



Information for New Members of Monmouth & District Rifle Club.

Welcome to Monmouth & District R.C., the purpose of this guide is to supply basic general information and guidance on the club for the benefit of new and existing club members. The guide does not replace the club constitution or range standing orders that have been written for the safe running of the range. Every effort has been made to provide information that was correct at the time that it was written, but members need to be aware that this information can and will often be amended at a later date.

Title and Address.

The club is known as -

Monmouth and District Rifle Club.

The address of the club is -

**Troy Range
Beech Road
Monmouth
Monmouthshire**

There is no individual postcode for the range and the club is unable to accept post at this address but **NP25 4HX** if input into a satellite navigation system will take you to the immediate area of the range.

Telephone number. 01600 712643

Contacting the club.

All communication with the club should be made by contacting the club secretary by email terry.secmdrc@yahoo.co.uk or membership administrator petet.mdrcc@outlook.com

Directions to the range.

NP25 4HX (use this postcode to take you to general area only).

Monmouth & District Rifle club is located on Beech Road and lies within the yard of Monmouthshire County Council highways depot and adjacent to the civic amenities site, just on the outskirts of Monmouth.

From the North. (from the direction of Ross on Wye).

- The A40 skirts the town of Monmouth running alongside the river Wye, having passed through the traffic lights on the A40, take the slip road off the A40 immediately before the tunnels (Gibraltar tunnels) into Beech road.
- At the top of the road turn left into Portal road.
- The entrance to the yard is 250 yards down this road on the right hand side following the bend and immediately before the little bridge.

From the South. (from the direction of Newport and Raglan).

- Take the slip road off the A40 into Monmouth (immediately after the road tunnels).
- Turn left at the petrol station (mini roundabout) into Portal / Beech road.
- After crossing over the top of the A40 bear to the right dropping down the hill.

- The entrance to the highways depot is on the right immediately before the little bridge.

When the club shoots.

The range is open and the club usually shoots on the following days/evenings;

Monday evenings 7.30pm onwards. Small bore rifle prone.

Wednesday evenings 7.30pm onwards.

1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month - shooting at 25metres only.

2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month – shooting at 100yd only.

5th Wednesday (when they occur) of the month - preference given to first come first served

Thursday evenings 7.30pm onwards. Gallery rifle including postal competitions.

Friday evenings 7.30pm onwards. A mixture of gallery rifle at 25 yards and centrefire rifle at 100 yards.

Saturday 1000 to 1700hrs on the second Saturday of the month starting from the 12 September 2015 for a three month trial period. Only members who have proof of membership, membership card or probationary acceptance letter will be allowed to use the range.

Sunday mornings on the second Sunday of the month 10.00 am until 12.30 am.

All evening shooting must cease by 10.30pm. Occasionally the club will shoot on other days.

Membership Fees.

Membership runs from the 1st of January until the 31st of December each year. The fees are set at the annual general meeting of the club which is normally held in November of each year. The fees for 2014 are £60 for a full/probationary member of the club and £10 for a junior/student member of the club. A one off joining fee of £30 is payable for new members joining/re-joining the club. Junior members are those under 18 years of age. Student members must be in full time education and under 26 years of age. There are no joining fees for student or junior members. Those joining the club after 1st July each year only pay 50% subs but still pay the joining fee.

Minimum age.

The minimum age to shoot with the club is 12 years of age for rimfire and 14 years of age for centrefire. Junior members must be accompanied by a parent or carer when attending the range unless being supervised by a full member of the club who has been CRB checked.

Guests.

Guests who hold a firearms certificate are welcome to shoot their own firearms at the club on payment of the guest fee and on production of their firearms certificate. In order to

encourage new members and to discourage abuse of guest membership the number of times that a guest shooter may shoot may be limited.

Non certificate holders may only shoot on official open days of which prior notification is given to the police by the club in order to comply with the rules and conditions under which a Home Office approved rifle club must operate.

History and background information on the club.

Situated in the border town of Monmouth the club draws its current membership of over 100 members mainly and in almost equal parts from the surrounding counties served by the police services of Gwent, Gloucestershire and West Mercia. Founded in 1908 the club claims to be one of if not the oldest rifle club in what is now Wales, a fact disputed by its geographically close neighbour of Chepstow, there being some argument as to which club was actually founded first and which actually started shooting first. It is probable that the club was originally tied to the Society of Miniature Rifle Clubs which was later to become the National Small Bore Rifle Association. The club is currently affiliated to both the National Rifle Association and to the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. During its existence the club has shot at several ranges in and around the town of Monmouth including in the small basement range of Haberdashers school for boys immediately prior to moving to the current location of Troy range.

The brickwork on the club badge portrays the former railway tunnel that is the present home of the club, and the historically shifting border of Monmouthshire is signified by both the Lion of England and the Dragon of Wales indicating the club's allegiance to both.

The club is not a commercial concern and relies upon the active support and involvement of all members in order to thrive.

General safety information applying to the club premise.

Parking.

- Outside of normal council working hours parking is permitted in front of the row of garages in the council yard, or alternatively in the large car park in the field behind the yard. Please park neatly and carefully with consideration for others.
- No vehicles should be parked in the narrow area immediately in front of the entrance door to the range.
- On rare occasions that you may be visiting the range when the council are operating in the yard all vehicles are to be parked in the field car park. On these occasions the council require for reasons of safety that all persons wear hi-viz when crossing the yard.

Security precautions.

- The yard gate is normally closed but not locked when the club is using the range to discourage unauthorised access to the council depot. Please close the gate behind you.
- All club members are issued with a key to the Yale lock fitted to the range entrance door. Please ensure that this door is shut properly after entering the range.

Recording all visits.

All visits to the premise by all persons on every occasion regardless of purpose must be recorded by signing an entry in the diary that is maintained in the clubhouse. This is a requirement of the club's insurers. There are to be no exceptions.

General lay-out and design of premise.

The club premise consists of a former railway tunnel which is approximately 140 – 150 Metres in total length and approximately 8 Metres wide. The tunnel is blocked at one end by the bullet catcher and butt stop effectively making this a dead end situation. The the entrance to the tunnel is enclosed by a large steel door within which is a smaller wicket gate that is the only useable means of access and egress from the tunnel. Immediately inside the entrance is a small electrical intake/meter room which is enclosed by fire resisting construction. The door to this room must be kept closed at all times. There are two steel container type buildings further into the tunnel and set to the one side of the tunnel. One of these buildings is used as a clubhouse the other as a store room. Just beyond the clubhouse is the 100 yard firing point.

The distance that a person would have to travel within a premise in an emergency such as a fire is governed by building regulations and fire safety guidance and is further limited where escape is only possible in one direction only (dead end condition). The travel distance in this premise greatly exceeds (by a significant margin) what is normally considered acceptable. However an assessment of the risk to life in the event of fire has been carried out and measures implemented that permit the safe use of the premise, these include;

- Both buildings are designed to contain a fire for a minimum of 30 minutes thus permitting persons to safely pass by a fire within in order to escape the premise.
- The range is maintained clear of obstruction and the accumulation and storage of combustible materials at all times.
- Sources of ignition within the premise are strictly controlled.
- Safe access to the premise and egress from the premise is maintained at all times.

First aid.

A first aid kit is maintained in the clubhouse for use by club members in the event of a medical emergency. Also in the clubhouse is a direct dial telephone that can be used to summon the emergency services.

Fire.

- On discovering a fire warn all others in the premise by shouting FIRE and by sounding one of the two rotary gong alarms. These alarms are sited adjacent to the 100 yard firing point, and adjacent to the toilets at the main entrance to the range.
- If shooting unload and make the gun safe. Lay it down on the firing point. Do not remove firearms from the range.

- Only tackle a fire if it is safe to do so using a suitable portable extinguisher and you are trained in its use, and the alarm has been raised.
- Evacuate the building. The assembly point is at the far side of the council yard and away from the entrance gates.
- The range officer will telephone for the fire service using the telephone in the clubhouse if possible or alternatively nominate someone to phone using a mobile phone from the opposite side of the yard and outside the tunnel.
- The range officer will ensure that all persons have been evacuated from the premise and then wearing a hi-viz R.O. surcoat meet the fire service at the junction of the main road and the site entrance.

Failure of power supply or general lighting.

Emergency lighting is not installed in these premises at this time. There are two hand lamps in the clubhouse for use in the event of a power cut or failure of the general lighting system. In addition all range officers should carry hand lamps for this eventuality and to ensure the checking of firearms in the reduced light levels of the tunnel. If the power should fail while you are shooting keep the firearm pointed downrange, unload and make safe, lay the firearm down on the firing point.

Other Hazards.

Trip hazards – All persons should be aware that the floor of the range is uneven with numerous trip hazards created by drainage channels and wet surfaces. Shooters should be particularly aware of the trip hazards created by the wooden grating over the light pit near the bullet catcher and butts.

Eating on the range – Eating on the range is discouraged due to the health hazards associated with the possible ingestion of lead. Hands should be washed following shooting or the handling of ammunition that has lead bullets. Food waste also encourages vermin.

Smoking.

Smoking of any kind including electronic cigarettes is not permitted on club premise and is also not permitted in the council yard.

Toilets.

The club is not connected to the mains sewage system and relies instead on an underground storage tank to collect foul water which is emptied periodically by tanker. For the sake of convenience and cost members are asked to use water wisely when hand washing etc.

Dissemination of information.

Due to the high cost of postage the club relies mainly upon email notifications and notices in the clubhouse to keep members informed and to pass on information. Members are reminded to read the notice boards and also of the need to notify the secretary if their home address or email address should change at any time.

Legislation regarding the possession of firearms and ammunition.

As a general rule the various Firearms Acts prohibits the possession of firearms and ammunition without lawful authority (usually a Firearms Certificate). However there are a

number of exemptions one of these being as a member of a Home Office approved club and shooting with the club, thus permitting club members to use guns and ammunition that belong to the club and that belonging to other club members without possessing a firearms certificate. This exemption does not extend to long barrelled pistols and section 1 shotguns, nor does the so called "estate rifle" exemption apply in the case of target shooting on ranges.

It is recommended that club members familiarise themselves with the laws regarding the possession of firearms and ammunition. This can be done by reading the H.O. Guide on Firearms Licensing Law 2013 which is available on the internet free of charge. Similar H.O. guidance on firearms security is also available.

Under no circumstances is ammunition or firearms to be removed from the club without lawful authority and permission.

Firearms Safety.

All shooters should familiarise themselves with range standing orders a copy of which a copy is displayed in the clubhouse.

Particular mention however needs to be drawn to the following rules;

1. Club policy is that all firearms carried from the car park must be cased or covered. No uncovered firearms are to be carried across the car park.
2. It is club policy that firearms will only be uncased on the firing point and not to the rear of the firing point with the firearm pointing down range at all times.
3. There must be absolutely no handling of firearms when other range users are downrange or forward of the firing point.
4. All benched or grounded firearms must have actions locked open or bolts open when anyone is forward of the firing point. The use of breech flags is encouraged.
5. All firearms will be proven clear before being re-cased and removed from the firing point.

This guide is only an introduction to the club with a view that most new club members will work towards obtaining the necessary knowledge and experience so that they will be considered suitable for being issued with a certificate of shooter competence. These certificates can only be signed by the club chairman and enable the holder to shoot without individual supervision on NRA or MOD ranges.

Do not hesitate in approaching any of the officers of the club if you require guidance on any matters regarding shooting and the club or require further information on the club constitution which is contained in a separate document. Be aware that this as previously mentioned is considered a living document, and that things change and that later revisions of this document may contain slightly different or contradictory information.

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman of Monmouth & District Rifle Club.