



National Rifle Association Journal

Summer 2002 Volume LXXXI Number 2



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Cover: The Commonwealth Games come to Bisley.

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Commonwealth Games logo: © Manchester 2002 Limited 2002.

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Winter Between end of October and second week in November

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S NOTES



by
Colin
Cheshire

NRA Bisley General Meeting

The NRA Bisley General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 July at 9pm in the Umbrella Tent.

Commonwealth Games 2002

The full Games programme for shooting is on the NRA web site (www.nra.org.uk). A copy of the programme is included in this Journal.

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.

Please may I remind all members that if they wish to enter Bisley Camp during the period 15 July - 4 August that they must have with them their NRA membership cards and car passes. Only those who are shooting will be allowed to park on the ranges; spectators will be asked to park in the M2002 car parks at the entrance to or elsewhere on Camp as requested by M2002 staff.

GB and NRA Team Captaincies

2003 NRA Team versus Continental Europe at Bisley in October.

No nominations have been received and therefore this position remains unfilled and we still seek nominations for the post by no later than 1 September 2002.

Imperial Meeting Prizegivers

These are as follows:

ISCRM	Brig AJM Durcan
TASAM	Lt Gen JP Kiszley MC
Ashburton	Maj Gen FR Dannatt CBE MC
Imperial Meeting	Lord Romsey

Liaison Officers for Overseas Teams in 2003

The NRA Council is extremely grateful to those shown below who have already volunteered for the above posts, they are:

- Australia -
 - Australian Veterans -
 - Australian U25 - Mrs ID Bennett
 - Australian U21 - Mrs ID Bennett
- Canada -
 - Canadian Veterans - DP Cole
 - Canadian U25 -
 - Canadian U21 -
- Continental Palma -
- Germany - D Haskell
 - Germany Veterans -
 - Germany U25 -
- Kenya -
- New Zealand - M Jackson
- South Africa - CJ Hockley
 - South African Veterans - MW Silver
 - South African U25 - JR Lindsay
 - South African U21 - IW Robertson
- USA - ME Barr
 - USA Veterans - Carol Painting
 - USA U25 -
 - USA U21 -
- West Indies - IT Tucker

We would be most grateful for the names of any volunteers for those teams above that have not yet had Liaison Officers appointed as soon as possible please. Names please to Mrs Elaine Buttle on extension 126. Maybe those members 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.

Coach Trips

Please note that there will not be any coach trips during the Imperial Meeting this year.

NRA Council Elections - Scrutineers

Council has approved the appointment of Mr NEC Molyneux and Mr EM McGibbon as scrutineers for the July 2002 Council elections.

Council Elections

Nominations closed on 20 April. The following people, there being only one nominee in each case, are re-elected to the NRA Council unopposed:

Discipline members:

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

Regional members:

Southern - PJ Quilliam
Northern Ireland - HRM Bailie
Scotland - TLW Kidner

There will, however, be an election for the member for the East Midlands Region between:

JPS Bloomfield and GV Barnard

Voting papers have been sent in the post to those that live in the East Midlands region, and who have paid their membership subscription by the due date (6 April).

There will be no election for Ordinary Members of Council because there are five people standing for the five available places as follows:

JPS Bloomfield	re-elected
Wg Cdr DP Calvert MBE	re-elected
Dr NG Jeffs	re-elected
JA McAllister	elected
CJ Oliver-Bellasis	elected

South African Championships

Congratulations to the following people on their successes in the recent South African Championships:

Wg Cdr DP Calvert - winner of the South African Championship, the Grand Aggregate and the Bramley Chain

JMA Thompson - winner of the President's Prize

Countryside Alliance announces the rescheduled 'Liberty and Livelihood' London march

The Countryside Alliance has announced that the Liberty and Livelihood march, which was postponed last year due to the Foot and Mouth epidemic, will now go ahead on 22 September.

Announcing the title, date and reasons for its massive London march, Alliance Chief Executive Richard Burge said "We have decided to keep the same title and credo as the postponed march because our reasons for staging the original march are regrettably even more apt than a year ago. We said when we postponed the march that we could call again if necessary, and on 22 September we will. Although this march will not just be about hunting, the outrage at the prospect of a ban has lit the fuse. This march is about rural liberty and livelihoods. Lest anyone misunderstand its purpose we have set down a five point charter (*see below*). Anyone who does not subscribe to all five principles of our march - and these crucially include the right for people to decide for themselves whether they may hunt - will not be welcome on it".

Mr Burge added, "This time our march will be to call upon the Government, rather than upon Parliament, to help rural minorities. Since the postponement of our march last year it has become even clearer that most MPs are intent on doing things to the countryside rather than for it. Now only Government action, based on commonsense, statesmanship and a willingness to lead its backbenchers away from prejudice and divisiveness, can resolve this looming crisis".

March and Campaign Mission

"We demand that Government:

- Defends the right of rural people to live their lives responsibly in the way they choose
- Safeguards rural people from prejudiced attacks on hunting with dogs and all other field sports
- Respects the values and customs of rural communities
- Ensures any laws directed at rural people have their consent
- Addresses the real problems of the countryside which are destroying its communities, its culture, and its children's future"

TWP DESIGNS

RUSHALL, DISS, NORFOLK, IP21 4RT

Contact Tim Webster

01379 741174

Or visit our website

www.twp-designs.co.uk



Building plot available at Bisley close to Stickle-down

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

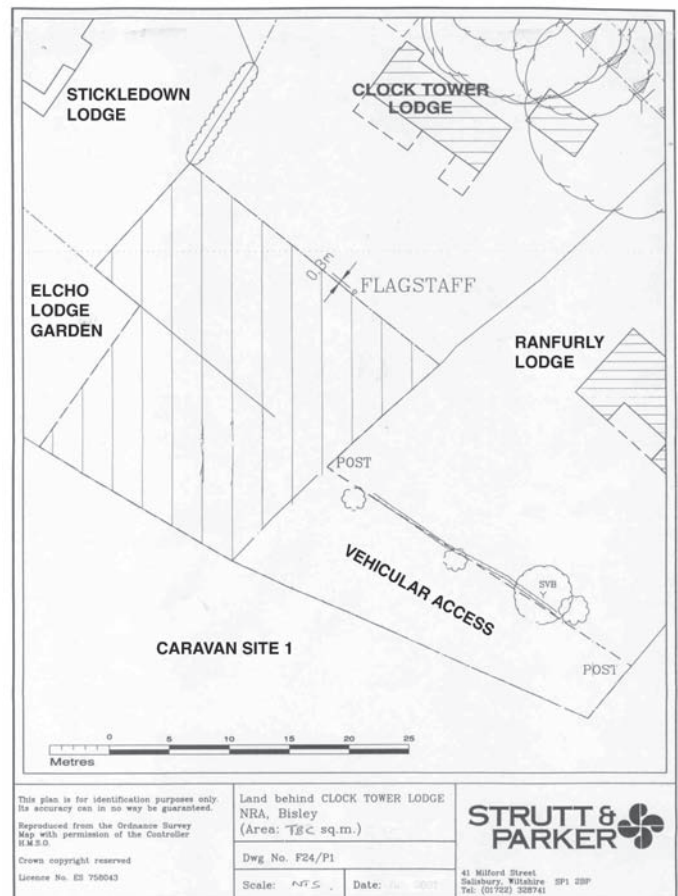
Tenders should be sent to the Chief Executive marked "Land at bottom of Elcho Lodge and Clock Tower Lodge" by 12 midday on Friday 30 August 2002.

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 December 2002.
 - Lease details to be agreed by March 2003.
 - Building to be complete by end 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.



SHOOTING MANAGER'S NOTES



by
*Martin
Farnan*

MoD Licence Fees

Club Secretaries may remember that a year ago I announced that Headquarters Army Training Estates had agreed that the Licence Fee, which has to be paid by all Clubs wishing to hire MoD Ranges, had been set at £50 + VAT and would be valid for three years. HQ ATE later apologised for this incorrect advice, saying that £55 + VAT was the **minimum** figure. A meeting has now been arranged in mid-May with the Defence Estates Business Manager to consider how to set up a scheme, similar to that originally proposed, which will benefit clubs. Further details will be communicated to club secretaries as soon as possible.

Imperial Meeting

General

Most of the changes affecting this year's Imperial Meeting were detailed in my notes in the last Journal, but there have inevitably been a number of 'last minute' changes which are highlighted below.

Free Grand Aggregate Entries

County Secretaries are reminded that the free entry to the Grand Aggregate, awarded to each affiliated County, should ideally be awarded to those who would not otherwise be able to attend the Imperial Meeting. The award is not intended to be won by the best shot at the County Championship, for example, unless there are particular circumstances which, in the opinion of the County, warrant such an exception.

Early Entry Draw

The winners in the Early Entry Draw, for those competitors who returned their entry form (amounting to £50 or more) by 1 May, were as follows:

- 1st Dr PJ Morris Comp No 19
(100% refund of entry fees).
- 2nd R Needham Comp No 311
(50% refund of entry fees).
- 3rd R Faulkner Comp No 27
(25% refund of entry fees).

These refunds apply to entry fees (including the 10% obligatory surcharge) **only**, not to meeting membership, marker fees, sweepstakes or any other payments made on the Individual Entry Form.

McQueen

As already notified the McQueen competition will have to be fired on Short Siberia this year. In an effort to level the playing field for all competitors who are competing for the McQueen Sniper class for the Entente Cordiale trophy, this particular class may only be fired with sniper rifles on general issue by the British, a Commonwealth or other Government, **or** with the rifles provided on the firing point. The rule on page 2/115 in the Bible should therefore read "The sniper rifles available on the firing point **may** be used by all competitors in this series of the competition."

Sniper Pairs

This match has been reintroduced after a lapse of some ten years. The conditions are as for the McQueen Sniper match but each firer must nominate his shoot to count for the Pairs match before firing.

F Class

There are no changes to the F Class rules, but I would request all F Class shooters to actively encourage more competitors to come forward. The maximum number of competitors in any year so far has been 36, and the NRA would very much like to increase this number.

Civilian Service Rifle

Page 2/2 of the Bible states "NOTE: Muzzle brakes are not allowed". Since the back blast from a muzzle brake will not affect adjacent firers if there is only one competitor per firing point it has been agreed that it is unnecessary to apply the present ban, extant for TR and MR, to service/practical rifle events. This note should therefore be deleted.

Schools

Mr Rae Wills, the organiser of the Imperial Historic Arms Meeting, has very kindly said that visits by competitors attending the Schools Meeting, to try out some of the classic and historic firearms available will be most welcome. Further details will be included in all Schools' packs. Masters are encouraged to bring their pupils to 'have a go' at a fascinating selection of rifles and pistols from a bygone age.

Markers

A questionnaire is being sent out to all entrants along with their Imperial Meeting receipt. It asks whether the Shooting Committee should consider further a return to competitor marking. There are advantages and disadvantages to both schemes, and the Committee is keen to gather as many views as possible before making its decision. The questionnaire lists the pros and cons of each scheme, and then asks for a simple Yes or No.

Please complete your form, which is anonymous, and bring it with you when you come to collect your tickets prior to the Meeting. Your competitor's envelope will be issued on receipt of this form. If you have forgotten your questionnaire then another will be available at the Front Counter. All views will be taken into account before the Shooting Committee makes its decision.

Ranges

Range Radios

All range users are reminded that they MUST bring the radio, which was issued to them first thing in the morning, back to the Range Office at lunchtime. Failure to do so may mean that they may have the wrong radio for the afternoon, someone else may not have a radio at all and, in addition, they may end up with a flat battery. Please obey this simple rule.

Use of Ranges

A reminder that members of clubs affiliated to the NRA may book/use only the following ranges in their own names: Short Siberia, Winans and Zero Ranges.

Breaches of safety

Please be aware that any breach of safety will probably lead to a suspension of the right to shoot on the Bisley Ranges until the incident has been thoroughly investigated. This is due to the potential safety implications and attendant NRA liability of allowing someone to continue shooting (or acting as an RCO) where there may be doubts about their safety on a range. Please be aware that alleged incidents or breaches of safety need not have happened on Bisley, but on any range throughout the UK.

Ammunition Sales

Club secretaries are reminded that all orders for ammunition will only be accepted if made in writing. Arrangements may, of course, be made verbally or by telephone but must be confirmed in writing before the order will be processed. If an order is made and confirmed, and then subsequently cancelled in favour of another supplier, a charge of 10% of the value of the order will be made.

Technical Advisory Service (TAS)

The Technical Advisory Service has been reduced by one SNCO, who unfortunately was the one responsible for looking after civil and police ranges. Understandably it has been made clear that inspection etc of military ranges must come first, and that civilian range problems must come bottom of the list. It would appear that a delay of up to two years may occur in some areas.

I am asking any club secretaries who are experiencing problems to let me have full details, in writing please, so that a properly documented case may be made for the re-establishment of the post. We will do all we can to have the service maintained, but I am afraid that delays are inevitable. In case of particular problems please contact Doug Glaister on ext 148.

2001 Overseas Postal TR Match

The winners of the 2001 Overseas Postal TR Match were Brisbane RC for the third consecutive time. The Duke of Gloucester's Challenge Cup will be engraved accordingly and nine Lord Wakefield silver medals have been forwarded to the winners. More entrants are required and secretaries of overseas clubs are encouraged to compete for this prestigious trophy and medals.

RCO Renewals

You are again reminded that this qualification is valid for six years from the date of issue of the certificate and is applicable on any range throughout the UK. You may apply to renew your certificate on or before the sixth anniversary of the passing of your course, and full details are available from the Shooting Administrator on ext 150. After this date it may be necessary to attend another course to re-qualify.

In the case of those who hold a military range management qualification up to the equivalent of Stage 3 (which has been validated by the SASC) they may apply for a straight transfer to the NRA RCO Qualification. Please note that this also applies to Cadet Force Officers who hold the CRCQ qualification. Again full details are available from the Shooting Administrator on ext 150.

Courses

Courses are normally run during the months of October/November - March inclusive, and the Course Season is now closed. A Club Instructor's Course will be held in the Autumn and full details of all courses will be given in the next Journal.

RCO Courses which are to include Muzzle Loading will no longer require the applicant to hold the (previously named) Approved Instructor qualification. This course has been discontinued, and replaced with a course more appropriate for ML RCOs. It will be available as an addition at the same time as an RCO course that requires ML is being run, and instructors may be either MLAGB or NRA with an appropriate ML qualification. Further details may be obtained from the Shooting Administrator on ext 150.

Range Office

Opening hours

I should like to remind you that the **Range Office is closed on Mondays**, and no staff are on duty to take bookings.

Members' Enquiries

At weekends it would be much appreciated if all enquiries on matters not directly related to the day's shooting were made outside the extremely busy booking in/out periods at the beginning and end of the day, and at lunchtime. Enquiries should be made during the morning or afternoon or, ideally, Tuesday to Friday.

Booking In

It is obligatory that all Range Conducting Officers (RCOs) sign in at the Range Office before going to the range. Please read the certificate at the top of the sheet if you are the RCO concerned: it defines your duties and responsibilities.

Signing In cards

Home Office Approval for Clubs states the following within its Criteria for Approval: "The Club will maintain a register of the attendance of all members together with details, for each visit, of the firearms which they used and the competitions, if any, in which they took part."

The NRA implements this by setting up a Signing In card, kept in the Range Office, for members to sign each time they shoot at Bisley. We also retain a record of all entries to the Imperial Meeting each year. Those members who are **only** members of the NRA, ie who are not members of any other Home Office Approved Club, **must** complete their personal attendance card on each and every visit to shoot at Bisley.

This card must show attendance dates and a record of all firearms used. This is necessary for the NRA to comply with the present legislation and, if this is not done, then those who have not recorded their attendance will be reported to the appropriate Firearms Licensing Authority as required by law.

All others who shoot at Bisley are also welcome to use this service to keep their shooting history fully up to date. If you wish to do so, requiring a card to be prepared for you, please send a passport sized photograph, with your name and membership number written on the back, to the Membership Secretary. Please also forward details of your firearms (make/serial number) to allow for the easy completion of the card.

Coaching Certificates

The issue of outstanding Coaching Certificates was discussed at a GBTSF Coaching Sub-Committee meeting at Bisley on 15 May 2002 following the GBTSF becoming a limited company. In order to complete the NRA Coach Database any coach awaiting certification is requested to contact the Shooting Manager with details of his qualification course for ratification.

Courses

An NRA Club Instructors' Course will be held at Bisley over the weekend 21/22 September 2002. The Chief Instructor will be Mr Andrew Penfold. Further details will be available from the Shooting Administrator, but not earlier than Monday 12 August (ie after the Imperial Meeting and the Commonwealth Games).

It is also planned to hold a GBTSF County Coach Course and a GBTSF Club Coach course in November and/or December, and full details will be published in the next edition of the NRA Journal.

Eagle Eye Foresights

You may have noticed that Rules 150 (*Foresight*) and 235, as published in this year's Bible, differ from those published in the Spring 2002 Journal. The original wording prohibited use of a dioptré in the backsight in conjunction with an Eagle Eye but permitted use of a lens. A potential problem was drawn to our attention by several shooters who were also opticians or optometrists and by a number of overseas organisations.

After consultation with shooters and others knowledgeable in the field of optics, the rules published in the Bible are considered to be both enforceable and fair to all. They are also, coincidentally, in line with ISSF regulations which allow optically flat filters in the backsight, but no lenses. Any corrective prescription must be in the form of shooting spectacles or contact lenses. To avoid doubt the current rules are as follows:

Rule 150 *Foresight*. Any type which may contain a single clear or coloured magnifying lens which has a minimum focal length of 2 metres (0.5 dioptré). It may also contain an optically flat clear or coloured element.

Rule 235 A magnifying lens is permitted in the foresight but NOT in combination with a lens or system of lenses in the rear sight.

For those unsure about focal lengths of lenses expressed in dioptrés or metres: the focal length of a lens in dioptrés = 1 divided by the focal length in metres. Therefore a 0.3 dioptré Eagle Eye has a focal length of $1/0.3 = 3.3$ metres and is permitted whereas a lens with a focal length of 0.7 dioptré has a focal length of $1/0.7 = 1.43$ metres and is not permitted.

Weekday Markers

Anyone making bookings for targets on weekdays are reminded that markers can only be arranged if they are available. Most of our markers are school children and are therefore generally **not** available on weekdays (school holidays excepted, of course). All those making weekday bookings should therefore be aware that the NRA will probably only be able to provide a limited number of markers on weekdays, and that they should be prepared to arrange their own markers, particularly if the number of targets booked is large.

NRA "AUNTS & UNCLÉS" SCHEME - 2002

Although devised specifically for novices, this scheme is, as readers will know, now open to **ANY** firer who would like help during the Imperial Meeting.

It is **NOT** restricted to less experienced firers and to novices.

Last year, for instance, there were several F Class firers who took advantage of the scheme, as well as some more experienced shots.

If anyone would like to have an "Aunt" or an "Uncle" to help over shooting matters, do please get in touch with me (for choice by email) as under:

TJ Elliott, Lark Hill, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire MK45 3RB
Telephone and Fax: 01234-740334 Mobile telephone: 07949-342424
Email: tje@easynet.co.uk

In addition, if anyone would like an electronic copy of the Guide to Shooting at Bisley, updated for 2002 of course, do send me an email. Hard copies are available from the NRA.

DISCIPLINE AND REGIONAL MATTERS

300 Metres Representative

Ian Shirra-Gibb
Please contact by letter via NRA

Classic Arms Representative

Rae Wills
E-mail: rae_wills@hotmail.com
Post: 10 Boundstone Road
Wrecclesham
Farnham
Surrey, GU10 4TQ
Tel/fax: 01252 792040

F Class Rifle Representative

Paul Monaghan
E-mail: monaghan@quista.net
or please contact by letter via NRA

Gallery Rifle and Pistol Representative

Chris Farr
E-mail: shooting@eclipse.co.uk

Match Rifle Representative

Alan Campbell-Smith
Please contact by letter via NRA

Muzzle Loading Representative

Graham Player
Please contact by letter via NRA

Practical Rifle Representative

Peter Sarony
E-mail: peter.sarony@armalon.com
Post: c/o LPSC, 44 Harrowby Street,
London, W1H 5HY
Tel: 0207 262 1882

Sporting Rifle Representative

John Kynoch
E-mail: john@kynoch.prestel.co.uk
Post: 13 Kingsmill Road
Basingstoke, RG21 3JJ
Tel: 01256 469 213
Would prefer contact by e-mail if possible

Target Rifle Representative

John Bellringer
E-mail: johnbellringer@msn.com
Post: 7 Beeches Wood
Kingswood
Surrey, KT20 6PR

Sporting Rifle

from John Kynoch

Information about the British Sporting Rifle Club

The BSRC leases the Sporting Rifle Complex and the Time Limit Range from the NRA, and is the sole agency through which these ranges may be used. The area is often called the Running Deer Range as this competition has its origins back in 1862 at Wimbledon, before the NRA's move to Bisley in 1890.

In the last few years we have completely rebuilt all our ranges; the 100 metres Running Deer, the 50 metres Running Boar, and the 100 yards Statics range, which incorporates electronic figure targets, as well as building a substantial Club House with a 10 metres moving target air rifle range. We intend to install a second Boar range on the adjacent Time Limit range. Our objectives encompass fostering competitive shooting with the sporting rifle, working for the greater safety and accuracy in the use of the sporting rifle on the range and in the field, and for the highest standards of sportsmanship and fellowship in both competitive and leisure shooting activities.

We have more than 50 Club events throughout the year including meetings on alternate Sundays, usually the first and third or fourth of the month. The first of these is a Match Day when we shoot the Deer, the Boar and three Static matches. The other is a Range

Day, which is less structured. There are also six Wednesday Range Days. We run Induction Courses, Novice Training and Match Training days.

As well as a major Spring Match and the Annual Championships in the autumn, there are other specialised matches for Stalkers and those interested in Historic rifles. The BSRC hosts the British Running Deer Championship on behalf of the NRA, and the British Running Boar and British 10m Running Target Championships on behalf of the NSRA. We have a Family Day in the summer and a Christmas Match and lunch in December. Some 25 clubs are affiliated to us and together hire our ranges on every other available weekend day throughout the year

We have around 270 members. The subscription is £55 per year (2002) with a £70 Joining Fee. An £8 'Green Fee' is payable at normal Club Meetings except that Full Members can purchase an Annual Shooting Pass for £80. This removes the need to pay Green Fees, includes midweek static shooting when available, and affords a £4 discount on match entries.

If you are interested in membership, or want to learn more about our club, please contact our Secretary, Anita Gardner on anita_gardner@lineone.net or John Kynoch (*contact details above*).

Classic Arms

from Rae Wills

So here you are a Discipline Member of Council, and presumably you represent the views and desires of your fellow shooters. But how do you find these out? Ideally you hold meetings, but mostly that is not on due to distance, cost and time.

So you write reports in the Journal, you organise a Committee, you write to them and the phone never stops ringing. Does it heck; nothing, zip, zilch. Well not quite true, sometimes a little moan, and one member ringing up on another matter said he "quite liked" the last offering, but ideas or practical matters - scarcely a dicky bird.

But meet face to face and out pours all sorts of moans, groans and problems. Sunday lunchtime in the London & Middlesex is definitely a dangerous place; best to don thick skin before entering. Moral: at every opportunity get out and about, and if they will not talk to you, talk to them.

Yet here I have a supreme advantage in that I live just around the corner and am able to do a lot of my work at Bisley when organising events etc; also I can attend Committee meetings easily. Thus I am often about the ranges. How I would fare if I were based in Scotland I dare not think.

So the message I get is that whatever problems we have, such as reverse echelon, most shooters, whilst not satisfied with the situation, seem content with what I am trying to do about it. The message I have for you is that slender resources permitting, whatever you put forward or desire I will try to deliver. David Hossack is doing his very best to improve the track from Siberia to the firing point before the Trafalgar Meeting, but with very limited resources.

Contrary to popular belief, reverse echelon will not be in use during the Jubilee Imperial Meeting, and we will be on our usual home Butts 10 and 11 on Century.

Not to rush into Winter before Summer has started, Postal Leagues for Historic Miniature Rifles will be running again, in the good hands of Les King and Terence Smith. For further details telephone 01621 815096, fax 01206 383314, e-mail harc@therange.com, or write to Saddlers, Maypole Road, Tiptree, Essex CO5 0EL.

As I write this, the programme for the Jubilee Historic Arms Meeting is with the printers, typos and all. In it are the new events promised, including those for the transitional 7.62mm. The problem of increased events is the burden on the administration, so where the entry is expected to be low, rather than create a new match, a new award has been added to an existing event. There are, for example, now special awards for highest score for Sniping Rifles concurrent with the prone target matches.

To cut down on the out of season workload, Skilled Shot Certificates must now be obtained by getting a claim card from reception, which must be completed and submitted with the fee before the end of the Meeting.

Lastly, the Jubilee Historic Arms Meeting will end with a practice session and an invitation to anyone on camp to come and meet us and have a go. Tickets will be on sale from 2pm on Sunday 30 June, and shooting will start as soon as spaces become available as matches finish.

See you there!

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F Class Rifle

from Paul Monaghan

F Class Open Day - Easter 2002

It isn't often we can record a 'first', but Easter weekend 2002 saw the first F Class Open Day at Bisley. The idea behind this was to bring the idea of F Class shooting to a wider shooting audience. After all, a large number of shooters in the country own rifles which are suitable for F Class competition. As the notice said "if you own a rifle with a bipod and a telescope sight, you own a F Class rifle".

One of the most common questions is "I have a rifle in .223 or .300 Win Mag or whatever. Will it be suitable?" The answer is almost always "yes". Obviously some calibres will be more competitive than others, but an accurate .308 or the diminutive 6mm Norma BR will be competitive against something like the 6.5/284 in all but strong winds. F Class takes away the shooter's wobble from the equation by allowing the rifle to be rested on a front rest or bipod and a rear sand bag. This means that gun control, trigger technique and wind reading are at a premium. It also means that the standard of shooting is high and improving all the time. Finely tuned hand-loads are essential to keep the grouping ability consistently below half a minute of angle and although any telescope sight will do initially, a high quality 'scope with at least 15 x magnification is really needed to be competitive.

The Open Day was an informal event - ably supported by the Range Office staff - with a target at 600 yards all day. Some of the best UK F Class shooters were in attendance to give advice and encouragement. The weather was not kind to us and Sunday dawned overcast, grey, raining and cold. It didn't get a whole lot better either. Despite this, about a dozen shooters took up the invitation to join us and see how their rifles managed at 600 yards. If you are used to shooting at longer distances, 600 yards is no worry, but if most of your club shooting is on Short Siberia (100 and 200 yards) the difference can be daunting. Most people went away reasonably happy with their results and confident enough to have a go at an F Class competition, which is what it is all about.



Some prefer to use a front rest as Chris Cuthbert demonstrates here.

There are an increasing number of opportunities for competitive F Class shooting. Competitions for TR shooters often include the chance for F Class to shoot alongside - but for their own rewards. A big step forward is the inclusion of F Class in the Phoenix Meeting which provides the perfect opportunity for a first try at competition shooting. Then there is the Imperial Meeting which is a serious test of the F Class shooter and this August there is another 'first'. Canada will be hosting the first F Class World Championships. A number of UK shooters will be travelling to Ottawa for this event. We will shoot the TR competitions as here in the Imperial Meeting, then there is two days of Individual F Class shooting for the World Championship Title. Finally there will be an International Match between Canada, the United States, Germany, South Africa, Australia and Great Britain. This is for teams of eight shooters plus wind coach and will be shot at 700, 800 and 900 metres. The GB squad has been practising hard and if we do not do well it will not be for want of effort.

I know what many of you are thinking - shooting off a bipod/front rest and rear sandbag is too easy. Well come and try it. F Class is a test of your skill and understanding of hand-loading, rifle handling and wind-judging. For some inexplicable reason, it is also huge FUN.



Most shooters use bipods. Here Mik Maksimovic is using a custom-designed one built for him by Peter Medhurst. Calibre is 6.5 / 284 and Mik is doing very well indeed with it.



Mark Lewis trying his .300 Win Mag at 600 yards. Very well it did too.

300 Metres

from Ian Shirra-Gibb

The 300 metres season got off to a good start with the first friendly match in France (Clermont) during mid-March. This resulted in a win for the NRA on both days with Simon Aldhouse putting up the top score of 597 during Saturday's match; equalling the range record, he also achieved the top aggregate score for the weekend. The Commune Trophy was presented to us by the local Senator for match one; the return match is scheduled for Bisley during mid September.

Training and trials have followed throughout April at Bisley for future Europa Cup and World Championships team selection.

The first Grand Prix competition in Europe was held in Tolmezzo in north-eastern Italy at the end of April. The competition was of a very high standard, with only two of our five man team making the prone final, a good result with Graham Hawarth shooting 596 to come fifth and Simon Aldhouse 594 in thirteenth place. The event was dominated by the French shooter Pascal Bessy shooting a perfect 600.

In the Ladies match we had better fortune with the top three all tying on 591, the placings being decided on count back - this gave Mary Pugsley the Bronze.

The circuit now moves on to Sweden, and Switzerland before the World Championships in Finland during July.



Mary receives her medal

NRA 300 Metres Championships

The NRA Championships were held over the weekend 4/5 May, a small but enthusiastic group shot both TR and Free Rifle in cold and tricky conditions which were reflected in the scores.

Prone Free Rifle	1 st	S Aldhouse	588
	2 nd	A Campbell	585
	3 rd	T Hammond	585
Prone Target/Std Rifle	1 st	A Pearse	586
	2 nd	C J Hockley	584
	3 rd	M Pugsley	579
Prone Aggregate	1 st	A Pearse	1165
	2 nd	A Campbell	1160
	3 rd	M Pugsley	1158

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Practical Rifle

from Peter Sarony and Maurice Kanareck

It is extraordinary how time plays tricks with one's memory - take, for instance, a certain generation for whom the phrase "pre-war" instantly triggers a time-scale of only a couple of decades ago . . .

Likewise, the 'new' sport of Practical Rifle. It comes as something of a surprise for people to discover that in this year we celebrate the twenty-third anniversary of its founding.

Even this is somewhat misleading, for the basic principles of practical musketry were already well understood by both the military and civilian riflemen of the nineteenth century. This is readily confirmed by referring to the relevant courses of fire that were available to competitors at the NRA's early meetings, first at Wimbledon and then later at Bisley.

Here one would find competitions comprising run-downs, advancing men, running deer and even courses of fire that involved dismounting from horses before engaging the targetry - all of them highly practical!

The philosophy of Practical Rifle then, as might be inferred from the above, can be summed up in two words:

Fire and Movement

All our practices depend on these conditions. Either the shooter or the target moves at some point in the course of fire.

There are those who would ask why and the simple answer is - a different challenge.

It goes without saying that all the classic elements of target shooting still have to be observed - trigger control, breathing, the ability to read the wind and of paramount importance, safety. (Because participants are frequently engaged in movement every shooter always has an individual Range Officer and it is our proud, though not complacent, claim that to date we have a 100% safety record.)

However, over and above these essential skills, participants also enjoy shooting at all ranges between 100 and 1000 metres, the targets primarily being of the conventional military pattern, namely Figure 11s, 12s, 12as and Figure 14s, many of the practices starting with a crawl or rundown.

There is also the additional challenge of positional shooting, for as well as the conventional prone position, competitors may also be required to engage targets from a fire trench, standing, squatting, kneeling, sitting and, in some practices, firing from the weak shoulder - all familiar stances to those who used to shoot Practical Pistol, but not common among rifle shooters.

Not least there is also the unpredictability of nature in the form of our notoriously fickle climate. Practical Rifle takes place in all conditions, regardless of the weather, and there are many veterans who could

regale one with tales of shoots in two feet of snow or conditions where a harpoon might be a more suitable arm!

Fitness, too, plays its part and while one doesn't have to attain Olympic heights of athleticism, a reasonable standard of health is essential for successful participation.

As for equipment, the starting point is usually a high capacity fullbore magazine rifle. Most practices involve a ten or twenty round course of fire and are timed, so whilst it doesn't preclude a competitor from using any rifle, it does put them at an obvious disadvantage if they don't have a magazine.

However, for those who are just starting, or want to try, there is nothing to stop them using something more modest, and there are always separate categories if they want to shoot in competition, including a classic category.

Sighting systems are primarily telescopic. This is not to say that some competitors don't use iron sights, but after 300 metres a Figure 14 against the stop butt, on a dull afternoon in the rain, is not easy to spot - especially at a certain age . . .

Other accessories might include a stable bipod, spare magazines and pouches, oversize bolt handle, stopwatch, convenient pair of binoculars, and (of course!) appropriate all-weather clothing.

One of the reasons that Practical Rifle has such a low profile is probably because most shoots take place on military ranges and out of sight of most other shooters. Nevertheless, there is the occasional rare sighting of a competition on Stickle-down and Century, not to mention the Annual Services Meeting where civilians now can, and do, once again compete alongside the Army in fully Practical courses over two full and exciting days.

All of this is familiar territory to old hands, but if you haven't yet tried the discipline of Practical Rifle why not come along to one of our practices and give it a try? You would be made most welcome.

The UK Practical Rifle Commission is the controlling body and Peter Sarony, a co-founder of the sport, is our elected member on NRA Council.

Details of participating regional clubs and PR matches, which take place regularly throughout the year (competitors gain automatic entry to the annual PR League), can be found in the Practical Rifle Newsletter (PRNL). The annual subscription for this publication is £6.00, paid directly to the editor:-

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Web site: <http://www.practicalrifle.co.uk/>

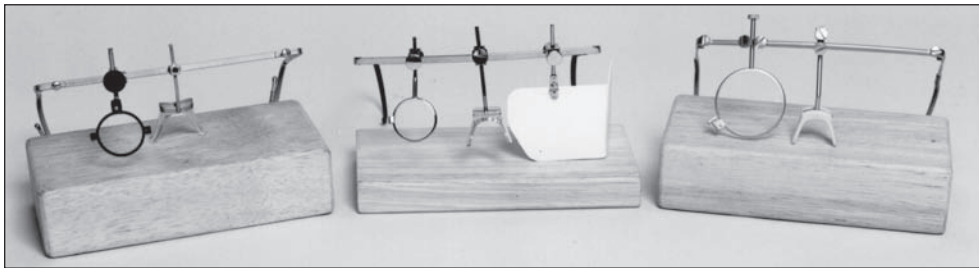
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London and South-East Regional Report

from Chris Law

The region has over 200 clubs on its mailing list and covers all shooting disciplines, including some .22 rimfire only Clubs. A New Year questionnaire to Club Secretaries has brought valuable responses to the following topics.

1) Cost of shooting at Bisley

The wide spectrum of response varies from 'could stand further increase' to an understandable, 'too expensive, likely to dissuade current shooters, and stifle newcomers'. Well, as they say in show business, box-office receipts will demonstrate the point. Of concern is the prospect of losing (prospective) shooters on the grounds of cost, on top of those lost because of restrictive legislations introduced since 1988.

2) Closer association with NSRA and CPSA

Varied reaction; do any administrative savings made from common ground, get offset by mixing our problems with theirs? Is the NRA of America a useful model?

3) Ranges (other than Bisley) in the region

A number of clubs have access to indoor ranges, but any decline in membership increases the costs for those remaining. At least one club has easy access to a French shooting club, enabling them to practice disciplines now denied them in this country. Their good fortune is unlikely to extend to many other regions in the UK at reasonable cost.

4) Attracting new members

Recruiting the next generation of marksmen and women is a serious cause for concern. A startling contrast to a general decline is that of Carshalton Rifle and Pistol Club which can only be described as a shining beacon for potential members. During my visit to them in March this year the indoor range and cosy clubhouse were buzzing with activity. Their clubhouse is open almost every night of the year, and with regular bookings to other longer range facilities, offer their members the widest range of shooting that I have ever encountered. To provide for the safe running of their range, they maintain an extensive cadre of certificated range officers to spread the burden. They have broadened their shooting horizons, and the club secretary says that anything that legally goes 'phut, twang, or bang' is in use. Segregation of distracting equipment to different details maintained harmony in the range. I hope that this Journal will find space for them to share their marketing strategies, and stimulate other clubs recruitment campaigns. The heartening sight of youngsters safely enjoying themselves whilst being properly supervised, took me back a few decades to my early start at Twickenham Rifle Club under the tutillage of Dave Webb et al.

It seems that the success of this Club is down to a mix of hardnosed marketing, active PR, and enthusiasm to succeed in adversity; these qualities would suit

many clubs well, including the NRA, in the bid to reverse declining memberships.

Area heat for the Champion of Champions held Sunday 24 March

Fine conditions on Century range belied a tricky fishtail wind from behind the competitors. One hopes that this will be a gentle introduction to the new season, but a tight schedule on two ranges was nearly ruined by deplorable marking on two of the four targets. The best efforts of range office and target shed count for nought if the response downrange is sub-standard. It brought to mind the ill-fated 2010 project which proposed the idea of electronic target scoring; I suspect that the majority of those on the firing point would have preferred the £22.50p per target markers fee to have been put towards the cost of the reliable (?) TV monitor and printout units found on a number of military ranges. Meanwhile whilst we are reminded that markers are in short supply, the Shooting Committee of Council might consider alternatives to improve the customer satisfaction, before any more members vote with their feet and stay away.

Result:		500x	600x	Total
1st	TP Hammond	71.8	74.9	145.17
2nd	K Ramsey	73.7	72.7	145.14
3rd	P Chance	72.5	73.8	145.13

We wish the winner or his runner-up every success at the final in July.

FORTHCOMING TOURS

NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2003

The National Rifle Association has honoured me with the Captaincy of the team to tour the Channel Islands over the Whitsun Bank Holiday 2003. Charles Brooks has agreed to be my Vice-Captain and Jane Messer my Adjutant.

The provisional tour dates are 22 to 29 May 2003 visiting Guernsey and Jersey.

This is an opportunity for those who have not toured with a representative team to apply, and if successful, gain their first honours. I therefore invite applications from county standard shooters or equivalent from all four home countries. Please make yourself known to me by the end of HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee Imperial Meeting, and/or by leaving a note in the North London RC.

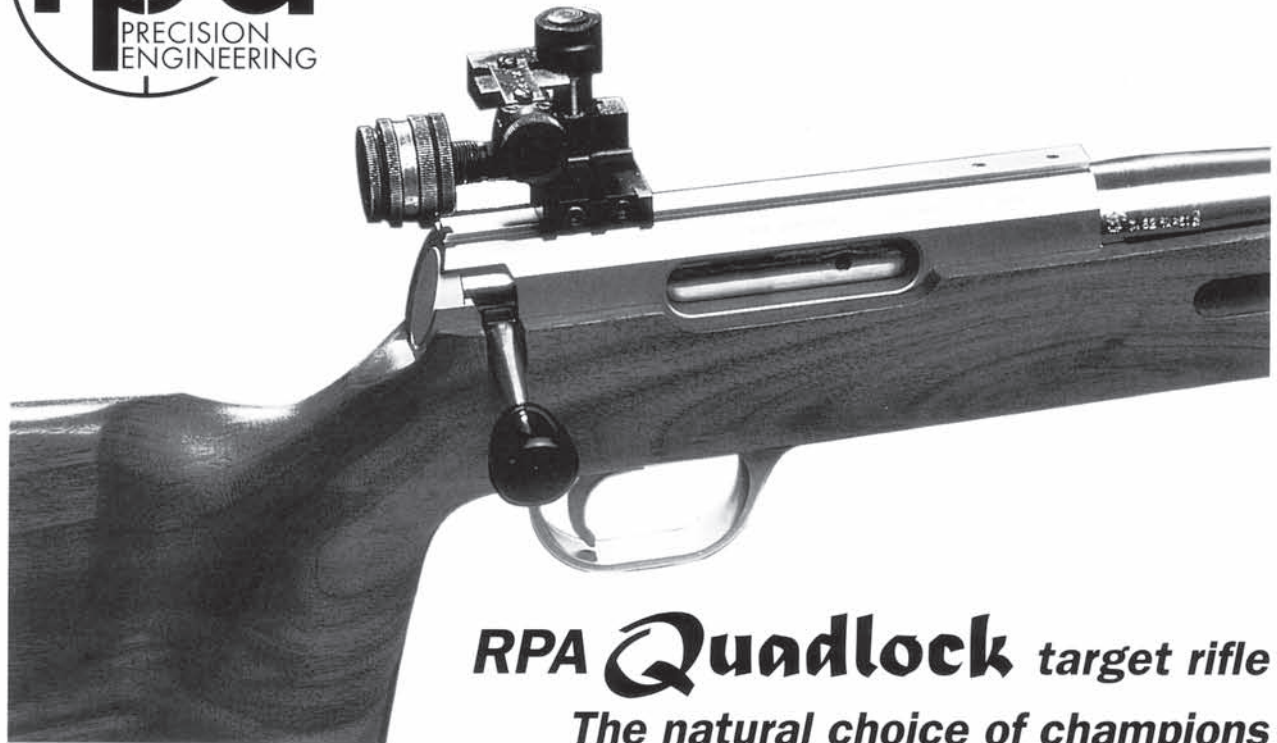
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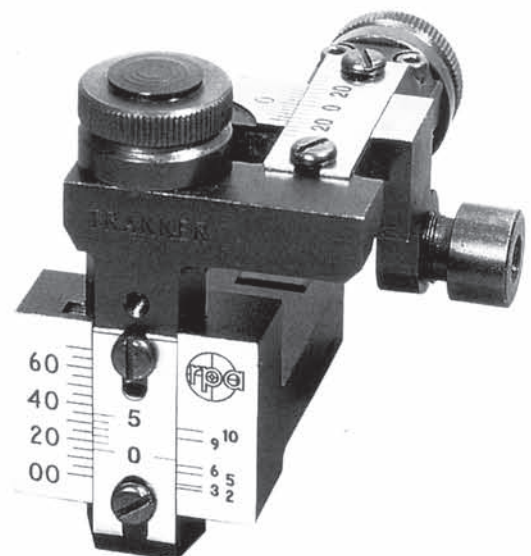
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HOLIDAYING WITH THE MATCH RIFLE

by Colin McEachran

About eighteen months ago I suggested to a number of congenial match rifle shooters that they join me on a trip to New Zealand and Australia to shoot match rifle at the weekends and otherwise to holiday during the month of February.

At the end of the day six shooters, Colin McEachran, Allan Campbell-Smith, Michael Davis, Keith Haskell, Jim Bell and David Friend (the first four accompanied by their wives) set off to New Zealand at the beginning of February 2002. There were three Scots and three English so to promote anonymity and effect interest we called ourselves "Scientes Scopum". The trip was immensely successful and is there to be repeated by other match rifle shooters. We shot on five ranges, four of which are new to UK shooters.

We started in New Zealand where John McLaren, with a small but devoted band of shooters, has been working to establish a new Masterton range in the North Island some 80 miles north of Wellington. The range is set in a long valley between typical knobbly un-treed New Zealand hills. It is in one farmer's property and is carefully fenced so that the cattle and sheep can move about between the 1000 yards firing point and the targets.

Transporting rifles and match rifle ammunition takes much time and many permits. At the end of the day we arrived on the Masterton range with only four rifles and so had to share. We were faced with quite tricky head winds which seemed to bounce off belts of trees. We were also faced with opposition who, without exception, fired F Class and in general with 6.5 calibre. The results did not favour the match rifle and the scores were spread round the match rifle world by John Musso. We were very pleased to take part in the first match at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards in New Zealand involving the match rifle. Keith Haskell was, we believe, the first person ever to adopt the back position there to much local interest and some comment.

We next met in Campbelltown which is near the middle of Tasmania. This range is known to match rifle shooters as the venue of the first GB match rifle team match against Australia. It is also famous for being the range where John de Havilland said he would like to roll up the range and take it home. The locals also narrate that Johnny (sic) de Havilland had fired off a table at 1450 yards and struck the target in the magpie. Jim Freebairn, the Australian captain also struck the magpie. John de H declared Jim the winner of the Captain's Match as his was the prettier magpie!!

About 22 shooters competed over the weekend, and an enjoyable team match took place after lunch on the

Sunday. The 1200 yards was shot before 1100 yards, and resulted in a victory for the Tasmanian team.

Thereafter the group proceeded to the west coast of Tasmania which is wetter and wilder. We shot on outstanding small town ranges at Strahan and Queenstown. Strahan looks out to the sea, it has five targets and unfortunately is only used once or twice a year. It is quite magnificent and could go back to 1200 yards. We only shot at 300, 600 and 900 yards. We had a trial shoot at 1250 yards off the back of a truck. David Friend and Jim Bell both hit the target.

Queenstown is in the middle of a copper producing area where the hills are streaked with the effects of extraction. The shoot involved firing at 600 yards and then 300 yards, where the 600 yards point was 100 feet above the 300 yards point. Other points at 700 and 800 yards had become overgrown. The weather was fine, sunny and bright on the Sunday with little or no wind and the weekend scores were high. Colin with his match rifle scored 300 ex 300 but so did Pederson of Tasmania firing TR.

After more touring in Tasmania, the group set off for mainland Australia or the north island as it is called in Tasmania.

From Melbourne, we proceeded to the very north of Victoria in the Snowy Mountain range and a lovely eight target range at Corryong. Australia has a multitude of small local town ranges but many are in a poor state of repair and neglected. The Corryong range and community have welcomed the interest and involvement of match rifle shooters; new firing positions have been prepared in concrete at 1000, 1100 and 1200 yards. This helps to clear the cattle produce quickly! The weather got warmer and hotter for this weekend and again we had no rain. So concerned were the locals about the effect of the heat on the Brits that they rigged up a special tarpaulin beside a lorry to shade the shooters.

This weekend was the high watermark as far as the group's shooting was concerned. They shot against an Australian Dream Team. The Dream Team, comprising such well known Aussie shooters as Bill MacFarlane, Jim Freebairn and Adrian Abbott fell apart, but needless to say there was a second Aussie team which scooped the pool. There were no sighters and 20 to count at 1200 yards. One highlight was David Friend who started with a miss but ended with ten bullseyes to score 91.

The time of year is perfect for holidaying and it is hoped that other match rifle shooters will follow in our footsteps.



Queenstown Range 600 yards firing point, Tasmania



Campbeltown Range, Tasmania



David Friend and Jim Bell at Masterton Range, New Zealand



The two teams at Masterton, New Zealand

(All photos: Colin McEachran)

DUNGANNON R&PC TOUR THE WEST INDIES

by Robert McVeigh

An invitation traditionally offered in the early hours of the morning by Norris Gomez, for a couple of decades, was eventually honoured when Dungannon Rifle and Pistol Club arrived in Port of Spain, Trinidad last August.

The welcome in the Caribbean Island was one normally reserved for either political leaders, heads of state or criminals. Police outriders accompanied the party on board the team bus and 4x4 vehicles closed roads as the party sped uninterrupted from airport through carnivals to the hotel in the capital. The two fathers of children in the party who generally require a more sedate pace did not take this memorable journey.

This was a family orientated tour, which took the club to Trinidad and Barbados. This was the first tour of any shooting team from Ireland to the Caribbean (excepting the 1966 Commonwealth Games in Kingston, Jamaica) and it was the first overseas tour by Dungannon Rifle and Pistol Club. No place could offer more to attract families than the Caribbean, and there is value for men over thirty-five having families on tour (it also helps to avoid any excess baggage costs). This became apparent at the outdoor carnival as the same two sedated fathers gyrated to the rhythmic strains of "No Woman No Cry". Twenty years since Bob Marley had passed on have flown like his "Three little birds" for too many on tour who jealously wished they too could fit back into tight jeans.

Attempts to walk the mountainous rain forest exposed not only the fitness of the visitors but also the local escorts (supplied courtesy of the local police chief who was responsible for that ceremonial arrival) as they tried to keep pace with an energetic six year old. Water supplies were finished at the top of Mount St Benedict and we had to make use of the ripest mangoes growing there to replenish the lost water. Further tours took the group to Asa Wright Nature Reserve; the swamps to view the scarlet ibis and the team driver Garnett Faulkner even included an unscheduled tour of the bus depot via ten miles of priority bus lane. He used his considerable negotiating skills to avoid punishment.

The President of the West Indies Target Shooting Council, Norris Gomez, changed the pilot cap of his BWIA jumbo jet to that of his yacht and took everyone on a cruise, accompanied by dolphins, to a former leper colony with a beautiful beach where one could view Venezuela. The hospitality on that journey matched anything that could be provided by the airline. It was a shame when the acclimatization programme had to end and the shooters steamed on the picturesque Tucker Valley range while the families continued to survey the delights of Trinidad.

Team Captain Colin Hughes was in inspirational form winning, with a score of 172.21, on a range that was exhibiting its awkward side; only two possibles were scored all day by Hughes and Gomez. Garnett Faulkner was second with 171.19, one point ahead of Trinidad's Carl Awong. Gavin Moffatt on the same score as Awong and Gomez was counted into fifth place on V bulls.

The team match on Sunday involved all five shooters with a course of fire determined by the Gaskin and Jackson postal competition of 15 shots at 300, 7 at 500 and 10 at 600. The Irishmen took a twelve point lead after 300 yards as Trinidad rushed to avoid the rain. Before lunch that Dungannon lead had been reduced to just five points. The lunch break demanded the fullest application of psychology from the tourists' reserves - one point per man advantage for Dungannon still favoured the home team although the locals were admitting conditions were unusual. A 49 followed by two possibles in the angling wind sealed the fate of the match. Neil Anderson was top score with 156.21 ahead of Robert McVeigh four V bulls behind. Trinidad's top men were John Fong Yew on 154.17 and Awong two V bulls behind.

At the prize giving dinner in the Pistol Complex, cooked by John Fong Yew with additional catering by Leslie Chung, the Dungannon team presented Trinidad with an engraved Tyrone Crystal bowl and St Brendan's Irish Cream Liquor. The former is one of the products manufactured in the County Tyrone town of 8000 people, which is home to many other famous sportsmen including golfer Darren Clarke, snooker's Dennis Taylor and the current Irish rugby champions. The liquor is linked to the Dairy Product Packers company and made in the west of Northern Ireland with Bushmills whiskey.

The layout of this small-bore rifle and pistol range complex interested the men from Dungannon as they are about to build a similar facility outside the Tyrone town with the support of the Lottery Fund.

The organisation of Trinidad Rifle Association impressed the Irishmen. In every department there are skilled personnel who seem to enjoy their work, and their office in the centre of Port of Spain is a welcoming place.

It was on to Barbados on Monday. Once again the reception party made entry to the country easy but in a less dramatic way than Trinidad. The accommodation at Blythewood apartments on the South coast was perfect for the needs of the party. The beach was ideal for rest and relaxation and those suffering withdrawal symptoms from computer communication had an Internet café across the Bridgetown Road behind the accommodation. On

Thursday weather conditions changed just as a planned tour of the Mount Gay Rum factory was about to begin. The factory workers were scurrying around with sheets of plywood in preparation for Hurricane Chantal, shops closed immediately and the group were fortunate to find a supermarket willing to supply food and adult anti-panic liquids.

Saturday's match looked in danger of cancellation as the palm trees quivered and the waves lashed up the beach. The weather forecast predicted devastation for part of the island. Fortunately in the morning the eye of the storm changed course enough to be predicted to pass the island but the palm trees still swayed and we abandoned Fridays practice to protect targets. Paragon Range runs parallel to the airport on one side and is elevated above the sea on the other side and has sea beyond the butts - just perfect for a good blast at 1000 yards.

On this occasion sense prevailed and it was decided on Saturday morning to hold an individual match at 300 and 600 yards. The opening range proved that Chantal had not quite disappeared with rifles buffeted and flags unreadable. Barbados is in a team-rebuilding phase and Captain Bill King did not need these conditions. McVeigh with a 47.6 ex 50 was two points ahead of the field at 300 yards and no one else on the range exceeded three V bulls. The afternoon changed to more steady conditions with strong sunshine and the match increased to 15 shots. Anderson impressed with a 70.4 in the first detail and despite the improving conditions this remained the top score. McVeigh with a 68.5 accumulated the same score as Anderson but came out ahead on V bulls.

Sunday was a better day and the team match went ahead at 900 and 1000 yards. While there were doubts about the ability of the Hansen ammunition to group tightly, the Tyrone boys were scoring consistently at 900 yards and no one was calling for the several metre long Harp super gun on the site to be recommissioned to shoot 1000 yards. Once again it was Anderson who top scored on the range with 142.13 to give the Dungannon team a well-deserved victory. This was a match Barbados needed but they certainly did not need these conditions.

The Blythewood beach was to throw up a further welcome surprise. As the boys analysed the tour on the balcony - what else would males do on a balcony after midnight - a turtle appeared on the beach to lay eggs. Several hours were spent with families watching this dramatic event which concluded with the sixty year old mother returning to the Atlantic.

It was a fantastic trip and we should like to thank Norris Gomez and the Trinidad Rifle Association for the invitation and to Jerome Lee and Bill King who made it all happen.

Results

Match v Trinidad

Name	300	500	600	Total
Neil Anderson	73.10	34.4	49.7	156.21
Robert McVeigh	72.7	34.3	50.7	156.17
Garnett Faulkner	72.10	33.3	50.4	155.17
Gavin Moffatt	73.5	32.3	47.4	152.12
Colin Hughes	71.7	32.2	49.1	152.10

Dungannon R&PC **Total 771.77**

Trinidad 'A' **Total 760.78**

Trinidad 'B' **Total 729.50**

Match v Barbados (900 and 1000 yards)

Name	Total
Neil Anderson	142.13
Robert McVeigh	139.10
Garnett Faulkner	138.12
Gavin Moffatt	136.11
Colin Hughes	135.09

Dungannon R&PC **Total 690.55**

Barbados **Total 634.29**



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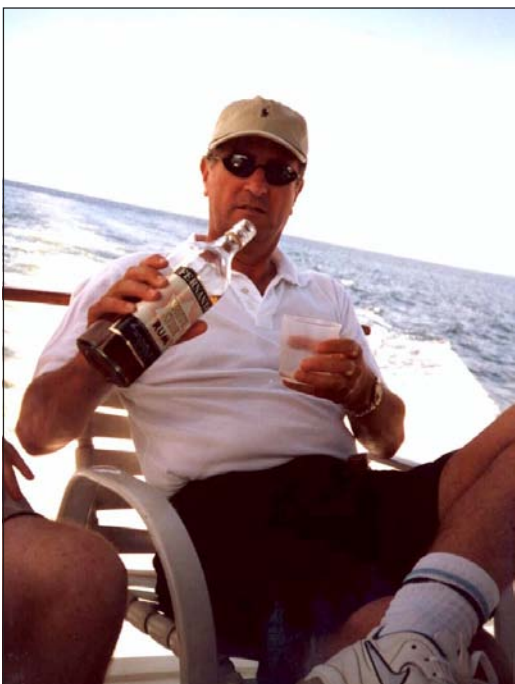
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Dungannon team - Tucker Valley, Trinidad



Another possible Garnett



Yachting - Gomez style

(All photos: Neil Anderson)



Individual match - Barbados



Looks like two minutes left from here . . .

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Elev	15.5	14.5	14.5	14.0	14.0	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25
Call	ok	LR	ok	7	ok	ok	L	LL	7	ok	7
Value	4	V	C	V	4	V	4	V	5	4	4

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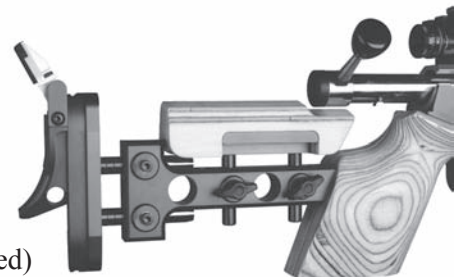
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The Secretary
English Twenty Club
Bisley Camp
Brookwood, Woking, GU24 0PB
E-mail: johnd.saunders@ntlworld.com

or visit the English Twenty Clubhouse during the Meeting.

The Irish Rifle Club (Bisley)

Ireland - North and South

An Irishman with a rifle you say? Must be dangerous. Well for us at the Irish Rifle Club (Bisley) we like to think so! The other Home Countries are beginning to appreciate that we are in fact making inroads into the prize lists hitherto reserved, but not exclusively, for the English, Welsh and Scots.



The rules for eligibility to shoot for Ireland were written before partition and as in Rugby (*now there's a team and a half*) so you qualify in the same way as the English or Scots or Welsh, but you can come from either side of the border! We have shooters from the South, but regrettably not enough fullbore men and women, primarily because Firearm Certificates are almost impossible to get there for our calibres (7.62mm and 5.56mm). But if you live on the mainland here, you can still qualify through the normal rules, and we would dearly love to see more people join us.

The Irish Rifle Club (Bisley) was formed primarily to organise selection of teams for the big team matches during the Imperial Meeting and to promote Irish

Target Rifle Shooting, and still does, as well as organising many events at Bisley. There is a large and successful Match Rifle section and an up and coming F Class contingent as well.

In Northern Ireland, three main Clubs control Fullbore Rifle Shooting - Comber Rifle Club, the Ulster Rifle Association, and Dungannon Rifle Club. Dungannon may be the smallest but has produced a County Tyrone Inter-Counties team for every year the match has been held. Ulster are the other Northern Ireland team to compete regularly; it comprises those eligible to shoot for the remaining five northern counties. The URA are the oldest, but with a fantastic history dating back to 1860, whilst Comber are the largest club in the province, catering for all shooting disciplines.

In the last ten years the Irish Rifle Club (Bisley) has run successful tours to Canada and South Africa as well as competing regularly around the UK. There is an annual match against the L&MRA which is held alternately at Bisley and Ballykinler in Northern Ireland. We are also involved in a number of fixtures on the mainland calendar such as the L&M League (three separate days of shooting over three months); fourteen other clubs compete but you get one guess who the current title holders of Division One are! We have a regular Long Range and Short Range Match against the other Home Countries and the Royal Air Force, a one day against the Home Countries and Regular Army, practice days and of course the Elcho, National, Mackinnon, and Home Countries teams versus the Combined Services during the Imperial Meeting. On top of that the Northern Ireland Clubs have their own meetings - notably the Irish Open in May and Northern Ireland Championships in August - both at Ballykinler in Co Down at the foot of the Mourne Mountains. Don't forget the Old Schools either: Belfast Royal Academy, Dungannon Royal School, Campbell College, University Rifle Clubs, Army Cadet Units - all come to compete at the greatest shooting facility in the world. We want more people interested in carrying forward a great tradition of Irish history. We currently have Queen's Prize winners, Commonwealth Games Gold Medal winners, numerous Great Britain Caps at all levels - Athelings (Schoolboys), Under 25s, full Caps and even Captains.

If you are interested in shooting for Ireland, or Irish Counties, or just at club level as a tyro (beginner) you'll be more than welcome. There is however a slightly addictive aspect you should be aware of. The craic! And if you don't know what that means, come and find out!

For more details contact the Long Range Captain Richard Bailie on 01737 242082 or the Match Secretary Karen Robertson (*contact details on page 1*) or come and find us in the L&MRA Cluhouse during the Meeting.

The Scottish Rifle Association

The Scottish Rifle Association, incorporating the former Scottish Rifle Association and the Scottish XX Club, is the governing body for fullbore target rifle shooting in Scotland. It is affiliated to the National Rifle Association and has responsibility for the selection of teams representing Scotland in international fullbore matches at home and abroad. A squad system and teams selection process are overseen by the Captain who is elected to serve for a three-year term. Directly or through delegation to organising clubs or regional associations, the SRA runs or patronises the following annual competitions in Scotland:

- the West of Scotland Open Meeting,
- the Pentagonal Match
- the Brock Shield Match for Schools
- the Scottish Championships Open Meeting
- the Scottish Long Range Open Championships
- the Tayside Open Meeting
- the Finlux Trophy Match
- the Inverness-shire Open Meeting
- the East of Scotland Open Meeting

The SRA also runs coaching courses for its affiliated club individual members and for Schools and Cadets. Courses providing Range Conducting Officer qualifications are organised as and when necessary to maintain the supply of qualified RCOs at a level more than sufficient to meet clubs' needs. On the team-shooting front, as well as the Home International Matches, a number of annual events are held at Bisley. These include shoots against the RAFTRC, the ATSC and L&MRA. Major foreign tours are organised roughly every four years.

The Association is administered by an elected Council to which representatives are also sent by each of the six Scottish regions recognised by the National Rifle Association. Usually Scotland's shooting schools and universities are also invited to send representatives to Council meetings and, recently, a representative of the new F Class discipline, for which the SRA has agreed to assume oversight in Scotland, has been appointed. All personnel involved in running the affairs of the Association are volunteers.

Membership of the Association comprises individuals together with affiliated clubs, regional associations, University Rifle Clubs, Schools and Open Units of the Cadet Forces in Scotland. The cost of annual individual membership is £20.00 for ordinary members and £10.00 for schools and universities students.

At Bisley, during the Imperial Meeting, the Association hosts an annual barbecue, scheduled this year for Monday 8 July at the HAC, at which all - Scots and



friendly others - are welcome . . . on payment of the £10.00 entry fee! A Scottish score board will be available, probably in the front porch of the L&MRA, on which all eligible to shoot for Scotland are invited to post their scores throughout the Meeting. Eligible individuals who have not previously represented Scotland but who do wish to be considered for future selection are requested to indicate their eligibility on the Imperial Meeting entry form so that their scores will be included on print-outs supplied by Stats to help the Captain with the selection of teams for the National, Combined Services and Mackinnon Matches.

Do come and make yourself known to us. The Captain can be found on Caravan Site 2, Pitch DD3, easily identifiable by the presence of two brown Newfoundland dogs, Grunig and Mishka, who assist with secretarial duties. Kilts are optional, honest - though if Samuel L Jackson can get away with wearing one, probably anyone can!

Allan Mabon

Captain & Hon Sec SRA

E-mail: Maboonscotland@aol.com



The Welsh Rifle Association

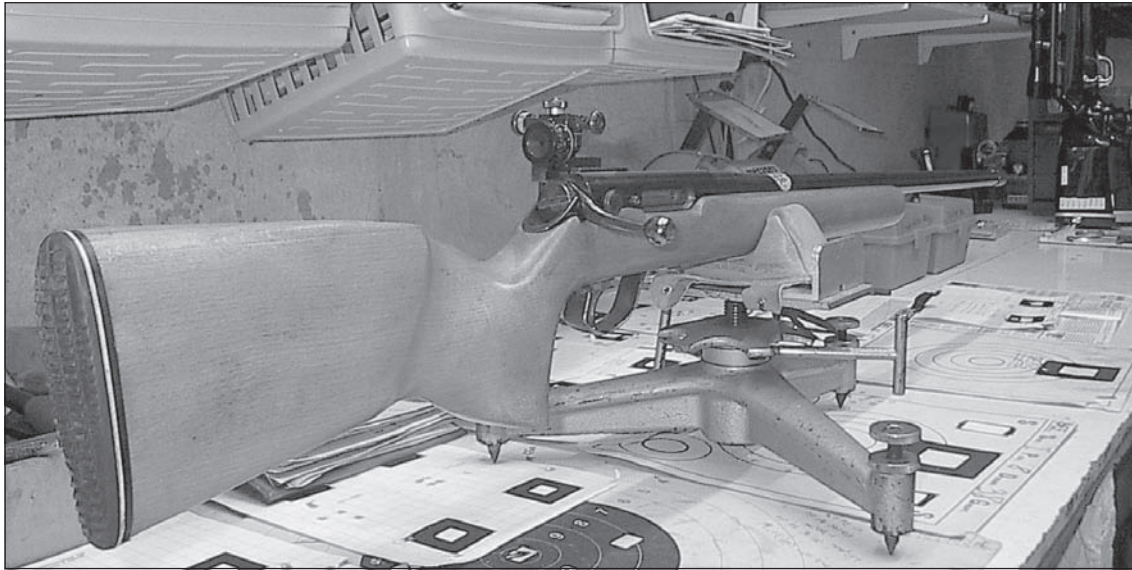
The WRA is the Governing Body for Welsh fullbore rifle shooting and incorporates the Welsh XX Club, with its quaint but perfectly formed little home in the opposite corner of the block to Fulton's shop. Our small but homely clubhouse has a few facilities: fridge, kettle and microwave. During the Imperial we welcome anyone who is qualified for Wales to drop in and discuss the advantages of shooting for Wales. We cannot promise always to have welsh cakes on offer but there's usually someone to commiserate with if you've had a bad day. What's more you might find it worth talking about the forthcoming Welsh tour to South Africa in April 2003, the plans and support we hope to get for the tour from the Welsh Target Shooting Federation and your aspirations to shoot for your country.

Meet the Captain Dion O'Leary, or any of our members and leave your name and address for the Secretary Chris Hockley. We are particularly keen to attract new younger members to our thriving and well supported Junior squad; look out for Lou Lou Brister, Tom Walters or Gaby O'Leary. We will only charge you a very small amount, barely enough to cover the cost of your badge when you first represent your country.

Or write to Chris Hockley, WRA Secretary at 2 Medlar Rd, Shrivenham, Swindon, SN6 8HB.

THE SWING SIN71 RIFLE PROTOTYPE

by Laurie Ingram

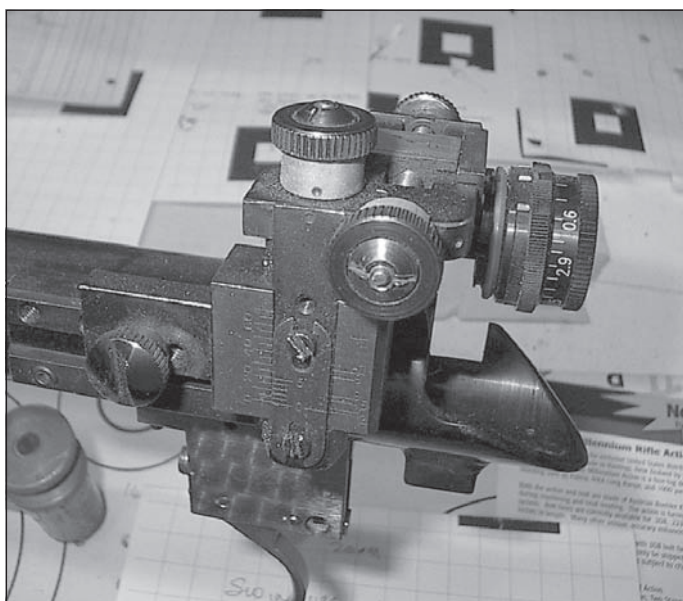


SWING N° 00 (prototype)

My recently reacquired SWING prototype target rifle number 00, which will be on view in the NRA Museum during this year's Imperial Meeting, is much as it appeared when it first saw the light of day early in 1971.

A brief recapitulation of the birth

It was during the cold winter of 1970, on a Sunday evening sitting in Doc Clarke's hut at Bisley Camp, that George Swenson suggested we consider the design of a single-shot rifle action to meet the requirements for the NRA target rifle specifications. We had both felt for some time that the existing Mauser 1898, Enfield No 4 and other military based actions - although perfectible - were less than able to exploit the maximum from the excellent Raufoss 144 grains 7.62 NATO cartridge (not to mention hand loaded ammunition) at that time being allowed for



Original Wilkes model 69 rearsight – aka *Swenson*

certain fullbore NRA competitions - the City Rifle Club Easter Meeting being a case in point.

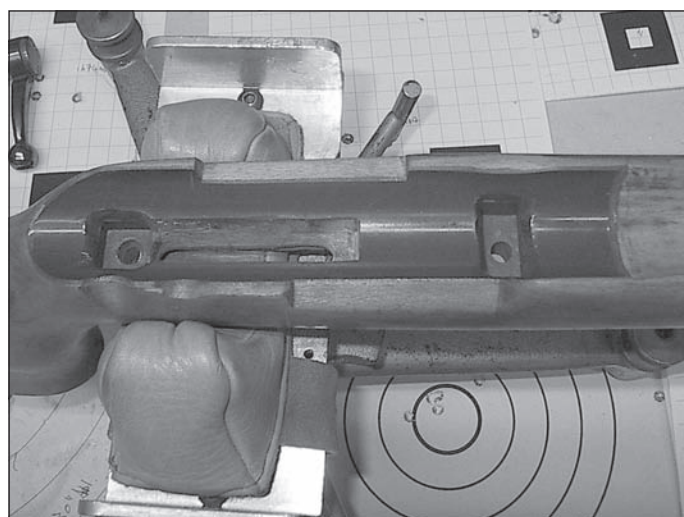
This project was further discussed between us during the following months, and many sketches were made by George, then drawn up by myself and subsequently modified, before an approach was made by George to Churwick Engineering (now RPA Precision Engineering of Tonbridge). At this time George was with the London Gunmaker, John Wilkes of Beak Street, W1. It was whilst with them that George commissioned Churwick Engineering to manufacture on the Wilkes brothers behalf, the Universal rear sight (1969), and match trigger for the Mauser 1898 rifle action - a copy of the Finnish Mantari device. George had personally acquired the UK concession for Schultz and Larsen products, having known the brothers Larsen for some years. It was in fact the sales resulting from the excellence of this firm's cut-rifled barrels, and their capability to extract maximum accuracy from sometimes very indifferent Radway Green government 7.62 NATO ammunition - due entirely to the research carried out mainly by George and myself but with help from Wally Middleton (then director of Radway Green) between 1968 and 1970 - that financed the launch of the SWING Rifle.

Early in 1971 we commissioned Churwick Engineering to fabricate the prototype SWING rifle action (the name being derived from SWenson and INGram). This was essentially a receiver fabricated from solid round stock in EN24 nickel steel diameter 1.36", with four forward symmetrically disposed locking lug recesses, and threaded for barrel attachment in Acme form thread, as this was already available for Schultz and Larsen barrels (P14/P17) and offered a larger reinforce diameter and thread area than that of the '98 Mauser specification. Forward and rear recoil lugs

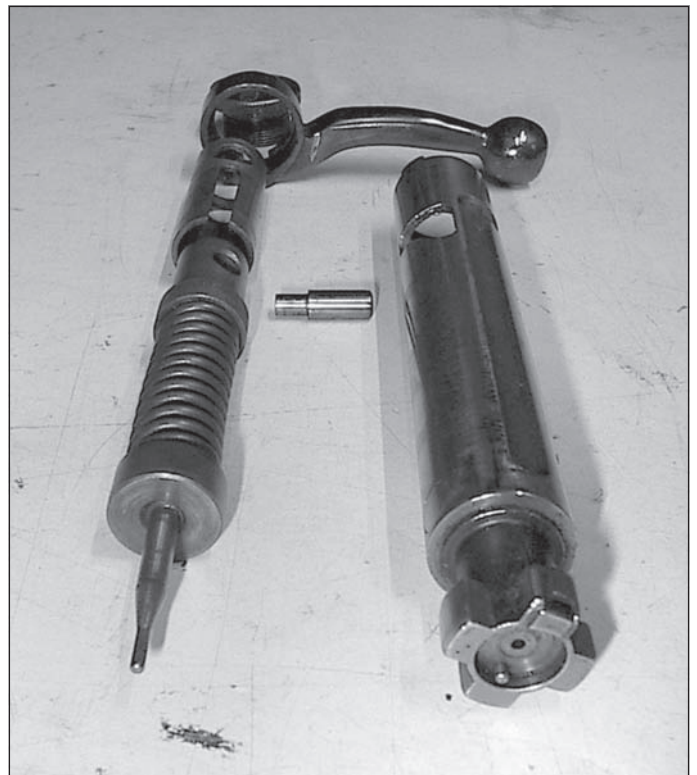
were welded to the underside of the circular section receiver; the Wilkes match trigger and Universal rear sight were used, these being of excellent quality and available at reasonable cost. The completed receiver was heat treated to 43 degrees Rockwell C. The bolthead was also machined from EN24 and fitted by cross-pinning to the case-hardened steel bolt body, with a separately fabricated bolt handle. A very short-travel firing pin assembly was employed, fitting inside the hollow bolt, and including an extremely strong spring (later - 1988 - a two piece duralumin-alloy steel, with a lock time of 1.24 milliseconds was used). Belleville washers were tried initially, but the idea was discarded as it was very little faster - 1% - and not 'production friendly'. The rear of the bolt body was closed by a threaded cap, thus compressing the firing pin spring, trapping the bolt handle, and at the same time offering gas escape protection to the user. A sliding extractor completed the composite bolt mechanism.

George used the rifle during the 1971 season at Bisley, culminating in the summer Imperial Meeting, equipped with an in-house conceived slow twist Schultz and Larsen barrel, where he achieved overall scores giving him 11th position in the Target Rifle Grand Aggregate to my best recollection (out of some 1200 entrants).

From that moment on, commercial success for the SWING seemed assured. We produced around 80 in 1972, and we were unable to satisfy demand. These were stocked either by myself, or George Arnold, (who owned one of the first, and was a later Queen's Prize winner with the rifle). The company SWING Firearms Ltd was registered the same year. Until the end of 1978, when I passed on my interest in the company to George Swenson, the SWING Rifle model Sin71 continued in production in various calibres, but mainly 7.62 NATO; many barrelled actions were also produced for Match Rifle use in 10 or 12 inch twist, and normal .308 Winchester lead.



SWING (prototype) bedding in stock



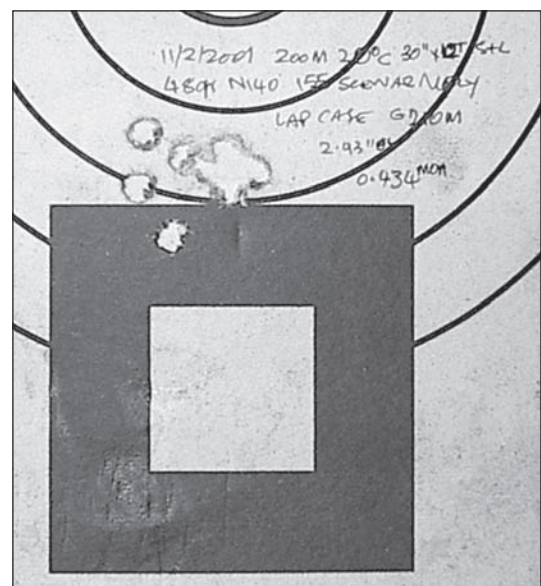
Bolt assembly (prototype)

In 1980, John de Havilland commissioned the first SWING back position match rifle - N 700 - which was stocked by Colin Moon. The owner then proceeded to win the Hopton five times, with three second places in eight consecutive years, together with the then record scores of 217 in the Albert and 218 in the Elcho Match, both in 1982.

Well over 2000 SWINGs and Paramounts, as well as many more RPA, CG and Millennium siblings bear proof of the excellence of conception of this now legendary rifle action.

Bravo George!

© Laurie Ingram
Bagnols en Foret 2002



Recent 200 metre 10 shot group 0.435MOA

MICK GAULT

talking with Tony de Launay



A pistol shooter on the pages of a rifleman's journal? Well why not when that person has achieved something that has been described by a match rifle expert as "the greatest feat in shooting history". Mick Gault had just returned from his first warm up practice for the approaching Manchester Standard, Air and Free Pistol Commonwealth Games events when I finally managed to pin him down after a hard day at the office.

Where had he been? The answer was only too indicative of the additional pressures thrust on UK citizens who are trying to compete successfully in serious pistol shooting world wide. "I have just returned from Switzerland, where I was re-acquainting myself with the cartridge guns in preparation for the Manchester Games at Bisley" was the laconic reply. As with all those who found their sport snatched away from them there is a sense of frustration and historical anger in that response. He knows that he just has to get on with it, but clearly it does add to the pressures. Being on home ranges in July will hold no particular advantage for those who are committed to representing the home nations, but who are almost foreigners in their own land.

What was that shooting feat? "I have won five gold medals in two successive Commonwealth Games, the first being the gold in the Individual Free Pistol event at Victoria in 1994, and the other four at Kuala Lumpur in 1998. The four were individual and team golds in the Free Pistol and Air Pistol - with my great friend and rival Nick Baxter. We were having a relaxing

dinner at the end of the competitions and it was John de Havilland who was kind enough to make the comment".

It was not until he was mounting the rostrum in Kuala Lumpur to collect his Free Pistol medal did it sink home that he had successfully defended one of the most difficult shooting titles. It gave him his most treasured moment, eclipsing even the days that followed in which he brought the tally to five. For the record, in the Victoria Games he also won a bronze for the Free Pistol Pairs with Paul Leatherdale and silver in the Individual Standard Pistol. His list of British records held is impressive: Centre Fire, Free Pistol 70 shot Olympic Final, Air Pistol 60 shot Final and 70 shots Olympic Final, CSFC Free and Air, and CG Free and Air.

"We struggle to gain good publicity for our sport and it takes a gold medal to get the right attention. That is why it is so important for British shooters to succeed". He started the rapid progress to the top levels of pistol shooting at the relatively late age of his mid thirties, although his first contact with the sport came as a member of the Air Cadets using their rifles. "I remember in the early years going to shoot down in Cardiff, full of hope and ambition. Some chap turned up wearing a pair of crusty old moccasins with his pistol in a plastic bag, and his pellets in a rusty tin. He proceeded to wipe the floor with me!" That person was none other than Geoff Robinson, one time World Air Pistol Champion, and a mutual friend.

After an early career in the RAF as a radar electronics engineer ("I topped out at the dizzy heights of Sergeant in the natural progression to old age"), he is now a civilian test equipment controller. This means he is responsible for ensuring that the electronics kit does what the RAF pilots think it ought to do. Living in Norfolk, he coaches at the Norwich Pistol Club. He also coaches the Eastern Region Pistol Squad.

He likes the NSRA developments at Bisley. "We have superb new world-class facilities down at the new Lord Roberts Centre. It was right to name the rifle range in memory of Malcolm Cooper, but the upstairs needs a spark of the same imagination to replace the Hall 1 and Hall 2 labels. We also need to realise that the Commonwealth Games will not be the last event of stature. I would hope before long to see a World Cup event there, or the Nordics, to cement the status of the centre. Inevitably the decision making-process takes time in all governing bodies, so I see this as a matter of some priority".

The sport involves his family. His son Robin is showing major talent and he and Mick have now held the British Junior and Senior air pistol titles for the last two years. "I assist Robin in his preparation, but

he also has help from Tom Redhead our National Coach. We do not have the finances to send him off to train with the Junior Squad, so he has learned a lot from being around the Seniors - whom he joins next year". Janet, his wife, is Mick's personal coach. At the time when most readers will be settling down to the latest cultural delights of Eastenders or Coronation Street, Mick and Janet will be repairing to the garden shed (his self built air pistol range). There she will do the essential timing and monitoring as part of his training process, honing the shooting routine and rhythm. "To compete successfully in an Olympic final, where the event is stage managed shot by shot, requires a particular concentration so that you do not put yourself under time pressure".

This prompts some thoughts on where the sport is going. "There are not enough youngsters coming through even in the air gun disciplines where so much can be done indoors. If you look at the TV abroad they make a good job of creating some excitement in their broadcasts. We can use the technology to show the finalists head to head, shot for shot, where the shot is on the target and the scores cumulatively as the final progresses. But if we want to do it here we have to borrow the equipment - and then find your broadcaster . . . ! We managed to get a full page in our own NSRA Journal but we remain the poor relations compared to the rifle coverage!"

The tone is one of semi-humorous exasperation. The point he makes is a real one, well made. If potential participants cannot see the advantages and the personal satisfaction they are less likely to wish to be involved. Marketing of the shooting sports is perhaps one area missing from the central approach.

Back to the immediate future and this year's Games - what are the prospects? "It looks as though I may be heading for three disciplines - Air, Standard and Free Pistol. Final selections have not yet been made but the others in the frame seem to be Nick Baxter, Frank Wyatt, Russell Young and Les Pearson for one or more of the disciplines. Nothing is finalised yet". The expectations of those around him increase the pressure. "Can I repeat the success? That is almost an unfair question, because whatever happens you have to accept that there are a crowd of other shooters who will be going for gold with equal determination".

Any shooter will say that we can bring our own skills and to some extent make our own luck, but the margins are so tight at the top that the difference between success and failure is miniscule. It will not be for the want of trying. "Whatever happens, I will do the best I can for my country". With a record like his over the last two Games, that is an entirely believable and honest statement.

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CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH TO THE SPRING GENERAL MEETING

23 MARCH 2002

by John Jackman, Chairman of Council

I shall start where I left off in my Statement with the accounts for the year ended 30 September 2001 by offering my particular thanks to your Council's Committee chairmen and senior staff. A number of members have, entirely understandably, sought that heads should roll following the appalling revenue losses of recent years and the overspend on capital account.

As I have been recently reminded by representatives of the Charity Commission, much relies on voluntary support. Our committee chairmen and managers have provided me with wholehearted support in the changes of style and method I have introduced since last October and progress has been more rapid than would have been the case if there had been many changes, unnecessarily, following the departure of the previous chairman and treasurer.

My particular thanks go to Robert Stafford for the exceptional time and work he has put in. After 12 years he is not seeking re-election this summer, but I know he will be there to provide background advice and practical help after he steps down at the end of July. My thanks also to Colin Cheshire who has, from day one, supported change and accepted the radical alterations for the transition in his role now needed.

What are these changes? Firstly, please do not expect perfection, but be ready to encourage rather than be negative in criticism and recognise that change takes time.

I set the changes out in two papers which were subsequently approved by Council. I am proposing to put an edited version on our web site. Communication is one of my key themes. Easily said, more difficult to exercise owing to time and cost, but I am determined that the NRA should gradually improve communication to members and Public Relations generally. Fortunately, modern electronic techniques increase the opportunities and those who have internet and are interested should visit our web site. I thank Phyllis Farnan, in particular, and various volunteers who are helping to build up a useful site. Please be patient, it will need time.

I shall summarise the various points from the Blue Print.

My Role as Chairman

I shall not have an executive role. Heading up Council I shall initiate, lead to ensure progress and be there as counsel to those who are executing the functions. I shall, however, be concerned in high level negotiations with regulating bodies, sports bodies, major contracting



parties, and matters that affect the reputation of the NRA, for example.

Style

I shall insist on openness of style in our dealings and positive, direct, addressing of issues.

Culture

We represent many different disciplines. We must do all we can to unite and benefit from common ultimate purpose. We must engender a better mutual understanding of each others' point of view, whatever our own discipline. Proportional fairness in the allocation of resource must be a

key objective. We must increasingly be seen to be customer focussed, but shooters first.

Decision Making

Time is precious, particularly for volunteer members of Council and Committees. The committees are essentially the boards of directors for each area of activity. By clear terms of reference, empowerment, allocation of tasks, using modern techniques for communications and decisions, and ensuring that Council and Committees have proper notice of matters for decisions, the burden can be shared efficiently, time taken minimised and be more fulfilling for those who participate. No important policy decision will by-pass the Committee/Council decision making process and members will be kept informed.

Supervision

Our managers and staff are vital. They must be able to get on with their job with clear terms of reference, an agreed policy and budget. They must also be directly responsible to their committees who, in turn, are accountable to Council and ultimately to you as members.

Conflicts of Interest

To be rigorously avoided - there is now a register of interests of members of Council.

Budgetary Control

I have already referred in the Trustees, that is Council's, report to the adopted policy of working towards achieving a revenue surplus annually from the NRA/NSC combined. There is nothing peculiar about this because it is generally recognised that every enterprise needs to operate with a revenue surplus over time.

Over the last five years the NRA has incurred operational revenue losses of over £1m and I emphasise that this is from our ordinary day-to-day activities. This arises from many factors, but simply comes down to a basic failure to achieve enough income, including through pricing, but particularly by a failure to control and match costs.

It gives a lie to all the blame falling on the Commonwealth Games and the Clay Target range, in particular. An overspend on capital broadly makes up the difference between our net current assets of £300,000 five years ago compared with net current liabilities of £1.6m last September.

The emphasis is on strict budgetary control in which our finance manager Michael Blythe now has an enhanced role, reporting direct to our Finance and General Purposes Committee Chairman.

We are working to a budget revenue surplus in the current year of some £100,000 with a target of over £200,000 for 2003 which will include profits from the Clay Target range managed so ably by Sarah Bunch. We shall need surpluses of this order to ensure that we can service and repay our debt.

On the top of the revenue plan there is a pro-active plan for capital development expenditure against identified priorities, of which improved access to Century Range should be one. Capital will be realised from sale of leases, where possible and appropriate. In addition, exceptional expenditure items will be contained so far as practical.

Compliance

I shall refer to this again later but we will, in essence, have an independent Treasurer with high level experience of financial management and constitutional control to oversee our procedures and with, say, two supporters to form an audit and scrutiny committee.

The above are the key points and I should now like to move on to the current state of our finances.

Sport England

Those of you who have had experience of seeking government grants will know that there is a cardinal rule that what is not agreed in writing before expenditure is incurred cannot be grant aided even if it would otherwise qualify. With thanks to my colleagues, a dialogue with Sport England was re-opened last summer. In spite of a very critical report from Grant Thornton (Sport England's accountants) we have been able to demonstrate by the Blue Print that I have summarised, that we now have matters under control. Thereafter by the good work of, particularly, David Hossack and Michael Blythe, we have managed to negotiate a further grant towards the overrun of capital expenditure on the project, of up to £238,000. A cheque for £180,000 is on its way with a further £58,000 which we hope and expect will follow from proof of further qualifying expenditure.

Under the Lottery Fund Agreement, all public acknowledgement and credit for the International Clay Target Range and improvement to the Melville Pistol Range must rest with the Lottery Fund and Sport England. However, Sport England, as a further concession, have agreed to relax their rule so that other sponsorship or gifts for the later improvement of these facilities after the Games, or in the name of these facilities and assets, can be recognised by the names of donors. We hope to take advantage of this concession in encouraging donations and sponsorship.

The Bank

Firstly, I can tell you that our cash management is under control and our borrowings are further reduced and reducing to a level of less than £1.6m - so, we are making progress. Our negotiations with our bankers continue as we seek to gain their confidence to provide us with a ten-year loan facility at a lower rate of interest than the current 2¼% above base, with no penalties for early repayment, and a contingency standby. I am hoping that this gradual approach to negotiation will prove advantageous in the end in the terms and conditions available and give us manoeuvring room over the ensuing years.

I am sure that you realise that Council and I are very aware of the burden of the current 10% surcharge. A surcharge is hardly conducive to encouraging customer support. But for the sake of the long-term, I hope that our members and other shooters will bear this on-cost until it can be reduced as the borrowings are reduced.

I hope that everyone will also recognise that both Council and I recognise that there are other inconveniences - on the ranges, sometimes reverse echelon shooting on Century, lack of access to the far end, loss of 200 yards facilities, plus changes to the club affiliation and membership structure although I hope we are moving towards advantaging clubs who have a greater number of NRA direct members. However, we have had 120 new members join us already this year, and the Membership Committee is actively seeking ways to encourage more.

Currently available answers to these issues are not wholly adequate, but the committee and staff are seeking to address these points and other matters and to provide answers to members' concerns by occasional updating of a new section on our web site. I know that the web site is not available to all, but we shall do our best to communicate, as I have said.

Appeals

Last summer Council proposed that Appeals would be a source of funds to repay our debt. Not so long ago I headed a major appeal aimed at raising over £1m. It proved very successful and I learned lessons from that experience so that I was able to provide Council with a paper on the subject of Appeals last November.

I have been made aware that a number of members have said that they would like to support an appeal. I would hate to discourage them. Every £1 of donation benefits the NRA by £1.28, and for those lucky enough to pay higher rate tax, their net cost is 77p in the £1. Donations are welcome now more than ever. However, I have supported Council's current view that a general appeal is premature until greater confidence is achieved and that we are seen to have addressed the underlying problems especially costs control. If you think we are wrong, in delaying an appeal, could you please raise your hands now and I shall revert to it after this statement (*no-one commented*).

That said, Council agrees with me that major donations or sponsorship should be sought with tangible

recognition being given including the naming of assets, where deemed appropriate, and I hope this will be generally accepted.

Another way that help can be given is by the making of interest free loans. While this does not reduce our borrowings, per se, and the loan has to be repaid, the saving of interest will help our revenue needs. Very recently, I have been offered a significant sum by way of interest free loan from a member who wishes to remain anonymous.

The Bisley Ltd Project

I have referred to this project in my Statement in the accounts. I hope the concept is well understood. Council approved the appointment of Mark Haszlakiewicz to lead this project. Mark will be known to some of you as a member. He is recently retired and his last appointment was that of Finance Director of the AA, also responsible for strategy, prior to its take-over by British Gas. He is giving of his time voluntarily and we are very grateful.

To be done properly, it needs to be done thoroughly and this afternoon Council approved a draft Blue Print upon which to move forward to the next stage with working parties of staff, members of Council and members to examine the many issues involved.

It envisages a complete split of operations between the National Shooting Centre Limited at Bisley controlled by the NRA through the appointment of directors by Council designed to provide comprehensive shooting facilities at a cost and on terms approved by the Council whilst, otherwise, operating on commercial principles, customer focused, to exploit the Bisley asset for the benefit of the NRA. I do emphasise that it will remain under the control of and be part of the NRA.

Council has referred, previously, to realisation of assets. Council is not about to sell the 'family silver'; shooting requirements will be preserved. Neither, not least because of planning considerations, is there an immediate pot of gold. It will all take time.

The NRA Council will then become more focussed on the direct needs of the NRA itself, recruitment and retention of membership, encouragement of young and other new shooters, support, as always, to the military, assistance for clubs and ranges away from Bisley, support for overseas teams and exchanges. By steady effort we must do more than has been done before.

I will digress briefly because I am not sure that what goes on behind the scenes is fully understood. Working with the MoD is complex owing to multi-layers of both military and civilian management interests. However, I hope we are close to settling the issue of the annual licence fee for clubs to use their ranges nationally on a longer term basis if possible and at somewhat less (perhaps, nearer half) than the £120 (including VAT) charged by some districts. Also there have been complicated negotiations over range lane fees. For 2002 this will be £24 per lane - an increase over 2001 of about 4% - only just over the rate of inflation. There has also been recent technical support provided for the possible re-opening of a range on private land in Sussex.

For the Bisley Ltd project, there are implications for our relationship with the Sports Council, where I am trying to improve our relationship, and with the Charity Commission.

I shall be very interested to identify members of the NRA who are able to provide support and input to this project. Please do not hesitate to come forward.

I shall communicate progress on our web site and I hope we shall be well advanced in time for the Bisley General Meeting.

The Charity Commission

To my profound concern, a member of the public has made complaints about our conduct in the past. Our file is based at their Taunton office which also handles the Armed Services charities. I went down to see them earlier this week.

Fortunately, in view of our past problems with the Charity Commission, I had approached them already with a view to seeking a meeting to build bridges. This was following their enquiries of a year ago relating to the Bisley Shooting Ground affair which, after lengthy correspondence with Wilsons they had decided there was no need to pursue. They would not, of course, identify the complainant or complainants nor the complaint. Colin Cheshire had already supplied them with answers to their specific questions and our blue prints for our present and future conduct. I do not know, at present, whether they will take any matter forward, but, if they do, I and my colleagues will use our best endeavours to deal with it satisfactorily. We would use lawyers if necessary, but I dearly hope that this expense can be avoided. I sincerely hope that it was not a member who complained in view of the actual and potential damage to our reputation of so doing.

If a member ever has cause for complaint, the proper procedure is to approach the Secretary of Council or me, as Chairman of Council, in the first instance.

The first reaction of the Charity Commission representatives to our Bisley Ltd project was favourable, I believe.

British Shooting Sports Council

This is one of the bodies to which we belong to promote our wider interests particularly lobbying in the political field. This week I attended their Annual General Meeting and Council. I was encouraged by their support. I even detected some positive moves over counter-reaction to the pistol ban. Politics being what they are and the media more inclined to be negative for their own interests, nevertheless we have a wonderful opportunity for positive interest in the pistol events at the Games which we hope will be televised. Let us hope that it works out that way!

Council

There has been much comment on the constitution of Council, its size and its workings. I propose to take the views of members of Council at its next meeting on 24 May. Under the Bisley Ltd project a working party will review it for planning for the future.

If any members have views on this I should like to hear from them.

In the meantime, my special concern is to look to you to provide new members of Council, particularly to replace those retiring of whom I know of at least two, but we also need more support on committees with particular skills, namely: a treasurer; those with business management skills at senior director level; those with financial, legal and investment management skills. This is all set out on our web site. Please do not hesitate to put yourself or others forward - please be in touch with me or the Secretary.

Under our Blue Print, there is less time commitment involved than might be thought, the possibility of personal task satisfaction and putting something back into shooting. Apart from Mark Hasztrakiewicz I am pleased that we have been recently joined by Julian Hartwell, a property lawyer, to join our co-opted surveyors, Charles Oliver-Bellasis and Donald Anderson on the Estate Committee.

It is probably self-evident that we need even more volunteer support at this time possibly more than ever on many tasks to assist our intended developments; assisting member services, even just stuffing envelopes, shooting organisation and committee work. Please do make yourselves known to us.

Shortly I plan to meet our regional Council representatives with a view to my better understanding of the issues that concern them.

I hope therefore that we can move forward as I have described, not looking backwards, with the fullest support from you, our members, and our many affiliated members, who I hope will want to join as members themselves in due course.

To sum up I shall repeat what I have said on previous occasions. We have potentially excellent facilities at Bisley and a desire throughout the UK for the development of our sport. It will take time, but we have every chance of seeing our way through.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

by John F Jackman, Chairman of Council

Bank Finance

I am pleased to confirm that we have now reached agreement with Barclays Bank who have provided us with a manageable long term loan facility at 1.75% above base rate which is 0.5% lower than our current rate. This is topped up with an overdraft facility to carry the peaks and troughs of our cash flow. I do hope that members will see this as a positive development giving confidence and bringing stability back once again to our financial affairs. It remains my hope that we can reduce and eliminate the loan and overdraft sooner than the 10 years allowed for so that we once again have cash at bank. Much will depend on the success not only of our clay target range financed by Sport England, but also the success of our trading at Bisley and development of membership in due course – but it will take time.

Chief Executive

Our Chief Executive, Colin Cheshire, being such a well known and high-profile personality in our sport, it is no surprise that there has been speculation about his leaving. Although I could say little until the matter was clear, nevertheless I published the following as soon as I could and on our web site to seek to stop unfounded rumours.

“Colin Cheshire who has been Secretary and Chief Executive of the National Rifle Association since 1995 is retiring on 9 September 2002 following the holding of the Commonwealth Games. Colin has worked vigorously to ensure that the shooting events, which are widely regarded as important events in the Games can be held in England.

During his term in office enormous strides have been made to update the world famous Bisley ranges to become the National Shooting Centre of the UK for all

target shooting. The NRA thanks Colin for this achievement and sends its best wishes to Colin and his wife, Angie, for their retirement in their new home in Cyprus.

Whilst Colin remains available during this period of hand-over, contact may be made direct to any of the management team, as appropriate for your purpose.

Colin Cheshire will continue to plan for the World Championships and Palma Match in 2003 until he leaves and then this role will be passed to Martin Farnan who will be match director.

No further announcement about future arrangements is likely to be made before the summer.”

Forthcoming Appointments

Shortly we shall be seeking to recruit a part-time executive chairman and/or managing director to take forward our plans for the management of the National Shooting Centre as a business entity for the benefit of shooters coupled with better commercial exploitation of Bisley Camp for the financial benefit of the NRA. We shall be seeking individual(s) of proven success in commercial management. A knowledge of shooting would be a bonus as will experience in the leisure industry or estate management. Recruitment will be open. If any member or anyone known to any member might be interested in applying or is interested anyway, please contact us and ask for the detailed job specification.

We shall also be recruiting a new Secretary, NRA. The future Secretary will have a wide brief with special focus on raising the NRA's profile, developing membership, encouraging shooting, coaching and events away from the National Shooting Centre, as required.

TEAM FUNDING - MYTHS EXPLODED

by Chris Hockley - Chairman Team Finance Committee

Funding for teams going overseas from grants and anything other than our own pockets, continues to be surrounded in myth, mystery and misconception. I hope in this short piece to enlighten readers and clarify where the money comes from - not, I hasten to add, where it goes - as that is the business of each team whose summary accounts are published in the Journal from time to time.

Where the money comes from

There are four distinctly separate sources of funds: the UK Sports Council, the Overseas Team Fund (OTF), sponsorship and finally contributions by team members. I will deal with these in turn:

The Sports Council (SC)

The UK Sports Council now distributes money to a great many sports collectively, to world class performers as individuals and also to the home countries for them to distribute to their own Sports Associations. Those individuals supported directly, are all in Olympic sports. The funding that the Sports Council gives to the home countries should find its way to shooting disciplines via the home country Shooting Associations, and also to individuals through home country elite performer schemes. However, the SC also distributes funds to the National (or GB wide) Sports Associations and Governing Bodies, which for target shooting, means the GB Target Shooting Federation (GBTSF). It is then the responsibility of GBTSF to allocate those funds to the various needs it has such as coaching, supporting teams and individuals. The money available from the SC is then divided up by GBTSF according to bids it has received from its constituent bodies, NRA, NSRA, CPSA and MLAGB. The NRA puts in its bid for all fullbore disciplines at the end of each year for the following year's programme.

The Overseas Teams Fund

The OTF is a special trust fund held by the NRA, originally started specifically to provide grants to overseas .303 rifle teams. As its funds have continued to be raised mainly by the efforts of target rifle shooters, Council agreed that only overseas target rifle teams would receive money from this fund. However there is now a small sister fund for match rifle overseas teams. There is also money 'ring-fenced' within the OTF for Under-25 and youth shooting. Apart from interest earned on its capital, the OTF has several ways in which it gets additional funds on an annual basis. These include the entry fees in the Imperial Meeting for specific competitions such as the OTF Short and Long, the New Zealand and the new V-Bull Aggregate introduced this year; there is also the Freddy Payne 100 Club, the OTF Swindle, donations and other smaller fund-raising efforts. GB team captains take

on the responsibility for selling the OTF Swindle tickets each year and Chris Weeden explains how this works in the accompanying article "Have You Been Swindled"

Sponsorship

Individual team captains may of course be successful in raising sponsorship for their specific team from a variety of sources: a large cash donation from a company, hospitality days, profit from a tour brochure and general fund-raising can all be considered as sponsorship. The support of Shearwater Insurance has been invaluable in providing team clothing and other assistance. Under this heading, schemes such as Spot the Shot and other novel ideas, such as the GB Canada 2002 shooting calendar, are created by the team themselves. Some are more successful than others, but it is the old adage of the more effort put in by the team, the more success they will generally get. However all of those schemes are the responsibility of the team captain to run, organize, take the necessary risk and, of course, to take and use the profits to reduce team costs.

Individuals

Obviously, there is invariably a short-fall which must be funded by individuals. Indeed, there would be some serious debate about the size of grant from the OTF, should a team be particularly successful in raising its own sponsorship. A recent team actually refunded its whole OTF grant when it found itself in this happy position; the individuals had still contributed, however.

Who and what is eligible for grants

Confusion usually arises because of the two sources of grant, the OTF, which provides grants to TR only and the SC (or let us call it GBTSF as they actually decide how much that the NRA disciplines will get) which funds any GB discipline for which a grant can be obtained.

GBTSF Grants

The GBTSF considers any properly constituted and appointed Great Britain rifle team as eligible. Thus GB Target Rifle teams, the GB 300 Metres international team, GB Match Rifle teams, GB Black Powder teams and GB Bench Rest teams are all eligible. Unfortunately Under-25, Under-19 and any other restrictions are considered as restricted access teams and therefore not eligible. This seems crazy I agree, as with their other breath, they seem to concentrate on trying to support youth. What costs are eligible? Well there are very strict rules: travel costs, entry fees and subsistence while on tour are; insurance, excess baggage, ammunition, uniform, trophies. All the other costs associated with tours are not eligible. In fact there are specific standard costs which must be used

in the grant application depending on which country the team is visiting. Actual costs are irrelevant. Clearly the number in the team also affects the size of bid submitted, as does the length of tour. The NRA Shooting Committee authorises both the size of team and the tour duration.

OTF Grants

The OTF tries to spread its funding beyond official GB TR teams to those target rifle teams that are ineligible for GBTSF grants. Thus NRA teams to the Channel Islands and to Europe are eligible, as are U-25, U-19 teams and Veterans teams.

The Team Finance Committee

Management of all aspects of team funding rest with the Team Finance Committee (TFC). Apart from the allocation of the funds from GBTSF, the TFC manages the OTF funds to ensure that the capital is preserved and increased while also taking steps to raise extra funds annually which can be used to assist teams. It is currently engaged in a strategy review for the next decade to cope with the ever increasing gap of what is needed and what is available, as the funds via GBTSF have been annually decreasing. Any offers and ideas will be welcomed.

HAVE YOU BEEN SWINDLED?

by Chris Weeden

What and why is the OTF Swindle?

For a hard core of TR shooters at Bisley the start of the Imperial Meeting marks the "remove cash from the shooter" season! Normal folk are approached by lucky GB shots who have been selected for a tour. There are several reasons to part with money, each sounding more persuasive and with the promise of winning.

The OTF Swindle, which I have had the pleasure of organizing for the past three years, after taking over from Andy Chown, is different. It is one of the few ways that the Overseas Teams Fund is topped up. The interest and investments from this fund generate an income, which is used to support GB, Under 25s and NRA teams. This helps more and more as the UK sports grants reduce.

The idea is that all entries are randomly placed in teams of ten shooters, whose Queens 1 scores are totalled (the selection is generated by computer and each team will have a similar proportion of each class - thanks to the wizardry of Bill Richards). The winning team is the one that has the highest score. There is a chalkboard positioned in the first hut at the back of the 600 yards firing point, after the first detail (thanks to the range riggers). You can find your team and enter your score, whilst looking at the rest of your team scores and even guess what the cut for the second stage will be.

Last year out of the 1200 shooters who shot the first stage, 320 entered. This generated a profit of £2000 for the OTF. But 900 shooters excluded themselves from winning.

The Swindle has been a well-kept secret where past touring teams and their supporters seem to be the only ones approached. However it is a bit of fun where any shooter, no matter what class they are, can enter, support GB shooting and possibly win some money towards their bar bill.

WIIFM (what's in it for me?)

The top team wins £400, the second wins £300 and the third £200. So this means that 30 people will win between £20-£40, for a £10 donation. There are some individual prizes as well for the highest and second highest individual scores, from the entrants of the OTF Swindle in Queens 1, of £150 and £75 respectively. If that is not enough, the highest score two points below the qualifying score for Queens 2 will win £75. This means that you can miss the cut and still win!

The total prize money is currently £1200. Any monies above this are profit for the fund. It is customary that the touring team(s) of the current year has a responsibility to sell the swindle as their way of helping to replenish the fund.

Some myths dispelled

It is felt in some quarters that: -

The money goes straight to the team funds. *Untrue.*

You have to be a top shot to win. *Not necessarily*

F Class cannot enter. *They are welcome since last year.*

You need to see the touring team members to enter.

No, I will take any entries, I can be found at the NLRC or entries can be handed over the bar.

It is not open to overseas shooters. *All are welcome.*

You can only place one entry. *Multiple entries are allowed, increasing chances of winning. Why not be in more than one team?*

If a team member does not put in their score the team will not win. *All scores are filled in via the computer, the chalkboard is traditional but not necessary.*

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What do I do next?

The touring teams that will be collecting this season, will be John Bloomfield's tour of Canada 2002 and Rupert Clark's NRA tour of the Channel Isles.

If you are approached, from the Easter Meeting onward, then please give £10 (cash or cheque), your name (first and surname) your index number (if possible) and a contact point at Bisley (a club, caravan or tent site) or home phone number.

In summary

This is an opportunity to support British shooting. It is a bit of fun. You may win some money. All are welcome, no matter what class, age, height, shoe size, sex or nationality. Finally, do you know what is the hardest job for me? Giving away £1200! I walk around the common trying to find the lucky winners! So if you do win please look out for me . . . I will be the person with the bulging wallet!

Attendance at Meetings of Council & Principal Committees 2001/2002 by Ordinary, Regional and Discipline Members of Council from 1 September 2001 to 31 March 2002

	COUNCIL	F&GP	SHOOTING	ESTATE	MEMBERSHIP	
No of meetings	3	3	2	3	2	
Bailie HRM	3	x	x	3	x	(R)
Ball NJ	1	x	x	x	x	(O)
Bartle GD	3	x	x	x	x	(R)
Belither S	3	1	x	x	2	(O)
Bellringer JEM	2	x	1	x	x	(D)
Bennett ID	3	x	x	3	2	(O)
Bloom PJ	3	x	0	x	x	(O)
Bloomfield JPS	3	x	1	x	x	(O&R)
Brooks CM	3	3	x	x	x	(O)
Calvert DP	3	x	1	x	x	(O)
Cambray BV	2	x	x	x	x	(R)
Campbell-Smith AR	2	x	0	x	x	(D)
Carmichael JH	3	x	2	x	x	(O)
Clarke G	3	x	x	x	x	(O)
Farr CN	0	x	2	x	x	(D)
Fyfe NCM	1	x	x	x	x	(R)
Gray PS	0	x	x	x	x	(R)
Horrocks AR	2	x	0	x	1	(O)
Hudson RJ	0	x	x	x	x	(O)
Jeffs NG	1	0	x	3	x	(O)
Kidner TLW	1	x	x	x	x	(R)
Kynoch JM	3	3	1	x	2	(D)
Law CD	3	x	x	x	x	(R)
Monaghan P	2	x	2	x	x	(D)
O'Brien CS	3	2	2	x	x	(R)
Player G	3	x	0	x	x	(D)
Quilliam PF	1	x	x	x	x	(R)
Sarony P	3	x	2	x	x	(D)
Shirra Gibb I	2	x	2	2	x	(D)
Stafford RWH	3	3	0	2	2	(O)
Thompson JMA	3	3	x	x	x	(O)
Veltman-Grisenthwaite M	2	x	x	x	1	(O)
Walton MWT	3	3	x	3	x	(O)
Wills RHF	3	3	2	x	x	(D)
Young DG	2	3	x	x	x	(R)

x = not a member of that committee

(O) = Ordinary Member

(R) = Regional Member

(D) = Discipline Member

BRITS AT THE SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN

by Ian Mollan and Iain Robertson

The 66th South African Open Championships took place at General de Wet Range in Bloemfontein from 3 to 13 April. The substantial international entry was made up with groups from Malaysia, Holland, Australia, Zimbabwe, Namibia and the USA, as well as a British contingent which included Army, RAF and GB Under 19 teams and a large and well-assorted group of individuals.

The variable weather made for a testing event. A full spread of conditions saw bright sunshine interrupted by thunderstorms and windy dust storms, testing even the locals to the limit. Visitors soon discovered that the wind flags and mirage were not necessarily reliable, and sometimes completely wrong. Some postulated Magnus and Coriolis, but whatever the explanation, this was a Championship set to sort the men from the boys. The book of shooting excuses was much quoted. One new excuse was discovered, an event of such rarity that it merits a separate article in this Journal of record - *see page 56*. A second noteworthy excuse, also suspected to be original, came from Malcolm Smith of the RAF TRC. After six consecutive V bulls, Malcolm was unfortunate enough to have the brim of his floppy hat wind his sights 14 minutes to the right. The hat was sadly not as good at wind judgement as Malcolm had been, and consequent on the resulting miss has been removed from coaching duties.

With such troublesome conditions, some acclimatisation was essential. The RAF team headed for Cape Town and in a week's strenuous work-up found time to shoot a friendly one-day match against Western Province. The Good Hope Range, some 20 miles north of Cape Town, has Table Mountain as a spectacular backdrop to the butts, although stray shots to the right are discouraged as a nuclear power station lurks on the edge of the danger area. Other British tourists felt a more relaxed acclimatisation was appropriate. Itineraries included Kruger Park, Sun City, Kwazulu-Natal battlefields and Cape Town, but mysteriously failed to visit any rifle ranges. Touring can be hazardous though. The Irish contingent and the Army team were invited to Peter Bramley's farm, and some of the party accepted an invitation to tour the farm on horseback. Alwyn McLean spent the next couple of weeks recovering from barbed wire scratches after he was ejected from his steed.

Shooting in South Africa comes highly recommended for many reasons. One could mention the high standard of competition, the friendly but authoritative approach of Brigadier 'Mac' Alexander as Chief Range Officer, the excellent butt marking and the level firing points. One could add the wonderful welcome from the South African "shottists". However, it may attract more overseas competitors if mention is made of the

sunshine, the wildlife, the scenery, the half-kilo fillet steak at 75 Rand, the accompanying bottle of fine red wine at 60 Rand and the petrol to drive to the restaurant at 4 Rand per litre. Oh, and you get 15 Rand for a pound even on a bad day.

A second reason for acclimatisation is that the SA Championships include several serious team matches in the early days. One extra event this year was an invitation international match under Palma conditions. The Springboks demonstrated their World Champion status by beating all the other teams out of sight; while the opposition did not include any full teams from serious Palma contenders, their score was nonetheless impressive under difficult conditions. South African teams triumphed in the team matches at all levels from club to international, despite some creditable performances by teams from visiting clubs and unofficial international groups – both the British Lions and the International Magpies fought strongly on the day. The official touring teams were outclassed, with the only very limited success going to the RAF, shooting as the RAF Target Rifle Club, in the concurrent team match for the Smythe Cup.

By contrast, the outstanding individual TR performances were amongst the visitors. The Grand Aggregate, the SA Open Championship, the State President's Prize and the Bramley Chain (for the highest total over the last three years' Grand Aggregates) all went to competitors from the UK. In a final where fitful gusting winds challenged and puzzled even experienced locals, Jeremy Thompson recovered a deficit of three points from the second stage, scoring 145.8 to take the State President's Prize with 292.22 ex 300.

Although David Calvert is undoubtedly one of the world's best riflemen, the top honours have so far eluded him at Bisley. However, he has an extensive record of successes in South Africa. This year he produced a quite astounding performance in the Grand Aggregate. A score of 651.71 was four points ahead of second-placed Danny Coleman, nine points up on Johann du Toit in third, and thirteen points up on R Hayter in fourth. David could not quite repeat his clean sweeps of 1996 and 2001, finishing a point behind Jeremy Thompson to take second place in the State President's, but the combined score gave him the South African Open Championship for the third time, and the much-coveted Bramley Chain for the second year running. Along the way David won the Monday Aggregate and the Long Range Aggregate but probably his most impressive individual shoot was in the Municipal, an 800 metres competition in the Grand Aggregate shot in two details. In the first detail, with the wind gusting from 8 to 15 minutes and back in moments, David somehow managed 49.6, the next

best score on that detail being way down the prize lists while some serious international competitors, most notably David Dodds of South Africa, found themselves with scores in the 30s. The second detail had a significantly easier time and three scores of 50 emerged to push a truly remarkable shoot into fourth place; Iain Robertson took first place with a 50.5 using RG.

Danny Coleman, touring as an individual competitor, seemed destined to collect second places. His clear margin over the field placing second in the Grand Aggregate combined with 290.28 in the State Presidents to give him second in the SA Open Championship. In the lesser events he took second in the Long Range Aggregate but won the tie shoot for the Dalrymple Cup.

There was a scattering of success by UK competitors throughout the Championships. On the Grand Aggregate leader board were: David Calvert 651.71 (1st), Danny Coleman 647.57 (2nd), Jonathan Cload 634.51 (10th), Iain Robertson 633.52 (14th), Jeremy Thompson 630.54 (25th), Alex Henderson 629.53 (29th), Rupert Clark 628.43 (37th), Alwyn McLean 626.45 (44th), Peter Medhurst 624.42 (49th) and Stuart Williamson 624.36 (50th). The Norma Seyferdt trophy for top lady in the Grand Aggregate went to Alex Pilgrim with 622.55, closely followed by Dorothy Hume on 622.45. Iain Robertson won the Municipal and the Overseas Match and was second in the Thursday Aggregate. Chris Cottillard of the GB Under 19s came second in the 900 metre Dave Smith Cup on a tie shoot after making 50.3 in a very difficult wind, one of only two possibles in the competition. Perhaps the practice in the sometimes outrageous conditions at Les Landes has something to do with it. There were also some thoroughly undeserved appearances on the prize lists. Jonathan Cload won the Under 25's Individual match (despite being a little over 25, sorry Jonathan). Karen Robertson of the RAF Target Rifle Club was placed sixth in the Thomas Theron (Veterans Over 70); the plastic surgery is obviously paying off. Karen suspects that the mischievous hand of Richard van Lingen may have been in the vicinity of the Stats computer!?

Between the shooting, the visitors explored the vibrant nightlife and glittering social scene in Bloemfontein. All right, we visited the one block of cafes, attractively placed round an artificial lake, and a few other restaurants. The younger elements visited the rather dubious nightclub, where the local clientele made them feel old. Some, having exhausted the limited attractions, ventured as far as Kimberley to view the Big Hole. Unsurprisingly, it was still there. The RAF Wing Commanders, as befits their image, played golf. Some even achieved local stardom making appearances in the local paper 'Volksblad', not only for their shooting successes but also for encounters with wildlife on the range.



The Big Hole at Kimberley

(Photo: Ian Mollan)

The South African Championships are increasingly becoming the event of choice for serious competitors to open the UK shooting season. We enjoyed challenging competition in difficult conditions - but if it was easy it wouldn't be fun, would it? Hot days blended through glorious sunsets into warm evenings passed in company of good friends, huge steaks and great wine. We returned with a riot of memories and bulging waistlines, and over the last round of Irish coffees at the Beef Baron, plans were being laid to do it again next year.

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The Good Hope Range and Table Mountain



The Royal Air Force Target Rifle Club Team



The food was fantastic . . .



. . . and so were the views



David Calvert finishes the Grand in style with another possible



while the rest of the team relax in the shade



The South African Champion is ceremonially driven from the range . . . wonder why they wouldn't let him drive it?!



A more traditional chairing off for Jeremy Thompson

(Photos: Ian Mollan and Karen Robertson)

GREAT BRITAIN UNDER 19 RIFLE TEAM TO SOUTH AFRICA 2002

by James Hodge

Commandant: Jeremy Hakim
Adjutant: Craig Stewart
Armourer: Peter Medhurst
Team: Chris Cotillard
James Headon
James Hodge
Steven Howard
Peter Stock
John Thompson
Owen Vallis

At Easter time the GB Under 19 Rifle Team head south for their now established tour of South Africa. However this year's selected individuals, from the 2002 squad, were to experience something completely different.

After a gruelling Maple Taste the team arrived at Heathrow and checked in, ready to say goodbye to 'life as we know it'. However, our hopes were a bit premature. About half an hour into the flight the Captain came over the speakers to announce that there was a minor emergency and that we would have to return to London. The problem arose - as no surprise to any of us - in the seat next to Jeremy Hakim, our Commandant, who had been stopped at every security point before boarding. A small electrical fire in one of the seat's in-flight entertainment systems meant that we were to be delayed by about 24 hours. Cheers "Shifty"!

Having landed in Johannesburg we encountered the heat and bureaucracy before collecting our combis (minibuses) and driving to the police barracks at Pretoria with the help of Hannes van Rooyen. At Pretoria we met Christo Lauterbach, our guide for the next few days and set off for our first real taste of South Africa including dirt roads. Having arrived at Middlepath Farm we had a taste of what was to come, real food! The food there was nothing like that in Britain; it actually tasted of something. This trip was destined to do nothing to help our waistlines. That night we went out on a hunt, looking for Kudu or Waterbuck but the moon was too bright and they saw us. Next day Christo managed to get us into Madikwe Game Reserve where we saw an abundance of wildlife including kudu, impala, springbok, wildebeest, giraffes and many more although unfortunately the big five eluded us. It was a truly amazing experience.

From the natural to the unreal, we moved on to Sun City. This large 'entertainment' complex, based around a couple of big architectural spaces full of slot machines, is dominated by the kitsch but undeniably imposing Palace of the Lost City. Off to the wave pool to cool down! The next day we went to Gold Reef City, South Africa's answer to Alton Towers as well as a village museum to "yesterdays' gold mining and

way of living". After much persuasion and with help from Craig Stewart we got Jeremy on the 'scary' looking rides. We found one ride with just one big loop. After being strapped in with both shoulder harness and leg straps, nothing happened, then suddenly the train flew forward and around the loop. I don't think I have ever heard people scream so loudly! Cedric and Bets van der Vyver met us at the entrance to the city and led us to their house in Potchefstroom where the team enjoyed an incredible braai (barbecue).

This year's team was to go through a unique team building experience, with command tasks and trust exercises in the morning and rafting in the afternoon. Jeremy and Craig managed to provide us all with a classic moment by getting into their raft with their backs to each other and then wondered why, when they started to paddle, they were not going anywhere! At the end of the day there was yet another fantastic braai awaiting a now very tired team. Saying goodbye to Cedric and Bets until Bloemfontein, we headed south for Kimberly, home of the Big Hole, for three days of relaxation, tourism and a fantastic game drive. One of many highlights of the stay at Kimberly was going to a Spur Steakhouse, another of our kind sponsors. The food and service were excellent.

With the touring part over it was now time to settle down to business at Bloemfontein. Whatever we were told at Maple Taste before we set out, it could not prepare us for the conditions to come. On arrival we went to have a look at the range to find the South African Palma Squad having difficulties; we were instilled with everything but confidence. However on our first day's shooting we found that it wasn't too bad, as long as you had your wits about you but that was easier said than done! On the first practice day, Chris Cotillard and James Headon showed us that it was possible by getting 50.7 and 50.3 respectively.

The Hamilton on the first Friday produced a good team performance with solid shooting from Chris Cotillard, James Headon, James Hodge, Peter Thompson and Peter Medhurst.

Saturday was a testing day. The morning was the warm up individual match, the Scottish Sword, where yet again Chris Cotillard proved himself with a 98.8 finishing 22nd, and Owen Vallis with a 96.6 finished 34th. The rest of the day was devoted to the Under 19 Long Range match. This would show us really how little we knew about the weather conditions in South Africa. With one flag going one way, another going in completely the opposite direction and the mirage that couldn't decide which way it wanted to run, the coaches really had their work cut out. The South African Under 19s showed their knowledge by scoring

1192.74 to our 1108.46. However we were still in high spirits as we had learnt a lot from the match.

As the team started to find their feet some good scores began to come through, the Dewar Cup saw Chris Cotillard with a 99.7. In the Dalrymple the two Peters led with Peter Stock 102.5 finishing 68th and Peter Medhurst with 102.11 finishing 49th. One of the highlights had to be Chris getting into a tie shoot for the Dave Smith Cup at 900 metres. After a very close shoot Chris ended up second in the competition with a 50.3. Steve Howard shot a very credible 102.6 coming 74th in the State Presidents First Stage.

The two Peters again managed to do well in the Col R Bodley at 900 metres, Peter Stock 44.3 and Peter Medhurst 45.2 finishing 50th and 36th respectively. This merely highlighted how hard the conditions could get. Peter Stock was in a tie shoot for the B class in the Jack Mitchley at 300 metres with a 50.5, showing James Headon 49.7 and James Hodge 49.6 that it is always better not to mess up that crucial shot! After coming second in the tie shoot Peter ended up 21st overall in the competition. This year everyone was fortunate enough that no matter how badly (or well) you shot in the State Presidents First Stage, you had a second chance as everyone qualified for Stage Two. This saw some solid shooting from everybody but more importantly from John Thompson 145.17, Owen Vallis 147.12, and Peter Medhurst who all qualified for the Final. The day of the Final was not as easy as it looked but the eventual winner was John's dad!

The team was thoroughly focussed for the Under 19 International, our big team match. Owen Vallis was selected as the Match Captain and Head Coach, more than well deserved. James Hodge and Peter Stock coached the other target. After 300 metres we were only behind by three points. However, 600 metres proved costly, putting the team 19 points behind. We knew that we had to put all that behind us and with the help of some very good coaching and shooting, the whole team dropped only nine points at 900 metres. Unfortunately the South Africans only dropped four and won the match with 870.61 to our 846.59. As Owen later pointed out at the Protea dinner, for two Under 19 teams to only drop nine and four points at 900 metres, was youth shooting at its best and, with that, the South Africans deserved to win.

On Sunday, after a very successful farewell meal with the South African U19 team on the previous night, the team said goodbye to Bloemfontein and headed for the airport at Johannesburg. We unanimously voted that this had to be one of the best trips that any of us have gone on. Our thanks go to Jeremy Hakim, Craig Stewart and Peter Medhurst for putting up with us for three weeks. To all our sponsors, hosts and those who put so much effort into youth shooting very warm thanks. And finally a very big thank-you to Simon Fraser whose hard work and dedication made this trip possible.

Norman Clark

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

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



Paddling on two minutes left



Test the ropes THEN we'll follow



The official team photo with the smiling victors - they only dropped four points at 900 metres!



"Let's go through it one more time, Steve. Now what are the flags for . . .



Special Day and first on the range

(All photos: Peter Medhurst)

A GUIDE TO THE XVII COMMONWEALTH GAMES

by Peter Underhill Director of Shooting M2002

The Manchester 2002 (M2002) Commonwealth Games will be held between 25 July and 4 August 2002. These Games will be the largest multiple sport event to be held in this country since the Second World War, with some 7000 athletes and officials in 24 sporting disciplines enjoying nine days of competition. Needless to say shooting is playing its full part in the Games as a whole, with the National Shooting Centre at Bisley playing host to 417 shooters from 43 countries. They will be competing in a full range of ISSF accredited disciplines as well as Fullbore Rifle, making maximum use of the excellent new facilities built expressly for these Games. The ISSF have acknowledged these Championships as an approved and recognised event for Olympic Minimum Qualifying Scores. The following is a more detailed appraisal of matters as they concern each discipline and the official schedule of events.

However, it would seem prudent to fill in some of the background with a more generic and broader view of what will be a once in a lifetime experience and opportunity for many. The Commonwealth Games rank second in size only to the Olympics and these will be the 17th Games since their inception at Hamilton, Ontario in 1930. Shooting has always enjoyed a significant role during the history of the Games, with the home countries in early and more contemporary times enjoying a lions share of success in the medal tables. For example England won 23 medals of assorted colours at the '98 Games in Kuala Lumpur, including six gold. This year there will be 40 gold medals on offer in 20 shooting events; remembering that both pairs and individual events are fired during the course of the Championships. An entry of over 400 shooters is the largest field ever for shooting at the Games and represents 10% of the overall entry in all sports. Add to this some 150 team managers and officials and one can start to imagine

the size and scale of the event. Shooting will be the third largest sport, by number, after athletics and aquatics.

This record field will enjoy competing on some of the finest range facilities in the world. The NSC at Bisley now assumes the position of being one of the very few centres in the world where all ISSF and Fullbore disciplines can be fired at the same venue. Therefore the Lord Roberts Centre and the Clay Ranges are truly welcome additions to the landscape at Bisley and will be the most significant legacy left to shooting as a result of these Games. Other legacies are less obvious but will include such items as cabling and wiring for technology and communications, refurbishment of existing facilities and provision of new equipment. In return the shooting fraternity will be ensuring that they and these ranges produce the best Commonwealth Shooting Championships ever.

To this end 150 technical officials will be needed to conduct and supervise events. These officials are drawn from around the world, although the majority will come from England. Although the main competitions start on 27 July, training and Badge matches will necessitate that the majority of these officials will be required from 19 July or earlier. Indeed some key personnel have been working virtually full time on arrangements since the last Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships, held at Bisley in September last year. However, these officials are only one factor, albeit an important one in the overall organisation.

All competitors, team managers and technical officials will be accommodated in the Games Village at the University of Surrey, Guildford. Shooting is the only sport of these Games, which will be occurring outside Manchester, hence the satellite village in Guildford. Here the same level of accommodation and quality of service will be provided by M2002, as will be produced in the main Athlete's Village in Manchester. A twice-daily shuttle coach and train service will operate between Guildford and Manchester for those of the Commonwealth family who wish to visit events in the north. In addition a special train has been chartered to take competitors and officials to the Opening and Closing ceremonies, on 25 July and 4 August respectively. All of these people will need daily transport from the Games Village to Bisley and a comprehensive schedule has already been devised. However, this is a relatively simple plan compared with the onerous task of sorting the intricacies of teams arrivals and departures from Heathrow, weapons and all. The challenge of accrediting and registering this number is another demand, which has required detailed planning.



The new Lord Roberts Centre

(Photo: Karen Robertson)

In support of these 550 team members and the 150 technical officials will be a volunteer force of 250 people. They will work across all functional areas, providing assistance as athlete attendants, drivers, medal carriers, result runners, doping control chaperones and a whole host of back up roles. Currently M2002 are still looking for volunteers in certain areas; contact for those interested is through the NRA or NSRA. If required, training for those involved will take place in June, along with the issue of official uniforms and equipment. Volunteers need either to live locally or have access to facilities on site.

The BBC coverage of the Games will extend to some 200 hours of television, in addition to a plethora of radio and newspaper reporting. This TV coverage exceeds the hours spent on broadcasting the Sydney Olympics, so the value of the Games for the media can be gauged. This will mean some 100 BBC technicians working at Bisley during Games time, having three secure compounds to store their outside

broadcast units. We are assured of a full and accurate coverage, a refreshing turn of events from the past, when we have received perhaps scant regard.

A detailed timetable of events and a resume of key individuals to watch and medals to be contested by the various disciplines are listed below. Please remember that Shooting is one of the few non-ticketed events at M2002 and besides a possible small car parking fee, there will be no entry charge. Everyone in the shooting world is encouraged to come and visit, spectate and support our home shooters in what will be a unique and once in a lifetime experience. Also, this is a golden opportunity to sell our sport and prove what a worthwhile discipline shooting is. Therefore friends and relatives are most welcome and will enjoy a day of world class competition for free. We are unlikely to witness another such multi-sport event of this magnitude in Great Britain for most of our lifetimes. I for one am looking forward to the Games with alacrity.

Fullbore Rifle Events

Though June 25 is the closing date for entries, the indications are that Fullbore will once again attract the highest number of competitors of all twenty shooting events.

The early declarations of intent is of 49 competitors from 25 countries all competing in the Badge, Pairs, and Individual events. The Badge Match starts on Sunday 21 July with the short range stage. The Final of the Badge, a long range shoot, is on Monday 23 July. The next event, the Pairs, will be fired on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28, again a short range stage and a long range Final. The exciting Individual Gold Medal event starts with a short range shoot on Tuesday 30 July. The following day is a further short range shoot with the Final at 900 and 1000 yards, on Friday 2 August.



The standard will be high and the competition fierce. If the results of the Commonwealth Federation Fullbore competition are an indication, the Gold Medal will not be decided until the last shot at 1000 yards. In other words it is a very good spectator event. The shoot can be followed on the replica targets, which will be behind each competitor, and which will indicate each shot. The ammunition will be from the same batch as that used in the Commonwealth Federation Shoot which has been generously supplied by BAe Systems Radway Green.

Numbered amongst the Volunteer Range Officers, Register Keepers, and other Officials will be many international shots including a former Individual Gold Medal winner.

Smallbore (.22 and .177) Events



Historically, the strongest nations are Australia, England and India, and their competitors in all events will bear watching.

The Men's Prone Rifle event on Thursday 1 August has attracted one of the largest entries for this event in the history of the Games. Australia and the Home Countries are strong medal prospects but this is an event that can always spring a surprise and neither New Zealand nor India should be discounted.

The Men's Three Positions competitions (the Individual on 3 August being the blue riband of small-bore shooting) will be closely fought by India and Australia with Scotland the possible dark horses.

India are particularly strong in both Men's and Women's Air Rifle, having several exceptional young shooters. However, again, the challenge from Australia and England has to be taken seriously.

Mick Gault (England) will be defending his record four titles (individual and team) from Kuala Lumpur in Men's Air Pistol and 50m Pistol. He can expect to receive a determined challenge from India and Australia in the team event on 27 July and the individual on 31 July.

Of the remaining events, the Women's Prone is possibly the most open with many nations all with an equal chance of a medal.

Clay Shooting Events

This years Commonwealth Games could yield England's best crop of medals in the clay shooting events due to be held here at National Clay Shooting Centre, Bisley.

The clay event opening discipline Double Trap, will include in its start list England's Richard Faulds, the 2000 Sydney Olympic Gold medallist. He will be hoping to make it a hat trick of Golds in three years having taken the Gold Medal at the CSF Championships in 2001 but with the probable inclusion of Australia's Russell Mark also in the line up, he won't have things all his own way.

Silver medallist in Sydney Ian Peel shooting the Trap event will want to go one better and take the Gold medal in his event and his current form shows every indication of his capability.

Although the individuals for the Skeet event haven't yet been named there are at least four contenders of very equal ability vying for the two places on offer. Richard Brickel the Bronze medallist at the CSF event shows early form of keeping his place by winning the Clay calendar's opening event the UK championship. In the pack chasing Richard is John Davison and Drew Harvey (both of these shooters represented GB at the Sydney Olympics) and the other contender is current World Junior Champion David Bond. This young man who is only seventeen years old is showing capabilities well beyond his years and only lost the runner up position at the UK event after a shoot off with John Davison.



Pistol Shooting Events

Since the Firearms (Amendment) Act, 1997, there has been no competitive pistol shooting in England other than with muzzle loading and air pistols.

In 2001, for the Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships at Bisley, the Home Secretary exercised his powers under the Firearms Acts and allowed, under the strictest of conditions, competitive shooting with cartridge pistols. This event is the traditional fore-runner to the Commonwealth Games Shooting Competitions taking place on the same ranges on which the Games will be held, but one year earlier.

For the Commonwealth Games the Home Secretary has again allowed pistol shooting to take place at Bisley, with cartridge pistols, all participants and officials being issued with permits under Section 5 of the Firearms Act, 1968. Strict security conditions will again be imposed on the ranges where pistols are to be used.

The following events will take place:

50 metres Pistol	men only	Lord Roberts Centre
25 metres Rapid Fire Pistol	men only	Melville Range
25 metres Centre Fire Pistol	men only	Melville Range
25 metres Standard Pistol	men and women	Melville Range
25 metres Pistol for women	women only	Melville Range
10 metres Air Pistol	men and women	Lord Roberts Centre

A total of 161 competitors have been entered in the individual events and a similar number in the Pairs and Badge Matches. All pistol shooting will be on Suis Ascor electronic targets and there will be Olympic Finals in the 50 metres, Rapid Fire, 25 metres Women and Air Pistol Championships.

The competitions will be conducted under International Sport Shooting Federation Rules (ISSF - previously UIT) by a team of well qualified Range Officers who will be supervised by Juries comprising ISSF Judges from all over the Commonwealth.

TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

Day	Date	Event Time	Event
-4	Sun 21 July	09:00 - 10:45 10:00 - 12:30 11:30 - 13:15	Men's 10m Air Rifle - Badge Match Open Full Bore Rifle - Badge Match Stage 2 Men's 10m Air Pistol - Badge Match
-3	Mon 22 July	09:00 - 10:15 09:00 - 13:00 09:00 - 13:00 10:00 - 12:00 11:30 - 12:45 12:30 - 13:45	Women's 10m Air Rifle - Badge Match Men's Trap - Badge Match Women's Trap - Badge Match Men's 50m Pistol - Badge Match Women's 10m Air Pistol - Badge Match Men's 50m Rifle Prone - Badge Match
-2	Tue 23 July	08:30 - 10:00 09:00 - 13:00 09:00 - 13:00 10:00 - 11:30 10:00 - 12:30 10:30 - 13:00 12:30 - 14:15 16:30 - 17:00	Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol - Badge Match Stage 1 Men's Double Trap - Badge Match Women's Double Trap - Badge Match Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol - Badge Match Stage 2 Open Full Bore Rifle - Badge Match Stage 3 Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions - Badge Match Men's 25m Standard Pistol - Badge Match <i>Medal Ceremonies for Badge Matches held 21, 22 and 23 July</i>
-1	Wed 24 July	09:00 - 11:30 09:00 - 12:30 09:00 - 12:30 10:30 - 11:45 12:30 - 15:00 13:00 - 16:30 16:30 - 17:00	Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol - Badge Match Men's Skeet - Badge Match Women's Skeet - Badge Match Women's 50m Rifle Prone - Badge Match Women's 25m Pistol - Badge Match Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions - Badge Match <i>Medal Ceremonies for Badge Matches held 24 July</i>
0	Thu 25 July		OPENING CEREMONY - MANCHESTER
1	Fri 26 July		<i>Training</i>
2	Sat 27 July	09:00 - 10:45 09:00 - 12:30 09:00 - 12:30 10:00 - 12:30 11:30 - 13:15 16:30 - 17:00	Men's 10m Air Rifle - Pairs Event Conclusion Men's Trap - Pairs Event Conclusion Women's Trap - Pairs Event Conclusion Open Full Bore Rifle - Pairs Stage 2 Men's 10m Air Pistol - Pairs Event Conclusion <i>Medal Ceremonies (Pairs)</i> <i>Men's 10m Air Rifle; Men's Trap; Women's Trap;</i> <i>Men's 10m Air Pistol</i>
3	Sun 28 July	09:00 - 13:00 09:00 - 13:00 09:00 - 10:15 10:00 - 12:30 10:00 - 12:00 11:00 - 12:15 12:30 - 13:45 16:30 - 17:20	Men's Double Trap - Pairs Event Conclusion Women's Double Trap - Pairs Event Conclusion Women's 10m Air Rifle - Pairs Event Conclusion Open Full Bore Rifle - Pairs Stage 3 Men's 50m Pistol - Pairs Event Conclusion Women's 10m Air Pistol - Pairs Event Conclusion Men's 50m Rifle Prone - Pairs Event Conclusion <i>Medal Ceremonies (Pairs)</i> <i>Men's Double Trap; Women's Double Trap; Women's 10m Air Rifle;</i> <i>Open Full Bore Rifle; Men's 50m Pistol; Women's 10m Air Pistol;</i> <i>Men's 50m Rifle Prone</i>
4	Mon 29 July	08:30 - 10:00 09:00 - 13:00 09:00 - 13:00 10:00 - 11:30 10:30 - 13:00 12:30 - 14:15 16:30 - 17:10	Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol - Pairs Stage 1 Men's Skeet - Pairs Event Conclusion Women's Skeet - Pairs Event Conclusion Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol - Pairs Event Conclusion Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions - Pairs Event Conclusion Men's 25m Standard Pistol - Pairs Event Conclusion <i>Medal Ceremonies (Pairs)</i> <i>Men's Skeet; Women's Skeet; Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol;</i> <i>Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions; Men's 25m Standard Pistol</i>

Day	Date	Event Time	Event
5	Tue 30 July	08:30 - 11:00 09:00 - 12:15 09:00 - 12:15 10:00 - 12:30 10:30 - 11:45 12:00 - 14:30 12:45 - 16:15 14:00 - 14:45 16:30 - 17:10	Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol - Pairs Event Conclusion Men's Trap - Singles Stage 1 Women's Trap - Singles Heats Open Full Bore Rifle - Singles Stage 1 Women's 50m Rifle Prone - Pairs Event Conclusion Women's 25m Pistol - Pairs Event Conclusion Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions - Pairs Event Conclusion Women's Trap - Singles Final <i>Medal Ceremonies (Pairs)</i> <i>Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol; Women's 50m Rifle Prone;</i> <i>Women's 25m Pistol; Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions</i> <i>Medal Ceremonies (Individual) Women's Trap</i>
6	Wed 31 July	09:00 - 10:45 10:00 - 13:00 10:00 - 12:30 11:45 - 12:15 12:45 - 14:30 14:00 - 14:30 15:30 - 16:00 16:30 - 17:00	Men's 10m Air Rifle - Singles Heats Men's Trap - Singles Stage 2 Open Full Bore Rifle - Singles Stage 2 Men's 10m Air Rifle - Singles Final Men's 10m Air Pistol - Singles Heats Men's Trap - Singles Final Men's 10m Air Pistol - Singles Final <i>Medal Ceremonies (Individual)</i> <i>Men's 10m Air Rifle; Men's Trap; Men's 10m Air Pistol</i>
7	Thu 01 Aug	09:00 - 13:00 09:00 - 13:00 09:00 - 10:15 09:45 - 11:45 11:15 - 11:45 12:45 - 13:15 13:15 - 14:30 13:30 - 14:00 13:45 - 15:00 14:15 - 14:45 15:30 - 16:00 16:15 - 16:45 16:30 - 17:15	Women's Double Trap Singles Heats Men's Double Trap Singles Heats Women's 10m Air Rifle Singles Heats Men's 50m Pistol Singles Heats Women's 10m Air Rifle Singles Final Men's 50m Pistol Singles Final Women's 10m Air Pistol Singles Heats Women's Double Trap Singles Final Men's 50m Rifle Prone Singles Heats Men's Double Trap Singles Final Women's 10m Air Pistol Singles Final Men's 50m Rifle Prone Singles Event Conclusion <i>Medal Ceremonies (Individual)</i> <i>Women's 10m Air Rifle; Men's 50m Pistol; Women's Double Trap;</i> <i>Men's Double Trap; Women's 10m Air Pistol; Men's 50m Rifle Prone</i>
8	Fri 02 Aug	08:30 - 10:00 09:00 - 13:00 09:00 - 13:00 09:45 - 12:15 10:00 - 12:30 10:00 - 11:30 12:30 - 13:00 13:15 - 13:45 13:45 - 15:30 14:00 - 14:30 16:30 - 17:10	Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol - Singles Stage 1 Men's Skeet - Singles Stage 1 Women's Skeet - Singles Heats Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions - Singles Heats Open Full Bore Rifle - Singles Stage 3 Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol - Singles Stage 2 Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol - Singles Final Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions - Singles Final Men's 25m Standard Pistol - Singles Event Conclusion Women's Skeet - Singles Final <i>Medal Ceremonies (Individual)</i> <i>Open Full Bore Rifle; Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol; Women's 50m</i> <i>Rifle 3 Positions; Men's 25m Standard Pistol; Women's Skeet</i>
9	Sat 03 Aug	08:30 - 11:00 09:45 - 11:00 10:00 - 13:00 12:00 - 15:30 12:00 - 14:30 14:00 - 14:30 15:30 - 16:00 16:30 - 17:00 17:45 - 18:20	Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol - Singles Event Conclusion Women's 50m Rifle Prone - Singles Event Conclusion Men's Skeet - Singles Stage 2 Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions - Singles Heats Women's 25m Pistol - Singles Heats Men's Skeet - Singles Final Women's 25m Pistol - Singles Final Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions - Singles Final <i>Medal Ceremonies (Individual)</i> <i>Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol; Women's 50m Rifle Prone; Men's</i> <i>Skeet; Women's 25m Pistol; Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions</i>

SHOOTING: BISLEY WILL CALL THE SHOTS

by Andrew Baker

The Daily Telegraph, Tuesday 7 May 2002

THE 12-bore shotgun feels heavy, and it is quite a struggle to keep the barrel steady. Through the ear-defenders I can barely make out the instructor's words: "Lean forward. Put more weight over your front foot. Now, ready? Pull!" A Day-Glo dot streaks into the rain sky, the gun punches me in the shoulder with a deafening bang and - good grief - the distant clay pigeon explodes in a puff of orange dust. He shoots. He scores. This is easy.

Oh, no it isn't. The second, third, fourth and fifth clay pigeons launched over the Bisley range drift serenely away to fly another day, or nest, or whatever it is that clay pigeons get up to when they escape. Come the Commonwealth Games, they will not be so lucky.

Bisley Camp in Surrey is about to become a distant suburb of Manchester. For logistical and safety reasons it was not deemed practical to construct suitable ranges for the Commonwealth Games shooting competitions in or around the host city, and Bisley, the home of the sport in this country, was the obvious fall-back location.

The result is a sensible collusion between Games organisers and shooting experts: the venue will be managed by Manchester 2002 staff, while experienced Bisley hands run the actual shooting. They will be busy: shooting will be the third largest sport at the Games, with 417 competitors from 41 countries vying for 40 medals.

The clay-pigeon ranges, scene of my remarkable fluke, will host the skeet and trap competitions, the latter featuring Richard Faulds, Britain's Olympic gold medallist in Sydney. The clay centre is just 18 months old, bedding nicely into the landscape from which it was carved.

The clay centre and the Lord Roberts indoor ranges, newly built with Sport England and Lottery grants, stand side by side with characterful Victorian and Edwardian edifices, and rows of wooden and brick villas, some tiny, some quite substantial, that are home to the various gun clubs for whose members Bisley is paradise. One such club occupies the former Camp railway station and an old railway carriage, another - the Muzzle Loaders' Association of Great Britain - a veranda-surrounded palace fit for a Viceroy.

Suitably adorned with Manchester 2002 logos, Bisley should present a charming face for the Games, a much-needed opportunity in the limelight for a sport which has, its practitioners feel, suffered from ill-deserved public and political opprobrium in recent years.

Frank Wyatt, practising with an air pistol at the indoor ranges in the Lord Roberts building, is a case in point. Twenty years ago he won a bronze medal in the free pistol event at the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. Now, post-Dunblane, he has to travel to Switzerland to practise for the same event. But he is not bitter: "I'm just looking forward to some more of the fun that I had in Brisbane."

Other British cartridge pistol competitors will face similar handicaps against competitors from Commonwealth countries where gun laws for dedicated sporting shooters are not as restrictive as in the UK. But the mood among all those practising at Bisley was positive: a little of the right kind of public attention will do wonders for this sport's morale.

Glyn Barnett and Jane Messer will shoot for England in the open rifle competition, aiming at a 24-inch bull's eye from a distance the length of 10 football pitches. Over such extreme ranges, a gust of wind can deflect a shot by a matter of feet rather than inches, which is where the second member of the team comes in; while one shoots, their "coach" reads the wind, waiting for a moment of calm before instructing their colleague to shoot. On the day of my visit, Messer, a civil servant, was shooting and Barnett, a doctor, and bronze medallist at the Commonwealth Games in 1994, was coaching.

Their event does not take place at the Olympics, so Manchester 2002 represents the quadrennial highlight for shooting as part of a multi-event Games. As blustery winds blew threatening clouds across the range, Messer adjusted the straps on the sling that helps to keep the arm supporting the rifle barrel stiff, and lay down to start the lengthy sighting process. Meanwhile, Barnett alternated glances at the sky and the fluttering wind flags on the range with glances through a telescope at the distant target.

"You must have total trust between the coach and the shooter, or the relationship can't work," he explained. "If the shooter is saying, 'Well, it looked all right when it left me', and the coach is saying, 'What am I supposed to do with shooting like that?', you'll get nowhere."

All seemed set. One thousand yards away, the target attendant was ready. Barnett watched the trees to the left of the range, from where the wind was coming, for signs of changes. At last he murmured: "Go on, Jane. Target 17."

"It sounds silly when you're the only people on the range," Messer explained later, "but it's really



The England Fullbore Squad pictured at last years Commonwealth Shooting Federation Championships. Left to right: Jane Messer, Parag Patel (Reserve), Glyn Barnett and John Bloomfield (Team Manager).
(Photo: Karen Robertson)

important for the coach to remind you which target you are shooting at. When there are competitors to either side of you and 70 people on the range it can be quite easy to take aim at the wrong target."

Afflictions that would affect the aim of normal mortals, such as a pounding heart and shaky fingers, disappear

with experience, though you have to be fit to keep the resting heart-rate down and the pulse steady. "Mental preparation can do away with nerves," Barnett explained. "After that you need perfect routine, rhythm, and concentration."

Like shooters in the other disciplines, Barnett and Messer know many of their Commonwealth Games rivals very well from previous international competitions. "The Irish and the South Africans are the likeliest challengers for medals," Messer said. "And you can never rule out the Canadians."

Such rivalries can last a lifetime in a sport that is not confined to the young. And real devotees maintain a presence at Bisley even after the great scorer in the sky has called time. Football fans like to have their ashes scattered in the penalty box of their favourite ground. Shooters go one better.

"An old shooter from Sussex died not so long ago," Messer recalled, "and he wanted his ashes scattered here. So he arranged for them to be put in a socking great firework rocket and he was launched with great ceremony over the ranges. So he's out there somewhere . . ."

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OBITUARIES

**Lieutenant
Colonel
HJ (Larry)
Orpen-Smellie
OBE (SM SC)**

Herbert John Orpen-Smellie, an only child known as Larry from childhood, was born on 18 January 1930 at Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. He died on 17 May 2002 aged 72 after a battle against cancer.



Larry was educated at Wellington College and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, before being commissioned into the Essex Regiment in 1949. He was posted to join the 1st Battalion in Colchester as a rifle platoon commander and he soon gained a reputation for being a competent subaltern. He also attracted a degree of notoriety for his pranks, which included lowering a thunderflash down the chimney of the Officers' Club during a ladies bridge evening which Larry judged needed livening up!

Larry demonstrated the beginnings of a life-long interest in marksmanship as a boy by taking the heads off all the tulips in the garden with an air rifle. He took up the sport more seriously while at school, where he shot for the Wellington College VIII in the first post war Ashburton Shield in 1946, and other competitions. He began shooting to international standard and was first selected for Army teams while still an Officer Cadet. By his early twenties he was shooting service weapons and target rifle regularly for the Army, England and Great Britain. It was his reputation as a marksman that led to his posting as a skill-at-arms instructor at Hythe in 1952 as a Second Lieutenant badged as an acting Captain.

He returned to the 1st Battalion The Essex Regiment in Hong Kong in 1954 before applying successfully to be seconded to the Parachute Regiment. He passed P Company selection at the Depot The Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces in December 1956. After a spell as the Air Training Officer at the Depot, he was posted to join the 1st Battalion The Parachute Regiment, then in Cyprus, as the Adjutant. During this tour the Essex Regiment was amalgamated into the Royal Anglian Regiment. Larry therefore accepted an offer to transfer into the Parachute Regiment's newly formed Permanent Cadre of Officers in 1958. He remained with the Regiment for the remainder of his service.

Throughout his career he continued to shoot service small arms competitively for the Army. In 1957 he became one of only three people ever to have been selected to shoot for the Army in all five disciplines of the Inter-Services matches in a single year. He rose to captain the Army VIII, a position he held for 14 years from 1968 until 1982. He also shot target rifle with

increasing success and, among many other achievements, he shot for England in the National Match 17 times and in the Mackinnon 15 times. He also shot for Great Britain in the Kolapore 10 times and in the World Long Range Team Championships for the Palma Trophy four times. He travelled on 11 Great Britain Overseas Teams between 1952 and 1996 and captained two of these; the first to Canada in 1975 and the second to New Zealand and Australia in 1984. However, despite this impressive and consistent record, the Army Queen's Medal eluded him although he made the Army Hundred 19 times between 1949 and 1983, was runner up in 1956 and came third in 1959. Similarly, he did not win the Queen's Prize although he reached the Queen's Hundred a total of 22 times, won the Silver Medal in 1965 and was runner up in 1970. He won the Grand Aggregate Silver Cross in 1990 as well as 21 other major trophies including the Prince of Wales in 1988.

Larry put shooting high on his list of priorities, perhaps at the expense of a more senior rank in the Army. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 1978 and was posted as the Chief Instructor of the Small Arms Wing of the School of Infantry. He was awarded the OBE in 1980 for his services to military shooting. His final few years in the service were spent commanding a wing of the Military Corrective Training Centre at Colchester, which suddenly had a run of notable successes in the Army's minor units shooting competitions.

In retirement he was extremely active, particularly as a member of the NRA Council for twenty years. He was President of the North London Rifle Club and a Vice-President of the NRA, the English Twenty Club and the British Commonwealth Club. He was also President of the South East Essex Branch of the Parachute Regimental Association. He had many interests and hobbies and he travelled extensively, often staying with shooting friends around the globe.

Larry looked every inch a soldier: a ramrod straight back, bristling moustache, twinkling eye and a purposeful stride, often breaking into a double. He celebrated his 70th birthday in New Zealand with a bungee jump. It was later reported that a voice had been heard from somewhere behind him in the queue saying: "The old boy won't go". He did, with his characteristic dive that he had always used when jumping from the balloon during his military parachuting days. He had an enormous zest for life and a gift for making friends, who came from many nations and of all walks of life. He thoroughly enjoyed a party and always had a good tale to tell. He was, particularly, a man of massive moral integrity; old-fashioned good manners and virtues; utterly loyal to the Crown, Country, his family, and all the many organisations he supported.

He married Jean Watson in 1954, whom he met on Bisley Ranges, and for their 48 years of married life she gave him sterling support in his Army career, his family life and the shooting sport which she shared with him. The NRA offers their sincere condolences to Jean and their son Giles, who is the current Regimental Lieutenant Colonel of the Parachute Regiment, and their daughter Jane, who now shoots for Wales.

His friends



Charles Cunningham

It was with a mixture of disbelief, anger and above all great sorrow that Charles's many friends heard of his murder on the island of Lombok, Indonesia, whilst on a trekking holiday. At the age of 47, he still had so much to give, to shooting and especially to Wooldings, the vineyard which he had literally created with his own hands, and developed into England's finest.

Charles was born on 8 March 1955, and educated at Bradfield College. There, once he had overcome his misgivings about joining the CCF, a pre-requisite to be in the shooting squad, he showed great promise as a rifleman. He was an Atheling in 1973, and won his blue at Oxford, where he read Engineering.

He started his civil engineering career with Sir William Halcrow & Partners, but the rigours of commercial life, especially overseas postings and the relative lack of holiday, increasingly impinged on his shooting, and at a certain point, faced with a choice between a posting in South America and shooting, he resigned. However, lasting memorials to his skill as a civil engineer are in the bridge on the A34 Whitchurch by-pass, where he was a design engineer, and the bar of the North London, where he designed and personally constructed the panelling.

He became a schoolmaster, teaching Physics at Sevenoaks School, and creating a rifle team which rapidly became a force to be reckoned with in schools shooting circles. He resigned, in order to go on a winter tour to Australia. He then taught briefly at Churcher's College, Petersfield, before finally devoting himself fully to creating, from a bare hillside on the family farm at Whitchurch, Hampshire, a vineyard which won many international wine competitions, and in 2001 was

the first English vineyard to be awarded the Quality Wine Marque.

Charles's first overseas tour was in the Goodwill Team to Zimbabwe. Shortly after arriving in Bulawayo, John Killian gathered together a number of riflemen whose first tour it was, to point out that, if they shot well and proved themselves good "team men", their shooting careers would prosper. Charles responded admirably. He was subsequently a member of tours to Australia, Canada (where he was sixth in the Governor General's in 1984 and, as Athelings Adjutant, fourth in 1986) New Zealand, West Indies and the USA. In 1988 he made top score for Great Britain in the Palma Match in Australia.

At Bisley, his international career started in 1981 when he was a reserve for England in the National Match. He represented England on six further occasions, and became one of the elite few to have shot in the Big Five, representing Great Britain in the Palma, Kolapore and Australia matches, and England in the National and Mackinnon. He also shot match rifle for England in the Elcho in 1981.

His individual successes at Bisley were legion, including winning the Silver Cross for being second in the Grand Aggregate in 1986. He won seven Queen's badges, eight Grand Crosses and three St George's badges. His name is on a number of NRA trophies, and he gained numerous club honours, especially in connection with his county, Hampshire.

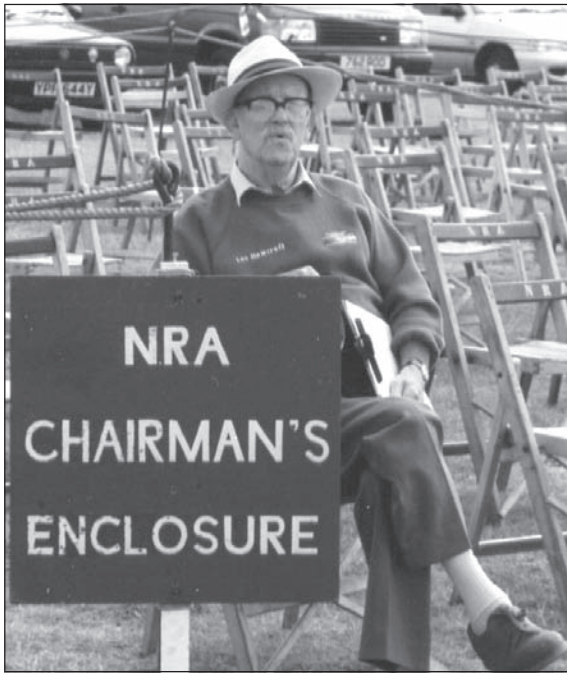
Away from the ranges, Charles was a former Hon Secretary of OCRA, and a committee member of the British Commonwealth and the North London. He was closely involved in the early days of the Grand Aggregate Leader Board. As, in the late 1980s, he focused more and more on Wooldings, he became less active at Bisley, but to the end he could be seen during the Imperial Meeting with his ramshackle car, genially dispensing cases of wine to discerning customers. With his donnish air, one had the impression that he was more interested in producing his wine than actually selling it. Likewise, the gourmet dinners that he hosted at Wooldings, cooking the locally produced Hampshire ingredients himself as well as acting as *maitre d'hôtel*, automatically included his house wines and were excellent value.

With his passing, Bisley and the world have lost a kindly and able man who still had many years of service left to give to his fellows, in a number of fields. What a waste.

Nigel Suffield-Jones

Margaret Horton-Smith

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Margaret Horton-Smith on 17 May. Margaret for many years was instrumental with Jean Orpen-Smellie in running the squadding system and front counter during the Bisley Meeting. A full obituary will appear in the next edition of the Journal.



Les Howcroft

Bisley has lost one of its well-loved characters with the passing of Les Howcroft, peacefully in his sleep, in the early hours of Thursday 2 May aged 83. Les had been the face of the newspapers on Bisley Camp for more than 50 years, ferreting away in his inimitable style to feed the results and the stories to the sporting pages. In his career he had worked on London local papers, the Sunday Express and then for the Press Association. However, throughout his time with the Press Association he held the position of special reporter covering shooting - and particularly the Bisley Meeting.

Frank Leslie Howcroft was born a Liverpoolian, on 18 August 1918, over a fish shop. This location always gave him great amusement when he slipped into anecdotes about his life. He left Liverpool at the age of 14 and took his first job as an apprentice reporter on the Leytonstone Express and Independent Group of papers. He then moved to the Sunday Express to report on sports, thanks he said, to a family connection. His grandfather, a top swimming coach, had worked on the Morning Post and the Daily Herald.

Service as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Army Service Corps - "I remember the food parcels from Lord Beaverbrook" - during the war took him to Italy and Sicily, where he claimed to have lost his trousers in mysterious circumstances. The tale, related with great self-effacement, was that they were neatly folded over his chair in the billet when he went to sleep and had gone the following morning. He had to instruct himself to issue himself with a new pair from the stores. After the war he joined the Press Association and was variously an Industrial Correspondent and then Deputy Parliamentary Editor. This last post was only achieved after considerable persuasion by the management because he had severe reservations about the way in which the Parliamentary hours would "turn my life upside down".

However during this time he never lost his attachment to Bisley and his friends there, continuing to cover rifle shooting events. Each year in July he would make the trek with his team of assistants to the Bisley Imperial Meeting. His copy was distributed to some 40 newspapers throughout the UK, on 40 word pages through the old Post Office Telegram service at the Bisley Camp Post Office, or via Red Star Parcels on the railway or "that new fangled invention - the Telex". In 1980, after 38 years with the Press Association he took retirement, but continued to act as the shooting correspondent of the Times and Daily Telegraph, also working closely with the NRA at their request after the retirement of his predecessor Doc Clarke.

He lodged in a variety of offices at Bisley, from the original press accommodation in the main building where the armoury now is, to a room at the rear of Fulton's (now the taxi office). There he shared space with one of the ancient wooden telephone boxes rescued from the main building, but now sadly removed and burned in a recent clear up.

Although Les never competed in shooting events he could always be found on Sovereign's Prize day walking alongside the winner as they were accorded the tradition of being chaired from the ranges by their supporters and fellow competitors. This he did for over 50 years. The NRA named one of their aggregates the "Howcroft Newspaper Aggregate" in recognition of his contribution and the task that he undertook. He was a source of encouragement for British rifle teams abroad, supporting them actively on the firing point on numerous tours. He always said that he could find lasting friendships amongst the Bisley folk. At Bisley he was also renowned for his contributions to the vigorous Royal Marines "Eight Foot Match" evenings. His list of ditties included memorable numbers, such as his solo rendition of "The Twelve Days of Bisley".

With some reluctance he retired from his Bisley reporting in 1999, after a few years in which health problems had occasionally limited his activities. On his retirement he was accorded Honorary Life Membership of the National Rifle Association for his contribution to the sport. One day, some time before I ever imagined that I might take over his mantle, he told me with a conspiratorial air that he knew exactly what I had been doing during some crisis in my then job. It transpired that both his daughter and granddaughter worked in other departments for my employers. He surveyed me with that basilisk stare "Do not worry" he said "It's safe with me". I never did discover what "It" was. I shall always be grateful to Les for the help and sage advice that he gave me when I served my short apprenticeship. "We scribblers must stick together," he said as we struggled to create work that would survive the surgery of the sub-editors.

His was married for 47 years to Joan who died in 1988. His daughter Kay and granddaughter Sarah survive him.

Tony de Launay

Phyllis Clarke

Phyll met Arthur in 1941 when he was serving with the Army in Northampton. She was not quite 17; Arthur was just over 18. They married in January 1944. Soon after the war ended, Arthur was on his way to Egypt. Phyll joined him a



year later with their son Mike. A year later a move to the Suez Canal area coincided with the arrival of their daughter Jacky. A short spell back in the UK was again followed by another Eastern posting for Arthur in Singapore. Phyll joined him a year later.

On their return to the UK, whilst visiting Catterick, Phyll joined the ladies small-bore club, and found that she had a natural talent for the sport. After another short spell in the UK, Arthur found himself heading East yet again, for a three-year spell in Hong Kong. It was here that Phyll had her first experience of fullbore shooting during their last year in the colony, winning the Ladies Championship and a Governor's 20 Badge at her first attempt.

After 12 years in the UK without firing a shot, Phyll and Arthur headed for the sun once more, and spent five years in Kenya. Here Phyll enjoyed her only spell of regular fullbore shooting; she was good enough to represent Kenya regularly in the team of four in the Overseas Matches, and win the Ladies Championship as well.

On returning to the UK she 'retired' from shooting, apart from the odd shoot in the Surrey League for Manydown Club when they were short in numbers, and she produced scores that were on a par with the regular team members.

Her ability to shoot to a high standard without practice was never more evident than in 1982. Arthur was at Bisley for a final midweek practice shoot before heading for the Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. She came with him in case a butt marker was needed. After he had finished, she said "Let me have a shoot." With Arthur's rifle, coat, lens, etc. (none of which was anywhere near suitable for her) she fired a 2 and 7 at 300 yards, and called every shot within an inch of its position in the bullseye. Arthur left for Brisbane two days later wondering whether the wrong member of the family had been chosen.

She was a founder member of the Shooting Widows Benevolent Fund.

Phyll will be greatly missed by her family and many friends in shooting.

AE Clarke

Janet Arnold

Sadly, in the afternoon of Wednesday 6 March, Jan Arnold suffered a massive cerebral haemorrhage and never recovered consciousness. She was 81.



To the shooting fraternity at Bisley and in numerous countries abroad, the mention of "Jan and George" or "George and Jan" was sufficient immediately to identify an inseparable couple. They were never apart.

A Glaswegian, Janet Todd entered the Civil Service and, in 1942, found herself in Cambridge on an attachment to the Post Office Training College. Whilst there Jan became friendly with a young instructor on a telecommunications course and although later posted to opposite ends of the country during the war years, they managed to see each other every weekend. The young instructor was, of course, George and they married in 1945.

In 1950 they joined the Dorking and District Rifle Club, whose Boarhill Range went back to 600 yards and it soon became obvious that Jan was no mean shot.

Ever ambitious, they were soon making excursions to Bisley on a regular basis, to compete against "the big boys", and it was they who encouraged the shooters of Dorking to do the same.

In 1958 Jan was reserve for Scotland in the National Match and shot in the teams of 1962, 1963 and 1974; she was again a reserve in 1966.

Jan also shot in the Final for HM The Sovereign's Prize on three occasions - 1957, 1965 and 1974: during the Final of 1965 the BBC commentator announced that the small provincial Dorking Rifle Club had no fewer than five members shooting in the Final. Incidentally, George did not make the Final that year! Of her individual successes, the winning of the Canadian Ladies' Open Championship was probably her finest achievement.

When not shooting, Jan was involved as a range official who could be relied upon to do the job efficiently and without fuss. Her friendliness and beaming smile, plus her sense of humour did much to smooth the ruffled feathers of many an irate shooter.

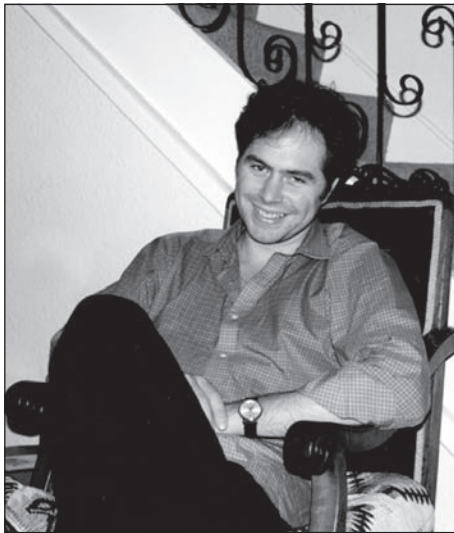
Jan enjoyed a pint and the occasional good cigar, in fact Jan enjoyed life, full stop! Now that her life has come to an end, she will be sadly missed by so many friends spread to far-flung parts of the world. Her infectious smile and good humour will long be remembered with affection.

We lose a friend but George loses a soul mate of some sixty years duration. To him we offer our most sincere condolences.

NEC Molyneux

James Higgo

James Higgo, renowned for his vivacious character and *joie de vivre*, was a well-known figure in the shooting fraternity. Born in Cape Town in 1968, he was the son of the late John Higgo, a Maths teacher, and Jennifer



Higgo, a radiochemist. In 1980, his family uprooted and moved to Hertfordshire, England, where James attended Heathmount Preparatory School and later Haileybury College.

It was at Haileybury that James learned his musketry, on the famous 80 year-old 200 metres Safety Range. He became College gun and spent many happy hours roaming the woods while his contemporaries were running around the rugby field. His love of flying began in the CCF and it was with the CCF that he first flew a light plane and obtained his glider pilot's licence as well as an O-level in air navigation.

At Edinburgh University, where he studied Economics and Politics, his extracurricular activities included publishing a successful "Good Food Guide to

Edinburgh" and starting a Clay Pigeon Shooting society. He left Edinburgh to pursue a career in marketing. He was marketing director for Lombard Street Research for several years and then for Odey Asset Management. However, he did not let work take over his life and he pursued his numerous interests which ranged from shooting to tobogganing (Cresta run) to sky diving, scuba diving and white-water rafting. He was also a critical thinker and an enthusiastic advocate of the "multiverse" theory. The first four chapters of his book "Four reasons why you don't exist" can be found on his web site at www.higgo.com/quantum.

Shooting (both TR and clay pigeon) always played an important part in his life. He was a regular competitor in the Veterans match at Bisley and took over as both Captain and Secretary when the previous holder of these posts disappeared! He negotiated the registration of the Haileybury Veterans Rifle Club and continued to lead and organise the teams for the Annual Meeting, regularly pointing out that if only he could guarantee to get his best five shots together to the firing point at the same and right time his Club could win the match!

On 22 July 2001 James was flying back from his chateau in the Dordogne when his plane suffered structural failure and spiralled out of the sky into the ground. He was killed instantly. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held at Haileybury College on 28 September 2001, and an illustrated transcript of the service can be found on his web site at www.higgo.com/remembrance.

Jennifer Higgo

William Leonard Baron

Len Baron came upon the target shooting scene in 1953, when he joined the Dorking and District Rifle Club.

The family owned garages in Dorking, Shere and on Brooklands racetrack, so Len grew up with motor cars. They raced Bugattis, previous to the Second World War, with Len acting as test-driver and mechanic to his older brother, Arthur, who was the race driver. Besides racing at Brooklands, they also had successes in overland and hill climbing events. On the advent of hostilities, both brothers became soldiers and served in the North Africa campaign, Italy etc; Arthur in Ordnance and Len in Heavy Vehicle Recovery.

After the War, the brothers moved into the photography business, opening a camera shop in London's Royal Exchange. Eventually they expanded, with additional shops in Guildford and Aldershot. Len was living in Epsom and so ran the Guildford shop.

It was at this time that he caught the shooting 'bug', which was to be his main hobby. He shot rifles and pistols of all descriptions, from antique muzzleloaders to high power double-barrelled big game rifles, shotguns and virtually anything that would go 'bang'!

He was a licenced hunter with the Deer Preservation Society and shot in many Surrey teams, reaching the final Hundred in 1965. Unfortunately hereditary glaucoma

began to affect his shooting eye and soon he was forced to change shoulders and shoot left handed. This he accomplished with only a slight reduction in his SR(b) scores.

In 1975 he was elected an Honorary Life Vice President of the Dorking Club, in recognition of his services to that club and to mark his retirement. Consequently he purchased a cottage at Battle Dykes by Forfar, in Scotland, where he resided to the day of his death. Once in Scotland, Len immersed himself in hunting and fishing often acting as a ghillie to visiting hunting parties. This he did until he was almost 80.

Finally his sight failed so that he could no longer drive or see well enough to make things in his workshop. He was also becoming, like so many shooters, a little hard of hearing. Failing kidneys, prostate, lung and heart problems all contributed to making his life a bore (his words) and his doctor told him frankly that his days were numbered. At that Len put his affairs in order and passed away, much as the doctor had predicted.



His last visit to Bisley was for the 2000 Imperial Meeting, where he socialised with many of his old chums. He was one of the best and a good friend, who will be remembered with affection by many, some of whom will vividly remember his .303" pistol made from a cut-down SMLE! Impressive, to say the least!

Through a war-time tragedy, Len remained a bachelor, with no surviving relatives. He requested no great ceremony or fuss and so he was cremated and his ashes quietly scattered in local Glen Clova amid the fauna, flora and scenery that he loved so much.

RIP old friend.

NEC Molyneux

John Davies

John was born in February 1928 and went to school at St Johns Leatherhead. He went through Sandhurst in the first post war intake and went on to serve 15 years with the Royal Engineers in Germany, Egypt and Korea. He retired as a Captain in the early 1960s and became interested in small-bore rifle shooting and later fullbore. John shot both small-bore and fullbore for his county and was a regular competitor at the Imperial Meeting each year.

His remarkable record lowest score of 21 in the Corporation or the "Annual Wrist Slashing" as he liked to call it has yet to be beaten.

He leaves a widow and two sons and will be sadly missed as a great friend and comrade.

MI Cook

Norah Eleanor Keymer

Norah was born in 1908 in India and at 18 she married Ronald Keymer, then a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy. Ronald and Norah would attend Bisley every year and donated the Keymer Cup which they presented every year to the highest Naval shooter in the aggregate of the Whitehead and the Service Pistol Cup. Norah also learned to shoot at Bisley and they both thoroughly enjoyed their visits. Ronald passed away nearly 50 years ago after attaining the rank of Commander in the Royal Navy but Norah continued to visit Bisley and present their cup.

Later in life she suffered from spondylitis and was unable to visit the Camp but loved to read about Bisley in the Journal. She made a lot of friends at Bisley and kept in touch with them over the passing years.

Sadly she passed away on 29 January this year.

Jane Murphy

Jean Orpen-Smellie and the family have been very touched by the enormous number of messages and letters that they have received and that are continuing to arrive following Larry's passing. They will endeavour to reply to everyone but this may take a little time. Nevertheless, they would like everyone to know that the warmth and support contained in these messages has been wonderful and is very much appreciated.

THE RICOCHET RIFLE CLUB LOGO

by Rob Needham



Younger shooters may have noticed us sporting this logo on blue sweatshirts and wondered what the logo represents. The explanation is a bit of shooting history that younger readers might find of interest.

Before the current system of marking the value of shots by the position of a board along the bottom of the target face, the values were marked by a larger, wooden board that had two hooks on the back. This black board was hung from a metal rail on the BACK marking frame, which was as large as the target frame and counterbalanced it.

There were two horizontal rails on the marking frame, one at the top of the frame and one in the middle; this enabled the marker board to hang like a black square in any of the four corners of the marking frame. The person working the target had to spot the value of the shot while the target face was still UP, hang the board in the appropriate corner of the marking frame, and then pull the target down. This raised the back frame and enabled the firer to see the value of his shot. Spotting disks were used as they are now, so the actual position of the shot was seen when the target face was raised again.

It was this method of marking that was in use when the Ricochet Rifle Club was founded in 1933. Because the four corners of the marking frame were used to signal a bull, inner, magpie or outer, there was no position left to mark a ricochet. A ricochet was more common in those days, and was detected by a combination of strange sound as the bullet arrived at the butts and an odd-shaped hole in the target. So a ricochet was marked by hanging the marker board from one hook in the centre of the middle rail. This meant that the marker board hung in a diamond shape in the marker frame, which is represented in the Ricochet Rifle Club logo.

Charity Commission

CHY-1161C

CHARITY: The Ffennell Miniature and Full Bore Rifle Shooting Fund

Reference: 211126/AFC

The Charity Commission proposes to make a scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at:

Derby Lodge, Bisley Camp

or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference or visiting our website at

<http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>

Comments or representations can be made within one month from today, 30 May 2002.

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PSSA Diggle Northern F Class Championship

The PSSA Diggle F Class Northern Championship will be held at Diggle Ranges on 21 July 2002. The course of fire will be 2 and 15 at 800, 900 and 1000 yards. It will be run under NRA rules and there will be a maximum of 32 shooters. Entries will be accepted on the day.

For further information please contact
Russell Hobbs

Diggle Ranges, Saddleworth, Nr Oldham, Lancs

Tel: 01706 230583 (*weekends only*)

or e-mail: RUSSELLHOBBS114@ic24.net

MEMBERS' PAGE

Shooting excuses

The use of excuses for poor shooting is not merely a normal activity, it is a major source of bar profits within a five mile radius of every range worldwide, as those dropped points are justified, explained and dissected in minute detail. It was widely believed that the list of was now complete, as an original excuse has not been heard for many years. The test of originality is to tell the excuse in the presence of at least six shooters of pensionable age, and fail to gain a response along the lines of "yes that happened to me in . . ."

The discovery of a new excuse for poor shooting is thus an event of considerable significance. Indeed, since it adds to the sum total of human knowledge, it may fairly be named after the discoverer, and used as a submission for the award of a doctorate at the University of Life. Here then for the record is:

Silver's Excuse - derived by experiment at Bloemfontein, South Africa, in April 2002 and demonstrated before Brigadier General "Mac" Alexander and numerous other military range staff, by Flight Sergeant Michael William Silver, one-time drill instructor at the RAF School of Recruit Training, Halton.

The first three had gone nicely in the V bull, when something wriggled around the ankle just as Mick let the fourth shot go. The unexpected disturbance led

Mick to twitch the shot to the inner. After a wriggle to eject the offending ant or whatever, Mick settled for shot number five. At the critical moment something caused a tickling sensation around the back of his knee. Mick jumped in surprise, the trigger finger responded, and the shot streaked off into the magpie. At shot number six, the tickling rubbing sensation intensified along the inside of Mick's thigh. Mick shook violently and the shot headed wild into the outer. As the assault reached critical areas, Mick decided enough was enough. Retiring two paces to the rear while hopping (a drill movement invented spontaneously for the occasion), Mick threw off his overtrousers, jeans and underwear whilst performing an impromptu Highland Fling. The Range Officer was prevented from admonishing Mick for immodest behaviour or for leaving the point without permission by an uncontrollable fit of laughter as a large and bemused African bullfrog exited from around Mick's groin and hopped to freedom.

Let the record show that, when tales of military deeds are told, retold and exaggerated, Flight Sergeant Silver shall henceforth be known as "Bullfrog".

Spot the Empty Competition

Crispin Schlaefli of Lightwater is the lucky winner of the holiday in Malaysia. Crispin and his wife plan to fly off for a week in November and are "totally amazed at the prize". The GB Team to Australia 2001 were delighted with the response for the draw which was generously supported by Malaysia Airlines and Meritus Hotels. Many thanks to those who entered the competition.

Great Britain Rifle Team Cufflinks

Available now - specially commissioned solid silver oval cufflinks measuring 22mm x 18mm x 3mm thick.

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Ladies pendants also available at £30 each.

Contact John Bloomfield

Tel: 01909 500117

E-mail: jpsb.welbeck@u.genie.co.uk or at Bisley via NLRC letter rack.

All proceeds to benefit the Great Britain Rifle Team to Canada 2002.



"Hmmm now what's a suitable punishment for dropping your trousers in front of a senior officer?" ponders Brigadier General "Mac" Alexander

(Photo: Volksblad)

Due to lack of space in this issue the Caption Competition will be held over until the Winter Journal.

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Write or ring for self-measurement form.



Phil Bennison, Bisley 1998

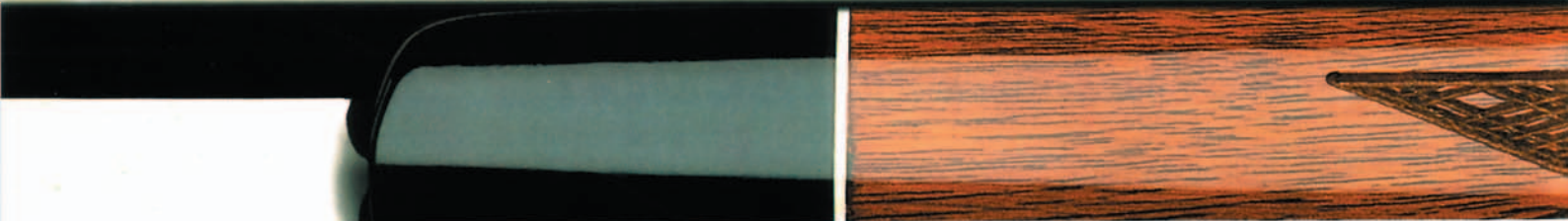


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