

Scotton & Farnham Rifle Club

Guide for Prospective Members

About the Club

Scotton & Farnham Rifle Club meets every Sunday and by special arrangement on other days of the week. On Sundays the Range is open from 9.00am until about 1.00pm. We shoot small-bore (0.22") target rifles from the prone position (lying down) at ranges of 25 yards, 50 metres and 100 yards. We also shoot air rifle in the bench rest position (seated)

The Club is Home Office Approved and is affiliated to the National Small-bore Rifle Association (NSRA) and is covered for public liability by the Association's insurance scheme. The Club is also affiliated to the Yorkshire Small-bore Rifle and Pistol Association and the Association of Leeds and District Rifle and Revolver Clubs and members shoot in competitions run by these associations.

Location

The range is located in the old gravel quarries on Farnham Lane, Knaresborough. Access to the site is via a locked gate on the left of Farnham Lane about 50m north of the entrance to Gibbet House Farm (post code HG5 9JP).

Driving directions: leave Knaresborough on the A6055 toward Boroughbridge. Farnham Lane is the first left turn after passing Piccadilly Motors (FIAT/Alfa Romeo dealership)

First Visit

If you are interested in joining the Club, you must arrange to make a first visit. First visit days for prospective members are usually held at 11.00am on every third Sunday. It is a police requirement that you are not allowed to shoot on your first visit, but you will be shown our facilities and any questions answered.

Probationary Membership

If, during or after your first visit, you decide to try target shooting, you may apply for Probationary Membership of the Club. This is for a period of three to six months and costs £35.00, which covers use of Club rifles and other equipment, tuition and your first 50 rounds of ammunition.

To apply for Probationary Membership, you must complete an application form (downloadable from the Club website), show some form of photo-ID (such as a passport or driver's licence) and proof of address (utility or council tax bill), and pay the £35 fee. You will be issued with a membership card on which all visits to the Club must be recorded. You will be expected to make at least five shooting visits to the Club during your Probationary Membership.

On your second visit, prior to you handling the firearms, you must demonstrate that you have read and understood the safety rules about handling firearms and general rules about range. As a probationary member you will be supervised by an experienced club member and receive instruction from a qualified instructor

Other Costs

No range fee is payable. Ammunition can be bought at the range and currently costs about £5.00 for 50 rounds, which is normally sufficient for at least one shooting visit. Any unused ammunition must be left at the Range, where it will be stored securely until your next visit. 25yrd targets cost 50p for three.

Club Equipment

The Club has a selection of target rifles, shooting jackets, slings and spotting telescopes for the use of Probationary and Full Members. Most Full Members have their own equipment. However, there is no pressure to buy your own rifle etc and you may continue to use Club equipment for as long as you wish. Most new shooters first buy a shooting jacket (from £150) and a sling (from £30).

Range Access and Shooting Times for Probationary Members

The site gate is normally locked and keys are only issued to Full Members. Probationary members may shoot after 11.00am on Sundays and providing an appointment is made a Club member will normally be at the gate at 11.00am to admit them.

Full Membership

On completion of Probationary Membership, you may apply for Full Membership. The Club Committee will consider you for Full Membership, provided that you have made a minimum of five shooting visits, been a probationary member for more than 3 months, and have demonstrated that you can handle a firearm safely. If Full Membership is offered and accepted, you will be expected to pay the annual subscription immediately. This is currently £150 per annum. The Club year runs from 1st October to 30th September following and Members joining part way through the year pay a pro rata proportion of the annual subscription. You will also be able to buy a gate key (£25, returnable on resigning from the Club).

Junior Members (16 to 18 years old)

The minimum age for joining the club as a junior member is 16 years

(Note In some competitions under 21 year olds are classified as a juniors.)

The Probationary Membership fee for juniors is the same as that for adults. However the annual subscription for Junior Full Membership (including those over 18 but in full-time education and/or in an apprenticeship) is half of the adult rate.

Physical Ability

You do not have to be strong, agile or even particularly fit to shoot competently. So long as you can lie down, support the gun unaided and stand up unaided, you will manage.

We do not currently have facilities for wheelchair users for prone rifle shooting, but we have limited facilities for air rifle bench rest shooting (from the sitting position)

Firearms and The Law

Section 2 of the Firearms Act, 1968 states:

1. Any person who has been sentenced to preventive detention, or to imprisonment or to corrective training for a term of three years or more shall not at any time have a firearm or ammunition in his or her possession.
2. Any person who has been sentenced to preventive detention or to imprisonment or to corrective training for a term of three months or more but less than three years shall not at any time before the expiration of a period of five years from the date of release have a firearm or ammunition in his or her possession.

These prohibitions apply in all circumstances, including handling and firing firearms at an approved shooting club. Prospective members will be required to sign a declaration that they are not prohibited from being in possession of a firearm or ammunition by virtue of Section 2 of the Firearms Act, 1968.

We are obliged to give the police details (name, address, date of birth) of any person who applies for probationary membership.

Range Officer Duty

Any adult who has been a Full Member of the Club for 12 months must train, qualify and then act as a Range Conducting Officer. This is a condition of being granted full membership.

The Club provides training at the Club Range and covers the cost of qualification. After qualification as an RCO, a Member will be expected to act as Duty Range Officer according to a Duty Roster issued annually. This currently involves duties on 3 or 4 Sunday mornings per year.

Other information

Please note that all persons visiting the range either as a visitor or shooter must sign the range log and those under the age of 16 must be supervised by a parent or adult family member at all times

Revised 11/01/2015 and 23/11/2018

Further revised August 2019