

ISSUE 1

THE VOLUNTEER

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RIFLE ASSOCIATION



FULLBORE - SMALLBORE - BLACK POWDER - BENCHREST - PRACTICAL



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ISSUE 1

Hello and welcome to 'the Volunteer', the official magazine of the Nottinghamshire Rifle Association. I will leave the real welcome to Michael Hunting on the next page but for those of you who don't know me, I'm Dug, The new chairman of the NottsRA.

In this quarters edition we have ...
A round up of the recent RSO course at Epperstone which helped get an extra 18 people Qualified on the new RSO course the NRA have introduced. We get to see the work Langar Rifle club have put into their range, getting it up to the new NRA specs. We fill you in on the recent 'Wolds' event the changes the NottsRA have put in place based on that feedback. I try to talk you all into entering the Birmingham Bisley this coming June, and you see a bunch of pictures of me giving people trophies. There is even an interview with me for some reason so you can find out a bit more about why I am the new chairman.

Magazines like these are made by you. If you have any articles or stories you want us to include in future editions please send them over. Equally if you have any gripes or questions then feel free to speak to one of the council, or email me at feedback@nottsra.co.uk.

Dug



Dug after a 24 hour exercise with the Army Cadets.

WELCOME

This is the first edition of what will be the quarterly magazine of the Notts RA.

It's called the Volunteer as the whole reason for the establishment of Notts Rifle Association in 1861 was to support the Volunteer movement in this County. The local Infantry Regiment was the Robin Hood Rifles (RHR) who formed in 1859 in response to the Government's call for the formation of Volunteer units country wide to counter the threat of invasion posed by France.

In 2017 The Robin Hood

Rifles was reformed as the Notts Branch of the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain (MLAGB) and immediately affiliated to our County Association.

The aim of those enterprising and patriotic men who established the Notts RA was to ensure that all those who were giving up their time to establish a sound home defence force were fully supported in terms of enabling them to become

proficient shots.

Researching the history of how all this came about gives one a real insight into just how determined and innovative these men were. Above all else they were enthusiastic and what they achieved in terms of establishing the County of Nottinghamshire as a base of shooting excellence in Great Britain is nothing short of outstanding.

It seems to me that, over



150 years later, we have a duty to uphold the principals of our Notts RA forebears of the mid Victorian period.

The Improvement Journey, launched at the Wolds pub on 3 October, should be a turning point in the history of our Association whereby we fully embrace the use of modern communications technology and, coupled with renewed old fashioned enthusiasm, we do everything in our power to secure the future of excellent shooting in the County.

In 1861 the world was a very different place. Great Britain was a world power and the country as a whole was firmly in support of shooting both of a military and sporting type. Military rifle practice was with the Enfield family of muzzle loading arms, whilst civilian target shooting focussed on the .451 match rifle.

carbines, historic breech loading rifles, to good old fashioned muzzle loaders to name a few. This mix of shooting, with a wide range of clubs (some affiliated and others not) is a far cry from the situation all those years ago.

We live in a very different world of shooting where, at best, most of the public don't have any interest in, or knowledge of, shooting and we face increasing pressure upon us from the Home Office, MP's and the police. Now, if ever, we all need to work together to guarentee another 150 years of Nottingham's Shooting 🇬🇧

Michael Hunting,
Chairman Robin Hood Rifles





THE PHEONIX DINNER 2018

The NottsRA Dinner gets back underway after a few years away

It had been a while since the last NottsRA dinner. Some say it was only a couple of years back, some say it was somewhere in the 90's, others say there has not been one in living memory. We may never know the real answer, but that all changed on Saturday 10th November 2018.

The Phoenix 2018 dinner was put together by Simon

Shouler, on behalf of the NottsRA, as a get together and social prize giving, to celebrate peoples shooting success across the year. It had been called the Phoenix dinner, not because of any association with the Bisley weekend, but because it was a NottsRA dinner reborne.

The event was an intimate affair in the stunning caves

at the back of the Hand & Heart. A number of clubs were represented by the diners, with various silverware presented to successful shots.

At the end of the evening Dick Rosling was presented with two massive frames containing all his international badges, spanning an impressive career to date. 🌍



LANGAR RANGE REFURBISHMENT

A SERIES TO SEE WHERE EVERYONE HANGS OUT STARTS WITH A REFERB



Following a general inspection of the range and with the Home Office Licence being up for renewal, it was agreed to take the opportunity, following a consultation at the range, to upgrade the range to current NRA standards as these are now beginning to be rolled out across all Home Office approved clubs.

