



Portsmouth Area Clay Pigeon Club

Newsletter 2/2007

Dear Member,

With the days drawing in rapidly and the first frost of season already passed, it must be autumn and time for another Newsletter! Christmas is but 6 weeks away – have you started your preparations for the holidays?

Membership

Membership continues to grow steadily but not spectacularly; we are now about the forty mark with a few more interested in joining. For the first time, our self-imposed limit of membership at 50 looks achievable and we may have to review it at the next AGM. Congratulations to the following probationers who have demonstrated the required commitment and gun safety and have been promoted to full members – Mark Bryant, Melvyn Grey, Graham George, Mark Nicholls, Amanda Nicholls and Richard Simmonds.

I regret to announce the death in August of Ken Wood. The Club was represented at the Funeral Service and a donation of £50 was sent on behalf of the Club and its members to The Rowan Hospice in memory of Ken and in gratitude for the care given in his final days.

Finances

Our finances are in a healthy state thanks mainly to 2 very successful corporate-sponsored events in June and July. We are worth about £2400 in cash with another £2,500 in stocks and other assets. We need the money to repair or replace our various buildings and stores.

The money raised to fund a Young Shots Day has been ring-fenced to pay for an event in August 2008.

Corporate Events

Having mentioned the Corporate Fundraising Events, some more details – we hosted Scania Trucks and Basil Fry Insurance Brokers. Each event comprised 2 rounds of 25 birds – the first round with instruction and coaching by Club members, and the second as a competition. The events were hosted by the usual stalwarts in the Committee together with Tony Butcher and Lizzy Weston: many thanks for all your efforts and for making both days so enjoyable for our guests. The hog-roast on each occasion was superb (as Tony Butcher can testify)!

We have also hosted a shoot in support of the Mayor of Fareham's Charity Appeal, which raised about £330 for local charities including SSAFA. I hope you will have seen the write-up in the October edition of Navy News. The Mayor of Fareham has already written to ask if we could organise a second event in April 2008.



Trust Nigel to be lurking around when there's a camera going off!

*The Mayor of Fareham's Charity Appeal:
Councillor Katrina Trott, Mayor of Fareham,
presents the Challenge Trophy to Mark
Bottrell at the Clay Pigeon Competition at
PACPC in September*

Facilities

The Range Working Party in June did sterling work to keep maintenance up-to-date – many thanks to all and sundry who turned up – your efforts are much appreciated. Particular thanks to Clive Richards and his generous loan of his chainsaw and croppers. We even managed to level off some of the rubble to make a smoother rabbit run (thanks, Gillian!).

The future of Tipner Ranges continues to be uncertain. You will have seen reports in the local press that Portsmouth Football Club wish to build a new stadium at Horsea and that the Tipner peninsular would make an ideal location for a park & ride scheme. These remain speculative and it is likely that they would take many years to come to fruition, even if approved today. On a positive note, we may be offered the Guardhouse for use as a Clubhouse. The Army do not have security on any of their other ranges and are seeking to discontinue the provision at Tipner; if so they might like us to take over the building rather than leave it vacant. If so, we could get rid of the existing Clubhouse (which is in need of significant repairs to the roof), and have a clubhouse with its own loo, heating, mains electricity, etc. Watch this space!

Turkey Shoot and Annual Class Prize-giving 2007.

The annual Turkey Shoot and class prize-giving event will be on Sunday 9 December 2007.

For the Turkey Shoot, to qualify for a prize in the Turkey Shoot you must have participated in at least 50% of the average number of participations over the year. The top-gun in each class will receive a prize of a £30 voucher and the runner-up will receive a voucher worth £15.

For the Class prize-giving, the gun with the highest aggregate score across the year in each class will receive a prize of 100 12G cartridges and the runner-up will receive 50 12G cartridges.

Traditionally, we have also held a raffle after the Class prize-giving. The Club will purchase a few top prizes but members are encouraged to donate extra small prizes for the raffle – biscuits, chocolates, gizits, wine, etc. Your generosity would be appreciated greatly.

Shooting Programme 2008.

I have submitted our programme of Club shooting events in 2008 to the Range Authorities – no conflicts have been identified as yet. The tried-and-tested principle is for a club event on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, except where this would conflict with a significant date such as Mothering Sunday, Easter Sunday and Remembrance Sunday, in which case our event is always put back by 1 week. The Annual General Meeting will be held **before** shooting on Sunday 13 April 2008, with the deadline for subscriptions as Sunday 11 May 2008. Saturday 28 July 2008 has been earmarked for a Families Day if required / desired.

Provision has been made for coaching / practice sessions on Tuesday evenings during Summer Time. Details of the arrangements will be published in a Newsletter early in 2008.

A copy of the Club's programme of events for 2008 is attached. I must remind you all that we use the range at the discretion of the range authorities and there may be occasions when we cannot undertake a planned event when there is a higher priority military need for the ranges.

And finally

This will be the final Newsletter of this year, so I will take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you and your family every happiness for Christmas and the New Year.

Kind regards,

David Simmonds

Secretary, PACPC
10 November 2007

Enc: PACPC Shooting Programme 2008

**REMEMBER:
USE IT OR LOSE IT !**