



# SHOT SHOW

# VIVA LAS VEGAS!

**SHOT SHOW IN LAS VEGAS IS ONE OF THE BIGGEST EVENTS IN THE CALENDAR FOR SHOOTERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, WHERE INDUSTRY, TRADE, MEDIA AND “CELEBS” GATHER TO CELEBRATE ALL THINGS “FIREARM” AND SEE WHAT’S NEW FOR THE COMING YEAR! INCREASINGLY AIRSOFT IS A PART OF THIS MAGNIFICENT GATHERING, AND AS ALWAYS AN AIRSOFT ACTION TEAM WERE THERE TO CHECK IT ALL OUT AND BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION!**

**B**ill told me last Year... *“It’s a marathon, not a sprint!”* and boy, this year was more intense than last! 2024 would also see the largest Airsoft Action team so far making the long haul to Las Vegas as we were joined by our “rookie” Steve.

The long trip to “SHOT” started in Yorkshire where myself and Steve hail from; our first leg of the trip was to travel 135 miles down to meet up with Li’l Stu before we all boarded the train to Heathrow, another 110 miles away. Finally making it to Heathrow some five hours after we’d set off, we checked in and then a three hour wait to board the plane to fly some 5,082 miles to Las Vegas, and to SHOT SHOW 2024!

Ten hours after take-off we landed at McCarran Airport, now known as Harry Reid International. We had a smooth trip through US Border Control and then headed out to our hotel.

With an eight hour time difference we decided to get some snacks and an adult beverage before hitting the sack.

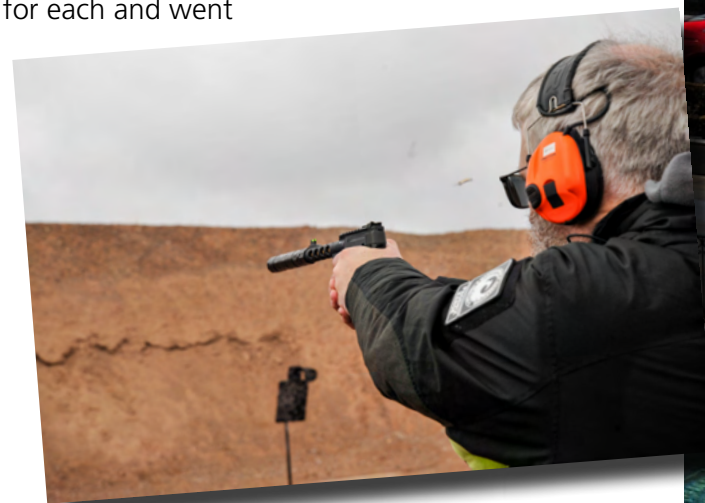
The first day for us, but Shot Show -3 in reality, started with the three of us having a quite slow and steady day, introducing Steve to the routes and places we’d be going to during the week; whilst Steve has been to Vegas before, he’d not been to the Venetian Center, home of SHOT. We also had a short walk around looking at the rooms and halls which were in the process of being set up and readied for the show, and then after an early dinner we decided to turn in and try to catch up on sleep.

Day 2 for us, Shot Show -2! We met up with our friend and Las Vegas-resident Shaun and



headed out to a local range with him, Discount Firearms, for some real-steel fun.

We started out with just a basic package of a handgun and rifle; Stu chose the Glock 17 Gen 5 and an AR, Steve and myself chose the Glock 17 Gen 5 and H&K MP5. We grabbed a couple of extra mags for each and went



**“WE MET UP WITH OUR FRIEND AND LAS VEGAS-RESIDENT SHAUN AND HEADED OUT TO A LOCAL RANGE WITH HIM, DISCOUNT FIREARMS, FOR SOME REAL-STEEL FUN. WE STARTED OUT WITH JUST A BASIC PACKAGE OF A HANDGUN AND RIFLE; STU CHOSE THE GLOCK 17 GEN 5 AND AN AR, STEVE AND MYSELF CHOSE THE GLOCK 17 GEN 5 AND H&K MP5”**



decided to have another package each, this time we all chose the 1911 for the handgun and for the rifle Li'l Stu had really wanted to use the AUG but it was "offline" so he plumped for the P90. Steve and myself decided to go for the big boy .50 cal Barrett Light 50.

