

# **Sportsman's Association Newsletter**

## **June 2017**

### **By Mike Wells Secretary General**

The law allows a .410 shot pistol to be held by a firearm certificate holder for the purpose of vermin control in and around farm buildings.

The good reason was to shoot rats, squirrels, pigeons etc. in Barns and Hay Lofts, and other areas subject to conditions on certificate

A .410 shot pistol and the less common 9mm rimfire shot pistol are both prohibited under the section 5 handgun legislation as they are less than 24" or 60 cm in overall length.

The law is quite specific, these shot pistols are only to be used for vermin control where a longer section 1 & 2 shotgun would be too large in confined spaces. The shot pistol MUST be smooth bored. A variety of lead shot may be used including solid slug.

The Government did not allow the .410 shot pistols to be used for humane dispatch, which in my opinion would be ideal.

Shot pistols come up in auction from time to time usually as single or double barrel Belgian hammer guns. It is difficult to find a good one. Because of lack of demand there are few commercially available in the UK, they must be smooth bored at the point of manufacture, in the United States many .45 Long Colt revolvers are used to chamber .410, but, they are rifled, so, not allowable to hold in English law.

Some years ago Sabre Defence imported Taurus Judge revolvers from Brazil, these were manufactured with a 6" smooth bored barrel. This 5 shot .410 revolver was ideal for vermin control. The Home Office stepped in and tried to say that the Judge was not allowable as it fell foul of section 5:1(ad) a revolver gun, so was prohibited for use on vermin. In stepped the Sportsman's Association and produced legal opinion that the Judge was 5:1(aba) a handgun that did not fall foul of the definition of a 5:1(ad)

The definition stated that a 5:1(ad) cylinder rotated upon firing, as in semi automatic. The cylinder on a Judge or any other 5:1(aba) revolver is locked upon firing, the cylinder rotates upon cocking. Certain police forces have seen sense and deduced that the Judge or any other factory produced smooth bored shot pistol are allowable for vermin control and subject to condition on a Firearm Certificate.

A Section 5:1(ad) is a semi auto drum fed shotgun designed for riot control by companies such as Armsel, Striker, street sweeper & Protecta made in South Africa.

## Useful notes

1. A shot pistol in .410 or 9mm rimfire shorter than 24" is a section 5:1(aba) prohibited firearm.
2. A shot pistol must be smooth bored from the factory and not an aftermarket conversion
3. A shot pistol may be used in accordance with the conditions on the owner's firearm certificate.
4. A shot pistol may only be transferred or sold to a Section 5 Registered firearms dealer.
5. A shot pistol may not be used for humane dispatch

Here is a condition taken from a Kent Firearm certificate holder to whom I supplied a Taurus Judge:-

*"The .410 5 shot revolver and ammunition shall be used for shooting vermin, on land deemed suitable by the Chief Officer of Police for the area where the land is situate and over which the holder has lawful authority to shoot".*

## Alarm Bells

There have been a lot of meetings with the British Medical Council requesting that General Practitioners notify the police if they have concerns about the suitability of a Firearm or Shotgun certificate holder to own guns. This met with outrage by the many shooting organisations.

GP's are demanding a fee to write letters to the police. The debate is still ongoing, as the stance is that a GP, has got better things to do with his already over tasked time. I was waiting to see my GP for a 10 minute consultation, when, the VDU in the waiting area popped up this message after highlighting the dangers of smoking and drinking.

I did a double take, and just managed to capture this on my iPhone.

THE GP'S IN THIS MEDICAL CENTRE CONCIENCIOUSLY OBJECT TO GUN OWNERSHIP

I confess I was taken aback, was I supposed to deduce that this meant "don't bother asking us for a letter" or, we would like to see your guns taken away? Either way, to me seems to send a message "gun owners not welcome here". This is rural Sussex where shooting is a very popular pursuit, with clay shooting competitions at nearby Goodwood.