



National Rifle Association Journal

Spring 2002

Volume LXXXI

Number 1



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Expected Publication Dates

Spring	Last week in February
Summer	Two months after the Spring General Meeting
Winter	Between end of October and second week in November

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S NOTES



by
Colin
Cheshire

New Years Honours List

Congratulations to Captain Hazel Mackintosh on the award of the MBE for services to the Cadet Movement in Northern Ireland.

NRA Spring General Meeting

The NRA Spring General Meeting will be held on Saturday 23 March at 5pm in the NRA Pavilion.

Members wishing to ask a question of a general nature should let the Chief Executive have notice of the question by no later than first post on 16 March. If of a financial nature they should, in the first instance, seek an answer to their query from Michael Blythe, the Financial Manager of the NRA on extension 147.

Council elections

See page 6.

Commonwealth Games 2002

Bisley tickets and car parking arrangements

The National target shooting Associations based at the National Shooting Centre wish to encourage shooters of all disciplines, and their friends, to visit Bisley during the Commonwealth Games. You will appreciate, however, that there has to be security during the Games period and hope that you will understand that there will be control of access to Bisley Camp.

Manchester 2002 Ltd has decided that entrance will be free and there will be no sales of tickets for the shooting events at Bisley, and therefore there is no need to apply for tickets.

In order to establish control and security of the Camp, during the Games period, those people wishing to be spectators will be asked to park in the M2002 designated car parks and then walk to the ranges.

We are pleased to advise that NRA Members and Affiliated Club Members who have booked targets on Century, Stickledown, Short Siberia and Cheylesmore ranges will be allowed to enter the Camp and park in the normal range car parks and, where appropriate, behind their allocated targets. M2002's security staff,

situated at the entrance to and around the Camp, are likely to want to check your range bookings with the Range Office before allowing entry and we would ask for your forbearance. We will endeavour to try to arrange some form of M2002 pass for those that have booked ranges in this period, to speed your entry to the Camp. There will be no car parking available in the general area of Winans or the rifle Zero ranges and those wishing to use these ranges will be asked to park on Club Row. The new clay range car parks will also be closed other than to Games officials and VIPs.

It would be a considerable help if NRA members coming into Camp during the Commonwealth Games period were in possession of their NRA membership card and had their car pass displayed on the front windscreen of their vehicle.

If the prevailing security situation at Games time demands it then M2002 may require each person to be accredited on arrival, so please be prepared, in the event of such a security situation, for a delay at the entrance.

The full Games programme for shooting is on the NRA web site (www.nra.org.uk).

Normal fullbore target rifle bookings on Century, Stickledown and Short Siberia ranges will be accepted during the Games. Gallery rifle and muzzle loading pistol bookings for Cheylesmore will also be accepted but there will be no bookings available for Melville from 10 July - 5 August inclusive. The clay ranges will also be closed to bookings during the Games period.

We would ask for your co-operation during the Games period.

A further update will be given in the Summer Journal.

GB and NRA Team Captaincies

The NRA Council congratulates the following people elected as Team Captains, as follows:

2002 NRA Team versus Continental Europe to be held at Bisley in October

C White

2002 GB Under 25 Team to Canada

P Hakim

2004 GB Team to Canada and USA

JGM Webster

NRA Team Captains - request for nominations

The NRA Council seeks nominations for the position of Captain of the following NRA team:

2003 NRA Team versus Continental Europe to be held at Bisley in October

All nominations are to be received by the Chief Executive by 1 May 2002 and nominees should have given their approval before their names are put forward. The NRA Council's election for these posts should be completed by the end of June 2002.

GB Under 25 Team to Canada - August 2002

Philip Hakim, Captain of the GB Under 25 team to Canada requests that any suitably qualified U25 shooter who wishes to be considered for this team should contact him by no later than 22 March, together with an appropriate CV, at the following address:

P Hakim Esq,
26 College Road
Epsom
Surrey, KT17 4EY

It is expected that the departure date will be on either 10 or 11 August and return on 25 August.

Bisley Ranges - new boundary fence

Members will have seen the new 2m high chain link fence running from the north rear of 200 yards on Short Siberia Range to the south side of Century Range behind the range access road at 600 yards. For the avoidance of any doubt this fence has been erected by MoD as part of their 'duty of care' policy and at their cost. The NRA has no responsibility for the maintenance of this fence. However, the added security is very much in the interest of the NRA.

This fence will prevent access to the butts through the woods from 500 and 600 yards, at all times, but access will still be possible from the track just behind 300 yards and, when no shooting is taking place, at 500 and 600 yards on Butts 18 and 19.

As part of the MoD required security of the ranges members using Short Siberia Range will shortly find a new MoD gate on the road to that range. It will be fitted with a security lock which will require a number to be entered. This number can only be obtained from the Range Office when booking in and will be changed regularly. We apologise for any inconvenience to users.

Imperial Meeting trophies

We have recently been in receipt of a number of silver trophies, won by the late Brigadier JA Barlow (*GM2*), from his daughter-in-law who has kindly donated these to the NRA. This will allow a number of matches to now be allocated trophies:

The 500 yards Aggregate
The 900 yards Aggregate
(now to be called "The Brigadier")
The Faunthorpe
The Police Rifle

The NRA is most grateful for the donation of these trophies.

There are still a number of matches at the Imperial Meeting without trophies although some have NRA and other special medals. If any member has a spare, or would wish to purchase and donate a silver, gold or platinum trophy for a specific match, then we would

be very pleased to receive it. Currently the following matches have no trophies:

Target Rifle Teams:

The Opening Shot
The Universities National

SR Individual:

The Home Guard
The Secretary of State

Ashburton Meeting:

Spencer Mellish
Cadet Gallery Rifle (GRCF)
Cadet Gallery Rifle (GRSB)

Match Rifle:

The Armourers (1200 yards)
Councillors (1000 yards)
MR Selection Aggregate
Weekend Selection Aggregate

Miscellaneous Rifle and MG:

International Black Powder Match

Gallery Rifle and Pistol Matches:

The Advancing Target (Gallery Rifle) in three classes - GRCF, GRSB and GR
The Advancing Target (Pistol) in two classes - MLP and SPR
The Advancing Target (SP)
The America Match (Gallery Rifle) in three classes - GRCF, GRSB and GR.
The America Match (Pistol) in two classes - MLP and SPR
The Gallery Rifle Grand Aggregate (GRCF)
The Lightweight Sport Rifle Match (GRSB) in two classes - Optical and Metallic sights
The Muzzle Loading Pistol Grand Aggregate (MLP)
The Police Match (Gallery Rifle)
Service Pistol Tyros
Universities Team Aggregate (Gallery Rifle)

Car passes

NRA Members should have been sent, with their membership renewal, a 2002 car pass. The decision was taken that car passes should be issued to all NRA members as there may be occasions when the NRA will wish to charge for entry to the Camp. It would be desirable at all times, and it would help, if members entering the Camp had their car pass affixed to the front windscreen and/or they had their membership card so that they avoid unnecessary delay on these occasions. Your assistance would be much appreciated.

Firing point and other camp maintenance

The NRA welcomes constructive comments about necessary repairs to the firing points or, for that matter, to any part of the Camp. Whilst we cannot always guarantee immediate repair we will ensure that any reported problem will be investigated quickly.

Building plot available at Bisley close to Stickledown

This site is offered to let to any full member of the NRA and tenders for premiums, subject to obtaining planning permission, are invited.

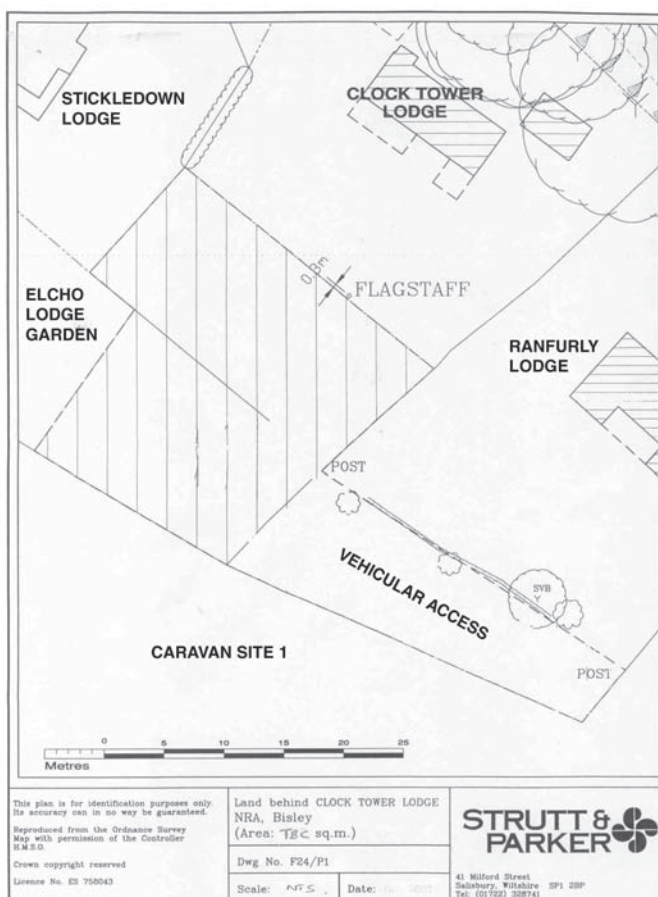
Tenders should be sent to the Chief Executive marked "Land at bottom of Elcho Lodge and Clock Tower Lodge" by 12 midday on Wednesday 15 May 2002.

Those interested in tendering may apply to the Chief Executive's secretary for a letter with full tender details. In the meantime the following is given for member's information.

- The NRA Council reserves the right not to accept the highest or any other tender.
- For the avoidance of doubt the site does not have planning permission for any building. It will be the responsibility of the successful tenderer to submit applications for planning permission and be responsible for all costs involved in obtaining permission whether planning permission is granted or the lease proceeds to completion or not.
- Any applications for planning permission will need to be approved by the NRA in advance of submission.
- The site is taken as seen and the successful lessee will be responsible for all costs involved in preparing the site and constructing the building including the connection to services and fencing of the site.
- The constructed building will be in the possession of the lessee and the ground will be let on a 21 year lease. The 21 year lease will be contracted out of Part II of the Landlord and Tenant Act, if applicable.
- The ground rent proposed by the NRA surveyors is £1490 per annum assuming a building of approximately 100 square metres.
- All legal costs incurred by both the NRA and the prospective lessee, in drawing up the lease agreement, are to be borne by the prospective lessee.
- All outgoings for services are to be paid directly to the NRA and any Council Tax payments, if applicable, are to be paid direct to the local Council.
- If the highest tender offered (and accepted) is by a member of the NRA Council, the tender will have to be approved by the Charity Commission.
- The lease will be a full repairing and insuring lease for 21 years and will require the outside of the buildings to be painted at least every five years or sooner if the state deteriorates below an

acceptable standard. Interior decoration will be required at least every seven years.

- Members are recommended to discuss any proposals they may have in advance with the Chief Executive.
- The NRA Council wishes to see no delay in the submission of the planning application and subsequent completion of the building. Consequently the following outline dates are to be met:
 - Detailed planning application (following approval of NRA Council) to be submitted to local Council by no later than September 2002.
 - Lease details to be agreed by Christmas 2002.
 - Building to be complete by 1 June 2003.
 - Lease rental payments to commence on start of building work.
- Vehicular and pedestrian access to the site is to be by the southern side of Ranfurly Lodge (off Caravan Site 1) and this land access is not part of the demise. However the costs of making the access suitable for vehicles is to be at the cost of the prospective lessee.
- Whilst prospective purchasers should seek their own advice, a recommended guide for the premium for the site is £12,000.



Reverse echelon shooting - access to 300 yards butts 18 and 19 from Short Siberia

It is recognised that when reverse echelon shooting takes place access to 300 yards on butts 17, 18 and 19 means walking forward from the car park at 600 yards. The medium term aim is, when funds are available, to improve the track that runs from Short Siberia to 300 yards on Butt 19 and to make a new car park on the edge of the woods. This is unlikely to happen this year due to lack of funds but the matter will remain under constant review by the Estate Committee.

Currently it is likely that normal access to Century Range will be on the 1st, 3rd and 5th weekends of the month and reverse echelon shooting on the 2nd and 4th weekends. Additional reverse echelon weekends will only occur on the rare occasions when there is a major skeet championship on the new clay range.

Imperial Meeting Prize Giving

It has been recognised for some time that the Imperial Meeting Prize Giving goes on for too long. Council has agreed, in order to encourage more people to attend Prize Giving and to ensure that Prize Givers do not become worn out, that, as an experiment for 2002, the following will apply:

- a. The name of the competition only will be called out rather than giving full details of the competition and trophy to be presented.
- b. The name of the winner will then be announced followed, as he/she is ascending the stage, by the name of the club.
- c. The score will not be announced unless it is a full score (eg 50.10 or 75.15).
- d. For team matches only the team captain will mount the stage and the remainder of the team will walk in front of the stage and then collect their medals from the Team Captain afterwards.

This will hopefully reduce the time of Prize Giving to about 1 hour 15 minutes.

If this experiment works and substantially reduces the time taken then it will be continued in future years.

Car parking for Winans and Zero Ranges and Jenny's

Members should note that the new clay range car park, between Jenny's and the Zero Range, is always available for car parking and is NOT restricted solely to clay range users. Once the weather improves it is hoped to open the car park between the access gate to 200 yards and Jenny's on days when skeet shooting does not cause fall-out on that area.

Right to Roam - Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

The NRA was not consulted on the drawing-up of this Act.

The NRA is already aware that the draft maps for parts of the country on the web (www.ca-mapping.co.uk)

show that the Bisley and Pirbright range danger area is designated "Open Land"! Members will of course be aware that the whole of the danger area is not cleared of Explosive Ordnance Devices and is surrounded by a 2m high chain link fence. The MoD will resolve this problem.

Land covered by MoD by-laws (for example, Pirbright) falls within the definition of 'excepted land' and therefore the new rights will not apply.

Advice from the MoD Defence Estates (DE) is that they will have reviewed the proposed maps for all of their ranges by 31 January 2002 and will seek solutions where matters conflict with designated danger areas.

DE also advise that they will continue with arrangements in local areas, where it is part of local bye laws, that when red flags are down that the public may continue to walk across ranges areas and when red flags are raised that walking/rambling is not permitted. If clubs using MoD ranges have a problem in their area then they should contact their local DE office for advice.

We recommend NRA affiliated clubs that use privately owned fullbore ranges to log on to the web site and check that their range has not been mis-designated or that rights of way are not shown as cutting across their range or danger area. If such clubs have a problem they should contact either Doug Glaister on ext 148 or myself and we will see if we can offer appropriate assistance.

Liaison officers for overseas teams in 2003

The NRA seeks liaison officers for overseas teams for 2003. Many will remember the great success of these volunteers in the Millennium Year.

Teams known to be coming next year are:

Australia (Palma, Veterans, U21 and U25)
Canada (Palma, Veterans, U21 and U25)
Channel Islands (Palma, Veterans and U21)
Continental Europe (Palma)
Germany (Palma, Veterans and U25)
Kenya (Palma)
New Zealand (Palma and Veterans)
South Africa (Palma, Veterans, U21 and U25)
USA (Palma, Veterans, U21 and U25)
West Indies (Palma) *(a total of 27 teams)*

We would be most grateful for the names of any volunteers for the position of liaison officer as soon as possible please. Maybe those people who have toured in these countries would be kind enough to offer their services. The aim is to assist overseas teams with any problems they may have prior to their arrival and ensure that they are made welcome on arrival at Bisley.

Junior Australia Match

The NRA of Australia has requested that we stage an inaugural Junior Australia Match in 2003 for Under 25 teams and for which they will present medals.

Teams will be of five shooters, one wind coach (non shooter) and one Captain (who may be a shooter) and a Manager making a total of eight. All except the Manager must be Under 25 on 1 July 2003.

The Match will be shot on the Second Tuesday but will be a reverse Australia Match where teams will shoot at 900 and 1000 yards in the morning and then on the last detail of St George's I at 300 yards. After lunch they will shoot at 300 and 600 yards alongside the County Championship Short Range event. Scores from the Junior Australia Match at 300 and 600 yards may be used in the County Championship Short Range event if team members are so selected. The Junior Australia Match event takes precedence so scores move from this to County teams and not vice-versa.

Inter-Counties and Imperial Meetings in 2002

Please remember that the dates for 2002 are as follows:

Inter-Counties	weekend of 8 & 9 June
MR Meeting	29 June - 2 July
TR Meeting	4 - 13 July

The Marksmen's Calendar is included with this Journal with dates of other events.

NRA web site (www.nra.org.uk)

We are grateful for the immense amount of assistance we have received from a number of members on the NRA web site and we hope that it is now more up to date. There is a continuing review on the layout of the site. The point of contact for the web site is Phyllis Farnan on ext 150. The Chairman, John Jackman, is making reports from time to time on the web site.

PROCEDURE FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2002

Nominations

A person is only eligible for election to any of the three categories of Elected Membership, if:

- he or she is a new member and has been a registered member of the Association for fourteen days prior to the Spring General Meeting or
- an existing member on 31 March.

The Spring General Meeting 2002 is to be held on 23 March 2002. Those nominating candidates must themselves have registered their membership with the Association by:

- 9 March 2002 if a new member or
- 31 March 2002 if an existing member.

Proposers are required to be qualified to vote for their candidates. Therefore, those proposing a regional candidate must live in the appropriate Sports Council region; those proposing a discipline candidate should have previously declared the appropriate discipline to the NRA. Status will be decided as at 9 March 2002 for new members and 31 March 2002 for existing members.

Nomination forms are available from the Chief Executive's Office on request.

Curriculum Vitae

In order to assist the electorate with their choice of representatives in the election, a curriculum vitae for each candidate will be provided with the voting papers. A draft of no more than 150 words should accompany the nomination. A passport sized photograph of the candidate will accompany all CVs. A content layout for CVs is on the pro forma.

The Chief Executive will refer back to authors where CVs are too long or are factually incorrect.

Required Programme for Election

9 March

- All candidates and their proposers who are new members must be paid-up members of the Association by this date.
- All those wishing to vote who are new members must be paid-up members of the Association by this date.

23 March

Spring General Meeting of the Association at Bisley (5pm NRA Pavilion).

31 March

- All candidates and their proposers who are existing members must be paid-up members of the Association by this date.
- All those wishing to vote who are existing members must be paid-up members of the Association by this date.

20 April

Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Chief Executive by this date ("The Closing Date").

18 May

Voting slips will be sent to all entitled members by this date with the Summer Journal.

