



# National Rifle Association Journal

Spring 2003    Volume LXXXII    Number 1





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*Cover:* The America Match trophy. This bronze trophy was designed and made by DCRA member George Chase. The figures depicted are that of Alan Warner (*standing*) of the United States and the other is Jim Thompson (*sitting*) of Canada. The trophy was made possible by the support of Dave Brennan of Precision Shooting Magazine. *Photo by John Adams.*

## **Expected Publication Dates**

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

# NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SHOOTING



by  
Martin  
Farnan

## Phoenix Meeting

The Phoenix Meeting will be held over the long weekend Fri 23 - Sun 25 May this year. The event is being organised by the Phoenix Committee which includes members of all participating organisations and disciplines, and over fifty events will be held, ranging from 10 metres Air Pistol to 1000 yards F Class Rifle. The event is being supported by *Target Sports*, and will feature in their forthcoming issues along with the entry form. The Match Conditions, Rules and Entry Form will also be available from the NRA; copies may be obtained by ringing the NRA Range Office or the Shooting Division Secretary (extensions 152 or 149 respectively).

## Open Days

Two Open Days will also be held over the weekend Sat 24/Sun 25 May 2003. These days will be administered by organisers of the Bisley Shooting Sports Exhibition (BSSE) run by Yalex in the Lord Roberts Centre, but all the firing points will be staffed by NRA qualified coaches. Members of the public as well as members of the NRA and affiliated clubs may, under a Home Office dispensation, shoot without the normal requirement to have a Firearms Certificate etc. A registration fee in the region of £5 will be payable. Booklets of tickets in differing denominations may then be purchased, which may be used to pay the fees to fire a number of different firearms ranging from Air Pistol to Fullbore Target Rifle.

## Spring into Action Weekend

This weekend will be held over the weekend 29/30 March 2003. It will be similar to the Action Weekend held in early December 2002, and will be open to all comers. Matches will include a 1500, 25 metres Precision, 50 metres Precision (all GRCE, GRSB and Long Barrelled Revolver), 100 yards .303/7.62 rifle and McQueen. Further details are available from Fred James, the NRA Armourer, on 01483 797777 ext 134 and entry forms are now available in the Range Office.

## Imperial Meeting

### Entries

Late entry fees for individual TR and MR events will again be payable after 23 May (10% extra) with 25% extra payable after 20 June and 50% extra if entry is made within 48 hours of (but before 5.00pm the day before) the start of the competition. No entries will be accepted after 5.00pm the day before the competition.

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

### Individual Entry Fees

The individual entry fees for competitions, aggregates and sweepstakes will increase by 2% over those payable last year. However, last year's 10% surcharge will be reduced to 8%, and the total payable will therefore be the same as in 2002.

### Paid Markers

You will be aware that all competitors in the Golden Jubilee Meeting were asked to complete and return a questionnaire in relation to paid markers. The number of returns was 888 out of a total of approximately 1270, a 70% return. The preference of votes cast in connection with this questionnaire were as follows:

Wishing to remain with paid markers	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, which will therefore be retained.

The calculation of marker fees will allow a 50% reduction of the marker costs to be given to all competitors under 28 years of age who are in full time education (who also benefit from a 50% reduction in their entry fees).

### Marker Fees

The marker fee per competition will remain at £4.50 this year. The total marker fee payable must then be calculated (= number of individual squadded TR matches entered x £4.50). This total marker fee will **not** be subject to the 8% surcharge.

### Competitor RCOs

The paid NRA RCOs will ensure that each range is fully equipped with all the required equipment before the start of all competitions, and for closing down the ranges on the conclusion of shooting. Competitor RCOs will be appointed as hitherto, and will continue to be primarily responsible for the interpretation of the rules.

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

### **Eagle Eye Foresights**

You are reminded that the suspension of Rule 235 was for the duration of the Queen's Golden Jubilee Meeting and the Commonwealth Games **only**. Rules 150 and 235 are now applicable. The rules concerned read as follows:

Rule 150. *Foresight*. Any type which may contain a single clear or coloured magnifying lens which has a minimum focal length of 2.0 metres (0.5 diopetre). It may also contain an optically flat clear or coloured element.

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

### **Service Rifle**

Entry Forms for both Service and Civilian competitors may be obtained from the Shooting Division Secretary on ext 149. They must be returned by 21 June.

### **Target Rifle**

The Opening Shot is presently not sponsored. The cash prizes, restored last year, will therefore be suspended and Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded. A new sponsor is being sought for this competition.

The V Bull Aggregate will again be based only on the number of V bulls scored in the Grand Aggregate. This year, however, the prize list will be spread over the four classes, and Robert Stafford, who suggested the competition last year, has written a report which appears elsewhere in this Journal.

### **Schools**

It is anticipated that the L81 A2 Cadet Target Rifle will be available in sufficient quantity to be used in the Schools' Meeting this year. It is therefore planned that the meeting will be fired using the L81 A2 Cadet Target Rifle at distances of 300 and 500 yards, with a proposed 600 yards competition for the Victoria Trophy (though this will depend on the range space available).

### **Match Rifle**

The main change this year will be that Para 467 will be suspended for 2003. The effect of this will be that V bulls **will** now be taken into account in MR scores. All competitors will now be ranked in the prize list in strict accordance with their scores **including** V bulls. Tie shoots will **only** be fired if two or more competitors have equal scores (ie including V bulls).

In addition HPS Crosses will be introduced for MR possibles in the same way as for SR and TR. The qualifications for Bronze, Silver, Gold and Enamelled HPS Crosses will be as in Para 494.

Match Rifle competitors shooting prone are reminded that the use of a rest is restricted to supporting the hand or forearm. Para 244 specifically prohibits any contact whatsoever between the rifle and the rest. Competitors using slings need to take particular care to ensure that the sling attachment and handstop are at all times clear of any part of the rest. RCOs will be paying attention to compliance with this requirement during the Match Rifle competitions.

### **McQueen Sniper Competition**

It is planned to bring this competition back into Camp by firing it on Butt 10 rather than Short Siberia. Due to range safety limitations, however, it will be necessary to fire from a distance of 300 yards rather than 200 yards. To compensate for this change in distance, an additional (blue) scoring ring, 6" in diameter, will be printed on the present target. This will be the 300 yards bull, scoring five, with the remainder of the target scoring four. When used at 200 yards (during the Historic Arms Meeting) or at other times of the year the existing scoring rings (a 4" bull and an 8" inner) will continue to be used.

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

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

## **Ranges**

### **Bisley Range Regulations**

The 2003 Range Regulations have been published. The timings for shooting will remain as for 2002. Copies of the Range Regulations are available from the Range Office on request.

### **Reverse Echelon Shooting on Century**

To optimise the use of Century Range, reverse echelon shooting (ie longer distances on the LHS and shorter distances on the RHS) will be used on certain weekends this year. The weekends concerned will be the second and fourth weekends of each month. The Range Office will make special arrangements to ensure that all firers are aware of the reverse echelon shooting on these weekends.

### **MOD Range Charges 2003**

I wrote to Mr Powell, the Head of the Army Training Estate (ATE) Business Unit, based in Warminster, last October and asked for a copy of their proposed annual letter to be issued to all subordinate ATEs detailing range charges for the use of MoD Ranges by civilian clubs. So far no reply has been received.

I rang in late November and spoke to a member of their staff who told me that a 'consultation letter' had been sent out to all ATE Commanders. I was told that this letter said that a document issued in June, which



had originally proposed that all ranges were to be charged for as a 'whole range charge', was to be amended to exempt Gallery Ranges which were to be charged 'by the lane' (with a possible minimum of two lanes).

As a result of further enquiries it now appears that yet another 'consultation document' (whose content was not disclosed) has now been sent out to ATEs and that no final figures or procedures have yet been set. When asked what clubs who now wish to renew their MoD licence and use MoD ranges should do, the advice from Mr Powell was that last year's figures should be used in the meantime.

The proposal that the licence which must be taken out by clubs that wish to use MOD Ranges should become a three year licence is part of the proposed new procedures, and is therefore also on hold for the time being. Further information will be given to all affiliated clubs, probably through the medium of the NRA web site, as soon as any final licence fees, range hire fees or procedures are known.

## **Ammunition**

### **Prices**

Radway Green has not yet notified the selling price of 155 grains ammunition to us. It is hoped to be able to absorb any small increase and to hold the price for the fifth consecutive year. To encourage quantity purchase, the pricing structure for 2003 will again be as follows:

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

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

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

### **Ammunition for County Open Meetings**

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

## **Range Conducting Officers**

### **RCO Renewals**

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

### **RCO Manuals**

The RCO Manual, used in the instruction of RCOs who are attending an NRA RCO Course (to qualify to run an MoD range for their civilian club) has been completely revised and updated. This manual is now published as an A5 book suitable for carrying in a jacket pocket. Though civilian ranges are not **required** to have NRA qualified RCOs, we believe that the procedures covered in this manual are best practice, and will enhance the safe running of all civilian ranges.

As an aid to safe running of ranges, therefore, this manual may be purchased by all those involved in running civilian ranges, or assisting in running military ranges. The price will be £5 plus postage. Application for these manuals should be made to Phyllis Farnan on ext 150. Those who are attending NRA RCO Courses, or who are renewing their qualifications, will continue to be issued with their manuals free of charge.

## **General**

### **Marksmans Calendar**

Please note that a number of dates published in the provisional Marksmans Calendar have since been revised. Many others had not been confirmed. A revised and updated Marksmans Calendar is enclosed with this Journal and is also available on the web site. Please read this carefully and note any amendments. If any subsequent corrections are required, or new events are added, please inform the Shooting Division Secretary as soon as possible. Any major amendments will be published in the Summer Journal.

### **Postal Matches**

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

## Target Availability

The NRA web site is updated weekly and contains details of last minute availability of targets. This may occur, for example, where a Club has overbooked the number of targets required for a weekend shoot and subsequently reduces the number required. Club Secretaries and individuals who might be interested in last minute bookings should visit the NRA web site [www.nra.org.uk/news](http://www.nra.org.uk/news) to see the latest news.

## Courses

The first Probationary Courses (Course 1) for 2003 for those wishing to join the NRA as (new) individual members started on 25 January 2003, and a parallel course (Course 1a) started on 1 February. The next Probationary Course (Course 2) will start on 29 March. The remaining four training periods in each course will be at approximately fortnightly intervals.

A two day Skills Enhancement Course for Target Rifle will be held at Bisley over the weekend 22/23 March. The course fee will be in the region of £75, and will include both theory and practical range work.

The next two (one day) RCO courses at Bisley will be on 5 April and 6 April.

A two day GBTSF Club Coaches Course (Target Rifle) will be held at Bisley over the weekend 12/13 April. It will be run by Mr Henry Watson.

A two day RCO Assessors Course will be held at Bisley over the weekend 26/27 April. All RCOs who have at least five years' experience as an RCO and who wish to become an RCO Assessor are invited to apply to attend.

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

## F Class Practice Days

All F Class shooters are invited to attend as many of the F Class practice days as they can. Details were sent to all F Class shooters who are on the F Class e-mailing list and bookings have been made on the following dates:

15 March, 11 May, 7 June

The programme for each day will be 600 yards in the morning followed by 1000 yards in the afternoon. Further details may be obtained from Dr Paul Monaghan, the F Class representative on the NRA Council.

## Great Britain F Class Team to South Africa - April 2004

The South African Bisley Union (SABU) have invited the NRA to send an F Class team to compete in the F Class World Championships to be held at the General de Wet Range, near Bloemfontein, in April 2004. This will be preceded by the SABU TR Championships in which F Class shooters may compete in a separate class. The proposed makeup of this F Class team is

Captain, Adjutant, two coaches and eight firers. Council have agreed to send a team to compete in this Meeting.

Nominations for Captain are now requested, and should be sent to the NRA Secretary-General by no later than 21 March 2003. Nominations will be considered by Council at its next meeting on 29 March. Any F Class shooters who would be interested in membership of such a team should write, in the meantime, to the Director of Shooting as soon as possible, giving full details of their experience, scores achieved in the NRA or other Meetings and any other relevant details. All letters will be passed on to the Captain on his appointment.

## MR Team Captain

Mr Colin Hayes has been nominated and seconded for the position of Team Captain of the NRA Match Rifle Team to Australia in 2004. His election was unopposed, and Council approved his appointment at their meeting on 29 January 2003. Applications for membership of this team should be sent to Colin Hayes through the NRA as quickly as possible.

## FORTHCOMING TOURS

### GB Rifle Team to Canada and USA 2004

The following have been selected for the GB Rifle Team to Canada and USA 2004:

<i>Captain</i>	John Webster
<i>Vice Captain</i>	Nick Hinchliffe
<i>Adjutant</i>	James Watson
<i>Coaches</i>	Jeremy Langley David Richards
<i>Shooters</i>	Nigel Ball
<i>NC = New Cap</i>	Mary Boston
	David Calvert
	Danny Coleman
	James Lewis
	Andy Luckman
	David Luckman
	Alwyn McLean
	Ross McQuillan NC
	Jane Messer
	Martin Millar
	Parag Patel
	Toby Raincock NC
	Alistair Speirs NC
	Chris Weeden
<i>Reserves</i>	Jonathan Cload
<i>(Alphabetically)</i>	David Crispin
	Matt Ensor (Coach)
	Erica McMullan
	John Pugsley
	Jon Underwood

## Reception to Celebrate Competitive Shooting

A Reception to Celebrate Competitive Shooting was held recently on 11 February at the House of Commons. This event was hosted by Kate Hoey MP and the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot on behalf of the British Shooting Sports Council. Attendees included Commonwealth Games medal winners, major competition winners and team captains from 2002. A further report will appear in the next Journal.

## Dorchester Rifle Club Centenary Year

As part of the celebrations in their Centenary Year, the club is proposing to organise an individual 50 yards Summer League to be shot during the months of May to September. The targets and rifles will reflect the shooting conditions in their early years. Competition will be for three classes of rifle.

Classic - rifles of pre 1919 design (this will include for example, BSA model 12 and earlier, Bonehill conversion, Enfield No 2)

Veteran - rifles of pre 1945 design (eg BSA 12/15, Vickers Armstrong and any of the above)

Service - any .22RF military training rifle (eg Enfields Nos 2, 6, 7, 8, 9)

Specially printed targets will be based on the old decimal cards and will have round aiming marks for veteran rifles and tin-hat aiming marks for classic and service rifles.

Rummage through your club armoury, dust those old weapons and have a go!

For further details and entry forms send a SAE to Dorchester R & PC, 5 Bingham Road, Crossways, Dorchester DT2 8BW.

## Addendum

With reference to the Form 6 Saga mentioned in the Winter Journal, anyone sending a Form 6 to the Bureau of ATF should note that the fax number advertised on their web site is incorrect. Instead please use 001 202 927 1679.

## WANTED

7.62mm Fired Cartridge Cases, clean and undamaged. We will better any offer you have received and can arrange collection anywhere or from Bisley Camp by arrangement.

We also will pay 3p each for .303 cases, we pay the carriage.

Other calibres also wanted, links, chargers etc.

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Tel: 01722 412412 Fax: 01722 427520  
E-mail: rv@wilsonslaw.com

## The late Charles Cunningham

We are dealing with the administration of the estate of the late Charles Cunningham, who was tragically killed whilst on holiday in Indonesia in March 2002.

According to his firearms certificate issued by Hampshire Constabulary, he possessed four 7.62 mm rifles, but we have been able to locate only two of these, and the following are still missing:

Swing Serial Number 563

Mauser Serial Number A31172

Please would anyone who knows the whereabouts, or possible whereabouts, of either or both of these firearms get in touch with Mr RPG Voremberg at this firm as soon as possible.

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# THE WORLD LONG RANGE SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS, INDIVIDUAL AND PALMA TEAM MATCHES 2003

These Championships will be held at Bisley immediately following the Imperial Meeting, and will run from Sunday 20 until Saturday 26 July 2003. The programme of events will be as follows:

20	World Veterans, World Under 21 and World Under 25 Team Championships.
21 – 23	World Long Range Individual Championships.
24	Palma Team Match Practice Day.
25 – 26	The World Championships of International Long Range Rifle Shooting (The Palma Match).

Team Captains for the team matches have already been appointed, and arrangements are under way for team training prior to these Championships.

Bids for UK entries to the World Long Range Individual Championships may now be made, but are subject to the following conditions:

- (a) A maximum of 500 entries can be accommodated on Stickledown Range, five details of 50 targets (two firers per firing point) at each distance (800, 900 and 1000 yards) each day for three days.
- (b) All competitors must be of the highest Class within their own country and their nomination must be supported by their own NRA.

As required by the rules of the Palma Team and Individual Championships priority must be given to members of the Palma teams, and will be given to members of other World Class teams competing provided that they comply with para (b) above. It is likely that there will be some 370 in these categories, leaving only 130 places available for individuals from the rest of the world, an average of approximately eleven per competing country.

The number of individual entries which can be accepted from each country competing in the Palma Team match will therefore be as follows:

- 1 All 26 members of the Palma Team, and
- 2 Such members of the World Veterans Team (if entered) who comply with para (b) above, and
- 3 Up to ten individual competitors who also comply with para (b) above.

Any places not taken up in **any one** of these categories (1, 2 and 3 above) will be redistributed equally among all the competing countries. This will allow a small number of places for competitors (who must comply with para (b) above) from countries not competing in the Palma Team match.

In view of the limitation in the number of places available, it is almost certain that entries will have to be restricted to **Class X only** and, in the event that the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, a draw by lot will be made for the number of places available. In this event a waiting list, drawn by lot after filling the number of places available, will be maintained in case of late withdrawals.

The entry fee for the World Long Range Individual Championships will be in the region of £80, and this will cover the three days of the competition. A **non-refundable deposit of £30** will be required with each entry forwarded by an overseas NRA for the Individual Championships. In the case of UK competitors this should **not** be sent with their initial application **but only when the NRA has confirmed acceptance of their bid.**

It should be noted that, (under Palma Rules) all competitors **must supply their own ammunition** (which **must** use the .308 Sierra 155 grains bullet).

Anyone from the UK who wishes to bid for a place in the Individual Championships is invited to write to the Director of Shooting at Bisley by no later than 1 April 2003. Allocations of places will not be confirmed until the beginning of May.

Since all teams and individuals have to be “selected by the National Association or Federation which regulates this form of competition within that country” the NRA Shooting Committee will adjudicate where necessary.

## ACCOMMODATION NEWS

### Electrical Connections for Caravans at Bisley

In August 2002, in response to suggestions from caravan users, the Estate Committee commissioned a feasibility study for provision of mains electricity, and in October 2002 a questionnaire was sent to gauge opinion about a possible electrical connections and other future improvements.

#### Electrical connections

Site 1 was taken as the example because it has places for 100 caravans, giving benefits of scale, and is most conveniently placed to take power from the existing infrastructure. Any electrification must be introduced site by site rather than piecemeal. The costings assume 100% uptake.

The scheme would provide a socket and meter for each van. Users would buy pre-paid cards, like telephone cards, thus saving the extensive staff resources needed to read meters and raise invoices.

The order of costs would be:

- a Upgrade existing distribution network including transformer at Site 2 to provide additional 140 kVA, assuming average consumption 1400 watts £50,000 - £70,000.
- b Install seven main feeder pillars and 100 mini pillars, (one at each caravan) £55,000 plus labour.
- c Assume labour is in-house staff, four men for several weeks to the detriment of other work.
- d There is no allowance for contingencies.

The identifiable direct costs would therefore be at least some £1,250 per caravan, which would probably increase as the project was developed. The NRA would look for

payment up front by the first 100 to occupy the site. The arrangements for deferred payment, or rebate for those who relinquish their sites, have to be addressed. The opportunity cost of diverting NRA resources and the upheaval of concentrating on Site 1 only those prepared to pay the cost of the connection have not been quantified.

On this basis the Estate Committee decided not to commit further resources to develop the project.

#### Opinion Survey

387 questionnaires were issued and 171 returned. At the time no details of costs were available and people were understandably wary. The main attitudes which emerged were (percentage of those who answered the question):

- a Do you want an electrical connection facility?  
Yes 15% Maybe 39% No 46%
- b Would you change sites to take advantage of an electric connection?  
Yes 12% Depends on the site 20% No 69%
- c Would you pay a lump sum or increased annual charge?  
Lump sum 8% Depends on cost 64%  
Annual 18%
- d Is there any other service you would rather see introduced?  
Water supply 19% Better ablutions 39%  
Better drainage 6% Other 27% (16 items)

#### Comment

The findings of the survey tend to reinforce the Estate Committee decision not to spend more effort on the scheme, however, this will remain under review.

### Sergeants' Mess Dining Room - Bisley

The larger part of the old Sergeants' Mess Dining Room, a floor area of some 200 square metres, is surplus to the identified medium term need of the Association.

Expressions of interest are sought from members who wish to use some or all of it as storage space for business use. The business must be connected with shooting on the Association's Ranges.

The building will remain in NRA ownership. Prospective tenants will be responsible for the cost of fitting out.

Interested members are asked to write to the Chairman of NSC Ltd indicating whether they are interested in the whole or part of the available space, the proposed use, and the minimum tenure which they would need.

Please reply by 31 March 2003

#### Waiting Lists

Following the change in allocation philosophy for caravans and huts adopted last year, there has been movement in the associated waiting lists. Consequently spaces are available on both waiting lists.

Please contact Sherril Dixon, Accommodation Office on ext 135 or e-mail [accommodation@nra.org.uk](mailto:accommodation@nra.org.uk).

## Range Office Targets

### Targets available by the hour at weekends

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# DISCIPLINE AND REGIONAL MATTERS

## 300 Metres

by Ian Shirra-Gibb

The 2002 shooting season seems to have flown by and, on reflection, results were good although somewhat frustrating in that we were so near to medal positions in the men's prone events around the European circuit.

Our first warm up event was held against Clermont/Creil (France) in March; the second shoot here was used as the first trial towards the World Championship selection later in the year. The result was a win for the NRA on both days, Simon Aldhouse achieving top score and equalling his range record on the Saturday with 597.

