

SASS September 2024

Autumn is upon us as we look back at September. In spite of the torrential rain, we managed to shoot our way through the month without getting wet. Especially so, at the weekend away in Bedfordshire where we shot in glorious sunshine whilst it reportedly rained the whole weekend in Hampshire. Thank you to Big Mac for organising the event, it was a great success and we hope to see more guns there next year when we go back. Big Mac has been able to keep all of the October Sunday shoots local now that Ower is back to Sundays for the winter season. Do not forget the clocks go back at the end of the month, you will get an extra hour before Ower.



Hangmans Stone, 1st September

Six guns met at the arms and headed off in two cars to the Four Counties Shooting Ground. At the shoot we met Soloman and Big Mac. We shot the hundred bird layout as two squads. There were no rabbits, and the stands were left the same as the hundred bird ESP competition the previous week, which was very testing. Halfway round there was an injury, Soloman sustained a tiny paper cut on his little finger. Unfortunately, there were no primary school playground assistants to kiss it better and none of the squad were up for it either. This prompted Dynamite to sponsor the best excuse of the year, details to follow. He then came out with one of his own "I pulled the trigger at the wrong time". Well done Pikey for winning the cartridges and being the only gun to shoot to his handicap and to Sturat for highest actual 40/50.

Hangmans Stone, with handicap

| | | |
|-----|----------|----|
| 1st | Pikey | 50 |
| 2nd | Unick | 49 |
| 3rd | Sturat | 47 |
| 3rd | Soloman | 47 |
| 5th | Dynamite | 45 |
| 5th | Robbo | 45 |
| 7th | Big Mac | 42 |
| 8th | Hunter | 37 |

Sporting Targets, 6th-8th September

Driving up the A34 in the pouring rain, five guns wondered what weather was in store for us for the two-day shooting event in Bedfordshire. A few miles before we got to the café in Rushden the sun came out. There we met-up with Hotpot who had come from up North and we all had an excellent breakfast together. When we got to the shooting ground the sun was shining like it was a different day. Sporting Targets layout is excellent, the fourty acre shoot has gravel paths and every stand is properly constructed and well thought out with berms separating stands and disciplines. They have targets for all abilities. We hired a buggy to load our cartridges and guns on, then Unick hired another. On day two we hired three and all drove around the course. We shot a hundred sporting both days without using any stands twice. On the Grouse tower, Robbo managed to hit one more than at Ashcombe, but did redeem himself on the tower challenge. Unick did exceptionally well on the towers. The full results are on the website. We also made use of the sport trap, DTL and skeet. We stopped for a bite to eat in the clubhouse at lunch times and a beer at the end of each day. Before heading off to the hotel and bar for the evenings proceedings. What goes on in the bar stays in the bar, you will have to come along to see for yourself next year. We will definitely be back to Sporting Targets.





Petersfield, 15th September

Seven guns met at the Arms, the same five from last week plus two returning holiday makers, Pikey who got soaked in Cornwall and Badger who got rinsed in Vagas. At Gunners Wood we met Big Mac and Pug and divided into three squads of three. Unick bought a round of bacon rolls which were much appreciated, thank you Unick. Soloman and a guest gun arrived and somehow, we ended up with a group of five. The shoot was empty, probably due to the Countryside Alliance, country sports day show in Bareleigh which is just four miles down the road. This also had a shoot which was put on by Duncan from Chalky Hill. The squads of three got around the layout in record time as there was no queueing whatsoever. The squad of five however, seemed to be looking for guns to queue behind and took another forty minutes to complete the layout. Well done to Hunter for winning the Sunday 25 cartridges and to Badger for highest actual 43/50.