The 1911 was a great deal of fun but the grin on Li'l Stu's face when he started with the P90 was evident. Then with the RO's call of "FIFTY COMING OUT!!!" we made sure our ear protection was firmly in place and he loaded it up with one round at a time. The muzzle blast from that thing was almost like a punch in the nose for the firer, but for others around the range the blast must have been more powerful. Both myself and Steve fired 5 rounds each and left the range with big "daft" smiles on our faces.

Once we'd left the range we went out for lunch at the local In-N-Out Burger Shop. This was much nicer than a McDonalds and around the same price. From there it was back to the hotel and await the arrival of old friends Bingo and John before we all headed over to the Venetian Center to collect our Media credentials. With early evening came the arrival of our friend Trampas, the owner of Armed Lifestyle Magazine, and the now traditional family dinner.

into the range. The handguns were great fun, but then when we went to the rifles; we started off on semi-auto for a couple of mags, then we finished out the last two mags, the first being short bursts before letting the last mag go on full-auto!

After the first stint, we decided to go back into the shop and peruse all the goods on offer, the majority of which would be highly restricted here in the UK. After a break we



**"THE MUZZLE BLAST FROM THAT THING WAS ALMOST LIKE A PUNCH IN THE NOSE FOR THE FIRER, BUT FOR OTHERS AROUND THE RANGE THE BLAST MUST HAVE BEEN MORE POWERFUL. BOTH MYSELF AND STEVE FIRED 5 ROUNDS EACH AND LEFT THE RANGE WITH BIG "DAFT" SMILES ON OUR FACES."**

## GETTING REAL

Day 3, Shot Show - 1; this was an early start with no chance for breakfast as we had to be over at the Venetian Center to board the buses to head out to Industry Day at The Range. This is where the members of the media and industry buyers visit the Boulder City Rifle and Pistol Club to test fire a wide range of firearms from a large number of manufacturers. "Range Day", for us Brits, is the opportunity to fire everything from a .22 LR pistol right up to a .50 Cal Barrett bolt action. The best bit is that it's totally free. Industry Day is not just firearms, but also a chance for some accessories and kit stands to show their wares too.

My stand out firearms were the pump-action .223 rifle from Bilson Arms and the range of pistols from Walther, which, at the invitation of the guys on the stand, allowed us 2-3 times more ammo than the usual 5 rounds per person. From Steve's perspective, having the opportunity to shoot a .338 Lapua, via an Accuracy International AXMC out to 1084 yards, and a 6.5 PRC via an HTI XPR out to 1km was a big highlight – cue silly stupid grin again. At the opposite end of the spectrum the Armscor BBR 3.10, in .45 ACP, was equally impressive. For such a small pistol shooting such a large round, it was surprisingly comfortable and accurate to shoot. The three ports in the barrel really do make this pistol surprisingly good!

Day 4... SHOT SHOW DAY 1... and GO!

Well here it is, after a couple of days of testing

firearms and a couple of meetings the opening day of Shot Show had arrived!

We joined our fellow media members in the media room for a light breakfast and coffee, where we discussed the plan for the day. From there we moved down to the lobby where we had a short wait before



**““RANGE DAY”, FOR US BRITS, IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO FIRE EVERYTHING FROM A .22 LR PISTOL RIGHT UP TO A .50 CAL BARRETT BOLT ACTION. THE BEST BIT IS THAT IT’S TOTALLY FREE. INDUSTRY DAY IS NOT JUST FIREARMS, BUT ALSO A CHANCE FOR SOME ACCESSORIES AND KIT STANDS TO SHOW THEIR WARES TOO.”**

the doors opened at 0830. Myself and Lil Stu headed straight for the Lancer Tactical stand where we met up with our fellow AA Legion Associate Laylax



Marck and he showed us the new Laylax electric speedloader.