Trials at Bisley followed in April, and team selection started. In a change of venue, the first Europa Cup event was held in north-eastern Italy at Tolmezzo, a concrete purpose-built baffled range with little wind, thereby increasing the possibility of high scores. This range had been the venue for a World Championships in the late nineties. The team of five men shot on the elimination relays with three making the second and final round. Our best final result was sixth from Graham Hawarth on 596.

The ladies event was one shoot in two relays; we were delighted to see Mary Pugsley take the Bronze (the first medal for 2002) with a score of 591.

The top three ranked men at this time decided to go to the Swedish Grand Prix, largely at their own expense, in order to get more points for the final later in the year; again a bridesmaid position for Simon who was counted out to fourth place on 596.

From earlier events we were able to select a larger team for the Swiss Grand Prix in Thun where the final decision would be made for the World Championship team. Team results in Thun were to say the least a little disappointing, but from the elimination relays we did get three men into the final. Simon Aldhouse shot a medal level score of 596 only to be counted out to eighth place, but it was a solid performance. The trip back and excess baggage bills are another story!



Mary Pugsley.



Simon Aldhouse.

From the scores and averages made, the team of Simon Aldhouse, Graham Hawarth, Austin Reeve and Mary Pugsley were selected for the World Championships in Lahti, Finland. As the event was over two weeks, there were many shooters coming and going; our party went in at different times to minimise time away and expense. Unfortunately Mary did not have a happy time but two of our three men made the final with good scores; Simon with 596 finished ninth and Graham Hawarth with 595 finished fourteenth. This was the best placing of any GB rifle teams present.

There was a small break until September and the return match against our French friends at Bisley. This event has now been running for some six years; it gives us an end of season competitive match. Although the Clermont/Creil Club has two French National Team members, the 16 year daughter of the team captain stole the show with scores of 590 and 591 - a very good prospect for the French ladies 300 metres squad! The NRA won both team matches again; Graham Hawarth had top aggregate with a two shoot average of 592.5. This year our winning margin was the closest to date.

GB/NRA had three shooters with enough aggregate points to finish in the top twenty of the circuit events, giving us an opportunity to shoot the final in Listal, Switzerland. Simon and Graham were able to attend, and they each recorded scores of 594, finishing in the middle of the pack. Scores were very high, the winner having 599.

The new season will soon be under way. It has been agreed for us to try to smarten up the firing point at Bisley, so some refurbishment will be undertaken by the Squad, including cable ducting down range.

In order to promote ourselves we now have our own web site, which provides information on our progress during the season, and any other items of interest as they happen.

Find us on

<http://www.gb300m.com/>

## **Pistol and Gallery Rifle**

*by Tony Oldroyd*

Phoenix 2003 is promising to be the largest Pistol and Gallery Rifle programme we have staged since the law change in 1997 and will run from Friday 23 to Sunday 25 May (inclusive). From its modest beginnings, it has grown year after year both in the number of events and participants. It is now assuming the glory of the former Anno Domini pistol meetings, and of course, there will be the trade shows too.

However, this Meeting is not exclusively for pistol and gallery rifle shooters; events are included for .303 and F Class rifle, and for shotgun. You can shoot events ranging from 10 metres to 1,000 yards (it is particularly worth watching the long range pistoleers on Stickledown), from precision slow fire to a variety of action events, including the brand new Steel Challenge. All of your old favourites are there plus some more variations. Most events are squadded in advance, so fill in the entry form included with this Journal and send it in straight away to secure your place in what promises to be a memorable and enjoyable competitive shooting bonanza.

Also enclosed is a Request for Entry Forms letter. Please complete and return it to obtain the entry form for the Imperial 2003 Pistol and Gallery Rifle Meeting to be held at Bisley from Wednesday 9 to Wednesday 16 July (inclusive). This Meeting has been referred to by some as the 'Forgotten Championships', but we are trying to promote it to a wider audience. Most of the events are unsquadded and multiple entry, but the difference here from other meetings is that it is not only the first score in any event that counts. You may re-enter as many times as you wish (there really is no limit) in order to improve your score and give you the chance to win a standard medal or even the event outright. Old friends like the Advancing Target, Scott and Granet Medal events, Police and Service Medal events, the America Match and the relatively new 50 Metre Precision 'Free' event, are there for individuals, whilst the Beaufoy, Lord Salisbury and others, are designed for team entries. The squadded events include the usual Scott and Granet Cups, the Cotterill Trophy (air pistol), which was introduced two years ago and is proving popular, and the Police, Service, Gallery Rifle and Lightweight Sport Rifle matches. Re-introduced this year will be the Silhouettes Cup by popular demand, and the Mander Trophy, which used to be competed for by police force teams, but its reintroduction will be for all affiliated club teams to compete. The highlight of the middle weekend will be the new Man v Man event to be held on Sunday afternoon. This does create both shooter and spectator enthusiasm so be there and have fun!

Talk to your fellow club members about this meeting, enter a team or two, talk to anyone who has previously attended the Meeting, we know they enjoyed it and you will too!

Please complete both the enclosed forms and return them post-haste. Your Phoenix entry form will be processed and your Imperial 2003 Pistol and Gallery Rifle entry form will be forwarded. We should love to see you at either or both Meetings when, I promise you, we will do all we can to ensure we **all** have a good time!

## **Classic Arms**

*by Rae Wills*

Being the dog days of winter, with snow on the ground as I write, not much is happening at the moment. The main event since my last scribblings was another successful Trafalgar Meeting under the direction of the revitalised and slimline Jim Quinlan; welcome back indeed, and not the least by me as it is then an occasion when I can take a back seat and actually do some shooting. The dinner was again a great success, and through the riveting performance of the after dinner speaker, Commander Peter Warwick of the ceremonial Cutter Crew from HMS Victory no less, I hope we have forged another link with our heritage.

One of the matters that continually dogs our scene is that of rules and regulations. In dealing with them you rapidly learn the truth of not being able to please all the people all the time, as what delights one is sure to upset another. The general concept must be to keep them to the minimum, and ensure that they encourage rather than put off competitors. Recently a group, representing both rifle and pistol shooters from the MLAGB, have contacted me with a list of suggestions for amendment and consideration. Preliminary scrutiny shows that, in my opinion, many are worthy of consideration.

The Classics Sub Committee and Forum has not met for some time, principally because nothing significant has arisen, but so that any ideas can be properly scrutinised I will work with MLAGB to produce a firm list of proposals, which I will initially circulate to the members for comment.

The Sub Committee has no special composition, and anyone who feels that they have a contribution to make is welcome to join; to put your name on the list contact the NRA or e-mail me at

rae@wills0.demon.co.uk

(please note the 0 in wills0 is zero not a capital O)

A part of our heritage that we are still able to preserve, is that of Heritage Pistols kept under Section 7 of the current Firearms Act. Shoots for those held at Bisley under Section 7(iii) are held most months of the year; for dates and information contact the Range Office.



# INTRODUCING BOB FISHWICK - NRA SECRETARY-GENERAL

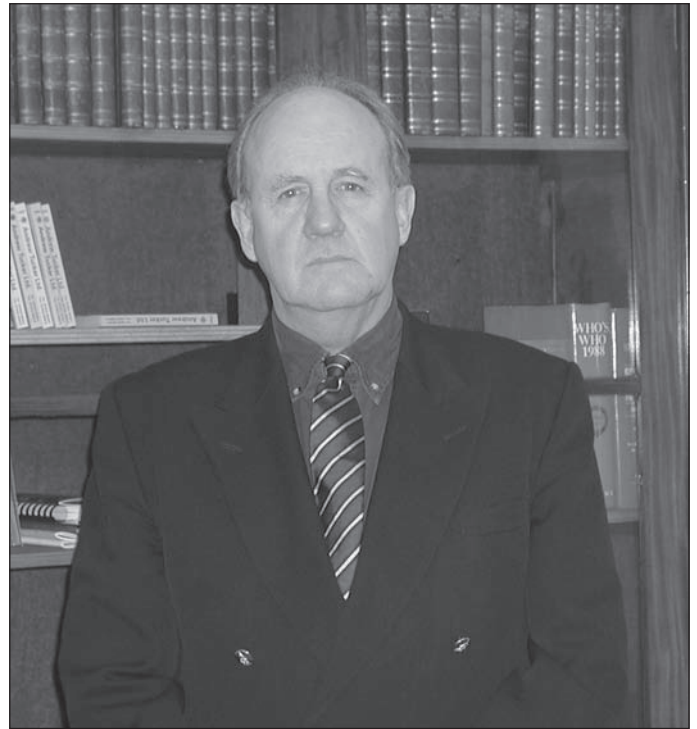
by Tony de Launay

As the Secretary-General (Designate) of the NRA, Bob Fishwick intends to be an approachable and listening link with the membership. "I have been appointed as a communicator and an organiser", he says. "I want to get out into the regions and to meet members and their club representatives. I need to know and understand their expectations; if I do not, how can I ensure that we provide them with the services that will give us all the best possible chance of enjoying our sport?"

As Mr Spock might say – entirely logical. It is perhaps the missing ingredient that will gel the new look NRA. Bob's position in the reorganised structure has two main objectives – to grow the membership by offering a package that represents value for money, and to preserve the charitable entity that is the NRA.

Having been asked by NATO to extend his services beyond normal retirement, he has just retired from the RAF at the age of 57 with the rank of Group Captain. He has an impressive history as a serving RAF officer. He can number counter-terrorism, training, command of an anti-aircraft missile wing, and corporate activities among the jobs he has done. The Gulf and Kosovo are among the places that have featured in the tasks. The budgets he has controlled have sufficient noughts on the end of them to make your eyes water. More recently all his tact and diplomacy has been brought to bear on Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. There he was responsible for developing and implementing a corporate strategy for the protection and security of all air forces installations throughout Europe and for identifying how NATO's military strategy needed to evolve in the wake of the 11 September 2001 atrocities.

From a shooting point of view, members of the NRA should be interested in his undoubted success as Chairman of the RAF Small Arms Association, since 1994. In his own words, he "transformed a financially moribund sporting association (also a charity) into a



thriving small business able to compete and win at the highest levels". For those that follow this sport, the names of Mick Gault, John Pricor, Lawson Smith and David Calvert might mean something. All are products of RAFSAA and demonstrate the value of the links with the Services.

On his new job he realises that his relationship with the Managing Director of the National Shooting Centre is going to be crucial. "The NSC is the day to day revenue generating arm of the overall NRA, and it is to them that we will be looking to contribute the facilities we have here at Bisley". Yes, but this cuts both ways. Bob's response is quick. "I intend to grow our membership base and to encourage more of our members to make the trip here – perhaps just once a year as a taster – to use the facilities on offer. To do so, we must help the regions to promote shooting by ensuring that they can make full use of facilities in their own area. We have to listen to what they think will attract more of their members to the national centre of excellence here – hopefully on an increasingly regular basis."

Bob also knows that the first question from any potential new member is the entirely justified "what is in it for me" enquiry. "The package has to be right." Therein lies the challenge. He has all the experience as a communicator: he has insider knowledge of the military and political workings of the MoD and Government; he knows at first hand the issues facing our sport - from funding to firing point. But above all he knows that the powers-that-be have to listen to their clients. And that is a quality well worth having.

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# PROCEDURE FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2003

## Nominations

A person is only eligible for election to the Council if he or she has been a registered member of the Association for not less than fourteen days prior to the Spring General Meeting.

Those persons proposing candidates must themselves have been registered members of the Association for not less than fourteen days prior to the Spring General Meeting.

The Spring General Meeting 2003 is to be held on 29 March.

Proposers are required to be qualified to vote for their candidates. Therefore, those proposing a regional candidate must live in the appropriate Sports Council Region; those proposing a discipline candidate should have previously declared the appropriate primary discipline to the NRA. Status of such proposers will be determined as at 15 March 2003 for new members and 31 March 2003 for existing members.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary General's Office on request.

## Curriculum Vitae

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

The Secretary General will refer back to authors where CVs are too long or are factually incorrect.

## Casual Vacancy – Ordinary Member

Following the resignation of Mr P Bloom BEM, there is a casual vacancy for Council for the one year remaining of his term. The Council has decided to fill this place, if possible, from among candidates standing in 2003 for the routine vacancies for Ordinary Members. In the event of there being an election (more than six candidates), the individual among the six successful candidates with the lowest number of votes will be deemed selected for the one-year term. If there are only six candidates, there will not be an election and lots will be drawn to determine who fills the casual vacancy for one year. If there are less than six candidates, there will not be an election and those persons will fill the routine vacancies of the Ordinary Members retiring in 2003.

**Routine Vacancies:** There will be the following vacancies in 2003:

### Four Regional Members:

West Midlands - Mrs ID Bennett  
South Western - BV Cambray  
Wales - PS Gray  
London & South East - CD Law

### Five Ordinary Members:

NJ Ball  
S Belither (*GC2 SM*)  
CM Brooks  
Prof AR Horrocks  
Dr MWM Veltman-Grisenthwaite

### Three Discipline Members:

Practical Rifle - PB Sarony  
Sporting Rifle - JM Kynoch  
Gallery Rifle and Pistol - C Farr

## Regional and Discipline Voting

Registered Members of the Association desiring to vote for a regional candidate must reside in the appropriate Sports Council Region at 26 April 2003. Registered Members of the Association desiring to vote for a discipline candidate must have declared to the Association as their primary discipline that discipline by 26 April 2003.

## Required Programme for Election

### 15 March

- a) All candidates and their proposers who are new members must be registered members of the Association by this date.
- b) All those wishing to vote who are new members must be registered members of the Association by this date.

### 29 March

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

### 31 March

- a) All candidates and their proposers who are existing members must be registered members of the Association by this date.
- b) All those wishing to vote who are existing members must be registered members of the Association by this date.

### 26 April

- a) Registered Members must be qualified for regional and/or discipline candidate voting by this date.
- b) Nominations for all vacancies must be returned to the Secretary General by this date ("the Closing Date").

### 24 May

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

### 14 July

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

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

## Scrutineers appointed by Council

To be notified after the Council Meeting on 29 March.

## Constitutional Changes

Please note that, if the Constitutional changes being proposed at the Spring General Meeting on 29 March 2003 are passed, the above procedure will apply as though the elections are for the General Council.



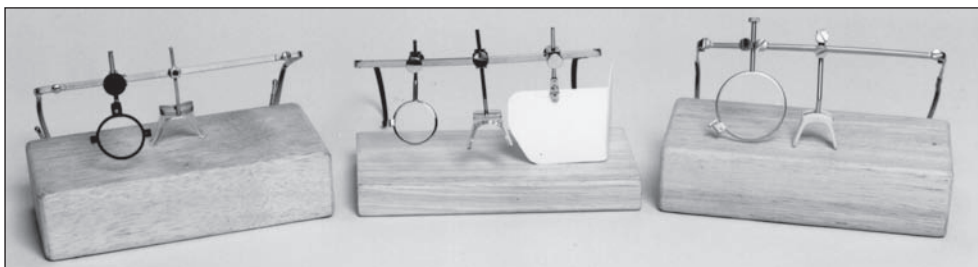
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500: iris and snap-in filters & polarisers	£89	551: iris, 1.5x and twin polarisers	£120	525: iris and fine crosshairs	£69
510: iris only	£40	570: iris, 1.5x and 6 colour filters	£139	591: spirit level, fits under clamp ring	£35
566: iris and 6 colour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

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## FREE TICKETS TO THE WESTCOUNTRY GAME FAIR

The organisers of the Westcountry Game Fair have donated three free family tickets to this year's event for readers of the Journal. As there is a very short time between publication of this issue and the actual event, it would prove very difficult to run a competition. If you would like to apply for one of these free tickets, please write, phone, fax or e-mail the Editor (*contact details on page 1*) by Friday 7 March with your name, address and contact telephone number. All applicants will be put into a draw and three names will be drawn out.

• • • • •

Long since established as one of the most popular country occasions, the Westcountry Game Fair is, once again, scheduled to take place at the Royal Bath & West Showground on the weekend of March 15/16 2003. With an attendance of over 16,000 at the last show, the Westcountry Game Fair is on course to break records!

This year, a bigger than ever show will be host to a colourful indoor and outdoor arena programme including Richard Head Longbows, Terry Large and his Falconry Display, Flycasting with Hywel Morgan. New for 2003 will be **The Deer Area, Laser Shot Shooting Simulations** and **The Sporting Dog Hall....** including Gundog Breed Displays, Microchipping, National Tattoo Register and on Sunday only will be The Westcountry Gundog Show . . . why not enter your dog on the day!

There will be plenty of 'Have a go' features . . . BASC Scurries, BASC Air Rifles with coaching from Kevin Jackman – former world champion, Laser Clay Pigeon Shooting, Dog Agility, Archery and much more.

Supported by BASC, Countryside Alliance and The Countryman's Weekly, the 2003 Westcountry Game Fair, the first game fair of the year, will be bigger and better than ever. It's a day spent amongst real country folk and offers the opportunity for a fantastic range of shopping, entertainment and participation. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Westcountry Game Fair, Saturday and Sunday 15/16 March 2003, at the Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, 9.00am to 5.30pm both days. Advance ticket sales: Adults £7.00, under 16's/OAP's £5.00, children under five free, Family ticket £22.00 (2 adults + 2 children). Group ticket discount: 10 adults – 1 free ticket. Advance credit card sales: 08700 115007. Trade stand and general information 01884 841644 or visit [www.contour.uk.net](http://www.contour.uk.net).

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# THE FOURTH EUROPEAN LONG RANGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Richard Bailie

Despite the weather forecast, six keen and hardy teams turned out for the fourth European Long Range Championships at Bisley over the last shooting weekend of the season at the end of October. Designed for teams of twelve shooters plus Captain, Adjutant, Head Coach and three sub-coaches, shooting under Palma conditions, some teams were able to double-up on coaching/shooting and kept down their squad size. Were it not for the fact that Range Officer Stephen Brooks and event organiser Martin Farnan decided to dispense with register keepers, many more shooters would have not only got cold but stayed cold!

Shooting at Palma targets is a challenge and the target face, at long range, is only six feet square; there are no scoring rings less than a 'six' on the target face, outside of which a hit scores nil. Excellent wind reading skills are required to keep anywhere near the centre, and all teams availed themselves of dedicated coaches.

With three targets per team, and lots drawn for the targets, shooting started pretty much on time, which was just as well as it became a busy day for all concerned. News from the RAF weather stations at High Wycombe and Farnborough predicted that Bisley would be at the centre of a maelstrom on Sunday, so after the first range, it was decided to shoot four ranges on the Saturday instead of the normal Palma course of fire of 2 and 15 at each of 800, 900 and 1000 yards.

At 800 yards, coaches had a rude start, with winds at 11 to 12 minutes left but dropping towards the end of the shoot. Those who knew their zeros got off to a good start with the RG ammunition (the same batch as used at all the long range competitions in the Imperial Meeting), Alwyn McLean and Gary Alexander of Ireland and Andy Gent of England all coming off with 148 ex 150. After the first range, Ireland led the field by twelve points from Scotland, who were five in front of Wales and seven ahead of England.

At 900 yards, despite the cold and a spattering of rain, Allan Mabon's Scottish team came off with a team average of 139 to win that particular range and claw back two points from Ireland. They also managed to stay ahead of England, increasing their lead by another six points. A 146 from Commonwealth Games Gold Medal winner Martin Millar was top score at 900 yards for the morning, but it was Andy Gent leading the individual with eight off, one ahead of Martin and Alice Ogilvie of Scotland, both on nine off.

After a lunch break, we came back for the second and additional insurance shoot at 900 yards. The sun had come out and the wind had dropped a little to a more consistent 7 to 9 minutes left and those on the left hand side of the range had a slightly easier time of it than those in the middle where there is less shelter. Rex Barrington's English team roared through with a twenty point advantage over Ireland, with DA Rose and Simon and Julie Cane all slotting in impressive 148s. Ireland's

lead had been cut to just five points and with 1000 yards to go, it was still anyone's match.

Scotland had been unlucky, with one well known shooter recording a miss for his fourth to count, after three 10s. These things can be very frustrating and there is usually little that can be done, however it clearly didn't put this chap off because he only dropped three points in the next eleven shots!

At 1000 yards it was John Howard Davies of Wales who performed best with a fabulous 148 with 8 Xs. JF Monchiet of the Continental Palma Council did well with a 146 at the lower end of the range, as did R Knapstein of Germany with a 145.

Shooting ended just before the hooter went at 4.30, and 72 weary shooters and their coaches looked forward to getting inside and warming-up. It was a shame that there was no joint team dinner in the evening, but with the match result uncertain in view of the weather forecast, the register sheets were taken away by the range officer, with no-one having an official idea of the positions of the teams.

I had an inkling that it was a bit windy during the night when my caravan walls started to bend like a wobbleboard under the onslaught of the wind. Walking to the Range Office in the morning, Big Jim and Martin were already there, and the trees in Club Row were *dancing*. Unsurprisingly the conditions were considered far too dangerous to allow markers into the butts for fear of serious personal injury, let alone damage to target frames. The results had to be taken on Saturday's scores, with the individual prizes also taken from the team sheets instead of the finalists (top two scorers from each team) being able to battle it out in an individual and uncoached shoot at 1000 yards.

It always turns on 1000 yards doesn't it? Well this time was no exception. Ireland had quietly slipped in a team average of 141 at this range against England's average of 138 and increased their five point lead by another 33 points. Scotland had averaged 139 to finish in third place, 15 points behind England and some 60 points clear of Wales. CPC and Germany were a little behind that, with Germany just pipping their European counterparts. Without them it wouldn't be a European Championship; perhaps we can persuade the Channel Islands to enter a joint team in 2004?

In the individual it was England that shone, with DA Rose taking gold with 579.24, Andy Gent silver, with 578.17 and the bronze going to John Howard Davies of Wales with 576.21.

Many thanks to CPC and Germany for providing souvenir trophies to all teams at the prizегiving.