8 July

Voting slips in the correct envelope must be received by the NRA office by mail or hand, no later than 6pm on this date.

Full rules for voting, in accordance with the Second Schedule to the Charter, will be dispatched with voting papers, after the receipt of nominations.

Scrutineers appointed by Council

Scrutineers will be advised in the Summer Journal.

Vacancies

There will be the following vacancies due to the retirement of those listed below. All are eligible for re-election

Four Regional Members

Southern - PJ Quilliam
Northern Ireland - HRM Bailie
Scotland - TLW Kidner
East Midlands - JPS Bloomfield (*GM2 SC*)

Five Ordinary Members

JPS Bloomfield (*GM2 SC*)
Wg Cdr DP Calvert MBE RAF (*SC*)
RJ Hudson
Dr NG Jeffs
RWH Stafford (*SM*)

Four Discipline Members

Match Rifle - AR Campbell-Smith
Gallery Rifle & Pistol - CN Farr
300 metre - I Shirra Gibb
Classic Arms - RHF Wills

SHOOTING MANAGER'S NOTES



by
*Martin
Farnan*

Phoenix Meeting

The Phoenix Meeting will be held over the long weekend Friday 24 - Sunday 26 May this year. The event is being organised by the Phoenix Committee which includes members of all participating organisations and disciplines; over fifty events will be held, ranging from 10m Air Pistol to 600 yards Long Range Pistol. The event is being supported by "Target Sports", and will feature in their forthcoming issues along with the entry form. The Match Conditions, Rules and Entry Form will also be available from the NRA, and copies may be obtained by ringing the NRA Range Office or the Shooting Division Secretary (extensions 152 or 149 respectively).

It is hoped that an Open Day (hopefully two days) will also be held over the weekend Saturday 25 - Sunday 26 May as well as the Bisley Shooting Sports Exhibition (BSSE).

Imperial Meeting

In honour of Her Majesty's Jubilee, this year's Imperial Meeting will be entitled "HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee Imperial Meeting".

Entries

Late entry fees for individual TR and MR events will again be payable as from 17 May (10% extra) with 25% extra payable as from 14 June and 50% extra if an entry is made within 48 hours of the start of the competition. No entries will be accepted after 5.00pm the day before the competition.

Late entry fees for team events remain unchanged, ie 25% extra on all entries received after noon two days before the day of the match concerned (except for the FW Jones and the Parting Shot which may be entered up to noon the day before the match). **Please carefully read the notes on all entry forms before making your entry.**

Individual entry fees

The individual entry fees for competitions, aggregates and sweepstakes will remain as for last year. However, as notified in the Winter Journal, a 10% surcharge is to be applied to all charges including entry fees.

Marker fees - teams

A number of competitors commented in the Suggestion Book last year that they would like to see the return of

competitor marking. Their main concern centred on the cost of paid markers, particularly for younger competitors. A second reason was the claimed loss of social contact since competitor marking ceased.

There would be a number of knock on effects if full competitor marking were reinstated, and a number of alternative proposals were investigated by the Shooting Committee. It should be noted that markers have been more available in recent years since it is possible to offer them a contract based on ten days' work, with a bonus for full attendance. It is of particular concern that markers might be less inclined to make themselves available if only offered a limited contract, or one for a reduced number of days. In addition, the shooting programme, which has expanded significantly since the introduction of paid markers, would have to be reduced.

The money produced by the marker fee in the Individual Entry previously had to cover all marker costs including teams, ie the team entry fee contained no element of marker costs. Council has agreed that this anomaly should be removed and that the cost of markers should be spread equally. It should be noted that there will therefore be a significant rise in team entry fees.

It was also agreed that the calculation of marker fees should allow a 50% reduction of the marker costs to be given to all competitors under 25 years of age and in full time education (who also benefit from a 50% reduction in their entry fees). This will reduce the cost to the young shooter.

Marker fees - individual

Despite the rise in marker costs from £40 to £45 per day, the change in team entry fees, (even taking into account the reduction for young shooters) **still enables the individual marker fee per TR competition to be reduced to £4.50 this year.** The total marker fee payable must be calculated (= number of individual squadded TR matches entered x £4.50) and added to the entry fees etc in the section on the bottom right of the entry form but, as stated earlier, will then be subject to the 10% surcharge.

Competitor marking

A questionnaire will be distributed, along with the receipt, to all those entering HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee Meeting this year. It will explain the perceived advantages and disadvantages of a return to full or partial competitor marking, and will ask them to vote for or against this suggestion. Competitors will be asked to return the completed questionnaire when they come to collect their squadding cards.

Competitor RCOs required

It is planned that the number of paid (NRA provided) RCOs will be reduced this year, and each NRA RCO will generally be responsible for overseeing two ranges. They will make sure that each range is fully equipped with all the required equipment before the start of all competitions, and for closing down the ranges on the conclusion of shooting. Competitor RCOs will be appointed as hitherto, and will continue to be primarily responsible for the interpretation of the rules.

It will be necessary, however, for competitor RCOs to be responsible for the safe running of each range, and the Individual Entry Form requests those completing the form to indicate if they are qualified under the NRA RCO scheme. Please complete this box if you are so qualified. Your assistance in the safe running of the ranges during the Imperial Meeting will be much appreciated.

County Qualification

The present qualification for membership of a County team in the Inter-Counties matches does not include parental descent. In order to rationalise match conditions in similar matches, the qualification for membership of all County teams will henceforth include parental descent. The 2002 Bisley Bible will be amended accordingly.

New Message 14

There have been occasions when a competitor has been signalled a shot which he believes not to be his own, and he thinks that his own shot on the target has not been seen by the marker. None of the present messages adequately deal with this situation. A new Message 14 will therefore be included in this year's Bible, the wording of the message being "It is suspected that there is a second shot on the target: please inspect the target and indicate any further shot found in addition to showing the present shot indicated."

Eagle Eye foresights

Council have agreed that Rules 150 and 235 should be amended as follows:

Rule 150 *Foresight.* Any type which may contain a magnifying lens (see Paras 234 and 235). It may also contain a coloured element which is optically flat and with a central hole.

Rule 235 A magnifying lens is permitted in the foresight but **NOT** in combination with a variable diopetre in the rear sight.

It may be used in combination with spectacles, eyeglasses or contact lenses, OR a lens in the backsight but in accordance with Rule 234.

(Competitors using spectacles, eyeglasses or correcting lenses in the backsight may be asked to produce their optician's prescription).

Rule 200

Please note that the wording of Rule 200 has been amended to read "If two shots strike the target *during the same exposure*, that having . . . " where the new words are shown in bold italics.

Service Rifle

Entry Forms for both Service and Civilian competitors may be obtained from the Shooting Division Secretary on ext 149. They must be returned by 15 June.

SR competitors may remember that, when the sub-machine gun was removed from service, the Inter-Services SMG match was discontinued. This match was therefore removed from the Burdwan Inter-Service Championship. As requested by the Joint Services Shooting Committee a new match will be introduced this year, the Inter-Services FIBUA Match.

This match will be for teams of eight firers, as for the United Service, and will be fired on Nelson Range on the evening of the Sunday of TASAM, 23 June this year. The match conditions will be as for Match 17. The Challenge Bowl originally presented by the Royal Marines for the Inter-Services SMG Match, presently awarded to the best team firing alongside in the United Service, will be re-designated for the new Inter-Services FIBUA match. The position of each service team in this match will gain match points towards the Burdwan.

Target Rifle

The renamed Opening Shot, previously the Harrison Catering Teams Match, will be sponsored this year by the Investors Chronicle. Thanks to their generosity the previous cash prizes, suspended last year, will be reinstated at an enhanced level. The Gifford Grant Aggregate will be titled the Five Hundred Yards Aggregate this year. Please refer to the Chief Executive's Notes for additional details.

LVA Communications have very kindly agreed to sponsor the present 1,400 Yards Aggregate (previously the Anglo American Small Arms Aggregate). This is the aggregate of the Daily Mail, the St George's I and the Prince of Wales. Full details will be contained in the Bisley Bible.

A new aggregate will be run this year, the entire proceeds being donated to the Overseas Team Fund. It will be called the V Bull Aggregate and will be based only on the number of V bulls scored in the Grand Aggregate. It is entirely possible that the winner of this new aggregate may not be the winner of the Grand (had this aggregate been in existence in 2000 the winner would have been in 31st place in the Grand). Ties will be counted out in the usual way, ie most Vs at 1000x, followed by 900x etc.

Schools

It is a matter of great regret that the L81 A2 Cadet Target Rifle will not be available in sufficient quantity to be used in the Schools Meeting this year. The meeting will therefore again be fired using the L98 A1 Cadet GP Rifle at distances of 200 and 300 yards only.

Match Rifle

The Any Rifle competitions will again be fired on Pre-Friday 28 June. The Any Rifle Extras will again be fired at 1000x and 1100x (2 and 15 in each case). Full details are printed on the Any Rifle entry form.

McQueen Sniper competition

The stop butt constructed for the new McQueen Sniper range on Shorts, previously Butt 9, has proved not to be fit for the purpose. The construction firm have been asked, on numerous occasions, to rectify the defects but have so far failed to do so. It is therefore likely that the NRA will arrange for this rectification at the expense of the construction firm.

Unfortunately, it is likely that this work, a formal reinspection by the Technical Advisory Service and the obligatory Board of Officers, which will have to approve the range, will not be completed in time for this year's Imperial Meeting. Present planning, therefore, is that the

McQueen sniper competition will remain on Short Siberia this year, with two castles.

Even when it was last fired with three castles on Shorts the match lost money, ie the total expenditure on range staff, targets etc exceeded the total income. Though savings will be made in range staff this year the entry fee is likely to have to be raised to cover the shortfall. Cadets and schools will continue to be charged a reduced fee.

Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol

These entry forms will shortly be available from the Range Office (ext 152) or the Shooting Division Secretary (ext 149).

Ammunition

Prices

Radway Green has not yet notified the selling price of 155 grains ammunition to us. It is hoped to be able to absorb any small increase and to hold the price for the fourth consecutive year. To encourage quantity purchase, the pricing structure for 2002 is again likely to be as follows:

for orders from 1 to 4999	43p per round;
for orders from 5000 to 12999	42p per round;
for orders from 13000 to 19999	41p per round;
for orders of 20000 and up	40p per round.

The NRA will again agree to store, free of charge, large quantities of ammunition purchased by clubs, for up to six months. It may be drawn off, by prior arrangement, in lots of not less than 2000 rounds.

It is, however, required that the normal credit terms be met, ie payment within 30 days from the date of invoice. If the invoiced (discounted) price is not paid within normal terms, a supplementary invoice will be raised equal to the amount of discount. Please contact Fred James in the Armoury on extension 134 for further details.

County Open Meetings

It has again been agreed that, as an exception to the prices shown above, all 7.62mm RG 155 grains ammunition (of whatever quantity) bought for use at County Open Meetings **only** (not for resale outside the County Meeting) will be priced at 40p per round, ie with the maximum discount possible. Any ammunition remaining unused after the Meeting may be returned for a full refund, and should not be retained. County Secretaries should contact the Armourer for further details.

Ranges

Bisley Range Regulations

The 2002 Range Regulations have been published. The timings for shooting will remain as for 2001. Copies of the Range Regulations are available from the Range Office on request.

Reverse echelon shooting on Century

To optimise the use of Century Range reverse echelon shooting (ie longer distances on the LHS and shorter

distances on the RHS) will be used on certain weekends this year. The weekends concerned will probably be the second and fourth weekends of each month. The Range Office will make special arrangements to ensure that all firers are aware of the reverse echelon shooting on these weekends.

Team training budget

Some years ago Council agreed a recommendation of the Shooting Committee that teams should be given a certain amount of training, free of charge, in preparation for their team tour. This training, covering all representative teams, averaged £10,000 per year. In view of the present financial situation it is considered that it would be imprudent to continue with this for the present, and accordingly the scheme is suspended for the time being.

The NRA will, however, continue to support the teams affected by providing targets, markers and ammunition at cost price.

MoD range charges 2002

The Ministry of Defence letter in connection with range charges for 2002 will shortly be published. An advance copy has been sent to the NRA and the NSRA, and I am glad to say that the increases are roughly in line with inflation. These charges will be detailed in Annex D to Land Command Standing Order No 1400 detailing the charges for the use of MoD facilities (including ranges) by non-MoD personnel.

Gallery Range charges will rise from £23 to £24 per lane per day, and ETR lanes from £45 to £46. A lane on a 25/30m range, or a zeroing range, will cost £27 per day, and a lane on an Individual Battle Shooting Range will cost £81 per day.

ATE Commanders are under a remit to cover all their expenses; if it is considered that the published charge rates are too low, the Range Administering Unit (RAU) may raise them accordingly. Conversely, ATE Commanders have the authority to apply a **negative** loading charge (ie to reduce the published figures) according to the nature of the actual activity taking place.

The question of the Licence Fee, which must be taken out by Clubs that wish to use MoD Ranges, has again been raised with HQ Land. An interim reply has just been received from the Chief Executive of Defence Estates which explains that £55 is the currently recommended minimum fee set by Defence Estates. If significant additional or more complex work is required, ATE Commanders may vary this fee to cover the realistic costs involved.

However, his penultimate paragraph reads "While this reflects the present situation there may be scope for improving the process. The Manager of the MoD Training Estate Business Unit has already raised the possibility of drawing up a National Agreement between MoD, the NRA and its affiliated Clubs which could run for a number of years. This would seem to me to be an eminently sensible way of simplifying the process, eliminating inconsistencies and reducing the costs to all

of the parties. To introduce such a proposal on anything other than an annual basis would, however, require a change of policy. The agreement of the Defence Land Ranges Safety Committee would be required before the duration of such licences could be extended. I have asked my staff to explore what their view might be with a view to proposing such a change”.

I therefore believe that some progress has been made, particularly since the final paragraph states that Defence Estates will keep the NRA informed of progress in the steps they have in mind to improve the licensing process, and apologies for the conflicting information given to us and any problems that this has caused.

Clearing of rounds stuck in the chamber

Please note an amendment to the advice previously given in connection with the clearing of a round which is stuck in the chamber. On the advice of a qualified (Army) Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO) the Shooting Committee have agreed that it is safe to remove a jammed round as follows:

- a. remove the bolt;
- b. rest the butt of the rifle on the ground;
- c. hold the rifle with the open breech pointing away from you;
- d. insert the cleaning rod gently from the muzzle until it is resting on the bullet;
- e. tap the cleaning rod, using an object which allows your hand to be clear of the muzzle, with sufficient force to eject the round;
- f. do not try to re-fire this round; return it to the armourer for safe disposal.

Cheylesmore noise survey

A noise survey was recently carried out in the vicinity of Cheylesmore Range. Readings were taken up and down the row of caravans nearest to the range, and also the row alongside Elcho Road. In addition readings were taken from the verandahs of the row of huts beyond the stop butt. Firing was conducted using 9mm and .45” Gallery Rifles, and a Muzzle Loading Pistol, and was from the centre and right hand bays of the range, ie nearest the caravans. Readings were taken for single shots as well as volley fire.

The readings ranged from 63.4 dB to 84.5 dB, with only two readings exceeding 80 dB. Volley firing, using .45” Gallery Rifles and Muzzle Loading revolvers, recorded in the centre of the Caravan Site, gave readings ranging from 69 dB to 78 dB. None of the readings exceeded the EU limit of 85 dB.

Marksman's Calendar

Please note that a number of dates published in the provisional Calendar of Major Events (which was sent to all Club Secretaries) have since been revised. Many others have not been confirmed. A revised and corrected Calendar is enclosed with this Journal. Please read this carefully and note any amendments. If any subsequent corrections are required, or new events are added, please inform the Shooting Division Secretary as soon as possible. Any amendments will be published in the Summer Journal.

Postal Matches

I should like to remind Club Secretaries that the NRA runs Postal Matches for both Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol. These matches are for both individuals and teams, and they are very easy to enter. There are a number of very attractive trophies to be won, and quite a few medals! I should like to encourage all Club Secretaries to acquire a copy of the Postal Matches booklet by ringing Maureen Peach on ext 149, and to enter these matches.

Enquiries

It would be most helpful if all enquiries were directed to the correct persons. This will assist both the enquirer and the NRA staff, and prevent wasted time. Enquiries should be made to the persons as shown on the enclosed Management Trees (for both the NRA and the NSC). General enquiries should be made during normal working hours, and not at weekends in the Range Office unless extremely urgent.

Courses

The next Probationary Course for those wishing to join the NRA as (new) individual members starts on 23 March 2002, with the remaining five training periods being at approximately fortnightly intervals.

A Skills Enhancement Course for Target Rifle will be held at Bisley over the weekend 13/14 April. The course fee will be in the region of £85, and will include both theory and practical range work.

The next RCO courses will be held at Bisley on 13 April, and 28 and 29 September 2002.

Applications for places on all of these courses should be made to Phyllis Farnan, the Shooting Administrator, on ext 150.

RCO renewals

All qualified NRA RCOs are reminded that the NRA RCO qualification is valid for six years only. After this time the qualification must be renewed, allowing the opportunity to update qualified RCOs on changes that have occurred during the previous six years. Club Secretaries should note the period of validity of an NRA RCO qualification, and should encourage those qualified RCOs in their Club whose qualifications are nearing the six year point to apply for re-qualification. To renew an RCO qualification Maureen Peach should be contacted on ext 149. Full details on how to renew RCO qualifications are on the NRA website at www.nra.org.uk/news.

NRA web site

It is planned that, with effect from March 2002 the NRA web site will contain details of last minute availability of targets. This may occur, for example, where a Club has overbooked the number of targets required for a championship and subsequently reduces the number required. This may free a number of targets on a weekend which was previously full. Club Secretaries and individuals who might be interested in “last minute bookings” should keep an (electronic!) eye on www.nra.org.uk/news to see the latest news.

NRA local rate telephone number

For cheaper calls to the NRA please use the local rate telephone number 0845 130 7620.

Wanted - spare PCs/monitors/printers/scanners

We are asking for the assistance of any member (or indeed non-member!) of the NRA with access to any surplus PCs, monitors, scanners or printers. As you may know the NRA is predominantly equipped with Macintosh computers and these are all linked on a LAN within the NRA building. To enable us to provide a registration, squadding and results service for meetings such as the Phoenix, the Imperial Historic Arms and Trafalgar Meetings we need the services of up to three PCs complete with monitors and at least one printer. May I ask if anyone who has access to any such surplus equipment, and who would be willing to donate it to the NRA for the purposes shown above, would kindly get in touch with me? Ideally a "wish list" would include

PCs with the following minimum specs (though I fully understand that beggars can't be choosers):

800MHz processor
128MB RAM
10GB hard drive
CD-ROM drive
floppy disc drive
graphics card capable of 1024x768 display
mouse
keyboard
17 inch monitor

Also of interest - reasonably fast LaserJet-compatible printers.

