

FCSA (UK) Information Sheet.

Who are we? FCSA (UK) standing for - Fifty Calibre Shooters Association of the United Kingdom, is dedicated to the legitimate sport of .50 calibre target rifle shooting. We are now one of the fastest growing target shooting clubs in the UK. Range events and competition details can be found on our **web site** (www.fcsa.co.uk), so if you already shoot target rifle but want to see what you can do beyond the usual 1000 yards then 50cal shooting might be the challenging sport you've been looking for.

FCSA (UK), which is Home Office Approved and a National Club, was formed in 2004 in response to a growing interest in the 50 BMG and extra long range shooting. Also as a means of protecting this section of Target Shooting, which was under threat of extinction. We shoot similar competitions as our American counterparts (see - www.fcsa.org) and use a similar set of competition rules. Some of our members also shoot in mainland Europe and Norway as well as here in the UK. Conversely, we have several overseas members that shoot with us in the UK.

What is 50cal? We currently specialise in the 50BMG / 12.7x99mm Browning cartridge - '50cal' being the common name, rather than the Russian counterpart 12.7x108mm or the short .50cal 'Spotter' as used on recoilless artillery, as 50 BMG reloading components are the most readily available in the UK, Europe and the US. Compared to other 12.7mm calibres the '50 BMG' has the largest number of civilian users across the world. Details such as 50 BMG reloading data and retail information on rifles available to the UK shooter are also available via the club. Many of our members also own and compete at distances beyond 1000 yards with other large calibre rifles, such as .338 Lapua and now the .408 CheyTac, so even if you don't own a 50BMG rifle there is no reason why you can't join FCSA (UK) and take part in the fun and challenge of extreme range target shooting!

What are the origins? The modern 50BMG target or sniping rifle is a development of an overgrown WWI 13mm Mauser rifle that was designed to penetrate and stop a tank with a bullet, this concept was rapidly developed up until the very early 1940s then promptly abandoned as deemed totally ineffective, however over the past 20 years we have seen rapid growth in the sport of long range target shooting by civilians. If you require more in-depth technical and historical information on rifles of a similar or larger calibre then this can be found at <http://www.antitank.co.uk> although certain details such as reloading data for Historical Anti-Tank rifles is virtually non existent and reloading should only be attempted by experienced shooters who fully understand the complex science of reloading for such large calibres.

Where can I Shoot? To those not familiar with the .50 BMG calibre, the muzzle energy can be in excess of 10,000 ft/lbs depending on the loading, with a muzzle velocity usually just under 3000 ft/sec. As such, the majority of UK ranges such as standard MOD Gallery Ranges, are not suitable. We are therefore restricted to Field Firing Areas / Multi Purpose Type Ranges, that have capabilities for up to 155mm Artillery / Tank firing, etc. Also some Private / commercial Ranges. This means that travelling long distances is a necessity if you wish to shoot this type of rifle. The Ranges we currently use can be Seen on our Web Site & that of our sister club - Offa's Dyke Rifle Club (www.offasrifleclub.com) Range location Maps and Google Earth views, are also available. Most MOD Ranges DO NOT have Post Codes, so maps are the best bet. FCSA (UK) fully appreciate that shooting nothing but 50 BMG all day is rather expensive and not all members have 50 BMG, Therefore, as most members also own a wide variety of other calibres, shoots always cater for all calibre's, unless stated otherwise.

Point of fact:- 50cal rifles, as used by Civilian Shooters, are not Material Destruction Devices, as they are used with conventional ball ammunition, either lead core or bronze, to shoot paper targets, rather than explosive or armour piercing (both unavailable, as they are Section 5 in the UK) which are designed to destroy or damage a hard target. Quite simply these are Target Rifles. Any Calibre can be classed as Material Destruction if using destructive ammunition.

For further information regarding the club, contact the Secretary or Chairman via Web Site.