



UK Association of Rimfire Benchrest Shooting
(Affiliated to the UKBRA)

News Letter September 07

Member Feature

This Month the Member feature is Phil Angell and Alex his son one of our very good Juniors. In his own words -

"I started shooting air pistols and air rifles when I was around 10 or 11. I did this with my dad when he took me fishing, it was plinking really, shooting at cans and trees (and the odd rat!). I always preferred rifle shooting and kind of thought I had a knack for it, well I was better at it than my mates at the time, and I continued with the air rifle target shooting in the garden and stuff until I was around 17 or 18 when girls and cars seemed to get all my spare time, although I've still got my air weapons in the loft, a Weihrauch HW35E rifle, BSA Scorpion pistol and some odd BB guns.

I started shooting competitive 22 target rifle in 1990 whilst I was working for STC in New Southgate, North London, I still have my first NSRA 10 bull card that I shot dated 29th January 1991, scored a 93. I have continued shooting 22 ever since mainly in postal leagues but attending the odd open meeting. I was secretary of the STC club for about 3 years before it was closed down, that's another story, and I moved to Hemel Hempstead Rifle Club. (I had been living in Hemel since 1984 with my future wife (we married in 1987). At Hemel I also started shooting fullbore target rifle. I have been the Secretary at Hemel for about 5 or 6 years and Smallbore Captain for 4 or 5 years. I am also a committee member of the Hertfordshire Smallbore Rifle Association (HSRA) and the current Captain of the Hertfordshire County Junior Smallbore rifle team. I also shoot for Hertfordshire at County level. I started my 22 shooting using a BSA Martini Mk3 but soon got my FAC and a Finnish Lion. Then progressed to a Match 54 which I shot until I got my latest alloy stocked Anschutz 1913/2213 about 2 years ago.



Phil's Anschutz 1913/2213 with Caldwell rest and Hawke Scope. What Phil didn't say is he is designing a rear addition to his stock especially for Benchrest, it will be good to see it when competed.

Alex started 22 rifle shooting when he was 12 (I had to get the HHRC constitution changed to let him in as he was under 16). He was so small at the time, or rather his arms were so short, that I had to cut 2

inches off the butt on my old Finnish Lion before it would fit him. He also seems to have a knack for rifle shooting and seems to really enjoy it, he has grown a bit since and he now shoots my Match 54. He shoots postal league cards for Hemel Hempstead. Pat has met him and he's pretty level headed. He doesn't brag about his shooting and when I mentioned to the head of sports at his school that Alex would probably qualify for the county junior shooting team (which he did on gun average not just because I'm the captain) the teacher said he didn't even know Alex shot. I keep trying to get Alex to blow his trumpet what with him being a national record holder for 22benchrest and all, he just shrugs and says it's only because he's the only junior shooting - what can I do but keep plugging away at him. *(Editor note - Alex is one of three Juniors in the International Unlimited Class and holds his own very well, in July he came second only three points off first place held by Gabriele Lorusso (Italy) from the successful Team Ares).* As you know we were benchrest shooting under the NSRA rules since just before UKbenchrest22 started, we both enjoy it immensely. I must admit when I first started I thought 'this doesn't sound too difficult' - how wrong I was!! I've spoken with many shooters at matches etc. trying to get them interested in benchrest. The main thread of the comments I get back is 'it seems like cheating' or 'it's too easy'. I say to them they should give it a try but when we start talking equipment the cost seems to put people off. I've even said they could use all my equipment if they fancied a go but still no real interest. It could be that these people are dyed in the wood target rifle shooters - they're a difficult bunch to get to try new things !!".

Thanks Phil for that.....very much appreciated.

Web Page

The Web Site is being continually up dated with Results etc and the new Merchandise Page soon. To remind Members the Web Site Address is - <http://benchrest22.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk> and the two new Email addresses will be either - UKbenchrest@fsmail.net or UKbenchrest@phelpsfamily.wanadoo.co.uk

Don't forget this Web Site is for the Members so any ideas or requirements for inclusions please ask.

Talking about Web Pages, I found this on the Italian pages, this must be the ultimate in front rests.....



Why can't we get something like this in the UK.....?

Back to Joke of the Month

A friend of mine visited Cornwall with his caravan and stayed at a very nice farm near Liskard. One morning he decided to visit the farm to get some eggs from the shop. It was a very warm morning and the walk was pleasant, on arriving at the farm he was told by the farmer's wife that her husband

was out collecting the eggs and would be about half an hour.

So my friend, being a nice day said he would wait in the yard. In the middle of the yard was a well with a seat height stone wall around it. John my friend sat down on the wall leaning back against one of the support post of the roller. After five minute and getting a little bored he decided to see how deep the well was.

Picking up a small pebble he dropped it over the side....nothing ! So looking around he found a bigger pebble and dropped that in the well.....nothing ! Thinking about it he decided to find something even bigger and as there were building works nearby he found half a brick, this too went into the well butnothing !, not the slightest splash. John was now beginning to get annoyed, so found a whole brick then a concrete block but still no sound of water at the bottom of the well. John was now fuming and getting very hot under the collar so seeing a railway sleeper nearby dragged it slowly over to the well and with one last effort pushed it down the well.....still nothing, not a sound !

The farmer had returned by now and came out to the yard with John's eggs. In passing John asked him how deep the well was, the farmer replied, "Ahh it be a mystery, no one knows". John began to leave but the farmer asked, "Have you seen my prize goat, he was here when I went to get the eggs, I left him tied to an old railway sleeper". (Disclaimer - No animals were injured or hurt in the telling of this joke.)

Merchandise

We have now run off a small number of quality baseball hats with embroidered logo as shown below, if anyone would like one they are going to be about £9.00 each, this allows a small amount to go into the kitty for awards. At the moment they are all dark blue because it shows off the gold stitching better, other colours can be supplied by order if preferred. Tee shirts and polo / sweat shirts will be available at a later date.



You don't get the ammo as well.....

July Postal Match Scores

The Highest August Score was our first 250 with twelve 10X's - this was shot by Robb Harrison at 25 yards in the Unlimited Class with his Martini International, well done Robb, this was only his third try. It may only be 25 yards but don't forget the target is just as hard to shoot than the 50M one, I'm going to have a go as well this month and through the Winter Season. The August scores are attached.

Carlo Caricato (Italy) is first in the 10.5lb class with a good 247 with six 10X's followed by Gioli Guidi (Italy), a past winner, with a close 246 with six 10X's. The top Junior in the 10.5lb class is Roman

Boswell (UK) with his 231 and three 10X's. In the Unlimited Class Gioli Guidi (Italy) was first with a 244 and five 10X's with Roberto Iannacci (Italy) second with a 243 and four 10X's and Carlo Caricato (Italy) with a close third of 242 and seven 10X's. Top Junior is Alex Angel (UK) with 221 and two

10X's. For some reason this months scores are on the low side, even members who shot 249 and 248 last month have dropped down to 242 and even a 239 (come on Walter or I will tell the British Team).

Target Sports

Well Target Sports is back in full swing under a new Publisher and owned by Wesley Stanton, details of his shooting past can be read in the latest edition which was available at the end of August being a combined August / September edition, I'm not sure but it may be going back to by-monthly which I don't think will do them any favours. We have for some time been supplying articles to Target Sports via Vince Bottomley's article. Vince has been a great help as have Target Sports where the majority of enquiries come from and have given us the over 120 members we have so far. At the moment we will carry on but as with all new editors they have their own ideas and we will have to wait and see. We have already had restrictions put on our articles and will have to change what we say, but like Vince we will toe the line and see what happens.

Stocks

Carlo has sent me a series of step by step photos on how to adapt a Target stock into a Benchrest stock. These are carried out by a dear friend of his, Attilio, I have included a before and after photo for anyone interested. The series can be supplied on request and Carlo's and Attilio permission.



Before



After.....very nice !!

Teams

For the Winter Season I am thinking of introducing Team Matches as well. These will either be one for each Region or a UK, Europe, Ireland and USA Team. It will be worked out on the scores produced by allocated Team Members from each Region or country whose names will be decided at the beginning of the Season. A Team will if possible include one Junior and consist of five shooters. More than one Team can be allocated if numbers allow it. This has not been decided as yet, it's an thought and the Committee will have to agree, but if members have any ideas please email me.

Membership

Membership is still growing and at present stands at over "120" members / interested parties from the UK now including Wales, Europe, Ireland and the US. There is still a lot of interest and we sincerely hope those thinking about joining will. With interest shown from Air Rifle shooters we have introduced an AirGun Section with their own Rules and Matches from 1st October (Winter Season). We already have three Airgun Members and many more interested. Carlo in Italy is testing Air Rifles during September and may well decide to join in as well, making it International. Ireland already shoot Airgun Benchrest so we will see more from there I hope.



One of our Juniors from 'Team Ares', Italy.....there are two of them.....look at that for a rifle / scope combination.....

New Rules

You will all have had your sets of Rules for the 'Winter Season'. These have basically introduced an International Sporter Class, max scope power 6.5X to coincide with the European and US Rules. This is shot at 50M, but for the UK Members who only have facilities for 25 yards / M we have introduced a Hunter Class with the same basic Rules. The UK Sporter Class will remain as it is now with it's max scope power of 12X.

Grading

Nearly all members have now received their Grading Certificate, to explain we set out below the Grades that can be achieved.

Novice	score - 209 and lower
Marksman	score - 210 to 219
Sharpshooter	score - 220 to 229
Expert	score - 230 to 239
Master	score - 240 to 245
Grand Master	score - 246 to 249
Ultimate Grand Master	score - 250

To explain - Each Member after shooting three Matches will be allocated an average score; this score determines the Members Grade from the table above as his or her initial Grade and kept for that Season unless they shoot a higher score to raise them into the next level. At the end of that Season the Grade is fixed.

During the following Seasons for every score over their Grade it will rise to the next level, conversely if it goes down then the Grade is lowered at the end of that Season. So basically you have five matches out of six in a Season to maintain your Grade or better it. If anyone wants more information on this please email me, I get confused sometimes, the system is basically the same as used when I was competing in Tournament Archery and always worked very well.

Well that's all the news so far.....Have some good shooting days and keep me posted on how you all get on, any questions please ask,

Pat

UKBenchrest22