



British Alpine Rifles

Patron: His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., K.T.

The British Alpine Rifles seeks to uphold Britain's finest traditions of pistol and rifle marksmanship, offering opportunities for shooting which are no longer possible within these shores. It counts some very distinguished competitors among its members, but membership is not conditional upon shooting attainment. Whilst B.A.R. has limited opportunities for training complete beginners and recommends that applicants should also be members of other clubs that offer regular practice facilities, in principle it welcomes applications from safe shooters of all levels of skill and experience. Its youngest members have joined in their early teens, and its oldest when approaching receipt of the Queen's telegram.

Programme

The main competitive programme of the British Alpine Rifles is centred in Switzerland, utilizing a variety of ranges located in some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. B.A.R. runs two major meetings a year in the Bernese Oberland, each of a week's duration. These Spring and Autumn Championships embrace a hundred pistol and rifle matches, covering a broad spectrum of disciplines. The pistol programme includes the full repertoire of ISSF cartridge pistol competitions, and a rich array of Police, Service, Pocket Pistol and Classic events. Old Bisley favourites like Advancing Men are once again on offer to British pistoleers, together with new courses on modern Falling Plates layouts. For riflemen, B.A.R. offers 300 metre standing, kneeling and prone slowfire courses, and timed service matches, both for Veteran and for modern manual and self-loading weapons.

The British Alpine Rifles championships in Switzerland are supplemented by Summer and Winter Meetings at Bisley, shooting fullbore rifle events (TR and MR, Veteran, 3-P, Mad Minute and Sniper), Gallery and LSR matches, and air and muzzle-loading pistol competitions. Throughout the year, too, B.A.R. fields teams for open and invitational meetings, in Britain and abroad; and every year its members return with a haul of medals and trophies from across Europe.

Weapons & Weapons Storage

The British Alpine Rifles has a selection of club guns available for members' use in Switzerland, and advises its members on Swiss legal requirements for the purchase or importation of their own weapons. Club storage facilities for members' firearms in Switzerland is available at £5 per gun p.a., or in a personal locker at prices ranging from Sfr. 150 (around £65) for a 40x40x40 cm. unit.

Visiting Switzerland: Costs & Opportunities

Staying in hotels and eating in restaurants in Switzerland, as in Britain, can of course be expensive. Charming and well-appointed Swiss chalet accommodation, however, can be booked by the week at prices per person well below those of a British B&B (or even Bisley huts). Such accommodation includes kitchen facilities, which then make the differences in living costs negligible.

Geneva and Zürich are among the cheapest air destinations on the Continent, and it is now often possible to get returns to either for around £50. For those preferring to drive out, early-booked ferry prices for a car and passengers typically begin under £100; the driving distance to the Bernese Oberland is comparable to that from Bisley to Aberdeen.

The British Alpine Rifles does not seek to offer a substitute for a day on the local club range. Its meetings are best treated as opportunities for a shooting holiday, to be enjoyed with family and friends in an interesting and beautiful country; and as such they offer outstanding richness, variety and good value. The Lake of Thun, around which many of B.A.R.'s ranges are located, was described by Sir Leslie Stephen, luminary of the early Alpine Club, as "the loveliest of all conceivable lakes", and its waters are still plied by a splendid *belle époque* paddle steamer, taking visitors to castles and waterfront cafés; whilst the B.A.R. range in Grindelwald stands close beneath the mighty north face of the Eiger. The shooting itself is just part of the attraction of a B.A.R. meeting.

Language

The British Alpine Rifles ranges are in German-speaking Switzerland. Whilst it is beneficial to have some knowledge of the language, it is by no means indispensable. So many Swiss are keen to hone their English skills that it can be quite difficult to get practice in the local tongue!

Membership

B.A.R. has four categories of membership: Probationary, Full, Associate, and Honorary. The standard charge for Full membership is £40 a year, with a concessionary rate of £20 for second and further family members resident at the same address, and for students in full-time education. Associate membership (receiving invitations to events in Britain only) costs £10 a year. Probationers pay the relevant annual fee for the category of membership sought, and upon successful completion of their probationary term are invited to pay a joining fee of £30. Special concessionary terms may apply to disabled applicants, according to circumstance.

The normal membership application procedure comprises four elements. Firstly, the names of applicants are circulated (usually once a quarter) to the membership for their approval, and references are taken up. If no objections have arisen, applicants are then invited to participate at a B.A.R. event in Britain, or if this is not possible, to attend an interview with committee members. Having passed this stage, applicants are requested to pay the annual fee for the category of membership sought and are accepted as Probationary members, which status lasts until final approval after attending one of our Swiss meetings (in the case of applicants for Full membership) or a second British meeting (in the case of applicants for Associate membership).

R.A.I. Munday
President

J.A.G. Hawkins
Secretary

British Alpine Rifles: Application for Membership

1. Name:..... Date of Birth

2. Address:.....

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3. E-Mail Address, Telephone & Fax Numbers:.....

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4. FAC Number: Issuing Authority:.....

5. SGC Number:Issuing Authority:.....

6. Member of the following national shooting associations:

7. Member of the following shooting clubs:.....

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8. Names, addresses, and telephone numbers two referees (one of whom should normally be the secretary of one of the applicant's clubs):

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9. Shooting *curriculum vitae*: on a separate sheet, please submit a detailed summary of your shooting career, with dates where possible, listing all shooting clubs and associations of which you have at any stage been a member, and describing your competitive experience and discipline interests. B.A.R. does not expect all its members to be top-class shots (and welcomes those of limited experience who wish to develop marksmanship skills), but it does place emphasis on a safe and mature attitude to the use of firearms.

10. Would you be interested in using club pistols or club rifles for general competition or particular disciplines (please specify):

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11. It would be helpful if B.A.R. had some indication of individual members' language skills. We would therefore be grateful if you could ring the knowledge levels which most fairly describe your abilities, according to the following scale: (a) Fluent; (b) Competent; (c) Survive with the aid of sign language; (d) Communicate when abroad by repeating yourself loudly in English.

German:

French:

Spoken (a) (b) (c) (d)

Spoken (a) (b) (c) (d)

Written (a) (b) (c) (d)

Written (a) (b) (c) (d)

To: N. Pollard, Esq., Membership Secretary, B.A.R., 92 Westminster Way, Oxford OX2 0LP

I hereby apply to be accepted as a probationer for: [please delete as appropriate]

Full Membership

Associate Membership

of the British Alpine Rifles, and consent to information provided on this form being kept in an electronic data retrieval system. I understand that whilst participants in B.A.R. meetings are covered by third-party insurance, neither B.A.R. nor its officers accept further liability for any loss or injury, and that it is the participants' own responsibility to make any personal insurance arrangements.

Signed: ***Dated:***

Please enclose a C5 or larger SAE with your application. Names of applicants will be circulated quarterly for approval by the B.A.R. membership, and all applicants will be notified of the outcome. Applicants may then be invited to attend a B.A.R. meeting, and following that be accepted as Probationary members. Probationers will at that stage be requested to pay the annual fee for the category of membership sought (£40 Full, concessionary rate £20 for second and further family members resident at the same address, and for students in full-time education; £10 Associate). Upon successful completion of the probationary period, a £30 joining fee will be payable.

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www.BritishAlpineRifles.org.uk