



Itchen Valley Shooting Club FAQs

Contents

Definitions	2
Club History	2
Terms of Membership.....	3
Competitions	3
May I visit you?	3
Do you operate a waiting list?	4
I am under 18, does that matter?	4
Can I do Clay Pigeon Shooting with you?	4
What do I need to have to use a firearm for target shooting?	4
I already have an FAC, but it does not say "Target Shooting". Can I use my guns at the club?	5
What do I need to shoot at Bisley or MOD managed range?	5
How long is the probationary membership period?	5
I am a probationary member of another club, can this shorten my probationary period?	6
I am a full member of another club, can this shorten my probationary period?	6
I already have an FAC, can this shorten my probationary period?	6
I am in the armed forces, can this shorten my probationary period?	6
What is the cost of membership?	6
Does a family membership cover those 18 & over?	7
What distances do you shoot at?	7
What kind of guns do you shoot?	8
Does "Live Fire" mean shooting animals?	8
When do you have shooting sessions?	8
Do I need my own guns?	8
Can you store member's equipment?	9
How can I import a gun currently held overseas?	9
What are the legal "power" limits on air-guns?	9
What is access to the club like?	9
Do you do prone shooting?	9
Can I use .17HMR?	10
Can I use expanding (hunting) ammunition?	10
Can I use my own Long Barrelled Pistol/Revolver at the club?	10
Can I use my Long Barrelled Pistol/Revolver to someone else at the club?	10
Who do I contact if I have other questions?	10

Definitions

Term	Definition
FAC	Firearms Certificate The Police issued "licence" authorising an individual to be in possession of specified firearms, ammunition and moderators, and stating the purposes for which and conditions under which they may be used.
SGC	Shotgun Certificate The Police issued "licence" authorising an individual to be in possession of shotguns as listed on the certificate.
Ft/Lb	"foot pounds" With apologies to physics folk, a measure of "energy" where "1 foot pound" is the energy at the point of impact of something weighing one pound hitting the ground having been dropped from a height of 1 foot.
Gallery Rifle	These are (loosely) rifles that have been chambered to use what would normally be considered to be a pistol round. These may use "Iron Sights" (open or aperture) or "optical sights" (telescopic scopes).
Full Bore	These are (loosely) rifles that use "centrefire" rounds which have been specifically developed for use in rifles (rather than pistols). These may use "Iron Sights" (open or aperture) or "optical sights" (telescopic scopes).
Muzzle Loading Pistol / Revolver / Rifle	A muzzle loading pistol / revolver/ rifle is a firearm into which the projectile and usually the propellant charge is loaded from the muzzle of the gun (i.e., from the forward, open end of the gun's barrel or cylinder). This is distinct from the more popular modern (higher tech and harder to make) designs of breech-loading firearms.

Club History

Formed in 1971 as the Itchen Valley Small Bore Rifle And Pistol Club, the Club changed its name in more recent years to reflect the changing focus of the sport. Now the Itchen Valley Shooting Club is a Home Office Approved Club, offering many forms of target shooting in a well-equipped indoor range in the centre of Winchester, Hampshire.



The IVSC logo uses (with permission) the Winchester City Council community emblem. It is described in heraldic terms as: "Upon a Mount Vert a Castle triple towered Argent masoned proper in the portal a Portcullis parted raised Or and on the towers a Lion passant guardant Gold." It represents the Club's position and acceptance in the local community.



Terms of Membership

The Itchen Valley Shooting Club (IVSC) requires new applicants to undertake a 6 month probationary period before they can apply for full membership. On completion of the probationary period and completion of the training course, applicants are required to find two sponsors, who must be full members of Itchen Valley Shooting Club, to support their application for full membership.

The granting of full membership at the sole discretion of the club, is subject to club committee approval and is not guaranteed.

Competitions

The Club has achieved Home Office Approval status, partly on the basis that it offers members the opportunity to enter competitions and it is in the club's interest that members enter competitions each year.

The IVSC takes part in the Hampshire Smallbore Rifle and Pistol Association leagues each year. This Competition permits the use of any .22 rimfire or "air" (.177 or .22) rifle with any sights, provided that the rifle has a trigger pull in excess of 500 grams and does not weigh more than 4 Kgs. The Club pays for the Team entry, but individuals pay the cost of the Individual Competition entries.

May I visit you?

As a Home Office approved shooting club there are a number of rules that are imposed as part of the approval. These are common to all Home Office approved shooting clubs.

- We are not permitted to run a day or temporary membership scheme.
- We are limited to running no more than 12 guest days each year, each of which has to be notified to the police at least 48 hours in advance.
- Guests must be either members of a recognised outside organisation or people who are known personally to at least one full (not probationary) member of the club. They must each complete a "Section 21" declaration that confirms that they "are not prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition by virtue of section 21 of the Firearms Act 1968 (as amended)".
- The requirement for visitors to sign a "Section 21" declaration specifically does apply to those accessing airguns and airgun ammunition, as the prohibition referred to applies to airguns as well as FAC rated guns.

