



## News Letter 2006 - Issue Two, February

### News Letter

It seems now that I will easily be able to produce the monthly News Letter again. If any Member wishes to have an item put in about their Club, equipment or anything that would be of interest to other Members please send to me and I will see it is put in. Don't forget that UKBenchrest22 is run by Members for Members.

### Up coming Championships

The UKBR22 National Championship entry list is filling up with many Members shooting two distances, I will keep you all informed of progress each month.

To remind Members the UKBR22 National Championships are being held on Sunday 30 July 2006 at Budleigh Farm Shooting Centre in Devon, near Exeter and the end of the M5. There is no accommodation available on site (all taken early) but if you contact me I'll put you on the Jim who has offered to help with a list of available accommodation nearby. Details and entry form can be down loaded from the web site - [benchrest22.org](http://benchrest22.org)

We are still discussing sponsorship to help with these Events, Lapua have dropped out now but we will be contacting others. We will keep you informed of how this goes. I have received the goodies from Anschutz and I think they have been very generous, I have therefore decided that the Unlimited Class Cup will be called and engraved as the UKBR22 Anschutz Challenge Trophy. This will look good for the event photos against the enormous flag they have sent to be used as the backdrop.

Just to remind those Members who have received their 'Competitor Cards' please ensure you bring them with you to the National Championships to be stamped when you have signed in and had your gun weighed.

### Joke of the Month - sent in by Carl Boswell and edited.

#### **You Might Be A Gun Nut If :**

- If You've ever dabbed a little Hoppe's on your neck before going on a date...
- If you bought checkering tools, checkered all your gunstocks and are now starting on the bedposts...
- If you cannot really recall just how many guns you own...
- Surplus ammunition suppliers call you to see if there was anything you were looking for...
- If you bought a gun from a gunshop, only to realize you used to own it years ago...
- If you've ever shot out a 1911 barrel.....
- If your computer passwords are gun related...
- If you take your guns out of the safe and handle them, just so you can wipe them down before going to bed...
- If you're local gunsmith calls you for obsolete parts...
- If your gun safe is bigger than your refrigerator...
- If the speedometer on your car is in both m.p.h. and fps...
- If you ever bought two different brands of the same bullet just to see which one "shot better"...
- If you've ever had to explain "that it's not the same gun it's a variant!"...
- If you cut out your best groups and carry them in your wallet like photos...

- If you've ever gone to a gun show three times in one month, and were excited every time...
- If you feel that a golf course is a willful and deliberate misuse of a perfectly good rifle range...
- If you have guns in your safes that you can't for the life of you remember how you came by...
- If ammo manufacturers had to layoff workers when you went to Europe for a month's vacation...
- If you know the range of every tree in the neighborhood...
- if you can tell the caliber of any spent casing just by feel...
- If your shoulder is callused...
- If manufactures ask you how their rifles hold up.
- If you get misty eyed every time you sell a gun..
- If you guess windage and range every time you look at a road sign...
- If you went out to the range this weekend to shoot up ammo, just so you'd have some brass to reload...
- if you know the serial numbers of your guns, but still get your kids' names mixed up.
- if you go to gun shows with a grocery buggy (painted camo of course)
- if your favorite paint color is "gun metal grey".
- if you look at Shotgun News the way teenagers look at Playboy
- if every street sign within 5 miles of your house looks like it came from Chechnya
- if you went to college, but owned more gun manuals than text books
- if you have your own VIP parking spot at gun shows.
- if you hear someone say "it's about 9:45" and you think to yourself "good grief, the 9mm/.45 debate will never end!"
- if you sit through a violent movie and aren't bothered by gory violence, but flinch when someone drops a firearm (might scratch it)
- if the above has ever brought tears to your eyes
- if you have more firearms than friends
- if you have insurance covering your guns, but not you
- if your guns are named names usually reserved for people
- if you used to have a hill as a backstop, but now it has become a 30 foot high mound of pure lead.
- if you don't label your reloading powder, because you can hear the difference when shaking the can
- if your girlfriend/wife is jealous of the time you spend with your guns
- if your already thinking about your next gun while your filling out the paperwork on the one you're buying.
- if the guys at the local gun shop send you a Christmas card
- if you own a guns you haven't shot yet
- if you have a room in your house dedicated to guns
- if the sound of full auto gun fire makes you feel all warm and fuzzy
- if your will specifies your favorite firearm(s) to be buried with you.
- if you took an ink blot test, and your answers were things like "an AR-15 sear", "bolt release from Ruger 10-22", firing pin from M1911", etc.
- if you have ever shot a hole in something by accident
- if the gun show owners let you in free.
- if you named a dog after a gun.
- if you name your kids after your guns.
- if you're only dating/marrying a girl so you can shoot her gun collection.
- if the wallpaper in a room of your house is firearm related
- if you carry pictures of your guns in your wallet
- if your favorites in the computer only have one folder, "guns."
- your gold tooth is made of melted brass
- your kids bike is on a bipod
- you go out with bird watchers with a 3-9 scope
- your kids vocabulary consists; ballistics, trajectory, clusters, magnums, parallax
- You shower the bride and groom with brass
- You double tap when knocking on doors
- You get excited when you see the Target store logo
- You buy your kids a book each and buy yourself five gun magazines
- Your Golf bag has a gun compartment
- You lubricate your kid's bikes with Hoppe's
- You light your charcoal with gun powder
- Your kids would rather go to a gun show than Kings Dominion or Disney World

- If you've been in a local gun shop and had a sales clerk ask you a question about a firearm, because no one else in the shop knows the answer.
- If one of your local gun shops asks you to come work for them, because you've shown more knowledge than their employees.
- If your local Police Department asks you what you think about the new handgun they're thinking about issuing.
- If you've ever taken the day off work to go shooting, hunting or to purchase a new handgun, and yet you refuse to call in sick.

