

News

Bisley shooting expands into the Borders

Hamish Macdonell

One of the most famous names in shooting worldwide has begun a ground-breaking expansion into Scotland that could help to transform the sport north of the Border.

The owners of Bisley, the home of English shooting for more than 100 years, have bought and developed a 45-acre site near Selkirk. The Braidwood project has only just opened but it is already the biggest shooting ground in Scotland. With further expansion to come, the owners hope that their Bisley at Braidwood development will not only provide income, employment and trade for the area but will help to regenerate the entire Borders region.

The village of Bisley, nestled in the Surrey countryside within easy reach of London, has always been synonymous with shooting, but with an unashamedly English and Home Counties bias.

Now the Bisley name, by moving outside Surrey for the first time, has gone Scottish.

The Roupell family, for many years the owners of Bisley Shooting Ground in Surrey, believe that the Borders region is going to grow and develop and they want to be part of that. They believe that this will come partly through the Borders rail link from Edinburgh, which is due to be completed in the next 18 months, but also because of a growing interest in countryside sports in Scotland.

At least one new equestrian centre is being developed in the region and the owners of Bisley Shooting Ground believe that they can be part of the resurgence of country sports and help to draw more visitors to the area.

Alexander Roupell, the managing director of the Borders development, said that the Bisley Braidwood development amounted to a "clear vote of con-

fidence" in the Scottish Borders. "Although a significant amount of our clients come from London, we have long been impressed at the distance many of our customers travel to take advantage of the facilities and tuition at Bisley Shooting Ground in Surrey.

'There was demand for a world-class shooting ground for seasoned and novice shots all year'

"With the strong interest in outdoor pursuits, particularly shooting, in the North of England and Scotland we knew there was demand for a world-class shooting ground for both seasoned and novice shots to enjoy all year round."

What may create most interest north of the Border is the size and scale of this

project. There are 25 clay pigeon stands on 45 acres of land, some of which have as many as five butts per stand. Not only that, but a 100-metre full-bore rifle range is nearing completion, a range that will be the first of its kind in Scotland.

That range, built within large concrete drainage pipes, allows deer stalkers to test and practise their guns safely before heading out on to the hills. While most of the shotgun stands have been constructed deliberately to imitate the flight of grouse, pheasant, woodcock, duck and other game birds, the site is also designed to attract as many beginners as possible.

Millions of pounds have been poured into the project and the owners expect to attract shooters from all over Scotland and the North of England for what they say is the most complete game shooting practice range outside Surrey. Bisley at Braidwood has already got a

restaurant, a gunroom, a shop and a team of instructors. As such, the site has already started providing employment, with cooks, gun instructors and grounds staff all taken on from the local area.

The Roupell family has run and owned the Bisley operation for many years but it was only when Alexander Roupell moved over from banking to join the family business that he decided to expand it into Scotland.

He said that he was immensely proud of Bisley's reputation for offering the finest shooting tuition facilities in the UK and that Scotland, with its thriving country sports base, seemed the natural place to expand into.

Mr Roupell said: "We have invested significantly in the Bisley at Braidwood site, both aesthetically and in terms of shooting offered and look forward to welcoming and meeting a new host of regular customers."

Trademark approval means Murray is now the name of the game

Andy Murray underwear and action figures could be on the way after the tennis champion was allowed to trademark his own name (Kat Lay writes).

The Wimbledon champion, from Dunblane, applied to the UK Intellectual Property Office to register his name to protect his

name. Foote, a trademark specialist law firm, to handle the application. David Potter, a trademark attorney at the firm, said: "This was done to protect Andy's rights to his name and is something that many wealthy sports stars have done in the past.

"We only found out after the application was made that other applications had been



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