Baffles in the roof were deemed not thick enough to meet current standards, alternatives were to increase the baffles to 6" of solid timber or put a suspended ceiling in 12 mm ply, with costs and weight constraints of the old

roof, the second option was decided up.

Work started in August 2017, this meant the range was completely shut for all shooting. To keep within the



budget, it was decided to do most of the work with help from volunteers from the club. Most Saturday mornings over the next 4 months were used, with a good turnout of



members of the club. Nigel Scott, Dave Woodward, Darren May and Ben Staniland took over managing of the project with Simon Shouler providing all materials for us at cost price. People soon learnt new skills, and everyone had lots of practice with a paint brush.

Once completed an inspection by Nottinghamshire police took place, they inspected the range and



looked at how the club was administered (paperwork). We passed with flying colours and they recommended to the Home Office that our approval was granted. The range was re-opened in March 2018 and new Home Office Licence was issued.

The work took much longer than we anticipated. There are still a few little jobs that remain, but these are being worked on as we go along, with maintenance days happening once a month for the time being.

A big thank you to the clubs that helped our shooters out during the refurbishment, mainly Epperstone Rifle Club for allowing us to shoot at their range on a Saturday afternoon and Nottm High School (Old Notts) which enabled Langar RC to compete in the postal leagues. It was very much appreciated.



Jobs carried out:

- **Floor suspended Joists were put in place to support the new suspended ceiling**
- **The ceiling was covered in 12 mm ply over the whole of the range to facilitate standing as well as prone shooting as per JSP403**
- **The steel on the bullet catcher was upgraded**
- **The target area was reformed to have large doors to aid maintenance, inspection and lead clearance.**
- **Lighting was upgraded to LED (help to cuts costs in running the range)**
- **An industrial extraction unit was fitted to aid ventilation**
- **Walls were encased in plasterboard to aid keeping dust levels down and ease of cleaning.**
- **The firing point was reformed to make more space for shooters.**
- **New toilet installed (hurrah from the ladies in the club)**



own club instructor who is qualified to teach both small bore and full-bore courses with his courses being ratified by the NRA training team. We regularly run beginner courses both at the club, Epperstone, Beckingham and Bisley. Our full bore shooters are very active regularly shooting at Beckingham, Epperstone and Bisley, competing at national level.

We are always looking for new members and can provide all necessary equipment for the beginner.

Contact Club Secretary for further details.

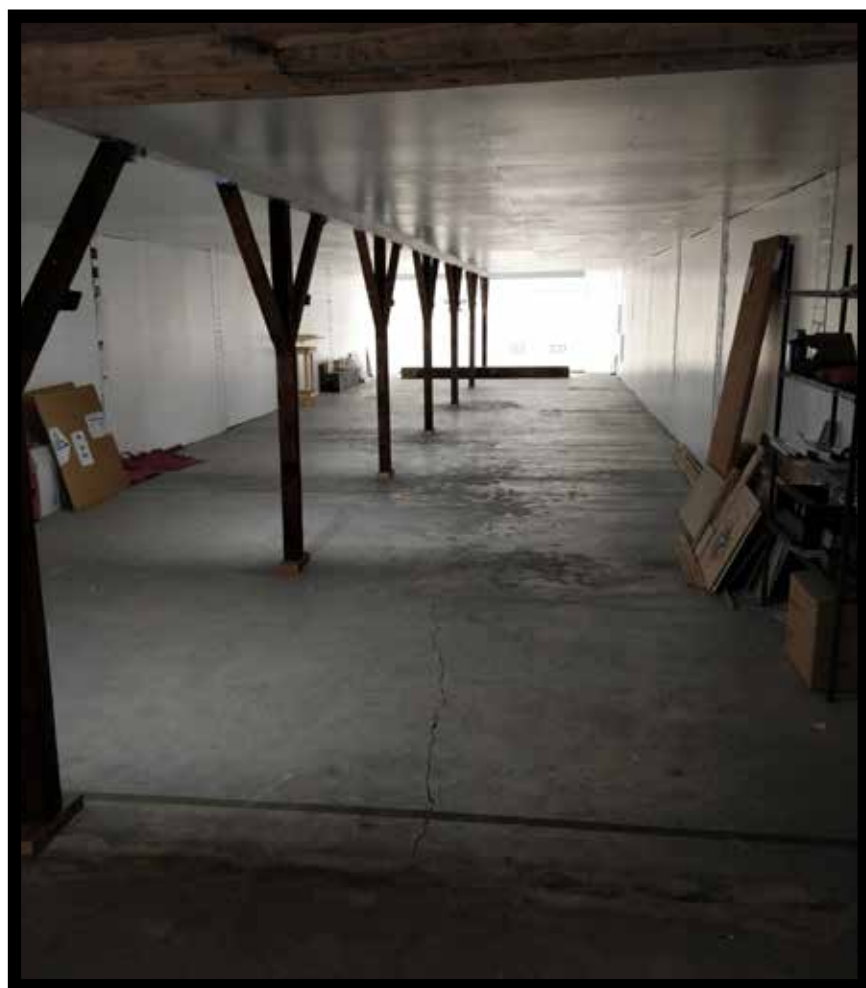
members ranging in ages from 20 to 80. We have our

