



# News Shots

ICSI News – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022

**This week in News Shots:** Commonwealth Games 2026 News, Bird Flu increases, Olympic Skeet Course, License delays, Something to watch and read

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## Commonwealth Games – Shooting Returns in Victoria



Shooting will return to the Commonwealth Games roster in the 2026 edition in Victoria, Australia, while wrestling and archery have been dropped.

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) and the Commonwealth Games Australia on Wednesday unveiled the full sport programme for the Victoria 2026 CWG, featuring 20 sports and 26 disciplines, including nine fully integrated para sports.

The return of shooting, which was controversially dropped from the Birmingham CWG earlier this year, is a welcome development for many of the smaller Commonwealth nations who have a history of doing well in the shooting events

## Bird Flu Cases on the Rise



*Shooting UK Online magazine and Shooting Times published the following article which I am sure will be of interest to members involved in this year's game season. With so many pressures on shoots this is un-wanted occurrence.*

The bird flu outbreak, which began in October 2021, is continuing, with significant numbers of new cases in late September and early October this year. This is an extremely concerning situation with serious implications for shooting.

Most new cases are clustered in two areas. When an area has many cases, a regional Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) is declared. At the time of going to press, a regional AIPZ is in force for the whole of Suffolk and Norfolk and parts of Essex, and a second regional AIPZ is in place for the whole of the counties of Devon and Cornwall, including the Isles of Scilly, and for parts of Somerset. The restrictions within AIPZs can affect shoots and anyone operating a shoot in an AIPZ

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is strongly advised to contact a shooting or gamekeeping organisation for advice. Both AIPZs have recorded new cases this week.

Where a region has a smaller number of outbreaks, concentric 3km protection and 10km surveillance zones are declared around an individual outbreak. At the time of going to press, nine protection and 10 surveillance zones were in place across England and Wales. The most northerly is roughly at the centre of a triangle formed by Boroughbridge, Thirsk and Easingwold in North Yorkshire. Further west, protection and surveillance zones are in place around Out Rawcliffe, east of Blackpool. On the North Yorkshire coast, two overlapping sets of zones have been put in place. One is centred near Marton with the second around 2km to its north-west.

Following an outbreak south-east of York, protection and surveillance zones were brought in near Skipwith. The West Midlands has two overlapping zones north-west of Stoke-on-Trent covering the north-western part of the town, Crewe, Nantwich, Sandbach and Middlewich. In West Wales, protection and surveillance zones are in force in the general area of Hasgurd and Saint Ishmaels, west of Milford Haven. In the south-east, protection and surveillance zones have been put in place centred between Highworth and Faringdon.

The situation is generally expected to worsen in the coming weeks as colder weather and migrating wildfowl arrive.

BASC also have advice on this matter and more information can be found by following the link below:

[Avian Influenza - The British Association for Shooting and Conservation \(basc.org.uk\)](https://www.basc.org.uk)

## License Delays Continue

The delays in grants and renewals of Shotgun certificates are having an effect on the throughput of new shooters and therefore novice lessons. This is having a significant effect on shooting grounds and gun shops and for some coaches who rely on work from shooting grounds.

The shooting marketplace is already under stress caused by increased clay, cartridge and gun prices and the lack of new shooters caused by backlogs in the licensing process.



BASC is running a campaign for members to contact their Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to complain if their authority is lacking in its speedy response to grants or renewals.

They make the following points below:

- Around 30% of forces have managed to continue to provide an efficient and effective service, even over the period of the pandemic lockdown.
- There is a postcode lottery. A person applying today to the best performing force could expect to receive their certificate in six to eight weeks. In the worst performing forces, they might be lucky to receive it before the end of 2023.
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) has highlighted inefficiencies and inconsistencies in previous reports on firearms licensing departments, as well as other areas of policing (the police investigation into volume crime was the most recent of these). It seems nothing has improved, with Chief Constables apparently free to ignore recommendations.

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- All policing should be intelligence led. There are, however, practices such as land assessments that are time consuming and would appear to contribute nothing to public safety. Police Scotland, a force with no backlogs, abandoned the practice of land assessments years ago. What is the justification for their continued use in most of England and Wales (it is believed that they were not used prior to the 1980s)?
- Delays in firearms licensing have a significant impact on the rural economy, particularly when new shooters are prevented from taking up the sport due to their inability to obtain a shotgun or firearms licence.

This applies not only to the purchase of firearms and ammunition, but to other associated items such as clothing and optical equipment. It also has a detrimental effect on wider businesses that rely on either directly or indirectly on shooting, such as clay pigeon shooting grounds, gundog training centres and hotels in shooting areas.

If you are or have experienced delays in your renewal BASC urge you to contact your PCC to inform them of the problem as they are responsible and accountable for the efficient running of all Police force activities in their area.

BASC Link: [Firearms licensing: Contact your Police and Crime Commissioner - The British Association for Shooting and Conservation \(basc.org.uk\)](https://www.basc.org.uk/Firearms-licensing-Contact-your-Police-and-Crime-Commissioner-The-British-Association-for-Shooting-and-Conservation)

## Olympic Skeet Coaching Development Course



**New Course for 2022**  
**Olympic Skeet Coaching Course,**  
**At**  
**East Yorkshire Clay Target Centre**  
**on**  
**Thursday 27th October 2022.**

The course is designed to assist anyone wishing to understand and/or develop their coaching skills on Olympic Skeet.

This would be an ideal introduction to those who may be considering taking up coaching this discipline.

The course will consist of classroom-and range work based on:

- What do 'Good' shots do.
- What inexperienced shots do.
- Optimum biomechanical positioning.
- Range work which will allow individuals to observe and practice:
- Gun body and eye placement, including 'quiet eye'.
- The observation of 'Good' shots and shooters displaying faults.
- Body 'Shape' and gun control after the first shot on pairs.
- Application of these methods by yourself.
- Identification of any area of work that needs development.

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### Course Tutors

#### Frank G Miller

Member of numerous winning England Teams  
British Shooting Pathway Coach  
CPSA Olympic Skeet Coach.  
ISSF 'D' Coach.  
ISSF Referee.

#### Phil Musson

England & GB team member  
L1 CPSA Instructor

**To book a place on this course please go to the ICSI web site, Courses page**

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

## Something to Read

**Your Chairman, John Robinson** appears in the November issue of **Sporting Gun** (as does the former Chairman, Dr Malcolm Plant who continues with his regular articles). John was interviewed by Jasper Fellows and in the article, he outlines his journey in clay shooting, his personal philosophy and highlights the work of the Institute to develop and improve coaches and instructors.



## Something to watch.....Something to Read

Making a bespoke gun stock is a precise process, taking the stock measurements and shaping a blank of wood to those precise dimensions takes skill and patience. Here is a video following stockmaker Manuel Ricardo as he and his team prepare a new stock.

<https://youtu.be/clLbHxckWfg>

Teague Chokes, perhaps the best chokes for shotguns, here is an article from Shooting UK on Teague Chokes.

[Teague chokes - just why are they so popular asks Shooting Times \(shootinguk.co.uk\)](http://shootinguk.co.uk)

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## ICSI ONLINE SHOP

Please visit the website to view merchandise and prices. Gilets are now available at a very reasonable price.

## FINALLY.....

Please send your coaching experiences for inclusion in News Shots and any photos you may have.

If you experience web site issues, please contact Jason Rowntree on [coachdevelopment@icsi.org.uk](mailto:coachdevelopment@icsi.org.uk)

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