The focus of these rules is to control access to FAC rated guns and ammunition by those who do not have FACs or who are not full members of a Home Office approved shooting club.

The ban on day or temporary membership is to stop casual shooters being able to come in off the street and shoot. It is not to be confused with properly organised guest days, competition shoots between clubs or competitions open to individuals who are not members of that club.

While we are not constrained to having these guest days at the tunnel range, any guest days arranged for other range locations must comply with the rules imposed by the other range and be notified to the police appropriately. As an example, Bisley specifically does permit affiliated clubs to nominate their own club guest days for use at Bisley.

If you wish to view the range for any reason, you need to contact the club to arrange an appointment to do so. You may not simply turn up on spec.



Do you operate a waiting list?

Yes.

Before we place you on our waiting list we require that you provide the following for each person involved (if a family group this can be done together, if multiple individuals are involved we ask that they contact us individually):

- Email address
- Full name
- Address
- Date of Birth
- An indication of your reasons for wishing to learn to shoot with us

We also ask that you provide:

- A contact phone number
- An indication of any prior experience that you have
- An indication of any preference you have for airgun vs live round shooting, or both

I am under 18, does that matter?

Yes.

While we do very much encourage and support underage members there are various legalities about the provision of access to both air guns, other guns and ammunition that apply specifically to those under 18, and these must be observed.

Also, as part of our child protection approach we require that those that are under 18 are supervised by a parent or guardian at all times while attending a club session. This means that they must both be in the same part of the club at the same time, not just "at the club".

This means that your parent / guardian would also have to become a member (even if non-shooting) and supervise you during each session attended.

The club applies these rules to any member that is over 18, but is still considered to be "vulnerable" for any reason other than age.

Can I do Clay Pigeon Shooting with you?

Yes we offer clay pigeon shooting, organised by the members.

What do I need to have to use a firearm for target shooting?

For the use of (most) guns during a club session, nothing except a club membership (including probationary) and supervision by an appropriately experienced or qualified club member.

For use elsewhere, if you wish to use a firearm (other than a "low powered air rifle or air pistol) for target shooting you will need to have:

- Full membership of a Home Office Approved Shooting Club
- An FAC issued by your local Police Force for the firearm(s) concerned that states that the firearm(s) may be used for target shooting

The police will only issue an FAC with a condition allowing used for target shooting if you are already a full (not probationary) member of a target shooting club.

Target Shooting is a "good reason" for the grant of an FAC.



I already have an FAC, but it does not say "Target Shooting". Can I use my guns at the club?

Your guns may be used at club shoots for zeroing (as long as this is a condition you have, it normally is). However the distances we normally shoot at may not correspond with the distances you wish to zero for, and it would not normally be expected that a zeroing session would take more than a few shots.

The legal position regarding the use of a firearm under the club sharing provisions of the Firearms acts (as amended) where the firearm concerned is on an FAC but not listed for "Target Shooting" is not 100% clear and has not been tested in court.

Therefore the club has adopted the policy that if you have an FAC that does not already include "Target Shooting" as a condition, the rifles concerned are not to be used at club shoots for anything other than any permitted zeroing, and then only by you. They may not be shared and they may not be used for target shooting.

As you already have an FAC, the correct procedure would be to work with the club to expedite your conversion from probationary to full member, and on that basis then apply have "Target Shooting" added to your FAC as a condition as appropriate

What do I need to shoot at Bisley or MOD managed range?

In order to shoot at ranges managed under MOD rules (including Bisley), you must either be "working towards" gaining or already hold a current NRA "Competency Card" issued by the NRA or by a club on behalf of the NRA. This must explicitly cover the type(s) of shooting being done. If you are working towards gaining such a card, you must shoot under the supervision of a member who already holds a card that covers the type of shooting being done.

IVSC provides the supervision and training required to gain this, (as part of the probationary training course) and when we are content they may be issued on behalf of the NRA. This is at the discretion of the Club Chairman only, the issue of these is not automatic and the club is under no obligation to do so.

If you leave the club you must return your Competency Card to the Club Chairman.

How long is the probationary membership period?

IVSC requires new applicants to undertake a 6 month probationary period before they can apply for full membership. On completion of the probationary period, applicants are required to find two sponsors, who must be full members of Itchen Valley Shooting Club, to support their application for full membership, which will then be considered of approval at a committee meeting. The granting of full membership at the sole discretion of the club, is subject to club committee approval and is not guaranteed.

