

NRA OF AUSTRALIA



'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley

(Version 7, 05/02/23)

A very useful summary of information for all Australian shooters planning on travelling to and competing in the Imperial Meeting in Bisley, UK.

Contents

On the Firing Line	3
On the Scorecard	11
On Equipment, Keeping Dry and Sun Protected	15
On the NRA of GB.....	18
On Money Matters	24
On Accommodation	27
On Neighbourhood Facilities.....	29
On Travel.....	30
Acknowledgements.....	33
Attachment 1 - Paperwork required for travelling with firearms.....	34

On the Firing Line

1. Bisley Camp Ranges: There are two TR (Target Rifle) ranges: Century (300-600 yards, 108 targets) and Stickledown (800-1200 yards, 50 targets). Using the NRA HQ building as a centre point, and assuming that the ranges point to the north, Century is east and south (a 300-400 yard walk to the 300 yard firing line); Stickledown is west and north (a 600-700 yard walk to the 1000 yard firing line).
 - a) See range map at: <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/campmap-2019.pdf> and https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/NRA_Range_Map.pdf
 - b) The targets are individually numbered in contrasting colours and are grouped into “ranges” of 10 targets on Stickledown, and 12 targets on Century. The large numbers set on the impact berm above the target numbers indicate the “range”, Stickledown has “ranges” 0-4, while Century has 11-19. Shooters set up to the left of the target number stakes.
2. Ammunition: Take your score card to any ammo table (located under the tents behind the firing line) and present it to the dispersion official. The official will stamp the back of your card and give you the required number of rounds of ammo for the match you will be shooting. Get you ammo on the way to your “range”, including ensuring you have been provided the correct amount before leaving the ammo tent.



- a) If you wish to use an ammo box, you will need to bring one along. Ammunition can be handed out as loose rounds (all the same ‘lot’) or as remnants within the original paper box.
- b) From 2015, there has been a great improvement with one lot of GGG ammo used throughout the meeting. However, it pays to check and keep a record of the ammo lot numbers (printed prominently on the cardboard boxes) and match them to your elevation zeroes. There can be drastic elevation changes between lots, and there may be many lots in use. To take advantage of convertible sighters, you need the proper elevation for the lot of ammo that you have been issued.
- c) Ammunition lots will not be mixed up in the same match. Each match will be fired with a single lot. You may notice Lot X on Thursday, Lot Y on Friday, and then Lot X again on Saturday. There may be five different lots of ammo on Century Range but only two distinct lots on Stickledown Range, and the lots will probably not be the same on Stickledown as on Century.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

3. Target Assignments: After arriving at your “range” find the Range Officer's (RO) table and check the “scramble board” for your assigned target number. The “scramble board” is a chalkboard showing target numbers that correspond to your squadding letter (see ‘On the Scorecard’ section).
4. Approaching the Firing Line: Do not go onto the firing line until the RO calls your detail forward. Your “detail” is your “time of day” for the match.
 - a) The RO will call the detail forward about 10 minutes prior to the start time – this assumes there has not been rain delays or other problems that have set the schedule back.
 - b) It is suggested that you arrive 15 to 30 minutes early to allow you time to:
 - collect your ammunition
 - locate your correct firing point
 - use the ablutions if needed (may be located some distance away)
 - retrieve any forgotten item/s.
 - c) If you need to leave the firing mound for whatever reason, most people will oblige in watching your gear (never leave your rifle unattended without someone watching it as it may be confiscated). You may be asked to do so for someone else.
 - d) It is always better to be early rather than late, which incurs a 1 point penalty after the final 2 minute prep period. (See #6 below.)
5. Exchanging Scorecards: After everyone in your squad has taken their firing positions, the scorecards are passed to the right: left shooter to centre, centre shooter to right, right shooter to left.
 - a) You need to know your index number (competitor number): it must go on all scorecards with your signature (see ‘On the Scorecard’ section).
 - b) At Bisley, shooters set up to the left of the number stake, and your elbow needs to be behind the line of the peg line. So, if you are the right shooter in the detail, you will be just to the left of the target number stake. If you are the left shooter in the detail, you will set up just to the right of the adjacent target number stake. There is not a lot of room on the mound when there is three to a target so be aware about the space requirements of other shooters and setup as close to the edges of the allocated space. The earlier you get on the mound the more time you have to find a suitable location within the tight space.
6. Preparation Time: After you have been called to the firing point you may begin dry firing whenever you wish. The targets will remain in the pits until time commences. The Range Officer will announce when there is five minutes to “Message One” and then when there is two minutes to “Message One”. (See #15 below.)
 - a) After the announcement for five minutes to “Message One” there will be one sighting target every 5th target. You will need to adjust your position to one of those targets to check you sighting.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

- b) When the announcement is made for two minutes to “Message One” the sighting targets will disappear.
- c) To signal commencement of firing the Chief Range Officer will announce “when the targets appear you may load and carry on”.
- d) DO NOT fire until told to do so, you will be banned from the meeting if you have an unintentional discharge during the safety period. NO snap caps are allowed on the firing line during the Imperial meeting.



7. Three-to-the-mound rotation: After Message One has been relayed to the butts (the command to raise the targets, which signals commence fire) it is customary to confirm all shooters are ready (e.g. “ready on the left”, “ready in the middle”) and also wish your partners “good luck” or “good shooting”.
- a) Shooting rotation is: the right shooter first, then the centre shooter, and then the left shooter.
 - b) The procedure is to shoot, score and prepare.
 - c) Your position in the squad is noted on your scorecard label for each match (see ‘On the Scorecard’ section).
 - d) Always be aware of the rotation sequence. If you shoot out of sequence, you will incur a penalty pending a determination by the RO. If you lose track of the rotation, just ask your target mates.
 - e) Targets can be pulled in error so do not count a target being pulled to tell you when it

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

is your turn again. Normally, if the target is pulled in error, the “active” shooter calls out to the others so everyone knows about the error and can stay in proper rotation.

- f) Think about this rotation and ask yourself if you will have any problem: can you hear well enough from both sides or do you need electronic earmuffs?
 - g) If ever in doubt, just confirm with your shooting partners whose turn it is.
 - h) You are required to fire your shot within 45 seconds (See #14 below).
 - i) When a shooter finishes, particularly when they have converted sighters, they will remain quiet on the mound and continue scoring as required (all three shooters get up together once all are finished). Those shooters remaining shoot until all scoring shots are completed, meaning you may have up to three shots 'string style' if your two partners kept their sighters and you did not.
 - j) It can be very beneficial to practicing Bisley style with some club mates in Australia, this will make you more familiar with the process before arriving. Consider practising with a 1.5kg trigger; if you have a two stage trigger it can be beneficial to take most of the weight on the first stage. It is also practical to learn how to plot: <https://serc.org.uk/assets/files/How-to-do-Full-Bore-Plotting-by-Nic-Boyde.pdf>
8. Scoring: It is customary to call out the shot value and the shot number. Example: “V-bull, 5 on” or “V-bull, 5 to count”.
- a) Speak in a conversational tone and volume, just loud enough for your partners to hear, not so loud that you bother adjacent firing points.
 - b) A clipboard of some type is helpful to keep the scorecard secure and flat. If you presently use a clipboard for your personal plotting, an extra bulldog clip can be used to hold the scorecard on the board. You may wish to get a larger clipboard so your plot sheets and the scorecard can be viewed and written on without flipping sheets of paper.
 - c) Bring a soft lead pencil, in addition to a pen, for scoring. A #2 lead would normally be fine (they sometimes give you one in the entry pack). When the paper is wet a pen or harder lead will not write and may tear the scorecard. All aggregate scores in major competition must be signed in ink. (This is a rule that must be followed, there has been recent cases of attempted cheating resulting from aggregate scores not being entered in ink).
9. Checking for Rifle Safety: When signing the scorecard, you are also stating that you have checked your partner's rifle and that it is in a safe, unloaded condition. A standard 'breech flag' can be used at Bisley to show an unloaded chamber and open bolt. You may request that the 'breech flag' be removed before you check the rifle. Some shooters just show an open bolt or remove the bolt from the receiver. You should make the effort to confirm that the rifle is safe.
- a) Note that the 'breech flag' is not required; it is used instead of bolt removal. Some people will say it is required, in which case it is much easier to simply use one at all times the rifle is not on the mound.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

- b) If a 'breech flag' is not used, you are expected to check the loading port and the chamber with the muzzle at all times pointed towards the target.
10. Cartridge Cases and Unfired Ammo: After your squad has finished, take all fired casings, unfired ammo and scorecard to the RO table.
- a) If any sighters were converted, the RO will want to see and collect the unfired rounds.
 - b) All fired casings are dumped into the orange buckets provided at the RO table.
11. After Shooting a Perfect Score: When you shoot a “clean” score, you may have your trigger weighed. Take your unloaded rifle to the RO table with your scorecard. The RO will first ask to see that the rifle is unloaded, then you will close the bolt and use the RO's weight to show that the trigger will lift 1.5kg.
- a) If the trigger lifts the weight without “tripping”, you will need to show the RO that the trigger does actually work by releasing it.
 - b) If the trigger fails to lift the weight, and it is obvious that it will not after a couple of attempts, the RO will hold the rifle for a further period of time.
 - c) All of the RO tables have a weight set. The Range Officers freely admit they are not all the same weight, so it is a good idea to set your trigger weight at or slightly above the 1.5kg minimum.
 - d) The Bisley trigger weights are somewhat agricultural. They have a V notch along the horizontal, which means they slide down your trigger blade (shoe) to the middle of the curve. It pays to set your trigger to about 1.6 kg to ensure it passes (even on the hot days).
 - e) If the trigger function fails, you will be escorted to NRA GB armoury to have your rifle tested on the lifting machine.
 - f) Shooters are welcome to use the weight sets at any time to check their triggers provided someone is able to check the action before doing so.
 - g) On some years instead of testing 50's there has been random trigger testing undertaken involving a number of trigger tests on each range for each squad. Random trigger testing has been the norm since 2015.
12. Weather Delays: If weather has caused delays the ROs may ask shooters to remove all equipment from the firing point before going to the RO table to turn in score cards casings and ammo. The matches will not be stopped for a heavy rain. Delays are only called if the targets are not visible or for safety concerns such as lightning.
13. Equipment on the Firing Line: Take the absolute minimum. A wheeled chair is not allowed on the firing line; a range bag (i.e. Dillon) or range box (i.e. Hoham) is allowed; a small backpack is also acceptable. Personal space on the firing line is tight so even a box or bag must be placed so it does not interfere with the other shooters. At Bisley you can put

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

equipment forward of your front shoulder.

- a) Some shooters like to have a wheeled chair with them to use a chair as well as for carrying equipment and materials. You can bring your wheeled chair to Bisley if you wish, just remember that you cannot put it on the firing line.
- b) NO snap caps are allowed on the firing line during the Imperial meeting.

14. The 45-second rule: Shooters are expected to keep within the 45-second rule (successive shots within 45 seconds). You may find instances of slow shooting but most competitors keep well inside the rule.

- a) Shooters can be docked points for failing to stay within the 45-second rule. There will be times when wind conditions force some delays between shots. It is important to keep the 45-second rule in mind if you find yourself in a “hold” condition.
- b) Each competitor has a duty to notify another shooter that he or she is consistently over the 45-second time limit. If a shooter is tardy once or twice through a string, it can be ignored, but if it happens shot after shot, the person needs to be informed of the infraction. In most cases the competitors acting as the ROs will randomly time competitors and pick up this up first, but you may need to draw their attention to this.
- c) If a shooter in your squad is consistently slow, that infraction does not count against your own shooting time. You do not have to shoot faster to make up for another person’s tardiness.

15. Bisley “Messages” (Radio Code Messages): Can be downloaded at:

<https://nra.org.uk/all-downloads/nra-handbooks/>

It is customary for shooters to call out a Message “Number” to the RO rather than try to explain what you want done. There will be a copy of the messages with your scorecard booklet.

- a) Message 1 (Commence fire): targets are raised.
- b) Message 3 (Re-disk): Value marker and shot spotter do not agree.
- c) Message 4 (Mark the target): Shot was fired but the target was not marked.
- d) Message 5 (Challenge for higher value): Value marker indicates lesser value than shot spotter (fee of one pound if challenge is lost).
- e) Message 6 (Challenge for second shot): Target was marked but shows a shot that the shooter does not think is theirs; re-examine the target for another shot. If no second shot found, original shot stands.
- f) Message 7 (Challenge for a hit): Target was marked but shows a miss without a shot spotter; re-examine the target for a hit.
- g) Message 10 (the target has finished, the pullers may rest): the target is withdrawn.

If anyone on your target calls for #3 or #5 or #6 or #7, when the pit officer arrives at the target to oversee the examination they will raise a red disk in front of the target to indicate their presence.

16. Zeroing Range: This facility is located between Century and Stickledown Ranges, just north of the Century Range butts access road (a road that allows access to the pits while

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

shooting is ongoing). From 2015, this range opened from 7.30am until quite late and a fee of £5.00 purchased five rounds of ammo from the Armoury Office for testing zero (25-yard/meter target) or fouling the bore after cleaning.

- a) Blow off shots are allowed for free during imperial (when you have a competition that day or the next). Go to the zero range and explain to the range officer that you wish to fire blow off shots. A fouled barrel is helpful, particularly if your first shoot of the day is on Stickledown. Note that the different zero ranges have different rules regarding sitting or having to lay prone to fire the shots – if in doubt confirm with range officer.
- b) Zero targets and additional ammo can be purchased from the range office. Do not take any additional ammunition purchased to the firing line (be it in your ammo box or your range bag), only take the ammunition issued for that match from the ammo tent.
- c) It is recommended you zero at the zero-range before firing on the range to ensure your sights have not moved in transit. The aim is to ensure front and rear sights are level and that a vertical line is produced when firing shots at 300 to 1000 yard elevations. A very slight tilt to the left at the 1000 yard setting on your elevation ladder is fine if you cannot get the front and rear sights perfectly level; however, a right hand tilt is bad and needs to be re-levelled.
- d) Due to the speed of the ammunition and the projectile used, your 1000 yard elevation may be 6-8 minutes higher than that on Australian ranges. An Australian 1000 yard setting should get you on the target at 900y. The zero targets available from the armoury are reasonably close.

17. Sighting: Matches are shot on Bisley aiming marks for all matches (except Kolopore, which are ICFRA), their aiming marks are bigger than ours, so it is suggested that you have bigger rings in your kit (or if using an adjustable then enough range to dial up). The frames on Stickledown range are 11' x 6' (not 8'x6'), so if you frame at long range then again bigger rings are needed. The 500 yard aiming mark size may mean you go up in ring size from 300yds.

- a) Be mindful of the halo effect on targets on century in the evening – it can look like an off centre square aiming mark. Adjust rear peep and consider a bigger ring to get the best picture available.

18. Flags: The flags are lighter than Australia, with less of them at long ranges.

- a) The flags on Century behind the 300m shooting shed on the left hand side of the range can be misleading due to the large structure present. There can be an effect on the right hand most targets on Century (100+, aka Magpie Alley) where the wind bounces back off the trees and more wind on the flags can mean less wind required on the sight.
- b) The flags on Stickledown are not in a straight line from the targets, the right hand flags at 300 and 600 yards are approximately 50 yards further forward than the other flags to account for the drop off to the right at 250 yards and the gap in the trees on the right at 550 yards. Generally need more windage on sight compared to Australia.
- c) Consider doing Bill Richard's wind reading course / stickledown walk on the first Friday

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

to gain a better appreciation of the land effect and flag location.

19. Long days: You'll have some days where you won't finish till 6 or 7pm. And then some will be early by 2pm or so. It's a long competition, however you will not necessarily be on the range all day, just for your details. Most shooters do not spend much time on the range, but more time at the clubhouses between details.

a) The luck of the draw plays a part. On a normal day, you will shoot twice at short range, 3, 5 or 600yds and once at longs, either 900 or 1000yds. So the long range goes all day, approximately 10 hours, so conditions can vary widely over the course of the day. This is where the luck can come in.

20. Team shooting: It is usual procedure for the Captain to place announcements on the team notice board where individual scores are also recorded as part of the selection procedure for the Overseas, Kolapore and Mackinnon teams matches. All team members can expect to have a small job to contribute to the smooth running of the team. At the completion of teams matches, it is customary for the Captain to lead "three cheers" for the winning team and to then lead the team in a line handshake with the winning team. Do not leave the firing point until the Captain says all formalities are completed.

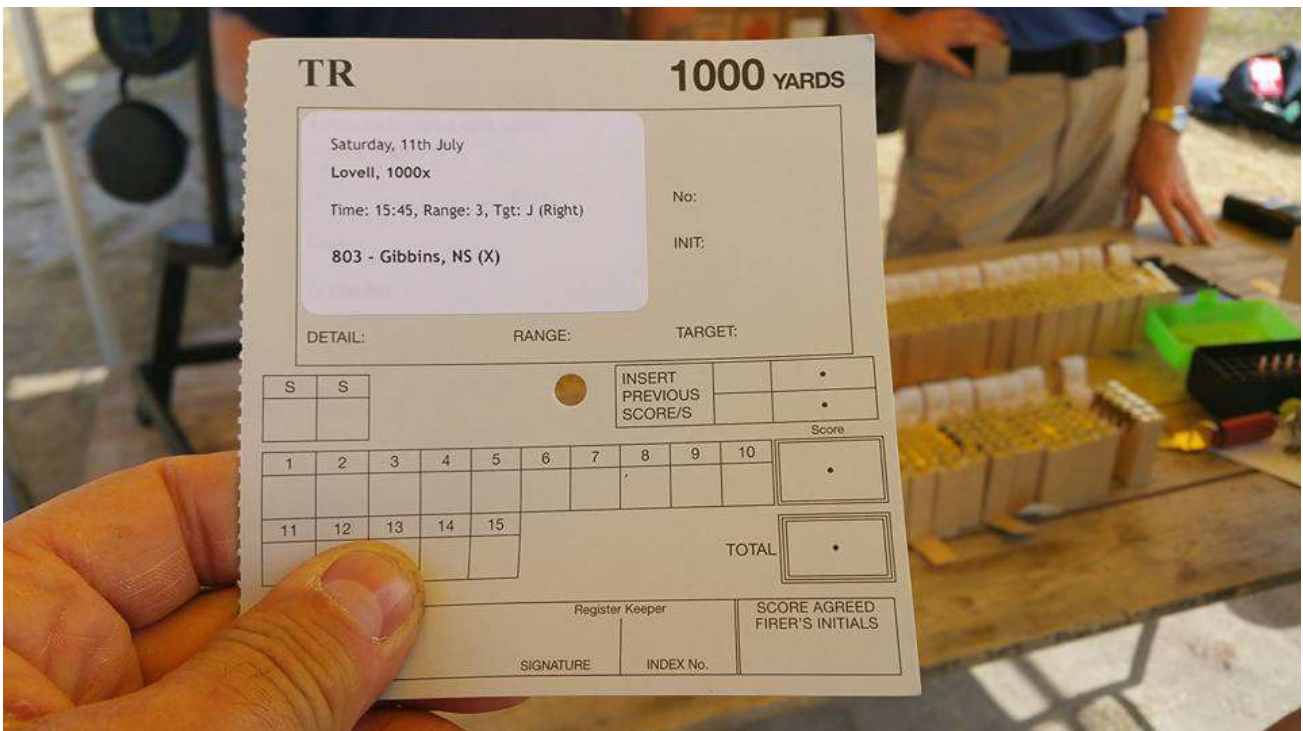
a) Only official team members are allowed on the mound during a teams match.

b) Scopes with stands are very useful during teams matches, if you have yours at Bisley please bring along.

c) A team photo is usually taken at 5:30pm ahead of the main prize-giving, dress code is number 1's.

On the Scorecard

1. Scorecards: All of the scorecards are in the competitor packet you receive from the NRA office. The scorecards are colour coded according to distance: 300yd=Green, 500=Pink, 600=Yellow, 900=Blue and 1000=Grey. There are no 800-yard stages in the GB Imperial Meeting.
 - a) Also in the packet are self-sticking computer labels that contain: the match name and date, the distance(s) to be fired, your name, your classification, your index number (competitor number), and your squadding. These labels must be affixed to the proper scorecard: a 300 yard match label affixed to a generic 300 yard score card; a 500 yard match label affixed to a generic 500 yard score card; etc.



2. Squadding: Your computer labels indicate the time of day for each match you are entered in (this is your “detail” and the time you will begin shooting that specific match), a Range Number (Stickledown Range has five range numbers: 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4; Century Range has nine range numbers that are used by TR events: 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19), your Target Letter (A through L), and a notation of Left, Centre or Right (your firing position in the three-shooter squad).
 - a) The time of day (your start time) is rigidly adhered to. You should plan on getting to your firing point with at least 15 minutes to spare, if not more. Remember that you need to draw ammo and there may be a line of late-arrivers.
 - b) The Range Number is located high on the impact berm, above the target numbers, and usually encompasses 10-12 targets.
 - c) The Target Letter will be on the Range Officer's chalkboard, also known as the

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

“scramble board”, and will indicate which firing point you will report to. After each detail begins, the RO may erase the letters and re-write them in a different pattern, “scrambling” the letters and numbers.

- d) The Left (“L”), Centre (“C”) and Right (“R”) beside your Target Letter indicates your position in the three-shooter squad.

3. Squadding examples:

- a) Competition: Donegall (300 yards)
Date: 11 July
Time: 0830
Target: Range 19, Target B, Left

Explanation: Your squadding for the 300-yard Donegall match is on 11 July, Friday, at 0830, on range 19 (the furthest range on the right side of Century), target B (scramble board designates which number that is), and you are the Left shooter in the three-person squad for that target. Since the Donegall is shot at 300 yards, you know that you are on Century Range.

- b) Competition: Admiral Hutton (900 yards)
Date: 11 July
Time: 1845
Target: Range 0, Target L, Right

Explanation: Your squadding for the 900-yard Admiral Hutton match is on 11 July, Friday, at 1845, on range 0 (the furthest range on the left side of Stickledown), target L (scramble board designates which number that is), and you are the Right shooter in the three-person squad for that target. Since the Admiral Hutton is shot at 900 yards, you know that you are on Stickledown Range.

4. Converting sighters: A shooter may convert sighting shots into record shots, either taking both or just the second (you cannot take the first without taking the second). Normally the shooter will state something like this: “I’ll convert both, thank you” or “I’ll convert the second, thank you”.

- a) When one or two sighters are converted to record shots, it is customary for the scorer to state “Two on” or “One on” to indicate that the converting request was heard and entered on the scorecard correctly.
- b) When converting sighters, copy the value(s) from the sighting-shot boxes into the scorecard's record shot boxes, and then draw a diagonal line through the values written in the sighting-shot boxes. This will indicate that one or both sighting shots were converted.
- c) You must announce to your scorer your intention to convert sighters; it will not be assumed you wish to keep bullseyes.

5. Signing the Scorecard: The order of shots can mean a lot to final placing in the event, especially if it is a clean score.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

- a) Example: a 50-9v score (10 shots for record) might be tied with 15 other shooters. If the "5" was shot early in the shoot, the score will be much higher in the list. If you have a disagreement with the order or the score and you kept a plot sheet, you will most likely win an argument. If you did not plot your shots, winning an argument is probably not possible. Always check your scorecard before you sign it and turn it in.
 - b) Note that first place scores in a match are not decided by countback, due to people shooting at different times during the day, a tie shoot will be held for those equal on the highest score.
 - c) Sometimes your scorer will get lost and call out the wrong shot number. Identify the problem and say you will sort out at end of shoot (this is where plotting will again aid you).
6. Waterproofing the scorecard and plotting sheets: Be prepared, you can experience wet weather during July in the UK. Something as simple as a clear, plastic bag, in which you place the scorecard and plot sheets, can be a lifesaver. Remember to have a soft-lead pencil on hand for scoring; when the scorecard is wet, an ink pen will not write on it (final score to be written in ink and signed). There are "waterproof" devices sold at Bisley, but they are expensive and a plastic bag works as well.
- a) Fulton's and HPS tent, a gun shop and gun smithing service, has plastisized plot sheets available that can be written on when wet (lead pencil). The plots can be copied over to regular paper in the evening and the plastic sheet erased for the next day's use. These may also be available at the NRA Armoury or other commercial outlets at Bisley (in addition to the various clubs); the Armoury does have regular paper plot sheets for sale.
 - b) There are also A5/A4 sized waterproof clipboards that have a folding plastic top in portrait or landscape orientation that can be used (eg 'Weatherwriter', 'Stormwriter', 'Rainwriter' or 'Paperdry').
7. Special Duties (white cards) (usually not assigned to overseas competitors):

Range/Wing Officer

As a Range/Wing Officer you will be assigned a time and range the same as the squadding of shooters. You will assist the RO by:

- watching the shooters for any messages and relaying these to the RO
- calling the RO over if the shooter requires RO assistance
- collecting score cards
- checking number of live rounds and spent cases to be returned
- helping with trigger checks
- a Wing Officer is someone who is looking for potential issues with the rules as described in the Bisley Bible

Ammo Issue

Both Stickledown and Century have ammo tents in which you may be required to:

- help prepare the ammo by removing the excess rounds from the boxes and making up additional boxes of the excess rounds
- issue ammo to competitors

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

- stamp scorecards to record the correct number of rounds received

The duties may last between 1 to 3 squads and are not difficult. It is advisable to plan the same as if you were shooting by wearing appropriate clothing and footwear, taking plenty of water and sun or wet weather protection. You may also need to take your shooting gear to avoid having to return to your lodgings. Remember to bring your white card (with sticker attached) to hand over to the RO to prove you have met your special duties obligations. Failure to do so may result in your having to attend a meeting to explain why you missed your duties and could include a monetary fine or docking of range points.

On Equipment, Keeping Dry and Sun Protected

1. There are two kinds of people at Bisley: those who wear shorts and sandals and those who wear rain gear. The first has accepted that he/she will get wet and has decided that drying skin is much easier than drying clothes. The second has decided to try and stay as dry as possible for as long as possible and will opt for rain gear.

2. Boots: Bring waterproof footwear or washable sandals. Century Range can be very soggy. After a few rainy days and all of the foot traffic, Century Range begins to look and smell like a beach at low tide. Stickledown Range has much better drainage, probably because it is so vertical.

3. Mat: A ground mat that is waterproof on the down side can make life a lot nicer. However, this doesn't help when the water is falling from the sky. The pros and cons:

- a) A thicker mat, once wet, will take longer to dry than a thinner mat.
- b) A single thickness of waterproof canvas will dry very quickly.
- c) A tri-fold mat with handles can double as a carrying device.
- d) A thicker mat, or additional padding, can help with the hard grass mounds.
- e) Look at the mats available to you and decide which will be best to take into a wet environment. Remember that your accommodations will be cramped and spreading out wet items to dry may be difficult.

