



**Home Office approved rifle & pistol club No. 06/1/7/4/1/2/1/2/2/27  
Wedgnock Range Complex, Wedgnock Lane, Warwick. CV35 7PX**

Thanks to Andy E and Mike W for the photographs  
Written by Tony P  
Issue 1

## **Wedgnock Rifle & Pistol Club**



**Information Pack for new  
Air Rifle Members**

**MAY 2011**

## About the Club

The Club's objects are to *encourage and facilitate the development of and participation in the sport of target shooting.*

The Wedgnoek Rifle & Pistol Club (WRPC) was founded in 1994 as a subsidiary of the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain (MLAGB) but operates as an independent club. We are affiliated with the National Small-bore Rifle Association (NSRA) and our precision shooting section regularly competes in NSRA competitions throughout the year.

There is now an expanding air rifle section currently with 34 active air only members and the club has 239 full firearm members, many of whom also shoot air weapons.

## Contacts

The Wedgnoek range complex is located close to the A46 and the M40 on the outskirts of Warwick. The range complex is next to the Adventure Sports Activity Centre and is accessible from Wedgnoek Lane.

Wedgnoek Range Complex,  
Wedgnoek Lane,  
Warwick.  
CV35 7PX

Maps and details are available on the club web site. (<http://www.wedgnoek.co.uk>)

Members can also ask questions via [enquiries@wedgnoek.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wedgnoek.co.uk)

The Range Manager is Andrew Grimmatt who is available on the range during the weekends on **01926 408218**.

Please note the range is only open to members with season tickets during the week or by special arrangement with Andrew.

Any questions or queries can be directed through the clubs website in the Contact Us section or feel free to have a look around during the weekends.

## Signing In

The first thing you need to do when you arrive is to sign in at the club house. This ensures the Range Manger is aware that you are on site and covers you for insurance purposes. All members are covered by the club's insurance policy which is arranged by the MLAGB. This covers for accidental injury while on the range up to £5 million but members must sign in before using the ranges to be covered. The insurance also covers members when shooting on private land with the owners written permission and at other clubs but there are exceptions which the Range Manager will advise you of.

# The Range

The air section has a dedicated area on the C range (Bay 1-10) that is restricted to sub 12ft lb (16.2 J) air rifles, sub 6ft lb (8.1 J) pistols and is not under Range Conducting Officer (RCO) restriction, i.e. no one is required to be signed in the RCO book to be able to shoot in this section. One person is however required to check the guns are clear before anyone moves forward to change targets.



All the bays are covered which will keep you dry but most definitely not warm, so ensure you have plenty of layers on the cooler days. Bays 1-10 have ply boards fixed in them to shoot from; tables are also available if additional support is required. You can of course shoot from a standing or sitting position.

All air only members are welcome to shoot on any of the remaining ranges – **25 meter - C (11-50), 50 meter – B (25 bays) and 100 meter – A (50 bays).** If you use these sections of the range you will be under RCO control, if any FAC firearms are being used. You **MUST** obey all instructions issued by the RCO. This will be covered in the safety training you will receive once you have applied for membership.

You must wear hearing protection on all the ranges. Remember that just one shot from a large calibre rifle can permanently damage your hearing.

There are target boards to allow you use paper targets, you will require a staple gun or pins to attach them. There are a few knock downs and you are welcome to bring your own if you want to practice at different distances. Please ensure they are set correctly to prevent ricochets. You can only use metal knock downs on range C 1-10, there are FAC rated knock downs on the 50m range, but sub 12ft lb rifles will not knock them over. (They are made to withstand 44 Magnum!)

There are 4 portable target boards (being constructed) which are the same size and height as the fixed target boards. These can be used from 10 metres to 20 metres and are for air pistol users.

There are many rabbits and other wildlife on the range, please do not be tempted to practice your field skills at the range. It is private land and there are only a few lucky people with permission to control vermin on the range.

# Safety

There is really only one important rule when using your air rifle –

## **NEVER POINT ANY RIFLE, LOADED OR UNLOADED, IN AN UNSAFE DIRECTION.**

The lack of noise and recoil on modern pre charged pneumatic (PCP) air rifles can lead you into a false sense of security; please remember that all air weapons are potentially lethal if handled incorrectly. You must always be aware of where the muzzle of your rifle is pointing and NEVER point it in an unsafe direction.

To ensure everyone enjoys a safe and fun day shooting below are a few simple guidelines –

- 1) Ensure your air weapon is unloaded and safe before putting it into the gun slip at home.
- 2) Once you arrive at the range place your gun slip in the bay you are shooting from, with the barrel pointing down range (towards the targets).
- 3) Ensure no one is down range, changing targets or forward of the firing point. You must not touch your gun for any reason, if someone is forward of the firing point.
- 4) Remove the gun and leave the breach open on a PCP with the magazine removed or break the barrel on a springer to show the breach is clear of pellets.
- 5) You can now check with any other shooters that their guns are safe and clear, and then go forward to put up your targets.
- 6) Once the last person is back, put the chain across the access bay at the end of the range. This chain is only lowered once all guns are safe.
- 7) You can now load your rifle and shoot the perfect group.
- 8) When there is a target change you should ensure your gun is clear, this means it is not cocked and there is no pellet in the breach and any magazines are removed. You should place the gun on the bench and stand back from the bay. *Do not touch* your gun until everyone has returned behind the firing point.
- 9) If you need to recharge a PCP, ensure the barrel is pointing in a safe direction, preferably down range or vertically in your bay.
- 10) Because of the danger of ricochets, BB calibre guns are prohibited from the Air Range and all other ranges.

Following these simple guidelines will ensure everyone returns home at the end of the day having had a safe and enjoyable day at the range.

When you apply for membership there will be a 1 hour safety brief with the Air Instructor. There are club guns available for this session if required. If you use the club guns and ammunition, there will a nominal small charge.

# The Law

There is no distinction in law between air rifles and more powerful guns that require a licence – they are all classed as firearms. This means that any offence you commit can carry a very heavy penalty, there are at least 38 different offences covering firearms. It is your responsibility as a gun owner to ensure you know and understand the law, if you have any doubt seek advice from your local firearms licensing department.

The Firearms act 1968 is available online using the following link –

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1968/27/contents>

Items 16 to 25 are most relevant to air gun use and well worth reading.

Another good source of information and guidelines is BASC. Their website is on the following link –

[www.basc.org.uk/](http://www.basc.org.uk/)

They are well worth joining if you intend to shoot on land.

The Crime and Security Act 2010 is the latest legislation to bring in further regulation on the storage of air guns at home.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/17/contents>

This is contained in item 46 of the legislation titled “**Offence of allowing minors access to air weapons**”.

The following is an extract from the BASC guideline on who can shoot air rifles.

## **18 years**

If you are 18 years or older there are no restrictions on buying an air rifle and ammunition, and you can use it where you have permission to shoot.

## **14 – 17 years**

### **You can**

- borrow an air rifle and ammunition
- use an air rifle, without supervision, on private premises where you have permission

### **You cannot**

- buy or hire an air rifle, or ammunition, or receive one as a gift. Your air rifle and ammunition must be bought and looked after by someone over 18 – normally your parent, guardian or some other responsible adult.
- have an air rifle in a public place unless you are supervised by somebody aged 21 or over, and you have a reasonable excuse to do so (for example, while on the way to a shooting ground).

**Under 14 years****You can**

- use an air rifle under supervision on private premises with permission from the occupier - normally the owner or tenant. The person who supervises you must be at least 21 years old.

**You cannot**

- buy, hire or receive an air rifle or its ammunition as a gift, or shoot, without adult supervision.

Parents or guardians who buy an air rifle for use by someone under 14 must exercise control over it at all times, even in the home or garden.

**It is illegal to sell an air rifle or ammunition to a person under 18 years of age.**

Wedgnoock Rifle & Pistol Club