

## COMMITTEE INFO

Chairman:  
Don L

Treasurer:  
Roger H

Club Captain:  
Simon F

Secretary:  
Alan S

Membership Officer:  
Jon C

Premises Officer:  
Barry D

Training Officer:  
Steve C

CPO:  
Phil H

Webmaster:  
Rhid T

Armourer:  
Kevin S

Communications Officer:  
Sarah J



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## Club News

Hello, and welcome to the Autumn 2024 edition of the SPRC Times!

In this edition of the newsletter, we learn about the benchrest discipline, look at the latest from competition season, including reviewing some common mistakes. We also offer some information on contacting the club as well as reading a treat of a story from Howard, who tells us about the Club's literary claim to fame!

If, like Howard, you'd like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Sarah on [communications@surbitonpostalrifleclub.com](mailto:communications@surbitonpostalrifleclub.com). We're keen to give you an opportunity to contribute and be part of the newsletter.



## RECENT RESULTS

### Surrey Long Range:

- Ian P                      2<sup>nd</sup> Place

### Croydon 23/24 winners:

- Individual Prone:  
  Ian P                      Class A
- Dyer cup:  
  Ian P

### Surrey

- Prone Team 25 Yard:  
  Jon K  
  Josh T                    } Div 2  
  Rhid T
- Prone Individual 25 Yard:  
  Rhid T                    Div 3  
  Henk B                  Div 10  
  Natalia V                Div 16
- 10m Air Pistol Individual:  
  Don L                    Div 6
- LSR Precision:  
  Don L                    Div 4  
  Mo H                    Div 7

Surrey Ladies Individual results are still outstanding so tune into the Winter edition to see the full results!

# Competitions

As the Winter 24/25 season starts, Club Captain Simon F, takes an this opportunity to remind readers of some of the rules around competitions.

The below guide is abbreviated, with the full rules available on the NSRA website. Each competition organiser may have additional rules, but all base them on the NSRA rules.

Definitions:

Target: The aiming mark

Card: The sheet with one or more targets on it

- Cards must be shot in round order and you can shoot as far ahead of the round due date as you like. It is good practice to get ahead of the due dates in case of illness, business trips etc. Extensions to the round due dates are sometimes possible but only with good reason. 'I forgot' is not an acceptable reason.
- Where a card has on it fewer than the required number of shots, any missing shot(s) shall be deemed a miss unless the witness can certify of their own knowledge that a shot was fired in error on the target of another shooter.
- Where a card has on it more than the required number of shots, the scorer shall score the appropriate number of shots with the lowest value. A penalty of one point will be deducted for each excess shot.
  - As an example, we had a LSR shooter who should have shot 6 cards, with 5 shots on each card. However, the shooter put ten shots on each card. So, only the lowest 5 shots on each card counted and then 5 penalty points were deducted on each card.
- Where there is more than one card per round (e.g. LSR, the Eley competition), all cards for a round must be shot on the same day. (The only exception to this are the NSRA combined Standing and Kneeling and 3P competitions).
- All competition cards must be signed by the shooter immediately after shooting.
- The witness checks that the shooter has signed the cards and then adds their own signature and date to the cards.
- It is the responsibility of the shooter to then check that the witness has signed and dated all cards. (In one extreme case, a card was received with no shots on it at all, that had been signed by both the shooter and the witness).
- It is very helpful to those marking cards if members trim their cards before putting them in the box. The rules require all trim lines to be visible on the card. If you accidentally cut the trim line off, please attach it to the card with either sticky tape or staples before placing it in the box.

As mentioned, the above is only an abbreviated guide. A full guide will be made available on the SPRC Member's website.

If you have any questions, please contact Simon on [clubcaptain.sprc@gmail.com](mailto:clubcaptain.sprc@gmail.com)



Surbiton Postal  
Rifle Club

## Benchrest shooting

In the latest of our shooting guides, Don explores Benchrest shooting.

Benchrest target shooting is rapidly becoming a very popular discipline, both at the club and the wider shooting community. As well as being popular in itself, it has the advantage of being very accessible to those who are no longer able to lie down with a rifle (prone shooting), stand with a rifle (LSR/Gallery), or lift a rifle/pistol in any of the standing or kneeling shooting disciplines.

