

Chamois Shoot 2017



With the remnants of Ophelia heading towards the UK there were some who were concerned about the weather for the British Sporting Rifle Club's annual Chamois and Fox shoot on Short Siberia. However, they need not have worried as the morning was still and calm as shooters rolled in to take part. This event was first run in November 2002 by members of the Club who wanted to see just what they, and their sporting rifles used primarily for deer stalking or vermin control, were capable of away from their normal 100 yard ranges. It proved such a success that not only has it continued since but it has also spawned twice yearly visits to both Century and Stickledown by a dedicated group of club members who compete for membership of the much coveted ½ MOA Club – more on that another time.



This year saw the event opened up to the wider Sporting Rifle community within the NRA. As well as members of clubs based at Bisley, shooters from further afield who could not travel down took the opportunity to follow the BSRCs lead. The Pennine Shooting Sports Association made arrangements to hold their own shoot the same weekend at Diggle, using the same targets and courses of fire. Reports from them indicate they all had a thoroughly enjoyable time albeit that they didn't enjoy the same balmy weather as we had at Bisley.

A challenging course of fire has been set for this shoot which sees shooters applying the four principles of marksmanship to test their skill on Chamois and Fox targets at 200 yards in various shooting positions. The Chamois is shot from two positions with no sighters permitted, the first 5 rounds are fired prone and using only a small knapsack or bag as a front rest – most consider these 'banker' shots. However, this is not always the case and despite the calling notice containing words to the wise about effective elevation adjustments the sage advice of *"if in doubt read the instructions"* is not always heeded. There was genuine surprise on the faces of one or two shooters when the scores were relayed back over the radio. Perhaps the most common error was turning the elevation turret the wrong way so instead of adding 2 minutes of elevation it was taken off meaning that instead of shots being central on the target they were 8" low.



With the prone shots out of the way each shooter took up the sitting position, the rules of the competition say that only a single stick can be used as support and that it must be a type used for support whilst walking on the mountains where the Chamois live. The whole ethos of this competition is that the shooter must use only the kit that he might take when hunting these quarry animals for real. There have been some interesting interpretations of what might get taken up on a mountain over the years but whilst the range officers are keen to look out for any unfair advantage being sought the emphasis is on making sure shooters are safe, enjoy the event and benefit from the valuable practice it provides for their quarry shooting activities.

This year saw an opening score of 95 ex 100 posted by the first shooter on the line, setting a good benchmark for following shooters – the Chamois has been won over the previous years with scores ranging from 94 to an HPS of 100. Competition was brisk throughout the morning but the benchmark score of 95 still stood when the hooter went to signal the lunch break. The pause in shooting was clearly enough time for several of the shooters to compose themselves and it was not long before another score of 95 was posted. The possibility of needing to tie break these to determine a winner soon became irrelevant as a 97 was posted not long after and looked like being the winning score right up until the last shooter on the line took aim. Having stalwartly done his bit as range officer throughout the day Richard Lane took his turn to shoot and managed a fantastic score of 98 to win the 2017 Chamois Shoot.

Running alongside the Chamois was the Fox, another very challenging course of fire and again put together to help sporting shooters transfer range skills out into the field. The Fox is an unforgiving target with a scoring zone that runs diagonally making it all too easy to wobble a shot left or right and drop it out of the scoring rings. Don't be fooled into thinking this is an easier event than the Chamois because shooters are allowed use of double sticks to steady themselves – this is just as challenging if not more so as the shooter has to fire 5 rounds from each of the sitting and standing positions and get each series of 5 rounds on target within 90 seconds. Those who have shot in the Sporting Rifle Statics event in the NRA Phoenix Meeting will be familiar both with the target and the course of fire as they are the same.



As with the Chamois, competition was brisk but scores a little lower by comparison. Although in previous years the event has been won on three occasions by scores in excess of 90 ex 100 – the highest being in 2009 when a score of 98 took the honours. At the end of the morning the highest score was 81. Competition slowed a little after lunch as shooters focused on re-entries for the Chamois but this did not stop the serious shooters trying to get a higher score and it was not long before there was an 85 posted. However, in a tradition that seems to follow this event it was once again one of the range officers who, taking their opportunity to shoot towards the end of the day, put in the winning score of 89. Not only was it one of the range officers it was the same one, Richard Lane, who posted the winning score for the Chamois.

I am sure Richard won't mind me saying that this is not bad going for someone who originally joined the BSRC to get some practice at positional shooting prior to taking his DSC1 shooting test – it seems all those years of shooting the Stalkers Test, Sitting Fox and Roe Buck at Club Match days have been time well spent.

Although down on the record scores for this event, as the targets were packed away for another year the scores at the end of the day were pretty impressive and showed just what a humble lightweight sporting rifle, primarily used in the field, is capable of on the range.



Chamois

1st	Richard Lane	98
2 nd	Alan Harvey	97
3 rd =	Steve Wallis	95
3 rd =	John Kynoch	95
	Dave McGill	92
	Cornelius Schalkwyk	91
	Michael Seager	88
	Graeme Wigmore	88
	Steve Tedder	87
	Keith Davidson (s/c) (PSSA)	86
	Nick Steadman (s/c)	85
	Mike Sheehan	85
	Morne van Dalen (ARPC)	81
	Julian Rawle (s/c) (PSSA)	78
	Nigel Gilbey	77
	Tony Short (ARPC)	75
	Ian Milward	75
	Mike Deakin (s/c)	72
	David Bradbury (PSSA)	70
	Bill Newton (PSSA)	70
	Jeremy Eakin	60
	Nicholas Lambert (NRA)	57
	Alan Christmas	55
	Gennick Horne (PSSA)	50
	Bruce Martin	48
	Mike Heyes (PSSA)	47
	Suzie Drew	45
	Tod Beardsworth	42
	Ian Crossley (PSSA)	39
	Alistair Evans (PSSA)	39
	Steve Ball (PSSA)	36
	Kristof Seaton (PSSA)	29
	Bruce Gledhill (PSSA)	25

Fox

1st	Richard Lane	89
2 nd	Cornelius Schalkwyk	85
3 rd	Alan Harvey	81
	Nicholas Lambert (NRA)	68
	Steve Tedder	65
	Dave McGill	59
	Mike Sheehan	58
	Tod Beardsworth	57
	Julian Rawle (PSSA)	49
	Tony Short (ARPC)	43
	John Kynoch	43
	David Bradbury (PSSA)	42
	Suzie Drew	41
	Kristof Seaton (PSSA)	41
	Nick Steadman	40
	Bruce Gledhill (PSSA)	40
	Bill Newton (PSSA)	38
	Mike Heyes (PSSA)	36
	Alistair Evans (PSSA)	34
	Gennick Horne (PSSA)	34
	Morne van Dalen (ARPC)	32
	Nigel Gilbey	29
	Michael Seager	26
	Alan Christmas	24
	Graeme Wigmore	23
	Steve Ball (PSSA)	17
	Keith Davidson (PSSA)	13
	Ian Crossley (PSA)	12
	Jeremy Eakin	9
	Bruce Martin	9
	Ian Millward	1