4. Rain gear: A pair of waterproof pants will work fine. Wear in conjunction with waterproof footwear or sandals. Consider purchasing a shooting cape or a butterfly cape. Consider purchasing or making an action cover, or simply using duct tape to tape along the edge of your action and stock to prevent water entering bedding (a simple action port flap can also be made using tape).

- a) Consider how to keep your rounds dry if it rains, a simple plastic bag can work, or consider a 'weather writer'. Bring a couple of small towels to the mound - can be useful keeping things dry or wiping away sweat (consider a head sweatband)

5. Spotting Scope: If the scope you normally use has a history of fogging up – leave it at home. If you can get a waterproof scope to use at Bisley, take it. The only other option is to tape your scope up with some type of plastic bag material so water cannot get into the scope body. Also, bring an extra eyepiece with you in case the first fogs up. Another option is to put silicone sealant on the seams of the scope and eyepiece.

- a) Since all scoring is done while you are in the prone position, you do not need a scope stand with a tall rod, unless you are a coach and need something tall enough for a seated position, or you use that rod for something other than raising the scope (example; slip a roll-up mat over it for storage or for carrying on the shoulder). It is however handy to have a tall scope stand for team matches (eg coaching, plotting and scoring).

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

- b) Since you don't need a tall scope for scoring, you will not need that 10 pound lead weight on the scope stand.
6. Rifle: If you are not using a fibreglass or metal stock, you may want to make sure that the wood finish is well sealed. Bring a rifle case that is waterproof; you might even want to use some ScotchGuard on the case to increase water protection.
- a) Breech cover: many shooters will have a chamois or other water-repellent cloth to drape over the action to keep water from getting into the breech.
 - b) Front and Rear Sight Tubes: if you do not presently use extended shade tubes, you may wish to try them, especially if you are using any kind of lens system. Remember: you must pass the 6.5kg weight test with ALL equipment installed on the rifle.
 - c) A barrel heat/mirage strap or band also counts toward the rifle's total weight.
 - d) Barrel Tuners are not permitted under the Bisley Bible rules.
<https://nra.org.uk/all-downloads/nra-handbooks/>
7. Range Bag: Consider the equipment bag you intend to use and prep it for a wet environment.
- a) A duffel bag large enough to hold your coat, mat, scope, shooting equipment, etc is a great organiser, but remember you have to carry it to the firing line from either the parking areas or your housing unit, and you have to carry it back, too. Therefore consider what the essentials are for the range, noting it is a long way back to your car or accommodation if you need a last minute item or a tool to make an adjustment. A large backpack is also a great option.
 - b) Another option is to wear everything that didn't fit into the Range Bag. The rifle, bag and spotting scope stand can be slung over the shoulders.
 - c) Whatever style of equipment bag you decide to use, spray it with some kind of waterproofing.
8. Shooting Coat: NRAGB rules now permit coats with adjustable straps, previously you had to tape the straps so they are not adjustable (eg get into their coat, adjust the straps, and then tape them in the preferred position).
- a) Corduroy coats can be sprayed with ScotchGuard or other waterproofing to help protect the outer shell from getting too wet.
 - b) Leather coats are naturally water-repellent.
 - c) Both types of coats have cloth interiors that can be waterproofed (it is easier to dry a sweatshirt than a thick shooting coat).
9. Ammo: Remember it is advisable to keep your ammunition covered from both the rain and the sun at all times. You are down for a long time, consider a soft 6 pack esky or a damp towel to keep rounds cool.
10. Sights: Sights must be in accordance with the Bisley Bible; No 0.0x dioptres are

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

allowed. If you use a rear lens mounted on your sight you are required to have a letter from your optometrist to say it's your normal prescription (this does not apply to shooting glasses).

11. Butt-Plate: Mound angles / target heights can be significantly different to those on Australian ranges, consider moving butt-plate to counter as required.

12. Sling: Similar to above issue, consider adjusting sling to ensure correct support on varying sloped mounds.

- a) Another way to combat sling tension is to move body around front shoulder.
- b) A forked rest to support the weight of the rifle when not on aim can be beneficial when shooting three to a target.
- c) If using a single point sling consider practicing getting 'in and out' of your sling between shots to reduce fatigue. The majority of the local competitors do this as the norm.

13. Trolley: It may be a good idea to acquire a lightweight trolley to cart your gear around the ranges (eg "fishing trolleys" or a second hand golf cart).

14. Sun breaks, too: July weather in the UK can also be quite sunny, hot and humid so be prepared with plenty of sunscreen and maintaining fluids, electrolytes and salts.

You will be lying in position on the shooting mound from between 15 to 45 minutes so you will need to consider what you are wearing to avoid getting sun burnt.

It may also be prudent to take water and electrolytes on the mound with you and a cloth to wipe away sweat.

On the NRA of GB

1. NRA Headquarters:



2. The NRA of GB has a website that you can access for information on past Annual Meetings, current rules and information on the forthcoming Imperial Meeting at:
<http://www.nra.org.uk>

The NRA of GB has an information pack for first time shooters at:
https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/1st_time_shooter.pdf
<https://nra.org.uk/imperialvisitorinformation/>
<https://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/visiting/>

- a) Mail Call: The NRA office has an in-Camp mailbox. Team members may receive invitations to receptions/parties/dinners from the clubs at Bisley. The NRA asks that competitors check periodically, if not daily, for mail.
- b) Competitor Entry Packets: The Competitor Packet/envelope contains all of your scorecards, competitor labels and helpful notes. To collect your pack you will need to show your entry receipt/invoice as well as your Certificate of Competency if not previously provided. Check your packet for your International Visitor Bisley cushion badge, and ask for the hard copy of the Bisley Bible if you ordered it (it is available online, but can be a memento of the trip).
- c) Awards: Overseas competitors, receiving awards, will receive a posted package after the event (if you selected to receive medals and bars on your entry form).

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

- d) Match Entry: There are individual matches but also cross aggregates and Sweeps stakes. This is an extra fee (the Sweeps are cash prizes spread across the classes, the amount and number of awards per class are determined by the number of entries). When the entry form is installed on the internet site noted above, check the aggregate-match entry fees in case you wish to enter those events. The aggregate matches and the Sweeps can be entered after your arrival at Bisley, but there is a late-entry fee.
- e) Concurrent Competitions: There are also extra competitions for concurrent teams, families matches and for individual matches such as overseas competitors, veterans, ladies, U25's etc. These are not widely advertised but can be entered once you have arrived at Bisley. The sheets are located in the NRA office and are usually a few pounds each to enter each eligible match (the match conditions are in the Bisley Bible).
- f) Newspapers: Newspapers are available daily with a contribution to one of the shooting club funds. The local newspapers give good coverage of the matches on a daily basis.
- g) Post Office: The NRA does not have a working post office but you can purchase postage stamps. There is a post office box available on camp and is located in the wall of the NRA building outside near the telephone booth.
- h) Phone Cards: It is cheaper to purchase a phone card in the UK to cover all calls back to Australia and in the UK. There are numerous outlets, you can do it at one of the stores when you arrive at the airport, or Sainsbury's has multiple options.
- i) Telephones: There are public pay phones outside of the NRA HQ building, just outside of the Armoury entrance.
- j) Banking Facilities: The NRA Finance Manager and staff will cash Traveler's Cheques if the cheques are in pounds-sterling. Traveler's Cheques in US or Australian dollars, or any other currency, can only be cashed at a regular bank. Local shop Sainsbury's has a money exchange counter. Recently it has been simple enough to simply take cash out of the ATMs outside Sainsbury's (be aware of any fees your bank may charge you for this).
- k) Wi-Fi: The NRA has made free Wi-Fi available for attendees of the meeting around the NRA HQ building and the Pavilion. If you have trouble accessing then please ask the office staff. It can be advantageous to buy a USB dongle or data SIM for a tablet in the UK if you require internet access in your room. Don't hotspot off your mobile phone as the roaming charges may exceed your airfare (unless you have purchased a local SIM with Data).
- l) Parking Near Range: There is parking available near the ranges. However, there are only limited passes to drive onto the range itself. On Stickledown the parking is behind the 1000 yard mound indicated by the roped off sections. On Century you are able to park beside the western edge of the range in the parking areas behind the mound, and behind the 600 yard mound. There is limited parking available near the 300 yard mound on the eastern side of the range continuing on down Gallery Road towards the forested area. There is a lot of walking, even with a car.
- m) Non Range Attire: Do not wear head wear inside any building on Bisley. After hours it

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

is also prudent to get a scope of what is the suitable attire for each club. You are most welcome in all clubs on the range during the imperial as a guest; however be careful about Members only areas (if in doubt politely ask). If invited into Members areas you will be required to wear a collared shirt and blazer, possibly even a tie. Other clubs are not quite as strict, however, as a general rule after 1900 do not wear shorts or thongs, wear a collared shirt and definitely do not wear a hoodie if you are wearing a jumper because it is cold. The majority of locals tend to wear blazers usually because they have been to a prior function. There are certain functions that require 'number 1's' or equivalent.