All of these are, hopefully, minimum specs; if anyone offers faster processors, more disk space, etc that would be great.

Any and all assistance will be gratefully acknowledged.

DISCIPLINE AND REGIONAL MATTERS

There was a request in the last Journal for feedback from members to let us know ways in which the Journal could be improved. The majority of comments concerned the lack of discipline and regional news and so, with this in mind, all discipline and regional Council members have been requested to provide at least one article per year. Several have replied and articles will follow in due course. It is also intended to have information from the four Home Countries in the Summer issue. However, if you feel that your discipline is not being represented in the Journal, then please contact the Editor to discuss the matter.

Contact details for all the Regional Representatives follow - a similar list of Discipline Representatives will be in the next issue.

Eastern Regional Representative

Guy Bartle
E-mail: bartleg@btconnect.com
or by mail to: Gresham's School, Cromer Road,
Holt, Norfolk NR25 6EA

East Midlands Regional Representative

John Bloomfield
Please contact by letter via NRA

West Midlands Regional Representative

Mrs Iris Bennett
29 Oakhill Avenue, Kidderminster,
Worcs DY10 1LZ
Tel/Fax: 01562 69708

London & South East Regional Representative

Chris Law
Please contact by letter via NRA

Northern Regional Representative

Neil Fyfe
E-mail: Neil.Fyfe@nuth.northy.nhs.uk
or please contact by letter via NRA

North Western Regional Representative

David Young
Tel: 0161 793 0737

South Western Regional Representative

Brian Cambray
E-mail: B12LEY@aol.com

Southern Regional Representative

Paul Quilliam
E-mail: PQuilliam303@aol.com
Tel: 01252 659182
Paul may be contacted by telephone but would prefer contact by e-mail

Yorks & Humberside Regional Representative

Colin O'Brien
Woodside, 8 Meadow Close,
Goostrey, Crewe, Cheshire CW4 8JQ

Northern Ireland Regional Representative

Richard Bailie
E-mail: richard.bailie@virgin.net
Tel: 01737 242082

Scotland Regional Representative

Tim Kidner
E-mail: tlk762@aol.com
Tel: 01224 321468

Further information on Scottish shooting can be found on the Scottish Rifle Association web site at:
<http://www.scottishrifleassociation.org.uk>

Wales Regional Representative

Paul Gray
102 Derwen Fawr Road, Derwen Fawr, Swansea,
West Glamorgan SA2 8DP
E-mail: paulvvvvv@aol.com
Tel: 01792 511401

DISCIPLINE REPORT - CLASSIC ARMS

by Rae Wills

In the dog days of winter, thoughts wander between the coming season and what happened before in the mists of time, that is before Christmas.

Jim Quinlan has written to say he has now completely recovered from his illness and he has been appointed Match Director for Trafalgar 2002; welcome back indeed! Here I would give my hearty thanks to all those who rallied round and undertook the many jobs needed to help me in my temporary stewardship of the Trafalgar last year. Only those who have had to organise the huge numbers of staff needed, or played poor man's chess (otherwise known as squadding) know the time and effort required.

Three hundred and fifty competitors attended the meeting, fewer than the previous year, but they shot over 1,200 matches. There were probably a number of reasons for the lower entry, such as the need to change dates, general grumblings, and the dreaded "reverse echelon". Many found shooting on the far end of Century was not half so bad as forecast; you are often able to park by Short Siberia closer to the 200 yards point than on the Century side, but a bit muddier!

I will not dwell on the state of the NRA finances, but it must be said that, entirely separate from our current problems of capital expenditure, normal income has not covered our day to day expenses for some time; action to correct this annual loss was long overdue.

Many of the classics shooters requested that I write on their behalf to the Chief Executive drawing his attention to our great disquiet on the effect to our affairs of the recent developments; principally the poor access when shooting "reverse echelon" at 200 yards, the restrictions likely to be imposed on the use of the remaining "Shorts" targets and the delay in getting these into use, together with the postponement of the construction of the "New Shorts" on Stickledown.

As the National Shooting Centre Ltd is now managing the ranges, the CEO wrote to me to let me know that our concerns had been referred to them for reply. Bearing in mind that spilt milk can never get back into the bottle and money cannot be spent when it does not exist, I received a very helpful reply from David Hossack, with whom I had already informally discussed most of these matters. He indicated that these problems had been acknowledged, apologised that their effect was greater than had been anticipated and that, within current restraints, these matters would be dealt with as far as possible. Thin beer maybe, but at least it puts on record the state of affairs and what needs to be done.

Whilst dwelling on these matters, when the initial plans for the new developments were published, although a great deal of bar chatter was heard, a grand total of four ordinary members wrote with detailed criticism. The moral is that if you think something is wrong and you want something done about it, then write and let the management know; us Gods on Council are many things but we are not mind readers!

Therefore although plans to improve the access from Short Siberia to Century have been drawn up, they cannot be carried out for the present. However every effort will be made to do this, even if only temporary repairs are made to provide a dry(ish) footpath; I am particularly concerned for those who are not so mobile.

Now for the coming season. The introduction of the SR(b) class at the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting was a success, immediately becoming one of the biggest rifle events, and the Roll Forward of the date of historic shooting will be extended to early 7.62mm rifles, that is those being conversions of Enfield, Mauser etc, pre-1946 design military bolt actions.

A very good guide as to the rifles eligible is in an article in the June 2000 edition of Target Sports by Laurie Holland; they have given their very kind consent to our reproducing this article as a guide, and copies can be obtained from HARC. Please send an A5 SAE to the NRA, in an envelope marked "HARC 7.62 leaflet". HARC members will receive a copy in their next mailing.

The Imperial Historic Arms Meeting reverts to its more usual place on the First Weekend, 29 & 30 June. The programme, which will be drawn up in March, will be ready in April.

After looking at various computer systems for running stats, we have developed our own system, with the valuable help of David and Tricia Gregory, our resident stats team. This means that we can have the results ready just as soon as the last card is in, but with 80 plus prizes and trophies to allocate, it is still an hour or two before we can have the Prize Giving.

In the past this has meant many have had to be on their way home before the ceremony. Taking into account our available range space, and the number of cards actually shot after lunch on the Sunday, we are considering closing the stats at the end of the morning session; this would mean Prize Giving could be about two hours earlier, at about 4 or 4.30pm.

Shooting would continue until about half an hour before Prize Giving but as an Open Day and Wappenschaw. This would give a chance for competitors to show off their treasures, and also provide a publicity Open Day for other shooters on Camp.

The new 7.62mm classes will provide for target and sniper rifles, and further fine tuning will be done to other classes, particularly separating out traditional percussion target rifles into their own class, and adding, where appropriate, "any rifle not in classes . . ." to ensure no one is left out.

To ease administration Skilled Shot Certificates for both the Imperial and the Trafalgar meetings will be based on bogey scores, which will be published before the meeting. The certificates may be claimed by purchasing a claim ticket and posting it in a box at the NRA by the end of the meeting.

If you have any views or ideas, please let us know. See you in June!

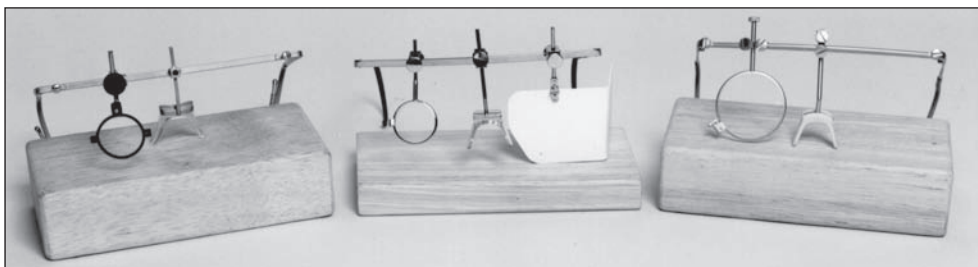
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500: iris and snap-in filters & polarisers	£89	551: iris, 1.5x and twin polarisers	£120	525: iris and fine crosshairs	£69
510: iris only	£40	570: iris, 1.5x and 6 colour filters	£139	591: spirit level, fits under clamp ring	£35
566: iris and 6 colour filters	£110	568: iris, 48 colours, twin polarisers	£159	581: as above but radially adjustable	£39
575: 1.5x diopter, 5 cols & polarisers	£149	507: 6 snap-on col. rings for alignment	£13	586: 1.3x magnifying lens	£20
577: adaptor, allows use without diopter	£7	508: as above with 6 coloured filters	£33	524: iris to restrict white round bullseye	£36

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e-mail: 106026.3374@compuserve.com
web site: <http://www.surreyguns.com>

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FORTHCOMING TOURS

Great Britain Rifle Team to Kenya and Namibia 2004

I am honoured to have been invited, by the Council of the NRA, to Captain this team which will comprise a tour of about three weeks in May/June 2004. I am delighted that James Dallas has accepted my invitation to be Vice Captain and Treasurer and Alex Henderson to be Adjutant for the tour. We should like to take a team which will perform with distinction both on and off the ranges, and I now invite applications, as soon as possible, from those interested, either by letter or by e-mail, to the addresses below. I hope to choose the team towards the end of the coming season in order to allow sufficient time for fundraising and other arrangements to take place.

David Hossack
White House
Frog Lane
Mapledurwell
Hampshire RG25 2LP

E-mail: david.hossack@ukgateway.net

Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada and the USA 2004

I have been given the enormous privilege and pleasure of being elected, by the NRA Council, to Captain the Great Britain Rifle Team that is to tour Canada and the USA in 2004. I am pleased to announce that Nick Hinchliffe has agreed to be Vice Captain and Main Coach and James Watson has agreed to be Adjutant.

The current plan is to compete at the DCRA Championships in Ottawa in late August and then move on to Raton to compete in the NRA of America's newly sanctioned matches sponsored by the Bald Eagles Club and held at the Whittington Center in the first week of September (please refer to the Chief Executive's Notes in the Winter edition of the NRA Journal for an outline of this new series of matches). The duration of the tour is therefore likely to be up to four weeks. Hopefully, it will include the America Match in Raton in addition to the traditional Canada and Commonwealth Matches at Connaught. The tour will encompass a lot of individual shooting as well as presenting team members with a chance to visit and shoot in the USA which has not historically been a regular destination for GB teams.

I should like to invite anyone interested in applying for selection for this tour to contact me. I can be reached at Queen's Lodge on Bisley Camp or via e-mail. I intend to take a blend of youth and experience and therefore would encourage all who are interested to apply. I would also encourage those interested whom I may not know personally, to come up and introduce yourself to me during the course of the summer, as I will be Bisley quite regularly. All applications from county standard shots will be given full consideration, so don't be shy! As we

are likely to be involved in an intensive schedule of shooting, it is not currently envisaged that partners will be able to join team members on the tour unless they are themselves bona-fide shooters. The space between the two events may allow enough time for partners to join the tour, but this is far from decided, and applicants should not envisage non-shooting partners being invited to join us when applying.

I should like to finalise the team selection over the winter, so the deadline for applications is 30 September 2002.

When details become available, they will be posted to the team's web site at www.gbrt2004.co.uk. Anyone wishing to apply on line will also find a form posted there which can be completed and returned electronically.

John Webster
Queen's Lodge
Bisley Camp
Brookwood
Woking
Surrey GU24 0PB

E-mail: webster@greenwich.com

The World Veterans Team Championships 2003 *to be held at Bisley Sunday 20 July*

I am honoured to have been appointed, by the NRA, to Captain the Great Britain Veterans Team in the World Veterans Team Championships 2003. I therefore invite applications from those shooters and coaches, who will be aged over 60 on 1 July 2003 and these should be made prior to the 2002 Imperial Meeting. It is intended to hold two training weekends, at Bisley, prior to the Championships. The entry will be largely self-funded.

Please apply in writing to me at the address below.

Andrew Tucker
66 Portsmouth Road
Cobham
Surrey
KT11 1HY

NRA v Continental Palma Council 2002 *to be held at Bisley 12 and 13 October*

The NRA have honoured me with appointment as Team Captain for the above match. I would welcome applications from members who consider themselves straight long range shooters.

Applications should be received by 17 May and final selection will be made shortly after the Imperial Meeting.

Please apply in writing to:

Chris White
628 Western Boulevard
Nottingham
NG8 5GL
Fax: 0115 978 8731



PHOENIX MEETING 24 - 26 MAY 2002

The Phoenix is the showcase for all types of target sports, mainly in the shooting disciplines. Its strength comes from the diversity of events and the ability for all to experience new events

that are not available at their local club. A shooter coming to the Phoenix should be able to see and participate in the widest range of events.

There are only two specific events for long barrelled pistols this year, but you can shoot in all pistol calibre events as a re-entry provided there is range space. We need to see what the take-up is in order for us to gauge how many competitions we will need to provide for long-barrelled pistols next year, so come and shoot them!

Following the great success of the .303 shoot last year we have two additional .303 events. Now there is an opportunity for you to shoot three .303 events (at 100/200/300 yards, 400/500/600 yards and 800/900/1000 yards) for a total of £63.00 including ammunition. The same ammunition can be purchased at the National Rifle Association Armoury - contact Fred James on 01483 797777 ext 134.

Those of you with F Class (scoped) fullbore rifles can now also join in the long range events at 400/500/600 yards and 800/900/1000 yards.

To take account of those competitors who use 5 shot Black Powder revolvers, the Bow Street Runner and Cavalry Officers events will now be in two classes, 6 shot and 5 shot. The muzzle-loading Advancing

Target match this year will be based on five shots per practice. For those who use flintlock pistols, there is now a smoothbore and a rifled class.

The NCSC complex will be offering a "have a go" down-the-line clay shoot comprising ten birds for £5.00. This will include shotgun, cartridges and instructor. If it is popular enough, it may become a competition in future years.

Those of you who enjoy the 1500 and Bianchi events should note that they will be British Championship events at Phoenix 2002. This means that the "short events" (Timed & Precision 1 & 2, Multi-Target and Phoenix A) will not have British Championship status at this year's Phoenix: the Championships for these will be shot at another meeting (yet to be finalised).

Do not forget to book your accommodation for the meeting - call Sherril Dixon on 01483 797777 ext 135.

If you would like to assist on any of the ranges, in Reception or in Stats, please let me know. Volunteers are always welcome.

We are holding the meeting on 24 to 26 May 2002; come along and enjoy the event. Range officers can shoot their competitions on 23 May after set-up.

Further details can be found on the NRA, NSRA and ShootFastDontMiss web sites.

Fred James

National Rifle Association Armoury

Tel: 01483 797 777 ext 134 or ext 121 for NRA Reception

E-mail: fred.james@nra.org.uk.

Forthcoming Tours (*continued*)

The English XX South African Tour 2004

I have been honoured, by the Council of the English XX Club, with the Captaincy of the forthcoming England Team to South Africa in 2004. I have asked Ron Booth to be my Adjutant and David Taylor to be my Vice Captain.

The team will comprise 20 members including officers and coaches and it is expected that the final team composition will be a representative balance in terms of English County and age. I therefore expect that half the team will comprise the younger part of the age spectrum and that for some members this will be their first international tour.

It is not proposed, at this time, that partners will accompany shooting members although there will be the opportunity for reserves to accompany the team and shoot but not participate in team matches. Such travelling reserves will not be eligible to wear English XX colours but will wear the normal club badge.

The South African Open Bisley Championship Meeting in 2004 at Bloemfontein will take place during the 10 day period prior to the Easter weekend and so during

the first part of the tour we shall expect to be able to both sightsee and train. While exact dates at this time are not known, the tour will last for about three weeks commencing mid-March (around 15 - 18) and returning over the Easter period (9 - 12 April 2004).

Although the tour is still over two years away, it is hoped that the full team will be announced after the Imperial Meeting this year thereby allowing 2002 scores to influence selection. Thus the whole of 2003 may be used to enable the team to train, compete and socialise together as well as assist in raising sponsorship and other funding activities.

I therefore invite members of the English Twenty Club who are eligible to shoot for England and who wish to be considered for membership of this touring team, to contact me at the address below, in the first instance.

Richard Horrocks

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E-mail: info@nsc-clays.co.uk

Web site: www.nsc-clays.co.uk

For those of you who are not yet aware of this facility at Bisley, we are the new National Clay Shooting facility on Bisley Camp. We were completed in July 2001 with the aid of Sports Council Lottery funds.

The facility opened in time to host the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships in 2001, which was the test event for the Commonwealth Games which is being hosted later this year. The very high standard of the new world class facilities resulted in four records being broken.

We have a strong membership, of both full individual NRA members and shotgun licence holders, and this number grows monthly. (It should be noted that those holding shotgun licences are not required to become a member in order to shoot on the facility. However by becoming a member they are entitled to shoot at a discounted rate.)

We already have a list of events for the coming year and this is detailed on the opposite page. We are delighted that the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association and British International Clay Target Shooting Federation have awarded us a number of national events in 2002.

Our first Registered English Skeet competition, where scores count towards CPSA national classifications, took place on Sunday 13 January 2002, and was over subscribed with 60 shooters attending. A high standard of shooting was achieved with two individuals shooting a straight hundred and over 70% of the competitors scoring 90 or over. On Sunday 27 January 2002 we hosted our first Olympic Trap shoot which had 90 entries.

For those of you who do not already shoot shotgun or would like to improve their skills we provide tailor made one-to-one tuition sessions; these may also be purchased as a gift voucher. The cost is £50 (including VAT) per hour of one-to-one tuition. This includes the use of a shotgun together with 50 cartridges and clays. For every 25 shots over and above the first 50 the cost is £8 per 25. We restrict this to a maximum of two people, of the same level, per one hour session. Rates vary if you supply your own cartridges and you are a NCSC member.

Lessons may be booked with our Chief Instructor for any time during the week and at weekends for 9am and 10am only. Weekend lessons require booking at least two weeks in advance.

We also provide Corporate Hospitality (for a minimum of five people). This includes one-to-one tuition, provision of a shotgun, ear protection, cartridges and clays plus corporate branded score cards. Cost £24 per person (including VAT) for 25 cartridges and clays.

We do supply more sophisticated Corporate Hospitality packages and these can be arranged together with other shooting disciplines.

I would like to thank all those members of the NRA who have given their support to the facility, over the last few months, by either shooting or bringing individuals to shoot or eat in the Pavilion.