And the reason for Ireland's winning streak? Well that'd be telling now wouldn't it but I'd venture that our wind coaches might have had a hand in it.

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*Phil Bennison, Bisley 1998*



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David Dale, Sarah Bunch and Barry Desborough with Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist Charlotte Kerwood.

(Photo: Terry Allen)

## EVENTS 2003

### March

Sun 2 Berkshire & Sussex Registered OS  
Sat 8 NCSC Registered DTL  
Sun 9 Surrey, Hants & Sussex Registered OT  
Fri 21 - Sat 22 1<sup>st</sup> Bisley Grand Prix OS  
Contact 07967 199760 for entry forms  
SE Inter Counties ES (NB shot rotationally)

Sun 23

### April

Sun 6 GLN & Sussex Registered ABT  
Fri 11 Practice facilities available for BICTSF OS  
Sat 12 - Sun 13 BICTSF OS Selection shoot. \*  
Wed 16 CPSA Competency course

### May

Sun 4 GLN Registered ES  
Sat 10 Practice facilities available for BICTSF DBT  
Sat 10 NCSC Registered DTL  
Sun 11 BICTSF DBT Selection Shoot. \*  
Wed 14 LMRA Charity Shoot  
Sun 18 Hants Registered UT  
Fri 23 Phoenix Meeting & Yalex Shooting Show  
Sat 24 Phoenix Meeting & Yalex Shooting Show  
Sun 25 South East Inter Counties Olympic Trap and Yalex Shooting Show

### June

Evening shoots commence Thu and Fri 10am to 8pm.  
Sun 8 Hants Selection Shoot & Surrey Registered English Skeet £100 cash prize for High Gun sponsored by W Stanton.

### June (cont)

Sun 15 Hants Selection Shoot and Surrey Registered ABT  
Sat 21 - Sun 22 CPSA English Open ABT

### July

Thu 10 Practice available for BICTSF OT  
Fri 11 - Sun 13 BICTSF OT Selection shoot. \*  
Wed 16 CPSA Competency course (1ES)  
Fri 25 - Sun 27 CPSA British Open ES Shoot

### August

Sun 3 Surrey Registered UT  
Sat 9 CPSA Home International OS  
Sun 24 Surrey Registered DTL  
Sun 31 Surrey Registered OS

### September

Evening shoots finish at the end of September  
Sun 7 Hants & Berkshire Registered DBT  
Sun 14 Surrey Registered Skeet Doubles  
Thu 18 - Sat 20 Ladies International OS  
Sun 28 GLN & Surrey Registered DBT

### October

Sun 12 Surrey Registered Single Barrel  
November TBA

### December

Sat 13 NCSC Registered Christmas Shoot ES  
Sun 14 NCSC Registered Christmas Shoot OT

\* Entry forms can be downloaded from [www.cpsa.co.uk](http://www.cpsa.co.uk)

# LMRA TEAM TO CANADA AND USA 2002

by Steve Green

The team: Nick Brasier (Captain) and Gwynne Jarvis  
Jim and Mary Scobie  
Cliff and Nora Mallett  
Nic and Maria Boyde  
Steve Green and Jo Felstead  
Martin and Pearl Townsend  
Bob and Barbara Blackall  
David and Joan Robinson  
Eddie Brice  
Alex Langley

*We flew out of Heathrow in late August and landed at Vancouver. After an overnight stop in the city, we drove 200 miles south across the US border and into Washington State. Our destination was Puyallup, a small town some 50 miles south of Seattle, where the first of our three matches was to be held.*

## Match 1 - Paul Bunyan Range, Puyallup

The host club for the first of our matches was the Paul Bunyan Shooting Club, Puyallup. Their range is very unusual by UK standards. A rectangle some 650 yards long by 100 yards wide has been cut out of a pine forest: the surrounding trees contain the sound of the gunfire, so the range is quite noisy. At about 150 yards from the butts (or pits as the locals refer to them) there is a covered firing point which allows shooting at various distances up to 100 yards, and is equipped with powerful lights to allow this even on dark winter evenings. The butts are cut into a small hillside, which extends about 200 feet higher than the target line. Any shot falling over the top of the hill (and missing any of the large number of trees which stand on it) goes into one of the shopping malls which lie in a line alongside the main road past the range. The range would thus never be licensed in the UK, however, because of the responsible way in which range firing is conducted, it has been in use for over 40 years without any problems being caused to the local community. From the 300 yards firing point you shoot over the top of the covered firing point, slightly uphill. At 500 yards you shoot on a level, and at 600 yards slightly downhill. The targets are very closely spaced; the target numbers aren't all that clear and are in fact hardly visible when prone at 600 yards, so cross-shooting is extremely easy. There are very few flags on the range, but in general they were no use as wind flags: wind judgement was best done from the mirage or from the direction of the sand splashes as the bullets entered the stop butt. In fact, there was never very much wind (in Bisley terms), but a shooter could easily drift out of the ten ring if he didn't keep adjusting quarter minutes for what wind changes there were.

After a range safety briefing by our hosts, we were able to fire a few rounds each at 100 yards to check zeros with the ammunition we were going to use, a Hornady 155 grains match bullet loaded to 2800fps. Having established a zero for each rifle, we were able to spend the rest of the day sightseeing in the local area.

The shooters were up very early the following day to go to the range and check in for the first day of competition. The weather was gloriously warm and the light was excellent. Shooting was in strings, as is usual in the USA, and the targets were metric style with proportional scoring rings and a rather small central X ring. After a general range briefing, in which safety was repeatedly emphasised, firing commenced at about 0930. There were competitors from Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia shooting alongside their Washington State counterparts as part of the Pacific Northwest International Rifle Association, with our LMRA team as their guests. Although everyone was using the same targets, there were competitors with military rifles (with and without 'scopes), and target rifles (with and without 'scopes), and to be even more confusing, there were several classes of competition - High Master, Master, Expert, etc. As guests, we were all assigned to the Master category. Virtually everyone else was using handloaded ammunition, not necessarily 7.62 calibre.

We could scarcely believe just how crowded the firing points were. The local competitors all backed the inevitable pickup trucks to the firing point to off-load their gear, leaving little room for any non-firers in the normal UK 'behind the ropes' position. The firing point was a veritable forest of tall scope stands. Nevertheless, the organisers, under the command of the genial Bob Wendt, had a well-drilled routine for running the details and ensuring safety was maintained at all times. There were no 'Message 4s' as at Bisley; instead, when a target failed to go down, there would be a shout of "Mark (target) thirteen", and this seemed perfectly adequate to ensure a good service. The butt marking from the local young ladies was exemplary all weekend: it was swift and accurate, and when mistakes were made they were spotted quickly and acknowledged as such.

We were interested in the choice of actions being used by the American "Match Rifle" community ("Target Rifle" to us Brits). There were a lot of Remington and Winchester actions, plus some actions we'd never heard of, but quite a few Americans were shooting with RPA actions, so they must know a good thing when they see it! In fact RPA's US agent, Otto Weber, was taking part in the meeting, as he has done for over 30 years already, so perhaps the presence of the RPAs was no coincidence. One of the Washington team was using an AR-10(T) semi-auto rifle (*see picture on page 20*): based on an AR-15 assault rifle, it was heavily customised for target rifle use, and seemed to be very accurate as the owner made some good scores with it.

The first detail was shot at 300 yards, with 20 shots to count and up to five non-convertible sighters allowed. (Our US friends advised that they had once tried convertible sighters, but with the mix of military and civilian, regular and occasional shooters, it just didn't work for them.) Several of us found problems with heat haze from hot barrels and after 300 yards there was a



rush to buy mirage bands from one of the US shooters present. Moving back to 500 yards, the sun was now high overhead and the strings were being shot in considerable heat. Back at 600 yards, although the sun was still full on the targets, the firing point was in the cool shade of the trees along the back of the firing point, so there was some relief from the heat. Best LMRA scores on the day were Nick Brasier on 597.34, with Nic Boyde not far behind on 593.27: four LMRA shooters made maximum scores of 200 at various ranges. Shooting complete for the day, we remained in the clubhouse for a buffet dinner with our hosts and fellow shooters. Bob Wendt, acting as MC, was having difficulty with Nick Brasier's name, as someone had 'advised' him that it was pronounced 'Brassière'. In the end he suggested that it would be simpler if Nick changed his name to Jarvis . . . In good company we passed a pleasant evening before returning to the hotel.

The next morning it was back to the range at 0800. The course of fire was the same as the previous day, but the weather was cloudy, had cooled significantly and was now much more familiar to the British shooters, especially when a very light drizzle fell for a short time at the start of proceedings. Instead of individual competitions, we were shooting in teams of ten, so coaching was allowed: Martin Townsend, hampered when shooting by a finger injury, was the lead coach for the LMRA. Conditions remained much the same all day, except that the wind rose and the light fell significantly at 600 yards. The result of the match was a win for the home team, with Oregon second, the LMRA third and British Columbia fourth. Following a prize-giving, in which the captain received a couple of range prizes but otherwise the LMRA team did not figure prominently, we returned to the hotel and met up with the non-shooters, who had been investigating the local area and shopping facilities.

The following day we shot in a special match laid on by our hosts. This time the shooting was entirely at 600 yards for teams of eight, with each firer shooting three strings of 15 to count with two sighters. During the morning the light went alternately from very bright to quite overcast, and then back again as clouds went past - a contrast range not often seen in Bisley. Unfortunately, the LMRA team - with the notable exception of Bob Blackall - struggled to recapture the form we had enjoyed in the previous days. Bob was top man by some way, with two possibles and a 147 in his final string. Nick Brasier at least had some consistency with three 148s but all the others had at least one string which was below par. The winners were the Washington State team, with 3559.187, with the LMRA moving up to second place with 3520.144, beating Oregon and BC in third and fourth places respectively. The top men in the Washington State team, Bud Solis and Jay Brooks, only dropped one point each - magnificent shooting.

After a brief post-match ceremony, we bade farewell to our American hosts, who had made us feel very welcome and who expressed the hope that other British teams may visit them in the future. Although the competitions

and targets they shoot are different, it is good to know that all the American competition shooters we met are kindred spirits who share our aspirations and values.

The next three days were spent on holiday pursuits, either on Vancouver Island, BC, or in the Olympic Mountains area on the opposite side of Puget Sound to Seattle. The team met up again in Victoria and, after being entertained to tea in their fine home by Sandy and Margaret Peden, made its way to the venue for the second match: the small town of Nanaimo, some 50 miles north of Victoria.

### **Match 2 - Nanaimo Range**

Nanaimo Range proved to be very similar to UK ranges. The targets were more widely spaced than in the USA, with the target numbers clearly visible. The firing points were grassed but rather uneven, and you were shooting uphill at all ranges. Wind flags were erected by range officials in conventional positions, but at a lower height than at Bisley and hence closer to the actual flight of the bullet. The range is surrounded by trees (which allegedly hide a resident cougar), but are not as close to the firing line as at Puyallup, thus the range 'feel' was much more like that of a UK range. We were shooting here as guests of the British Columbia Rifle Association in the Vancouver Island (Navy) Championship Prize Meeting. We started with a gentle warm-up of 2 and 10 at 300 yards, shooting in pairs or threes as per Bisley. The weather was warm and the light alternated between bright sun and overcast conditions. Moving back to 500 yards, we fired another 2 and 10, and then immediately a 2 and 15. The mirage proved a better indicator of wind than the flags, but we found that a major change in mirage strength required only a minor sight compensation, so many of the team struggled to get decent scores. After a short lunch break, firing restarted to peals of thunder - from a storm playing around the mountain peaks a few miles away - and the wind strength and capriciousness increased in sympathy. The sky turned very dark and we anticipated a heavy cloudburst, but somehow the main rain missed us and eventually the skies cleared. The final detail at 600 yards comprised another 2 and 15. Top LMRA score of the day was Nick Brasier, who dropped three points to finish fourth overall; Ken Westling, the winner, didn't drop a point all day.

Shooting resumed on Saturday with another individual match shot over 300, 500 and 600 yards. The weather was reasonably warm, with no sign of the storm clouds of Friday. Regrettably, with the exception of Nick Brasier, none of the team shot particularly well. Nick dropped three points for a 197, but was himself outshot by the locals Ken Westling and Jim Paton, both of whom made HPSs, with Jim beating Ken by a single V bull. After the individual shooting was complete, there was a team match at 500 yards for teams of five shooting 2 and 10. Bob made a possible and Nick, Steve and Jim all made 49, with Cliff on 47. Fortunately for us, all the local 'aces' belonged to different clubs and the LMRA team's score of 244 was enough to beat the local teams by five clear points, a convincing win.





The L&MRA Team to Canada 2002.



The beautiful Lake Peyto on the Icefields Parkway.



An approaching storm at Nanaimo Range.



Nanaimo Range - shooting in the rain.



The 900 yards firing point at Homestead Range: the 800 yards firing point is offset to the left. Both ranges use the same targets.



View down Paul Bunyan Range showing shooting over covered firing point.



An AR-15 converted to TR.



The forest of scope stands.

(All photos: Steve Green and Jo Felstead)



Match day dawned grey and overcast, with the rain beginning to fall in earnest during the morning. The match was for teams of eight under Queen's II conditions. Martin, still nursing his damaged finger, was once again the wind coach. The LMRA team shot very steadily, if quite unspectacularly. The same aggregate team score was made at 300 (in the dry) and 500 (in damp conditions), with one point more being made at 600 yards (in the steady rain). There were only four individual range scores less than 48, but only three scores of 50: just not good enough to compete with the locals, who were a clean two points per man better than we were. Jim Paton rounded off a good weekend for himself with another HPS to be the overall top score. Best LMRA score was Steve, who dropped a single point at each range.

Following the match and prize-giving, Martin and Pearl left the tour, having to return to the UK early to attend to business. The rest of the team spent the next five days travelling across the mountain areas between Vancouver and Calgary. Long stretches of open road, spectacular mountain scenery and glimpses of wildlife (including bears, mountain goats, elk and spawning salmon) were interspersed with stops for refreshment and shopping. The itinerary took in Mount Robson Provincial Park, Jasper and Banff National Parks, and the famous Icefields Parkway between Jasper and Lake Louise. Eventually, the team arrived in Canmore, some 50 miles from the venue for the last match of the tour.

### **Match 3 - Homestead Range, Alberta**

Homestead Range is about 45 minutes drive from Canmore, and the last 10 miles are off the main road on a part-gravel, part-pot holed tarmac side road. The range sits between two rows of trees, with heathland between the firing points. It has just six targets, set on a hillside sloping gently left to right as seen by the firers. The firing points are grassy and slope to the rear. We were shooting only at long range in this match; the long range targets are rectangular, probably not as large as the equivalent Bisley targets, but reasonably well spaced apart and with the number boards very visible in front of the target. Unusually, the 700 metres and 900 metres firing points are offset from the line of the 800 metres firing point: the 700 metres point is about 50 feet lower than 800 metres, with 900 metres somewhere between the two. We were taking part in the annual 'Frost on the Pumpkin' shoot hosted by the Alberta Provincial Rifle Association, celebrating its centenary this year. There were shooters from BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan present, shooting both TR and F Class.

The wind blew gently right to left, with occasional gusts which needed to be watched carefully. We were allowed to shoot one non-convertible barrel warmer at 700 metres (to check the sight setting at the range altitude), then the first range was 2 and 10, shot in pairs. With the range being at an altitude of 1518 metres, sight settings were lower than they would have to be at the same range at sea level: very roughly, shoot at 900 metres with the elevation setting for 800 metres/900 yards. By the end of the first detail the sun had moved around behind the

firers, and it was low enough to cause annoying reflections in the foresight tunnel, requiring improvised black 'bodge' tape fixes on the inside of the foresight tunnel which seemed to improve matters. Moving back to 800 metres, we shot 2 and 15 at the second distance. The early bright sunshine had given way to cloudier skies, but it was still bright and warm. However, the wind was now significantly stronger than at 700 metres, with gusts which would take you well out of the bull if not allowed for. After lunch we moved back to 900 metres and another 2 and 15. With the bull now looking ominously small and the wind changing direction from several minutes left to a couple of minutes right, good scores were hard to come by and magpies were all too easy! Best LMRA scores were 194s from Nick and Gwynne, Nick beating Gwynne overall by a single V bull, but in turn being beaten for the 'Frost on the Pumpkin' prize by Bob Pitcairn of BCRA who made 195, with fewer V bulls than both Gwynne and Nick! After the match, the APRA members hosted us at a convivial Alberta barbecue and beer at the back of the range.

Sunday morning saw us back at the range by 0900. The match was shot over the same course as on Saturday, except that we shot 2 and 15 at all ranges. Weather conditions were much as they had been the day before, but rather less sunny. The match team was six, with the best five to count: Cliff Mallett was the wind coach, with the shooters firing one after the other. After 700 metres the LMRA best five had all shot possibles, Alex having dropped to a 72. Moving back to 800 metres, the wind was by now starting to rise and the day was markedly cooler than on Saturday. At 800 metres the team's good form continued, with four of the best five scoring possibles, and Steve and Alex scoring 73s. Shooting resumed at 900 metres after a brief lunch break; the wind was by now quite strong, and as fickle as it had been the previous day. Cliff was working very hard on the wind settings to contain the shots within the bull, and succeeded in keeping five of the team above the 70 mark. Nic Boyde made the top score of 224.24, dropping his single point at 900 metres. When the results were counted, the LMRA were delighted to have won with a score of 1106.118, beating the Albertans into second place by five points, with BC another three points adrift and Saskatchewan and an honours-only 'All Stars' team in fourth and fifth places. An excellent couple of days shooting, and a great way to end the shooting part of the tour, especially as our equipment had stayed dry.

The following day the team flew back to the UK, a thoroughly enjoyable trip behind them.

*The team would like to thank: our Captain, Nick Brasier, who undertook the bulk of the organisation of the tour and led from the front on the range; Bob Pitcairn, who was our main liaison and advisor in Canada for the tour; the officials and range officers of the three shooting Clubs/Associations which hosted us, for doing a fine job organising the matches; all those Canadian and US shooters who welcomed us as guests and made sure we were well looked after and finally Dick Winney who, despite having to withdraw from the team, continued to raise funds through the sale of scorecards at Bisley.*

# GREAT BRITAIN UNDER 25 TOUR TO CANADA 2002

*by Susie Kent and Joanna Hossack*

## Friday 9 August

From the corners of Great Britain the GB Under 25 team assembled in the Surrey to engage in preparations for the following day's travel. Rifles were disassembled, packed and luggage weighed and labelled. This revealed the first of many delights that the Adjutant had in store for us . . . personalised, colour illustrated, fully reversible luggage tags that caused us no end of entertainment! Then it was time for pizza and a quick team talk; bed followed shortly afterwards in preparation for the excitements ahead.

## Saturday 10

This day was spent travelling, but some of the highlights were Susie Kent remembering all her shooting kit, Jacqui Rankin's attempt to beat-up Ian Shirra-Gibb, and Jo Hossack's sleeping habits in mid-air. On arrival, customs proved to be the nightmare we had all dreaded, but three hours later, and after much hard work from the management, we all made it through and the excitement of being in Canada took over. However, this excitement was quickly dispelled once we arrived at Connaught Ranges and discovered that the sewage system for the entire camp was out of action, and that the alternatives were the portaloos which were scattered at intervals throughout. The general feeling was that these should only be used early in the morning or late at night, and that they should be avoided at all costs during the midday sun!

## Sunday 11

We had six days free before shooting started so the team piled into the two people carriers we had hired and we hit the road. Our destination was a youth hostel near Mont Tremblant, and it turned out to be a wonderful find, with gorgeous surroundings and not too far from the mountain resort. After settling in, the team split into the beach party, who lounged, swam and sunbathed for the rest of the day, and the town party who explored the ski/beach resort at the base of Mont Tremblant.

## Monday 12

This day was spent taking advantage of the mountain. The morning was spent canoeing up and down a beautiful forest-lined lake, and the afternoon exploring the many stunning sights the mountain had to offer, including a cable car ride up to the summit; the view was spectacular!

## Tuesday 13

Another day lazing around the resort. The team split into two groups, Adam Brown and the bikini-clad girls hired a boat and spent the day playing on the lake, and the rest of the boys played mini golf and hung around the resort. After a lovely relaxing day it was time to pack up and head for Montreal.

On arriving at the youth hostel where we were to stay, our plans changed. It did not take long for the team to become very scared in the unpleasant neighbourhood in which the hostel was situated, and within an hour

our accommodation budget had risen dramatically and we were checking into the Marriott Renaissance Hotel, complete with steam room, swimming pool, and Jacuzzi. We ate a superb dinner in the restaurant and rejoiced in absorbing the luxury around us!

## Wednesday 14

This day the team divided into little groups that explored Montreal and the hotel at their own pace. In the evening we sampled Montreal's best steak restaurant and best night-time entertainments. Aside from a camera-taxi incident, an exceptionally good night was enjoyed by all.

## Thursday 15

Today's excitement peaked when the team went jet-boating. Many of the team had previously experienced this amusement when they were Athelings, but for those to whom it was a new experience, the excitement was tangible; the two Shoulers nearly burst with delight! This day also led to a team rule that stories of when you had previously been to Canada were not to be mentioned, as the majority were interesting only to the people who told them.

In order to relieve the boredom of the drive back to Connaught (and possibly also to aid navigation) an executive decision was made to purchase walkie talkies for each vehicle. These became our new favourite toys and kept us amused until we arrived back at the range. There was just enough time to unpack all the kit and have a play with our rifles before it got too dark, and then we all retired to dream about the competitions ahead.

## Friday 16

The early start came as a surprise to some of the team, who had enjoyed getting used to the lazy mornings, but eventually we were all up and buzzing around in preparation for practice shoots and the warm-up matches. After five practice rounds at 300, 800, 900 metres and 600 yards it was time for the Ottawa Regiment at 800 metres. Edward Wood managed to start on the right foot, by getting them all in for a 75.6 which placed him tenth. The day ended with an excellent Chinese meal in the company of the GB team.

## Saturday 17

The warm up matches continued with the Gooderham at 500 yards and 900 metres, (Susie Kent, sixth, 124.13), and the Army and Navy Veterans at 900 metres (Ed Compton, ninth, 70.6), in very windy conditions. Phil Hakim excelled himself, as upon returning to the team tent very pleased with his 50 in the Gooderham, he was told that it was a 2 and 15 shoot! Thankfully the Grand Aggregate had not yet started, so we could laugh at him as much as we wanted without feeling too guilty.

That evening was the Meet and Greet in the marquee where the team were given the opportunity to meet with old acquaintances and to make some new ones.



### **Sunday 18**

Sunday started with the Tilton at 300 metres and 600 yards, and then progressed to the start of the Grand with the MacDougall at 300 metres and 600 yards. Sadly, due to the exceptionally strong winds that day, none of our team were placed very highly, so the challenge was laid down for us to catch up in the rest of the Grand.

Again the evening was spent with the GB team, as Pete Holden was celebrating his 21st birthday. After accepting his many presents (one of which was his new inflatable friend, Belinda) he joined various members of both teams dancing the night away in a nearby club.

### **Monday 19**

The day started with a conversation with Pete Holden, who looked as bad as he felt, and mumbled a question about whether we had "any of that stuff... that stuff that makes you feel better"! We grudgingly gave him some Dioralyte, although he had just put in a 50 and didn't really need it! Monday also brought the Norman Beckett (2 and 10 at 500 and 600 yards), which illustrated how the gale-force winds of the day before had vanished when Jo Hossack's 100.6 only placed her 28th. Jo continued her storming day by also destroying the bull in the Colonel John C Brick with her 100.11, this time placing her 17th. She was followed by Simon Shouler at 23rd with 100.9, and Philip Hakim at 28th with 100.6.

### **Tuesday 20**

Tuesday brought the Letson, and therefore the first round of the Governor General's at 300 metres, 500 and 600 yards. Rick Shouler shot well to come ninth with 104.13, and Erica McMullan came 18th with 104.10. It was also the day of the much feared Alexander of Tunis at 900 metres which did prove to be something of a challenge. Simon Harding managed 16th place with 46.4, just beating Rick Shouler, whose 46.3 squeezed him just behind in 17th place. That night the U25s entertained the Athelings with a barbecue on the beach. After everyone had eaten until they were about to burst, we were treated to a dazzling display courtesy of the Northern Lights.

### **Wednesday 21**

Wednesday heralded the second round of the Governor General's, this time in the form of the Presidents which comprises 2 and 10 at 300 metres, 500 and 600 yards. Canada maintained its high speed wind conditions which caught many of the team unaware, and so only Phil and Erica qualified to continue through to the Final. The Gibson also commenced.

### **Thursday 22**

The finish of the Gibson at 300 metres and 800 metres saw Simon Harding achieving 14th place with 148.14. Our first team match, the Outlander, was due to take place in the afternoon. The heavy rain had soaked our kit and concerns were rising that if it continued, some of our jackets might shrink beyond all recognition and render us jacketless. Our fears were unwarranted however, as the match was rained off, leaving us some free leisure time.

### **Friday 23**

Having shot very flat elevation all week, Adam decided to try his hand at wind coaching, and managed to put them all in in the Gatineau. He eventually came second to John Webster by a couple of Vs. Not all of our team had made it into the Patrons so those that hadn't spent the early afternoon relaxing and preparing themselves for the long range match. After 800 metres, we were not doing as well as we would have liked. Phil urged us to pull it together at 900, and things were going reasonably well until disaster struck in the form of a miss for one team member's last to count. He had been heading for a beautiful 50, so understandably this was greeted with all-round disbelief. But there was nothing we could do, and the Canadians eventually won the match by five points. They were very gracious winners, offering sympathy for our bad luck, but they had shot extremely well and we realised that we had made the grave mistake of underestimating the opposition. We left the range a little subdued, but determined to prove our point in the short range match the next day.

### **Saturday 24**

Against prevailing public opinion, the U25s were among the first to hit the range, and this good form continued for the rest of the day. We started solidly with a good 300 yards score. There was then a brief hiccup at 500 yards when a hot air balloon thoughtlessly flew overhead necessitating a ceasefire, but this did not seem to bother Erica, who scored a magnificent 50.10. She was being coached by Matt Ensor, who certainly has a way with the ladies, since he also coaxed a 150 out of Susie! We emerged victorious by eleven points. This produced a quiet satisfaction, because even though there is not an official aggregate for the long and short range matches, if there had been one we would have won it, which made the previous day's loss a little easier to stomach. With our match safely in the bag, we went to congratulate the Great Britain team, who had smashed the record for the Canada match, dropping only three points.

While Phil and Erica sweated in the Governor General's Final, the rest of us sorted kit for our departure the following day. We ventured out to support them at 900 metres, and were pleased to see that several of the Brits were doing well. The winner was eventually decided by a three way tie shoot, which provided one of the more exciting moments for a shooting spectator. That night there was cause for celebration, which we did, big style, in Ottawa.

### **Sunday 25**

The morning was spent packing, nursing hangovers and shopping. After watching the victorious end to the America Match and continuing the tradition of the junior 'shoe' tree, it was time to go home (with only seconds to spare after rally-style driving to the airport).

Many thanks to Phil, Matty and Simon, for running such a thoroughly enjoyable tour, for making it go so smoothly, and for being so much fun!

# THE BRITISH CADET RIFLE TEAM (THE ATHELINGS) TOUR TO CANADA AUGUST 2002

*by Major Simon Fraser*

This year's team, led by Simon Fraser, Jane Mahoney and Peter Medhurst, ironically, since we had our first lady officer for some years, had no lady cadets. Whether this was to Jane's advantage or not remains a mystery, however the entire tour was the most tremendous experience enjoyed by all, even those who seemed destined to lose everything that they could. Amazingly we did not mislay any team members even if we did unfortunately fail to win the Faraday. The Commandant had a moment of difficulty when deciding whether he was very upset for it saved his hair being dyed green - Major Bawden, the RCACNRT's Commandant briefly sported an astonishing pink coiffure in celebration of his team's victory in the AG Bell! Not entirely as planned, Charles Simon's appointment as Captain was announced in the swimming pool in Montreal when the team clearly needed controlled leadership while attempting to create a full team pyramid. Once he was in post, unmitigated disaster turned to triumph although sadly no camera was being manned to record the success. James Headon was the Vice-Captain.

Our tour followed the usual pattern, arriving tired after a long flight to be met by our outstanding escort officer, Charles Maier, and taken to Connaught via some of the sights of Ottawa. Too late for a meal, some said thank goodness whilst others thought that their mouths had been separated from their stomachs. All were ready for sleep so the tents were fully occupied and even the rain caused little disturbance. Next morning it was not long before our driver JC, who proved an undoubted invaluable member of the team, had us motoring smoothly north to Quebec (we have asked that both he and Charles are booked for the 2003 Athelings).

Many sights were seen and recorded to the pleasure of all. JC fixed a visit to a typical French Canadian restaurant where the musical prowess of the Adjutant and others was demonstrated on the spoons. This was followed by iced maple syrup and an amazing firework display. Valcartier accommodation was comfortable if nerve racking for the Commandant, as a third of the team had to be housed in the girls' wing - luckily he was too! After a whistle stop tour of Quebec and some shopping, we went south again to Montreal for the Biodome, then further south via some canoeing and "mucking about" in and out of the boats at La Petite Rouge river before a brief visit to Kingston and a late arrival at Trenton. For some I fear this may have been the highlight of the tour; the Air Force canteen was unbelievable with an almost infinite variety of food and drink available at all times in vast quantities, and luxury individual rooms fully equipped with almost everything you could dream of wanting. The Air Force Museum with a Halifax bomber being reconstructed and the numerous other trophies, artefacts and memorials was fascinating. Too soon for some it was back to the canteen then off to a beach to

recover before eventually reaching St Andrew's College, near Toronto.

Inevitably there was far too little time, however we crammed in an incredible number of visits and activities both cultural and entertaining: the CN Tower, Niagara Falls, HMCS Haida, the Legislative Assembly and University, shopping, Wonderland, Fort George, more shopping and of course eating. The team even found time, with the Adjutant's connivance/approval (she denies it of course), to hatch and execute a self-styled "military operation" to totally soak the Commandant in celebration of his birthday. Mission declared a complete success. We had been on the go for eleven days and it was time to return to Connaught. The RCAC Staff were duly astonished when, breaking all Athelings' precedents, we arrived five minutes early to rejoin Peter Medhurst.

We could not get the C12s (Canadian RPAs) on the Sunday to fit them up, so a quiet focusing afternoon was followed by a swim in a very muddy bay, and early bed. At least that is what the Commandant thought. He had not allowed for the ACF Course returning at 0300 and descending on the Athelings.

Monday morning and we should have been firing on all cylinders with only the one day of range practice, however most of the team were misfiring so badly that the Commandant and Peter nearly blew their own gaskets. The rifles were made to fit some better than others, and most grew in confidence using what is certainly a good rifle.

The Cadet Meeting was fired in very hot and humid conditions and with several team members feeling ill, mainly because of dehydration due to an inadequate water intake. However the Athelings acquitted themselves reasonably well. Adam Beecroft was the winner of the first day's aggregate with Matthew Cloughley second, whilst Sam Dash just missed out on a trophy, losing in the tie shoot. James Headon and Matthew were the stars of day two, finishing second and fourth in the day's aggregate. This made Matthew the overall aggregate individual winner. Thus to the Rex Goddard Stage II - several Athelings had not had the happiest of times with the C12 so selection was not easy. Nick Vigors, an intended coach, was truly out of sorts and did not even think he should be shooting but proved the Commandant right by top scoring. Despite a firer committing one of the most heinous of crimes, confirming his sight setting to the checker as right when it was not, and having to be withdrawn to sort it, thereby wasting his sighters, he finished with a 34. Nevertheless we were out-shot by the RCACNRT by ten points; thank goodness for our UK lead. The prize giving was good in that all sections of the Canadian courses plus the Athelings and the ACF cadets won some awards.





A team shower at Niagara Falls.

Most Athelings were not sad to return to their own rifles for the DCRA Championships which provided the inevitable ups and downs, almost in tune with the weather, sun and rain. Everyone had their moments, most achieved an HPS Cross but few believed that they had outshot their expectations. Despite this, the shooting was good in a very strong field. Richard Pears won the Jim Waller trophy for the top Atheling in the Macdonald Stewart Grand Aggregate, and Ben Shanson won the Bond trophy for topping the pile in the Governor General's. Pressure was on for the Faraday in more ways than one, but the rain had the last say on the day so the match was postponed to the Friday. As a result we had the Faraday Dinner the night before the match and no, we cannot blame it for the result: a win for the Canadians by nine points in an excellent close fought match. Paul Boyle was the highest scorer with 105.9. Prize giving eventually over, we took our hosts across the river for a thank you celebratory dinner. The return to camp was rousing, but silence reigned when ordered and so to bed. We were up early and off to Lake Opeongo in the Algonquin Park. The journey was awful, in a bus that we nearly had to push up hills and with a driver - well the less said the better. Our destination soon removed all memories of the agony and we spent an idyllic two and a half days of peace and tranquility very close to nature. The emphasis was on relaxation so the programme was adjusted to suit our whims, canoeing, swimming, lazing, cooking, eating, sleeping and talking. Everyone enjoyed themselves hugely and when on the last night, our guides Alex and Joel produced ice creams for pudding and the Commandant, with some help from a friend, conjured up a bottle of beer each, the evening campfire party was replete. Sadly it was over too soon and the return journey with the same driver but unbelievably a worse bus, filling with exhaust fumes and with broken air conditioning, brought us uncomfortably back to reality. Many fond and some sad farewells and we were on the way home after a happy and successful tour. The Athelings name was upheld and next year's team will hopefully have as good a time as we did.

Thank you one and all for making it possible and to the Athelings, thank you for being a great team, I am honoured to have been your Commandant.



The Rex Goddard in safe hands.



The team in action shooting for the Faraday.



"It was good wasn't it?" - the last night.



Success - the evidence.

(All photos: the Athelings)



# GREAT BRITAIN RIFLE TEAM TO CANADA 2002

*by John Bloomfield*

## Departure

Tuesday 6 August 0745 hours depart Bisley for LHR, or at least that's what the Adj's instruction sheet said.

0705 coach arrives; far too small to contain the mountain of luggage. The instruction sheet also mentioned something about a maximum 32kg per piece of luggage; perhaps the floor was not strong enough to cope with Parag's 45kg monster suitcase!

0740 larger coach arrives; 0815 depart Bisley seen off by Colin Cheshire. Fortunately, for some reason, there was virtually no traffic that morning so, in spite of dark mutterings from the Adj about being late for check-in, we still arrived at Heathrow on schedule.

After distributing the excess of Parag's summer smalls collection amongst the rest of the team, check-in and passage of rifles and ammunition through customs went without a hitch. The flight proved equally uneventful despite protests from one team member, some sort of pilot or so he claims, that he was not going anywhere with a woman driver in charge.

At Toronto we were met by Edie and Pat Vamplew, the Vice Captain who had flown up from Greenwich CT and Stephen Penrose who had been enjoying a pre-tour family holiday in Canada. After collecting vehicles, we were soon en route for the Red Pine Inn at Alliston for two days of acclimatisation before shooting the Ontario Rifle Association Meeting at Camp Borden.

## The ORA Championships

Mons Range at CFB Borden is a north facing, tree lined, 40 target range with firing points to 1000 yards. Much like any other you might think, except that it has one distinctive feature. A large 'berm' or earth bank, about 20 feet high, at right angles to the stop butt, divides the range in half for the first 400 yards. The berm produces such interesting and readable (?) wind effects, the ORA do not use the two targets either side of it.

Conditions for the three day meeting started and remained hot, dry and sunny with temperatures in the mid thirties by early afternoon. Winds were light but very fickle changing rapidly from one side of zero to the other. It was not uncommon still to require 3 minutes on the sights even with the mirage boiling, the decision to use 3 left or 3 right being the difficult part! Targets were all Bisley dimensions except for the V bull which is half bull diameter. Six foot wide targets at long range add entertainment value - only a foot of magpie either side after which you score zero.

First shoot in anger was the Gibson at 300 yards; won by Kip Morton after a tie shoot with John Pugsley and Jeremy Langley all on 50.8. During a zeroing session the previous evening Kip discovered the stock on his own rifle broken through the grip and so was using the Captain's spare. (Moral: firstly always take two rifles on tour and secondly never lend anyone your spare rifle

because they will beat you with it). Jeremy won the Bankers 500 yards with his second 50.8 of the day closely followed by Pete Holden (50.7) and Dave Crispin (from Surrey but currently working in the USA) the best of several 50.6s.

After lunch the spoils went to the locals, Scott Murray (50.4) had the only possible at 900 yards followed by Stephen Penrose (49.6). Bill Molnar's 48.4 won the 1000 yards Long Branch ahead of Pete Holden on 48.2. Stephen Penrose won the Friday Aggregate with 195.22 a point ahead of John Pugsley.

The four Saturday competitions (10 shots at 3, 5, 6 and 900 yards) make up the Lieutenant Governor's Qualifier, the top 50 scores going through to Sunday afternoon's Final. Mike Wong Shui and Parag Patel tied the Tait at 300 yards with 50.8s, Mike winning the tie shoot. Iain Robertson had the only 50.8 to win the 500 yards Brassey ahead of Julie Cane, 50.7. At 600 yards John Pugsley's 50.6 was the best of only three possibles in the Macdonald Stewart. John Pugsley then scored his fourth possible of the day (50.5) to win the 900 yards John Brick Match ahead of Jeremy Langley (50.2) with Pete Holden third on 49.5.

All but one of the team qualified for the Lieutenant Governor's Final, with John Pugsley leading the field on 200.22, followed by John Webster, 198.24 and Pete Holden, 198.22.

The Des Burke, 15 to count at 600 yards and the last shoot in the Grand Aggregate, produced four scores of 75.10, including Fazal Mohideen and his father. Fazal won the resulting tie shoot from John Bloomfield. John Pugsley won the Mercer Memorial Grand Aggregate, adding to his growing collection, with 419.48 ex 425. Scott Murray was second with 416.42, David Luckman, 416.36, took third place. Chris Haley and John Pugsley tied for the Short Range Aggregate with 324.39 ex 325, Chris winning the tie shoot.

The rest of Sunday morning was taken up with a coached teams match (teams of four, 2 and 10 at 1000 yards) won by Winona Gold team, 193.16 followed by GBRT-Cleveland, 192.11 and GBRT-Langley, 191.09.

## The Lieutenant Governors Final

The ORA traditionally pair the leaders together for the Final, starting in the centre of the range and moving outwards. This year the squadding did not quite go to plan, with the leading pair on target 1, the next pair on 2 and so on. The belt of trees down the left hand side of the range and a left wind meant the leading pairs enjoyed a significant advantage. As it was, only Iain Robertson really mastered the conditions with a superb 74.10 to give him 269.33 and second place. Julie Cane scored the only 73. Four scores of 72 included John Pugsley who after being officially declared the winner with 272.28 was suitably chaired from the firing point.

## **The Canadian Pacific Match**

After the hot weather of the previous three days and with the temperature still rising, the match, teams of twelve, 15 to count at 600, 900 and 1000 yards, was likely to be a test of stamina as well as marksmanship, and so it proved. Clear skies again, hot sunshine and fickle winds meant long periods roasting on the firing point whilst the coaches waited for the wind to behave.

We made a strong start at 600 yards dropping just three points for a range total of 897 ex 900 taking a 20 point lead back to 900 yards. Another fine performance in trying conditions at 900 yards saw our lead extended to 35 points. After lunch and despite temperatures by now in excess of 40°C, another fine team effort at 1000 yards produced a 31 point margin over ORA for a victory by 66 points, 2634.233 to 2568.193.

After a short presentation on the range by Jim Thompson, we retired to the Red Pine for some rehydration before a team dinner that evening. It could have been the form of the team as a whole, the success of the new caps on their first outing in GB colours, or sitting out in the noonday sun, but by the end of the evening something had clearly addled the Captain's faculties and his arithmetic failed when paying the bill. The potential effect on the local economy was to result in frantic midnight calls from the restaurant to correct the error. The Captain's slumbers however went undisturbed; either the restaurant manager or hotel staff decided that Chris Haley just had to be the most affluent member of the team.

Tuesday and Wednesday were mostly spent enjoying some R and R: shopping, more golf for some, canoeing for others (which enabled more golf with many balls lost the previous week recovered) and for the children, a trip to the huge fun fair spotted on our trip north from Toronto. Thursday we drove up to Ottawa, breaking the long journey for a splendid barbecue lunch chez Pat Vamplew for those taking the less scenic route. Friday was spent installing ourselves in our air conditioned classroom at Connaught and generally preparing for the hard work ahead.

## **The DCRA Meeting**

The 120th Canadian Fullbore Rifle Championships incorporated two major changes from previous years: the inaugural America Match, shot on 'Final Sunday' and the first F Class World Championships. The large contingent of overseas shooters present included F Class teams from all over the world. Squadding was in pairs throughout the meeting with F Class shooters squadded in amongst the TR competitors. When two F Class shooters were squadded together it was not unusual, given the seriously high-class marking at Connaught, to see the pair of them rattle off their 2 and 10 to count in under three minutes, particularly at short range!

## **The DCRA Individual Matches**

The warm-up matches start on Friday evening and continue until Sunday lunchtime. After our success at Borden, confidence was high, but despite some good

shooting, we did not manage any individual wins in these matches. Our highest placings in the Champlain Aggregate (all the warm up matches) were Iain Robertson and Nigel Ball (fifth and sixth with 365.35 and 365.31 respectively ex 375). It did not escape our notice that there were six Canadians in the top ten of the Champlain and two of the matches were won by members of the US Team.

The Macdonald Stewart Grand Aggregate starts on Sunday afternoon and at 830 points is somewhat larger than its Bisley equivalent. John Webster was quickest out of the blocks with possibles for third place in the MacDougall and second in the Col John Brick, (after a tie shoot with Mitch Maxberry), adding another full score in the Norman Beckett to top the leader board on Monday evening.

Tuesday brought our first individual success, David Luckman scoring 105.15 to win the Letson and Life Membership of the DCRA, after a tie shoot with Paul Tremblay who, to the disbelief of the watching crowd, managed to cross-shoot in the two man tie shoot! (In fairness readers should note that DCRA Rules require an additional target to be raised either side of those in use). Tuesday also features the Alexander of Tunis at 900 metres; conditions that afternoon, particularly in the first detail after lunch, enhanced its already legendary reputation as the 'Agg-Buster'; John Pugsley will tell you the story!

The Klondike Aggregate represents the halfway point of the Grand. John Webster, despite a 104 in the Letson, fell back to third (448.54) but was still delighted to make his best score in the Tunis (44.1) after six attempts! The new leader, and Klondike winner, was Ray Gross from the US Team with 449.52 from Canadian Peter Westlake on 449.41.

David Luckman continued in fine form on Thursday making 150.22 to take second place in the Presidents, with Stu Williamson (150.16) recording our other full score. David's 255.37 was the best of only two full scores in the Qualifier (Letson and Presidents). John Pugsley won the Gibson, partial compensation after the Tunis and John Webster won the last competition of the Grand, the Gatineau at 900 metres.

Alain Marion won the Macdonald Stewart Grand Aggregate for the ninth time and, whilst disappointing not to have any member of the team in the top three, we did take six out of the top ten places. David Luckman won the Polar Bear and Maple Leaf whilst Parag Patel won the Gzowski (long range) Aggregate. Julie Cane won the Tess Spencer for the highest placed lady in the Grand and the Families with the assistance of husband Simon.

## **The Governor General's Final**

Thirteen members of the team qualified for the Final, a two range shoot of 15 to count at 800 and 900 metres. Only the Second Stage (Presidents) score is carried forward leaving several team members well placed, David Luckman clean with Nigel Ball, Julie Cane, Jon Cload, Parag Patel and Iain Robertson all on one off.





The team in action at Borden.



John Pugsley, winner of the Lieutenant Governor's Prize at Borden.



Not everyone was happy with the Portalloos . . .



A successful and happy team with their trophies at Borden.



The Captain could get quite grumpy without his breakfast toast . . .



John and Parag enjoy a round of golf.



Sometimes it's all too much.



The America Match Trophy is present



The team spent a few days relaxing at Chaffey's Locks.



The Great Britain Under 25 Team.





The Captain shows his team exactly which branch they will be strung up from if they lose any of the team matches . . .



. . . thereby “encouraging” his team to record breaking scores in the Canada and Commonwealth matches.



. . . whereas the Vice-Captain could enjoy his donut untroubled by toaster-induced fire alarms.



Jon Cload keeps score for John Webster in the tie shoot for the Col John C Brick.



Mary Boston models the new GB team kit.



ed to the Great Britain Team.



Parag’s pot.



Luckily Parag and Nigel had not been selected as wind coaches.



Read the barrier!



Jon (third) and Parag (second) after the Governor General’s Final.



A moderate breeze from the left which, as is so often the case, looked quite benign to the spectators but took on greater malignancy to those on the firing point who had actually to read it! Small, but very quick, changes in both strength and angle required careful watching and fast shooting, the unsuspecting could and did depart into the magpie. Five of the team, including Nigel and Parag put them all in at 800 metres to be well placed going back to 900 metres. Peter Holden added 74.6 at 900 metres to his 75.7 for a superb 149.13 and eighth place overall having started the final in 46th position. Jon Cload with a pair of 74s and Parag with 75, 73 both finished on 297.31, along with Alain Marion (after some confusion with his arithmetic) for a three way tie shoot. Jon and Parag both shot quickly to record 25.1 and 25.2 respectively, whilst Alain took his time making 25.3 to secure the prize for the fourth time in his long career.

### **The Team Matches**

The match campaign at Connaught usually starts with the Outlander Match on Thursday afternoon. The rain which arrived that morning to soak the last two details of the Gibson turned torrential over the lunch interval. A meeting of team captains quickly decided that self preservation was the order of the day and all the afternoon matches were cancelled except the Michael Faraday which was postponed.

The Canadians, particularly with Alain Marion on top form and others shooting well, are always tough to beat on their home ground. The unknown quantity was the US team. They had shot well in the individual matches and their leading pair of Dan Simpson and Emil Praslik had won the 900 metres Coached Pairs Match with a full score two days earlier. The real question was how far down the order could they bat, whilst their coaching abilities were even more of an unknown. Nevertheless with most of the team shooting well, confidence was high that we would make a good showing in the three international matches to come.

As anyone who has been there will tell you, Connaught at long range on a sunny afternoon can be a very dangerous place particularly for those who are either over confident or timid with their wind calls. A fickle wind with rapid changes in both strength and direction and an unpredictable mirage greeted the teams when we started the Commonwealth Match on Friday afternoon. Three coaches on top form, the firers shooting tight groups, careful selection of when to fire and more importantly when not to, gave us the huge total of 598 ex 600 at 800 metres. Back at 900 metres the wind became even more changeable, however the coaches were equal to the challenge and another seven possibles went up on the board for a new record score of 1189.140, (five points better than the previous mark) 15 points ahead of Canada on 1174.106.

Saturday morning dawned sunny for the Canada Match. A moderate breeze at 300 yards varied in direction but was of mostly constant strength. At the longer ranges the conditions remained manageable though far from straightforward as changes in strength combined with

direction required alterations of 2 minutes or more at times. We made a cracking start at 300 yards, posting a full score of 400 ex 400. One point was lost at 500 yards and two at 600 yards to give a match total of 1197.142 and a second record score inside two days. Canada took second place with 1185.122, two points and one V ahead of the USA on 1183.121.

Team selection on Saturday evening for the America Match, always potentially difficult, was made more so by the record breaking achievements of the previous two days. Strong performances in the Governor General's Final that afternoon by members of the team not selected for the Canada Match turned a difficult task into one close to impossible even after long discussion. In the end it proved simply too difficult to know who to drop.

It was a fine sunny morning, however the stiffish breeze from 11 o'clock proved to be a mixed blessing. It kept the temperatures down which, given the long day ahead of us, was a bonus but caused aiming problems from eyes watering. That problem aside we made a satisfactory start with four off at 300 yards, opening up a five point lead over Canada who were two ahead of the USA.

It proved more challenging at 600 yards for several reasons. The wind continued to freshen and became more changeable in direction, sometimes turning almost square across the range, whilst at other times blowing straight up the range if not coming from the right. The post mortem showed a bracket from zero to 5 left (and we deliberately waited when it appeared right wind was needed).

A dispute with the register keeper on the right hand target after using John Webster's first sighter as a pilot following a long wait and before Parag had completed his shoot, and whether we could then convert John's V bull, caused some loss of time which, later on, nearly cost us dear.

Stu Williamson's trigger failed on his 13th to count. He was promptly substituted by Stephen Penrose who completed his shoot whilst efforts were made to remedy the problem. These were not successful so Stu borrowed David Luckman's rifle and fired his last two shots inside a minute - the last being fired one second before the CRO called "end of match". In spite of these tribulations we went into lunch having increased our lead to eight points over Canada.

The wind continued to increase in strength throughout the early afternoon. However, the coaches proved equal to the bracket of 1 to 7 left at 800 metres, the whole team turning in a fine performance to stretch our lead to 25 over the Canadians still holding on to second place.

At 900 metres the first two pairs had the worst of conditions and the coaches struggled to cope with a wind bracket which ran from an estimated 2 right to 13 left. Again we chose to wait on indications of right wind. The first detail also had to endure a long wait after a right hand magpie on one target was followed by a left hand outer on the other! By the time our last pair of

Stephen Penrose and John Pugsley got down conditions had become much steadier and they put in 74.11 and 75.5 respectively to increase our winning margin to 48 points. Canada held on to second place nine points ahead of the USA with Germany fourth.

Lt Col Rick Boyd presided over the presentation of the America Match Trophy specially commissioned for the

match after which we celebrated in style at the team dinner that evening with a hard core moving on to some 'clubbing' in downtown Ottawa until the early hours!

Mission accomplished, we prepared for the journey home. A few of the team members headed straight for home while the remainder headed for a couple of days R & R at the Opinicon Hotel at Chaffey's Locks.

The MacDonald Stewart Grand Aggregate					Governor General's Final (ex 300)				
1	A Marion	Canada	818.99		1	A Marion	Canada	297.31	
2	R Gross	USA	817.83		2	P Patel	GBRT	297.31	
3	S Murray	Canada	817.80		3	J Cload	GBRT	297.31	
4	J Webster	GBRT	816.95		4	J Paton	Canada	297.28	
5	P Patel	GBRT	816.88		5	D Luckman	GBRT	296.37	
6	P Holden	GBRT	815.80		6	J Hoham	USA	296.37	
7	C Bayne	Canada	815.74		7	P Church	USA	296.28	
8	J Pugsley	GBRT	814.73		8	P Holden	GBRT	296.25	
9	D Luckman	GBRT	813.100		9	I Robertson	GBRT	295.34	
10	J Cane	GBRT	813.81		10	S Murray	Canada	295.34	

The Canada Match						The Commonwealth Match				
Coach	Firers	300y	500y	600y	Total	Coach	Firers	800m	900m	Total
Langley	Ball	50.8	49.5	49.4	148.17	Cleveland	Luckman	50.4	48.4	98.08
	Holden	50.4	50.5	50.6	150.15		Haley	49.3	49.3	98.06
	Luckman	50.5	50.4	50.8	150.17		Holden	49.5	50.8	99.13
	Pugsley	50.9	50.7	50.7	150.23		Penrose	50.6	50.6	100.12
Roberts	Patel	50.7	50.8	49.6	149.21	Langley	Ball	50.6	50.6	100.12
	Webster	50.4	50.4	50.6	150.14		Cane J	50.0	46.3	96.03
	Williamson	50.7	50.7	50.7	150.21		Webster	50.9	49.5	99.14
	Penrose	50.6	50.5	50.3	150.14		Pugsley	50.8	50.4	100.12
Total		400.50	399.45	398.47	1197.142	Roberts	Patel	50.9	50.8	100.17
2	Canada	396.46	397.46	392.30	1185.122		Robertson	50.8	50.7	100.15
3	USA	395.45	394.35	394.41	1183.121		Williamson	50.8	50.6	100.14
4	Germany	384.26	386.29	377.18	1147.073		Cload	50.7	49.7	99.14
						Total		598.73	591.67	1189.140
2	Canada					2	Canada	589.60	585.46	1174.106
3	USA					3	USA	583.55	572.36	1155.091
4	Germany					4	Germany	564.35	519.30	1022.074

The America Match						
Coach:	Firers	300y	600y	800m	900m	Total
Langley	Ball	75.09	74.07	74.06	67.05	290.27
	Holden	75.11	73.04	71.04	71.03	290.22
	Luckman	75.10	74.08	75.08	72.04	296.30
	Pugsley	75.11	75.06	73.08	75.05	298.30
Roberts	Patel	75.09	75.11	74.07	69.05	293.32
	Webster	75.07	71.07	73.07	70.01	289.22
	Williamson	74.11	69.05	73.04	74.04	290.24
	Penrose	72.07	74.10	74.04	74.11	294.32
TOTAL		596.75	585.58	587.48	572.38	2340.219
2	Canada	591.64	581.50	570.49	550.29	2292.193
3	USA	589.63	572.38	569.32	553.34	2283.168
4	Germany	575.50	564.38	537.33	509.13	2185.135





The Great Britain F Class Rifle Team to the First F Class World Championships.



The team after the match.



Team Scotland.



Good shoot Mik?



George decides he might just have a birthday every day.



"It's not an exotic cocktail, it's a new barrel cleaner I've just invented - honest!"



Drug tester Jacko with Lung Tester victim John Poulin.



Found on the range - anyone know who owns this?!

(All photos: Jim McAllister and Peter Campbell)



# THE GREAT BRITAIN F CLASS RIFLE TEAM TO THE FIRST F CLASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Pete Campbell

The first full Great Britain F Class Rifle Team to tour would have an enormous challenge ahead of them, not only touring to a country where many had not visited before, but to an event that would be the pinnacle of any shooters career, a World Championship event. Following several selection shoots the following team was chosen.

Captain:	Paul Monaghan	England
Vice Captain:	Pete Campbell	Ireland
Adjutant:	Mik Maksimovic	England
Treasurer:	Charles Oliver-Bellasis	Ireland
Coach:	John Bridger	England
Shooters:	George Barnard	England
	John Campbell	England
	Chris Cuthbert	England
	Peter Jackson	Scotland
	Jim McAllister	Scotland
	Peter Medhurst	England
	Howell Morley	Wales
	Des Parr	Scotland
	Dave Pickering	England
	Tony Williamson	England

The bulk of the team met at the North London RC on Thursday 5 August to be seen off by John Knight, taking his role of team mentor very seriously. On arrival at Ottawa we found that the stories about Canadian Customs were true - raised voices were aplenty and that was from the Canadians wanting to get back in . . . Eventually we were received by the only Customs Officer able to deal with firearms, and matters moved swiftly thereafter, although he was somewhat agog at the number of rifles with which Peter Jackson had arrived a couple of days before. We were met by Adj Maksimovic on exiting Arrivals and proceeded to collect the hire cars, there to find that Mik Mak, true to form, had wangled himself the biggest-ugliest jeep on four wheels, complete with electric tailgate which did its best to decapitate various team members for the next fortnight. Map reading looked like it might be a problem when some nameless members got themselves lost in the hire car park! (All requests for names should be printed on the back of £50 notes and sent to the author - proceeds to team funds . . . honest!)

A first impression on arrival at Connaught was, 'who turned the humidity up' so much so that there were warnings on TV to drink plenty of water. Thankfully this wasn't to last too long and had the effect of speeding acclimatisation when the humidity fell a couple of days later . . . phew!

While most of the team were content to practice, several also felt the need for competition and so entered the Gooderham. Jim McAllister, complete with brand new rifle, shot 75.12 at 500 yards and 50.8 at 900 metres to finish second with 145 to Texan Larry Bartholome with 147; F Class international rules score the V bull as six

points. The evening's entertainment was to be a Meet and Greet barbecue and the first opportunity to put faces to names.

Serious competition started on Sunday, but before the Grand started, Peter Jackson, Jim McAllister and Howell Morley took fourth, fifth and sixth places in the Tilton respectively. The MacDougall would see John Bridger pip Paul Monaghan by one point 117 to 116 for fourth and sixth places; the familiar name of Wolfgang Scholze was at the top with 119 points; that was one point out of the V in 20 shots. Monday would be the first full day of the Grand; the first observation of Canadian marking was "*That was quick!*" Early shocks aside, the marking was ultra fast and almost mistake free, although your reporter was taken aback when, in the middle of a string of very central Vs, a magpie appeared that was so far out that an outer could have been signalled without challenge. A chat with a helpful RO, where the UK message 14 was explained, produced another shot, neatly in the V and one very relieved firer. The Americans held a stranglehold in the John C Brick, with the Aussies and Canadians following close behind. Team honour was salvaged in the Norman Beckett, Dave Pickering and Paul Monaghan both with 119, enough for fourth and seventh places. There was change in the Grand as Canadian Captain Keith Cunningham edged Scholze into second place by a point, Peter Jackson was top Brit in sixth place. Monday also saw the first record set by the team for "the most cars used by a touring team". To be honest we devastated the opposition in this one, when the final count was made there were no less than **nine** cars and vans - for the statisticians that worked out as one car per 1.66 people! Not wanting to feel too guilty, people were seen lying across seats, particularly when the South Africans did their 'South African bus impersonation', and got the prize for the most shooters and kit into one vehicle.

Tuesday would be another busy day with the Letson at 300 metres, 500 and 600 yards and the Alexander of Tunis at 900 metres. Conditions would be best described as benign in the morning and diabolical in the afternoon. This was to be the Canadian equivalent of a Queen's I day with the Letson providing three 2 and 7s and the Tunis the nightmare! In the Tunis, Pete Campbell managed third place in an appropriate result, Pete and Earl Alexander having served in the same regiment, albeit at somewhat different ranks! George Barnard and Paul Monaghan finished sixth and seventh each with 54 points. Bob Crone, the man with the 'Star Spangled Buggy' shot the only perfect score in the Letson to catapult him to the top of the Grand, while Paul Monaghan had leapt to fifth. At this stage of the tour cultural visits were the order of the day. Team *horny*thologist Dave Pickering observed that there was an owl themed restaurant in town and requested a night following his devotion. Well, a restaurant with an owl



as its logo couldn't be that bad, but knowing Dave's judgement, a reconnaissance was required and the Vice-Captain, Adjutant and Treasurer ventured forth to investigate. Following a thorough inspection it was passed as suitable . . . Hooters it was to be! Pickering seethed with jealousy as George Barnard received birthday adulation from the Hooters Girls together with another GB Team first - inclusion in the Hooters website! Feeling sorry for him the girls invited him to some Hula-Hooping, but alas he was a miserable failure and had to be rescued by the Adjutant and Vice-Captain (who weren't much better).

Wednesday brought the President's and the first stage of the Gibson. George Barnard was the solitary Brit in the honours of the President's, his 177 ex 180 was good enough for fifth place. It was during one of the President's 500 yards details that a couple of F Class shooters showed just how fast they could shoot. As you have read elsewhere F Classers aren't noted for wasting time on the point. Pete Campbell, definitely not known to shoot slow, and a youthful Texan, JJ Conway set forth on their detail. A few minutes later the conversation went:

Shooters to RO "Message 10 please"  
RO to shooters "What's the problem?"  
Shooters to RO "Message 10 and compliments!"  
RO repeats first question  
Shooters forcefully repeat original request.  
RO "You guys gotta be s\*\*\*\*\*g me! I've people who haven't started yet!"

The scores? JJ shot clean and Campbell bottled his last into the bull. In the Grand Paul Monaghan held fifth place although George Barnard had crept into sixth with equal points.

Thursday would conclude the Gibson and what should have been a very busy day's sport. We began to find out why the Canadians had used Connaught as a training ground for the trenches of WWI - that mud was something else! John Bridger managed a fifth place in the Gibson, and then joined the other shooters waiting for the downpour to stop. However the Rain Gods weren't listening and to borrow a phrase from another sport "Rain stopped play".

At the risk of being out of place, mention must be made of the cookhouse at Connaught, the food was good, cheap and plentiful. Most importantly it is air-conditioned. Now I've been in a cookhouse or two but that cookhouse was seriously cool - a real salvation on a hot day!

Friday would see the finish of the Grand and a slight rest before the World Championship started on Monday. Peter Jackson managed fourth place while Hugh Forgie was a point adrift with 87 points. In the Grand, Keith Cunningham had held onto his lead never having been below second, a well-deserved win. Bob Crone, Bill Hallam, Wolfgang Scholze and Larry Bartholome completed the top five. On the GB side Paul Monaghan, Peter Jackson, George Barnard, Pete Campbell, John Bridger and Mik Maksimovic all made the top twenty.

Connaught also has some interesting fauna on the ranges, and the groundhogs in particular treat the shooters with disdain. Once when sighting my target, I noticed something moving at the bottom of the aiming mark. It was a hog looking straight down the barrel at me. It sat there staring at me for three or four shots before getting bored watching my bullets parting its hair and darted back into its hole.

Saturday was Final Day, with the F Class final being shot at 800 and 900 metres, George Barnard and Paul Monaghan had made the cut finishing in seventh and ninth places respectively, in an event that had a North American close-out. Larry Bartholome beat Keith Cunningham into second place by a single point; Bob Crone, JJ Conway and William Hallam finished the top five. With all teams now in place the Perry was heavily subscribed as people checked elevations before the World Championships started on Monday. With the strongest field to date Peter Jackson produced the best GB result so far and with a score of 264 ex 270 counted out JJ Conway. Paul Monaghan managed third and George Barnard and Howell Morley were sixth and eighth. Sunday was largely a rest day although some supported the GB TR team during their record-breaking performance. Mention should also be made of another British contribution to the event, Dave Jackson (a member of the Diggle contingent) appointed himself Chief Drugs Tester (some would call it Dope Testing) and produced his infamous Lung Tester. The 'victim' would be invited to blow into the nozzle of the tester in order to spin the wheel, incorrect blowing would see the victim getting a face full of talcum powder. Several victims were 'had' and the tester was last seen heading to Australia to continue its work there.

Monday was the first day of the inaugural World Championship and the very first shoot produced a record. Thirty-four shooters shot maximum scores and the tie-shoot that followed was to be of record proportions. **Sixty-six** tie shots later Larry Bartholome beat Keith Cunningham in a sudden death shoot-out. A four way tie shoot saw Shawn Ahrens win the 800 metres shoot, while in the first 900 metres shoot Maksimovic's fifth place supplied our best result in a lack-lustre day for the British. Match Four, 2 and 20 at 900 metres, needed another tie, this time Larry Bartholome lost out to fellow American Bob Crone. The Grand on Monday was predictably an American close-out, with Bob Crone leading by one point on 378, Larry Bartholome in second and Carlos Hathcock a further two adrift. Hathcock, a US Marine, the son of a famous US Marine Corps sniper, was using a borrowed rifle in preparation for his duties as one of the American coaches; it left one wondering just how the Americans were going to be beaten? One aspect of the Canadian conditions was the mirage, with a squad that had shot pretty well all over the world, no-one had experienced mirage as thick or as deceptive. Some shooters were describing over one minute of elevation due to mirage alone; it did illustrate the urgent need for F Class shooters to get more experience in hot countries.

Tuesday was a much better day for GB shooters. Conditions had also changed; gone was the heavy mirage of Monday, replaced with a light breeze that kept the tie shoots to a minimum. George Barnard opened the day winning the 700 metres shoot after a four way tie shoot, which for a change was devoid of Americans, William Hallam and Nick Simms came second and third. Bob Crone found himself in his fourth tie shoot and displayed the coolness under fire expected of a Marine for his second individual triumph. Bob was followed home by Des Parr, at last having sorted out his ammo horrors. Match Seven witnessed solitary New Zealander Tracy Short winning the pot with a score of 85, while Larry Bartholome lurked one point behind. Philip Blakely of Australia won the last individual shoot, John Amber held second and George Barnard third. The Tuesday Aggregate was won by William Hallam followed by Philip Blakely and Tracy Short, but it was to be Scholze that eyes were watching. He was fourth for the second day running, but Crone, Bartholome and Hathcock had all dropped back, so the first F Class World Champion and winner of the Milcon Shield was Germany's Wolfgang Scholze. Two points adrift was Larry Bartholome, with Bob Crone a further two behind him. Top British shooters were Peter Jackson in tenth, George Barnard in eleventh and Mik Maksimovic in fifteenth.

Wednesday would be the final and most important day - the International Teams Match. The weather was warm, but not too warm, windy, but not too windy, something to suit everyone. With F Class still a small discipline there was almost a carnival atmosphere on the range as old and new friends "chewed the fat". Australia forged an early lead, four points in front of South Africa and seven in front of America with GB one further point behind. As teams moved back to the next range, team spies were patrolling the scoreboards to evaluate performances, although it seemed that most were more interested in chatting than checking scores. The 800 metres shoot saw the North Americans fighting back but they were still one point behind the Canadians with the best range score of 689. It was all change on the scoreboard, America had moved level with Australia, South Africa had dropped to third while Canada had



Jim McAllister presents the Rutland Trophy to the winning team.

leapt in front of GB who, in turn, had a safe margin in front of Germany. With nine points covering the top four teams it was all to play for at 900 metres. The Americans held their council and produced the top score on the range to put the result beyond question; Britain had staged a fight back and despite an inexplicable miss by Mik Mak had produced the third best score at 900 metres. The final result was first America, second Australia, third South Africa, fourth Great Britain, fifth Canada and finally Germany. The Americans were further dominant in the Open Teams match taking the first two places followed by the Aussies in third and fourth. Scotland in sixth, was the best British Open Team, while "Team Tommy's Bar" and the "Diggle Dollopers" finished in seventh and eighth places.

A short break ensued as teams disappeared to don blazers for the awards and closing ceremony. Flags were raised and closing speeches made. Jim Thompson, as Master of Ceremonies, introduced the young lady markers. What a job they had done over the preceding fortnight - well-done girls and thanks! Bill Plouffe then introduced Paul De Villers, Canadian Minister for Amateur Sport, who then introduced the new trophies to their first recipients. The Milcon Shield donated by Keith Cunningham and Linda Millar of Milcon Marksmanship for the Individual World Champion went to Wolfgang Scholze, while our own "Dour Lowland Jock" Jim McAllister presented the Rutland for the World Champion team and the Farquharson for the Open Team, both trophies going to America.



Pete Campbell sulks as he realises his own vibrant yellow car has been seriously outclassed by the Star Spangled Buggy.

So the first F Class World Championship was over; many lessons had been learnt and preparations were already beginning towards the next Championships to be held in South Africa in 2004. The team had its last dose of Canadian culture and packed up for the flight home the following evening. Mik Mak again proved his worth when he bartered our 150kg excess baggage for the loss of one team hat! The final excitement was a landing in Heathrow that had all the finesse of a one legged elephant with a skipping rope, but as they say, "Any landing you can walk away from . . ." The final word a huge thank you to the Canadian organisers, Bill Plouffe, Jim Thompson, Peter Vaughan and especially to Betty-Ann Ferguson for her unstinting help.



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE VIZIANAGRAM

*by Robert Clements, Record Keeper of the House of Commons Library*

The competition first took place in 1862 and began in rather curious circumstances. Just before the House of Lords adjourned on 15 May of that year, Earl Granville asked whether there was any truth in the rumour that "this House is likely soon to be at war with the other House of Parliament." The Lord Chancellor replied that he had, indeed, received a challenge from the Speaker of the House of Commons to a rifle match which he had accepted on behalf of their Lordships and returned an answer that "we would meet the House of Commons in honourable rivalry at any place, at any time, and with any weapons". Having accepted the challenge he trusted that the Lords would "enter the lists in a manner worthy of this House of Parliament".

Some light was shed on this mysterious challenge the following day in the Commons. Mr Bernal Osborne, MP for Liskeard, asked the Speaker about the rumour from the Lords, which he considered to be "a most justifiable hoax". Before the Speaker replied, Lord Elcho, MP for Haddingtonshire, and a leading light in the recently formed National Rifle Association, rose to read a letter from the Speaker to himself, which explained what had happened. In it, the Speaker said that he had heard about the Lord Chancellor's announcement the previous night "with amazement" and explained the circumstances in which he had been involved like this:

"I was busily engaged on Tuesday evening with Members presenting petitions and moving unopposed returns; you [Lord Elcho] came to me with a roll of paper in your hand, saying that a rifle match was proposed between some Members of the two houses.

I answered that I was very busy, that I could not spare a moment to read the paper, nor did I see a single word it contained. Wishing to dismiss the subject, I said in joke the only part I could take would be to fire a shot with the Lord Chancellor. If you have made me party to a paper which I did not read, and have been the bearer of a challenge to a rifle match to the Lord Chancellor from myself putting me into conflict with that great dignitary, I shall have to request you to make an explanation to that noble Lord that you acted under a misconception - that, on my part, no such liberty had entered into my imagination."

Lord Elcho had made this explanation to the Lord Chancellor, and apologised to the House. The brief exchanges ended with an intervention from the Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, who hoped "that there never may be any other or more serious collision or conflict between the two Houses than that which is likely - if it be likely - a practical trial of skill . . ."

Despite these inauspicious beginnings the match did take place, on Saturday 5 July 1862, at the third annual meeting of the National Rifle Association at Wimbledon. The match was shot with "any rifles", eleven a side with seven shots each at 200 and 500 yards. Amongst the members of the Commons team were Lord Elcho and Mr Henry Hussey Vivian, the MP for Glamorganshire, who was later to be created Lord Swansea, and was the grandfather of the present Lord Swansea who was Captain of the House of Lords team for many years. The Lords won quite easily, by 411 to 349. The match was witnessed by Jules Gerard, the famous Algerian lion-shooter, who wrote glowingly (in French) to the Times about the magnificent example which the members of the two Houses, whom he compared with the Knights of old, had set to the young students of our universities.

The match became a regular event, and developed into one of the social events of the season. The NRA's report for 1863 records that "the match . . . created even greater interest than in 1862. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales honoured the competition with their presence, and watched the contest with keen interest". During the spring of 1863 a Lords and Commons Club had been formed and it met regularly for practice at the London Scottish range. This practice seems to have had more effect on the Commons who won by 460 to 323.

With the exception of 1865, when there was no match owing to the dissolution of Parliament, the competition continued with teams varying in size from four to seven. There was, for some years, no trophy, but in 1875 the Maharajah of Vizianagram KCSI presented the NRA Council with £400 which was used to buy the pair of large silver parcel-gilt vases which





The advertisement features a close-up, high-contrast photograph of a Blaser R 93 LRS 2 rifle. The rifle is positioned diagonally, with the barrel pointing towards the upper right. The background is dark and textured, suggesting a night or low-light environment. The text 'R 93 LRS 2' is prominently displayed in large, bold, white letters at the top left. The word 'Blaser' is written in a stylized, italicized font at the bottom center. A smaller image of the rifle is shown in the bottom right corner. A block of text on the right side describes the rifle's precision and reliability.

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still serve as the trophy for the match. The Lord Chancellor and the Speaker agreed to hold the Cups for the winning sides, and the Commons celebrated with their victory by 313 to 220.

In the years that followed, the competition continued, but interest seems to have dwindled until, in 1888, there were only two members on each side and in 1889 the match did not take place at all. In fact, it did not resume until 1906, by which time the National Rifle Association had moved to Bisley where the competition has been shot ever since. The 1906 match was shot with seven a side, seven shots each at 500 and 600 yards and was won by the Lords 370 to 352. In presenting the prizes, Prince Arthur of Connaught was glad to see that the match had been resumed and hoped that it would now remain an annual event. This it did, although interrupted by the War, until 1928. Admiral of the Fleet, Earl Jellicoe, who had become Chairman of the National Rifle Association, shot for the Lords in 1925 and 1926 returning scores of 92 and 91 out of 105. In 1927, the Lords had two men absent but despite their being given a generous allowance of considerably more than the Lords' average score, the Commons won for the seventh year in succession.

From 1929 to 1938 there was again no competition but in 1939 the match resumed in an unusual form. The NRA's report describes it like this: "The conditions - teams of four firing seven shots each at 200 yards and five rounds each at the Pirate and Running Bear

respectively - were novel and perhaps rather exacting for those who had little opportunity for practice. [The Lords won 161 to 129]. But now that the Sporting Range is open for practice whenever required, it is very much hoped that Members of both Houses of Parliament may be seen shooting at Bisley more often than just the final day of the meeting." This, unfortunately, was not to be, as the Second World War put an end to the Bisley Meetings until 1946 and the Vizianagram did not resume until 1947.

The 1947 match was six a side, with seven shots each at 200 and 500 yards. The Lords won, with Lord Tedder a member of the victorious side. Since 1947 the match has been shot every year, in various formats with the present system of ten shots per man at 300 and 600 yards commencing in 1977. Support for the match has been strong in recent years with only the best eight (of ten or eleven) scores counting in the match, although the score book for 1975 records that the Commons team included "Hon Members for Falmouth, Dartmoor and Bisley" in reality three team coaches who were drafted in to support a team weakened by the calls of the House. Amongst the team members has been the Prince of Wales in 1980, and Cranley Onslow, Bisley's MP, who was ever present for over twenty years.

To date, there have been 99 matches in the series with 61 won by the House of Commons and 38 by the House of Lords.



# HEADSPACE - WHAT'S THAT?

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

## What is "Headspace"?

Well, it is not the space between your ears. It is the free space between the head of the cartridge and the face of the bolt when your rifle is loaded and ready to fire.

## Is it important?

Yes - very! If the headspace is too small (eg less than 0.025 mm (0.001")) then you might sometimes experience difficulty closing the bolt. Not that this is too important in itself, but any resistance could mask another more serious problem such as a case that is too long. If the headspace is non-existent, then you cannot close the bolt, and there is some danger that you could damage the case rim!

However, there are much bigger problems if the headspace is too great: when the cartridge is fired, the thin cartridge is forced against the chamber wall, but the cartridge head continues to be forced back. As there is nothing to support it to the rear, there is some risk that the case head will separate from the body, or at least be seriously weakened. Whilst such an occurrence is rare, it is much more common to have ignition problems if the headspace is too great. In most instances the case is in close contact with the bolt face when the rifle is fired. Unfortunately, the firing pin pushes the cartridge forward to increase the clearance to the maximum. Not only does this mean that firing pin protrusion might be inadequate, but this dissipates some of the firing pin's energy and could lead to a light strike. Adjusting the firing pin does not correct this. This is sometimes the first indication of headspace problems. In these circumstances, even if the cartridge does fire, ignition may not be consistent and hence accuracy suffers.

## What Determines Headspace?

Three things, the case and the chamber dimensions, and the fit of the bolt in the action and against the case head. Normally the bolt is carefully manufactured and fitted to the action to ensure the correct headspace with a standard cartridge. Even with a modern mass produced sporting or military rifle, the bolt is hand fitted to the action. As we all know, rifle chambers do vary slightly as does the shape of the cartridge. However, the way the two fit together is determined by the fit of the reinforced shoulder of the case just below the head, and this can be carefully controlled. For those who reload, by resizing only the case neck, the fit of the case in the action is improved after the first firing, and this can lead to a reduction of the headspace for subsequent firings. If you resize the full length of the case, the subsequent fit in the action is determined to some extent by your sizing die. Obviously, the older rimmed cases such as the

.303" have more positive control over headspace because the case is located very positively against the rim. Perversely, excess headspace with these cartridges is more likely to lead to catastrophic case failure because the thin wall usually extends right up the case rim rather than ending well within the rifle's chamber.

The ideal headspace is not obvious. The Bench Rest Shooters usually like a headspace of 0.025 - 0.05 mm (0.001 - 0.002") and achieve this by reloading only neck sized cases. At the upper end, 0.2 mm (0.008") should be taken as the absolute limit. A target figure is 0.1 mm (0.004").

## So how do I measure headspace?

With difficulty. There are headspace gauges made that only measure the headspace of the cartridge itself. These are not too expensive and are straightforward to use. They can be useful to help select matched cases for improved consistency. But if your chamber is worn, or the bolt does not match it perfectly, the actual headspace could be quite different from that so measured! To measure the headspace of a chambered cartridge, the important parameter, usually involves taking the very small difference between two very large measurements.

There is a simple but effective way. This involves 'shimming' the face of a cartridge and 'loading' it into the rifle to determine what shim thickness will just cause a noticeable stiffness in closing the bolt. This **must** use a spent or dummy cartridge. For the reloader, the cartridge used should be one that has been deprimed and resized. For the target rifle shooter, you can buy a specimen dummy 7.62 cartridge from the NRA Armoury to use. **Never** do this with a live cartridge. Although a spent cartridge case can be used, this is expanded and is likely to indicate a smaller headspace than a new case or one that has been full length resized ready for reloading.

For shims I prefer to use self adhesive aluminium tape. However, Sellotape works well enough. There are other forms of adhesive tape of differing thicknesses that can also be used. Don't use PVC insulating tape as this is not dimensionally stable enough. The aluminium tape used in security systems to detect window breakage is excellent. I have aluminium tapes with a thickness of 0.05 mm and 0.08 mm; Sellotape is about 0.05 mm. Cut a small piece of shim and attach it to the face of the test cartridge head; it must not overlap the head. Now 'load' it into the rifle. If the bolt can be closed easily without any extra resistance above normal, repeat the exercise with two shims and so on. You need to determine just how many shims

are needed so that there is just a little extra resistance. You may need to do a little interpolation of your results. Now measure your total shim thickness carefully using a micrometer or precision vernier gauge. Be careful not to crease the shims and to make sure that you replicate any possible compression of the tape. Ideally, you should measure the actual shims used whilst they are still attached to the cartridge head, but this is a little more difficult. Obviously this method cannot be precise. If you accept that it is a go/no go method rather than a precision measurement, then you can be sure that the upper and lower limits of the headspace can be determined reasonably well. Thus with my tape, if one 0.08 mm aluminium tape shim is just starting to show resistance, I can be sure that the headspace is near the optimum. However, if two aluminium shims still allow a free fit, then the headspace is probably too great.

If the headspace is excessive, you might need to visit your gunsmith, especially if you use only issued ammunition. For those who reload, once a cartridge has been fired, the headspace is always a little less than with an unfired case. But if after resizing, the headspace is still too great, you need to check the sizing die or size only the case neck in future.

#### **Headspacing on the Extractor?**

After firing, when the bolt is first lifted it also moves back a tiny amount. The mechanical advantage is considerable and this is needed to unstick the expanded case. If there is too much clearance between the extractor and the case rim, much of this mechanical advantage is lost and you might have difficulty extracting the case. However, if there is insufficient clearance, or negative clearance, the extractor itself determines the headspacing. To check this, firmly but gently push your test case fully home into the action. Now close the bolt and open it again to eject the case. Does it extract and eject? If not, the extractor has failed to ride over the case flange and it is probable that your rifle is headspacing on the extractor. This could obviously cause a real problem if you have to extract an unfired cartridge! If you have any doubts, you can shim the case as before so that there is just a little resistance to closing the bolt. Now remove the bolt from the rifle and check that the case flange can easily engage the extractor. The case should lie comfortably along the axis of the bolt with just perceptible free play. Headspacing on the extractor is only a problem if the extractor fails fully to engage the case rim before the bolt is closed. Often the force driving the case against the bolt when the cartridge is fired is enough to ensure that the extractor engages the rim of the case whereas it might not extract an unfired one. However, if your rifle sometimes fails to extract a fired case, you may need to visit your gunsmith.



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# THE NORTH LONDON RIFLE CLUB MATCH RIFLE MEETING 2002



Mrs Daphne Cunningham presents the Cunningham Cup, in memory of her son Charles, to Jim McAllister.

*(Photo: Bruce Mackie)*



David Dashwood shooting at 1200 yards.



Bruce Mackie.



Ian Cummings on aim.



Chris Boylan on aim at 1200 yards.

*(Photos: David Pollard)*

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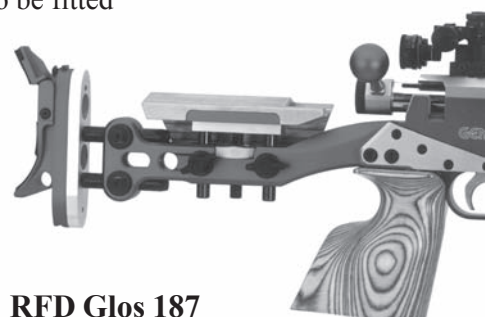
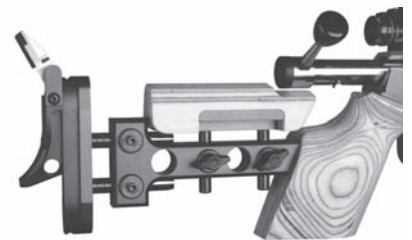
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# UK CADET RIFLE TEAM - TOUR OF JERSEY 2002

*by Richard Holtum, Clifton College*



## Day 1

Oh no, I hope we don't have to get up this early every day!

After breakfast, we made our way to Short Siberia where we melted due to the weather, but did manage some fruitful zeroing at 200 yards. This was a much-needed day in which to blow out the cobwebs - most of us hadn't shot since the Imperial and were a little rusty. Three practice team shoots resulted, with the Commandant's team soundly thrashing the Adjutant's team.

## Day 2

Another early wake up call, then we achieved the impossible by packing a huge amount of kit, including two picnic tables and parasols into a very small trailer on loan from Clifton College and into a Land Rover on loan from Avonline Communications. After everything was packed it was time to return the accommodation keys to the NRA . . . keys? . . . who? . . . oh no Robert Nelson thinks he has them in his bag - which is now at the bottom of the trailer! Mr P made our apologies to the NRA and we left about five hours before our ferry - resulting in four hours to kill in Poole.

A very flat crossing ensued, Mr P sat outside the whole time looking progressively more ill as the time passed. However, he survived - Nick Pinks was not so lucky!

We arrived in St Helier where Customs simply waved us through - even when told of the 15 rifles in the rear of the Landrover. The Scout Hut (provided by the generosity of Victoria College) was far better than expectations; it was here we met Andrew Burton from Guernsey, the twelfth team member.

A hilarious few hours were spent trying to put up picnic tables using a small screwdriver. We had nearly finished when Ron remembered his cordless drill was in the minibus . . . don't you just hate it when that happens?

## Day 3

A lazy day - reveille was not until 9am - almost mid morning! Felicity's delicate constitution had not liked the previous night's fish and chips; she was ill during the night, however we all slept through it. The team managed to empty the water tank resulting in no showers and worse, an inability to flush the loo; a plumber was called.

As we made our way to the Gerald Durrell Zoo, we realised that navigation would be a major problem throughout this tour; Mr P maintained that his route cards were accurate to within 10 metres and Mr C declared that the road system had changed since his last visit. The Zoo was very interesting with many surprisingly active animals including the U19s.

Back for showers in the gym but realise that water is not draining - oops. Then we went off ten pin bowling with our honourable opposition the Jersey Under 19s. The bowling was very successful, we mingled well and being polite we allowed them to win.

Much fun in the arcade where we all saw pretty boy (Michael Hargreaves) and Pinks dancing like pre teenage disco divas. The Adj beat everyone at air hockey and Felicity proved that she should be kept off the roads for a little longer.

## Day 4

This was a day of culture and more staff disagreement - those accursed route cards with only Wally, our team jester, being able to navigate. The Glass Church was casually spectacular and worth millions, commissioned to the memory of Jessie Boots, the founder of the well-known high street chemists. En route to Living Legend we all contemplated what we were going to experience; it actually proved very good and informative giving us many snippets of ordinary Islander life throughout the generations, especially regarding the occupation.

Next Crazy Golf - we wound our way around the course, and watched with delight as Mr P indulged in some creative scoring. We all finished the course well over par, except Mr P who declared himself the next Tiger Woods . . . hmmm.

We dashed back to the Scout Hut to get all toggled up in our Sunday best then headed off to the Jersey Rifle Association for a reception. The food, courtesy of Mary Norman and her assistants, was divine. On returning to the Scout Hut the team appointments were announced; our Adjutant was to be Jonathan Wallace, Vice Captain Richard Holtum and Captain Jonathan Felton.

### Day 5

Up at an hour we would soon become accustomed to - 6.30am (urgh). We shot five 2 and 7s at 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards. All shot well with not many scores below 30, top score went to Paul "Effywinalot" with 35.7.

After a long hot day on the range we returned to the scout hut to change before dashing off to a reception hosted by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of Jersey and his wife Lady Cheshire. The gardens and interior of Government House were stunning; the reception was marked by the delicious morsels of food that kept getting passed around.

### Day 6

The format was 2 and 10 at all four distances. We soon settled into the routine of hanging around, waiting to shoot, congratulating Paul on his possibles and commiserating with Nelson and Andrew as they fought for second place amongst the team. Part of this routine was putting up with Felicity's frequent claims she couldn't shoot - she shot a possible.

After supper we decided to visit Corbiere lighthouse to watch the sunset. This was a truly magical moment; the Channel Islands are incredibly beautiful. I could not think of a better way to spend an evening than staring at the limpid sea watching the majestic sun slowly and ponderously settle into the water. We sat on the rocks listening to the gentle lapping of the sea while watching the sunset. I have no idea how long we sat there in silence but when we left it was dark, and I still felt that we should have stayed there longer.

### Day 7

The team was hit by a peculiar disease which struck down 20% of our rifles; the cause is shrouded in mystery, a rare case of "Sight Rot". In layman's terms Sight Rot is when an adjustable foresight bends along the horizontal axis so it is no longer parallel with the barrel. The disease caused Andrew and Mr P to have a jump of 3 to 7 minutes. Paul's rifle was also affected, however, it didn't stop him from charging up the Grand Agg leadership board.

Felicity got down to shoot and the rifle went click and then again click. She remained on the point while members of the team performed an incredible pit-stop change on the spare rifle making it the same as hers. We did a good job because she shot a 68.2, not bad

considering the circumstances as she was otherwise engrossed in throwing all the toys out of her pram.

### Day 8

Today was the last day of the Grand Agg and there was all to play for (*Mr P told me to write that*). The results amongst the team were pretty much pre-determined with Paul well ahead. I think we all were happy with our shoots that day with Mike, Andrew, Paul, Nelson and Johnny Felton all recording possibles. Lunch was an incredible barbecue on the range, including fabulous puddings concocted by Mary Norman and her helpers. Paul picked up a couple of trophies at prize giving.

We were invited to Cliff Mallet's house for a swim. Now Jersey is not very big but nevertheless we drove around for almost an hour before finding it - as Mr P says "we took the scenic route". The swimming, or splashing as perhaps it should be called was fantastic; Wally and others indulged in truly death defying stunts. It was good to get rid of some excess energy and mentally prepare for the teams match. Later that evening the team was announced and everyone went to bed early to prepare for the big day tomorrow.

### Day 9

The match was a team of eight shooting a Queen's II. At 300 yards we shot well and took a small lead. At this point the wind was behaving and the coaches had everything under control. At 500 yards we didn't shoot quite so well, the wind made the coaches work a bit harder; it wasn't strong, but it was fluctuating enough to push the shot out of the bull and our lead was reduced to a mere two points. We realised this was going down to the line at 600 yards so we all shot better than at 500, and our coaches reacted well to the wind. There was slight confusion over Mr P's request for more V bulls and the coaches not converting bull 5 sighters, however, this was swiftly dealt with. The Jersey team had problems which resulted in a win for the UK Cadets and we took home the Cheshire Cup recently presented by the Lieutenant Governor to encourage rifle shooting amongst young marksmen.

### Day 10

A leisurely 7am start meant we could finish off odd jobs left over from last night's clear up. We said goodbye to St Helier and set sail for Guernsey where we arrived an hour later and wished a fond farewell to Andrew.

Notwithstanding getting stuck in Bank Holiday traffic, the journey to Bisley was uneventful. Back at Bisley we swiftly unpacked and bade farewell.

On behalf of the UK Cadets I should like to thank everyone who helped us, too many to mention, but especially Martin Spencer, Ron Cross and Andrew Penfold for giving up so much of their time to make this tour possible.

Everyone on the tour had a great time, I would not hesitate in recommending it to any other cadets who are thinking about it, and I would cite this tour as an example of what the cadets do whenever critics question the relevance of the cadet movement.



UK Cadets	School	300x	500x	600x	Total
Paul Efthymiou	Epsom	50.04	50.08	49.05	149.17
Michael Hargreaves	Sedbergh	49.06	50.05	49.06	148.17
Robert Nelson	Stamford	49.03	49.07	49.06	147.16
Andrew Burton	Elizabeth	44.04	48.06	48.04	140.14
Richard Holtum	Clifton	45.03	48.04	46.03	139.10
Jonathan Wallace	2 Bn NI ACF	46.03	45.02	46.03	137.08
Felicity Sweatman	Christs Hospital	47.02	43.02	45.02	135.06
Gary Smith	Angus & Dundee ACF	41.00	46.03	48.02	135.05

**1130.93**

**Jersey U19**

**1113.89**



*Top left: The successful team after the match - proud winners of the Cheshire Cup.*

*Top right: Paul Efthymiou shows off his clean sweep of trophies and medals.*



*Bottom left: The team found time to chill out with Jambo at Gerald Durrell Wildlife preservation park.*

*(Photos: Andrew Penfold)*

# TWP

## DESIGNS

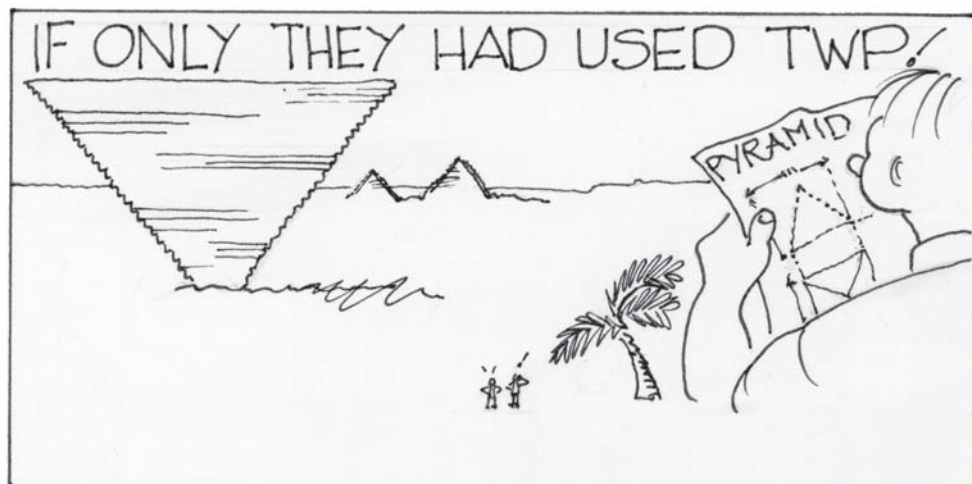
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UK County Open Championship Meetings



# CORNWALL INTER COUNTIES CHALLENGE 2002

by Adrian Pettman

This year's annual Meeting hosted by the Cornwall Rifle Club, at Millpool Range, Bodmin, was blessed with fine weather over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Stunning views stretching over Bodmin Moor and as far as the north and south coasts, provided the setting for the two days' shooting. The proceedings kicked off with a warm-up shoot at 300 yards to give everyone a chance to zero before the start of the main competitions. Little practice was required by Andy Luckman who won with a fine 50.8. There followed a 300 yards shoot on metric targets, which is always a challenge, but here Mike Cosway was well up to the task and headed the field with a maximum 150.4, two points clear of Rob Shaw in second place. Next, fifteen rounds at 500 yards gave Andy Luckman his second win with a 75.9 after a tie shoot with Rob Shaw. Saturday's events closed with a 600 yards shoot when Rob Shaw showed his dominance of the Meeting by winning with a 50.8.

Sunday continued with fine and warm weather although the range was served with a fresh and fickle head wind and constant vigilance was needed to keep in the bullseye. The morning's programme consisted of a two range shoot at 500 and 600 yards. The winner on this occasion was Nick Mace making a score of 149.17.

Most events of the Meeting were now completed but in order to give Colin Williams, who worked tirelessly on the stats, time to finalise the prize lists, the penultimate exercise was designed as a bit of fun and a change from the usual routine. This featured a rapid firing event requiring ten shots at 500 yards to be despatched in two minutes. After the necessary time, the targets were lowered and all shot holes marked with spotting discs thus showing the groups to those on the firing point. Some interesting results were observed especially as many of the contestants had never undertaken this exercise before. First place went to Nick Mace with a magnificent 50.6 closely followed by Andy Luckman on 49.8 and Roy Jobson on 49.5.

In the afternoon the final of the Duke of Cornwall's Trophy involved the top 20 competitors in the Grand Aggregate firing 15 rounds at 600 yards with no sighting shots which, as one can imagine, required a bit of thought as to the initial wind reading. Andy Luckman came to the fore with a 74.11 to win the trophy and gold medal outright.

After two days of concentrated shooting, the overall Grand Aggregate was taken by Rob Shaw with a tremendous score of 421.38, only dropping four points over the whole Meeting, which incidentally is an average of about 49.6 – a truly excellent performance.

Second was Andy Luckman on 417.38 with Nick Mace third on 416.32. The Ladies Trophy was won by Lucy Mace with 404.34. In the Pairs Trophy Andy Luckman and Nigel Porter triumphed on a score of 628.38. F Class, which is gaining in interest these days, has its adherents with the result that Roy Ritchie landed this trophy with a score of 408.32. The Harvey Shield, which was only open to Cornwall Rifle Club members, was won by Adrian Pettman on 411.29 just ahead of Roy Jobson with 410.28. The top junior prize went to Alan Read who scored 392.28.

As regards the concurrent team events, the main Inter Counties Challenge, which comprised the six man team event, was won by Cornwall with a score of 855.78, just beating Devon on 853.74 into second place. The Cornwall Shield, which involved a team of four based on Saturday's individual events, went to Somerset with 1054.70, with Cornwall second on 1047.54.

The whole Meeting went very well and in this respect thanks are due to Tony Mitchell for the smooth running of the operation. Above all we are most grateful to our sponsors who gave generous donations to the prize fund. With this in mind we thank Albie Fox, John Carmichael of HPS, Surrey Guns, RPA, Tim Webster of TWP Designs, Norman Clark and Roy Jobson. We are most obliged to the City Rifle Club and the L&MRA for donating a free entry to their respective Open Meetings. On the home front, Mike and Robin Hallows along with Tina and Gary Capell worked almost non-stop as Range Officers, whilst in the butts Rob Moye and his crew of ten local Army Cadets gave us excellent marking. Everyone appeared to enjoy themselves and many expressed a keen interest in next year's Meeting.

Should anyone wish to take part next August, please contact Tony Mitchell on 01288 356459 who will be happy to give full details of the entry.

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# REGULAR ARMY V ANCIENT BRITS PISTOL MATCH 2002

by John Evans

John Evans, the Ancient Brits skipper, and Nigel Hodgson, acting skipper for the Regular Army, agreed that the best five scores would count in both matches. However, it soon became clear, as most of the Army Superstars were present, that the Ancient Brits would be up against it, and so it proved to be.

Nevertheless, in sport/centrefire pistol on Melville Range, Ray Duckworth on 577 came a close second to Army Champion Robert Doak on 582, but it was the Army that leapt ahead in the duel to aggregate a team win by 2842 to 2781. Target changing, scoring and patching on Melville, were expertly carried out by Nigel Hodgson and his team; Nigel also expertly entered the scores into his laptop as they were called out.

After lunch the 10 metres ISSF match was shot on the brand new NRSA range using Sius/Ascor targetry, the likes of which most Ancient Brits had never seen before. It was here that Robert Doak's score of 573 was beaten into second place by the Ancient Brits newcomer and Commonwealth Games contender Frank Wyatt with 575.

Other notable performances at sport/centrefire pistol were Nigel Hodgson's 570 (now shooting left handed because of injury) and Richard Hoole's 569. Alan Kerr shot a creditable 561 at 10 metres Air Precision.

This year tea was provided by the Army, following which, Olympic shot Carol Page graciously presented prizes on behalf of the Ancient Brits.

The official trophy was handed to Nigel Hodgson who also received an engraved crystal tumbler from the Ancient Brits. Nigel Hodgson then made special awards to Frank Wyatt and Ray Duckworth after which he presented John Evans with an ARA pennant

and gave lapel badges to all shooters and range helpers. Ex European free pistol champion, Dennis Kelly, and Edward Harris recorded the events on film.

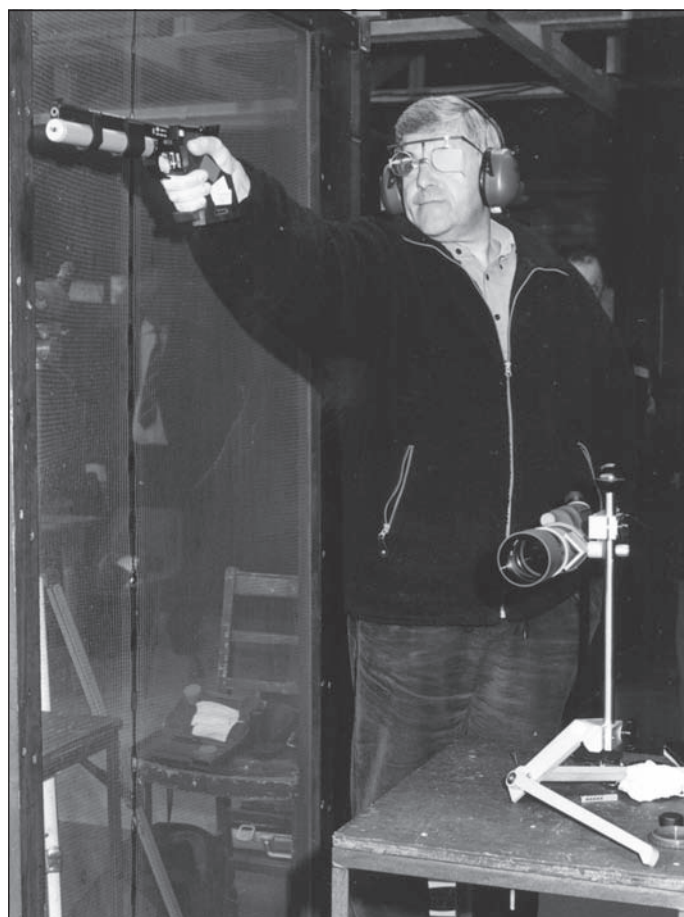
It became clear that a few Ancient Brits could no longer perform satisfactorily over two 60 shot courses of fire on the same day especially as several had to endure return car journeys of 350 miles or more. Some Ancients bemoaned the lack of cartridge firing pistols and were occasionally found muttering the words "muzzle loading" to themselves! One Ancient even suffered a repetitive strain injury to a shoulder and had to abandon ship!

All in all, it was not a good day for the Ancient Brits, but for the Army, it was the third victory in a row, and very well deserved too.

*It was with total shock and dismay that only some three months after the Bisley Meeting the Ancient Brits learned of the sudden death of Ray Duckworth. It is impossible to describe the immense contribution he had made to Pistol Shooting in general and to the Ancient Brits Team scores in particular. The Corinthian ideal applied so well to Ray. He shot brilliantly and always tried very hard, but it was to him only a game. His smile afterwards whether his team won or lost showed the true nature of the man. Ancient Brits will always remember him. We owe him an immeasurable debt.*



John Evans presents the trophy to Nigel Hodgson.



Ray Duckworth 1949 - 2002.



# MAJOR ALWYN MCLEAN

*talking with Tony de Launay*



Alwyn McLean was one happy fellow at Bisley in July last year. His team of twenty Irish men and women had confounded the pundits with an historic first ever win in the National Match and even before the champagne had hit the spot he was making plans with his colleagues for this year's contest to take place on his home ground. I caught up with a lurgy ridden officer as he struggled to shake off the flu before jetting off to New Zealand with Bob Aitken's GB team.

Born in Omagh, Co Tyrone a shade over 41 years ago, Alwyn confesses to have had other ambitions in his early sporting years - those incorporating four legged transport. He inherited his father's love of horses and was the only one of three children to show both interest and aptitude, competing in show-jumping events all over Ireland and having his own HGV licence before the age of 20. So successful was he that a full time career was in the frame at one point until, as so often happens, fate in the form of the military intervened.

There is something of a family thread in the transfer of sporting allegiance, with his grandfathers, his father and his brothers all being reasonable shots through their service in the "B" Specials and Home Guard. His father in particular shot service rifle for his county but the family's farming commitments kept it at that level. In Alwyn's case it happened thus: "In 1981 I was at Ulster Polytechnic studying Civil Engineering and decided to join the Queen's OTC", he explained, "I was keen on soldiering and confident that I could shoot." Fate, in the form of Captain Hazel Mackintosh, took him in a firm hand. At his first training night on the indoor small-bore range Alwyn picked up one of the unit's treasured Anschutz rifles to shoot his first group.

Hazel pounced: "Only experienced shots get the Anschutz" she lectured a startled McLean, adding that it would be at least another three months before he was anywhere near good enough to progress to the hallowed target rifle. He, like others in the same boat, had to start with the good old No 8. "The next week I was on the Anschutz" said Alwyn with a degree of satisfaction, immediately acknowledging that it was Hazel who laid the technical foundation for his development as a rifleman.

Equipped with a P14 he shot his first Imperial Meeting in 1982, and while not doing anything startling did manage to get into the Irish National side for the first time. To those of us who have struggled to get into National sides, that introduction might just be seen as on the positive side of startling. In 1983, in the face of some family opposition, he decided to join the Ulster Defence Regiment, leaving himself very little time for show-jumping or target rifle shooting. However, he quickly found himself as a member of the Battalion's first service rifle team to be sent to Bisley in 1984. Competitions with the SLR service rifle did not bring team success but with the sniper rifle the three man team, including McLean, won the Short Range Sniper Match.

"At that stage (1985/6) our successes meant that the regimental team had to become professional shooters from March until July, personal and team expectation were so high." His placings in the Army Skill at Arms meetings in the late 1980s led to appearances in Army VIII and GB teams, including tours to Canada, USA, Australia and South Africa. His crowning achievement came in 1996 when he won the Queen's Medal for the Army. "I then went looking for my next challenge and in 1997 bought an RPA to shoot the Bisley Meeting. It was a move to the unknown - no one knew who I was in the civilian world of Target Rifle. I count myself very lucky that David Calvert threw me a wild card entry to his GB team to Canada in 2000."

It all seems to have worked, and the transition saw a meteoric rise to the top of the TR listings. So where to go from here? "My immediate challenge is to produce an Irish National team that will perform to its full potential on home ground when we defend the National Match trophy in May." From his statements at Bisley, swaying gently in a non-existent July evening breeze, not only does he want success on the ranges, but also in the organisation and hosting of the match at Ballykinler where he has recently taken over as Commanding Officer of the facility. The word Guinness was mentioned several times, and the visitors had better beware the hospitality team.

On the personal front, he is looking to his membership of Bob Aitken's GB team to New Zealand for inspiration, to be followed by a punishing schedule of competitions leading towards (hopefully) the World Championships at Bisley. There is a quiet determination about him, an understated shrewdness that lies behind the ever present Irish twinkle. As would be expected in a serving soldier, there is also a hardness and a professional edge. It comes from thorough preparation and, one suspects, an ingrained belief in the need to know the capabilities of the opposition. If it does not come from that, it must be from early riding experiences where a total lack of fear is a helpful quality.

He is still very much a supporter of service rifle shooting, and would like to win the Queen's Medal again. He has already equalled the record for appearances in the Army 100 and has six Methuen Medals - another record. He had the opportunity to crow last July as Captain of the Irish National team, but he did not. He simply said about his team "They shot really well." In the next breath he was planning for the defence of the trophy. That is as clear a warning to the other three nations as they could expect to hear.

Oh yes – and if you do not recognise him from his picture here, thumb through last year's Marksman's Calendar.

## **TAX RELIEF FOR AFFILIATED CLUBS**

*by Bob Fishwick*

Although through its long-standing, and recently reaffirmed, charitable status, in support of defence, the NRA continues to enjoy associated tax benefits, as most will be aware, some affiliated clubs may not. The aim of this short note is twofold: to review the current situation and indicate possible ways ahead.

Essentially there have been two areas that, at first sight, gave rise for optimism for clubs - by being a community asset or a charity. They provided clubs with a choice to stay as they are; register with the Inland Revenue for tax incentives; or apply for charitable status. To qualify, as one of the new Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs), for tax benefits, a club must be open, amateur, have as a main purpose the promotion of participation, re-invest profits back into the club and be prepared to change its constitution, if necessary. To qualify as a Charity, a club must satisfy most of the above, promote health and fitness and be generally available to all members of the public.

First then, as a consequence of the provisions of the 2002 Finance Act, by registering with the Inland Revenue as a CASC, a club could realise a number of benefits. For example, the Act sets a nil starting rate for corporation tax purposes; consequently, so long as a club makes a profit of less than £10,000, it is not liable to tax on that income. Full details of all of these benefits are shown on the Inland Revenue web site (as shown below).

Turning now to the present situation on the potential for benefits of registration as a charity, late last year, the Government Cabinet Office produced a Consultation Paper on the future of charities (and associated qualification criteria related mainly to clubs' ability to benefit the community). Whilst the NRA's status would be unaffected, the paper suggested there may be opportunities for (rifle and pistol) clubs to qualify. The Chairman wrote in response to the Consultation Paper with a view to being kept up to date on developments. So, although it is early days, we are engaged in the debate and will keep members informed as developments happen.

After looking at the potential for benefits in these two areas it is worth reminding readers that clubs (at least in England and Wales) are already entitled to apply to the Finance Department of their District Council for 100% rate relief. Whilst it is acknowledged that such awards are discretionary and that clubs are, therefore, somewhat hostages to fortune, it is worth noting that if relief is given, Councils are entitled to claim back 75% from Central Government. If any club is encountering difficulties with this, then please tell us. Only by this means can we compile a national picture of the efficacy of this entitlement, to present, through the CCPR, to Central Government.

Whilst members will be kept advised of significant developments and we are keen to hear your views, in the interim, further advice can be found as shown below:

The overall picture (CCPR)	<a href="http://www.ccpr.org.uk">www.ccpr.org.uk</a>
Taxation aspects (The Revenue)	<a href="http://www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/casc">www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk/casc</a>
Charity aspects	<a href="http://www.charity-commissioners.gov.uk/registeredcharities/pdfs/sport.pdf">www.charity-commissioners.gov.uk/registeredcharities/pdfs/sport.pdf</a>



## NRA Overseas Teams Fund (OTF)

The accounts for the OTF for the year ending 30 September 2002 are shown opposite. Readers will recall that an article on Team Funding by Chris Hockley, Chairman of the Team Finance Committee (TFC), was published in the Summer 2002 Journal, which explained the separate sources of funds available to teams and that the OTF is a special source for GB and NRA TR Teams. The allocation of grants and administration of the OTF funds is the responsibility of the TFC. The OTF accounts also show the grant income received from the Sports Council and its allocation to teams as well as the specific funds raised and grants from the OTF.

The current policy is to retain any donations and interest to increase the capital of the fund and only allocate the funds raised during the year as shown. As a result the net assets have been increased significantly over recent years. This is regarded as a prudent hedge against inflation and a modest attempt to provide an extra source of funds should the Sports Council grants decrease further. Ideas are always welcome for new ways of raising funds as are donations. The new V Bull Aggregate to the Bisley Meeting is a good example of a successful source of funds, raising an extra £1,350 in 2002.

### V Bull Aggregate

Supporters of the OTF will be pleased to know that the new V Bull Aggregate attracted 380 entries in July, a similar figure to the other aggregates that support the OTF. To increase its attractions it is planned to extend the prizes so that each of the four classes has similar cash prizes. It was perhaps not surprising that the first three in the list were all Class X last year. However the lists on the planned prize list for 2003 would look as follows. Placing in the Grand is given for interest. Note only a third of those who entered the Grand also entered the V Bull Aggregate.

Class X	V Bulls	V Bull Agg	Grand Agg
DP Calvert	92	1	14
A Jory	92	2	18
JC Underwood	90	3	56
<b>Class A</b>			
RA Jobson	89	4	25
AR McLeod	86	16	45
ND Stangroom	84	26	39
<b>Class O</b>			
KWD Ramsay	87	15	60
DG Young	84	27	148
N Porter	83	30	98
<b>Class T</b>			
JAR Hodge	79	39	211
CB Cottillard	69	61	81
RE Clarke	67	69	345

I hope this is food for thought for those who did not enter last year!

*Robert Stafford on behalf of TFC*

## Great Britain Rifle Team, Australia & Malaysia, September 2001 - Summary Accounts

### Captain – Jeremy Thompson

A full account of this tour was given in the Spring 2002 Journal as a supplement. The team of 20 shot against Malaysia at the Langkawi Range (the site of the Commonwealth Games fullbore shooting in 1998) and then flew on to Perth, Australia to take part in the Western Australia Queen's Prize Meeting at Swanborne Range and to represent Great Britain in the Australia Match against New Zealand, United States of America and Australia.