After a good half an hour discussing products with Marck and his colleagues, we then moved down to meet Eduardo at the ASG stand. We chatted about existing products and then he showed us the new Hera Arms Chassis KC-01 which Eduardo told me was having its debut at Shot Show and will be followed by the European debut at IWA.

Having encountered several unexpected flight delays, our remaining crewmember Dan finally landed at the show to meet up with us nearby the Vaultek booth. Whilst we were waiting for Steve to join us on the floor we had a walk around a few other stands showcasing accessories that could also be used on airsoft replicas. Once Steve joined us we had a walk down to the Tacticon stand where we met Mani, from Leeds (UK) but now from Cordova, CA and he showed us a number of MOLLE products which we will be featuring in coming issues of Airsoft Action.

In his first year at Shot Show, Steve told me... *“Despite having been around firearms and shooting multiple disciplines over 30 years, I’m very new to the world of airsoft. I’ve received a very warm welcome from both the Airsoft Action and Swanson Media Group teams, despite me asking what I am sure are the silly questions to the experienced airsofters.*

*“After Day one of the show, I have to say that I was blown away with just how popular airsoft is here in the good ol’ US of A and clearly around the world.*

*Being from a firearms background and used to working within tight UK regulations I expected that there would be little market space in a country where laws are far more permissive.”*

## MOVING FORWARD, TAKING GROUND

Day 5, Show Day 2! After yesterday’s long walk round, today was a little more focused on the stands we wanted to revisit after the “recce day”, as we call it. Our first meeting was with Charlie and Patryk from Specna Arms who showcased some of the new and innovative products from their range. Amongst many of the exciting developments were an all-new L96 bolt-

**“WE MOVED DOWN TO THE LOBBY WHERE WE HAD A SHORT WAIT BEFORE THE DOORS OPENED AT 0830. MYSELF AND LIL STU HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE LANCER TACTICAL STAND WHERE WE MET UP WITH OUR FELLOW AA LEGION ASSOCIATE LAYLAX MARCK AND HE SHOWED US THE NEW LAYLAX ELECTRIC SPEEDLOADER”**



action platform, several new AK pattern AEG's, and a sneak peek at Specna's upcoming Bluetooth ETU and brushless motor which will be fitted as standard on an upcoming new release later on.

We then walked



over to PTS Syndicate who had some beautifully constructed ZEV Custom OZ9 Glocks, and a ZEV Custom / Ed Brown special 1911, Dead Air and Griffin Armament Silencers, all of which

are being released soon. After seeing the much-anticipated MAWL in 3D prototype form last year, this year there was a fully working production model for the Japanese market, with the European and US variant coming soon. Of other note Dan spied an interesting 240 BB prototype midcap in "Fakelite" coming for the AK lovers tucked away on the display wall. An interesting feature of that magazine is the empty mag / loaded mag indicator.

Moving round to the mighty Evike stand there were a good number of products that caught our collective eyes. Among these were the Daniel Defense, FAMAS and Noveske licensed GBBRs, as well as the Staccato GBBP and an entire rack of John Wick-themed rifles and pistols, including his distinctive TTI tuned SIG MPX from the second film.

The guys at Evike took Steve into their testing booth for what was his first time with airsoft replicas in the form of the Maxim GBBP and the Krytac LVOA AEG. Needless to say Steve enjoyed himself and commented at how well made both guns felt in the hand and handled when attempting a few drills.

Dan spent some time fondling the new releases, from the SIG Air P226, to the VFC FNC GBBR and FN FAL, the latter of which he learned might not be making it to the US after all due to perhaps resembling the real deal a little too much with its inner workings.