The original was four pages long. Thank you Carl, so how many of you came come clean now !!!!!

## Ammunition

I would like to hear from Members what ammunition they use and of what success they have gained. I personally use Eley Match EPS and have arrived there through using first the Eley Standard then the Eley Club. I have not tried the Eley Tenex mainly because I use a Barrel Tuner and I don't think there would be sufficient gain to warrant the additional cost.

Some time ago Bill Calfee, the USA Guru of Benchrest shooting and maker / tuner of fine rifles, in fact there are approx one in four Americans that use a Calfee rifle of some sort or other, anyway I digress. Well Bill contacted Eley and asked if they would produce the following in his own words -

*"When I started pestering Eley to produce these bullets, here is what I asked of them:  
I wanted accuracy equal to the current EPS. This they have given me.  
I wanted the old round nose bullet from 10 years ago, with the good square front shoulder. This they gave me.  
I wanted the bullets to be put in the same cases, use the same powder and quality control as their current, excellent EPS bullets. This they gave me.  
Something they did not give me. The old bullet had two deep wax grooves between the driving bands. This new version, of the old round nose bullets, has serrations just like the current EPS bullet. Now, is this going to be a benefit or a liability? Only time will tell"*

Well, Bill carried out the Tests with three rifles, for those of a technical nature these were those again in Bill's own words -

*"Rifle number 1: A Turbo action with a 25 inch barrel, with the groove diameters at the muzzle measuring .2220" and at the breech measuring .2222". 17 Twist, 8 oz tuner, in my slave stock. I used the same scope for all three rifles. The chamber is my Eley #5 reamer with the chamber depth adjusted for a Turbo, which has excellent closing cam ability.. Headspace .044"*

*Rifle number 2: A Turbo action with a 24" barrel, 17 twist, with the grooves at the muzzle measuring .2219" and at the breech measuring .2221", 8 oz tuner. Eley #5 chamber with the chamber depth adjusted for an Anschutz 54 or 2007/13, which have about .030" less closing cam than a Turbo. Headspace .042"*

*Rifle number 3: A Suhl, sleeved with a 1.750" aluminium sleeve, glued into a McMillan stock. I stabilized the firing pin by pinning the cocking piece and re-shaping to an American chisel shape. The barrel is 25" long, 16 twist, with the grooves at the muzzle measuring .2221" and the breech measuring .2223". The chamber is my 1 degree and 45 minute leaded Lapua chamber. This is the same chamber I use in Harry Deneen's guns and the Westfalls, Mart Cunningham and so forth. The headspace is .043".*

*I set these three rifles up like I did, so I would have several different combinations of chambers, chamber depths and bore and groove sizes to test with".*

Bill came to the conclusion in his own words -

*"The new bullets to be equally accurate with the good EPS I tested them against.  
I found them to have the same wind drift potential as my good Lapua lot 3668. This was one of my main reasons for requesting the re-introduction of this bullet.  
Now, I shot over 2,000 of these new bullets. I did not have a single "dropped shot", which was another reason I*

*wanted the bullets brought back. That of course don't mean that the very next round I shoot might not be a dropped shot but I was extremely happy with the results".*

I think this all speaks for its self and when the opportunity arises I will try these out and come back to you all with my own views. Friends of mine have tried these rounds and found them to be accurate; the round is called Eley Match Semi Auto and is a Tenex EPS round in the Black topped box the same as the Eley Match EPS. At the moment Budleigh Farm has some stock and if anyone wants to try them they could well be available for purchase at the National Championships as well as all the other Eley Range of ammunition.

## News

I have been having discussion with South Africa, in fact the South African Benchrest Shooting Federation. Up until now they have been shooting the organising matches under the IBS organisation but unfortunately the IBS is not continuing with rimfire but keeping strictly to centrefire benchrest. This means they were looking for a new target and international organisation so they could shoot monthly matches. The outcome of the discussions is that the 'South African Benchrest Shooting Federation' rimfire section will be joining us and they have already agreed to adopt our target as the National target for all their matches. Their last IBS match is in March so they will start shooting with us for the Summer Season. A few months before that Zimbabwe contacted us and I have heard in the last few days they will also be joining us for the Summer Season onwards. Both Roland from South Africa and Stewart from Zimbabwe are going to make contact and who knows where that will lead.

In a telephone conversation with John Milbourne from Ireland more good news has emerged in that Ireland have now also adopted the UKBR22 target as their National target for rimfire benchrest shooting. This means that there will be more Members from Ireland shooting with us from the Summer Season onwards.

It's great that our International status is on the up, it makes it all worth while after three years of trying.....well at least trying everyone's patience !!!

## New Members - Advice No 1

I have discussed and put in earlier News Letters various helpful hints on setting up rifles for Benchrest, many have taken notice or found their own way and perfected it, the many high scores reflect this. For new Members I would like to just go over the basic points of setting up an Unlimited Class rifle, this is based on the Anschutz Match 54 which I shoot. It can be adapted for other classes.

The Benchrest rifle to shoot well has to be tuned to everything it touches, the rests, both front and rear, the stock and the barrel. All Anschutz rifles have a floating barrel as do some other makes namely the Martini International which can be set up in the similar way. To set up the rifle you need to start by shooting five shot groups. Set up your rifle on the rests and mark with a piece of tape where those rests are situated on the stock both front and rear. Shoot a few careful five shot groups and see what size you get. Try different ways of shooting, benchrest is nothing like prone or maybe anything you have done before. Once the rifle is set on the rests the shooter need only touch the least as possible of the rifle, your cheek should brush the stock and your trigger finger should only touch the trigger, you are trying to let the rifle shoot it's self without any external interference. This is one of the hardest parts in perfecting benchrest shooting. Once you are happy with the five shot groups now is the time to reduce them down to the minimum.

The first this to change is the position of the rifle on the rests, I personally have the rear rest set so the back of the support is level with the rear of the butt and the front about two to three inches back, what you are trying to do is make the distance between these two points as far apart as possible. Again shoot a number of five shot groups and see what difference it makes put tape on the positions when you are happy with the final group.

Anschutz give a stock torque figure for their rifles but this is for prone etc, with benchrest you need to tune this to the rifle, what you are after is perfect harmonics, or as close as you can get. I personally use 25 inch lbs, set with a torque wrench, this works for my rifle others maybe different, its trial and error. Again go through the five shot group sequence again and note what difference it makes with each change in torque. At this point if the groups have opened up maybe try moving the front or rear bag slightly, at the most 6mm at a time, it does not sound much but make all the difference to your groups.

Once this has all been sorted out, the most important thing is you set the rifle up on it's rests in the same position every time, you hold or don't hold you rifle, which ever has works best for you, in the same way and you also sit in the same position each time. I use a Barrel Tuner as do many other Members, this basically again tunes the harmonics of the barrel. All three shot groups are in a triangular shape purely due to the dynamics of a rifle, what you are after is reducing that spread; the smallest group ever is still the same shape just a lot smaller. Remember it is no good just sticking a Barrel Tuner on the end of your barrel, all the points above need to be sorted out perfectly first. I will go into Barrel Tuners next month.

If you can shoot after all this a five shot group with an 'overall' diameter of 8mm or preferably less and consistently at 50M then you have scored a 250, don't forget each shot has to go into a 6.5mm circle !!! My best group has been just less than 7mm but this was a perfect day and with a Barrel Tuner tuned to the batch of Eley Match EPS I always use. That is another story, ammunition tuned to your rifle and rests.....yes it goes on and on until you get perfection, that is what the attraction is to benchrest shooting and why it is so addictive, I did warn you.

## Rules

This is a reminder that the Rimfire Rules have now been updated and clarified but not changed. The main item added is the following; the full document can be down loaded from the Web Site -

### **Note: Sand Bags Generally -**

*Front rest must be topped with some form of sand bag. Rear rest must be a sand bag with no adjustable or mechanical means. Sand bags must be made of leather and/or cloth. The front and rear rests will not be connected to each other, the bench or the gun. Only sand bag can touch sides and bottom of stock. When rifle is raised straight up, the front and/or rear rest must not rise up with rifle. If the front and/or rear rest raise up with rifle, the front and/or rear rest must be weighed with rifle to determine eligibility. Front and/or rear rifle rest cannot be used to restrain recoil of rifle. Front and rear rifle rest must be placed directly on top of the bench or mat / floor for prone shooters. If targets are positioned downhill, a block of wood measuring a maximum of 6" x 6" x 2" may be placed under the rear sand bag for elevation. The block of wood cannot be connected to the sandbag or the bench. Nothing can be attached to the bench that would impede the movement of the front or rear rifle rests. Front and rear rifle rest must be placed directly on top of the bench with the following exceptions. **Spacers may be placed under the rear rest to attain elevation. A coin, bearing, or similar device may be placed under the rear leg of the front rest to facilitate operation of mechanical elevation.***

The reason for this addition is that with the new rests produced by Caldwell and a couple of others the rest is higher than the previous models. This addition to the Rules has been taken from the IR 50/50 Rules which we basically follow.

## Membership

Just another gentle reminder that it's that time of year again. Subscriptions are now due and you will get the brand new Membership Card as well, lucky you. Please note that the cost has risen to £12 but Juniors under 18 years of age are still Free (sponsored).

Good shooting and shoot those high scores,

*Pat*

Founding Member