Some details about our range:

We have a mixture of shooting taking place at the club with club nights for different disciplines on Tuesday, Weds and Friday. Our club is open 24/7 due to its location and lack of neighbours. This comes in handy for club members who are restricted on when they can shoot, due to their jobs, ie. Doctors, Paramedics etc.

Disciplines include target rifles, Light Weight Sports Rifle, Benchrest, Long Barrelled Pistol, Gallery shooting, air pistol, air rifle and full-bore shooting (outside ranges used).

We have approximately 50



NOTTS RA SEE CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT

MICHAEL HUNTING HAS A SIT DOWN WITH THE MAN ASKED TO FILL SOME BIG SHOES

After many years of service the current Chairman of Notts RA, Dick Rosling, has decided to step down and Dug Robson has been invited by the Council to lead the Association as the new Chairman.

Dug is currently a member of a number of Nottinghamshire shooting clubs, and secretary of two. He is a prolific shooter and in his day job is heavily involved with the cadet movement and therefore young and up-coming shots. I recently managed to catch up with Dug and I asked him for his vision of where the Association should be headed.

"I am really excited to be taking on the role of Chairman as I firmly believe that Notts RA has a key role to play in developing shooting across all disciplines in the County.

Following the Wolds event I feel we are at a pivotal point in the history of the Association and we have a great opportunity to make fundamental changes which will benefit all concerned with our sport in this County and beyond.

We face unprecedented challenges but if we work effectively together the Association and all the Affiliated Clubs will be able not only to counter the ongoing threats to our

sport, but also make plans and deliver action which will see shooting in the County flourish.

There is a great deal of work to be done and we all have a part to play.

As Chairman I will do all I can to ensure a bright future for us all. I am known for being very 'hands on' and I'm already leading the charge on the 'Improvement Journey' project which was launched by NottsRA at the Wolds in early October.

It's so important that we all work together for the good of all.

One of the first things we must do is to establish an effective method of communications between clubs, and between clubs and your Council.

With members ranging in age from under 8 to over 80 there can't be a 'one size fits all solution'. That is where I want to see traditional communications like 'The Volunteer' magazine, along with monthly newsletters stuck on range

noticeboards, fit in with modern options like email and 'apps'. We have formed a sub-committee to look at communications across the board, so I hope to fill you all in on the communications plan by the next issue of 'The Volunteer'

I'm also a great believer in face to face communications so I hope to get out and about to see you all at your ranges and shoots so you can quiz me about what's happening and up-date me as to how you see things. If I also manage to get some extra trigger time as a result then so much the better.

Exciting times ahead!"



Dug with his Dog Lola

EMRR ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

On Saturday 12th January EMRR had their annual dinner dance. The event was held at the Hilton hotel in Nottingham. Around 50 EMRR members came to enjoy the event comprising of a dinner and prize giving followed by a disco. NottsRA Chairman Dug Robson was kindly invited along to join in the fun and hand out some of the impressive collection of silverware EMRR have accumulated.



RANGE SAFETY OFFICER COURSE 2018

FOLLOWING SEVERAL REQUESTS FROM AFFILIATED CLUBS, THE NOTTS RA RAN AN RSO COURSE OVER THE WEEKENDS OF 3RD AND 11TH NOVEMBER.

This is the new course that the NRA have bought out this year. This qualifies you for running non-military ranges. For military ranges you need to advance to the new RCO course after qualifying as an RSO.

