



# National Rifle Association Journal

Winter 2002    Volume LXXXI    Number 3





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# REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL



*by  
John  
Jackman*

My speech to the Bisley General Meeting is reported elsewhere. Prior to the meeting I had issued an open letter to members attending Bisley and posted it on our web site. Members will be increasingly aware that we are using our web site to keep you in touch with National Rifle Association matters as quickly as possible.

However, this issue of the Journal gives me an opportunity to update all members on a number of matters which will be of interest.

## **Finance and the 10% surcharge**

Whilst figures are necessarily still subject to finalisation and audit, the National Rifle Association's results should be, overall, close to plan and will produce the first overall operating surplus for eight years, even if short of the £100,000 target I announced at the Spring General Meeting.

Our total bank borrowings, as I write, are close to our loan facility of £1.35m referred to in the Summer Journal. This will compare with the overall loan and overdraft borrowing, at the beginning of the year, of close to £1.8m.

Council and its committees have examined the experience of the last year and have set a budget for the target £200,000 operating surplus for the forthcoming year, which accords with the expectations I also expressed at the Spring General Meeting. I shall be able to give more details with my annual report but, broadly, prices (before adjusting for the surcharge) will rise by about 2%, although some will fall or vary according to detailed reviews. Savings in costs are being achieved wherever possible.

However, Council has decided that the surcharge can be reduced by 2% to 8% for the forthcoming year to reflect our anticipated lower interest charges whilst trying to ensure that future movements will be

downward, only! As I have explained before, it is very much our intention that new activity (rather than price increases) will generate more income to the benefit of shooters, but I have made no pretence that it can be done overnight.

On Council we all hope that confidence in our financial security will continue to improve and that shooters will be as robust as they can afford to increase their activities with us as our overall prices and charges stabilise.

## **Capital Projects**

Our capital expenditure budget, at Bisley this year, has been severely curtailed while we absorb the expenditure of recent years. There will be a limited programme in the forthcoming year, but it will hopefully include an improvement of access to the Siberia range and to the eastern end of Century next to butt 19.

In the meantime, there are two new building sites. Alongside the Canadian Pavilion there is a new chalet block with five individual units, leased to and being built by members. Just south of the Clay Range, to the right of the Zero Range, the Bisley Gun Club has a lease to build a new clubhouse with a proposal to sell its original building. The club has moved out of that part of the new clay target pavilion, which it used for 15 months, thus allowing the clay target range enlarged facilities to develop its own activities and, hopefully, profits for our benefit. There is now some interest in the proposed chalet site close to Stickledown to which Nick Jeffs, Chairman of the Estate Committee, has elsewhere referred.

Other improvements around the higher end of the clay target area, particularly turfing, have benefited from personal gifts to National Shooting Centre Limited.

Members should also know that the NSRA have exercised their option, granted last year, to acquire the old cookhouse site by Elcho Road. Their plan is to build an accommodation block, starting later this winter.

## **Charity Commission**

In my Open Letter to members in July I reported: "Our registration as a charity was last reviewed in 1997/98 and is subject to periodic review. We have been advised that we shall be subject to another review, shortly, probably prompted by recent events. However, we hope that our core arguments remain valid and we are preparing ourselves to re-affirm our case."

I am delighted to report that I have received verbal confirmation from the Charity Commission that the National Rifle Association is to remain a registered Charity. I have emphasised before how important this is to us.



## **“Bisley Ltd” Project**

This, readers will recall, is the heading for our management re-organisation. Whilst the concept is simple and has been well received, it represents a radical change in management approach which will need to be absorbed, yet retain our essential traditions. Council and its working parties have spent much time developing the detail to try to ensure that the proposed changes have been fully thought through.

At a Council Meeting on 27 September (as I advised on our web site) Council approved the detailed Blueprint which, when comment from the Charity Commission has been obtained, will be placed on our web site for those of you who want to see the detail.

Still essentially in line with the original proposals, further consideration has been given to the management of the National Rifle Association charity itself. At the Spring General Meeting I asked for views. The conclusion, much in line with submissions made to General Meetings in recent years, is that management and trusteeship of the National Rifle Association charity needs to be with a small management board of no more than 10 to 14 people with the appropriate skills. This compares with the present Council/Trustees numbering about 60. Their task must be objective and even handed, financially prudent and not biased to sectional interests, in ensuring that the National Rifle Association observes its Royal Charter objects of “promoting and encouraging rifle shooting”.

The reality, of course, is that since the original Royal Charter there have developed many sectional interests in disciplines of fullbore rifle and pistol shooting by civilians organised these days by home countries, regions, counties and clubs, regular services, volunteer and reserve services, services’ and schools’ cadets. In order to ensure that these constituencies of members and supporters are still represented, the concept of the present Council, elected by the members and constituent interests, will be retained. In order to observe the Royal Charter, the management board of Trustees will be called the Council and the representatives of the members and sectional interests will together be referred to as the ‘general council’. The ‘general council’ will be responsible for electing and approving the members of Council on behalf of members and the constituent interests.

The Bisley ranges will be managed by National Shooting Centre Limited, our wholly owned trading company, on a commercial basis whilst protecting the proper interests of target shooting under the general direction of Council.

The new arrangements will require changes to our rules and bylaws and this will be the next task for Council so that final proposals can be provided to members in time for the Spring General Meeting on 29 March 2003.

## **Recruitment of New Management**

I am pleased to report that Council has appointed an independent and honorary Treasurer, Philip Currie, who will now assume the role which I have carried out over the last year. Council has also designated Charles Oliver-Bellasis (an elected member of Council) as Chairman of National Shooting Centre Ltd. He has also kindly offered his services on an honorary basis.

The Council and board of National Shooting Centre Limited have appointed Martin Farnan as Director of Shooting and Sarah Bunch as Director of Clays (The National Clay Shooting Centre). They, together with the managing director, when appointed, will be the executive directors of the company.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee, now under the chairmanship of Michael Walton, with me are currently engaged in recruiting a Secretary General of the National Rifle Association. The appointee will be responsible to Council for the affairs of the National Rifle Association charity with particular emphasis on membership and target shooting promotion, maintaining and developing regional representation and activity as well as liaison with associated bodies in the UK and our overseas target shooting friends.

The Committee is also recruiting a Managing Director of National Shooting Centre Limited who will be responsible, in particular, for the management and development of the Bisley estate and ensuring a commercial, but shooting member and customer friendly approach. The task is painstaking as they look for the right person. The company will be expected to work closely with resident clubs and businesses to develop activities for mutual benefit as well as, most importantly, to provide services to the National Rifle Association.

## **Present Arrangements**

In the interim, the present Committee structure, under its chairmen, is continuing in office, taking forward plans in preparation for the future, helping to ensure that we can move ahead more quickly when we have new senior management in post. In particular, the Estate Committee, aided by non-Council members with particular expertise, has been getting closer to detail on the Bisley estate and the Membership Committee has been examining ways to increase our membership and knowledge of our affiliated membership as well as to introduce new people to shooting. These latter are most important to support our efforts to improve our political standing. We perceive that, not least as tested by the Commonwealth Games, opposition to our activities has begun to recede and we must now try slowly to regain ground in the public eye.

We are indebted to Sandy Ewing, as our consultant, with his particular experience as a former Chief Executive who has been attending our office in overall charge of operations with Martin Farnan as senior permanent manager at Bisley.

## REPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



*by Simon Belither  
Chairman  
of the  
Membership  
Committee*

First of all, on behalf of the Membership Committee, I should like to thank those of you who have made suggestions regarding the future cost and benefits of being a member of the NRA. Such feedback is very helpful to the Committee for defining or confirming our strategy.

The Committee has two major goals: firstly to increase the number of fullbore shooters in the UK and secondly for all of them to belong to the NRA as individual members. We are well aware that the current subscription rates do not really support this strategy and would like to reduce them radically. Unfortunately, as the Chairman has described on pages 2 and 3, we must be certain that we can achieve what we are committed to in our budget plans. I can assure you that, as the number of members increases, we will make proportionate reductions in the cost of individual membership. To give some weight to this promise, we are taking our first step in the right direction by reducing the overall cost of individual membership by 2%.

Apart from budgetary requirements, there are also other obstacles that prevent us from moving in certain directions or as fast as we would like. We have obligations, due to our Charitable status, that we must fulfil and also some tax issues around Gift Aid that have to be taken into consideration. This has prevented us from pursuing some of the more popular suggestions.

A variety of steps are being taken to increase awareness of the various disciplines. Some of you may have seen the "Sportnation" series on Sky TV in August, which included an overview of the fullbore disciplines; this footage is available on video (*see advert for details*). The Probationary Course continues to be a great success and is heavily booked. Currently it is difficult for those who express an interest in our sport to try it out. As individuals we are not allowed to host guests on the range and Clubs must abide by the Home Office rules for Guest Days. To ease this problem we are developing an Introductory Course which is designed to give

participants an overview of the various disciplines for which the NRA is responsible, including some shooting. Initially, this scheme will be launched at Bisley, but it is intended to develop it at other centres in due course if it proves popular. It is our intention that this course will be run on a regular basis under guest day rules and will bridge the gap between initial interest and signing up for a probationary course. As legislation precludes us from advertising guest days, we will be highly dependent on you, the membership, to refer interested parties to us.

Elsewhere in the Journal there is an excellent article from Carshalton Rifle Club describing their highly successful approach to increasing membership. As they have found, it really is possible not only to bring newcomers in to the sport but in quantity as well. If you or your club need assistance, or advice, on how to make this happen then please contact Heather Webb, the Membership Secretary and we will do our very best to support in whatever way we can.

In the meantime, it is worth remembering that a £10 credit will be given to any member or club for introducing a new full member to the NRA.



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# REPORT FROM THE ESTATES COMMITTEE



*by Nick Jeffs  
Chairman  
of the  
Estates  
Committee*

## Leases and Annual Lettings

During this last year the members of the Estates Committee have become more involved in detail than for many years.

## Huts and other buildings

The Committee asked for a Register of Property and leases which, together with a map of the estate, has just been made available. Now, for the first time, the Committee has a concise list of the leases and annual lettings at Bisley. It was immediately apparent that many were due for review and renewal and that there were discrepancies in annual lettings. Accordingly a special meeting has been arranged to discuss the leases with Tim Olliff-Lee of Strutt & Parker, Salisbury, who advise us professionally, as required by the Charities Act.

## Caravans

Earlier this year, Mrs Sherril Dixon, our accommodation officer, undertook the considerable task of measuring caravans, to determine actual living space, prior to billing. This has led to a number of caravans being reclassified. After much discussion, the Committee has decided to introduce a graduated charging scale for caravans over 23 feet in length and 10 feet in width to ensure that those with larger caravans would pay proportionately more than this current basic benchmark. This will result in some increases and some decreases for 2003.

### Length

Up to and including 23'	£473.00
Over 23' and up to and including 26'	£550.00
Over 26' and up to and including 30'	£600.00
Over 30'	£700.00
Winter storage	£103.00

*(including surcharge and VAT)*

### Width

The average size caravan is 10' wide. Caravans over 10' will be charged pro rata.

<b>Example 1</b>	23' x 10' = 230 sq ft = £2.06 per sq ft
	23' x 12' = 276 sq ft = £568.56
<b>Example 2</b>	26' x 10' = 260 sq ft = £2.12 per sq ft
	26' x 12' = 312 sq ft = £661.44

Both the above steps are in accordance with the duty of the Committee which is to maximise the profitability of Bisley Estate, whilst seeking to ensure fairness among members.

It should be remembered that, as a charity, the National Rifle Association has a legal obligation to charge commercial rates for property and services. Strutt and Parker assess the property rents independently. The Estates Committee has spent, and is spending, an enormous amount of time and effort in ensuring that these charges are distributed in a correct and professional manner. I am grateful for the voluntary support which I receive from our Committee.

The Estates Committee realises that some members will have to bear heavier charges, although, for some, they will be less. However, the overall position is reviewed, not only by the Committee, but also by independent advisors and the Council, with the aim of ensuring the long-term viability of the National Rifle Association. We will be writing to those affected as soon as possible.

## Building Plot Close to Stickledown

Readers will recall the advertisement in the Summer Journal. No tenders for the lease of this plot were received by the tender date of 1 September, but two members have since shown an interest.

We are currently reviewing the tender details for this plot and we shall then write to all those who have shown an interest to seek a formal tender with a new deadline. If you have not done so already and are interested in being included in this tender, please write to Sherril Dixon, expressing your interest as soon as possible. The deadlines will be announced on our web site after 22 November.

## The Barn

The Barn, a three bedroom house owned by the National Rifle Association and previously occupied by Colin Cheshire, is now available for letting. Until Christmas it is the subject of a short-term letting. The Committee is engaged in examining ways to obtain the best return in future. Local letting market indicators suggest a going rate of between £1,000 and £1,500 per month for short-term lettings.

## Hut Waiting List

Following allocation of huts on the current waiting list, places are now available on the list. On receipt of a written request with a deposit of £50 refundable against your first invoice, your name will be added to the list. As soon as a hut is released an offer will be made to the next name on the list. A copy of terms will be sent with confirmation.

## Member's Enquiries

Any member wishing to make an enquiry about obtaining a caravan site, a hut or taking an interest in other property should state his or her interest to Sherril Dixon who will bring it to our attention.

# SHOOTING MANAGER'S NOTES



by  
Martin  
Farnan

## General

### Marksman's Calendar

The proposed 2003 Calendar of Major Events at Bisley has been produced and has been sent to all club secretaries. It is based on historical precedent and many of the dates shown are simply the equivalent dates to those in 2002. I would ask club secretaries to check this calendar carefully and let me have their own Club Fixtures list as quickly as possible. May I also request details of any other Club Championships or Meetings whether held at Bisley or elsewhere (please do not include events such as practice sessions). These will be included in the final version of the Marksman's Calendar which will be published in the Spring Journal. Details should be with me by the beginning of January.

### Under 25 Training Weekend

"Exercise Maple Taste" is a training weekend set up some years ago to prepare the selected Athelings Team for its forthcoming visit to Canada. It proved so successful that the idea was extended to the GB Under 19 Team to South Africa, both teams training on the same weekend and learning from each other. A highly qualified coaching team is in attendance and a considerable amount of practical shooting takes place as well as lectures from subject matter experts.

It has now been agreed that the concept should be developed still further, and should encompass Under 25 shooters as well, not just those involved in an Under 25 team but all Under 25 shooters nominated by their Club or County Secretaries. Costs for this training weekend will be kept to a minimum, and will be at cost price in almost all cases. Bids should be forwarded, along with a letter of recommendation from the relevant Club or County Secretary, to the Shooting Manager. This training weekend usually takes place the weekend before Easter but the exact dates for 2003 will be given in the Marksman's Calendar which will be issued along with the Spring Journal.

Should there be sufficient response from Under 25s in the regions, other training events may be run non-centrally in the regions.

## Ranges, Targets and Markers

### Range Cancellation Charges

The notification periods which were specified in connection with range cancellation charges at Bisley have been considered by the Board of the National Shooting Centre Ltd. It was agreed that these could be considered a problem by club secretaries in that entries for club championships do not normally close four weeks before the event. Taking these points into consideration, the modified cancellation charges (which will apply in high season only, as a percentage of the fee for the booking made) and notification periods will be as follows:-

If a booking is cancelled:

more than 2 weeks before event	No charge
between 2 weeks and 1 week	25%
between 1 week and 3 days	50%
at 3 days notice or less	100%

### Range Safety

Shooters have recently been observed walking or driving up to a gate, on which is displayed a "DO NOT PASS THIS POINT. LIVE FIRING AHEAD" sign, reading the sign, opening the gate and then walking or driving through into the Range Danger Area (RDA) concerned (in one case carefully shutting the gate behind him!). Any person doing so is:

- putting himself in danger;
- putting those following him in danger;
- invalidating his insurance cover;
- endangering the NRA's insurance cover;
- disregarding Range Regulations;
- setting an incredibly bad example to others;
- making himself liable to lose his NRA membership;
- making himself liable to be banned forever from the Camp and Ranges.

Please remember that the RDA signs are there for a reason - **your protection!** If the sign says "Do not pass this point" then **DO NOT!**

### Use of Stickledown During the Winter Months

As was reported in last year's Winter Journal, it has been clear for some years now that Stickledown has been very little used during the winter months, and the expenses involved in keeping this range open have far exceeded the income generated from target hire. In many instances weekend bookings between November and March were for one target for a morning or an afternoon only. Some new initiatives have been proposed for this coming Winter period to increase use, and it has been agreed that Stickledown will again remain open under the following conditions:

- only the line of flags between targets 36 and 37 will remain
- targets to be used will be from target 37 upwards, ie Butts 3 or 4
- the required target(s) will be placed in the frame(s) on Friday and covered as weather protection
- no target shed staff will be called in on Saturday or Sunday to repair/replace targets in the event of inclement weather



A full analysis of the costs of keeping the range open during the winter and the income generated, will again be analysed in March next year and a final decision will then be made about the economic feasibility of keeping the range open during future winters. In other words, **"use it or lose it (during the winter)"**. Midweek bookings and shooting will continue as during the rest of the year. It will, of course, continue to be necessary to make advance bookings.

### **Range Closure Dates**

To allow for proper setting up of the ranges, all ranges to be used for the 2003 Phoenix Meeting (23 to 25 May 2003) will be closed to other users on the previous day, Wednesday 22 May 2003. Please take note.

As detailed later in these notes (see Imperial Meeting) the 2003 Imperial Meeting will be held one week later than this year. The Service Skill at Arms Meetings will therefore start on Sunday 22 June. For this reason the annual deleading of the butts, the Inter Counties Meeting and the obligatory services practice period will have to be held before this date. As a consequence there may be some disruption during this period, but we will do our best to minimise this.

So that the Estate staff do not have to work excessive hours on other days it has been decided that there will be no shooting on Mondays in late May and early June, as in all other months of the year, to allow for grass cutting. I apologise in advance to those schools and military units which may be inconvenienced.

The World Veterans, Under 21 and Under 25 Team Matches, the World Individual Long Range Championships and the Palma World Long Range Championships will all be held during the week immediately following the Imperial Meeting. Stickledown Range will therefore not be available from Sunday 20 July until Saturday 26 July inclusive.

### **Gallery Rifle and Pistol Ranges Bidding Conference**

As previously notified to all club secretaries the Annual Bidding Conference for Gallery Rifle and Pistol Ranges was held on Sunday 3 November 2002. It is important for club secretaries to note that virtually all Pistol Range facilities at Bisley are provisionally allocated during this conference, and that there is a considerable amount of horse trading between clubs when they swap certain days etc. Confirmed allocations will be notified to club secretaries as soon as possible. In view of the tightness of the annual programme, it is unlikely that major changes in dates will afterwards be possible.

### **Affiliated Club Bookings**

Members of affiliated clubs are reminded that, generally speaking, they may not book ranges at Bisley in their own name and that all bookings, for club fixtures only, have to be made by the secretary of the club concerned. This policy was reviewed and it was agreed that members of affiliated clubs may, on production of their club membership card, book targets on the Zero Range, Winans and Short Siberia, in their own name.

### **Rubbish on Bisley Ranges**

Range users are earnestly requested to take all their litter, especially of the edible sort, home with them. It has become increasingly evident that foxes are delving into more and more litter bins on the ranges, and the resultant mess, of all sorts, has to be cleared away by the ground staff. This is unnecessary and time wasting, so you can greatly help by removing **all** your litter, and taking it home with you for disposal. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

### **Range Charges and Licence Fees** **MOD Range Licence Fees**

In May this year I attended a meeting with the Head of the MoD Business Unit at Warminster in connection with the proposal that Range Licence Fees should run for three years. This was generally agreed to be a good idea which would relieve both clubs and the MoD Army Training Estates (ATEs) of much needless paperwork and expense every year. As far as the MoD were concerned they needed to know two things: (a) was the club currently affiliated to the NRA, and (b) did the club have a current insurance policy. It was agreed that, if the scheme were to be implemented, an agreement would be needed between the NRA and HQ ATEs. This would make the entire process much cheaper and the cost savings would be passed on to affiliated clubs.

In essence the NRA would let the HQ ATE know which clubs had **not** reaffiliated by a certain date each year (possibly 30 March) and HQ ATE would then inform its subsidiary ATEs that these clubs were not permitted to hire MoD ranges until they had reaffiliated. In addition HQ ATE would need to be informed of which clubs had not renewed their insurance policies for the current year; it may be that the NRA will also take on this role using input from club secretaries.

### **MoD Range Charges for 2003**

Some club secretaries and members will be aware that a letter was sent out by one of the ATEs in late July informing the clubs that used their ranges that **all** MoD range charges would, in future, be charged on a whole range basis. This matter had been discussed at the meeting in May, and it had been unanimously agreed that Gallery Ranges (designated low maintenance) would continue to be hired by the lane (though possibly with a minimum booking of two lanes). When the ATE letter was forwarded to the NRA, I wrote to the Head of the MoD Business Unit saying that there had clearly been a misunderstanding in the interpretation of whatever preliminary notification they had sent out to their subsidiary ATEs. I spoke with him just over a week ago, and to another official the following day, and it was acknowledged that it appeared a misunderstanding had occurred. Though we await the normal annual letter in connection with these charges, I believe that Gallery Range charges will continue to be related to the number of lanes hired, and **not** as a whole range charge.

### **Bisley Range Charges for 2003**

For 2003, prices will increase by an average of 2%. However, the reduction of the surcharge will offset this

so that net range charges will remain at the same level as for 2002.

You will remember that Council agreed that bookings of targets for the purpose of running corporate days for commercial reasons, rather than the promotion of the sport, will be charged a per capita fee for those attending the corporate day. This has been set at £25 per guest. This will not apply to bookings made for the sole purpose of promoting the sport of shooting. Club secretaries, or individuals making such bookings, will be asked to indicate, when making a booking for a corporate day, for what purpose the targets are being booked.

## **Firearms and Ammunition**

### **Ammunition Prices**

The purchase price from Royal Ordnance Radway Green Target Ammunition for 2003 has not yet been announced. It is therefore not possible to give the revised ammunition prices for sale to members for 2003 in this edition of the Journal. These will be ascertained as soon as possible and details will be made available to individual members and to affiliated Clubs.

### **Use of Breech Flags**

It has been found possible to insert a breech flag in a certain type of modern target rifle while, at the same time, a live round was retained by the flag in the rear of the action. A possible consequence could be that, when the breech flag is removed and the bolt closed, a live round could unknowingly be fed into the chamber with the obvious safety implications. You are advised to check whether this is possible with your rifle, and if so, to take the most stringent precautions to ensure that this is prevented.

However, this matter will be considered by the Shooting Committee and may be referred to in the Spring Journal.

### **Range Office Target (ROT)**

You may be aware that the Range Office has been arranging for a ROT to be available at as many ranges as possible as often as possible. This target is available by the hour and may be booked in the Range Office at a rate of £6 per hour. This is ideal if you are testing ammunition or running in a barrel. Since this is often provided due to the cancellation of an existing booking, the distance cannot be guaranteed in advance.

## **Imperial Meeting**

### **Prize Lists**

Heavy involvement in the Commonwealth Games delayed work on producing the Prize List book. However this has now been sent to the printers and should be ready for distribution, along with your medals, bars and prize money, by late October or early November.

### **Web Site**

Those who surf the web will have noticed that not all results were displayed on the web site this year. This was due to the fact that the results come from a variety of sources, some produced by the main computer program, some from a PC, some are word processed etc.

It would have taken an inordinate amount of time to produce them all in HTML format so these particular ones were not put on the web site.

It is planned to computerise more events in 2003, which will make it very much easier to put more results on the web site. This process will be completed in 2004 when it is hoped to put all results on the web site the day they go final.

### **Dates for 2003**

The 134th Imperial Meeting will be held a week later than this year, and will run from 5 July to 19 July. These events will be preceded by the Services and Cadets Meetings which will start on 22 June. The World Veterans, Under 21 and Under 25 Team Matches will be held on Sunday 20 July and the World Individual Long Range Championships will then follow from Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 July inclusive. The Palma Practice Day will be on Thursday 24 July; the Palma World Long Range Championships will be held on Friday 25 and Saturday 26 July 2003.

### **Programme**

The programme of events for 2003 will be similar to 2002, but an Australia Match and a Junior Australia Match will also be held, probably on Second Tuesday.

### **Entry Forms**

Entry forms will be included in the Spring Journal, due for publication at the end of February 2003.

### **Service Rifle**

There will be some changes in individual match conditions next year. Practice 1 of Match 4 (The ARA Association or NRA Queen Mary) will now be fired on a Triple Figure 11, the central Figure 11 scoring five and four as usual but the two flank targets, which will be covered with ochre coloured paper only, will score two points. In addition Practice 4 will revert to ten exposures of three seconds only, and the no shoot exposures have been dispensed with. The match conditions for the Inter-Services FIBUA have been modified in line with the proposed changes to Match 17 which will be published in due course.

### **Target Rifle, Match Rifle and F Class**

There are no known changes to date, but I will give an update in the Spring Journal.

### **Gallery Rifle and Muzzle Loading Pistol**

There will be some changes to make the Gallery Rifle and Pistol Meeting more popular and relevant, and these will be notified in the Spring Journal.

### **Historic Arms**

It is possible that some changes will be made to the programme of this meeting but the sub-committee has not yet met to confirm any changes. Again I will give an update in the Spring Journal.

### **Trade Stands**

If you plan to set up a Trade Stand during the Imperial Meeting please contact Doug Glaister as soon as possible. A standard space will be £30 plus VAT per day, with larger sites in the region of £60 plus VAT. Space is limited, and early application is advisable.



## **Imperial Meeting 2004**

For advance information the 2004 Imperial Meeting will be one week later than the 2003 Meeting, thereby reverting to its traditional slot. First Saturday will be 10 July and Queen's Prize Final will be 24 July 2004.

## **Team Captaincies**

### **Great Britain Match Rifle Team to Australia - October 2004**

Council have accepted the invitation by the NRA of Australia to send a Match Rifle Team to compete in the Australian MR Championships and to compete in the International Team Match defending the Woomera Trophy. The provisional programme is:

SA Fullbore State Champs	20 Sep – 4 Oct
MR Team Practice	5 Oct
SA MR Individual Champs	6 – 8 Oct
MR State Teams	9 Oct
Woomera International Match	10 Oct

Nominations are sought for the position of Team Captain, and nominees must have agreed to their names being put forward. Nominations should be forwarded to the Shooting Manager by no later than 2 January 2003, and Council will then elect the Team Captain at its meeting towards the end of January 2003.

### **Under 25 Team Captain 2004**

Nominations are sought for the position of Under 25 Captain for 2004. Nominations should be forwarded to the Shooting Manager by no later than 2 January 2003.

### **Diamond Jubilee of Disbandment of the Home Guard**

An interesting letter has been received from the Hon Secretary of the Newport (IW) & District Rifle Club (Founded 1944 by D Coy 19th Bn Hampshire Home Guard) and is reproduced, at his request, in the letters section of this Journal. Please read this and, if applicable, respond to the club secretary.

## **Notes from the Shooting Administrator**

### **NRA Courses**

It is intended that the NRA Courses Programme should offer progression in terms of knowledge and training throughout the year for members of the NRA and its affiliated clubs. Dates for all courses in 2003 will be shown in the Marksman's Calendar (included with the next Journal) and will be publicised separately.

### **Probationary Members Course**

This course is primarily a course in safe handling, which provides an introduction to target rifle shooting. Each course consists of six half day lessons. The current autumn courses are fully subscribed; the next course will begin in the New Year. Courses are run in the spring, early summer and autumn. Each course is limited to ten students.

### **Target Rifle Skills Course**

This weekend course will be held in the spring; it is aimed primarily at those individuals who have recently taken up target rifle shooting to help them develop their basic skills.

## **Club Instructor Course**

This is the first step towards a coaching qualification. A course was held at Bisley on 21 and 22 September. It is intended that a club instructor course will be held in the Autumn each year. Successful candidates may then progress to GBTSF coaching courses.

## **Range Conducting Officer Courses**

These courses are run regularly throughout the year at Bisley and are run regionally on demand. The next RCO courses at Bisley will be on 16 and 17 November. Each course is a one day course. Successful candidates will be qualified to conduct live firing on MOD or TAVRA Ranges. The RCO qualification is valid for six years, and can be renewed on application to the NRA.

Application forms and further information on all NRA courses can be obtained from the NRA Shooting Administrator tel 01483 797777 ext 150 or e-mail [phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk](mailto:phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk).

Details can also be found on the NRA web site [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk).

## **Costs**

The costs per person for RCO and Probationary courses are as follows:

RCO Courses run at Bisley	£50
<i>(£55 if the course is to include Muzzle Loading)</i>	
Probationary Courses	£60 per session
RCO Renewals	£15

## **RCO Assessors Update Meeting**

We hope to hold a meeting for all NRA Assessors on 7 December at Bisley to provide information about the changes that have taken place concerning RCO courses, and to introduce the new RCO manual. We hope that many RCO Assessors will be able to attend. Further details will be sent to all RCO Assessors shortly.

## **NRA Club Finder Service**

The NRA receives numerous requests from individuals for information about shooting clubs, and has begun the process of setting up a club finder service on the NRA web site. Letters have been sent to all affiliated clubs, along with an application form, inviting them to provide an email address or web site link which could be made available for prospective new members to use. If you, as a club secretary, have not yet received this application form and would like your club to be included in the NRA Club Finder service please return your application form to the Shooting Administrator. We hope to launch this service shortly.

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## **General Notices**

### **Spring General Meeting**

The NRA Spring General Meeting will be held on Saturday 29 March 2003 at 5pm in the NRA Pavilion.

### **Bisley General Meeting**

The 2003 Bisley General Meeting will be held in the Umbrella Tent at 9pm on Wednesday 16 July 2003.

### **NRA Council Committee Elections**

Please see page 32 in this Journal for full details of NRA Committees for the forthcoming year.

## Election of Chairman of Council

At their meeting on 27 September 2002 the NRA Council re-elected Mr JF Jackman FCA as its Chairman, Mr CM Brooks was elected as Vice Chairman and Mr P Currie FCA was elected as Treasurer.

Following the election in July, Mr GV Barnard (East Midlands), Mr JA McAllister and Mr C Oliver-Bellasis have joined Council. Mr R Hudson has retired. Our Vice-Presidents, Mr Robert Stafford and Sir Roger Wheeler, also stood down, but we are very grateful that they will continue to be available for support and advice. Since July, Mr PJ Bloom's resignation has been accepted with regret. Often speaking up on difficult issues, his counsel will be missed.

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## FORTHCOMING TOURS

### NRA v Continental Palma Council 2003

I am delighted to have been selected by the National Rifle Association to captain the NRA Team versus Continental Europe 2003. The match will probably be held at Bisley during October and it is my intention to attract a number of applicants who have not previously been selected for international or NRA teams.

If you aspire to being a member of the Palma Team one day then this is the start you need! Selection will be made Spring 2003.

Please apply providing a precis of your shooting/coaching experience to:-

Reg Roberts  
"Petlers"  
East Street  
Rusper  
West Sussex RH12 4RE  
Tel (work): 020 7242 9962 (home): 01293 871 489  
E-mail: regroberts@targetappointments.com

### NRA Team to the Channel Islands 2003

The following have been selected to represent the National Rifle Association in the Channel Islands over the Spring Bank Holiday 2003:

<i>Captain</i>	Nigel Penn
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	Charles Brooks
<i>Adjutant</i>	Jane Messer
<i>Shooters</i>	Peter Chapman
	John Deane
	Rupert Elvins
	Simon Harding
	Richard Hebblethwaite
	Kitty Jack
	Marcus O'Leary
	Karen Richards
	Andrew Sykes
	Paul Sykes
	John Tapster
<i>Reserve</i>	Richard Jeens

## GB Rifle Team to Kenya and Namibia 2004

The following have been selected for the GB Rifle Team to Kenya and Namibia 2004:

<i>Captain</i>	David Hossack	
<i>Vice Captain</i>	James Dallas	
<i>Adjutant</i>	Alex Henderson	
<i>Main Coach</i>	Martin Townsend	
<i>Shooters</i>	Gary Alexander	
<i>NC = New Cap</i>	Iain Brechin	NC
	Matthew Button	NC
	Julie Cane	
	Simon Cane	NC
	Peter Chapman	NC
	Colin Cheshire	
	Derek Lowe	
	Richard Mott	NC
	Trina Noyes	
	Alice Ogilvie	
	Iain Robertson	
	Ian Shaw	
	Martin Woolger	NC
	Mark Wrigley	NC
	Richard Vary	
<i>Reserves</i>	Mike Ball	
<i>(Alphabetically)</i>	Matthew Charlton	
	Rupert Riley	
	Bill Sharman	

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## NRA / NSRA MERGER?

Saturday 1 June saw the merger of two departments when the NRA Membership Secretary Heather Doust married the Lord Roberts Centre Manager Chris Webb at Guildford Register Office. Mick Silver and Sherril Dixon were Best Man and Matron of Honour and the wedding was followed by a reception in the London & Middlesex Clubhouse.

The NRA wish Heather and Chris every happiness for the future.





# DISCIPLINE AND REGIONAL MATTERS

## Classic Arms

*from Rae Wills*

The Jubilee Historic Arms Meeting already seems a distant memory, which I hope was enjoyed by all. About 200 competitors (about the same as last year) took part, and gained the best of the weather before the rain came for the rest of the Imperial Meeting. The number of actual competitions entered was noticeably down, but the recently introduced SR(b) and the new 7.62mm classes attracted 50 entries and did much to counter what might have been a far worse outcome. These new classes appear to have great potential; there are many regularly used around the country and, as news spreads, hopefully more will enter. There is a possibility that a dedicated through-the-ranges (200, 500/600) shoot for these rifles might be arranged at a suitable off season time.

On a wider front, close interest is being taken in developments in European firearms legislation. There are frequent attempts to promote a common regime across the EEC. Often, this seems to become an attempt to apply across Europe the most draconian regime currently in force.

Recently it was reported that the Dortmund Waffenbörse, one of the most prestigious Arms Fairs in Europe, was cancelled at short notice. This was caused by the police failing to issue the required permit under a 1938 regulation. There have been moves to apply an age limit in relation to access to arms. In this case the police decided that an age limit was not appropriate for the show, but no young people should be allowed to see the arms at the fair, although it is open only to edged weapons and antiques! The permit for a replacement show at Rheindorf was withdrawn after media pressure.

Currently it seems Arms Fairs are in effect banned in Germany at the present time. The police admit this is a political decision; there was no impact on criminal activities or law and order.

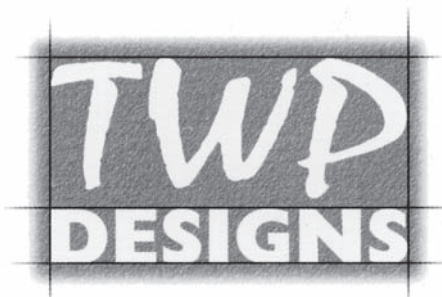
Bisley is the venue of many events arranged by other organisations, and on 14 September delegates of the International Congress on Heritage Arms came for a session on the ranges and lectures as part of a three day tour that included visits to military museums and the Kynamco ammunition works.

The members came from Britain and Europe. The chief objective was to promote the study of Heritage Arms, and in particular to alert Museum Directors (who are often unaware of the normal dialogue of the shooting world) to the need to be aware of proposed legislation. In the past they have found out too late about regulations that adversely affect their collections.

My highlights of the day at Bisley were discussions on the range between Guy AR West, with his Dreyse needle fire carbine, and Jean Mallet of Belgium, both leading experts on early European cartridge rifles, plus Paul Debrunfaut of the Royal Army Museum, Brussels, describing his work with military science students evaluating historic arms with modern ballistic equipment and the use of re-enactment groups to study how the arms were actually used in action.

On 21 September a group of staff from the Imperial Historic Arms and Trafalgar Meetings entertained 24 Air Cadets and their officers to a day on Siberia experiencing a wonderful array of arms from Matchlocks to F Class. This was a chance to say thank you to an organisation which regularly supplies the most excellent markers to our meetings, and to let them see things from the other end. They were a very well behaved and disciplined bunch of young boys and girls, an absolute credit to their squadron.

My thanks to all who contributed arms, time and ammunition to this worthy cause, not forgetting the Cadets Q department for the hot dogs and burgers.



