

Not your average clay ground

Grouse butts, an epic high tower and a rich history – we pay a visit to Bisley Shooting Ground, Europe’s largest sporting clay ground

Although formed in the early 1990s, it was not until the turn of the century that Bisley Shooting Ground established itself as the largest sporting clay ground in Europe, nestling among the 3000 acres of Surrey heathland at the famous home of British shooting.

It caters for all kinds of shooters but it is the range of sporting targets that grabs the eye. In clement weather, the high tower can be extended to deliver birds in excess of 200ft – offering targets to top the most stratospheric pheasants and making it the country’s highest.

Or how about getting some action in the butt? BSG has what can only be described as a stunning simulated grouse moor – complete with a purple haze of heather – that fires in driven birds at phenomenal speed.

There is a full FITASC layout, too – no surprise really, as the instructing team is led by shooting manager John Heagren, one of the UK’s leading FITASC shots.

The old Victorian clubhouse has a fabulous history: formerly the Council Club HQ on Wimbledon Common, the building was moved when the ranges relocated to Bisley in 1895 after an MP got a musket ball through his hat.

There is a comfortable ‘lounge’ with hot drinks on offer and a really cosy family feel – a great place to relax with the latest copy of *Clay Shooter* after your round.

Bisley Shooting Ground is open seven days a week for lessons, practice or guided shooting which can be booked in advance on an hourly basis. An hour’s one-to-one lesson, 100 clays and cartridges included, costs £125. Experienced shooters can opt for a practice hour priced at £97 including 125 clays and cartridges or guided shooting at £58 for the hour with 100 clays and cartridges.

As well as the main ground, there is also a ‘pay and play’ facility at the nearby Long Siberia ground which is open Tuesday to Friday in the summer and from Tuesday to Sunday

between November and March. You don’t need to book for this, just turn up on the day with your licence and insurance. The automatic Claymate traps allow people to shoot solo, too.

The range of targets on offer means BSG is always a popular venue with the corporate crowd. All abilities and levels of experience are catered for and the chance to shoot as a group of guns in an all-action ‘flush’ is a highlight.

With a busy calendar of club shoots, ladies days and young shots days throughout the year, there is always something going on at Bisley. And you don’t have to be a member to enjoy it – though of course there are savings and advantages for those that do join up.

Situated just 30 miles from London and a few minutes from the M3, it is easy to reach and serves up a treat for all levels of clay shooters.

Contact: www.bisleyshooting.co.uk



Having fun in the butt on Bisley’s simulated moor before heading off to the famous Victorian clubhouse (right)



the 200ft tower offers targets to top the highest pheasants