

# Bush Spring Shooting Club

## Gun safety policy

### **NEVER POINT A GUN, LOADED OR UNLOADED, IN AN UNSAFE DIRECTION**

It is estimated that there are more than 1.4 million shotguns legally held in Great Britain, the vast majority of which are used in a safe and responsible manner.

### **Safety**

Above all, safety is the most important consideration. Always be aware of the direction in which the muzzle of your shotgun is pointing and NEVER point it in an unsafe direction. Whenever you shoot, make sure you know where the shot will go before you touch the trigger.

Follow these simple directions to be safe...

#### 1. Carrying a shotgun in a slip

To prevent a shotgun falling out, if your slip fastening should fail, keep it with the barrels down and stock up when slung over your shoulder. A shotgun should be opened before removing it from the slip. Do not touch the trigger even at this stage. Your first action should always be to check that the barrels are clear while pointing the gun in a safe direction. In the case of semi autos they must display a safety flag at all time when not inside cage or on a stand. Don't point the muzzle end of the slip at anyone. Remember, a shotgun should always be considered loaded until proven empty and, even then, still handled as if it were loaded... On replacing the shotgun in a slip, you should check the gun is clear and insert the barrels into the slip before closing the gun then fastening the slip.

#### 2. Carrying a shotgun out of a slip

When you are not shooting but have the gun out of its slip, it should be carried empty, open and over the crook of the arm, not over the shoulder or in any other way, the CPSA recommend the T position, with a semi auto so the safety flag can be seen and with the barrel pointing straight up with the top of the barrel above head height.

#### 3. When storing a shotgun on gun rack if not in a slip

When placing a gun in a gun rack the gun must be kept open till the last possible moment and barrels are kept pointing in a safe directing. When picking a gun up from the rack it must be opened as soon as possible again making sure the barrels are kept pointing in a safe direction. With semi autos the gun must be positioned so the safety flag can be seen.

#### 4. Passing a shotgun to someone

When passing a gun to someone it should always be proved empty: that is open, empty and passed stock first so that the empty chambers are visible, with a semi auto so the safety flag can be seen and with the barrel pointing straight up with the top of the barrel above head height.

## 5. Where to find the gun's information

If in doubt about the cartridges your gun can safely use, check for this information, which is usually found on the flats of the barrels. You are looking for proof mark, gauge or bore and chamber length, if you are not sure what it all means, then ask someone who does know, either at the club, or police licensing section.

## 6. Shooting safely

### **NEVER POINT A GUN, LOADED OR UNLOADED, IN AN UNSAFE DIRECTION**

- Never shoot unless you are sure it is safe to do so
- Always bear in mind the possibility of a ricochet, particularly off branches and vegetation
- Never load a shotgun unless you are on stand or in cage and ready to shoot
- Never put down a loaded shotgun or leave it unattended
- Never touch the triggers until you want to fire
- Never attempt to shoot unless you are steady on your feet