

Bisley Shooting Ground

Bisley Camp, just 30 miles from central London, is world famous as a rifle shooting destination, with ranges like Stickle-down providing 1,000 metre target shooting. However it's the clays we are interested in and Bisley Shooting Ground (BSG), not to be confused with the National Clay Shooting Centre, provides game shooters with some of the best fun to be had with no feathers involved.

BSG was formed in the early 1990s, but it was not until the turn of the century that it developed into the largest sporting clay ground in Europe.

The colonial clubhouse was originally built in 1865 on Wimbledon Common, where it was the council club headquarters of the councillors, one



Light-touch instruction and beautiful grounds make a trip to Bisley worth the money.

clubhouse ensure all visitors can enjoy the colonial environment in peaceful bliss.

Where is it: Three miles south of Junction 3 on the M3.

Facilities: Excellent clubhouse dating back to 1865, but with totally modern facilities.

What we like: The natural setting with plenty of space makes shooting here a real pleasure. Chief instructor John Heagren is a master of the art, and the range of targets will satisfy every need. Whether you are taking on the rapid clays at any of the three different grouse layouts, or the extreme high towers, you will not only enjoy the challenge but actually benefit from some genuine game shooting practice.

A visit to Bisley is always a pleasure and the experienced team here know their stuff. And the William Evans shop on site will provide you with some temptation too.

What we don't like: BSG is in the premier league of shooting grounds and instruction does not come cheap but then, if you want the best...

Cost: The pay and play option at the Long Siberia range means shotgun licence holders can shoot unaccompanied at a rate of 25p per clay for members and 30p per clay for non-members. The cost of a lesson for one person is £75 per hour and it is £375 for a course of six lessons. ■

www.bisleyshooting.co.uk Tel. 01483 797017.



Bisley's resplendent colonial clubhouse dates back to 1865.

of whom was the great-grandfather of the present owner Anthony Roupell. The ranges were moved down to Bisley in 1895, and the clubhouse was taken down and moved to Bisley that year.

In 2010 the ground provides some of the most realistic sporting clays you are likely to find anywhere, whether that be from the extraordinarily high tower or in the excellent grouse butts. The Surrey Heathland is a beautiful natural backdrop, and the woodland helps the general ambience of escape from the rest of the world.

Chief instructor John Heagren uses his years of experience to ensure game shooters get the best out of every visit. The friendly team in the

CARTRIDGE TEST: RC PROFESSIONAL GAME

In the first of a new series **Richard Atkins** reviews this Italian fibre wad load built for the British market.

First under the spotlight is a cartridge from highly regarded Italian maker RC, a company with a history of international success in competitive clay shooting, who are now using their experience to produce cartridges specifically for the UK game market.

Professional Game's 24gram is ideal for the early season birds and situations where the range is likely to fall within the usual parameters for a typical driven day over mixed woodland and open field, and equally suited to partridge or grouse.

The light shot load, combined with fairly hard shot and sensible ballistics, provides exceptional patterning ability, producing as many effective pellets in the pattern as some heavier loads might manage.

The cartridge's shot size is actually No.7 (in UK measurements), as the 2.4mm on the box tells us, but the No.7½ shot marking may

confuse. Italian sizes are a half size out to UK designations, so ask for No. 7½ shot for UK No.7 shot (and No.8 shot for UK 7½ shot).

Recoil is very acceptable and not punishing should you draw the hot seat come shoot day. A cartridge well suited to more open choke borings,



Professional Game has tightened the pattern considerably so half choke or above is clearly capable of tackling some taller birds than you might expect for a light shot load. ■

BALLISTIC DATA							
VELOCITY	S.D.	PRESSURE	RECOIL	SHOT	CV	PATT	CHOKE
mtrs (fps)	mps (fps)	Bar	N/s	Count UK	Crush %	Count/%	Equiv/nt
363 (1190)	17.5 (57.4)	464	8.72	337/oz = No7	29%	195/68%	¾+3%
Hit Factor: 3.62							
Key: Velocity measured @ 2.5 mtrs from muzzle; S.D = Standard Deviation; Recoil is measured in Newton/second; Count is the average pellets per ounce and the UK size (#); CV is Crush value (where 20% = hard and 45% = soft); Pattern = average pellet count in 30" circle @ 40 yards + calculated %; Actual choke/pattern from recorded count. Hit Factor is the area of the 30" pattern circle divided by average pellet count.							

Testing method: The data comes from the Birmingham Proof Laboratory. Pattern performance is assessed by testing on a pattern plate. The shot is checked for size and also for hardness as this has a strong influence on patterning ability. A half choke barrel is used to check patterns make the nominal boring for the barrel. Half choke is expected to throw 60 per cent of its shot load into a 30" diameter circle at 40 yards.