Petersfield, with handicap

| | | |
|------|----------|----|
| 1st | Hunter | 55 |
| 2nd | Unick | 54 |
| 3rd | Badger | 53 |
| 4th | Pug | 52 |
| 5th | Dynamite | 51 |
| 5th | Robbo | 51 |
| 7th | Pikey | 50 |
| 8th | Big Mac | 48 |
| 9th | Soloman | 46 |
| 10th | Sturat | 45 |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

Popham, 22nd September

The Test Valley ground was quite quiet too, no country sports day or anything local, maybe just the forecast rain which never came. The five guns who met at the Arms were the only SASS guns at the shoot and shot as a single squad. There were a few trap breakdowns in a row which can be frustrating. The trappers were quick to respond but could not always fix the problem. Stand six had to be revisited after being aborted mid Hunters shoot and was eventually put back on with a single trap of the pair. Well done Hunter and Unick for joint first with handicap. Unfortunately, Hunter won the cartridges due to the no split boxes rule with more kills, sorry Unick. Highest actual was Sturat with 44/50, well done Sturat. Badger hit 41/50 with a 40/50 coming off so he is another shot closer to knocking Thumb Boy off second place in the league.

Bisley, 29th September

Five guns went to the Bisley shoot for a hundred clays. The car park was busy when they arrived but there was still very little queueing. They found the ground altered slightly with some traps in different places. The Grouse Butts were back open on the far left, having been closed for the last two or three times we have visited. The reason the Butts close is because they form part of the backdrop to the long-range targets in the National Shooting School that the military use. There was also a change to one of the high birds, Big Ben or Cathedral. The stand was moved closer to the trap through a cutting. Well done Robbo for winning the Sunday 25s and thank you for the beer and Denise for the pies. Well done Sturat for highest actual 44/50.

A Blast from the Past by Polly

Let us start this month with Somerley? or Verwood as I call it. Most of you already know this shoot but for those who do not, this was a great little shoot. It was run by Jeff Wiltshire who was the gunsmith at the gun shop in Ringwood. Jeff is a very helpful person if you have a problem with your gun, he is your man. He now has his own business and very reasonable. On the road past Ringwood there is a slip road to Matchams, take that and go under the main road to Verwood. About a mile down the road on the bend is a thatched cottage with a gravel road alongside it. Go up the lane and on your left you will see it laid out for paint ball manoeuvres. At the end on the right was the car park with a burger van where we fed ourselves first. We all gave our cards to the club captain he mixed them up and dealt out the teams so we did not shoot with the same people all the time. Off we went, the first stand on the right were crossers then we went up through the Rhododendron bushes it was a bit hilly but a good selection of stands. In places you could see it laid out for paint ball. At the last stand which was a driven pair overhead very fast, on the right you could see a full-size Parachute hanging from the tree with a life size dummy on the end. Sadly, the paint balling was more popular than the shoot and that was that. The next was Norton, this was on the same road as Popham about 2 miles back this was a small shoot but somewhere to shoot on a Sunday, this just seemed to disappear somehow. Polly

Popham, with handicap

| | | |
|-----|--------|----|
| 1st | Hunter | 54 |
| 1st | Unick | 54 |
| 3rd | Robbo | 53 |
| 4th | Sturat | 51 |
| 4th | Badger | 51 |



Bisley, with handicap

| | | |
|-----|--------|----|
| 1st | Robbo | 54 |
| 2nd | Unick | 53 |
| 3rd | Badger | 52 |
| 4th | Sturat | 51 |
| 5th | Pikey | 50 |

Countryside Alliance Chief Executive, Tim Bonner, writes:

The pheasant season starts next week and we are also expecting the final report on restrictions on the use of lead ammunition from the Health and Safety Executive. This is likely to recommend that the use of lead rifle ammunition should be prohibited within three years and that lead shot for shotguns be banned within five years. There will probably be some exceptions for small calibre rifles and international shotgun competitors, but essentially the prohibition on lead will cover all aspects of shooting from live quarry to clay pigeons. There is nothing that should surprise anyone about these proposals as they have been long signalled in both the UK and in the EU where a parallel process is in train.

