

Cawdor Rifle and Gun Club - Bisley 2022

The Club visit to Bisley took place on the 13th and 14th of April and this short report gives you some idea of what we did and how we enjoyed ourselves. The National Shooting Centre Bisley is an internationally renowned complex of ranges and home of the National Rifle Association (NRA). As we don't get chance to shoot at long range at Cawdor we chose to shoot at 900 and 1000 yards on both days.



The 1000-yard firing point with electronic target console – its along way to the target!

If you have never shot at these ranges before it can be quite daunting but there is nothing more satisfying, then getting a V Bull at 1000 yards. The targetry is electronic and all set up by range control for us, so all you have to do is turn up at the firing point and start shooting at your allotted time - no butt duties just good old-fashioned shooting.



The 900-yard firing point in action

We stayed in the Macdonald Stewart Canadian Pavilion. This pavilion was built in 1897 to house the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (founded in 1868) Shooting Team when they competed at Bisley, and only Canadian materials were used throughout. It is a beautiful wooden construction and has an impressive entrance hall. Above the fireplace hangs the stuffed head of a Bison and on either side are the stuffed heads of Canadian moose. Normally a working cannon sits outside on the front lawn, but at the time of our stay this was away for refurbishment. The bedrooms sleep up to three people although it was individual occupation whilst we were there, and whilst not en-suite the bathroom facilities were good with a constant supply of hot water and powerful showers. There is also an armoury to clean and store rifles in. A hearty cooked breakfast was included in the price of the accommodation and evening meal was available at a small cost. The pavilion was an amazing place to stay in and the graffiti in my room dated back to 1897, an interesting thought that over 120 years ago people were competing at Bisley just like me.



The entrance of the Canadian Pavilion

The range and weather gods were kind to us, and on both days we had a morning at 900 yards and an afternoon at 1000 yards. On the first day the conditions were ideal – clear, bright with a gentle constant wind – and some good practise was had by all at both distances. The next day, the day of the competition, the wind was more challenging, gusting in different strengths and from different directions. This led to some interesting shooting, and it was very much a case of chasing the wind. I did re-learn some basic things though. For example, do not adjust your sights for wind as you're waiting to shoot and then forget that you've done that, and then adjust for wind again on the firing point. The result is that your shots will be completely off the target! An embarrassing but useful lesson.



A happy band of shooters with medals and trophies outside the Canadian Pavilion

A trip to Bisley is a great way to improve your shooting and certainly after two days I was a much better shot, and it only goes to show that practise does indeed make perfect. Many thanks go to Stephen Murray for organising the trip and a good time was had by all. So, if another trip is organised, and you can make it, I would highly commend it to you. Its great shooting in a fantastic range complex and very rewarding and enjoyable.