During the probationary period you are expected to attend the club regularly (10-12 times) and follow the training and instruction provided and complete the competency assessment stages.

While you are expected to work towards full membership it is understood that this may take longer than 6 months for some individuals, this is not a problem. As both a Probationary and Full member we would like you to attend on an ongoing regular basis take part in competitions and generally contribute to the working of the club.



I am a probationary member of another club, can this shorten my probationary period?

No.

I am a full member of another club, can this shorten my probationary period?

Yes, noting that the granting of full membership is at the sole discretion of the club, is not guaranteed and is subject to club committee approval.

You would join us as a probationary member, we will still require you to complete our club competency sheet (fast track) and shoot with us under our procedures, but on the application form you can provide details of your current club so that we can obtain a reference for you.

Once your competency sheet is fully signed off and we have the reference you can ask to be made a full member, which would be considered at the next committee meeting.

I already have an FAC, can this shorten my probationary period?

Yes, noting that the granting of full membership is at the sole discretion of the club, is not guaranteed and is subject to club committee approval.

You would join us as a probationary member, we will still require you to complete our club competency sheet (fast track) and shoot with us under our procedures.

Once your competency sheet is fully signed off and we are content that you have demonstrated your understanding of target shooting range protocols you can ask to be made a full member, which would be considered at the next committee meeting.

As a note, it is generally considered that someone with an FAC that does not permit Target Shooting may well be unaware of target shooting range safety protocols, therefore we are concerned to manage this transition effectively.

I am in the armed forces, can this shorten my probationary period?

Potentially.

You would join us as a probationary member, we will still require you to complete our competency assessment and shoot with us under our procedures.

You may ask your commanding officer to provide a reference confirming your familiarity with the types of shooting we do (these may not correspond with what you have been doing in the forces), which may be used to support a request for shortened or waived probationary period.

Once your competency sheet is fully signed off and we have the reference you can ask to be made a full member, which would be considered at the next committee meeting.

What is the cost of membership?

Membership options and subscription rates are below.

Probationary Period	£100 (6 months), includes joining fee, material & ammo to complete the course and gain your SCC). On completion of the probationary period and you become a full member part way through a membership year the subscription fee due is pro-rata for the remainder of the year.
---------------------	--



Full Bore Single	£130,
Full Bore Family	£200, Full Bore Family Member (included in Family)
Air Only Single	£50,
Air only Family	£75, Air only Family Member (included in Family)
Non-shooting Member	£25,
Associate member	£5 (i.e. WHG)
Visitor range fee	£5
NRA Capitation	Is included in all full-bore fees for everyone, regardless of individual NRA membership

The membership year runs from 1st Nov – 31st Oct.

Does a family membership cover those 18 & over?

No/Yes.

Family membership can include a member and spouse/partner, and children who are under the age of 18 years. When a child family member reaches the age of 18 years they will be required to pay the individual fee from the start of the next membership year. If however, the child is in full time education they will be covered under the family membership

What distances do you shoot at?

In the Winchester range we have

- 20 yards live fire/air gun (including FAC rated air rifle)
- 25 Metres live fire/air gun (including FAC rated air rifle)
- 10 meter air gun (max 12 ft/lb muzzle energy)

At Moody's Down (typically booked monthly on a Sunday morning) we shoot a variety of distances; these vary each shoot. Typical distances per session are (with the shorter distances being more regular):

- 100 Metres
- 200 Metres
- 100/200 Metres
- 300 Metres

At Bisley we typically shoot one/two of three different ranges on different bookings. These are:

- Melville (galley rifle/muzzle loading firearm only) – typically booked monthly all day.
 - 25 Metres
 - 50 Metres
- Century – typically booked monthly – typically an AM session, 1 or 2 shared lanes.
 - 300 Yards (occasionally)
 - 600 Yards (typically)
- Stickledown – booked occasionally instead of Century, when booked typically an AM session, 1 shared lane.
 - 900 yards (typically)
 - 1000 yards (occasionally)



What kind of guns do you shoot?

Each of the ranges we shoot at has its own range orders and safety limits, basically anything that fits within these orders and limits can be used.

Without going into the specifics, the types of gun used on the different ranges are:

- Winchester Range
 - Air range, any air gun up to 12 ft/lb
- Main range
 - Air guns (including FAC rated)
 - Rimfire and Gallery Rifles
 - Muzzle loading pistols and revolvers
 - NOTE - .17HMR is specifically prohibited.
- Other ranges
 - Moody's Down (subject to Moody's Down range regulations)
 - Full bore Rifles
 - Bisley Melville (subject to Bisley range regulations)
 - Rimfire and Gallery Rifles
 - Muzzle loading pistols and revolvers
 - NOTE - Not .17HMR
 - Bisley Other ranges (subject to Bisley range specific regulations)
 - Full bore rifles

Does "Live Fire" mean shooting animals?

No.

It is to distinguish between shooting with air guns and air gun pellets as opposed to shooting with "real" ammunition.

We shoot at targets.

When do you have shooting sessions?

The Winchester tunnel range is normally open for the following sessions

- Monday Evening 19.30-21.30 (New member focus/probationary training course)
- Tuesday Evening 19.30-21.30 (General and Heritage focus)
- Thursday PM 13.00-15.00 (General)
- Friday Evening 19.30-21.30 (General & Practical every 3rd week)
- Sunday PM 13.00-15.00 (General, when no Moody's Down session)

We typically also have

- AM shoots at Moody's Down on Sunday mornings about monthly
- AM and PM shoots at Bisley Melville on Saturdays about monthly
- AM shoots at a Bisley long distance range on Saturdays about monthly

Do I need my own guns?

No.

The provisions of the various Firearms Acts (as amended) allow club members to be in temporary possession of guns/ammunition at club sessions without holding their own FAC.

The club can make available a small selection of guns for members to use. In addition, club



members are generally very generous about letting others borrow/use their guns. There are some exceptions to what may be shared.

While there is no need to ever buy your own, you may choose to do so. There are no issues re sub 12ft/lb air rifles (other than age), if you wish to buy your own FAC rated air gun or live fire rifle you would have to obtain your own FAC.

Target Shooting is a "good reason" for justifying an application. In order to use this justification you must be a full (not probationary) member of a Home Office approved club.

Can you store member's equipment?

No.

As well as not being permitted, the environment is not conducive to the storing of equipment, it is a Victorian railway tunnel, and they have never been noted for being waterproof. It could never be described as "cosy" or as having a "dry atmosphere".

How can I import a gun currently held overseas?

You will have to discuss the importing of guns with a Registered Firearms Dealer and your licensing police force.

What are the legal "power" limits on air-guns?

Air Pistols where the pellet at the point of exiting the barrel has an energy of up to 6 ft/lbs are permitted without needing an FAC. Above this they are prohibited (they become a "Section 5 Prohibited Firearm").

Air rifles where the pellet at the point of exiting the barrel has an energy of up to 12 ft/lbs are permitted without needing an FAC. Above this they require an FAC.

There is no standardised approach for how this muzzle energy should be measured but the club can "chrono" your air rifle on the tunnel range (i.e. measure the speed of the pellet leaving the barrel). With this information it is possible to calculate the muzzle energy for the pellet fired, but you should note that this can easily vary by 30% between shots by changing only the pellet type/weight used.

What is access to the club like?

Access to the club is down a set of shallow metal steps from the car park, and there is a handrail to this. All doors at the club are of standard width and there are changes of level within the club, including with the air range being reached via a set of internal stairs. Access is therefore not wheelchair friendly, but is suitable for persons with reasonable mobility. Shooting can then be conducted standing or seated.

Do you do prone shooting?

At the Winchester club premises, no. (Another club uses the same premises on a different evening, and they do .22 prone target shooting.)

At Moody's Down and Bisley long range all shooting is normally prone, although the use of shooting benches is sometimes (not always) possible. Moody's Down also has "fox-holes".

At Bisley shooting at the Melville range is either seated or standing, but not prone.



Can I use .17HMR?

The use of .17HMR at the Winchester range is expressly prohibited by the range standing orders.

It may be used at Moody's Down.

It may be used at Bisley, subject to each ranges range order limits. The round falls outside the range limits specified for use at Melville.

Can I use expanding/hollow point (hunting) ammunition?

There is nothing in the range orders of the Winchester range, Moody's Down or Bisley that prohibits this, currently it is prohibited from being used within the tunnel.

However, this type of ammunition has to be specifically on the shooters FAC, and must only be used within the conditions imposed on its use in their certificate. Typically this would be expected to limit its use on a target range to zeroing.

Ammunition with expanding/hunting heads cannot be shared with other club members, as this fall outside the Firearms acts (as amended) club "possession/sharing" provisions.

Can I use my own Long Barrelled Pistol/Revolver at the club?

Subject to the range limits, yes.

Can I let someone else use my Long-Barrelled Pistol/Revolver?

No.

Advice received is that the use of these falls outside the Firearms acts (as amended) club "possession/sharing" provisions.

Only a person with that serial number gun on their own FAC may "possess" it, which means that no-one else may even touch/hold it.

In theory we could get one of these added to the club FAC, in which case only (and specifically) the club FAC holder would be able to use it!

We appreciate that this is an area of some contention and controversy, but this is the legal position as we understand it, and as such this position has been adopted as club policy.

Who do I contact if I have other questions?

Send an email with your question to ivscmember@gmail.com we will endeavour to answer it.