

# SASS July 2025

July, where did that go? We had a mix of local and distance shoots to choose from and some stunning scenery too. With Ower and Petersfield still out of the options until October, there has been a swing to the North and East. We hope to address this later in the year for our more Western members. It takes courage to place an explosive charge into a machine crafted over a hundred years ago and detonate it. At the side-by-side competition, that is exactly what some guns did, and well done Albert, our newest member for having a go and winning the trophy. There is (almost) a definitive date for the ban on lead in cartridges, it still must be put before parliament next year. August is another mix of local and far away shoots, we look forward to seeing you out there while the weather is still good.

## Mill Farm, 6<sup>th</sup> July

Seven guns went to Mill Farm in Lurgashall for the clay shoot which has been running on the farm since 1971. They were impressed by the wildflowers, in full bloom in one of the fields by the shoot. The farm has areas of wildflower mixes, nectar mixes and the farms own natural flora and fauna, this helps the bees and other insects to have many different areas and sources of food. They say, “no bees, no peas, no trees, no-one”. Well done to Sturat for the highest actual 43/50 and winning the cartridges with three shots more than Spiced. Thank you also, to Dynamite for providing post shoot refreshments once again, despite loosing to Unick who borrowed his gun.



## Mill Farm, with handicap

1st	Sturat	51
1st	Spiced	51
1st	Pikey	51
1st	Unick	51
5th	Badger	49
5th	Dynamite	49
7th	Big Mac	48



## Lead Ban Confirmed

The government announced on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, that nearly all lead ammunition will be banned from 2029. This ends a period of uncertainty as to the timing and extent of further restrictions. No one should be surprised that lead is going to be prohibited given the long process which has led to this announcement and, whilst change always brings challenges, the work done by shooting organisations and ammunition manufacturers means that there are viable alternatives to lead for nearly all guns for nearly all purposes. The 2029 date is, however, at least a year ahead of that recommended by the Health and Safety Executive which had proposed a five-year transition period. This will create challenges for ammunition manufacturers, especially given the impact of the Ukrainian war on the sector. It looks likely that the EU will enact a final ban in 2030, although lead ammunition for hunting may be restricted two years earlier. The real threat to shooting is not whether we can use lead ammunition, but whether we can shoot at all. Whether it is restrictions on shotgun ownership or the threat of a new Wildlife and Countryside Act, the anti-shooting agenda is being pushed forward under the current government. It is time to move on and tackle the real threats to shooting and the countryside (Tim Bonner, The Countryside Alliance, 10/07/2025).

## Popham, 13<sup>th</sup> July

The sun was beating down on the car park at the Test Valley Shooting Ground as seven guns got ready. The wooded layout was perfectly shaded, making the ideal conditions for a comfortable round of seventy. We all started on stand ten, then went in opposite directions as two groups for the morning. There was just one trap breakdown, which the team fixed very quickly. SASS achieved some impressive scores, everyone shot above their handicap. Hunter scored a new personal best 47/50 but was squarely beaten by Robbo who missed just two of the seventy birds to score the highest actual 49/50. Extremely well done Robbo, for another personal best of the day, take the cartridges and a bow.

## Hangmans Stone, 20<sup>th</sup> July

Hangmans Stone is one of the most challenging shoots that we currently have available on a Sunday. Four guns and Igor met at the Arms and made the hour-long journey to the Four Counties Shooting Ground. Pikey ordered bacon rolls, and we waited in the clubhouse. While we were waiting, all the bacon on the griddle was used up for a previous order. Pikey cancelled our order because it was almost 10am and time to start shooting. We met up with Albert and shot as a single squad of five. After last week at Popham, this was a real leveller. After a very good start in the field with the hard stands, Unick told Igor that he could call him a W  if he missed a shot on this easy stand. He missed several and we were all quiet, as you can imagine. Well done to Albert for winning the Sunday 25 cartridges and to Sturat for the highest actual 43/50.

## Chalky Hill, 27<sup>th</sup> July, Side by Side Competition

It has been a while since we have shot at Chalky Hill, although we did see Duncan at the sim game day. Unick offered bacon rolls and we queued, but again aborted the order, this time before we got to the front, all after Robbo was complaining that his long-suffering wife, Denise, had given him the wrong bacon for his breakfast. Nine guns assembled, but only eight entered the competition as Spiced opted to play the joker and use his over and under. The side by sides ranged from the hundred and thirty plus years old English hammer guns to nineteen eighties guns with ejectors. No matter how well, or badly, you shoot with an old SxS, they are so much fun. Usually, they only come out of the cabinet once a year. Entering the spirit of the competition, Pikey purchased his SxS in the week so that he could compete. Albert, who posed with Hunters SxS and shot with Sturats, continued his winning streak to win the trophy. He was doing so well that halfway around the shoot he was on his phone looking for prices of horizontally opposed barrels. To quote Shooting Times, who said a few years ago, that now is a good time to buy one, "***There are very few machines made of wood and metal that are still doing the job they were designed for 120 years after they were built. The classic British side-by-side is one***" (Shooting Times, Charlotte Peters, 09/11/2022). Badger came in second with handicap, and the highest actual 44/50. Well done to everyone who took part.

## Popham, with handicap

1st	Robbo	63
2nd	Hunter	61
3rd	Albert	59
3rd	Unick	59
5th	Pikey	58
6th	Big Mac	55
7th	Spiced	54



## Hangmans Stone, with handicap

1st	Albert	52
2nd	Sturat	51
3rd	Pikey	48
4th	Unick	47
5th	Hunter	43

## Chalky Hill, with handicap

1st	Albert	56
2nd	Badger	54
2nd	Big Mac	54
4th	Unick	52
5th	Robbo	49
6th	Pikey	44
7th	Sturat	41
8th	Hunter	39





## Events and Fixtures

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
03 August 2025	Mill Farm	Lurgashall, Petworth, West Sussex	GU28 9ER	8:45 AM	£28.00	70
10 August 2025	Popham	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70
17 August 2025	Hangmans Stone	Hangmans Stone Lane, Newbury	RG20 7EX	9:00 AM	£35.00	100
24 August 2025	Chalky Hill	Chalky Hill Clay Shoot, Medstead, Alton	GU34 5QA	9:00 AM	£17.00	50
31 August 2025	Bisley Pay and Play	Long Siberia, 154 Queens Road, Surrey	GU24 9AU	8:45 AM	£48.00	100
5-7 Sep 2025	Weekend Away	Sporting Targets, Bedfordshire	MK44 1BX	TBC	TBC	TBC
Oct 2025 TBC	Empress Shield	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
18 October 2025	RN and RM shoot	Barbury Shooting School, Wroughton, Swindon	SN4 0QH	TBC	TBC	100+25
28 December 2025	Christmas shoot	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	£70.00