If you would like to have more information on any of the above or would like to come and have a look around the complex, please ring me on 01483 797666.

I should be delighted to show you around this magnificent facility and to encourage those of you who shoot other disciplines at Bisley and elsewhere, to come and see what the National Clay Shooting Centre can offer.



AW Ford and P Keen before the shoot off
(All photos: AW Ford)



It's all over! P Keen congratulates AW Ford on the shoot off



Sarah Bunch and Barry Desborough congratulate AW Ford on winning the first English Skeet Registered shoot at the NCSC

NCSC EVENTS LIST 2002

The following list is subject to change without notification. Practice may be available on competition days depending on entries, daylight and the number of layouts in use. Please always ring to confirm practice times to avoid disappointment.

January 2002

Saturday 12 January - Tadley Gun Club Inter Club competition

Sunday 13 January - NCSC CPSA Registered shoot - English Skeet - telephone bookings only

Sunday 27 January - NCSC CPSA Registered shoot - Olympic Trap - telephone bookings only

February 2002

Tuesday 5 February - Army Clay Target Instructors Course - English Skeet

Saturday 9 February - NCSC Open shoot - Olympic Skeet - telephone bookings only

Saturday 9 & Sunday 10 February - World Class Training Range Hire (Olympic Skeet/Double Trap & Olympic Trap)

Sunday 17 February - NCSC CPSA Registered shoot - Double Trap - telephone bookings only

Saturday 23 February - Met Police English Skeet shoot (100 clays)

Sunday 24 February - NCSC CPSA Registered shoot - Automatic Ball Trap - telephone bookings only

March 2002

Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 March - World Class Training Range Hire (Olympic Skeet / Double Trap & Olympic Trap)

Saturday 9 March - Bisley All Round with Bisley Shooting Ground

Sunday 10 March - Berkshire & Surrey County CPSA shoot - Olympic Trap - telephone bookings only

Saturday 16 March - Met Police Down the Line shoot (100 clays)

Saturday 23 March - Berkshire & Surrey County CPSA shoot - Olympic Skeet - telephone bookings only

Sunday 24 March - NCSC CPSA Registered shoot - Down the Line - telephone bookings only

Friday 29 March - Good Friday No Shooting

April 2002

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 April - Automatic Ball Trap England Team Selection shoot

Tuesday 23 & Thursday 25 April - Down the Line/English Skeet Army Masterclass

Sunday 28 April - Surrey County CPSA shoot - Down the Line - telephone bookings only

May 2002

Wednesday 1 May - British Fire Service Joint DTL shoot sponsored by Britannia (approx 120 guns)

Monday 6 May - NCSC CPSA Registered - English Skeet - telephone bookings only

Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 May - English Grand Prix & Selection shoot Olympic Trap (BICTSF)

Friday 24 & Saturday 25 May - Phoenix Meeting - one layout available for a 'have a go'

Sunday 26 May - Berkshire & Surrey County CPSA shoot - English Skeet (last squad 4.30pm) - telephone bookings only

June 2002

Saturday 8 June to Sunday 9 June - Selection shoot (BICTSF) - Olympic Skeet English Grand Prix

Sunday 23 June - Berkshire & Surrey County CPSA shoot - Automatic Ball Trap - telephone bookings only

July 2002

Sunday 14 July - Selection shoot (BICTSF) - Double Trap

Monday 15 July to Saturday 20 July - Commonwealth Games practice period

Sunday 21 July to Sunday 4 August - Commonwealth Games

August 2002

Sunday 11 August - Berkshire & Surrey CPSA shoot - Double Trap - telephone bookings only

Sunday 25 August - Surrey CPSA shoot - Universal Trench - telephone bookings only

September 2002

Sunday 8 September - Surrey CPSA Registered shoot - English Skeet Doubles - telephone bookings only

Sunday 22 September - CPSA Olympic Skeet English Open (100)

Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 September - World Class Training - Olympic Skeet (TBC)

October 2002

Monday 7 October - pm only Olympic Trap/Olympic Skeet Practice for Army Olympic Trap & Olympic Skeet Championships

Tuesday 8 & Thursday 10 October - Army Olympic Trap & Olympic Skeet Championships

Sunday 13 October - Surrey County CPSA shoot - Single Barrel Down the Line

Sunday 27 October - ABT Inter-Counties (CPSA)

November 2002

Sunday 10 November - English Skeet Club Open Shoot

Tuesday 12 November - Army Clay Instructors Course (English Skeet layout)

CAPTAIN HAZEL MACKINTOSH MBE

talking with Tony de Launay



A dank January Saturday and a group of ACF officers are assembled for their packed lunch at the TARA Derby Lodge, Bisley. They are officers i/c shooting in their various detachments and among them is shooting's latest MBE, Hazel Mackintosh. Picking up her cardboard luncheon pannikin, we find a secluded (and somewhat cold) corner.

So what was the citation in the Military Honours list? "I have not seen the precise wording yet: I think it says services to the ACF and to shooting. Being a Military Honour you do not get an early warning!" The smiling eyes may have something to do with a childhood in Kilkeel, a fishing port in the shadow of the Mountains of Mourne, where she attended the only comprehensive school in the area. Chemistry was her subject, and that too has played a continuous part throughout her student and working life.

"I wanted to go to university and got a place at Queen's Belfast. Then I took up employment teaching chemistry at Belfast Royal Academy (BRA) which had its own Air Training Corps. I had known nothing about shooting until University when I decided to join the Officer Training Corps - perhaps I thought that it might be like a continuation of the Girl Guides. I discovered that some of the girls were doing the recruiting for the rifle club and decided to have a go."

There was very little coaching and Hazel had simply to get on with it having learned the basics. "Fullbore was Service Rifle .303. I met some of the Ulster Rifle Association people and joined them. This led to my first Service Rifle Bisley in the late 1960s, and ultimately to my first Target Rifle Imperial in 1971, using a converted P14 purchased and converted for all of £25. I think that it was Martin Farnan's first Bisley also but I did quite well breaking my Tyro status immediately." Success and representative honours

followed quickly. The Amazons, Alton and Imp all went her way, including a clean sweep of all three in one year. There are some 25 National and 15 Mackinnon badges in her trophy cabinet.

In 1982 she was picked, with David Calvert, to represent Northern Ireland at the Commonwealth Games. The selection caused no little interest and some criticism of the selectors at the time. It was the first time that a lady had been picked by any of the home nations for the fullbore rifle, but it resulted in a Bronze medal in the Pairs' event. "I look at the 2002 selections and three of the home nations have selected ladies in their pairings; that is progress." She was delighted to be appointed Captain of the Northern Ireland Millennium Match team. "I think that they could not choose between two of the others so they picked me instead" - said with a wry grin. "I have never applied for a GB team but I have twice been Adjutant for the Athelings, in 1981 and 1995."

With the entry of the Athelings into the conversation we stepped back in time to Hazel's teaching career with BRA. The commanding officer of the local Air Training Corps approached her at break one day with the opener 'You shoot don't you? Well you can teach them (*ATC cadets*) to shoot.' "Because I already had a TA commission I became a Civilian Instructor to the ATC (you cannot be commissioned in both) and we started on a nearby TA range with No 8s and a Morris tubed SMLE. We entered any competition the Wing HQ passed on to us. I let some of the cadets use my own Anschutz." Eventually the ATC found themselves transferred to the same range as the OTC where they existed happily side by side. "I owe the chance to bring the ATC into fullbore shooting to the late Harry McGiffin who was the Shooting Master with Royal Belfast Academical Institution. He suggested that I bring some cadets to join them in the Thursday afternoon range practice at the Divis range."

With borrowed rifles from 1740 Squadron Hazel entered the ATC into the Inter-Services Cadet Rifle Meeting at Bisley. "I had no idea what was involved but decided that we might as well have a go. It was a bit of a lottery in the final years of .303. Many of the rifles were shot out and many wood bound." It seems to have worked and in their second year one of the cadets won the Bossom (Grand Aggregate), an achievement discovered just as the team was leaving because no one had thought to watch the prize lists - or knew where they were!

"I then discovered that the ATC could also submit names for membership of the Athelings and in 1979 we had our first success when Ken Mackay was selected. Since then BRA has averaged one Atheling per year, including Lynne Taylor (now Johnson) who

was the first girl into the ATC in Northern Ireland and the first open unit girl to be an Atheling." Retiring from the TA in 1985 Hazel moved straight into the ACF where she was able to secure financial support from TAVRA who bought four Musgraves for the target shooters when the L81 A1 rifles were withdrawn. This has been instrumental in keeping TR shooting cadets interested in the sport.

We turned to thoughts of the future. "If you judge the strength of shooting by the results from members of our cadet forces then I think we are as healthy now as we have ever been. Just two or three of the 1981 Athelings team remain in the sport today: there are six or more of the 1995 team. All around us we see many more young ultra competitive shooters; there are many more girls and they have pushed the men for the top places. These things can only be good for our sport." Hazel shares the view of others that we have to work on the fall-out rate in the critical years between leaving school and finishing at University. "We should encourage the universities to participate in any form of shooting whether it is fullbore, smallbore or air pistol and rifle."

She applauds the NRA for its reduced rate membership and entry fees for under 25s, and for the idea of providing a pool of equipment for young shooters. TARA's Chairman's Fund is designed for the similar purpose of supporting young shooters. However, she would like to see thought given to more

youth friendly accommodation for young shooters. "Frank Cox does a good job at Bunhill but we need more. They also need better eating facilities at reasonable prices." Hazel is no less forthright about the role of rifle clubs. "I do not believe that some clubs put enough time and effort into liaising with local cadet force units. It is not a matter of interfering with how the units run their shooting, but more a matter of creating the opportunities for the units to draw on willing expertise."

As to the best and the worst of her shooting career, the high point undoubtedly came at the Brisbane Commonwealth Games. The low point was the withdrawal of the L81 A1 cadet rifle and the delays and shortcomings in the process of issuing its revamped successor. The period of the Cadet GP rifle does not hold pleasant memories. "I just hope that the long promised return is fulfilled this year", she says.

There is no doubt that Hazel's contribution to cadet rifle shooting has been immense and is now properly recognised. She continues her contribution regardless. On retirement from her chemistry teaching at BRA her departure coincided with the need for a part-time laboratory technician. With customary good humour she volunteered her services to the head of department who accepted with alacrity. It seems that her values are recognised all round, and rightly so. In that well known parliamentary saying "the smiling eyes have it."

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NRA UNDER-25 CHANNEL ISLANDS TOUR 2001

by Richard Jeens



Tuesday 14 August

The tour began with us meeting at the Surrey on Tuesday evening at 7pm in advance of the early start on Wednesday. By 9.30pm all members of the tour and their possessions had been assembled and largely stowed in the four vehicles that were to convey us to the Channel Islands. Geoff kindly provided supper in the Surrey. After a short period of getting to know each other we intended to retire to a selection of caravans for the night.

Wednesday 15 August

Prising ourselves from our floorspaces at 3.30am on Wednesday morning was unfortunately not made any more bearable by the obvious glee that our beloved adjutant Matt Ensor derived from inflicting this element of his travel plan. Departure at 4.20am seemed to leave all concerned plenty of time to travel to Weymouth. The realisation halfway, however, that Susie Kent had forgotten all her shooting kit shattered this illusion of organisation. Fortunately Adam Brown was able to return to Bisley, pick up the forgotten kit and cover the 120 miles to Weymouth in just under two hours. Thanks to the smooth talking of the Condor Ferries representatives their publicised check-in time of an hour was reduced to a more realistic 25 seconds for Adam and his shell-shocked passengers.

Having been met at the port by Mr Jory and escorted to the range our troubles seemed over and the team's appreciation of the beautiful scenery increased. This serenity was shattered by Phil Hakim's realisation that he had left his wallet, including the team credit card, on the ferry. While the rest of the team began to sample Guernsey's pub fare, Phil and Ross McQuillan went to plead with Condor Ferries.

Thursday 16 August

With the proposed team match being cancelled by the Guernsey RA, the morning was spent tidying up the clubhouse and berating the nominated food officers, Kitty Jack and Chris Kelsey, for their abject failure to provide breakfast.

The Ex-Servicemen competition marked the opening of the Guernsey Grand Aggregate, and was won by Peter Jory with 104.13. Ross led by example in coming second with an interesting 104.7. While the introduction to Channel Islands wind challenged most of the team, we were all amused by Jacqui Rankin managing to fire out of turn on a target with only two people.

That evening we met up with some of those with whom we were to shoot. Amongst these was Chris Cotillard who was introduced to the U-25 tour on the unfortunate date of his A-level results and so was encouraged to celebrate them accordingly!

Friday 17 August

The day was fully taken up with shooting following the more relaxed atmosphere of the night before. Simon Harding began to emerge as a one of the tidiest shots on tour; he was beaten in The Bisset only by Peter Jory (149.23) and Dave Le Quesne (149.21) on V bulls. Clearly bottling his last for a 50.9 was a tactical error.

Following the end of shooting we showered at the nearby gym and moved on to visit Herm. The Jorys arrived in their boat to join us in time for supper and Kitty's announcement that she "had felt dirty all day". Upon the return to the mainland we were forced to wait for the Home Safely drivers (who take you and your car home after an evening out) so visited the

Banker's Draught. While waiting outside we watched the boy-racing taking place in the port car park. Guernsey's youth insisted on doing gentle laps of the port region but were law-abiding enough in that they never exceeded 15 miles per hour and still indicated when in the car park. Our vociferous mirth grew at the sight of a bright yellow mini with eight rally lights on its bonnet and blacked out windows crawling along slower than our driver on his fold-up scooter.

Saturday 18 August

The last day of the Guernsey Grand was marked by a three-way competition between Dave Le Quesne, Peter Jory and Ross. Dave emerged ultimately victorious, following his slip in The Castella (won by Phil with 75.11), to shoot clean in Le Maître at the final range. His 75.14 just piped Susie's 75.13, her first ever, in the individual competition. By contrast, both Jacqui and Richard Jeens managed to score hits at 600 yards.

It being the end of shooting on Guernsey we went out.

Sunday 19 August

For Ross the morning began most rudely, as a policeman woke him to ask the whereabouts of a certain Miss Rankin. He was relieved to discover that it was just that she had left her car door open on the cliff top and the police, alerted by passing walkers, were worried she may have committed suicide. Such fears were not realised but Jacqui's car was soaked and stank for the rest of the tour.

For our last night on Guernsey we went to a Chinese restaurant in St Peters' Port. Here discussion raged in a most forthright manner upon such varied topics as marriage, existentialism, expressionism, second-hand bookshops and the relative merits of *Catch-22* and *Men are from Mars and Women from Venus*.

Monday 20 August

The rush to tidy the clubhouse and bid farewell to the exceptional hospitality organised by the Jorys was flawed by unexpected check-in delays at the ferry. The introduction of solid food on the ferry, or a newspaper in Ross's case, calmed nerves in advance of the trip to Jersey. Being met at the port, we moved swiftly to the JRA range and disposed of our rifles before discovering the relative luxury accommodation that was Trinity Community centre. Aside from the allure of Ashes cricket on the television, easy-access showers and a free pool table provided a significant improvement upon a camp site.

An afternoon on the beach provided a welcome break in advance of an evening in St Helier. The Jersey boys met us in the Sports Bar for supper and introduced us to some of the options for evening entertainment. After a good night's relaxation we returned to the Community centre by the now-familiar mechanism of Home Safely. The introduction of Portuguese drivers and our rather inaccurate directions, though, made this trip more entertaining than most.

Tuesday 21 August

Convening for lunch in St Helier proved a pleasant prelude to the splintering of the tour in the afternoon. Three parties emerged. The first comprised Simon, Matt, Dave Rose and Rick Shouler, and chose ten-pin bowling. The second was made up of Richard, Kitty, Donc, Susie and Ross, and spent the bulk of the afternoon shopping before moving on to the beach. The remainder did what Adam called "a man's shop" and then went to the beach. Richard chose to skip the beach in favour of visiting local friends. Such aesthetic preparations served them well as the evening was taken up with a reception at the JRA. A generous spread of snacks and nibbles served both to mask the lack of supper and also to give a clue as to the high quality catering that would be on offer throughout the week in the clubhouse.

Wednesday 22 August

To mark the start of shooting in Jersey, Ross donned his Captain's hat and gave us a pep talk. The effect proved positive in most cases. Simon built on his good form in the Guernsey meeting by shooting clean over three ranges; his 105.11 being enough to win the Bisset competition. Perhaps inspired by the Jersey bacon baps, the whole team's shooting picked up.

The evening was one of the quieter nights on tour with shooting starting early the next day; Susie, Kitty and Mary cooked supper at the Community centre. This tame environment was rather enlivened by Matt's declaration that "Connect 4 is war" challenging all comers. This stance was reviewed when Ross decided to assert his authority in the children's games department.

Thursday 23 August

Following problems the previous day Rick and Jacqui chose to clean their rifles, and were amazed at the difference in grouping. These improvements were shallow compared to the form shown by Mary. Dropping a solitary point all day she comprehensively cleaned up winning The Seymour with 50.7 and The Mourant with 50.9. Her 50.6 and fourth place in The GH Pool combined with a 49.3 in Le Rive to ensure first place in The Crill Memorial Aggregate for Day 2 (199.23). Phil came third in this with 197.15 to cement his place near the top of the leader board. Indeed while some were having serious wind issues at 600 yards towards the end of the day and the U-19 cadets fretted over their GCSE results, Simon and Phil were second and third respectively in the Grand at the end of the day. Jacqui's comment of "how many easy shots can I possibly miss" was not applicable to them.

Friday 24 August

Shooting was delayed for over an hour due to a sudden descent of sea mist and fog – much to the annoyance of all who would have preferred some more time in bed. Matt proved the need for more sleep by arriving on the firing point in time for Message 1 without his rifle; luckily the aforementioned mist delayed the start,

and embarrassment was short lived. The advent of 2 and 15 shoots brought its own traumas as successive firers returned with tales of dropping their last. The previous five-way competition for the Grand involving Phil and Simon was narrowed down to a dual between Nick Brasier and Phil after 500 yards. The post-lunch detail at 500 yards, (which Simon and Nigel Ball shot on but not Nick and Phil) saw the dramatic explosion of many people's Grand Aggregates. The mood in the JRA clubhouse turned rapidly from dissatisfaction with the weather to deep-rooted disgust.

Saturday 25 August

The last day of the Jersey Grand was very close and the eventual outcome depended largely upon the squadding. With results remarkably close at 300 yards the title would be decided between Nick Brasier and Phil at 600 yards. Squadded together on the penultimate detail, Phil took a single point lead with him. Nick proved to be the eventual winner, however, as he shot clean and Phil fell victim to "invisible" right wind that claimed many. This narrow finish to the Jersey Grand kept all parties interested even beyond their own shooting.

Lunch was a superb barbecue provided by the JRA. At Prize Giving, Simon and Mary collected their individual trophies after some confusion between Mary Boston and Mary Norman. Jo emerged victorious in the best 2 and 7 at all ranges aggregate whilst Ross and Simon were left to rue missed opportunities in the 300 and 500 yards aggregates respectively. Ross received consolation in his victory in the U-25 fantasy-shooting league based on the Jersey Grand with the £20 prize. Unfortunately for Phil though, there were no prizes for second place.

Following a helpful dose of pool and the injection of some pizza in the evening, the team for the Sunday match was announced to mixed emotion.

Sunday 26 August

In a shock to the prevailing public opinion, the U-25s were actually the first visiting team to arrive at the range for the team match. The three senior teams competing proved to be almost inseparable as the match developed. After 300 yards Jersey had a single point lead on the U-25s and the Stock Exchange were a mere two further behind. Despite their tardiness in getting through eight firers on a single target, the U-25s shot more consistently at 500 yards to build a two point lead on the SERC and a significant eight point gap to the JRA. At 600 yards the shooting was again close but the SERC began to edge ahead of the U-25s. With just Phil and Nick Brasier left to shoot, the SERC were two points ahead. In a fitting reversal of the Grand, however, Nick finished with a 46.4 following a brief flirtation with the magpie. While Phil could not shoot clean, indeed he tried very hard to throw his tenth shot into the magpie ring too, the U-25s held

on to secure victory by a margin of four V bulls – 1162.123 to 1162.119. The JRA finished a couple of points behind this having made up the ground lost at 500 yards to finish on 1160.124. The U-25s were unsurprisingly pleased with the victory, especially given the number of Kolapore shooters in both the SERC and JRA teams, and so celebrated with renewed consumption of the still superb JRA canteen fare.

That evening, having thanked the tour leaders Matt, Ross and Phil with that universal currency champagne, we started to sample the range of exotic meats available at a superb restaurant in St Helier. Despite their earlier narrow defeat, members of the SERC seemed keen to enjoy the last night on Jersey almost as much as the U-25s.

Monday 27 August

Before leaving the Community Centre the team had to act in concert to tidy it and thank those who had let us stay there. Picking up our rifles from the range, we again thanked Richard Benest for all the work that he had put in on our behalf. After the team photo with the score board we drove on to St Helier.

The journey back was remarkably uneventful. We arrived back at Bisley by about 6pm; the team broke up and went their separate ways. Clearly the trip had been a success and all those who went thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Norman Clark

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MANCHESTER RIFLE CLUB SWISS TOUR 23 - 30 AUGUST 2001

by Richard Horrocks

The last MRC team to visit Geneva was in 1963 and since then, links have been maintained with Les Exercices de L'Arquebuse et de la Navigation with the only regular contact being the sending of the Annual MRC Dinner menu to the President each year. Since assuming the Presidency, it was always my intention to revitalise the link and take a visiting team to Switzerland.

The team comprised Richard, Mary and Thomas Horrocks, Robin Pizer, Wilf Smallman and Brian Anderson. All members took their target rifles with them except for Mary who took an F Class rifle (much to the subsequent interest of our Swiss hosts). Each member took 160 rounds of 7.62mm RG ammunition having the same batch number as that used in the Queens Final 2001. We expected that our Swiss hosts would be using their standard rifles in 7.5mm Swiss calibre and so weapons would be fairly matched.

Geneva: 23 to 26 August

Arriving at Geneva Airport in glorious weather, we were met by Monsieur Romain Biberman, Vice President of L'Exercice de L'Arquebuse et de la Navigation (EAN) with his excellent English (but then again, he does teach it!). After picking up our two hire vehicles, he led us to L'Hotel de la Paix on the side of Lake Geneva within the city centre. This excellent "Belle Epoque" hotel provided an ideal base to see the city centre, promenade by the lake and generally experience a sense of Swiss luxury and "La bonne vie".

After a welcome night's sleep and breakfast in grand style, we were met the next morning and drove in convoy out of Geneva to the EAN range built in 1895, Le Stand de St Georges; the range even had its own sign off the dual carriageway!

The range, built in the ornamental castellated style of the late 19th century was a sight to see with 300m and 50m ranges for fullbore and small-bore rifle and pistol, equipped with the latest computerised targets. Above the range was an enclosed 10m air weapons range for winter shooting. The range complex is open seven days a week; it has a permanent staff of four to cater for a membership of 3000 (of which about 1000 are active shooters). After a quick tour of the complex, we were joined by John Middleton (also of NLRC) and his team from Vevey, one hour's travel to the opposite end of Lake Geneva.

With electronic scoring, immediate shot location on screen and printouts after each match screen, our target system back home in England seemed another age away (possibly even within a 19th century timeframe!). Coincidentally, I had shot the UK NSRA

open (air) pistol meeting at Bisley only two weeks previously and had experienced the joys of shooting at 10m using the latest Swiss target technology where one sees the group form and the average point of impact displayed continuously. The same system operated here at 300m with decimal scoring and a 1 minute of angle 10 ring. On hitting a 10x, the screen emitted concentric rings in the manner of an arcade computer game, thus enhancing the sense of achievement!

The three-way match (EAN, ARN and MRC) was based on the aggregate of the combined 40 shot series while the individual match was based on the highest 20 shot series scores.

While EAN were clear winners on 1887 followed by ARN on 1829, MRC won the highest individual prize (Dick Horrocks on 196) with John Middleton second on 193. Apparently, on these targets and with Swiss 7.5mm (or 7.62mm), a score of 192 is comfortably good (ie 96 per 10 shot series, which is probably equivalent to a UK TR score of about 50.6).

After the match we were entertained to lunch in the range restaurant/bar area, with good company and presentation of trophies. Manchester presented engraved NRA Millennium medals to Otto Kunz, the EAN President, and the highest scorers in each of the EAN and ARN teams. L'Arquebuse responded by presenting a specially engraved tumbler to first and second individual scores.

During the early part of the afternoon, Otto took us into Geneva to see L'Hotel de L'Arquebuse which is located on the site of the original range, and is the HQ, museum, meeting rooms and restaurant. The adjacent Rue du Stand is the site of the former range and the property on each side is the land still owned by L'Arquebuse. The museum and assembly room have to be seen to be believed with artefacts going back to the earliest days (over 527 years!). The walls of the assembly hall are covered in murals and paintings depicting the history and past presidents.

Later in the evening we were collected and transported to the magnificent restaurant, Pavillon du Lac overlooking the lake and surrounding mountains. Here we met up with fellow ARN shooters and L'Arquebuse officers who entertained us over dinner, with Lake Geneva perch as the main course. Driving back into Geneva, we saw the Lord Byron viewpoint of the city which provided a fine sight with the full illumination of the Saturday night city life . . . the English get everywhere!

The next day, we were taken to the only crossbow club in Geneva where we attempted to relive the William Tell experience.



The MRC team (left to right), Dick Horrocks, Wilf Smallman, Mary and Tom Horrocks, Robin Pizer and Brian Anderson.

The following morning saw us back at St Georges to eat of the forbidden fruits and enjoy some real pistol shooting. The range was fully equipped with ISSF quality turning targets at 25m. Romain Liberman, with fellow members, introduced everyone to small-bore and fullbore pistol. The latest Hammerli pistols were available and it was particularly interesting to see and shoot with them because they have developed since the UK 1997 ban.

After morning coffee we exchanged more medals, bade farewell to our hosts and drove to Vevey for the second half of the tour. As we left, it was evident that we had restored Manchester - Arquebuse links and we invited a similar number of EAN to visit the UK in 2003.

Vevey: 26 to 30 August

We drove to Vevey at the other end of Lake Geneva and then into the hills above to the Sonloup Hotel. It is located in quite an isolated position, is closed for the winter months and reminded me of the classic Jack Nicholson film "The Shining"; luckily there was no maze to conjure up thoughts of the final chase in the film!

John met us there and invited us to a barbecue at his house, about 30 minutes drive away, at Mont Perelin which looked back towards the Sonloup. There we met his wife and Catherine Lomax whom I last shot with at Oxford over 35 years ago. Catherine was to join us for the 300m shoot at Villeneuve the next day. While John's shooting goes back many years as a former OURC SRb and more recently a TR shooter, he has lived in Switzerland for many years and his home is decorated with many of the traditionally designed Swiss trophies and medals for 300m rifle shooting. We presented him with a monographed Manchester RC tour sweatshirt. He also showed us the documented winning of the world champion long range rifle record at over 2000 yards by Robin Pizer, some years ago, which seemed to be a little ironic since we had been shooting and would continue to shoot on 300m ranges carefully protected from wind!

Villeneuve: 28 August

After a lazy morning, we drove past Montreux to Villeneuve. The 300m range was rather interesting because the backstop was the mountain side with sheer rock rising above the foot, and with a busy quarry just above and to the right. It seemed that safety angles and ricochet hazards do not influence the issuing of range certificates although the range was perfectly safe provided every shot passed into the stop-butt . . . but then this is Switzerland, where citizens are trusted and where excellent marksmanship is applauded and assumed!

Once again Otto Kunz and his Arquebuse team were there, so a second triangular match could take place. John had organised an interesting 50 shots match programme:

- 1 2ss and 10 as a warm-up where the combined 9&10 rings score 5, 7&8 rings score 4 and so on: needless to say, possibles were expected;
- 2 2ss and 10 match shots in the normal Swiss style;
- 3 2ss, 4 shots individually marked and then 4 shots marked only after the last one on the 300m target.
- 4 2 convertible sighters followed by up to 10 match shots in the normal Swiss style.
- 5 2ss and 10 shots where scoring is from 0 to 100 and a normal bull scores 90.0 or higher, a "nine" scores 80.0 - 89.9, etc; a central bull scores 100.

So many shooters scored possibles in Match 1 that this was ignored in the final results. At individual levels, Manchester held its own with Brian Anderson and all three Horrocks achieving first placings in some competitions with Dick finishing second overall, Brian in ninth and Tom in eleventh positions.

Unfortunately, in the team match, based on Match 2 scores, Manchester again came last:

1 Les Armes Reunies du Leman	401
2 L'Exercice de L'Arquebuse et de la Navigation	384
3 Manchester Rifle Club	369



Brian and Tom shooting cross-bow at 50m.

After the match and meal, the Swiss were impressed by the presence of Robin, the world's long range rifle champion. Of course, the biggest challenge to holding such an event in Switzerland is the need to accommodate the mountain lying between the firer and the target! After much conviviality, medals and prizes were exchanged and we left in the dark to return to our hotel for late drinks!

Le Tir Militaire: Wednesday 29 August

This was our last full day, so after a brief visit to Montreux to shop and view the bronze statue of Mary's hero, Freddie Mercury, we reached the clubhouse at Les Armes Reunies du Lemman, Vevey at lunchtime. Again Swiss ingenuity comes to the fore: the 300m range is under the main Geneva-Villeneuve motorway viaduct at Vevey, firing up a valley through baffles placed at every 100m thereby containing and minimising the effective angle of fire. As they say in the song, "The hills were alive with the sound of . . . gunfire"; every reservist male citizen is required to fire a series of slow and timed fire events using a military-pattern rifle from the Karibiner 31 (7.5mm), its assault rifle successor in 7.5mm and the current assault rifle, the Sturmgewehr 90 (5.56mm). John lent us his K'31. The shoot proved to be quite demanding and surprise, surprise, Dick and Tom shot 80 and 75

ex 85 respectively and qualified for their certificates. Another eight successive annual qualifications entitles the holder to a medal (and Swiss citizenship perhaps?); that's quite an incentive to come back!

This being our final shoot and meeting with our familiar shooting friends from Vevey, we bade farewell and returned to the Sonloupes.

Departure and Epilogue

When we reached Geneva Airport we found Otto waiting to bid us "Bon Voyage" with more gifts for each of us including a history of the Arquebuse, written in 1999 to celebrate its 525th anniversary. In this there is a picture of the Manchester Rifle Club visiting team of 1963.

In conclusion, I think that each of us had an enjoyable tour and I am pleased that we have re-established the MRC - EAN link. In this world of increasing pressures on shooting, we need all the links that we can forge. With our Swiss friends, we can again show non-shooters that shooting brings people together. Many thanks to Otto and Romain from L'Arquebuse and John from Les Armes for being such excellent hosts. I look forward to being able to welcome teams from Geneva and Vevey in the next year or so, and to repeating the experience.

Great Britain Rifle Team to the West Indies 2002

The team web site will be available
from 1 March 02 at:

www.gbrt-westindies2002.org.uk

Visit the site to view details of team members and the tour itinerary, and then follow the team's progress throughout the tour with regular updates from 25 April 02.

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Interested?

Contact the County Secretary Rob Lygoe
Tel: 01242 516260
E-mail: fiatx19@hotmail.com

or John Deane
Tel: 01727 859434
E-mail: jrdeane@netcomuk.co.uk

Alternatively, see us at Bisley at Caravan JJ3
(adjacent to Atholl Row/RAF Club).

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER 25 TEAM

by Mary Boston

For many years now Great Britain has had one of the strongest Under 25 teams in the world. As the bridge between Cadet shooting and Civilian shooting, between the Athelings and Under 19s and the senior Great Britain teams, Under 25 shooters, as a body, present an invaluable link which ensures the continued success of Great Britain and her component countries.

From small but highly successful roots, the Under 25 body has grown to its present size as a result of the introduction of the annual Training Weekend. This has nurtured and developed many dreams of competitive excellence since 1998. The brainchild of a few wise (now old!) men, the Training Weekend provides an opportunity for Under 25s from all backgrounds, at all levels, to get together and learn from one another and the experts. With the growth of participation comes the need for a greater level of internal organisation, and this article is an introduction to our new Committee, who from now on will provide a more centralised and coherent information base and point of contact for the Under 25 body and beyond, most notably with the NRA. The Committee is to consist of a maximum of five people: the previous year's Captain, the present Captain, the following year's Captain and up to two other officers. Contact details of all Committee members are to be made available to all through the Under 25 web site, which is rapidly becoming the lynch pin of our organisation. Individuals can register here to receive information on forthcoming events, read about recent tours, and also simply to make themselves known to the Captain and Committee. As it grows, the web site could also provide an excellent forum for sponsorship, complementing that which is sought through alternative channels (all offers gratefully received!!).

We know that we provide an excellent way into the sport for those who begin shooting at University, but we also recognise the importance of bridging the gap

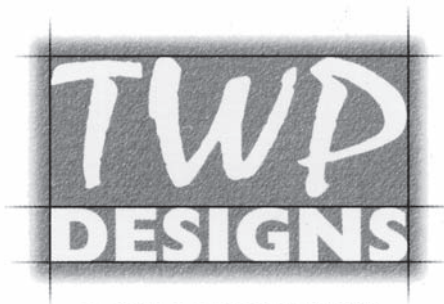
between shooting at school and Under 25 level. Our aim is to provide an approachable and accessible point of contact for those leaving the Cadet movement and a vehicle for their continuation within the sport. Last year, the Under 25 Captain spoke at Maple Taste, the Under 19/Athelings training weekend in March. This is to be continued annually, and, aided by the information already provided by the CCRS about the logistics of carrying on, we provide a new community into which young shooters can move with ease.

One of the main attractions of Under 25 shooting is the frequency of touring opportunities for those who may never have shot abroad before, and the level of intensity and competition experienced as a team. We tour alternately, the Channel Islands one year, an international tour the next. This year we will be able to send an official tour to Canada, but in the future such tours are most likely to take place on years where there is not more than one senior team travelling.

There is also a fantastic proposal (thank you Jeremy Thompson!) currently under consideration by the NRA for a domestic Great Britain Under 25 Championship, which would enable participation in direct competition with one's peers, an exciting prospect to say the least, with the title of 'British Under 25 Champion' at stake. Next year, however, the inaugural World Under 25 Championship takes place at Bisley. This is an exciting prospect for all involved, and will undoubtedly be the highlight of their shooting year. It is competitive opportunities such as these that will give shooters who have not yet broken through to the senior teams, the experience and confidence to excel in open competition and higher pressure matches.

This year the Committee consists of Ross McQuillan, Mary Boston, Philip Hakim, Jo Hossack and Matt Ensor.

The website address is <http://www.gbu25.org.uk>.



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WHY DAVID BLUNKETT IS SHOOTING HIMSELF IN THE FOOT

by Kate Hoey MP

The Guardian, Monday 17 December 2001

I don't know how many Christmas presents the Home Secretary will give next week. But in the season of goodwill I have a suggestion for David Blunkett for one gift which would be a huge boost to a sport in which this country excels.

The sport is pistol shooting. The present is to give Britain's competitors at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester next summer the opportunity to compete on a level playing field with their international rivals. At the moment they are severely disadvantaged.

Since the Firearms Bill of 1997 became law not one of the English, Scottish or Welsh elite pistol shooters has been allowed to fire a shot in this country. They have had, at their own expense, to remove their weapons abroad in order to continue training at shooting centres in Switzerland.

As the handgun ban does not apply to Northern Ireland their shooters have continued to practise at home. Unlike the Olympics, at the Commonwealth Games the UK competes as home countries rather than as one team. There will be 19 shooting disciplines at the Manchester games and six involve pistols.

Between the four countries' teams there will be up to 20 pistol shooters, all highly experienced medal prospects. Indeed, shooting is one of our most successful sports. At the last Games in Kuala Lumpur, Michael Gault from Norfolk won four gold medals in pistol shooting for England. Despite being famous throughout the world in his sport and a great ambassador he doesn't get invitations to the BBC Sports Personality events - nor has he been rewarded with an honour.

Shooting is particularly popular with disabled sportsmen and women and at the Sydney Paralympics Isobel Newstead won a gold medal. Unlike able-bodied shooters who were able to change their discipline when the ban became law, those with disabilities, particularly wheelchair users, could not use the larger firearm alternatives such as rifles or shotguns.

When the legislation was being debated in Parliament many of us argued for exemptions to allow disabled shooters and our world-class competitors to continue to train here. The Home Office minister said at the time that the effect of the ban on the sport and for the disabled was regrettable but necessary in the interests of public safety. To me it seemed that the risk from disciplined adults continuing to shoot in safe surroundings at specialist centres was far less for my constituents than that from criminals regularly using illegal guns on the streets of my constituency.

But the ban went ahead. The British Alpine Rifles was launched in 1997 primarily to provide our pistol



Kate Hoey MP pictured at the 2001 Imperial Meeting

(Photo: Eric McGibbon)

shooters with a means to continue shooting. From its inception the BAR has sought to offer all decent sportsmen and women a chance to pursue their shooting interests. The members are carefully selected with emphasis on mature individuals of whatever age. Help is given to those with disabilities and bursaries are offered to subsidise the competition entries of members who would not be able to afford to travel.

Meanwhile in England the National Centre for Shooting at Bisley - the venue for all the shooting events in the Commonwealth Games - has received £6m of lottery money to upgrade. The new facilities are superb with the clay target range used regularly by the Olympic gold medallist Richard Faulds.

The pistol shooters from all over the world that will be welcomed by the Queen next July will be delighted with their surroundings. Surely it is not too much to ask that teams from the home nations be allowed to bring back their pistols after Christmas, store them safely in the secure areas at Bisley under the scrutiny of the Surrey Constabulary and be licensed to train there?

Isn't it just a touch shameful that most western democracies have more faith in their own citizens to take part safely in one of the oldest Olympic sports than we do?

It is bizarre that we seem content to leave countless weapons in the hands of terrorists and criminals while banishing to foreign fields those who excel in this extremely disciplined sport.

So please Home Secretary, go and visit Bisley, meet the teams and give them a Christmas present that will do much for their morale and much more for the success of the entire British effort in a successful Commonwealth Games. You really would be bringing the law into line with common sense.

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MESSER'S PIONEERING SPIRIT TAKES HER ALONG THE TRAIL FOR GOLD

by Sarah Potter

The Times, Friday 4 January 2002

WINNING selection for the Commonwealth Games in Manchester this summer will probably be the main new year's resolution for many top athletes, but Jane Messer is used to aiming at long range targets, so it is no surprise that one of the country's leading shots has already hit the mark - and become something of a trailblazer in the process.

Messer will become the first woman to represent England in the Open Rifle. The 35-year-old from Sussex will partner Norfolk-based Glyn Barnett - a double medal-winner in the 1994 Games - in the Fullbore Pairs event.

"It's been a dream of mine to take part in the Games," Messer said, "but I'm not sure I'm organised enough to claim I've had a game plan. Don't tell the sports psychologist that but, actually, I wasn't at all sure of making the cut to the final six. When I was told that I had been selected for the pair I was walking on cloud nine."

Messer, a civil servant from Sussex, is as thoughtful as she is self-effacing and finds it easier to acknowledge the talents of her colleagues. The record, though, speaks eloquently enough. Messer has been an international stalwart since making her debut against Australia in 1988. "The following year I went to Canada with Great Britain, did reasonably well, and was then invited to compete for the Palma Team, which is the main long range international teams match."

That was a decade ago and, again, she was the first woman selected for the honour. The experience tasted all the sweeter for Britain's victory. "That was my first greatest achievement," she said. "The Palma is held every four years or so and Britain hadn't won it for 20 years. Then there we were, triumphant in the United States. It was the most euphoric feeling."

Yet there was no hint of Messer's prowess with a rifle until relatively late. "My father used to go to Bisley when I was a child," she said. "But I sat in the car and did my homework. It was only when I changed schools that I got involved. I was 17, and opted for a go on the .22 range over hockey."

That, she claims, was because she had always played lacrosse. "Badly," Messer said. "So I thought if it's taken me six years to achieve that, there's no chance of learning hockey in two. Shooting seemed the best choice."

The fullbore target rifle, which means shooting from the prone position over distances ranging from 300 to 1,200 yards, hit Messer's heart like Cupid's arrow. "I knew it was for me from the start," she said. "It's not a sport in the conventional sense, but you do have to

be fit and it's mentally demanding. Reading the wind is the main challenge. It's usually all over the place, but that's what I find such fun."

Messer's ability to shoot the breeze may be vital to England's chances of a medal next July, since she will enjoy the benefit of home advantage. "Bisley is hosting all the Games' shooting events," she said. "It's a pity in one sense not to be rubbing shoulders with all the other competitors in Manchester, but we're often apart from other events. Bisley will be perfect."

Seven miles north of Guildford, Bisley, which is the National Shooting Centre, is Messer's closest range. "It is a unique place," she said. "It's full of old colonial-style buildings and wonderful ranges. When I go shooting there in spring I'm always in danger of falling flat on my face. It's because I've got my head down looking at all the wild flowers. The danger areas are unspoilt places, few people go there, so the wildlife is beautiful."

Alarmingly, for any strays similarly beguiled, Messer insists that good eyesight is not a prerequisite for good shooting. "A Queen's Prize winner a couple of years ago had such bad eyesight that he wouldn't have been able to recognise you without glasses," she said. "With corrected vision he is as good as anyone."

The Queen's Prize, inaugurated in 1860 by Queen Victoria, is the most prestigious title in shooting. Messer is yet to win it, but she was the second woman to claim the Grand Aggregate, which is part of the same Imperial Meeting held at Bisley every July.

"The Queen's Prize has the glamour," she said. "Everyone wants to win it and be chaired off the range. The Grand is the next biggest, which is the aggregate of the whole week's competitions, so in a sense, if you win that you're the steadier shot."

A feat that, if achieved during the Commonwealth Games, would strike gold for Messer and Barnett.

© Sarah Potter/The Times, London 4 January 2002.



Jane Messer (GC)

(Photo: John Bloomfield)

UK CADET RIFLE TEAM - TOUR OF JERSEY 2001

Extracted from the team diary



Commandant
Adjutant
Coach
Catering officer

Lt Mike Reid
Capt Andrew Penfold
WOII Mik Maksimovic
CI Anne Penfold

Captain
Alex Lawrie
Vice Captain
Lucy Comer

Stamford School CCF
Dorset ACF

Adjutant
Kelly Reid
Peter Calvert
Sam Dash
Jim Green
Ryan Ingram
Jon Kent
John Park
Joanne Pullen
Andrew Smith
Richard Stewart

Yorkshire (N and W) ACF
Stamford School CCF
Sevenoaks School CCF
Yorkshire (N and W) ACF
Angus and Dundee Bn ACF
Epsom College CCF
Epsom College CCF
Kent ACF
Epsom College CCF
Cranbrook School CCF

The team gathered at Derby Lodge on Friday 17 August to be met by Mr P and Mik, as the Commandant and his wife Doreen had been delayed by holiday traffic. The evening was spent getting to know each other as well as having to endure one of Mr P's numerous briefings!

Saturday was our practice day, an opportunity for us to blow the cobwebs out of our rifles - we broke six of our sixteen rifles! However, we are indebted to Fulton's Gunsmiths who put us back on the road including rebedding one of the rifles.

Having sorted out the trailer (Mr P gave us another briefing!) we retired early to bed.

Sunday morning and it was raining. We cleared and packed up very efficiently and left on time for Poole - we were only four hours early (better early than late - Mr P!). Consequently Mik became bored and created an elaborate 'wind up'; everyone was convinced we were being diverted to France without passports, though luckily for Sam he had got his Junior Railcard! Somehow Mik got the staff of Condor Ferries to support him - revenge, we felt, would be sweet!

After a relatively smooth ferry crossing we arrived slightly late in St Helier where we were met by a very enthusiastic Richard Benest who escorted us to the Scout Hut at Victoria College - our base camp for the week. The team sorted themselves out whilst Mr P and Mik took the rifles to the Jersey Rifle Association. A fish and chip supper followed before we crashed out exhausted.

On Monday we were allowed a lie-in whilst Anne took Mr P shopping. Mike, Mik and Anne remained behind to fit the new shower screens, whilst Mr P and Doreen took us to the Living Legend audio visual history of Jersey, but the most important part of the visit was spent on the crazy golf course.

A lazy lunch and afternoon was followed by a visit to the Jersey Bowl, where we met the Jersey Under 19 team, using the opportunity to get to know each other over a few games.

On Tuesday we were allowed our second (and last) lie-in. After cutting through the rigmarole of showers (which for some were becoming fewer and farther between) and breakfast, we set off for Jersey Zoo. En-route we stopped at the Glass Church which, much to our disappointment, was made out of bricks and mortar. There was some consolation in the rather beautiful glass altar and its surroundings.

At the Zoo we went straight to the orang-utans who were being fed. We did our own thing before meeting for a tour photo beside a bronze statue of Jambo the gorilla.

After a couple more hours we returned to the Scout Hut to freshen up and change into our smarts for the JRA reception at Crabbe Ranges. We whiled away the evening socialising with the other teams and Jersey shooters, before heading back to St Helier for an early(ish) hour for bed, looking forward to the start of shooting.

Wednesday was the first day of shooting; waking at 6am resulted in some very annoyed looks and grunts from lazier members of the team. We were early, which is good unless you have to sit around for an hour on the range waiting for all the other competitors to turn up on time. The first day also marked the return of the Gremlin which forces Alex to drop his 7th shot (or so he claims!). Lucy and Jon got possibles during one of the most tiring days of our lives as we fired five 2 and 7 shoots. For some, the first day was a steep learning curve having to cope with firing, plotting, spotting and self coaching - all at once! Most coped admirably.

The evening was spent watching the sunset at Corbiere lighthouse, the cloud cover meant it wasn't as spectacular as it could have been, however, it was really relaxing either just sitting watching the waves or exploring the rock pools.

Thursday began the same as the other days - far too early! It was back to Crabbe to shoot some more. We thought the previous day had been tiring - today was worse. When told that we were shooting equivalent to the Imperial Meeting inside four days, it resulted in more moaning! The day's shooting was good with several possibles and everyone ultimately enjoying themselves.

Friday was Auntie Doreen's birthday, before departing for Crabbe, the "UK Cadet Choir" gathered outside her window to sing Happy Birthday, much to her embarrassment!

At the range, due to the sea mist, shooting started an hour late - the sun and sun-cream soon came out as shooting got underway. Some of the best results came from Sam and Lucy.

The Maine Cup (U19) was shot at 500 yards, the competition was in jeopardy from the start with a huge blanket of sea mist creeping in and threatening visibility. Halfway through, the shoot was stopped; no sooner had this been done than the fog cleared (a bit) so shooting resumed. Eventually the shoot finished with a tie for first place between Ryan and Alex with 49.6 - both having dropped their first shots in brilliant sunshine!

The evening was spent celebrating Doreen's birthday in a St Helier restaurant where we were joined by Cliff Mallet, President of the Jersey Rifle Association and his wife Nora.

On arrival at the range the next morning we fell into the routine of preparing ourselves for the final day of the Grand Aggregate. Shooting at 300 yards was impressive with Alex scoring a 74.09. Then we had the tie shoot between Ryan and Alex, both were nervous. Ryan managed a 21.1 ex 25, whilst Alex won with 23.0.

At 600 yards the temperatures soared and the shooting became difficult as people began to overheat; Jon was our top scorer in the Grand managing third place in the Junior Grand, behind Chris Cottillard and Peter Stock (Jersey U19).

After a marvellous barbecue lunch and Prize Giving, in which Richard picked up the Magpie Trophy having achieved an impressive 19 magpies, the team was invited back to Cliff Mallet's house for a swim. Here the entire team tried to drown Mr P, Mik and Mike, with Ryan and James turning out to be useful weapons.

Having cooled off in the pool we returned for dinner at the Scout Hut. The VIII was announced for the team competition, an early night beckoned in anticipation of arguably, the most important day of the tour.

A few nerves appeared as the competition began at 300 yards, yet Jon and 'John with an H' held theirs as our first two firers dropped only three points between them - we trailed the Jersey U19 team by four points. At 500



Alex Lawrie of Stamford School, winner of the Maine Cup

yards Lucy dramatically improved her score and Sam 'Mr Consistency' Dash remained within a point or so of a possible, one of which was achieved by Jon.

By 600 yards it had been decided that Mike and Mr P would help us fend off the strong position from the Jersey U19s; this resulted in some good scores, despite some difficult wind conditions, and ultimately a win for the UK Cadets by seven points.

The evening was spent celebrating and packing ready for our return journey

Monday was not without event - Mr P was delayed in the terminal building so we boarded the boat without him but Mik had his ticket! After some smooth talking he joined us under escort!

The team split up in Poole and some tearful goodbyes were said. Our utmost thanks go to Mike Reid, Mr P and Mik Maksimovic for organising the tour, Anne and Auntie Doreen for feeding us, Chris Mourant, Richard Benest, Victoria College and the JRA for accommodating us, also all those people who behind the scenes made our tour such a success. As for the UK Cadets, the many friends that were made and memories will last for a long time.

UK Cadets

J Kent	49.5	50.5	48.6	147.16
J Park	47.4	49.5	49.4	145.13
A Smith	48.3	47.2	50.3	145.08
A Lawne	49.4	48.5	46.2	143.11
R Ingram	46.4	47.5	49.5	142.14
S Dash	46.3	47.6	49.3	142.12
K Reid	48.5	46.3	47.2	141.10
L Corner	42.0	46.3	47.5	135.08
	375.28	380.34	385.30	1140.92

Jersey Under-19

D De La Haye	49.5	50.5	49.3	148.13
P Stock	50.8	48.7	49.5	147.20
C Cotillard	49.5	48.4	48.6	145.15
C Simon	49.3	48.5	45.0	142.08
A Nowacki	48.4	48.6	46.3	140.13
A Noel	47.3	46.6	47.3	140.12
E Norman	43.2	48.2	47.3	138.07
R Nieuwburg	46.5	42.0	45.1	133.06
	379.35	378.35	376.24	1133.94

Jubilee Range Silver Jubilee Celebration



West Atholl Rifle Club will be celebrating the Silver Jubilee of their Jubilee Range in Glen Tilt with a special shoot and dinner on 25 August 2002. All club members and participants at the 2001 Tayside Open will receive entries automatically but we are also very keen to hear from old members who may have moved away from the area. We would be particularly keen to hear from anyone who was at the inaugural shoot or very early shoots and would like to take part in the shoot or merely spectate and join us at our dinner to celebrate 25 years of happy shooting.

Any past member or attender at the early shoots is invited to contact us to receive further information and an entry form in due course.

Mike Baillie-Hamilton

e-mail mikebh@thegart.co.uk

Malcolm Mackillop

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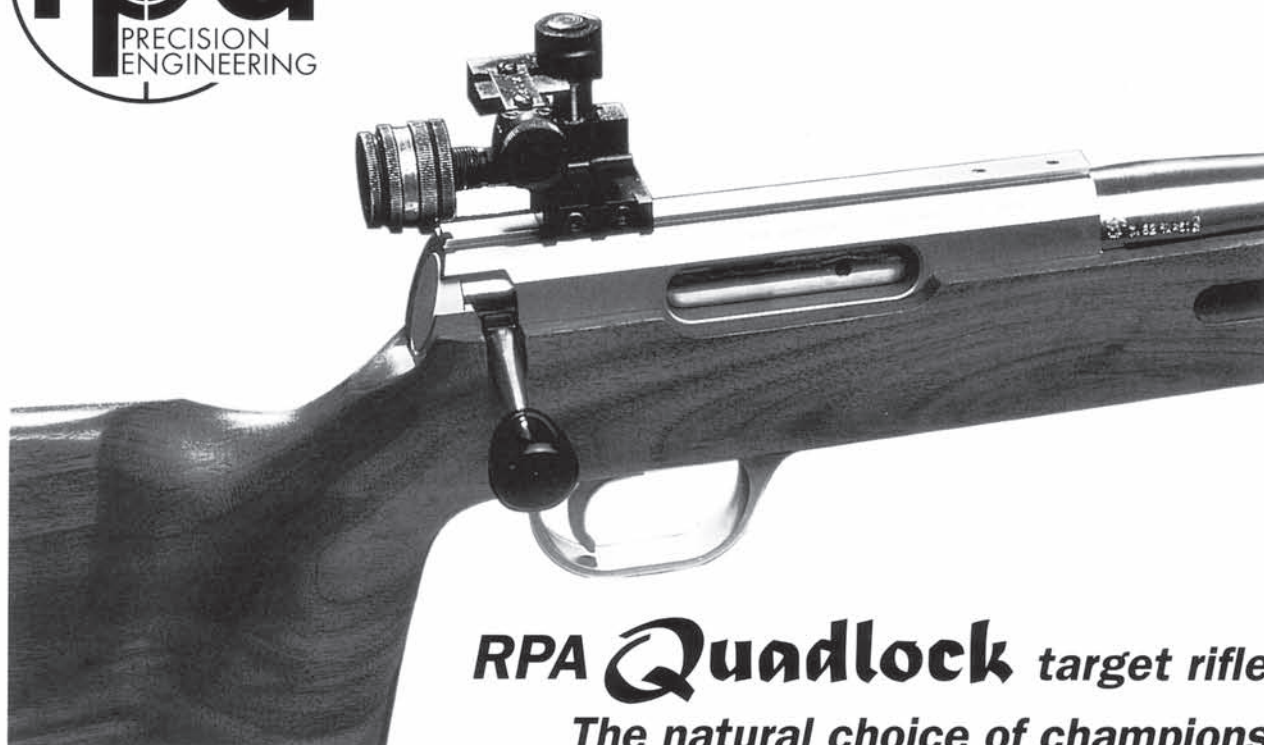
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**fundraising@countryside-alliance.org
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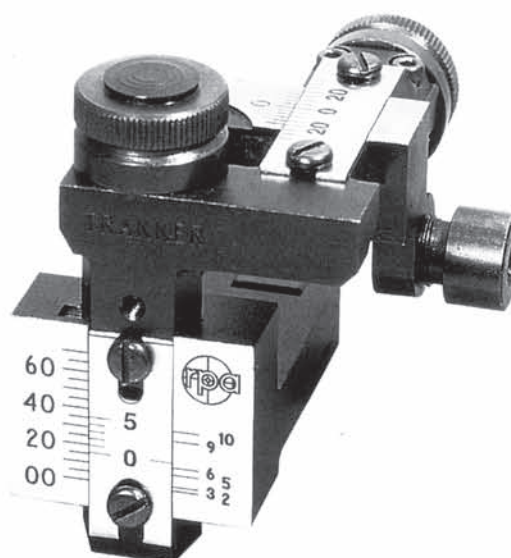


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Naas Lane, Quedgeley, Gloucestershire,
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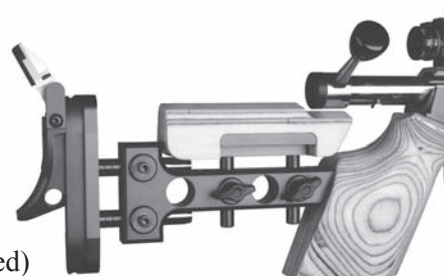


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RFD Gloucestershire 187

DESTINATION CANADA

by Jeremy Langley

Introduction

Continuing the series of articles about shooting overseas started in the 2001 Winter Journal (*Volume LXXX Number 3*), this article looks at shooting in Canada during the month of August. This piece is very broadly based on an article entitled "To US shooters thinking about coming to the 2002 Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championships" written by Clint Dahlstrom of Canada; it aims to give first time participants in the Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championships (CFRC) an idea of what to expect and where to get more information, entry forms and suchlike. The original article can be found on the DCRA web site (details below). I should also like to thank all the people involved in donating snippets of information for this article, especially Peter Vaughan, Jim Thompson and Colin Cheshire.

Teams have been travelling from Great Britain to Canada to compete in the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association's (DCRA) National Championships since the start of the last century. The Hon TF Fremantle VD (later Lord Cottesloe (the elder)), captained the first GB team to Canada in 1902 where they won the Palma Trophy that year. The next teams were in 1907, 1931, 1950 and then biennially until 1966. From 1967 until 1994 teams travelled every year, but since then they have reverted to once every two years. Apart from these official GB visits, various teams from the home countries as well as club teams have visited over the years, as have many individual shooters.

In 2002, the basic pattern of events follows past practice; there are nearly two weeks of shooting on a well-maintained world-class range. You won't do any butt marking and you will meet and have time to get to know people from Australia, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, South Africa and the USA, as well as many other countries. The cost is also low at the moment because the pound will currently buy 2.3 Canadian dollars (CAN\$2.3). The matches begin on Friday 16 August 2002 and continue through to Saturday 24 August. The first 2½ days are warm up matches; the next 6½ days constitute the Grand

Aggregate, the Governor General's Prize (Queen's Prize conditions) and other major aggregates as well as team matches. This year is the 120th DCRA Prize Meeting and there will be special commemorative events. On Sunday 25 August, the inaugural America International Team Match, initiated in conjunction with American target shooters and the NRA (USA), will be fired. On Monday 26 August through to Wednesday 28 August, the first F Class World Championship will be contested with two days of individual competitions and one day of team matches.

Travel

Assuming that one flies from the UK, there are currently only two carriers to choose from (for a direct flight). British Airways and Air Canada provide regular return flights to and from Ottawa or Toronto as well as many other provincial airports. Until 11 September 2001, Virgin Atlantic also ran routes to Canada, alas not any more. Currently, a return flight including airport taxes is in the order of £650. Quotes can be obtained on line at the web sites listed below.

It is simple to hire cars at your point of entry (airport). Details of Avis and Budget contacts are also listed on page 39. Cars (or MPVs) are best pre-booked from the UK and copies of all the booking information should be taken with you. Don't forget, like the rest of North America, Canadians like to drive on the right hand side of the road! By most European standards, petrol (gasoline) is relatively inexpensive, currently around 60 cents Canadian (26p) per litre.

Connaught Range

Connaught Range is a Canadian Forces military base and consequently there are certain protocols to be observed. The range complex is on the south shore of the Ottawa River on the east edge of the suburban town of Kanata, which is west of metropolitan Ottawa. Your first stop should be the DCRA office, a rather new two storey building facing down the ranges towards Butt 6. There you will fill in a registration form that includes the serial numbers of the rifles you are bringing on base. You will also get your squadding (match) cards and a programme.



View of Connaught Ranges in 1991 - to the left is A Range (Burke), in the middle is C Range (Letson) and to the right is D Range (McDowell). Beyond the butts is the Ottawa River.

(Photo: Jeremy Langley)

There are three main ranges imaginatively named A, C and D (now called Burke, Letson and McDowell). The firing points are on the opposite side of Shirley Blvd from the DCRA HQ and accommodation blocks; the ranges point out over the Ottawa River. Beyond the river are the Gatineau hills, which make for spectacular views when a thunderstorm approaches! A range is a yardage range covering 300, 500 and 600 yards. C range is metric and is generally used for the 700, 800 and 900m shoots (although it can also be used for other ranges) while D range is limited solely to 300m shooting.

Types of firearms

Originally the DCRA matches were restricted to military rifles and later to Palma type rifles. In recent years additional classes of rifles have been added to the programme to cater for different enthusiasms and for different levels of physical capability (like failing eyesight). For 2002 there will be two classes:

1. **Target Rifle (TR).** These are bolt action rifles weighing a maximum of 6.5 kilos (14.3 lbs) and having a trigger weight of 1.5 kilos (3.3 lbs) or more. TR rifles may be .308 Win (7.62 NATO) or .223 Rem (5.56 NATO) calibres. The .308 TR rifles can be used in all matches (except the .223 Championship) and the .223 TR rifles can be used in all matches (except the International Team Matches).

2. **F Class Rifle.** The restrictions are: calibres 8mm or less; total rifle weight of 10 kilos or less, no minimum trigger weight but trigger must be safe (see DCRA Rules); rail guns and muzzle brakes are not allowed. Bi-pods and/or sandbags (fore and aft) are permitted. Any sights are acceptable. Essentially this is prone bench rest. F Class shooters can fire in all individual matches and in some team matches.

NB TR-O classification (Target Rifle allowing the use of any Optical sights eg telescopic sights) will not be used in 2002. Those who have been to Canada recently will know that this class was introduced for TR shooters who wished to use Optical Sights (yes, I know all sights are optical). However, with the introduction of a full F Class classification and matches, TR-O has now been dropped (at least for 2002).

Canada is in the process of instituting gun registration over a five year period starting 1 December 1998. Implementation of the Federal programme has not gone smoothly, so there have been several changes and delays. As of this moment, visitors coming into Canada with TR or F Class rifles must obtain a three month non-resident license, Form JUS 909 (Current issue: 31/10/2000), which costs CAN\$50. The form is simple enough (name, address, rifle serial numbers, etc) but it is time saving to have it filled out in advance especially as it needs to be in triplicate! One can get the form from Canadian Customs or the DCRA or download it from the web site of the Canadian Firearms Centre which has a link from the DCRA website. You should also bring your letter from the DCRA confirming your entry in the Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championships in Ottawa and your UK Firearms Certificate. All of this is a relatively minor nuisance. The foregoing is correct today. The DCRA will try to advise you of changed conditions that may apply at National Match time.

Ammunition

The fundamental rule is that ammo must be safe - for the competitor and others on the firing point. Each competitor must supply their own ammo - none will be issued by or sold by the match sponsors. Ordinarily there are one or two vendors from whom ammo can be purchased but one should not depend upon such a source. Arrange for advance purchase and delivery or bring your own. Jason Bullock, a commercial reloader, and Paul Reiben, a firearms retailer, have supplied visitors with ammo for several years. The DCRA will provide their addresses on request.

As an individual TR competitor shooting all the warm-ups, Grand Aggregate and full Governor General's course you will require 333 rounds (including sighters). From a team member's viewpoint you could fire an extra 162 rounds during the four team matches. There are also other standalone matches that an



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individual could fire. Unfortunately, the legal limit for ammo on most airlines is 5 kilos (about 180 rounds of 7.62mm ammo). Therefore you must do some advance planning for ammo supply.

As an F Class competitor competing in the inaugural F Class World Championship, there will be two days of individual shooting and one day of team matches. Prize presentations will be made after the team matches on Day 3. The course of fire is the same for the first two days with each individual shooting 2 sighters and 15 rounds to count at 700, 800 and 900 metres and 2 and 20 at 900 metres. The course of fire for the team matches is 2 and 15 at 700, 800 and 900 metres. This gives a total of 197 rounds of ammunition required. Sighters are convertible according to DCRA Rules.

In 308 Win TR the maximum permissible bullet weight is 156 grains. For 223 Rem TR the maximum weight is 81 grains. The loads must use standard (SAAMI) dimension cartridges for TR. In F Class, there is no bullet weight restriction, no cartridge restriction but the maximum permissible calibre is 8mm. To ensure that bullets remain within the military danger area there is a kind of speed limit expressed as a graph of ballistic coefficient versus muzzle velocity. Details are available from the DCRA and are contained in DCRA Rules (available on the web site).

Entry fees

For the 120th CFRC, the entry fee for the warm-up matches is CAN\$102 and for the Grand Aggregate is CAN\$620 (a total of £314). The entry fees for team matches like the Outlander and other International matches are generally CAN\$200 each, with the exception of the America Match which is CAN\$400. A DCRA temporary or visitor's membership is also levied at CAN\$45 per person. There are unfortunately no discounts for Under 25 competitors.

For the F Class World Championship, the individual entry fee will be CAN\$295 (£128). The entry fees for the International and Open team matches will be CAN\$125 and CAN\$70 respectively, payable at Connaught.

Individual competitions

Most Canadian matches are named for a sponsor or to honour some shooter or patron from the past. A match may be single range (say 500 yards) or multi-range (perhaps 300 metres and 600 yards). There is a mixture of yard and metre distances because full use is made of Connaught Range whilst trying to keep walking distance to a minimum. In individual matches, 300 metres, 500 and 600 yards, 700, 800 and 900 metres are shot, whilst 300 yards is contested during the Canada and America team matches.

Matches consist of 2 sighters with usually 10 or 15 to count. For nostalgic reasons (Queens I conditions) there is also one match with 2 and 7 at each of three

ranges. Sighters are convertible, you may convert both sighters or your second sighter as in current UK practices. The targets are broadly based on UK dimensions and scoring except that the V bull is only half the diameter of the bullseye. In F Class (and only in F Class) the V ring is scored as 6. One other difference from UK target shooting is that shooters are squadded two to a target and they shoot either side of the number peg. The 45 second rule still applies and you and your partner have a block time for the match, so shooting slowly may cause you and your partner to fail to finish!

Shooting starts daily at 8.00am, but the computer tries to scramble things so that you don't have an early start every day. You will also have a new shooting partner at nearly every range. You are required to appear at your shooting position about 20 minutes ahead of time and check in (targets are allocated from a scramble board). Depending upon the number of shots in the match you will have 20 to 45 minutes to shoot - if you have shot a possible you have to weigh your trigger and that is it, no butt-marking! The butt markers are all girls from a local high school and they are usually excellent markers.

Open and closed competitions

There are two aggregates and one match that are restricted to Canadian citizens or residents. Much of this has to do with their use of the Fullbore Championship to select the team that Canada will send to Bisley the following year. There are also a couple of Canadian Championship titles that are only open to Canadians. The rest of the matches and aggregates are open to all comers. The two most prestigious events are the Grand Aggregate and the Governor General's Prize; these are occasionally won by talented visitors.

Additional matches

Long range black powder shooters fire their Canadian Championships while the TR shooters are firing their warm up matches. During this time there are also 300m matches for Historical Military Rifles which are various classes of pre-1960 military rifles. A new team match in the regular TR programme, the Coaches Match was introduced last year. A team consists of a coach and two shooters. There are two classes determined by whether the shooter(s) are classed as Masters or not (see Classification). In 2002, there will also be a Coaches Match for F Class Teams.

Aggregates

There are many aggregates and most have very large and impressive silver trophies that are presented with appropriate pomp and ceremony at the Prize Giving. Two principal aggregates are the Champlain Aggregate, for the first 2½ days of the warm up matches (79 shots to count), and the Grand Aggregate (161 shots to count) for most of the remaining individual matches in the regular programme.

Towards the end of the first week, there are several other non-aggregate matches for those not involved in the team events. There are also quite a few special aggregates: Seniors, Ladies, Police, Long Range, Short Range etc. The entry form and the computers are set up to enter you automatically in most of the appropriate aggregates but during the first few days you need to read and understand the programme and check the notice board to avoid being a victim of computer gremlins. The system usually works well so this is probably not something to worry about.

There are also three events outside the regular programme with separate aggregates. The Long Range Challenge - four strings of 2 and 15 at 900m; the 223 Championship - 2 and 15 at six ranges from 300m to 900m (90 shots to count); and the ISSF 300m Championship (60 shots to count).

Classification

The following is taken from the DCRA rule book (Rule 5): TR competitors at the DCRA Matches will fire in one of four Classes: Master (MA), Expert (EX), Sharpshooter (SS), or Greenshot (GS). The Greenshot (GS) Class is only open to Canadian competitors who are competing in the Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championships (CFRC) for the first time. Shooters from Canada or elsewhere who do not possess a current DCRA TR Classification, must present to the DCRA Secretary, at the time of entry, any evidence that they wish to have considered regarding their prior experience in all rifle disciplines, and the rifle classification(s) which they may hold with other bodies. Those who do not present any such evidence, will be placed in the DCRA Master Class. In addition, for holders of Bisley classifications: X or A Class shooters will fire in the DCRA TR Master Class; all others will fire in the DCRA TR Expert Class. Furthermore, members of an official visiting Cadet team (such as the Athelings) will fire in the Sharpshooter Class unless they have previously earned a higher classification.

Team matches

There are team matches for clubs, provinces and countries. Ordinarily, there are three of these matches fired shoulder to shoulder at short, mid and long ranges, but this year the America Match will provide a fourth international team match. For all team matches, rifles will be checked during the 30 minutes prior to the start of the match.

There are a number of non-international team matches for ladies, seniors, families, clubs etc. Most of these are concurrent but there are two shoulder to shoulder club team matches. These non-international teams do not have to be entered in advance of your arrival at the range. The programme has a good description of each team match and the deadline time for entries. You will have a couple of days after your arrival to figure out what teams to enter.

The programme provides another four individual matches for competitors who are not involved in team matches (another 140 rounds to count). Two of these are Palma style, 15 at 700, 800 and 900m on DCRA targets.

Accommodation

If you have elected to stay on the base, the DCRA staff will direct you to your quarters which will be furnished with sheets, blankets and pillows (bring your own soap and towels). Accommodation on base is a good deal - CAN\$6.00 or so per night for clean reasonable military accommodation - two to a room - choose your room mate on your entry form. There are quarters for males and quarters for females but no provision for couples. Campers, trailers and RVs may be parked on the camp in designated areas at a nominal cost during the matches. The base has a mess hall where you can get more than you could possibly eat - three meals a day for a daily cost of about CAN\$16. This is an army kitchen but the food is plentiful and more than adequate.

Alternatively, there are many motels/hotels within a short drive of the ranges. The Barons Hotel and Days Inn are well used to overseas shooters, whereas the Holiday Inn is a very new development and has not yet had the pleasure of a full overseas team!

Rooms are generally around £50 per night (based on a twin room price). The Holiday Inn and Barons have swimming pool and gymnasium facilities, while the Days Inn does not.

More information

There is a Meet and Greet Party laid on by the DCRA on the evening of First Saturday, starting at 6.30pm which includes a barbecue. It is customary for overseas visitors to attend this reception which is usually located in a marquee near the Mess Hall.

The governing body for Canadian full bore shooting is the Dominion of Canada Rifle Association (DCRA).

Their address is:

Dominion of Canada Rifle Association
45 Shirley Blvd,
Nepean, Ontario, Canada, K2K 2W6.
Telephone (613) 829-8281
Fax (613) 990-0434
E-mail: office@dcra.ca
Web site: <http://www.dcra.ca>

The DCRA web site will show any late changes in the programme and schedule.

Provincial Meetings

Touring teams usually visit one of the Provincial Rifle Association Prize Meetings before venturing to Connaught for the CFRC and individual competitors would be welcomed. This year the Great Britain Rifle Team will be competing in the Ontario Rifle Association (ORA) meeting at Canadian Forces Base

(CFB) Borden. Of the other provinces, British Columbia seems to have been visited most often in the last decade, most recently by the 2000 GB team. Alberta (GBRT 1998), Saskatchewan (GBRT 1993) and Nova Scotia (Scotland 1995) are also on the touring list. These meetings generally take place over the weekend preceding the start of the CFRC in Ottawa, thus affording visitors and locals alike plenty of practice.

Use the following links for information about competing in the provincial meetings.

Links to Provincial Rifle Associations

Alberta:

<http://shooter.org/apra>

British Columbia:

E-mail: contact@bcrifle.org

<http://www.bcrifle.org>

Nova Scotia:

E-mail: nsrifle@ns.sympatico.ca

<http://www3.ns.sympatico.ca/nsrifle>

Ontario:

E-mail: secretary@OntarioRifleAssociation.org

<http://www.ontariorifleassociation.org>



August 1991 – The range at CFB Borden (as it used to look). It's nice to see the 2001 Queen's Prizewinner doing some register keeping!
(Photo: Jeremy Langley)

Quebec:

E-mail: atpq_pqra@hotmail.com

<http://www.pqra.org>

Saskatchewan:

E-mail: spra@saskrifle.ca

<http://www.saskrifle.ca>

Travel

British Airways: <http://www.ba.com>

Air Canada: <http://www.aircanada.ca>

Avis: <http://www.avis.com>

Budget: <http://www.budgetcanada.com>

Accommodation

Best Western Barons Hotel

3700 Richmond Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K2H 5B8.

Tel: (613) 828 2741 Fax: (613) 596 4742

<http://www.bestwestern.com/>

E-mail: tracey@bestwesternbaronshotel.com

Days Inn Ottawa West (previously known as the Luxor)

350 Moodie Drive, Nepean, Ontario, K2H 8G3.

Tel: (613) 726 1717 Fax: (613) 726 1462

<http://www.daysinn.com>

E-mail: resottawa.daysinn@coventus.com

Holiday Inn Select Ottawa West (Kanata)

10 Lord Byng Way, Kanata, Ontario, K2T 1E6.

Tel: (613) 271 3057 Fax: (613) 271 3060

<http://www.sixcontinentshotels.com/holiday-inn>

E-mail: reserve@hiselect-ottawa.com

General Information

For further information relating to accommodation, restaurants, shopping, local attractions and events.
<http://www.ottawakiosk.com>

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	Samson	55gr Ball	£20
	Hirtenberger	55gr Ball	£20
.38 S&W	Lapua	146gr Lead	£30
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OBITUARIES

Lt Col REW Johnson, OBE TD

Johnny Johnson, or "Thin Johnny" as he was sometimes known to distinguish him from several other shooters of the name Johnson, died age 96 on 30 December 2001. With his death passes one of the last members of the shooting "greats" who earned international honours either side of the Second World War.



Robin Ernest Winter Johnson was born on 8 May 1905. Educated at Marlborough College he was a member of their rifle VIII for four years, being the captain in 1923, and was the youngest competitor in the 1920 NRA Imperial Meeting at the age of 15. After leaving school he went on to qualify as a chartered accountant and joined the London Rifle Brigade in 1925. During the second World War he saw service in a variety of expert small arms capacities at home and abroad, from the Middle East to Cairo, Italy and Santa Maria. He was also (on his own admission) part of what he referred to with self-effacing humour as that "undesirable element at the Adelphi".

In 1945 he was awarded the military OBE. After the war he moved North to pursue his accounting career. He reached the post of senior internal auditor with Procter & Gamble in Newcastle, joined the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers and became an Honorary Northumbrian. He is remembered with affection by shooters from that area where he was the heart and soul of the City of Newcastle Rifle Club for some 25 years. He held senior appointments with the St John Ambulance, being the Commissioner for Northumberland from 1961 to 1970, and Commander for Wiltshire from 1971 to 1976 - on retiring to live in Ramsbury near Marlborough. He was appointed a Knight of St John in 1976, a signal honour.

He participated in the Bisley Meeting from 1925 to 1927 and 1930 to 1939 and for most of the years since the war until the late 1980s. In 1937/8 he was a member of the Great Britain Rifle Team on the five month long tour to South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. He owed his attendance on that tour to his newly wed wife Pat, who insisted that he should take the opportunity of a lifetime. Her insistence that he should go was typical of her unstinting support for Johnny's shooting activities, and in later years she accompanied him to Bisley each summer to act as his eyes after his sight had deteriorated badly despite cataract operations.

Thanks to his personal letters and diaries of that tour, which Pat had kept so carefully, we know of the incidents in which the GB team narrowly escaped serious injuries. On one occasion their coach jumped out of gear on a mountainous Australian road. On another, the late Robin Fulton, Charlie Seward and others had to be rescued (*with two strange girls*) from a treacherous undertow off an Australian beach. His diaries of the trip also disclosed that the team had to acquire twinkling feet during the tedious sea voyage to South Africa and then Australia and New Zealand. It seems that there were numerous ladies on board the ship eager to dance the night away! He also captained the 1968 GB team to Canada.

He appeared 11 times in the Final of the Sovereign's Prize being runner-up in 1967. He would dearly have loved to win the Prize to emulate the win by his father Lt Ernest Darley Johnson in 1902. He appeared eleven times in each of the National and Mackinnon matches, having the unusual distinction of captaining England to victory in the National Match at the second attempt in 1963, accompanied by great good humour in adversity. Among the major competitions that he won were the Alexandra, All Comers Aggregate, Daily Telegraph, and Duke of Cambridge, and he collected three Schools' Veterans Challenge Shield winning medals.

He was a caring man of absolute integrity, never too busy to iron faults out of young shooters. He never lost his temper even with the most idiotic of pupils, his irritation stretching only to the heights of "... whatsisname, you know, old buggerlugs ..." if really annoyed by somebody. He had the most piercing of laughs, a veritable crow of delight, when amused by a story or incident, and a series of pithy and amusing retorts when required. He always maintained that "a little alcohol fixes the pupils" but it was never totally clear whether he was referring to his vision or to the cadets.

It was with Marlborough that he left his most valuable legacy, from the period from 1971 to 1988 when he acted as coach and then honorary Master i/c Shooting. In that time the VIII was second once, third three times and in the top ten on nine other occasions in the Ashburton Shield Competition. It remained one of his sadly unfulfilled ambitions to see that trophy won again. His contribution to cadet shooting was rewarded in 1974 when he was appointed Commandant of the GB Cadet Athelings Rifle Team to Canada. For the Old Marlburian Rifle Club he held the posts of Auditor, Captain, President and Patron over the years. In 1994 he decided, irrevocably, that he should retire from the Presidency of OMRC to allow a younger person to take over. He was elected Patron to a standing ovation on Bastille Day that year, after 22 years as President and 67 years after he and Tom Vezey had founded the Club. He decreed

that the job of the President was to preside and the job of the Patron was to patronise. He also served for many years as a member of the NRA Council.

In September 1994 his wife Pat died suddenly after a battle against leukaemia. After her death he moved to London to be near his grandsons, and in May 1995, at the Army and Navy Club, he celebrated his 90th birthday in grand style with members of his family and some privileged shooting friends. All the old humour was there interlaced with rapier like asides as he recalled various events. Johnny was never defeatist. In later years he drove like the wind and once had the misfortune to crash his car outside Ramsbury. "Damn silly place to put a bend in the road" was his explanation.

In his essay *The Friend* Coleridge used the saying "The dwarf sees further than the giant when he has the giant's shoulder to mount on". In his own shooting generation, and for generations of Marlburian shooters, Johnny was such a giant, helping so many young shooters to see towards the furthest horizons of the sport that they went on to enjoy. For those of us who worked at his side or who were privileged to learn their our skills from him, there are thanks for many happy memories. To Penny, his daughter, and her family our sympathy and reassurance that he, like others of his generation, was fun to be with and will not be forgotten.

Tony de Launay

JHF (Harry) MacGiffin

Harry, who died in a nursing home on 7 September 2001, was born in Belfast but soon moved to Dundalk where his father was a civil engineer on the railways. Harry never lost his love of trains and, for relaxation, would read a timetable! In 1925 he entered Campbell College in Belfast as a boarder, and in 1931 he was a



member of the British Athelings Team to Canada (in the days when the team travelled by liner). From Campbell College he went to Trinity College in Dublin and on to Cambridge University before entering the Colonial Service, where he served with many innovations due to his enthusiasm in the Gold Coast, later to become Ghana. Upon the Gold Coast gaining Independence in 1958, when he had reached the rank of District Commissioner, he was asked to stay on but he elected to come back to Northern Ireland, then quickly obtained a post teaching in the Royal Belfast Academical Institution (Inst) where he remained until 1975 becoming Senior House Master of Larmor House.

During his years at Inst he guided the orators in the Debating Society and fired members of the Railway Society with his own enthusiasm for railways. On taking up his post with Inst he formed a rifle club (rugby and cricket his first love were "too time consuming") and came into contact with the Ulster Rifle Association. He was elected to the committee of the URA and was Schools Secretary for a number of years, becoming Chairman for a two years stint and eventually becoming a Vice President.

On his retirement from Inst he was appointed Secretary of the Shooting Federation of Northern Ireland, a post which he held until 1990, during which time he participated in the Commonwealth Games and took teams to all the Home Countries for the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships.

He will be sadly missed but remembered by all with fond memories.

Joan MacGiffin

John Scott

John was born in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1935 and moved south to Bournemouth with his family when he was seven or eight years old. He served in the RAF for four years, including two months in Malta with Lord Louis Mountbatten. After leaving the RAF he worked with the AA for a short time before joining Lloyds Bank in Fleet, Hampshire in 1963, eventually rising to mid-management levels. After he retired from the bank he worked for Loseley Estates for about four years.



John always liked to take a full part in the life of the community and was a Justice of the Peace for a period of eight years in the eighties and nineties.

He started shooting small bore about 20 years ago with the Old Farnhamians Club and later took up fullbore with Lloyds (now LloydsTSB) Bank Rifle Club. Whilst, along with many other shooters, he never achieved high honours in the sport he became one of the stalwarts of the club, always ready to turn out for the team if asked and always prepared to do his share of the clubhouse maintenance duties. His friends in the club will miss John's unfailing cheerfulness and ready smile even in the face of the battle he put up in his final illness, which he bore with great courage.

John is survived by his wife Karin, their daughter and two grand daughters.

David Davies

Sqn Ldr JJ Franks

Justin was introduced to shooting at Fettes College. Ability and enthusiasm gained him the position of Captain of Shooting in 1983 and 1984. He developed in the sport at Dundee University and after qualifying as a dentist he joined the Royal Air Force.



Justin was a man of high principle, who understood that loyalty ran both ways. He was largely unimpressed by authority and believed in direct action where necessary. As Butt Officer for Stickledown in the 1990 Meeting, he drove the Shooting Manager to declare "That man will never work for the NRA again!" His 'crime' was to have supported and encouraged the markers after they had to work a 12-hour shift in baking temperatures. The lunch break had been cancelled to recover lost details and nobody had thought to send any food or drink to the butts. Justin was proud that the resulting threatened marker's strike led to improved conditions for the NRA's junior staff.

A previous NRA Estate Manager was correct when he surmised that the RAF were involved in the disappearance of the weathervane from Hythe Lodge. However, the driving forces were again Scottish loyalty, principle and a belief in direct action. When the Army acquired the building from the London Scottish RC, Justin felt that they might not take enough care of the Scottish Piper. In the dark, unaided by assistant or apparatus, he scaled the building to the pitch of the roof, removed the Piper (a weighty and unwieldy load), descended and carried it off to a place of safety. (It was quietly returned some years later, but has still to find an appropriate roof to grace on Camp.)

Justin's sense of fun was legendary, if not always what RAF officialdom expected. An early project in his military career was a personal hovercraft - basically a surfboard with a skirt, a fan and a lawnmower engine. This was merely a curiosity until Justin and friends, fortified from a formal dinner, took it for night speed trials on the main runway at RAF Linton-on-Ouse. The subsequent loss of control led, via impact with the approach lights, directly to the CO's carpet.

Whilst he was never an outstanding shot, Justin had huge enthusiasm for the sport and loved Bisley. He was reserve for Scotland in the 1991 Mackinnon match and shot regularly with the Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club. Justin will be remembered with affection; for his kindness, generosity and enthusiasm but especially for his sense of humour. He was one of the best friends that anyone could wish for and will be seriously missed by many at Bisley. Our thoughts are with his wife Sonny, who is expecting their second child, and his young daughter Charlotte.

Per Ardua ad Astra

Karen Robertson

Cambridge University Revolver and Pistol Club and Oxford University Pistol Club

I have recently been appointed President of CURPC, and I am looking to increase our coverage of Old Boys, otherwise known as Faded Blues, from both University Clubs, to keep them informed of the Club's activities and to let the current membership know that there is life out there after University.

Both Clubs hold past and present matches as well as the annual Varsity Games Match (now shot with multi-shot air pistols using the old Standard Pistol course of fire at 20 yards or 25 metres). There is also a series of matches run by the NRA during the Imperial Meeting, as well as the opportunity to shoot in Switzerland under the British Alpine Rifles banner and much more.

There is a small list of the aforementioned Faded Blues and I am most anxious to extend this coverage. I would be most grateful if any Faded Blue reading this could contact me preferably by e-mail or at the address below.

James Mallows

331 Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 1XL

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E-mail: jim@marshmallows.freemove.co.uk

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GB Rifle Team to Canada 2000

Summary Accounts

Outgoings

Travel

Air travel	£14,013.17
Car Hire Brit Columbia	£2,315.70
Car Hire Ottawa	£2,074.67
Petrol	£289.33
Coach LHR	£235.00

Insurance

£250.00

Shooting Costs

Ammunition	£4,050.38
Entry Fees	£8,383.18

Accommodation

Chilliwack BC	£4,656.73
Ottawa	£5,256.72
Hire of Range hut	£120.00

Protocol

Team Gifts	£772.21
Receptions	£720.57

Administration

Paper and sundries	£304.55
Post and phone	£105.00

Uniform

New Caps	£473.12
Other uniform	£3,058.90

Food

While shooting	£654.21
Evening Meals	£3,776.78
Social events	£1,951.99

Miscellaneous

GB Chairs	£230.00
UK Training	£2,246.40

Total

£55,938.61

Income

Sponsorship

Companies	£3,947.90
Fund Raising General	£1,447.25
Spot Shot	£2,020.25
Brochure	£3,769.80
Hospitality Days	£5,336.25
Sports Council & OTF	£22,000.00

Individuals

£967.62 per head	
Total for 18	£17,417.16

Total

£55,938.61

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MEMBERS' PAGE

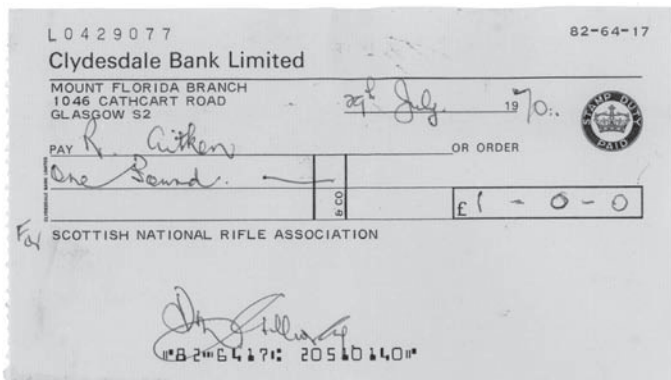
Scottish Target Shooting Federation 2001 Raffle

STSF, through the promoter Bob Aitken, wish to thank all target shooters who bought tickets for this draw. The raffle raised over £3,000, of which 50% has gone towards the training of the Scottish 2002 Commonwealth Games Squad, 25% back to the shooting disciplines and 25% to the clubs that sold the tickets. Many will not be surprised to learn that Bob's own club benefited by over £350. A similar draw planned for 2002 will be drawn before the Games.

Prize Winners

1 st Prize	£300	Paul Hounslow
2 nd Prize	<i>One night's dinner bed & breakfast for two at Dunkeld House Hotel and one day's tuition at clay target shooting</i>	
		John S Wilkie
3 rd Prize	£100	E Bramley
4 th Prize	<i>Free Entry to Scottish Championships of choice</i>	
		Walter Elliot
5 th Prize	£50	Audrey McLean
6 th Prize	£10	B Stewart
7 th Prize	£10	Tom Spencer
8 th Prize	£10	Mrs M Dewar

Bob's reward



As anyone who has ever shot the Scottish Meeting will confirm, the prize money routinely takes several months to arrive. However this cheque really takes the biscuit!

Bob Aitken whilst selling the STSF Raffle tickets this year received a note from Mr Jim Manson, an ex-member of Cawdor Rifle Club, enquiring if he was the same R Aitken that had shot at Fort George back in the sixties. Bob replied that indeed he was and duly received the above cheque with a Prize List indicating that he had won the Top Tyro in the Saturday Aggregate of the Bisley Competition in 1970 with a magnificent score of 139 ex 150. Another winner mentioned was a young lad called Hamish Hunter (now Scottish RA Treasurer) who had won 10 shillings for being the third placed Tyro in the Sunday Aggregate. All this was enclosed in a small brown envelope with an unused 5d stamp attached.

It is believed that Bob has very generously let Jim off the 31½ years interest!

Commonwealth Games souvenirs

Souvenirs are now available on the Commonwealth Games web site. The range includes shooting-specific pin badges, keyrings and fridge magnets as well as clothing and other souvenirs.



Telephone 0845 608 2002 for a full colour catalogue or visit the web site at:

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Caption competition



"Yes Mr Millar this is the Hotel Manager and yes I am sorry the Adult Channel is unavailable this evening."

A prize is on the way to Chalky White for submitting the winning caption.

The photo for this Journal's caption competition comes courtesy of James Watson; there will be a small prize for the best (printable) caption. Submissions to the Editor by post or e-mail by 20 April please.



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Phil Bennison, Bisley 1998



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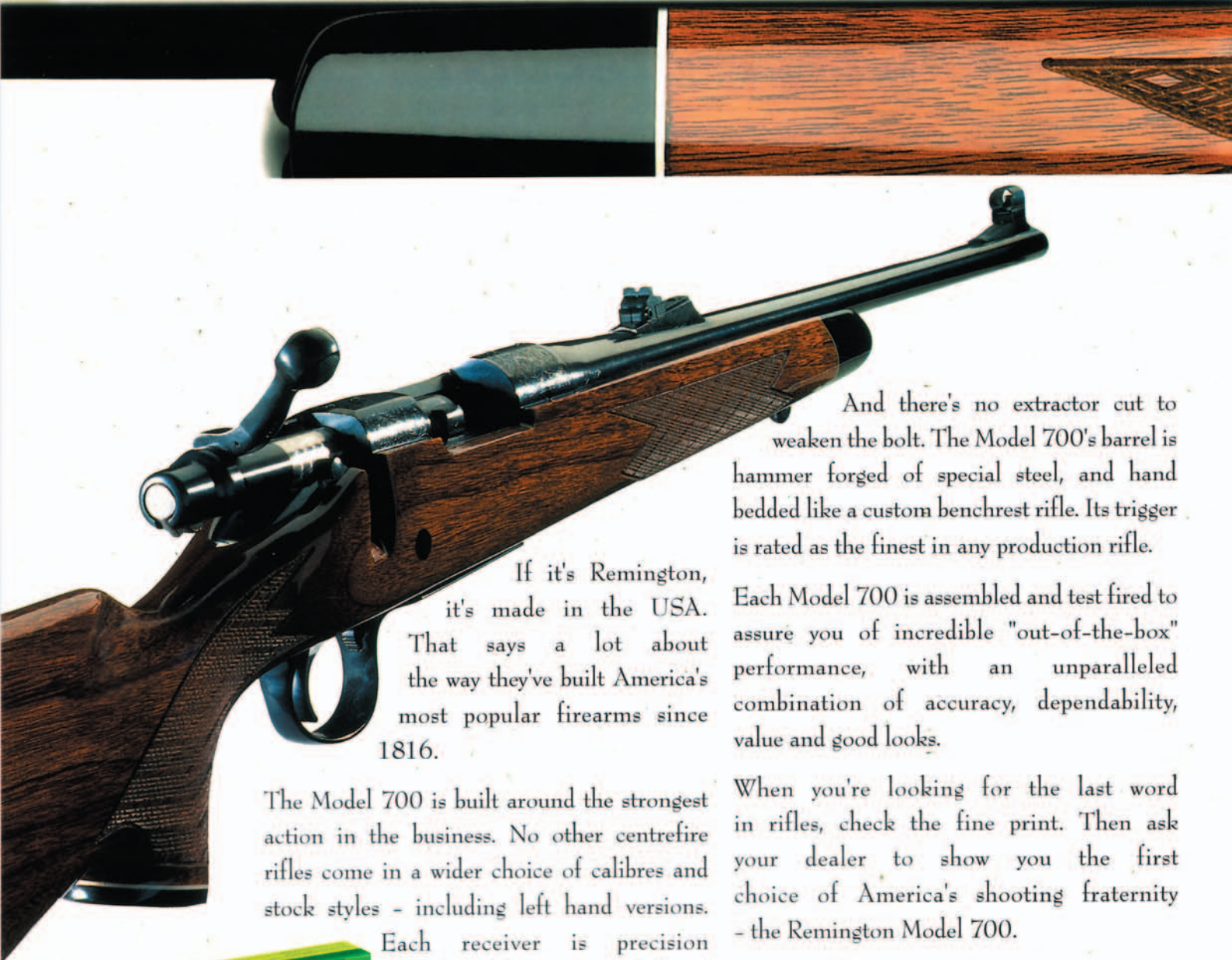
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