



Would you like to represent your country in Gallery Rifle?

Most new shooters entering into our Gallery Rifle competitions will usually start off by shooting some of the smaller (low round count) ones such as the Timed & Precision 1 or Multi Target matches. Most clubs offer their own “informal” competitions for novice shooters whilst others may also be involved in one of the many postal league competitions that are available throughout the country. These two matches are by far the most popular of the “shorts” events that people take part in, and this is probably due to the fact that

they are both shot from the Strong shoulder only, in the “standing unsupported position.” This “just stand there and shoot it” position doesn’t mean that they are easy matches to score well in however, as you will probably find out after shooting your first match!

To be a good “shorts” shooter or probably more importantly, a consistent one, you will first of all need to work on achieving a quick and consistent target acquisition as there can be up to 30+ targets closely situated together on some of the ranges that we shoot on, and it can be very easy to cross shoot onto someone else’s target in these circumstances! To be able to do this it is essential that your body position in relation to the target is correct to start with and this can be done by a simple alignment check. First of all, put a target up at 25m and then take aim at it in your normal standing position. The next thing you need to do is then close your eyes and bring the rifle down into the 45° “ready” position and hold it for a few seconds. Then still making sure you keep your eyes closed, bring the rifle slowly back up into the aim again until your cheek contacts your usual reference point on the stock. Once you have adopted what feels like a natural hold, open your eyes and check to see where your scope is pointing. If the crosshairs are actually pointing somewhere on your target then things are



A pretty simple course of fire but not that easy to score well in!

looking good but if they are off to the side of it somewhere, you will need to adjust your feet slightly and carry out the test procedure again until the correct alignment is achieved! Once a good body/target alignment has been achieved, a good tip to adopting the correct position again quickly during your practice session is to simply draw around your feet on the floor using some chalk. This way, all you will have to do is simply step into the shapes each time you go on to the line which may save you a lot of time and trouble to start with!

After alignment, the next thing to master is bringing the sights up consistently onto the centre of the target each time and this can only be achieved by keeping your head still, whilst keeping your eyes focused on the centre of the target. Simple repetition of bringing the rifle slowly up and down from the aiming position will develop your muscle memory and hand/eye co-ordination and will eventually help get you onto the target in around a second or less, but only if you practice! Just remember that you should always shoot with your head in an upright position and that the rifle always moves towards your head, and not the other way around!



Whatever your standard, there is always room for a little improvement!

Once you can get yourself up quickly onto the centre of your target the next thing to look at is timing, as this is a very important part of shooting the “shorts” matches. Shooting too fast will produce poor accuracy whilst taking too long will result in late shots and misses on the target so you must find the right balance and build up to it slowly. The first practice in the Timed & Precision 1 match allows you 2 minutes to shoot 12 rounds at 25m. This sounds easy and it is really as long as you don’t rush your shots and remember to use a timer. You must also remember to breathe in between your shots and don’t hold the rifle up for too long otherwise your arms will start to get tired and your performance will suffer. You have plenty of time to shoot this practice in so don’t be afraid to lower the rifle down every now and then to help relax your muscles! The second practice in this match is at 15m and requires one shot to be fired in 2 seconds, for a total of 12 shots in all. This particular one causes many of the newer shooters all sorts of problems and many of them tend to bring the rifle up as quickly as possible and just pull the trigger as soon as they see any part of the target in their sights. This approach is obviously not going to score them the maximum number of points available on the day! To shoot this stage well you should first of all just practice bringing the rifle up slowly into the aim until the sights are in the middle of the X or 10 ring before slowly releasing each shot. If it takes



Don't guess what time you have left, use a timer if allowed!

you 3 or 4 seconds to do this at first it's no big deal, as you must first work on your accuracy and not your speed. Once you have practiced a little and start to place your shots pretty much all around the middle part of the target you can then start to decrease your times slightly. You must however work on remaining calm and focused and maintain your accuracy above all else. Once your technique and timing improve you should work gradually towards releasing your shots off within the 2 second interval and simply repeating the

timing to yourself can help you a lot! When I shoot this match as the targets start to turn towards me, I just repeat to myself "up.... aim....fire" and simply release each shot as I say "fire." Obviously to get the timing just right you will have to watch the targets turning towards you but with a little bit of practice it certainly becomes a lot easier! Dry firing is probably the easiest way to do it at first, and make sure that your scope magnification is not set too high to start with as this will only make the process harder!

Shooting 2 or more shot strings with an underlever is certainly a lot easier if you tune up your action to start with, whilst using a slow and smooth technique when operating the lever will also help to keep the crosshairs in the middle of the target. This will obviously help make your follow up shots a lot easier and allow you to place your shots more consistently on the target! A lot of people for some reason tend to lift their heads up off the stock when racking an underlever making it much harder for them selves and this should be avoided at all costs. Learning to shoot with your thumb "up" on the side of the grip as opposed to wrapping it back over again before squeezing the trigger each time will help you to produce a smoother racking action and is well worth spending a bit of time practicing on. The two shots in 3 seconds stage at 10m also causes



Wrapping your thumb back around the grip will waste valuable time, so learn to shoot with your thumb "up" on the side of the grip!

some people problems and again it shouldn't really as long as you always think about what you are doing at the time. You must always make sure that when you practice, the emphasis is on putting the second (or 3rd or 4th) shot into the middle of the target and not on the speed that you release it in. When shooting the two shots in 3 seconds stage in Timed & Precision 1 at 10m I simply repeat to myself "up.... and one (fire).... and two (fire). I do rack the action fast but my technique always keeps the rifle flat and controlled and I never take my eye off the target/crosshair. Releasing each shot as I reach "one and "two" always gives me the confidence to take that little extra bit of time to just tweak the sights over into the middle of the X ring and helps me to remain calm and focused.