20 attendees were booked onto the course from 6 different clubs. Unfortunately, we had one drop out on the first day due to illness and another missed the 2nd day due to last minute work commitments. 18 completed the course.

8.45am on Saturday 3rd November at Epperstone Village Hall saw 19 eager people awaiting the start of the course with a mixture of excitement and trepidation. Lee Coccozza, our NRA presenter for the day, brought the lessons to life with a mixture of past experiences and humour. Lots of tea and biscuits kept everyone going throughout the day. Nerves heightened when the exam paper appeared. There was

lots of whispering (definitely not GCSE exam conditions). Following a long day, there were a lot of relieved people when we were told we had all passed the exam.

And so to Day 2, which was held at Epperstone Range on November 11th. Now the nerves were really showing. Lee brought along another NRA presenter John Spence as this was such a large course. We were split into two groups.

The first group simulated a gallery range shoot on the 100m outdoor range. Conditions did not let us down: these were authentic – misty and rainy. The test included giving a safety brief, a firers brief and then directing the shoot. After a few stumbles everyone got the hang of what was required and nerves soon settled down.

The second group were situated in the indoor range. The test involved running three shoots: a grouping

practice, a timed and a snap shoot. Nerves again raised amongst students and most completed the exercise: “You were too polite!” or “You don’t question: you tell!” being regular outbursts from Lee. You could tell he was ex military. He didn’t seem impressed with my pink Sig Sauer either!!!

As today was Remembrance Sunday the 11am two minute Silence was observed. It gave additional time for some of the men to reword their commands following earlier comments.

4pm didn’t come fast enough for some: I think we all agreed that we deserved a little “tipple” when we got home and for some a big “tipple”. For myself it was a glass of wine and a large bar of chocolate.

Many thanks to Lee and John for a thoroughly enjoyable course. I’m sure everyone would agree they were very understanding instructors.

We shall be looking to hold another course in 2019; so if you are interested please contact me.

Max Woodward, Sec Notts RA



THE ‘WOLD’S EVENT WHEN WAS IT, WHAT WAS IT, WHY WAS IT

On 3rd October 2018 the NottsRA held an ‘improvement event’ at the Wolds pub in West Bridgford.

The aim of the meeting was to look at the current situation with respect of shooting in the County, and to work out ways to help us all move forward in the short and medium term. About 60 club members turned up, representing 8 of the affiliated clubs.

The evening was lead by Michael Hunting, flipcharts and ‘postit’ notes in hand, as he asked clubs to identify what mattered to them and what they wanted to see in the county going forwards. By the end of the night the NottsRA had established the 5 most important things to the clubs on the night.

- 1) ‘Quality’ (engaged and active) club members
- 2) Communication from NottsRA
- 3) Training provision
- 4) Available range space
- 5) Junior Members

Since the meeting it has been all go. Using the information from this event, along with information gathered from other sources, an ambitious plan has emerged to push shooting forwards in the county. Plans like this take time to deliver, so while we work on all of these we have put our main focus on communication with clubs, as training, sharing range space, junior members and engaged active members are all linked and need good communication systems to be able to come together.

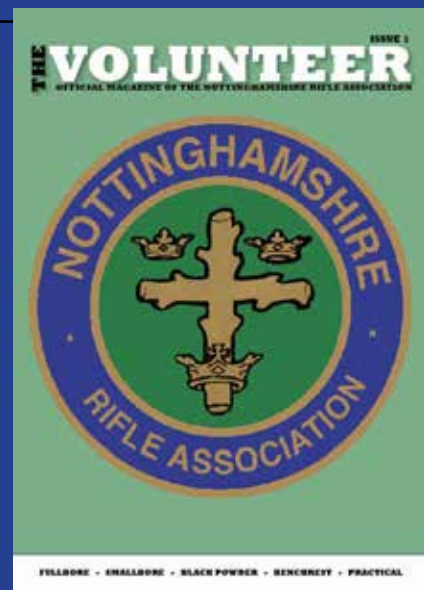
NottsRA currently has an active website and has been sending out emails to its mailing list for the last few years. This has been all well and good but for a number of reasons information has not always made it through club members on the ground, leaving many feeling disconnected. With members aged from under 8 to over 80, and with new GDPR regulations in effect, we have decided that the best thing to do is to take a range of different approaches.