Benchrest is shot at 20 or 25 yards with the shooter seated behind the rifle, which is itself supported either by a single rest on a table in front of the shooter, or by the shooter using a sling, but not both. Any standard bolt action, LSR or air rifle in .22 may be used, but we recommend using a bolt action or air rifle due to the extremely exacting targets used. We also recommend the use of a riflescope. A specific variant of the standard 10 bull outward gauging target is used.

Whilst using a rifle that is supported at its front and rear may seem almost too easy, the target used is very exacting and the regulations are very precise as to what is and what is not allowed in terms of how the shooter may support the rifle. We do recommend that all benchrest shooters review these rules as they are required for all competitions and are rigorously enforced at all external competitions to ensure fairness.

The club has an excellent selection of suitable rifles, tables and rests, and we find that the better the ammunition used, the higher the scores achieved. Our better benchrest shooters all find that the more precise/accurate makes of ammunition give real benefits in terms of their scores.

The [Suggested Reading](#) section of the SPRC Member site is full of guides and information related to shooting that you may find interesting. Be sure to check it out (you'll need to log in to access the page).



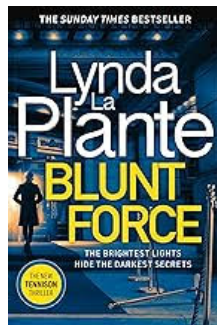
## Literary claim to fame!

In this short anecdote, Howard tells us about the moment he helped shape a crime best seller.

About five years ago, when I was still Secretary of SPRC, I was approached by the well known crime writer, Lynda La Plante, whose works include Widows, Prime Suspect, Trial & Retribution, to name but a few. Many of Lynda's works have been made into films or TV series, and she has sold millions of books worldwide. She was awarded the CBE in 2008, and has received two Emmy Awards for her work, amongst many others.

She wanted some background information on a shooting club, and how a rifle range is run, different types of rifles, handguns, calibres, and also about a shooting instructor, what is taught, and how it is taught, as she was doing research for a book. I said to her that I was a shooting instructor, as well as the Club Secretary, so let me take you around the club, show you our ranges, and facilities, and show you how we operate. So we arranged a date, on a club night, and she met some of the members that were in that night.

A month or two later, Lynda sent me a draft of what she had written, and I suggested a few amendments, and some but not all were re-drafted.



The book, Blunt Force, came out in 2020, and myself is featured as a character in the book, although I am named Elliot Norman, and I am very tall and bald. (I asked Lynda why she made me bald, and she said to give the character better effect!) Our club is featured several times throughout the book.

It is a good read, and the kindle version, or paperback is available on Amazon!



Our thanks to Howard for his incredible story!

Here's a photo of Howard with Lynda. In the opinion of the Committee, we much prefer Howard with hair...



Surbiton Postal  
Rifle Club

## Premises update

As we all know, due to the redevelopment of the Cambridge Road Estate, some time in the next couple of years, the club will lose its current ranges when our underground car park is demolished (see <http://cambridgeroadestate.com> for details on the planned development).

The club committee has been aware of this for a number of years and has been putting a lot of effort into finding new accommodation for the club.

A specific premises sub-committee is in place to drive this search forward and Barry has been tasked with leading our efforts in his new capacity of Premises Officer. You will no doubt have read the recent email from the Club Chairman, Don, in which timescales, activities and current progress were described.

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Three specific questions came out of this.

**Question:** Have we been in contact with Kingston University OTC (Officer Training Corps) to see if we could use their shooting facilities?

**Answer:** We understand that they shoot at the TA buildings along the Portsmouth Road. We have already investigated these premises with no success. Sir Ed Davey MP is currently assisting us with further investigations.

**Question:** Who will actually make the decision on where the club will move to?

**Answer:** It will always be the membership of the club who makes any decision. This is not only because the club is its members, but the membership will be closely involved in both the move and the establishment of the club in its new premises.

**Question:** Have we spoken to Weybridge Rifle and Pistol Club about the potential of sharing their premises?

**Answer:** We have previously spoken to them and they are not interested in sharing their ranges.

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We will continue to provide updates of interest, either through the newsletter or further emails depending on the updates' importance and required timeliness.

In the meantime, if anyone has any ideas about possible new premises or has time to help with our search, the committee is always interested in speaking to you. The AGM in December will be used to provide a further update on timescales, activities and progress and there will be every opportunity for members to ask questions or discuss items of interest then.

If you have any questions, please send them to [committee@surbitonpostalrifleclub.com](mailto:committee@surbitonpostalrifleclub.com)