The 6 shots in 15 seconds at 25m and 6 shots (3 on each target) at 20m stages in the Multi Target match usually causes a lot of people to needlessly snatch their shots as they try to shoot too fast instead of paying attention to their sight picture and shot release. Whenever you release a shot you must always shoot "through" your target so that you see exactly where the crosshair is on the target when you feel the recoil caused by the fired round. This is also referred to as "follow through" and if you don't, then the chances are you will have closed your eyes in anticipation of hearing the "bang" and pulled the rifle off line as it were. Snatching at the trigger is also a common mistake that people make when trying to shoot quicker than they are capable of, so always take that fraction of a second longer to release your shots smoothly as it will usually produce much better results. Remaining calm whilst trying to shoot more quickly is obviously a lot easier said than done but once you have gained

the confidence to do it, it will definitely help take your shooting to the next level!

Starting with the easier of the two, here are the courses of fire for the two matches. Note that all magazines are limited to 6 rounds in each:

		EVENT	GRID	COMPETITOR NAME							
		0702									
		T&P1 CF									
EVENT 0702 - TIMED & PRECISION 1 GRCF											
C		X	10	9	8	7	6	5	0	Score	
O	P1										
M											
P	P2										
E											
T	P3										
I											
T		X	10	9	8	7	6	5	0		
<i>RECORD Xs & 10s SEPARATELY</i>											
R	PENALTIES			MATCH TOTAL							
TOTAL X											
C	<i>PRACTICES 1 & 2 ARE 12 SHOTS EACH</i>										
O	<i>PRACTICE 3 IS 6 SHOTS</i>										
P											
Y											
		SIGNATURE -									
		SCORER									
		SIGNATURE -									
		COMPETITOR									

Timed & Precision 1 match

Targets: 1 x DP2

(GCRF, LBP & LBR) or 1 x DP2a (GRSB)

Position: Standing unsupported - Ready position: 45 degrees

Practice 1 - 25m

The Galleryrifle.com website has everything from National Classifications and rules, to score cards and courses of fire for you to download for free so make sure that you visit it soon!

The target will make one appearance of 2 minutes.

The competitor will fire 12 shots, starting loaded with 6 rounds and reloading with 6 rounds within the 2 minutes.

Practice 2 - 15m

The target will make 6 appearances of 2 seconds each, with intervals of 5 seconds. One shot is to be fired at each appearance. The competitor must return to the ready position between appearances. This practice will be shot twice.

Practice 3 - 10m

The target will make 3 appearances of 3 seconds each, with intervals of 5 seconds. Two shots are to be fired at each appearance and the competitor must return to the ready position between appearances.

The Range Commands (for all three) at the start of each practice will be: “***With 6 rounds load and make ready.***” After an appropriate amount of time this will then be followed by “***Are you ready?***” If there are no problems this will be followed by “***Stand by***” and the targets will turn away. Once the targets turn to face you, you may commence firing.

If you are not ready, shout out “not ready” and the R.O will acknowledge “***Not ready called***” and you will be given up to 30 seconds to prepare yourself. The R.O will then again call “***Are you ready?***” and if all is well call “***Stand by***” and the targets will turn away. At the end of the practice the command “***Unload and show clear***” will be given. At this point you must (keeping the muzzle pointed downrange at the targets) unload your rifle (remove the magazine and lock the bolt open for semi autos, or rack the lever 3 times and leave the action/lever open for underlevers) and remain still on the firing point until it is proven clear by a Range Officer.

Scoring: A fresh full target or centre is used for each practice and all targets are scored on the frames. They may be scored by the range crew or by the competitors themselves (provided no competitor scores his own target) and ALL targets on which maximum points are scored (regardless of number of Xs) will be re-scored using outward gauging. This score should also be recorded (by practice) on the scorecard and will be used for tie-breaking if required.

Multi Target match:

Targets: 2 x DP1 (GRCF, LBP & LBR), 2 x DP1a (GRSB)

Position: Standing unsupported - Ready position: 45 degrees

Practice 1 - 25m

The targets will make one appearance of 15 seconds, during which the competitor will fire 6 shots on the left hand target.

Practice 2 - 20m

The targets will make one appearance of 10 seconds, during which the competitor will fire 3 shots on each target.

Practice 3 - 15m

The targets will make 3 appearances of 3 seconds each, with intervals of 5 seconds. At each appearance 2 shots are to be fired on the right hand target. The competitor must return to the ready position between appearances.

Practice 4 - 10m

The targets will make one appearance of 8 seconds, during which the competitor will fire 3 shots on each target. The Range Commands for each practice will be the same as for the Timed & Precision 1 match.

In complete contrast to these “short” matches, we’ll take a look next month at one of the “Action” competitions and the 192 round Bianchi match that is made up of 4 separate stages, with each one requiring a different skill to be mastered in order to score well in it!