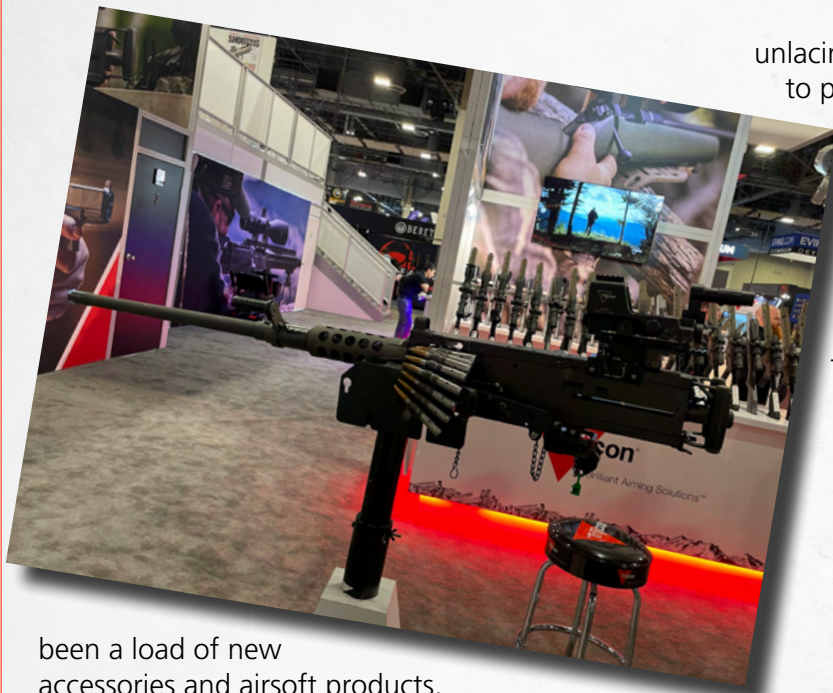
I spent a couple of hours taking our friend Tyler from Red Dirt Firearms in Florida around the airsoft stands to show him the value of airsoft as a cost effective training alternative. With the restrictions on certain ammunition in the US, more and more training is done with airsoft (6mm Training™) and being used for force-on-force training.

## ROLLING EVER ON!

Day 6, Shot Show Day 3! After three days now roaming the floor and having meetings, our hips and feet were certainly reminding us of the mileage we've racked up to that point. Thankfully we all brought painkillers!

Day 3 was another day of meetings and checking out products that caught our eye. There have

**"OUR FIRST MEETING WAS WITH CHARLIE AND PATRYK FROM SPECNA ARMS WHO SHOWCASED SOME OF THE NEW AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTS FROM THEIR RANGE. AMONGST MANY OF THE EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS WERE AN ALL-NEW L96 BOLT-ACTION PLATFORM"**



been a load of new accessories and airsoft products, too many to mention in this report, so watch out for more on this in Airsoft Action Magazine later!

After our usual breakfast in the Press Room where we coordinated our plans, Dan, Lil Stu and myself headed down to the Law Enforcement hall, where Steve joined us shortly after. Our first stop was at the Altama Boot stand where we saw the great slip on boot in the form of the Alpha Freedom Hands Free. This boot, once laced up and fitted properly can be put on and taken off without



unlacing which is a huge benefit for those who need to put their boots on quickly... like me when I'm late for work! We were all impressed with how comfortable they were for a slip-on boot and the grip was brilliant, even on a slippery surface.

After leaving the Altama stand we went to check out what new products were on the First Tactical stand. One of the sales representatives, Troy Broddrick, introduced us to the new Defender V2 shirt, which is made



from a slightly different material and comes in at around UK£20 cheaper than the normal Defender shirt. After talking to Troy on the stand I asked if our old mate and design-lead Cory was around so that I could say Hi again after meeting up with him last year. Cory is the gent who designs most of the First Tactical products and who designed the Slash & Flash glove which saved my hand when a flash bang went off early and caused an injury. It would have been so much worse if

**“ON THE FIRST TACTICAL STAND.... ONE OF THE SALES REPRESENTATIVES, TROY BRODDRICK, INTRODUCED US TO THE NEW DEFENDER V2 SHIRT, WHICH IS MADE FROM A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT MATERIAL AND COMES IN AT AROUND UK£20 CHEAPER THAN THE NORMAL DEFENDER SHIRT”**

