# THE ENGLISH EIGHT CLUB

## SECRETARY'S REPORT 2026

### Introduction

The Club's objectives continue to be to foster long range rifle shooting in the interest of national defence, and in particular to organise the English Team in any international match shot with match rifle. To this end, it has continued to arrange its annual Spring and Autumn meetings, which produce ever higher standards of accurate shooting at long range. Interest in experimentation continues. The Club continues its policy of encouraging new entrants to match rifle shooting. With this particular aim, the Club makes its facilities available to members of Cambridge University Rifle Association and Oxford University Rifle Club. It was excellent to also see members from BYSA getting involved in the English Eight competitions and we hope to continue to grow the interest in our discipline. It also encourages F Class and TR shooters to enter club meetings, and has seen greater interest from Any Rifle shooters, keen to test themselves at longer distances, as well in the last few years

### Results

In the 153rd staging of the Elcho Match, the England team was victorious scoring 1703.146v, beating Ireland by 31 points (10 V-bulls), with Scotland coming third. This represented Alex Cargill-Thomson's third match as Captain of the Eight, and his third victory (taking England's winning run to twelve years, with victory in every match since 2013, with the match not being shot in 2020 due to COVID, and 2022 due to the fires). A congratulations to Nick Brasier for scoring top of the team with 216.20.

The Club did not enter a team into the FW Jones this year, and there is no record kept on the NRA website of the result of the 2025 Five Nations Match.

A number of members of the Club shot for Great Britain in the Woomera match, captained by (Simon Whitby) and shot by, notably Nick Brasier, John Lindsay III, Adam Leech and Rob Lygoe, with Hattie Asquith-Beard in reserve. GB scored 1763.296v against Autralia's 1730.176v, continuing GB's winning streak. Congratulations to both Nick and John for 75s (and plenty of V-Bulls) at 1000yards.

### Spring Meeting

The 135th meeting of the Club was held at Bisley on the 9th/10th May 2026, with xx entries. It is pleasing to report that the number of entrants is now back in line with the meetings immediately pre-COVID, and approaching record highs, along with plenty of students from all clubs joining the competition.

The results of the Annual Jewels Competition of the English Eight Club were:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Gold Jewel and Lord Cottesloe's Cup | C N Tremlett | (441.56) |
| The Silver Jewel | J Lindsay III | (437.53) |
| The Bronze Jewel | A Leech | (436.56) |

The results of the open trophies were:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Welsh Aggregate Trophy (Overall Competition) | C N Tremlett | (441.56) |
| The H G Courth Memorial Trophy (Saturday aggregate) | C N Tremlett | (220.29) |
| The Martin Smith Challenge Cup (Sunday aggregate) | C N Tremlett | (221.28) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The L D Ranken Memorial Trophy (1200 Sunday) | C Halleran | (145.11) |
| The Powell Trophy (Ladies) | H Nuttall | (436.44) |
| The O.C.R.A. Trophy (under 25) | J Small | (410.34) |

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**Autumn Meeting**

The Autumn meeting held on the 28th/29th September attracted 48 entries (with thanks to my predecessor Si Whitby for his organisation). As with the Spring meeting, that was an increase in the participants from 2023, and was again in line with pre-pandemic numbers. As for 2023, the meeting followed the 'traditional' format, being shot on the Saturday afternoon and the Sunday morning. The results of the meeting were as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The Stamford Young Trophy (highest MR score) | R Scaglione | (446.55) |
| 1200 Club Salver (1200 aggregate) | C N Tremlett | (148.15) |
| The Dram Trophy (Saturday aggregate) | R Scaglione | (223.25) |
| Donegal Badge | A Abrahams | (444.51) |
| Irish Cup (Sunday aggregate) | J GM Webster | (223.31) |
| The Ladies Trophy | E Stratford | (436.41) |
| The Under 25 Cup | E Stratford | (436.41) |
| Pilcher Platter (English Spring & Autumn Meeting agg) | A Leech | (873.104) |
| Auditor's Cup (English Hopton, Spring & Autumn agg) | C N Tremlett | (1840.189) |
| The Under 25 Spring and Autumn | E Stratford | (844.77) |

The organisation necessary to mount our meetings is considerable. As ever, I would like to thank in particular Michael Hissey for arranging squadding (sent out by text to those who provide their mobile number) as well as for providing excellent statistics which are well displayed and now instantly available on the day (including on the website).