- n) **Presentation:** The Presentation is held in either the Umbrella tent, or more recently the left hand end of the Pavilion, on the Saturday afternoon/night (there is not a lot of time from the Queens winner being chaired off Stickledown until the beginning of the presentation, usually less than an hour). The dress code is blazer or equivalent (ie 'number 1's), and a team photo will usually be taken just before the presentation. It lasts for two hours, however there are boards outside the tent with the running list of who has won and in what order they are to be presented. There are ushers who organise the recipients. Although there are hundreds of trophies the turnover is quite brisk and it is very easy to miss your presentation time if you are not prepared. You are able to remove your trophy from the area, however you will have to sign a waiver to do so (it is recommended that you sign the trophy out for a photo, and then return not long after the ceremony). The speeches are usually limited to a welcoming speech and a speech from the guest presenter. There are no acceptance speeches by winners, including the Queens winner.



- o) **Chairing of the Queens Winner:** If the Queens winner happens to be a member of your team, or you may be a friend of the winner, you may be included in the chairing party.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

This can include chairing the winner from the 1000 yard mound to the NRA building, then on to the winners accommodation and then to the Umbrella tent for the presentation. There is not a lot of time between depositing the winner at their accommodation then on to the Umbrella tent.

Once the Presentation is completed the winner is chaired to the Army Officers Club to begin the night's festivities. If you are assisting with the chairing of the Queens winner between each club house, you can expect a lot of finger food provided by the clubs to soak up a lot of alcohol. Be warned each club has some form of beverage, usually very strong, which the winner partakes from the club chalice followed by each of the chairing party. It is also prudent to try and organise a local to oversee the timing at each club and which is the best layout of the camp to follow.

The night finishes in the wee hours of the morning where the members of the chairing party who are still 'standing' and the Queens winner are all required to stand on a table in the Surrey Club and sing (at this stage whether it be due to high spirits or alcohol most people will join in and sing their 'heart out'). There is an arrangement for the chair to be left in the Surrey Club and collected later in the week by club members.

If you are not one of the chairing party you can still follow the group around the camp and be part of the festivities. It is an amazing chance to visit some clubs that you otherwise may not have opportunity to enter. Don't miss the firing of the cannons at Canada House at around 9pm.

3. The NRA Armoury (the southern side of the HQ building):
 - a) Rifle Chamber Check: You require a NRA Armoury sticker on your rifle to show it meets Bisley Bible Rule 150. This has generally been checked using a Sierra 2155 projectile and a bullet cartridge overall length gauge (eg Hornady) and that it is longer than 2.800"
 - i) Note there can be significant variations between batches of projectiles and a rifle that passes here may not pass in Bisley; aim for 2.820" length to pass. Previous team members have had their chambers 'throated out' by Fulton's or HPS and have not experienced detrimental effect on their scores.
 - ii) Simply take your empty rifle to the Armoury and request a chamber check and they will take your rifle, measure it and advise if it passed.
 - b) Storage of Rifles: The NRA requires rifles to be stored in secure armouries when not in the owner's possession (such as in the evenings when you leave Camp to get diner). The NRA Armoury charges about £40.00 to store a rifle for the Imperial Meeting, please note the NRA Armoury are unable to store rifle cases, so please be prepared to hold onto these. You can have access to your rifle at any time during the NRA Armoury opening times (<https://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/armoury/storage-hire/>). The Clubhouses on the Camp also have armouries. The Team may or may not contract with a private Club or Association for rifle storage. Fulton's and the Small Bore Association (<https://www.nusra.co.uk/>) have been used by members in the past to store rifles when touring before or after the Imperial Meeting.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

- c) **Purchasing Ammo:** If you need sight-in ammo, the Armoury sells GGG in 20-round boxes. If you are only concerned with fouling the bore after a thorough cleaning, the 'zero' range (located between Century and Stickledown) may sell loose ammo for this purpose (see "On the Firing Line"). Check the operating hours of the Zero Range if you are anticipating the need to use it on a regular basis. You may need to present your Visitor's Firearms Permit to purchase ammunition.
 - d) **Plot Sheets:** The NRA Armoury usually sells affordably priced plot sheets, grab a pack of short range and a pack of long range sheets to get you through the Imperial. Other commercial outlets at Bisley are various clubs also sell plot sheets.
4. **Accommodation Office:** The Accommodation Office is in the Pavilion (across the road from the NRA HQ).
5. **The Stats Wall:** The results bulletin for each match is stapled to a wall just outside the NRA HQ building (on the north side). Squadding for team matches and for shoot-offs is also posted there (on the end closest to the stats entry window).



- a) **How to Read the Numbers:** NRA lists the scores from the highest to the lowest, regardless of class.
 - i) The block of scores at the top of the sheet shows the scores that have won an award. The scores below the top block, after a blank space on the sheet, are all other scores fired in the match.
 - ii) All overseas competitors are automatically placed in the O or X class. As you look down the list of names and scores, you will see the notation "Last X In" which means that score is the lowest X class shooter in the awards list.
 - iii) You may be looking down the awards list and notice that the bottom scores in the top block are lower than the one you shot in that match. It appears to the

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

untrained eye that the Stats Office made a mistake, but if you look again and find the "Last X In" notation, that score should be higher than your score. If it is not higher, then go to the Stats Office and point out the error.

- b) If You Enter the Sweep: The results bulletin will show "£4.00" (the 2022 amount) to the right of any score that won a Sweeps prize. Your classification notation on your squadding labels will also show "XS" rather than just "X".
- c) The Stats Office: This is located outside the NRA HQ building in the portable building East of the HQ.
- d) Challenges: It is up to each shooter to check the daily results bulletins for any Stats Office errors. The daily match score bulletins are usually posted by 8.00pm, and the challenge period deadline is usually 12.00 noon the following day. If the results are printed on white paper, the challenge period is still active. When the bulletins are printed on yellow paper, the challenge period has passed. Please note the full list of scores is contained on the grand aggregate wall (opposite side of lawn to Target Rifle scores, near the stats window/tie shoot end), you need to check this list for correct score if you did not score high enough to be on the prize list.
- e) Tie Shoots: These often take place a day or two after the actual match. It is important to check the ends of the result walls if you believe that you will be in a tie shoot. It is your responsibility to present yourself to the RO at the appointed time.

Tie Shoot				
Competition		Venue Day		
Name		Club	Time	Score
M. L. A. E. Cannon	GB U25			
M. R. J. Wood	Edinburgh RC			
Pie L. Bennett	GB U25			
M. P. R. E. Cleaver	Stoke Exchange RC	1hr	600s	Tie for 1st place
M. T. Hemmicks	Manchester RC			
M. S. Darnell	Manchester RC			
M. F. Smith	GB U25			
Sgt. K. P. Ross	1027 Sp. ATE			

6. The NRA has a museum upstairs in the HQ building. Opening hours during the Imperial will be posted on the noticeboard and the door that leads to the museum (around the side of the building where the stats are) <https://nra.org.uk/nra-bisley/museum/>.

On Money Matters

1. Exchange Rate: What is a pound sterling (£) worth? Even though the pound is worth more than the dollar, the numbers act the same. If you are accustomed to paying \$1.00 for something in Australia, you will pay £1.00 in England.
2. Plastic or Cash: One option is to put money in your account and use an ATM Debit Card.
 - a) There is a large grocery/department store close to Bisley Camp called Sainsbury's. ATM machines are available as well as a money exchange counter and the store itself can supply just about everything else you may need during your stay: food, housewares, hardware, etc.
 - b) Getting a cash advance with your credit card may burden you with excessive exchange rates and user fees. A Debit Card is much nicer because there are no hidden fees (your bank may charge you an international transaction fee however); you are just taking your cash out of your account.
 - c) A cheap option for a Debit Card is the Multi-Currency Cash Passport which is available from Australia Post or other providers. It is the equivalent of using your everyday debit card but without having it linked to all of your funds, just the amount you load onto it. You get two cards per account (with different pins). In case you lose one you can cancel it but still have access to your money. It also has an online bank account allowing you to monitor the balance and load money if required. However, because the account is not directly linked to your personal account you should factor in a day or two delay for transferring funds. Generally there are no extra fees beyond the possible ATM charges of the individual banks in England (same as using your card in a competitor's bank in Australia). However, you are advised to confirm this when purchasing from Australia Post or other vendor.
 - d) A credit card, of course, works just as it always has. A number of suppliers on camp now take plastic, where they traditionally only took cash (eg. Club bars).
3. Dinner: Many of the Clubhouses have restaurants as a part of their operation. Our team may be given temporary memberships to more than one club. However, most clubs welcome non-members for dinner (ask around for special rules, like NO Hats, NO Cell phones, Ties Required, etc) (you are all welcome in all the club houses during the imperial, be careful about the members only areas; if in doubt just politely ask and they will let you know).
 - a) The Team usually has a couple of free functions to attend. Expect invitations (drinks and light food only) for the whole team to the Chairman of the Commonwealth Rifle Club and the Chairman of the NRAGB. An invitation is also likely from the Commandant of the Canadian team (recently this has been limited to been team management and a few members, usually the new caps in the team).
 - b) There are a few other optional paid nights on the calendar such as the Army club holds a Cocktail and Canape night, usually £15-20 pounds, where the dress code is cocktail

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

(or 'number 1's' as minimum). The information for these events is usually contained in your entry pack.