Expenditure	£
Airfares	20,232
Coach Hire UK	980
Road Transport (Malaysia/Australia)	1,948
Insurance	520
Accommodation & Subsistence	16,076
Shooting Costs	4,505
Training	1,127
Team Hospitality	680
Presentations, Clothing, Admin etc	4,125
Surplus Retained	75
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£50,268</b>

Income	£
Sports Council Grant	10,000
Prize Draw	11,460
Corporate Events	10,074
Brochure Profit	5,441
Auction of Promises	5,088
Sponsorship	6,000
Donations & Interest	2,205
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£50,268</b>

Note: Due to the outstanding success of the team in raising funds, a grant of £10,000 from the OTF, made in advance of the tour, was repaid after the team returned and is not shown above.

## NRA Target Rifle Team, Channel Islands, May 2002 - Summary Accounts

### Captain – Rupert Clark

A full account of this tour was given in the Winter 2002 Journal. The team of 14 shot against Guernsey and Jersey on their respective ranges.

Expenditure	£
Travel & Accommodation	6,450
Shooting Costs	1,842
Kit	914
Trophies and Gifts	92
Meals	1,290
BBQ Bisley	431
Photos	54
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£11,073</b>

Income	£
OTF Grant	3,000
Team member contributions	8,073
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£11,073</b>

## NRA Overseas Team Fund

	Year ended 30/9/02		Year ended 30/9/01	
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS TO GB AND OTHER TEAMS</b>				
GBRT Canada 02		18,105.00		
GBRT West Indies 02		15,719.00		2,800.00
NRA team to Channel Isles 02 (01)		3,000.00		2,500.00
UK Bench Rest 2001		2,500.00		
300m 02 (01)		5,875.62		5,730.02
U25 Canada 02		5,000.00		
U19 South Africa 02		800.00		
Australia 01				20,000.00
GB Vets Australia 01				2,500.00
Total Contributions to Teams		50,999.62		33,530.02
less Sports Council Grants received		23,000.00		21,000.00
CONTRIBUTIONS BY OTF		27,999.62		12,530.02
<b>INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>				
Donations				
Australian Team 2001	10,000.00		0.00	
2002 Imperial competitions TR	5,575.00		4,660.00	
2002 Imperial competitions MR	429.00		437.00	
Newspapers-Young	1,149.04		810.46	
Other donations	661.10		128.32	
		17,814.14		6,035.78
Supporters Clubs				
Freddy Payne 100 Club	6,000.00		6,000.00	
OTF swindle(net)	2,630.00		1,993.90	
Bullet Ball (100% for U25)	1,540.25		697.00	
		10,170.25		8,690.90
Interest				
Interest on Gilts	3,442.69		3,505.12	
Tax reclaim	306.60		222.72	
COIF interest	1,205.14		0.00	
Bank & other interest	534.54		1,749.01	
		5,488.97		5,476.85
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		33,473.36		20,203.53
Less Expenditure				
Contributions by OTF to GB & other teams		27,999.62		12,530.02
<b>SURPLUS (SHORTFALL) FOR YEAR</b>		5,473.74		7,673.51
Unrealised (loss) profit on investments in year		6.19		-318.39
Reserves at 1/10/01		116,883.89		109,528.77
<b>RESERVES AT 30/9/2002</b>		122,363.82		116,883.89
General Reserve	122,254.56		116,780.82	
Unrealised Profit on Investments	109.26		103.07	
Represented by:				
Investments at market valuation (Gilts)		54,370.00		55,138.61
COIF Deposit account		45,000.00		28,000.00
Business Premium account		2,453.03		15,559.63
Owing by NRA general funds		13,618.20		12,170.00
Debtors		14,446.59		3,962.65
Stock		0.00		2,053.00
Creditors		-7,524.00		0.00
Net Assets at 30/9/2002		122,363.82		116,883.89

### Notes

(a) Sports Council grant of £13,000 has been received after 1/10/2002.

(b) The balance of Sports Council grant not yet distributed has been allocated so that total Sports Council grant is split in proportion to actual travel expenditure incurred between Canada and West Indies.



## ANDREW PENFOLD - CHIEF NATIONAL COACH (TR)

I have always held the belief that the role of the Chief National Coach is that of the "Chief Co-ordinator" or "facilitator". For that reason it is my intention to organise coaching courses which will be of benefit to you - **that you want** - therefore, should you have any suggestions please feel free to let either Phyllis Farnan (NRA Shooting Administrator) or myself know.

Over the next two years I have planned different skills enhancement and coaches courses – including Bill Richards' popular wind coaching course. I am also in the process of organising a course looking at Mental Preparations for Performance.

I am heartened by the fact that many people wish to enhance themselves for the benefit of others by attaining coaching qualifications. As an amateur sport the coach can guarantee to have to pay in order to gain qualifications with very little chance of financial reward; it is for this reason that the courses must give value for money.

The GBTSF has, during the past five years, been working to produce a uniform set of qualifications – not necessarily the same course content, after all we are dealing with various different disciplines – but a natural progression which gives some formal indication as to the standard achieved.

To this end the NRA offers various skills courses:

### **Skills Enhancement**

This course is intended to take shooters who have completed their probation, and set them, confidently, on the right road with the basic knowledge.

### **Advanced Skills**

Shooters who have 12 months experience, have completed a skills enhancement course and wish to make further progress. We delve into more detail – wind and elevation graphs aplenty!

### **The coaching qualifications**

#### **Club Instructor**

The Club Instructor's role is to support and assist the Club Coach in teaching beginners in the art of target rifle shooting.

You will be taken through the skills course in more depth, on a course designed to start developing you as a coach. You should be able to start someone off and set them up with competence and confidence.

#### **Club Coach**

The Club Coach's role is to support the County Coach, teach and instruct beginners and enhance the skills of more experienced shooters.

Knowledge gained by the Club Instructor will be further developed. You will be introduced to more



formal methods of teaching and instructing, enabling you to put together proper lesson plans and enhance knowledge with confidence.

Qualification is achieved by way of a written test and assessment of a formal presentation

### **County Coach**

The County Coach is responsible for setting up and running courses (especially in the regions); also for working with elite performers.

On the County Coach course we will explore methods of assessment, mentoring, developing coaches and how to deliver the respective courses with the assistance of Club Coaches.

There is a fast track route to County Coach for elite performers.

The courses on offer are published in the Marksman's Calendar. Please ensure you apply to the NRA Administrator in good time.

Should you wish to contact me then please feel free to do so at:

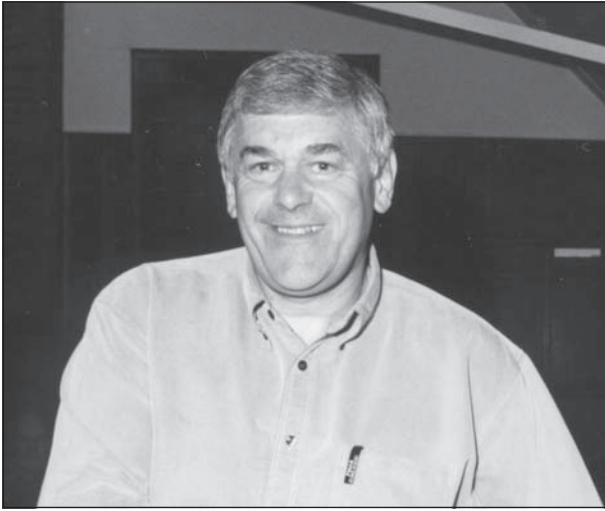
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E-mail: [arp@tonbridge-school.org](mailto:arp@tonbridge-school.org)  
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I very much look forward to our working together to enhance shooting.

## OBITUARIES

### Raymond Duckworth



It is with deep regret that we record the death of Raymond (Ray) Duckworth following a short illness.

Ray will have been known to a great many within the shooting sports, particularly pistol shooters. Ray joined Bradford City Police and, having served only six years, became one of the youngest Sergeants to be promoted in that Force, at a time when promotion could only be expected after something like 10 years service. I first met Ray in the late 1970s, through police firearms training and local leagues, when he was already showing himself to have a talent for accurate shooting. This proved to be the case, as during the next few years he moved rapidly upwards on the leaders boards in virtually all of the ISSF pistol shooting disciplines. He was particularly successful in Centre Fire at which he was the Police National Pistol Champion more times than I can count, in addition to winning virtually all the other cups and trophies that the PAA Championships had to offer. He virtually dominated the PAA Championships and leagues for almost a decade, representing the British Police at the European Championships (USPE), which are staged every four years, on at least three occasions. He holds three PAA records, in Standard Pistol, Centre Fire Pistol and Free Pistol. For some years he was also a member of the Great Britain National Squad, and has represented his country on several occasions.

Ray was a skilled administrator and organiser, and as a long-standing member of the PAA National Pistol Squad, he was the obvious choice to become its Manager when the post became vacant. He also became a member of the Shooting Committee of the Police Athletic Association. Under Ray's leadership the squad improved both in size and quality. He organised many competitions with HM Services teams and others, and arranged several international overseas events to give the members wider shooting experience in preparation for forthcoming European Police Shooting

Championships. Much of the squad's *Raison d'être*, however, was removed when the cartridge pistol shooting sport was destroyed in 1997. Like the rest of us, Ray was angry and disgusted, but decided to continue, not only in air pistol, but he also extended his skills into fullbore and small-bore target rifle shooting. His administrative skills continued to be used, and he later acted as Adjutant to the English Shooting Team in Kuala Lumpur.

On retirement from the West Yorkshire Police, Ray secured employment with British Waterways in Yorkshire. The work was demanding and, coupled with a change in his personal circumstances and eventually failing health, his involvement in shooting diminished.

It is now known that he had been suffering from cancer for some time, but sadly it was not discovered until it had become a terminal condition.

Ray's funeral was held at Selby Abbey on 9 September 2002. His partner, Brenda Cooper, asked that, if anyone wished to do so, donations should be given to Cancer Research in lieu of flowers. Through these pages, Brenda would like to express her sincere thanks to all those who attended or sent messages of consolation and support.

He was a valued colleague, fellow shooter and a good friend. Like many others, I shall miss him.

*Tony Oldroyd*

### James Henry MacIntyre

Jim MacIntyre did not take up rifle shooting until he was recovering from a major stroke at the age of 34. He said he needed a challenge so he joined the AERE Harwell Rifle and Pistol Club. He bought a BSA International Mk2 and a converted Lee Enfield 7.62mm and commenced to have a go at both small and fullbore disciplines.

Despite not having complete control of his body he persevered and became a stalwart member of the Harwell E Team. He struggled with fullbore but never gave in and he was rewarded when, at one of the Oxfordshire County Championship Meetings, he won the Shepherd Bowl for the best score at 500 yards. The same year he also gained an Astor Medal shooting for the Harwell Team. He was so very proud of both. At small-bore he attended many a meeting, even making the journey to the Scottish Meetings, where on just one occasion he won a NSRA Badge. He almost always made the lowest score at every meeting but that was not the point, he just wanted to be there. He loved being with both small-bore and fullbore shooters; he was great



company and a willing helper. It was said by many that the reason he attended the Scottish Meetings was that the supply of Drambuie was better than in England.

After suffering yet another stroke he had to give up active shooting but he still came just to watch. He was elected a Vice President of the Harwell Club, a post he held until he died.

On the wall of Jim's living room there was a framed 25 yards indoor target, signed and witnessed in the ORA Winter League. It was a score of 97 - the highest he ever achieved.

A member of the Scout Association for 50 years, he was awarded the Medal of Merit and the Long Service Decoration.

He was my lifelong friend of 64 years and a true sportsman. Admired and missed by all members of the Oxfordshire Rifle Association.

*John Winter*

### **Fran (Francis) Morse**

It seemed that Franny Morse, at the age of 95 years, had always been part of the shooting fraternity of Victoria, BC and always would be. Still an active target shooting participant, he was preparing to leave for the rifle range for yet another Saturday morning practice when death occurred suddenly.

He could have passed for a man 25 years younger. He led an active life. Three weeks before his death he shot a perfect target at 100 yards.

He was curious, knowledgeable and interested in everything. He was everybody's friend and was always helpful and generous.

Franny went to school at Brentwood College and Oak Bay High. In recent years, being the senior former student, he presented the school's annual scholastic awards. He was a commercial fisherman during World War Two and an intense hunter. He became interested in target shooting after the war. He shot at Ottawa and at Bisley and was a Range Officer and a competitor at Heals Range for many years with the BCRA. BCRA had made him an Honorary President by popular vote and gave his name to one of its major matches.

Franny's wife Vi predeceased him. She was an accomplished painter and sculptor and made many attractive pottery figurines. She fashioned the little tiger's head used as the annual trophy for the BCRA's top rifle shot.

No one can remember when Franny Morse was not with us. He always will be with us, in the hearts and minds of his family, his numerous friends and his fellow shooters.

## **FRIENDS OF THE NRA**

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Just e-mail the Membership Secretary, Heather Webb, at [membership@nra.org.uk](mailto:membership@nra.org.uk), or write to the NRA enclosing either cheque or credit card details.

Please note that this service is for NRA members only. No trade or business ads will be accepted on this part of the web site. However if trade or businesses wish to advertise with the NRA they can become Trade Members. Please contact the Membership Secretary for details.

Any transaction involving firearms or ammunition must involve the necessary certification.

*If you have any items that you would like to donate to young shooters, please contact us as above.*

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## MEMBERS' PAGE

### Stickledown Range - A Tale of Two Ants

Stickledown Range danger area is part of the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) and is a haven for many different species. For many years it has been known that a rare ant, *Formica rufibarbis*, had set up a colony in the danger area just beyond the 800 yards firing point. *F. rufibarbis* was known to exist at only two other sites in the British Isles, Chobham Common and the Isles of Scilly. The ant requires hot dry conditions with little surface vegetation and these specialised conditions are found on parts of Stickledown Range.

The nest sites in Surrey have been monitored for many years by Dr John Pontin who has made regular reports to the Pirbright and Bisley Ranges Conservation Group and to English Nature. He reported to this group at the beginning of the year that he had evidence that a second species of ant *Formica san guinea* (known as the Slavemaker ant) was encroaching in the nest site of *F. rufibarbis* on Stickledown Range. This predatory ant robs the nests of other ants carrying away their eggs and raising the young as slaves hence its name. In time it will destroy any nest it invades; although this species of ant is not common it is by no means as rare as *F. rufibarbis*.

Following a site visit to Bisley in March last year by representatives of Surrey Wild Life, English Nature, and the Conservation Group, it was decided that to protect the nest site of *F. rufibarbis* it would be necessary to dig up the nest of the Slavemaker ants and remove it from the vicinity. A mechanical digger would be needed for this work, and at the same time the surface and sides of the bank containing the *F. rufibarbis* nest could be scraped free of vegetation thus improving the site for the rare species and reducing its appeal to the Slavemaker. English Nature agreed to provide the funds to enable this conservation work to be undertaken.

Work at the site was completed by Brian Brimfield at the beginning of September although it will be summer before we know whether we have been successful in saving *F. rufibarbis* at what may be now, sadly, the only known site left in Great Britain.



### An editor's lot is not a happy one . . .

If we print jokes, people say we are silly

If we do not, we are too serious

If we do not print contributions, we do not appreciate genius

If we do, the magazine is filled with junk

If we edit the other fellow's write-up, we are too critical

If we do not, we are asleep

If we clip items from other papers, we are too lazy

If we do not, we are stuck with our own stuff

Now likely as not someone will say we swiped this from another magazine

We did

*NRA Journal Vol LIX No 2 page 14*

Seriously though, there have been mutterings that the Journal never contains articles from that discipline or this event. I am happy to report that there is no conspiracy to ignore any sections of the NRA membership, and I will try to include any articles that I receive.

I wrote to all Discipline and Regional Representatives last year and asked them to contribute at least one item per year to the Journal. Some have been enthusiastic in their contributions; some have not. If you feel that your discipline or region is not being represented enough in the Journal then please either send me articles and pictures yourselves or contact your Discipline or Regional Representative on Council.

## STOP PRESS



Congratulations to Ian Shaw of the Great Britain Rifle Team to New Zealand on winning both the Grand Aggregate and the Ballinger Belt at the New Zealand NRA National Meeting at Trentham Range.

A full report will appear in the next Journal.

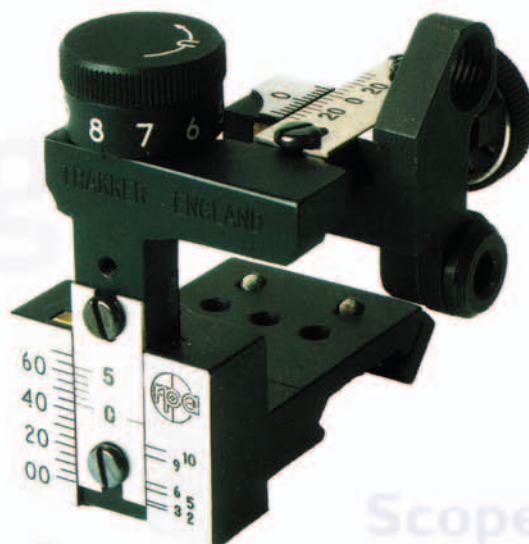


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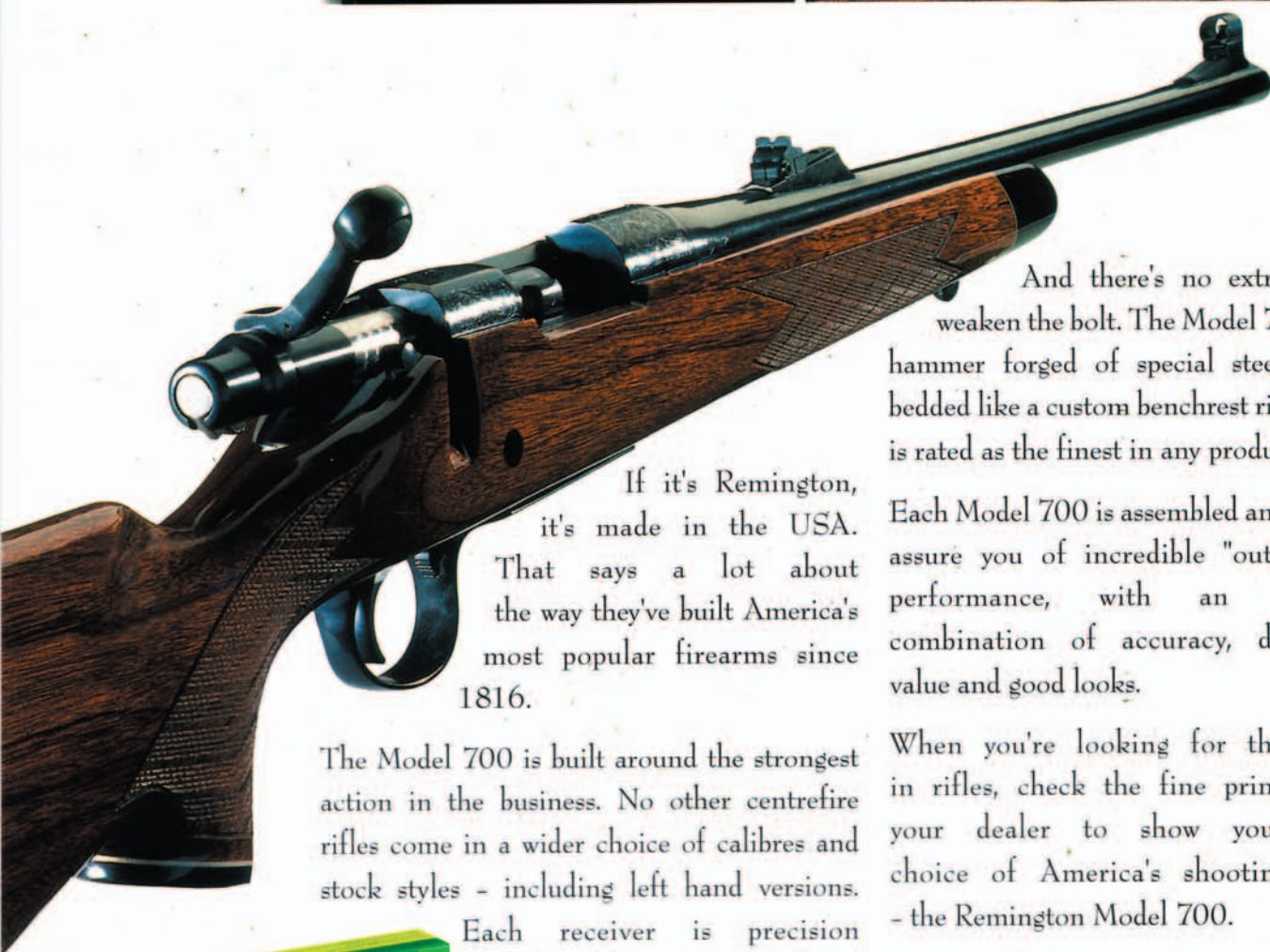
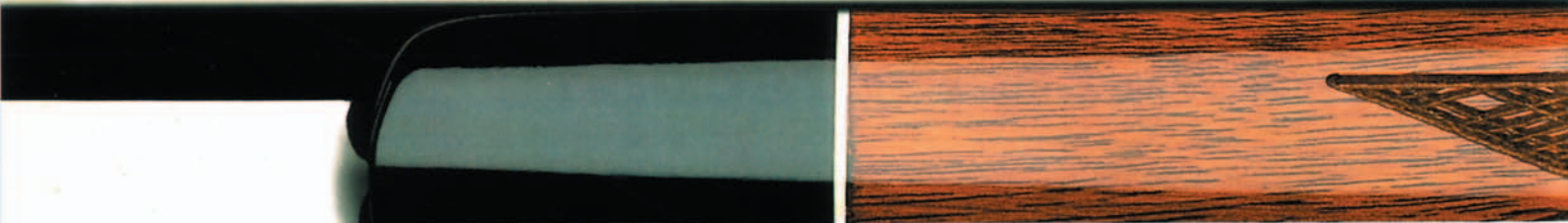
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