

# SASS November 2025

The month started unseasonably mild, then the cold snap mid-month hit us and now it is well and truly handwarmer time. Thankfully though, no wet days, unless you count the beers afterwards. Lots of local, well attended shoots, especially the Empress Shield, generously sponsored by Unick. Big Mac has tried to keep it local in December too. We start with a bit of a distance to Mill Farm due to Ower being off the list for now, but then all local leading up to the Christmas shoot in Popham followed by food and a drink at the White Hart in Stockbridge courtesy of the committee. If you want to go but have not told us yet, you have until 1<sup>st</sup> December to book. Also, in this issue there is a tale of a naughty policeman and the low down on licencing failures. See you soon.

## Popham, 2<sup>nd</sup> November (Empress Shield)

The rescheduled Empress Shield was held at Popham on this bright but chilly autumn Sunday morning. The sniff of a trophy and prizes very generously sponsored by Unick attracted a turnout of half of the membership. We shot the seventy-bird layout in randomly selected pairs. There being an odd number of guns, Unick shot without a partner and his score, with handicap was doubled. The layout was slightly different and a little more challenging, but great sport as ever. Well done to Capp and Pikey for winning the trophy and a slab of White Gold each. Runners-up were Smudger and Big Mac, who each received a bottle of wine, very well deserved all. Unick presented himself with the booby prize, although as an individual he was not actually the lowest scorer. Thank you Unick for sponsoring the Empress Shield, it is much appreciated.



## Popham with handicap

1st	Pikey	58
1st	Dynamite	58
3rd	Smudger	56
4th	Albert	55
5th	Spiced	54
5th	Big Mac	54
5th	Capp	54
8th	Hunter	52
9th	Sturat	51
10th	Unick	50
11th	Robbo	49



## Petersfield, 9<sup>th</sup> November

This being Remembrance Sunday, there was just one gun at the Arms, so he drove to Gunners Wood wondering if anyone else would be there. Four guns shot the sixty-bird layout. At eleven-o-clock the guns fell silent in the cool sunshine to pay their respects. Well done Albert for winning the cartridges and for joint highest actual 40/50.

## Chalky Hill, 16<sup>th</sup> November

Seven guns shot the fifty-bird layout at Chalky Hill in two squads. It was the start of a cold spell, the hillside is bleak at the best of times and there was much talk about hand warmers. Duncan put on a good array of targets as always and the team were keeping traps topped up constantly. There was a bit of queueing, but that goes with the territory when a shoot is so good. Well done Unick for winning the cartridges and to Pikey for the highest actual 39/50.



## Bisley, 23<sup>rd</sup> November

It had been raining first thing but was forecast to be fine later in the morning. At Long Siberia the sun shone down on the seven guns shooting the hundred-bird layout. To avoid ant disputes we agreed which stands we would miss out to leave us sixteen three pairs and a two pair. As ever this was a testing but enjoyable morning, made more so by the low sun which forced us to substitute a couple of south facing stands which were blinding. Well done Brain Fart for winning the cartridges and to Sturat for the highest actual 41/50. In the car park afterwards, we were all treated to one of Denises Bisley pies, washed down with a beer, or drink of choice, from Robbo. Thank you both, always very much appreciated.

## Petersfield with handicap

1st	Albert	56
2nd	Spiced	51
3rd	Hunter	49
4th	Big Mac	44

## Chalky Hill with handicap

1st	Unick	52
2nd	Pikey	51
3rd	Robbo	48
3rd	Hunter	48
3rd	Smudger	48
6th	Badger	47
7th	Capp	43

## Charity Raffle

Dynamite, or rather Lisa, thank you Lisa, has put together a hamper to be raffled off at the Arms at Christmas. This is not to be confused with the SASS raffle which will take place at the White Hart as usual. The money raised will be going to Prostate Cancer UK. Martina will be selling tickets at the Arms or see Dynamite at a shoot. Tickets will cost £1.00 each or £5.00 for 2 strips. Dynamite would also like to thank Robbo for donating the gin and beers.

## Bisley with handicap

1st	Brain Fart	52
2nd	Sturat	49
3rd	Hunter	48
4th	Big Mac	47
5th	Badger	46
5th	Dynamite	46
7th	Robbo	44

## Firearms officer stored surrendered guns at home

An investigation uncovered six shotguns and rifle parts at Alan Sharp's property, along with evidence of 75 falsified licensing checks, as he faces a minimum five-year sentence.

The case centres on firearms Mr Sharp took into custody during 2021 whilst working in the Firearms and Explosive Licensing Unit in Perth. In January, he took possession of rifle component parts and firearm barrels surrendered under a government scheme at Kinross police station.

Ten months later, in November, the officer attended the home of a certificate holder who had decided not to renew his shotgun licence due to old age. Mr Sharp collected six shotguns, assuring the man they would be kept in a "safe holding area" before being transported to Glasgow for destruction.

But when an investigation was launched in July 2022 over concerns about Mr Sharp's failure to carry out proper reference checks on applicants, a far more serious issue came to light.

Judge Lord Armstrong remanded Mr Sharp in custody and warned he could face a minimum five-year prison sentence. The case was adjourned until 8 December in Edinburgh.

Full story: ([Firearms officer stored surrendered guns at home - Shooting UK](#))

## Hangmans Stone, 30<sup>th</sup> November

It was a bright crisp morning at the Four Counties ground with frost underfoot as six guns prepared for the hundred-bird shoot. This was a very difficult layout with clever use of the land contours deceiving the eyes as to whether clays were rising or dropping, as can be seen by the scores. Well done Dynamite for winning the cartridges and to spiced with the highest actual 30/50. I don't recall recording such a low highest actual in this newsletter! Even so, this was still an enjoyable shoot in fabulous countryside. Thank you Dynamite for providing sausage rolls and drinks at the end of the shoot.



### Hangmans Stone with

1st	Dynamite	45
2nd	Big Mac	41
3rd	Spiced	40
3rd	Albert	40
5th	Hunter	39
6th	Robbo	38



## Firearms Licensing fees rise 133% but UK police performance gets worse

On 5 February, firearms licensing fees in England, Wales and Scotland increased by an average of 133% across all functions. Shotgun and firearm certificate renewals are now £126 and £131. BASC condemned the decision to raise fees by the then Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson, given the lack of consultation and transparency on how those increases were calculated and without any plan to address our broken firearms licensing system. In January, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) published the first league table of firearms licensing departments' performance in England and Wales, with a commitment to produce quarterly updates from the National Firearms Licensing Management System. Further reports followed in July and October, published in an obscure area of the NPCC website and without any publicity. The performance of the following forces give cause for concern: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Durham, Hertfordshire, Humberside, Metropolitan, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Northumbria, Staffordshire, Suffolk, Surrey, Sussex, West Midlands and West Yorkshire. The disparity in performance between forces is massive. These figures do not even include applications that were submitted more than a year ago and have not been processed. Around a quarter of licensing departments have such applications outstanding, with the longest BASC is aware of still not resolved after three years. If these applications were included in the figures, the results would be worse. It was claimed the fee increase would fund system improvements and for many forces that is clearly not happening. Inconsistencies between forces, extreme delays and unclear decision-making need to be resolved. Yet instead, we face a Home Office consultation on proposals to merge the shotgun and firearms licensing systems, which will make things considerably worse.

(Full story available at: [Firearms Licensing Fees Rise 133%](#) )



## Events and Fixtures

Date	Shoot	Address	Post code	Leave	Cost	Clays
07 December 2025	Mill Farm	Lurgashall, Petworth, West Sussex	GU28 9ER	8.45 AM	£35.00	60
14 December 2025	Chalky Hill Clay Shoot	Chalky Hill, Medstead, Alton	GU34 5QA	9:00 AM	£17.00	50
21 December 2025	Petersfield Gun Club	Gunners Wood, Colemore	GU34 3PU	9:15 AM	£24.00	60
28 December 2025	Christmas shoot	Test Valley CPC, A303 Popham, Winchester	SO21 3BE	9:00 AM	£28.00	70