- c) The team usually hosts two functions, one for a meet and greet of team members and another hosting the other countries.
- d) The pubs in the Bisley area usually serve excellent dinners. Ask the regulars or other visitors to the range on their recommendations; it can change yearly. The problem is finding them via the narrow country-lane road system.
- e) Dinner prices, as mentioned above, have about the same numbers as in Australia: a steak dinner with desert and a couple of beers works out to about £35.00. In reality, the cost of the dinner is higher than in Australia due to the exchange rate. Eliminating the desert and alcohol can bring the cost down to about £25.00.
- f) There are also takeaway options in Knaphill.

4. Breakfast and Lunch: A number of clubs (eg Army, London and Middlesex Club) serve hot breakfasts (eggs, bacon, toast and tea) every morning. Lunch, for some, consisted of groceries from Sainsbury's but there are a couple of clubs on Camp that serve sandwiches (in addition to sit down meals). The NRA has two cafes, one in the pavilion and one at the shot gun range, Smallbore also has a café in the Lord Roberts Centre.

- a) There are also food vans on the range and an Ice Cream vans drive around between the two ranges and have ice creams, water, soft drinks and occasionally packets of crisps. There is often a van on the green between the NRA offices, the Pavilion and Armourer tents that sells hamburgers. Between Century and Stickledown near the entry to the Century butts there is Fat Tony's which serves hot food and drinks and there is also the Flapping Jacks van that sells vegetarian meals and drinks on the lawn between the NRAHQ and London and Middlesex Club.

<https://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/club>

5. Estimating a Budget: Everyone will, of course, tend to spend at different rates. If you have access to \$1500.00 cash (ATM) and a credit card, you will not run into any money problems.

Expenses	2019	2023
INDIVIDUAL		
Airfares (allow excess baggage)	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
Car hire (Shared)	\$ 350.00	\$ 600.00
Accommodation (Shared)	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,250.00
Food, Drinks, Data, etc	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00
Individual Entries	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Uniforms etc	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
Individual Expenses	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 8,500.00
TEAM - Individual Contribution		
Gifts and Plaques, Mail/Other	\$ 5.00	\$ 10.00

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

Member Team photos	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00
Australian Team Meet and Greet	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00
Australian Team Function	\$ 40.00	\$ 45.00
UK Permit	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00
Practice targets	\$ 10.00	\$ 15.00
Unofficial Matches UK		
BCRC	\$ 70.00	\$ 75.00
Army	\$ 70.00	\$ 75.00
Opening Shot	\$ 70.00	\$ 75.00
Official Matches - additional costs (ammo)	\$ -	\$ -
Overseas		\$ 75.00
Kolapore		\$ 75.00
MacKinnon		\$ 75.00
Team Expenses	\$ 325.00	\$ 595.00
Total	\$ 7,575.00	\$ 9,095.00

On Accommodation

1. Refer to the NRA accommodation sites for accommodation options:

<https://nra.org.uk/nra-bisley/accommodation/>

<https://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/accommodation/>

<https://nra.campmanager.com/CheckAvailability.asp>

Accommodation generally doesn't open up until January; keep an eye on the website. It can be useful to contact the accommodation office via email to let them know your requirements for accommodation and that you are travelling from overseas prior to the website opening.

2. Most recently members have generally stayed in the pavilion and the 'bunkabins' (transportable accommodation shipped in for the Imperial) with ensuites; getting a room in C-Line Cabins (or other options) has been difficult. Rooms are sometimes available in the Artists and Sergeants Mess (a lot of the club accommodation is taken up by club members).

3. Finding available accommodation in a caravan on-site can be difficult unless you know someone. People have had luck in the past using the Facebook pages to source accommodation.

4. It is generally more convenient to stay on camp than staying at a hotel off-site, most participants stay on camp (even people who live nearby!).

5. Room Keys: The Accommodation Office will issue you a door key for the room and a door key for the showers (if required). A minor effort is made to keep the shower doors locked but most of the time the doors are unlocked and open. Keys are not available until 4:00pm for check-in, and they are generally required to be returned by 10am on checkout day. Discuss with the Accommodation Office beforehand if you may need some extra time when checking in and out.

6. C-Line Cabins: Some of the Team will be staying in the C-Line cabins (aka Crawford Cabins). The 2-military-cot rooms have a small chest of drawers, a sink with cold and hot running water, a lighted mirror above the sink and a ceiling light; the rooms are heated (sporadically). The heating system is usually a wall affixed oil heater, adjustable and controlled by the person in the room which is great when it's cold and good for drying out gear. Unfortunately, there is no cooling system other than the window and door.

a) As observed: these are one-person rooms with two people in them. When one person stands up the other person has to sit down. The Accommodation Office supplies sheets, blanket, pillows and pillowcases. If you want a reading light you will need to bring it with you. The room only has the one ceiling fixture and the lighted mirror. The walls are very thin, so be careful of what you say (and do) because the people next door can hear you.

b) Showers and Toilets: These are located in the centre of the cabin building. Thongs for your feet are a good idea. Bathrobes are also useful for going to and fro. A cleaning service cleans the showers and toilets every few days. There are also two amenities blocks located nearby to the C-Lines. One which contains toilets only is east of block C in C-Lines and is a brick building nestled between a few caravans and a tree. The other block is a big white 'shed' that contains showers and sinks for hand washing of

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

clothes. Some of the ladies shower blocks on camp contain clothes spinners for extracting excess water from clothes before hanging up to dry.

- c) Verandas: Each block of C-Line has a veranda running between the two outer rooms on each side, these are great for hanging clothing and gear out to dry provided you have suitable nails or jousts to hang your lines on.
7. Electricity: The standard electrical current in England is 220 volts. Bring an AC power plug adapter travel converter with you, if you need to charge up or run electrical devices. The converters can be found at travel shops, airports etc.

On Neighbourhood Facilities

1. **Brookwood Train Station:** The train station is about a one-mile walk from Bisley Camp. Trains run frequently and will take you directly into London, which is about a 45 minute one-way trip. The station attendant can answer any of your questions and sell tickets. Be sure to check the last return train of the day so you are not trapped for a night. Taking the train is definitely the easiest and quickest way into London, due to traffic volume and lack of parking. Maps are available that show the Underground and bus routes and how to get to the many places of interest (to a sightseer) in London.
 - a) The train tickets in 2019 for an off-peak ticket into Woking were around the order of £4 one way. A return trip to London was approximately £30 and an all-day ticket with unlimited stops in and around London was approximately £40.
<https://www.southwesternrailway.com/travelling-with-us/at-the-station/brookwood>
2. **Sainsbury's Supermarket:** As mentioned previously, Sainsbury's is an ideal place for groceries and for many miscellaneous items. A Homebase (hardware store) is a part of the complex, as is a petrol station. There are at least two available ATMs; one is a Barclay Bank machine. There is also a cafe and chemist.
3. **Post Offices:** There is a PO in Brookwood, convenient and easy to get to, and there is one in Knaphill.
4. **Banks:** Brookwood has a bank and there are at least three banks in Knaphill. As previously recommended, an ATM card is easier to use than trying to get into a bank during open hours.
5. **Restaurants:** There are several restaurants and pubs within 30 minutes driving time of Bisley Camp. Locations include Brookwood, Guildford, Knaphill, Bracknell, Woking, West End etc.
6. **Medical Facilities:** There are hospitals and pharmacies in the local area. NRA personnel can direct you to the medical facilities. An onsite doctor is on call during the meeting.
7. **Taxi:** There are many different taxi services around Bisley Camp. Phone numbers for these services are usually posted at NRA HQ, around the public telephones and in you competitor packet. For those wanting a hire car, try <http://www.airportrentals.com>, <https://www.rentalcars.com/>, <https://www.kendallcars.com/> or similar companies.
8. **Petrol:** Petrol is sold by the litre and is very expensive by our standards, around £1.50 per litre.
9. **Laundry:** There is a laundry service in Brookwood (not open on Wednesdays). This is a drop-off and pick-up-later service, not a coin laundry. Clothes dropped off in the morning can be ready by the afternoon, or the next morning at the latest, and the fee is reasonable. There is also a self-service coin operated laundry in St John's.

On Travel

1. Long distance airplane travel: Chances are that the flight (or flights) that you will take to England will top 23 hours. If you have connecting flights your travel time may well be significantly increased.
 - a) Loose clothing: Since you will be seated for many hours at a time, it is best to wear loose clothing for comfort. Wherever possible, people should try sleeping for a few hours.
 - b) Shoes: As with clothing, non-restrictive shoes are best. Or simply remove the shoes and put them under the seat in front of you.
 - c) International Care Packages: International flights usually supply the traveller with sock-booties so you can remove your shoes and not get your socks or the bottom of your feet dirty when walking around. Plus this is a lot more comfortable than most shoes. The package may also have eye covers so getting to sleep is easier (blocking the cabin lights or sunlight through windows).
 - d) Eye Covers: It may be prudent to take your eye covers with you. The curtains in the accommodation on Bisley are not always good at blocking out light and you may find the eye covers useful if you wish to sleep in beyond the early sun rising or if you are wanting to get an early night and there is a light on outside of your room.
 - e) Movies: International flights usually show current Hollywood productions to keep the sleepless occupied. There are also channels with music (headphones supplied) and news shows.
 - f) Sleep Aids: Not always supplied depending on airline so recommend you bring your own set of earplugs to help block out surrounding noise and aid your sleep during flight.
 - g) Meals: The airlines will serve meals on the flight, usually a dinner after take-off and breakfast just before arrival, assuming, of course, that you are on an overnight flight.
 - h) Hydration: The air conditioning inside the plane can suck you dry. Try to drink some water and resist drinking too much coffee or alcohol.
 - i) Exercise: Do not try to stay in your seat for the duration of the flight. Get up and walk around a bit. Find a place to stretch your back and legs.
2. Jet Lag Concerns: Jet lag is simply a change in body rhythm due to changing your normal cycle of sunlight and darkness. The body expects to be active at certain periods and inactive at other periods. If you change the cycle you start to feel “wrung out” and tired, you may even feel dizziness and some disorientation. If possible it is better to make an effort to get in synch with the new time zone.
 - a) When you get on the airplane, change your watch to the destination time. Then start thinking about what time it really is. While on the plane try to do the things you would

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

normally do at home based on the new time zone – which may be sleeping for many of us.

- b) As mentioned above, try to keep well hydrated. Do not drink a lot of caffeine (regular coffee and tea) because it may keep you wide awake when you really want to sleep. Also, coffee is a diuretic: it will force water out of your system and you don't want to dry out, not to mention the many trips to the toilet.
- c) Do not drink too much alcohol. The toilet trips may double if you have a beer with dinner and then follow up some coffee.
- d) After arrival, try to expose yourself to as much sunlight as possible. Your body will react to the sunlight and help to minimise the jet lag effects, resetting your internal body clock much faster.
- e) Once everything is stored, take a walk around Bisley camp to get the blood circulation going and to familiarise yourself with the camp and the different locations.

3. Firearms Permits (Refer Attachment 1): The team will apply for permits to bring our rifles into England. Keep this permit with you and ready for inspection. You may need to show it when you check in for your flight and you will definitely need it when you arrive in England. Even if the Team employs a 'group permit' we will each receive a permit to carry with us.

- a) Arrival: Assuming that you told the airline you are travelling with a firearm and the airline notified Customs at Heathrow or Gatwick, an airline/airport employee will bring your rifle case out of the baggage handling area and escort you to the Customs and Security offices. You will be asked to show your permit and to unlock the rifle case so the serial numbers can be verified. With everything in order, you will then depart Security and exit the airport.
- b) Departure: After checking your luggage, you and your rifle will be taken to the Security office and the rifles will be matched to your firearms permit. Once that has been done the Security officer or airline employee will personally deliver the rifle case to the baggage handling area. Note that recently travellers have been asked to list all metallic items in their rifle cases.

4. Australian Import permits (B709) are the responsibility of each individual due to difference in state law. Be sure to obtain before leaving. Competitors returning from overseas to their home state with a firearm already registered to them and returning with the goods exported for that overseas voyage may not need an import permit, refer to the requirements of your state.

5. Leaving England: The international terminals (No. 4 Heathrow) can be very busy. Do not wheel your luggage into the long, convoluted lines of passengers without first finding an airline agent (there are usually agents standing outside of the roped lines) and telling him/her that you are traveling with a firearm.

6. Money: As was mentioned in an earlier chapter, there are ATM machines in the baggage claim area. There is no need to purchase English currency prior to your arrival.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

On your departure, there are currency exchange kiosks in the international terminal where you can take your remaining English currency and convert back to Australian Dollars (coins will not be converted, only folding currency so you will have some souvenirs for nieces and nephews whether you like it or not).

7. Customs Check: An in-flight Customs form must be filled out. After exiting the plane, all passengers must pass through a Customs checkpoint (UK citizens have a separate line from foreign nationals; the same is true for you when you return to Australia). After showing your passport, the Customs form and answering questions (business or pleasure) you then proceed to the baggage claim area. A recent decision has allowed Australian travellers to use the electronic passport gates, which dramatically decreases the time to clear immigration.

- a) You are in England for pleasure, not business.
- b) You are attending the Imperial Meeting at Bisley Camp.
- c) You will be staying for "X" number of days (each person may have a different length of stay).
- d) A similar form will be filled out on your return to the Australia.

8. Are you Protected?:

- a) Vaccinations: England does not require a vaccination record for visitors. However, anyone traveling or regularly eating in restaurants, or who deals with sanitation issues in the work place, should consider Hepatitis A vaccinations. Two shots about 6 months apart will protect you for 10 years. Hepatitis A can be received from a carrier quite easily. The Hepatitis B vaccination series is only necessary if you come in contact with infected blood. Contact your local country health department or family physician.
- b) Insurance: Australian Medicare/Health funds are generally not reciprocal in the United Kingdom so you may wish to check your options for travel insurance. It is recommended that you nominate separate cover for your firearm within any insurance purchased; noting that if you are travelling as part of an Australian team you are likely to be covered by the NRAA travel insurance policy.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

Acknowledgements

Original article produced in 2002 by Gary Rasmussen.

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Version 7 updates in February 2023 by Shaun Wingrove

This is a working document, please email any comments and/or pictures to:
admin@nraa.com.au

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

Attachment 1 - Paperwork required for travelling with firearms

The below is provided as guidance only, make sure you read the forms and any supporting guidance with them to ensure you are answering the questions correctly.

Import into England:

UK Visitors Firearms Permit (VFP)

- <https://nra.org.uk/safety-certification/>
- <https://nra.org.uk/imperialvisitorinformation/>
 - <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Visitor-Permit-BLANK-2022-Version.docx>
- <https://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/visiting/>
 - <https://nationalshootingcentre.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/UK-VISITORS-FIREARMS-AND-SHOTGUN-PERMITS-1.pdf>
- This is your firearms license in England as well as your import and export information. **The team will make a bulk application, you will also need to provide a copy of your firearms license.** Information is to be provided to team management when request sent out (latest date for team to submit is by late Mar to receive by June at the latest – pay express post to get them in Australia in time – you need the physical copy with you to enter UK with a rifle)

When you receive the UK VFP you need to make sure the rifle ID matches what is on your rifle/s and the date of validity matches the days you will be arriving and leaving England before you sign it and travel.

Export out of Australia:

To export firearms and related goods from Australia, you must complete three main steps:

1. Register as a client with the Australian Border Force (ABF) using a Client Registration Form (B319);
2. Register as a client with Defence Export Controls (Defence Client Registration Number);
3. Obtain either a Defence Export Controls Permit from Defence, or a Restricted Goods Permit (RGP, noting this can only be applied for within 30 days of exporting) from ABF; and
4. Lodge an Export Declaration (B957) with ABF.

B319 – apply by Early Mar

<https://www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/b319.pdf>

- This form will allow you to be issued with a CCID, which is an individual's ID you will need to apply for to be eligible to export.
 - You don't need to apply for this every year the number can be used for life.
- Fill out part C and D. Role requested is Exporter *and* Importer
- You will need to supply 100 points of ID with the application (either with it, or they will email back requesting it) - A scan of birth certificate or passport AND drivers licence will do.
- Submit completed forms at your nearest ABF office <https://www.abf.gov.au/help-and-support/contact-us/offices> – check website for latest information

Previously the below have worked:

- NSW cargoclearanceNSW@abf.gov.au
- Victoria: clientservicestullamarine@abf.gov.au
- You will get a response, but can follow up with an enquiry form:

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

[https://www.abf.gov.au/help-and-support/ics/integrated-cargo-system-\(ics\)/using-the-ics/contact-cargo-systems-support](https://www.abf.gov.au/help-and-support/ics/integrated-cargo-system-(ics)/using-the-ics/contact-cargo-systems-support)

Defence Client Registration Form – apply by End [Mar](#)

Registering with DEC also requires either a valid Australian Business Number (ABN) or Cargo Client ID (CCID) issued by the ABF. (See above B319).

<https://www.defence.gov.au/business-industry/export/controls>

The Defence Export Controls (DEC) Forms Website should be used to:

- Apply for a DEC Client Reference Number (DCRN)
- Apply for a DEC Permit

<https://portal.exportcontrolsforms.defence.gov.au/>

- Register - <https://portal.exportcontrolsforms.defence.gov.au/user-reg/>
- Fill in a 'Client Registration Form' - this form will allow you to be issued with a Defence Client Registration Number (DCRN), which is an individual's ID you will need to apply for to be use the Defence export forms.
 - You don't need to apply for this every year the number can be used for life.
- As noted above you need a CCID to be able to fill and submit this form.

