


Geoff Boxall's

# RANGE REPORT



**TESTED**

## THE BSA SUPERTEN BULL-BARREL CARBINE

**S**ome rifles come with high expectations, and none come higher than the new BSA SuperTen Bull-Barrel Carbine. After all, right from the SuperTen's launch, this regulated, 10-shot, precharged pneumatic was one on the most accurate sporters on the planet!

From that first version, this rifle has been re-styled in its Mk. 2 form, from which we've seen the release of the Mk. 2 Carbine... and now the Bull-Barrel models.

I've got the Carbine version of this latest model on test this month and my sources at BSA tell me there's a full-length version about to be released. Exciting times at the grand ol' company from Brum!

BSA had sent a batch of their own, Storm pellets for the .22 calibre test rifle and while these excellent pellets gave a decent account of themselves, my chronoscope tests put them midway down the ammo shortlist with my particular test gun, behind Crosman AccuPell, H&N FT Trophy and Air Arms Field. The Fields emerged as the all-round 'best' with Trophies a whisker behind – so I stuck with this two-pronged attack through-out my tests.

I knew the

regulated performance of the Carbine would be impressive, because I've tested several of these SuperTen-based rifles before, but this latest incarnation proved to be the most clinically efficient Beeza I've ever tested. Either that, or my chrono's on the blink!

Time after time the readout figures blinked and reset identically, with one 23-shot string showing a mere 7 f.p.s. overall

variation! After 70 shots, I decided that the new-variation SuperTen had nothing to prove in the consistency stakes, so away went the chrono and out came the targets!

Again, with rifles of this potential there's absolutely no point in nailing up a target card at 20 metres or so. I already know that's one-hole territory, and this is a sporter that should be pushed to the limit – so after my initial zero session, out went the first target on the 40-metre mark.

*The new BSA SuperTen Bull-Barrel Carbine.*



Now let's get this in perspective right away. The test rifle was producing 11.7 ft. lbs., and its first accuracy test began at 40 metres: that's already beyond the consistent hunting capabilities of the vast majority of shooters, including me.



*The butt sports a Monte-Carlo, roll-over comb (above) and a slide-adjustable butt plate (left).*

Yet this rifle can stamp out top hunting accuracy at least 10 metres beyond that – and then some!

My 40-metre test targets were soon minus their bullseyes, and when these were gone, I hammered the 5 mm.-diameter plastic pins that held up the targets. A 'hat-trick' of exploded pins had my first target swinging, and me smiling in

*The chunky, 'bull' barrel runs all the way back to the breech... and is actually wider than it!*

⇒ satisfaction at the stunning accuracy of the Bull-Barrel Carbine.

I know some airgunners demand group sizes in these tests and the efficiency freaks among you will be interested to note that ultimate accuracy with a rifle of this standard is as much down to the pellet as it is the gun.

Without perfect ammo, no gun can give the ultimate accuracy return and unless the gun has everything going for it, perfect pellets will never be pushed to the limit.

When both of these essential accuracy elements combine on a still day,

with a tester who's in form, the results can be something to write home about – and let me tell you, I could have written a Harry Potter-sized book about my results with the Bull-Barrel Carbine!

Best series of groups at 40-metres averaged 12 mm. – the smallest being a pair of five-shot, 6 mm. punches – with even my 50 metre targets showing a

chambers have been loaded.

This loading procedure also winds the magazine's internal spring to the correct tension, and the loaded mag can now be slotted back into the action and the bolt closed in preparation for firing as soon as the safety-catch is disengaged. Easy!

With a couple of spare magazines – optional extras, but well worth buying – in my pellet pouch, I strolled about the wooded section of my test range, taking on knock-down targets at random distances and positions. Apart from a 'live' hunt, there's no better test of a rifle's handling than this, and the near neutral balance of the Bull-Barrel SuperTen proved its worth time and again.

By 'neutral' I mean neither front nor rear heavy, with the balance point just ahead of the trigger. Shifting the scope could affect this point of balance slightly, but not to any noticeable degree. It's

## BSA SUPERTEN BULL-BARREL CARBINE

### MANUFACTURER:

BSA Guns, UK.