'The Volunteer' Magazine

We are producing this magazine quarterly and sending a handful of copies to each club. We are hoping that they can be left in ranges so that shooters can have a read through, see what has happened and what is coming up.

The idea behind 'the volunteer' is to bring clubs together and keep them informed. In recent year many clubs have been very insular, so we hope by reading about other clubs, ranges and competitions we can help build on the friendly rivalry and make us all feel connected to each other.

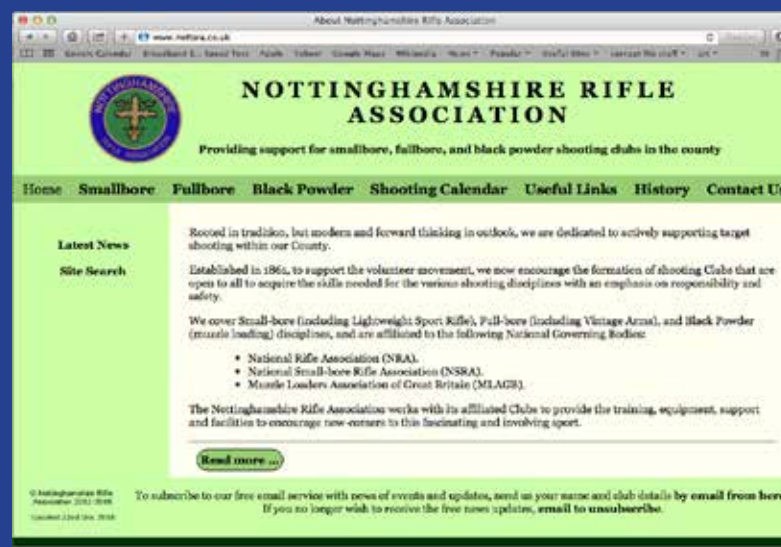


The Poster

The magazine is all well and good, but three months is a long time and what if all the magazines walk? Because of this we have also decided to produce a monthly poster. This will be put up in all the ranges we use, so that club members can see events happening this month and next month. It also allows us to put up any info or questions we want to ask club members, without having to expect the club secretaries to forward on emails.

Over the next few months we plan to change the direction of the website slightly. It will still have scores, history of the association, and articles on recent events, but we plan to change it to be our 'shop front' for new members, be they experienced shooters who have just moved to the county, or new people who think this shooting thing looks fun and want to find out how to get involved. We have held back in these changes so far as we need more information from you, our affiliated clubs. We hope after 'the Wolds 2' on 6th Feb we will have the info we need to start the redesign.

www.nottsra.co.uk



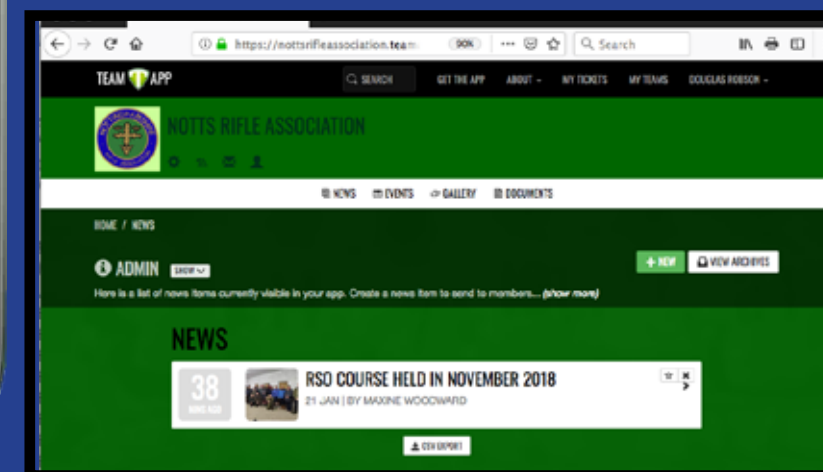
The App



The problem with printed media is that as soon as its printed it is out of date. At the first Wolds Event EMRR demonstrated the app they use in their club. The feedback from members on the night seemed good so we investigated it. After trialing a number of options we realised that none of the available apps were exactly what we needed, but that 'teamapp' seemed to be the best option available to us.

The app can be accessed on a computer or smart phone. Initially it will give members access to the up to date calendar of events and competitions, news and the ability to book places on some upcoming events. New features will be added going forwards.