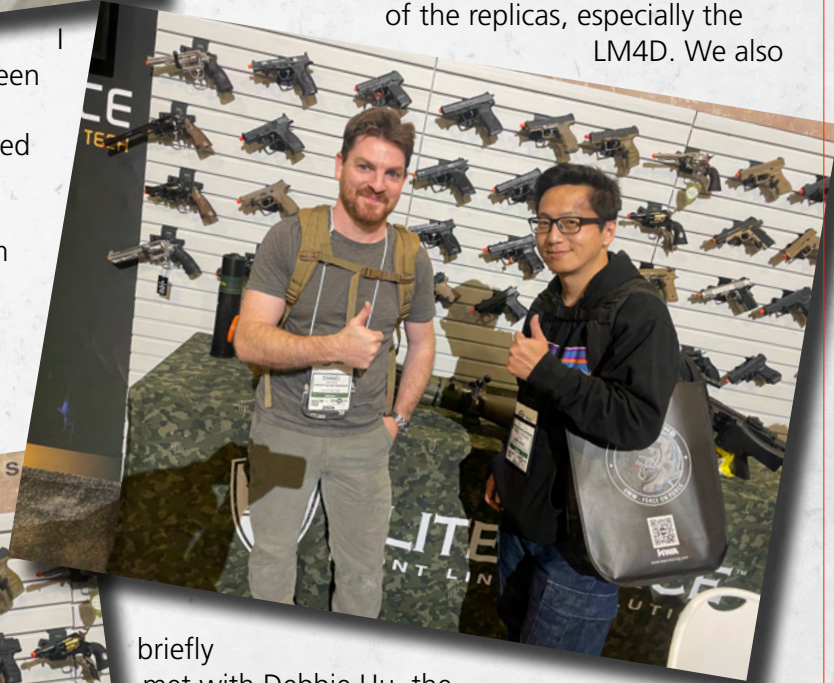


check out as many stands as we could. Our first stop was straight away to the KWA stand, where we saw the new ATP-Z and ATP-GT, as well as the related chassis kits, all of which will be available separately around mid-to-late Q2 (May-June). This was also the second chance for Li'l Stu to get his dabs on the Lithgow Arms F90 AUG which we saw last year when it was debuted, and I think we can all agree he's got one of these picked out for his Christmas present!

Whilst at their stand we introduced fellow SMG member Shaun and Tyler from Red Dirt Firearms to the KWA products that could be used for training. Needless to say they were both quite impressed with the performance of the replicas, especially the LM4D. We also

hadn't been wearing appropriate gloves... there's a lesson when using pyro! Cory was pleased to meet up with myself and Lil Stu again and we introduced him to Dan and Steve. As Cory only had a few minutes between meetings we bid him farewell and carried on with the day. Time for a brew!

We decided to go down to the lower level coffee stand to get a drink and plan the day up till lunchtime, then over to the Ceasars Forum to



briefly met with Debbie Hu, the General Manager of the USA part of KWA. Also at the stand was Mr. Hu, the owner of KWA and Woody, Debbie's brother. Before we left, we made an appointment to have Dan swing by the following day to conduct an interview with Debbie which will run in Airsoft Action at a later date!

For the rest of the morning and into early afternoon we perused the other stands in two of the Caesars halls, before making our way back to the Venetian L2. It's here that we met with Bill's ol friend and main man Ray Chang from



**“OUR FIRST STOP WAS STRAIGHT AWAY TO THE KWA STAND, WHERE WE SAW THE NEW ATP-Z AND ATP-GT, AS WELL AS THE RELATED CHASSIS KITS, ALL OF WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE SEPARATELY AROUND MID-TO-LATE Q2 (MAY-JUNE)”**



VFC and had a look at some products and a good chat about airsoft replicas. He also mentioned his good friend and our fellow Airsoft Action colleague Stewbacca and some of the experiences they have shared in Taiwan. Once we'd had some photos taken, Ray then had to go to another meeting so we decided to go off in the hunt for more interesting products.

## SHOT BITES...

Day 7 for us, Shot Show Day 4! Day Four and the end of a hugely busy week for the team of Li'l Stu, Dan, and I; running the show had



really bitten us by this stage, our feet aching but it's safe to say that we have all enjoyed the hard work, along with some not-so-hard fun times. It's was also a pleasure to work alongside our Swanson Media Group colleagues of Trampas, Bingo, John, Amy and Jamie. As always it was a cracking week of walking the floors and seeing the new and upcoming products in the airsoft and real steel worlds.

This morning Steve was away on a business meeting, so myself, Dan and Li'l Stu met up in the Press Room to chat and work out where we were going to visit on the final day. We started in the Law Enforcement hall for an hour and saw things like the less-lethal/non-lethal munitions, breaching equipment

and some awesome armour for SWAT teams. Then we decided to divide and conquer with Dan and Li'l Stu going over to Caesar's Forum to make their appointment with Debbie Hu, the General Manager of KWA, and Dan's initially planned-for "short" interview ended up turning into a much longer discussion as the conversation transitioned from the interview segment to a conversation (via Debbie, acting as translator) with KWA's engineer about potential product improvements and many other topics. They both were pleased and honoured to meet Mr. Hu, the owner of the KWA company worldwide.

Afterwards, Dan embarked on a personal crusade to see as much of the remainder of the show as possible. Being a real steel shooter too, there were also a number of booths in his lane of interests that he wanted to see for himself. Last year, he estimated him and the AA team maybe saw only 25 – 35% of what was there before having to depart. Despite fitting his Lowa's with a fresh set of cushy insoles and



**"DAY 7 FOR US, SHOT SHOW DAY 4! DAY FOUR AND THE END OF A HUGELY BUSY WEEK FOR THE TEAM OF LI'L STU, DAN, AND I; OUR FEET ACHE BUT IT'S SAFE TO SAY THAT WE HAVE ALL ENJOYED THE HARD WORK, ALONG WITH SOME NOT-SO-HARD FUN TIMES"**

now hauling a Mystery Ranch 3-Day Assault Pack to carry the “swag haul” in comfort, he fell short of his personal goal by at least two great halls. Well, there’s always a next time as they say!

I spent the morning walking the floors with Trampas, Bingo and John from SMG and we visited a number of stands relating to the training that the Swanson Training Group carry out around the USA. Heading out to lunch at The Rock House bar, the whole team sat and discussed various products that we’d seen over some really great food and soft drinks. Then it was time to head back to The Venetian Center (US SPELLING) for our final foray into the halls, where Steve re-joined us.

The 4th day is often when some of the big-name booths crack open an ice cold keg for show attendees, and we gladly made a couple of gratuitous stops to “sample the wares.” This proved to be just the ticket to take the edge off our sore feet and power us through to the remainder of the day, and we finished it out with a final visit to the Shield Sights booth and a hands-on experience with their VR shooting system!

## THAT’S A WRAP!

Well, that is it for the 46th Shot Show, held in Las Vegas, Nevada! When I started writing this report, before I realized it, I was at 8000 plus words! Our illustrious leader Bill mentioned that he’d like it more concise so that we could actually fit in a few photos too... well, we only took about 3000 photos during the show!

I’d like to thank the team that was with me in Vegas and especially our ‘rookie’ Steve. His self-confessed “silly questions” have not been silly at all and his fresh set of “real shooter” eyes are welcome in our sport, and in our team!

So, Day 8, Home James! After an exhausting but enjoyable week, it was finally time to start the long trip home. As we were not flying out until 2230 we decided to book a late check out for 1500. After such a busy week it would have been hard to spend seven hours just mooching around “The Strip” and it could also have gotten quite expensive if we had gone back to the range!

Starting off with a leisurely AA Team breakfast we had a chat about what we’d seen and all things airsoft, and also received a surprise visit from Scott Allan of Land Warrior! Once breakfast was over we headed back up to our rooms to finish off the packing. This normally would be an easy task but with all the swag we had collected I had to arrange a second checked bag. Even Li’l Stu had to shoehorn his

haul into his bags. Steve also collected a sizeable haul and his bag came in just 300g under the 23kg limit.

With the extra time we had before we needed to be out of our room we decided to start the write up for the main article. Two hours of discussion and typing later we decided to have a break and a light lunch. The time to check out arrived and we left our room and headed down to grab a cab to the airport. By 1530 we were at the airport, admittedly seven hours early but it was either this or spend more time and money walking the strip and acquiring even more stuff to bring home. By 16:30 we were feeling a little hungry so hit the Starbucks in Terminal 3 for a coffee and light snack. Soon after this we heard the sound of a Scotsman and looked over to see Scott Allan and his guys arriving for the same flight as we were taking!

Boarding was at 21:40 and as it was speedily carried out we were ready to push back around 25 mins later. Wheels up and in the air we had a steady flight home arriving some 10 hours afterwards. A simple transition through UK Border Control and then we headed for the train station for the Heathrow Express. Brilliant!

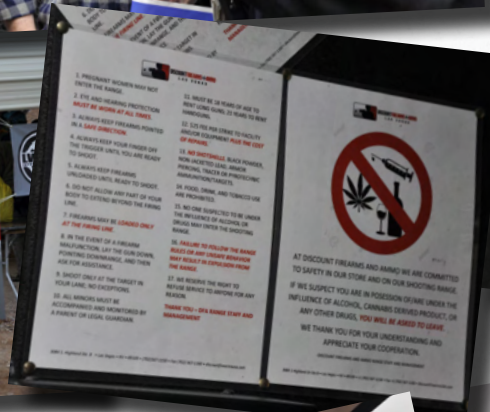
We got to Paddington in time to get the onward train; well we would have if the station staff had let us through the gates to the platform. Oh well, cue a trip to Costa for a coffee and snack to while away an hour before our train arrived. The train arrived and off we went back to Li’l Stu’s local station where we were met by Lucy, Stu’s wife. This is where Steve and myself handed him back to Lucy’s care, we said our farewells and then got in the car for the drive back to Yorkshire. After a long TWENTY-FIVE hours since leaving our hotel, I dropped Steve off and then ten minutes later I was home, tired but pleased it had all gone well and everyone was home safe...

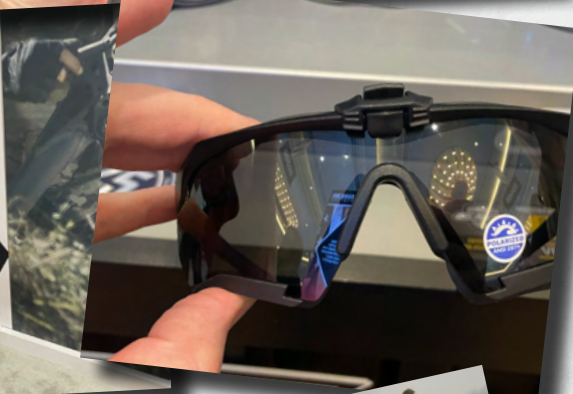
We are hoping that next year for Shot Show #47 we all will be given permission by our partners to make the trip again. Fingers crossed, now he’s recovered from his “Big C adventure” we may even sneak Bill into our luggage for what I think would be the largest AA Team to attend Shot Show ever!

After around 40 miles of walking each during the course of the week and the long days, it’s not all fun you know! We are just about recovering, but already we’re already looking forward to The British Shooting Show this month, then Bill and Jase’s trip to IWA in March, The Northern Shooting Show in May and then our return to Las Vegas in 2025. Add this to everything else we do to produce Airsoft Action and it really is non-stop! **AA**

# AA LEGION

EVENT REPORT – SHOT 2024





# AA LEGION

EVENT REPORT – SHOT 2024



**HOW BIG IS THE SHOT SHOW?**

NSSF's SHOT Show is the largest trade show of its kind in the world. Each year, the industry's latest and greatest products are on full display at the show, attracting industry professionals from around the world to Las Vegas.

HERE ARE SOME NUGGETS OF INFORMATION TO DEMONSTRATE JUST HOW BIG THE SHOT SHOW IS...

- 3 LARGEST LAS VEGAS
- 8 LARGEST AMERICA

**EV LOGICS**

The SHOT Show brings in over **\$88 MILLION** on the LAS VEGAS strip.

**13.9** million of adults More than a full marathon

Total Exhibitors for the SHOT Show will be more than **+81**

SHOT Floor Space will be more than **5,200,000** sq ft