Thanks also go to Fiona Day for organising the receptions after shooting, and Ashley Abrahams, and Adam Leech for supervising safety and assisting with administration over the course of the weekends. I would also like to thank Jim Stevens for arranging markers and HPS for their continued support of our receptions.

Especial thanks also go to our excellent ROs, Gert and Andrew, who do a wonderful job of running the range efficiently and safely, but also within the true spirit of Match Rifle.

**Membership**

Those eligible to shoot in the English Eight in the Elcho Match may apply to become full members of the Club, while those not eligible to shoot in the English Eight may apply for honorary membership. All applicants must be full members of the National Rifle Association, Cambridge University Rifle Association or Oxford University Rifle Club. Applications must be made in writing to the Membership Secretary (Fiona Day). All applications must be supported by two existing members of the Club. Details of other club memberships, firearm certificate number and issuing Authority must also be provided. The Club is affiliated to the NRA.

To confirm, the club does not operate as a primary club for licensing purposes for members.

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## Club House

On behalf of the Club I would like to thank Richard Whitby for all his hard work so generously undertaken in the time consuming role of looking after the clubhouse, both inside and out.

Though we continue to undertake some work necessary as part of our dilapidations schedule, all major work is currently on hold, pending the outcome of the clubhouse lease renewal. With the arrival of the new NRA CEO, we look to soon confirm the arrangements for the new lease, with thanks to Nick Tremlett for steering the ship and getting us to a suitable position with the NRA. This position will reflect the increased costs for the works required. It is still the Club's to carry out major works on the clubhouse, over and above that required by the schedule of dilapidations. That is likely to include the replacement of the roof, as well as a new toilet block. A re-appraisal of the affordability of any works will therefore be carried out in due course.

## Finance

Our Treasurer, Rob Lygoe, continues to do an excellent job in administering the Club's finances and preparing the accounts. The unaudited accounts show the financial result for the year was a surplus of income over expenditure of £2285,49. This is was an increase from 2024, largely thanks to greater uptake of the meetings.

The full accounts (unaudited at time of sending) are included in this account- our thanks to Paul Charlton for his continued support. The funds generated by the meetings remain a hugely important source of income for the Club, meeting as they do c50% of the regular costs of the clubhouse (rent, rates, insurance etc.). Without that source of income, the Club would struggle to maintain the clubhouse, which operates as a base throughout the year for the students of CURA and OURC (regardless of shooting discipline or nationality), and as a hub for Match Rifle shooting in general. The Club would therefore like to thank all of those who support the Spring and Autumn meetings; support without which Match Rifle in the UK would be in a considerably worse position.

The Club continues to implement a policy of pricing meeting entry for younger shooters which results in a loss to the Club on such entries. We take the view that this is an approach which is line with our charitable objectives, and which is vital to the health of Match Rifle shooting.

While the Club has strong reserves (£62,231.10 in cash at year end), it should be noted that a significant proportion of this (in excess of c£30,000) remains earmarked for expenditure on major clubhouse refurbishment in the next c18 months.

## England Training Days

As has become customary, there were two practice days held by the Club in 2025; on the Friday before the Spring meeting, and the Friday before the Hopton. Due to the Woomera, these were combined with Woomera training days. At the start of 2026 we saw this shift back to a more normal pattern of events, with both nonetheless strongly supported, with a good mix of new and familiar faces at each.

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**Website**

The Club already has a functioning website on which Elcho match, Spring and Autumn meeting results can be found together with photographs and match reports. As mentioned in previous reports, a club history is also available, though is now some 10 years out of date. If anyone would like to volunteer to write up the history of the club for the last (hugely successful) decade (and counting), do not be shy in coming forward. The website address is www.englishviii.org.uk.

While not strictly Eight Club business, I would, as always, highlight here that there is a dedicated website for all things Great Britain match rifle related. I would encourage all members to visit and support that endeavour at www.gbmatchrifle.org.uk.

In closing, with this being my first season as the club's new Secretary, I would like to thank all members of the Committee not already mentioned who have given time and effort in helping with the administration of the Club and have helped me learn the ropes. Especial thanks go to Michael, Si and Rob for their help with the Spring Meeting (2026). Equally, a notable level of thanks to Si Whitby, who has stood down as Secretary after a credible eight years at the helm, and A Abrahams and J Peck who stood down this year on rotation for their five years of service.

**H J M Asquith-Beard**
**Hon. Secretary**

**June 2024**

## English Eight Club Income and Expenditure account – 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025

| **Income** | **2025** | **2024** | | **Expenditure** | **2025** | **2024** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | |
| Subscriptions | 5175.00 | 4345.00 | | Clubhouse Expenses | 2155.62 | 1676.99 |
| Meeting entries | 24730.00 | 24984.25 | | Rent/Rates | 4356.00 | 4328.06 |
| Reception sponsorship | 300.00 | 300.00 | | Insurance | 1592.17 | 1531.23 |
| Jewel/Badge sales | 300.00 | 600.00 | | Clubhouse Refurbishment | 0.00 | 75.60 |
| Interest | 2039.81 | 541.88 | | Meeting expenses | 20555.43 | 21254.89 |
| Donations | 50.00 | 135.00 | | Elcho Match | 1111.75 | 1087.56 |
| Elcho Folder / Record sheets sales | 0.00 | 0.00 | | Member Dev't [1] | 3399.00 | 2365.80 |
| Member Dev't [1] | 3360.00 | 2637.00 | | Receptions | 333.05 | 163.65 |
| Gift Aid Reclaim | 702.67 | 609.72 | | Elcho Folders / Record Sheets | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Scorebooks + clothing + badges [2] | 111.00 | 947.36 | | Jewels: Cost of Sales | 226.97 | 543.60 |
| RAF Guest Day | 0.00 | 24000.00 | | Affiliations | 753.00 | 666.00 |
| Tremfest Dinner | 0.00 | 1929.00 | | Secretarial / Treasurer Expenses | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| | **36768.48** | **61029.21** | | Clothing + badges [2] | 0.00 | 708.35 |
| | | | | RAF Guest Day | 0.00 | 23250.00 |
| **Excess of Income over Expenditure** | **2285.49** | **1468.53** | | Tremfest Dinner | 0.00 | 1908.95 |
| | | | | | **34482.99** | **59560.68** |
| *Check* | 34482.99 | 59560.68 | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **Net Income** | **2285.49** | **1468.53** | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| **Notes** | | | | | | |
| 1. 2024 May, July practice days. 2025 - July, plus - B215 distribution | | | | | | |
| 2. Incl. Elcho 150 match badges (2024). Tremfest dinner in 2024 plus Guiness corporate day sponsorship. | | | | | | |

# English Eight Club Balance Sheet at 31 Dec 2025

| **Assets** | **2025** | **2024** |
|---|---|---|
| Cash in Hand | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Santander current account | 1496.78 | 3146.31 |
| Santander deposit account | 19164.54 | 18694.51 |
| HTB deposit account | 41569.78 | 40000.00 |
| Total cash and bank | 62231.10 | 61840.82 |
| Photo Albums at cost | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Jewels at cost | 2546.30 | 1107.08 |
| Debtors | 5049.10 | 4693.10 |
| | 69826.50 | 67641.00 |
| Creditors | -100.00 | -200.00 |
| | **69726.50** | **67441.00** |
| **Accumulated Funds** | | |
| **General Fund** | | |
| At beginning of Year | 17441.00 | 15972.48 |
| Excess of Income over Expenditure | 2285.49 | 1468.53 |
| Transfer from Clubhouse Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| At end of Year | **19726.50** | **17441.00** |
| **Clubhouse Fund** | | |
| At beginning of Year | 50000.00 | 50000.00 |
| Transfer from General Fund | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| At end of Year | **50000.00** | **50000.00** |
| Total Funds at Year End | **69726.50** | **67441.00** |

**Stock at Cost @ 31 December 2025**

| | No. | @price | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Elcho Jewels | 0 | 135.90 | 0.00 |
| New (2025) Elcho Jewels | 19 | 91.07 | 1730.27 |
| EVIII Gold Jewels | 5 | 58.64 | 293.18 |
| EVIII Silver Jewels | 5 | 54.64 | 273.20 |
| EVIII Bronze Jewels | 5 | 31.83 | 159.14 |
| Elcho Cloth Badges | 9 | 10.06 | 90.50 |
| | | | **2546.30** |

| **DEBTORS** | At end of: | **2025** | **2024** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2026 NRA affiliation | | 741.00 | 0.00 |
| OURC subs | | 0.00 | 385.00 |
| Rent early payment | | 4308.10 | 4308.10 |
| **CREDITORS** | | | |
| Early subs payment | | 100.00 | 200.00 |

I have examined the accounts and accounting records from which they are derived and there are no matters to which I need to bring to the attention of the members.

Paul Charlton

PAUL CHARLTON MSc FCA
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER