

# National Scout Air Rifle Championships 2005

by John Dohoo

The National Scout Air Rifle Championships returned to Bisley for the weekend 14-16 October and was the biggest-ever with 580 entrants. Is this also a new record for the Lord Roberts Centre?

Not only is this event achieving growth in numbers, the diversity of shooting activity is also expanding and this year saw the introduction of both small-bore and full-bore shooting opportunities as the Scouts moved beyond the Lord Roberts Centre itself to both Cheylesmore and Century ranges. The increase in numbers this year required full use to be made of the Sit Pep Lawn for camping as well as Military Field and the Sergeant's Mess Field.

As the title of the event implies, the main focus of the weekend remains on air rifle and air pistol shooting. There are three main elements: the "Main Event", for which air rifles and pistols are supplied, "Own Airgun" events and, now established after its trial run last year, a Summer Biathlon, mixing running and shooting.

The main part of the competition features four different types of airgun shooting: six-yard air rifle, six-yard air pistol, field target air rifle and a Knockout tournament. This keeps everyone involved over the whole weekend as most competitors fire one discipline during each of Saturday morning, afternoon and evening and Sunday morning.

The Malcolm Cooper Range now has an array of 17 lanes of air targets installed and in use for most of the year at a mix of 6 yards and 10 metres. For the Scout Championships all these lanes were set to six yards and the number of lanes increased to 19. These were used for both air rifle and pistol shooting and all lanes were kept in almost continuous use from 9 am to 10 pm on Saturday and for an equally busy morning on Sunday.

The Scout competition is designed to appeal to the many youngsters that the Movement introduces to target shooting in its Scout HQs and on its campsites. Equipment for the main (and longest established) part of the competition is kept close to the "entry level" of 6-yard air rifle shooting with spring guns. The youngest competitors (under 12) use Gamo Cadet Delta air rifles and the remainder use CF-16s. The competition is based on the best two of four Air 7 target cards and the third best card is used as a tie breaker if needed.

For the air pistol competition this year we tried using the electronic scoring machines and so we changed from Air 6(YPS) targets to Air 4s. The scoring rings, of course, are essentially the same between the two targets but the machine needs the larger aiming mark of the metric target. We hoped that this would lighten the load on our heroic team of scorers but the results were not reliable and we had to revert to manual methods. Whether the problems were due to the quality of the target board, the pellets or to the pistols in use, we do not know but we plan some further trials before next year. Competitors fire just three cards and the score is based on the best two with the third best card again available as a tie-breaker. Juniors (in the Scout context "junior" generally means under 14 rather than under 21) are permitted to fire using both hands.



The Field Target range in front of the Lord Roberts Centre 50 metre firing point. (Photos: Chrissie Monksummers)

The aggregate scores in the three disciplines of air rifle, air pistol and field target are the basis for awarding the venerable Connaught Shields, Senior and Junior. Dating back to 1911, the Senior Connaught is Scouting's second oldest major trophy and symbolises the long relationship between Scouting and target shooting.

The air rifle "rapid fire" Knockout competition is housed in Hall D. Ten sets of reactive target boxes allowed five ties to

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be competed in each detail. Like the "falling plate" competition on which it is based, this type of shooting is a spectator sport and excitement grew as the event reached the finals just before Sunday lunchtime.

The summer biathlon, introduced to the Scout Championships as a "demonstration event" last year, proved a great success and has earned its place as a regular feature. This "run and shoot" competition is one of the few shooting events to actively promote physical fitness amongst young people by incorporating aerobic exercise into the event itself.

Bringing the Scout Championships to Bisley has provided the opportunity, through two of Scouting's Home Office Approved Rifle clubs, to allow many more Scouts to sample shooting beyond air rifle and air pistol. The Scout Rifle Clubs of both Hampshire and Surrey Scout Counties ran guest days, in small-bore and full bore rifle respectively. Minimum ages of 12 and 14 years were applied and around 160 Scouts took part in cartridge rifle shooting, most for the first time. The small-bore introductory shoot was on the Cheylesmore range without slings and was judged by the best of four five-round groups at 25 yards. The winning senior and junior scores were equal at 70 points, denoting a group size of 35mm.



Trying full-bore on Century Range.

The full bore shoot was at 300 yards on Century range. The weather was kind to the shooters, with light winds and no rain all weekend. The course was two sighters and five shots to count, giving a highest possible score of 25.5. In this class, all three Junior medal winners beat the Senior gold medallist - this calls into question the need for age-related classes in these disciplines!

Peter Barnes, one of Scouting's Chief Commissioners for England, visited the Championships on Sunday morning and toured the ranges and the campsite, speaking with competitors and range



Prize presenter Di Coates with the 10th South West Cheshire team of Jonathan Oakes, Andrew Dalton and Martin Oakes.

staff. It was his first visit to Bisley and he was impressed by the enthusiasm, professionalism and commitment of all involved.

We were pleased to be able to repeat some other successes from last year too. The NRA kindly opened their collection of historic firearms to Scouts on the Saturday, and throughout the weekend Scouts could visit the pavilion of 71st (Yeomanry) Signal Regiment to communicate with Scouts all over the world via amateur radio and the Internet or to make electronic devices for themselves.

We were delighted that Di Coates, winner of five Paralympic Games shooting medals, including three Golds, honoured us this year by presenting the medals and trophies. With over 100 awards to make it must be admitted that our prize-giving is something of a marathon!

Having now completed the second Scout Championships at Bisley it is clear from the growing numbers of entrants and the very positive feedback we get from them that moving to Bisley has been a great success. Plans for the future include confirming the live ammunition events in the programme, both small-bore and full bore, and trialling three-position air rifle.

We owe a big "Thank you" to Hampshire Scout County for their confidence in the sport which enabled us to make the move to Bisley and to our hosts, the NSRA and the NRA for making this possible.

## Trophy and Medal Winners

### Aggregate Trophies

#### HRH The Duke of Connaught Senior Trophy

1	Killay ESU 'A'	629.5
	Robert Barton	220
	Andrew Proudfoot	206.5
	Simon O'Rouke	203
2	Fiennes ESU	581
3	Killay ESU 'B'	576.5
	NSRA Cup: Robert Barton, Killay ESU	

#### HRH The Duke of Connaught Junior Trophy

1	1st Shedfield	541
	Shaun Broadbent	175
	Chris Gamblin	171.5
	Sam Pidgley	194.5
2	10th South West Cheshire	537
3	47th Swansea (Killay)	447.5

The Chief's Prize: Paul Gammon, 47th Swansea (Killay)

Ladies Plate: Rebekah Pidgley, Meon Valley ESU

### Six-yard Air Rifle

#### Webley Scott Trophy

1	1st Shedfield	261
	Chris Gamblin	79
	Sam Pidgley	63
	James Turner	62
	Shaun Broadbent	57
2	47th Swansea (Killay)	258
3	3rd Hampton Hill	246

#### Over 18

1	Matt Lindsay	91
	9th Bramshill (Yateley)	
2	Neil Postlethwaite	88 (+42)
	1st Hartfield	
3	Neil Dunn	88 (+42)
	9th Bramshill (Yateley)	

#### Under 18 (and the Bramshill Trophy)

1	Robert Barton, Killay ESU	94
2	Sam King, 5th Mansfield (Sea)	91
3	Charlotte Paul, Phoenix ESU (Petworth & Pulborough)	88

#### Under 14

1	Paul Gammon	84
	47th Swansea (Killay)	
2	Luke Reimnitz	81
	47th Swansea (Killay)	
3	Michael Bamsey, 2nd Malden	79

#### Under 12

1	Thomas Barnes	64
	9th Bramshill (Yateley)	
2	Jonathan Oakes, 10th South West Cheshire (Haslington)	57
3	Stefan Hales, 17th Buxton	56

# Scouts

## Ken White Memorial Trophy

Paul Gammon, 47th Swansea (Killay)  
*Fellowship Medal* Charlotte Paul, Phoenix ESU (Petworth & Pulborough)  
*Walton Firs Trophy* Shaun Broadbent, 1st Shedfield (+38)  
*Killay Trophy* Alex Cluett, North Dorset ESU (+42)

## Six-Yard Air Pistol

### Group Pistol Team Trophy

1	10th South West Cheshire (Haslington)	343
	Andrew Dalton	91
	Martin Oakes	86
	Jonathan Oakes	84
	Billy Sheen	82
2	5th Mansfield Sea Scouts	323
3	1st Shedfield	322

### Senior Pistol

1	David Gibson	96
	13th Twickenham (St. Marys)	
2	Andrew Brookes, Fiennes ESU	95
3	Stephen Waters	94
	Bramshill ESU (Crusaders)	

### Junior Pistol

1	Andrew Dalton, 10th South West Cheshire (Haslington)	91
2	Sam Pidgley, 1st Shedfield	89
3	Ben Williamson	88
	5th Mansfield Sea Scouts	