To get the app download 'TeamApp' from the relevant app store for your device. Sign in and then search for Nottinghamshire Rifle Association. More detailed instructions can be found on the nottsra website.



email

We will continue to send out emails to our mailing list as and when relevant



Feedback

One-way communication is fine, but for the NottsRA to really deliver for its members it needs content and feedback. If you have anything you want to say to the Association, or you want to put information or an article in the magazine, poster, website or app, then the easiest way is to email 'feedback@nottsra.co.uk'. Alternatively you can talk to your club officials and ask them to get in touch with us, or just grab one of the NottsRA council members and have a chat.



THE BIRMINGHAM BISLEY 2019

IF YOU ONLY GO TO ONE FULLBORE COMPETITION THIS YEAR THEN WHY NOT MAKE IT THE BIRMINGHAM BISLEY.

For the third year in a row, NottsRA Chairman, Dug Robson, will be entering the competition and would like to encourage Nottinghamshire shooters to come and join him. If you have never been to a competition like this before then why not come and have a go. Dug will be there if you want a recognisable face to come and say hello to, or to ask what is going on. Here are the basics...



Frank handing out prizes last year

What is it? The Birmingham Bisley is a 2 day fullbore competition for TR, FTR & F-Open Classes

Where is it? Kingsbury Ranges, just off Junction 9 of the M42

When is it? 1st and 2nd June, there are separate competitions on both days, with an aggregate over the 2 days.

What distances is it shot at? 300, 500 & 600 with a mixture of 2+10 shoots and some 2+15 shoots

What will it cost me? £40 per day or £75 for the weekend

What will it cost me if I'm under 25? £16 per day or £30 for the weekend.

Why should I go to it? This is a fullbore shoot on our doorstep. Kingsbury is a nice range. The numbers have been building over the last couple of years and it would be great to have a strong contingent of Nottinghamshire Shooters there. It's the old classic, if people don't go to it, then it will fold, like it did back in 2005.

What do I need? You will need a competency card in the relevant discipline. You will also need a rifle and ammo.

How do I sign up? Download the entry form from the NottsRA website or the teamapp, or contact the organiser, Frank Harriss f.foh@btinternet.com. Entries need to be in and paid for by 5th May.

See you there.

Dug



Langar's Simon Shouler along with other winners in 2018

LAST QUARTER

Nov-Jan

No results available at time of going to press.

County team cards were delayed for the winter season due to issues with the NSRA cards. These have now been resolved.

THIS QUARTER *Feb-April*

Feb 15-17th - Great British Shooting Show, NEC, Birmingham

Feb 20th - NottsRA county team cards 5-8 to be completed

March 20th - NottsRA county team rounds 9-10 to be completed

March 31st - Closing date for entries to the Ibis

April 12-14th - EMMR Bisley Weekend - FB, F, BP

April 13th - IBIS - Bisley - FB

April 14th - Langar Bisley shoot - FB

April 14th - Gloucester and Hereford & Worcester open meeting- Bisley - FB

April 17th - Nottinghamshire Rifle Association AGM

April 30th - Closing date for NottsRA LWSR League entries

May-July

NEXT QUARTER

May 4-5th - Army Target Shooting Club open Meeting - Bisley - FB

May 5th - Closing date for entries to the Birmingham Bisley - FB

May 11-12th - Langar Open - Bisley - FB

May 24-26th - Phoenix Meeting - TR, GR&P

May 31st - Closing date for entries to Notts RA Black Powder Open Meeting - BP

June 1-2nd - Birmingham Bisley - Kingsbury - FB, F

(May include East Midlands heat of English XX King George V Challenge cup t.b.c.)

June 15-16th - Intercounties - Bisley - FB

June 21-23rd - Notts RA Black Powder Open Meeting- Thorpe Cloud - BP

June 22-23rd - Langar Practice - Bisley - FB

June 29-July 5th - NSRA Scottish 100th Championship - Lauder

July 6-7th - Langar Practice - Bisley - FB

July 11th - Match Rifle Imperial - Bisley - MR

July 13th - Imperial Historic Arms Meeting - Bisley - BP

July 19th - Astor - Bisley - FB

July 17-27th - 150th Imperial Meeting - Bisley - FB

July 17th - King George V competition final - Bisley - FB

July 18-22nd - 150th Imperial Meeting F Class Rifle Events - Bisley - F

All dates are subject to change. Please check NottsRA website or App for up to date information.