Defence Export Permit (DEC Form) – apply by [Apr/May](#)

<https://portal.exportcontrolsforms.defence.gov.au/>

- Fill in a "Application to Export or Supply Controlled Goods and Technology"
 - You need a DCRN to be able to fill and submit this form (see above).
 - You will need to submit a copy of your passport, firearms license, and firearms registration papers, preferably in colour. (It can also be useful to submit the team selection letter and UK VFP if you have them).
- Internal Reference Number: Name Year
- Exporting on behalf of someone else: No
- Purpose: Apply for a new permit
- Previous outcome: No
- WMD: No
- Sanctions: No
- 10 or more lines: No
- Click 'Add new line item' and fill in details (no NSN required, Qty: 1, UOM: Number, neither software nor technology, Description: example 'Firearm - Rifle, Barnard, Model P, 0.308 (308 Win), Bolt Action, Single Shot, Centrefire; A spare trigger is intended to be taken.', physically exported, Upgrade: No, Military Use: No, Medical Use: No, Medical Equipment: No)
- Description of use: Temporary basis - use in a shooting competition or recreational activity
- Other party: No
- Date of return: give yourself a couple days after returning.
- Tailored: No
- Exported: Yes
- Export date: date of flight out of Australia
- More than one shipment: No
- Export Method: Air Cargo/Personal Effects
- Intangible Means: No
- Click 'Add new consignee' and fill in details – this is your address overseas not Australia

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

('NRA Shooting Centre', 'Bisley, Brookwood', 'Surrey', 'GU240PB', 'United Kingdom (The)', Phone number: '+0011' then your mobile beginning with 61 if using your Australian mobile) – Copy consignee to end user

- Related: No
- Exported previously: depends if you have or haven't
 - 'I have exported my rifle overseas for my personal use in major shooting competitions as a member of the Australian Rifle Team (include years)'
- Military: No
- Use: 'I will use this rifle at the 2023 UK National Rifle Championships and in major teams competitions as a member of the Australian Rifle Team.'
- Evidence: No
- ITAR/EAR: No
- Treaty: No
- Government Business: No
- Additional Information: Yes
 - Letter confirming my role in the Australian Rifle Team
 - Copy of my Firearm Registration Certificate(s)
 - Copy of my Passport
 - Copy of my Firearms Licence
 - Copy of my UK Visitor's Firearm Permit
 - *(only mention/include it if you have it when submitting DEC form)*

B957 – apply by [May/Jun](#)

<https://www.abf.gov.au/importing-exporting-and-manufacturing/exporting/how-to-export/export-declaration>

Export Declarations can be lodged up to six months before the date the goods are being exported.

<https://www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/b957.pdf>

<https://www.abf.gov.au/form-listing/forms/b957a.pdf>

- Export Declaration application which will be processed and returned to you as a document 'Export Declaration Advice' with an EDN number
- To fill out:
 1. Leave blank
 2. Select OWNER
 3. Your choice, e.g. Hayes 2013, or Hayes Bisley 13 if travelling with firearms more than once in the year
 4. Your CCID number
 5. The date you are leaving Australia
 6. Leave blank
 7. Select NO
 8. Select NO
 9. Leave blank
 10. Your CCID number
 11. Leave blank
 12. "N"
 13. Select AB
 14. Write your name
 15. "London"

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

16. The city you loaded the firearms onto the plane (if travelling from Canberra to Melbourne to board an international flight that travels via Perth, put 'Melbourne' as the city)
17. "London"
18. "UK"
19. Select Air
20. The flight number as printed on your ticket
21. Leave blank
22. Select N
23. Write the number of cases with firearms, usually 1 for 1 rifle case (if you are shooting match rifle or the like and taking ammo this should include a second package and a B957a for the ammunition container)
24. Leave blank
25. "AUD"
26. "AUD"
27. A value amount of your rifle e.g. \$7,000 (if travelling with ammunition include cost here also)
- 28A. "1"
28. "99033000" rifle ("93052000" for riflescopes, "93062100" for ammunition)
29. Use the description on your rifles registration, eg " 1 x <MAKE/MODEL> .308W Bolt Action Centre Fire Rifle Cal S/N: P19-019"
30. "AU-***" *** use your state, e.g VI, NS, CT, WA etc...
31. "Australia"
32. Leave blank
33.
 - a. "1"
 - b. "NO"
34.
 - a. "20" a rough estimate of what your rifle case will weigh
 - b. "KG"
35. Enter the same value as number 27 above (minus any ammunition cost)
36. Leave blank

Declaration – select Owner, and fill out the information (remember to note how many B957a are attached, or 0 if none)

- Submit in person at an ABF location <https://www.abf.gov.au/help-and-support/contact-us/offices> - noting you sign the form in person at the counter.
 - Or send the completed form to: mandexnsw@abf.gov.au (not sure if this address is still current however)
- You will also need to submit a copy of your Defence Export Permit, passport, firearms license (front and back), drivers license (front and back), Team Selection Letter and firearms registration papers, all preferably in colour.

Restricted Goods Permit – apply by [Jun/July](#) - Only use this if you have not received a Defence permit before mid June. This needs to be applied for with ABF directly (no current information on website on form).

- Restricted Goods Permit, which is *valid for 30 days only*
- To fill out:
 - 1 through to 8 – fill out information
 9. "As per attached"
 - 10 through to 17 – leave blank

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

18. "National Rifle Association, Bisley Rifle Range"
19. "Woking"
20. "Surrey"
21. "UK"
22. "GU24 OPB"
23. Write the date you are flying out of Australia
24. Write the port you are boarding your international flight from (not the city you have a stop over in if your flight lands elsewhere in Australia after you have boarded)
25. Write the flight number
26. "UK"
27. "London"
- 28 through to 33. Enter the details as per your rifle's registration papers, 1 rifle per line
34. Select NO
35. Select YES

Declaration – fill out the exporter's declaration

These B957 can be submitted at the same time as the RGP application, you will need to submit a copy of your passport, firearms license, and firearms registration papers, preferably in colour.

Entry pick up:

To pick up your entry from the NRAGB you will need a copy of the following:

- NRA Range Safety Awareness and Competency Test (this needs to be completed before you leave Australia (preferably in about [March](#))
 - <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/D1-Assessment-Form2012.pdf>
 - <https://nra.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/A3-Exceptions2012.pdf>
 - All foreign shooters wishing to shoot on MoD ranges will be required to produce evidence that they have been certified as safe and competent by the relevant National Governing Body for shooting in their home country and sponsored by the NRA or a club affiliated to the NRA. – i.e. get your club captain to sign, state body chairman, or team management can get Chair of NRAA to sign. (Club captain easiest).
- Entry receipt

Export out of England:

Visitors Firearms Permit – Heathrow airport security will escort you to Customs, where they will inspect your UK VFP and check that it matches to your rifle serial numbers. They will then take custody of your firearms and give you a receipt.

You may also be asked to provide a list of all metallic items in your rifle case, it is best to prepare this list while you are packing your bags.

Import into Australia:

A B709 form is now no longer required unless you are importing something that you have not exported, eg ammunition, additional rifle parts. If you are intending to bring something new back, then you need toApply for your B709 in [May](#), which will give ample time for you to follow it up if it hasn't reached you within a few weeks via post. You will need the original signed copy (it will be signed in blue pen) for customs, otherwise they may keep your rifles in storage until you can produce a copy signed in blue.

'How To' Guide for New Shooters at Bisley (Version 7, 05/02/23)

Transiting Through Western Australia

Any person who wishes to possess, transport or use a firearm that is not licensed in the state of Western Australia must obtain an appropriate permit prior to entering the state. A Temporary Permit is required to take a rifle into Western Australia, this includes returning from an international flight and onto a domestic flight in Perth. The fee will likely be waived for transit. ([May/June](#))

<https://www.police.wa.gov.au/About-Us/Our-Agency/Police-Licensing-Services/Firearms-Licensing/Permits>

Temporary Permit (Section 17)

- A completed Temporary Permit Application (Form 6).
- A copy of your interstate licence and identification card.

Once completed the application form is to be submitted via email to: Licensing Services; or by post to Licensing Services, Locked Bag 9, EAST PERTH WA 6892. LicensingServicesFirearms@police.wa.gov.au

<https://www.police.wa.gov.au/~media/Firearms-Licensing/Forms/LSF17Form-6-Temporary-Permit-Application-v24.pdf>

- Club membership proof may also be required to be submitted; also your firearm registration certificate.
- An Original Temporary Permit can only be issued for up to a 3 month period and is subject to a monthly scheduled fee or part thereof. Ensure the date of the permit covers the dates you will be in WA (give it a few days either side to be sure)
- For the purpose of: “convey only - transiting from international to domestic terminals. (board international flight in Melbourne that has a short stop in WA on DD MMM (baggage does not come off plane), returning to Australia DD MMM - transiting in Perth to domestic terminal to catch flight back to LOCATION).”
- Firearm Type: rifle bolt action
- Magazine Type: N/A
- Category: B2.1 (Single shot centre fire rifle, [WA Firearms Regulation 1974](#), pg 104)
- Calibre: 0.308/7.62mm
- Ammunition Type: Centre Fire

Airlines

Most airlines require a copy of any import/export documentation prior to travel. They may or may not give you written confirmation, usually in the form of an email, or a notification. You will need to check with your airline. A lot of this can only be done within the last month (i.e. [June/July](#))

Paperwork

It's best to carry all the above items as customs may require to sight/photocopy all import and export approvals, there is nothing worse than digging through your bag in customs to get to a piece of paper! It can be beneficial to take copies of the information so you can show customs the information and then provide them a copy to speed up the process.