## Field Target

### Senior (and the Killen Senior Field Target Trophy)

1	Andrew Gorley	42.5 (+6)
	1st North Sutton	
2	John Barnes	42.5 (+2)
	9th Bramshill (Yateley)	
3	Robert Barton, Killay ESU	40

### Junior (and the Junior Field Target Trophy)

1	Sam Pidgley, 1st Shedfield	42.5
2	Shaun Broadbent, 1st Shedfield	40
3	Martin Oakes, 10th South West Cheshire	35 (+6)

## Air Rifle Knockout Competition

### Senior

Winner: Rebekah Pidgley, Phoenix ESU (Meon Valley)  
 Runner Up: Neil Dunn, 9th Bramshill (Yateley)  
 Bronze Medal: Philip Watson, Phoenix ESU (Meon Valley)  
 Bronze Medal: Andrew Proudfoot, Killay ESU

### Junior

Winner: Sam Pidgley, 1st Shedfield

Runner Up: Paul Gammon, 47th Swansea (Killay)  
 Bronze Medal: Matthew Braham, 29th Cardiff  
 Bronze Medal: Mathew Roos, 17th Buxton

## Summer Biathlon

### Senior

1	Robert Hyndman	13m 51s
	Sharpshooters ESU	
2	Andrew Brett	14m 49s
	1st Old Malden	
3	Marcus Winter	14m 50s
	25th Purley (St. Marks)	

### Junior

1	Martin Oakes, 10th South West Cheshire	18m 52s
2	Tim Bullen, 1st Shaftesbury	19m 52s
3	Ben Williamson	19m 53s
	5th Mansfield Sea Scouts	

## Own Airgun

### 10-metre Air Rifle and The Beckett Trophy

1	Rebekah Pidgley	190+ 98.9
	Phoenix ESU (Meon Valley)	
2	Nathan Sutherland	189+ 98.1
	Harrow & Wealdstone ESU	
3	Melanie Flowers	187+ 98.6
	Hampton ESU	
4	Mark Hobbs	183+ 100.4
	Bramshill ESU (Crusaders)	
5	Simon Flowers	172+ 95.6
	Hampton ESU	
6	Rebecca Saint	169+ 98.1
	Phoenix ESU (Meon Valley)	
7	Andrew Brookes	171+ 86.8
	Fiennes ESU	
8	Stephen Waters	180+ 50.7
	Bramshill ESU (Crusaders)	

## Six-Yard Own Rifle (Senior)

### The Jim Dunn Memorial Trophy

1	Pierre Reader	84 (+36)
	Sharpshooters ESU	
2	Simon O'Rouke, Killay ESU	84 (+35)
3	Ben Roberts, Fiennes ESU	83

## Six-Yard Own Rifle (Junior)

1	Martin Oakes	84
	10th South West Cheshire	
2	Paul Gammon	77
	47th Swansea (Killay)	
3	Andrew Dalton	75
	10th South West Cheshire	

## Vintage Rifle

### The Bill Cook Trophy

1	Chris Hiatt, Killay ESU	87
2	Andrew Proudfoot, Killay ESU	85
3	David Gibson	84
	13th Twickenham (St. Mary's)	

## Own Pistol

1	Jonathan Gratrix	94
	47th Swansea (Killay)	
2	Joshua Peacock	93
	Sharpshooters ESU	
3	Simon Shenton, Fiennes ESU	89

## Small-bore Rifle

### Senior

1	Frances Rathbone	70
	1st Sketchley (Leicestershire)	
2	Martyn Fletcher	65
	Phoenix ESU (Meon Valley)	
3	Matt Hoff	60
	Phoenix ESU (Meon Valley)	

### Junior

1	Sam Pidgley	70
	1st Shedfield (Meon Valley)	
2	Jack Tipton, 5th Pinner (G London Middx W)	60
3	Daniel Ryall	55
	Stalbridge (North Dorset)	

## Fullbore Rifle

### Senior

1	Adrian Wilcox	19
	1st Chalgrove (Oxfordshire)	
2	Sam Pidgley	18.1
	Phoenix ESU (Meon Valley)	
3	Paul Fitchett, 3rd Hampton Hill (G London SW)	18

### Junior

1	Charlotte Bain	21.1
	Phoenix ESU (Meon Valley)	
2	Matthew Wright	20
	Boyne Hill Altwood (Berkshire)	
3	Marcus Winter	19.1
	25th Purley (St. Mark's)	

Full results may be downloaded from [www.dohoo.clara.net/nsarc2k5/](http://www.dohoo.clara.net/nsarc2k5/)



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