Events

October events kick off with the Empress shield competition on Sunday 6th at October Chalky hill please turn up in good time so we can sort out the pairs and be ready to start at 10am. A fortnight later we will be entering a team or two from SASS at the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Clay Shooting Championships that is taking place on the 19th Oct at Barbury shooting school. We would need to be there before 09.00 with a start time of 09.30. Please let the treasurer know if you would like to attend. With less than a hundred days to go we have added our Christmas shoot to the events list. This year it will be on Sunday 29th December and it will be a hundred bird competition at Popham and then onto the White Hart in Stockbridge for food, drinks and prizes. Lastly, a plea from me, unfortunately, I have a ham-string injury which will prevent me from shooting for some weeks. Whilst you are shooting, it would be useful for me to get reports and photos, however brief, so that I am not writing the October newsletter blind. I will make every effort to get to the Arms on Sundays to glean whatever scandals and rumours of the days shooting that I can and join you for a pint.

Website update

With the changes to the menu structure that we have made to the SASS website we have also now included a video gallery section. We have 4 videos that we have added from our weekend away and we would like to encourage members to take some more whilst out and about on shoots. The Empress Shield is coming up so that would be a perfect time to get some good footage of us on the shooting ground. Please send them to Sturat and he will get them edited and uploaded to the site.

Visit the website at

<https://www.sass.uk.com>

| Date | Shoot | Address | Post code | Leave | Cost | Clays |
|------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------|----------|--------|-------|
| 06 October 2024 | Chalky Hill Clay Shoot | Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton | GU34 5QA | 9:00 AM | £17.00 | 50 |
| 13 October 2024 | Petersfield Gun Club | Gunners Wood, Colemore | GU34 3PU | 9:15 AM | £24.00 | 60 |
| 19 October 2024 | RN & RM competition | Barbury Shooting School, Wroughton, Swindon | SN4 0QH | 08.00 AM | £50.00 | 100 |
| 20 October 2024 | Popham | Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester | SO21 3BE | 9:00 AM | £28.00 | 70 |
| 27 October 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 |

Popham, 25th August

Four guns met at the Arms and Dynamite drove us to the Test valley shoot. At the ground we pulled up alongside Big Mac who did not recognise the car. Best to remember the licence plate Big Mac, he has had that longer than any car or job. The shoot was varied to a degree, with some challenging targets. It is great that the trappers mix it about a bit on the drives they have. There are still some reoccurring breakdowns and no-bird stands which can be off-putting. Those who shoot regularly, all agree that they can not remember a time when all four pairs of clays on stand eight (the driven bunker) came out without a no-bird, since the tower was introduced. It must be noted that the trappers are always on hand and keen to solve problems if they can. Badger was on form again with the highest actual 44/50, creeping up on Thumb Boys second place in the league. Dynamite won the cartridges with a massive six over his handicap. Well done both.

Popham, with handicap

| | | |
|-----|----------|----|
| 1st | Dynamite | 56 |
| 2nd | Badger | 54 |
| 3rd | Big Mac | 52 |
| 3rd | Hunter | 52 |
| 5th | Sturat | 50 |



Events and Fixtures

| Date | Shoot | Address | Post code | Leave | Cost | Clays |
|--------------------|------------------------|--|-----------|---------|--------|-------|
| 01 September 2024 | Hangmans Stone | Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury | RG20 7EX | 9:00 AM | £37.00 | 100 |
| 6-8 September 2024 | Sporting Targets | Knotting Lane, Riseley, Bedfordshire | MK44 1BX | TBA | TBA | TBA |
| 08 September 2024 | Chalky Hill Clay Shoot | Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton | GU34 5QA | 9:00 AM | £17.00 | 50 |
| 15 September 2024 | Petersfield Gun Club | Gunners Wood, Colemore | GU34 3PU | 9:15 AM | £24.00 | 60 |
| 22 September 2024 | Popham | Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester | SO21 3BE | 9:00 AM | £28.00 | 70 |
| 29 September 2024 | Bisley Pay and Play | Long Siberia, 154 Queens Road, Surrey | GU24 9AU | 8:45 AM | £46.00 | 100 |



Any Other Business

“Team GB star Amber Rutter wants an apology after a controversial end to the women’s skeet final at the Paris Olympics, saw her finish with a silver rather than the gold she felt she had a chance to secure. Replays show that Rutter hit her final shot but judges failed to award the hit meaning she finished second behind Chile’s Francisca Crovetto Chadid”. (<https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/other/amber-rutter-demands-apology>)