

For The Record

*The Chronicle of
King's College
School
Old Boys Rifle Club*



King's College School Old Boys Rifle Club

Some frequently asked questions and answers

Q: Who are you & what do you do?

A: The King's College School Old Boys' Rifle Club has been in existence since 1932 and was originally conceived and brought into being by Sgt Major Harry Lee who was a great enthusiast for excellence in shooting sports. These have much to be proud of and form a significant part of our heritage. In the 1998 and 2002 Commonwealth Games shooting accounted for over 25% of all medals won by England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and in the 2004/2012 Olympics shooting was again well represented in the tally of medals for Britain.

The Rifle Club is run by people who are keen to offer the chance to try and enjoy all of the various disciplines presently available. The Club meets regularly to practice and to compete in Club and National competitions, and is based at the Surrey Rifle Association on Bisley Camp near Woking in Surrey where we do most of our shooting. Bisley is also the home of the National Rifle Association and of the Imperial international shooting competition, held every July, and in 2002 the shooting competitions of the Commonwealth Games.

Club disciplines include Target Rifle, Action Rifle, Gallery Rifle and Shotgun. Not every discipline suits everyone but there is a lot to do and plenty of variety to choose from.

Q: So what are these disciplines?

A: Target Rifle:

This is the founding and core activity of the Club and is the more traditional form of 7.62mm (full-bore) rifle shooting, with target shooting being practised from 100 to 1000 yards. The skill is to fire well aimed, deliberate 'sniper' shots at the target

with each shot scored individually and the sights adjusted to take account of wind and other atmospheric influences. More of a science than an art!



Action Rifle:

This is carried out at relatively short range, 100 or 200 yards using a wider variety of rifles, for example .303 calibre No 4's and Russian designed 7.62mm rifles. The emphasis here is more on rapid shooting from different positions including standing and sitting/kneeling. The range of targets is also expanded to include disruptive pattern (DPM) as well as standard 'Bulls eye' shapes.

Whilst a more rapid style of shooting, the emphasis is very much speed with accuracy.



Snapshooting is also a major component of this action rifle event with timed exposures of targets and limited shots.

Gallery Rifle:

These .38 and .22 calibre mini-rifles, such as the famous Winchester Trapper or the semi-automatic Ruger 10/22, have replaced the sport of target pistol shooting. These competitive disciplines with turning targets and timed shoots have grown significantly in popularity. Many of the former pistol events and competitions, such as the Phoenix at Bisley over the Whitsun Holiday, are now run using these types of rifle. As a result the range distances have had to be increased to accommodate their greater accuracy over their much smaller cousins. Normally held under cover, these are not surprisingly popular in the winter season.



Shotgun (Clay pigeon)

This uses a different set of talents from those required for target rifle. Far more "fire" and movement skills are required to simulate the various types of game shooting. As the target is never stationary you must follow it to have a chance of being successful, and as it is possible to "dust" the clay in competition, you know instantly how well you have done.

Normally this is done away from Bisley, but as new ranges were built there for the 2002 Commonwealth Games we now have opportunities closer to our Club house!

Q: Can I have a go?

A: Of course. We run a series of guest days throughout the year, so that you can come and try without obligation. If there is sufficient interest, we can also arrange special one off sessions in addition to our regular calendar.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: Not as much as you would think. Should you wish to join as a probationary member there is an annual subscription £70 (£25 for students) and typically range fees of around £25-30 per shoot. However, if you are a full time student we are happy to help with the costs whilst you are studying.

Q: Do I need to be an Old Boy?

A: No. The club is open to **anyone**, male or female, young or old.

Q: When do you shoot?

A: All year round, but mostly on Saturdays at the weekends. In addition, there are a few Sunday shoots and some of the national and international competitions are held during the week. Club members have access to the Surrey Rifle Association Clubhouse which has a bar, comfortable lounge and dining room for meals and refreshments before and after a shoot.

This years' fixture list is available from the Club Secretary on request.

Q: Will you teach me?

A: Absolutely, good training is essential for safety and enjoyment. We have several trained coaches in the club who will teach you how to respect and handle firearms safely, and will then go on to train you in their proper use so that you can build your skill, confidence and ultimately enjoyment.

Q: Do you only shoot?

A: No, we do have a social side where partners, families, children and guests are not only welcome but also actively involved. As well as gathering within the Surrey Clubhouse during shoots, there is also a regular summer barbecue, annual dinner and a Christmas lunch in addition to various events associated with some of the shoots and competitions.

Q: Who do I contact?

A: The Club Secretary, Richard Hudson

- By Email to: richard.j.hudson@hotmail.co.uk

Hope to see you at Bisley!!!

Richard. Hon. Secretary.