guns for this Royal Navy and Royal Marines competition at Barbury. Although it rained almost all of the way up there, the event had fantastic weather. Robbo and Unick sent the scores and pictures over, the team certainly put in a respectable score. No news of how they fared against the competition though. Spiced sends a thank you to SASS for supporting the RN & RM Championship and hopes we will be able to enter a couple of teams next year.



## RN & RM, 100 Sporting

1st	Sturat	83
2nd	Robbo	81
3rd	Pikey	76
4th	Spiced	70
5th	Unick	68

## RN & RM, 25 Sport Trap

1st	Unick	20
2nd	Pikey	18
3rd	Spiced	17
3rd	Sturat	17
5th	Robbo	16



## Popham, 20<sup>th</sup> October

The weather was appalling with sideways rain in the high wind. Just three SASS guns braved Gunners Wood and not many natives either. Only one breakdown at the shoot this week, stand six, which was on the way out when we shot last month. Despite the weather, it was apparently quite calm in the woods and the squad finished so early that they returned to the clubhouse for a warm and refreshment before heading back to the Arms collecting me on the way for a social. Well done Unick for winning the Sunday 25 cartridges and to Badger for the highest actual 46/50



## Triggers Bench

Triggers memorial bench has seen better days and sadly, is now beyond economic repair. The committee have asked Sarah at Wallers Ash to dispose of the bench. The engraved plaque will be removed from the bench, returned to SASS and displayed somewhere appropriate for those who remember Trigger.



## Popham, with handicap

1st	Unick	57
2nd	Badger	55
2nd	Robbo	55



## Shotgun Certificate Renewal

There have been many tales of woe regarding shotgun certificate applications and renewals in SASS. My certificate expires early February 2025. Having updated readers on statistics and bulletins in the newsletter whenever they have been released, I am going to record the progression of my renewal application. Five years ago, pre-pandemic (just), my renewal only took nine days to complete. Hampshire Constabulary now recommend that applications are made eight weeks in advance, plus a further eight weeks for the new compulsory GP report (introduced 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021). Counting back from my expiry date plus a week for the Christmas holiday, I contacted Medcert (who I recommended as “police recognised” a few months back, on good authority). The £60.00 fee advertised, turned out to be + vat, so I ended up paying £72.00. I am happy to pay that as long as their service is as good as they claim. Within a week (quicker than you could get an appointment) my GP asked for my consent to disclose my medical records to Medcert, which I did. Meanwhile, Hampshire Constabulary Firearms (HCF) sent a renewal reminder letter to the wrong address, not even the same street. Eventually (ten days later) I received it. I called the Firearms number, which is only available weekdays between 10am-12pm. Apparently, HCF have had that as my address for some time and were surprised that there was no record of a HCF visit to check the security/cabinet at the address. I have lived at the same address for over twenty years, that is four shotgun certificate renewals. I will leave the potential consequences of such a mistake to your imagination. I believe the error has been corrected by HCF, but asked for confirmation in writing just in case, which I received. As a further precaution, I have upgraded my CPSA membership to full member, so that if it is required, I have their back-up. I will report progress, or not, in due course.

### Ower, 27<sup>th</sup> October

The last shoot of the month had polar reviews. Two squads of three shot the layout at Ower, one squad had very little problems and the other had nothing nice to say. The only thing that they agreed on was that stand four had a few issues, the weather was good and Robbo had to make his own breakfast! Get well soon Denise, you have plenty of recuperation time because Bisley is not on the November shoot list. Well done Capp for winning the cartridges, it is nice to see a different name at the top of the scores. Well done Badger for the highest actual, 44/50. Badger is creeping up the top shots league, his 2<sup>nd</sup> place is now over halfway between Thumb Boy in 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sturat in 1<sup>st</sup>. Could there be an upset before the end of the year?

### Ower, with handicap

1st	Capp	55
2nd	Badger	53
3rd	Spiced	50
4th	Sturat	49
4th	Unick	49
6th	Smudger	47

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
03 November 2024	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£37.00	100
10 November 2024	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£24.00	60
17 November 2024	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
24 November 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	£40.00	100