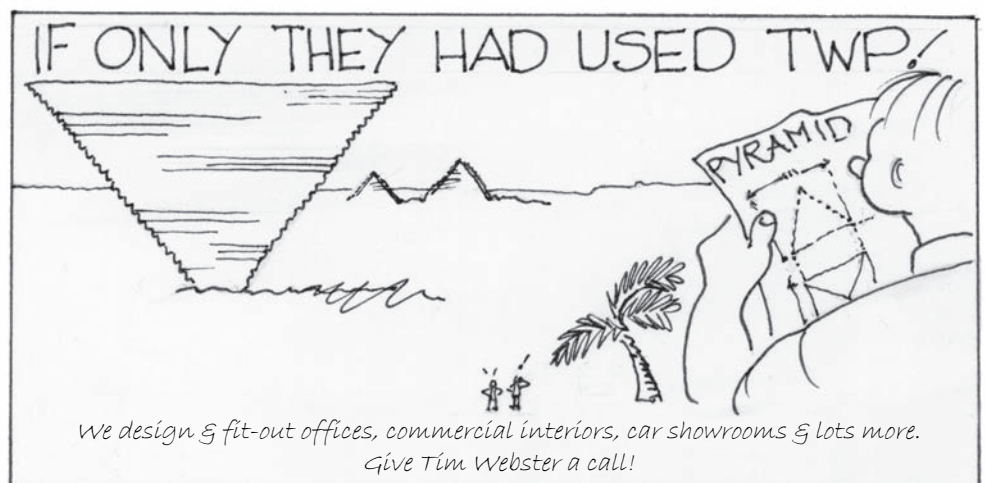
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## Gallery Rifle and Pistol

*from Kevin Hosey*

### Hendon League - Summer 2002

The Hendon League for summer 2002 attracted a total entry of 203 competitors from 16 clubs in nine disciplines. The winners were:

#### Precision LSR Open sights

Div 1	K Kingsbury	Croydon RC
Div 2	R Freiter	Hendon RC
Div 3	R Guascone	Hendon RC
Div 4	RC Pateman	Boro of Wandsworth RC
Div 5	R Burke	Croydon

#### Any Sights LSR

Div 1	S Elliott	Addlestone RC
Div 2	N Jones	Dudley RC
Div 3	G Parker	Gainsborough RC
Div 4	S Pickwell	Gainsborough RC
Div 5	A Jones	Dudley RC
Div 6	D Royle	Dudley RC
Div 7	B Howard	Hendon RC
Div 8	P Jones	Chobham RC
Div 9	K Talbot	Addlestone RC
Div 10	C Pullen	Surbiton RC

#### Standard Pistol LSR

Div 1	D Phillipson	Gainsborough RC
Div 2	M Harrison	Chobham RC
Div 3	A Hodgson	Camberley RC

#### Black Powder Pistol

Div 1	K Kingsbury	Croydon RC
Div 2	T Perry	Croydon RC
Div 3	C Thacker	East Barnet SC

### Long Range Air Pistol

Div 1	K Hosey	Hendon RC
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#### Precision Gallery Rifle Open sights

Div 1	K Kingsbury	Croydon RC
Div 2	T Morrissey	Hendon RC
Div 3	R Guascone	Hendon RC
Div 4	V Green	Kodak RC
Div 5	F Carnell	Croydon RC
Div 6	D Knights	East Barnet SC
Div 7	J Bowman	Kodak RC

#### RapidFire Gallery Rifle Open sights

Div 1	K Kingsbury	Croydon RC
Div 2	F Carnell	Croydon RC

#### Standard Handgun Gallery Rifle Open sights

Div 1	K Kingsbury	Croydon RC
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#### Gallery Rifle Precision Any Sights

Div 1	P Edwards	Hendon RC
Div 2	T W Martin	Croydon RC

The league uses the current pistol targets, copies of the entry form are available from:

Kevin Hosey,  
63 Eastern Avenue,  
Pinner,  
Middlesex,  
HA5 1NW  
Tel: 020 8866 6654  
E-mail: hendonrifleclub@hotmail.com

## F Class

*from Paul Monaghan*

### The F Class World Championships

The first F Class World Championships were held at Connaught Ranges in Ottawa, Canada during August. The meeting consisted of competition alongside the DCRA TR meeting followed by two days of individual F Class competition. There was a very strong contingent of US shooters including Carlos Hathcock, whose father was one of the most famous Marine snipers of the last century. Carlos showed that he is as good as his daddy was! Great Britain fielded a strong squad and six members made it into the first 20 places in the F Class MacDonald Stewart Grand Aggregate that was shot alongside the TR meeting. In the main F Class competitions, GB shooters gained 10th, 11th, 15th and 22nd places out of a field of around 150. The highest placed GB competitor was Peter Jackson. Unfortunately the team event did not go our way. It was won by the United States team with Australia in second place; GB finished fourth behind South Africa having been beaten by a mere four points

out of a total of over 2,000. The full tour report will appear in the Spring Journal.

### What is happening in F Class at Home?

Quite a lot actually, but it is not always easy to find out just where you can shoot F Class. An increasing number of clubs include F Class in their competition calendars, both as stand-alone or alongside TR competitions. If you would like to keep in touch with what is happening around the country, then send an e-mail to [phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk](mailto:phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk) with **F Class list** in the subject line. Your address will be added to the mailing list and you will receive regular updates of F Class events.

### Club Secretaries

If you want your F Class event brought to the attention of F Class shooters, please send an e-mail to [phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk](mailto:phyllis.farnan@nra.org.uk) and your events will be sent to all registered F Class shooters.



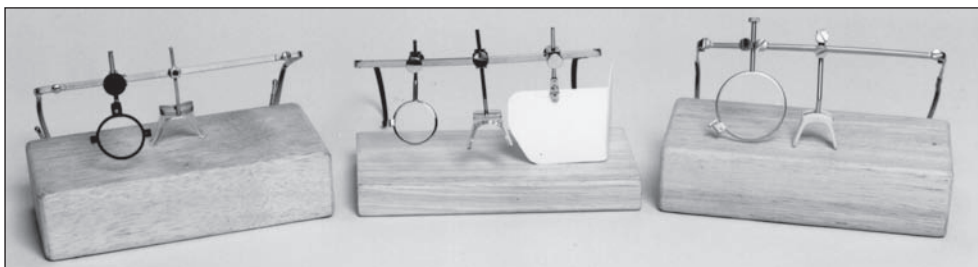
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392: three push-fit colour filters to suit	£29	530: iris and 1.5x magnifier only	£105	522: appears as perspex element	£69
500: iris and snap-in filters & polarisers	£89	551: iris, 1.5x and twin polarisers	£120	525: iris and fine crosshairs	£69
510: iris only	£40	570: iris, 1.5x and 6 colour filters	£139	591: spirit level, fits under clamp ring	£35
566: iris and 6 colour filters	£110	568: iris, 48 colours, twin polarisers	£159	581: as above but radially adjustable	£39
575: 1.5x diopter, 5 cols & polarisers	£149	507: 6 snap-on col. rings for alignment	£13	586: 1.3x magnifying lens	£20
577: adaptor, allows use without diopter	£7	508: as above with 6 coloured filters	£33	524: iris to restrict white round bullseye	£36

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## Practical Rifle

*by Steve Beard*

### The Blue Team Practical Rifle Championship

This year's Blue Team Practical Rifle Championship took place on 20 July at Bisley.

Butt 19 (the last butt on Century) is the spot we normally get when shooting PR at Bisley, and this event proved no different. As we shoot at all distances it is the logical spot to put us, with only the safety trace on our left to worry about. In this particular case we had the TR boys shooting on that side at 600 and 300 yards.

The event attracted 34 competitors for the six stages on a day that promised rain but turned out to be a bright summer day with very little wind in the morning, but building to a strong breeze during the afternoon. The six squads were split into two with one half shooting and the other half in the butts, swapping round at midday. This is not to everyone's liking but it does make the most efficient use of time. This competition, like all the other PR Championship shoots, counted towards the League. It was this year's ninth competition to count with another four to go, but enough of the advertising and on with the nuts and bolts of the competition.

Stage 1 consisted of Long Range Snaps. A nice warm-up stage shot from a freestyle position allowing the competitors to get settled in. The stage, as the title suggests, was a series of ten snap exposures, each exposure being of five seconds; the target was a figure 11 at a distance of 600 yards. Competitors were allowed any number of shots per exposure but only the highest 20 scoring hits would count. The eagle eye for this stage was John Williamson with Matt Greenall some 16 points behind.

Stage 2 was a mini Rourkes. Competitors had 30 loose rounds in groups of 10 positioned at 25, 50 and 75 yards behind the firing point. On the appearance of two figure 11s in a frame the competitors (leaving their firearms on the point at all times) had to retrieve one lot of ten rounds, return to the firing point and engage the targets from the kneeling, squatting or sitting position, five rounds at each target. On depletion of the ten rounds and having proved clear to the Range Officer, the competitor had to retrieve the next ten rounds and on the return engage the targets from the prone unsupported position. This procedure was repeated for the final ten rounds and shot from a freestyle position. This stage in the Nationals takes some doing and, although in this version competitors were not having so far to run, only Chris Vale and Bob Wightman actually completed the course. Unfortunately it is no good just completing - you have also to score. To this end, with Bob having the slight disadvantage of shooting iron sights, Chris Vale took the stage.

The third stage was a mini Kabul Chorus commencing (on the appearance of a figure 12 target) with a short crawl by the competitors to the firing point where their rifles were waiting. The freestyle position was adopted whereupon they engaged the figure 12. On being hit, a

second figure 12 appeared and started to move toward the edge of the frame. When hit it would change direction, if not hit it would be retracted never to be seen again. As well as this, a figure 12c would make ten exposures of two seconds each. The mover must have been activated for any score to count. The best crawler in this event was Pete Williams with an ample margin of 25 points over Steve Oakland.

Stage 4 was one of those stages that everyone loves. Unlimited rounds at figure 11, 12, 12c and 14 targets that continued to appear from largest to smallest, each one appearing as the other was hit, over a 90 second period. Steve Sheldon proved to have the speed and accuracy to take the stage.

When it got to the fifth stage it was time for a bit of running from 300 to 200 yards. On arrival at 200, competitors had to engage the single figure 11 with ten rounds from a prone unsupported position followed by a further ten rounds from the weak shoulder freestyle position. Competitors could choose which one to shoot from first. Mark Bradley and Matt Greenall proved to be more of a match in the athletics stakes on this stage.

The final and sixth stage was another one with the potential of getting lots of the pointy things down range. Competitors had four plates, 30, 26, 23 and 20 cms square at 200 yards; as each was hit it was replaced by the next in size. This continued for two minutes. Fred Cooke proved to be on form for this one with just five points nudging Steve Sheldon into second place.

Congratulations go to Steve Sheldon for winning the Championship with Mark Bradley, Matt Greenall and Peter Williams in second, third and fourth respectively. Ann Nightingale took the Ladies Trophy, Bob Wightman the Iron Sights, Pete Williams the Veterans and the top NATO trophy went to Ken Witts. The top team went to SSP (Steve Sheldon, Steve Oakland and Pete Williams).

There was an amazingly good selection of rifles being used, a CAM, a Blazer, Enfields, Remington 700s, SSGs to name a few, with a large entry of competitors using the black rifle (the AR15/CAR single shot derivative). The last is now becoming very popular, and with good reason; most of those doing well on the circuit are using them. With the accuracy of the .223 round over the past couple of years being improved to the extent that it is becoming more common out to 1000 yards, a trend led in part by Robert Bucknell's fine example set a number of years ago with his heavy barrelled CAM. As an aside, Armalon is about to start tests on a new .223 based on the Lee Enfield. Initial photos with 20 round AR15/Mini 14 mags attached look good.

Thanks must go to the Blue Team crew, Andy and Vanessa Duffy, Peter Tomkin, Simon Baker, Row Sargeant and Matt Giles for putting on the shoot, not forgetting Phil James who ran the day. The shoot ran well with no major problems and only a few minor ones of the usual variety, which were quickly resolved.



## **The Beckingham Charity PR Championship**

This is the fourth year that the Gun World Shooting Club have put on this practical rifle championship event. There are two other matches shot at the same time, the Rolls Royce Sporting Rifle and the Beginners Challenge. All three matches are part of their annual charity shoot, the Beginner's Challenge taking place at another range on this very tidy complex which is situated just outside the village of Beckingham.

All funds collected are donated to two charities: the Army Benevolent Fund and Cancer Research UK. This year they received nearly £1000 between them. This article would not be complete without mention of, and thanks to, the number of hard working volunteers who gave up their day for these two worthwhile causes. Overall the day was well organised with an all day barbecue supplying, for small donations, cups of tea and coffee, bacon butties and cakes. These were all donated, I hasten to add (having overheard a conversation on the subject), by Christine Brown, the lady slaving over the barbecue. The ladies on the stats (as always) beavered quietly away doing a marvellously efficient job of sorting out the scores. There were a large number of trophies, which were presented to the winners and runners up by Major (Retd) Laird L Walker QGM, Commandant HQ EMTA.

Beckingham is a very well groomed 600 metres range which is, as is becoming more common these days, a combined Gallery and Electronic Target range with the latter consisting of two targets per lane for each of the 12 lanes. The range itself is situated in a very picturesque spot with a large lake/pond on the left (looking toward the butts) and on the right, in the near distance, a village church.

Unlike the previous three years which went exceedingly well, the event was beset by a series of time consuming problems which were eventually overcome, albeit losing half of the final stage due to running out of time. The lessons learnt will be acted upon next year. The competition was planned to consist of two stages shot at 600 and 500 metres using gallery targetry with the remaining stages to be shot on the electric targetry. In the event all stages were shot using the gallery targetry. The shoot was preceded by a brief two minute zero at 600 metres. This is always of use as a check on zero and windage to set everyone up for the day.

The first stage, shot from 600 metres, had five 10 second exposures of a figure 11 and figure 12 followed by a further five 6 second exposures of the same targets. The time away between each exposure was 10 seconds - in other words it was long range snaps. Shot from prone supported, if your zeroing session was spot on, there was nothing to stop you doing well. Apart from the wind, that is, which started by being almost non existent, but built up to a nuisance by the end of the day. Pete Williams took this stage with Phil Woolley in second and Steve Oakland in third.

Stage 2 was shot from 500 metres and from the prone unsupported position with no more than ten rounds in

each magazine. Unsupported in PR means no bipods, bags or resting any part of the arm forward of the elbow on anything; slings however are allowed. Competitors received ten 6 second exposures of the same two targets as at Stage 1. The away time varied between 5 and 15 seconds. This was obviously to Mark Bradley's liking as he thrashed the rest of us being some 50 points ahead of Neil Beeby in second place, with the rest of the field being led by Matt Greenall.

The third stage had competitors at 400 metres with 20 loose rounds in hat or bag, and two magazines. Shot from the prone supported position, the trick to this one was not losing count of your rounds and finding yourself (as I did), with one round up the spout and no rounds remaining in a magazine at the beginning of an exposure. There were ten exposures, the first of which was 20 seconds and the remaining nine of five seconds each.

Stage 4 consisted of a rundown from 400 to 300 on the appearance of figure 11 and 12 for 60 seconds, adopting the prone unsupported position and engaging with two rounds. There were a further two 6 second exposures to be shot from the same position. On completion, competitors had to adopt the sitting position for the next three exposures (6 seconds per exposure). This was followed by a final positional change into the fire trench supported for a final four exposures of 6 seconds each. I somehow managed to end up with six rounds over - not good as I had ample time to use them on completion of the run down.

Stages 3 and 4 were scored together to save time. So the shooter having the best combination, on the day, of dexterity, fitness and accuracy was Garreth Biddle with Pete William and Matt Greenall in second and third respectively. This was a closely fought combined couple of stages with only five points separating the top three.

Overall winner was Pete Williams who also took the Veterans (50 and over) prize followed by Mark Bradley and Phil Woolley. Top Lady went to Jennie Hunter and top Tyro went to Richard Hickman, with Craig Oldfield getting the Beginners Challenge trophy.

Thanks go to Russell Harris of the Gun World Shooting Club and his team and members, as well as the range staff, for putting on these competitions which counted for the League. A special mention goes to the following competitors for their actions and improvisation which enabled the majority of the courses of fire to take place - Terry and Jennie Hunter, John and Ann Nightingale, Dave Green and Mark Bradley.

For information about future competitions please contact  
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# NRC OF SCOTLAND'S AUTUMN MEETING AT BLAIR ATHOLL

by Laurie Ingram

Last year, the occasion of the Scottish Rifle Association's annual Match Rifle Meeting at Blair Atholl seemed a pretty good excuse to persuade The Keeper of the AFG funds that we should go and visit the Malt distillery at Blair Atholl. During that visit, I developed a liking for Edradour Single Malt, so the time rapidly approached when 'ravitaillement' became pressing. This then presented itself as a good reason to go and shoot again this year.

Rather inclement weather at the Blair Atholl range in 2001, persuaded me to take all the wet weather tackle, with backups. However I still wasn't prepared for the hailstones that greeted all 24 of us on Saturday morning for the first detail at 1114 yards. For a while all was 'White and Crisp and Even'. Prior to this it merely rained with a vengeance...

Hardly surprising, Des Parr (F Class) led at 987 yards with 100.14, followed by Simon Glen with a most creditable 100.13. Others in the hunt at this early stage were Alex Cargill Thompson (99.16), John Hissey (99.11), Tim Kidner (98.14), followed by George Barnard on 98.11. The wind – often contrary and pretty unreadable (to me at least), was basically a fishtailing headwind of varying strength and direction which needed careful watching. After taking a while to find the target, Countess (Billie) Dunmore fired an outstanding 97.8.

At 1117 yards, the first detail was rained upon, followed by quite a severe sharp hailstorm. This however didn't prevent Mike Barlow from notching up 96.10, followed by Tim Kidner with 96.9. Des Parr made 95.9 with his 6.5-284 needle gun, firing all on his own in F class style and continuing to make his way ahead.

As is often the case, the longest distance of 1233 yards on Sunday morning sorted the wheat from the chaff, with the wind much as per the previous day, being variably a doddle followed by completely unreadable.

For ease of administration, the teams match final distance preceded the final individual at 1233 yards, with an added advantage that all had established their zeros. Ironically, the 'dogsbody' team skippered by Mike Barlow, won this by five clear points ahead of Tim Kidner's team of experts! Winning team top scorer was Hissey the Younger with 140.10, followed by Finbarr O'Sullivan on 136.6, making his Blair debut with his recently acquired ex Piffa Schroder Swing backgun.

The final individual MR shoot of 20 shots at 1233 yards resulted in scores ranging from 62.0(!), to John Hissey and Alex Cargill Thompson – both on 88.4 – all ex 100 points. The highest aggregate score of 280 points was shared by John Hissey and Tim Kidner, resulting in a tie shoot to decide the winner – John Hissey taking this with 24.1 against Tim's 23.2, having also made joint highest individual score at the longest distance of 88.4 – not bad for a youngster!

Des Parr, just back from the first World F Class Championships in Canada, made highest score overall with 282.26 shooting his 6.5-284 F class rifle.

## Results

Name	987	1114	1233	Grand
Parr D (F Class)	100.14	95.09	87.03	282.26
Hissey JEB	99.11	93.07	88.04	280.22
Kidner TLW	98.14	96.08	86.03	280.25
Cargill Thompson A	99.16	92.07	88.04	279.27
Barnard G	98.11	93.07	87.06	278.24
Peck JC	97.10	91.07	86.06	274.23
Haszlkiewicz MJC	97.12	92.07	83.03	272.22
Hunter HL	95.12	94.06	83.02	272.20
Hissey MJ	96.09	92.08	81.03	269.20
Glen S	100.13	83.05	83.03	266.21
Brown IRM	96.09	89.04	81.05	266.18
O'Sullivan F	96.09	90.05	79.02	265.16
Bell JWH	95.10	88.05	81.01	264.16
Lury DH	95.07	85.04	83.05	263.16
Davis MH	96.07	87.06	80.01	263.14
Campbell-Smith JM	96.07	92.07	74.04	262.18
Brown MFD	97.10	90.04	75.02	262.16
Sharp D	94.07	92.07	76.01	262.15
Barlow MJ	97.11	96.10	68.03	261.24
McEachran CN	95.11	88.03	75.03	258.17
Campbell-Smith AR	93.08	89.06	75.01	257.15
Ingram HL	97.06	78.06	66.01	241.13
Tonkin PA	88.07	81.04	66.02	235.13
Meldrum RA	92.06	76.05	62.00	230.11
Dunmore	97.08	00.00	74.04	171.12
Munro AJ	89.03	-	-	89.03

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The weather - not quite as good as last year!



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Countess Dunmore being coached by Tim Kidner at 1114 yards.



David Lury being coached by George Barnard at 1114 yards.



Rosemary Meldrum presents John Hissey with the trophy.



Smiles despite the rain.



The winning team - Duncan Sharp, Finbarr O'Sullivan, Mike Barlow and Michael Hissey.



John Hissey - winner of the 2002 Autumn Meeting.

(All photos: Laurie Ingram)



# **“CHALLENGE FOR A LOWER SCORE”**

*by Tony Di Domenico*

On 10 and 11 of May 2002 the target rifle shooting teams from within BAE SYSTEMS gathered together for the annual Inter BAE SYSTEMS target rifle shooting competition at Bisley. Competitors were drawn from all over the country, including some from Lancashire in the North and some from Frimley, just around the corner from Bisley ranges. The sites being represented were BAE SYSTEMS Warton, Stevenage, Stanmore, New Malden, AMS Frimley, Astrium UK and ROF sites Radway Green, Summerfield, Glascoed and Nottingham. One or two of the sites couldn't raise a complete team of four, but that didn't stop them from taking part and making up the numbers with the other sites.

Since Royal Ordnance is part of BAE SYSTEMS, ROF Radway Green donated some excellent quality 7.62 mm 155 grains match ammunition and also sent two teams to represent their site. Joining us for a second year to present the medals and trophies was Major-General John Russell-Jones, BAE SYSTEMS' Army adviser.

There were four competitions being competed for over the two day event, two team and two individual. Firstly, the long range Weybridge Memorial Trophy is shot for at 800, 900 and 1000 yards on Stickledown range. On the following day the short range Warton Challenge Shield is shot for at 300, 500 and 600 yards on Century range. Both events are for teams of four, each member shooting two sighting shots followed by ten scoring shots at each distance to give an individual score out of 150 and a team total out of 600. Both competitions are run according to NRA rules, sighters are convertible and, as it is a team event, coaching is encouraged. Team coaches can be one of the team of four, or a fifth non-shooting member. In fact, for some members, the main challenge is the chance to practice their coaching skills at Bisley under competition conditions.



Matthew Nightingale from BAE SYSTEMS Warton acting as RCO during the Short Range Competition. *(Photo: A Di Domenico)*

Running concurrently with the team events are the individual competitions, introduced for the first time this year. All competitors were divided into different classes, essentially class X for NRA class X and A standard competitors, and class T for most of the rest. The Summerfield Challenge trophy is awarded to the class X competitor who achieves the highest combined score in the long and short range competitions; the Glascoed Challenge trophy is awarded to the class T competitor who produces the highest combined score. The individual competitions were introduced as it is acknowledged that some of the best shooters may be competing in relatively inexperienced teams, so their high individual standards often go unnoticed. Essentially, we wanted to introduce an element of individual challenge and to recognise the standards of individual competitors and I am happy that we have done just that.

This year's competition began with the long range event, on Stickledown range, for the Weybridge Memorial Trophy. During the day the weather remained cloudy and dry, although it was quite cold, not that that put anyone off! At 800 yards there were no less than four scores of 50, with Nick Verduyn from Stanmore scoring 50.7, beating his team mate Jeremy Langley and Stevenage's Geoff Alcock by just one V and John Deane, also from Stevenage, by three Vs. And would you believe that no less than nine competitors all scored 49! Stanmore took an early lead with a team score of 195, just two points ahead of AMS Frimley and five ahead of Warton in third place. During the 900 yards shoot two people returned scores of 50, with Nick Verduyn from Stanmore scoring 50.7, beating Mark Roberts from Summerfield by two Vs. Four competitors turned in scores of 49, so the standards were proving to be very high indeed. Again, Stanmore produced the best team score, with 190, just three points ahead of AMS Frimley and ten ahead of Warton. At 1000 yards the individual scores were all dropping a point or two, as you might expect with the distance increasing. Even so Jeremy Tuck from New Malden still achieved a 50.5, beating Charles Dickenson from AMS Frimley by one point and two Vs with just two competitors scoring 48. This time AMS Frimley made a very spirited fight back to score 189, nine points ahead of Stanmore and 16 ahead of Summerfield in third place. In the final reckoning AMS Frimley had pipped Stanmore to the trophy by just four points out of 600, with Warton taking the bronze medals.

In the individual competitions; in X class Jeremy Tuck from AMS Frimley had scored a very impressive 148, just one point ahead of his team mate Charles Dickenson, who was one point ahead of Nick Verduyn



from Stanmore. In T class Tom Rothwell from Warton scored 144, four points ahead of Alastair Bullen from Stanmore, who in turn was one point ahead of Geoff Alcock from Stevenage. Of course the scores were not made public yet, so each competitor had no idea just how well or badly the other competitors had performed.

The next day saw the second half of the inter-factory competition, the short range event on Century range for the Warton Challenge trophy. This event follows a similar format to the long range event in that teams of four, each shoot two sighters and ten to count at 300, 500 and 600 yards. Only one team were joining us this morning who hadn't been present the day before and that was Astrium UK. However, they are all experienced hands at this competition and knew the script, so there were no delays. The weather conditions on the day were ideal for shooting: warm and dry with very little wind, so we were all raring to go.

At 300 yards some excellent scores were returned with three people achieving 50. Charles Dickenson from AMS Frimley managed a very impressive seven Vs, beating Tony Di Domenico from Warton with five Vs and Liz Verduyn from Stanmore with one V. Three people achieved 49 and there were many more on 48, reflecting the good shooting conditions on the day. This time it was AMS Frimley who took an early lead with 194, five points ahead of Stanmore and 12 ahead of Warton in third place.

At 500 yards the wind must have become more tricky because the scores returned dropped sharply. Roger Ellis from Astrium UK returned the only 50 at this distance with six Vs and Ian Hookham from Summerfield returned the only 49. Having said that there were a good number of people all on 48, and any experienced shooter will testify that when the wind drops suddenly a whole row of targets can all come up with inners. Again, AMS Frimley achieved the highest score of 190, extending their lead by just two points over Stanmore, with Warton holding firm in third place.

Maybe the sun was a little stronger in the afternoon, and people were suffering with sunstroke but mid-way through the 600 yards shoot one of the register keepers shouted "Range officer, challenge for a lower score!" The RCO couldn't believe his ears and needless to say he had to repeat this for confirmation. What he meant to say was "Message 3" (spotting disc disagrees with signalled score). He certainly got the attention of the range officer and I can say with my hand on my heart that I've never heard anyone challenge for a lower score before! And yes, the challenge was upheld. Top shot at 600 yards was Dave Simpkin from Summerfield with a very impressive 50.7, beating Charles Dickenson from AMS Frimley and Roger Ellis



Paul Waldron from ROF Glascoed coaching the guest of honour, Major-General John Russell-Jones. (Photo: A Di Domenico)

from Astrium UK by just one V; three people followed on 49. The top team score was AMS Frimley again with 191, beating Stanmore by just three points with Radway Green making a spirited challenge in third place.

This of course meant that AMS Frimley had won the second team trophy by ten points ahead of Stanmore, with Warton in third place. Two years ago Glascoed won both trophies; last year it was Stanmore. Next year who knows? In the individual competitions it was just as tight. In X class Charles Dickenson from AMS Frimley scored 147, beating his team mate Jeremy Tuck by just one point, with John Deane from Stevenage two points behind. Combining these with the long range scores gave Charles Dickenson a score of 294.32 to win the Summerfield Challenge trophy, beating his team mate Jeremy Tuck by three V bulls. John Deane from Stevenage was third, five points behind. In T class Ian Hookham from Summerfield was top shot with 146, four points ahead of Geoff Alcock from Stevenage and five points ahead of Alistair Bullen from Stanmore. Combining these scores with those from long range produced a similar surprise. Tom Rothwell from Warton had won the Glascoed Challenge trophy by just one point with 282, with three competitors all on 281.

With the competitions done and dusted by 16:30 it was back to the Army Target Shooting Club, where refreshments had been laid on whilst the officials sorted out the scores for the prize giving. For the second year running Major-General Russell-Jones, the BAE SYSTEMS Army adviser, had agreed to present the medals and trophies. Following the prize giving the event closed for another year and we could all relax. Special thanks are due Major-General Russell-Jones at BAE SYSTEMS HQ Farnborough, Ian Clay at ROF Radway Green and Keith Pardy at the Army Target Shooting Club for their support, without which the event would not have been the success it always is.

Here's to the 24<sup>th</sup> event in 2003.



Ballykinler Range 3 with the Mourne Mountains in the background.

(All photos: Neil Anderson)



The Dangers of Ballykinler - you might not get caught by the wind . . .



. . . but you won't escape Bob Aitken's Whisky Draw tickets.

	Name	Class	Club	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total	Place in Class	
1	David Calvert	X	Comber/RAF	150.17	224.32	74.12	448.61	1st	
2	Michael Wentges	F	URA	149.23	222.31	74.10	446.64	1st	F Class
3	Des Parr	F	West of Scotland	150.20	221.37	73.08	445.65	2nd	F Class
4	Neil Anderson	O	Dungannon	148.13	219.23	74.08	441.44	2nd	
5	Martin Millar	X	Comber	146.19	219.33	72.09	438.61	3rd	
6	Alwyn McLean	X	Comber	148.19	215.28	74.10	437.57	4th	
7	Dorothy Hume	X	West of Scotland	141.12	222.29	74.08	437.49	5th	
8	Erica McMullan	A	URA	146.13	218.26	72.06	436.45	6th	
9	Richard Bailie	O	L&MRA	144.13	217.24	74.08	435.45	7th	
10	Richard Martin	O	Comber	142.12	220.19	73.07	435.38	8th	
11	Sandy Wilson	T	URA	143.15	217.22	73.09	433.46	9th	
12	Bob Aitken	O	East of Scotland	142.14	221.24	70.05	433.43	10th	



# THE IRISH OPEN 2002

*by Richard Bailie*

With a dreadful weather forecast, and looming black cloud, a hardy bunch turned out at Ballykinler Camp on Saturday 25 May for the 91<sup>st</sup> Irish Open Championships.

With a total entry of 59, there was a notable increase in F Class but unusually only five overseas visitors, although encouragingly interest from the South is picking up.

A cold start, facing a strong headwind, blew the cobwebs out for many. For some, 2 and 20 to count at 300 yards is a bit of a rude wake-up call, but organiser Peter Campbell wanted to try and get more shooting into the programme. The ammunition certainly proved up to the task with three TR shooters scoring a full house - David Calvert on 100.16 and Martin Millar on one V less, third was Dot Hume off to a flying start on 100.14. Des Parr from West of Scotland pipped Pierce O'Brien in F Class with 100.16. By the second detail, the dark cloud had dispersed and the weather looked more hopeful, but that didn't stop people wearing full wet weather gear (we've been there before), which served to protect from a bitingly cold wind. The troop shelter started to fill up!

On to the first shoot of the Championship - 2 and 10 at 300 yards before lunch; the Bangor Scouts in the butts were getting the hang of it. The sun had come out and the headwind switched from one and a half right and gusting, to a half right and dropping off. One range flag on the right was clearly going to leave us short of indicators with the wind running too fast for any appreciable mirage. Ross McQuillan had no problems with a 50.9 and Des Parr slotted in his second F Class possible of the day. After a brief lunch period and a portion of the famous Ballykinler Irish stew, it

was back to 500 yards for similar conditions but with the wind appearing stronger and coming back from the left, at one and a half to two minutes. Trevor Steele led with a 50.7 for his second possible, while Michael Wentges, last years F Class runner up, spoke nicely to his Carl Gustaf for a 50.8, and David Calvert and Des Parr got their third possibles of the day.

The final shoot for the Saturday at 600 yards was the wind buffeting test with a good deal of eye watering into the bargain. Just four possibles this time from the more experienced David Calvert for the Saturday Aggregate, and Alwyn McLean (who only took his gun apart once during the day) together with Wentges and Parr in F Class.

So after Stage 1 of the Open, DC was favourite again with a two point lead over Alwyn and Neil Anderson from Dungannon.

Sunday started as a beautiful sunny spring morning, confounding the weather pundits, as shooters prepared for the three 2 and 15 shoots to see if they could qualify for the top 16 places in the Final. Dot Hume decided to show the way with 75.14, leading Trevor Steele by three Vs and Bob ("wanna buy a raffle ticket?") Aitken showing form on 75.10. In F Class, no surprises . . . Des Parr . . . all in . . . yet again!

Wind was still steadyish at 500 yards but now with a bit of mirage to spot the changes; some seriously straight shooting led to another 75 for Dot, with DC one V behind. Des Parr got his sixth possible.

At 600 yards it was an RAF strike with DC and Ian Mollan getting the only two possibles including F Class. After a rapid calculation on the computer, away from the madd(en)ing crowd, Peter Campbell announced the 16 finalists, who took their places for the 2 and 15 final at 600 yards.

With a decidedly tricky wind still straight down the range, we couldn't complain about the lack of fresh air but again it was DC who topped the field with the best 74 of six, closely followed by Alwyn McLean, who had clearly taken his gun apart again but had refused "assistance" from Neil Anderson who was chasing hard in third place (can't imagine why?!).

For the Irish Open Championship, once again DC was unbeatable, dropping just two points in the seven shoots over two days. Neil Anderson had done well with seven off in the Championship and Martin Millar was just one less.

At the end some competitors were a little more tired than others through having shot TR in the first detail and F Class in the second detail at every range - congratulations to them for their hard efforts as well as to all the organisers, markers and supporters for a great weekend of shooting.



Alwyn takes it to bits . . . again!

## INTRODUCING PHILIP CURRIE NRA TREASURER

by Tony de Launay



Treasurers need to have an air of financial competence and acumen about them to instil confidence, particularly with the optics of the NRA financial crisis still on the shelf. They are the watchdogs who, with proper financial controls in the system, are responsible for the checks and balances of the organisation to ensure that income and expenditure are properly managed by the executives who do the day to day running of the business.

This is what Philip Currie should bring to the NRA with his clear track record of financial management and company secretarial activities, derived from banking, real estate management, and consultancy services. Just turned 56, his early career spanned training for the Royal Marines, qualifying as a chartered accountant and gaining a MBA. Twenty-two years with Barclays Bank followed, in which he worked in Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia and Australia before returning to the UK and international private banking. He then spent eight years at Barclays Property Holdings before his current appointment as Finance Director and Company Secretary with McBains Cooper plc, providing multi-disciplinary consultancy services to the property and construction industry.

What, then, does he see as his key tasks in this non-executive role in an organisation with a hefty overdraft and a membership base that is not growing as perhaps it should? "My first task is critical. Despite being a charity the NRA is also a business and I have to oversee the financial controls of the NRA and make sure that Council is aware of any concerns or shortcomings. I

have to ensure that sound business principles and financial management are practised".

"I will be there to provide support to the day to day operational management. The focal point of my contact will be the Finance and General Purposes Committee, to whom I can offer the experience of my financial and business skills". He is acutely aware that the National Shooting Centre is the NRA's principal investment. "It is imperative that I have an active understanding of the affairs of that business - it goes without saying that poor investment performance will materially impinge upon the NRA".

It is perhaps a precious advantage that he will bring with him none of the baggage of any previous association with Bisley. As he says, "My independence is a key attribute, but there is going to be a steep learning curve. I have no preconceived ideas but, as a former Royal Marine, I have a very real empathy with the sport - extending to being a marksman in my day!" However, marksmanship is not what is on offer to the organisation; his sound financial and business experience should be of much greater value in the recovery to come.

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# INTRODUCING MICHAEL WALTON

## CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

by Tony de Launay

If there is one committee within the NRA that has real impact on the way in which the organisation's financial future will develop, it has to be the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Working with the network of other supporting committees, each with its own function and specialist area, the F&GPC is the eyes and ears of the NRA and the first hand check on all expenditure and income. The chairman of that committee has a powerful role and an unenviable task.

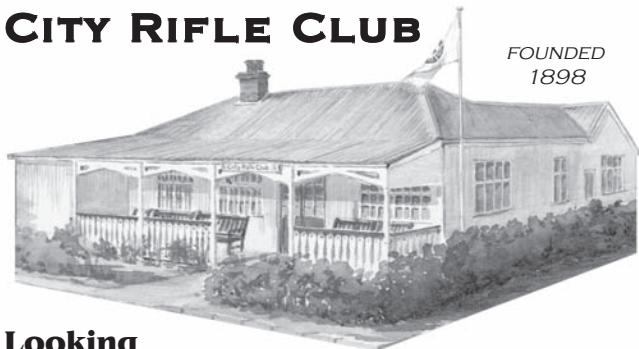
Michael Walton, 39, was elected to the NRA Council a year ago. He accepted the chairmanship of F&GPC on 1 August. Michael's view is refreshingly simple: "I have to work through a network of committees: each has to accept that their role has importance and accountability. Each will have key tasks and budgets within which to deliver the results. This is business commonsense and good practice, and if you volunteer to put yourself forward as a member of Council, and get elected, that is what you must accept".



Michael, who is a London & Middlesex Rifle Association member and an England and GB shot, is one of those people who, by sheer hard work, can make their natural attributes pay. With Master of Business Administration and Chartered Surveyor qualifications under his belt he works for Citigroup, one of the largest financial services companies in the world, looking after European real estate investment for Citigroup itself and of some of the group's most important private clients in the Middle East.

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His focus on benefits for clients is crucial. "At the NRA I am looking to see that all our decisions are taken with one end in view – benefit to our customers ie the members. We must also build up our membership and offer them nationwide support. We have an asset at Bisley that must be run commercially so that we can fund support for the sport away from Bisley while keeping Bisley costs reasonable". He identifies the need for proper exchanges with the membership as one of the key requirements. "Without paying attention to the customers' comments and monitoring their needs you cannot provide them with what they ultimately want".

His role must work well with the new Treasurer, to whom he can turn for support and guidance. "Philip Currie will be a great asset to the NRA and I think that we both recognise the same requirements for the NRA. One of my primary concerns will be to see that the National Shooting Centre delivers its contribution to the charitable NRA. This is going to be a hard task given the support that the NRA has had to make to them in the past. However, on the positive side the NRA will show a net surplus of some £70,000 on our operating account for the year just ended".

Michael looks forward to support from all those who wish to see the sport prosper. What his approach heralds is a refreshing application of pro-active controls and accountability that will be crucial for the months and years ahead.

# GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO THE WEST INDIES

by Steven Thomas

<i>Captain</i>	Martin Townsend
<i>Vice-Captain</i>	John Carmichael <i>SM</i>
<i>Adjutant</i>	Nigel Penn
<i>Shooters</i>	Gary Alexander
	Peter Barry
	Paul Charlton
	David Dyson
	Hugh Kilpatrick
	Mick Place
	Kelvin Ramsey
	Sarah Rennie
	Sally Roots <i>QM</i>
	Irene Rowley
	Jim Scobie
	Steven Thomas <i>SM</i>
	Peter Thompson
	Andrew Tompson
	Dick Winney

## Wednesday 24 April - Guyana

The Captain heaved a sigh of relief as our BWIA Tristar (clean and tidy but old enough to have been mentioned in the Domesday Book) heaved itself into the sky at Heathrow. The months of planning were finally over and 15 hours later, after stops in Antigua and Trinidad, a tired party emerged through Customs at Cheddi Jagan International Airport, Guyana. The usual rifle formalities were completed and the team was welcomed by Claude Dugid, Ransford Goodluck and Mahindra Persaud of the Guyana National Rifle Association.

A convoy of vehicles awaited, accompanied by the Guyana Police Force and a military escort armed with AK-47s and machine pistols, and clad in Kevlar vests. There followed a brisk, and thankfully uneventful, 40-minute drive to Georgetown.

## Thursday 25 April

The Cara Lodge Hotel, an elegant 19<sup>th</sup> century clapboard building, was a charming setting, a rather grand variation on the Bisley club house theme set in a colourful tropical garden and staffed by Guyanese with dazzling smiles. No rest for the team though, as a day of rifle assembly, zeroing and range familiarisation was on the agenda.

Timehri Range is 40 minutes inland from Georgetown and the coast, with good firing points back to 1,000 yards, and our military escort was there with the rifles to meet us. In the unaccustomed heat and humidity the Adjutant set the pace with a scorching 50 at 300 yards, before a lunch break to cool in the breeze under a shelter to shield the tropical sun. Kelvin Ramsey, in his capacity as team doc, presented a brief (and essential) instruction on the topic of body fluids and how to manage them. Once the conversation about the colours of team members' urine had exhausted itself, the shooting resumed at 900 yards. After the Captain had exercised his prerogative of

shooting at 900 yards with his 300 yards elevation, the Vice Captain salvaged the reputation of the team officials with a cracking 49, with Kelvin achieving the same score. Conditions proved to be perfect for shooting, with a hot fickle fishtail punishing any lapse of concentration.

The journey back to Georgetown took us past the City Hall, a riot of gothic towers and wrought iron adornment, and St George's Cathedral, one of the world's largest timber buildings. Flame trees and street markets completed a colourful spectacle.

That evening the team were guests at the High Commissioner's residence for a reception to celebrate the birthday and Golden Jubilee of HM the Queen. We were introduced to Ryan Sampson, Denise Carryl and Hanif Mohammed of the GNRA as well as the High Commissioner, the President of the country and other distinguished guests. David Dyson exercised his unique brand of diplomacy with inflammatory observations regarding recent indifferent cricketing performances by our host country, a discussion brought to an early conclusion by the steel band rendition of various national anthems and well-known Frank Sinatra numbers. The steamy garden atmosphere, alive with the sounds of the crickets, provided a rare opportunity to experience what life might have been like in the hey-day of the Queen's Dominions. Later in the evening, after the retirement of lesser mortals to bed, it is reported that Kelvin provided proof "that white men can't dance".

## Friday 26 April

On our only rest day in Guyana, the Captain organised an airborne sight seeing tour of places of interest within 150 miles of Georgetown. Before boarding the small aircraft, all members of the team were required to mount the scales. David Dyson's reading on the dial caused consternation amongst the ground staff, remedied by the introduction of a second aircraft to spread the load. Soon we were off for a relaxed lunch at Baganara Island, a small resort on an island on the Essequito River. After lunch we were again airborne, heading for the Kaieteur Falls, a stupendous and remote 820 feet high waterfall claimed to be five times the height of Niagara. It is set in totally unspoilt country, unapproachable except by light aircraft, which ensures that it remains virtually unknown.

## Saturday 27 April

On the first day of the GNRA meeting, conditions proved, if anything, more challenging than those of the practice day. Shot in fierce heat around midday, the 600 yards competition in particular provided a testing wind flicking between 3 minutes left and 1 right.

Kelvin Ramsey narrowly counted out Paul Charlton for the day's aggregate, both scoring 146.14 at 300, 600 and 900 yards. The host country filled third and fourth places with Richard Field scoring 145.15 and Ransford Goodluck 145.13.





The team in Trinidad. Standing: Mick Place, Paul Charlton, Jim Scobie, Peter Barry (*plus team mascot*), Kelvin Ramsey, Irene Rowley, Sarah Rennie, David Dyson, Gary Alexander, Hugh Kilpatrick, Andrew Thompson, Sally Roots. Sitting: Peter Thompson, Nigel Penn, Martin Townsend, John Carmichael, Steven Thomas, Dick Winney.



Wot! No inflight drinks?!



Guyana - the team at Kaieteur Falls.



Andrew Thompson ponders his excess baggage problem in Jamaica.



... and when you've finished cleaning all our rifles Sarah ...



Awesome Kaieteur Falls in Guyana.



After shooting, the hosts demonstrated their joie de vivre at the back of the range; enjoying a bottle of rum to the extent that one participant fell off his chair - the Guyanese equivalent of a Commonwealth tea?

### **Sunday 28 April**

The second and final day's competition in Guyana took place in the same hot and tricky wind conditions as the first. John Carmichael (despite the oversight of arriving at 300 yards with no rifle), along with Paul Charlton, Kelvin Ramsey, David Dyson and Andrew Tompson produced scores of 50 at 300 yards, Paul and John adding 49s at 500 yards. At 1000 yards the draw played a key role as a sudden and heavy downpour drowned the second detail, refreshing over-heated shooters but not helping their scores. The Sunday Aggregate was won by John with 147.13, Paul coming second with 146.17, and Richard Fields of Guyana, third with 144.17.

GB shooters were successful in the Grand Aggregate, which was won by Paul with 292.31, followed by John with 290.23. Richard Fields was the leading Guyanese, in third place with 289.32 having shown everybody the way at 1,000 yards with a 48.5.

### **Monday 29 April**

The team arose to grey skies and showers. Seldom are these familiar conditions welcomed by shooters, but after two days in the heat, they came as a welcome relief.

The match against Guyana was shot at 300, 600 and 900 yards by teams of ten, with the top eight scores in each team counting toward the result. A comfortable lead was established at 300 yards, GB scoring 394.45 against the hosts 380.38. In continuing grey skies, light winds and occasional downpours, this lead was extended, GB scoring 396.47 to the Guyanese team's 381.40. In one all-Irish exchange, the shooter told the coach: "that one may be out left", to which the coach replied: "no, it's at nine o'clock". At 900 yards, GB scored 397.55 to complete an excellent score of 1187.182. Finishing with a steady 1150.118, the host country had achieved one of their best ever scores in international competition.

Notable individual performances included a 150.19 by John Carmichael, coached by the Captain, reportedly John's first possible in a three range international match. Scores of 149 were attained by Andy Tompson, Kelvin Ramsey and David Dyson for GB, and by Mahindra Persaud, providing a "Captain's innings" for Guyana.

To round off the first leg of the tour, the GNRA hosted the Presentation Ceremony at the Bank of Guyana Roof Garden. Commencing with a reception to the strains of the Police Steel Band, the ceremony was attended by such luminaries as Mrs Gail Teixeira, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports, the Minister for Tourism and the British High Commissioner, His Excellency Edward Glover.

Punctuated by elegant and engaging speeches, the presentation was notable for the superb quality of the gold, silver and bronze medals sponsored by El Dorado, Guyana's famous rum producer. A real Guyanese gold medal is a prize to be treasured, and Dr Ramsey departed

this meeting with no less than five of them. For the rest of the team, the visit to Guyana had been a great success, not least because of the immaculate organisation of all aspects of the shooting by the members of the GNRA.

### **Wednesday 1 May - Trinidad**

This was a memorable day hosted by Norris and Gabby Gomez, father Darrel and decorative daughters Kristianne and Donnia. From the Trinidad and Tobago Yacht Club the team cruised west towards the islands aboard the "Columbus". We were soon anchored in heaven in a sound between tropical islands, just a short swim from an empty sandy beach. Aboard "Columbus" the unique Gomez hospitality flowed and the heat of the sun was offset by a cool breeze.

### **Thursday 2 May**

For another night various team members struggled to kick their Imodium habit, alarm clocks rousing the team early to head for Tucker Valley Range. This range is one of the world's most scenic, fringed with bamboo trees and surrounded by wooded hills; lizards rustle in the shade of the bamboo and vultures circle above the slow shooters. At 300 yards a light wind from seemingly all points of the compass seemed manageable. At 600 yards however, the plethora of mystery magpies had even our distinguished Captain and Coach struggling to find an answer. In the evening the team were entertained at the home of the immensely generous Gomez family.

### **Friday 3 May**

Competition commenced at 300 yards, the most notable score being 35.7 by Peter Barry. Moving back to 500 yards most expected a fifteen round endurance test in the heat. Our fears soon proved to be unfounded as the clouds gathered and, in the sticky windlessness, scores of 75 were achieved by Hugh Kilpatrick, Kelvin Ramsey, Clarion Tang Choon and Paul Charlton. As the last detail finished, the rain started to fall; an extended lunch break was enjoyed under the awning erected by the hosts to provide much needed shade. In the afternoon, once the rain abated, the third competition of the day was shot at 600 yards, Sarah Rennie and John Carmichael leading the field with scores of 50.7. On the day's aggregate John and Paul continued their form from Guyana, with scores of 159.16 and 158.18 respectively.

### **Saturday 4 May**

Assembling early for the bus to the range, rain was falling and the day turned out to be punctuated by regular showers. At 300 yards scores of 50 were posted by Mick Place and the T(h)ompson "twins" Peter and Andrew. At 500 Andrew continued to prosper, adding a 50.3; Sarah Rennie, aided by her squeaky clean barrel, scored 50.5. After lunch, the final individual shoot got underway at 600 yards. In dull light, and with a light fishtail unreadable by some of those present, Andrew produced an outstanding 75.12 to win the day's aggregate without a point dropped, scoring 175.23. John Carmichael, shooting with the consistency he began in Guyana, finished second with 172.17 and David Dyson came third with 171.23. Andrew also won the Grand



(weekend) Aggregate with 332.38 ex 335, John finishing second with 331.33. Clarion Tang Choon led the host shooters in third place with 328.31.

After completion of the day's shooting, an informal reception was hosted by the visiting team in the small-bore range. This was our first social contact with the Trinidadian shooters and there was much laughter as darkness fell, the temperature slipped below 30°C, and the nocturnal jungle cacophony of crickets and frogs asserted itself.

### **Sunday 5 May**

Sunday started hot and airless with high humidity after the rains. The team however was well prepared due to the accidental procurement of double rations of Gatorade, a health drink designed to replace depleted body minerals and fluid. In the cause of medical research the team doctor decided that Gatorade would today be served with added salt supplement to increase its effectiveness, an experiment that failed due to the "elixir of life" quickly being pronounced undrinkable.

Meanwhile, back on the firing point, there were people shooting and coaching and the GB team of twelve dropped 14 against Trinidad's 43. At 500 yards the cloud cover thickened and GB dropped a further 14 whilst Trinidad dropped 31 points. After lunch GB extended their lead; taking their best eight, GB scored 1178.135 against the home team's 1151.107. Highest scorer for GB was Hugh Kilpatrick, coached by John Carmichael, with 149 (V count withheld to avoid embarrassment); the highest scoring Trinidadian was Norris Gomez with 148.20. GB also won the reserves match with 571.52 against 540.33.

An informal prize giving followed, with gracious words of appreciation from Brigadier Joe Theodore, Vice President of the Trinidad Rifle Association, Cecil Smith, Hon Vice President and Norris Gomez, Trinidad team Captain. Male prizewinners enjoyed the undoubted bonus of having their prizes presented by the lovely Gomez girls and all was presided over by the TRA Treasurer, Roland Ford. The GB Captain replied with thanks, distributing gifts to various team members and officials of the host country, mercifully sparing all present from a repeat of the joke attempted at the Guyana prize giving.

### **Monday 6 May - Jamaica**

"The bad news is" said the Adjutant, "our flight leaves Trinidad at 0700 and we therefore have to leave the hotel at 0315, which means that we must assemble at 0245." For readers who have yet to travel abroad with a touring team, these are the less glamorous moments, especially when faced with half a team emerging from beds after two hours sleep and the other half emerging from bars after protracted celebration.

Shortly before take off a bemused early morning queue were treated to the spectacle of David Dyson, unable to stump up the 100 Trinidad dollars to pay his departure tax, offering to sing to them to raise the cash, an offer politely and wisely declined. There followed a flight to

Kingston over the length of the Caribbean chain, including stops at Barbados and Antigua. The usual rifle unpacking/checking/packing followed and the team visibly aged as successive groups of passengers passed through the baggage hall and were absorbed back into the outside world.

Aided by Canute Coley and Dennis Lee of the Jamaica Rifle Association, we eventually emerged blinking into the Rasta hubbub that is Kingston. The bus turned out to be half the size of the conveyance anticipated, so the team and its one ton of luggage were shoe horned into a minibus, a pickup and a military escort Land Rover, manned by three fearsome military policemen toting assault rifles. Our bus driver, Erica, then hurled the bus along the route to the HQ of the Jamaica Rifle Association, with great skill as she followed the military, sirens wailing, through red lights, over kerbs and at times against the oncoming traffic. Passing through the notoriously dangerous Mountview district, even our tough guy MPs eased their safety catches and pulled down their helmets ready for battle. For the team, their first impressions of Jamaica were sufficient to stimulate a round of applause on arrival.

In the evening, the JRA hosted a reception at their superb facilities, built for the 1966 Commonwealth Games, and we were welcomed by Dr Warren Blake JRA President. Despite a power cut which lasted most of the evening, a good time was had by all. It had however been a long day, and the team was immensely relieved that on this occasion the Captain was not required to deliver a speech.

### **Tuesday 7 May**

This was a free day, and the JRA had kindly arranged a tour across the island to Ocho Rios on the north coast. Leaving suburban Kingston's landscape of rusting corrugated iron and crumbling breeze block shacks under the shade of the guango and palm trees, a beautiful lush country of forest, hills and rivers unfolded. Jamaica's bauxite mining and alumina smelting facilities could be seen en route and we were soon descending through a deep wooded gorge to our destination. Highlight attraction was the Dunns River Falls, a gorgeous series of waterfalls where visitors are encouraged to climb from a perfect beach up a series of steps in the river, becoming very wet in the process. Lunch followed at a new beachside restaurant, followed by swimming and volleyball, the latter activity resulting in a number of abrasions for the doctor to patch up.

### **Wednesday 8 May**

We had another early start to get the rifles assembled for a morning's practice at Twickenham Park Range. Unusually for a range, Twickenham Park has a neighbouring squatter settlement where people have built huts without official permission. As we arrived, laundry operations were in full swing at the water taps around the range and we were told that it is not unusual for people with water cans to fill up at the 500 yards point, even when shooting is in progress at 1000 yards. This distraction, along with herds of cattle and goats





Tucker Valley Range in Trinidad.



Barbados 1000 yards - so which way does the wind blow?



Barbados 600 yards with view of the clubhouse and facilities.



Martin Townsend and Jim Scobie in Jamaica - you need the water.



Norris Gomez " . . . and that's my excuse!"



Jamaica - both teams firing at 500 yards.



Southern Palms Beach Club, Barbados met with full satisfaction.



"And they say being Captain is difficult."

(All photos: West Indies Team)



grazing nonchalantly in the line of fire, ensured that Jamaica would be a new experience. Once the rifles arrived we were quickly into a 300 and 900 yards practice before lunch and, although the day had begun with blistering heat, a cooling breeze soon made life at least bearable in the shade.

Colonel Saunders, a local military commander, presided over the unfurling of the two national flags and made a speech of welcome before firing the first shot, in the manner of Queen Victoria at Wimbledon. However, he was obliged to send a message 5 before being awarded a V bull.

At 300 yards Hugh Kilpatrick secured the only possible, a 50.7. At 600 yards, Andrew Thompson led with 50.7, followed by Canute Coley with 50.4. Continuing his form exhibited in Trinidad, Andrew won the day's aggregate with 99.14, tying with Hugh on the same score, ahead of Canute with 99.9.

### **Thursday 9 May**

The weather started hot at 500 yards with just a light readable fishtail. Once again it was Andrew Thompson who led, this time with 50.8, followed by Gary Alexander on 50.7, and Sarah Rennie and Steven Thomas with 50.4. At 900 yards around midday, in one of the hottest shoots of the tour, Paul Charlton overcame the thick mirage to score a fine 50.4. The 1,000 yards shoot got underway after lunch under a darkening sky; rain started to fall as the first detail finished and eventually the 1,000 yards competition had to be scrapped. Andrew had already scored 49.1 to establish an unassailable lead in the Grand Aggregate, but after deleting that score, he had won it anyway with a score of 196.25 from Hugh 196.23 and Paul 195.21.

In the evening an informal reception for was held by the GB Team for our hosts, in the pool area at the Pegasus Jamaica Hotel and the evening was filled with anecdotes of the kind reserved for such occasions.

### **Friday 10 May**

The day of the next team match had dawned and the Captain had decided on a format with a distinctly Irish flavour, the three coaches all being drawn from the Emerald Isle. After the intense heat and tropical downpour of yesterday, the morning had a slightly more comfortable feel about it as shooting commenced. GB's 12 shooters established an 11 point lead after 300 yards, adding 10 points at 500 yards, a further 17 at 600 yards and 14 at 900 yards. Taking the best eight, GB scored 1561.187 against Jamaica's 1533.131. Predictably, GB's top score was Andrew Thompson with 197.24, coached by Peter Barry; top Jamaican score was Keith Hammond with 196.19.

Rifles were once again dismantled and packed in what had now become a well oiled drill and soon the team, scrubbed and dressed in Number Ones was boarding the bus to the reception and prize-giving at the residence of Dr Warren Blake. Here we enjoyed a delicious supper, washed down with rum punches; after speeches of congratulations and thanks all round, fond farewells followed and the team returned to the hotel.

### **Saturday 11 May - Barbados**

This was another day of travelling with much hanging about; it was early evening by the time that the team arrived in Barbados for the last, and biggest, leg of the shooting tour.

A short bus ride delivered us to the Southern Palms Hotel, interlinking accommodation units styled with hints of hacienda and set in what is best described as a romantic beachside location. Here eight team members were soon in the warm embrace of loved ones who had travelled out to join us. After drinks and supper in and around the hotel, couples drifted away to the now familiar night-time accompaniment of tree frogs and crickets, backed by the rhythm of the ocean. Others already well versed in the rum punches of earlier ports of call, set about an in-depth evaluation of the Barbados version.

### **Sunday 12 May**

This was the first day of the tour when team members had the opportunity to spend a day totally without any team arrangements or commitments. Predictably the day started slowly and the first delight was the spectacle of the immaculate environs of the Southern Palms, its adjacent beach and the Caribbean Sea seen for the first time in dazzling daylight. The gardens, well stocked with hibiscus and bougainvillea, and shaded by trees ranging from mahogany to a wide variety of palms, are cooled by the Barbados sea breeze. A quiet day around the hotel and beach was enjoyed by all. In the evening everyone assembled for informal drinks and dinner to celebrate the birthday of Pearl Townsend, who had done so much to help Martin to make a success of the tour. Following dinner an intrepid group of the younger unattached explored the social opportunities presented by the surrounding bars and clubs.

### **Monday 13 May**

Paragon Range is set within the military complex located between the airport and the sea. For our practice session, the temperature was similar to that prevailing in our previous ports of call but the humidity was much reduced and a steady breeze provided a fishtail straight down the range.

In the evening all the teams were entertained to a reception by the Governor General, Sir Clifford Husbands GCMG KA at his magnificent residence. Prior to departure to the reception, the team photograph was taken at the hotel; Mary Scobie was asked by an American hotel guest: "Are those guys Squeegee salesmen?"

After the reception some team members returned to the bar to eat, to the accompaniment of a live band playing harmless favourites. Andrew Thompson accepted the offer of a guest appearance and wowed the audience with a stomping guitar and vocal performance of Johnnie B Goode, putting the house band singer somewhat in the shade.

### **Tuesday 14 May**

The first day's competition at Paragon Range turned out to be "showery with bright intervals" not dissimilar to

Wales but much warmer. At 300 yards John Carmichael won with 35.6, followed by Hugh Kilpatrick with 35.6 and Jose Nunez of Jamaica with 35.5. The 500 yards competition was won by Oscar Waldron of Trinidad with 50.7, followed by Ronald Brown Jr of Jamaica with 50.6. Hugh crowned two weeks of consistent shooting with 50.10 at 600 yards, followed by John with 50.8 and Peter Barry with 50.7. On the day, Hugh led the way with 134.23, narrowly ahead of the Vice Captain with 134.22, followed by Peter with 134.14.

### **Wednesday 15 May**

This was the sort of day that rifle shooters dream about; dry with blue sky and sea, a fresh breeze, changing enough to keep a shooter interested, and the temperature just around 30°C. Keith Hammond of Jamaica won the 300 yards shoot with 50.7, followed by Lennox Brathwaite of Guyana with 50.6 and Jim Scobie with 50.5. At 600 yards Ronald Brown Jr of Jamaica led the field with 35.7, Peter Barry and Andrew Thompson following hot on his heels with 35.6. At 900 yards David Dyson scored the only possible winning the shoot with 50.7; next were Hugh Kilpatrick and Ransford Goodluck of Guyana with 49.7 each. On the day, David Rickman of Jamaica emerged on top with 132.20, Ronald Brown Jr second with 132.19 and Peter Barry third with 132.17. This left Peter in a clear lead in the Grand Aggregate, having dropped four over the first six shoots.

### **Thursday 16 May**

Another glorious Barbadian morning dawned. At 500 yards, shooting into what had now developed into a buffeting headwind, the top three scorers, all with 35.5, were Paul Charlton, Nigel Penn and Sally Roots. In the Grand Aggregate, Hugh Kilpatrick closed the gap on Peter Barry to one point. At 600 yards Gary Alexander (50.7) beat Stephen Chung of Trinidad (50.5) into second place, John Carmichael coming third with 49.7. The Captain, at this stage keen to publicise his own much improved elevations, and having initially and inadvertently omitted to bring his rifle to the mound, eventually scored a creditable 48. Peter, meanwhile, held on to his one point overall lead over Hugh, with John moving into third place, a further point behind.

In the final competition, at 1,000 yards, the winner was Paul with 49.6 (also winning the day's aggregate), Steven Thomas coming second with 48.6, and Leo Ramalho of Guyana third with 47.7. Peter, with a steady 47 at 1,000 yards, extended his lead to win the Grand Aggregate by two points from John, Hugh coming third with fewer V bulls.

### **Friday 17 May**

The match was to be shot by teams of 16, ten shots at 300, 600 and 900 yards, with the scores of the best eight counting towards the result. This required meticulous planning by the Captain, to ensure that all shooters could be coached and have plotters.

Match day had dawned with red flags out on the beach, signifying hazardous conditions for bathing due to big seas arising from the continuing high wind. On the range, conditions resembled yesterday's except that the

wind was stronger. At 300 yards many were undone by the buffeting, which also caused problems at 600 yards, although Sarah Rennie, coached by Peter Barry, along with Mahendra Persaud and Ransford Goodluck of the host team, managed scores of 99 at the first two ranges.

Due to the unusual match rules it was impossible to know who was in the lead, but at lunch there seemed little to separate the two teams. At 900 yards, GB, taking advantage of reduced buffeting to shoot more quickly than the hosts, appeared to be setting up a significant lead. However, by the time the statisticians had calculated the scores of the best eight, the GB winning margin was a mere three points, our score being 1157.126 against the West Indies 1154.115. This had been the tightest margin between the two teams for many years and the closeness of the scores implied that the rules had brought about an exciting contest. Top individual scorer for GB was David Dyson with 147.19, coached by Dick Winney, and with the same score for the West Indies, Ransford Goodluck.

After a brief visit to the now derelict supergun test site behind the butts, the bus took the team back to the hotel in time for some to enjoy an exhilarating plunge in the surf.

### **Saturday 18 May**

Today's shoot was for teams of eight from each Caribbean country, shooting 15 shots at 900 and 1000 yards. GB was not eligible to enter, but our 12 shooters shot alongside for honour ( - and for a side bet made between Captain Martin and Norris Gomez). Each had nominated eight shooters from across the various teams to create a concurrent GB versus West Indies match, the losers buying the winners a case of cold beer. This was a hidden match, the eventual participants not knowing who they were, in order to extract the best efforts of all twelve GB shooters. Confused?

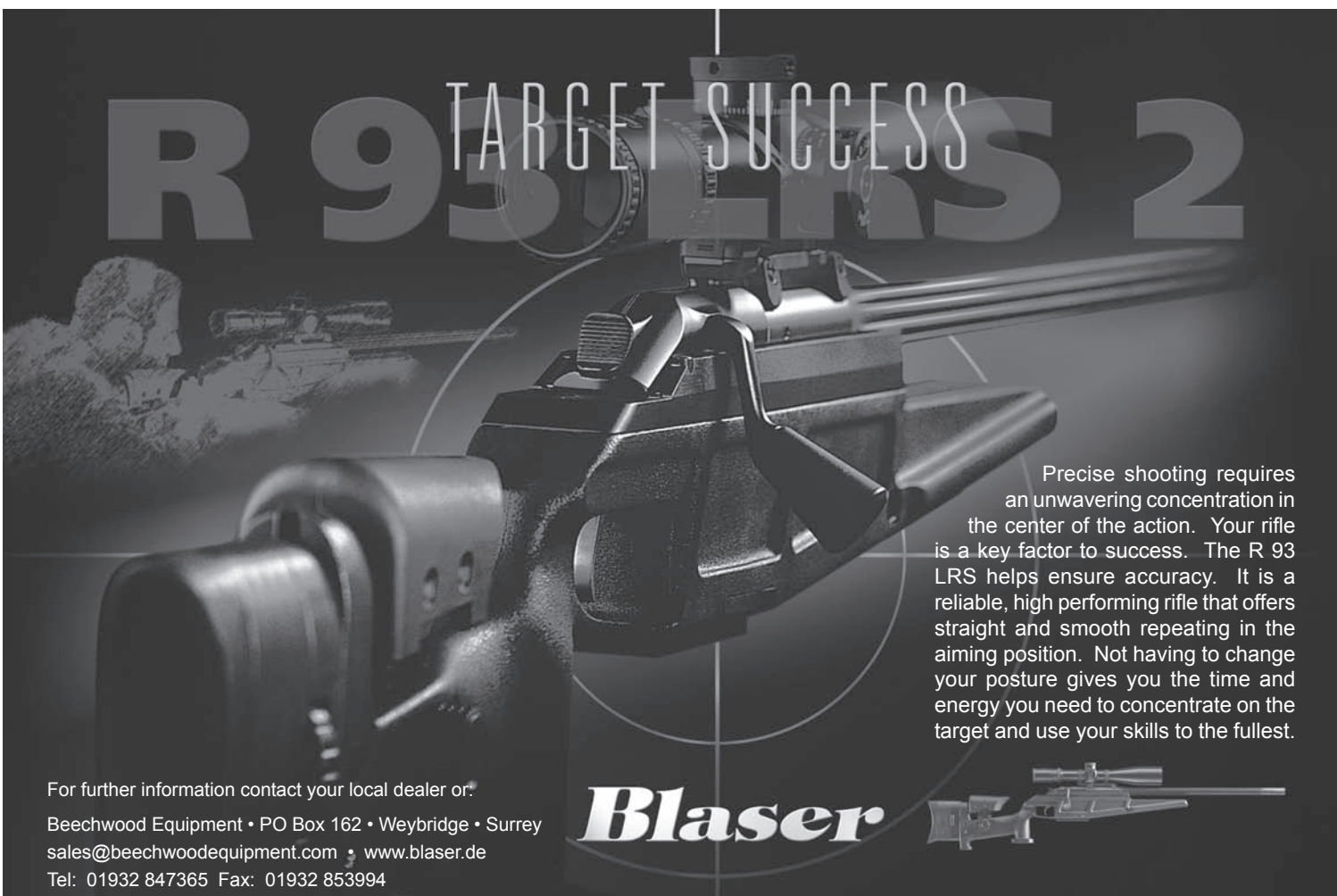
Shooting, for the third successive day, into a strong buffeting headwind, scores of 73 were achieved at 900 yards by Peter Barry and Sarah Rennie, both coached by the Captain. After lunch at 1000 yards, with no let up to the wind, Peter scored a superb 74 to complete a 147, by far the highest individual gun score of the day. It was noticeable that David Dyson and Peter Thompson, the only two point sling users in the team, had both featured strongly amongst the better GB scores over the last two buffeting days. The Singer Cup was won by Guyana with 1111.93 and, in the hidden international match, GB won the beer with 1123.108 against the West Indies 1102.88.

Saturday night was a quiet one for most of the team, tired after six consecutive days on the range. A small number of stalwarts did however manage an after dinner foray to the Ship Inn, local pub/club where the Saturday night performance of salsa, and a variety of Caribbean dances, were especially pleasing.

### **Sunday 19 May**

Following a shower of rain, the BWIA Cup got underway in the same buffeting wind as that experienced on the three previous days. This trophy is competed for





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**Blaser**

annually by all the Caribbean shooting countries; the GB Team shot alongside and competed in a concurrent match against a pre-selected West Indies eight. Due to limitations imposed by target availability, only eight shooters could be nominated to shoot, the prize being another case of cold beer.

After 300 yards, the nominated West Indies team was ahead by five points, and their lead increased by a further three points at 500 yards. The GB team faced its first setback of the tour and Norris had begun to anticipate the sweet taste of success and beer. After lunch, however, the tables were cruelly turned on him and his team, as GB recorded their best range score of the day, and the West Indies their worst, achieving a 600 yards advantage of 11 points and overall victory by three points (1163.127 against 1160.115). Highest scorer for GB was John Carmichael with 148.16 and, for the West Indies, Ransford Goodluck, with 148.17. Jamaica won the BWIA Cup with 1142.117.

Back to the hotel to change, then back on the bus to the range for the prize giving. Drinks under the Caribbean night sky, to the traditional accompaniment of a brass band, preceded the prize giving at which words of thanks and appreciation were exchanged. It was with sadness that we said goodbye to all our hosts, from all four countries, whose friendship and sense of fun had made the tour such a delight.

### Monday 20 to Thursday 23 May

The full range of holiday activities were explored, including scuba diving, golf, sugar factory visits, deep sea fishing, historical tours, clubbing and simply absorbing rays before returning to the grey UK spring that awaited us. All local restaurants were critically appraised and, for the final night, a contingent of team members entertained a rapidly diminishing local audience to karaoke at the Ship Inn but finally it was time to return to the real world.

This tour had been an unforgettable experience for all members of the team. The welcome extended by shooters in all of the host countries had been overwhelming, and we were taught how to enjoy life, invariably by people whose lives are by no means easy. Where else in the world can we eat fresh mangoes or chew raw sugar cane on the range after shooting? And where else can we plunge into the warm clear aquamarine surf after shooting or watch a turtle laying its eggs on the beach after that sudden tropical night fall? The tradition of sportsmanship and the fun of participation at any level live on in the Caribbean. It is regrettable that GB shooters do not have the privilege of more opportunities to visit these magical places, not least to support the local shooters in building and promoting our sport.

# NRA COUNCIL ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*The Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Treasurer of the NRA Council are members of all Council Committees*

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Mr MWT Walton	Chairman
Mr JMA Thompson	Vice-Chairman
Mr JM Kynoch	
Mr RHF Wills	
Mr DG Young	
Mr S Belither	Chairman Membership Ctte
Dr NG Jeffs	Chairman Estates Ctte
Mr CS O'Brien	Chairman Shooting Ctte
Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis	Co-opted
Mr MJ Blythe	<i>In attendance</i> - Financial Manager
Maj MG Farnan	<i>In attendance</i> - Shooting Manager
Mrs EM Buttle	Secretary

## Board of National Shooting Centre Limited

Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis	Non exec Chairman
Miss S Bunch	Executive Director
Col CA Ewing	Executive Director
Maj MG Farnan	Executive Director
Mr JDS Hossack	Non exec Director
Mr JM Kynoch	Non exec Director
Mr CS O'Brien	Non exec Director
Mr JMA Thompson	Non exec Director
Mr MJ Blythe	Company Secretary

*Vacancy, Managing Director*

## Shooting Committee

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Mr JPS Bloomfield	
Mr JH Carmichael	
Wg Cdr DP Calvert	
Prof AR Horrocks	
Mr JEM Bellringer	TR
Mr P Bloom	Services & Cadets
Mr AR Campbell-Smith	Match Rifle
Mr CN Farr	Gallery Rifle & Pistol
Mr JM Kynoch	Sporting Rifle
Dr P Monaghan	F Class
Mr G Player	Muzzle Loading
Mr P Sarony	Practical Rifle
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Mrs ID Bennett	
Prof AR Horrocks	
Mr JM Kynoch	
Mrs M Veltman-Grisenthwaite	
Dr NG Jeffs	Co-opted
Mrs H Webb	Secretary

## Disciplinary Panel

Mr PN Hinchliffe QC	Chairman
Mr JPS Bloomfield	
Mr CM Brooks	
Wg Cdr DP Calvert	
Mr DG Evans	
Miss M Gooden	
Mr JM Holmes	
Lt Col RT Hoole	
Mr AJCB de Launay	
Mr CS O'Brien	
Mr RHF Wills	
Mr MWT Walton	

## Estates Committee

Dr NG Jeffs	Chairman
Mr CAJ Oliver-Bellasis	Vice-Chairman
Mr HRM Bailie	
Mrs ID Bennett	
Mr I Shirra-Gibb	
Mr MWT Walton	
Mr ND Anderson	Co-opted
Mr JEM Hartwell	Co-opted
Mrs Sherril Dixon	Secretary

## Audit Committee

Mr P Currie	Chairman
Mr JF Jackman	
Mr JMA Thompson	

*The Audit Committee was formed a year ago, is now chaired by the new Treasurer and its prime role is to supervise the annual audit on behalf of the Council.*

## Remuneration Committee

Mr JF Jackman	Chairman
Mr S Belither	
Dr NG Jeffs	
Mr CS O'Brien	
Mr MWT Walton	
Mr CM Brooks	Co-opted Solicitor

*The Remuneration Committee was re-formed a year ago; it deals with management of the terms and conditions of employment of the Secretary of the National Rifle Association on behalf of Council. It also advises the Finance and General Purposes Committee on the terms and conditions of employment of managers.*



# INTER COUNTIES MEETING 2002

by Karen Robertson

A nice easy start to the weekend with the individual match, the R Jarvis, at 300 yards; the wind gently moving between zero and half right. Eleven shooters scored 75.12 with Nigel Ball (*Norfolk*) winning the tie shoot with 25.5. Top Under 23 shooter was Matt Ensor (*Surrey*) with 75.9.

The wind stayed pretty much the same for the start of the Lt Col H Jones Memorial Match resulting in 59 possibles at 300 yards; top scorer at this distance was David Richards (*Hampshire*) with the only 50.10 on the range. Surrey stormed into the lead after 300 yards with six possibles and two 49s for a total of 398.57; in second place were Hertfordshire with 396.48 and third were Sussex with 395.52.

London achieved the highest team score at 500 yards with 398.54 moving them up into equal third place. The top three teams all scored 392s and so the relative places stayed the same. Nick Leaper (*Essex*), John Stevens (*Yorkshire*) and Peter Bromley (*Kent*) all scored 50.9s with sixty others also scoring possibles.



Sixty-eight possibles at 600 yards but only one 50.10, this time from David Calvert (*Ulster*) whose total of 150.26 was the highest score of the day as well as being a personal best; David's Captain and team mate Richard Bailie (*left*) also achieved a personal best of 150.16. Four others also put them all in: David Richards (*Hampshire*) 150.22, Mike Fugeman (*Berkshire*) 150.21, Alastair

Speirs (*Northumberland*) 150.19 and Ginny Measures (*Lincolnshire*) 150.18. However Chris Belk (*Northumberland*) and Keith Trowbridge (*Lincolnshire*) both need to practice on those tenth shots at 600 yards as they both dropped their last for 149s.

Back to the all important team scores and Norfolk was at the top at 600 yards with 396.43 but it was Somerset's second highest range score of 395.51 which really sorted out the final placings. Of the previous leaders, Surrey had scored 389.45, Hertfordshire had 390.40 and Sussex 394.42 but Somerset's match total of 1181.154 just pipped Sussex into second by 14 V bulls.

Sunday was generally overcast and chilly with some interesting wind conditions to keep the coaches on their toes. At 900 yards there were 17 possibles with a fine 75.14 from Jeremy Thompson (*Hertfordshire*); just behind him on 75.11 were David Calvert (*Ulster*), Richard Mott (*Middlesex*) and John Pugsley (*Devon*).



Jeremy's 75.14 helped Hertfordshire into the top slot with a team total of 591.70 - seven points clear of Ulster and Oxfordshire in second and third positions.

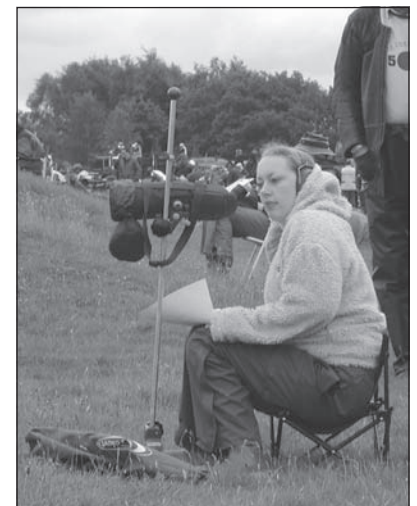
However it all got a bit more difficult at 1000 yards - 75s and 74s were nowhere to be seen as the coaches struggled. There were only four scores of 73 which came from Rachel Merridew (*Buckinghamshire*), Sarah Rennie (*East of Scotland*) and John Warburton (*Yorkshire*) all on 73.7 and Duncan Bedding (*Hertfordshire*) on 73.5. The average score across the range was a measly 66 and many teams had suffered badly; Surrey's team average of just over 70 gave them the top score at this range but it just wasn't enough to knock Hertfordshire from the top. Final results in the Long Range Match were Hertfordshire 1142.108, Surrey 1140.98 and Sussex 1128.97.

Duncan's score of 74.6 at 900 yards gave him the top score of the day of 147.11 as well as the top score of the weekend of 296.25. Just behind Duncan were John Warburton (*Yorkshire*) on 295.33 and Richard Bailie (*Ulster*) on 295.27.

Unsurprisingly the results of the overall aggregate did not differ from the results of the Long Range match with Hertfordshire in first place with 2320.245, Surrey in second with 2319.247 and Sussex in third with 2309.237.

Another excellent weekend of shooting was over and, as always, thanks were due to all those whose hard work had made it possible.

Top: The teams at work on Stickledown.  
Left: A very happy Richard Bailie.  
Right: Jo Hossack wraps up warm.  
(All photos: Karen Robertson)



# A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE NRA RULE DEFINING THE MATCH RIFLE

*Presented to the Meeting of Match Riflemen, July 2002 by Richard Kenchington*

I consider Match Rifle to be the "Formula One" of shooting - it is what people graduate to after learning to shoot in other disciplines, and represents the pinnacle of activity in the British style of rifle shooting.

Occasionally, as in Formula One motor racing, the formula needs to be changed. There has always been an experimental aspect to Match Rifle shooting, whereby the very nature of the sport involves competitors trying out new ideas with their rifles and ammunition. Over the past eight or ten years, I have expressed the view in several quarters that the experimental aspect of Match Rifle shooting is being stifled by the restriction to the standard 7.62mm NATO cartridge case, and I make no apology for reiterating that view. The restriction needs to be relaxed.

In proposing that a wider choice of cartridge be allowed for the Match Rifle, I am only following the precedents set during the first part of the 20th century. In 1963, the last year of .303 Streamline, the option still existed to use "any Foreign Service Rifle" with "ammunition . . . supplied by the competitor". This was in line with "one of the chief objects" of Match Rifle shooting, as expressed in the Bisley Bible from before 1914 until 1963, to determine "the barrel and ammunition most suitable for present-day requirements", and with the need for the cartridge to be "a serviceable one from a military point of view, having regard in particular to the weight to be carried by the soldier, and to the terms of International Convention". These phrases were actual rubrics spelt out in the rule book.

I am not, however, suggesting that absolutely *any* cartridge be allowed, as I would not wish to change the fundamental nature of Match Rifle shooting, which in essence is the attempt to hit the bullseye at the longest possible distance, making use of a rifle and ammunition only just powerful enough to produce consistent results. Consider the cartridge as a box of energy, by the use of which, with the help of the rifle, one attempts to puncture the bullseye. Clearly, in order to have meaningful competition, the amount of energy in the box needs to be subject to some limit, but does the exact shape of the box really matter? From the soldier's point of view, the overriding concern is the weight of the ammunition he has to carry. Therefore the only restriction that is really needed is a limit on the weight of the loaded round, and I suggest that this should be **one ounce**. My starting point in arriving at this was obviously the existing 7.62mm NATO cartridge. The weight of a 7.62 NATO round loaded with a 190 grain bullet is about 412 grains [190 (bullet) + 170 (case) + 46 (charge) + 6 (primer) = 412]. As this cartridge can be loaded with heavier bullets

and slightly larger charges, some slack needs to be added to this figure. Add 6% and you arrive at just under one ounce (437.5 grains), a nice round British unit of weight.

I accept that such a limit would allow the use of cartridges that require less elevation, and retain velocity better than the 7.62mm NATO. Within reason I think this would be no bad thing, as it would take us a bit further away from the transonic instability region at 1200 yards without altering wind deflections significantly, and would thus not markedly affect the element of skill needed in reading the wind. The weight limit would outlaw most magnum cartridges, because in general they have heavy cases. However it would embrace most existing military rounds, including the .30-06 (at the very top end of the scale) and 7x57. Other cartridges such as the 6.5x55, 6mm Remington and .22-250 should fall easily within the weight limit.

What would happen if such a rule were introduced? Initially, most competitors would continue with their 7.62mm NATO barrels, and might widen their experiments with VLD bullets and double-based powders in an effort to improve performance. Some might have their existing barrels re-chambered to provide a bit more powder capacity. A few already possessing rifles in other calibres might be able to compete with them. Gradually however, as competitors naturally approached the time for a new barrel, consideration would be given to the possibilities of other calibres. Those with new barrels in whatever calibre would tend to win (as they do now), but generally I doubt whether there would be any major change in the level of scoring, or any widespread feeling of uncompetitiveness more profound than that already felt when one's barrel is beginning to lose its edge.

Besides, I do not necessarily believe that the *only* recipe for success after such a rule change would be the use of the cartridge with the highest possible muzzle energy. The 7.62mm NATO has already shown itself capable of near-possible scores over the full 45-shot Albert or Elcho course; witness the score of 224, including a 75 at 1200 yards, made by Pete Campbell in the Spring Meeting this year. However, the scope for experimentation, especially with small calibres, would be significantly widened were we to make such a rule change. It would not diminish the need for competitors to exercise skill in wind-reading, which would still be the main requirement for high scoring, but it would demonstrate that the choice of calibre and cartridge can and should be an integral part of the quest for success in this fascinating sport.



# HM THE QUEEN'S GOLDEN JUBILEE MEETING 2002

## SERVICE RIFLE

*by Peter Campbell*

This would be the first year when the MkII version of the SA80 made its presence felt at Bisley. Early reports were very encouraging, the RAF's John Pricor commented that the rifle "just doesn't stop"; ironically several thousand miles away the Royal Marines were having problems getting theirs to start! Doubtless Warrant Officer Tommy Sands' colleagues were secretly hoping his rifle would stop and prevent him winning another Queen's Medal.

Despite increased commitments on an almost world wide scale, competitor numbers were slightly up on the previous year. The American National Guard were back, after the Foot and Mouth outbreak caused their cancellation last year, along with regulars from the Canadian Armed Forces and the Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces; they were also joined by the South African Defence Force making a welcome visit.

With several top ten places and an appropriate first in the Gurkha Welfare Match, Colour Sgt Manbahadur Garbuja of 2 Royal Gurkha Rifles collected a well earned Queen's Medal by a five point margin from Cpl Prembahadur Baral also of 2 RGR. In the Royal Navy/Royal Marines Queen's Medal competition Warrant Officer Tommy Sands brushed off stiff early competition to collect what would almost certainly be his last Queen's Medal before retirement, whilst Chief Technician John Pricor notched up his tenth win in the Royal Air Force Queen's Medal. In the overseas events the Canadians and Omanis held a stranglehold on the premier places.

When events moved to the NRA sponsored events, the big teams would find the larger teams hiving off people to practice for the Blue Riband service rifle event, the Methuen Cup, leaving numbers down 20% on last year. This helped the Omanis and Canadians to dominate the prize lists. Monday morning would see a clean sweep of the top places by the Omanis,

Major Al Nasserli led from the front to win the Bisley Bullet from Sgt H Al Ghassani, while in the Sitting and Standing Sgt S Al Ghassani collected the pots after a three way tie in the Standing. After a non-productive morning, the Empire struck back in the afternoon with Lt JC Barber of the Royal Signals winning the Kinnaird, whilst the Canadians collected the Stephens and Wantage, both after three way tie shoots. The Stephens needed a second tie to separate Pte RW Marshall from WO ML Grey and Maj Al Nasserli of the SOAF.

Tuesday brought the Queen Mary - Sharpshooting at 500 yards, Fire and Movement from 500 yards to 100 yards, Rapids at 300 yards and finally Snap Shooting at 300 yards - something for everyone. Predictably, perhaps, this event was also dominated by the Omanis with Major Al Nasserli in first place with a score of 186, from Sgt Rioux Canadian Forces in second, Sgt Al Ghassani in third and Cpl Sandall in fourth all scoring 184 - a tie shoot was required to split them. The Service Rifle Championship went for the third successive year to Oman, this time in the hands of Sgt Al Ghassani. The Omani/Canadian domination of the NRA Service Rifle Championship was sufficient to secure the top eleven places.

Wednesday would be Methuen Day which recently has been an event with almost a carnival atmosphere, as Regiments and Corps vie with each other, not only for best team but for the best display. Several teams supply lunch for their team members and guests. As usual it was expected to be a two-way fight between the Royal Irish and the Gurkhas, the two regiments that have held a stranglehold on the trophy in recent years. However it was the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers who took first blood with a score of 277, leading the Royal Signals and Gurkhas on 274 and the Royal Irish on 273. Practice 2 saw the Royal Irish regain the initiative with a score of 276, with the Gurkhas managing 271. Practice 3 would



The Royal Air Force Chair is becoming very Pricor-shaped after his tenth Queen's Medal win.  
*(Photo: Karen Robertson)*



Lord Methuen presents the Methuen Trophy to the Royal Irish Regiment.  
*(Photo: Peter Campbell)*

again be a Gurkha / Royal Irish affair, with the Gurkhas topping the Royal Irish by two points.

Lunch on Methuen Day is a sumptuous affair; speaking from a totally non-biased point of view, your reporter felt that the Royal Engineers' weapons display, aided by the Lee Enfield Rifle Association, was unbeatable. Lunch at the Royal Irish Marquee was excellent and with good company to boot. Buoyed by their lunch, the Royal Irish marched towards

another Methuen victory: Practice 4 saw nine points between the Royal Irish and the Gurkhas, however they slipped slightly in Practice 5 when the TA Infantry beat the Royal Irish by one point. However, victory for the Royal Irish was assured, while at the bottom of the list the shock of the event was the Parachute Regiment languishing in last place, also beaten by three of the four civilian teams shooting alongside. Also shooting alongside, the Omani team beat Canada to win the Overseas match.

## CIVILIAN SERVICE RIFLE

*by Peter Campbell*

Civilian shooting alongside the military service rifle events entered its fourth year; numbers were only slightly down this year as some cost watching shooters gave the event a miss. An ill Pete Bloom also missed the event but managed to visit during the Methuen on Wednesday - our best wishes are with you Pete. There were going to be surprises this year, especially in the Methuen, but then, they were the deserved result of hard work.

Monday morning brought the Bisley Bullet, Sitting and Standing: Bill Ellis (Artists), Mike Burns (British Alpine Rifles), Alan Whittington (LERA) and Steve Sheldon (South Wales Rifle Club) took first honours in their classes with scores of 44, 61, 68 and 96 respectively in the 200 yards match. A short walk to 100 yards for the standing match saw Dave Houghton, Ken Vale (LHAC RC), Chalky White (RAFTRC) and Dave Green (Highpower Rifle Association) scoring 35, 25, 30 and 42 points respectively.

The afternoon brought the Kinnard, Stephens and Wantage, grouped together as the Civilian 300 yards match. The eventual winners of the SMLE, No 4 and Any Iron Sight classes began their march to victory. Bill scored 81 in the match, while Richard Seddon scored 90. The RAF's Chalky White, was having things pretty much to himself in the Any Iron Sights with a score of 109, while the Practical Rifle boys were having their usual tight match, Pete Williams won with a 149.

The Monday Aggregate was a precursor for the final result, Bill Ellis won the SMLE Class with 149 points, Richard Seddon the No 4 Class with 160 points, Chalky White the Any Iron class with 185 points and Mark Bradley topped the Any Sights class with 276 points.

A good nights rest was needed before people tackled Tuesday's course of fire - for some it is torture, for others it's all in a days sport. Bill Ellis scored 89 on the Queen Mary, while Richard Seddon's trundle down wasn't fast enough as he could only manage 86 points; a sprightly Chalky scored 130 and Steve Rees kept the HPRA in front with 192 points. The Championship had been decided - there were no big surprises with the Monday Aggregate winners occupying the top places in all four classes with some pretty dominant shooting.

Form books were consulted and results checked as Wednesday would hold the finale of the service events. This year there were four teams, the HPRA were looking to retain the trophy and this year they had an extra team, in the shape of the London Practical Shooting Club, to look out for. LERA again demonstrated retired service rifles of the Enfield variety and teamed up with the Royal Engineers to win the bragging rights for the best weapons display. The event started with the HPRA team posting the top score on the range; the LPSA team were second and the Omanis were third. In fairness they did have bipods, but then they didn't have gas bits and had to break position for every reload. Fire and movement followed and the gap opened up between the military and the civilians. HPRA were snapped out of any complacency when South Wales won the next two practices, five points gained in the 100 yards snaps and eleven in the 200 yards rapids. The team captain's words must have been harsh, complacency could not be allowed. In Practice 4, HPRA recovered their composure and the 16 points lost had been regained together with four more. HPRA had won by a comfortable margin with 1298 points, 94 points more than their 2001 result. The shock of the match, when the scores were scrutinised, was simply how well people had done, HPRA's score was good enough for eighth overall and South Wales were fourteenth - some units would be getting a severe talking down!



NRA Chairman John Jackman congratulates Alan Canavan and the Highpower Rifle Association. *(Photo: Peter Campbell)*



# SCHOOLS MEETING

by James Postle

The world of cadet rifle shooting remains the nursery for the majority of future competitive shots; the training and experiences of cadets shape their future enjoyment and success on the range. Coaches and instructors want to expose their cadets to as much match pressure as possible, to help them learn vital mental strength and a determination not to buckle. The 2002 Schools Meeting gave a number of cadets a taste of shooting under the most intense individual pressure - only one GP individual prize was won without going to a tie shoot. Some cadets had their first taste of this highly competitive, stressful and nerve jangling experience - a great preparation for future adult and, indeed, international competition; testimony to the crucial role that the Schools and ISCRM Meetings have for the future of rifle shooting. Combined with good team shooting and a healthy competitive spirit, this was a very successful meeting.

With no sign of the target rifles, the Schools Meeting was again a GP affair. The Meeting also started a week earlier than usual due to the Commonwealth Games, so for many schools this meant that rather than giving up a week of holiday, the last week of term was missed and the majority of staff and cadets seemed happy to make this sacrifice! Unfortunately the weather, in the first week in July, was cool and at times wet and overcast, although not as bad as the Main Meeting (*I have team shooting mats that still look like they have not dried out from St George's I . . .*). It is to the credit of the cadets that they kept up their spirits and shot to a good standard despite the glum conditions.

The Snap shooting, which took place over the first three days, saw some close competition between Oratory, Sedbergh and Oundle. Oratory took first blood winning the Marling with 325, ahead of Oundle on 300 and Campbell on 295, with Oakham fourth on 285. Sedbergh took the honours in the Schools Snap, their 356 beating Oratory with 344 and Oundle 340. The Devonshire and Dorset Falling Plates saw Oratory A beat Sedbergh C in the final ahead of Uppingham C, with Old Sedberghians taking revenge by winning the Simon Pattinson Open Challenge Cup. The Schools Aggregate comprises two of the snap competitions and Oratory proved worthy winners, 32 points ahead of Sedbergh, with Oundle in third. Interestingly, Ampleforth specialised in winning the individual snap events - C/Sgt Reutter winning the Marlborough Cup in a tie shoot with seven others whilst his team mate, UO Hewitt won the Financial Times with a 50, again after a tie shoot.

Target rifle shooting was occurring at 300 and 500 yards for those schools who preferred not to concentrate on the GP. Wellington College won the Victoria College

Team Trophy ahead of Greshams A, with Dollar Academy in third and Marlborough in fourth. Cadet Firman of Greshams and WO R Hinde of Wellington shared first place for the Silenta Individual trophy with 70.8 apiece, whilst Sgt Adamson of Dollar won the Victoria College Individual Shield with 69.9 on count-back from Cadet N Hall of Marlborough. L/Cpl Noel of Victoria was third with 69.6.

However, the majority of teams were plugging away at the Wellington and Iveagh competitions for the first three days. The Cadet Rifle Aggregate trophy was settled prior to the Thursday, won outright by the Epsom Captain, Sgt Matthew Read scoring a total of 67 over the two ranges. The Wellington was settled in a tie shoot between ranges in the Ashburton - UO Heathcote of Ampleforth proving the victor (continuing to prove that this was the school full of individual stars!). The Iveagh tie was held at 300 after the Ashburton and won by Cpl Park of Epsom, ahead of seven others. The Devon went to Epsom with 325, ahead of Oratory on 320, whilst the Schools Staff was won by Capt Craig Stewart of Dollar Academy - good to see the Commandant of the UK Cadets showing how it should be done!

Ashburton day was bright with only a light breeze. The Reserve got the proceedings going with the three leading competitors tying on 42, made all the more amusing for CRO Tony Clayton when it was pointed out to him that Cadet Athkravisoonthorn of Epsom was from Thailand, making this 'Thai' shoot very appropriate. Cadet Goldsmith of Oratory was to beat the aforementioned cadet to win the Reserve, Cpl Druce of Exeter came third. The Pairs Match was won by Cadets Bond and Smith of Oundle, scoring 118 to beat the duo of Taylor and Pimblett of Sedbergh on 115 and Naumann and Rayner of Merchant Taylors on 113. The Fours match was just as close with Uppingham showing they have plenty of good shots for the future, winning with 230 from Oratory on 227 and Cheltenham on 225.

In the Ashburton, the holders Uppingham looked in a strong position after the first distance. Their impressive 248 total won them the Kinder and they were six points up on Epsom in second with 242, with Oratory trailing in third with 235. Uppingham continued to make good progress at 300 yards and the runners between the scoreboards were reporting that, after the first four firers, Uppingham still had six points on Epsom. As the final four shot, the balance began to swing and Epsom pulled away to win the second stage with 244 and the Ashburton Shield with a total of 486, the second highest Ashburton winning score with the GP rifle. Uppingham came second with

479, having scored 231 at the longer range, but holding off the charging Oratory who finished third with 474. Sedbergh, Oundle and Wellington College occupied the next three places.

A tie shoot was held to decide the winner of the Schools Hundred, Cpl Fry of Uppingham beating Cpl Jonathan Kent of Epsom. The Spencer-Mellish tie saw Cpl Mijic of Malvern holding his nerve over UO Heathcote of Ampleforth, SUO White of Harrow and Cpl Kent of Epsom. Rutland and Cheltenham trophies went to Uppingham whilst the Garry and the enormous Lucas trophy went to Epsom College.

It was excellent to see many cadets staying on for the Main Meeting, most swapping the GP for their target rifles to compete with (and in a number of cases beat!) their adult rivals.

FINAL SCORE	ASHBURTON	CADET FOURS	CADET PAIRS
486 EPSOM	230 UPPINGHAM	113 OUNDLE	
479 UPPINGHAM	227 ORATORY	113 SEDBERGH	
474 ORATORY	225 CHELTENHAM DOLLAR	113 MERCHANT TAYLORS	
463 SEDBERGH	217 EPSOM	ORATORY UPPINGHAM	
459 OUNDLE	216 SEDBERGH	112 CHELTENHAM ST JOHNS	
455 WELLINGTON	214	111 DOLLAR MALVERN	

The scoreboard - Epsom have now won the Ashburton Shield eight times in the last 13 years, and come second three times.

(Photo: James Postle)

## MATCH RIFLE

by Alex Henderson

Friday 28 June and the Match Rifle Meeting began - as it so often does - at the beginning, with the Any Rifle Competitions. This is the annual occasion where the likes of Roland Greenwood produce their high-powered, large calibre contraptions in order to demonstrate why the rest of us prefer 7.62. The wind was brisk but mostly readable for the start, and David Calvert won the 1000 yards shoot with the only score of 75, following this with the only score of 74 at 1100 to take that too. In the afternoon, however, the wind became far more entertaining and Calvert was not careful enough to be the only score of 94 (ex 100 this time) at 1200 yards, and gallantly let Paula Baillie-Hamilton take the third cup from him. Well, it wasn't pure gallantry - she had more Vs than him and she beat him in the tie shoot too. Needless to say, therefore, that Calvert won the AR Aggregate by a handsome margin over Stuart Collings and Guy Blakeney, proving that he fully intended to be a force to be reckoned with in the Hopton this year.

Saturday saw the start of the Hopton with some very challenging conditions. Nick Tremlett produced the only score of 75 at 1000 in the Whitehead, while no-one at all managed a full house at 1100 - the nearest being Nick Hinchliffe with a 74. However, both of these took the precaution of scoring 68 at the other range, just in case anyone should accuse either of them of being a competent coach. The cup was won, after a tie shoot, with a score of 145. Nigel Cole-Hawkins, Mike Baillie-Hamilton and Stuart Collings competed in the tie, Collings dropping one too many before the other two went shot-for-shot. In the end it was Nigel Cole-Hawkins who let experience show through, retaining his current form, and has still failed ever to have won a tie shoot. One more pot for the Baillie-Hamilton mantelpiece.

After lunch John Knight was the only scorer of 75 at 1100 yards in the Halford, but there was a fair collection of 73s and 74s. As one might expect when letting target riflemen loose at 1200 yards with aperture sights and RG, there were one or two magpies to be seen. This is where 'scoped sights, rested rifles and heavy loads really pay off. Once the RG detail had finished, a confident troop of match riflemen showed them how it ought to have been done. "Magpies? Pah! Magpies are for amateurs!" There were outers, hits and clear targets all over the place with the odd cheer when a shot strayed into the black. There was one point where targets 40 to 45 inclusive all simultaneously showed an identical 3 o'clock outer. A not insignificant proportion of the entrants failed to break 60 ex 75, so David Calvert fully deserved to win with a very creditable 71. Guy Blakeney, who made the only other score that broke 70, came a respectable second. At the close of the first day, David Calvert had racked up a six point lead in the Hopton, but with 700 points to go the race was far from won.

Sunday began with the Cottesloe. As last year, there was a tie for first place for scores of 100, Guy Shapland being the best of the nine competitors, taking the trophy from Michael Hissey on his eighth shot of the sudden death. John Knight took the opportunity to knock himself off the lead of the Hopton by taking his 'scope to pieces and failing to check it, resulting in a miss and a hit as his first scoring shots in the Cottesloe. He was slightly less than happy when he found he was now nine points behind Calvert. Yet another tie shoot followed soon after for the Wimbledon, adding fuel to the debate over whether or not V bulls should count. Because they do not as yet, except in ties, there were five people tied on 98, with Nick Brasier, who put in the only 25, winning the trophy.



Since there is no 1200 shooting in the RG Aggregate, the Wimbledon marked the conclusion of the meeting for those who choose to make this sport harder than it needs to be. As usual, it was close at the top, with Jane Messer winning, finishing a couple of points clear of Guy Palmer and David Luckman.

As so often happens, the wind decided to stop blowing for the 1200 Armourers. Instead it started to howl, and a similar selection of magpies and outers were on display as were in the Halford. Jo Campbell-Smith took the first place from her father, with 93 and 92 respectively, being two of the few people to break 90, while not a few ended below 80. Guy Blakeney added to his Any Rifle successes by winning the Sunday Aggregate, but David Calvert was still leading the Hopton at the close of the day, although his lead over the irrepressible Stuart Collings had been narrowed to two points.

Monday began with the Edge at 1100 yards still with wind well into double-figures. Those who had failed to take 12 minutes off their sights from the Armourers remembered to do so pretty quickly. Some of them even remembered to turn the sights the correct way rather than starting with 24 minutes of left wind, which was deemed excessive, as well as expensive. The heavens opened briefly towards the end of the second detail, temporarily obscuring the targets almost entirely. This caused some difficulty for those with Galilean sights who found they were aiming at a target that wasn't there, which is generally considered rather worse than failing to aim at a target that was there, which is what everyone else was doing.

The weather continued through the 1200 yards detail, with a fiendish wind blowing the bullets between the raindrops, resulting in a good spread of scores.

In the afternoon there was the FW Jones, a club shoot for teams of four. The English VIII Club fielded a team of Tremlett, Collings and Hinchliffe coaching an equally formidable team of shooters. Unfortunately no-one thought to tell them that the rules of this particular match require them to get the holes as near the centre of the target as possible. No marks were awarded for artistic merit or for even distribution of shots across the target. "Did you see the wind get up to 20 there?" asked Hugh Butcher. "Oh yes, we saw it." "But didn't you have a hit then?" "Yes" said John Pugsley, "that's when we saw it." With the Palma coaching squad calling irrelevant wind, the Etonian Shooting Club were able to make a series of lucky guesses and knocked the English VIII into second place by a handful of points.

On Tuesday we dispensed with sighters in order to get out of the rain quicker. This, coincidentally, is one of the rules of the Albert - the final match in the Hopton. Will Meldrum led the field after the first range with a creditable 100. He reluctantly had to

reduce this to a mere 75 when it was pointed out that the five extra tie shots he fired were entirely irrelevant, as the Ranken he thought he was firing concurrently should have been shot at 1100 yards. Guy Blakeney heard of this and thought it sounded like fun, so he fired another five tie shots too, this time at 1100. No-one, including him, is quite sure why. Luckily for Will, when he did fire his Ranken at 1100 yards, he managed a similar performance and won the trophy, so his 1000 yards practice was not wasted.

As so often happened in the Albert, the conditions worsened substantially over lunch, resulting in some pretty gloomy faces accompanying some pretty dismal scores off the 1200 yards point for the conclusion of the Hopton. Only two people broke 70, both of whom had had their own difficulties earlier in the day. In the end there was yet another tie shoot, with Rob Lygoe winning over Chris Hockley, Will Meldrum and George Barnard, respectively.

David Calvert did, indeed, win the Hopton, narrowly over George Barnard, with Nigel Cole-Hawkins and Nick Tremlett a few points behind.

Wednesday was Elcho day, where traditionally everything is different. This year was no exception: having shot the Hopton with up to 20 minutes of left wind, we were confronted by a headwind, flicking back and forth through zero. The Scottish coaches cursed, as it was the strong blustery gales the previous year which set them at an advantage over the English. Likewise, the English breathed a sigh of relief, that here was a wind they could read at last. It was pretty uneventful at 1000 yards, as it normally is, apart from a couple of points thrown away by the Scots through having telescopes set wrongly (which with no sighters is costly), leaving the English with a comfortable lead, with the Irish a few points behind. At 1100 yards everyone had the chance to close the gaps, but in fact the coaching prowess of Collings and Tremlett, together with superior shooting all round meant that the English extended their lead by a further 20 points, while the Irish and Scots battled it out for second place.

As the match went into its final range the Celts were a little despondent - that kind of lead is too great to be made up except with the help of an English disaster. David Friend managed an impressive 223 ex 225, equalling the record score for the Elcho (eleven points higher than anyone else on the range) and putting paid to any suggestions that the English were in any mood to countenance disasters.

Stuart Collings made up for not having won the Hopton by producing a very impressive victory for England in his first year as Captain; the Scots who were almost 50 points behind, with the Irish a further 30 and the Welsh 40 more, all left the range with their tails between their legs promising something different for next year.

# TARGET RIFLE

*by Karen Robertson*

## Thursday 4 July

The space between the Match Rifle events and the Grand Aggregate has been partly occupied for several years by an open Club team competition. Sponsors names have come and gone, but the Opening Shot is now a fixture for the early arrivals and the growing group who choose to treat the MR competitions as valuable TR practice as well as the exalted few who take both disciplines seriously. A moderate breeze and partial cloud cover made for difficult conditions, as both the light and the wind changed almost shot by shot. Not that it made any difference to the result; a team from the British Commonwealth RC (where one qualifies for membership by having been a member of a Great Britain or NRA team) won for the fourth time in five years.

The day also sees a rush of short-term participants for the Public Schools Veterans Match for teams of five at 500 yards. Four teams made 248 in the A teams match; OGRE were the winners with 248.39. Second placed Belfast Royal Academy, on 248.36, surprised everyone especially as the last-minute fifth member of their team had been prised away from butt marking and had to shoot with borrowed kit. Old Oakhamians won the B Teams match with 245.25 and OGRE won the C Teams match with 241.26 although, oddly, it was Old Epsomians who took the Schools Veterans Aggregate as another rather successful team, who shall remain nameless, had forgotten to hand in their claim card!

## Friday 5 July

Friday was another day of changing winds, but interspersed with showers that turned to drizzle as the overcast thickened in the evening. In the Astor, one team made six 35s at each distance; OGRE at 300 yards, Windsor RC at 500 yards and Manydown RC at 600 yards. But it was OGRE who continued in style, averaging 104 ex 105 to finish on 624.81, pushing Dungannon RC (making their first appearance in the medals) into second place. Further down the range, Northern Ireland won the Cadet National for the first time - top scorer was Matthew McCullough with 104.12 giving a hint of things to come, while fellow Athelings Matthew Cloughley and Paul Boyle showed their form with 103.9 and 102.13 respectively.

David Luckman won the Century after a tie shoot with Dick Horrocks and Ireland's Ross McQuillan all on 100.18; forty-six others attained the highest possible score of 100. The Admiral Hutton saw the prize list expand again with 93 making 50 ex 50, and a five-way tie on 50.9. David Rowland of Old Guildfordians took the Candlesticks with 25.5. The special prize of a NRA gold medal for top cadet went to sixth placed Jonathan Kent of Epsom with the best of the 50.8s, whilst in ninth place Anna Calvert (shooting in her first full Meeting) beat father David by a V bull.

Eleven competitors had started in style with 150 in the Friday Aggregate. Twenty-four V bulls won a place in

the tie-shoot where Jim Paton from Canada took the honours from Toby Raincock and Tom Rylands.

## Saturday 6 July

Broken cloud and near flat calm gave zero-checking conditions for the Donegall. Amongst a record 206 possibles, six Bo Dereks\* meant a tie shoot; Peter Chance of Club 25 taking the honours with 25.3.

The wind rose a little as the day progressed, and some care was needed for the Telegraph. Nonetheless, 85 were caring enough to make an HPS, with a three way tie on 75.14 between Mark Davidson, Canadian Pat Vamplew and Toby Raincock; Mark winning the cup with a 25.4. A steady trickle from the left continued well into the evening, giving even the late details of the Lovell at 1000 yards something to watch for. The result was "only" nine possibles with two scores of 50.8. Peter Barry's fine 25.4 in the tie shoot reserved the trophy.

Magnificent consistency throughout the day gave David Calvert the Saturday Aggregate with 175.21, while Tom Rylands had lost only one point in two days to take the Tucker Aggregate.

\* Bo Derek - a perfect (50) 10

## Sunday 7 July

The early details had the best of it, as a near-calm overcast gave way to broken cloud and rising winds in the afternoon. David Luckman shot the only 25.5 in the 11-way tie shoot for scores of 50.9 in the Alexandra. One hundred and sixty-nine HPSs combined with 12 Tyros making 49.5 or better to run the NRA out of bars. The change in conditions for the afternoon showed clearly in the scores; only 40 possibles in the Daily Mail with 75.14s from Nick Brasier and Gabrielle O'Leary. A close tie shoot ended without extra time, Nick's 25.4 winning by a V bull. The extra quarter-minute diameter of the 900 yards bull encompassed 85 10-shot groups in the Duke of Cambridge. Eight of these made 50.9 and later Chris Belk of OCRA took the tie-shoot.

Gabrielle O'Leary slipped just once over the entire weekend. A 49 in the Lovell and HPSs in the other five events took the Weekend Aggregate, the Sunday Aggregate and top of the Sunday Leader Board with 250.35. Hot on her heels were George Cann, Nick Brasier, Tom Rylands and Alwyn McLean all on 249. Gabrielle was one of nine with a full house in the Clementi Smith, but the trophy went to Toby Raincock of Old Epsomians - even Parag Patel couldn't match 50.9/75.14/50.8 for 175.31. The others were Burger, Shaw, Rylands, Rowley, O'Leary, Warburton and Kent. Nothing unusual there? - wrong. The Kent was Jonathan Kent, 17-year old nephew of Paul with 50.10 in the Donegall, the only 'Bo' in 27 HPSs.

## Monday 8 July

Summer remained absent. Another overcast day with drizzly showers. The Times - 149 possibles at 300 yards.





Competitors during the Schools Meeting.

(Photo: James Postle)



The ever successful Epsom Team with the Ashburton Shield and other trophies.

(Photo: James Postle)



Jonathan Kent of Epsom shooting in the Spencer Mellish tie with GP.

(Photo: James Postle)



Jonathan then went on to have an excellent TR Meeting culminating in his second Queen's Final.

(Photo: James Postle)



George Barnard and David Calvert fight it out for the Hopton in the Albert at 1200 yards.

(Photo: Karen Robertson)



David Friend scored a magnificent 223.29 in the Elcho - eleven points more than the next highest on the range!

(Photo: John Knight)



Joanna Campbell-Smith (pictured left) gets ready to fire in the Albert at 1200 yards.

(Photo: David Pollard)



It all got a bit damp at times!

(Photo: Karen Robertson)



Nine 50.10s, tie shoot two 25.3s, and at last John Pugsley dropped a whole point for 14.1 giving Nick Harvey the space to take the prize with 15.1. Then – shock horror - finally someone won a competition outright! There were 77 possibles in the Wimbledon but only Paul Kent made 50.10. There was also the only 50.0 of the Meeting, from Iryna Reder of Cheltenham College. Perhaps it was just a fluke - earlier in the day Iryna had made 50.9 for tenth place in the Times.

The Conan Doyle at 900 yards produced 87 possibles including 50.9 from Angus McLeod and Julian Gould of West Suffolk RC. The tie shoot was more of a struggle - 24.0 from Angus beat 23.1 from Julian.

In the Monday Aggregate there were scores of 150 from Alice Ogilvie, Kelvin Ramsey and Nick Brasier but Sherri Gallagher of the USA topped the lot with 150.24. Alice, Nick and Sherri also had full houses in the Stock Exchange together with John Pugsley; Alice and Nick's 27 V bulls apiece led to a tie shoot where Alice's 25.5 won her the trophy. Three perfect scores in the Brigadier (previously the Nine Hundred Yards Aggregate) from David Calvert, Alwyn McLean and David Luckman; the RAF beating the Army in the resultant tie shoot. Glyn Barnett had the highest of the five scores of 200 in the Howcroft Newspaper Aggregate with 200.31. It was encouraging to see three young shooters only drop one point in the three shoots that make up the Young Riflemans Aggregate; the top shot amongst these was Cadet Peter Law of Dollar Academy with 174.21.

Over at the Leader Board Gabrielle had not had the best of days and Nick Brasier's 150 gave him a two point lead over John Pugsley, Tom Rylands and Alwyn McLean.

## **Tuesday 9 July**

The dismal weather continued with rain showers which disrupted much of the first stage of the St Georges. Despite the weather there were lots of possibles - 88 in all with six scores of 75.13 from David Calvert, Angus McLeod, Bruce Horwood, Steven Thomas, Ali Cross and Robert Steketee of the USA all going into the tie shoot for the Bronze Cross. A perfect 25.5 from Angus was unbeatable. Five of the above then had to tie shoot for the Gurkha Appeal; a sudden death finish gave the large Kukri to David.

Nick Brasier's 75.8 meant that there was little change at the top of the Grand Aggregate Leader Board still two points clear of Pugsley and McLean; Rylands dropping one point and one place into fourth.

The afternoons matches on Century were all cut to 2 and 15 at 500 yards due to puddles which rendered parts of the 600 yards firing point unusable (due to the increased safety area because of the ricochet hazard from 18 inches of standing water between 500 and 600 yards). Hertfordshire triumphed in the County Short Senior match, despite a lack of 75s, whilst Northumberland took the honours in the County Short Junior. The RAF had a solid win in the Inter-Services Short but, twelve points behind, in second place were the UK Cadets, ten points clear of the rest of HM Forces! The County Long Range

went to Norfolk with 586.51, beating second placed Surrey by ten points - not surprisingly this also gave them the Victor Ludorum.

## **Wednesday 10 July**

The sun finally emerged and the heating promptly gave rise to thundery showers, which fired off at intervals throughout the day. Around the showers the wind was both strong and variable. Those shooting with 5 minutes left at 600 yards could console themselves that at least they weren't having to cope with the Corporation.

The Bronze Badge and the OTF Short Range Aggregate went to Canadian Jim Paton for his 105.17, the best of the 32 scores of 105 achieved in Queen's I; other winners on 105 included Paul Charlton (Volunteer Force), Kip Morton (Loder), H Zulkeflee of Malaysia (Faunthorpe) and John Payne (Queen's Veterans) together with Jeff Jenkins of Canada on 104.10 (Admiral Campbell). The cut for the Queen's Second Stage was 102.10.

In the concurrent team events, the Families went to Andrew and Paul Sykes for their pair of 104s. The Luckmans (who in the last eight years have had one gold, four silver and three bronze medals in this event) had to make do with another silver for their collection. OGRE carried on grabbing gold medals with the Rifle Clubs whilst Dollar Academy took the Anstey.

Coping best in the Corporation was Richard Stewart of the North London with the only 50.9; ten others must have been thrilled to bits to be able to say "I've just got a possible in the Corporation!" One of the ten, Iain Robertson of the RAF, had the best of the three 154s in the RPA (Wednesday) Aggregate with 21 V bulls, Johns Webster and Bellringer were just behind with 18 and 17 respectively. The 500 Yards Aggregate went to Glyn Barnett with 185.27 whilst the Donaldson Aggregate went to Ant Ringer with 180.26. Just one V bull separated Ian Shaw and Nick Brasier's full houses in the New Zealand Aggregate - 37 V bulls to 36 gave Ian the victory.

The Short Range Aggregate, comprising all the 300 yards shoots, usually has a fairly high set of scores; it was no surprise to see nine scores of 210. David Calvert of the RAF also usually has a fairly high set of scores so it was no surprise to see him winning with 36 Vs. David was hotly pursued by a name to watch for the future - 20-year old Peter Holden made 210.34 for second place. But it was not only at 300 yards where David excelled - his one point dropped in the Corporation together with the zero points dropped in all the other long range shoots gave David a total of 249.30 for the Stickledown Range Aggregate, three points ahead of John Bellringer, Jeremy Thompson and Iain Robertson, also picking up the Palma Aggregate along the way. However, that point meant that Geoff Atkinson of Dorking & District RC slipped through to win the Elkington with the only 150.

Evening brought little respite, and the Donaldson Memorial Final was shot in tricky changing light and wind varying considerably around about 8 left as clouds scudded across an unfriendly sky: the result was a straight win for Australian Andy Powell with a 75.9.



For many today was all-change in the Grand Aggregate, but despite Brasier dropping four points on the day to finish on five off, Pugsley had also dropped four, so the two point margin remained. Tom Rylands gained a point, on seven off, whilst Sherri Gallagher, whose 153.20 helped her to the Amazons and the Sudan along the way, rocketed into fourth position.

### Thursday 11 July

A moderate breeze was ready for the first detail of the Prince of Wales. As the morning progressed it became more variable, making conditions generally tricky, resulting in only 25 possibles with an average 8 V bulls each. Lindsey Golland won outright with a score of 75.12 but most interest was focused on the outcome of the Grand Aggregate. Brasier's 73.6 gave Pugsley, Rylands and Gallagher a chance to take the Gold Cross; Rylands' 74.10 came closest but it just wasn't enough. Nick Brasier won the Grand Aggregate with of 698.87 ex 705 with Tom Rylands in second place on 697.88. Glyn Barnett and Alwyn McLean made 74 each for third and fourth place respectively on 696, whilst Sherri Gallagher in fifth place took the Olle Beckett for top under-23 and the Alton for top lady. The Admiral Hutton Tyro Trophy went to Chris Cotillard from Jersey with 687.69, seven points ahead of the rest of the pack, whilst the Conwey Fenton Memorial for top UK Cadet went to James Headon of Dollar Academy with 687.67

An excellent example of team selection could be found in the Bank of England as OGRE A beat OGRE B into second place by just a few V bulls. What's so special about that you might ask? Well when the competition is based on four Grand Aggregate scores and both teams score 2756 points then that's a bit special! There were the usual strange names in the Fulton Pairs, which this year was won by the subtly, but not very aptly, named Norfolk 'n' Chance, whereas ninth placed "2 NRA Gold Medals and £500" either needed to work on their name or their score!

Simon Cane, Parag Patel and Susie Kent all managed to set their sights accurately for the TWP Sighters Aggregate - only two of their sighters in the Grand failed to hit the middle for scores of 128 ex 130. Simon had slightly more V bulls and so took the pot. The new V Bull Aggregate resulted in two competitors with 92 V bulls in the Grand Aggregate; counting back on their Corporation scores gave David Calvert the edge over Adam Jory by six Vs to three.

Glyn Barnett's 74.10 in the Prince of Wales meant that he picked up the LVA Communications Aggregate (previously the rather strangely named 1400 Yards Aggregate) as well as the All Comers Aggregate, but adding the scores from the Donegall and the Lovell still meant that Nick Brasier came out on top in the Toye, Kenning and Spencer Aggregate. The Century Range Aggregate went to Tom Rylands on 701.97, two points clear of John Webster in second. There was a closely fought tie between Martin Millar of Comber and Adam Jory of Guernsey both on 180.24 for the Northland; Martin remembered V bulls mean prizes and scored 25.3 in the tie to Adam's 25.2. Back in fourth place Julie Cane's

179.26 gave her the Imp. Adam made up for his disappointment by winning the Lord Tedder with a score of 393.54. The Berryman had two scores of 199 from Richard Stewart on 199.25 and Ed Wood on 199.21 and the OTF Long Range Aggregate went to Doug Gass of Newcastle with 173.18.

In the individual squadded competitions comprising the Grand Aggregate, 21 X class competitors appeared on a prize list without making the HPS for the event (14 in the Corporation and 7 in the Prince of Wales). For A class the total was 22 (Daily Mail 7, PoW 4, Corporation 11 including three scores of 48!). O class broadly needed one off with a good V count, except for the Alexandra where only HPSs were enough, and the Prince of Wales and the Corporation where two off might do. And T class? Four off made the list in the Corporation, three off in a couple of others, but mostly two off was needed.

With the rocketing standard of competition over the last few years has come serious consideration of whether to cut a "cooking" bull sighter. It seems unlikely that anyone would yet be willing to take the risk with a place on the leader board in the equation. Even in the outside competitions, one might surmise that such factors as the small bull at 300 and the ever-present possibility of a difficult wind on Stickledown combine to limit the risk-takers to the Century. Certainly that was where boldness did dramatically affect this year's result. In the 500 yards element, Ross McQuillan accepted V5 for 50.9 to tie on 100.18. David Luckman cut two 5s to make 50.9 for his place in the tie-shoot, and went on to win. Joining David and Ross, Dick Horrocks had cut one 5 to make 50.10, while Tom Rylands accepted 5V for a 50.8, missing the tie-shoot by one V. It is, of course, relatively straightforward to find those who, with hindsight, might have won by going for the extra one or two Vs. The list includes Peter Bysshe, Steve East and Simon Belither in the Donegall, David Calvert and Iryna Reder in the Times, James Lewis and Deon Burger in the Alexandra, Jonathan Kent, Toby Raincock, David Rowland and GRH Smith in the Hutton, and Nigel Cole-Hawkins, Dave Dyson, Paul Gray, Parag Patel and Nick Tremlett in the Duke of Cambridge. In the Conan Doyle, either Julian Gould or Angus McLeod had the potential for an outright win (both with 50.9 converting a 5), while Dorothy Hume and Roy Jobson could have joined Julian and Angus in the tie-shoot. What is more difficult to identify (if only because most of the prize lists exclude scores of 49) are the shooters who decide to cut a bull sighter and finish 49.9 dropping the last - although their "friends" will usually relate the full details later at the clubhouse bar!

Bright sunlight between scattered clouds gave changing wind and light for the afternoon matches on Century; the Universities National went to England whilst the Overseas went to Jersey. There was disappointment for the UK Cadets in the AG Bell where the Canadians got the better of them by five points. On Butt 19 the PW Richardson went to Mike Cosway with 50.9 but the major excitement of the afternoon was happening at the other end of Century where the National was taking place . . .





John Pugsley ponders.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Kitty Jack shot 103.11 for Scotland in her first National Match.

(Photo: Steve Green)



David Richards taking a rest from talking.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



"I think I've got neck ache."

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Nick Brasier: "Can anyone lend me a 600 yards scoresheet for the Prince of Wales?"

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Tom Rylands: disappointed - never.



The victorious Irish National team.

(Photo: Peter Campbell)



Kerrrannngggg! Ant Ringer practices his rock star moves.

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



"Do you want to come plot?"





(Photo: Tony de Launay)



Serge Bissonnette - always a welcome and witty visitor.

*(Photo: Tony de Launay)*



John Jackman congratulates Scott Murray on his victory in the St George's. *(Photo: Tony de Launay)*



"149 and how many?!" *(Photo: Tony de Launay)*



"It's ours!" the Irish make off with the National Match Trophy.  
(Photo: Karen Robertson)



“Don’t look now Alice but there’s a guy with a camera behind you!”  
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



e up and see my wind  
(Photo: Tony de Launay)



How do we manage to load ourselves down  
so much these days? (Photo: Tony de Launay)

**GREAT BRITAIN KOLAPORE MATCH**

	300	500	600	TOTAL
LUCKMAN A	497	496	507	14820
BARNETT	509	509	508	15026
BELLRINGER	507	506	506	15019
SHAW	497	507	507	14921
BRASIER	506	508	508	15020
COLEMAN	509	509	505	15023
WARBURTON	506	5010	508	15024
RYLANDS	507	508	507	15022
<b>CAPT</b> ASPIN AF	<b>399</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>63400</b>
<b>ADJ</b> WOOD MJ				<b>54</b>
<b>MAIN COACH</b> RICHARDS W				<b>1197175</b>
<b>TGT COACHES</b> RICHARDS D				
<b>RES</b> HOLOEN KENT				
<b>MESSER J</b>				

Kkkkkkk . . . olapore!

(Photo: Tony de Launay)



## **The National Match - a personal view**

*by Paul Charlton*

For me the National Match is the main reason I decided to elect to be available to shoot for Ireland, the country of my maternal grandfather, rather than England. The English XX selection procedure requires that five of the team be new caps and a further five are not regular members of the National team. From this, it is probable for a good county shot to be selected as a reserve, or to shoot in it once or twice. But to shoot for England more than five times, one really needs to be one of the greats of shooting. As I was not, I made myself available to shoot for Ireland. As it is I have now been selected for the National nine times (including being mistakenly selected for England in 1991).

For those of us who have been shooting for a long time it is expected that however well the other teams perform, England will pull the rabbit out of the hat, and slam the door in the face of the most competitive team who ventures to get close to the English score. In fact England have had the highest range score at 600 yards each year since 1992, when they still increased their lead over the Scottish team in second place. Normally the England team starts well, continues well and finishes well, so for any of the other teams to beat them needs a near faultless performance.

Scotland came close in 2000, showing that England were beatable at 300 and holding on at 500. However, in general, despite the self-handicapping selection process, the English Juggernaut has successfully crushed all before it in short range matches since 1965 when Scotland recorded their 34th and most recent victory in the National Match.

This report cannot be impartial. I write from memory, which was preserved that night in too much alcohol. For me the 2002 National Match began with seeing that my name was on the list, double checking start and assembly place and time; I was scheduled as opening shooter with Martin Townsend as my coach, and thereafter as his plotter. If I recall correctly the weather was reasonably good, yet the ground was still damp between firing points. As the teams settled in and weighed triggers I became aware that Matthew McCullough was causing some concern as he was scheduled to shoot in the Ireland team, but had not told anyone that he was also part of the UK Cadet team in the Alexander Graham Bell. Whilst his AG Bell score could be counted for the National, Matthew made the decision that he also wanted to shoot in his first National Match and so shot each distance twice.

All the teams, in what looked like a fickle wind, made good starts. England posting six 35s in a total of 680.86 whilst Scotland managed only two 35s for 676.60 but Ireland had four 35s for 681.62 and Wales only one 35 for 648.45. I certainly felt it was a wasted opportunity and resolved to try harder. As a team we felt happy to be in the lead, but knew from our experience in the Millennium Match that England would have their tails up and come back strongly. Sights being wound the

wrong way, according to one shooter, had not helped the English score.

The Irish start at 500 yards was a farce. Despite having had an orderly retreat between ranges and setting up our coaching headsets in good time, when I fired the pilot shot (an inner) we were told to hold on as there were no register keepers in place for our targets. The delay took several minutes and certainly was not helpful. Despite my normally cool demeanour I knew that my first to count needed to be exceptionally good to counter the extended delay.

Going back to the scoreboard with a 35.7 was therefore a really good feeling - good for me and probably good for the team. The wind twitched more as the shoot went on. Several halts were called. The loss of communication with the end target caused concern, as it seemed like points were being dropped when a halt had been called.

After Matthew had strolled along for his fourth shoot of the afternoon to close the Irish innings with another 34, I wandered down the line to check on my friends. England had struggled a little, but had not wound sights the wrong way this time. They posted another 680, but with fewer Vs whilst the other teams had all improved on both their 300 yards scores and their V counts. However over half the Irish team had 35s whilst England and Scotland had eight each and Wales two.

So going back to the final distance England trailed Ireland by six points but were ahead on Vs. On the individual front on 70 points were one Scot (James Hodge) three English (Tom Rylands, John Pugsley and Nick Brasier) and three Irish (Adam McCullough, Erica McMullan and Ross McQuillan).

Back at 600 yards the Captain did not have an Irish team huddle. We knew what we needed to do. I was nervy. I even checked that we had a register keeper. Another good shoot was followed by a plotting stint. Again it seemed like the Irish points were bleeding away, but inners were appearing on English targets so maybe we were holding on. We finished a little worse than at 500, a few felt they had dropped far too many but our lowest score was a 31 with only one total below 100. I spent far more time than usual checking and double-checking the register cards and scoreboard as the crowds began to gather around until finally "I think we've done it . . ."

Only Tom Rylands managed to convert his 70 to 105.12 for top score of the match whilst Matthew McCullough's sterling efforts paid off with a 102.9. The result was Ireland 2041.221, England 2036.226, Scotland 2012.198 and Wales 1975.161.

Not only Irish eyes are smiling . . .

Unsurprisingly celebrations stretched into the early hours. The singing started at the pub on the common (London & Middlesex) where several champagne consumption records were set, eventually ending up at the Surrey where our hosts generously greeted us and feted us with song and drink. Many friendly opponents came to the party, and the Surrey bar ran at maximum capacity until the staff turned to selling breakfast.



## **Friday 12 July - The Morning After . . .**

Friday brings the Kolapore, and subsidiary fixtures alongside. Anton Aspin must have had a premonition, as there were no Irishmen in his record-breaking team. However, just down the range the Combined Services were taking on the Home Countries. While the military twelve decimated the Home Countries teams, the Irish turned up in dazed bunches. Some had been to bed, one or two all too obviously had not. Nobody really cared – the magnificent deed had been done, and on this dull and calm morning just being there was enough as from all across Century Range friends came to offer their congratulations on Ireland's greatest day.

Flat calm. Overcast. Near perfect conditions except for some rain late in the morning and again towards the end of the afternoon. The record performance in the Kolapore was a pointer to the way the day would go. Great Britain and Jersey were level after 300 yards on 398.58 but an excellent 399.63 at 500 yards gave GB a three point lead over Canada now in second place. The United States made a tremendous effort at 600 yards for a 398.58 but all eight GB shooters put them all in for the new record - only three points dropped in the entire match for a score of 1197.175.

Great Britain also triumphed in the Under 25 Team Match; Susie Kent getting in a bit of practice for the afternoon's shooting with a very nice 150.19.

Being beaten in the tie shoot for the St Georges Bronze Cross had obviously rankled with David Calvert so he went out and won the Silver Cross instead; 26 others also must have thought they were in with a chance after totalling 150 but David's 27 V bulls were just not going to be topped. Those on 148.20 tie shot for the last three places in the Final.

A score of 147 in Queens II would usually mean a few bitten fingernails; a score of 148 would bring smug grins to many faces; a score of 149 and you'd be back in the Clubhouse with a well-deserved pint or two . . . but not this year! If you didn't have a 149.17 you weren't getting in and even then you'd have to tie shoot for the final four slots; previous Queens Prize winner Ant Ringer just made it, Susie Kent being last girl in. Seriously easy conditions together with excellent ammunition resulted in 46 scores of 150 and 67 scores of 149; the Silver Medal went to the RAFs Iain Robertson with 50.10, 50.8, 50.10; two Vs clear of the field and of the previous record.

Another V bull shortage for Martin Millar on 404.48 as the Fulton Aggregate went to Glyn Barnett with 404.58. Only one full house in the Marjorie Keir Aggregate - Adam Jory of Guernsey was two points ahead with his 260.34 but a fine performance from Cdt Sgt George Williams of Greshams School gave him a well deserved second place.

## **Saturday 13 July**

Summer showed its face again. A sunny, warm morning gradually clouding over, giving variable light for the Queen's Final, and by the start of the 1000 yards shoot,

the cloud had thickened to near overcast. The wind, although light, was almost straight down the range, giving rapid changes either side of zero that could take the unwary to the magpie.

Sixty-six people went into the final of the St Georges carrying a 75, in pole position were David Calvert, Ant Ringer, Colin Brook and John Pugsley all on 75.14. Only nine people managed possibles at 900 yards with Scott Murray of Canada totalling 150.21 for the Gold Cross. Closely in second place was Peter Chapman with 150.20 and in third Mary Boston with 150.18.

Ireland went out full of determination for the Mackinnon in an attempt to do the double. England had other ideas and from the start didn't let anyone come close; when a team attains the top score at both ranges there is not a lot anyone else can do. The Dominion Prize for the aggregate of the Kolapore, Overseas and Mackinnon went to the United States.

## **Saturday Afternoon - The Queen's Prize**

*by Iain Robertson (SM)*

For the last two years I have written at least part of the Queen's Final report from the point of view of the scoreboard, from where, too often, I have had a grandstand view of the greatest event in the world's least interesting spectator sport. This year I found myself with a different angle.

Friday afternoon had been delightful. So many people came up to give congratulations. I knew all of them, but I was surprised that so many knew me. It was also a delight to tease some very good friends. Richard van Lingen was, I think, the first to ask how I had done as I came off the point at 600, and the temptation was overwhelming to reply "Dropped two". When I went to weigh in and he figured out how I had not actually lied, the abuse was spectacular.

Mindful of the Mackinnon the next morning, I had a quiet Friday night. Karen forced me to discuss what it would be like to win (and made me promise not to drink too much if I did!), and very privately I had thought through how the Gold Badge could fit on my jacket with the aid of the sling keeper. You have to believe that it's possible.

Came the day and the time. I have shot the Final before, and used to be a subscriber to the view that it is the most fun event of all – nothing to lose and all to play for – but this was different. I was having a great year and I was going forward in the lead. Unfortunately 99 of the world's best were at most a single point and a hatful of Vs behind, and it was clear that it really was anybody's Prize. Controlling the adrenaline was a major issue, and I was working hard to use routine as an antidote to nerves.

Despite being one of the earliest arrivals on the range, and sorting all my kit in good time, the start came upon me at a rush, and the 900 yards shoot progressed in a blur of intense images. I chased the wind as it flicked between two minutes left or so and a bit of right. It obviously wasn't entirely straightforward – the shooters





"So I just squeeze gently and the thing goes bang?" Lord Romsey is instructed in the art of triggering. (Photo: Tony de Launay)



"You owe us drink Robertson!" Chalky White realises that he will be spending his evening in the RAF Club. (Photo: John Knight)



The camera crew get it wrong! (Photo: John Knight)



The camera crew get it right! (Photo: John Knight)



Silly grins all round from Iain Robertson and Glyn Barnett. (Photo: John Knight)



Gary Rasmussen of the United States - thrilled to bits with third place. (Photo: Tony de Launay)



"Ouch - that hurt more than a tetanus jab!" (Photo: Tony de Launay)



The traditional procession leaves Stickledown. (Photo: David Pollard)



to my right seemed to be dropping points, but Ginny Measures shooting with me was holding the V well, and I was quite prepared to steal wind from anyone. We rattled the shots down, and I was lucky that all but one of my dodgy wind calls stayed in. With the last nine shots filling the doughnut, I got up feeling happy, but sure that with only four Vs I would be off the lead.

The scoreboard showed two scores of 225 and eight scores of 224 as we lay down at 1000. I found myself paired with Andy Luckman, who was ahead of me by one V bull. At this stage I was back to the "fun shoot" mentality – pulling back a whole point on both Dave Allen and Nick Brasier was a tall order, but it would be great to try. Meanwhile Andy and I could shoot against each other just for the hell of it.

The shoot started well, with a V bull sighter converted and a row of bulls to follow, chasing the right-hand side as the wind dropped from about 2½ towards zero. Andy dropped a point round about his fifth shot. With six or seven in the bull, quite suddenly I realized that things were going really rather well. With that realization came the adrenaline. The wind was swinging rapidly through about 30 degrees and needed careful watching. As it changed sides Andy was caught for a magpie, and down the range were lots of solid inners. With that cue I made the two-minute change needed. Suddenly I had nine bulls in less than straightforward conditions – there was a good chance I had made up the point. As the tenth bull came up I was really struggling mentally. Load, windage, shoot, plot had become automatic, and the conscious part of my brain was filling with "stay calm, don't hyperventilate, do it right, don't crossfire, don't screw this up." Subconsciously I was aware of the buzz of the crowd behind, but the mental focus was so intense that I was no longer processing sound.

The eleventh shot went down on autopilot, and then there was another big wind shift. I put my guess on the gun, wanted to get it away quickly, but tensed over the trigger release. Forcing the shot was an error, and the wind call was out anyway as it ended up high right in the inner. 298 might still be enough – ignore it, go on. With the wind now running from the other side, and having run out of ideas, I lifted the correction from the plot. The shot went away smoothly for another V. Two to go – do it right. Wind changing sides, put zero on the gun, look for trends, still zero, go on, little breeze – check again.

The wind was flicking from the right. I guessed and added a half from zero. Reading the plot would have been a better idea, as it indicated 1 to 2 required whenever right wind had showed. With elevation near the bottom of the group, and short 1 on the wind, the fourteenth sneaked out low left. Add ¾, go again and it's done. Was that hard work or what?

With a huge sense of relief I put my rifle down and looked behind. I was faced by a crowd several ranks deep and a TV camera at eye level. How had they sneaked up without me noticing? Looked down the

scope, to find the last shot central in the V bull. Gave myself a pat on the back, which turned to a great surge of satisfaction – Iain, that was a cracking good afternoon's shooting! But was 297 enough? The V count was a bit thin and expecting eight others to drop two, three or maybe even four points was a tall order; on the other hand I must have been doing well if the camera was here, and there's Martin Farnan looking busy and checking things – maybe I have done enough? Round about shot 11 I had missed one of Andy's shots, and I was confused about how many he had left to fire, but eventually, with a silly grin developing, I could leave the firing point.

Range officer first, to hand in my card. Martin approaches. "Iain, without prejudice, we may need you at the top of the hill". Shake hands. Marvellous. Silly grin firmly in place. TV man asking for interview. Must pack my kit so someone can look after it. Take sling off arm and do up sling loop – don't want Gold Badge falling off on the way down the hill. Martin next to me talking in radio. "That's it then it can't be beaten". Karen standing behind gesticulating. Hug Karen. Whisper in my ear. "Martin's wrong. Glyn Barnett's got one more V than you." Karen doesn't make mistakes. Don't care. Bloody marvellous. Second in the Queen's! TV man asking how it feels. About five minute interview in which I very quickly realize that TV man thinks I have won. This could be fun! Describe size of V bull and explain how close it was. "So, then you could say you won by inches?" "No I lost by inches – the guy who won is down that way". Cameraman and sound man fall about laughing. TV man terminates interview forthwith. Bloody marvellous. Martin apologises profusely. No worries (though I will take the mickey later). Walk up hill to scoreboard and apologise to all in RAFTRC who were savouring a night of celebration. Neil Moxon has something alcoholic in his hand. Take it and empty it in one. Glyn turns up. Bloody well done mate. Marvellous. SECOND IN THE QUEEN'S!

Her Majesty the Queen's Prize was won by Glyn Barnett of OGRE with a score of 297.38, from Iain Robertson of the RAFTRC with 297.37 and Gary Rasmussen of the United States with 297.36. In the concurrent events, the Freddy Payne Memorial Trophy went to Ken Westling of Canada, eleventh overall with 295.31. With the same gun score, Jane Messer finished twelfth on countback to take the Ambala Goblet. The George Twine Memorial trophy went to Cdt Sgt George Williams of Greshams RC, 23<sup>rd</sup> with 294.34. Would first in the Grand and eighth in the Queens beat first in the Queens and third in the Grand? Yes it would by a single point and so Nick Brasier ended up as the British Open Target Rifle Champion closely followed by Glyn with Jane Messer only needing eighth in the Grand and twelfth in the Queens to pick up third place.

Another successful Meeting was over and whilst the majority packed up their kit and set off for home, many staff, competitors and volunteers remained at Bisley for the next big event - the XVII Commonwealth Games.

# BISLEY GENERAL MEETING 2002

The Chairmen welcomed those attending and the notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

The meeting then unanimously re-elected HRH The Prince of Wales as the Association's President.

The Chairmen welcomed Vice-Presidents who were attending Bisley this year and particularly those from overseas, namely: Mrs MacDonald-Stewart and Mr Sandy Peden from Canada, M Robert Chombart and M Philippe Ginestet from France, Mr Cliff Mallett from Jersey, Mr Alan Le Page from Guernsey, Mr Middleton Tompkins from the USA, Mr Jimmy Cantlay from Zimbabwe, and Mr Norris Gomez from the West Indies.

The Chairman recorded that the NRA has lost one of its stalwart Vice-Presidents, Lt Col Larry Orpen-Smellie OBE, who died recently after his fight with cancer. He went on to say that "he was with us to the end showing his same stoicism, energy and humour as ever. We shall miss him greatly and offer our sympathy to Jean who I am pleased to see is with us here tonight."

The Vice-Presidents and Auditors were re-elected with thanks to the latter for additional and uncharged help which they had rendered since the last financial year end.

The Chairman announced that the only election for Council had been for the Regional Representative for the East Midlands and that Mr George Barnard had been elected.

## Chairman's Speech

"Since I took over as Chairman of Council last October I have sought to communicate. Naturally, in view of our circumstances, there has been much more to say about our finances and how we organise ourselves than I hope will be the case in future years as we stabilise our affairs again. However, communication will still remain high on my list of priorities.

I hope that most of you will have read my Journal articles and the open letter which I circulated at the end of last week. I hope that I have brought everyone up to speed with events and I have not received any written or other requests for further information at this time.

Accordingly, I should like to devote my words this evening to matters of current interest to us as members of the NRA generally and particularly in relation to the Bisley Meeting.

## Membership

The events of last year, the price increases for shooters, the new structure for affiliation and direct membership fees, after dropping the charges for car parking, put extra strain on our membership committee and in particular on Heather Webb, our Membership Secretary. Queries and misunderstandings were legion, but, in the final analysis, we have lost, net, some 170 members leaving 4,400 direct members and lost some 20 clubs leaving 760 affiliated clubs. Underlying these regrettable figures,

we have, nevertheless, recruited 208 new members and 17 new clubs. We are learning more about the make-up of our affiliated clubs and the number of shooters indirectly involved which appears could be in the order of 36,000.

It is very important for us to have some form of link with and knowledge about civilian shooters which can only add to our strength. Going forward, the strategy of the membership committee is to increase direct membership, hopefully reducing cost in real terms, and to increase and know more about affiliate shooters. The committee policies and initiatives going forward will be consistent with these objectives.

I shall touch on a few facts and figures relating to the development of membership and shooting. Under Phyllis Farnan, supported by not only our own staff but a number of volunteers around the country, there has been an encouraging increase in probationary courses. Last year 33 shooters went through these courses at Bisley and the figure will be nearer 50 by the end of this year. In addition, the team give support and advice to clubs. Club officials should be aware of this facility and call upon it. These cover not only target rifle, but also gallery rifle and muzzle loading pistol.

We thank the team of dedicated coaches.

Then there are Range Conducting Officer Courses run both at Bisley (up to at least eight this year) and regionally (some 35) held by regional assessors. We have some 40 or more volunteer assessors. Since January, 188 new RCOs have qualified. In turn, 164 competitor qualified RCOs have contributed to our resources for the Bisley Meeting. In case anyone asks, the requirements seek to be strict and in practice not everyone passes at the first attempt or at all. We are also developing a course with the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain.

Also, as part of our arrangements with the MoD, some 24 students have qualified as Club Instructors and a further 17 have completed Skills courses in target rifle. In addition we have run courses for the DEFRA Wildlife Unit in Gloucestershire and for the Chessington World of Adventure Capture Team to give you other examples.

As I have indicated, members should know of these facilities provided. Details are posted on our web site or else interested parties should contact the Shooting Administrator, Phyllis Farnan.

Ever mindful of the cost of shooting, another initiative is being examined, provided there is found to be demand, and that is the provision of targets at Bisley by the hour both at short and long range. Recently, albeit at a busy time, this has been found to be popular. Please watch the web site and be in touch with the Range Office to indicate your interest, but please do not expect everything at once.



## **The Bisley Meeting**

One of the pleasures which I have had after over 40 years of coming to Bisley is to be present during the first fortnight of the Annual Meeting. It is easy to fail to recognise that we host a range of many individual and team events for the Services, both those events belonging to and run by the Services such as HM The Queen's Medal for each of the Services and the Territorial Army, but also of our own sponsorship.

These occasions have given me an opportunity to better understand our relationship and the views of the many senior serving officers whom I met. I am pleased to say that the relationship is a genuinely warm one. I gained the clear impression that the current view at high level, particularly, of course, with the Army, is one which pays full attention to the need for marksmanship and target rifle shooting.

This partnership with the MoD in fullbore rifle shooting is a mainstay for our own future, a pillar of our charitable status and particularly in the politically correct world that seems not to understand both the important side of what we have been about since 1860, but also the harmless recreation we provide for those who can participate in shooting both here and around the country as individuals and with clubs.

Major General Richard Dannatt, Assistant Chief of the General Staff and President of the Army Rifle Association came here on Queen's Medal day with many other senior officers.

In the Journal I touched upon our part in negotiating with the MoD on your behalf the terms for use of the MoD ranges. I am now more certain that the will is there. It is not a breach of the Secrets Act to admit that the MoD is under severe budgetary constraints, stricter rules for health and safety and the like, as well as local difficulties with personalities and local Councils. These are the constraints, but I can assure members that we will, if anything, increase our efforts in assisting members regionally in accessing ranges, so far as can be achieved.

At the later Methuen Trophy Inter-Services teams shoot, some four civilian teams took part alongside and I was pleased to present the civilian trophy to the High Power Rifle Club.

The Sultan of Oman's Armed Forces team won the International Service Rifle Match and once again won most of the service rifle silver.

General Dannatt also asked to come here to witness the Ashburton, and I invited him to present the prizes. He was most interested to meet as many schools as possible. He assured me of the commitment to marksmanship and target rifle shooting and, in particular, he reinforced a determination to provide service cadets and CCF cadets with the new target rifle by next season.

I was particularly impressed by the service cadet shooting events. Units from throughout the UK take part and, again, there was a capacity turnout of over 500 from the three services. I admire their enthusiasm

and was pleased to learn that not only is access to rifle shooting a major incentive for youngsters to join the cadets, but to the services advantage by some 40% of cadets going on to join regular forces.

Like the schools' CCF, they are looking forward to the issue of the new cadet target rifle - the L81 A2 for the technically minded.

We are all sure that the absence of a regular target rifle has been a major issue of falling support for the Ashburton (down by 6 to 33 entries this year - although the earlier date has been a factor and clashes with other activities) even though some shoot alongside with their own school target rifles. Insofar as we can we shall give full support to CCRS in encouraging the return of schools to the Ashburton.

Epsom won the Ashburton Shield by seven points over Uppingham. The Oratory won the Falling Plates. This event, with 57 entries, is increasingly popular, which is probably not a surprise. Finally, the Cadet National match was won for the first time by Northern Ireland.

The Historic Arms weekend was again organised by Rae Wills and David Mumford and staffed entirely by volunteers to whom we are all grateful. There were 281 competitors for some 800 match entries.

The Match Rifle meeting had 160 entries which is slightly down not least owing to fewer overseas entries. 109 fired the full Hopton course, and it was won by Wg Cdr David Calvert at his third outing in this event. England won the Elcho Shield with David Friend, Queen's Prize winner in 1977, achieving a record score of 223 and 29 V bulls.

In the Pistol and Gallery Rifle events the entry was up from a modest 30 to an equally modest 41. We have already started to consider how this can be increased further for next year as the potential support must be somewhat greater. We thank Tony Oldroyd for his particular interest in promoting these events.

In the Target Rifle the Grand Aggregate entries are 1,124 compared with 1,082 last year partly due to an increase of 58 in overseas entries at 247. Of course, some have come over early in preparation for the Games or for the Palma Long Range Championship next year. However, overall entries are 23 down at 1,298.

The impact of the changes to the charging structure and the impact of the 10% surcharge, the re-allocation of marker costs to teams and the discount for younger shooters will all be examined in due course as will the questionnaire on self-marking. However, I understand the result of the survey indicated 70% support for the status quo with some 850 voting.

I am very pleased to see so many younger shooters taking part this week.

Royal Ordnance, Radway Green, have produced another vintage batch of 155 grain ammunition; you will have all seen how many possibles have been achieved at all ranges.

We must thank those organisations which sponsor our events. Martin Farnan has posted a list of new and renewed sponsorships on the Chief Executive's noticeboard.

I take this opportunity to thank a number of people and hope that I do not miss out anyone.

Firstly, we welcome, most importantly, the support of Milforce provided this year by the Rifle Volunteers under Lt Col Ian Blewitt and the cadet Milforce contingent commanded by Lt Col Alan Wise and thank them for all they do behind the scenes and at the ammunition points.

I thank Major Ron Tomlin, Range Officer Pirbright Ranges, for all his help throughout the year.

And then there are the Chief Range Officers, Tony Clayton on Century and Stephen Brooks on Stickledown, together with the Chief Butt Officers, John Gardner and Peter Alliss, and the range officers, stats staff and particularly all the volunteers who have worked to support this year's meeting.

This is also an opportunity to thank Peter Hobson who has donated a Land Rover to our shooting division and lent a further one for the Meeting. Thank you, Peter.

### **Sky TV**

Those present during the Match Rifle Meeting may have seen cameras; they will be here again on Queen's Final Day. Council approved the Shooting Committee's recommendation that Sky TV should make two ten-minute programmes to be shown in the autumn. These will show Match Rifle and Target Rifle, but also other shooting disciplines and aspects of Bisley. Dates for transmission are not yet known, but will be advised. The videos will be available to us for promotional purposes afterwards.

### **Teams**

We congratulate Martin Townsend on his successful tour to the West Indies. Winning all four team matches it is quite clear that the team had a most enjoyable social time as well.

We wish John Bloomfield and his TR team, Philip Hakim and his Under 25 team, Simon Fraser and his Athelings Team and Paul Monaghan and his F Class Team all good wishes for their forthcoming visit to Canada. The occasion will be the first for F Class World Championships. Back here we wish Anton Aspin and his Kolapore team success on Friday.

### **Commonwealth Games**

I do hope that many of you will come to the Games at some point. His Royal Highness, the Earl of Wessex will be coming down on Thursday 1 August. Medal ceremonies for the various events take place between 27 July and 3 August with the Pairs on 28 July and Fullbore Singles on 2 August.

I really do hope that shooting gets some TV publicity. Certainly, the BBC will have a team down here to do so.

### **Countryside March**

I should like to commend to you the Countryside March on 22 September. Indirectly, this demonstration for

freedom of activity is much in our own interests too. It is planned to have coaches leaving from here to join the March; please do get in touch with the NRA Office after the meeting if you would like to come via Bisley.

### **Staff**

I just want to say a word of thanks to our staff. Our financial predicament was not their fault, but all have rallied round not only to ensure that we try to run a tight ship, but also in accepting the changes which need to take place to secure our future. I have much appreciated their support and contribution to our planning.

I am sure that everyone in this room wishes Martin Farnan a speedy recovery from his accident last Saturday. He should be resting, but he would be one of the last to leave his post at such an important time as the Bisley Meeting. We thank you, Martin.

In particular, I should like to thank David Hossack who came to our assistance at the most fraught and difficult time at the end of 2000 and took on the role of Managing Director of the newly created National Shooting Centre Limited, assisting Colin. He relinquished that post at the end of June, but has kindly agreed to remain on the board and to give such assistance as he can as we go forward. We have appreciated his help and support very much.

I turn, now, to Colin Cheshire. He would be one of the first to recognise that events of recent years have been controversial. However, he was asked to become Chief Executive to embark on a five year programme of improvement to celebrate the Millennium year 2000, which proved to be so successful, and, latterly, to accommodate the Commonwealth Games resulting in Bisley becoming truly the National Shooting Centre. As he is due to retire shortly after the Games I am sure that it is right to thank Colin this evening for his drive, enthusiasm and for these achievements and to wish him and his wife Angie a happy retirement.

I can now inform you that there were no fewer than 31 scores of 105 in the first stage of Her Majesty The Queen's Prize and the winner of the Bronze Badge is Jim Paton of Canada with a score of 105 with 17 V bulls.

The lowest score qualifying for the second stage is 102 with 10 V bulls finishing 30.1 at 600 yards."

### **Comments from the Floor**

Mr Jim Hallam, Vice-President, speaking as Chairman of the South London Rifle Club remarked that some quarter of the members of his club are under 40 and from Gresham's School. The feeling of the members of his club is that the NRA is 'Bisleycentric' and he wondered whether regional championships are being considered, for example.

In response, the Chairman thanked Mr Hallam and reported that he had attended a meeting of regional members of Council in May as referred to in the Journal. A programme is being developed for the future when the NRA, itself, will have an increased emphasis on membership, particularly away from Bisley. Because



plans are in such an early stage he felt that he could say little more at this stage. We want to get out into the provinces and help and this, hopefully, will include the encouragement of regional events beyond what is done already by County Associations and their open championships.

Mr David Hossack, former managing director of National Shooting Centre Limited, said that he had enjoyed working with the NRA for the previous 18 months.

"It has been my pleasure to be working with Colin over those eighteen months and I have really enjoyed that and I have just realised again how much he has done for us all. But it's not only Colin, I went into the office the other day at 11.30 in the evening, after having had a drink or two in the North London, and there were Martin and Phyllis still working. They were working on our behalf at 11.30 at night far beyond the call of duty.

I think one of the things that Colin has been responsible for is how good the Estate looks at the moment. During his period of tenure the Estate has improved no end. It's looking wonderful now, and he's got a very good

relationship with the Estate workers. I think we really ought to pay a tribute to the Estate workers, they work bloody hard, they really do over very long hours.

It is not only the Estate, the Range Office, they are the first port of call for many of us, they get a lot of rubbish thrown at them and on the whole everything is dealt with with great good humour and great patience and I think they require our thanks because they are very patient.

The membership, again; Heather has also been mentioned this evening. She is often also the first person one calls at the end of a telephone - also great patience shown.

I think what all this is coming round to is when you are talking to people at the NRA remember that they are often putting in a great number of hours beyond the call of duty on our behalf and I think we should remember that thank you."

There were no further questions or issues raised and the Chairman closed the meeting thanking all for coming and for the support received at his first Bisley Meeting.

### **Susie Cornfield - an apology**

The extent to which the second volume of the Millennium Imperial Meeting two-volume set was drawn from Susie Cornfield's great work published in 1987, *The Queen's Prize*, was not made clear in the acknowledgement which prefaced Volume II. Those who have read it will readily appreciate that the vast bulk of what is written of the period between 1909 and 1986 comes from a pen superior to those which covered the next 12 years of the NRA's history and which amended, without permission, the original. This note is written for the avoidance of doubt and to reiterate our gratitude to Susie Cornfield whose copyright we have breached and to whom we therefore owe a sincere apology.

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# BARBARIANS TOUR TO JERSEY 2002

*by Rory White*



The Barbarians Team: Jim Scobie, John Moran, Toby Coleridge, Peter Coley, Stuart Clark, Richard Bailie, Guy Palmer, Alan Bishop and Rory White.

The Barbarians Rifle Club was founded in 1999 with the express purpose of encouraging the enjoyment of the sport of rifle shooting. Following a successful tour to Canada in 2000 and a shoot against the Canadian National Team at the Imperial Meeting in 2001, a team was invited to attend the Jersey Rifle Association Spring Prize Meeting 2002.

A team of nine shooters accompanied by three partners endured the usual choppy ride on the Seacat, the only advantage being the cheap Duty Free, to arrive at Les Charrieres Country Hotel on Wednesday 29 May. The team Captain, Richard Bailie and Adjutant, Peter Coley arranged a practice session on Crabbe Range to join Jersey for their usual Thursday afternoon shoot; a reminder to most of the Barbarians how small is the 200 yards V bull! Good conditions prevailed as was to be found for the rest of the weekend.

Friday was a free day to revisit the hostelrys, betting shops and other attractions of the island before the team dinner at the Windmill Restaurant in the evening. Cliff and Nora Mallett were the guests of honour.

The serious business started on Saturday with an early start for a full day, shooting a Queens 1 and 2. Our star man from the Surrey RA, Guy Palmer, accompanied by Jo, his own register keeper, was top score in both events dropping only one point all day to lead the Grand Aggregate by three points. Second Barbarian was Toby Coleridge, six points behind.

Unusually for a visiting team, on Sunday the morning shoot was at long range held at Les Landes, adjacent to the familiar racecourse normally visited after the August Prize Meeting. Targets and all equipment has to be transported to the range and roads closed to deter the walkers! It was well worth the effort: we enjoyed shooting and marking on the efficient portable targets at 900 and 1000 yards. Our Scottish representative,

Jim Scobie won the event by three Vs with 99.13; Peter Coley was third, five Vs behind. Back to Crabbe Range for the afternoon shoot at two and five where there were additional entries from the newly arrived NRA Channel Islands team. Top Barbarian for the afternoon was Alan Bishop with a 98.9, the same score as Guy Palmer who was still leading the Grand. A cocktail party was held at the clubhouse in the evening where the Barbarians and the NRA team were welcomed and many old acquaintances renewed.

The Grand Aggregate was completed on Monday morning shooting at 300 and 600 yards. Good conditions again prevailed and Toby Coleridge achieved a possible to come fifth by six Vs. Guy Palmer unfortunately cross-shot achieving ninety-five and losing the Grand Aggregate by two points!

The highlight of the meeting was the team match against Jersey in the afternoon under Queens 1 conditions. Despite leading by three points at 300, and being only one point behind after 500, the Barbarians lost the match by five points. Guy was top score again with a possible, this time getting all his shots on the same target and two Vs ahead of Toby. At the other end of the scoresheet Stuart Clark, Rory White and John Moran were in competition not to be the man dropped from the eight, which closely went to John, not helped by shooting the whole weekend with a borrowed rifle. All in all a creditable team result against stiff opposition.

Both teams met in the evening at the Portelet Hotel for the official dinner where a cut glass trophy was presented to Jersey by Richard Bailie, hopefully to be competed for annually.

Once again the Barbarians achieved their objective of encouraging the enjoyment of the sport of rifle shooting; we are grateful to our hosts, the Jersey Rifle Association, and look forward to future tours.



Adjutant Peter Coley and Captain Richard Bailie with Cliff and Nora Mallett, guests of honour at the team dinner.

*(Photos: Rory White)*



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*Phil Bennison, Bisley 1998*



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# IRISH OPEN AND NATIONAL MATCH MEETING 2003

## General

Following Ireland's historic win in this year's National Match the Irish Rifle Club (Bisley) has decided that next year's match will be shot in Northern Ireland.

The Match will be coupled with the annual Irish Open and shot over the Bank Holiday weekend 24 - 26 May 2003 at the military Training Centre at Ballykinler in Co Down.

Ballykinler Training Centre is 30 miles south of Belfast and on the coast between the towns of Newcastle and Downpatrick. It is in an area of outstanding natural beauty and the range complex is overlooked by the Mourne Mountains (*see page 20 for photograph*).

The Meeting will be held on two south facing 600 yards gallery ranges, No 2 range will use 10 lanes and the principal range No 3 has 24 lanes. A narrow strip wood separates the ranges.

## Shooting Programme

Fri 23 May	Limited practice for National Teams pm/evening	
Sat 24 May	2+15 @ 300 yards	Warm-up shoot
	2+10 @ 300, 500 & 600 yards	Irish Open Stage I
Sun 25 May	2+15 @ 300, 500 & 600 yards	Irish Open Stage II
	2+15 @ 600 yards	Final for Top 24
Mon 26 May	National Match	

## Accommodation and Feeding

Military accommodation and feeding will be available for booking at a very reasonable cost via the Meeting entry form.

## Information Pack and Individual Entry Form

Detailed information on the meeting and web site links to the Ulster Rifle Association, Dungannon Rifle and Pistol Club, and Comber Rifle Club will be published in late Dec 2002 on the NRA web site, [www.nra.org.uk](http://www.nra.org.uk)

Those interested in shooting the Irish Open element of the Meeting should contact Peter Campbell at the address listed below. Individual entry forms will be e-mailed or posted on 10 Feb 2003 to those who have indicated by e-mail or letter their intent to enter. National teams will be dealt with separately as a block booking; please liaise with your National Match Captain or Secretary.

Mr PMG Campbell, 15 Coolsara Park, Lisburn, Co Antrim BT28 3BG

Tel: 02892 668344

E-mail: [no4t.303@virgin.net](mailto:no4t.303@virgin.net)

**Range space is limited so an early indication NOW of intention to compete would be appreciated.**

Volunteers, supporters and spectators also welcome - please let the organisers know if you would like to help out with the Match in any way.

### ••• WANTED •••

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*For further information please contact*  
**A. FORD TEL/FAX 0121 453 6329**

ALSO REQUIRED - .303 BRASS, G.P.M.G. LINKS,  
CHARGER AND STRIPPER CLIPS, ETC.

## CARAVAN OWNERS

There are a number of South African visitors next year for the Imperial Meeting and the Palma and World Championships. A number of them have asked to rent caravans for the whole period (about 3 weeks). If anyone can offer such accommodation please contact the South African Liaison Officer

**Chris Hockley**  
**Tel: 01793 783284**  
**or e-mail [hockleyfam@aol.com](mailto:hockleyfam@aol.com)**



# THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES AT BISLEY - SOME REFLECTIONS

*by John Jackman*

Generally, the Games were considered most successful and to all the world ran smoothly. As well as many VIP prize givers from the UK and Commonwealth Games Federation we were visited by a number of senior officials from Manchester including the Chairman of M2002, Charles Allen, the Lord Mayor of Manchester and Sir Christopher Chataway among others. We were also visited by Herr Horst Schreiber, Secretary General of the ISSF and Graeme Hudson, Commonwealth Shooting Federation President. All expressed great satisfaction at what they saw.

Their Royal Highnesses The Earl and Countess of Wessex made a formal visit and HRH presented the medals in a pistol event, including the gold to Mick Gault. Prince Edward returned to make a second and unofficial visit to see the final of the fullbore rifle event won by David Calvert.

The Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and a number of MPs from both main parties visited. In particular, Kate Hoey made a long visit and followed it up with a very sympathetic article in the Daily Telegraph, particularly drawing attention to the lack of BBC coverage and expressing views on the flaws in the pistol ban.

In view of the success of the Games and the efforts put into spectator appeal, it would have been better to have had more visitors to Bisley, but M2002 insisted on handling this and overestimated the numbers, thinking that people would come without M2002 publicising the events as much as they might have done.

The BBC was present in force, but the coverage on UK television was sparse and appeared to be in inverse proportion to the number of cameras on site. However, it was positive coverage and, for example, sympathetic to the plight of home pistol shooters. Coverage was subcontracted to Visions television and I have explored the position with their managing director with whom I have a mutual acquaintance and who, from his youth, is familiar with Bisley. In essence, he reported that the coverage was largely paid for by Commonwealth countries such as Australia who wanted live coverage and as for the BBC and UK coverage, he believes it came down simply to the BBC's view of audience interest and ratings. There are rumours of 'politics', but I think we should look to the bright side and recognise that this is the first BBC coverage of events since the days of radio broadcasting of HM The Queen's Prize Final ceased in the 1960s.

It should also be remembered that Sky Sports have put out two programmes on shooting based on recent events. I hope that some of you will have seen the programmes; comments would be welcome.

There were a number of press articles which were all positive, particularly supporting the view that we deserved greater BBC coverage, and in support of the

plight of pistol shooters. I saw no adverse comments in the letters pages. The Scotsman on Sunday produced an objective article although, perhaps no surprise, it was blemished by comments from those who suffered at Dunblane. Tony de Launay said that the views of those in the Press enclosure were most positive.

Many shooters believe that we should do more in the way of PR. In fact we support the work of the British Shooting Sports Council. Barred from spending money on political lobbying ourselves by our Charity status, nevertheless we have a duty to encourage marksmanship. The reality, however, is that much depends on the conduct of shooters themselves and what they do to present a safe, family, sport to people around them and to their local media. The less we are regarded as a 'Gun Lobby' and more of a 'Target Shooting Lobby', the better. The more we avoid the word 'hand-gun', but rather use 'target pistol', the better. Words and terms do count as the politicians have reminded me.

The Sportsman's Association arranged for a daily demonstration outside Bisley. At the level done, I think they put across a message which was received sympathetically by visitors.

Co-ordinating our effort with the NSRA and through the BSSC we have taken an initiative to exploit the apparent improved image provided by the Commonwealth Games to approach the Home Office and the Department of Culture Media and Sport through Sport England to seek concessions for target pistol shooting.

Mr Caborn, the Minister for Sport, visited Bisley during the Games in apparently bizarre circumstances. He came in as a guest of M2002 and neither the NRA, nor the NSRA were informed and none of our officers met him. Leaving aside rumours about how he came in and left the ranges, nevertheless, I learned from Alan Robertson of M2002, that he was suitably impressed by his visit. I have written to the Minister and I hope that he can be persuaded to meet with us sometime in the future.

Whilst the Games were managed by Manchester 2002 Limited in accordance with a Venue Hire Agreement and under a venue manager (Alan Robertson), nevertheless, much resource in people was provided by the NSRA, CPSA and NRA. Our thanks go to our volunteers. Furthermore, the NRA had to come to the assistance of M2002 in running their fullbore and pistol events as their squadding and statistics process proved inadequate. We have made charges to recover these resources. We have certainly learned lessons to protect our interests when we run any future international events.

# THE GAMES FROM A MEDIA PERSPECTIVE

by Tony de Launay

A fortnight before the Games were due to start the omens were not good. Exiting the tractor the port knee locked and the excruciating pain started. A week later and that well known surgeon Arthur Oscopy was probing and nibbling to repair a “bucket handle tear” in the cartilage (my GP’s description), leaving me with a photograph of the offensive shred to boot. The galling thing is that the starboard knee was actually the one originally scheduled for a wash-out treatment. Be that as it may, three days later, stick and reporting notepad in hand, it was off to the ranges and the inevitable moniker “Hopalong”, courtesy of one Douglas Watts.

My dual role, press hack and volunteer media liaison officer for the three Bisley shooting bodies, was something which seemed to cause a degree of uncertainty in Manchester’s accreditation bureaucracy. However, it did not matter when you know more about the geography and where your friends are – and when you are doing an impressive lame duck imitation. When the shooting got going in the hands of the Bisley organising crew it was smoothness personified.

The media centre was in the Lord Roberts building, at the top of the stairs in an air gun hall that could have printed the papers as well as providing shelter for the correspondents. The centre was run by Charlie and Wes, with panache and everlasting good humour; nothing was too much trouble for them. Among their support staff was Simon Dixon doing a marvellous mobile interviewer job, armed with recorder, constantly up-dating on-line quotes and non-quotes from winners and others for the M2002 web site. As well as pay as you go phone points for laptop users

we got tea and coffee – and hot water to make it with. And thank you to Cadbury’s for the never ending supply of chocolate chip and orange peel cookies.

What was significant was that as well as the Telegraph and Times, many other papers took more than just a passing interest. Broadsheets and tabloids fed off the service provided. Jonny Saunders of Radio 5 Live did a magnificent job with his roving reporting and genuine enthusiasm – and, like the others, a willingness to listen and learn. A special word too for Mike Sinclair of the Press Association. His constant stream of news, as well as sports results, onto the newswire was the source of much of the well informed and positive comment in the papers. The overwhelming reaction of the reporters present was entirely favourable to the sport, and they were as appreciative as any of Mick Gault’s triple gold success in the pistol events. So, on to some of the interesting moments – in no particular order.

My personal favourite had to be standing next to some of the correspondents up on the shotgun ranges, and discussing with them the chances of the youngest competitor in the women’s individual double trap event, admittedly with a sense of wondering disbelief as she smashed one after another of the pink disks. “Do you mind” said the lady next to me, “that is my daughter you are talking about”. Jan Kerwood was a mum in agony at that moment, not knowing whether to watch or hide; I know she watched while proud father Dan Kerwood stood there transfixed at the drama unfolding before him.

When the final clay burst like a pink powder puff Jan was gone, selling the security guards a succession of twinkling dummies that had them grasping at thin air, reaching daughter Charlotte a split second before Ian Coley, the England coach. Ian had all of five yards to travel; Jan had covered thirty! Dan was left gulping at the top of the hill. That result got top column inches.

So what about our Mick Gault, a man with a mission thrust upon him. The expectations were almost grossly unfair after his wondrous performance to bag four golds in Kuala Lumpur. That he got another in the air pistol pairs was down to grit, nerve, his shooting partner Nick Baxter and a touch of lady luck (richly deserved and we all need some). The stupendous final of the air pistol individual title, in which he went from fourth to first in the last four shots for victory by a fraction of a point, had to be seen and heard to be believed. That was a noisy, knowledgeable crowd rooting for their champion - they certainly had been given something to cheer for.

His third gold in the 50m pistol was as convincing a display as you could wish to see, garnering a new record by a whole three points, and the whole was



The cameras were everywhere but not much footage made it onto our screens.  
(Photo: David Pollard)



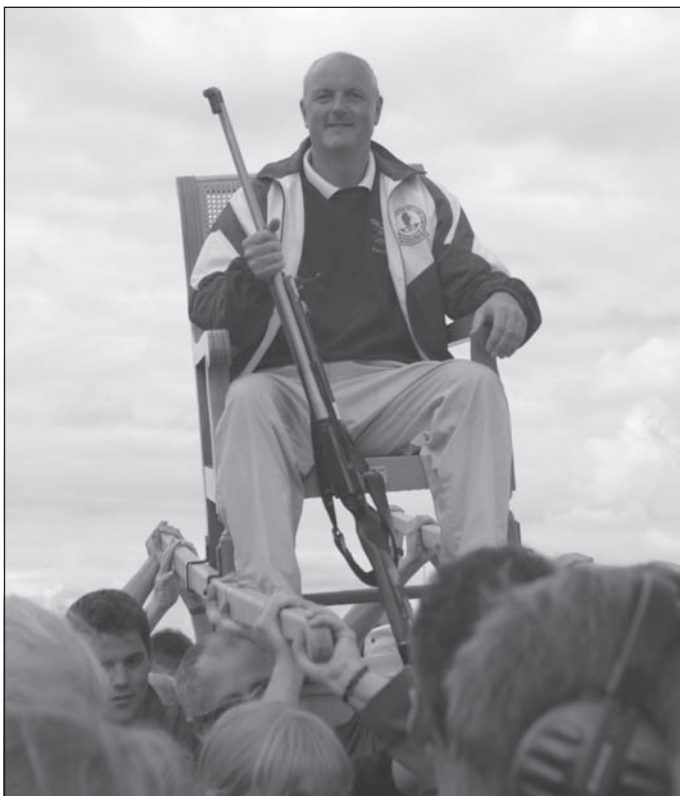


Mick Gault - three Golds and one Bronze.

(Photo: John Knight)

capped by a bronze in the standard pistol. The first gold was the key to the next two, relief mixed with an instant freeing up of the pressures. Tom Redhead his coach was one instrument in that success: Mrs Gault and family was the other. Tom continually told Mick to leave the politics to him; thank you Mr Gault for partly ignoring Tom and making the pungent truth known to those who wanted to listen.

Fullbore rifle, and the name was Calvert, a shooting machine that would not take no for an answer. He earned one gold with Martin Millar, and the other on his own (with a new record score). He never looked like faltering, becoming the most bemedalled fullbore rifleman in the history of the Games. Sorry David Dodds of South Africa and Diane Collings of New Zealand in second and third, it was just not your story.



David Calvert - Northern Ireland's most successful Games medallist.

(Photo: Jim McAllister)

But it was a story for the Indian shooters, who were all on major Government cash bonuses for any medals won. Anjali Bhagwat took four golds with three new records in women's smallbore and air rifle events, and Jaspal Rana took four in the men's pistol events. Talking to them with the help of Indian journalist Kamesh Srinivasan you had to be impressed, perhaps even a little awed, by their absolute and unswerving confidence in their ability to win the gold medals. It was almost as if they, and nobody else, had the right to win. They proved it. India has emerged as the Commonwealth force that, along with Australia, is the one to beat.

The BBC came in for some stick, and quite rightly so. Let me hasten to say that the 70 strong outside broadcast crew on site, with their miles of cabling and their lorry loads of kit, worked their socks off. They were as dismayed as the UK shooting fans at the paucity of the coverage on home TV. If you were in India you could get all you wanted, we learned, but not at home. At 10.35pm on the night of Mick Gault's second gold medal, after a shooting free news programme on BBC 1, I telephoned the BBC to ask why there had been no mention of the gold medal.

The highly embarrassed lady said two things of note. First, she volunteered that there had been many other complaints received by the BBC about shooting coverage. Second, she had been instructed to reply that "the BBC was concentrating on the major sports". Ironic, really - domestic sprinters had just been left writhing on the lovely new track, and shooting had the third largest number of competitors. And the BBC broadcast a radio programme one evening that week devoted almost entirely to those complaints, and then later, in response to criticism, said "What complaints? We had no complaints". Do we detect a teensy weensy inconsistency? Was the coverage smothered, and if so by whom? As they say, this one could run and run.

Visitors we had in numbers, from the Earl and Countess of Wessex to the very sporting Mayor of Manchester - who hit some clays when entreated to have a go. We had Richard Caborn MP (Minister for Sport) and Kate Hoey MP (not the minister for sport). You can read Kate's pithy pronouncements elsewhere in this issue, but a big thank you to her for her continuing support and interest. The Earl of Wessex provided a light moment for two pondering correspondents as they were musing about life in the entrance hall of the Lord Roberts building. "What are you two doing", said a breezy Earl as he swept through the vestibule. "Just wondering where our next story was coming from" came the reply. The Earl started visibly and shot upstairs.

But it was Caborn who provided the real forensic mystery. He suddenly appeared on site on the Monday without announcement, did a whistle stop tour in the hands of Alan Robertson the M2002 venue



The Mayor of Manchester paid a surprise visit.

(Photo: John Bloomfield)

manager, and disappeared without even a puff of smoke. Not even the three Chief Executives of the shooting organisations had known he was there, leading to some deserved hard words later with M2002 suits. What Robertson did confirm was that the Minister had asked not to speak to any of the shooters. Initially there was no information on how the Minister had entered the site but, rather confusingly, it was suggested that it had been by car through Siberia and along the Century butts, emerging from the markers tunnel.



Bisley's own policeman keeps up to date with the Sportsman's Association.

(Photo: Jim McAllister)

Somewhat unsurprisingly, according to other sources, this back door entry was denied by Caborn's office, which said that he had entered through the front gate past the well-behaved Sportsman's Association protesters. Whatever the truth, at least he came to visit, even if no one knew he was there. It provided a talking point for idle moments, with exotic theories being developed. If he did come in through the back door, then it must represent one of the very few examples of a politician sent to Siberia actually surviving to return to his post.

Enough of that sort of trivia and scuttlebut. Remember instead the smiles, the relief and a little bemusement on the faces of the winners. Remember the exhaustion and dejection from those who narrowly missed out. Remember lots of good humour from the also-rans and the stories of co-operation all round for those who arrived a tad short of the right equipment. That is what the "friendly" games are about. The facilities proved themselves to be world class and Bisley did not let them down, providing the unique atmosphere. Manchester can be proud of their Surrey outpost.

And for all those who were there as volunteer helpers or as spectators there will be the memory of an event that will almost certainly not happen again in England in their lifetime. Thank you Manchester for the opportunity of being able to be part of it. Who will forget the scenes of the closing ceremony with all the dignitaries standing in the teeming rain as the Manchester to Melbourne handover took place. Somehow that spoke volumes.

Finally, there is in my bag an enduring souvenir, a garment of sartorial splendour, a veritable 'piece de resistance' – a M2002 flat cap. I was told that you are supposed to wear it back to front. As I doubt that I will ever have the bravery (or foolhardiness) to wear it any which way round, that dress instruction can pass me by. All I need to go with it is a ferret... oh no I do not!



Volunteer David Cole models the Manchester Ferret Cap.

(Photo: John Knight)





The Fullbore Rifle Badge Match - Jane Messer, Alice Ogilvie and Ian Shaw receive their badges.  
(Photo: Jim McAllister)



The crowds gather at the Clay ranges.

(Photo: Lynne Johnson)



The crowd go wild as Mick Gault steps up for the 50m Pistol Singles Gold.  
(Photo: David Pollard)



England's Charlotte Kerwood wins Gold in the Women's Double Trap Singles Final.  
(Photo: David Pollard)



... and the Gold Medal for Most Pins on a Hat goes to Arthur Clark.  
(Photo: John Knight)



Richard Faulds in the Men's Double Trap Singles.

(Photo: John Knight)



The Sportsman's Association picket at the front gate.

(Photo: Jim McAllister)



Rajyavardhan Singh contributed two golds to the Indian team's tally of 14 gold medals in shooting.  
(Photo: David Pollard)

## FULLBORE RIFLE PAIRS RESULTS

			300	500	600	900	1000	TOTAL
1	Northern Ireland	Martin Millar	49.8	50.10	49.7	72.9	73.7	
		David Calvert	50.9	50.10	50.7	74.8	73.11	590.86
2	South Africa	Peter Bramley	50.9	49.6	49.6	73.7	71.8	
		David Dodds	50.10	50.7	50.10	74.12	73.10	589.85
3	England	Glyn Barnett	49.8	50.10	50.9	74.9	71.8	
		Jane Messer	50.8	50.9	50.9	74.9	70.5	588.84
4	Guernsey	Nick Mace	50.8	50.8	50.8	75.7	69.4	
		Peter Jory	50.7	49.6	49.6	74.9	69.6	585.69
5	Jersey	Colin Mallett	50.6	49.8	50.5	72.4	69.6	
		David le Quesne	50.8	47.6	49.5	75.9	74.6	585.63
6	Australia	Colin Cole	49.6	50.5	49.5	75.13	71.4	
		David Gardiner	50.6	49.6	47.5	71.7	73.8	584.65
7	New Zealand	Diane Collings	49.6	50.8	49.7	74.9	72.7	
		Mike Collings	50.8	49.7	49.3	74.6	66.5	582.66
8	Canada	Mohamed Rahman	49.6	49.6	49.3	72.5	74.5	
		Patrick Vamplew	50.6	49.8	48.6	74.8	67.7	581.60
9	Scotland	Alice Ogilvie	49.6	49.6	49.6	74.12	70.6	
		Ian Shaw	50.5	49.7	50.8	70.6	70.5	580.67
10	Wales	David Davies	48.7	49.6	49.6	74.9	71.5	
		Gabrielle O'Leary	50.7	49.5	50.7	73.8	67.5	580.65
11	Malaysia	Zulkeflee Hamsan	50.8	46.6	49.4	73.9	71.4	
		Zainal Abidin Md Zain	49.8	49.7	49.6	73.5	70.4	579.61
12	Guyana	Mahendra Persaud	43.2	50.8	49.5	74.10	73.5	
		Ransford Goodluck	50.9	50.9	48.4	73.6	67.3	577.61
13	Namibia	Christoffel Honey	50.7	50.7	47.1	74.3	66.2	
		Schalk van der Merwe	49.5	50.7	46.3	74.8	71.6	577.49
14	Bermuda	Sinclair Rayner	46.1	49.7	45.3	68.4	67.1	
		Nelson Simons	50.5	49.6	49.6	72.6	65.4	560.43
15	Falkland Islands	Derek Pettersson	49.5	47.4	47.4	69.4	68.2	
		Gareth Goodwin	47.1	48.6	48.5	70.6	67.4	560.41
16	Barbados	Karl Branch	47.1	49.7	50.3	68.3	69.5	
		Louis King	44.1	49.5	45.1	72.6	67.4	560.36
17	Jamaica	David Rickman	50.5	48.4	44.1	73.8	72.2	
		Carl Smith	47.3	47.5	46.5	69.2	62.3	558.38
18	Trinidad & Tobago	Carl Awong	46.4	47.2	49.6	66.1	66.4	
		Norris Gomez	50.8	46.3	49.7	72.6	64.1	555.42
19	Isle of Man	Craig Leece	49.6	46.2	44.3	73.7	67.2	
		Charlie Kennish	50.5	46.3	46.3	66.3	65.4	552.38
20	Malawi	Jaggi Sohal	44.1	48.2	47.4	71.5	60.2	
		Godfrey Simbwa	44.2	45.1	44.0	67.2	63.1	533.20
21	St Helena	Colin Knipe	13.0	44.2	27.1	59.3	55.0	
		Reginald Legg	29.1	45.4	39.1	53.1	61.4	425.17



## FULLBORE RIFLE INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

			300	500	600	300	500	600	900	1000	TOTAL
1	David Calvert	NIR	35.6	35.5	35.3	50.9	50.10	50.8	75.11	74.10	404.62
2	David Dodds	RSA	34.4	34.4	35.4	50.7	50.9	50.8	75.13	75.4	403.53
3	Diane Collings	NZL	34.5	35.7	35.6	50.5	50.5	49.4	74.11	75.11	402.54
4	David le Quesne	JER	35.5	34.4	35.5	50.4	50.8	50.9	73.9	73.6	400.50
5	Colin Mallett	JER	34.3	35.4	35.3	50.7	50.7	50.8	74.9	72.7	400.48
6	Glyn Barnett	ENG	35.6	35.5	35.6	50.9	50.9	50.9	73.7	71.8	399.59
7	Peter Jory	GUE	35.6	35.5	35.4	49.7	50.9	50.7	72.6	73.7	399.51
8	Zulkeflee Hamsan	MAS	34.4	35.4	35.4	49.5	50.8	50.5	73.7	73.6	399.43
9	Colin Cole	AUS	35.3	35.7	34.4	50.8	50.8	49.5	74.8	71.6	398.49
10	Peter Bramley	RSA	35.4	35.5	35.5	50.8	49.9	49.5	75.7	70.5	398.48
11	Martin Millar	NIR	35.7	34.3	34.4	50.8	50.7	50.6	72.7	72.8	397.50
12	Ian Shaw	SCO	34.3	35.4	35.4	46.5	50.10	50.9	74.8	73.6	397.49
13	Nick Mace	GUE	35.5	35.4	35.5	49.7	50.8	49.8	73.10	70.6	396.53
14	Alice Ogilvie	SCO	34.4	34.6	35.6	49.7	50.7	50.8	74.12	69.3	395.53
15	Jane Messer	ENG	35.6	35.4	34.6	49.6	50.9	50.10	71.7	71.4	395.52
16	David Gardiner	AUS	34.5	35.5	35.4	50.9	50.7	50.8	71.6	70.8	395.52
17	Norris Gomez	TRI	35.4	34.3	35.3	48.5	50.6	50.5	73.8	70.7	395.41
18	David Davies	WAL	34.2	35.4	34.4	49.6	50.6	49.7	72.6	72.5	395.40
19	Patrick Vamplew	CAN	35.6	35.6	33.4	49.6	48.6	50.8	74.8	70.7	394.51
20	Zainal Md Zain	MAS	35.5	35.3	34.4	49.5	50.5	50.7	73.10	68.6	394.45
21	Mike Collings	NZL	35.4	35.4	35.4	50.8	47.3	50.6	70.8	71.4	393.41
22	Gabrielle O'Leary	WAL	34.5	35.6	34.3	50.7	49.5	50.5	73.9	66.3	391.43
23	Mahendra Persaud	GUY	33.3	35.4	35.4	47.4	48.2	50.5	74.8	69.7	391.37
24	Gareth Goodwin	FAI	35.4	35.5	33.2	49.5	49.6	50.4	68.4	71.9	390.39
25	Edward Legei	KEN	35.2	35.4	30.3	49.7	50.5	49.5	73.5	69.5	390.36
26	Mohamed Rahman	CAN	34.4	33.2	35.5	49.6	50.6	49.5	69.6	70.7	389.41
27	Ransford Goodluck	GUY	35.7	33.5	33.2	48.8	50.5	48.5	71.1	71.6	389.39
28	Craig Leece	IOM	31.1	34.3	34.1	50.7	49.5	50.6	72.5	69.7	389.35
29	David Rickman	JAM	34.2	34.4	35.5	47.2	50.8	49.5	71.6	69.3	389.35
30	Carl Awong	TRI	34.3	35.5	34.5	47.6	49.4	50.5	70.4	69.2	388.34
31	Christoffel Honey	NAM	33.1	33.2	33.4	50.6	49.6	46.2	71.6	69.6	384.33
32	Schalk van der Merwe	NAM	33.2	33.2	32.1	45.2	47.5	49.4	72.9	67.4	378.29
33	Nelson Simons	BER	34.4	34.4	35.3	48.5	49.5	50.5	66.4	61.3	377.33
34	Carl Smith	JAM	33.4	35.5	34.4	47.5	47.3	44.3	71.6	65.4	376.34
35	Benjamin Mason	SAM	33.3	34.4	33.3	48.4	47.3	48.5	67.2	64.4	374.28
36	Sinclair Rayner	BER	32.4	33.1	34.3	47.4	49.2	48.6	69.5	59.3	371.28
37	Karl Branch	BAR	35.1	33.4	35.4	48.5	49.5	46.2	65.3	57.2	368.26
38	Jaggi Sohal	MAW	32.1	32.2	33.2	45.1	46.1	44.1	70.5	65.4	367.17
39	Derek Pettersson	FAI	28.1	35.1	35.3	44.1	48.3	49.6	70.4	54.5	363.24
40	Charlie Kennish	IOM	33.3	33.4	34.2	46.4	47.3	49.3	70.7	46.1	358.27
41	Godfrey Simbwa	MAW	27.0	31.1	33.1	43.4	45.4	45.3	68.4	58.1	350.18
42	Colin Knipe	SHE	29.1	32.1	34.3	38.0	45.4	43.2	64.3	54.1	339.15
43	Reginald Legg	SHE	20.0	26.1	26.0	35.0	39.1	39.1	62.1	60.3	307.07
44	Louis King	BAR	28.3	35.2	33.3	00.0	00.0	00.0	67.5	65.4	228.17





The Northern Ireland pair at work on Century.  
(Photo: Lynne Johnson)



Fullbore Pairs winners David Calvert and Martin Millar of Northern Ireland  
(Photo: Lynne Johnson)



Fullbore Pairs Victory Ceremony - South Africa (Silver), Northern Ireland (Gold) and England (Bronze).  
(Photo: John Bloomfield)



HRH Prince Edward returned to watch the Fullbore Individual Final and to congratulate the winners.  
(Photo: Karen Robertson)



HRH Prince Edward with South Africa's double silver medallist David Dodds.  
(Photo: John Knight)



David Calvert is chaired from the range in the traditional manner.  
(Photo: John Knight)



David Calvert is chaired to the podium by his fellow competitors.  
(Photo: Lynne Johnson)



David Dodds, David Calvert and Diane Collings show off their medals.  
(Photo: John Knight)



# BBC WRONG TO TURN BACK ON SHOOTING STARS

by Kate Hoey

*The Daily Telegraph, Monday 12 August 2002*



Kate Hoey MP pictured at Bisley during the Commonwealth Games

*(Photo: John Knight)*

As the debate continues over if, when and where this country might host the Olympic Games, one piece of the jigsaw is already in place. The National Shooting Centre at Bisley, Surrey, would be the venue for all shooting events whether the games were awarded to London or Manchester.

The home of shooting since 1890, it has had £6 million of Lottery money invested over the past two years and is now a state-of-the-art centre for all the shooting disciplines. The new clay ranges are first-class and the recently opened Lord Roberts Block has the finest pistol ranges in the world, as well as media and corporate facilities to match anything at the Sydney Olympics.

It was a superb venue for the Commonwealth Games shooting events. However, unless you were lucky enough to be there you wouldn't know any of this - that is if you relied on the BBC. Their coverage of shooting was scandalous.

Blink and you probably missed it. The 70 BBC-accredited staff at Bisley were dedicated to their job. It wasn't their fault that the footage used on air was scant. The nightly three-hour review of the day barely mentioned the sport and yet it was among our most successful.

Of course shooting sports are difficult for television, even though the exploding coloured clays now make trap events visually easier. Not that this prevented Australia, Canada and New Zealand from having maximum television coverage, or India showing the finals live. At the very least the BBC could have covered the medal ceremonies of the British winners.

Shooting had the third-largest number of competitors overall at the Games, just behind swimming and athletics. England's team of 37 did well, winning 18 medals, five of them gold.

Whoever took the editorial decision to minimise the coverage needs to explain why they did so. Why was there no interview with the Games' youngest gold medallist, 15-year-old Charlotte Kerwood, who triumphed in the women's double trap?

It was particularly shameful that Mick Gault's three gold medals were not given more exposure. Here is a sportsman who has now won eight Commonwealth gold medals and, at 48, is a legend in pistol shooting. Gault has never been invited to the BBC's Sports Review of the Year, nor has he had any recognition in the Honours List for his many years of winning gold against the best in the world.

I felt privileged to watch him win the 50 metres pistol singles - but as Land of Hope and Glory rang out, I was not alone in feeling angry at the shabby way we have treated decent men and women who had their sport taken from them by the 1997 Firearms Act.

Since then the pistol shooters of England, Scotland and Wales have been unable to fire a single round and have had to go abroad to train and compete. Yet the Home Office exemption meant that the very same activity took place safely for the two weeks of the Games.

So a sport which is illegal in this country, ostensibly on grounds of public safety, became temporarily legal because without shooting being offered Manchester would not have been eligible to host the Games. In 1997 some of us argued in Parliament for exemptions

to allow the sport to continue in safe surroundings at specialist centres like Bisley.

As a London MP, I know that in some areas it is easier to buy an illegal gun than it is to find a taxi in the rain, which made the sight of competitors' pistols being escorted from Heathrow to Bisley in armoured cars farcical. If only the same effort went into tackling armed drug dealers.

Ironically, by allowing target pistol shooting to take place the Home Office have demonstrated that they too recognise that the sport can be pursued safely. That is why, now that the Games are over, the Home Office must review the ban and allow competitive shooting to begin again.

This is what the peaceful demonstrators who kept a vigil at the entrance to Bisley throughout the Games were calling for. Surely any reasonable person can see that target pistols can be stored safely in the secure areas at Bisley under the scrutiny of the Surrey Constabulary to allow training to take place.

The general secretary of the International Shooting Sport Federation, Horst Schreiber, who watched Gault

being presented with his medal by Prince Edward, praised the unique facilities at Bisley and said he looked forward to the World Championships being held there in the future.

The successful organisation at Bisley gives the Government an opportunity to admit that they got it wrong - the ban on handguns was put through on a tide of 'emotional correctness' and should be amended. It saddens me that all over the world democratic governments have more trust in their citizens to participate in one of the oldest Olympic sports than we do. Since the ban, gun crime has increased. Only the law-abiding citizen has suffered, while those who want illegal guns can easily obtain them.

Gault and the other target pistol shooters have shown remarkable discipline and dignity despite the bias shown against them. The country should be proud of them and their achievements, and so should the BBC.

Reproduced from the Daily Telegraph of 12 August 2002 with the kind permission of Kate Hoey and the Daily Telegraph.

## **GUN LAW OFF-TARGET**

*by The Daily Telegraph, Tuesday 13 August 2002*

On the streets of Britain's biggest cities, an illegal handgun can be bought for as little as £50.

The black-market supply of these weapons has increased enormously since the break-up of the Soviet Union, and changes in European frontier regulations have made it much easier to smuggle them into the country. As Kate Hoey, the Labour MP for Vauxhall, wrote in our Sport section yesterday, there are some inner-city areas in which it is now easier to buy an illegal gun than to find a taxi in the rain.

What a farce it was, therefore, that guns belonging to competitors in the shooting events at the Commonwealth Games were transported from Heathrow Airport to the National Shooting Centre at Bisley, Surrey, in armoured cars. Did anybody seriously believe that criminals would risk ambushing the competitors for their guns, while there were already more than enough illegal weapons in the country to keep the underworld armed to the teeth for at least the next 10 years?

The truth is that the Firearms Act, 1997, which outlawed the ownership of most handguns in Britain, did nothing to discourage their illegal use. Indeed, the number of crimes in which handguns were carried increased by no less than 40 per cent in the two years after the Act became law.

The only people who suffered from the ban, introduced by the Major government in an attempt to

be seen to be doing something after the Dunblane massacre, were those who owned and used their guns lawfully.

Among the hardest hit were Britain's competitive shooters, who proved again at the Commonwealth Games that they are the equals of any in the world. England alone won 18 medals, five of them gold, while Northern Ireland won two golds, and Scotland and Wales five medals between them.

The effect of the Act on these competitors has been to force them abroad to train. This has not only been hugely expensive and inconvenient for most of them, putting them at a great competitive disadvantage. It has also been a national humiliation.

Bisley has been the home of shooting since 1890. Newly modernised, after the investment of some £6 million of lottery money, it has some of the finest pistol ranges in the world. Yet Britain has been exposed by the Act as one of the very few countries in the world that does not trust its law-abiding citizens to own handguns.

As Miss Hoey argued so powerfully yesterday, the renovation of Bisley and Britain's successes at the Games should give the Government its cue to amend a hastily introduced, ill thought-out and unjust law.

Daily Telegraph Editorial of 13 August 2002: with the kind permission of the Daily Telegraph





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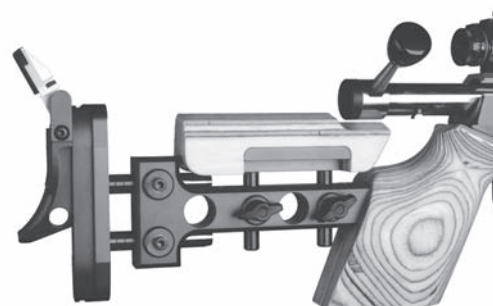
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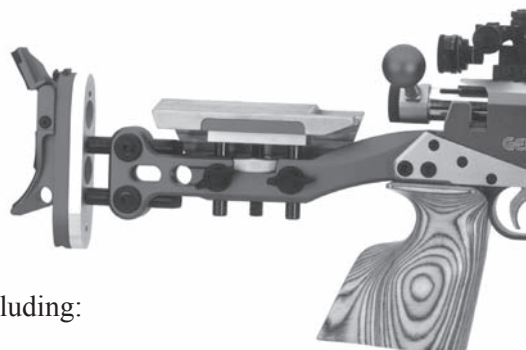
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# PRESENTATION OF NRA TROPHIES TO THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON

by Karen Robertson

On Thursday 3 October, the annual Presentation of International Shooting Trophies took place at the Mansion House in London. The ceremony of Presentation of International Shooting Trophies to the Lord Mayor of London for safe keeping dates from the last century; it has certainly happened since 1891 and perhaps even earlier than this. The trophies used to be paraded through the streets of London in an open carriage and then left in the Mansion House. Nowadays the trophies are presented but then returned to Bisley. The National Match Trophy is no longer presented due to the problems of transporting it to London; a framed photograph is used instead.

Winning teams attending this year included the Great Britain Kolapore team captained by Anton Aspin, the England Elcho team captained by Stuart Collings, the England Mackinnon team captained by John Jackman and, for the first time, the Ireland National team captained by Major Alwyn McLean. Also present were the Athelings team with their Commandant Major Simon Fraser, and the UK Cadet Rifle Team to the Channel Islands with their Commandant Major Ron Cross.

The Presentation is a comparatively informal occasion. John Jackman, as Chairman of the NRA, said a few words explaining the historical significance of the occasion, and extolling the successes of British shooters over the year. The Lord Mayor of London, Michael Oliver, welcomed the teams to the Mansion House, expressing his pleasure at continuing a tradition demonstrative of the City's continuing links with the Association. The Lord Mayor his Sheriff, Martin Clarke, met each team in turn; the Captains introduced their teams and gave a brief history of each match and trophy.

Afterwards the teams were treated to a guided tour around the spectacular rooms of the Mansion House by the Lord Mayor and Sheriff.

The Presentation ended in time for lunch in town. The English teams made their way to the HQ of the Honourable Artillery Company, responding to an invitation regularly issued to follow the Mansion House visit. The Irish, having no precedent to fall back on, repaired to a local hostelry to continue the celebration of their win.

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Ireland Captain Alwyn McLean discusses the National Match Trophy with the Lord Mayor.



The Lord Mayor is introduced to the UK Cadet Rifle Team to the Channel Islands.



The Lord Mayor and the Sheriff meet the Athelings Commandant Major Simon Fraser.



The Athelings wait in line to be presented.

*(All photos: Karen Robertson)*



George Barnard, David Friend and John Knight of the England Elcho team.



Paul Monaghan of the England Elcho team with the Elcho trophy.



John Jackman introduces his Mackinnon team to the Lord Mayor.

# THE FORM 6 SAGA

*by Carol Painting*

Once upon a time an enthusiastic British shooter could book a cheap flight to the USA, be patient through UK check-in procedures, and that was enough for a shooting holiday on the other side of the pond. On arrival, customs would invariably wave you through with good wishes for the shooting. Sadly, those days have gone.

Now, a visitor who wishes to take a firearm into the USA must have a valid Form 6. This must be accompanied by a valid hunting licence or invitation to an event.

The information supplied with the Form 6 seems clear enough. When I applied, the instructions said the form must be posted in triplicate, but now a single faxed copy is required, which makes much more sense. The form information says you should apply 60 days before needing the permit.

These are the main points I discovered earlier this year, but I do not claim that this list is comprehensive.

- Do not expect the Bureau of ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) to contact you if there are any problems with your application. I had to make several telephone calls. On each occasion they told me something new, which was not covered by the information with the form.
- Make sure the invitation is issued on headed paper from a "national, state or local firearms trade organisation". Printed email messages are not sufficient, nor letters from the organising club of an NRA registered event. Robbie Roberts (nrawc@raton.com) from the Whittington Center was very helpful in my case.
- Make sure you specify a model, even if there is no particular name. Use a generic description like single shot, bolt action, target rifle. If you put "none", they will delete it on the grounds that it might be an assault rifle.
- If you can, supply a fax number as well as a telephone number (include the country code). Your Form 6 may have to be faxed to get it to you in time.

The Bureau of ATF web site is <http://www.atf.treas.gov>. You can download a PDF version of the Form 6 with its instructions. There is also a list of frequently asked questions, and another document about ammunition.

The history of my application is:

- |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 March | Posted application with copy of UK FAC, printout of email invitation and covering letter requesting an email confirmation of receipt.                                                                                                                           |
| 6 May   | Telephoned Bureau of ATF to check progress. They said the email invitation was not acceptable, but a letter could be sent direct to them.                                                                                                                       |
| 6 May   | Emailed event organisers to request letter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 7 May   | Organisers sent letter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 14 May  | Telephoned Bureau of ATF to check progress. Left message for the person dealing with my application.                                                                                                                                                            |
| 21 May  | Telephoned Bureau of ATF to check progress. Left message for the person dealing with my application.                                                                                                                                                            |
| 29 May  | Telephoned Bureau of ATF to check progress. Spoke to the person dealing with my application! The letter from the event organisers was not acceptable but they would accept a fax from the NRA. They would also fax my form to me.                               |
| 29 May  | Emailed organisers to request help.                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 30 May  | NRA faxed information about event to Bureau of ATF.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 30 May  | Telephone message late at night from the Bureau of ATF requesting my fax number.                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 31 May  | Faxed Bureau of ATF with a friend's number because I would not be home to switch on my computer.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3 June  | Telephoned Bureau of ATF to say that fax had not arrived over the weekend. They had been busy. Gave my number; they assured me that the form would be faxed within half an hour. Eventually arrived after nearly four hours. The second rifle had been deleted. |
| 4 June  | Telephoned Bureau of ATF to ask why rifle had been deleted, and why the invitation they had finally deemed acceptable was not attached. The rifle was considered unacceptable because I had not specified a model number. The invitation was not to hand.       |
| 4 June  | Emailed organisers to request invitation on NRA paper.                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5 June  | Invitation letter arrived by fax.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## Epilogue

On arrival at Denver, I presented my documentation to the Customs Officer, who said: "What's this?".



# CHANNEL ISLANDS TOUR REPORT 2002

*by Alastair Brown*

It was a great privilege to be invited to Captain the 2002 NRA Team to the Channel Islands. I would particularly like to thank Jonathan Holmes and Ian Mollan for fulfilling their team management roles of Vice-Captain and Adjutant, and of course David Calvert for agreeing to be Chief Coach. All team members shot well and toured hard, and we enjoyed much success. I would also like to record my thanks to Peter Sirett and Cherry Le Poidevin for the organisation they did for us in Guernsey, and to Cliff Mallett for co-ordinating things for us in Jersey. Here is team diarist Alastair Brown's recollection of events.

*Rupert Clark*

## **LMRA Match**

The NRA Team to the Channel Islands commenced its highly successful 2002 tour with a match against the London and Middlesex Rifle Association, which took place on Tuesday 28 May, at Bisley Camp. A team of eight plus two coaches and a reserve pair shot a Queens II under NRA match conditions. Victory went to the NRA Team, with Ian Davison and Kris Cressy setting the early pace with scores of 149. More importantly we were able to have a final run through of team shooting procedure, and set our thoughts on the task ahead. The match was followed by a fantastic dinner in the LMRA, which set us all up very nicely for the next day's short drive to Poole and impending ferry journey to the other side of the English Channel to our first destination, Guernsey. Our thanks are due to Robert Stafford and Roger Hanley for putting on this match for us - it set us up well.

## **On to Guernsey**

On the morning of Wednesday 29 May, the team set off in five cars, each laden to the roof with rifles, bags and wet weather gear, including towels, for sunny Poole, to catch the ferry to Guernsey. Following a short trip across the Channel, we disembarked to be met by some of the Guernsey Rifle Association, who relieved us of all our rifles and determined to meet us at the range in two days time. This would allow us all a days rest to recover from our journey, and do a spot of essential acclimatisation.

## **Intrepid Explorers**

The Peninsula Hotel, which was very quickly re-christened the 'Portcullis', provided perfectly adequate accommodation for the team over the following three days, including a swimming pool and easy access to the beach, all run by enthusiastic and helpful staff. Following a short-lived burst of unpacking, the team re-grouped at the hotel bar to discuss the important matter of the evening's activities, an event that became an essential part of the daily team routine henceforth. A certain amount of interest in eating out was generated, and armed with

a very out-of-date copy of the Good Beer Guide from 1997, a small group of six team members set out enthusiastically in search of a particular pub approximately two miles away (we had to lie to the Vice-Captain and told him it was a five minute walk in order to coax him out of the Portcullis) in which to dine, leaving most of the rest of the team to commence the first of many interesting encounters with the Maitre'd and his international team of staff. It was during this foray into the Guernsey wilderness that Jonathan Holmes first expressed his concern for the general map-reading skills of certain team members, but after a mere half hour of brisk walking we were to arrive at Chandlers Hotel in Vale. Unfortunately, it turned out that Alastair Brown's pre-warning phone call to the pub staff alerting them of a wandering band of hungry shooters had been interpreted as a hoax by the staff, and there was apparently limited chance of food. Following a rapid flurry of smooth talking the bar-steward, and mumblings about the miles we had travelled especially to sample their fine bar food, we were finally able to coax out of the kitchen some steak and ale pies and fish dishes, washed down with a perfectly adequate selection of real ales. Future 'tourees' should note that there is a fully equipped and functioning skittles alley to the rear of the pub, which in conjunction with ample beer supplies became highly amusing as the evening wore on. The Vice-Captain subsequently decided to return under his own steam to the Portcullis, and confirmation of his successful return to the hotel was only confirmed by his presence at breakfast, as we had clearly missed him en route in our taxi back to the hotel.

## **Anyone for Golf?**

For the first full day in Guernsey - a well-deserved day off for the team already - we split off into smaller groups to pursue a variety of activities on the island. David Calvert managed to whip up some enthusiasm for a round of golf, as six or so team members embarked on a mammoth divot-creation exercise around the local greenery. Other members went off to look for horse riding, and the remainder predictably headed straight into the main town in search of disposable cameras and to check out what options were available for the evening's entertainment.

## **Guernsey Meeting**

On Friday 31 May, we set off early from the Portcullis for our first day of tour shooting at Guernsey Rifle Range, where we were to become once again reunited with our rifles and prepare for the main match against the island to be held the next day. Guernsey's rifle range is set on the north-east corner of the island, and firing is done from raised firing points, which go back to a distance of 600 yards onto targets backing onto the sea. This means that whilst not shooting, one might



Guernsey Range.



NRA Team with GRC after the match.



A happy Rupert Dix after his 150 in Guernsey.

### NRA vs Guernsey

Alistair Brown	49.4	50.8	50.3	149.15
Ian Mollan	50.5	49.7	50.7	149.19
Ian Davison	50.6	48.5	44.5	142.16
Jonathan Holmes	50.7	48.6	49.6	147.19
Stuart O'Brien	47.5	50.6	48.5	145.16
Richard Shouler	50.5	49.4	49.7	148.16
Rupert Dix	50.8	50.6	50.9	150.23
Lizzie Smallwood	48.7	50.6	47.4	145.17
				<b>NRA 1175.141</b>
				<b>GRC 1157.107</b>

### NRA vs Jersey

Alistair Brown	49.6	50.6	49.7	148.19
Ian Mollan	50.3	49.2	50.5	149.10
Ian Davison	49.7	45.5	50.7	144.19
Jonathan Holmes	49.6	49.7	48.5	146.18
Stuart O'Brien	49.7	50.4	49.5	148.16
Richard Shouler	49.5	50.8	49.6	148.19
Rupert Dix	48.7	49.4	49.6	146.17
Mick Buckley	48.7	50.7	47.4	145.18
				<b>NRA 1174.136</b>
				<b>JRA 1168.126</b>



Jonathan Holmes displays the latest fashion shooting trousers.



The team in Jersey.

(All photos: Rupert Clark)



be required to stand at one of the look-out posts and stare avidly out to sea, warning the range officer about occasional passing ships and fishing boats. With the aid of Dr Mollan's extra strength binoculars this proved to be a fairly entertaining pastime, especially given the close proximity of the beach in the opposite direction!

Individual scores for the team from the first day's shooting were on average high, due to a moderate strength, but fairly constant and easy-to-read easterly wind. Jonathan Holmes scored the only 100 of the day with 12 V bulls, winning the Parker Tankard, with three members of the team close behind scoring 99s. On the back of good all-round scores from the LMRA match, this made team selection for the match the next day increasingly challenging, and Rupert Clark had to admit that based on gun scores alone he would not have made it into the team as a shooter. Most of us greeted this news with a smirk, as we hadn't fully appreciated that he had even brought his rifles on tour. That evening we were treated to a Vin d'honneur in Castle Cornet, by St Peter Port harbour.

### **Guernsey Match**

After another entertaining evening around the island, the NRA Team congregated at the range for the second day of shooting in Guernsey, commencing with the Guernsey Can at 500 yards and 600 yards in the morning, followed by the match against the Guernsey Rifle Association in the afternoon. This time three team members - Rick Shouler, Ian Davison, and David Calvert, - all managed to score clean 100's with good V counts in the morning, and Stuart O'Brien with a 99 appeared to have regained some of the form which had eluded him on the previous day. The final team selection was made and announced during lunch. The course of fire for the team match in the afternoon was a team of eight shooting a coached Queens II on two targets, with a self-coaching reserve pair shooting alongside. Despite some jovial pre-match banter, it was clear from the outset that the NRA team was benefiting from its well-practiced match organisational skills, and took the lead by the end of the first range, scoring 394.47 ex 400. This form continued at 500 yards, with the NRA Team scoring another 394 ex 400, this time with 48 V bulls. By the start of 600 yards it was clear that we had a tremendous lead on the host team that we managed to maintain. The Guernsey Rifle Club finished on 1,157.107 and the NRA Team made 1,175.141 ex 1,200. Rupert Dix top scored with 150.23, a very pleasing result for his first appearance at this level. Ian Mollan and Alastair Brown followed up with 149s with 19 and 15 V bulls, respectively. Mick Buckley and Tim Bedwell worked their magic as the NRA Team Reserve Pair, and won their match with 290.26 ex 300. After a joint dinner with Guernsey Rifle Club in the evening, the next day saw us packing our belongings and heading off from Guernsey in high spirits, hoping for a third and final tour victory in Jersey.

### **On to Jersey**

Having had plenty of sunshine and at most a slight breeze during our shooting in Guernsey, we were slightly dismayed to arrive to near-winter conditions in Jersey on the Sunday morning. We arrived at Crabbe Range and shot the Sunday afternoon of the Jersey Spring Meeting, as preparation for the match that would follow on the Monday. Alastair Brown came second in the Crabbe 3 competition with 99.12, and several other NRA team members achieved scores of 98. The Crabbe 4 competition saw three scores of 100 in the afternoon, with the total average team score being a 97.10. Clearly with the entire team on form, selection for the match the next day was once again going to be causing our Captain another headache.

### **Jersey Match**

For the match versus the Jersey Rifle Association the following day, Rupert made some minor changes to the team of eight from the Guernsey match, moving Mick Buckley to the main team, and putting Lizzie Smallwood in the reserves alongside Tim Bedwell, Kris Cressy and Mike Wood. Lizzie promptly shot a 50.4 at 300 yards versus Mick's 48.7, which was greeted by applause from behind the firing point and jeering at the Captain. For the rest of the first detail the NRA team didn't quite have the form that we had found in the Guernsey match, and we finished 300 yards with 391.48 ex 400. This prompted a need to remain focused on the task ahead, and stick to our well-rehearsed team match drill and organisation that we had practised during the cold and wet weekends in March and April back at Bisley. We gained an extra point at 500 yards to put in a score of 392.43. The reserve four had a cracking 500 yards, scoring 198.23 ex 200, easily propelling them into the lead versus their opponents for the final range. The NRA team of eight remained consistent at 600 yards, and finished with 391.45, to win the match by six points, scoring 1,174.136, practically the same as our score during the Guernsey match two days earlier. The NRA team reserve four also won their match, and this concluded a very successful tour, leaving us undefeated in every match against the LMRA, Guernsey and Jersey. On the evening of the match in Jersey we were treated to yet another fine meal at a joint dinner with the JRA. This was followed by another very well-deserved night out on the town, and more uncontrolled disco dancing.

### **Final Day and Home**

Unfortunately the Jersey weather deteriorated, and most of our activities for our final day off had to be indoor-based, although some team members were lucky enough to get invited to the inaugural Royal Jersey Potato-vodka tasting session at Casa di Cottillard, albeit for breakfast on the Sunday morning. The rest of the day was spent visiting various parts of the island and getting rained on. On the following morning we bid farewell to Jersey and boarded the ferry for the return journey back to the mainland, feeling victorious, refreshed and invigorated.

# WHAT ABOUT TRAINING?

*by Bob Maddison, National Coach, Moving Target Shooting*

After the July Meeting, Bisley suddenly goes dead! Yes, there is a minor revival for the August small-bore meeting and then a few club matches in the Autumn, but after that there is a sudden absence of fullbore shooters. So what happened to all those resolutions to do better next year? Can action really be postponed until June? The stark answer is **no**. If you want to see a real improvement in your shooting, then you must consider it to be a year round activity. Just turning up at Bisley and shooting a few matches, hoping to win the Queen's or the Grand, simply is not good enough for a serious shooter. So what must be done to improve things?

## **Training is not just about shooting matches**

Training is all about trying to sort out those problems that you experience in a match. Training is **not** about just shooting another match course of fire. This means putting a lot of effort into your sport between matches. I come to Bisley regularly throughout the year and find, during the winter months, an absence of shooters on Century and Stickledown. Yet the Pistol Galleries, the Sporting Rifle complex and the Bisley Field Target air rifle ranges are in full use every weekend throughout the year. Where are the match and target rifle shooters? Yes, I know the excuses: "I can't use my caravan"; "It is expensive to hire a firing point/marker"; "It is cold, wet, windy"; "I don't want to wear out my barrel".

These are but excuses, not reasons, for not shooting regularly throughout the year. Most members live within three hours drive of Bisley, many much closer, so the first excuse is gone. The cost of a firing point, even including the marker fee, is still not that high in relation to the other costs of shooting. The weather is often as good for shooting as it is sometimes in July. Training does **not** require you to use that pristine barrel; you can use your worn out spare rifle!

Your first task is to set yourself an achievable objective for the coming year. This must **not** be to win a particular match or aggregate. In shooting we share with golf an advantage over most other sports in that our personal performance has its own indicator which is totally independent of our fellow competitors. Just as a competent novice golfer can have a round with Tiger Woods, and both can enjoy it and benefit from the experience, any competent novice can shoot alongside the Queen's Prize Winner and enjoy it. Scores, as such, do not matter. Yet it is also perhaps too easy to set score objectives that are unrealistic. In match and target rifle shooting, the match is short and the highest possible score is numerically low. Thus it is tempting to set an HPS as an objective for the season. Unless you are already scoring HPSs, this would be foolish. One squally rain shower during the match and your objective is blown. Much better to say that you will average 73 (ex 75) or you will not shoot below 72 or that you will average 50% V bulls. Beware of such average figures because these could lead you to going absent when match conditions are not perfect!

Likewise, you must set yourself an objective for each training session. It is best to break down the act of firing a shot into its component parts and choose to concentrate on one of these. The typical actions are: "get into position"; "read the wind"; "set up a stable sight picture"; "release the shot"; "follow through". You might also add to this: "maintain concentration throughout the session". You might think of other actions to add to this list. If you start a training session with the principle objective to improve on one of these, you will do well.

So how do you train? Obviously you will have some opportunity to prepare for a match with your club. This can legitimately be in the form of a competitive match. But for informal training, the last thing you should look for is the score.

## **Train regularly on the range at Bisley**

During the winter months you can have an entire range to yourself. There are many fine days when shooting can be a real pleasure; there are many days when shooting is a real challenge. So why not shoot during a gale? No, you might not be putting every shot into the V, but if you are learning to read the wind, this can only be of benefit to you on a calmer day. There is no real reason why you should not shoot alone without even a marker. The only real disadvantage is that you will not get any feedback from the target to help you read the wind. But think about it. Fire 60 shots (or more) then walk down (Century of course!) to examine and patch your target. What does your group look like? If it is elongated horizontally, then you are not coping with the wind and so, even without a marker, you have learned something. Of course, if you have a marker, or if there are group of say four shooters, things can be much better. Two shooters on the firing point, one marking and one walking down to the butts is near ideal and minimises the cost to the individual. Four of you can get in a lot of shooting in one day like that.

In accordance with the principle that for informal training, scores are irrelevant, you must learn to concentrate solely on technique (this presupposes that your sights are adjusted to put every shot somewhere near the centre of the target). By making the score irrelevant, it is easier to concentrate on the trigger, hold or whatever. This also raises the more general problem of concentration. In shooting sports, momentary loss of concentration is the major cause of loose shots: those out in the white, or worse! Thus you must make yourself fire more shots during a training session than you would in any match. This is the only way to improve your ability to concentrate. Just think about the small-bore shooters. Their typical match is 60 shots not 15. So why not emulate them?

## **Take up small-bore shooting**

There can be few people in Britain who live more than 20 minutes drive from a small-bore club. If you need



help in finding one, contact the NSRA. Most clubs have an indoor range, but many also have access to an outdoor range at 50 yards/metres or even 100 yards. Club rifles are generally available, and ammunition at cost, which is a fraction of the cost of any fullbore ammunition. If you want your own rifle, a second hand BSA International will leave enough change from £100 to pay for many months of ammunition, and will out shoot you for some time to come. When you do move up market, there are plenty of more modern second hand prone rifles available at very reasonable prices. There can be no excuse no to get started.

I hear: "it is boring"; "the rifle/trigger/sling feels different"; "there is no wind indoors"; "there is no recoil" etc. The truth is that any prone shooting can be boring (all those central 5s/10s!), but the real problem is a loss of concentration. If you have your own small-bore rifle, it will not be too difficult to have the trigger set up to match your fullbore rifle, nor is it too difficult to alter the woodwork to bring it even closer into line. If you have a rifle like the older UIT Standard Rifle (eg the Anschutz 1407) then it will have a stock very like that of a current target rifle. If you can shoot on an outdoor range, you will find that at 50 metres, the windage correction is not too different from that needed on a fullbore rifle at the longer ranges. The different recoil is not quite what you might think. Because the fullbore rifle has a much higher muzzle velocity, most of the perceived recoil occurs after the bullet has left the barrel. The small-bore rifle is much more sensitive to variations in hold or poor follow-through than its big brother. This may be one reason why some fullbore shooters find small-bore so difficult. The fact is that if you can cope with the effects of the recoil of the diminutive .22, you should have little problem with a 7.62. Flinch is a different matter though!

The real advantage of taking up small-bore is that you can continue to train, near to home, throughout the year. The other big plus is the longer course of fire. This is typically 40 or 60 shots, and will be a big help to you in maintaining full concentration in a 15 shot match at Bisley. When I look at the Bisley score boards, I see that many of the top target rifle shooters also figure prominently on the small-bore score board in the August meeting. These are the shooters who became addicted to small-bore shooting and decided to take it just a little beyond the training for fullbore concept.

### **What about air rifle shooting?**

Do I hear "pull the other one?" The fact is that ISSF air rifle shooting (from the standing position) is technically more demanding than cartridge rifle shooting, and relatively speaking, modern air rifles and their ammunition are more precise than their cartridge equivalents.

Of course a match air rifle has a very sensitive trigger. It is also virtually recoilless. Until you have fired a modern match air rifle using pre-compressed air, you have never experienced using a precision shooting machine. Nevertheless there are plenty of recoiling air rifles that make ideal fullbore trainers. The NSRA stock

a starter pack with air rifle, pellet catcher, targets and pellets for under £200. The rifle is complete with sights and is spring operated. It feels just like a fullbore rifle to shoot. This type of air rifle has a very significant perceived recoil, most of which is caused by the piston reaching the end of its travel **after** the pellet has left the muzzle. Sounds familiar? Although the trigger is quite good, it is fairly heavy and any fullbore shooter would feel at home with it. The only problem is that most air rifles are **not** designed for use with a sling (biathlon rifles excepted) and so you might need to improvise a little.

The big advantage of using any air rifle is that there are few formalities. You can shoot at home such as in the garden (keep the neighbours informed) with only a simple back stop (chipboard faced with several layers of corrugated cardboard). A good location is to shoot from or into the garage. Many air rifle shooters have set up a six yard range indoors. The cost of shooting is minimal with good quality match pellets less than a penny a shot.

With a better quality match air rifle (second-hand from under £200) you might want to take up the standing position. This is very demanding of the shooter, but has the big advantage that when you go back down to the prone position again, everything seems so very stable and it seems you can't miss. If you want to make it really difficult, then visit the Bisley Field Target Organisation (BFTO) in the bottom corner of Camp. They shoot regularly at up to 50 metres with air rifles. The effect of ANY wind is unbelievable. A day on a Field Target Range will teach you more about wind than a lifetime of shooting on Stickledown.

### **What about dry firing?**

As a moving target shooter myself, dry firing is an integral part of any match. We are allowed to dry fire a full series immediately before shooting the series to count. Many small-bore shooters spend lots of time dry firing at home, in lieu of shooting live on the range. Dry firing is just that. You do everything needed to fire a shot except to load a cartridge. Some shooters have doubts about their firing pin. Most modern rifles can be dry fired with impunity. If you do have any doubts, you can use a spent cartridge which has been deprimed and fitted with a small piece of rubber in place of the primer. A piece of rubber 'O' Ring can be used, or a piece of india rubber from the end of a pencil. However, most rifles can be part cocked. Push the bolt forward and just engage the locking lugs without closing it fully. The trigger is cocked but the firing pin is not engaged. When the trigger is released, if the bolt is clean and well lubricated, it falls with a good clunk but there is no stress on the firing pin.

If you are at Bisley, why not look for a space on the firing point where you can dry fire. Obviously you **must** keep the RCO and/or any shooters informed, and you must make it clear that you do not have any live ammunition on the firing point. Dry firing like this will allow you to experience all aspects of firing a shot except the recoil, and of course there is no feedback from the target.

If you belong to a small-bore club, you can dry fire on a small-bore target with your match or target rifle. Again, full safety precautions **must** be observed. But why not dry fire at home? As long as you can set up a target in front of your rifle, you can dry fire. (Hint: use as long a range as practicable to avoid the problem of focusing on both foresight and target.) You will need to make up a suitable aiming mark to correspond with your normal sight picture, but this should not be a problem.

Dry firing allows you to rehearse your trigger technique. Try it whilst wearing ear defenders and in a darkened room. By removing the normal sensory stimulation, you become very aware of the sensation of releasing the trigger. Also, by dry firing over an extended period in perhaps relatively comfortable conditions, you will become more aware of any shortcomings in the fit of your rifle and the sling. It also emphasises the need to maintain concentration over a long period.

### **Check out your equipment**

One advantage of shooting fullbore at Bisley is that there is very little restriction on the clothing and other equipment you use. If you want to be a serious shooter, perhaps taking up 300m ISSF shooting at some time, you need to look carefully at your equipment. I see more and more fullbore shooters using ISSF specification shooting jackets. The winter period would be a good time to look into this possibility. You do need to know that the ISSF specification will change in 2005 to a thinner jacket. Shooters are already buying new jackets to the new specification and so there should be a lot of the older

thicker jackets around second-hand soon, which will be acceptable for match or target rifle shooting. However, if you are really serious about a jacket, consider having a bespoke jacket made. Firms such as Mouche, Kurt Thune, Sauer, as well as Andrew Tucker, will make you a jacket either in double canvas or with an outer leather shell for round about £300 - £400. Bisley has a resident Mouche agent (Tenring Sports Services at the back of the Fultons annex). You can be measured for a Mouche jacket at Bisley and get it a few weeks later. At the same time, think about a modern synthetic sling and a good shooting glove or mitt for the support hand.

Many of the jackets used regularly at Bisley were designed to provide some padding against the recoil of the rifle rather than to give support to the position. As a result, if the rifle and sling are not fitted correctly, they can be uncomfortable over the course of fire. As fullbore shooters are often more concerned with weather protection (plus some padding), they are not too particular about clothing fit. Take any opportunity to try out a modern shooting jacket, and to adjust your rifle and sling to make optimum use of it. You might be surprised by the results!

The winter season is also the time to check out your rifle. The action, bolt and trigger should be cleaned, and the bedding carefully checked. If rebarrelling is thought to be necessary, you should consider a new rifle or at least a new barrelled action. This will then leave you with a spare which can be used for training when the actual point of impact of the bullet is not too important.

### **What about physical fitness?**

I have already mentioned mental fitness (ie your ability to concentrate fully on firing perfect shots every time), but physical fitness is also important. Judging by the number of cars driving round and round camp during July, this might not be given the importance it deserves. Yes, you do need to carry a heavy rifle to the firing point, but so many of the journeys seem to have little to do with shooting per se. The least painful way to keep fit is to walk more. Nevertheless, all shooters would benefit from some specific physical conditioning. If you do go to a gym, insist on a programme of general physical conditioning to maintain muscle tone rather than power or speed training.

### **Where does this leave the recreational shooter?**

I fully accept that many shooters do so simply as a relaxing hobby, and have no aspiration to win anything at all. Their reason for shooting is to enjoy it. If any of you feel that you are being pressurised into becoming serious shooters, then I apologise unreservedly. The fact is that even the most laid back recreational shooter sooner or later gets an urge to shoot better. Shooting is an insidious virus that gets into the system by pretending to be only a relaxing hobby, but which soon starts to take over your life. Shooters are not alone in this - I understand that golfers and fishermen are equally susceptible to the more serious aspects of their sport. I hope I can help some of you addicts to take control of your addiction; after all if you are going to take your sport seriously then you may as well aspire to the top.

*Norman Clark*

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# ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS

*by Malcolm Brown, Chairman Carshalton Rifle Club*

*The following article was written as a reply to a questionnaire sent out to clubs in the London and South-East Region by their Regional Representative Chris Law and was referred to in his report on page 14 in the Summer 2002 Journal.*

Attracting new people into the sport needs to be taken seriously at club level and must have the support of all members. All old prejudices and ideas need to be scrapped and a fresh approach needs to be made. The Gun Control Network and other protest groups have made it quite plain that they will not rest until they have destroyed all target sports. Now all clubs and individuals have got two choices: fight back with all the legal means possible or roll over and die. Unfortunately too many clubs have taken the second option. I am delighted to say that my own club members refused to take this attitude and appointed myself and the Secretary, Ian Stockley, to look at ways and means to preserve the future of the club.

With the banning of pistols, the club suffered a more than two-thirds drop in membership and our first task was to try and stem the loss of members and build the membership back up again. Before evoking a plan of action, a complete survey of the range was done to see that everything was up to specification. The range, being constructed in 1972, was in reasonably good condition due in part to the efforts of past Secretaries making sure that regular maintenance was carried out. The one major thing that required immediate attention was that somehow toilet facilities for disabled shooters had been overlooked.

We sought advice from the local health authority who furnished us with details on what was required to meet current legislation. Conversion of the ladies toilet was carried out and, when complete, we asked two disabled shooters from another club that uses our range to inspect all of the disabled facilities and report back to us any failings we may have missed. Other than an alteration to a wheelchair ramp, there were none. This type of work is necessary, if not vital, and any club who ignores providing disabled facilities does so at their peril. NRA officials have probably wondered why we are so insistent on ladies and disabled toilet facilities being open when we visit Bisley. We are only trying to make them aware that the Disabilities Discrimination Act will require all sporting venues to provide facilities for disabled people by 2003. Venue does not just mean major complexes such as soccer and cricket grounds or Bisley, it also applies to clubs, and to ignore the Act could lead to a club being closed. I know of one club in the Greater London area whose members were lucky enough to obtain a grant to rebuild their range. However, they found themselves getting the final part of the grant withheld as they had neglected to install a chairlift. The various discrimination acts are a minefield of legislation and it is very easy to overlook certain aspects. One has only to witness how the golf clubs have fallen foul of the Sexual Discrimination Act to see what I mean.

Now consider what to do about attracting new members. We realised that to get potential members interested, we had to extend our activities to cover other disciplines of target sports, not just stick to .22 prone rifle - in other words, diversify. Now what first was the question we asked ourselves. A check of our club guns showed we had two gallery rifles in .22 and .38 calibre. These had only been used occasionally in the past, so it was decided to encourage the membership to try out this different discipline. To start off with, we invited our old pistol members to try out this new (to them) discipline. This course of action took a lot of persuasive talking and, at times, outright bribery, but we were pleased to find that we managed to get three of our old members to rejoin the club. With a growing interest also being shown by our normally dedicated .22 prone shooters, we soon found ourselves with a thriving gallery rifle section.

Maybe there is a lesson to be learned here. At club level, we can no longer allow one discipline to dominate another. Sadly, this is exactly what happened with many clubs prior to the pistol ban with the result that when the ban was enforced, people gave up and refused even to consider taking up another discipline. I have got bitter memories of people saying things like "that's it, they have taken my pistols away, sell up all the assets and let's have a share out." Unfortunately, many clubs did exactly this. The same situation could happen again, too many clubs have adopted a fortress attitude and are refusing to alter their old ways. I've witnessed too many instances where clubs do not encourage youngsters - "we don't want damn kids running about the place"; women - "they are only fit to make the tea, anyway I come here to get away from them"; ethnic minorities - "someone pass me the smelling salts". Go on, admit it, you've heard these remarks too.

We now turned our attention to what else we could do. One of the clubs using our range had introduced air pistol, to replace cartridge pistol, as one of their activities after the ban. Taking a leaf out of their books, it was decided to add this activity to our range of disciplines. We had a stroke of luck when an air pistol turning target frame was discovered gathering dust in a member's garage. The frame was recovered, overhauled, and put back into use.

With these new activities up and running, we felt it was now the time to try to encourage the non-shooting public to take up the sport. But how? In a word, 'advertise'. Advertising can take many forms and if a proper plan of action is not drawn up, considerable sums of money can be wasted. To start, we looked at ways to get our club known with a minimum cost outlay. A check was made to see if we were still listed with the Leisure



Activities of the local borough council. We found that not only were we listed on the central library computer system, but we had also recently been listed on the London Borough of Sutton's web site. My Secretary often jokes that we are between a man who plays spoons and a lady who does funny things with snakes, well I hope he's joking! A lesson here for all clubs: check whether you have a mention on the Internet; it will not cost a penny if you go about things correctly. The Internet can be a terrific source for not only advertising your club but also for getting information to enable a club to be run correctly. The Metropolitan Police site is a fine example of what information can be found. In the site's Firearms section is a wealth of information, such as how to apply for a firearms certificate. How many instances have you heard of people complaining that their application/variation has taken ages to be processed. In a lot of cases it is their own fault, though they will not admit it. The police have, over the years, had more and more paperwork thrown at them and any incorrectly filled-in form is likely to be placed at the bottom of the pile.

Getting back to our listings. We noticed that our contact details took the form of a PO Box number - this was altered to a name and telephone number. The use of PO Box numbers to contact club officials no longer serves any purpose, the days are long gone when clubs needed to keep a low profile. The various politically correct groups have put all country and target sports in the spotlight so let's take advantage of this and make it easier for people to contact us. Too many clubs have adopted this secret attitude which will deter rather than attract potential new members. Officials of other clubs I have spoken to on this matter say they use the Box system to prevent receiving abusive telephone calls. It is true to say this can happen; my Secretary has received a few calls of this nature but these calls have been simply dealt with by dialling 1471 to get the last caller's phone number and reporting the incident to the local Firearms Officer. What these abusive callers do not realise is that they are committing an offence by making a threatening or abusive call to a club secretary, who is responsible to the Home Office for firearms matters relating to his or her club.

The next item dealt with was to ensure that the club was listed with all the National Associations and club finder lists of the various sports magazines. It was no surprise to us to find that a lot of clubs only provided scant information on their whereabouts, even at national level. It is no good complaining that our national officials do not inform them of what is going on if you refuse or inadvertently fail to provide the necessary contact information.

One final thing only needed to be done to cover local sources of information. We visited the only two target sports retailers with shops in our catchment area and provided them with our details to pass on to any of their customers who made enquiries about club whereabouts in the surrounding area. This action has proved very

beneficial to us in the long term. To date we have had over 40 enquiries from their customers, with roughly 50 per cent being turned into applications for membership. One suggestion from a retailer was for us to consider introducing Sport Crossbow into the club. I must confess I'd never heard of this activity, but we decided to investigate further if this form of target shooting would be viable for the club to introduce as one of its activities.

We now felt confident enough to embark on an advertising campaign with the local Press and various magazines. In the Greater London area, there has been a glut of so-called free newspapers appearing over the last few years and we decided that this was a medium worth exploiting. Just putting a display advert in the main advertising section serves no purpose, advertising has to take a different form. You will find that news and sports editors are desperate for items and rely mainly on outside sources to fill space. Even on national titles this practice goes on. The days of the staff reporter are long gone; news gathering is more and more being done by free-lancers or agencies. In my professional life as a Media Consultant, I have witnessed this at first hand. The complete naivety of some of the young journalists, fresh out of college clutching their media studies degree, is amazing. They are completely ignorant of what goes on outside their little world and will accept anything people, especially ones with an official looking title, tell them. The GCN and other anti-sport groups have exploited this to the full, which may go some way to explain why so much anti-gun coverage has appeared over the years.

We decided that any sporting achievement the club made would be publicised. We have been successful in our aim and have had a feature published including an appropriate picture taken by the paper's photographer. Our contact details were included in the article. The response we received was very encouraging. Enquiries were received from people as diverse as youngsters wanting to include shooting in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts seeking instruction for their marksman badges, not so young people wanting something to do in retirement, and mothers, wanting to get their sons and daughters to do something other than watch TV all the time.

Attracting people such as these into the sport can have many advantages, some may not be obvious at first. It dawned on us that, maybe, we would be seen as contributing something to the local community and that local community leaders and councillors would look at us more favourably. Over the last few years, we have been proved correct in our assumption. Council welfare officers and local support groups have asked us for advice and help in their work, and just recently we heard that the Mayor of the London Borough of Sutton had praised us for putting a team in the Inter Borough Competition. As for parents of youngsters, if a club can present itself as responsible enough to look after their offspring, you can be sure of getting word of mouth advertising via school gate chat and parents associations.

Up until now the club had not incurred any great costs in advertising but the time had now come when we had to consider what to do to make our club known to a wider audience. Initially, we placed a small semi-display advert in the magazine Target Sports to see what reaction we would get. It is true to say we were a little bit disappointed to find that there were no enquiries from anyone living in our immediate area. A quick tour of the local newsagents uncovered the reason for this as we found that Target Sports was not generally on display. Note was taken of all the sporting magazines that were on display for any of our future advertising placements.

Not to be daunted by our first foray into magazine advertising, we embarked on a campaign to place our advert in four magazines over four months. We chose Shooting Sports, Air Gunner, Angling Times and County Life. Doubt was expressed about Angling Times but we reasoned that maybe a few anglers might be interested in trying out a different sport, plus Angling Times has a large circulation in the Greater London area.

The overall response we have got from all our efforts has been astounding. Currently we are getting enquiries about membership running at around two to six a week. We do not expect to turn all of these enquiries into applications for membership but we are pleased with the amount we have had. Five years ago our membership stood at 45 full and probationary members with no applications to be processed. Today our full members total 120 with another 40 people on probation. Applications being processed amount to a little over 50.

However this number of people coming into the club did create a few problems. We found that our Instructors and Range Officers were finding it difficult to cope. To overcome this problem, ten members were sent on an NRA Range Conducting Officer's course, and later another ten, sent on an NRA Target Rifle Instructor's course. This has relieved the pressure a bit but it made us realise that you must have proper instructors for the discipline you are engaged in. If you want to hold on to new people coming into the club, you must keep the interest going and not let them sit in the corner twiddling their thumbs. Make them feel welcome and gradually introduce them to all that is going on. Do not expect them to get involved with all the disciplines you may have on offer. As my Secretary often says, if all a person initially wants to do is sit down with a cup of tea and a Kit-Kat and watch what's going on, that's fine. In the end, they will decide what they want to do.

The procedures Carshalton Rifle Club carried out to attract new members may not work for all clubs as they may have different aims and circumstances but we feel they could form a good basis. I have listed out below a few points which may help clubs in their future plans, but be prepared to fine tune or alter tack if circumstances change. Also expect to get a few disappointments along the way. You will not get an instant influx of members and a long-term view must be taken.

- a) Do register your club with the Leisure Services of your local council. This department is normally based in the main local library. If you have a Local Sports Council, register with them as well, you may find that you can apply for a grant or interest-free loan if you need to improve your range facilities in the future. I know of at least two clubs in the Greater London area who have recently received a grant to improve their range facilities.
- b) If your range is leased, make sure there are no clauses preventing you from doing things and also check the length of time of the lease. You have a legal protection if your club has been on the same site for 50 years or more.
- c) Make a thorough survey of your range and club room. Is it warm in winter and cool in summer? Is it clean and tidy? Can you cater for disabled people? Are there toilet facilities for both sexes? Can you provide refreshments - at least a cup of tea and soft drinks? Above all, does it meet all safety requirements?
- d) If your club operates under a Home Office Licence, seriously consider becoming Home Office Approved and get an MoD clearance certificate.
- e) Display any awards, Instructor's Certificates, Range Officer's Certificates in a prominent position. Don't leave them gathering dust in a drawer.
- f) Get all your existing members involved in any plans for the future. Is your club one that has good old Joe as Secretary/Treasurer/Maintenance Man/Tea-maker/General Dogsbody for years and you see no reason to change things now? Wrong!!! Everyone has something to offer, however small.
- g) Encourage everyone, especially the young, to wear any casual clothes with the club name or emblem attached if they are socialising away from the range. It does not cost a fortune to have a design screen printed or embroidered onto a sports shirt or other such top. Remember, designer label clothes are all the rage at the moment and who knows, your club shirt may get a cult following. It is all advertising and a way of getting your name known to the public.
- h) Finally, before you decide on what new discipline you want to introduce, make sure you can do it. For instance, you advertise that the club caters for rapid-fire air pistol then find out your first bright eyed and bushy-tailed enquirer expects you to provide instruction in the discipline.

One final note, try and form a friendly relationship or even affiliate with other clubs in your area. They may be able to pass on some useful tips to you in times of difficulty.



## LETTERS

From Neil Fawcett

### Competitor Marking

I am disappointed at the way this matter is being handled by the NRA and protest most strongly both at the bias of the wording of the questionnaire and the grossly unconstitutional manner by which the NRA seeks to compel competitors to respond.

The NRA view is abundantly clear to anyone reading the questionnaire – the Association has absolutely no wish (intention?) to change the current system and has, quite disgracefully, loaded the questionnaire accordingly.

Not content with that, the Association then seeks a mandate to enforce its view by insisting the questionnaire is handed in before competitors are issued with their squadding cards.

There is clearly some middle ground between 'full competitor marking' and 'paid marker' systems and it is this middle ground the NRA should be exploring by canvassing competitors' views in an open, unbiased way.

It is accepted that not all competitors wish to do marking stints and they should, therefore, be able to elect to buy out from marking duties.

Competitors who do not elect to buy out would be committed to do the marking stints for which they are detailed and should not expect to be able to buy out on an *ad hoc* basis during the meeting. Thus, the NRA would know well in advance the number of hired markers required and can plan accordingly.

I would suggest among the reasons for a wish to return to competitor marking is the apparent decline in the standard of marking. Competitor markers are able to raise and drive up the standard of marking generally. In a similar vein to the NRA questionnaire the following statements might be considered:

*"A return to (a form of) competitor marking may necessitate a slight reduction in the shooting programme for the meeting but the standard of marking will be improved."*

There are many aspects to consider on the subject of a possible return to competitor marking and the NRA is perfectly entitled to its views on the matter. However, if it is properly to serve its members, it must be seen to be listening to them, gathering information from them (fairly and without bias) and then act accordingly.

[Reply from Martin Farnan, NRA Shooting Manager]

The actual number of votes cast in connection with competitor marking, as reported in the Umbrella Tent Meeting, was as follows:

Wishing to keep fully paid marking	595 (67%)
Wishing to revert to competitor marking	269 (30%)
No preference either way	6 (0.7%)
Abstained	18 (2.3%)
Total votes	888 (100%)

The voting was therefore more than 2 to 1 in favour of remaining with the present system. There were a number of comments in the Suggestion Book suggesting that the questionnaire had been biased. I point out that the wording of the questionnaire was put to the TR Sub-Committee and that proposed amendments were incorporated before distribution. In addition a number of those known to be in favour of competitor marking were asked for further points in addition to those shown, but no suggested additions were forthcoming.

I am sure that you will agree that it would have been unfair to simply put the question "Do you want to revert to Competitor Marking - Yes or No?" without also making the competitors aware of the consequent knock on effects. Since only two possible advantages had been identified against seven disadvantages the questionnaire may, at first sight, have been thought to have been biased. This possible misconception may have occurred only because of a wish to give all competitors the fullest possible information on which to base their decisions.

There is no possible middle ground as you suggest. It is either competitor marking or it is not. The reason (as was indicated in the questionnaire) is to do with the time between shooting blocks mid-morning and mid-afternoon. With full marking this is only 15 minutes (to give the markers a breather). However, if we reverted to competitor marking, this would have to be 45 minutes to give competitor markers time to exit the butts, collect their kit and get down to the firing point in time for the next detail. This is why a full hour would be added to the shooting day plus all the other attendant disadvantages which were listed in the questionnaire.]

From Paul Charlton,

Chairman of the Irish Rifle Club (Bisley)

### The National Match

I would like to thank, on behalf of the Ireland Team, through the Journal those many people who have heaped heartfelt congratulations upon us since we succeeded in winning the National Match for the first time since we first competed in 1865.

Following our success, we have decided to invoke our right to hold the 2003 National Match in Ballykinler, County Down, Northern Ireland. The Match itself will be held on Monday May 26th. This will be preceded by the Irish Open, which is normally a two day event.

It is likely that all of Northern Ireland's Commonwealth Games Gold Medallists will compete in the Match, and this may help to generate some good publicity for shooting in Ireland.

Entry forms and forms to allow possession of Firearms in Northern Ireland will be available next year, but if you wish to be part of this unique occasion, please register your interest by following the instructions on page 56 of this Journal.

From Yvonne Laceby-Stevens

### **Shooting Excuses**

The traumatic experience of F Sgt Silver will, I am sure, never be capped. However I feel the following might well qualify as the most charming reason for a bad score.

In 1958 as a member of Lloyds Bank Rifle Club, I took part in my first Bisley Meeting. I found myself on target 100 on the last detail of the day paired with S/M Riorche Scots Guards, a top shot of the time. The gods of shooting threw every trick at him and he had a truly disastrous shoot. I was brash enough to commiserate to be told "Nay, nay, I may be a big man but at heart I'm a softie and couldna bear to beat a lassie."

A great shot and a fine man - just one of the many charming people I was lucky enough to meet during my shooting days.

From Tim Elliott

### **NRA Aunts & Uncles Scheme - July 2002**

Once again this scheme worked admirably and my warmest thanks goes to those who helped. I am not able to contact all my Aunts and Uncles personally (I do not consider emails an appropriate medium for this), but I have spoken to many to express my gratitude.

Numbers, now that more non-first-timers are seeking guidance, were higher than ever and I reacted to a record demand, especially from overseas, for electronic copies of the Imperial Meeting Guide, which I update each year.

With the return of the cadet 7.62mm rifle for cadets next season (well, you have to look on the bright side, don't you), I expect - and wish to anticipate - increasing requests for an Aunt or an Uncle; thus, if any of my readers not already on my list feel that they would like to help younger shooters in the most painless and pleasurable possible way, do please get in touch with me. My planning for 2003 has already started.

TJ (Tim) Elliott

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From Carol Painting

### **Firing Out of Turn**

Towards the end of the Imperial Meeting I heard of two cases where shooters had fired out of turn for the same reason. In each case, the shooter who committed the offence was squadded on the right. In each case, after the centre shooter had fired, the target went down and came up again, so the shooter on the right went into the aim and fired. The left shooter then said that it was his (or her) turn, but had not stated that he (or she) had not fired when the target went down.

We all know that to fire out of turn is wrong and punishable by losing a point. In one of these cases the RO agreed with the shooter on the right that he had been misled by the left shooter saying nothing; his score was allowed to stand. In the other case the RO ruled that the penalty must be paid, but the left shooter lost no points.

What happened to the spirit of the rules?

From Tim Elliott

### **Cambridge University Rifle Association**

I am updating the Cambridge University Rifle Association Database and should be most grateful if any NRA members who were members of CURA, and who are not already being contacted routinely, could let me know their details - Style, Initials, First Name, Surname, Address, Telephone Number, E-mail address and so on. If you are being contacted and your personal details are incorrect or may have changed, that too would be good to know.

Thank you very much.

Tim (TJ) Elliott (Chairman):

Lark Hill, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire MK45 3RB

Tel/ Fax: 01234 740334 Mobile: 07950 523991

E-mail: tje@easynet.co.uk

From RJ Maddison

### **Stuck Rounds**

The advice on removing stuck rounds given in the Journal should be followed with caution. Before starting to tap the rod, its position should first be marked. If, when tapping out, the rod moves more than a few millimetres but not the cartridge, then the bullet is being set back in the case. If this happens, do not proceed further without advice from a qualified gunsmith or armourer. It could be dangerous if the propellant is compressed in the case.

Military ammunition is designed to be used under rough conditions and in fully automatic weapons. Hence military bullets are firmly crimped into the case and also sealed. However, some commercial ammunition is less firmly crimped and the bullet may move when 'tapping out'. In particular, for accuracy, most home loads are only lightly crimped if at all, many relying only on the bullet's fit in the case neck to secure it. This is perfectly adequate for range use or in the field, but the bullet will set back if 'tapped out' as described.



If you do have a stuck round, then the cause should be sought. One possibility is that the extractor did not fully engage. If the headspace, as determined by the case fit in the chamber, is too great, then the case can be pushed too far into the action without engaging the extractor. Usually, when the cartridge is fired, it is forced back enough to engage and so ensure 'normal' extraction. However, an unfired cartridge can become stuck. This can be corrected by a gunsmith. However, before doing so, he should carefully check the headspace as it may well be that it is the extractor that is setting this rather than the case/chamber fit. This is not a problem as long as the actual headspace is not excessive, but can cause a problem when attempting to extract an unfired cartridge. To check this, insert a dummy cartridge (obtainable for the NRA Armoury) and push it forward with a finger as far as it will go. Now close the bolt and then open it. If all is well the dummy cartridge will extract and eject normally.

*From Keith Pilcher*

### **Name of the NRA Meeting**

This year the name of the NRA Meeting has been changed to the Queen's Golden Jubilee Meeting and so the old name is clearly not set in stone.

May I suggest that in future it be named the NRA Sovereign's Prize Meeting since it is many years since we had an Empire and continuance of this imperial connotation could be taken as a slur on those many independent countries once part of it.

It was after all following the Prince of Wales' visit in 1977 and a remark he made then that the name Mother Country was changed for the British Kolapore team.

### **Diamond Jubilee of Disbandment of the Home Guard**

*The following letter has been received from the Hon Secretary of the Newport (IW) & District Rifle Club (Founded 1944 by D Coy 19th Bn Hampshire Home Guard) and is reproduced at his request:*

As you can see from our club title, our club was formed from a disbanding Home Guard unit in 1944. In the year 2004, therefore, we will be celebrating our Diamond Jubilee along with a lot of other ex-Home Guard clubs. I have been asked by my committee to sound out our fellow 1944 HG clubs to see whether or not there would be any interest in holding some form of event(s) to commemorate this momentous occasion.

If there is sufficient interest then we could, for instance, hire a range at Bisley to conduct some competitions, as well as holding shoots elsewhere around the country if warranted. The options are endless providing there is sufficient interest.

If you are interested I should be very grateful if you would drop me a short note expressing such interest, with maybe some suggestions as to what form the celebrations should take. Once I have some idea of the strength or otherwise of the suggestion then I can take the matter forward. It would be extremely helpful if you would reply as soon as possible; 2004 may seem a long way off but it isn't!

If your club or association had its original roots in a Home Guard unit then please consider marking this Jubilee and respond to the Secretary, Mr DJ Aitken, Millfield Cottage, Millfield Avenue, East Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO32 6AS.

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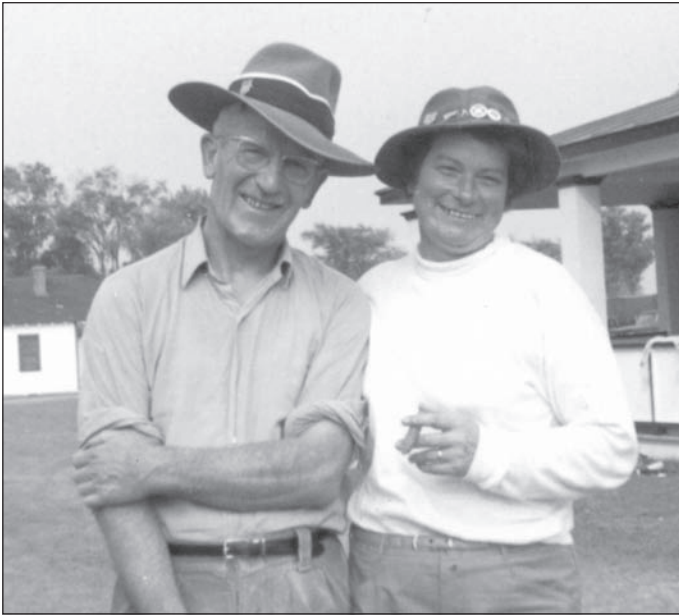
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## OBITUARIES

### George Frederick Arnold (*GM SM SC2*)



Not entirely unexpectedly, George passed away not many weeks after Jan, his beloved wife, had also passed away (*see Summer 2002 Journal page 52*). A combination of infirmity and old age, plus the crushing blow of his sad loss, was too much for him and he lost the will to live. He was 86.

With George there was no middle way, everything was either black or white with no grey areas. He was either for or against and whatever he decided to do, he did with maximum effort and enthusiasm.

Born in Dover and living in Canterbury for many years, George developed a great interest in radio and telephonic communications, which became his career. With the GPO (telephones) he progressed to senior management, retiring as Shrewsbury Area Telephone Manager in 1978.

It was this common interest which brought him into contact with a man who happened to be a member of the Dorking and District Rifle Club. Friendship developed, which resulted in George and Jan visiting the Dorking range to see what it was all about. The bug bit and they both joined the club in 1950. George, being George, gave it his all and it remained his chosen sport until his death.

Over those 52 years he established himself as one of the all-time great rifle shots which some of his more notable achievements reflect. He shot in HM The Queen's Prize Final on 19 occasions winning the Gold Medal in 1970 and the Silver Medal for the Second Stage in 1975; he appeared in the Grand Aggregate top 50 on 19 occasions gaining the Silver Cross in both 1954 and 1971 as well as winning the St George's Vase in 1964 and 1969. He also shot match rifle, winning the Albert in 1962 and the Halford in 1965. George's major team caps included 18 Nationals and 13

Mackinnons for England; he represented Great Britain in six Kolapores, three Empire/Australia matches and two Palma matches as well as nine overseas GB teams including the captaincy of the 1972 GB Team to Canada.

Wherever he resided, be it Kent, Shropshire, Surrey, Hampshire etc, George and Jan greatly influenced the wellbeing of the shooting in those areas. The English Twenty Club also saw them devote much time and effort into the redecoration and upkeep of the Clubhouse.

After his retirement he turned his attention to gunsmithing and there are many who benefited from the expertise that he developed. He experimented with all sorts of barrel/action combinations so that his own rifles were rarely the same from one shoot to the next! Such was his unbridled enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge.

In recognition of his services, he was elected as a Vice-President and Honorary Life Member of the Dorking Club in 1967 and was their elected President from 1987 to his death. He was also a Vice-President of the English Twenty Club from 1987.

One little known achievement, as a young man in the 1930s, was in 25 miles time trial bicycle races in which he won a number of medals. A man of many talents!

The George and Jan inseparable duo will long be remembered worldwide and George, as an individual, has left his mark on the shooting scene in so many different ways which will not be readily forgotten.

He was the last of his line as none of his family survive. RIP.

*NEC Molyneux*

### Peter Jones

It is with great sadness that we report the passing, after a short illness, of Peter Jones.

Peter was a stalwart member of both Swansea Rifle Club and the West Wales Muzzle Loaders and Rifle Club, having served Swansea Rifle Club as Minutes Secretary and as a Range Officer, for many years.

Forced into early retirement from his career as a Senior Reporter for a Cardiff based newspaper due to a heart attack, Peter turned to target shooting as his sport and recreation.

Peter's first love was small and fullbore pistol shooting, in which he was always amongst Swansea Rifle Club's medal winners. In the aftermath of the pistol ban, he turned to classic and gallery rifle shooting but maintained an interest in pistol shooting via black powder and air pistol.

As an extremely well read man, Peter's counsel was often sought by those of us with a less well rounded



education. Being a man of what may be considered old-fashioned ideals and beliefs, he bitterly regretted the way the sport of target shooting had been vilified, without redress, by Government and media. This was probably why he was even more determined to continue shooting with what was left to us. Bisley certainly remained the highlight of his annual shooting calendar, with the Anno Domini/Phoenix, Imperial and Trafalgar Meetings as the ultimate venues.

From both a personal and club level, Peter will be greatly missed. Our condolences to his wife Betty, daughter Debbie and sons, Simon and Tim.

*PM Evans*

### **Margaret Horton-Smith**



Margaret Horton-Smith died peacefully in Westlake House, Horsham, on 17 May, a few days before her 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. A Memorial Service was held at Holy Trinity Church, West End, Woking on 31 May. This was well attended by representatives of the NRA (of which she was a Life Member), of the L&MRA (of which she was a Vice President) and by neighbours, family, other shooters and friends.

Margaret's passing breaks another of those links to the immediate post war years. David Horton-Smith went on eight overseas tours between 1954 and 1971. Margaret and David both saw the importance of these both as emissaries of rifle shooting and of Great Britain. Many of their overseas contacts remained lifelong friends and became subsequent visitors both to Bisley and to their home.

Margaret and David were married in September 1941, at St Columbas (Church of Scotland) Church, Pont Street, London. This was the height of the blitz, and at the time David, Staff Captain 2<sup>nd</sup> London Infantry Division, was stationed on the South Coast opposite

Mr Hitler's hordes, with the threat of invasion imminent. Margaret joined the WAAF, where she rose to the rank of Sergeant. She would never speak of her war work, having signed the Official Secrets Act and the most her family could glean was that she was likely involved in Military Intelligence, and probably with the French theatre of operations.

Towards the end of the war David and Margaret bought a plot of land at Sheets Heath, Brookwood (roughly 1000m behind Century range) where they built a family home in the immediate post-war years. Carving his way to the end of the jungle that was the garden, David found his next door neighbours to be Taffy and Ida Owen, Taffy was a former comrade in arms, and Ida became secretary to the then NRA Secretaries, Captain Le Mesurier and Commodore Riall. Also a little further away on Sheets Heath were Jean and Larry Orpen-Smellie.

It is for her association with squadding, which she did with Jean for many years, and her work on the Front Counter during the Meeting that Margaret will be most remembered by shooters. With help from daughter Catherine and with David and son Robert shooting the Meeting, you could say that the Horton-Smith name was very much in evidence both on the ranges and behind the scenes. It was a strange quirk of fate that both she and Larry passed away on the same night, which prompted the immediate comment "I wager they stopped for a quiet G&T, and to remember old times on their way to the Pearly Gates."

Margaret displayed much stoicism in her latter years. After David's death in February 1982, she moved to a smaller house at West End, Woking (to the right of the Century danger area . . . still well within hearing of the crack and thump from Bisley). Towards the end, her mental acuity declined as a result of a degenerative condition, but through the good offices of her carers, friends and neighbours, she was able to remain in her own home for as long as possible, before a fall incapacitated her. After her move to Westlake House, Horsham she was tirelessly cared for by the staff and also by her daughter Catherine, who lived close by.

Margaret leaves two children, Robert and Catherine, and five grandchildren, to whom she remains a shining example of quiet personal integrity.

*Robert Horton-Smith*

*Eric McGibbon wishes to thank all the many friends and acquaintances who so kindly conveyed their condolences on the sad loss of his son, Malcolm.*

*At a small private ceremony, Eric scattered Malcolm's ashes at the same spot on Stickledown where his late wife Josie's ashes rest.*

*He is very appreciative of the so many kindnesses extended to him for which, once again, he expresses his many thanks.*

## David Jones



David Jones, known to all at Bisley as Davy or DJ, died on 7 June aged sixty-six after a long battle with TB.

Davy's association with Bisley was lifelong. He was practically a Bisley local as his father, an Army Captain from Deepcut, met his mother when she worked in one of the Bisley clubs - possibly the North London. One of Davy's earliest recollections was his father taking him rabbit shooting in Brookwood Cemetery.

His early childhood was spent in India, where his father was serving, and at Starcross in South Devon where they lived on their return. As a child he could remember the Americans as they practiced the D Day landings along the South Devon coastline. Dave was a popular lad who attended the local grammar school and was well known around Starcross for carrying his pet squirrel on his shoulder wherever he went.

Davy was called up for National Service in the RAF at age eighteen. Attracted by service life, he transferred to regular Service in the trade of armourer and served until the age of fifty-five, retiring in the rank of Chief Technician. His early career was spent on numerous short detachments in places such as Nigeria. This mobile lifestyle gave him the basis for a fascinating and oft-repeated collection of stories about his travels.

Davy and his wife Sue married in 1962 and were soon posted to Butterworth in Malaysia. He also served in RAF Germany at Bruggen and Laarbruch. He became active in shooting in the early sixties and first visited Bisley about that time. He also was a keen .22 shot representing the RAF and won the Noble Trophy with RAF Brawdy in 1980. Davy also coached the WRAF

.22 squad for many years and in the breaks between coaching sessions would keep the girls amused with a wonderful selection of yarns and tales from around the world.

Davy was a member of the RAF Target Rifle Club almost from its formation. He was RAF Target Rifle Champion in 1986 and 1990 and also won the RAF Club Championship in 1992. He attended the Bisley Imperial Meeting from 1972 to 2001 and was a regular for Wales in the National and Mackinnon matches. During most Meetings you would find Davy working long hours in the RAF gunroom as the Club armourer, fixing triggers, bedding rifles and doing a multitude of other jobs for his Club mates. He would always help many of the overseas visitors. The Kenyan team were regular clients at his bench in their early days. They would turn up with a selection of tatty old rifles which Davy would completely rebuild for them. The reworked weapons then returned to Kenya and the next year another batch of tatty old ones would appear.

Davy was a regular on overseas tours with the RAFTRC including Australia, Germany, Kenya, Hong Kong and more recently South Africa.

Davy Jones was a great bloke, an asset to his club, to shooting and to Bisley. Helpful, generous and who always found time to talk (especially about shooting) and would always be happy to help out in any way.

Our condolences go to his wife Sue, son Martin and daughter Helen, also to his mother and brother Bob.

We won't forget you DJ.

*JE White*

## Percy Butterfield

Percy Butterfield was born in Oldham in 1928. His interests included target and game shooting, boating, gardening and motorcycling.

Percy loved life and enjoyed it to the full. He had been out in his boat, and was putting the cover on at the mooring when he suffered a massive heart attack and died falling into the Menai Strait. He loved shooting and was distressed when the government manipulated the facts concerning the failing of the local police to engineer the confiscation of his pistols. He had two heritage pistols, he felt the loss of them from his position all the time. He enjoyed target shooting in Bangor and also vermin control. He introduced his son Michael to the sport of shooting, providing him with a rifle.

Percy was a widower and left two children Michael and Lynn. We will all miss him.

*Mike Butterfield*



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## Late News

### Chief National Coach

The NRA has appointed Andrew Penfold as the new Chief National Coach (TR). An introductory report and details of courses for 2003 and 2004 will follow in the next Journal.

## STOP-PRESS

Ireland have rounded off a successful year by winning the European Long Range Championships held at Bisley over the weekend of 26 and 27 October - a report will follow in the next Journal.

## MEMBERS' PAGE

No it's not a new shooting aid or part of the Commonwealth Games Officials uniform - this is what happens when you mess with the new gate on Stickledown. Butts Officer and NRA poet, John Gardner, felt obliged to put pen to paper to record the event for posterity.

### The Sling

We haven't had a dit this year  
Said Martin with a frown,  
Like Douggie in his buggy  
Or the loos on Stickledown  
I haven't had a trigger  
No incidents at all  
Unless, perhaps a mate of mine  
Who took a nasty fall?  
Who, it would seem, mistakenly  
(Or did not have the sense)  
To go around and find a gate  
But tried to leap the fence.  
Normally level headed  
And not known for being rash  
Tried the jump, oops a thump  
He came down with a crash.  
Don't you dare, he threatened me  
Don't say a single thing  
Would I embarrass you I asked  
Your poor arm in a sling.  
It was a nasty accident  
Can't fail but be much moved  
By your plight, your sorry sight  
Now hopefully improved.  
Me, tell the world how silly  
There's no need to mention more  
I'll not mention it (not much!)  
'cause that's what friends are for.  
We sincerely hope you're better  
Her indoors and me  
Our advice, stay off the ale  
And stick to drinking tea.



### FORBIDDEN!

Competitors and spectators during the recent Commonwealth Games at Bisley who took the trouble to read the M2002 signs dotted around the Camp must have been relieved to see this list of Restricted and Prohibited items. It was good to know that Bisley would be kept clear of items such as firearms and ammunition as well as those dangerous alcoholic beverages, cameras and frisbees.

It would be interesting to know which competitor, spectator or official broke the most of these rules!

### Restricted and Prohibited Items

List of Restricted Items: Alcoholic beverages, animals (except service or assist dogs), balls, frisbees and similar items, banners larger than 1m x 2m, bicycles, broadcast equipment of non-rights holding broadcasters, devices capable of causing disturbance (e.g. horns, trumpets, lasers etc.) Flags larger than 1m x 2m, flags of non-participating nations, flag poles larger than approx. 1m. Unauthorised flyers, glass except for food containers for children. Scooters, skateboards and other skates (does not include motorised scooters for people with a disability). Signs (commercial, political, religious or vulgar etc.) and items with corporate branding used to attract attention plus any other items which are deemed inappropriate and could disturb the enjoyment of other spectators. Cool boxes and bags larger than 30cm x 25cm x 15cm. Limit of one bag per spectator. Push chairs, open umbrellas in the seating bowl, cameras (Video or other), audio recording devices, cans, transmitting devices. Accredited non-rights holding broadcasters entering competition venues with recording equipment or camera devices, Dangerous or disruptive behaviour. Display of commercial or unauthorised signage. Display of commercial or unauthorised literature. Flash photography or other lighting devices. Gambling. Participation in ambush marketing activity or selling counterfeit goods. Political or religious rallies or demonstrations. Spectators entering restricted access areas (including the Field of Play). Unauthorised broadcast through cellular phones or transmitting devices. Unauthorised collection of money (Busking, charities, collecting money etc). Use of cameras (video and other) for commercial use. Any other behaviour which is deemed inappropriate or disturbs the enjoyment of other spectators. Smoking. Obstruction of gangways, access ways, entrances and exits, stairways and like places and climbing on any structure forming part of the venue.

List of Prohibited Items: The following are not allowed to be taken into the venue: Knives, Firearms, Spray Paint, Drugs, Liquor (in possession of a minor) Explosives, incendiary devices, irritants, gas canisters or replica's of the same. Ammunition, Dangerous Goods e.g. (chemicals) Pyrotechnics, Offensive implements which may cause injury.



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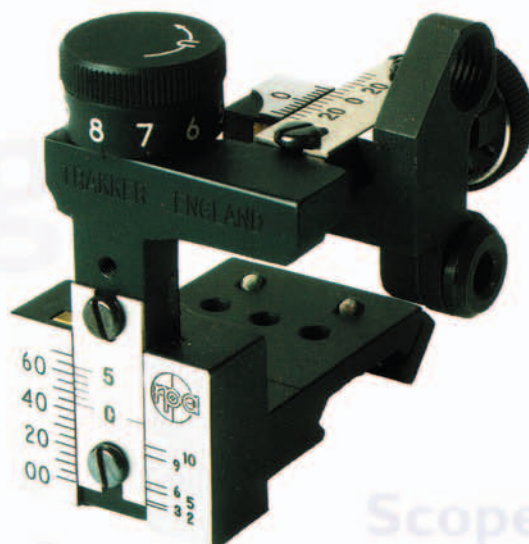


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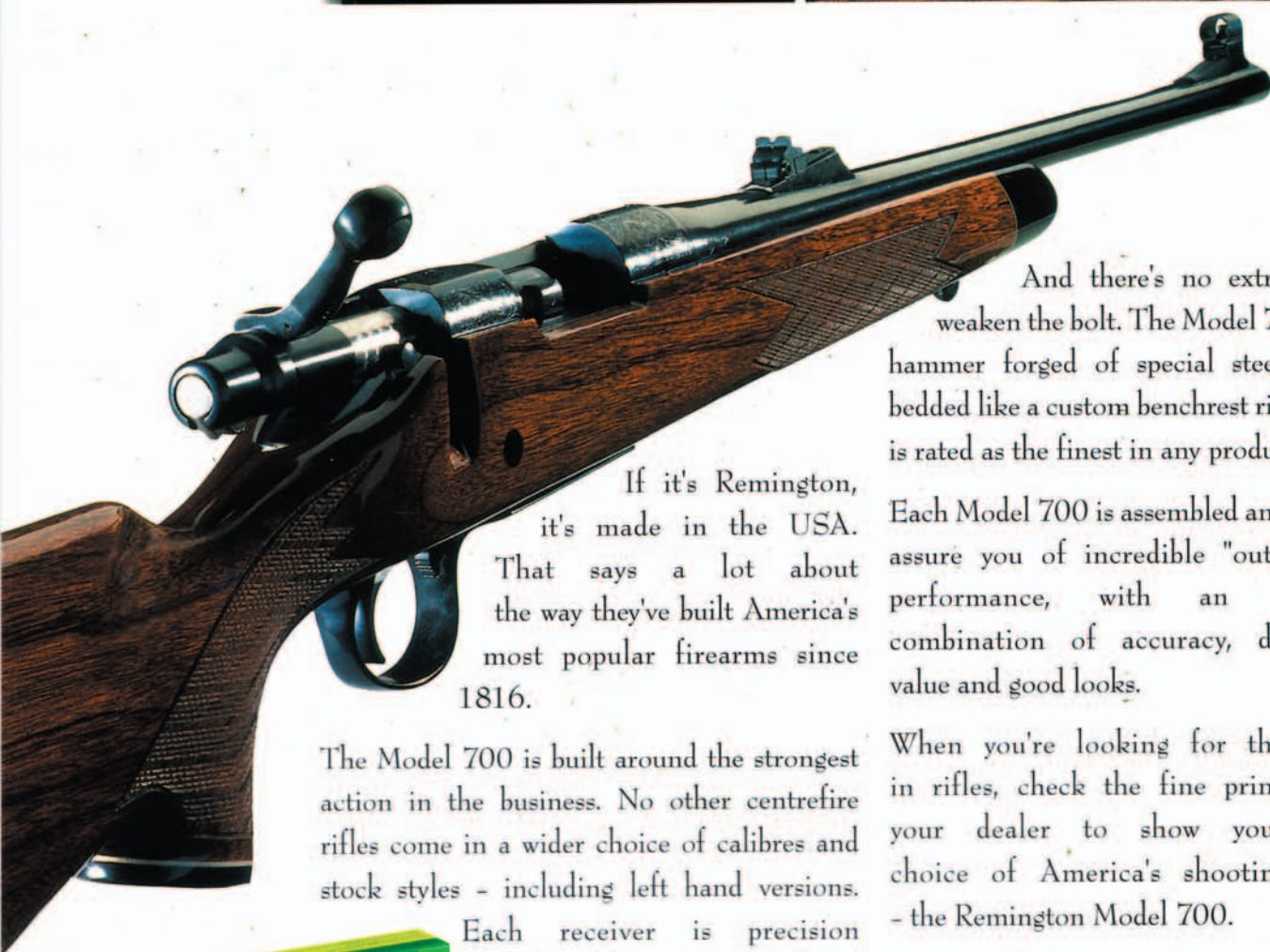
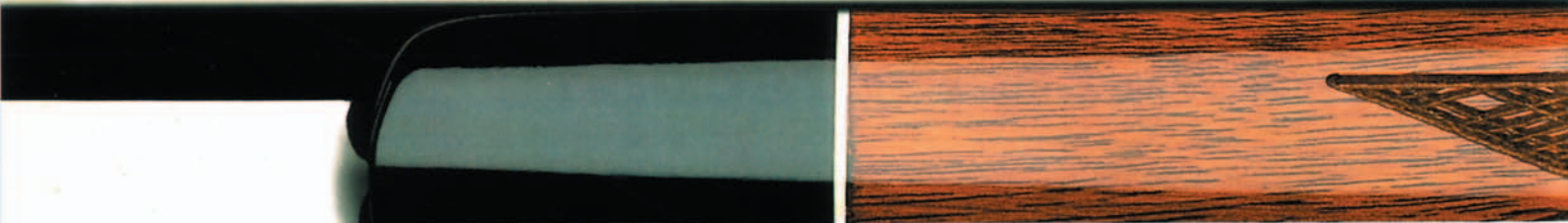
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