### CONTACT:

☎ 0121-772 8543.

### CALIBRE:

.177 (4.5 mm.) and .22 (5.5 mm.).

### ACTION:

Precharged pneumatic.

### MAGAZINE:

10-shot, rotary, autoloading.

### COCKING:

Bolt-action.

### OVERALL LENGTH:

850 mm. (33.5 ins.)

### BARREL LENGTH:

380 mm. (15 ins.).

### WEIGHT:

3.4 kg. (7.5 lbs.) (unscoped).

### TRIGGER:

Two-stage, fully adjustable match unit.

### SAFETY:

Manual, resettable.

### SIGHTS:

Scope rail only.

### STOCK:

Right-hand, lacquered beech sporter.

### POWER:

11.7 ft. lbs. (15.86 J) with .22 BSA Storm pellets.

### PRICE:

£642.55 incl. VAT.

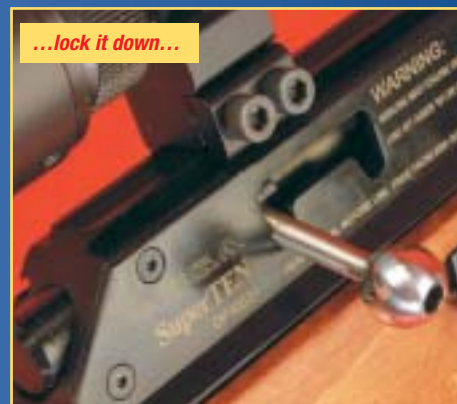


To load-up a new magazine, draw back the bolt...

healthy crop of sub-20 mm clusters... and a tightest group of just 14 mm. Yes, as soon as the wind kicked-in, those groups drifted sideways – but when conditions were right, so was my rifle!

Case-proven off the bench rest, then. Now it was time to test the balance and pointability of the new Carbine. Before I did that, though, I refreshed my understanding of the BSA's charging and loading systems.

Charging first. With the rifle uncocked,



...lock it down...

about right – and it'll stay that way!

Trigger performance was as expected, and the lack of muzzle noise just as impressive. While not absolutely silent – no sporter is – the BSA's as close as you'll need in the field. Wishing for anything quieter is beyond practicality, and well into 'just because I want it' territory!

I'd still like some chequered panels up front, and my desire for a thumb groove



...extract the mag...

unloaded and its magazine removed, simply brace the stock between your legs and carefully unscrew the buddy-bottle. Using the adaptor provided, screw the bottle firmly – there's no need to over-tighten – to your air supply and begin the charging process.

Once the buddy-bottle's internal pressure reaches 3,000 p.s.i., cut off the air supply, 'bleed' the connectors and unscrew the buddy-bottle. The newly pressurised buddy-bottle can now be carefully screwed back onto the rifle, taking care not to 'cross-thread' it.

Loading the Carbine's 10-shot magazine is equally straightforward. Begin by fully retracting the rifle's cocking bolt, applying the safety-catch and removing the magazine from the left-hand side of the action.

Now, with the head of the magazine's central, slot-headed axle bolt facing you, simply push a pellet into each empty chamber, rotating the magazine's inner carrier a 'notch' at a time until all 10



...and load up with your next 10 pellets. Replace the mag – and cycling the bolt will give you another 10, fast-fire rounds!

grew stronger the better I performed with the Beeza, and it's a compliment to this rifle that I believe it deserves the very best of everything – because that's what it's capable of producing.

The worldwide army of BSA fans don't need me to tell them how good this rifle is, but I'll do so anyway. The American silencer laws may have prompted the development of the BSA SuperTen Bull-Barrel Carbine – but there will be plenty of Brits making a noise about this gun!

## FOR & AGAINST

- 👍 **Proven performer**
- 👍 **Regulated shot-delivery**
- 👍 **Easy to use**
- 👍 **Accurate and hard-hitting**
- 👍 **Superb trigger**
- 👎 **Charging gear required**

## STAR ★ FEATURE

Its businesslike looks!

## VALUE FOR MONEY



POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT